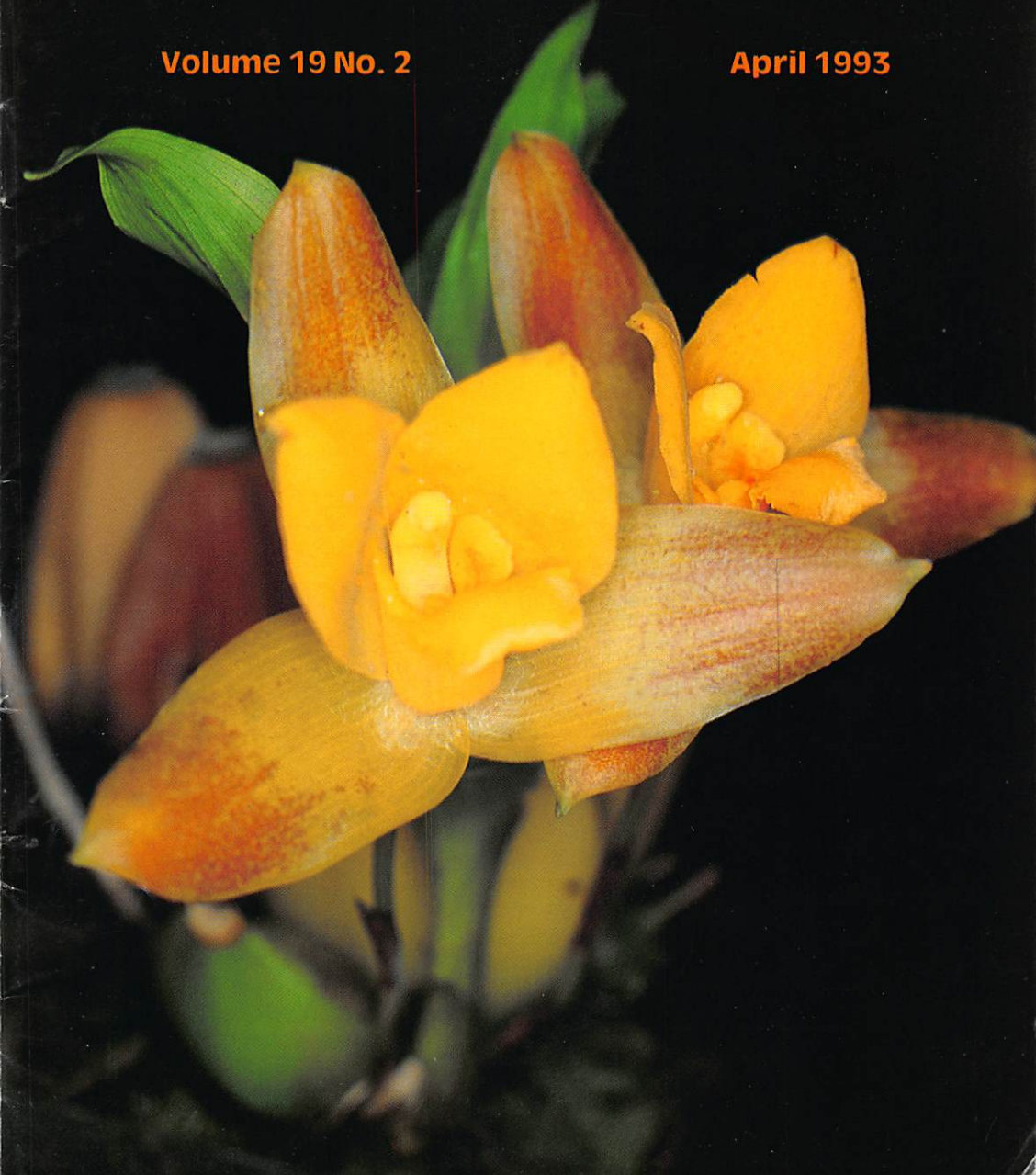


Orchids

in New Zealand

Volume 19 No. 2

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Where have all the youngsters gone

I know we are all getting older and it may be that I am getting cantankerous, but our society does not have the young members it once had, and I believe other societies are experiencing a similar phenomenon. There has always been a rich sprinkling of senior orchidists able to pass on their years of growing experience, but there has also always been a large crop of 'youngsters' in their twenties, thirties, and dare I say it, in their forties, developing an increasing interest in orchid growing, joining societies and fully entering into their various activities. Their age has allowed them to do many of the physical jobs in the societies at meetings and shows, and have brought in new enthusiasm and ideas which have helped make orchid growing such a strong and vigorous activity.

Over the last year at several societies I have attended, there appears to be a much greater number of senior citizens present; a face under thirty is rare. The fact that they are there is a good thing, but why are we not retaining or attracting new and younger growers? Is our organisation not attractive, do we have the right image, are we not perceived as being friendly, is orchid growing seen as being too expensive at a time of economic constraint — or are there other factors that have given rise to this occurrence?

Without the new blood, new ideas, new enthusiasm, and lets not forget it, new money, the longer term outlook for organised orchid growing cannot be good. Gardening is still a major recreational

pastime and there are many orchid growers who do not belong to a society.

Surely there is a major issue here of importance to all leading the organised interest in orchids. There is sure to be no simple answer to this issue, but it is one that we should consider, and try and find reasons for, and answers to. Perhaps it is just a feature of this area, although I suspect it may range further afield. We can all do our best to make it an exciting hobby, and if younger people show an

interest, let us ensure it is developed to the full. How many of us were introduced into orchid growing by the present of one or several pieces of cymbidiums, or even the odd back bulb? How many pieces of plants have you given away recently to those who have shown interest in our plants? I know children can be a problem at shows and meetings, but nevertheless it is important to encourage them in the right way with encouragement and support where interest is displayed in plants, as they may well be the future members of your society.

We can all do something to spread the news of orchid growing and invite and encourage new growers to join the New Zealand orchid growing fraternity. ◀

editorial

Orchids in New Zealand

Editor:

P. C. Tomlinson

14 Putnam Street

Northland

Wellington 5, N.Z.



Lycaste macrophylla var. *alba*

Bi-Centenary of Lycastes and Anguloas

Looking through the back issues of **Orchids in New Zealand**, *Lycastes* and *Anguloas* hardly get mentioned anywhere as much as other genera. My husband and I visited the Chelsea Flower Show, May 1992, and there we saw a collection of *Lycastes* and *Anguloas* of Dr Henry Oakley, commemorating the 200th Anniversary of their first importation into cultivation in England, in 1792. It was the 150th Anniversary of the first flowering of *Lycaste skinneri* in the United Kingdom, a year before John Lindley first delineated the genus.

The display was illustrated with the study of habitats, (their destruction) their artificial cultivation, propagation, seed raising, hybridisation and the study of their history. Also detailed was the history of great collectors and classifiers, with a living herbarium. Photographs illustrated the collections of species and hybrids, for study and identification. I came away from this flower show, with a wealth of knowledge, something I did not expect to see or hear. ◀

Freda Cochrane

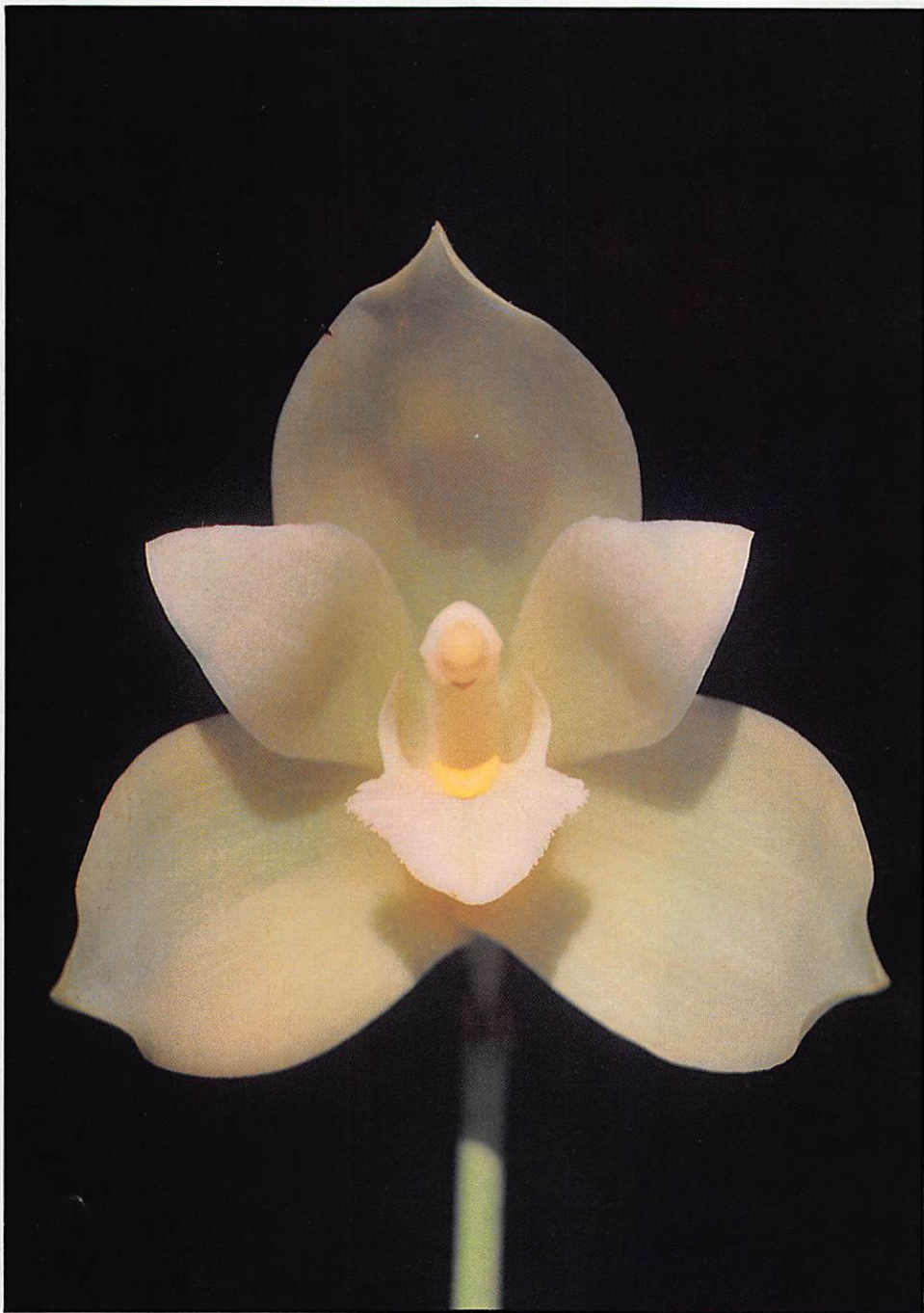
The following pages present a pictorial celebration for these plants.



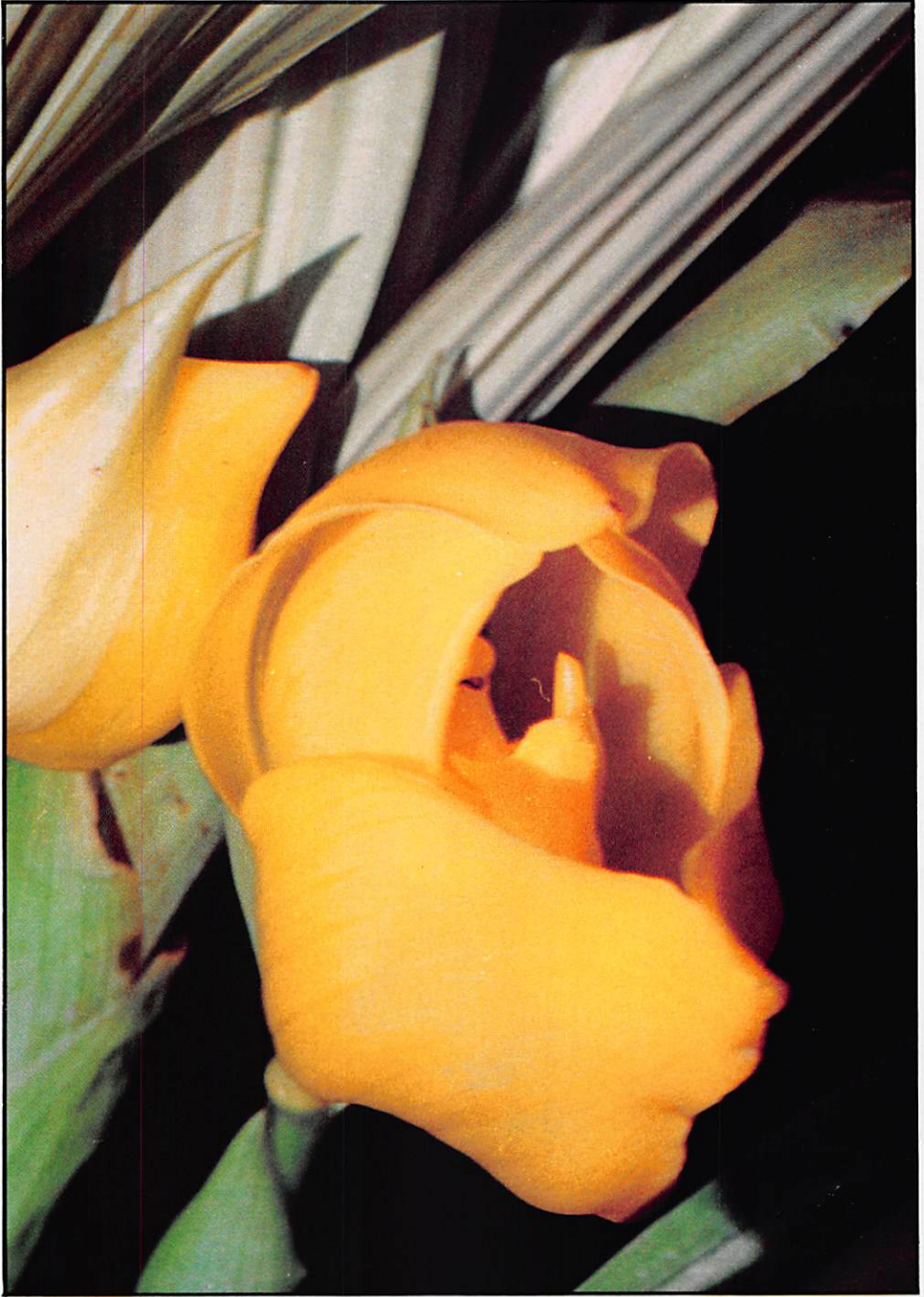
Top: *Lycaste Auburn*

Bottom: *Lycaste (Cassiopeia x Auburn)* Grower: Geyserland Orchids





Angulocaste Olympus



Anguloa clowesii

"THIS IS MY LIFE"

I AM a cymbidium orchid plant. Most of my life I believed I was a novelty, but owing to the inconsistent human race, I am now an intermediate.

About eight years ago I was taken from a flask and planted, together with my peers, in a community pot. Conditions were good. There was warmth, light and plenty of air. Then I was planted separately in my own little pot, I grew taller with bulbs and shoots, was transplanted into a larger pot and finally I flowered.

It was then in 1981 that my troubles started. I was moved to a sales bench where people stared at me and talked about me, some praised me, others criticised my shape, colour and parentage. This was all very embarrassing, so you will understand my delight when I heard a woman say lovingly, "what a beauty. Can we afford this plant dear?" Then a man's voice said, "Not another! Oh well!"

I travelled a long way in a car to my new home, uncomfortable, but full of hope for my future with this new appreciative owner.

So much for my understanding of the situation—I was lent to another person and for the next five months suffered the most horrible

deprivation and neglect. Even now I cannot bear to think of this period. I lost my healthy appearance—my leaves became dull, my bulbs shrunken and a fungal infection started where I had been mutilated. Nobody looked at me or spoke to me. I was amongst strangers, alone and afraid.

Early in 1982 I heard a voice I recognised. I was taken to the home of the people who owned me. My living conditions improved and I now had care and support. I responded with one spike, but alas as I flowered the rot which had been dormant for a while progressed rapidly into my bulbs. My spike was cut, two bulbs removed, then outside into the sun, the wind and the rain. Slowly my leaves regained their former appearance and I grew rapidly.

1983, two spikes in flower and I was wanted for a wedding bouquet, when back came the rot. More bulbs removed, and again reotted. By 1984 I was in good health at last so I rewarded my owner with five fine spikes. I was shown to visitors and basked in their admiration.

That summer I grew steadily. Come winter—nine cascading spikes all in flower at once. Much cleaning of leaves and bulbs, and a rough bouncy trip to the show. I felt rather frightened at first, but many of the voices sounded kind, and I was moved to a table where there were some silver cups. Then off again to another crowded hall, although by now some of my flowers were a little bruised. I heard talk of teaspoons. What could I do with a teaspoon? To an orchid plant life presents some strange situations. Home at last. Photos, and finally peace, and the satisfaction of knowing that my efforts and those of my owner had been recognised.

ANTICLIMAX

I am retired. There is talk of over-exposure, and that my flowers are not quite the present-day showbench shape. So here's to a quiet life, secure in the knowledge that as long as I have love I will live. ◀

Signed S.J.D.C. 4n

Reprinted from

North Shore Orchid Society

Insigne February 1986



Cymbidium Baruska 'Dos Pueblos'
Grower: Norm Porter

The Influence of *Cym. tracyanum* on Modern Cymbidium Hybrids

by Dennis G. Bonham, May 1992

CYMBIDIUM *tracyanum*, first described by Rolfe in 1890 has played a major part in the parentage of *Cymbidiums*. After *insigne* which contributes to some 96% of all hybrids, *lowianum* with 94%, *eburneum* with 93% and *grandiflorum* (*hookerianum*) with 80%, *tracyanum* makes a contribution of some 62%. It was first found in a batch of *Cym. lowianum* imported into the UK. The flowers are among the largest in the genus measuring up to 152 mm.

The characteristics conferred by *tracyanum* include early flowering and heat tolerance. In addition it bestows fragrance and lines of darker pigment which in later hybrids may be replaced by spots. An unfortunate factor is that the cut flowers have poor keeping qualities. Colours in the progeny are wide and variable and it is difficult to specify how much contribution the *tracyanum* parentage makes to red, brown, pink, green and yellow hybrids!

This paper is based partly on the writings of Andy Easton who has contributed to the *Ochid Review* (1983), the *AOS Bulletin* (Sept 80), and the *Orchid Digest* (1988) on this topic. It is also based on over 3277 entries for *Cymbidiums* on our

computer. While this number is a little less than half the total of hybrids to date our entry is based on the plants more used as parents and is likely to be representative. Those with the new ROM CD will be able to update the information.

Did you know the large part played by the species listed above with *tracyanum* in fifth place in the list of popular parents? Roughly speaking *tracyanum* appears in the pedigree of nearly two thirds of all *Cymbidiums*. In the list of twenty-three dominant standard red *Cymbidiums* given to us by Ray Dix at a recent seminar only six of the twenty-three did not have some *tracyanum* in the background. There is no *tracyanum* in *Ceres* (50), *Rio Rita* (12.5), *Khyber*

Pass (40.63), *Claret* (28.13), *Cabernet* (46.88) or *Hamsey* (34.38). The proportion of *insigne* in these is given in parenthesis and it is important to note that there is much more *insigne* usually about 40% in the reds that have *tracyanum* in the background, whereas the *tracyanum* proportion is never more than 25% and usually much less. This suggests to me that the anthocyanin in the reds comes more from *insigne* than *tracyanum*. Table 1 gives the full list of the dominant reds selected by Ray Dix.

The contribution of *tracyanum* to colour is difficult to assess in many of the hybrids, partly because the contribution of the *tracyanum* is small and partly because there is potential for a whole range

of colours. Another difficulty is that sometimes a small proportion of *tracyanum* seems to exert a disproportionate influence, as in *Cym. Pinata* where it only contributes 1.56% but the appearance suggests a much larger proportion.

Table 2 shows the use of *tracyanum* by generation, suggesting lesser use more recently, but there may be a change as there is a suggestion of increasing use in miniatures and a greater use as a primary parent in recent hybrids.

Of the twenty hybrids with *tracyanum* as a direct parent, twelve were registered before 1930, one in 1934, one in 1956 and six after 1981 with six in the last five years 1986-1990. This suggests that breeders are again seeking a major contribution from *tracyanum*.

At the 13th World Orchid Conference in Auckland in September (Southern Hemisphere) of twenty-five awarded *Cymbidiums* only eleven had *tracyanum* in the background. One factor here may have been the shift to early flowering invoked by *tracyanum*.

The following well known hybrids are listed in relation to the twenty direct hybrids (**bold**) and given the percentage contribution of *tracyanum* as well as the approximate number of registered descendants of each hybrid:-

TABLE 1

Proportion of *insigne* & *tracyanum* in selected *Cymbidiums*

Name	Date	<i>insigne</i>	<i>tracyanum</i>
Ceres	1919	50	0
Remus	193?	53.13	0.78
Rio Rira	1937	12.5	0
Doris Aurea	1942	12.5	12.5
Spartan Queen	1946	37.5	12.5
Kurun	1953	46.88	15.63
Fascination	1954	35.9	3.13
Flavian	1955	37.5	3.52
Khyber Pass	1956	40.63	0
Voodoo	1957	40.63	1.56
Claret	1961	28.13	0
Firewheel	1961	31.25	25
Musita	1961	45.31	0.39
Sensation	1961	36.73	7.81
Sabre Dance	1963	32.81	6.25
Tapestry	1963	40.63	0.78
Howard Cobb	1969	38.28	1.56
Tethys	1969	37.5	3.13
Terama	1971	37.11	3.13
Cabernet	1974	46.88	0
Hamsey	1978	38.67	3.91
Panama Red	1978	34.38	0
Yowie Flame	1981	38.67	4.30
Mighty Mouse	1982	28.91	0.39

Table 2

Generation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Hybrids	20	46	186	346	666	470	190	75	25

			Reg. 1908	% <i>tracyanum</i> 50
Rosefieldense 242 +	<i>grandiflorum</i>	<i>tracyanum</i>		
Sirius 202 +	Wylan	Lucy	1958	21.88
Wyanga 100 +	Ramboda	Sirius	1964	10.94
Mini Mint 11 + HCC/AOS, HCC/AOC, These also include Doris in parentage.	Sarah Jean	Wyanga	1981	5.47
Doris 1001 +	<i>insigne</i>	<i>tracyanum</i>	1912	50
Guelda 59 +	Coningsbyanum	Doris	1933	25
Lucy 437 +	Doris	Lucastes	1935	25
Lucense 88 +	Lucy	Moirensen	1952	25
Lucy Moor 62 +	Bodwin Moor	Lucy	1955	12.5
Angelica 46 + Early yellow 4N 'Advent' AM/RHS.	Lucense	Lucy Moor	1967	18.75
Stardust 80 +	Doris	Margot	1946	25
Kurun 63 +	Cornette	Stardust	1953	15.63
October 32 +	Autumn Tints	Guelda	1955	25
Valley Forge 0 Congers freckles white/pink bicolor.	October	Jolity	1966	25
Doctor Pepper 0 Freckles <i>tracyanum</i> both sides.	October	Doris Aurea	1978	18.75
Firewheel 32 + AD/GSA, HCC/AOS.	Doris	Rio Rita	1961	25
Trigo Royale 30 + HCC/AOS.	Rosinante	October	1970	12.5
Via Tranquilla 2 + Ancestry has 32 hybrids, 8 species and thus	Guelwood	Sussex Dawn	1970	6.45
Tidbit 2 + HCC/AOS.	Wood Nymph	Fanfare	1973	3.91
Via Mar Tranquilla 0 S/GSA x 3, B/GSA x 7, AM/AOS, HCC/AOS x 3, HCC/OCNZ Ancestry has 38 hybrids, 8 species and has only 3.22% <i>tracyanum</i> .	Via Tranquilla	Solana Beach	1978	3.22
All Star 1	Great Waltz	Taurugi	1982	15.63
Waterloo Sunset 0 HCC/OCNZ.	Rincon	Firewheel	1982	12.5
Baltic Honey 0 S/GSA, B/GSA.	Ultimatum	Trigo Royale	1983	15.63
Baltic Ice 0	Baltic Meadow	Winter Fair	1985	5.86
Awakening 0	Sleeping Dream	Sleeping Giant	1983	6.10
Great Flower 0	Great Waltz	Valley Flower	1985	8.59



Top: *Cymbidium* Robin 'Freckles' 4N

Grower: Norm Porter

Bottom: *Cymbidium* Tethys 'Black Magic'

Grower: Norm Porter





Cymbidium Angelica 'Mushroom Gold'
Grower: Norm Porter

Lucky Flower 1	Lucky Kawano	Valley Flower	1984	7.81
Wiganianum 1098 + hybrids	<i>eburneum</i>	<i>tracyanum</i>	Reg. 1902	% <i>tracyanum</i> 50
Schlegelii 786 +	<i>insigne</i>	Wiganianum	1912	25
<i>Grand Monarch</i> 423 + AM/RHS, HCC/AOS. The lines have become freckles.	<i>grandiflorum</i>	Wiganianum	1931	25
Via Los Padres 0 S/CSA, HCC/AOS	Grand Monarch	Etta Barlow	1970	12.5
Constance 0	Coningsbyanum	Schlegelii	1932	12.5
Frederica 16 +	Hanburyanum	Schlegelii	1935	37.5
Sicily 370 + B/CSA x 2	Baldur	Grand Monarch	1943	12.5
Peetie 36 + B/CSA, HCC/AOS	Sicily	San Miguel	1963	12.5
Bethlehem 15 + CCC/OCNZ	Frederica	Earlyana	1963	34.38
Doctor Baker 9 + B/C/CSA, HCC/CCM/AOS	Remus	<i>pumilum</i>	1966	0.39
Wallara 63 + HCC/AOS	Balkis	Auriga	1964	3.13
Tapestry 59 + AD/CSA x 3, C/CSA, AM/AOS x 2, HCC/AOS x 3.	Khyber Pass	Voodoo	1963	0.78
Narela 0 C/CSA, HCC/OCNA	Balkis	Whyba	1967	3.32
Floripink 0	Kurun	Vanguard	1985	10.95
Lady Colman 900 + an important early hybrid for redness in the progeny.	Eburneo-lowianum	<i>tracyanum</i>	1908	50
Regina 431 + B/CSA	Alexanderi	Lady Colman	1932	25
Lysander 785 + 'Apollo' AM/RHS	Lady Colman	President Wilson	191	25
Edzell 388 + A very good red. 'John Linford' AM/RHS	Ceres	Lysander	1936	12.5
Mildred Hunter 48 +	Edzell	Lysander	1940	8.75
Hunter's Point 9 + 'Sunset' HCC/AOS Yellow with orange red	Leonic	Mildred Hunter stripes.	1962	9.38
Doris Aurea 450 +	Chiron	Lysander	1942	12.5
Flare 53 +	Edzell	Rio Rita	1946	6.25
La Belle 0 B/CSA	Flare	Babylon	1955	3.13
Flavian 7 +	Flare	Remus	1955	3.52
Magna Charta 6 +	Runnymede	Flare	1961	3.13
Philip Stephan 0	Flare	Vieux Rose	1963	3.13

Spartan Queen 326 + although a difficult grower.	Regina	Sparta	1946	12.5
Sensation 148 + a good red diploid. B/AD/CSA, AM/AOS, HCC/AOS x 5.	Spartan Queen	Fascination	1961	7.81
Panama Red 5 + AM/OCNZ, AD/AOC.	Sensation	Khyber Pass	1978	3.91
Purple Haze 0 AD/OCNZ.	Fascination	Doris Aurea	1984	7.81
Spartan Fire 0	Spartan Queen	Voodoo	1984	7.03
Spartan Rose 0	Spartan Rose	Rosarita	1985	6.25
Volcano 36 + JC/AOS	Spartan Queen	Doris Aurea	1957	12.5
Suva 62 +	Volcano	Saigon	1963	6.25
Tethys 55 + AD/CSA x 2, JC/AOS x 3.	Suva	Khyber Pass	1969	3.13
Robin 13 +	Khyber Pass	Doris Aurea	1963	6.25
Mimi 28 + B/CSA x 8, AD/CSA, C/CSA x 5, AM/AOS x 4, HCC/AOS x 7.	<i>pumilum</i>	Doris Aurea	1961	6.25
Touchstone 14 + B/CSA, AD/CSA, C/CSA x 2, AM/AOS, HCC/AOS x 2, AD/OCNZ, CCC.OCNZ x 3.	<i>devonianum</i>	Mission Bay	1962	1.56
Coraki 37 + B/CSA x 2, HCC/AOS.	Wyalong	Alnwick Castle	1967	3.13
Claude Pepper 17 + AD/CSA x 2, C/CSA, AM/AOS x 2, HCC/AOS x 2, HGCC/OCNZ.	Rincon	Doris Aurea	1968	6.25
Pinata 9 + (all 1985-87). AD/CSA x 2.	Tethys	Khyber Pass	1978	1.56
Ruby Eyes 15 + AD/CSA, AM/AOS	<i>pumilum</i>	Sensation	1978	3.91
Coral Illusion 1 + AM/AOS.	Sabre Dance	Doris Aurea	1978	9.38
Marycano 0 AM/OCNZ.	Mary Pinchess	Volcano	1982	6.25
Footrot Flats 0	Celadon	Terama	1984	7.42
Arts 0 B/CSA x 4, AD/CSA, HCC/AOS x 3.	Touchstone	Tethys	1986	2.34
Black Silk 0 ABM/CSA 1990, B/CSA x 5.	Mimi	Tethys	1987	4.69
Hanburyanum 56 +	<i>erthrostylum</i>	<i>tracyanum</i>	1914	50
Bimbo 16 +	Hanburyanum	Orion	1937	37.5
Christmas Beauty 15 +	Bimbo	Atlantes	1958	18.75
Jolity 12 + HCC/AOS	Eagle	Hanburyanum	1957	25
Moira 116 +	Pauwelsii	<i>tracyanum</i>	1916	50



Cymbidium Corakai 'Rewa'
Grower: Norm Porter

Moirense 93 + Moirense contributes with Lucy (Doris) to Lucense.	Albanense	Moira	1935	25
Delise 19 +	Moira	<i>tracyanum</i>	nk	75
Gattonense 22 + Progeny include Ben Arkle 1980, Devon Peach 1987, Diplomat 1936, Little Tiki 1963, & Minette 1971.	<i>lowianum</i>	<i>tracyanum</i>	nk	50
Caer Brito 6 +	Albatros	<i>tracyanum</i>	1927	50
Nathaniel 0? Why no descendants? triploid.	Caer Brito	Pauwelsii	1957	25
Matador 3 +	Schlegelii	<i>tracyanum</i>	1928	62.5
Albion No Progeny.	Albanense	<i>tracyanum</i>	1929	50
Vallambrose 37 + Progeny include Rose and Neville Armstrong.	Doris	<i>tracyanum</i>	1929	75
Louisiana 248 +	Louis Sander	<i>tracyanum</i>	1934	50
Autumn Tints 34 +	Albanense	Louisiana	1945	25
Liliana 26 + Colchicine 4N in Europe and US for dark rews	Lilian Sander	Louisiana	1946	25
Lustrous 97 +	Louisiana	Sunrise	1947	25
Earlyana 92 + HCC/AOS	Early Bird	Louisiana	1962	31.25
Vesper Bells 2 HCC/AOS	Earlyana	Atlantes	1969	15.63
Pendragon 19 + B/CSA, HCC/AOS x 2.	Geraiint	Earlyana	1968	15.63
Herald Angels 1 AD/CSA	San Miguel	Earlyana	1969	21.88
Good News 2 AM/AOS x 2, HCC/AOS x 2.	Earlyana	Matanda	1969	15.63
Eden Valley 1 <i>tracyanum</i> both sides.	Tanunda	Wiena	1981	14.84
Yule Log 7 +	Eaglet	<i>tracyanum</i>	1956	50
Fugue 6 + 'Velecir' AM/RHS poor keeper.	Kurun	Yule Log	1966	32.81
Heavenly Scent 0	Peter Pan	<i>tracyanum</i>	1982	50
Recent registrations 1986-1990				
Gladrags 0	Doris Aurea	<i>tracyanum</i>	1986	56.25
Tawny Leopard 0	<i>tracyanum</i>	Warella	1987	61.72
Jungle Gem 0	<i>tracyanum</i>	Wm. Hertrich	1987	59.38

Devon Spectrum 0	<i>tracyanum</i>	<i>devonianum</i>	1989	50
Tracy's Dragon 0	Pendragon	<i>tracyanum</i>	1990	57.81

Unregistered Hybrids

U.G.	Ann Miller	<i>tracyanum</i>		50
U.G.	Balkis	<i>tracyanum</i>		50
	Pale yellow no fragrance, no lines dotted lip.			
U.G.	<i>tracyanum</i>	Showgirl		50
	A small <i>tracyanum</i> .			
U.G.	Araluen	Wyanga		5.74
	BM/13 WOC Green.			

Peloric flowers due? to *tracyanum*

Isle 2 + AD/CSA.	Christmas Beauty	Pacific Pearl	1963	12.5
Robin 15 + 'Freckles'	Khyber Pass	Duris Aurea	1963	6.25
Cleo's Melody 8 + 'Freak Out'	Arcadian Melody	Cleo Sherman	1974	1.56
Cotton Candy 0 B/CSA x 2 'Wizard'	Fred Stewart	Vieux Rose	1976	3.13
Son of Freak AD/CSA	Cleo's Melody	Khyber Pass	1984	0.78

Sunrae crosses previously illustrated in the *Advocate*:-

U.G. (*tracyanum* x Son of Freak 'Montessa Matador')

U.G. (*tracyanum* x Robin 'Freckles')

U.G. (*tracyanum* x Tethys)

NOTE: Freakout's Son awarded an AD/CSA was registered as Son of Freak and the former grex has not been registered.

Non *tracyanum* peloric hybrids include:-

Mavourneen 'The Jester'	Miretta	Sussex moor	1961	Nil
Castle of Mey 'Cooksbridge Jester'	Putana	Western Rose	1982	Nil
Appleby 'Royal Surprise'	Marcia	Babylon	1959	Nil

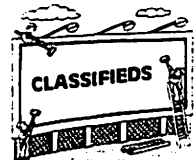
so *tracyanum* is not the only stimulus to peloric petals.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

I am now in a position to offer readers R.H.S. Registration Forms as I have been sent a large quantity of these. If readers wish any please send a **Self Addressed Envelope** to 51 King Edward Avenue, Bayswater, Auckland 9, and I will return them promptly. ◀

Ross Tucker



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DOES VIRUS REALLY MATTER?

by Dr Rod Bielecki

Dr Rod Bielecki began his talk by emphasising that he was **not** a virus specialist. A recent article in the *NZ Herald*, dated Friday, February 21, 1992 fails to mention the depth of knowledge he has on the nature of virus.

"A scientist at the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Dr Rod Bielecki, will be awarded a doctorate of science by the University of Sydney next week in recognition of his work over the past 38 years on how plants store sugars and use phosphate fertiliser."

Dr Bielecki structured his talk in three parts: what virus is, the ways one handles virus, and what we as orchid growers should be doing about it.

A virus is a very simple structure. It can do very little to help itself. It can make the coat it is covered in and it can move itself around but it cannot do anything to reproduce itself. It must rely on tricking the protein synthesizing machinery of another cell to work for it. There is no way of killing a plant virus as we understand it, without killing the host plant, because they are not living cells, but complicated chemicals. There is no spray which can kill a virus as we kill bacteria or insects. Plant virus once in the plant, is in it forever and cannot be removed.

Because virus has difficulty crossing into growing tips a plant may be rescued by extracting the minute topmost section of the growing tip. This can be grafted onto virus free root stock or it may be used for meri-stemming.

Orchids are very easy to reproduce this way because, unlike many other plants, they rarely produce mutations. Seeds are also less susceptible to virus and one way to get rid of virus can be by growing seedlings from clean seed.

Plants with virus will show that they are having problems. Flowers and leaves may be blothy and the plant less vigorous. Virus may be transmitted to other plants near the infected one. Tools and containers must be sterilized carefully and infected plants buried or burnt. 99% of virus is transmitted by human action not by insects or weather.

Testing for virus is very expensive and beyond the reach of most amateur growers. At the present time it can cost up to \$90 per sample and Dr Bielecki predicts this cost will

increase several times in the near future.

The cost of doing virus assays will be brought down to a level hobbyists can afford when current ELISA tests are made available in New Zealand. They are simple to use and give a reaction in minutes. Sap from the infected plant is put into a well, a reagent is added, and if the solution goes yellow you know you have virus.

The question time which following Dr Bielecki's talk enabled Society members to sweep away many of their misconceptions about how to recognise and handle virus.

"Yes, virus can be transmitted from genera to genera, it can travel up and down the plant, it is mildly susceptible to UV light, very susceptible to temperatures above 70°C, and you need a practised eye to distinguish it from

spray and weather damage.”

When asked, “Well, does virus really matter?” Dr Bielecki replied, “yes”. It can be unsightly. It debilitates the plant, leaves and flowers are blotchy, and both may be distorted.

Orchid growers have in the past, made a commitment to getting rid of virus and this is to be commended. Dr Bielecki asks that we all remain diligent and continue along this virus-free path. He also suggested that we encourage other flower growers to do the same. ◀

from NZOS Newsletter
February 1992

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 1993

DATE	SOCIETY	VENUE, ADDRESS
April 3/4	BAY OF PLENTY	Te Puke Memorial Hall, Jellicoe Street, TE PUKE
May 1/2	CAPITAL CITY	Wellington
Aug 21/22	KAPITI	Kapiti Senior Citizens Centre, Ocean Road, PARAPARAUMU BEACH
Aug 27	WARKWORTH	Warkworth Town Hall
Sept 4/5	HOWICK	All Saints Church Hall, Cook Street, HOWICK
Sept 10/11	2nd SOUTH ISLAND	Cames Cumming Wing, Ardwick Street, GORE
Sept 25/26	TAUPO	
Oct 1/3	TARANAKI	St Joseph's Hall, Devon St West, NEW PLYMOUTH

All societies are offered the free listing of their current year's show dates.

Please ensure accurate and full information is forwarded if this listing is to be of maximum use.

Details must be received by the Editor as follows to guarantee inclusion in the issue noted:-

ISSUE	REQUIRED BY	ISSUE	REQUIRED BY
March/April	1 February	Sept/October	1 August
May/June	1 April	November/December	1 October
July/August	1 June		

SPECIES ORCHIDS AND OLD AGE

This article tackles a difficult subject : Old Age.

It is inevitable — it is approaching the author, you the reader and the newest born baby all at the same pace, however, we react to it in our unique and somewhat predictable ways. Our Editor is limited in space allocated to musings such is mine so that I will continue this subject in a rather blunt and probably undiplomatic way to save him the space.

In the “good old days” of orchids becoming of increasingly popular, imports of species and hybrids could relatively easily be made, while nowadays importation especially of species is almost impossible. The older hybrids, if they are now lost from collections — well so what? We’ll remake them!

But — with what?

If older hybrids disappeared, species from these very same collections will also have disappeared.

Here are some examples: I inherited a mixed collection at a time I had neither the time nor resources to properly look after them.

I have heard of an orchid collection “locked up” in a glasshouse until probate.

It took me over a year to coax an elderly gentleman to part with a tiny weeny bit of an orchid which was

reputed to be rather unusual. In previous years he had grown it very successfully. In later years he’d somehow lost the knack and it promptly died.

There is a plant regularly displayed in shows and admired by most (especially me). I have tried to wheedle a bit from the owner, but no love nor money will do. In the five odd years I have tried to get a backbulb I can safely presume that this plant could have been divided up into 6 to 10 plants. So far I have only seen this one plant regularly and no clones have ever appeared. Will this species eventually disappear with its owner?

I have heard other stories, some funny and some tragic, of collections and their varied elderly owners with their unique antics — what most stories have in common is that it invariably is about the loss

of a plant! — A species perhaps?

I am not at all suggesting that we start a state run register of species, with an enforcement authority for distribution of backbulbs — a sort of: Clawback of orchid species perhaps?

You elderly guys and gals out there, probably with an orchid collection perceived to have had its heyday, before you decide to skip a year or two with repotting, before you pass up a day of watering because it is too cold — hot — raining — leg is playing up — too tired — tomorrow is another day, and the next day, and the next . . . never!

In short: before your collection suffers, please, please, please — make sure that any species, especially named varieties of species are divided and distributed amongst other enthusiasts. I would be so bold to suggest that awarded

species — well — you just about are morally obliged to do this. After all, it was the Society which awarded the plant, and in a way part of it now belongs to the society. Sell it — Raffle it — give it away! Distribution amongst younger enthusiasts will need to be as wide as possible as I well remember how I have, in my inexperienced enthusiasm, killed the very plants now appearing on my wish-list.

Species are so damned scarce now — let's all together make sure that New Zealand retains that small, but increasingly more important, gene-pool it is left with!

PS: Curious what my wish-list contains?

Anything to do with *Lycastes* and *Anguloas*. Species as well as older hybrids. I have some 370 plants of *Anguloa* and *Lycaste* species and mainly

Gripp, Alcorn and Wyldcourt/McBeans/Oakeley hybrids. If you've got something I want, I am certain I could find something tempting I can swap it with from my collection.

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ORCHID JUDGING PART 2

by DENNIS G. BONHAM

QUALITY JUDGING

The flower and plant are judged against what is thought to be theoretical perfection for that flower and plant. The most important considerations are the **Form** (or shape) of the flower and its **Colour**; but in addition other factors are taken into consideration including the **Flower Size**, the **Floriferousness** (number of flowers), the **Flower Arrangement** on the inflorescence, the **Substance** (thickness and turgidity of the flower tissue), the **Texture** (surface appearance of the flower tissue), sometimes the nature of the **Stem** in Cattleyas and Paphiopedilums and the overall **Charm and Attractiveness** in the case of intermediate and miniature Cymbidiums.

Obviously different standards will apply to different genera but the account below should serve as a general guide.

Form or shape of the flower should approach a full flat circle completely filled in. A good example here is the large Phalaenopsis, where no light should be seen between the flower parts. Obviously in judging a Cymbidium species or a hybrid near to the species a more open starry shape will be acceptable. Some slight cupping is acceptable in Cymbidiums but this should not be excessive.

Colour may be white, or any other colour, or combination of colours which is definite and attractive, again measured against the judges own standard of perfection.

Muddiness, smudginess and poorly distributed colour are unfavourable features. Staining on the back of Cymbidium sepals should be considered a defect, if it gives a muddy or undesirable appearance. The lip colour should either provide contrast in a balanced way or complement the colour in a con-colour (same colour) flower.

Size. In general big is best. In Cymbidiums three sizes of plant are recognised;

(1) Standard where the flower itself is paramount and the bigger the flower the better;

(2) Intermediate where the plant is considered as a whole and should not be merely a poorly grown standard. The charm and attractiveness of the plant replace size as a criterion.

(3) In the Miniature Cymbidium both flowers and plant should be small, with charm and attractiveness increasingly important along with floriferousness and colour.

Substance and Texture as defined above, count for a tenth of the total quality of the flower.

Floriferousness is always to be considered



Zygopetalum John Banks 'It'll Do' AD/NZOS Award Photo
Grower: R. Tucker

and a standard Cymbidium should have eight flowers, while a miniature may have more than a hundred on many spikes. As with many factors the flower count should be an improvement on the parents of the hybrid.

Flower Habit and Arrangement in general flowers should be well spaced on the inflorescence and not bunched. They should either all face approximately in the same direction or be well spaced around the spike giving an overall cylindrical shape such as is seen in pendulous miniature Cymbidiums.

The Stem of Cattleyas and Paphiopedilums should be straight, strong and long enough to lift the flower(s) out of the foliage.

Memory Bank. Obviously judging is often a matter of historical comparisons and one of the requirements of judges is that they see many good flowers and remember the appearances of both the common species and many hybrids. Book photographs help and the quarterly publication of the American Orchid Society called the Awards Quarterly with detailed descriptions and measurements of hundreds of awarded flowers is an essential aid. Local judging

systems preserve photographs of all Awards with their descriptions and one day we are told we may be able to have flower pictures on a colour TV screen.

Award Judging. Having appraised the plant according to the criteria above with particular reference to the genus being considered the panel of judges then seek consensus on the level of award to be recommended, if any. Here there is some divergence of technique broadly divided into the **appreciation** and the **pointing** systems.

In **appreciation** judging, the panel of judges, having considered the plant using what are very uniform criteria either have a straight majority vote for the proposed award as at the RHS meetings or alternatively fill in the box for no award, HCC, AM, AD etc on a form. The sum of votes for each category are added to make the final decision. This system is used by the NZOS.

In **pointing** systems there are specified points to be allocated to the various criteria and these points are, (again dependent on the genus), recorded on pre-printed forms. The pointing system is used by the AOS, the CSA, The Australian Orchid Council (AOC) and the OCNZ. Recently, in September

1991, the AOC made important changes to the pointing system in that several groups of plants including all species, Australian Native Hybrids and Intermediate and Miniature Cymbidiums were to be judged by appreciation and then a global score given to the plant by each judge. The individual scores are then processed to give an average score. This has produced a compromise which it is hoped will give the best of both systems.

A particular advantage of the pointing systems is that during their long training period learner judges are directed to each individual character very specifically. In the Standard Cymbidium column the scorer has up to 100 points to allocate as follows:- **Flower Form 30** (comprising overall form 15, sepals 5, petals 5 and labellum 5) **Flower Colour 30** (comprising overall colour 15, sepals and petals 8, and labellum 7) **Size of Flower 10, Substance and Texture 10, Habit and Arrangement of Inflorescence 10, and Floriferousness 10, TOTAL 100.** For other genera there are small variations in the scoring allocation.

After calculating the mean score for the participating judges, having first given judges with unusually low or high scores, the opportunity to



Odrta. Mandarin 'Little Gem' HCC/NZOS Award Photo
Grower: Mrs J. Allen

reconsider, any remaining way-out scores are removed and the mean calculated. In a good judging panel the scores are normally well clustered around the mid point of the mark range. Mean scores of 75 and over suffice for an HCC or BM; 80 and over gives an AM or SM and the rare 90 and over a FCC or GM. In some systems notable the AOC 85 points suffices for an FCC. When an award is recommended the plant and flowers are carefully described and measured so that records of the plant on the day can be preserved for posterity. In all cases colour photographs are used to complement the descriptions.

In most judging systems the final recommendations for the Award goes for ratification to a Committee on Awards for the system, or to the Society Executive in the case of the NZOS.

Cultural Commendations and Display Judging. Special criteria are used in the judging of well cultured plants, including the known difficulty of growing a particular plant to the specific size and standard of excellence. Similarly with the judging of displays, additional criteria are used. Here the quality of plants shown is only one aspect; in addition the relationship to any

theme, the colour balance and harmony, the variety of plants and the labelling all have to be considered.

In **Show Judging**, discussed more fully in the early article, the judges use the normal criteria for quality assessment and then select a group of the better quality plants in each class being considered. These are then ranked either by an open show of hands or alternatively by a method of elimination.

The Ethics of Judging. There are a number of obvious, and some not so obvious, ethical issues that have to be considered in orchid judging. Obviously one should not take part in judging one's own plants, but the matter is broader than this. When one's own plant is to be considered one must leave the judging area so that you cannot see who are your supporters and who are your detractors. The same applies to plants being entered by close friends or enemies, where one's judgement could be claimed to be less than impartial.

Another problem is the strong personality leading the group to his or her own opinion. It is fundamental that the chairperson of the panel should act promptly to eliminate such bias. Conversely it is tempting for less experienced (and

sometimes experienced) judges to watch the hands of others before showing their vote. This is a trend that individual judges must avoid, they should make up their mind and vote rapidly before waiting to see how the vote appears to be going. This is where award voting on paper is so superior to open hand voting in class judging.

OCNZ Judge Training. The Council training lasts for as long as six years in one of the twelve Supplemental Regional Panels. For up to two years one acts as an observer so that both oneself can decide if one wishes to continue and ones colleagues can decide if you are an acceptable member of the team. Assuming you continue, and most do, one serves as an Associate Judge for four years gradually taking a more active part in the procedures. One important training exercise which is also indulged in by fully accredited judges is to give short technical presentations of about 15 minutes each on judging topics. The training involves some 6-12 judges meetings and show judging each year with two regional day seminars in the region centred at the home base of supplemental panels. In addition one is required to attend a national weekend seminar once every two years. There is a

reasonable amount of travelling involved and some travel and accommodation costs. Judging is an unsponsored hobby with a great deal of satisfaction and camaraderie; it is well worth trying. Growers who are interested and have exhibited successfully are always welcome and should approach the chairpersons of Judging Panels in Whangarei, Auckland, Hamilton, Bay of Plenty/Rotorua, Gisborne, Hawkes Bay, New Plymouth, Manawatu/Wanganui, Wellington, Marlborough, Nelson, Christchurch and Dunedin. If in doubt about addresses drop me a line at the address shown inside the cover of this journal. ◀

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Odcdm. Tiger Mac 'Mona' HCC/OCNZ Award Photo
Grower: G. Day

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Profile of a Council Member

John Scott

John, conceived in Fiji, was born in Dunedin. Three weeks later he decided there were better prospects north so he and the family moved to Havelock North then later to Tauranga. Later still the family moved to the North Shore in Auckland. His parents then took an extended overseas work assignment and John was sent to a boarding school. The problem, however, was that the only available school on the North Shore was "St Annes" School for girls. So at the tender age of 7 he became the head boy of a girl's school. He bears the scars of this ordeal to this day.

His early work experience was varied, working on a dairy farm, a shepherd on a sheep station, a scrub cutting contractor, and as a mountain guide based at Mt Cook. Later a desire to help his fellow man resulted in John becoming a Senior Tax Inspector a position he held until transferring to the Accountancy and Law Department of the Auckland Institute of Technology.

He retired from there as Head of Department a few years ago to work full time in his orchid nursery. While at the Auckland Institute of Technology he was seconded to Fiji for three years by the Department of External Affairs. His brief was to re-organise their Ministry of Finance.

He joined the Fiji Rucksack Club and Shell Club and organised many weekend and day trips to outlying islands and coral reefs. It was in Fiji he discovered orchids.

On his return to New Zealand he joined the North Shore Orchid Society and over the years has held most positions on their executive and has just retired after a three year term as President.

Shortly after his return from Fiji his first wife died of cancer and John says it was orchids that kept him sane over the subsequent months. He is well known

as a speaker and has visited a large number of our societies usually talking about the many trips he and his wife Maxine take to odd corners of the world. They are currently on a two and a half month backpacking trip through Turkey which is the way they usually travel. Their nursery 'House of Orchids' is well known for the wide range of 'other genera' they grow. ◀



John Scott, resting during recent overseas travelling

THE SECOND AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHID CONFERENCE TOOWOOMBA 1993

The Native Orchid Society of Toowoomba Incorporated is proud to host the Second Australasian Native Orchid Conference and Show from 17th to 19th September, 1993 at the Campus of the University of Southern Queensland.

The City of Toowoomba is located on the Great Dividing Range approximately 130 kilometres west of Brisbane. The city is about 700 metres above sea level and has a very pleasant climate and environment.

Toowoomba is known as the "Garden City" and is very proud of its magnificent parks and gardens and tree lined streets. Spring is one of the best times of the year to visit. During the last week in September each year, the city is host to the "Carnival of Flowers" recognised as the largest running annual festival in Australia. Unique displays and events highlighted with artistic and floral themes provide interest and entertainment for all. Spectacular events include the grand floral parade, exhibition gardens, spring flower shows, orchid shows and competitive gardens.

What does the conference and show have to offer to you, the orchid grower? Some of the topics at the conference include:

- Native orchids of New Zealand.
- Asian immigrants into the orchid flora of Australasia.

- In-vitro germination of terrestrial orchids.
- Orchids of North Queensland.
- Hybridization of Australasian terrestrial orchids.
- Hybridization within the genera *Dendrobium* and *Sarcochilus*.

These topics and more will be addressed by international and Australian speakers.

As for the orchid show, we can guarantee a spectacular display with plants from all over Australia. Toowoomba is ideally situated and we expect quality displays from tropical and sub-tropical regions as well as those from more temperate areas. The region is renowned as a cool growing native orchid area and each September the Native Orchid Society of Toowoomba combines with the Toowoomba Orchid Society to stage a spectacular spring orchid show.

Plants for competition can be entered in any one of 43 classes and there will be large floral displays and

table top displays. Prize money totalling about \$8000 will be keenly sought after with the Champion of the Show attracting the ANOS prize of \$1000. Reserve Champion will receive the Toowoomba Orchid Society trophy of \$500. Best large display has a prize value of \$600 and every other Society or individual competing in this section will be awarded \$100. Best table top display will attract a prize of \$150 and first prize in individual sections will be \$25. Enough reasons to be in Toowoomba in September 1993!

Registration forms available from:

The Second Australasian Native Orchid Conference and Show
c/- University of Southern Queensland
Conference Section
P.O. Darling Heights
Toowoomba, Qld 4350

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Hours – Tuesday - Saturday 9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

During the flowering season, May-December, the Nursery is also open on Sundays & Public Holidays.

Phone/Fax: 0-4-293 6977

Something Different



Encyclia cochleata

A distinctive and interesting species which has graced select collections for many years. Native of Florida, the West Indies, Mexico and south to Venezuela and Columbia it naturally grows from 100 to 2000 metres altitude therefore appreciating some warmth under culture.

(Photo: F. Zimbuhi)