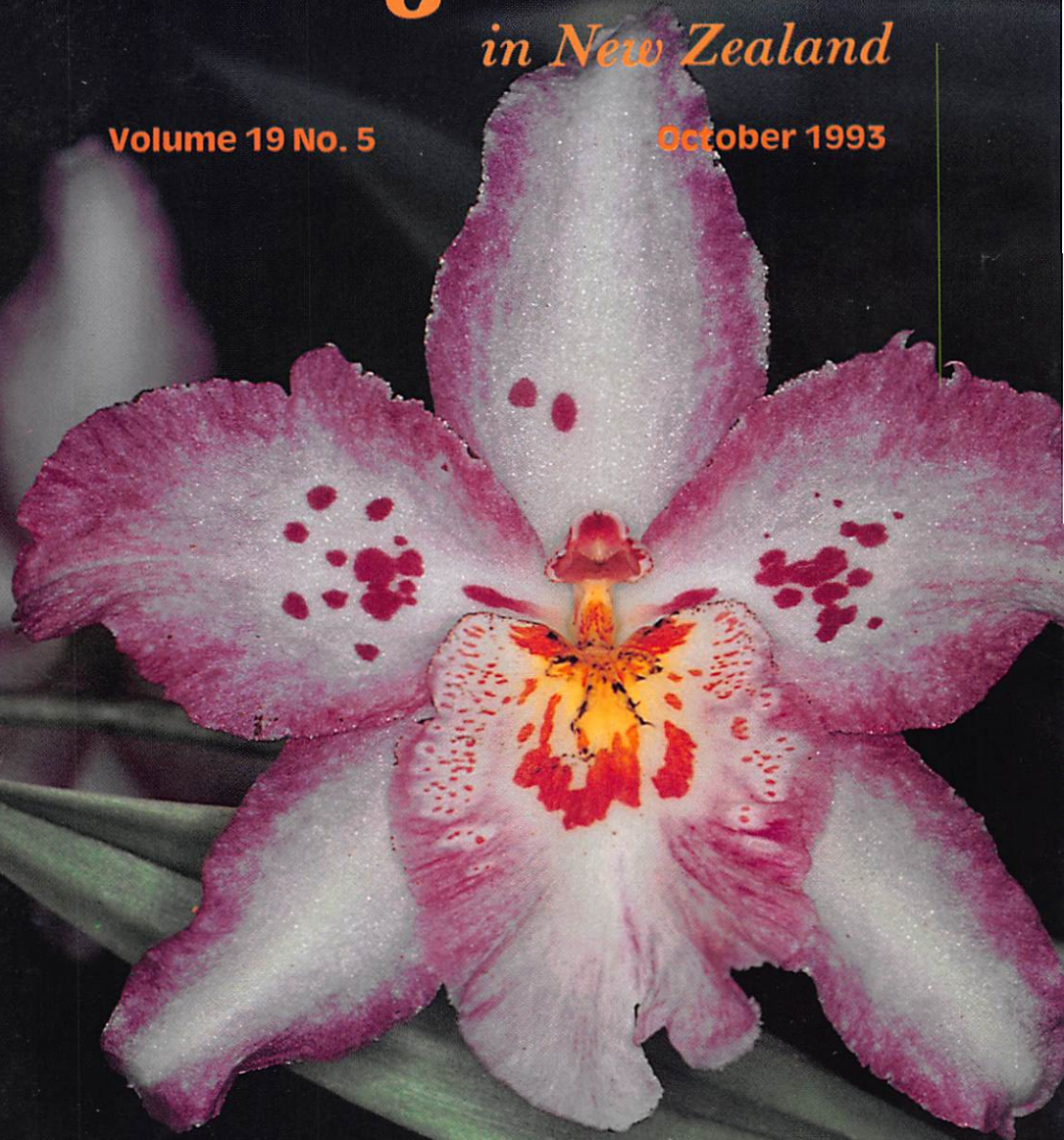


Orchids

in New Zealand

Volume 19 No. 5

October 1993



Australian

Orchid

Review

14 McGill Street, Lewisham,
Sydney 2049, NSW, Australia
Phone: (02) 560 6166
Fax: (02) 560 6677

Six issues per year featuring
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Subscription rates

Surface One Year \$NZ41 or \$A34
Two Years \$NZ75 or \$A64
Air Mail One year \$NZ49 or \$A41
Two Years \$NZ94 or \$A79
Single Copy Air Mail \$NZ9.50

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9 Somerset Grove, TAURANGA. Phone 0-7-578 4761

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All photography by Editor
unless noted otherwise.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Vol. 19, 1993 (6 issues)
(including postage and
GST); \$28.00

to be sent to:

Distribution Secretary:

Mr T. GILLBANKS
P.O. Box 181
Palmerston North

Back Issues Secretary:

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Palmerston North

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16 Bowen Street
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Advertising payments
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16 Bowen Street, Waiuku.
Phone: 0-9-235 7133

Orchids

IN NEW ZEALAND

incorporating 'The New Zealand Orchid Review'

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND
NEW ZEALAND ORCHID SOCIETY

VOL. 19 No. 5

OCTOBER 1993

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AGM

Another year, another Orchid Council of New Zealand AGM, this time held in the Capital City, Wellington. What a great weekend, the opportunity to greet old friends, meet new friends, talk about our favourite plants, and even do some of the business concerned with the serious administration of our hobby.

The size of the meeting was smaller than others I had previously experienced.

such a way that more are attracted to the formal organisation. It is well accepted that there are many growers with 'a few treasures' in their backyards who do not belong to a society. Perhaps we need to try and talk to them to see what is needed to be done to make them change their minds and join a local group.

Representation

Orchid growing involves a group of individuals with

above the wider interest of all growers, but is this a good thing. Perhaps it reflects that only they would contribute to the Council, perhaps that is a reflection of the inertia that permeates much of the wider public. There are many capable people out there, and perhaps now we should start to proposition them to stand for higher office next year to ensure the widest representation possible on our governing body.

EDITORIAL

Bits and Pieces

Obviously the change in the membership of the formal orchid organisations is having its effect. From some societies having a quota of three delegates, now some only qualify for one. For all those having a long term interest in the future of our hobby, the trends so visible at this meeting must be a matter of real concern, and something which was only partially addressed during the weekend. We must all give thought of the issues involved, and the challenge is to ensure that all parts of the orchid administration and organisation meets the needs of the widest range of growers, and is set up in

diverse interests, with a common love of orchids. All the groups, the amateurs, the professionals, the hobby growers, the commercial growers, those interested in judging, have their part to play. It is important that the governing body show representation of all the various groupings. While I certainly have no argument with those involved; and all individually are eminently suited to represent the interests of all, it is noticeable that commercial growers are now significantly represented on our governing body. I am sure that they will not push their sectional interest over and

Magazine

Change is a matter of life now, and we are not immune from this. It is with regret that we advise that our current distributor Betty Featherston leaves the job she has completed so well. Thank you Betty for all the work you have done. Betty's job will now be assumed by Trevor Gillbanks of Palmerston North. Welcome, Trevor, I am sure you will find the work a challenge, but something that will give a lot of pleasure. All distribution matters should now be directed to Trevor.

Those empowered to run this publication have

always been concerned that the best possible product is produced within the limits of the resources available. One issue concerns original material for publication — but you all know the answer for that. Perhaps the main constraint is that widespread problem — money. This has led to some very serious thought of the future of the magazine. One of the major costs we currently face is that of postage. Producing 6 issues a year is good, but is it better to invest the money in postage, or produce fewer issues and put the money saved in reduced postage in increased colour. Our decision is that the ability to increase the amount of colour wins. Four issues a year will also make production of the magazine easier for all the volunteers involved — especially the editor. The first issue has always been difficult, as this requires production over Christmas and the Christmas holiday period if we were to get it out on time. By having issues for March, June, September and December, and with the aim to distribute at the start of those months, we believe more regular production will be possible.

The comment has been made that we are downgrading the magazine. This is not true. The aim is to make it better, with the extra pages in each issue allowing a wider range of

articles in each. For the whole year, the total effective pages will be about the same; so you will not be getting less for your money. In fact you should be getting better, as we intend increasing the amount of colour, something we have been asked to do by our readers for some time. The change was supported with a substantial majority at the Council AGM; we trust that our readers will show a similar degree of support when the time comes to renew your subscription next year. The publication change will take effect from the start of 1994.

Milestone

In conclusion, on the matter of publishing, it may be of interest to some readers to note that July of this year marked the 10th anniversary of the publication of the Wellington Orchid Society cultural guides. The first, on cymbidiums, was published in July 1983. Over a number of editions, some 28,000 copies have been distributed, an effort assisted by many orchid societies in New Zealand and a number of commercial nurseries. Including the other 5 guides, some 35,000 copies have been distributed in total, a quite amazing achievement and publishing result for what was intended to be a simple dissemination of basic cultural information. An

interesting statistic is that with cards, postcards, calendars, books, some 100,000 items have been distributed. For what was quite a significant operation, it is a credit to orchid growers world wide that very few bad debts were incurred. The only real problems that have occurred involved non-orchid organisations; the honesty and friendliness of orchid growers says a lot for all of those involved. As a co-operative society effort with the interests of the widest range of orchid growers in mind, this has been an activity unique in this country, and perhaps, indeed, the world. ◀

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From the President

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations (rather belatedly) go to our Editor Philip Tomlinson for the receipt of the Gold Medal for the Overseas Section of the photographic competition held as part of the 4th Asian and Pacific Orchid Conference in Thailand last year. Phil not only won the gold but also 2 bronze medals as well. Phil always seems to have camera in hand at orchid events and is particularly busy at shows in the lower North Island.

MAGAZINE

As many of you will know, **Orchids in New Zealand** becomes a quarterly magazine in 1994. With the subscription falling a remit was passed at the last AGM

of the Orchid Council to this effect to endeavour to reduce costs. Instead of 6 issues of 32 pages there will now be 4 issues of 48 pages, the same amount of annual reading!

DISTRIBUTION

Distribution — another change within the magazine is a change of distributor. Miss Betty Featherston, of Whangarei, has done a sterling job of the distribution over the past three years. The magazine has been in your homes within 2-3 days of leaving the printer . . . a tremendous effort performed by Betty whom we thank most sincerely. The Executive of the Orchid Council are most appreciative.

The new Distributor is Trevor Gillbanks of Palmerston North, and the

new address is P.O. Box 181, Palmerston North.

SHOW DATES

Concern has been expressed by societies, to the Executive, over the number of shows being held in late September. Over the years I have been a member of the Executive of the Orchid Council this has almost become a perennial problem, still with no solution. In my opinion early planning and more contact with your neighbours would counteract this problem. Early notification to our Editor for inclusion in the "show dates" column is essential, at least 3/4 months prior to your show, and even earlier if possible.

Finally, I would like to wish you all good orchid growing and may you never recover from the affliction! ◀

Patricia Elms



Executive 1993/94



Masdevallia coccinea
Grown by M. & L. Dougherty, Wellington

OCNZ AGM and EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held in Wellington on Saturday 19th June 1993 and was attended by 34 delegates, a disappointing response. The Executive Committee met on the Friday to finalise arrangements for the AGM and the new Committee met on the Sunday morning to attend to urgent business and appoint the new sub committees for the ensuing year. The following items from the meetings will be of interest to your committee and society members.

JOB DESCRIPTION MANUAL

This manual was distributed to Delegates at the AGM for delivery to their respective secretaries. Have you got your copy yet? Please read the first paragraph on page one.

AGM — ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

Patron	Dame Catherine Tizard.
President	Patricia Elms.
Vice President	Harold Bayram and Joe Vance.
Secretary	Lyn Sherlock.
Treasurer	Graham Jackson.
Committee	Judy Coburn, Ross Tucker, Rod Marshall, John Scott, Bernie Killington, Aileen Feist, Joy Wray.

SUB COMMITTEES —

Magazine	Patricia Elms, Graham Jackson, Lyn Sherlock, Phil Tomlinson, John Scott (Auck).
Speakers Fund	Joy Wray, Asst Harold Bayram

Service Recognition Committee	Joe Vance (Chair), Syd Wray, Bernie Killington, Patricia Elms.
--------------------------------------	---

Liaison Officer	Roy Clareburt
------------------------	---------------

National Liaison Officers	Judy Coburn, Ross Tucker, Aileen Feist, Rod Marshall, Bernie Killington.
----------------------------------	--

Newsletter /Publicity	Joe Vance.
------------------------------	------------

Orchid Foundation Trust	Jack Hart, Roy Clareburt, Joe Vance.
--------------------------------	--

Committee on Awards	Dennis Bonham (Ch) Harold Bayram, Patricia Elms, Joy Wray,
----------------------------	---

Regional Chairmen	Ross Tucker, Ross Marks, Peter Fisher.
--------------------------	--

NZAAA Rep	Ken Christie, Asst Harold Bayram
------------------	-------------------------------------

AGM ORGANISATION

The Executive and Delegates would like to thank the Combined Wellington orchid societies under the leadership of Frank Riley for organising the accommodation, meals, meeting venue and the glasshouse visits on the Sunday morning. Their efforts made this a very

successful weekend. The only regret was that more members from the Wellington societies did not take the opportunity to attend the meeting and the social functions.

AGM DELEGATES

The Executive would like to thank those societies who sent delegates and it is hoped that these delegates report back on the proceedings of the meeting. Regrettably those societies who were not represented did not send an apology.

MAGAZINE

The remit from the Executive Committee "that from the first issue of Volume 20 — **Orchids in New Zealand** — be issued on a quarterly basis." This remit was fully discussed and was passed by a large majority. The issue was strongly raised that we urgently need more advertising, so if any society member can help by canvassing for advertisers in their area it would be very much appreciated.

The quarterly issues will contain 48 pages, and the Editor would like articles for inclusion in the magazine. Remember that this is your magazine and needs your support.

We would like to see more people contributing to the new feature of "Your Favourite Orchids" and perhaps your culture and growing conditions in the various regions in New Zealand — south versus north?

The Executive Committee has appointed three regional Sub-Editors to gather information and articles from society members in each region — they are John Scott (Northern), Harold Bayram (Central), and Judy Coburn (Southern). Please do not hesitate to contact these people if you have any information or articles for the magazine, I am sure that they will assist if you are having difficulty in putting an article together.

13th WOC

It was reported to the meeting that the winding up of the Company is being held up by the IRD and will be finalised as soon as possible.

ORCHID SPECIES DATABASE

Gordon Silvester has this in hand and rules for its operation have been

approved by the Orchid Council. All societies will receive further information in the near future.

NEXT AGM — 1994

The next Annual General Meeting will be held in Palmerston North.

NEW PUBLICITY OFFICER

As this is my last report I would like to thank societies for their support over the past six years and I wish my successor Joe Vance all the best for future issues. I am sure he will do an excellent job in keeping societies informed of Council activities. ◀

Harold Bayram
Publicity Officer

Acknowledgements

In the June 1993 issue we published an article from the NZ Paphiopedilum Alliance newsletter.

Through a production oversight, the author, Frank Zumbuhl was unfortunately not acknowledged.

Thank you Frank, even if I am late.

Editor

It's time!

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and in Tauranga they seem to flower on a nine month cycle. Ron's houses have mesh benches to allow maximum air movement and the floors are granulated pumice which is damped down 3 or 4 times a day in the summer heat. The houses have Novalit roofs and open sides with a plastic material which can be rolled down on frosty nights to prevent cold air coming in. Duralite (fibre-glass) cladding is clearer and would need 50% shading in Caterbury both on the walls and the ceiling. It may even be necessary to add extra shade in the hottest part of summer.

Under the ideal temperature range, they will grow all year round. Under the ideal temperature range, they will grow all year round.

The late Mr Clem Stokell had a large collection of *Odonis* as they were affectionally called. He grew his in a special glasshouse which was quite heavily shaded by tree and only got late afternoon sun in England did a lot of hybridising with the various species and *O. crispum* many years ago and most of the good modern hybrids can be traced back to that nursery.

The edges of the petals are beautifully 'crisp' as though someone spent hours cutting frilly edges on them. The first specimens were collected by Theodore Hartweg in 1841 but were not described by Lindley until 1852. Surprisingly, it was not introduced to general cultivation until 1863.

Charlesworth in England did a lot of hybridising with the various species and *O. crispum* many years ago and most of the good modern hybrids can be traced back to that nursery.

The species *Odontoglossum crispum* is found in Columbia, South America on the western slopes and spurs of the Cordillera Oriental in the Andes Mountains. The habitat is cool and moist at an elevation of 2250 to 3000 m. they are mostly epiphytic (grow on trees) but some can be found on cliff faces. They receive bright light but do not like direct sunlight or the leaves will burn. Plants receiving too much light will often show reddening of the leaves.

Flowers are displayed on an arching stem and are generally beautifully lined in two rows all facing in one direction with about 6 to 12 blooms. *Odonis crispum* flowers are white with a few brown spots in the centre. Many plants exhibit some pink flushing in the petals but the pure white are most sought after.

Odontoglossums

by Ron Maunder

solution. The plants are kept in small pots for the size of the plants and 6" pots are Ron's maximum size. Potting mix consists of ¼" bark chips with no dust and 20% by volume in fine chips of Aquarius. Aquarius is simply shredded Oasis that green styrene like material florists mount posies, etc. on.

Odonts should be repotted within 2 years, sooner if you are concerned about the quality of your mix. Don't pot on, completely shake out old mix, repot in new material. Repot only if there is 2 or 3 months suitable growing period ahead. For example, the dead winter months and the hot summer months in Canterbury would not be good.

Because of the heavy watering and fertiliser programme, potting mix gets mossy quickly and the top inch or so is scraped off and renewed each 3 months. A few Osmocote pellets can be scattered on top at each change of top mix but only 6 to 10 pellets on a large pot. Plenty of drainage holes should be added to the bottom of the pot.

Fans keep the air continually moving in the Odont houses. At repotting time back-bulbs can be removed and Ron suggests never cutting them down to less than 2 as they seem to

initiate shoots better from 2 or more back-bulbs. Flowers of sulphur is used on all cut surfaces as a fungicide. Odontoglossums are difficult from flasks and Ron gave a few points which may help those game enough to try.

Wash off the agar well being careful not to damage the delicate plants. Seedlings seem to do better in communities so 10 or more are potted in a small pot with the usual potting mix.

They are put in a mist tent or a large plastic bag where they cannot dry out or become stressed from lack of humidity. The potting mix is usually treated by pouring boiling water over it the day before use to kill bugs and fungi.

The community pots are placed on bottom heat and hopefully all will be well. A fungicide spray may help prevent plants damping off.

Some of the problems which can be encountered were outlined. Shrivelling bulbs can be caused by several things.

Having flower spikes on too long may stress a plant and shrivel the bulbs. Roots rotted off in broken down mix will result in shrivelled bulbs. Not enough water is an obvious cause and may be more likely to happen here in Canterbury with our low summer humidity.

When a new plant or a small seedling makes a flower spike all but the bottom bud should be cut



Oedcm. Bittersweet 'Frieda' HCC/OCNZ

Grower: Graham Burr

Award Photo

off so the plant will not be strained. It is far better to cut flower spikes off a weak plant and save the plant for later flowering than flower it to death first time round. Once the bloom is open it also should be cut off.

Die-back of leaf tips usually indicates trouble in the potting mix. Maybe it is too old and needs changing. Too much fertiliser can cause this problem also.

Concertina leaves. This problem strikes *Odonts* and several related genera. Strangely enough Ron's answer to this was water the young growths well

from the new to four inch size. It appears that the young growths have difficulty forcing apart at an early stage and water helps this problem.

Watering should be done early in the day so leaves are dry by night. For rotting shoots, Ron uses Natriphine or Previcure for this problem. Spotting on leaves, this can occur in cold weather and Benlate or Captain fungicide can be used to prevent its spread.

Pests, aphids on flower spikes are one of the commonest pests. Because

Odonts spike all year round the aphids can swap from plant to plant in a big collection. *Orthene* wettable powder fixes them. Bush snails or garlic snails as they are sometimes called because of the strong garlic smell they give off when crushed, do most damage on tender young shoots or plants. Mesurool slug pellets will kill most of them but the Mesurool wettable powder is much better if sprayed on. However, it is very expensive although it goes a long way. ◀

Otago Orchid Club
Newsletter October 1992



Oda. Rawdon 'Vinter's Treasure' HCC/OCNZ
Grower: Maurice Bycroft

Award Photo

CLIVE HALLS, PALMERSTON NORTH

CLIVE Halls, of Melbourne sponsored by The New Zealand Orchid Council Overseas Speaker's Fund, was the guest of The Manawatu Orchid Society and representatives of five other neighbouring societies at Palmerston North recently.

I was privileged to be part of this gathering of which Mr Halls was the speaker. I was blessed at birth with a short concentration span and find that by taking notes at a function such as this I am able to receive the full benefit from a talk such as Clive delivered. The drawback of course is that then I get asked to use them in this fashion and produce a write-up to be shared with others.

Mr Halls began by introducing us to The Sander's Family of East Grinstead, North London, where he began his orchid career in 1962.

It was a massive nursery in the days of Mr Sander's "The Orchid King" in the late 1800s. Fred Sander came to England from Austria to develop what was to become the largest orchid nursery in Europe and in those days it even had a railway line which ran right into the glasshouse area where visitors would alight on weekend excursions.

In fact the main reason for this railway siding was

to transport coal which was in those days the main source of heating the massive area of orchids. The nursery was built originally with a huge main corridor which had about 60 glasshouses all running off it in a T shape arrangement.

It was this self same gentleman, Mr Fred Sander with the help of his family, that in 1895 instituted a system for the registration of orchid hybrids and in 1906 published the first '**Sander's List of Orchid Hybrids**' as we know it today. Subsequently at intervals several volumes of addenda have been published and orchid hybridists throughout the world remain greatly indebted to the Sander Family for the initiative taken and the foresight into providing the most valuable service to orchid enthusiasts that we have today.

To get back to Mr Clive Halls. He, as a young man was greatly impressed with the Sander's nursery and sought a position there one

day following a visit. He was very privileged to be accepted as an apprentice in the nursery, which was at that time being run by Mr David Sander, grandson of the original Sander's master.

The first job of his career was to wash the pots, mountains and mountains of them. It was not quite the job it is today either as, then, clay pots only were used. They were not always symmetrical and the patented 'Sander's Pan' had a great many holes in the sides which green algae and moss loved to adhere to. In between pots he was responsible for the shading of the glasshouses. These were built in north to south directions and had lathe blinds that had to be rolled up or down as the conditions changed, all 60 glasshouses of them.

In between these duties he was eventually allowed to have some contact with the plants. Firstly allowed to water them, by hand, and then on his own initiative by hose. Eventually he progressed to potting etc. Potting

media was mostly osmunda fern and his teacher of all these techniques was Mr Syd Barnes, a very precise man, and tough master. It was some time before Clive was given the task of caring for these newly potted plants, be it seedlings or mature ones, as this was a very vital time for the continuity of the growing cycle.

Mr Sander had a great interest in species and had a great many contacts over the world who gathered these orchids and transported them to the East Grinstead Nursery. *Odontoglossum* and others of this alliance had gone into a decline in popularity about 1940 but were making a comeback about the time that Clive was there and it was these genera that he became most interested in.

As time passed, Clive became responsible for setting up and staging the displays and shows that the nursery was expected to take part in each year. These were very numerous and Sander's Nursery always brought in flowers from other places from all over the world to compliment their own blooms, especially for the Chelsea Flower Show and the British Orchid Society shows.

Each nursery was well known for their style of display and was in fact expected to continue with tradition each year and use

the same style of staging too, which including the same type of flowers and genera, in the same positions year after year. Changes were not accepted and on one occasion Clive was obliged to remove an area of staging before the display could receive the customary gold medal.

For all travel, plants were wrapped and put into cartons and times haven't changed much because Clive mentioned that it seemed that the slugs always ate the best ones.

1993 finds Mr Clive Halls and his orchids in the Dandenong Mountains of Melbourne, where temperatures can reach 40°C. He specialises in the *Odontoglossum* Alliance. He enjoys hybridising, and is very enthusiastic about trends in this genus of orchids over the next decade or two. He concluded his extremely enlightening talk with a series of interesting slides.

Clive emphasised that he knew that Melbourne mountain conditions would surely differ from those in the Manawatu, but that he found Sphagnum moss a very suitable growing medium for *Odontoglossum* and their alliance. He uses perlite or polystyrene as a filler for bottom drainage and sometimes uses ponga-fibre but puts stones in the bottom of the pot for weight.

Points of interest that I picked up during the slides and at question-time follow.

Odontoglossum — means crested lip.

Odont. crispum is a species and it likes to be in a gloomy atmosphere.

Odont. pescatorei another species — is very floppy in their petals.

Odont. species are not the easiest to grow — primary hybrids are easier.

Lemboglossum genera ie *Onc. bicknense* etc need more feeding than others.

Onc. rossi and *Onc. bicknense* like a brighter atmosphere than most.

Odonts may not flower every year and may not flower well every flowering.

Do not leave flowers on a young small first flowering plant. Remove them early on a second flowering plant, and then the third flowering should be really good.

If bulbs start to shrivel on a plant, flowers should be removed immediately.

To get flowers all turning the same direction, place plant up against a dark wall.

Odonts enjoy fresh media — at least yearly if in bark.

Only pot in 'growing-phase'. If dormant when repotted, plant will not take up water and will consequently dehydrate.

Trim roots and remove all dead ones when repotting.

Don't leave back bulbs on plant. Propagate these on a hot-bed, singly, in sand or sawdust.

Sickly plants often revive if placed on a 'hot-bed' if planted in Sphagnum moss with polystyrene.

If bottom heat is 20°C — air temp will be about 12-15 degrees.

Alkaline water is not good for Sphagnum moss, it will rot.

Gravel in potting mix will not help drainage but keeps media wet.

If changing from another media to 'rockwool' cut off all roots to allow plant to make new roots in new media.

If changing from 'rockwool' to any other media it is very easy to

lose all the roots and needs extra care and expert handling.

Rot in centre of new growth sometimes occurs when temperatures are low, — pull leaf out and shake powdered lime inside growth.

Benlate is a helpful spray for fungal roots.

For scale drench plant with Rogor.

Leaf-tip dieback reflects a poor root system, over feeding or overwatering.

Odonts do like light but do not like excessive heat.

Fans imperative in their culture.

Ideal temperatures for Odonts 20-30°C in summer. 8-12°C in winter. When creating a display, the most important plant should be at eye level.

In judging, a fine Odont

specimen should be 'sparkling'.

Colour should be sharp, not staining or smudgy.

White should be white and red should be red.

Mr Clive Halls captivated his audience for the duration of his address. He said he was not comfortable with slab culture in the environment in which he grows his orchids. He mostly uses squat pots for his smaller plants.

The evening culminated in a lovely supper and Clive continued to impart his wealth of knowledge and his vast experience to a well motivated group of orchid enthusiasts, right to the bottom of his tea-cup. ◀

Dora Rivers



Oda. (*Oda.* Golden Rialto x *Odm.* Kopan) 'Papillon Queen' AM/OCNZ

Grower: Alan Lewington

Award Photo



WAIROA VISITED

Hi! from the small East Coast town of Wairoa.

Monday 26th July 1993, was an auspicious occasion for our Society. Yes, we had our first overseas speaker. What luck, we had been allocated Clive Halls from Mt Beenak Orchids in Victoria, Australia. Clive, a very friendly guy, arrived from having a lunch meeting at South Pacific Orchids, Napier to be presented with a fabulous pot luck dinner provided by members of our Society and a few visitors from our neighbours the Poverty Bay East Coast Orchid Society.

Our Guest Speaker commenced with a brief history of his orchid experience — very impressive having worked with some of the greats of the Orchid World and he surely gained his experience from the bottom to the ultimate of having his own orchid nursery.

He continued his talk with an impressive array of slides of the Odont alliance, stopping half way for a well earned refreshment break before going on to the cultural part of his presentation which was illustrated by various slides. This section on culture of Odontoglossums was of most interest to those present, and we are sure that everyone learned something new.

We found Clive an excellent speaker with the ability to reach the novice as well as the experienced grower.

The Society would like to thank the Orchid Council for sponsoring Clive's visit with the question "when do we get the next speaker?" ◀

Contribution by Margaret & Gaylene
Photo's by Harold Bayram



Osmoglossum pulchellum

The Orchid Journal

An International Review of Orchidology

ALEX D. HAWKES

Editor

Odontoglossum (Rossioglossum) grande Ldl.

For a number of reasons, this handsome plant is among the most popular of all orchids with the amateur grower. Its magnificent large flowers, produced in great abundance on graceful racemes from a very attractive plant, at once warrant attention. Its cultural requirements are so easily fulfilled that perhaps the finest specimens brought into bloom are those found in the novice's collection, since this species thrives in a small glasshouse, on a window-sill or even attached to a tree in a warm situation out-of-doors.

Odontoglossum grande was first discovered in Guatemala by G. Ure Skinner in 1839; one year later it was described by Lindley (in *Bot. Reg.* 26:47. 1840), who stated:

"Certainly this is a most extraordinary plant. Its habit is altogether that of Odontoglossum, with which its unguiculate lip and peculiar column also correspond; but the tubercles at the base of the lip

are those of Oncidium." Even today the species is considered to be one of the connecting links between the two genera, links which make it difficult to retain *Oncidium* and *Odontoglossum*.



Odontoglossum grande

as distinct and valid groups. (*This plant is now generally placed into the genus Rossioglossum Editor*).

Today it is known only from the Mexican state of Chiapas in addition to its original home. But it has become one of the most popular of all cultivated orchids, and is grown in huge quantities for the cut-flower trade, being typically called the "Tiger Orchid". Each blossom measures from 100 mm to 150 mm in diameter. The characteristic colour scheme is bright yellow more or less barred and blotched with glossy cinnamon-brown. The pale yellow or cream-white lip often has the basal markings more reddish-brown than those which occur on the other floral segments.

Several interesting colour variants of *Odont. grande* are known today, though they are rarely encountered in our collections. Perhaps the most noteworthy is the majestic var. *concolor* hort., in which the typical brown blotches are absent, and the whole flowers are a wonderful brilliant yellow, with a slightly paler lip. The var. *Sanderæ* has lemon-yellow sepals and petals barred with pale Indian yellow, and a white lip with a median hemispherical area of yellow. Var. *Distinction* was listed by Messrs.

Charlesworth & Co. in 1902, with the comments: "The name is very appropriate, for it is certainly the most distinct form yet seen. The ground colour and tips of the flower faint creamy-yellow, the markings being of a peculiar shade, a mixture of reddish-brown with a distinct hue of violet-purple in the colouring; the markings of the lip are very light, which tend to further its distinctiveness".

Apparently the only hybrid known is the rather rare but very attractive natural hybrid *Odontoglossum Williamsianum* Rchb. f., a native of Costa Rica. It seems rather strange that this fine orchid has not been utilized to a greater extent by the hybridists, for it certainly should offer tremendous potentialities as a parent species.

Culture

Odontoglossum grande is, as we have stated above, one of the easiest of all orchidaceous plants to grow. It thrives in both cool and intermediate situations, although too warm a temperature for a long period does not seem to benefit it. Pot - or basket-culture are both recommended, with a compost of straight fresh osmunda fibre, bark now recommended, very well drained, since the plants require considerable water

while in active growth. The flower spikes typically appear with the new growths, and when they are well enough along to be showing the buds, moisture should be slightly reduced, though never enough to permit shrivelling of the pseudobulbs or foliage. After the flowers have faded, a longer stricter resting period should be given, and any repotting which may be necessary should be carried out. Large quantities of fresh, freely-circulating air are extremely necessary for the proper health of this species, which will never tolerate a muggy atmosphere. Sunlight maybe given in large amounts, though the leaves must never be burnt. ◀

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KAPITI ORCHID SOCIETY SPRING SHOW 1993

OVER the years the Kapiti Orchid Society has put on many large and magnificent shows. This year our committee decided for various and obvious reasons to use a new venue and a smaller hall. This show was held in the Senior Citizen's Hall in Ocean Road, Paraparaumu on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd August 1993.

Our critics said the venue was wrong, and the hall too small. Once again our show has come and gone, and I say to these critics, what a tremendous show it was. The hall was up to expectations, a blaze of colour, and filled to capacity with thousands of beautiful orchids.

It is some years since there has been an orchid show held in Paraparaumu, and public turnout and support for this show was excellent. The members of the committee rose to the occasion, giving freely of their time and support to our Show Marshall, Riki Hills, in his efforts to make this show the huge success that it was. Our thanks also go to all the other members and supporters of the Society, who also gave freely of their time and support.

The other main highlight of the show was a visit from Kapiti TV (cable television) who sent a camera crew and interviewer to televise our show. It was great to have

the free publicity, but unfortunately not many people have Cable TV as yet. However, they were most helpful, and are arranging tapes of the interview and show for us.

Another positive result relating to free advertising was the screening on Palmers Gardenworld on Friday 19th August 1993 of an interview with Russell Hutton of L. and R. Orchids, and our own advertising on the weather programme on TV One, as well as the local Radio Station 2XX community service programmes. As it seems to be that today we

should concentrate our advertising through the medium of TV and local radio stations for the best results.

A large proportion of the public appear to watch the garden shows, as well as weather broadcasts on TV, so perhaps some of the smaller orchid societies could take advantage of the free advertising potential here.

Best of luck for your shows, and good orchid growing. ◀

P. J. Stephens
President
Kapiti Orchid Society



Kapiti Orchid Society Spring Show 1993

Taking Orchids to the Public

Recently the Poverty Bay East Coast Orchid Society mounted an orchid display in the local Mitre 10 shop. With Mitre 10 branching into garden supplies we thought this would be an appropriate shop to display our orchids to members of the public who had a basic interest in plants and flowers. A willing band of our Society members set up the display in the window/shop with a good range of winter flowering orchids.

The object of the exercise was firstly to recruit new members and secondly to advertise our Spring Show. We wanted to attract the shoppers as they came through the main doors. To this end we set up a video and played alternatively three of the American videos from the OCNZ Slide/Video Library (available from Beryl Goodger, 9 Somerset Grove, Tauranga) and the 1990 13th World Orchid Conference in Auckland.

The sound and picture on the TV made people turn to our display. Society members were in attendance for two hours each day and handed out our membership brochure. It is hoped that we will gain some new members in the long term.

The Management of the store received very favourable comments to the extent that they wanted us to leave the display in the shop for a further week. Unfortunately this request

could not be met as the cold weather would have placed added stress on the warm growing plants.

One positive response was an invitation from a major bank in a prominent location in the City to put on a similar display in their window to further advertise our Spring Show.

An exercise that our Society will be repeating.

Article by Agnes and Dawn,
photo by H. Bayram



Poverty Bay East Coast Society "Mitre 10" display

NATIONAL ORCHID JUDGING SEMINAR BLENHEIM 1993

AS new members of the Nelson orchid judging fraternity Russ and I were looking forward to attending the **National Orchid Judging Seminar** held from 21st - 23rd May 1993 in Blenheim.

Having been 'bitten by the orchid growing bug' some three years earlier, we have found that judging has added another dimension to this fascinating hobby and that our knowledge of orchid species and hybrids has greatly increased.

The Nelson contingent arrived at Innes House (our home away from home over the weekend) on Friday evening in time for tea. Some of those taking part in the Seminar had arrived earlier in the day and had taken the opportunity to look around the local shops. As the evening wore on, more people arrived, some as far north as Auckland and as far south as Dunedin — a total of 43. It was shaping up to be a great weekend as we greeted old friends and made new ones.

Plants to be judged over the weekend gradually began to fill the lounge area, and these were carefully inspected as they were placed on benches. Dennis Bonham had brought with him some interesting photographs

and stories of his recent trip to the 14th World Orchid Conference held recently in Glasgow.

After a very nice meal provided by the staff of Innes House and a pleasant evening discussing orchids (of course!) everyone gradually drifted off to bed — one dormitory for the 'mixed genera' and the other for men only. Having been warned by the hostel supervisor to secure the building before we went to bed because of the possibility of prowlers, we dutifully locked the doors before tucking ourselves in for the night. Breakfast was scheduled for 7.30 am so we wanted to have a good night's sleep before our early morning start. Most of us slept well but some were woken at around midnight with the sound of a vehicle outside and then someone walking around the building. Bearing in mind the warnings of prowlers they remained quiet until whoever it was went away again! Over breakfast the conversation focussed on the 'prowler' outside during the night, so you can imagine the

laughter when Ray Thorne (C-R-Tee Orchids) from Christchurch appeared for the start of the Seminar and told us that he had arrived at about midnight and because he had been unable to get into the building had had to book into the closest motel for the night. He did enjoy the joke though!

Business began in earnest for us at 8.30 am with a Region 3 (South Island) personnel meeting to elect a Regional Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson. (Peter Webster had indicated that he would be unavailable for re-election for family and work reasons). Peter Fisher (Nelson) was duly elected as Chairperson with Brian Syder (Christchurch) elected as Deputy.

Then the seminar proper began with a welcome and introduction by Peter Webster, followed by an explanation of recent changes to the judging rules by Dennis Bonham. During discussions on awards Dennis suggested that the awards process



National Judging Seminar
Blenheim, May 1993



should be completed within 4 months and that awarded plants should also be registered by their owners. On the subject of a more formal system for judges to become accredited, there was a good deal of support voiced for the development of a syllabus and an examination procedure to be introduced.

After morning tea and a colour blindness test for Russ and I, the seminar moved on to a report on the 14th World Orchid Conference judging process given by Dennis. Then on to the judging of plants brought to Blenheim for the weekend. Six groups were formed — each with a particular class of orchids to judge; masdevallias, cattleya alliance, odontoglossum alliance, cymbidiums, paphiopedilums and 'odd bods'. After judging their class, each group moved on to each of the other classes to decide which orchid they felt should have been best of its class.

Lunch was very welcome after such a full and interesting morning — then it was time for the afternoon programme to begin. The first session was a discussion on the show judging exercise with each group giving feedback on the plants they judged. Considering the distance some plants had travelled and the unseasonable weather we have

experienced, there was a good variety of plants to judge.

Masdevallias were well represented as were paphiopedilums with two older but well known hybrids — *Paph. Orchilla* 'Chilton' and *Paph. F. C. Puddle*, on show. Ray Thorne had brought with him some extremely large and well presented examples of *Zygopetalum* Blue Lagoon, *Laelia superbiens* and *Laelia gouldiana*. An oncidium of note was *Onc.* (Nonamyre 'Rens' x Star Wars 'Palolo') while *Onc.* Susan Kaufmann 'Butterfly' was a firm favourite. However, Gilliam Lyster's beautiful *Aerangis* Seagull 'Colin' scooped the pool and was put forward for an HCC. Congratulations Gillian! After the judging was over Dennis showed us the 1992 NZOC Award slides followed by a discussion on the measurement and research of plants for award judging and award judging itself.

The final session for the day was a general report on the 14th World Orchid Conference. The expense of hosting a conference is obviously a major issue for future conferences. The organisers of the Glasgow conference had put a lot of effort into providing drawcards for the conference e.g. a children's colouring competition; to encourage people to

attend. The extensive range of paphiopedilums were one of the highlights of the conference with many different species represented. Months of preparation had gone into providing some magnificent displays. Unfortunately, because of the low humidity some of the flowers, especially the miltoniopsis, had collapsed before the conference closed. Paul Cable and Dennis Bonham gave us a fascinating view of their experience in Glasgow and also informed us that the next World Orchid Conference is to be held in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in September 1996. So better start saving!

After a review of the day's proceedings it was time to spruce up for a meal at one of Marlborough's well known wineries. The evening was a real success — great food, excellent wine and of course, good company! The Taranaki contingent certainly knew how to enjoy themselves — plenty of laughter from that table!

And from the snores emanating from the dormitories that night, it seemed that some slept very well indeed. Breakfast next morning was at the more civilised time of 8 am then it was back to work again, this time with a full review of Saturday's Award Judging session.

Photography, with discussions on backgrounds, the preparation of plants, labels, stakes etc., followed morning tea and then Dennis explained some of the intricacies of the (CD ROM) computerised *Sander's List of Registered Orchid Hybrids*. This very sophisticated programme has the ability to list the

'family tree' of registered hybrids at the touch of a button. It certainly beats thumbing through those heavy books! By the way Dennis is happy to research any hybrid for society members for the cost of postage and paper used.

General discussion took us through to lunchtime and the closure of the seminar. We're sure that

we speak for all who attended when saying that it was a most interesting and enjoyable weekend. A big thank-you to Peter Webster and friends for the time and effort you put into organising the seminar. It was great!

Russ Clarke
 and
 Heather Verstraeten
 Nelson Orchid Judging Group



Above: *Odm. Burkhard Holm 'Gera'*



Above: *Vanda coerulea*

Photos: Heather Verstraeten

Below: *Masd. strobilii*



Below: *Onc. Susan Kaufmann 'Butterfly'*



A Rare 'Plant Breeders Award' (PBA) to Tuckers Nursery

Six plants were presented at the New Zealand Orchid Society Autumn Show of the cross *Zygopetalum* Blue Lake and they gained the prestigious award of 'Plant Breeders Award' (PBA), which is rarely given out in New Zealand to the Breeder (myself) and the cross *Zygopetalum* Blue Lake.

This is also in recognition of some of the other awards that this cross has gained over the last twelve months. I made the cross *Zygopetalum* B. G. White 'Bayswater' HCC/NZOS x *Z. crinitum* which was produced three years ago.

This year has seen other awards also granted to this cross, *Z. Blue Lake* 'How zat' HCC/OCNZ in early 1992. In mid September *Z. Blue Lake* 'Margaret Tucker' HCC/NZOS at the Auckland Orchid Club Spring Show and *Z. Blue Lake* 'Angela' gained an AM/OCNZ at the North Shore Orchid Society Spring Show and also the Grand Champion of that show against strong competition.

The award of PBA recognises the near award quality of the cross and the evenness of the seedlings which have flowered. I believe only five others have received a PBA, in the entire forty years of the New Zealand Orchid Society Judging, so this much sought after and prestigious award has been granted to our imaginative hybridisation programme and also proves what good reward can be achieved when you begin to flower just as a few of our seedlings. ◀

Ross Tucker Nurseries
51 King Edward Avenue
Bayswater

Photos by Val Bayliss



Zygopetalum Blue Lake (PBA)
Plant Breeders Award



Zygopetalum Blue Lake
'How zat' HCC/OCNZ



Zygopetalum Blue Lake
'Margaret Tucker' HCC/NZOS



Zygopetalum Blue Lake
'Angela' HCC/OCNZ

NEW ZEALAND ORCHID SOCIETY WINTER SHOW

The New Zealand Orchid Society held its winter show on the first weekend in July at the Mt Albert Warm Memorial Hall, Auckland. Although the plant numbers were down on previous years various reasons were given for this. Some said that the show was a week too early, others complained of a lack of sunshine which meant fewer were available to be shown on the bench. What was missing in quantity was made up by quality as shown by the Awards given by the NZOS judging panel. These being 1 FCC, 2 HCC, and 1 CC. The Cymbidium Society of America also granted 1 Gold and 1 Bronze medal.

The Grand Champion was exhibited by Rose and Neville Armstrong. *Cymbidium* Peter Dawson 'Grenadier' was a superb Standard Cymbidium. Carrying one spike of 13 blooms and 1 spike of 8 blooms measuring 12 mm across the petals, its colour was white with pale green overlay. This was awarded the FCC and Gold medal.

The Reserve Champion was a very nice *Paph.*

(Mandy-Lu x Challow) 'Papa Aroha' — grown by Papa Aroha Orchids.

The Grand Champion Miniature or Intermediate Cymbidium was Alison Shaw 'Perfection', with 18 rose pink blooms on an upright spike, exhibited by Mrs Julie Osborne. This was a great achievement for a novice exhibitor showing for the second time.

To make this show more memorable was the fact that it was the first time that an FCC had ever been awarded by the NZOS judging panel since its inception in September 1959, together with the CSA Gold and Bronze medals both of which were won by Rose and Neville Armstrong. All in all a very successful show. ◀

A. J. Duthie



Cymbidium Peter Dawson Grenadier

Cym. Peter Dawson 'Grenadier'

GM/CSA, FCC/NZOS

GROWN by Rose and Neville Armstrong, this fine cymbidium was awarded a Gold Medal certificate by the **Cymbidium Society of America** and a First Class Certificate by the **New Zealand Orchid Society** at that Society's Winter Show in July 1993. It is the first FCC ever awarded by the NZOS Judging Panel in thirty-four years of judging.

Hybridised by Andy Easton by crossing Solana Beach 'St Francis' 4n with Lunagrad 'Elanora' 4n and registered for the reverse of this cross by Geyslerland Orchids in 1983, Joe Vance and Ray Dix purchased a flask to share in 1980 from John Hannah Orchids. The 'Grenadier' cultivar grown by Joe Vance first hit the high spot in 1983 taking the best first flowering seedling class in the NZOS Winter Show. As a first flowering 'Grenadier' had only five flowers but the potential was evident and Ross Tucker used pollen from it to make some crosses that year. I well remember standing on the stage and seen 'Grenadier' standing out in the body of the hall amongst many other cymbidiums.

The path to stardom is rarely easy. Joe Vance knocked off the top of a spike at the next flowering in 1984 and in 1985 'Grenadier' flowered between shows. Joe grew

the plant to maturity in 1986, and at the NZOS Winter Show it was Grand Champion Orchid of the show and was awarded both a Silver Medal certificate by the **Cymbidium Society of America** and an Award of Merit by the **New Zealand Orchid Society** with twelve flowers on a single spike. A cymbidium with star quality had arrived. Flowers are big and strong, and although not a clear white have a clean bright appearance.

Joe Vance divided his plant after this, something 'Grenadier' objects to. It is not an easy grex to get going again. He generously passed out pieced to friends and relatives. One piece grown by Ray Dix was good enough to win the best cymbidium trophy at the 1990 NZOS Winter Show with nineteen flowers on two spikes, but nowhere near to the same quality that Joe had managed to grow in 1986.

So we come to the flowering of Peter Dawson 'Grenadier' by Rose and Neville Armstrong. Twenty one very large flowers on two spikes with thirteen on the king spike had the same clean colouring that Joe Vance had produced. Basically white with ice green tinting to centres of sepals and petals there is also some feint pink striping which all put together give real individuality and interest to the clean appearance of the flower. A white lip with bold contrasting burgundy marking enhances the flower brightness. Overall width was 140mm, dorsal sepal width was 49mm, ventral sepal 48mm and petal width was 40mm. With the exception of petal width all these dimensions were larger than when awarded an Award of Merit. The large flowers were nicely spaced on spikes trained upright to give a majestic quality to the plant. Contributing to this majesty was substance

strong enough to hold the somewhat star shaped flowers flat.

Cymbidium Peter Dawson 'Grenadier' GM/CSA, FCC/NZOS was a regal cymbidium indeed enjoyed

and admired by the show crowd. Two enthusiasts after seeing a newspaper photograph even travelled from Wellington to view it and were not disappointed. Well done Andy Easton, hybridiser, thank you Joe Vance for sharing your

plant, and congratulations Rose and Neville Armstrong for growing 'Grenadier' to a high degree of perfection. ◀

Ray Dix
July 1993



Rose and Neville Armstrong with
Cymbidium Peter Dawson 'Grenadier'

Aileen's Feast

Council Member Aileen Feist describes four of her favourite orchids

To be asked to choose your four favourite orchids is a difficult task when you really like them all, with their different shapes and colours, large and small, but not so small I have to use a magnifying glass — sign of aging. One of my favourites would have to be *Vanda* (Josephine Van Brero x Wirat), a semiterete. This plant is almost continually in flower, provided the cold doesn't get the emerging spike in winter. It grows in an unheated greenhouse where it may get a little warmth this winter, above the cymbidiums. The upright raceme produces 12-16 good shaped mauve flowers with a dark grape lip. Quite often there are two spikes out at once. I find the *Vanda* family takes a few years to start flowering but once they do you get flowers at least twice a year on hybrids.

Growing in the same house is *Sophranitis coccinea*, a species from Brazil. During the summer the plant is hanging just above the knee high bench. Come

autumn I hang the plant up higher where it catches the winter sun and in October it blossoms into a ball of brilliant red flowers.

Cym Sorrento Sunset (Cariga x Mary Piness) is a July flowerer, a clear yellow with red marking on the lip. These cheerful



Vanda (Josephine Van Brero x Wirat)

spikes brighten up a dull winter's day.

The fourth are a group of equitant oncidiums. These plants live high up in a glasshouse which gets a little heat in winter, say a

minimum of 5°C. There is such a variety of colour in these plants and they take up little space as they grow on pieces of *casurina* (Sheoak). High light seems to be the answer to get them to flower well. The

species comes from the Caribbean where they grow on twigs of trees, citrus being one of the hosts. ◀

Aileen Feist
25 Seddon Street, Te Puke



Top: *Cym. Sorrento Sunset*

Bottom: *Soph. coccinea* Award Photo CCC/1991

Grower/Photo: Aileen Feist

Grower: A. Feist Photo: R. J. Goodger

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Letters to the Editor

Re Letter to the Editor, **Orchids in New Zealand**, Volume 19 No. 3. regarding the suggestion re alliance newsletters using **Orchids in New Zealand** as their vehicle to distribute information. I think this is an excellent idea. The Editor's footnote, as to final editorial control, I agree also.

In the same issue, by Harry Bennett, the article "An Exciting Experiment" is very interesting, and I have potted two plants, which have done not at all well in bark, into old horse manure.

These are: *Osmoglossum pulchellum* and also an Aussie *Dendrobium*. Hopefully we will be successful and like he said, will be able to compare notes later. We orchid hobbyists will try anything when desperate to save the lives of such treasures.

It may be of interest to some other orchid lover, that I have a little *Wilsonara* who did not like bark, so I potted it into a mixture of pumice sand and peat (a little more sand than peat), last summer. It now has put out two new healthy growths, and is looking fine. ▶

G. Thomasson
Warkworth & Districts
Orchid Club

Sir,

Is it possible to have incorporated into *Orchids of New Zealand* the **RHS Hybrid Lists** as published in both the American and Australian magazines.

I realise that the cost is probably quite high but I am sure it would enhance the magazine. ◀

The matter of republishing the lists has been raised before. To publish within the existing magazine format would involve a greater portion of space than I

*believe would be reasonable, having regard to the overall readership. I believe the only practical way would be to publish as a separate supplement — as **Orchids Australia** do. Unfortunately, however, we do not have the financial resources to do this. I believe our first priority is to extend (maintain?) colour for the magazine. If someone, some organisation could sponsor the lists, then it may be possible. How about it judges?* ◀

Editor

VIDEO COMPETITION

GET INTO THE DIRECTOR'S
CHAIR
GET YOUR ACTORS READY
... AND
.....LIGHTS
.....CAMERAS
.....ACTION

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