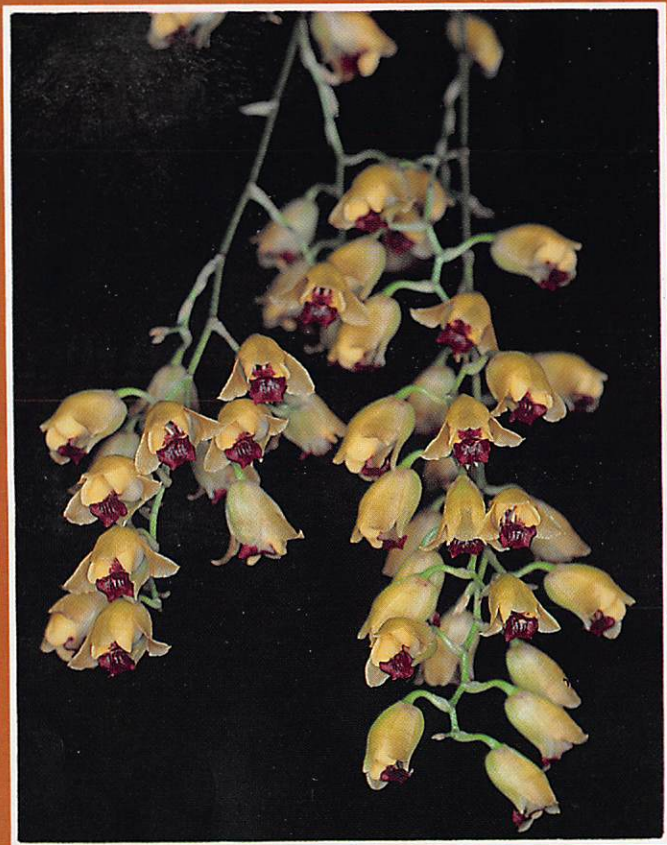


Something Unusual



Baptistonia echinata

This single species genus was originally placed with oncidiums. *Baptistonia echinata* is an uncommon species native of Southern Brazil.

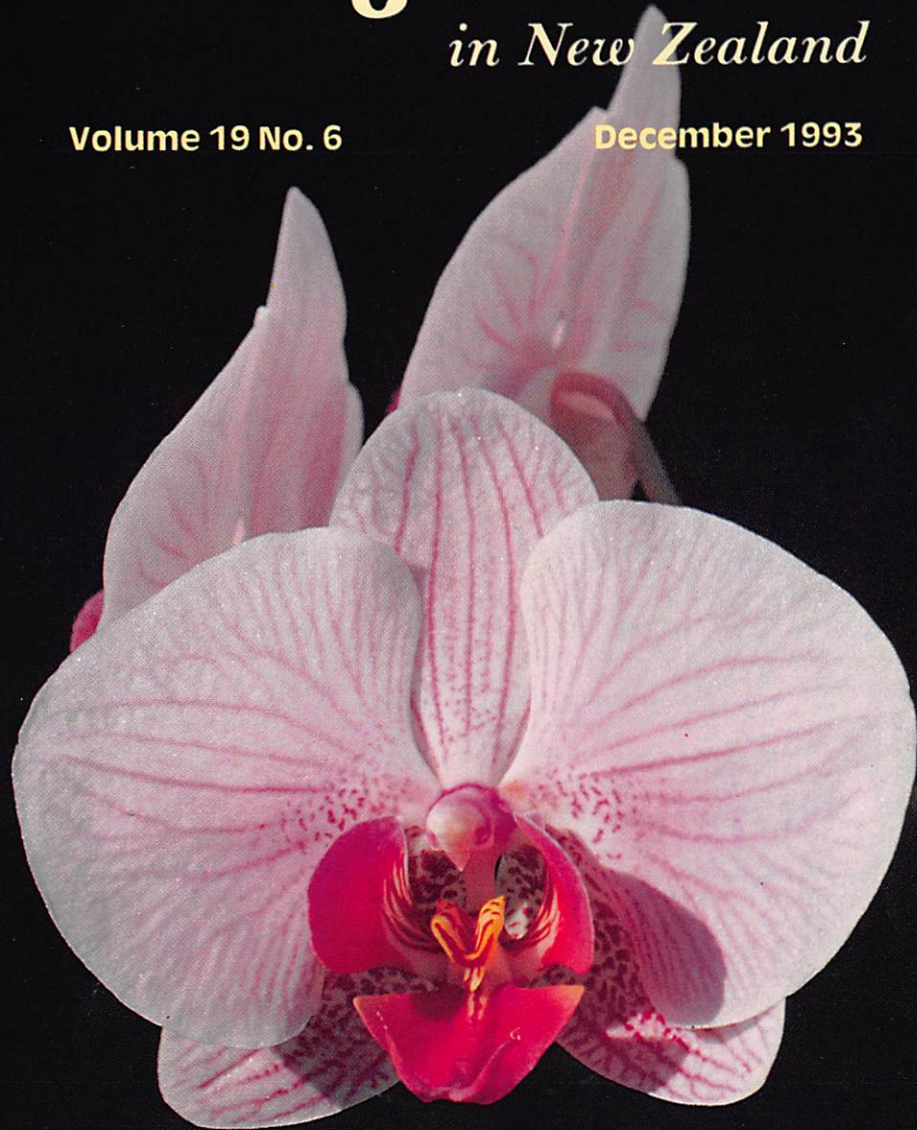
This specimen grown by Doug Burgess was recently exhibited at the Kapiti Coast Orchid Society Show.

Orchids

in New Zealand

Volume 19 No. 6

December 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
Australia's Native Orchids and
Orchid growing in Australia.

Subscription Rates

Surface 1 year \$NZ50 or \$A41
2 years \$NZ92 or \$A75
3 years \$NZ131 or \$A107
Air Mail 1 year \$NZ58 or \$A47
2 years \$NZ107 or \$A86
3 years \$NZ151 or \$A123
Single copy Airmail \$NZ11.50

ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND INC. EXECUTIVE 1993/94

Patron:
HER EXCELLENCY, DAME CATHERINE TIZARD

President:
PATRICIA ELMS
P.O. Box 103, BULLS. Phone 0-8-322 0986

Immediate Past President:
SYD WRAY
P.O. Box 489, WHANGAREI. Phone 0-9-436 0515

Vice Presidents:
HAROLD BAYRAM
753 Childers Road, GISBORNE. Phone 0-8-867 9400

JOE VANCE
363 Hillsborough Rd, Mt Roskill, AUCKLAND 4.
Phone 0-9-625 8759

Executive Committee:
JUDY COBURN
93 Milton Terrace, PICTON. Phone 0-3-573 6789
AILEEN FEIST
25 Seddon Street, TE PUKE. Phone 0-7-573 9971
BERNIE KILLINGTON
45 Lichfield Crescent, Tamatea, NAPIER.
Phone 0-6-943 2089

ROD MARSHALL
Meisey's Rd, Redwoods Valley, RD1, RICHMOND.
Phone 0-3-544 2759

JOHN SCOTT
145 Manuka Road, Glenfield, AUCKLAND 10.
Phone 0-9-444 9771

ROSS TUCKER
51 King Edward Ave, Bayswater, AUCKLAND 9.
Phone 0-9-445 6692
JOY WRAY
PO Box 489, WHANGAREI. Phone 0-9-436 0515

Secretary:
LYN SHERLOCK
Atkins Road, RD 1, OTAKI. Phone 0-9-382 6698

Treasurer:
GRAHAM JACKSON
18 Hurley Place, PALMERSTON NORTH.
Phone 0-6-354 3348

Chairman of Committee on Awards:
DENNIS BONHAM
24 Coronation Road, Epsom, AUCKLAND 3.
Phone 0-9-625 6300

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

Distributor/Back Issues:
TREVOR GILLBANKS
P.O. Box 181, PALMERSTON NORTH. Phone 0-6-359 1848

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

ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND INC.
c/ L. SHERLOCK, ATKINS ROAD, RD 1, OTAKI

THE ORCHID ADVOCATE

Official Journal of the Cymbidium Society of America, Inc.

A bimonthly publication, *The Orchid Advocate* concentrates primarily on
the cymbidium and paphiopedilum scene on the West Coast of the USA,
along with coverage of the CSA's ten individual branches.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

\$20.00 U. S. per year---U. S. surface mail or \$37.00 U. S.---Air Mail to Europe

\$40.00 U. S.---Air Mail to Australia, New Zealand, Africa, Japan and Asia

Pay, in U. S. funds only, to: CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
c/o Paula Butler, P. O. Box 2244, Orange, CA 92669 U. S. A.

Norm Porter Orchids

"CYMBIDIUM ORCHID SPECIALIST"

SEND FOR FREE CATALOGUE

★ **CYMBIDIUMS** Plants in spike, seedling & mericlone flasks — wide selection
including minis & standards, to suit hobbyists & commercial growers.

★ **PHALAENOPSIS** Plants in spike all year round, large selection.

PLANTS AVAILABLE FROM NURSERY OR SENT ANYWHERE IN NEW ZEALAND BY COURIER TO YOUR DOOR.

ALSO: 1st RELEASE OF NEW BOOK — I am New Zealand agent for what is, in my opinion, the best
book on Cymbidiums ever produced. Covers every aspect of growing, feeding, potting, hybridising, mixes,
starting a collection etc. Includes 60 colour plates of new varieties.

FOR THE BEGINNER, CONNOISSEUR & COMMERCIAL GROWER
"CYMBIDIUMS" by Graham & Sue Guest (Australia) NZ\$26 + \$3 post & packing.

Nursery—

23 Parata Street, Waikanae (next door Mitre 10)

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

During the flowering season, May-December, the Nursery is also
open on Sundays & Public Holidays. Phone/Fax: 0-4-293 6977

GILCHRIST MICRO PROPAGATIONS

Species flasks from as
low as \$7.50

- Dendrobiums
- Cymbidiums
- Oncidiums
- Encyclias
- Cattleya
- Laelias
- And many more

ESTABLISHED SEEDLINGS
ALSO EXOTIC PALMS
FROM AS LOW AS \$3.00

Phone or write for my
free flask list and
contract prices:

11 SEON PLACE
BIRKDALE, AUCKLAND
PH: 0-9-483 7731

Overseas and commercial
enquiries welcome.

CLASSIFIED ADVERT: Wanted to Buy or Swap — *Laelia alaroi*,
L. speciosa, *L. furfuracea*, *L. malletii*, *L. mixta*, *L. angereri* and
Dendrobium species from the Oxyglossum section.
Franz Zumbuhl, 99 Fulford Street, New Plymouth.

Concluding from page 176:

"How Silly Can an Orchid
Name be"

Concluding from page 173:

"Failure to Bloom"

If only Lindley, as it now seems, had paid better
attention to the difference between *lepidotus* and
lepidus, our orchid would have been born *Maxillaria
lepida* — and we would probably never have
written this article!

Edited from an article by
G. C. K. & E. Dunsterville
in A.O.S. Bulletin, volume
51, number 1.

few degrees of warmth
motivate plants into an
early start, a longer
growing season and at the
end, larger growths
enhance flower production.
I believe failure to give
plants a long growing
season accounts for the
majority of non-bloomers.

Auckland Orchid Club

Auckland Orchid Club
Bulletin
November 1992

Zygopetalum mackayii: This has a fragrance very similar to the stanhopeas, very sweet and appealing. One plant will scent the whole house. *Cymbidium*-like plants, *zygopetalums* are grown terrestrially under *cymbidium*-like conditions. Their flower spikes emerge off the new growth when it is about six inches long and blooms from late autumn. The flowers are brown and green with an interesting white lip veined in blue. It has two-inch flowers on an erect spike.

Epidendrum tampense: A nice plant of *E. tampense* with its many little flowers looks much like a swarm of bees and, interestingly enough, the fragrance is much like honey. Varying from bronze to clear green,

the compact *tampense* gives an interesting effect as well as an appealing aroma.

Oncidium ornithorhynchum: In bloom for a long time, this lovely cool grower with its sweetly scented flowers is particularly delightful. The half-inch pink blooms are borne on arching, feathery spikes. This is surely the "baby's breath" of the orchid family. It can be grown epiphytically or terrestrially in light equal to that for *cymbidiums*, or perhaps just as little more shaded. The season is somewhat variable, but frequently from late summer. A welcome addition to the *cymbidium* house at that time.

Odontoglossum pendulum: A very showy and lovely lemon-scented, cool-

growing *odontoglossum*. Nicely shaped two-inch blooms are borne on pendant sprays with six to twelve, or even more, lovely white or blush-pink blooms. It is a very nice, long-lasting flower that is fine for pots or baskets, generally blooming in the summer.

Fragrance certainly is a thrill worthwhile pursuing, and while it may be some time before the major group of showy *cymbidiums* provide it, that thrill need not be denied with the addition of the appealing scents of other fine orchids.

Edited from an article by Paul Gripp, American Orchid Society Bulletin, April 1969.

Auckland Orchid Club
Bulletin April 1992



Encyclia (citrina x mariae)

Published bi-monthly
ISSN 0110-5256

EDITOR:

PHILIP TOMLINSON
14 Putnam Street
Northland
Wellington 5
Phone: 0-4-475 8765

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:

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

All correspondence for:

President:
MRS P. ELMS

Secretary:
MRS L. SHERLOCK

To:

Atkins Road
RD 1, Otaki

Treasurer:

MR G. JACKSON
18 Hurley Place
Palmerston North

ADVERTISEMENTS TO:

W. J. DEED PRINTING LTD.
16 Bowen Street
Waiuku

Advertising payments may be sent to the Treasurer.

Opinions expressed by authors are not necessarily endorsed by the O.C.N.Z.

The O.C.N.Z. does not assume responsibility for any transactions between readers and advertisers.

Printed by W.J. Deed Printing Ltd
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. 6

DECEMBER 1993

CONTENTS

Editorial	162
Important Notice.....	164
Feature of the Month	
<i>Phalaenopsis</i> stem propagations	166
Charcoal orchid culture.....	170
Show dates 1994.....	169
13th Australian Orchid Conference	171
Growing Orchids Under Water	172
Did you know?	172
Failure to bloom.....	173
The Challenge by Kevin and Jenny Crosbie.....	175
How silly can an orchid name be?	176
<i>Zygopetalums</i> by Frank Riley	177
<i>Dendrobium uniflorum</i> by Beryl Goodger	178
Slab basket culture by Stan Harris	180
3rd NZ International Orchid Expo 1995.....	181
Past Glories or Modern Mammoths by Lyn Sherlock	184
<i>Ascocentrum</i> — an update. A letter to the Editor	186
NZOS Awards 1992	189
Fragrance in the <i>Cymbidium</i> House	190

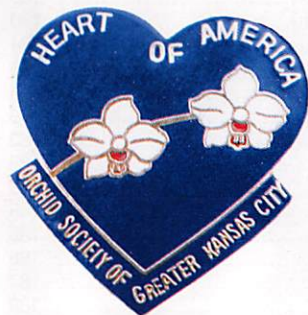
ILLUSTRATIONS

<i>Phalaenopsis</i> ((Dorset Bride x Zwingle) x (Aglow x Dragon Tongue)) Grower Hank Wortman, Wellington	Front Cover
Orchid Badges.....	162
"Lady Slipper Orchids" a piece from the Royal Worcester Porcelain Works museum, England.	163
<i>Masdevallia</i> Angel Frost 'Val'	165
(<i>Dtps.</i> Gorgeous Gold x <i>Phal.</i> Star of Florida 'Margaret's Joy')	166
<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Little Mary 'Kahukura'	167
<i>Phal.</i> (Comache Rose x Rosada)	168
<i>Phal.</i> (Red Hot Chilli x Rozenzsauber).....	170
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Kolopakingii.....	174
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Kolopakingii.....	175
<i>Dendrobium uniflorum</i>	178
<i>Dendrobium uniflorum</i>	179
<i>Cymbidium</i> Sweet Devon 'Allie'	182
<i>Dendrobium</i> x <i>delicatum</i> 'Sunrae'	183
<i>Brassia verrucosa</i> 'Gay Harman'	183
<i>Sarcochilus hartmannii</i>	185
<i>Cymbidium</i> Bud March 'Rosetta'	185
<i>Ascocentrum miniatum</i>	186
<i>Ascocentrum miniatum</i>	187
<i>Paphiopedilum venustum</i>	189
<i>Masdevallia schroederiana</i> 'Hillcrest'	189
<i>Stanhopea tigrina</i> 'Nona's Surprise'.....	191
<i>Encyclia (citrina x mariae)</i>	191
<i>Baptistonia echinata</i>	Back Cover

It's that time of the year again, Christmas pudding, a time of goodwill, three pairs of socks and two unwearable ties. Midnight carols, New Year resolutions, friends and family. Long summer evenings at the beach, and what do I give for presents?

We all know that our orchid growing friends will want something orchidaceous. Giving plants will always be appreciated, a living present will give continuing pleasure for many years. But let us remember that living plants are only one aspect of orchids that can be appreciated over the days, months, or indeed years, ahead.

There are many orchid gifts. In recent years orchid badges have attracted increasing attention, even amongst those not interested in the vegetative plants. Such 'orchids' do not require the same ongoing care, although they do necessitate some attention. With homes



Come Christmas

editorial

Orchids in New Zealand
 Editor:
 P. C. Tomlinson
 14 Putnam Street
 Northland
 Wellington 5, N.Z.

from Wellington to Washington, Auckland to Adelaide, London England to perhaps London Canada, you can learn some geography too. How they are displayed and catalogued, and opportunities to obtain more and exchange with other enthusiasts can take up their fair share of time. This is the era of other collectables — teaspoons, postcards and stamps portraying orchids also attract their fair share of adherents. How about china orchids — I have seen some wonderful Royal Worcester porcelain orchids which would grace any home, provided one had the money. With a list like this there is no excuse for not being able to think of something suitable!

Flowers last only days, weeks, or in some instances months. We can however, savour flowers for months in some of those coffee table books with magnificent colour photographs — you know the type! There are many to meet this demand.

Other books go further with information about our plants. Who amongst real orchid growers can resist learning more about their favourite plants. With thousands of different plants — species and hybrids — we can always learn more about them, what they are?, where they come from? and how we can grow them better? It is not only the glossy modern publications that can be appreciated, many of the older treatises with their beautiful etchings and visions of early collectors and discovery of growing techniques still make fascinating reading.

Books are only one part of the print media. In addition to books, there are many periodicals that make great reading, and which cover all aspects of orchids. Amongst those is this publication. Help yourself and us by not only renewing your own subscription but give some gift subscriptions to your friends as well. Everyone will appreciate it — your



Award Photo

Stanhopea tigrina 'Nona's Surprise' CC/NZOS

Grower: P. Homburg

FRAGRANCE IN THE CYMBIDIUM HOUSE

One of the ways to add much pleasure and excitement to a cymbidium house is to introduce a touch of interest and fragrance by growing some of the attractively scented, cool-growing botanicals of other genera. Many are perfectly at home under *cymbidium* conditions. They will add not only the interesting dimension of fragrance to the already beautiful cymbidiums, but will tend to give blooms when the cymbidiums are out of season. In a pot or mounted on a post or a piece of driftwood, the botanicals easily adapt to *cymbidium* culture.

The following are a few varieties with particularly nice fragrances that seem to make good companions for *cymbidiums*.

Encyclia citrina: (Formerly *Cattleya citrina*). Certainly one of the nicest and most pleasantly scented of the cool growers. Entirely different from a conventional *cattleya*, the small plant produces tulip-like, rich yellow blooms in the early summer. One flower will scent an entire area, with blooms lasting for three or four weeks. *Encyclia citrina* has small, golfball size pseudobulbs and is a pendulous type of plant, so the pseudobulbs and leaves must always be grown downward, with the solitary flower (sometimes two) hanging downward from among the leaves. *Encyclia citrina* is best grown on a piece of driftwood, with little or no moss to back it up. Little or no pampering is best for this species, as it seems that

over-attention kills them easily. Attempts at growing them in pots are usually fatal, for they must hang downward. Very cold tolerant.

Laelia autumnalis: This is one of the most spectacular of the cool-growing Mexican laelias. It bears beautiful, long, three-foot spikes with eight to twelve flowers on a stem. Blooming from late autumn, *L. autumnalis* occurs in both lavender and white forms. It seems to have a good cold tolerance. The fragrance of *L. autumnalis* is rather pungent, yet interesting and a large specimen will scent an entire lath house.

Lycaste aromatica: While *Lycaste aromatica* tends to vary in its ability to produce fragrance, a perfumed variety will provide an attractive spicy odour of cinnamon. Yellow flowers are produced in abundance, the blooms being about two inches in

size. *Lycastes* generally require a little more shade than *cymbidiums*, so growing in pots under the leaves of larger cymbidium plants is usually quite effective. They should be kept wet, like cymbidiums.

Stanhopea tigrina: Some of the sweetest smelling of the cool-growing botanicals are the strange, interesting *stanhopeas*. While the flowers are short-lived, lasting only four or five days, the fragrance is very delightful, particularly sweet and perfume-like. While the plants of *stanhopeas* grow upward, the flowers come downward from the base of the plant. Thus, they must be grown in open baskets so that the flower spikes may emerge. We have had our best luck growing *stanhopeas* in sphagnum moss. I believe they like to be kept moist but they need a lot of sun. They are ideal for hanging up over the *cymbidiums* or attaching to a post in the lath house.



"Lady Slipper Orchids" — a piece in the Royal Worcester Porcelain Works' museum, England.

friends with interesting more exciting publication. advertisers and friends, all reading, you with a feeling In conclusion, on behalf the best for the festive of goodwill, and us, being of all those involved with season, and wish all the able to add more colour this publication, we would best health and happiness etc., to make it an even like to wish all our readers, for 1994. ◀

IMPORTANT NOTICE

From the start of the 1994 year, as previously announced, *Orchids in New Zealand* will be published every third month. As a result of this change, copy and advertising deadlines will be:-

Issue	Published	Editorial Copy	Advertising
March	21 February	1 January	15 January
June	21 May	1 April	15 April
September	21 August	1 July	15 July
December	21 November	1 October	15 October

All correspondents are asked to note the above deadlines. details of the current year's shows are published.

All society secretaries and show organisers are to note that details of shows must be received by editorial deadline date for inclusion in that issue.

Because of the longer period between issues, it is important that that year's show information be forwarded as soon as possible. Please ensure listings are accurate and complete. Those organising shows must liaise with other local societies to avoid date clashes etc. In most cases contact with only 2 or 3 other societies will be required, and a little co-operation at the early organisation stage can save a lot of heartbreak and acronomy later. For reasons of space, only

CONTRIBUTORS

It is pleasing to report an increasing number of contributors to the magazine. To those who have contributed for the first time — it wasn't too hard was it? For the rest of you, how about giving it a go. It's your magazine, it can only be as good as the material that is available for publication, so how about putting pen to paper while you are relaxing on the beach during those well deserved holidays. Despite the changed publication schedule, I will have to do some during that period.

For those who do contribute, it would be of assistance if you could note the following:

If possible typed copy is easier and it can eliminate mistakes as some writing is hard to read. If you do not have access to a typewriter or word processor, please take care to write names of people and plants clearly.

Please ensure your name is on the copy — we want to ensure that your grand efforts are acknowledged.

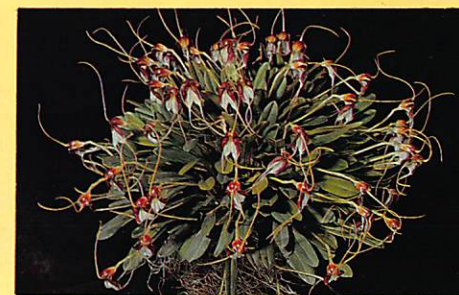
The editor needs to do his work. Editorial work does not principally involve spelling or english, there is a lot of marking required — especially involving layout, tpestyles and type sizes. It is of assistance if at least 25mm (one inch) can be left down the left side of the page to allow for editorial marginal marks — I am sure the typesetter will appreciate it. If you can use double spacing this also assists all concerned.

NEW ZEALAND ORCHID SOCIETY AWARDS FOR 1992

CC	<i>Brs. verrucosa</i> 'Gay Harman'	Bill Brown
CC	<i>Stan. tigrina</i> 'Nona's Surprise'	Peter Homburg
HCC	<i>Cym. Mem. Lily Crouch</i> 'Linwood'	Marion Wright
HCC	<i>Masd. Kimballina</i> 'Hillcrest'	Marion Wright
HCC	<i>Den. Kim Heinze</i> 'Lilac Cascade'	Del Chandler
HCC	<i>Odcdm. Seagulls Fancy</i> 'Ballerina'	Jean Allen
CC	<i>Masd. macrura</i> 'Kamo'	Nola Chisnall
HCC	<i>Cym. Peter's Delight</i> 'Petite'	R & N Armstrong
HCC	<i>Paph. Unregistered grex (Harvest Time x Golden Acres)</i>	Barry Fraser
AM	<i>Paph. Unregistered grex (Feldspar x Shalimar)</i>	Barry Fraser
CC	<i>Paph. venustum</i> 'Bhutanensis'	Barry Fraser
CC	<i>Paph. hainanensis</i> 'Papa Aroha'	Barry Fraser
HCC	<i>Den. cuthbertsonii</i> 'Unnamed'	I.D. (Jim) James
CC	<i>Masd. schroederiana</i> 'Hillcrest'	Marion Wright
HCC	<i>Cym. Fancy Free</i> 'Geyslerland'	Ray Dix
HCC	<i>Wils. Nicola Jane</i> 'Joy'	Stan & Ngaire Pye
HCC	<i>Z. Seagulls Landing</i> 'You Little Beauty'	Ross Tucker
HCC	<i>Z. Blue Lake</i> 'Margaret Tucker'	Ross Tucker
AD	<i>Z. Kiwi Magic</i> 'White Ice'	Ross Tucker
CC	<i>Cym. Kristianne Marie</i> 'Miriam'	Stan Fisker
CC	<i>Paph. Unregistered Grex 'Unnamed' (Hellas x Ranchero)</i>	Gordon Pickering
CC	<i>Den. x delicatum</i> 'Sunrae'	Sunrae Orchids
AM	<i>Sl. Marriottiana</i> 'Orange'	I.D. (Jim) James
HCC	<i>Milt. Capitola</i> 'Kim'	Dot Batey
HCC	<i>Cym. Pink Notes</i> 'Clare'	Tony Ballard
AM	<i>Paph. haynaldianum</i> 'Papa Aroha'	Barry Fraser
AM	<i>Drvla. Mem. Maria Archila</i> 'Val'	Jean Allen
HCC	<i>Chysis. bractescens</i> 'Ellie'	Ross Tucker
HCC	<i>Cym. Sweet Devon</i> 'Allie'	N & R Armstrong
CC	<i>Cym. Sweet Devon</i> 'Allie'	N & R Armstrong
AM	<i>Sarco. Melba</i> 'Snow Spray'	N & R Armstrong
HCC	<i>Odcdm. Shirley Monkhouse</i> 'Pearls 'n Lace'	Betty & Joe Vance



Paph. venustum 'Bhutanensis' CC/NZOS
Award Photo Grower: B. Fraser



Masd. schroederiana 'Hillcrest' CC/NZOS
Award Photo Grower: M. Wright

DARWIN

13th AUSTRALIAN ORCHID SHOW AND CONFERENCE, 1994

Three choices of tours — escorted
Departing
AUCKLAND — WELLINGTON — CHRISTCHURCH
Thursday 7th July 1994

For information contact:

JOY WRAY

P.O. Box 489

Whangarei

Phone 0-9-436 0515

KEVIN SALMON

P.O. Box 1424

Whangarei

Phone 0-9-438 9435

Register your interest for:

15th WORLD ORCHID CONFERENCE,
RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL — SEPTEMBER 1996

Russell & Somers

Principal Sponsors of 3rd NZ International Orchid Expo 1995

Russell & Somers



UNITED TRAVEL

Paper is cheap and space makes it easier for all concerned and helps prevent errors. It is also encouraging that increasing numbers of photographs are being submitted with articles. Please note:

Each photograph should be named — the plant — and should also include the name of the author and where available the name of the photographer. Something like 40 to 50 photographs may be in contention for inclusion in any single issue and clear

labelling will ensure the right photograph is included with the right article.

If negatives are sent, it is easier if they are printed. Please ensure they are also correctly marked on the back, but please only write lightly to ensure the writing does not show through. You may wish to use a stick on label to avoid damage.

For publication, please try and ensure good contrasting photographs are sent, with good colour, and in focus. Generally any

imperfection in the photo will become more noticeable on publication.

Every care is taken to ensure the return of material, and this requires it to be labelled. As 'sets' cannot generally be kept together, all should be individually marked.

Photographs closely tied to an article make for a more interesting publication, and the result of taking additional effort to achieve this will be fully appreciated by everyone. ◀



Masdevallia Angel Frost 'Val' CC/NZOS

Award Photo
Grower/Photo: Val Bayliss

PHALAENOPSIS STEM PROPAGATIONS

What we are discussing here is a method of increasing a particular *Phalaenopsis* clone that may be of value to you as a hobbyist for exhibition purposes, to a commercial grower for the monetary value on to the breeder because of the traits it passes on to its progeny.

Since the advent of embryo culture and green pod culture we are able to germinate seed of complex *Phalaenopsis* hybrids. Although this is a feat in itself and many beautiful plants are obtained that would otherwise be impossible by the regular seed sowing method, mother nature has added an unforeseen condition — sterility. This is another reason why we would want to multiply that particular clone.

Since *Phalaenopsis* grow straight up from a central stalk, or more technically speaking have a monopodial growth habit, they produce very few vegetative propagations. True, some plants will form "keikis" from their flower spikes but this cannot be depended upon and so in 1949 Gavino Roton jr., then a research assistant in the department of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture at New York State College of Agriculture, Connell

University devised a means of vegetative propagation from the flower spikes.

Since then such men as Sagawa, Urata, Iwanaga, Kotomori and Murashige have come up with various modifications and improvements. I will only describe the method used by myself because it has worked for me. I take no credit for devising or creating it, I am only passing it on to you.

The eyes to be used for stem propagations are the unflowered eyes below the portion which bore flowers and the useless basal nodes close to the base of the flower stem. The useable eyes can be identified by a slight swelling under the bracts.

Before going any further I think we should talk about the necessity for sterility. The prime problem that arises



Dtps. Gorgeous Gold x Phal. Star of Florida 'Margaret's Joy'

Thank you for your comments. It is pleasing to note that you find articles of great interest in the magazine.

Your comments on *Ascocentrum miniatum* were referred to the grower — Kevin and Lyn Sherlock. They reply as follows:-

They "confirm we received the miniatum from a Nancy Cave of Omokoroa, Tauranga, and we believe that was the tag it carried when she got it originally, and the idea was that the name would stay until such time as we got definite evidence as to the contrary — which of course we never did — and now the plant itself is demised."

I am not sure of the features that give rise to the question in the correspondents mind, although I presume one of the aspects is the way the flowers are carried. As shown in the photograph supplied, the flower spikes are arising from the higher leaf axis, whereas the plant originally shown is more unusual in showing basally originating inflorescences. Perhaps the colour also is different from that normally expected.

It is noted that the species *miniatum* comes from a considerable habitat range — from the Himalayas, China to the

Malay Peninsula through to Java and Borneo. From such a widespread natural range quite considerable variability can be expected. It is interesting that most photographs show more terminal inflorescences as shown in Faye Belin's photograph, but a plant more like the Sherlock's growth form is illustrated in *What Orchid Is That*, with both terminal and basal inflorescences.

Alec Pridgeon in the above book notes that the name *miniatum* is widely applied to the wrong plant. He states *miniatum* is a rarely grown species from Java, and that the plant widely grown is in fact *Ascocentrum garayi*. Interestingly, J. B. Comber, in his recently published book *Orchids in Java* only lists *miniatum* and makes no comment on this issue.



Ascocentrum miniatum

Grower: R. Woodhouse

Ascocentrum — an update

Letter to the Editor

Sir,

We regularly read *Orchids in New Zealand* and find many articles of great interest. 'The Genus *Ascocentrum*' by Alex D. Hawkes in the August issue caught my eye.

The description of *Ascocentrum miniatum* in our opinion does not match the coloured photograph of *Ascocentrum miniatum* on the last page.

We bought an *Ascocentrum miniatum* at the North Shore Society, Winter Show in 1984 and it has flowered well ever since. The enclosed photograph taken in 1992 by Faye Belin, shows a completely different plant to that in *Orchids in New Zealand* and we would be interested in other growers' opinions. We regret that it is out of focus.

Also the illustration in *A Golden Guide to Orchids* page 147 is the same as our plant.

H. & N. Belin
Waiheke Island



Ascocentrum miniatum

Photo Faye Belin

whenever working with stem propagations is contamination, mainly mould.

Work should be done under aseptic conditions. All the tools, containers, working surfaces and the stems to be propagated should be completely sterilised. A great help and we might say a necessity is a sterile box. The sterile box is just what the name implies. It is a rectangular box with a hinged glass front, two holes cut in the box to allow your gloved hands to work inside the box and finally a fluorescent light within the box for illumination. It looks just like a baby incubator. The box is sterilised and the planting of the *Phalaenopsis* stems into agar medium is done inside this box.

There are several types of sterilising solutions that may be used to wipe the inside surfaces of the box. I will name just three of them. The first is a 10% solution of clorox which is ordinary bleach. To make the 10% solution, dilute one part Clorox with nine parts of water. Next we can use ethyl alcohol, the denatured kind which can be bought at your local drug store (chemist). Some forms of rubbing alcohol are also effective, especially if they are made from ethyl alcohol. The third sterilising solution is

calcium hypochlorite. This chemical is also used to sterilise your orchid seeds before sowing. It comes in the form of a powder and is mixed at the rate of 80 grams to one quart of distilled water.

After you have wiped all the interior surfaces of the box with a cloth saturated with one of the above solutions, you are ready to place the tools and containers with which you will be working into the box.

Each of the following items should be wiped with a cloth saturated with 10% Clorox and then placed inside the sterile box.

1. Test tubes, flasks or similar containers with agar medium into which the stem will be planted.

2. A pair of forceps which you will use to place the stem down into the agar medium. These should be as long as your container is deep so as to allow you to reach down into it with the stem.

3. A razor blade which will be used to cut the ends off the stem before inserting it into the container.

4. Sterilised distilled water to rinse the stem before planting.

5. A bowl containing 10% Clorox with a cloth in it which will be used to sterilise tools and containers as you work.

6. An atomiser containing 10% Clorox.

Now that everything is in readiness and into the sterile box, we are ready to cut our stem, sterilise it



Phal. Little Mary 'Kahukura' HCC/NZOS Award Photo
Grower: S. F. Johnson

and put it into the sterile box for planting. Take the flower stem you wish to propagate and cut through the stem above and below the eye or eyes that are to be used. At this point there is no exact length of stem to leave above and below the eye. One inch on either side of the eye is sufficient. Now that the eyes have been cut off the stem with some of the stem attached we must sterilise them. This is done by scrubbing them with a brush and 10% Clorox. A toothbrush may be used for this purpose.

The next procedure is to remove the bract that covers the eye because under this bract lie micro organisms that can contaminate your flask or test tube unless they are eradicated. Since the bract and eye are small and the cut must be made without injuring the eye some sort of aid is recommended to magnify the stem with the eye. You may use a large magnifying glass. There are magnifying glasses on the market that are mounted on moveable arms and have a circular fluorescent lamp around them. Although this is ideal, it is also expensive. The magnification is about four times.

Another magnifying aid is the eye loupe. It comes in different powers of magnification and attaches directly to the side of your

eye glasses. This is a simple lens that is spring loaded and allows you to swing it up out of your way when not in use. There are two disadvantages to this eye loupe. One is that you have to close one eye while working with the other and the second disadvantage is the point of focus is extremely close to the lens.

The third magnifying aid is the Opti-lison. This has a band that fits over your head like wearing a cap and were the peak of the cap would be, you have a pair of optical glass magnifiers. These lenses are hinged to the head band and may be pushed up and out of the way when not in use. This unit allows you to keep both eyes open and are much more comfortable than the eye glass loupe.



Phal. (Comanche Rose x Rosada)
Grower: H. Piechel, Kapiti Coast Orchid Society

With the aid of one of these magnifying devices take a scapel, or razor blade, sterilise it with 10% Clorox or run it through a flame and cut around the base of the bract at the point where it is connected to the stem. Take care not to cut too deep so as to injure the eye which lies beneath it. Place this section of stem with the exposed eye into the sterile beaker or glass containing a solution of 10% Clorox and put it inside the sterile box.

The stem should remain in the 10% Clorox for 15 minutes. Now put on a pair of rubber gloves and put your hands through the holes in the sterile box. We had previously sterilised the surfaces of the box and all the tools and containers



Sarcophilus hartmannii

Grower: R. Woodhouse



Cym. Bud March 'Rosetta'

Grower: S. von Dam

PAST GLORIES OR MODERN MAMMOTHS

by Lyn Sherlock

IGNORING the television monster lurking in the corner of the lounge (and just why they call some of those items 'entertainment' I'll never know), I still prefer reading books and during the winter months I consider there is nothing quite like curling up in a comfortable chair, a good fire crackling away, (maybe a glass of something at the elbow), to indulge in my favourite pastime.

It was during one of these happy hours that I came upon a particular reference to growing orchids. The writer, Ted Humphris (in collaboration with Doris Palmer), wrote of his life in England during the early 1900s where he realised his ambition to become a gardener, eventually becoming a household name among the English gardening fraternity. He almost casually referred to the purchase in 1920 by his employer, Lady Cartwright, of a *Cattleya* Portia which from carrying eight blooms in that year, went on to support one hundred and ninety in 1938, and five hundred and twenty-six in 1948. When it eventually appeared on a television programme, it carried over **eight hundred blooms!** I believe the container for it was something of the order of fifteen feet long which pretty well equates to the

length of many hobbyists' greenhouses.

At the recent 14th World Orchid Conference in Glasgow, there was a huge *Cattleya* specimen with something like two hundred and fifty blooms and that relative baby compared to the *Portia* caused quite a stir among the viewing public. Not to be forgotten, of course, is the *Cymbidium* Bud March 'Rosetta' displayed at the 13th World Orchid Conference in Auckland — the fact that the side of the greenhouse had to be taken down in order that the plant could be removed was a statistic comparable only with the size of the plant itself.

I wonder why we rarely see mammoth plants nowadays — have the necessary skills been lost, or is it because the urge to 'split and divide' has become the overriding

factor. Obviously the actual task of producing such master-pieces is fraught with many trials and tribulations. How many of us orchid growers are sufficiently dedicated to carry out the never-ending tending and nurturing of such mammoths with the extra horror of actually getting it to a show hanging over one's head like the veritable sword of Damocles!

What are the chances of a 'biggie' making its appearance at the 3rd NZ International Orchid Expo at Palmerston North in 1995 I wonder?. Patricia Elms and her committee for Expo 1995 are encouraging all orchid growers to produce beautiful specimens for this event but hopefully there is a modern Ted Humphris somewhere in New Zealand quietly and patiently grooming his plant to perfection. ◀

that went into the box but we now have to sterilise the atmosphere of the box itself before we plant the stem.

This is done with the atomiser containing the 10% Clorox solution which was placed into the box earlier. Just spray the entire inside air space in the box. Now for the actual planting, of the stem. Take the cloth from the bowl containing 10% Clorox and wring it out slightly and wipe your gloved hands. Next place this cloth over one of the test tubes or flask containing the agar medium. Reach under this cloth and remove the rubber stopper from the test tube or flask and place it in the bowl of 10% Clorox leaving the cloth to cover the mouth of the test tube or flask. Using the forceps, remove the stem from the beaker and rinse it off with the sterilised distilled water. Now take the razor blade and cut off

the top portion of the flower stem about ¼ inch above the eye. Next cut off the bottom portion of the stem about ¾ of an inch below the eye and on a slight angle. This longer angular cut has two purposes. First the greater length will remind you that this is the bottom end and second it will expose more of the stem to the agar medium.

Now that we have made these two cuts, we must quickly place the stem into the medium. Using the forceps, hold the top end of the stem, remove the cloth covering the test tube or flask and insert the stem down into the agar medium to a depth of about 1/8 of an inch below the eye. In other words, the eye should be above the medium. Quickly remove the forceps and take the rubber stopper out of the bowl, wipe off the excess Clorox and place it back on

the test tube or flask. Repeat the planting procedure with as many stem segments as you wish to plant.

When completed, remove the planted test tubes or flasks to their growing area. The best growing area would be under fluorescent lights or wherever seeded flasks grow well for you.

Before closing I might warn you that for some unknown reason not all stems will grow so don't be discouraged. Your main problem will be MOULD.

If anyone can suggest a way to eradicate mould, please write about it. Remember . . . "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." ◀

William J. Shaban
Chicago, Ill. USA

*Reprinted from Phalaenopsis World,
made available by Dick Reichenbach,
Wellington.*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 1994

DATE	SOCIETY	VENUE, ADDRESS
Apr 23/24	BAY OF PLENTY	Memorial Hall, Jellicoe Street, Te Puke
July 17	WAIKATO	Chartwell Seminar Rm, Ham Gardens Pav. Cobham Dr, Hamilton
Sept 3/4	HOWICK	All Saints Church Hall, Cook Street Howick, Auckland
Sept 9/10/11	HAWKES BAY	Hastings Girls High School
Sept 16-18	TAURANGA	Greerton Hall, Cameron Road, Tauranga
Sep 30/Oct 1/2	WAIKATO	Chartwell Seminar Rm, Ham Gardens Pav, Cobham Dr, Hamilton
Oct 1/2	TAUPO	Great Lake Centre, Tongariro Street, Taupo

Charcoal Orchid Culture

When one reads orchid literature it seems that the number of ways of growing orchids is equal to the number of people who grow these fascinating plants. However, I should like to describe my experiences with the genus *Phalaenopsis* which is my first love amongst the orchid world. Having observed my plants over the years two facts impressed me about the larger plants. One was that quite frequently after repotting the roots found it quite difficult to become re-established in bark media and even worse in tree fern. The second thing was that the next flowering was very frequently not up to the standard expected of the plant. With this in mind I decided to try a type of everlasting compost namely charcoal which I obtained as a commercial barbecue charcoal, and which I break up into chunks of approximately 25mm square and wash clear of any dust.

I have now potted a large number of my plants into this media and they have flowered freely and well, the roots seem to become established extremely rapidly, and the plants seldom need to be repotted. I have always used an organic type fertiliser as charcoal is a very absorbent medium and salt build up otherwise, I feel, would occur with great rapidity. My plants have fulfilled my expectations in this medium and have flowered much better after repotting than in any other medium. As the charcoal is inert when I have planted a small plant in a pot and it has outgrown the container it is quite a simple matter to put the smaller pot in a bigger pot and pack the charcoal in the space between the two pots and the roots readily go down into this area, and the plant continues to grow and flower without any check.

It would be quite impossible to do this because of the breakdown in other conventional media. Drainage occurs extremely rapidly through this medium in the size used, and I have never observed any rotten roots when for any reason a plant has been tipped out. I find a newly repotted plant or a plant that has been put

into charcoal for the first time often requires a surfacing of sphagnum moss until it has become established to prevent dehydration but once the roots have become attached this does not seem necessary. Whilst I still use seedling grade bark for plants just out of flask to flats I have often potted the largest seedlings directly into 1½ inch thumb pots



Phal. (Red Hot Chili x Rozenzauber) AD/NZOS Award Photo
Grower: B. Main



Dendrobium x delicatum 'Sunrae'

CC/NZOS

Award Photo
Grower: D. Young



Brassia verrucosa 'Gay Harman'

CC/NZOS

Award Photo
Grower: A. Brown

content will be informative and yet well balanced and practical.

A series of practical sessions by experienced growers will run throughout the show on "What is an orchid and how do I grow it?"

While these sessions will be aimed at the general

public and should foster Orchid Society membership, they may be of benefit to some of the registrants as well.

Mailing List

A mailing list will be started following the release of the early registration brochure at the

end of this year. If you are wanting to record your interest and have your name added to this list then please write to the Secretary at Box 181, Palmerston North.

Keep those orchids growing. ◀

Graham Jackson
Publicity Convener



Cym. Sweet Devon 'Allie' HCC/NZOS

Award Photo
Grower: R. & N. Armstrong

filled with coarse charcoal surfaced with ¼ inch layer of sphagnum moss, and these have established equally as rapidly when potted in this manner as have the adult plants and all sizes in between. It is necessary, however, to water rather more heavily when using this medium, and perhaps this in my case is just as well because I seem to be a heavy waterer. In the summertime I find it necessary to water every second day with a spray to the leaves on the day in between.

I hope that my method of growing may appeal to others who are having trouble with the more conventional methods and they will think it worthy of a try as my experience is such that I prefer this method over the others although I have successfully used bark culture in the past without the loss of root, but as I mentioned earlier the fact that difficulty was sometimes in re-establishing plants even though the roots were freely growing at the time of repotting caused me to

look further than the method which I had used until that time.

I am firmly convinced that plants appreciate not being disturbed and grow much more rapidly and flower more freely. As yet I have not observed any disadvantage to this method of culture but only time will tell this. ◀

Dr. C. M. Gemenis
Sydney, Australia

Reprinted from *Phalaenopsis World*
made available by Dick Reichenbach,
Wellington

13th Australian Orchid Conference

The 13th Australian Orchid Conference is to be held in Darwin from July 8 - 12 1994

Our theme is "*Orchid Magic — Darwin '94*". Orchids are magic here as they can be landscaped into the garden and grow happily on palm trees and in open beds in the garden.

We grow a great number of species from all parts of the tropics; one hundred and twenty different species were recorded in flower last month.

There are many big hobby growers in Darwin and tours of home gardens and nurseries will be arranged over two days after the lectures have finished.

As the weather is perfect here in July we will have most of our evening functions out of doors under the stars. The banquet will be held on big verandahs outside the Marrara Stadium. The barbeque will be held round the pool of the Diamond Beach Casino, a stunning venue.

Not far from Darwin is the great Kakadu National Park where the wildlife includes thousands of birds of many different species, kangaroos, crocodiles and much more. Litchfield Park has many waterfalls and lovely walks through the rainforest with many different varieties of palms and other attractions.

Darwin is no longer a lonely tropical outpost but a thriving modern city with all the facilities one could want but still in the real outback Australia.

So come and see us in '94. You will get a great welcome in Darwin.

Conference Secretary: Rosemary Bromwich, 13th Australian Orchid Conference
P.O. Box 38-493 Winnellie, Northern Territory 0821, Australia

Growing Orchids Under Water

In response to the editor's request for information on alternative propagation methods, I have one which relates to the terrestrial orchids *Phaius*, *Calanthe* and related orchid genera (subtribe *Bletiinae*) and related hybrids.

Apart from the beautiful *lycaste*-type broad pleated leaves, these plants all have one thing in common. That is a flower spike which can develop growth nodes which are located behind sheaths spaced at regular intervals on the flower scape. Note that the *lycaste* belongs to a different subtribe of orchids, (*Zygopetalinae*) which is not related, and lacks the growth nodes on the flower scape.

So far the best success rate has been with *Phaius tankervilleae* followed by the hybrid *Phaiocalanthe Centuari* and then *Calanthe vestita* (deciduous). The latter species is the most difficult to propagate due to the approaching drying off season which affects the newly planted out plant — so timing is crucial.

The method for propagation of *Phaius tankervilleae* by flower scape culture.

1. Flower the plant.
2. Enjoy the flowers as they open sequentially over a period of time and drop off.

3. When all flowers have finished and dropped off, remove flower scape and place in water.
4. Place in shady corner and inspect once a month.
5. A plantlet should be developing on the side of the flower scape where the nodes were.
6. Leave until the plantlet develops a few roots and is approximately 30 mm in height or larger.
7. Twist plant off scape and pot in potting media of choice.
8. Providing you have the correct cultural conditions expect it to flower in two and a half years after being removed from the water.

Note: Providing the ideal growing conditions is another story.

I made the statement above that this method relates to members of the *Bletiinae* tribe. It does, but some of the members of the tribe

respond differently — e.g. *Spathoglottis* and *Bletilla* grow underground corms and I have not yet perfected the water method on these types of plants. ◀

Auckland Orchid Club
Newsletter, March 1992

DID YOU KNOW?

Flowering Tips

Did you know that in order to get either a *Coelogyne speciosa* or *Coelogyne fragrans* plant to flower right round the pot, and not off just one or two new growths, you should turn the pot a quarter turn each month? This will also work with some cattleyas.

An Easy Method to get rid of Mealy Bug

Mix a solution of methylated spirits and water in a spray household cleaner bottle (a window cleaner bottle) and use this to spray infected plants. It can be kept ready to use whenever you find mealy bug.

Reprinted from
Bay of Plenty Orchid Society
Newsletter

3rd NZ International Orchid Expo 1995



It is about nine months since we issued our last newsletter, so perhaps a suitable period has elapsed to produce another!

During the intervening period the Committee have been actively involved in firming up on the details. Sub-committees have been established for each area of responsibility and are working together well. Preliminary plans have been reviewed and financial budgets have been prepared and updated.

Dates

One major change has been made which is the date of the show. The stock car season will be commencing on the Saturday evening of the show when we will be having our dinner and prizegiving. As the stock cars will be in the Showgrounds Oval the

noise level emanating from that source will make our joint use of the Palmerston North Showground facilities impractical. To resolve this problem it has been agreed that we hold the show one week earlier.

The dates will now be from Monday 2nd to Sunday 8th October 1995.

Programme

Because of the change in date we are listing again the proposed programme of events which is:

Monday	2	Setting Up
Tuesday	3	Setting Up
Wednesday	4	Day - Judging Evening - Show Opening
Thursday	5	Day - Public View - Lectures Evening - Entertainment
Friday	6	Public View Lectures
Saturday	7	Day - Public View - Lectures Evening - Banquet & Prizegiving
Sunday	8	Public View Lectures, a.m.
Monday	9	Take down show

Speakers

A lot of thought has been given to the speakers and content for the lecture sessions. These are an important part of the Expo and can be a great way of keeping up to date with developments in all things orchidaceous.

A number of overseas speakers will be invited and there will also be a number of excellent local participants. Care is being taken by this sub-committee to see that the

Slab & Basket Culture

with Stan Harris

Just find a suitable branch ponga stick, or moss stick and tie it to the pot — if the orchid is still in a pot — and let the orchid climb into the new base.

It would appear that the most important feature in considering the move to try slab culture, is to remember that any host which contains resin or exudes gum or a sticky substance, is NOT suitable as a host for an orchid. If moss or lichen grows on the bark of a tree, or branch, then that tree is suitable for your requirements. Slabs for orchids came from pongs, pohutakawa, oak, willow, apple, pear, kahikatea, plum, etc. as long as the wood or tree does not smell.

Wood for baskets can be of cedar, mahogany or any of the woods already mentioned. These baskets can be square, round, hexagonal, or whatever. At some shows, any bark in the basket is non-existent for some reason or another, but the orchid is still growing very well.

The orchid should be introduced to the log, slab, raft, or basket while the plant is at the dormant

stage of growth. If the plant is over the rim of the pot, then the first paragraph can be followed.

When a plant is to be tied to a branch or host, old pantyhose is a very good and gentle method of doing this. Fishing line can be used, but do not pull it too tight. If a cushion is preferred between the plant and the host, coconut fibre is good as it does not repel water but allows it to pass through. Some enthusiasts use spagnum moss, which seems to work as long as it is not allowed to dry completely. When it does, it is inclined to repel water and divert the life giving substance from around the vicinity of the roots which one is trying to encourage the growth thereof.

Nutrients are obtained from watering, spraying, or misting, or any combination of these. Three times weekly at least, in the summer and at this time of the year about twice weekly. It would surprise one just how much moisture orchid roots will pull out of the air on humid days.

The roots of the plant are completely visible, and

one is able to see the tips of the roots to see if they are the healthy green tips which is the sign we look for. The fogging nozzle seems the ideal method of utilising the water we must pay for. There is certainly very little waste.

Orchids which are easy to manage in this manner are *Laelia*, *Cattleya* alliance, *Dendrobium* and *Odontoglossums*. *Laelia anceps* and *Oncidium flexuosom* are good species to begin with if one is at all hesitant to being this type of culture. ◀

Howick Orchid Society
Newsletter
May 1992

Sir,

At the recent North Shore Orchid Society Show, our Club's display won first prize for a display by a society, carrying a prize money of \$100.00

We would like to donate this to the colour fund for **Orchids in New Zealand**, as the colour pictures of flowers brings them alive.

Trevor Signal
Secretary

North Shore Orchid Society

Thank you for your gesture.
It is appreciated by all
Editor

FAILURE TO BLOOM

After a century and a half of amateur orchid growing, the most common complaint is the same — the failure of some plants to produce their flowers. This is true particularly for the early learning years and is one of the main challenges — also it is a complaint levied more against cymbidiums and dendrobiums than other orchids.

Generally the failure of healthy plants to bloom is attributable to insufficient light and the solution is to move these plants to different positions in the orchid house, often higher up nearer the glass.

Such treatment requires patience — non blooming plants need the benefit of a whole growing season to respond, not just a few weeks in various situations.

Quite often the failure to flower is the result of overcrowding, or if you like, enthusiasm for orchids, and it needs firmness to reduce the population to ensure better flowering results.

Spare the Plants

Having generalised on the previous subject, let us consider the factors which may contribute to flower failure. For example — is sufficient consideration given to growth? Some types, oncidiums for example are so generous in flowering that this may contribute to their decline in health. A most lovely

and prized orchid is *Oncidium varicosum*, so bright and free with its flowers, but unfortunately for the plant, if it blooms year after year, this can prove to be exhausting. During my early years when this orchid was extremely popular and plentiful, it was a common practice to double up the number of plants kept to restrict flowering to alternate years, giving priority to growth. Growers should be firm about this aspect of keeping orchids. It will yield dividends by giving preference to plant strength, nipping out flower spikes when first noticed when a plant is lacking in size and vigour. Once good plant size is established, flowering will occur without difficulty or debility.

Every grower is keen to see the first flowers of a young seedling, but a wise grower will either nip out the spike if the plant is very small, or alternatively let a spike develop with only one or two flower buds to get sight of a seedling's potential.

Many orchid blossoms give pleasure for a long period. Unfortunately it is not always recognised that in some cases it can be detrimental to a plant if the flower spike remains intact for its full duration. Apart from some weakening of the plant, renewed growth may be delayed to shorten the growing season, with insufficient time at the end to initiate flowering.

Cymbidiums are a classic example. *Odontoglossums* and related orchids exhibit severe leading pseudobulb shrivelling as a result of flower production. This may be lessened if the flower spikes are removed early, cut while in position on the plant and a flower tube holder placed to receive the cut end. If done neatly it can give an impression of the spike being intact.

On occasions I have reminded readers of the effect of a late start to the growing season by persistently only providing minimum temperatures. A

Continued on
inside back cover . . .

The Challenge

WE enjoy a challenge and back in June 1990 that's exactly what arrived in the mail. The list of orchids we were sent was scrutinised for that challenge and one was *Paphiopedillum Kolopakingii* (very rare, found in Borneo). We live in a rural area and the only way to get this gem was through the mail, so we eagerly awaited its arrival. The big day came and there it was, two leaves, only one inch and a half in length. Now the challenge really began. It was the middle of winter the mountains are virtually at our back-door and with frosts down to minus ten, although thankfully they're not too often. With love and care the precious little plant was put into a slated wooden basket with sphagnum and small chunky pieces of bark.

Well, that was three years ago.

Growing in what we call the warm house with not less than 17 degrees celsius it was fed with diluted liquid hen manure and phosphrogen and with water that is circulated via the fishponds. *Paph. Kolopakingii* never looked back. Lovely green leaves grew and not a blemish. We remembered never to leave water in the centre of the leaves, and certainly did not expect it to flower yet. When doing the watering by hand we were overwhelmed to see the precious plant with a spike. The challenge was becoming a reality. Was it going to be the flower that was worth waiting for, after our dedication to this *Paphiopedillum*. In August 1993 it flowered with six lovely blooms, well worth the wait.

Reading as much information about all the orchids we grow helps us to



Paphiopedillum Kolopakingii
Photo/Grower: K. & J. Crosbie

edge of the lip and 2.2cm across. They appear singly on 2cm arching stems and are held flat against the upright canes which keep their leaves for several years.

New shoots appear from midwinter through spring. In 1992 we had 8 new growths and this year there are 9. In July 1992, I repotted the plant into a 12.5cm pot from its original small pot. The new canes grow about 10cm in the first year, double their height in the second year and start to flower near the top of the narrow cane at about 25-30cm. The cane continues to grow, with the new leaves appearing above the flowers, until it reaches its apical leaf which opens out flat instead of standing up straight. The biggest of our leaves are 5cm long and 2cm wide and the flowers appear opposite the leaf axils. Our tallest cane is about 45cm and probably has a bit more growing to do, so we can expect more flowers on it next year. Some canes show evidence of 15 past and present flowers and will throw buds on nodes that have missed previously.

This year we have 2 canes that have 'filled in the gaps'. I suspect that this is what happened in 1992 when we had such a large number of flowers. As canes gradually lose their leaves, they turn

brown. The canes grow very close together with no rhizome, but a thickening at the base of the cane. I think the canes would be fairly straight if grown in a different situation but ours are inclined to grow towards the light and get a distinct curve on them. Turning the plant when the new shoots appear makes for rather a tangled plant. The firm roots are tipped with orange and are very prolific, so that they could be very difficult to separate.

We started growing our *Den. uniflorum* in the kitchen, in a glass case which is heated in winter by a 15 watt wardrobe heater regulated by a fishtank thermostat to a minimum of 16°C, but the plant became too big for that and now it stands on top of the case in front of a window. It is always watered with tepid-warm water and not allowed to dry out (if I can help it). These plants are natives of



Dendrobium uniflorum

the Philippines, Malay Peninsula and Borneo and I have been told that they heartily dislike cold water. Our plant is potted in bark and fed along with the other orchids, mainly on Bio-Plus winter mix, but a varied diet is given, with some high nitrogen feed in the early spring.

The only picture I have seen which is at all similar, is of *Den. revolutum*, which is on page 109 of *A Guide to Orchids of the World* by Hodgson, Paine and Anderson. That however, seems to be a smaller flower with more pendulous sidelobes on the lip, which is the prominent feature on both, and the tepals reflex attractively as well.

We look forward to seeing *Den. uniflorum* being more widely grown and if you do acquire a plant, we wish you well in growing and flowering it. ◀

Beryl Goodger
9 Somerset Grove
Tauranga

Grower/Photo: R. J. Goodger

Dendrobium uniflorum

WHEN we first saw and fell in love with *Den. uniflorum* at a Tauranga Orchid Society display, the owner Keith Goodwin told us how he came to import it. He saw it advertised in a catalogue and because he had never heard of it before, he was curious to see it flowering.

Some years later (September 1988), at our display in the Greerton Hall, I saw a plant on Keith's sales table. I was extolling its charms to the young man who was looking at it, with the result that he decided to buy it, while I could have kicked myself for not keeping quiet. However, Keith promised to bring another plant over the next day and though it cost a bit more, it was correspondingly bigger. We were very satisfied customers.



Dendrobium uniflorum

Grower/Photo: R. J. Goodger

The following March, the plant produced 1 flower! A second bud had aborted, but it was a start. In 1990 there were 3 flowers in February but by January 1991 we were away, with 21 flowers on 6 canes. In 1992 there were

54 flowers and buds on 11 canes, though some of the buds did abort — it was a picture and now in 1993 we are enjoying 33 flowers on 15 canes. The flowers are very long lasting and over the 5-6 month flowering period from January, the

same flowers are open for most of that time.

The flowers are white with a greenish tinge, especially on the lip and they turn cream as they mature. They are approximately 3cm from the tip of the spur to the

picture the environment in which they originate. Kevin has a knack for placing plants in the right part of the glasshouse among the other thirteen hundred plants and some one hundred and twenty-five different genera.

We always have plants in flower. The glasshouse is heated by two heatpumps and a Yunca fire to supplement the power and a safeguard against power cuts. It certainly hasn't caused any problems to the plants by putting in the Yunca as we can bank it up at night. What a saving on power it is proving to be.

The air we keep moving by three oscillating fans. The glasshouse is 12' x 40'. Our thoughts on growing

orchids is never to force them to flower and with the glasshouse feeling and smelling a bit like the bush when you walk in the plants say it all. They are mostly in baskets Kevin has made from the old grape-fence that lay around the paddocks or a piece of odd-shaped log well weathered from fallen trees of long ago and already with their own mosses growing on them, and they look so natural with the orchid in flower.

We have another challenge out in the glasshouse, an orchid from a friend in the North Island who says you'll flower it! Numerous others have tried and Kevin doesn't turn down a challenge with plants that always give

pleasure; they are all so different.

If anyone has a difficult or fragile plant like our *Paphiopedillum* then we feel that patience and that extra bit of care has been well worth the wait for yet another challenge of the odd bods in those tempting catalogues.

We also invite any readers to call in and see us if you are in the area at any time. If you have an orchid plant that you have had for years and want to flower for you, send it down we will do our best to flower it and send it back. ◀

Kevin and Jenny Crosbie
Tui, R.D. 2
Wakefield
Nelson 7181
Telephone 0-3-522 4328



Paphiopedillum Kolopakingii

Grower/Photo: K. & J. Crosbie

HOW SILLY CAN AN ORCHID NAME BE or — Even The Experts Can Be Wrong

Many, in fact most orchid names give one no clue at all as to what the plant or this flower looks like. *Maxillaria meridensis*, for example, tells us only that it was presumably found originally in Merida. *Maxillaria parkeri* tells us it was found by, or is otherwise associated with a Mr Parker, but gives no more clue to the beauty, size, hairiness or other character of the flower or plant than it does of the beauty, size or hairiness of the late Mr Parker himself. As this species was named in 1827, the chances are that he was heavily bearded, but this is, in any case, beside the point.

But a number of orchids do get named to indicate some character of the plant that has struck the namer as important and the name is therefore a clue as to what the plant or flower looks like. *Maxillaria grandiflora*, for example, is likely to be an orchid with reasonably large flowers — which it is, even if the flowers grow upside down and thus form an even more striking characteristic.

Maxillaria violaceopunctata implies a flower that shows some violet spotting, and indeed it does. And so on. But even names of this type are not always reliable guides to what the orchid should look like, and at times can even be rather misleading. *Kefersteinia graminea* (originally *Zygopetalum gramineum*) has a name that implies that the namer, Lindley, considered it to be “grassy” in appearance. We have naturally never seen the original “type” specimen of this species, but the plants we have found here are not, to our

eyes, in any way grassy or “grass-like”, and this name would hinder rather than help anyone who went looking for it in the wild.

Perhaps the most confusing orchid name that we have yet met is that of the species that has inspired this article, *Maxillaria lepidota*. One of our botanical reference books says that “**lepidote**” means “**covered with small scurfy scales.**” Another says “**covered with small scales,**” and our large Spanish botanical dictionary says, in translation, “**Scaly, or covered with squamous trichomes,**” which sounds to us rather like an unnecessarily erudite way of saying “**scaly.**” All in all, there seems no way to escape the obvious conclusion that a *lepidote* orchid should by all rights be scaly, and scaly is just what *Maxillaria lepidota* is not!

All the same, this naming problem remained

always at the back of our minds as a teaser with no apparent solution, until one day we decided that an article on the subject of how silly can an orchid name be, might be of interest. And in doing this we believe we have, quite by accident come across the answer.

While scanning our reference books once again for any definitions of *lepidote* that might conceivably not be associated with scaliness, we were making due note of the definition in the A.O.S. “**Orchidist’s Glossary**” of 1974, which (reading, “**covered with small scurfy scales**”) merely repeated what we had already gleaned from our other references, when our eyes lit on the next line immediately below:

“**Lepidus, -a, -um (LEP-id-us).** Neat, pretty, pleasing, graceful, elegant.” Indeed an apt description of our orchid!

*Continued on
inside back cover . . .*

ZYGOPETALUMS

by Frank Riley

When I started to grow orchids, I started with *Cymbidiums* as most people do, and within a year or so had filled the glasshouse up and were buying more plants at every show. A lot of them died, because of poor conditions, and one day — attracted by the perfume of an orchid, decided to specialise on *Zygopetalums* to the exclusion of all others.

If you believe everything you read, there are forty three species of *Zygopetalums*. Most of those have since been relocated to another genus, some several times, some into a genus containing only one plant. There are several genera closely related to *Zygopetalum*, and many of those will interbreed. Every authority has a different view of what plant belongs where, and it is all very confusing. I have chosen the Sander’s way as being guide, although even they change their mind from time to time.

The range in size and type of growth is large, ranging from *Zygo. mackayii*, which is similar to a *Cymbidium* to *Zygos* which is even a *Zygo* with a creeping habit, and some without any obvious pseudobulbs. Flower spikes appear with the new growths, the flowers are typically green/brown, with a bold bright blue/purple lip, very striking, and can last up to eight or nine weeks. Ross Tucker in Auckland has been breeding *Zygos* for some time now, and has found that there is a tendency for them to take the colour of the pod parent. This is thought to be because the introduction of pollen does not cause fertilisation in the normal way, but instead causes the pod parent to produce replicas of itself. Ross has an *alba* form, which is green with a white lip, and is trying to develop reds and yellows by crossing *Zygos* with their close relations. There are some

horrid names for these hybrids, like *Zygo-colax*, *Zygodisanthus*, *Zygotorea*, and would you believe *Hamelwellsara*? The last one is a cross between *Zygopetalum*, *Aganisia*, *Batemannia*, *Otostylis*, and *Zygosepalum*! It’s all a bit of a worry for those people who have trouble remembering that the orchids they grow are called *Cymbidiums*.

During the summer *Zygos* can take any amount of water and fertiliser, just like *Cymbidiums*, but in winter they get on better with less water, which causes rot. Some of the warmer growing *Zygos* are kept in the glasshouse and misted rather than watered. Spotting of the leaves can be a problem if they are not dried off, and this is a fungal problem. Another cause of spotted leaves is a lack of calcium, which can be prevented by putting crushed eggshells in the mix. ◀

Hutt Valley
Orchid Society Newsletter