Orchids in New Zealand

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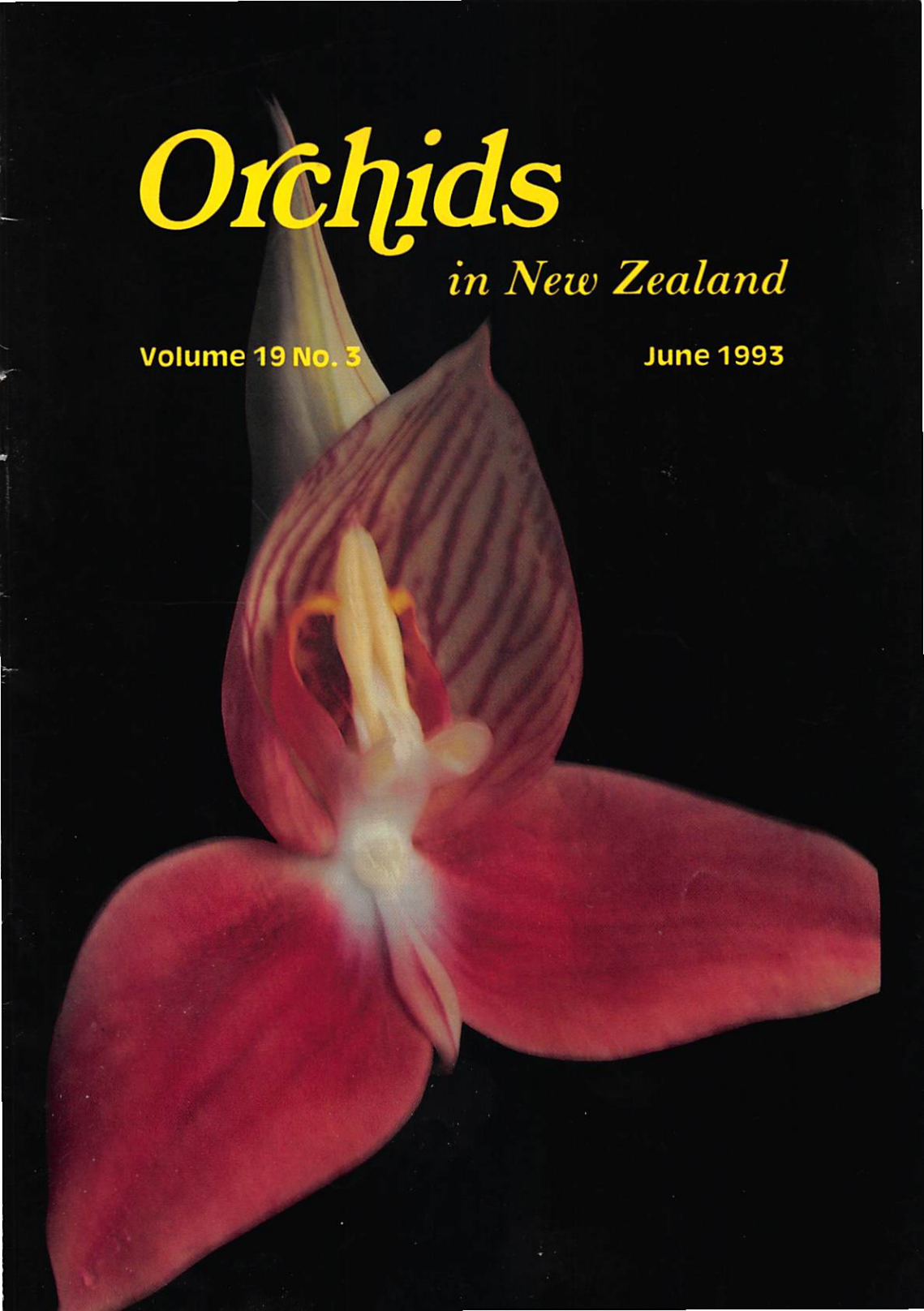

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P.O. Box 489, WHANGAREI. Phone: 0-9-438 0515

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Chairman of Committee on Awards:
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Phone: 0-9-625 6300

Editor:
PHILIP TOMLINSON
14 Putnam Street, Northland, WELLINGTON 5.
Phone: 0-4-475 8765

Distributor/Back Issues:
BETTY FEATHERSTON
P.O. Box 983, WHANGAREI. Phone: 0-9-436 1408

Slide/Video Programme Librarian:
BERYL GOODGER
9 Somerset Grove, TAURANGA. Phone: 0-7-578 4761

ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND
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EDITOR:
PHILIP TOMLINSON
14 Putnam Street
Northland
Wellington 5
Phone: 0-4-475 8765

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incorporating 'The New Zealand Orchid Review'

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NEW ZEALAND ORCHID SOCIETY

VOL. 19 No. 3 **JUNE 1993**

CONTENTS

ILLUSTRATIONS

IT is great to see an orchid society taking the initiative. Run a series of seminars on our favourite orchids, get together a bunch of great speakers who know their subjects, and then GET IT ALL DOWN ON PAPER. All too often good seminars are appreciated by those present, but many people cannot, for many reasons, attend all orchid functions. Securing a permanent record of the talks, and taking the time and effort to ensure that these are published, ensures the widest possible dissemenation of the information which would be of interest to a wider range of orchid growers.

THANKS A LOT

editorial

It is obvious from many of the orchid journals that there continues the age old problem of securing contributions, and if anything it is getting worse. Some of the specialist newsletters which started off with bounds of enthusiasm are also experiencing the difficulties of continuing contributions to their publications, learning the experience of similar publications overseas which have also suffered the same problem for many years.

There seems to be a widespread malaise — take all you can get but don't bother to contribute.

This magazine, 'our' magazine for all orchid growers in New Zealand, has experienced similar difficulties. Recently through the efforts of some Council members, more contributions have arrived, but over the last few years without the efforts of one affiliated society your magazine would have been a thin publication indeed. Not only have they arranged stimulating seminars, but the papers from those events have been of widespread interest. If one society can take the time, effort and enthusiasm, to achieve such results, surely it must be achievable by all. I know there have over recent years been events organised by societies in this country, where good speakers have presented papers which would have widespread interest, but no-one knows about them other than the small number of people present at those events.

Orchids in New Zealand is your magazine, owned by all members of affiliated orchid societies in this country. Like all such publications it is experiencing its own problems of lack of material, lack of advertisers, subscribers etc. It is an asset which needs the support of all orchid growers, but especially those from affiliated societies. If each society contributed only one or two articles each year, then we would have plenty of original material. Orchid growing covers a wide field, and we all have plants or experience which is of interest to others; please take the effort to put this on paper. It is worth asking the question — "what have you and your society done for **your** magazine over the last 12 months?"

The example of the Cymbidium Society of America, New Zealand Branch, in running their cymbidium seminars, transcribing their speakers notes, and making them available to **Orchids in New Zealand** is an example other societies could well emulate. To the efforts of Ray Dix and other members of that organisation we all owe a great vote of thanks. If one society can do as much surely others can take up the challenge as well. How about it? ◄

DISAS ARE EASY . . .

Disa uniflora is an orchid which is commonly pictured in orchid books and periodicals. Its bright colour and relatively large flowers have left orchid growers worldwide with an obsession to obtain and cultivate these terrestrial orchids.

David Banks of The Auckland Orchid Club discusses* Disas. *Reprinted from their Bulletin 8:6 July 1990.

The genus comprises approximately 130 species centered in South Africa, though only a small percentage of the *Disa* species have found homes outside of South Africa. Quite a number have small insignificant flowers which have little horticultural value.

The main species available in Australia and New Zealand are *Disa uniflora, D. tripetaloides, D. racemosa* and *D. cardinalis*. All of these species are easily grown using the conditions outlined below.

Sydney is on a similar latitude to Table Mountain near Cape Town which is one of the haunts of *Disa uniflora,* known locally as 'The Pride of Table Mountain'. Therefore no artificial heating is required and, importantly, the day lengths are virtually the same so that flower initiation poses few problems. Our plants suffered no ill effects from recent heavy frosts (down to -1°C). In fact they are better in cool conditions. Summer is far more the danger time than winter; keeping the roots cool is the aim in summer.

We grow our *Disas* in a bush house under 50% shade; the house has a fibreglass roof to control watering. All of our plants are grown in black plastic pots in pure live sphagnum moss. It is important that the sphagnum is kept moist, not wet.

Our potted *Disas* are placed on a bed of sphagnum moss on a solid bench. This bed helps to maintain humidity around the plants—in their natural habitat disas are commonly found on the banks of flowing creeks. Good air movement is essential for healthy foliage and the general well-being of the plants. Under stagnant humid conditions leaf rot becomes a very real problem and must be kept in check. Individual plants don't produce many leaves and the loss of a few will greatly hinder the ability of the plant to photosynthesise effectively.

No fertilisers are used as these cause the surface of the sphagnum moss to become slimy and inhibit aeration around the tuberoid and roots.

Disas have a similar vegetative make-up to our local *Pterostylus*. The plant grows from a tuberoid which is just below the surface of the growing medium. After flowering the tuberoid should have formed to replace the spent growth. From the tuberoid sprout shoots, roots and stolons—root-like extensions which form new plants at their ends. *Disas* remain evergreen though growth slows down during the cooler months of the year. Repotting is an annual practice, after flowering or during early autumn. It is important to plant in fresh sphagnum as after twelve months this medium compacts and restricts air circulation. During the repotting process the young plants from the stolons, which usually appear at the edge of the pot or through the drainage holes, can be

carefully removed and potted individually. After flowering your first disa most of you would want to grow more of them. Unlike the majority of orchids, *Disas* can easily be grown from seed without the need to resort to flasking techniques. Firstly, boil some fresh sphagnum moss for 15 minutes in a rice cooker or similar utensil, allow this to cool and place in a new 150mm plastic pot which is filled to half its depth. The disa seed is sown directly onto the surface of the sphagnum. It is important that the seed is very fresh as it does not remain viable for long. We sow our seed as soon as it is ripe. The pot is placed, as is, right next to the parent plants. Within three weeks protocorms can be seen developing; these soon grow a very small grass-like leaf. After twelve months these plants can be potted individually into tubes. Next season the seedlings are potted into 100mm pots in which they will bloom.

Plants are watered overhead when the sphagnum just starts to lose its bright green tinge. If doubtful about the quality of your water it may be safer to use rainwater until you have a number of plants to experiment with.

The main pests are slugs and snails which can cause a considerable amount of damage in a relatively short time. Viruses are unknown in *Disa*.

In summary, the main points to remember in growing *Disas* successfully are:

- Fresh live sphagnum moss
- 50% shade
- Keep moist, not wet
- good air movement
- keep roots cool in summer

Remember *Disas* are bog plants and are grown in the same way as a number of carniverous plants, such as sundews. They are not grown like 'normal' orchids.

Flowers are produced mostly between November and February although hybridising is now extending the flowering season and the range of colours.

Disas have an infectious appeal to both beginners and old hands in the orchid game. Actually they are a lot like salted peanuts—once you've had one you can't stop. Before long you will be putting a section of bench aside for *Disas,* but wouldn't that be nice. Yes, *Disas* are easy! ◄

Disa uniflora

About ten years ago I received some *Disa uniflora* seed from the Taranaki Orchid Society. This germinated easily in fine bark, but then my troubles started. I had many seedlings and fortunately some survived years of mismanagement when trying to grow them in a glasshouse. Now I know better! *Disa uniflora* thrives when grown out doors all year round provided a few simple precautions are taken.

This orchid, sometimes known as the pride of Table Mountain, ranges in colour from red, orange to pink. Its native habitat is in the Table Mountains in South Africa. It grows along streamsides, around pools of water and on dripping rocky cliffs. It likes water, but more than that, it appears to like a flow of water about its roots at all times. The *Disa* flower differs from any orchids. It has a showy dorsal sepal, the most prominent feature of the flower, and two large lateral sepals. The petals and lip are quite insignificant.

After flowering the plant appears to die completely but not until it has produced several plantlets from the tuber at the base of the old flower stem and from underground runners called stolons. It is from

these plantlets that flowers will develop in the following season.

The culture of *Disa uniflora* must follow several basic requirements. *A free draining potting mix* is essential. Sand and peat combination are often used, but in New Zealand bark is a very satisfactory medium. I used to use a fine grade bark which gave good results, but this year, because I could not obtain fine bark, I used Yates orchid mix (a mixture of bark and ponga) and the plants appear to be thriving.

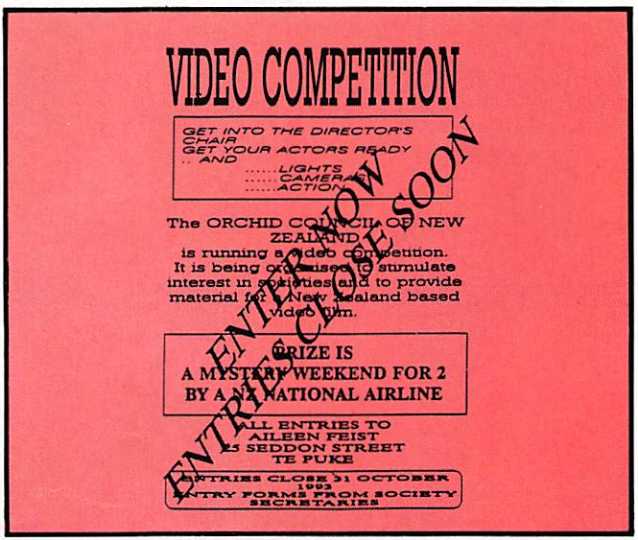
Disa requires a *copious flow of water.* Overseas information suggests that the plants grow better with a soft water supply that has a pH in the 4.5 - 6.5 range. Wellington's water has a pH of 7.5 - 8.5 so it is rather high. Rain water with a pH of about 5.0 is ideal so plant benefit from being outside all year round.

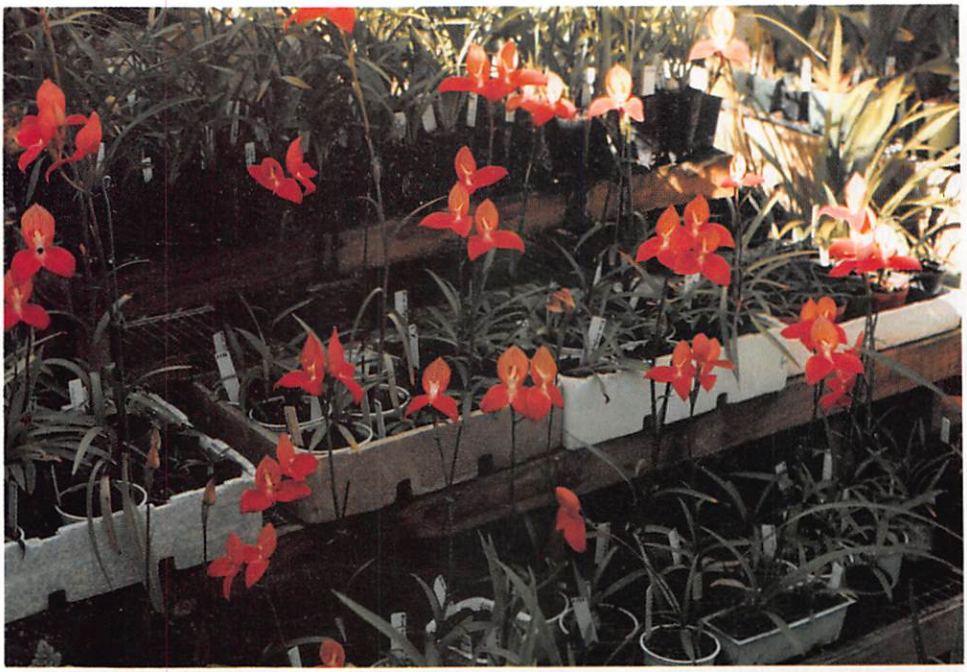
Some growers use a system known as *hydroculture.* Pots are placed in plastic trays which are connected to a water tank. Water flows into the tray, which acts as a water bed, providing a continuous flow of water about the base of the pots. The water drains back into the storage tank. A small pump is required to maintain circulation and fertilizers can be added to the water as required. This system provides almost complete control of the growing environment.

Another cultural requirement is a *cool root run.* The plants like bright light and the air temperature may exceed 25°C so long as the roots are kept cool — no higher than 25°C. In their native habitat the plants survive winters of snow and ice. I grow the plants in wire baskets lined with black plastic punctured with many small holes at the base. This allows water to drip out of the basket over a period of time. There are six to eight plants to a basket and they are watered every day when it is not raining of course. The baskets hang under some large shrubs in the garden. In summer they receive very little direct sunlight but in winter, when the sun is weak, I shift the baskets to a brighter situation. Hot drying winds should be avoided and some protection may be necessary, but I am sure that plenty of fresh air keeps the plants robust, healthy and pest free.

Disa uniflora is not a gross feeder. A balanced fertilizer ¼ to ½ normal strength about every two weeks seems to be about right. Flowering plants are quite small but they produce spikes up to 30 cm tall carrying 1-5 flowers. The flowers last about six weeks in good condition and in mid to late summer they make a very welcome splash of colour in the garden. ◄

Dave Watt
Capital City Orchid Society
Newsletter, July 1992





Top: *Disa uniflora* flowering on a February morning. Grower: Bill Fransen

Bottom: *Disa Veitchii 'Helen'*. Grower: Helen & Rex Eddy

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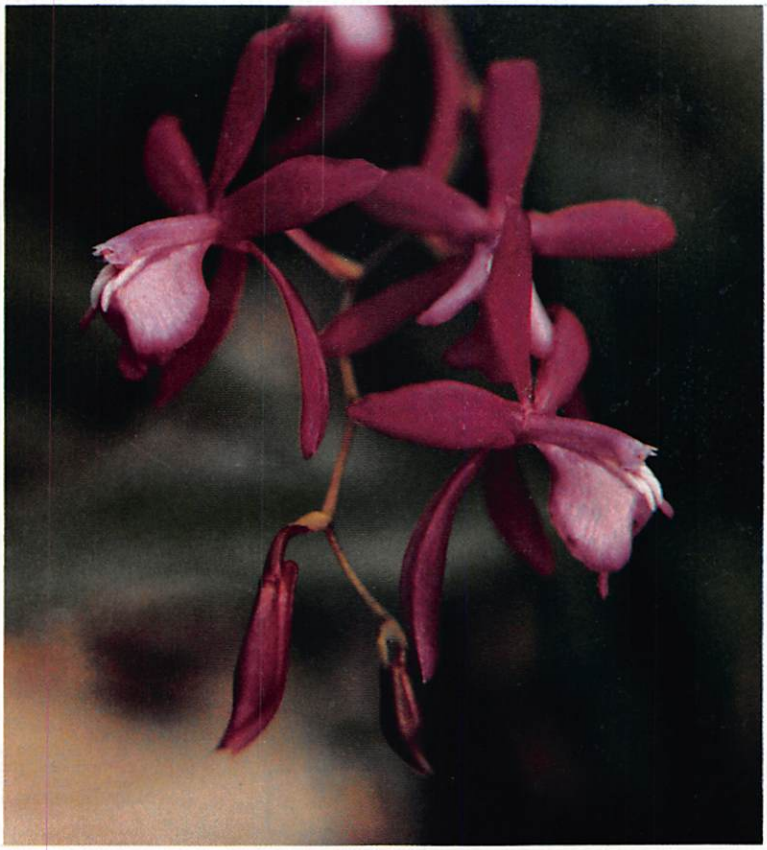
Two Cochliodas

Cochlioda may be a small genus of about six species, but they have been important plants in intergeneric hybridization. It appears that they pass on to progeny the intensity of colour, and being cool growing, may also encourage the resultant plants to withstand lower temperatures. The name is derived from the Greek *kochlioides*, meaning spiral, alluding to the snail-like appearance of the linear calli of the lip.



Cochlioda rosea
Grower: Tudor Orchids **Photo: Ross Macdonald**

Cochlioda noezliana
Grower/Photo: Ross Macdonald

These orchids are epiphytic (growing on trees or other plants), or lithophytic (growing on rocks), in cloud forest at elevations from 2000-3500m.

Perhaps the best known hybrids produced by crossing with a *Cochlioda,* are:

Odontioda (Cochlioda x *Odontoglossum), Wilsonara (Odontoglossum* x *Cochlioda* x *Oncidium), Vuylstekeara (Cochlioda* x *Miltonia* x *Odontoglossum),* and *Beallara (Cochlioda* x *Brassia* x *Miltonia* x *Odontoglossum).* Almost twenty others are registered.

Cultivation of these orchids requires cool, shady conditions in summer, with moderate humidity and fresh air. Watering is required all year, but care is needed watering, when new shoots are developing; less water is required when annual growth is complete. A free-draining potting medium (eg. bark) is important.

Two plants of this genus, which frequently appear in hybridization, are *Cochlioda rosea* and *Cochlioda noezliana. Cochlioda rosea* originates from southern Ecuador and northern Peru. It was discovered and described in 1844, being first described as *Odontoglossum roseum.* It is winter flowering.

Cochlioda noezliana is found from central Peru to northern Bolivia and flowers spring to summer. It was first flowered in Europe in 1890, after being discovered by the collector **Noetzli** in 1888. (Rentoul, notes that the corruption of the name to *noezliana* occured so long ago, it is almost impossible to correct it).

Both orchids produce long-lasting flowers and being small plants, are admirably suited to smaller, cool growing collections. ◄

Ross Macdonald

GROWING PAPHS IN A MIXED COLLECTION

When I started growing a few orchids ten years ago in a draughty, unheated leanto, I planned to look after a few cool growing species. From the start I kept well away from *Cymbidiums,* as they would have outgrown my little shed in no time. I endeavoured to put together a mixed lot with the main effort going into the genus *Dendrobium.* As this family is at home over a wide geographic area and has lots of cool growing members, I'd have something in flower all year round. Very early in the piece I bought *Paph. insigne,* soon to be followed by *P. fairrieanum, spicerianum* and *venustum.* The *P. fairrieanum* and *P. venustum* (very small seedlings) could not hack it at my place and departed to the promised land where there is no damping off, no slugs, no scale!

As time went by more plants were acquired. Keith Goodwin sent out selling lists with monotonous regularity, from which one could chose a myriad of paphs from between $10 for *barbatum* and $400 for *topperii.* Those were the days! With the availability of such gems I had to adjust my husbandry and modify the housing. Firstly a hotbed was installed (a heating cable buried in sand). Not long after, a 6 x 3 m warm house was erected, complete with heating and insulation. The hot bed is situated in the cool house and is covered with a tent fashioned from plastic sheeting to keep the temperature up to 18-22°C. During most days we lift the front flap to allow for air circulation. In this environment I keep the deflasks and plants that like it hot. But by far the majority of our paphs live on the bottom shelf of the warm house. This is constructed of wire mesh, and the plants seem to like all the free air flow. They are shaded by 30% shadecloth and quite a few hanging baskets overhead. For the hottest four months there goes on another layer of 30% shadecloth on the roof. In the wintertime the thermostat is set at 15°C at head height, but on the bench, which is only 600 mm off the floor, the temperature sinks to 5°C. This is where all my intermediate and intermediate-warm species grow. This might seem fairly low, yes, I would like it to be warmer too, but then I think of the next power bill. As my glasshouse had unobstructed access to the first sunrays of the morning during the winter there is a very rapid warming up taking place. Right throughout the year a big ceiling fan keeps the air moving eliminating hot or cold pockets.

As a growing medium, I make use of straight medium to fine bark in plastic pots. If there is a sick plant without roots I put it into straight sphagnum, covering the top with a bit of bark to keep the green gunk away. For deflasks and smallish plants I add a few crumbs of Aquarius foam to the bark.

Watering takes place whenever necessary. Quite often I give all the plants a very light fine mist that is hardly noticeable on the leaves. This is done in late evenings with a Cambrian sprayer to imitate night dew.

I feed my paphs like most other genera; almost every week. Nitrosol, Microfeed, Phostrogen, ordinary general garden fertiliser are used at very diluted rates (1/5 to 1/10 of what is recommended on the packet). I must have some Scottish ancestry in me; but like one that does not burn any roots!

I find paphs not any more difficult to look after than the other genera. Having no pseudobulbs they are a bit less forgiving and once they start a downhill slide, they take some nursing back. So, recognising symptoms of illness is rather important, and that must be done rather sooner than later. I am trying to repot my paphs every 12-18 months, and that exercise makes you aware if the root system is AOK.

I suppose everybody has their pet problem plants. I don't seem to get on with *Paphiopedilum acmodontum, chamberlainianum, mastersianum, godefroyae.* One day I'll have 'em licked!

An aspect in favour of slipper orchids is: most species are very well researched. With a bit of patience and detective work one can sniff out and obtain practically a "full set" (to use a stamp collector's term), which ensures you flowering plants all year round. And then of course, my wife thinks paphs are her favourites.

If you think I am over-simplifying the cultivation of my 72 paph species you better believe it. They have to fit in and tow the line with the other 600 species of 120 genera in sharing our 1/8 acre backyard. So the genus *paphiopedilum* is only part of my hobby of orchid growing and I don't like them any more than my other weeds. But I must agree that they are distinct from anything else in the orchid world, and one cannot mistake them for anything else.

Good luck and good growing. ◄

From NZ Paphiopedilum Alliance Newsletter 1:4

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Last December we had our annual Xmas dinner at Harveys in Oamaru. Harveys is owned by the daughter of one of our members, and the large crowd present had a delightful meal.

When finished we had the privilege of presenting a Life Membership to one of our valued members, Stan Wilson. His badge was pinned on by our president Stan Ireland.

Ten years ago this September, Stan being very interested in orchids, rallied round and found enough interested people like himself, to call a public meeting. This meeting resulted in him being elected first president of the **North Otago Orchid Society** and it is thanks to him that we have the flourishing society that we have.

Over the years he has never been too busy to help those newer members who have wanted advice and always there when there has been work to do.

At our annual shows he has been a tower of strength with his knowledge and expertise. His own collection of orchids has grown over the years and he is always experimenting with new and better ways of growing them. Although his health hasn't been the best the last year or two it hasn't blunted his enthusiasm or his bright spirit.

Well done Stan, congratulations and we wish you and your wife Noelene well. A dedicated member and a true friend to us all and may you enjoy your orchids for many years to come. ◄

S. E. McDougall
Sec. North Otago Orchid Soc.

Top: *Paph bellatulum*
Bottom: *Paph. armodontum*

Grower/Photo: F. Zimbuhl

Top: *Cym.* Bengal Boy 'Golden Hue'
Bottom: *Cym. erthrostylum*

CSA SEMINAR PAPER

Cymbidium erythrostylum & Early Bird 'Pacific'

by Alan Napper

So called because of its crimson column, *erythrostylum* was found in the southern part of Vietnam at 1500m above sea level and growing in a warm climate.

The pseudobulbs are small one and a half to two inches tall and the leaves are only ten to seventeen inches long. A very compact grower. Flowers are three inches across, very, very white with five to fifteen on an arching spike. The petals and sepals have a few rose coloured dots at the base. The lip is large but narrow, creamy in colour, heavily lined with red violet and with yellow at the back. petals are held forward, meeting at the top edges, and give the appearance of a hood over the lip. *Cym. erythrostylum* flowers early.

Many say that *erythrostylum* has few flowers. This may be true for some but the better varieties have commonly 10-12 flowers on each spike every year.

Faults of *erythrostylum* are:

1. Most if not all first generation hybrids inherit the forward petals and can be seen in hybrids for many generations.
2. Flowers, buds and leaves are susceptible to frost damage. This was well reported in the *Orchid Advocate* Jan-Fab 1990 by Batchman where it was noted after the big frost around Santa Barbara USA in January 1987, that plants with 10% or more *erythrostylum* in the breeding suffered frost damage. There were some well known hybrids amongst them like:

   Early Bird 'Pacific' - 50% *erythrostylum.*

   Earlyana, Fred Stewart, Winter Solstice, Stanley Fouraker, and Rincon 'Clarisse' - all 25%.

   Winter Fair - 12.5%.

   All showed some damage to frost but other hybrids without *erythrostylum* in their breeding showed none.
3. The narrow lip is dominant to most *erythrostylum* hybrids. For example, Stanley Fouraker (Alexanderi x Early Bird) and further passed on down the line like Valley Song 'Maureen' (Stanley Fouraker x San Miguel).
4. Fragrance in the flowers is common, to some a must to others a no no because of the attraction to bumble bees and premature pollination. Most *erythrostylum* hybrids seem to have scent to some extent.
5. There are good faults too like early flowering and its dominance as a parent to bring flowering time forward, very white flowers, and most important its very compact growing habit.

Despite everything, *Cym. erythrostylum* has been used a lot and will still be used in the hybridising for white cymbidiums.

One of the very well known *erythrostylum* hybrids is Early Bird 'Pacific'. The recorded breeding is Edward Marshall x *erythrostylum* in 1946, bred by Sanders Limited at St Albans in England, and awarded an AM/RHS in 1950. Edward Marshall

was the reputed result of the crossing of:

Albatross x Doris

insigne x *tracyanum*

Gottianum x *grandiflorum*

eburneum x *insigne*

All this gives Early Bird 'Pacific' a pedigree of:

50.00% *erythrostylum*

18.75% *insigne*

12.50% *tracyanum*

12.50% *grandiflorum*

6.25% *eburneum*

Early Bird 'Pacific' is early flowering, the spikes appear early and grow very quickly. It is what you would expect with 50.00% *erythrostylum* in the breeding. Early Bird 'Pacific' has a white flower, full and quite shapely, only 4-8 on a spike, these larger than those of *erythrostylum* and the petals and sepals are broader. The petals come forward and the flowers have a scent, the lip is large but narrow with red dots across the front and yellow towards the back.

It is probably safe to say that *erythrostylum* could be one of the parents of Early Bird 'Pacific', but what of the other? Edward Marshall did not produce anything other than Early Bird, but in the late 1930s and 1940s there were many hybrids made. Many were by Alexanderi such as Jungfrau, Rosanna, Rosarita, Cassandra, Bodmin Moor, Bengal Bay, Balkis, Alexfrida, Eagle, Dorchester, Princess Elizabeth, the list goes on, almost endlessly. What a magnificent parent.

Cym. Alexanderi was the result of the cross Eburneo-Lowianum 'Concolor' x *insigne,* and there were twenty two awarded hybrids from the cross, the best known is Alexanderi 'Westonbirt' FCC/RHS. It was the first tetraploid.

Coming back to Early Bird 'Pacific' could the other parent be one an Alexanderi 2n rather than Edward Marshall? Considering how good Early Bird, and Alexanderi have been as parents and how non existent Edward Marshall has been, apart from Early Bird, Alexanderi could well have been the other parent with *erythrostylum.* It would have given Early Bird its extra size and yet kept the very white flowers and long narrow lip from *erythrostylum* and Eburneo-Lowianum. I do not think that *tracyanum* shows in Early Bird because of the lack of the long spiking habit of *tracyanum.* If Alexanderi was the other true parent there would be no *tracyanum* or *grandiflorum,* but more *insigne,* and species in the pedigree are:

50.0% *erythrostylum*

25.0% *insigne*

12.5% *lowianum*

12.5% *eburneum*

Concluded on page 82 . . .

DRACULAS

Some growers prefer beauty or brilliant colours in their orchids but the Dracula (little dragon) would appeal to those who like the bizarre or fanciful flower. Their grotesque beauty has fascinated orchidists for over a century.

The first Dracula (*chimaera*) was first described in 1872 and was included with Masdevallias and all Draculas were grouped with Masdevallias until they were separated in 1978. It was rather surprising that this separation was so recent as vegetatively the plants of Dracula are easily recognised. They differ from the Masdevallia in that they have a dorsal keel along the midrib of the leaf. There are also technical differences in the flowers but with terms like petals being bivalvate and papillose, and basal hypochile and an apical epichile we will leave these differences to the experts. Many Dracula have a dangling labellum resembling a mushroom complete with gills. The flowers usually have a grotesque appearance being hairy and many having the appearance of an animal face, they vary in colour and most are spotted or mottled.

There are now over 85 species of Dracula mostly from Colombia and Ecuador and only one from Peru and none from Brazil or Venezuela. They grow in the Andes from 5000 ft to 9000 ft where temperatures rarely exceed 24° - 27°C and night time frosts are not uncommon. With heavy mists and frequent torrential downpours, the air is constantly humid yet freshened by a perpetual breeze. They grow both, lithphytically and epiphytically, their roots buried in the thick cover of mosses and lichens which cloth the tree trunks and cliff faces.

Not difficult to grow they need cool moist conditions with bright but subdued light of about 1000 foot-candles with plenty of air movement in a medium that although well drained will hold moisture which can be obtained with chopped sphagnum. Not heavy feeders, feed monthly with quarter strength of any balanced fertiliser throughout the year as the plants are in constant growth. It has been jokingly suggested that a little dried blood might help satisfy a Dracula's thirst.

Most but not all Dracula flower spikes are decumbent or pendent in nature, so it is best to grow all Draculas in wire or plastic mesh hanging baskets to allow the flower spikes to grow through. There was the old story of a Dracula that had been growing in a clay pot and had never flowered when it was dropped and the pot split open exposing the flower spikes looking for a way out. The flowers of both the Dracula and Masdevallia may be borne singly or singly in succession on ascending or descending spikes. Those flowering in succession may flower over a period of months so spikes should be left until they have browned. Only *D. sodiroi* may bear as many as 3 flowers at once on one raceme. The blooms are extremely sensitive to high temperatures and will wilt but can be revived under correct conditions. Excessive heat can kill Draculas like a wooden stake through the heart,

Top: *Vanda tricolor* var. *suavis*. Grower: Sherlock Orchids.
Bottom: *Dracula erythrochode*. Grower: Sherlock Orchids.

they will tolerate hot days much better if they cool off at nights.

Most available plants are species but there are a few hybrids and there are one or two that have been hybridised with Masdevallias. The plants are generally rapid growers, they divide easily but care should be taken not to break them up too small and to leave at least 12 growths per division to ensure rapid recovery. ◄

Canterbury Orchid Society Bulletin January 1993

Vanda tricolor & the Variety Suavis

by J. J. Smith

Both these *Vandas,* on account of their easy cultivation and willing flowering, together with the reasonable price, are frequently met with in collections, though not always labelled with the correct name. Everyone, however, who has had an opportunity to watch some correctly named specimens of both varieties together will be sure to distinguish them in future without any trouble. It is another matter to describe the differences in such a way as to render the plants recognizable only by means of the stated details. Yet I shall make the attempt.

Vanda tricolor has somewhat compact recems, caused by the rather wide sepals and petals and the proportionately short pedicel. The colour of the sepals and petals is generally light yellow inside, with brown specks in several hues. The side lobes of the lip are white, and the mid-lobe purple (magenta). At the base of the mid-lobe there are 3 (-5) small longitudinal white ribs separated by purple-brown streaks. Generally, the pandurate mid-lobe is narrower at the emarginate top than at the base. There is, however, also a variety with the mid-lobe as broad at the top as at the base, lighter purple, and, moreover, minutely spotted darker purple. The brown of the sepals and petals means cinnamon in the present case. If I am not mistaken, this variety used to be known in European collections as var. *cinnamomea.* Still another variety exists in which the group colour of both sepasl and petals is white with purple-brown specks, and the mid-lobe is narrower at the top than at the base. It may be this form which gave rise to the confusion with the true variety *suavis,* as the two forms resemble one another as to the colour. In the variety *suavis* the colour of the sepals and petals is always white with brownish-purple dots. The mid-lobe of the lip, which is always narrower at the top than at the base, is in the lower portion very dark purple, always darker than in *V. tricolor,* and turning more towards violet. Moreover, the racems are bigger, the flowers slenderer and the pedicels longer. The variety is to my liking finer than the species, more distinguished, so to say. It is indeed, remarkable that the finest specimens with the biggest and most strikingly coloured flowers are found towards the east of Java and on Bali. Very ornamental is a variety with drooping racems, which, I think, is known as var. *Lindenii.*

Apart from the said varieties, innumerable slighter deviations, both of *V. tricolor* and the variety *suavis,* may be met with. The latter, however, is by far not so variable as the species.

Continued from page 79 . . .

The extra eburneum would indicate a reason for the low flower count of Early Bird.

Who was the pod parent then? I think it was *erythrostylum* as this would account for many of the hybrids having a compact growing habit such as Stanley Fouraker, and Fred Stewart. In the registration Edward Marshall was the pod parent so this may be another pointer towards incorrect parentage recording. Normally the pod parent has more effect on growing characteristics of progeny.

The seeds of doubt are certainly sown in my mind as to the correct parentage of Early Bird 'Pacific'. ◄

An Exciting Experiment

During the 1991 growing season I lost quite a few cymbidiums and cattleyas due to overwatering. I put this down to the fact that I didn't repot in the spring of 1990. I therefore repotted the whole of my collection in the spring of 1991. However, I continued to lose plants in the 1992 growing season.

This together with poor growth on my plants put me in mind to give them away and start with something else. This, after 20 years of orchid growing.

It was not meant to be because in the December issue of **Orchids Australia** there was an article by a Tasmanian orchid grower, N. van den Bosch. The article was entitled *Natural Orchid Culture* and it suggested a revolution in the way we grow orchids.

Firstly the growing medium was pure horse manure. Note that this is a compact medium and there is no chance of air being around the roots as when grown in bark.

Secondly the plants are watered in the summer twice daily. Note there is no drying out of the medium between waterings. In the article it states that whilst growing in this medium you can't overwater provided you have good drainage. In the winter it would be once a day in the morning so that the plant foliage is dry before nightfall.

Maybe I was halfway there to my next step as I was watering every day my few Australian Dendrobiums and my one and only Phalaenopsis. I can't remember who gave me the advice to do this but I noted that they were not only thriving but were throwing out an incredible number of new growths whilst the Phalaenopsis threw a spike.

My next step was to source some manure, horse manure not being readily available from the nursery. However, I had on hand a bag of "Watkins Organic Compost." So on 20th January 1993 I potted up 6 Cymbidium seedlings that were going nowhere whilst in bark. One was a newly rooted Cymbidium back bulb! A Cattleya seedling that I'd had for 2 years and hadn't moved and two Australian Dendrobium seedlings that were deflasked by Dave Young of Sunrae Orchids at our Howick Society Xmas Party. These each had two growths approximately 5mm high.

All the foregoing were put into the "Organic Compost" and I then commenced the watering regime, at first not brave enough for twice a day. That came later. However, the plants didn't die and as time passed they appeared to thrive.

Towards the end of February I sourced a bag of pure horse manure for sale at a local garden gate. It looked as if it had been gathered from the local paddocks and it was both dry and odour free.

The first step was to ensure that it was friable so placing about a quarter of a bucketfull into a container with holes in it I poured water through it and gathered the resultant liquid in another bucket. This was put to one side to use in a diluted form on all my orchids. A good

breakfast cupful to 10 litres of water, the colour of tea should be the result.

I then proceeded to pot on some of my plants into this now friable manure, Cymbidiums, Cattleyas, Aussie Dendrobiums, and, as a further experiment, one of a pair of *B. digbyana* to compare in due time against the one in bark.

At the beginning of March I suggested to other members of our society including our president, Mr E. (Win) Knewstubb to visit and see the results that were already apparent. When we tipped out the plants on 6th March from their very saturated pots the following were the results:-

Cattleya seedling No. 3 had new roots each 75mm long and a new growth emerging. Photo No. 1.

Cymbidium back bulb planted with a 25mm root now with 4 new roots varying in size 75mm to 25mm. Photo No. 2.

Cymbidium seedling. All existing roots stained from the mix but new roots emerging along the main stems. Photo No. 3.

Aussie Dendrobium. All roots branching with new roots and new growths being sent up. As the plant is still quite small as are the roots I don't think that the photo would reprint clearly enough.

Photo 1

Photo 2

Photo 3

A week later I upended another back bulb that I had planted on 1st March with a 15mm root. It had developed 2 roots each about 60mm long. See Photo No. 4.

All plants in the manure mixes at this time get watered twice a day with the diluted liquid horse manure fertilizer.

I have now just repotted my lone Phalaenopsis in manure and I found that the root system within the pot was quite magnificent due no doubt to the watering regime of once a day since Xmas. I will be most interested to see the results of my experiment in the months ahead especially through the winter months. I would also like to think some other orchid grower will take up the challenge so that we can compare notes.

Meanwhile further photos will be taken in the months ahead to see how the rooting systems are progressing.

I am also wondering whether if the plant gets sufficient nutrient through the roots within the pot that they will stop their tendancy to grow them outside the pot as I noticed when repotting my lone Phalaenopsis.

Time will tell, but it is quite exciting. ◄

Harry Bennett
Howick, Auckland
29/3/93

Photo 4

Photo 5 - A *Dendrobium*

Watch out horse owners — here come the orchid growers! Readers may find one grower's experiments of growing orchids in horse manure interesting. Hopefully we will report on the continuing results of this experiment in due course.

Editor

High Tea

During February, Orchid Council President Syd Wray, Joy, Roy Clareburt and Patricia Elms were guests of the Governor-General, Dame Catherine Tizard at a morning tea held at Government House in Auckland. This function, like a number of others, was held to bring together people representing groups of which Dame Catherine is patron.

After being served morning tea we had Dame Catherine welcome us. She then mingled with groups of people spending an unhurried five or so minutes with each. We discussed the event of the World Orchid Conference, the display, the cymbidium named after her and her receipt of a copy of the proceedings. She also spoke of visiting Palmerston North recently so we were able to tell her of the International Expo for 1995. She commented on the aspect of our place in the community, encouraging people to take up orchid growing as a hobby suitable for all ages. We were also invited to inspect the lovely gardens before leaving. We were all made most welcome by her very friendly staff. ◄

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

I am a keen hobbyist orchid grower and have been for a number of years. In my search for more information I have joined: an orchid society, The Paph Alliance, The Masdevallia Alliance and subscribe to **Orchids in New Zealand.** Unfortunately money precludes me from also joining the Odont Alliance. One thing all these organisations suffer from is a lack of articles for their respective newsletters and all endeavour to get their members to submit some small article to make the Editor's job that bit easier.

I would like to suggest that in the case of the Alliances that the vehicle in which they distribute their own particular information should be **Orchids in New Zealand.** I know this would meet with a fair bit of resistance as each Alliance wants to do their own thing but there would be many advantages, such as:

- A regular bi-monthly publication.
- A high quality publication.
- Everyone could share in this specialist information.
- It would be easier to fill **Orchids in New Zealand.**
- More subscription could be taken with **Orchids in New Zealand.**
- Each Alliance would be seen to promote their own genera.
- Each Alliance would have their own **'Corner'** within **Orchids in New Zealand.**
- Subscription to each Alliance would be reduced as they would not be required to produce a newsletter.

All articles by Alliance members should go through their own Editors as this would reduce the workload of **Orchids in New Zealand,** and any alteration to an article would only be done with the consent of the Alliance Editor. (This would allow the Alliances to control their information). ◄

Trevor Gillbanks
Manawatu

There is a good idea here. Allocated space could be made available, although the Editor would have to retain final editorial control. What do you think? ***Editor***

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE — Limited Edition, 2nd South Island Orchid Show Badge. Cost $6 + P & P $2.50. Orders to: J. R. Paterson, Willow Terrace, 4 RD, Gore. Cheques payable to Gore Orchid Club.

BINDERS — Holds 12 copies of *Orchids in New Zealand.* Final batch of these binders now available from Canterbury Orchid Society. $12.50 each. Send orders to Lesley Newton, F2/23 Royleen Street, Christchurch 5.

DISA SEED for sale. Mixed Seed $5.00. Also available Species and Hybrids, seed and plants. M. Parkinson. P.O. Box 528, Tauranga. Phone 0-7-576 4752.

Portrait of a Council Member

HAROLD BAYRAM

My interest in orchids dates back to 1980 when a friend invited me to see his orchids which he was growing for a retirement hobby. His idea was to build up a collection before retirement so that when the magical day came when you could retire from the workforce you would have a hobby that would be well established. It was with this in mind that we built a small lath house with shade cloth sides. At this stage I was introduced to the wonders of the local Orchid Society.

It wasn't long before Agnes caught the bug and we decided to make this a joint hobby and build up a collection of Cymbidiums. On a trip to Auckland we bought some large plants from Brigitta Orchids and later purchased a couple of flasks from Ken Nicholson, gleaning as much information as we could from these experienced growers.

We soon found that the lath house was not suitable to grow the plants in winter and after many attempts to cover the roof with plastic we decided to double the size of the house and put a Coralite roof over the whole structure.

We now had a set-up that allowed us to extend into the growing of other genera but still retained the major part of the shade house for Cymbidiums.

From these small beginnings we now have a shade house four times the original size housing several thousand plants of mixed genera. While we have no heating in the outside set-up we house the warm growing plants inside during the winter months.

My involvement in the local Society soon led to my appointment as secretary and later as president for a three year term. I am at present serving a second term as secretary. In 1986 I was appointed as Society Delegate to the Orchid Council AGM and was elected to the Executive Committee. I have served on that committee since and have been involved in producing a newsletter to societies after every meeting in an effort to keep societies informed on OCNZ activities.

In the run up to the 1990 World Orchid Conference I was given the task of organising the runners to assist the judges in the mammoth task of judging the Conference Show. I am an accredited judge of the OCNZ judging system and since the inception of the Committee on Awards I have been the deputy chairman working under the leadership of Doug Burgess and lately Dennis Bonham. I have served as chairman of the Gisborne Supplemental Region 2.1 and last year was the regional chairman for the whole region covering from New Plymouth to Gisborne to Wellington.

I have also conducted two trips for orchid enthusiasts to two Australian conferences and on the last occasion extended the trip to Singapore. I am at present organising a tour group to the Australian Orchid Conference and Show in Darwin next year.

My involvement in the local committee as committee member, secretary, president and chairman of the judging

Our Favourite Orchids

by Agnes and Harold Bayram, Gisborne

In the eleven years since we first started growing orchids we have built up a large collection of cold/cool growing genera.

Of course we started with Cymbidiums and after much trial and error we progressed to Dendrobiums, Sarcochilus, Odontoglossums, Oncidiums, Paphiopedilums, Masdevallia etc. The following is our selection of the eight plants that give us the most joy to grow:

Agnes and Harold Bayram

Continued from previous page . . .

panel as well as being a member of the OCNZ Executive Committee for the past six years and deputy chairman of the Committee on Awards has stimulated my interest in the growing, judging and administration work associated with the growing of orchids in New Zealand. ◄

Masdevallia ignea

We like this flower for its vibrant colour that attracts your attention as soon as you enter the shadehouse. Many crosses have been made with *Masd. ignea* but the excellent colour does not show through in the progenies.

Cymbidium (Huckleberry Mountain x (Alnwick Castle x Peetie))

A wonderful flower with good shape and texture. It flowers in September in time for the spring shows.

Vuylstekeara Cambria 'Plush'

This is an excellent flowering plant and with several plants in flower they make a lovely show in January/February each year.

Cymbidium (Tamatea x (Alnwick Castle x Peetie))

Another good cross which flowered for the first time last year and we hope that the second flowering will be even better. A very good cross for the show bench.

Dendrobiums Assorted

We have a large collection of Dendrobiums and this photo shows a small section of our plants in flower.

Dendrobium kingianum 'Agnes'

A very showy plant with masses of pink flowers. We will be growing it into a specimen plant for display purposes.

All photos by Harold Bayram.

Cymbidium Doctor Baker 'Peg'

A very good showy plant with pendulous spikes. A popular plant for shows with some very good specimen plants around New Zealand.

Sarcochilus hartmannii 'White Magic' HCC/OCNZ

Very good shaped flower with a glistening white colour. This flower has received an HCC/OCNZ award. A beauty to behold.

NATIVE EPIPHYTIC ORCHIDS

Six of our native orchids are epiphytic, ALL can be cultivated in our garden and shadehouse, BUT remember that no native plants may be removed from protected areas such as national parks and reserves. There is a hefty fine for doing so. However, you often find broken branches and old logs with these perching orchids still attached in small bush areas around farms etc. if you want to have a try at some of them.

The largest in both plant and flower size is *Den. cunninghamii.* The plant produces long branched stems which typically become pendulous with age and have narrow leaves near the tips. The flowers, around 3 cm across, are borne in clusters from near the tips of the stems in mid summer. The petals and sepals are white, the lip is also white with yellow or green throat and rose/purple side lobes. It can be grown attached to pieces of tree fern (must be hard) or in pots or baskets. If grown on tree fern the plants must be kept well watered, especially in the summer as the plants do not have any well developed water storage. Regular applications of liquid fertiliser will also prove beneficial.

Earina autumnalis so named because it flowers in the autumn, has erect terminal spikes of sparkling white and yellow flowers which have a delightful fragrance. This plant has erect to pendulous stems with alt. bright green leathery leaves. After several years of growth, the new shoots terminate with a flower spike which has numerous short branches bearing clusters of 1 cm blooms.

Earina mucronata is probably the most commonly seen of our epiphytic orchids, the growth is typically arching to pendulous but in bright sun plants tend to be short and tufted, due to the drier situation. The stems are slender and a yellowish colour, spotted black, as with *E. autumnalis* the leaves are alternate but are longer and narrower. The slender flower stems are terminal and pendulous with clusters of small pale creamy yellow to green flowers with a yellow lip. The flowering time is from spring to mid summer and will grow in shady to full sun situations. The fragrance is reminiscent of citrus. Culture is as for *Den. cunninghamii.*

The two species of *Bulbophyllum* are the only native orchids with developed pseudobulbs. *B. pygmaeum* is a tiny plant about 1 cm tall, which forms rather dense mats on the trunks and branches of trees and on rocks, preferably in a semi-shaded position. They have tiny globular pseudobulbs with a wrinkled surface, produced at intervals along a creeping rhizome. The even smaller flowers are greenish and produced on a short stem from the base of the pseudobulbs during summer.

B. tuberculatum, possibly one of New Zealand's rarest orchids, is a larger plant, 2-4 cm tall including the leaf, with rounded pseudobulbs pointed at the apex. Mature bulbs are reddish in colour and newly formed bulbs may be covered with specks of a white substance. The flower stems emerge from

the base of the new pseudobulbs in autumn and carry up to four flowers about 1 cm across, translucent white with a red lip.

Drymoanthus adversus is a small monopodial orchid ranging in size from a few centimetres across to 10 cms or more, depending on habitat. Plants growing in bright light may be suffused with a red/purple colour. This plant prefers moist semi-shaded gullies or branches overhanging water. The arching flower stems carry a few to numerous small greenish flowers spotted with maroon. If grown in your collection they would need to be kept moist at all times and frequent fertilising is beneficial.

Do please remember though that as I said before we should leave these plants growing in their own enviroment for the enjoyment of others to see, so unless you find broken pieces just admire from a distance! ◄

Bay of Islands Orchid Society Newsletter, June 1992

NORTH SHORE SOCIETY CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

When the **North Shore Orchid Society** was formed twenty years ago, the foundation membership was just a handful of enthusiasts who felt that the time had probably come when they would profit from meeting and growing together locally, rather than continuing with a larger group.

Twenty years on, it is hard to realise how much has been achieved. In 1980 we staged the N.Z. first — the International Conference held at Ellerslie Racecourse. Many of you will have attended. Then in 1990 we played a major role in another first — our World Conference. So they have been two busy decades for us, and we are delighted to have an excuse for another celebration this year.

We are also delighted with the calibre of the speakers who have agreed to present papers, four of which will be presented on 3rd September, and four on 4th.

The speakers are:

Val Bayliss, Howick *(Masdevallias)*

Barry Fraser, Coromandel *(Paphiopedilums)*

Andrew Easton, Rotorua *(Cymbidiums and Odontoglossums)*

Lorraine Fagg, Australia *(Sarcochilus)*

Dr Clair Ossian, USA (Zygopetallums and Dendrobiums).

The last three speakers will give addresses on both days.

The North Shore Orchid Society has always been noted for the terrific range of rare and unusual species grown by its members and we know that this Show will be of tremendous interest to growers from other parts of New Zealand.

We believe we have a great programme arranged, at moderate cost, and further details are contained in our advertisement appearing in this issue.

It is still a few months away, so we hope you can find someone to look after your orchids while you visit the North Shore and enjoy ours! The warmest of welcomes awaits you. ◄

COLOUR FUND DONATIONS NOW TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Following a review of activities by the Inland Revenue Department the Orchid Council has now been granted Charitable status.

The most important effect arising from this for you as a magazine subscriber is that any donations to the Council of $5 or more will qualify for a tax rebate in your own tax return.

A number of subscribers have previously added a colour fund donation to their subscription payment. It is hoped that this change will encourage more people to do so which will help us to improve the quality and content of the magazine.

Donation receipts will only be issued if requested so if you require a receipt for a donation you should ask for a receipt at that time, and also include a self stamped addressed envelope.

Other benefits for the Council include exemption from income tax, exemption from estate and gift duties and tax deductibility of donations by public companies of up to $4,000.00.

We are indebted to Ken Christie for the many long hours spent in steering this change through the halls of power. It is one of the advantages we have gained from the revision of the Constitution which was approved at the Orchid Council AGM in Auckland last year.

Graham Jackson
Treasurer

NORTH SHORE ORCHID SOCIETY (INC.)

20th BIRTHDAY SHOW & CONFERENCE

Auckland Institute of Technology Akoranga Campus, Akoranga Drive, Tapakauna, AUCKLAND

2nd to 5th September 1993

SOCIETIES ARE INVITED TO MOUNT A DISPLAY WHICH WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR SUBSTANTIAL CASH PRIZE

Registrants only Day—Cocktail Evening:

Top Speakers:

DR CLAIR OSSIAN	(USA)	— Dendrobiums, Zygopetalums
LORRAINE FAGG	(AUS)	— Sarcochilus
ANDY EASTON	(NZ)	— Cymbidiums, Odontoglossums
BARRY FRASER	(NZ)	— Paphiopedilums
VAL BAYLISS	(NZ)	— Masdevallias

Various social activities. ***Banquet & Prizegiving***

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT
The Secretary, P.O. Box 33 493, Takapuna, Auckland 9

WETA'S WORDS

First a little grizzle. When "commercial growers" are selling or talking at orchid societies could they PLEASE explain their home conditions. For example: one grower was saying where he came from he grows certain plants COLD. Where he was selling his plants from the conditions were a lot different. In the Wairarapa if we say we are growing our plants cold it means no heating but maybe a fan will be going, and we will get frosts down to 10°C. If you are in Auckland you would be lucky to have one at 3°C and only maybe 2 or 3 a year. Please, when selling, explain what conditions they should be grown in.

In the Wairarapa we grow a large selection of varieties but mainly Cymbidiums, Aussie Dendrobiums and Masdevallis. Some of us grow Vandas, Cattleyas, Phallys, Odonts, etc.

I grow cold Masdevallias, Zygopetalums, Disas, Cymbidiums, Dryadellsas and that is in houses with NO HEATING or fans. In an intermediate house, with a minimum of 6 to 7°C and heated by a fan heater at night controlled by a thermostat, and a fan, going all day with no heat, I grow Laelia and Laelia Cattleyas, Oncidiums, Odonts and Alliance, Pleurathalis, Japanese Dendrobiums, Draculas, and a few other odd types.

In the glass house (a lean to type) heating is kept to a minimum 10°C at night and fans in the day. I grow Vandas and Alliance, Brassia, Stanhopea and some Paphs.

I have tried to grow *Neofineta falcata* for some years but have not had much success until someone told me to grow it cold. I have now put it in the house with my Aussie Dendrobiums, hanging near the roof. It gets plenty of water all year round. This year I got 3 flower spikes and was very pleased.

For my Aussie Dendrobiums their house has the back wall made of timber covered with fibre cement board which is very cold and wet, especially as the wall faces into the south (where the worst weather comes from). About 18 months ago I was able to obtain some 100mm thick polystyrene which I cut to fit tightly between the studs and dwangs. I also strapped a layer of plastic on the inside of the rafters and this helped to bring the temperature up by 3 or 4°C. Also the white background reflects a lot of the light.

To finish up on a happy note, one member of our group kicked his fowls out of their house (demoted them to the hayshed) to have more room for his Cymbidiums and another dumped his canaries to grow more Aussie Dendrobiums.

Hoping to hear more titbits from near and far. ◄

Weta
Alan Wallis
64 Oxford Street
Masterton
Phone 0-6-377 3896

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 1993

DATE	SOCIETY	VENUE, ADDRESS
June 12/13	**NORTH SHORE**	Browns Bay Recreation Centre, Bute Rd, Browns Bay, Akld
July 9/10/11	**NEW ZEALAND**	Mt Albert War Mem Hall, New Nth Rd, Mt Albert, Akld
July 17	**HAWKES BAY**	St John Ambulance Hall, Havelock North
Aug 21/22	**KAPITI**	Kapiti Snr Citizens Centre, Ocean Rd, Paraparaumum Beach
Aug 27	**WARKWORTH**	Warkworth Town Hall
Sept 2/5	**NORTH SHORE**	20th Anniversary Show — Auckland Inst of Technology, Akoranga Drive, North Shore, Auckland
Sept 3/4/5	**WHANGAREI**	Forun North Exhibition Hall, Whangarei
Sept 4/5	**HOWICK**	All Saints Church Hall, Cook Street, Howick
Sept 4/5	**OTAGO**	St Peters Church Hall, Hillside Rd, Sth Dunedin
Sept 4/5	**HUTT VALLEY**	Hutt Valley Horticultural Society Hall, Lower Hutt
Sept 10/11	**HIBISCUS COAST**	The Community Hall, Orewa
Sept 11/12	**2nd SOUTH ISLAND**	James Cumming Wing, Ardwick Street, Gore
Sept 11/12	**SOUTH AUCKLAND**	Papakura Community Hall, Great South Rd, Papakura
Sept 18/19	**CANTERBURY**	Horticulutral Soc, Riccarton Avenue, Christchurch
Sept 18/19	**POVERTY BAY EAST COAST**	Gisborne Boys High School Hall, Stanley Rd, Gisborne
Sept 18/19	**LEVIN**	Horowhenua College Hall, Weraroa Road, Levin
Sept 24/25	**BAY OF ISLANDS**	Union Church Hall, Kerikeri
Sept 24/25/26	**HAWKES BAY**	Centennial Hall, Napier
Sept 25/26	**TAUPO**	
Sept 25/26	**ROTORUA**	"Soundshell" Lake Front, Rotorua
Sept 24/25/26	**NEW ZEALAND**	Mt Albert War Mem Hall, New Nth Rd, Mt Albert, Akld
Sept 25/26	**MANAWATU**	Civic Centre, Main Street, Palmerston North
Sept/Oct 30/2	**MARLBOROUGH**	St Christophers Hall, Blenheim
Oct 1/3	**TARANAKI**	St Joseph's Hall, Devon St West, New Plymouth
Oct 2/3	**NORTH OTAGO**	Fire Brigade Hall, Thames Street, Oamaru
Oct 2/3	**WANGANUI**	Boys College Hall, Ingestre Street, Wanganui
Oct 15/16/17	**NELSON**	Stoke Memorial Hall
Oct 16/17	**WELLINGTON**	St Orans College, Lower Hutt
Nov 13/14	**HUTT VALLEY**	Hutt Valley Horticultural Society Hall, Lower Hutt

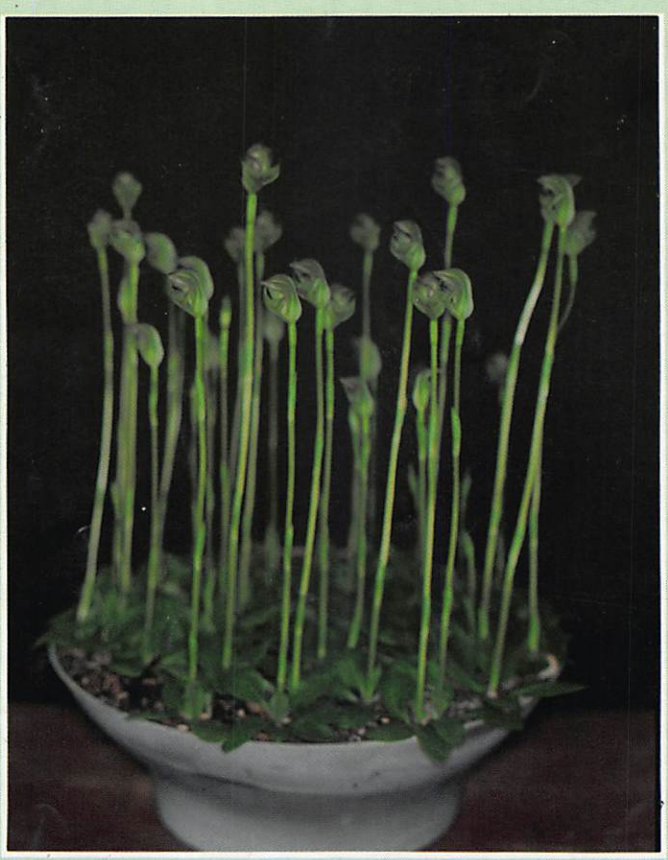
All societies are offered the free listing of their current year's show dates.

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

Details must be received by Editor as follows to guarantee inclusion in 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		

Something Different



Pterostylus curta

(Grower V. and D. Barnett)

The "Blunt Greenhood". This very widespread growing Australian native species is found commonly in open forests, and especially along stream banks. It is said to form extensive and dense colonies, and flowering is usually profuse. Jones (David L. Jones — Native Orchids of Australia) notes it is a colony-former, and that this species is very easy to grow and flower under cultivation.