



Orchids

in New Zealand

Volume 20 No. 1

March 1994

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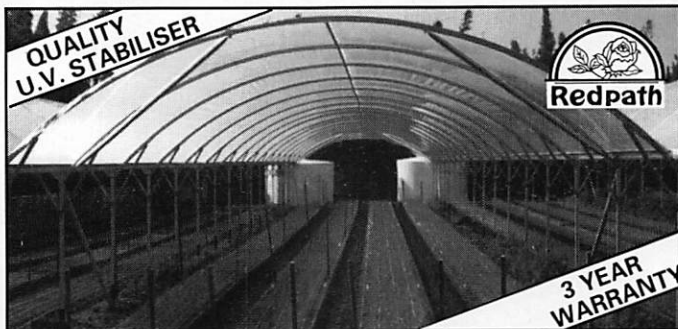
TREVOR GILLBANKS
P.O. Box 181, PALMERSTON NORTH. Phone 0-6-359 1848

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All photography by Editor
unless noted otherwise.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Vol. 20, 1994 (4 issues)
including postage and
GST); \$28.00

to be sent to:

Distribution Secretary:

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P.O. Box 181
Palmerston North

Back Issues Secretary:

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P.O. Box 181
Palmerston North

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

Advertising payments
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Printed by W.J. Deed Printing Ltd
16 Bowen Street, Waiuku.

Phone: 0-9-235 7133

Orchids

IN NEW ZEALAND

Official publication of the Orchid Council of New Zealand

Vol. 20 No. 1

MARCH 1994

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Once Upon A Time

Once upon a time — well, at least longer ago than I really want to remember, I grew up in a small, close knit rural community in North Canterbury. While I was still at primary school, at one of those events that now have largely disappeared, the local flower show, amongst the pumpkins, petunias and plums, I remember one elderly lady had brought along some plants with what I thought were really amazing flowers. I did not know what they were at that time, other than that they were orchids, but the memory remained with me.

Many years later, with the memory of those flowers still fresh in my mind, a friend mentioned that she knew someone who grew those plants in the Wairarapa. Would I like an introduction? No second offer was necessary, and the following weekend I travelled north from Wellington to Greytown and visited the grower concerned, the late Ollie Dare. With several large glasshouses and what seemed like then thousands of plants, several hours were spent in a realm of discovery. The size, the colours, the variety had me spellbound. On that first experience, the variety caught my eye, but it was the *Cymbidiums* that made the greatest mark.

At the end of the afternoon, Ollie asked "would you like to grow one?" Before I knew what happened, I had a handful of back bulbs with instructions what to do with them, and a large flowering plant. I was hooked! Another worker

editorial

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



for the local society which I subsequently discovered, with years of great fellowship and experience to follow.

In those early years when I was learning about the plants I found many people were enthusiastically giving me bits and pieces to add to my collection to make sure I was hooked. It was the generosity of those growers that are amongst the

greatest memories of those years. As my orchid growing interest developed, I discovered other orchids, species and other genera. This development of one's hobby, I believe, follows the experiences of many other growers.

At many of those early shows and meetings, *Cymbidiums* were the most prevalent orchid. In recent years fewer and fewer *Cymbidiums* are seen, those that are shown often described as "flax bushes" by some growers, often looked on with disdain by more established growers. I believe that *Cymbidiums* are still the most commonly grown orchid in this country, but I suspect that many of those growers are not members of the local orchid society. Herein may lie one of the reasons for the decline in orchid society membership. Societies must allow for the development of knowledge and experience by growers, imparting growing information to cater for

that developing interest. But have we forgotten where it all started. Are we encouraging new growers to join and stay in the society, by providing that basic growing information? I suspect in many cases we are not.

Over the years I retained bits of plants from repotting, and struck many back bulbs. Whenever anyone showed interest in orchids they would go away with several plants. Not all of those people subsequently joined a society, but a surprising number at some stage did. I know making money by selling plants is in some cases a necessity, but very considerable pleasure can be gained by starting someone on the orchid growing path.

How many people now have *Cymbidium* back bulbs to give away? How about spare pieces of plants? When did you last give something away? I for one have not sold a plant for 10 years, but have given and/or exchanged many plants. Perhaps your answer may be one reason why new orchid growers are not coming through to societies.

How extensively do we cater for new growers? I suspect in many cases new members are provided with little growing information. Wouldn't it be a great idea if all new growers were presented with several back

bulbs, or even a flowering plant at the meeting — perhaps told at that first meeting that if they come to the next meeting, they will receive a gift. I am sure some of the larger growers in every society would be prepared to donate some of their back bulbs and divisions for this purpose if asked. A little bit of generosity at this stage can have many long term benefits. I know some societies have done so, and perhaps still do — but how many?

Orchid flower judging is an important part of many society activities, and validly so. But I do wonder if the emphasis given this aspect of orchid growing in some areas is an ideal thing. In the early days of my own society, a definite decision was made that no judging would be allowed, other than standard judging — i.e. Orchid Council judging. This was to allow, indeed encourage, all members to bring their plants to meetings and shows, and this certainly worked as virtually all members brought some plants, even if only one or two. Novice growers are often concerned that their piece of *Epidendrum radicans* will be laughed at when the discussion at the meeting revolves around the latest highly awarded mericlone, and will not continue to bring plants along where they realise they cannot

compete. Judging was introduced to many societies to train judges for the 13th WOC, and has been retained without question by many societies since then. Is this a good thing? Is it another factor discouraging new growers from getting involved? I don't know, but I sense at times new growers are not getting involved by bringing their plants to meetings. Perhaps each year the question of competitive judging should be discussed — perhaps at the AGM. And perhaps the new growers should be asked for their opinion. While their numbers will be in the minority, perhaps all should have regard to their opinions recognising the longer term interests of orchid growing. Where competitive judging is retained, the costs as well as the benefits must be fully recognised by all concerned.

We need more members, new members. We need to retain those new members. I don't believe we are achieving this. Isn't it time we asked why? I was hooked into orchid growing through the generosity of others. Have you shown similar generosity to someone interested in your plants recently? ◀

Editor

JOHN EASTON AWARD 1993

ROY CLAREBURT



Roy Clareburt with wife Joy, being presented with the Orchid Council's highest award, the Award of Honour, at the 1993 AGM by President Syd Wray.

This PRESTIGIOUS AWARD administered by the Hawke's Bay Orchid Society, is the only one of its kind in New Zealand and nominations are open to all members of societies affiliated to the **Orchid Council of New Zealand**. The Award is made annually for "the

most outstanding contribution to the culture and promotion of orchids in New Zealand." It was sponsored by Andy Easton. We have a copy on file of a letter written by Andy when he was living in Eugene, Oregon, USA, dated June 1976 in which he mentions the idea of a

plaque to be known as the **John Easton Award** in honour of his father. Our Patron at the time, Mr Arthur Dawson, had no hesitation in commending the thought behind the establishment of this Award and became the first Chairman of the John Easton Award Committee.

This year we had 10 nominations from societies throughout New Zealand, which was a good response.

The committee this year, under the chairmanship of Mr W. Ross-Taylor, was pleased to announce that **Mr Roy Clareburt** would be the recipient. Roy had tremendous support from members of many societies and there is no doubt that his generous nature-giving unstintingly of his time and expertise to many orchid growers — makes him an ideal holder of the Award. He has been associated with orchids for over thirty years.

Roy has been a hobby grower since 1953. A member of the New

Zealand Orchid Society since 1958. He also joined the North Shore Orchid Society in 1973 and became Vice-President in 1978, serving until 1981 when he was elected President for the following three years.

Roy was also a member of the Planning Committee for the 1st International Orchid Conference & Show held at Ellerslie in 1980, hosted by the North Shore Orchid Society.

At the 13th World Orchid Conference, Roy was Deputy Chairman of the Planning Committee, Chairman of the Show & Commercial Committee and the Show Marshal.

A member of the Orchid Council of New Zealand for nine years, for the past three years he has served as Vice President.

In 1990, Roy was made a Life Member of the North Shore Society and is currently the Patron of the Hibiscus Coast Orchid Society, Orewa.

Every person who has met Roy or worked with him in the many orchid related activities that he has involved himself in over the last thirty years rate him an outstanding person who has always preferred to help others and in his quiet way led by example.

Christine Irwin
Secretary

John Easton Award Committee



Cymbidium Mem. Lily Crouch 'Linwood' HCC/NZOS
Grower: M. Wright. Award Photo.

November Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee met in Bulls on Sunday 7th November 1993 and the following items from the meeting may be of general interest.

Show Dates

A new year is almost upon us and I imagine most societies will be setting their dates for 1994. Perhaps we can help ourselves by contacting neighbouring societies to discuss show dates thus avoiding the problem of duplication of show dates. Remember your shows are competing with so many other attractions, we cannot afford to be competing with each other.

Magazine

Advertising is still a major problem for the Magazine Committee. We need advertising to support the magazine costs. Do you know a company that may take some space. Roy Clareburt has offered to assist the Committee to find advertising, if you can help please contact:-
Mr Roy Clareburt
18 Littlejohn Street
Mt Roskill, AUCKLAND
Telephone 0-9-625 4027

Speaker's Fund

The Committee hopes to obtain the services of Mr George Fuller for a South Island Tour. Those of us

who have heard George speak know that you will find him both informative and entertaining. Alternative speakers are also being considered for other areas.

Judging

Dennis Bonham reported on the Judging activities of the last four months. Two very successful sub National Seminars were held in Auckland and Blenheim. In 1994 the National Seminar is planned for Marton in May.

Judging personnel stand around the 200 level but there is still room for more. Dennis offered his services as Chairman of Committee on Awards for the forthcoming year and was elected unopposed. The Committee thanks Dennis for his effort and a job well done.

3rd N.Z. International Conference/Show

Plans are progressing forward. A new brochure is about to go to press and will be released soon. Interest is growing from

overseas and we are looking forward to a mighty Show. Remember this Show is being sponsored by Russell & Somers under the auspices of the OCNZ.

The Orchid Foundation Trust Board (N.Z.)

It is amazing that so few people know anything about the Foundation. After the 1st International Orchid Conference hosted by the North Shore Orchid Society (Inc.) and held at the Ellerslie Racecourse, the NSOS decided that part of the very large profit should be directed towards the formation of a Trust.

The initial grant on formation of the Trust was \$15,000. The policy of the Trustees has been to keep the Capital intact and to apply the interest for donations. The Capital is invested in interest bearing debentures.

The aims of the Trust are to "Encourage, promote, benefit, preserve and assist generally the education and learning about orchids, their growth

and propagation and scientific study throughout New Zealand and the World."

Donations over the years have been mainly made to the Orchid Council of New

Zealand to assist the Speaker's and Colour Funds. To date donations to the Council have amounted to \$14,000. We all acknowledge the great help that these donations have made to the Orchid

Council for the benefit of us all.

Present Trustees are:
J. Vance, R. Clareburt and J. Hart (Hon. Sec.). ◀

Joe Vance
Publicity Officer
20th November 1993

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 1994

DATE	SOCIETY	VENUE, ADDRESS
Apr 16	MANAWATU	Senior Citizens Hall, Bowen Street, Feilding
Apr 23/24	BAY OF PLENTY	Memorial Hall, Jellicoe Street, Te Puke
July 6-10	NEW ZEALAND	Mt Albert War Memorial Hall, New North Road, Mt Albert, Auckland
July 17	WAIKATO	Chartwell Seminar Room, Hamilton Gardens Pavilion, Cobham Drive, Hamilton
Sept 3/4	HOWICK	All Saints Church Hall, Cook Street, Howick
Sept 9/10/11	HAWKE'S BAY	Hastings Girls High School
Sept 14-18	NEW ZEALAND	Mt Albert War Memorial Hall, New North Road, Mt Albert, Auckland
Sept 16/17/18	TAURANGA	Greerton Hall, Cameron Road, Tauranga
Sept 23/24/25	TARANAKI	St Josephs Hall, Devon Street, New Plymouth
Sept 24/25	MANAWATU	Convention Centre, Main Street, Palmerston North
Sept/Oct 30/2	WAIKATO	Chartwell Seminar Room, Hamilton Gardens Pavilion, Cobham Drive, Hamilton
Oct 1/2	TAUPO	Great Lake Centre, Tongoriro Street, Taupo
Oct 15/16	WAIKATO	McGregor Hall, Worksop Road, Masterton

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

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

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

ISSUE	REQUIRED BY	ISSUE	REQUIRED BY
March	1 January	September	1 July
June	1 April	December	1 October

WHAT ARE THE MERITS OF MODERN NOVELTY CYMBIDIUM HYBRIDS

by Snow Peterson

In what areas, if any, have we progressed?

List three pre-1975 registered novelty cymbidiums of superior quality and compare with three highly awarded cymbidiums.

Comparisons will be only from CSA awarded plants which makes this a more difficult assignment since the CSA have only given one G/CSA. Therefore I will come down to S/CSA awards or better still, awards of Breeders Merit. Incidentally the gold award went to Gold Mine 'Osos Sunset' (Agnes Norton x Jolity) in 1985 with 90.67 points. Sepals and petals were golden yellow flushed with pink on the upper half of the petals, and the lip was also golden yellow edged with red.

To get started I guess we must fall back on statistics, although I must say that statistics when applied to orchid breeding appear to be about as useful and reliable as a politician's promises at election time.

Pre-1975 the CSA awarded 182 clones, 162

bronze medals and 20 silver medals. This gives a ratio of eight bronze medals to every silver. From 1975 to 1991 the CSA awarded 348 clones, 325 bronze medals and 23 silver, giving a ratio of 14.13. What a startling piece of information! It really sends the blood pumping. Does this mean that after 1975 more plants must be put up for awards to gain the same amount of silvers as pre-1975; does it mean that plant quality generally decreased; or does it mean that the judging panels have got harder in giving awards? Do these figures mean something else or nothing at all?

Let us look at the crosses that have individually got the most clones awarded during the period of CSA judging. The top ten of these are used as a yardstick.

1. **Show Girl** (Sweetheart x Alexanderi) - 20 bronze, 7 silvers. These were awarded during the years 1963-75 (i.e. Pre-1975). Would these still be good enough today?
2. **Little Big Horn** (Dag x Sussex Moor) - 19 bronze, 2 silvers. These were awarded after 1975 between 1982 and as late as 1990. Were they any better than the Show Girls?
3. **Ivy Fung** (Mary Pinchess x Carisona) - 17 bronze, 2 silvers. These were awarded mostly between 1968 and 1975 with only one awarded after 1975, in 1977.
4. **Amesbury** (Geraint x Ora Lee) - 14 bronze, 1 silver. Of these



Cym. Peter Pan 'Greensleeves'



Cym. King Arthur 'Round Table'. Award Photo.
Grower: W. & P. Stephens.

awards all were pre-1975 except for two.

5. **Oriental Legend** (Babylon x *pumilum*) - 14 bronze. These were awarded pre-1975.
6. **King Arthur** including selfings (Sweetheart x Nila) - 11 bronze, 3 silver. These were mostly 1965 to 1968 with four of the selfings awarded in 1978 and 1979.
7. **Ann Miller** (Mary Pinchess x Clyde Landers) - 10 bronze, 1 silver. All except one were awarded pre-1975.
8. **Pelleas** (Sweetheart x Claucis) - 9 bronze, 1 silver. Awarded between 1963 and 1967.
9. **Dantes Inferno** (Mimi x Sabe Dance) - 8 bronze, 2 silver. Awarded between 1979 and 1981.
10. **Panalatinga** (Doris Aurea x *devonianum*) - 6 bronze, 3 silver. All awarded between 1982 and 1988.

Once more, what do these statistics do for us other than let you raise your own conclusions? Pre-1975 from these ten most successful crosses listed there were 100 awards granted, 87 bronze

and 13 silver. Post 1975 within the ten most successful crosses in the next sixteen years up to 1991 there were 48 awards gained, 41 bronze and 7 silver.

These points I raise so you can make up your own conclusions. There are less than half the bronze awards given after the period up to 1975 than were given before. It is about the same for silver awards. The following questions arise:

1. Are judges getting harder?
2. Is the CSA judging routine evolving to bring only the better clones into the system for awards granting?
3. Is it because the judging system evolved over a longer period than the sixteen years since 1975? That is, awards were given pre-1959. In the ten most successful crossings I have used as a yard stick we find this not to be so. The earliest award I have recorded was in 1962, to one of the Oriental Legend clones.
4. Are novelty Cymbidiums not so popular with judges? It is noted that total awards have increased after 1975 but novelties do not match this trend, as pointed out above.

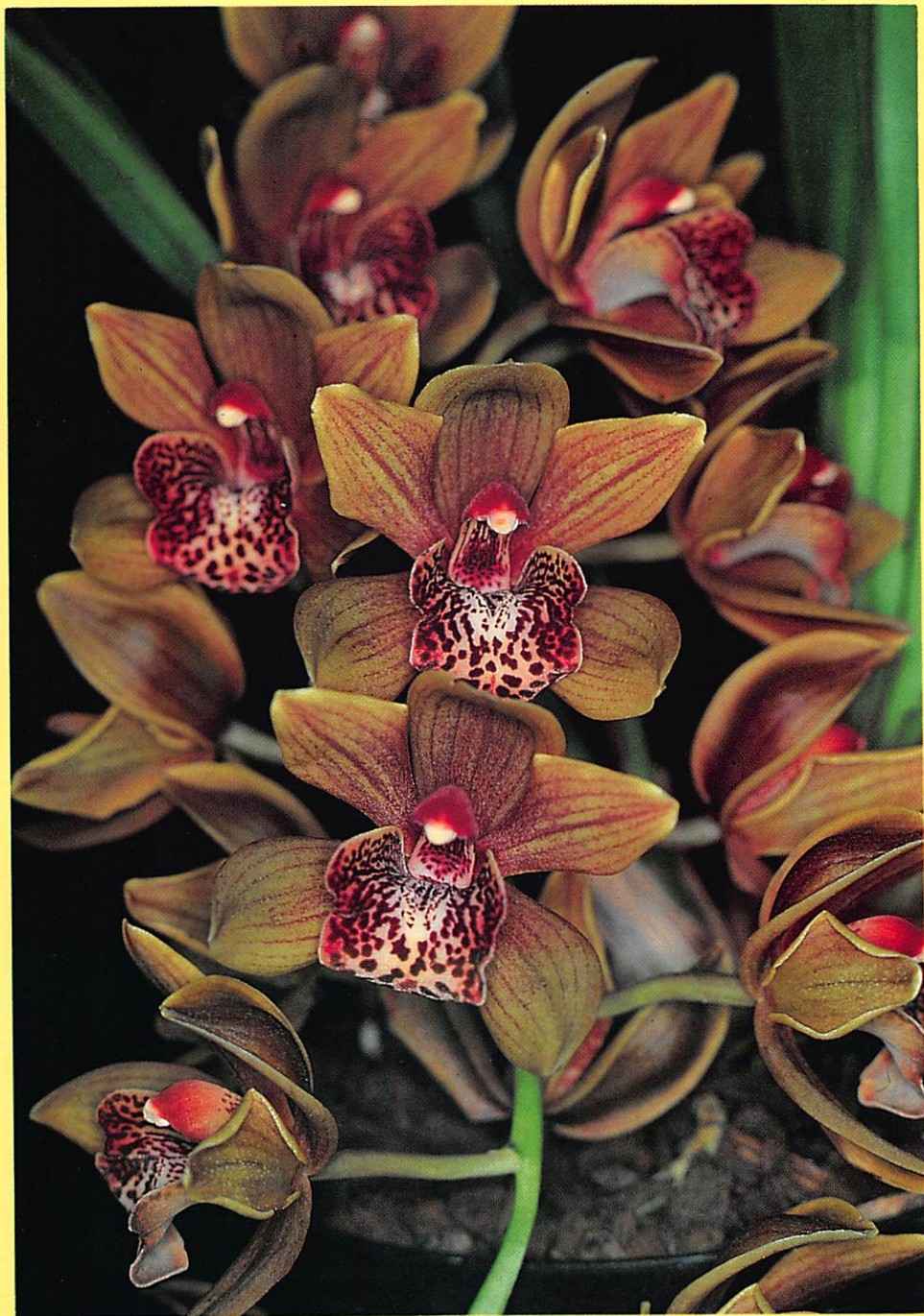
5. Are judges unconsciously making allowances for the early flowering of the clones they are seeing more regularly, as we extend the season into the early and later months? This does not appear to be the case as the ten most successful crosses we have used have mainly early mid-season and mid-season characteristics.

6. Are the flowers of poorer quality?
7. Are growers losing interest in putting their plants up for awards in the CSA system for various reasons?

Remember the statistics and observations deal only with the ten most successful crosses since CSA started judging that we used for our yardstick.

Now let us look at the top twelve parents that have been the most successful in breeding novelty cymbidiums, their success being decided by the number of awarded plants they have been parent to.

1. *devonianum* - 22 successes
2. *pumilum* - 22 successes
3. Sweetheart - 16 successes
4. *madidum* - 14 successes
5. Peter Pan - 13 successes
6. King Arthur - 13 successes
7. Rincon - 10 successes
8. Show Girl - 9 successes
9. Mary Pinchess - 8 successes
10. Ann Miller - 7 successes



Cym. (Greenstone x devonianum)
Grower: N. Porter.

11. Carisona - 7 successes
12. Fairy Wand - 7 successes

If we go further into this we find that there have been a very limited number of parents that have three or more of their progeny awarded. With six we have Amesbury, Dag, Lady Bug, Rio Rita, **sinense**, and Sussex Moor. With five we have Doris Aurea, Ivy Fung, Jolity, *parishii*, Sensation, and Tethys. With four, Ora Lee, Pendragon and Touchstone. With three, Coraki, Dr Baker, Gidget, Jean Brummitt, Ruby Eyes, and Volcano.

What do these statistics tell us? Two basic facts come out:

1. The species *devonianum*, *pumilum*, and *madidum* have certainly been very successful. Of course it does not tell us how many times they were used to gain their fifty eight awarded progeny.
2. There have been very few successful parents used to produce novelty cymbidiums.

Well, that is enough of statistics. As I indicated earlier, when applied to Cymbidiums they are about as much use as a worn out sandshoe, but for those of you who are statistically minded and you look at the three points discussed so far:

1. The number of awards given pre-1975 compared with the number and types gained after 1975 to 1991,
2. The crosses that have individually got the most clones awarded and in what years,
3. The type of parents used to gain the awards,

One must conclude that there has not been an advancement in the hybridising of novelty Cymbidiums as far as awards are concerned, statistically.

What then are the merits of the modern novelty Cymbidium? I do not believe that the hybridisers aims in the novelty field were to make a flower or plant to fit into some man made set of standards. The reason I say this is the standards for judging novelty Cymbidiums has evolved in more recent times, so obviously the hybridisers were looking for a flower for other reasons. Because of this belief, I am now going to discuss their merits fully from a judging viewpoint. It is best to discuss what we should expect from a top novelty:

1. We would want compact plant forms.
2. We would want ease of flowering.

3. We would want quick reliable growers.
4. We would want multi-spiking for small plants.
5. We would want a good flower count.
6. We would want spikes above the foliage.
7. We would want long lasting flowers.
8. We would like good clear colours.
9. We would want smaller flowers than standard types.
- 10 We would like them to flower in the various time slots.

Have our hybridisers produced plants for us with these merits? I believe so. Maybe not all merits are in every plant. Perhaps we could criticise plants that have all characteristics apart from one or two. But surely we would be pretty hard on plants such as Alison Shaw 'Perfection' and Gladys Whitesell 'The Charmer' by saying, "yes, it is a reasonable flower but the plant is a coarse grower." Should we criticise others that have the bottom three or four flowers not clear of the foliage even though the other twelve are? Perhaps we could knock a good clear green Maureen Grapes flower with it's startling lip markings because it does not last as well as others. As a pot



Cym. Kiwi Magic 'Golden Bake'
Grower: N. Porter.

plant grower and a vendor to the general public, I would be far too hard on these plants to do this, whereas if I were to judge them under CSA rules, I would have to penalise them.

Next — in what areas have we progressed? Progressed from where, and how? In colour, in shape, in flower count, or what? Shall we start by looking from 1975 or back further, say 1962-67, not when the plants were registered, not when the hybridisers had a vision, but some years later when they were awarded.

Who does not think that Agnes Norton 'Show Off' S/CSA, a mustard yellow and one of my first orchids, is a good flower? The Evening Stars with six bronze awards of flowers ranging in colour from rose through cream, white, yellow, tan and pink. Excalibur 'Galahad' S/CSA, pink; Jill 'Katalnica' S/CSA, apple green; King Arthur, eight bronze awards, greens and yellows; Leodogran S/CSA, rose pink; Mary Pinchess, six awards, pinks yellows, and greens; Oriental Legend with fourteen bronze awards, rich orange, cinnamon, reds and pinks; Pelleas, one silver and nine bronze awards, mahogany, bright red, rose, green, and polychrome; Showgirl with 'Copelia' S/CSA,

'Glamour Jane' S/CSA, 'Mem. Rosalind Greer' S/CSA, 'Mistinguette' S/CSA, and fourteen bronze awards with a colour range of white, green, yellow, rose, beige.

That is a pretty good range of colours and flowers within the CSA awarding system and remember they were between 1962 and 1967, so certainly would have been hybridised before 1963. Have we progressed? I will leave you to answer that.

Let me now compare three pre-1975 registered novelties with three recently highly awarded novelty cymbidiums. For pre-1975 I am selecting:

1. Agnes Norton 'Show Off' (Mary Pinchess x Confection) S/CSA 1967.
2. Ivy Fung 'Sultan' (Mary Pinchess x Carisona) S/CSA 1968.
3. Dolores Hoyt 'Limelight' (King Arthur x Endre Ostbo) S/CSA 1975.

After 1975 I have selected grexes that have won awards of Breeders Merit:

1. Alison Shaw (Lady Bug x Pink Champagne) 5 bronze 1980-82.
2. Jack Hudlow (High Sierra x *devonianum*) 2 silver, 3 bronze, 1985-86.

3. Black Silk (Mimi x Tethys) 6 bronze 1990-91.

As Dolores Hoyt was the first awarded we will deal with it first. The description of 'Limelight' was bright lime green petals and sepals with slight suffusion of red in the petal ribs. Lip white with heavy blood red band at the front edge, anther light green edged faintly with red, clear white pollen cap, yellow keel. Fourteen well balanced flowers on upright spike. Awarded in 1975, Dolores Hoyt was only used once in breeding when crossed with Jill (Miretta x *pumilum*) to produce Autumn Emerald of which 'Patricia Ann' received a B/CSA in 1986.

Ivy Fung 'Sultan' was described as having red petals with deeper red striations, all edged with a white margin. Lip base white, red keels and heavy blotches of red at the front of lip, clear white pollen cap. A well filled in round flower with generous segments, sixteen well spaced flowers on upright spikes, generally above foliage. Ivy Fung has been used in breeding with Remus, Rincon 4n, Robin Rouge, Showgirl, and Susa. Produced from these matings have been Laura Ferguson (with Remus) with the clone 'Ruby' receiving a B/CSA in 1982; Mandolin Wind (with



Cym. Evening Star 'Pastel Princess'.

Rincon and Rincon 4n) with two bronze awards to 'Avila' and 'Hollister'; Cracker Jack (with Robin Rouge) successful with 'Midnight Magic' with S/CSA and 'Cinnamon', 'Pumpkin' 'Red Rage' and 'Santa Barbara' all receiving B/CSA; Changing Times (with Showgirl) gained awards to 'Command Performance' S/CSA, and 'Celebration', 'Gypsy', and 'Santa Barbara' all with B/CSA, and lastly Chief Joseph (with Susa) which had 'Chocolate', 'My Decision', and 'Winthrop Road' all gaining B/CSA. If we consider that Ivy Fung itself has seventeen bronze and two silver awards and it's progeny produced such a spectacular list of awards, it certainly is no slouch and this must be featured in any comparison.

I selected Agnes Norton 'Show Off' because it was one of the first orchids I collected. My description is, rectangular flowers well spaced on an upright spike. Flowers are mustard yellow with red striations in the petals and sepals, lip white with red suffusion all around lip margins. I can only find where it is registered as a parent once and that, as I said earlier, was with Jolity to produce Gold Mine with two clones awarded, 'Osos Sunset' G/CSA, the only gold award so far awarded to a novelty cymbidium to 1991, and 'Montana de

Oro' B/CSA. If you couple these with it's own four awards and the fact it was one of my first orchids, I don't care if you do not like it, to me it is a great orchid.

Now we consider the post 1975 group in the order awarded. First is Alison Shaw, receiving the Award of Breeders Merit in early 1982. For an ABM to be granted the cross must have on show five clones and have four granted quality awards, with the fifth near award quality. Earlier awarded clones may be included. Description for the Alison Shaw ABM/CSA mentioned that all clones featured tall spikes with flowers of outstanding pink colour. The awards register shows that 'Christmas Rose', 'Perfection', 'Pink Cloud', 'Rasmussen Sherbet', and 'Valentine' all received bronze awards. Using Alison Shaw 'Perfection' as the example, petals are pink with faintly darker veining, edged with a faint white band, lip white with blotched deep pink dots. Flowers are well balanced and the plant is very floriferous with up to 29 well spaced flowers on upright spikes held clear of the foliage. As a parent there have been no registrations that have earned CSA awards to my knowledge.

Next we come to the Jack Hudlows and I quote

from the 1984-85 awards Orchid Advocate — "But the most sensational cross has to be the Jack Hudlows, Mr Easton's mating of High Sierra with *devonianum* has produced a real winner. There could not be a more appropriate memorial to Mr Hudlow than to have his name bestowed on this cross and the judges agreed. They granted the grex an Award of Breeders Merit. This feat was enhanced by the fact that only two had been awarded to date whereas the award stipulates five clones. However, it was the estimation of the judges that the cross was destined for recognition. This does not happen very often but one look at Jack Hudlow 'Cymbidium Society' and one can see a truly great orchid." The judges forward view was correct and five clones have been awarded up to 1989 being 'Cymbidium Society', and 'Frae' both with silver awards, and 'Joan', 'Labios', and 'SG Branch' with bronze awards. They are top orchids and I thank my friend Tony Ballard for a piece of the original 'Joan'. Using Jack Hudlow 'Cymbidium Society' as the example the description is sepals lime green with dark burgundy lip. Flowers are outstanding for a primary cross with sepals and petals very broad, and having very clear colour. Spike was trained upright away from the pendulous *devonianum* habit, ten

flowers on one spike. Jack Hudlow is not registered as a parent of any CSA awarded clones yet.

Last of all we come to the Black Silks awarded an ABM/CSA in March 1990 with four awards and a fifth a year later. 'Party Girl', 'Satin Doll', 'Shadowland', 'Shady Lady', and then 'Sweet Dreams' have all been awarded B/CSA. Flower count for the awarded clones on ABM day were eleven, twelve, eleven, and fifteen and only one had more than one spike. 'Shade Lady' was the only clone with the flowers clear of the foliage. Using 'Party Girl' as the example as it was the most highly awarded, petals and sepals are medium brown with yellow edging and a darker mid vein on the petals. The lip is light yellow with a dark maroon bar and spike is arching.

With these selections, descriptions and comments I leave you to decide if we have progressed. I doubt that a case is proven one way or the other. There were and are good orchids before 1975, just as there are after. It is a pity that discussion has been limited to CSA awards only because I am confident that there are many good novelties around the traps that do not get put up for awards under the CSA system. Another point I must make is that we have only discussed the most

successful clones. That is, those with the most awards or the most successful progeny. We have not brought in the ones and twos so it is only part of the picture.

I finish with the thought that it is always better to look for the good traits in

orchids rather than faults and with thanks to hybridisers over the years for their intense thought, concentration, inspiration and meditation in developing this line of breeding. ◀

August 1992



Cym. suave 'L. & R.'

Grower: L. & R. Orchids. Award Photo.

The times they are a-changing

The times they are a-changing' — so the Seekers have told us. 1994 is the year of change for **Orchids In New Zealand** with the magazine becoming a quarterly publication. With this first issue we hope you, the reader, will enjoy the content sufficiently to solicit subscriptions from your orchid growing friends. The Executive of the *Orchid Council Of New Zealand* is determined to increase the viability of the magazine. Advertising rates have been discounted for the year to retain and also obtain advertisers. At the moment this is a difficult issue, as readers' request more advertising, but unless supported, a small circulation magazine finds great difficulty in finding advertisers who are prepared to take contracts knowing they will not get the sales to reimburse that cost. Unfortunately, this has been the case over the last 2-3 years. Advertising income assists the viability of the magazine, so the clear message is **PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR ADVERTISERS.**

Wandering Thoughts

It's potting time in our greenhouses and on a daily basis one tends to allow the mind to wander. My thoughts have wandered through the past year and concerns passed on to me by a number of Executive of various societies talking about the lack of and retention of new members. I feel that the interest in species and other genera has to some extent been to the detriment of societies and membership. Here are just two questions to answer . . .

With what genera did you start your orchid growing hobby?

I guarantee that ninety percent of the answers would be CYMBIDIUMS.

Why did you join an orchid club?



*Cym. Sweet Dream 'Allie'. Award Photo.
Grower: R. & N. Armstrong.*

Again CYMBIDIUMS and the need to know more of their culture drew you to a society.

I know that was my experience and in those days I received the answers. (No, this is not an ad for cymbidiums), but today are these people getting any basic culture and talks about the humble cymbidium or the encouragement to bring their flowering cymbidiums to meetings without derogatory comments about "weeds and flaxbushes". Knowing how to compromise so that all members get something from their membership is a challenge for all Executive,

particularly in planning their meetings.

The potting continues and the mind wanders along a little further to constitutions and the aims of societies — surely fostering an interest in orchids and their culture, and FRIENDSHIP are two of the main clauses. They, if kept in practice will surely help in keeping/making your society a healthy growing society.

Just in passing — I doubt if fundraising is a legitimate aim of any society, and at risk of some verbal abuse, I think some societies are more preoccupied obtaining a

mounting bank balance than fostering friendship and membership. Remember donations requested from members for major raffles, charges to financial members to club shows are, in essence, increasing subscriptions to ACTIVE members.

In my term as President, I would hope to see a fostering of friendship between neighbouring societies and a return to more balanced membership, with beginner growers and also younger people given more encouragement with the plants they like to grow. ◀

Patricia Elms
President



*Cym. Peter's Delight 'Petite' HCC/NZOS. Award Photo.
Grower: N. & R. Armstrong.*

ORCHID SOCIETY SUPPORTS PARAFED

Recently the **Poverty Bay East Coast Orchid Society** joined forces with the local branch of **Parafed Eastland** (previously **Eastland Paraplegic and Physically Disabled Association**) to hold an **Orchid Day** to raise funds for the local Paraplegic athletes to finance their sporting endeavours.

The project commenced as a trial in 1989 which was so successful it was repeated in 1991 and 1993 and has become a biennial event.

The idea is that our Orchid Society donates the orchid blooms and our members join with the disabled people and their supporters to make up orchid sprays which the disabled people sell to the public by way of specific orders and a street day. Business premises are targeted and encouraged to purchase sprays for their staff members.

This year approximately 1,400 sprays were made up in a day (a long day) and the response was overwhelming netting PARAFED over \$2,500.

The flowers were donated by several hobbyist growers and were also assisted by the donation of orchid flowers from Tudor Orchids, Bulls; and Kramer Orchids, Te Puke. Our grateful thanks to Patricia and Jenenne.

The generous publicity received from the local newspaper with a photograph of a disabled lady amongst the orchids in a local shadehouse led up to the Orchid Day. All the publicity in the papers and the local radio stations gave prominence to the flowers

being donated by our Orchid Society and outside commercial growers. This has brought the existence of the Society to members of the public.

A very worthwhile project. ◀

Article/Photos Harold Bayram



Photo from top: Graham Gomm (Secretary Parafed selling sprays; Sheryl (Society member) and husband Graham checking and making sprays, Agnes Bayrau, Dawn Worsnop, Audrey Curd and Beryl Ellmers.

POINT OF SALE

It is not customary to review catalogues but the arrival of the latest issue from L and R Orchids, Tuakau has stimulated thought on several matters other than merely purchasing orchids and since they may be of general interest I have been motivated to jot them down. Hopefully the editor will 'catch my drift' as they say and deem my work worthy of publication.

I hasten to point out that though Lorraine and Russell Hutton are close friends of mine, the following observations are unsolicited and reading of them will be just as revealing to them as to any other reader.

If we take a worldly view it has to be conceded that as orchid enthusiasts in New Zealand, we have it fairly cushy. In fact we are spoilt. Be honest with yourself now. Compared with so many places where either extremes of heat or cold, wetness or dryness, brightness or dullness occur, nature looks after us fairly well, even taking the north - south factor into account.

I have never had the courage to raise it within arms-reach of any locals but it is my contention that compared with other regions, all the qualifications one requires to be a gardener in Taranaki is the ability to hurl a handful of mixed seed high into the air then stand back and exercise patience.

There is a parallel with this in growing orchids in New Zealand compared with most other places in the world.

We are fortunate our good fortune extends beyond climatic factors. However, it is my belief that on a per capita basis this country must be well up in leadership in terms of the percentage of the population involved with the growing of orchids.

Furthermore, that we are probably the best served when it comes to the availability of orchid plants, both species and hybrids over the widest range. We have world-recognised breeders and when it comes to species, L. and R. Orchids are certainly of international ranking, as confirmed by visiting specialists. Again, we are fortunate and studying the catalogue helps to confirm this.

There is another highly significant factor revealed by close scrutiny and that relates to the origin of a high proportion of the

plants on offer. Any species enthusiast with even a slight trace of conscience must have registered a twinge of uneasiness over the fact that a new acquisition has often meant the likelihood of one less plant in the wild. We appease our conscience by convincing ourselves that the habitat was being cleared anyway and the plant would have perished. We try to don the cloak of a saviour, knowing only too well that it is disturbingly thin and may tear at any moment. L. and R. have come to our rescue bearing needle and thread and clad in a cloak embroidered with gold because over the years, they have either selfed or made intra-specific crosses with an astonishing range of their imported species and the resulting home-raised seedling are now available.

One interesting outcome of this is that in the case of many species there are now more plants in New Zealand than were ever found in the natural habitat! I suppose these

could be likened to the black robins from the Chatam Islands.

Top marks for enterprise and I am very impressed with the number of selected breeding clones exclusive to L. and R. Now we can purchase species conscience — free!

I am strongly of the opinion that anyone selling plants has an ethical obligation to make special efforts to ensure that naming is correct. In the case of orchids in particular, the name represents a considerable proportion of the value — trying to sell an unnamed plant will soon emphasise this point. Correct naming has two dimensions. One relates to lineage or origin and the other to the precise form in which this information is conveyed.

In practical terms the former is the most important but the manner in which it is recorded is also significant.

There exists an internationally accepted code of nomenclature (naming) based in part around the use of capital and lower case lettering to ensure accuracy. It is beyond the scope of this article to cover details but suffice to say that catalogues are notorious for taking the easy way out by using block capital letters throughout. Not so L. and R. They have



Top: *Ada aurantiaca*.

Bottom: *Gastrochilus calceolus*.

Photos: Frank Zumbuhl.



obviously taken a great deal of trouble to get it right and the result is what I consider to be a text-book example of correct naming procedures. Use it as a guide to writing labels and you won't be wrong.

What about pricing? Perhaps this commercially sensitive matter is beyond the brief of a literary review but I so frequently hear of concerns about pricing that I feel compelled to give the subject an airing.

The already-discussed climatic advantages we experience result in our plants responding strongly with consequent proliferation. Before we know it there are divisions to give away or sell. Add to this our international reputation for being do-it-yourselfers, then the multitude of societies with sales outlets at meetings and shows, plus the enthusiasts who sell plants in a big way as a sideline to augment income and one would have to confess that a situation prevails in New Zealand where anyone who expects to make a livelihood solely from the sale of orchids would have to be as slick as an alley cat or masochistic and probably both to overcome the competition.

For this reason I have always admired Lorraine's and Russell's determination to succeed. Despite fierce amateur

competition which keeps prices low they remain gracious towards enthusiasts who perhaps unthinkingly threaten their very survival. That is the cut-and-thrust of business I suppose but it must be a bitter pill to swallow for all that.

So what about the prices anyway? Let's study some higher-priced ones at which one instinctively recoils. *Den. lawesii* @ \$16. *Den. victoriae-reginae* @ \$16, *Masd. davisii* @ \$16. Could be a bit steep — until one compares with overseas point-of-sale prices. I've only checked with US catalogues and come up with, US\$15, US\$15, and US\$35 for the above — a minimum of twice the price and sometimes as much as five times. Folks, we have it good. No surprise that New Zealand firms reliant solely on sale of orchids as an income are compelled to seek overseas markets as a means of survival.

Overseas orchid enthusiasts must ogle in disbelief at our low prices!

The catalogue has considerable educational content even to the inclusion of an easy-to-follow guide to the pronunciation of every botanical name and a very personal touch is added by the inclusion of many artistic drawings penned by Russell.

So what are the weaknesses of this edition? Well, compared with the very colourful and adventurous issue printed for the 13th World Orchid Conference in 1990 it is positively drab. The reason? It is printed on recycled paper — yet another concession to the environment. L. and R. seem to have got it right on all counts.

Ah well! That should ensure for me a discount at the next point of sale! ◀

George Fuller
May 1993



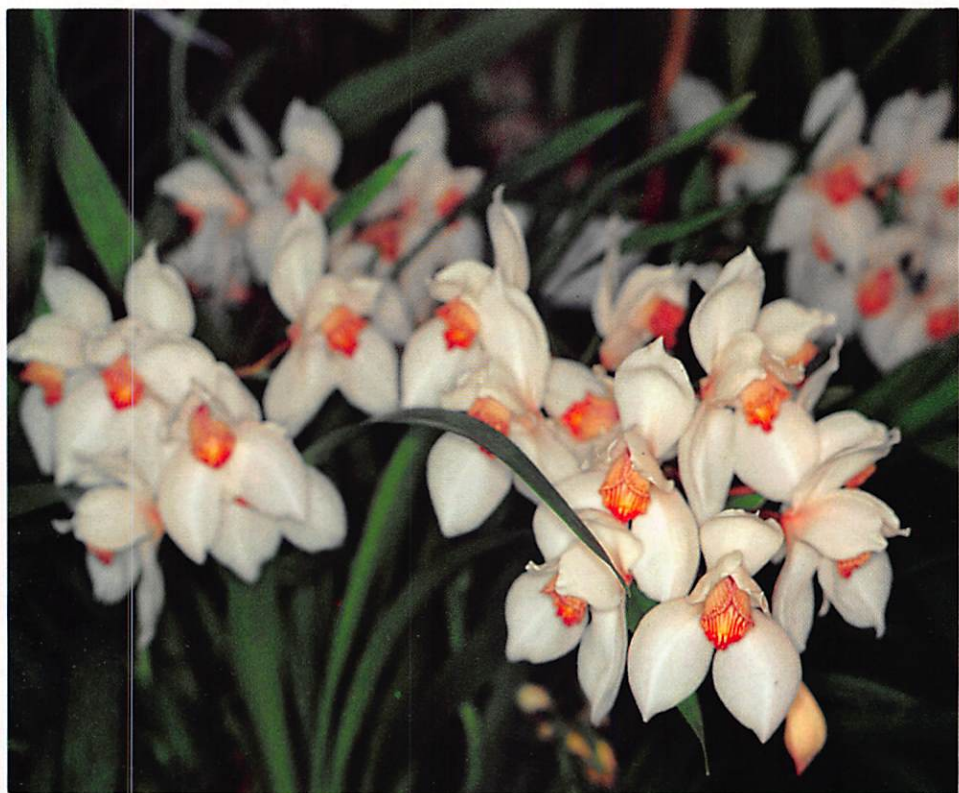
Dend. Victoria-reginae.
Photo: F. Zumbuhl

Our Favourite Orchids . . .

from the Elms family

Cym. erythrostylum

A beautiful glistening white species responsible for a large number of early flowering standard cymbidiums which can be found in commercial cut flower nurseries. My plant is now large enough to produce 6-8 spikes with up to 14 flowers per spike. It makes a striking specimen plant, dainty, with a crystalline white appearance.



Cym. erythrostylum.



Slc Memoria Dorothy Warden.
Grower: M. Wilton.

Epidendrum pseudepidendrum

I'm never sure whether the colour, clear green, with a brilliant orange lip or the fantastic 'plastic' feel of it is the main attraction. Our plant grows in the intermediate house, (min. winter temp of 10°C), in good light and flowers every year without fail.

Cattleyas

Miniature Cattleyas hold a lot of appeal for me. Two in particular are *Slc. Demitasse*, a beautifully shaped dusky pink and *Slc. Roger Cole* a deep burnt orange, again well shaped. These mini catts are delightful to grow, free flowering on mature plants and can flower twice a year.

Flip a blush pink, *Pixie Pink* which is super productive and *C290*, the latter two being good mid pinks.

His favourite *Paphiopedilum* (if he could only get it to flower) is *Paph Shillianum*, which just refuses to flower for him. Originally he owned two of these plants. The first



Cat. Carla

Our extra special cat-alayer. Carla our tonkinese who spends lots of time on the potting bench, sometimes planted in a pot, or in her hammock, (the shade-cloth usually above where we are working).

Ken's Favourite

Ken's favourite plant has to be a cymbidium which is very productive, straight spiked and has copious flowers. In his opinion *Cym. Eliot Rogers* fits these requirements. We grow three clones, Cherry

Above:

Epidendrum pseudepidendrum.
Grower: Papa Aroha Orchids.

flowered, was looked at by the judges, just missed an award and typically, when told to bring it back next year it up and died! ◀

The Elms Family

Is there still a place for large venue Orchid Shows?

We of the *Hawke's Bay Orchid Society* have discussed this matter in great depth over the last few years, especially with the national trend of falling membership. Up to now we have opted for the bigger venues.

In my recent travels I have noted that some Auckland societies with more than double our membership are using halls under half the size of the hall we use in Napier.

Our recent 23rd Spring Show was held on 23rd - 25th September 1993, the theme of which was *Countries of the World*. There were nine 2m x 2m display

stands, by individual members and three large combined members display stands, representing United States, India and Holland. We also had two local commercial displays.

To fill in some of the gaps, we had displays from the following local groups: Floral Art, Cactus Society, Cake Decorating Guild, Rock Art and Craft, Bonsai Society and

Touchwood Books, all of which provide additional interest.

The only problem with using a hall of this size, is that when you first walk in to set up the show, you wonder how you are going to fill it! But it all seems to come together and work out alright in the end. ◀

Photo/Article-Bernie Killington
President
Hawke's Bay Orchid Society



North Otago Orchid Society Brisbane Tour

Twelve months or so before the above tour eventuated Kevin Bennett from Oamaru wrote and asked if we could put a two week tour together to the warmer climates in Australia as several members of the North Otago Orchid Society were keen to get away for a couple of weeks from the cool weather of North Otago winter. Three itineraries were prepared for them to choose the one most appropriate for what they had in mind. The group we eventually got together was made up of 15 from Oamaru, 2 Invercargill, 2 Christchurch, 2 Auckland and 9 Whangarei — 30 in all. We had a wonderful time, meeting up with fellow orchid enthusiasts in each area we visited.

The South Islanders flew direct to Brisbane from Christchurch meeting up with the Northerners at the Brisbane airport, arriving at our hotel in the early evening. After a quick settle in we had a meeting so everyone could introduce themselves and give a little bit of their background — a lot of fun and many surprises — it's a small world!

We spent three days in Brisbane, sightseeing and shopping and many of us catching up with family and friends before travelling north to Redcliffe. The weather was



The four birthdays celebrated 'on tour' at a pot luck dinner in Brisbane. Joy Wray, Whangarei; John Thompson, Oamaru; Margaret Milmine, Oamaru; Kevin Bennett, Oamaru.

“warm” for the South Islanders and “cool” for the North Islanders! Well, that’s how I saw it anyway as only some of the South Islanders were brave enough to go for a swim! There were four birthdays to celebrate during the tour so we decided to have a pot luck dinner one night in our hotel apartment which was a great success — amazing the variety of food assembled, birthday cakes and all!

The following articles were submitted from various members of the group who were keen and enthusiastic when asked to write on different aspects of the tour. The series will continue over future issues. ◀

Joy Wray

Caboolture Orchid Society Show

July 24th:

We were up early this morning as we had to leave for Redcliff at 8.30 am. On our way we visited the **Caboolture Orchid Society Show** arriving there about 10.00 am. We were greeted by the President, Joan Male and then taken to morning tea which was most welcome as some of our group were starting to feel the more intense heat than that of Brisbane. Over a cuppa I had a good chat to Joan — she is a very busy woman, being the wife of a poultry farmer. They also grow chokos, which is a vegetable somewhat like a young marrow in taste when cooked. Several of the group had never heard of them before.

The Caboolture Orchid Society has a membership of about 100 and it was a credit to them that they staged such a beautiful show. The displays, full of well grown healthy orchids, were well presented and there were many genera on



Top: Grand Champion Caboolture Show
Slc Beaufort 'Elmswood'. Photo: S. Wray.

Bottom: Bribie Island O.S. Display Caboolture Show.
Photo: S. Wray.



show that I had never seen in the flesh before. Those that particularly took my eye were the Australian natives and a *Paphiopedilum* Leatum, a primary hybrid with fourteen flowers on it! I shall go home and have a word with my paphs!

The Grand Champion was *Sc. Beaufort*, with one rather attractive yellow flower.

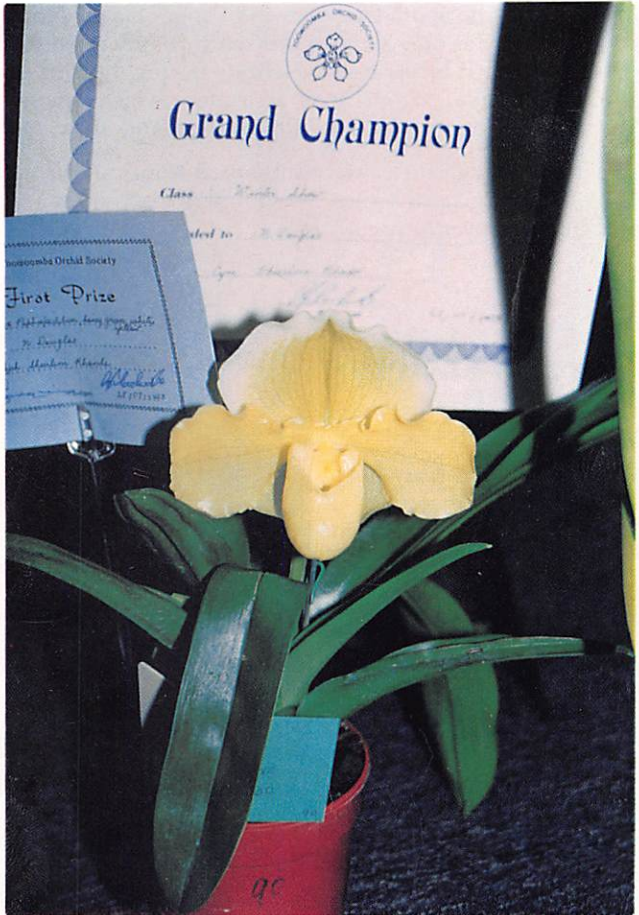
Like many other shows there were the usual extras, such as sprays, pottery, raffles and the like. We all left envious of the local people who could grow orchids with such apparent ease. ◀

Audrey Bennett
North Otago Orchid Society

Toowoomba

We had a lovely drive from Hervey Bay through the peanut growing area to Toowoomba calling at a fascinating clock place. Masses of cuckoo clocks in all directions all putting out their different sounds. The local society members joined us for a nice meal at the League Clubrooms where they showed us some local orchid slides after which we showed them ours. Several of the group tried their luck on the pokies which was a lot of fun.

Up early next morning and a visit to Nev Douglas — an acre of ground was a beautiful setting for his



Grand Champion at Toowoomba Orchid Society Show.
Paph. Sheerline 'Rhonda'. Photo: S. Wray.

orchid houses. He said most of his *Cymbidiums* were away at the show but we would have been proud to own half of what was left at home! He also had many other genera amongst his collection.

On to Len Ludlow's — an elderly gentleman with a collection of over forty years, all beautifully kept in a garden of treasures. We then had the fortunate opportunity to visit a

display in the local shopping mall — really eye-catching, and the Champion *Paphiopedilum* was a cracker, beautiful, clear yellow. Unfortunately I didn't note the name. The local shops did quite a trade in our short visit too!

A great visit to Toowoomba, enjoyed by all. ◀

Janet Joyce
Orchid Society of Southland



On Fraser Island in silicone sand and beautiful forest. Photo: S. Wray.

Fraser Island Tour

On Tuesday 27th July our tour party boarded a double-decker bus to take us to the ferry trip to Fraser Island from Hervey Bay. We boarded the ferry which was full and enjoyed the half hour crossing. On arrival our driver "Bronco" directed us to his 4 wheel drive bus and set off to give us a trip "we would never forget" so he said! The sandy, winding and quite steep roads certainly tested the capabilities of both driver and vehicle and he assured us that it would get even worse later!

We saw beautiful rainforest with the first really big trees, kauri, turpentine and gum being some of the largest. Plenty of piccubeen palms, ferns, foxtails and many others, with the sunshine filtering through the 90% canopy covering. We were pleased to hear that logging finished in 1992 and the trees are now safe.

We did the beach run first to beat the tide which had already turned and had a fast drive along a hard sandy beach with numerous fresh water streams to cross or go around according to their depth, and rocks to dodge.

Everyone piled out at the end to view and photograph "The Pinnacles", sand sculptures of different coloured sand in layers, rather impressive. Back into the bus for the return run against the tide, dodging waves this time.

Next stop was the Champagne Springs which some saw and the rest queued for two toilets and as usual the last ones earned the "slow clap" for being last! Then back for a chicken and champagne lunch which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. Back into the bus and off to the Central Forestry Station

with the choice of two walks, 500 metres and 700 metres, both winding through palm trees, ferns and other lovely tall trees over a very nice board walk beside a clear stream with a white sand bottom — very peaceful and beautiful. After our constitutional we were taken to one of the larger lakes and walked along beautiful fine white silicon sand which reminded us of snow back home. Left the lake and returned to the ferry, and our double-decker bus and back to our Motor Inn, very happy and tired. ◀

Margaret Ansell
North Otago Orchid Society

Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens

Today is day two of our tour, the coach picking us up at 8.30 am this morning for a sightseeing tour of Brisbane City. We have arrived here at beautiful Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens on a glorious morning where we are having our morning tea. "Mt Coot-tha" means "Place of the Wild Honey Bee".

Brisbane's Mt Coot-tha Botanical Gardens were opened in 1976, located near the city at the northern end of the Taylor Range. The gardens are a living museum of ornamental and interesting plants complete with labels and signs. Some 10,000 species have been

established from local and overseas sources. Stage One is well established with ten different kinds of plants from around the world. It has lovely lookouts onto Bouganvilleas of many colours, exotic rainforest and a Japanese garden, conifers and a Band Stand where the Garrison Band plays every Sunday.

Stage Two is still being developed and features 25 hectares of gardens representing a wide range of plants. It also has a library and administration block and a big area of fragrant and herb plants where the blind can go and smell the scents. There is a very big lagoon where there are lovely water lilies growing, they say a human being can stand on these plants and not sink!

Stage Three is yet to be developed after the

quarrying has been completed in about twelve years time.

In the middle of these gardens is a big tropical dome, the Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium, which houses many exotic plants and quite a large fish pond in the middle with goldfish swimming and water lillies growing. There was also a covered walkway with cacti, a few orchids of different genera, Bromelia and many other exotic plants.

We finished off an enjoyable morning with Arnold the coach captain letting some of us off in the City centre, and others back at our Summit Apartments where we stay for another night. ◀

Noeline Milmine
North Otago Orchid Society



Mt. Cootitha Botanic Gardens—the Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium. Photo: S. Wray.

CHYSIS what "CRISIS"

An interesting plant which has flowered regularly for me has been a *Chysis bractescens* 'Ellie'.

Although the plant flowers out of the main orchid growing season it has a precence which attracts attention.

During the past 5 or more years I have grown this plant in intermediate conditions with a minimum of 10°C and regularly repotting it when it outgrows the containers.

The plant even looks interesting because of its deciduous cycle, with bare canes then flowering in November with groups of 4-5 flowers on branched

stems. The flowers are a very heavy waxy substance and pure crystalline white in colour. Although I have seen other plants of the same type this particular variety has better shape, size and substance. Fortunately I have been able to self it and produce some seedlings and also some new intergenerics with some unusual crosses if they are viable. This plant, *Chysis bractescens* 'Ellie', when exhibited at the New Zealand Orchid Society November monthly

meeting was granted an HCC/NZOS.

Once the flowering has finished it then grows very strongly and canes are now half a metre high and very thick. Part of the enjoyment of growing orchids is to produce interesting and varied types of orchid and not to grow the same old and 'hand me downs' but to expand your growing into the unknown. ◀

Ross Tucker Nurseries
51 King Edward Avenue
Bayswater, Auckland 9



Chysis bractescens 'Ellie' Award photo.
Grower: R. Tucker.

Tudor Orchids

Nursery: Greatford Road
(State Highway 1) BULLS

Postal: P.O. BOX 103, BULLS – Telephone 0-6-322 0966

SUMMER SPECIALS

CATTLEAYAS 75mm pots \$12 each, 3 for \$25, 1 of each \$50

- C. Louise Georgianna x Lc Irene Finney, Pinks
- Lc Janet x C. Brabantiae, Reds/Pinks
- L lobata 'Jeni' x self, Pale pink
- C Atlanta x leopoldii, White
- Lc Dominiana x Slc California Apricot, Corals/oranges
- Slc Hazel Boyd x Lc Waianae Sunset, Golds/Orange
- Pot Alyce Kaiser x Slc Sue Fordyce, Orange/Reds

MINIATURE CYMBIDIUMS Bulb and Growth 75mm pot \$10 each, 3 for \$25, 1 of each \$40

- Quantum Leap 'Peachy' x Vogelsang 'Eastbourne'
Pinks/Rose
- White Water 'Pink Dew' x Vogelsang 'Eastbourne'
Whites/Pinks
- Dag 'Little Jewel' x Hazel Tyers 'Santa Maria'
Pinks/Whites
- Dag 'Little Jewel' x devonianum, Copper/Bronzes
- Phar Lap x devonianum, Reds/Bronzes

Please add \$8 North Island, \$11 South Island Pack/Freight

RARE OR UNUSUAL ORCHIDS FROM THE SMALL NURSERY WITH THE BIG REPUTATION

- Den. farmeri \$12 — Den. New Guinea \$7.50
- Den. dicuphum (syn affine) mounted \$12 Pot \$7 — Den. tortile \$7.50
- Epidendrum elongata \$6 — Den. Jiggi (beckleri x teretifolium) \$6
- Cym. aspidistrifolium, small, 4 plants only \$15 — Onc. ensatum \$7.50
- Onc. brunleesianum \$7.50 — Onc. incurvum \$15
- Baptistonia echinata (Syn. Oncidium) \$7.50 — Paph delenatii x lowii \$9
- Paph. Onyx x sukhakulii \$9 — Paph. Ernest Read x Alma Gavaert 'Norrito'
(large shiny dark coloratum \$9 — Paph. thailandence \$9
- Paph. Holdenii (callosum 'Gig' x Maudiae 'Coloratum' \$12
- Paph. (lowii x parishii) x delenatii \$9
- Slc Hazel Boyd 'Tropical Fantasy' \$12 — Slc. Hazel Boyd 'Elizabeth' \$12

POST & PACKING ADD \$6

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Phone: (09) 444-9771

Epidendrum nocturnum



I have had my *Epidendrum nocturnum* for four years, having bought it from L. & R. Orchids.

In it's first year I got no flowers. It's second year produced one flower, which died before opening. In the third year, two flower spikes appeared, and one opened. I rang Kevin and Lyn Sherlock to see if they could take a photo for me as when I took it to our orchid meeting someone said to me that I should put a write up and photograph of it in **Orchids In New Zealand**. The perfume it produces is really lovely and strong at night.

Last year (January 1993) it grew another flower, but again this did not open but instead produced a large seed pod which I cut off. Now — How do I get it to flower?

I don't know? We have a swimming pool which is all closed in and this is where I grow most of my orchids. Summer temperatures get up between 35-40°C. Winter temperatures go down to 8-10°C. When it gets lower than 8°C most of my orchids are brought into the lounge. I know if I bring the *Epidendrum nocturnum* inside before the flower opens, the flower will die. It doesn't seem to like to be shifted around, as that's why, I think, the second flower died when I took it up to Lyn Sherlock's. So now as soon

as I see a flower appearing, that's when I'll move it.

Feeding & Watering

My orchids get fed when I remember and watered every day, sometimes twice in the summer. In winter I water only once a week to 10 days when I think they need it, or look a bit on the dry side. So really my orchids seem to thrive on neglect. The feed I give them is Lush® or Maxicrop® and they get sprayed with Home and Garden Flyspray every 10 days or so which keeps the creepies at bay and the leaves get a wipe down with meths.

Air movement comes through a gap along the top of the growing area which is about 8 metres long, which, when finished, will be able to be opened and closed. ◀

Lorraine Kench
Kapiti Orchid Society

STOP PRESS

The successful entrant in the OCNZ Video Competition was Joycelyn Addison of Whakatane. Her video was called "Orchid World". She has been notified and sent the voucher for her two nights Mystery Escape. The videos are available from Beryl Goodger, the Slide/Video Librarian.

The response from orchid society members was abysmal, which is a great shame considering the number of people normally seen filming at shows.



Coelogyne ochracea.

Weta's World

Following on
from June 1993



- Following on from the June Journal is a bit more news from the Wairarapa. During the year the Club has had a couple of walkabouts to members' houses. I find these most beneficial to see how other people grow their plants. I always like to ask questions to find out why a person grows a plant in a certain area and what manure etc., that is needed? New members must also ask questions and try to open up their homes to find out what is the best place to put a house for plants or a plant, even in a window.
- In March this year at our monthly meeting where we have a monthly competition by popular vote, Mrs Myers and her late husband Jack, put in a punge log which had

been hollowed out and filled with a mix of old bark, bush litter, and peat. This has been planted with *Earina autumnalis*. The log was about 2 metres long and 150 mm wide, and what a mass of flowers from end to end. This plant won the plant of the month.

- I would like to see a lot more people take an interest in our native orchids which can be most interesting. About 5 or 6 of our members are interested and do a lot of walking. You do not have to travel very far before you can find many plants on the roadsides. We are lucky to have many bush areas and forestry at a reasonable distance. We have found about 20 different species. I would like to see someone from the Native Orchid Group

give us some advice on what and where to look.

- I like to travel to club shows. We had a look at most of the shows from Hawke's Bay, Wanganui and Wellington. I must congratulate the clubs for interesting displays. Also all the commercial growers for displays and sales tables.
- Not much more to say except that it was interesting to hear of Keith Goodwin posting a *Cymbidium* Cricket with 14 spikes and it arriving in Eketahuna with only 1 spike damaged.

I would like to wish everyone Christmas Greetings and a Happy New Year even if a bit late. Also hope to hear that Kevin Sherlock is in better health. ◀

Alan Wallis

Manawatu Orchid Show 25-26 September 1993

by Trevor Gillbanks

Setup on Friday night was the usual *Mad House* with everyone trying to do everything first. Start time was 6 pm and most people were very keen to get their display erected as soon as possible. With this year's theme being *Song Titles* it was very interesting watching others construct their ideas. This was only our third attempt at having a theme and with the first year only having four displays taking part in the theme, this year proved to be something special. A dozen theme displays were erected. Best display went to Jill Palethorpe, Neville Butler and Trevor Gillbanks for their display of **Jailhouse Rock** (see photo). Other titles displayed were "Climb Every Mountain, Pearly Shells, Tea For Two, Teddy Bears Picnic, All Things Bright & Beautiful, How Much Is That Doggy In The Window, Memories Are Made Of This, Hi Ho, Hi Ho, It's Off To Work We Go, Rock Around The Clock, A Poem Lovely As A Tree, and Lazying On A Sunday Afternoon."



Best display 'Jailhouse Rock' by Jill Palethorpe, Neville Butler and Trevor Gillbanks.



Dendrobium falcorasium. Grown by: Ross Turner.

As per usual in the build up to the show most people had been saying that they did not have enough flowers to put on a display. BUT when it came to the final count over 600 plants were on display.

The Judges, from all over the North Island, had started at 9 am on Saturday and finished their task by around lunchtime. Two plants were awarded **Interim HCC's**. Saturday morning was a miserable wet day and optimism for a busy day was not good. However, all the advertising paid off and at 10 am the customers came pouring through the door and a steady stream kept up all day.

Comments from the public were very favourable and all appreciated the efforts that had been put into the show. Many visitors commented during the show that the flowers were very fragrant this year.

At 5 pm we had our usual *Tip Toe thru the Tulips* or should that be *Wine and Cheese among the Orchids* in the show hall and presentations of the cups were made. Ross Turner, one of the foundation members of our Society swept the pool this year with his *Dendrobium falcorasium*. Ross has only been growing for 20 plus years and is now finally out of the Novice Class. Ross's

falcorasium was awarded, **Champion of the Show, Best Specimen, Best Australian Native and Best Species**. Well done Ross, and congratulations from all the Society members. Congratulations also to all the other section winners and place getters. A special presentation was also made to Dora and Graham Rivers in recognition for all the work they have done for the Society in the years they have been with us. They have both been strong members of the Society and both held positions on the Committee. Their deeds are too many to list here. Dora and Graham will be missed in the Manawatu.

Our loss will be Whangamata's gain.

On the Saturday night we held our Annual Dinner, once again at Options Restaurant at Massey University. The meal was great, the company was magnificent and a truly great night was had by all.

Sunday, again was not the best of days but the crowds came back again and generally a very successful show was had by all. By the end of the show approximately 700 visitors had passed through the doors and 10 new members had signed up. The sales tables were all well

supported and as a result the final show profit was up 100% on 1992.

All in all a very successful show and if this is to be a pre-runner to 1995 then the orchid lovers of New Zealand are in for a treat. ◀



Dendrobium Thrysiflorum. Grown by: Mavis Akersten.

Sir,

Please find enclosed a photo of Mavis Akersten's *Dendrobium thrysiflorum* which we would like to be printed in **Orchids In New Zealand**. The following extract may be printed with it:

"Mavis is a member of the North Otago Orchid

Society and grows a wide range of genera. She flowered this *Dendrobium thrysiflorum* with five spikes this year. Being a very busy woman, she does not have the time to fuss over her orchids. This orchid is grown in her sunroom facing north with many other orchids which get the same treatment, and I can

tell you, she gets lots of flowers!

It is taken outside on a Saturday morning, hosed and left outside until dry, fed, and then put back in the sunroom until the next Saturday morning." ◀

Audrey Bennett
Secretary

North Otago Orchid Society

Design of Low Voltage Uncontrolled Heat Box

The main trouble with most commercial heat-boxes is that they are normally high voltage, which can have *shocking* results, and also they rely on a thermostat to control the heat. If the thermostat fails, which happens quite frequently, your precious plants may be destroyed or even worse, your glasshouse burnt down!

I have designed a low voltage heat-box using a transformer to drop the voltage to about six volts, and using standard copper appliance-wire for the element. The temperature is maintained between 20° and 25°C, by sand being packed around the element, creating a night-store effect. There is no chance of an over-temperature situation

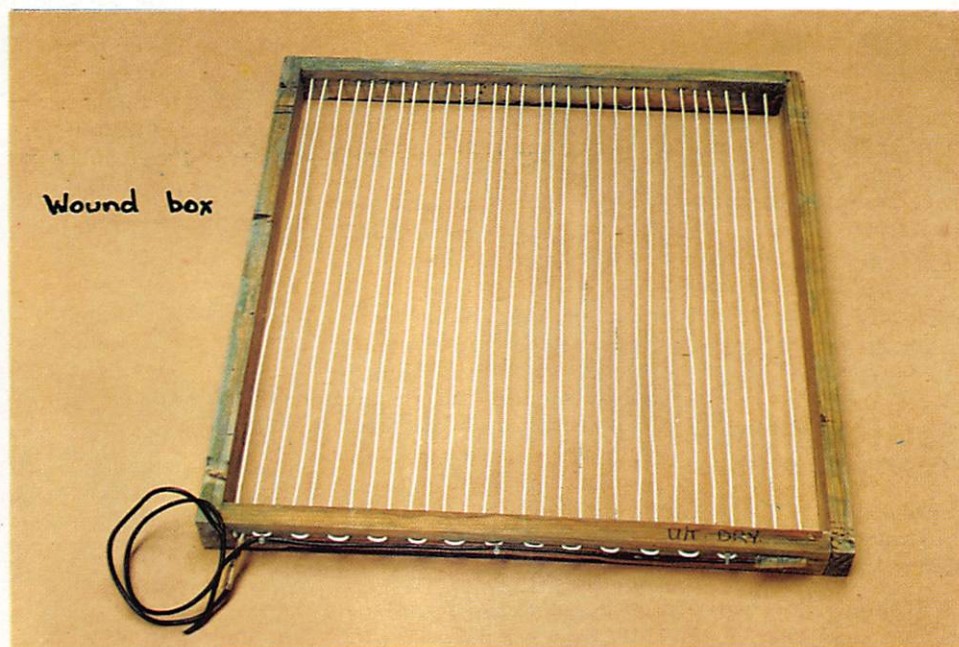
arising, as the transformer is operating at maximum output continuously and the worst thing that can happen is a fall-off in temperature, which can be easily detected by monitoring temperature with a thermometer.

The formula which the heat-box is designed around is 12 Watts per square foot, so as you can

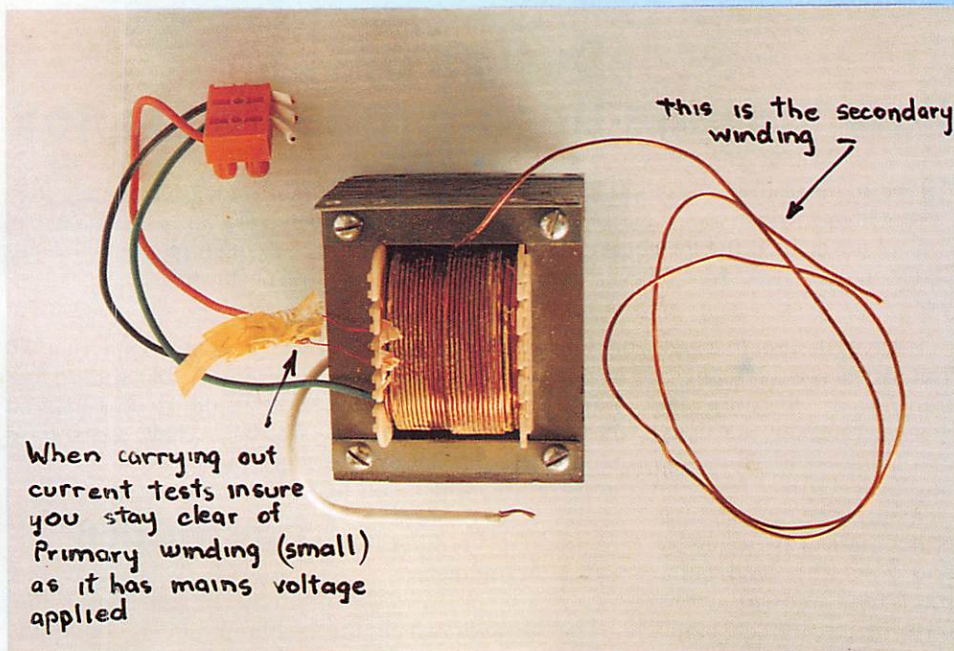
see it is not expensive to operate. A four square foot box would use less than 50 wattts — half a standard light bulb.

Construction

Decide what size box you need, and using 75mm x 20mm timber, cut out the sides. Then drill 3mm holes at 30mm centres, down the centre of the



Box frame, showing wound element.



Transformer dismantled, showing secondary winding.

opposite ends and assemble the frame using nails or screws.

Using 1.5mm appliance-wire or similar, thread it through the holes, zig zagging from one end of the frame to the other, tightening the wire as you go and securing the wire at each end of the frame by tying knots, as shown in the photograph.

Selecting the Transformer

Measure the size of the box you have chosen and convert it to square feet.

Multiply the answer by twelve, and this will give you the wattage you

require for your heat-box, and the size of the transformer you require.

Acquire a 12 volt x 230 volt transformer with a wattage or VA larger than the requirement of your box. It is also essential that the secondary (large wire) be on the outside, as in photograph. Remove the four screws holding the covers on the transformer and you will find you are able to get at the secondary (heavy) winding without disassembling the core.

Power up the transformer, and with the output windings across the heat box, you can work out the wattage by measuring the voltage output across

the transformer and the current, with the meter in series. You will need a multimeter to do this. You then work out the product of the voltage, times the current, and this will give you the wattage.

It is now a matter of removing a few turns at a time, and continuing to do the above test until such time as you obtain the required wattage by trial and error.

You can now put the bottom on your box, using galvanised iron plate, ply wood etc. Place in position and fill with sand. Then make up a tray about 40mm deep from galvanised plate, to sit on the top

Society News

of the hot-box, this can be filled with scoria or pebbles to stand your plants on. You can also keep it full of water to improve the humidity. It is suggested that a sheet of polystyrene be attached to the underside of the hot-box to minimise heat loss.

Now all that remains is for you to re-assemble the transformer, putting an earth on one of the output legs. (This is the legal requirement, and prevents mains voltage leaking into the secondary winding.) Then place it in a waterproof box, preferably with a water-resistant vent. Connect wiring to the heat-box and mount under bench.

I have made fifteen of these units for myself and

Hawke's Bay Orchid Society members, and all these units have worked very well. They have been used for de-flasking plants, and additional warmth in an intermediate house for growing Phalaenopsis etc. and are very much in demand.

If anyone requires any additional assistance in making up one of these units, I will be only too pleased to help. ◀

Bernie Killington

NOTE :

If you do not have experience with things electrical, get advice from a suitably knowledgeable person. Remember, SAFETY FIRST.

Editor

Change of Address: North Otago Orchid Society.

NOW

P.O. Box 81, Oamaru
Secretary: A. G. Bennett
Tel. 434 8302

Stratford Orchid Club

NOW

Secretary: Mrs Fay Payton
at 18 Archilles St, Stratford

Change of Venue:

NOW

Methodist Lounge, Regan Street, Stratford.

3rd Tuesday of each month
at 7.30 p.m.



Showing complete heat box, this has perforated metal plate on top, but it is not essential.

13th AUSTRALIAN ORCHID CONFERENCE

DARWIN — JULY 8th - 12th 1994

Registrations are starting to pour in for the Conference. Accommodation is always at a premium in Darwin in the tourist season, and our bulk bookings made on behalf of delegates will only be allocated in conjunction with a registration for the Conference. The adage "first in, best dressed" accommodated will certainly apply. Indications at this stage are that there could be over 150 delegates busing in from North Queensland for the Conference — no doubt many club members recall the Tropical Queensland Orchid Council Conference held in Darwin in 1988 and the memorable, typically Territorian hospitality which was enjoyed by all who attended.

Darwin is a friendly, multi-cultural community, and many visitors have likened us to similar sized South East Asian cities with the advantage that you do not need a Passport or to leave Australia to enjoy the range of food stalls at the local markets, the cosmopolitan crowds in the Mall, the extensive range of ethnic based restaurants, and above all, our sublime Dry season weather.

The tours of home gardens will include some of those featured in this article, and it is a constant marvel to our visitors from "Down South" at the range of rich vibrant colours of our tropical orchids, and the ease with which they can be blended into beautiful landscaped gardens.

The many points of interest in and around Darwin are being covered

by our Tour Desk, and registrants will have a wide choice of optional tours to suit every interest, from bushwalking, canoeing, horse riding and swimming to more leisurely pursuits such as air-conditioned coach tours to Kakadu or Litchfield Parks or Katherine Gorge.

The Conference Committee is busy weaving the strands of

endeavour of the various sub-committees into a tapestry of achievement which will delight and impress all participants.

BUT . . . YOU'LL NEVER NEVER KNOW, IF YOU NEVER NEVER GO!

Register now —

Contact:-

Conference Convenor,
P.O. Box 38493, Winnellie
N.T. 0821.



Orchid garden near Darwin.
Photo: David Smith.

Norm Porter Orchids



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SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Liparis reflexa



A large and widely distributed genus, *Liparis* comprises some 250-350 different species. Distributed widely, the largest numbers appear in the Asiatic tropics and surrounding areas.

The name *liparis* was obtained from a word meaning oily or greasy, apparently alluding to the glossy leaves of some species. *Liparis reflexa*, one of some 14 species in Australia, is commonly called Tom Cats of the Onion Orchid, and is found in New South Wales and possibly south eastern Queensland. It is a common species being found in rainforest and in gorges, gullies and on cliff faces, always on rocks. It is regarded as a very hardy species.

This specimen was grown by L. and M. Dougherty, Wellington.