

Orchids

in New Zealand

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THE ORCHID ADVOCATE

Official Journal of the Cymbidium Society of America, Inc.

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Orchids

IN NEW ZEALAND

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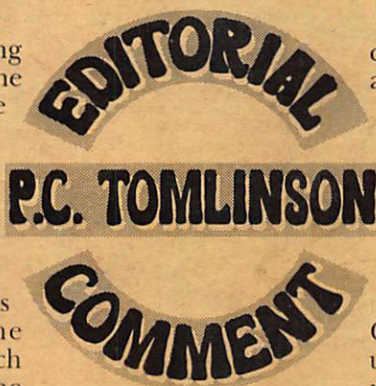
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LETS SHOW

The Annual General Meeting of the Orchid Council is over again. This event, sponsored by the Manawatu Orchid Society, and held over a recent weekend, was one of the happiest I have ever attended. From the wonderful welcome on Friday night marked by the presentation by John Scott, to the President's Breakfast on Saturday morning, the AGM itself, and the Manawatu Orchid Societies birthday celebration on Saturday night, the locals and visitors from around the country joined together as one happy group to set the policy for the administration of the orchid growing interests for the future.

On the Sunday morning the visitors were given the opportunity to visit the Conference Centre to view the venue for the 1995 3rd New Zealand International Orchid Expo to be held next year.

It is obvious Palmerston North is blessed (or had - the foresight) to develop such an excellent venue, one located close to the centre of the city, and one which provides such excellent facilities. It was obvious to all that much thought and effort has been put into the organisation of this event, even at this stage, and the platform is being well prepared for the holding of this prestigious event. There is a lot of work to be completed by the dedicated team led by Patricia Elms, but if the early work is brought to fruition, the result is sure to satisfy the most critical commentator.



All events such as these depend to a very large extent on the voluntary work of a large number of people. Let us not forget this fact over the next months leading to the show. Let us all give the assistance and co-operation these volunteers deserve. All undertakings such as this will have their ups and downs, but it is in the interests of all to ensure everyone co-operates as much as possible. Little things, such as answering

correspondence quickly and clearly, can make it easier for all involved and ensure the limited time of all is applied to the things that really matter.

The memory of the 13th World Orchid Conference is still an unhappy thought for many, but one must look back at the positive aspects of that show, remembering the magnificent flowers and the friends made and remade. This forthcoming event can build on the experience of the 13th WOC, and we can look forward with confidence to 1995. Its success or otherwise does, however, rest on the co-operation and support of the total orchid growing fraternity in this country. Your attitude and enthusiasm will be part in building that success. Those individuals now working so

enthusiastically towards the success of the how deserve your support; don't skimp your co-operation and assistance if it is requested. It is always a matter of "more hands,

light work"; but if you do agree to assist then do your best - that is all that is asked.

1995 will be a year to remember if this work

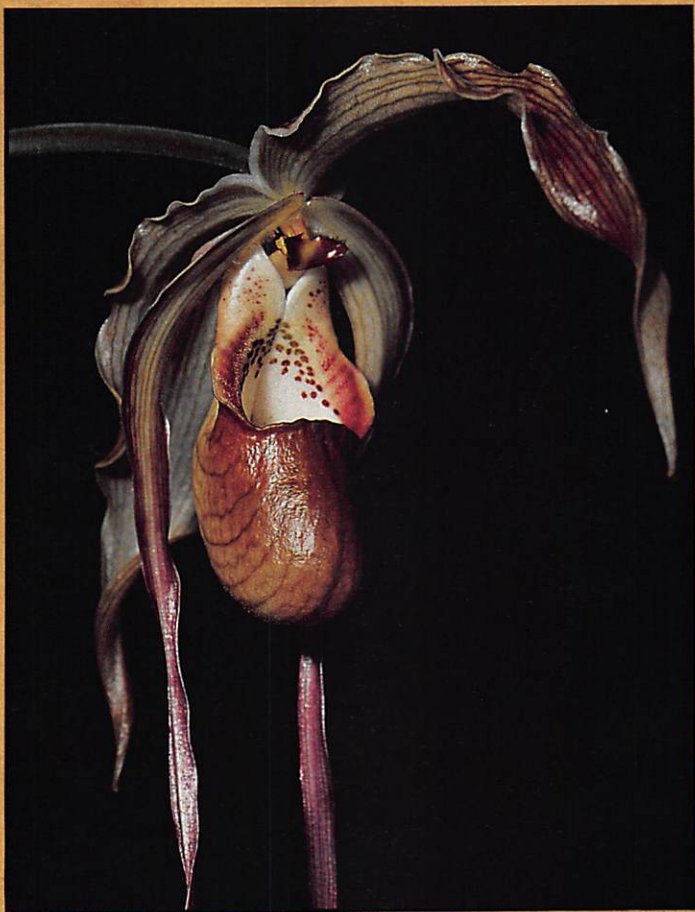
already done is successfully brought to fruition. On the evidence to date its success does not appear to be a matter open to question. ◀



1995
CONFERENCE VENUE
SHOW



ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND
1993 ORCHID OF THE YEAR



AWARD
1993
PLANT

Phragmipedium caudatum 'Regency'

Grower Mike Hart

Photo Val Bayliss

See front cover for whole plant photograph

ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND
1993 CULTURAL AWARD OF THE YEAR



AWARD
1993
PLANT

PHALAENOPSIS SCHILLERIANA

Grower Hank Wortman

Orchid Council of New Zealand Awards for the year 1993

Award	Plant name	Owners name
HCC	<i>Onc.</i> Memoria Palph Yagi 'Krista'	Dale & Paddy Whittaker
HCC	<i>Odm. cordatum</i> 'Westside Bert'	T. & J. Houghton
HCC	<i>Odcdm.</i> Goldfinger 'Glenn'	Betty Thorn
HCC	<i>Cym.</i> Malpaso Creek 'Joyce'	Harry & Joyce Simpson
CCC	<i>Cym.</i> Malpaso Creek 'Joyce'	Harry & Joyce Simpson
HCC	<i>Cym.</i> Malpaso Creek 'Tiger Jim'	Harry & Joyce Simpson
HCC	<i>Phrag.</i> Cardinale 'Emily'	Brian Syder
HCC	<i>Milt.</i> Mamie Kennedy 'Elizebeth'	John Campbell
CCC	<i>Gom. crispa</i> 'Betty Pauline'	Betty Thorn
HCC	<i>Den. forbesii</i> 'Kay'	Bernie & Kay Killington
CCC	<i>Den. forbesii</i> 'Kay'	Bernie & Kay Killington
HCC	<i>Masd.</i> Sunny Angel 'Sunny Boy'	Bob Quinn
HCC	<i>Odm. wyattianum</i> 'Lochaven Glory'	Alan Locke
HCC	<i>Odcdm.</i> Geyser Cascade 'Redvale'	Ross Tucker
HCC	<i>Hmusa.</i> Margaret 'Purplelite'	Ross Tucker
HCC	<i>Zcx.</i> Elfin Jade 'Bayswater'	Ross Tucker
HCC	<i>Z.</i> Titanic 'Bayswater'	Ross Tucker
HCC	<i>Drac. cordobae</i> 'Harpers Bazarre'	Sherlocks Orchids
HCC	<i>Den.</i> Rosehill 'Kim'	Dale & Paddy Whittaker
HCC	<i>Masd. marcruva</i> 'Tawa'	Doug & Mary Patchett
CCC	<i>Paph. wardii</i> 'Tawa' HCC/OCNZ/90	Doug & Mary Patchett
HCC	<i>Aergs.</i> Seagull 'Colin'	Gillian Lyster
CCC	<i>Max. picta</i> 'Ngairé Anne'	Patrick Kelly
HCC	<i>Zcx.</i> Elfin Jade 'Eartha'	Ross Tucker
HCC	<i>Den.</i> Lynette Banks 'Lewington'	Rose Bell
AD	<i>Den.</i> Rutherford Blushing Bride 'Heather Mooney'	Brian Mooney
HCC	<i>Cym.</i> Richard Tauber 'Kens Choice'	Tudor Orchids
AM	<i>Z.</i> Kiwi 'Alan Tucker' Runner up Orchid 1993	Ross Tucker
HCC	<i>Z.</i> Kiwi Klassic 'Kracker'	Ross Tucker
HCC	<i>Masd.</i> Dark Star 'Port Wine'	L. & R. Orchids
HCC	<i>Masd.</i> Jazz Time 'L & R'	L. & R. Orchids
HCC	<i>Den.</i> Harold Hirsch 'Gold Rush'	Sunrae Orchids
HCC	<i>Den. kingianum</i> 'Purple Star'	Sunrae Orchids
HCC	<i>Cym.</i> Albanense 'Mac'	Ross MacDonald
HCC	<i>Paph.</i> Herbert Fouraker 'Glenbrook'	Brian Mooney
AM	<i>Paph. sukhakulii</i> 'Jans Delight'	Jan Dudley
AD	<i>Den. kingianum</i> 'Glenbrook'	Brian Mooney
HCC	<i>Pln.</i> Versailles 'Hazel'	David McConachie

CCC *Phal. schilleriana* 'Anneke' CCC of year 1993
 HCC *Phal. equestris* 'Redvale'
 HCC *Masd.* Mary Staal 'Ellen's Delight'
 CCC *Coelcristata* v. *alba* 'Delaney'
 CCC *Den. jonesii* 'Alexander's Fantasy'
 HCC *Phal.* Mothers Delight 'Redvale'
 HCC *Cym.* Ruth Hastings 'Jody'
 HCC *Cym.* Ruth Hastings 'Glen Avon'
 HCC *Bibra.* Witches Cauldron 'Magic Brew'
 HCC *Cym.* Dark Ruby 'My Choice'
 CCC *Cym.* Unregistered Grex 'No Name'
 HCC *Phal.* Orchid World 'Kahukura'
 AM *Phal.* Vladimir Horowitz 'Superspot'
 HCC *Cym.* Richard Tauber 'Jenny'
 HCC *Wils.* Star Trail 'Milky Way'
 HCC *Milt.* Sunnybank Magic 'Michelle'
 HCC *Paph. micranthum* 'Francis'
 AM *Masd.* Shuttryana 'Candyce'
 HCC *Cym.* Valley Courtier 'Glen Avon'
 HCC *Onc.* Unregistered Grex 'Fiona'
 {*Onc.* Aurora x *Onc.* Wilbur}
 AM *Masd.* *ignea* 'Saltash'
 HCC *V.* Unregistered Grex 'Helen'
 {*V.* Opha x Laurel Yap x *V.* Charungraks}
 HCC *Masd.* *coccinea* v. *albi* 'Gerli'
 HCC *Masd.* *deformis* 'Flame'
 AM *Paph.* JoAnne's Wine 'Papa Aroha'
 AM *Masd.* Sunny Angel 'Hannah'
 HCC *Wils.* Sagrin 'Stubbie'
 HCC *Cym.* *tigrinum* 'Carole Jane'
 HCC *Oda.* Jan's Pride 'Daniel'
 AM *Phrag. caudatum* 'Regency'
 ORCHID OF THE YEAR 1993
 HCC *Phal.* Unregistered Grex 'Stanley'
 {Golden Duplicate x Barbara Moler}
 HCC *Cym.* Phar Lap 'Rose Tiki'

Hank Wortman
 Julie & Rod Marshall
 Ellen Manson
 Julie & Rod Marshall
 Maimie Kennedy
 Julie & Rod Marshall
 Alan Gray & Ian Reid
 Alan Gray & Ian Reid
 Gwenda Parkinson
 Margot Kay
 Wally Wyatt
 Barbara & Fanie Johnson
 Oscar Van Beek
 Allan Watson
 Ross Tucker
 Claire & Graeme Hirst
 John C. Schofield
 Cliff & Ruth Coles
 Alan Gray & Ian Reid
 Dale & Paddy Whittaker

Cliff & Ruth Coles
 Cliff & Ruth Coles

P. & G. Fox
 W. R. Burton
 Barry Fraser
 Ngaire & Stan Pye
 Ross Tucker
 Carole & Ray Thorne
 Graham & Jan Letts

Mike Hart
 Stan Pye

Norm Porter



Phalaenopsis Vladimir Horowitz 'Superspot'
 Grower: Oscar van Beek.



Hmwsa Margaret 'Purplelite'
 Grower: Ross Tucker.

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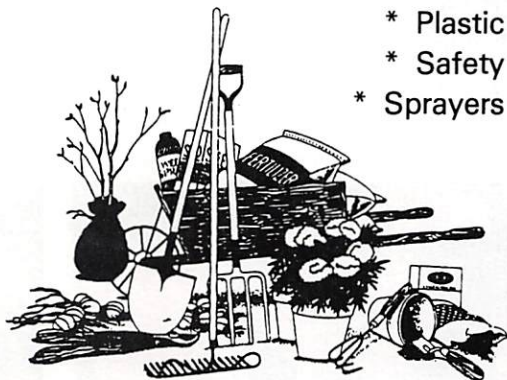
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Awards from the Orchid Council of New Zealand

by Ross Tucker - Regional Chairman (Northern)

This article, the first of a series is a view on some of the more recent awards granted by our New Zealand Judging Systems. It will illustrate some of the trends which are emerging from our orchid growing in New Zealand. It is not a complete record of awards as many slides are not reproducible in this magazine but if you require further information, just ask your local friendly judge for a talk to your society in your area.

Orchid judging is to recognise the improvements and the better quality orchids available today in New Zealand.

Orchid Council Judging started in 1978 and the very first award was to *Odontoglossum crispum* 'Sue Reynolds' HCC/OCNZ, exhibited by Mr E Reynolds of Waitara. A very full, round flat form of *crispum* with one spike and 10 flowers. An attractive waved or gathered appearance yet still retaining its overall flat appearance width 100mm.

One of the early awards for 1991 was another *Odontoglossum*, *Oda*. Saint Clement 'Ellen' exhibited by Mrs E Ansley of New Plymouth. A light mauve



Odontoglossum crispum 'Sue Reynolds'
Grower E. Reynolds
The first plant awarded in NZ - in 1978.

with heavier spotting with an overall filled in form, with the strongest feature in its flat lip and contrasting colours. A strong stem with 9 flowers, overall width 110mm.

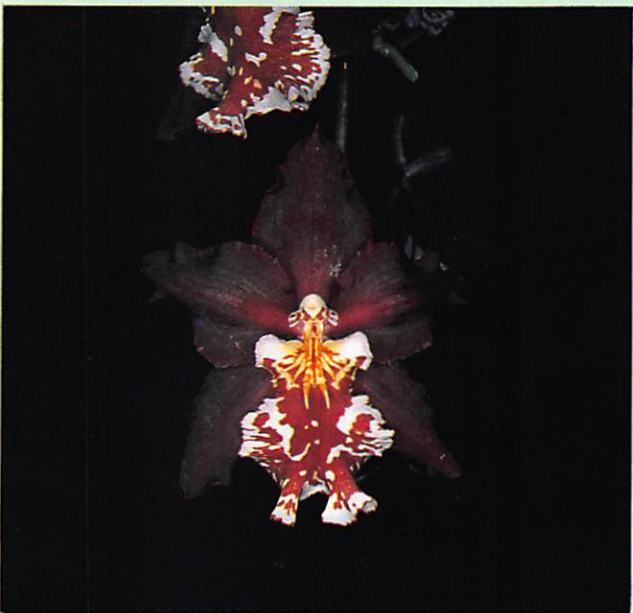
The *Odontoglossum* Alliance featured heavily in the 1991 Awards with Wilsonaras a combination of (*Odontoglossum* x *Coclioda* x *Oncidium*) producing some very pleasing flowers. In judging Wilsonaras it is acceptable for shape to be not so filled in or as full or round as pure *Odontoglossum*s and *Odontiodas* but their colour and spike habit and number of flowers must compensate.

Wilsonara Bardot (*Onc. tigrinum* x *Oda*. Aviemore) 'Charles' HCC/OCNZ an excellent example of fairly starry shape in appearance but with an excellent rich deep burgandy with strong lustre and very impressive lip outlined in white and irregular mahogany markings one spike nine flowers and five buds, overall width 73mm exhibited by Alf Day Auckland.

Wilsonara Nicola Jane (*Onc. tigrinum* x *Oda* Rachell Gaskell) 'Epsom' exhibited by D & N Bonham of Auckland. This is another colour now available in *Odontoglossum* Alliance petals and sepals, deep magenta and mahogany patterns with a



Oda Saint Clement 'Ellen'
Grower Mrs E. Ansley



Wils. Bardot 'Charles'
Grower: Alf Day, Auckland.

pale yellow lip in fairly open starry flower but compensated for by one spike of 41 flowers and 19 buds in nine branches overall width 80mm. This plant gained an HCC/OCNZ.

Probably the pick of the Wilsonaras in 1991 was *Wilsonara* Kenridge (Kendrick Williams x *Oda*. Main Ridge) 'Sophie' gaining an HCC/OCNZ. This flower exhibits a more filled in semetrical appearance with again a very striking colour of mauve/mahogany patterns with a pale yellow lip. This plant was exhibited again by Alf Day and had one spike with nine flowers, overall width 80mm.

Another in the *Odontoglossum* Alliance was a complicated *Aliceara* which is a (*Miltonia* x *Brassia* x *Oncidium*). Unregistered *Aliceara* (*Mtssa*. Charles M Fitch x *Onc. crispum*) 'Tawhai' exhibited by S & J Wray of Whangarei. Due to its parentage this plant could never exhibit full round shape but has compensated with an extremely dark burgundy colour with a white edge with a contrasting rose lip. There was one spike of five flowers overall width 102mm. This plant gained an AM/OCNZ.

A very fine species of *Oncidium enderanum* was exhibited by M Wilton of



Wils. Nicola Jane 'Epsom'
Grower N. and D. Bonham



Wils. Kenridge 'Sophie'
Grower: Day

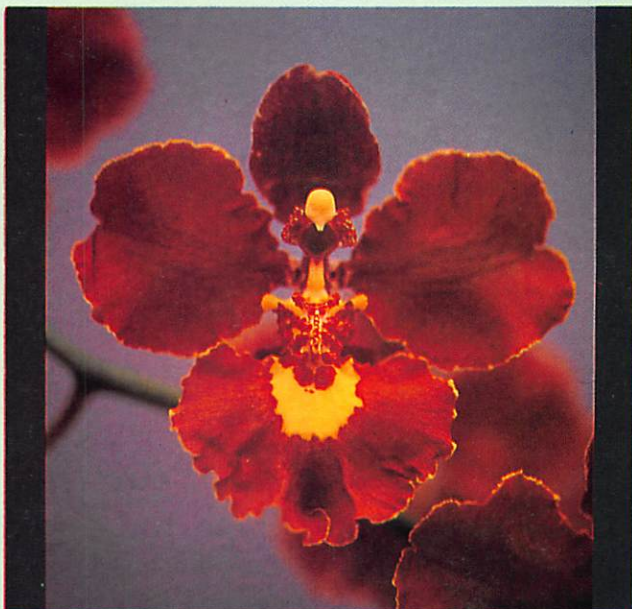
Levin, variety 'Jims Choice' gaining an HCC/OCNZ. This plant exhibits an improved full shape with wide petals and sepals with 28 flowers a one bud on one spike. The improved shape compared to many of this species is why this plant was awarded.

To continue with awards granted in 1991 one of the most difficult orchids to grow to a specimen yet perhaps when grown so perfectly is a show stopper is *Sophranitis coccinea* grown and exhibited by Mrs A Feist of Te Puke. These flowers were typical of the species but somewhat rounder than average and the colour tending to crimson rather than red. These plants you can feel you have achieved much with three to four flowers and be very proud of yourself if you get 10-20 flowers but this plant was exhibited with no less than 52 blooms on a blemish free plant, a unanimous vote for CCC/OCNZ overall width 5.6mm.

Another fine species exhibited in 1991 which gained an HCC/OCNZ was *Laelia pumila* 'Helen V' by J & B Vance of Auckland, three well formed on two spikes of intense lavender/purple with a deeper purple lip with particularly good shape for this species and no reflexing on the dorsal



Aliceara unregistered 'Tawhai'
Grower: S. and J. Wray.



Oncidium enderianum 'Jims Choice'
Grower: M. Wilton.

sepal overall width 111mm a fine flowering of the species.

When *Sophronitis* x *Laelia* x *Cattelya* (SLC) are combined a new group of mini-cats have appeared over the last few years and are now gaining some recognition, one of which in 1991 was *Slc* Aclands Jewel 'Peach Glow' of (*Slc* Jewel Box x *Cat. aclandiae*) exhibited by E Manson of Christchurch which gained an HCC/OCNZ, an attractive well grown plant of sunset colours red/orange with a darker rose lip three spikes with 22 flowers overall wide 71mm.

Another eye catching *Slc*. Mine Gold 'Margaret's Pride' (*L. breieri* x *Slc*. Jewel Box) exhibited by W & M Lomas of Onerahi. This plant has a bright glistening yellow with crimson edging and solid crimson lip, a remarkable colour combination. It was granted an AM/OCNZ.

Perhaps New Zealand's greatest hybridiser, grower and exhibitor of Mini-Cattleyas as well as other genera also exhibited during 1991 with an AM/OCNZ for *Slc*. Minx 'Jezebel' from Mr Jim James of Hamilton. An intense light red of average substance and with a crystalline texture, an impressive cross of (*Slc*. Kaka x *Slc*. Orpetii) one of Jim's own seedlings. ◀



Slc Mine Gold 'Margaret's Pride'
Grower: W. and M. Lomas.



Slc Minx 'Jezebel'
Grower: J. James.



Above: *Soph. cocconeae*
Grower: Aileen Feist.

Right: *Slc Aclands*
Jewel 'Peach 'Glow'
Grower: E. Manson.

Below: *Laelia pumila* 'Helen V'
Grower: J. and B. Vance.



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ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND COMMITTEE ON AWARDS

Notes on award Photography March 1992, revised April 1994

The COMMITTEE ON AWARDS has suggested that we circulate to Supplemental Regions a few thoughts on taking award photographs. This brief summary is a difficult job as photographers are often very individual in their techniques. However the notes below should help less experienced photographers.

1. The best solution is to get a regular award photographer to do the job and ideally regions should have several names available.

2. Backgrounds should be taut, not creased and usually black. For dark flowers a light grey-blue is better as dark blue is not very good.

3. Supports, ties, labels etc should be avoided in the photo and always make sure of this when composing the photo through the view finder.

4. Outdoor photos are not a good idea as the movement always happens just at the wrong moment.

5. For a single flower in a complex flowering a black mask may be helpful to isolate the best flower.

6. Usually flash will be used and it is normal safe practice to take three shots, one with a small underexposure and one with a small overexposure as well as your best estimate. Nine times out of ten the best estimate will be satisfactory. Some photographers go straight ahead and take the fifteen using the best estimate, as well as the two bracketed exposures. This saves a lot of time and the film can usually be processed sooner and most times no duplicating will be needed. Unless using Kodak, which has to go to Australia to be processed, one can have the full set of slides before the flowers deteriorate. Fujichrome "Velvia" is particularly good for difficult colours.

7. For CCC we need fifteen shots of the whole plant, but for all other Awards fifteen shots of one flower is ideal except in

special circumstances eg a very small flower. Remember that the slide is to be used by the Committee to ratify the Award and probably be published in *Orchids* in New Zealand. When an extra shot will assist please include one eg for a pendulous miniature *Cymbidium* quality award send 15 of the whole plant and one of the flower. Read the Judging by Laws 6.1.7. Please give the name of the photographer on the application form so that credit may be given and please pay the photographer where appropriate.

8. Please label the slides with the plant name on the opposite side of the mount to the side that should be towards the screen.

9. Suggestions are welcome and will be considered for inclusion in a subsequent set of notes.

Here's to good photography. ◀

Dennis G Bonham

NZOS AWARDS 1994

The New Zealand Orchid Society has advised the first awards it has granted for 1994.

Odcdm. Ball Dancer 'Rebecca' (*Onc. hyphyhaematicum* x *Odm. trilobum*) Awarded HCC/NZOS January 17 1994. Grown by Dennis and Nancie Bonham, there were 99 flowers on a single stem 1500 mm tall. Overall width was 42 mm, sepal width 7 mm, petal width 8 mm.

This is a primary hybrid from two species that are not very common in this country, made by Milton Carpenter of Everglades Orchids in Florida, probably in his search to produce heat tolerant hybrids. This plant presented the flowers well on the tall branching spike. Flowers were clean looking set off well by the light coloured lip. The hybrid was an advance from its hybrid parents.

Z. River Murray 'Bayswater' Awarded AM/NZOS May 7 1994.

Grown by Ross Tucker, it produced 5 blooms on a single spike. Overall width was 77.9 mm, sepals 37.2 mm long and 25.8 mm wide, petals 16.6 mm long and 10.9 mm wide. An extremely rich coloured Zygopetalum in lip, petals and sepals with good size. Another good hybrid crossed by Ross in his programme to improve the *Zygopetalum* genus.

Ray Dix

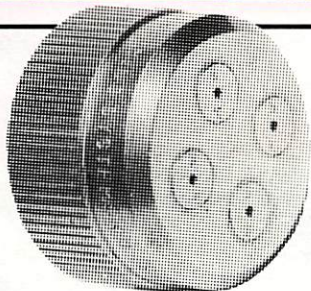


Odcdm. Ball Dancer 'Rebecca' HCC/NZOS (*Onc. hyphyhaematicum* x *Odm. trilobum*)
Grower Dennis and Nancie Bonham



Z. River Murray 'Bayswater' AM/NZOS
Grower Ross Tucker

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OCNZ - Annual General Meeting

On June 18th 1994 at the Sherwood Motor Inn, Palmerston North, the Annual General Meeting, of the Orchid Council of New Zealand was held.

A very successful meeting, with a really good response of 31 of the 40 affiliated societies represented. A particularly pleasing factor was the number of observers present which I feel shows good support for the Orchid Council.

I was particularly delighted to present two Awards of Honour at the meeting. They went to **Syd Wray** and **Ken Christie**. Syd has been well-known figure on the orchid scene for many years, serving in various capacities in the Taranaki and Whangarei societies and has worked his way throughout the Orchid Council executive for 14 of the 20 years the council has existed. Syd was the first secretary/treasurer of the council and has just completed his year as the Immediate Past President. Ken Christie has been an invaluable member of the executive of the council, particularly with his involvement in constitutional matters and



OCNZ presentation to Syd Wray
AGM 1994.

funding applications. The time Ken has given us cannot be measured in years on the executive as there has been tremendous input 'behind the scenes' as is Ken's way. To both of you, many thanks once again for (in the words of the constitution) the outstanding service to the Orchid Council of New Zealand.

My experience from many AGM's, conferences and seminars is that the knowledge and ideas gained at the informal gatherings is worth the cost and travel involved. In the case of the AGM weekend, the communication begins on Friday night with an informal get-together, followed on Saturday morning by a breakfast attended by all the presidents or their deputies and the council executive. This provides a forum for debate or exchange of ideas which do not pertain to the meeting agenda. This year quite a lot of ideas were exchanged on show organization as well as other administrative problems. Certainly, delegates I spoke to prior to their departure were full of enthusiasm for implementing ideas in their club.

On behalf of the executive, thanks go to the hosts this year, the **Manawatu Society** and



OCNZ presentation to Ken Christie
AGM 1994.

particularly **Mary and Don Horman** and **Valda and Stuart Lind** for the smooth and efficient organisation of the weekend and the tremendous hospitality from the members of the society. It was a great weekend and an excellent 21st birthday celebration for the club.

The weekend also gave the visitors the opportunity to visit the venue for the 1995 International Orchid Expo, the Manawatu Sports Stadium, and meet some of the members of

the organising committee, who were on hand to answer questions and apply the plan to the building. Judging by the enthusiasm in the vast stadium as people paced out their display areas and stood demonstrating their ideas, I felt really optimistic for a very successful show next year. Incidentally, there is over 90% of display space now allocated, so clubs or individuals still requiring space should apply immediately. In the commercial stadium, over 50% of the budgeted space

**OCN2
BREAKFAST
AGM**



has also been booked. One comment heard during the morning was "why did they get such a large

building.. they'll never fill it."

My thanks go to everyone who make the

weekend so successful and assisted me through my first AGM as president.

Patricia Elms
President

Letter to the Editor

THAT WRATH OF DOT

I have long subscribed to the view that the pen is mightier than the sword, but who would be daring enough to suggest replacing the sword for a surgeon's scalpel?

My apologies to Mavis Almersten for the fact that my poor handwriting resulted in an apparent sex change for her to Morris as interpreted in my letter to the editor printed in the June issue. What a fascinating coincidence in view of the fact that spelling correction (*Dend. thrysiflorum* and not *D. thrysiflorum*) was the major topic. As I had predicted, the original error raised the hackles of Dot Porter and a shower of wrath descended on our Editor in short order. However, as plant

enthusiasts, we all know of the danger of living in a glasshouse, do we not?

... the power of
the pen

In 1876 a *Masdevallia* species was named after Prof. J.E. Barta of Nice and thereby a spelling conundrum had its beginnings because *Masd. barlaeana* is often incorrectly written as *M. barleana*.

I recently detected yet another example of this mistake in a collection I was viewing and readers will perhaps understand my cruel yelp of sadistic delight when on turning the label over, it became apparent that it had been hand written by none other than the Lady of Lexicon herself!!

Well.. I suppose it's blown another lovely friendship!!! Damn the power of the pen!

George Fuller
8.7.94

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AGM



Cant

Nth

Warkworth

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GEORGE FULLER WRITES:

PLEIONE LIMPRICHTII

or

"Who am I?"

Being expected to correctly name a wide range of orchids can be an extremely frustrating task when sometimes even botanists cannot come to agreement, or, even worse, botanical records are both old and contradictory. So it was with *Pleiones* until 1988, when the means of more accurate identification was made available with the publishing of P. Cribb and I. Buttgerfield's definitive work "**The Genus *Pleione***". Or was it?

The first time I recall seeing *P. limprichtii* was in 1970 whereupon I pushed my unsophisticated camera to its technical limit to obtain a photograph. Despite being in the care of a competent grower, the plant ultimately perished, adding to the belief that it was not the easiest *Pleione* to cultivate, despite being able to tolerate temperatures down to -20° C!

By the 1980's *Pl. formosana* in its numerous forms was becoming quite common here, but there was a real tangle over naming because of hopelessly confused information over the rather similar species *Pl. formosana*, *Pl. pricei*, *Pl. bulbodioides*, *Pl. pogonioides* etc. I virtually gave up on naming this group until

'**The Genus *Pleione*** arrived on the scene.

It is significant that up until recently, *Pl. limprichtii*, renowned for its colour and breeding potential, came to my attention very

infrequently, convincing me further of its difficulty of cultivation and comparative rarity since other forms were being imported in large numbers and at great cost in some cases.



Pleione Versailles 'Buckleburg' FCC/RHS
A very handsome clone exhibiting great hybrid vigour.
Flowers to 95 mm wide, to 210 mm tall.

With this background, it was not surprising that my suspicions were aroused when, a few years ago, containers of *Pl. limprichtii* suddenly began appearing at meetings and shows in numbers. With great vigour and strong colour they easily won their species section when in competition. Something had to be wrong and I recorded my concerns to those from whom I thought some clarification could be expected but none of us could come up with the key to solving the mystery.

It was at this point that I learned that the best books in the world cannot help if one is unable to interpret what the author is trying to convey despite the aid of photographs and line drawings. In this case, information didn't make sense until I had both a 'true' and 'false' specimen to compare.

The breakthrough came in the late spring of 1993 when one of our members (of the Taranaki Orchid Society) brought to a meeting yet another container labelled *P. limprichtii* - but this was a genuine article at last! It tallied not only with my recollections but more importantly with the book description.



Pleione limprichtii (Grower I. Hutchinson)
Lip detail revealing the critical four rows of lamellae, a long central pair skirted by a less prominent and shorter outer pair.

With the aid of closeup photography I have been able to record the critical structural details which will help others to quickly resolve this puzzle but the point needs to be emphasised that until a true specimen became available for comparison,

even sound reference material has its limitations. Little wonder that others had failed to reach a conclusion.

I can quite confidently record now that in cases where a plant exhibits vigorous growth with flowers reaching up to 220

mm (9 inches) tall, and 95 mm (4 inches) in width, has prolific reproduction and flowering potential, leaves up to 410 mm (16 inches) by 75 mm (3 inches), two only rows of jagged tooth like frills

(lamellae) in the throat, together with (most likely) an isolated short central 'tuft' rather like a cock's comb or billygoats beard AND it is labelled *Pl. limprichtii*, then the naming is incorrect.

At last, *Pl. limprichtii* flowers could reach approximately 120 mm (4 1/2 inches) tall, 70 mm (3 inches) across and will have four rows of lamellae, the outer pair being shorter than the inner. Leaves could be up to 150 mm (6 inches) tall by 50 mm (2 inches) wide. In every sense, vegetatively smaller than the foregoing description.

Cultural conditions will have a strong influence on vigour, size and even colour, so these characteristics alone are inconclusive but the number of rows of lamellae, as discernible in the photographs, will determine the correct naming when all else seems equal.

So, what is the identity of the imposter? My research suggest that it is almost certainly the hybrid *Pl. Versailles* and most probably the clone *Pl. Versailles* 'Buckle-bury FCC/RHS, which not surprisingly is *P. form-sana* x *P. limprichtii*.

I hasten to record that I have not had the opportunity to study widely dispersed suspect plants with the eye so critically honed at the very end of the last flowering season but I am fairly confident that they all fit the same description with



Pleione Versailles 'Buckleburg FCC/RHS
Lip detail revealing only two rows of lamellae,
plus a short central tuft.



Pleione limprichtii (Grower I. Hutchinson)

Full flower which was 70 mm in width and carried to 120 mm tall. Though able to withstand temperatures as low as -20°C, it is fickle and often intolerant of its cultivators!

tell-tale two lamellae and goaty tuft in the centre.

Incidentally, that distinctive tuft raises another question. I note that neither of the parents of *Pl. Versailles* as described in the book has a central tuft as one would expect to find, but *Pl. bulbocodioides*, another very colourful species with richly spotted lip, does!! Since *Pl. Versailles* was originated in the times of terrible tangle over naming, when confusion reigned high, I am just wondering if someone may in good

faith.....!!!! Oh! dear or dear! But that is enough confusion for today.

With thousands of incorrectly named pleiones in circulation there is need for action. I suggest that everyone who owns a plant labelled *Pl. limprichtii* should investigate its flowers very closely on the basis of the above information. Those contemplating purchase would be particularly wary, especially as plants under the label of *Pl. limprichtii* are likely to be trading at a much higher rate than

the now quite common *Pl. Versailles* which they may turn out to be. Pleiones are often traded while dormant, therefore these warnings will not have taken effect until the passage of a flowering season after publication, but perhaps some form of guarantee can be negotiated

In fairness to those who have correctly named species which are entered into competition, it is very important that judges familiarise themselves with these details.

Verifying a name can certainly become a complex and long drawn out activity, after first seeming so simple.

George Fuller
12.7.94

All photographs by the author.

Thank you George.
Perhaps other readers may like to add their comments through

the magazine of their local observations. With the flowering season underway, now is the opportunity to resolve this issue. ◀

Editor.



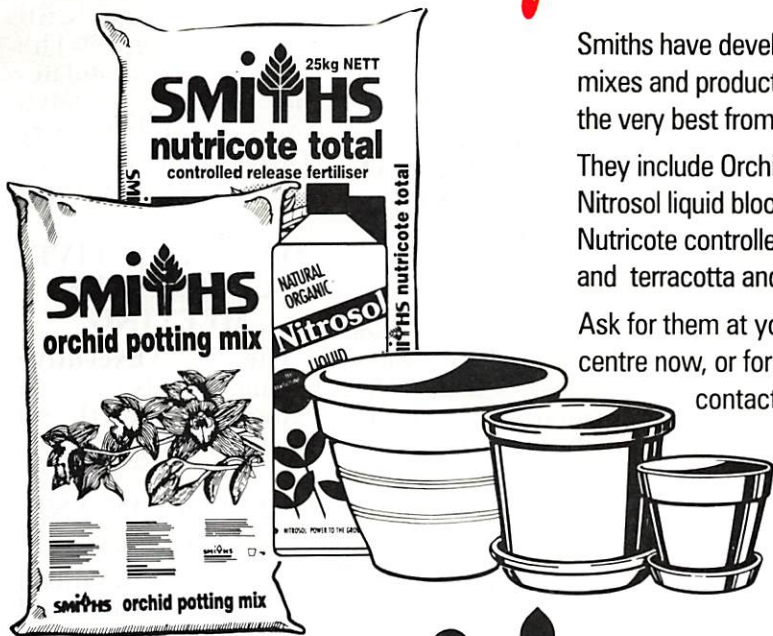
Pleione Versailles "Buckleburg FCC/RHS
A striking group of these attractive orchids.

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Palmerston North 1995.

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OCNZ Executive Committee Meetings

The Executive Committee met in Auckland on Saturday 26th February 1994. Items of this meeting may be of interest to our readers.

JOB DESCRIPTION MANUAL

Are you using it? Very favourable reports are coming in from Societies using the manual. Many society office bearers are finding items of interest, ie. How do we treat visiting speakers? What do they expect from us and what is expected of the Treasurer/Secretary etc. Please pass the manual around all members of your Committee.

MAGAZINE

Phil Tomlinson and the Magazine Committee are doing their utmost to make your magazine a roaring success. They require your assistance. Phil still requires a steady flow of articles and news items, remember to add the name of the photographer. Advertising rates have been reduced somewhat and Roy Clareburt is still trying hard to find advertisers, do you know of someone, if so please contact:-

Mr Roy Clareburt
18 Littlejohn Street
Mt Roskill
AUCKLAND

JUDGING

Chairman of Awards, Dennis Bonham, reported that this year, judges around the country have granted 70 awards which is a record. Previous best 52 in 1988, keep up the good growing folks. Due to venue problems at Marton the National Seminar will now be held at Napier, 13th - 15th May.

3rd N.Z INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE/SHOW

Only 20 months to go! Have your registered interest yet. Registration brochures have gone out to Societies, have you returned yours. Please pass the brochures around your Society or Club. Display space is filling fast, if you are interested don't hesitate, book now and don't be disappointed.

NATIONAL ORCHID DAY

The Committee is considering organising a National Orchid Day throughout the country. This could be a prime opportunity for your Club or Society to become

involved. A chance perhaps for your society to get some free publicity. The project is still on the drawing board.

VIDEO COMPETITION

In spite of the excellent prize offered, the number of entries was still disappointing. The committee congratulates the winner Joycelyn Addison for her entry "Orchid World" and thank all those who participated.

MAY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee also met in Palmerston North on Sunday 1st May 1994.

CAPITATION AND FINANCIAL

Due to the financial constraints on Clubs and Societies the committee felt that the capitation should be held at \$3.00 for a further year. In the light of the Council income from falling capitation around the country, we are duty bound to try and reduce running costs hence the change of rule

remit to reduce the Executive Committee from seven to five. This action is totally due to running costs of meetings and no other reason.

13th WOC

As payment in lieu of cash the Council has agreed to accept the 30 remaining copies of the Proceedings books. These are now for sale at a price of \$112.00 inc GST plus postage. Does your society have one in its library, excellent reading.

SPEAKERS VISITS

George Fuller will visit the Wairarapa and Wellington early July. We hope to bring Graham and Sue Guest from Australia sometime in September. Dates and venues to be confirmed. Graham and Sue have recently written a book 'Cymbidiums your Guide to a Rewarding Pastime' and will be

promoting their book on this tour. We are also pleased to announce the forthcoming visit of James Rose of Cal Orchids, California. James will be here on the 8th and 9th August. The Cymbidium Society of America NZ Branch will share the cost of this visit with Council. James is expected to speak on the Genus Paphiopedilum in Auckland and Waikato. Your Society will receive further information in due course.

SOUTH ISLAND SEMINAR

Nelson Orchid Society will host a South Island Seminar on the 12th, 13th and 14th August 1994, watch Orchids in NZ for details.

JUDGING

Orchid of the Year was awarded to Phrag. caudatum, owner Mike

Hart of Auckland. Cultural Orchid of the Year was awarded to Phal. schilleriana, owner H Waltman. Photographs will appear in Orchids in NZ. A very successful National Judging Seminar was held in Napier in May with over 100 Judges and Associates taking part. Thanks to host Societies for looking after everyone so well during the three day seminar.

MAGAZINE

Roy Clareburt has been able to attract more advertising, in fact about 8 pages more, which will extend the size of the Magazine. We still need to sell more subscriptions to keep the Magazine afloat. Please promote the Magazine at your local shows. Perhaps make up some kind of display of all and new issues.

Joe Vance
Publicity Officer ◀

INTERNATIONAL ORCHID PHOTO COMPETITION

To be held in conjunction with the
3rd NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL ORCHID EXPO

A photo competition is being held in conjunction with the Orchid Expo in Palmerston North in October 1995. This competition which is open to all photographers has the subject "Blooming Orchids".

The judges for the competition will be Terry Barnett (Editor and Creative Director of Photography International magazine), Leonard Cobb (publisher and orchid grower), and Philip Tomlinson (amateur photographer and current Editor of Orchids in New Zealand).

This photographic competition is open to all photographers, and participants from New Zealand and overseas are encouraged to take part.

The closing date for entries is 31 July 1995. A selection of accepted entries will be displayed at the 3rd NZ International Orchid Expo being held in Palmerston North from 4 - 8 October 1995.

Entry forms may be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to;

Orchid Photographic Competition
PO Box 181
Palmerston North
NEW ZEALAND

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY: GENERAL

1. The exhibition will be in two sections one being for colour slides and the other for colour prints.
2. The subject matter is restricted to "Blooming Orchids".
3. It is not permissible for the same photograph to be entered in both sections.
4. An entry fee of \$3.00 is required for each slide or print submitted. Entries will not be judged unless this payment is received.
5. Unless otherwise specified, at the conclusion of the exhibition all accepted material will be transferred to the Orchid Council of New Zealand Magazine Library. The Orchid Council of New Zealand reserves the right to reproduce any slide or print in Orchids in New Zealand or any other Council publication without payment of any fee.
6. All entrants will be sent a report card which will advise where entries have been accepted for the exhibition.
7. The winning entries from each section will be announced at the Expo where all accepted entries will be on display.
8. The Panel of Judges decision will be final and no appeals will be considered.
9. By entering in this exhibition, entrants signify their agreement to be bound by these conditions.

COLOUR SLIDES

1. A maximum of four 35mm colour slides may be submitted by each entrant.
2. Each slide must show the name and address of the photographer together with the number and name of the orchid in the slide. This detail must correspond with that in the entry form.
3. Each slide must be the sole work of the entrant.
4. The size of the mount is to be 5 x 5 cm. and not thicker than 3.2 mm. Slide mounts that are over-sized, or have labels that cause projection difficulties, will not be judged or displayed.
5. Each slide must be spotted on the lower left hand corner when viewed upright.

COLOUR PRINTS

1. A maximum of four colour prints may be submitted by each entrant.
2. Each print must show on the reverse side the name and address of the photographer together with the number and name of the orchid in the print. This detail must correspond with that in the entry form.
3. Care should be taken that this information does not damage the face of the print. Any prints showing surface damage will not be accepted for judging.
4. Each print must be the sole work of the entrant.
5. The size of the print is to be 150mm x 105 mm. All prints are to be supplied in their original condition as a direct print from the negative and are not to be cropped or manipulated in any way. Any prints which in the judges opinion do not meet these conditions will not be judged or displayed.

3rd NZ International Orchid Expo 1995

DISPLAYS:

There will be a number of speciality events or displays at the Expo including:

Photographic Competition: It has been decided that we should hold a photographic competition which will be on an orchid theme and will probably include sections for slides and prints. Full details of the competition will be advised.

Floral Art: There is a major floral art exhibition being held in Palmerston North in 1996. Members of their association are excited about the prospect of earlier involvement with us.

Needlework: A display of needlework is being seriously considered. The articles to be on display must have an orchid theme. If you can't grow orchids perhaps you can sew them!

SOCIETY DISPLAYS:

In our last newsletter we enclosed a copy of the floor plan of the display area and requested that all those who were planning to mount a display should register there interest.

At the time of writing this 28 groups have contacted us and reserved space. Details of the allocated space will be

advised to those groups very shortly.

If your society has not yet made a decision on your space requirements please think about this urgently as space is filling fast. It is essential that your society acts on this quickly and nominate alternative choices so that we are able to confirm your allocation - the longer you wait the less are your chances of being able to receive the position and/or size of area that you want.

COMMERCIAL SPACE:

A number of commercial growers have requested information regarding the commercial sales area. It is encouraging to see the level of interest that is being generated in the show.

An information brochure is being prepared now and will shortly be forwarded to all known growers. As with the Registration Brochure this will enable us to prepare a mailing list of those who are wanting to reserve space.

VOLUNTEERS:

For the show to operate efficiently we will be

wanting a small army of volunteers. There are a lot of areas around the show which need people for operation or security as those of you who have been involved with previous shows will be aware. An example is the staffing of the Posy Bowl stand which the Expo committee will be having in the Commercial area (though people are already organised for this).

If all societies were able to provide details of the likely number of volunteers from their Society this would greatly assist our planning. We want to be able to put a roster together covering the "volunteer" areas to ensure that no one is asked to do too much. Remember that the more helpers there are the easier the load will be for all of us.

REGISTRATION BROCHURE:

With this newsletter we are enclosing copies of a pre-Registration Brochure. The form is fairly self explanatory and will be used to create a mailing list of expected registrants from those who return the reply portion. ◀

Manawatu Orchid Show. 16th April 1994

by Trevor Gillbanks

The Manawatu Orchid Society decided it was time to thank the people of Feilding for the years of support that they have shown by holding a **show** in their town. We wanted the **show** to be **free admission** and to be non-judged.

Manawatu Orchid Society normally only has a Spring Show in Palmerston North but we felt that an Autumn Show would allow people to see a range of genera that is rarely seen by the public.

Over 200 plants were on display covering a wide range of genera from *Alicera* to *Zygopetalum*. The perfume from the *Cattleyas* was very powerful and filled the hall. Many of the visitors commented on the sweetness of the perfume.

The **Show** was to be only a one day event so we did not have a competitive show and all plants were displayed by benching. Initially it was felt that we may have made a mistake with our choice of dates as the **Central Districts Field Day** was on, also 2 church fairs. With the day being a truly magnificent Manawatu day, full sun and no wind, people came to Feilding in their thousands. With so many events available and all free then there was no competition for door fees and people went from one event top another.

Visitors from other orchid societies from all over the lower North Island were much appreciated and it was great meeting up with other orchid fanatics. This highlighted the point that when you surround yourself with beautiful flowers, beautiful people,

Orchids and Glenbrook Gardens and our own club sales had good patronage.

Many thanks go to all those who assisted with all the duties that go to make this sort of event the success it was. Special thanks to the people who assisted with the refreshments, the raffle and the club sales table. Also thanks for those who donated food for the morning and afternoon teas.

The support that was shown by both the visiting public and the members of our Society has, I am sure, guaranteed a repeat performance of this show.



Show Badge

friendship will also surround you. Many, many thanks to all those willing travellers.

To offset costs a large raffle and the selling of tea and coffee with eats made the day a great financial success. From opening to closing time the hall was filled with guests, this ensured that our three commercial growers **Tudor Orchids, Sherlock**

The raffle results were:

- 1st** - \$200.00 groceries
Mrs N. Barrett, Fielding
- 2nd** - \$100.00 groceries
Mr V. Cave, Levin
- 3rd** - \$50.00 garden goods
Mrs G. Stoneley, Fielding

Remember, **Orchid Expo October 1995 Palmerston North**. Make this a date to go down in New Zealand Orchid history. ◀

Bernie Killington

I first became involved in orchids about 1975, this came about when my mother and sister brought me a *Cymbidium* for a Christmas present but not having any interest in orchids at the time, it was sadly neglected.

About seven years ago, my wife Kay and I joined the **Hawkes Bay Orchid Society**, having at that time a small collection of *Cymbidiums* and a few other genera housed in an 8' x 10' glasshouse, also a lean-to off the garage. The idea being that with my retirement coming up in about five years, we had time to build up a reasonable collection to give us a good mutual hobby in our retirement. Being an electrical technician, I was also interested in glasshouse automation.

Over the intervening seven years, our glasshouse has been extended to 8' x 24', four feet of which has been divided off for a warm section, and the remaining twenty feet for an intermediate section. We have also removed our spa pool and taken over the spa room as a cool-house.

I have also completely redesigned the glasshouse automatic control system. In the intermediate section, I have used a Stafa Electronic System to control our temperature

and humidity requirements. On the high temperature side, I have three stages. As the temperature rises, first the two sets of louvres open by electrical actuators at 20°C, the second stage brings on an additional fan, the third stage opens up two sets of vents in the roof, using a single electrical actuator at about 23°C. The low temperature section, on a drop in temperature, controls two louvre type fan assemblies which suck hot air out of the warm section to maintain the temperature at 13°C, there is also a low temperature alarm in the system.

The humidity section keeps the humidity up by wetting the concrete floor, using water jets controlled by a solenoid valve. There is a timer limiting the operation time, and another timer holding it off for about twenty minutes, giving time for the sensor to react. The system is completely duplicated in the warm section, where the heat is produced by a two kilowatt fan heater to hold the

minimum temperature of 16°C. There are also facilities for automatic feeding and misting, with an override switch at the door to stop people getting wet, which happens sometimes when they forget to use it. (I try not to laugh when this happens).

We have built up our collection to about eighty *Cymbidiums* and eight hundred other genera, mainly *Dendrobiums*, *Cattleyas*, vandaceous group, *Odontoglossum Alliance*, and *Phalaenopsis* which my wife looks after, (in fact I have to get written permission to go in that section!).

Since joining the Hawke's Bay Orchid Society seven years ago, I have been a Committee Member for two years, Vice President one year, two and a half years as President, and an Accredited Judge in the OCNZ judging system for the past eighteen months. I have also been a Delegate to the OCNZ AGM for the past three years, and at the last meeting, was elected to the Executive Committee.

I was also instrumental in building the carousel for the Hawke's Bay display at the 13th World Conference, and I have recently formed a sub-committee to start working on our display for the 1995 International Show at Palmerston North. ◀

Our favourite Orchids

by Kay & Bernie Killington, Napier

Kay and I have gone in more for intermediate/warm growing plants.

Following are some of our favourites, mainly in *Vanda*, *Dendrobium*, *Odontoglossum* Alliance, and *Cattleya*.



Kay Killington in spa house

Photo: B. Killington.



Bernie Killington adjusting electronic controls in glasshouse

Photo: B. Killington.

Photographs:

1. Kay in our Spa Room, watering our *Helcia sanguinolenta* x *Asp. elidendroides*, a rather large but beautiful plant with many flowers.

2. Me making adjustments to glasshouse automatic control system.

3. *Dendrobium forbsii* 'Kay', this plant has received an HCC/OCC OCNZ. Masses of yellow flowers.

4. *Dendrobium farmerii*, this plant initially had twelve spikes but when this photograph was taken it was down to seven. A really lovely flower, a pity they don't last longer.

5. *Vanda Memoria Coma Shaw*, this is a sanderana type flower, quite large, with beautiful colour.

6. *Bllva*. Tohoma Glacier 'I than', we both like this one, nice size flower, excellent shape and lovely sharp colouring.

7. *Cym.* Baltic Snow 'Molly', this is a beautiful clear white with good shape.

8. *A mesiella philippinensis*, a small plant with a short spike with many large, waxy, white flowers, very beautiful.

9. *Blc.* Matibu Gem, one of the largest of the *Cattleya* hybrids. ◀



Vanda Memoria Coma Shaw

Grower/photo: B. Killington.



Cymbidium Baltic Snow 'Molly'

Grower/photo: B. Killington.



Dendrobium farmerii

Grower/photo: B. Killington.



Orchids for Beginners

By Allison and Mark Webb

Australians, Allison and Mark Webb, have produced this A4 sized paper bound book to introduce the wonderful world of orchids to new orchidists. Growers for some 10 years, they have written articles in a number of local and overseas publications, with Mark's photography appearing in a number of books and magazines.

Produced on glossy paper it is generously illustrated with colour and black and white photographs and line drawings. Major section headings include 'What is an Orchid?', 'Where to get Plants', 'Orchids for Beginners', 'Cultivation', and 'Further Reading'. *Cymbidium* orchids are mentioned, but their coverage only takes up a very small amount of the space in this publication; rather it covers the range of types most likely to be considered by new (and more established) growers for inclusion in their collections. While the advice is Australian (Sydney) based, most of the comments and recommendations are applicable in this country. I do wonder, though, if the extent of coverage of plant genera may be confusing to a new grower, and that

perhaps the books title may be a misnomer, and that it may be more suited to 'experienced' new growers, to those that at least have some experience with these plants and who have visited orchid shows and spoken to established growers at those events. Some aspects of the publication, such as the orchid classification pyramid on page 10, may even tend to frighten off new growers by making orchid growing appear 'too technical'

The description of Plants for Beginners is extensive, and New Zealand growers would generally find the advice acceptable. Interestingly, one plant I would have thought worthy of inclusion, *Pleione*, were not mentioned. This section is divided into

'Orchids for Growers in Temperate Areas' and 'Growers in the Tropics', a useful separation given the wide geographic spread of likely readership.

The cultural section covers a wide field with relevant comments and suggestions. The final section 'Further Reading' covers all major readily available reference works, although does include a number of Australian references of particular used by readers in that country.

Many people will find this publication useful, and when one considers the price, NZ\$6.95 plus postage, it offers good value for money. It is available from the Australian Orchid Review 14 McGill Street, Lewisham, NSW 2049. ◀

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There is hope for you Aucklanders yet!!!

By Viv Cave

This year I had a *water shortage problem*. Fortunately the glasshouse is on a separate rain water system but the gardens and shade houses are on bore water and there was not enough pressure to use it.

The cymbidiums would have to take their chance and hope for frequent showers. As it turned out, it was one of the driest summers I can remember in the 60 years I have been here. From Christmas onward I never went near the shade house as I thought it would be too depressing seeing the plants dying of thirst. In fact I had steeled myself to losing the lot so did not bother to manure or spray either as I reckoned it would be a waste of time without water.

Just before the **Levin Orchid Society** June meeting I peeped in the

WATER WOES

door and much to my surprise there were spikes and flowers standing up as if in defiance. Even more surprising when I pulled out the weeds and cleaned them up, they looked in as good a condition as they ever done when I looked after them constantly. I am beginning to think they used to grow in spite of what I did. I am convinced

after growing cymbidiums for 36 years I still have not learned much about them, the other surprising thing was I never lost one plant, and other years I always have lost one or two.

I have put the sawdust and shavings from the workshop in the shade house, and it is about a foot deep under the benches. I wonder if the humidity from this has kept the plants going. *What do you think?*

Manawatu Orchid Society
Newsletter June 1994

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Thank you for your donations. Your support ensures we have the most colourful publication possible. Editor.

PLEIONES

by Margaret Spittal Wanganui Orchid Society

I have grown Pleiones for quite a few years now and always seem to have quite good success with them. I have told so many people how to grow them but am constantly amazed at the queer things they seem to do to them and always appear to get into trouble and most invariably lose the bulbs. They are just so easy to grow and multiply prolifically.

Usually early August I take my bulbs out of their old mix, remove the old roots, clean them up and repot in a shallow container with plenty of drainage.

I use fine bark which I have soaked for 24 hrs and then drained off so that the bark is reasonably wet but not soggy. As well I use a little chopped Spagnum Moss and a little Peat.

Plant the bulbs not too deeply, about halfway, and from then on until the flowers appear, water sparingly. If too much water is used at this time, leaves will come and not flowers.

After the flowers fade, the leaves will come and can grow quite large. From this time on keep the bark moist all the time which

means in the summer you could be watering every day but be sure to keep the bark just damp, not soggy, depends how hot the weather is.

The Pleiones like a lot of feed and I mostly use whatever fertiliser that I have for the other orchids. So all through the summer months keep the mixture damp then about the end of February you will notice



Pleione Versailles 'Hazel'

Grower: McConachie

the tips of the leaves beginning to brown off. From then on gradually reduce the water and fertiliser until approximately the end of March when at this time the leaves should be considerably browner and dying off.

It is now time to cease watering altogether and to store away as is, in a dry cool place so that they stay dormant for the winter months. Thereafter when spring is again on its way and the cycle is repeated.

When repotting be very careful taking the bulbs out of the old mix as you should find ever so many

small bulblets, even the smallest will grow. From the old bulb two or three flowering size bulbs should form plus several babies.

Also in the initial stage of growing, after the flowers have finished don't be alarmed if you see the old bulb shrivelling as where the flowers have been the new bulbs will form at the base of the old bulb.

I will admit that although I usually pot my bulbs up in early August, I have already done some, mainly *Alba*, as they shot away early this year but this is probably because of the mild winter. We seem

to be a bit out of kilter this season as early in June I picked a large bunch of spring flowers, so as far as the bulbs are concerned, just keep an eye out for the new growth and pot up early if you think necessary.

I believe they can be put in the fridge to hold back growth but I'm not fond of this idea and I know that some of our people did that for the 1985 Wellington Show and ended up losing the bulbs. Good growing.

. **N.B.** These plants are best grown cool in a shadehouse. ◀

Margaret Spittal
Wanganui Orchid Society



Pleione formosanaa

The power of Evolution

by Trevor Gillbanks, Palmerston North

Stage 1, In December 1991, George Fuller wrote an article for the **Masdevallia Group** newsletter (**The Masdevallia Group** Newsletter Vol. 3 Number 4) that suggested that **mosses, algae's, ferns, liverworts** and other lower forms of life that abound on **Pleurothallis** could be removed by water blasting. The suggestion was to place your finger over the end of a piece of ½ inch water hose (Stage 1) and, by a bit of careful finger control, make a fine jet of water that could be guided at the offending material on your plant and blast it off. The water pressure was controlled by adjusting the tap pressure to the desired level. The suggestion was, also, that you should dress either for swimming or storm conditions as water was sent in all directions. During the cleaning operation the plant must be carefully cradled in your hand to prevent unnecessary damage. It has been found by experience that the roots of **Pleurothallis** could take a considerable force without damage, in fact they can withstand an even greater pressure that **Cymbidiums**.

In January, George demonstrated his method of cleaning his **Pleurothallis** and I was very impressed. I had never seen such clean roots on a plant. However, I was not too keen on this unscheduled shower that one had to endure during the cleaning process.

Stage 2, I then suggested (The **Masdevallia Group** Newsletter Vol. 4 Number 2) that by using a piece of 12mm copper pipe about 70mm long, pinch one end closed (use a vice), and trim the end to about 45° to form a point. Solder the end and then drill out to 1/6 inch (1.5mm) to form a jet. This nozzle is the fitted to a hose and you are then armed with a highly efficient water blaster. Manufacture of this device proved a little difficult for those who did not have access to the required tools.

Stage 3, was then submitted by Curly Burton (**The Masdevallia Group** Newsletter Vol.4 Number 3). Curly suggested using a **Plassey end plug and a Plassey screw in watering nozzle**. This involved drilling a small hole in **end plug** that was slightly smaller than the thread on the **water nozzle** and then screw the **water nozzle** into the **end plug**. After the removal of the little cap that is on the **water nozzle** a small hole is exposed. The **end plug** is then fitted to a garden hose as suggested in the paragraph above. However, some people had difficulty in purchasing the required items.

Stage 4, by George Fuller (**The Masdevallia Group** Newsletter Vol. 4 Number 4). He suggested the purchase of some other fittings that would produce a similar item to Curly's

but the cost was about \$8.00. George named his Blaster '**The black tomcat**'. If you saw it in action you would know why.

At the time the stage 4 article went to print, I visited George and it was suggested that the next development to the **Waterblaster** should be to have an **On/Off** system. Well, as it happened I had to see my brother that day who is a diary farmer. In his cowshed I saw what I felt was to be the final stage to the saga.

Stage 5, diary farmer's use **Teat washers** in the shed. These washers are a plastic tool about 6 inches (150mm) long and have a trigger mechanism. Like **Garden pressure sprayers** (back pack type) this teat washer has an adjustable nozzle. If the atomizer (mixer) is removed from the nozzle this will give an easily controlled **water**

blaster. When the automizer is in place you then have a fine mister that can be used to mist your plants int the heat of the day, or in the case of **Pleurothallis** you can provide an atmosphere that your plants will love. See photo with this article.

For obvious reason I have called this water blaster 'Darth Vader'.

These **Teat sprayers** are available from **C-Dax Systems, P.O. Box 1010 Palmerston North.** Cost is **\$39.50 plus GST plus P&P.** When ordering, ask for **Test sprayer - Hand**

Gun c/w 1/2 inch tail fitting.

Note three photographs showing the before, during and after effects of water blasting. Is this the final answer or is it only the question?? Only time will tell.



Water blasters

Photo: Trevor Gillbanks.



Masdevallia after water blasting
Photo: Trevor Gillbanks.



Masdevallia covered by moss
Photo: Trevor Gillbanks.

A Treasured Plant

Phalaenopsis Lippelut Waitahu 'In the Pink' (Hagar 1981)

At the Nelson Orchid Society's show 1986 I bought the above *Phalaenopsis* having been told that it would grow on top of the refrigerator. It was a nice little plant which was expected to flower in a year or so.

It just about survived through the summer and as I had been told not to over water it, it had its wet and dry times. During the winter it was too wet and the roots rotted away. As the spring came the plant was sick and I decided to repot using what I thought would suit the plant. The *Phalaenopsis* began to grow a new leaf and roots as the warmer weather came.

I have a small unheated glasshouse and thought that the plant might benefit from extra warmth during the day and bringing it in during the night. One day the sun burnt a spot on the big new leaf but it was not

a bad burn. The plant stayed inside after that accident.

After two and a half year the plant grew a flower spike which carried two lovely rich pink flowers. My wife and I went to visit our daughter in Auckland for a fortnight. Our neighbour looked after the orchid and said she was pleased when we came back.

Just over a year ago my elder daughter, already a member of the Nelson Orchid Society said 'what about joining?' So now I am a member as well.

The *Phalaenopsis* produced a spike with four flowers. To stop the plant from falling over it was placed in a heavy stone pot with foam rubber holding the smaller pot in the centre. It was taken to be shown at our monthly Society Meeting. The flowers measured four

inches across and lasted for four months. The spike died away after the flowers and then another spike grew with six flowers which opened in August and lasted until January.

There is a nice new leaf forming which makes four nice leaves plus a number of new roots. This is the fourth year in the same mixture and the surround of foam rubber in the stone pot.

The plant is living in the kitchen by the window which gets the early morning sun for an hour or so. A little Phostrogen is given at odd times but not as a regular feed.

The *Phalaenopsis* has tested me and given me the reward of appreciation plus it's acceptance of the kitchen as a reasonable place to live. ◀

Jim Smith
Nelson Orchid Society
1993



Phalaenopsis Lippeglut 'Waitaku'

Grower/photo: Jim Smith.

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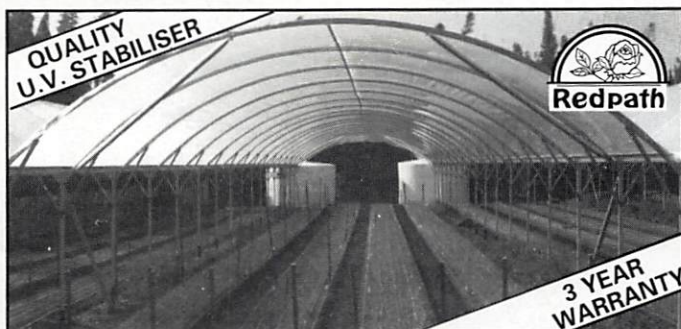
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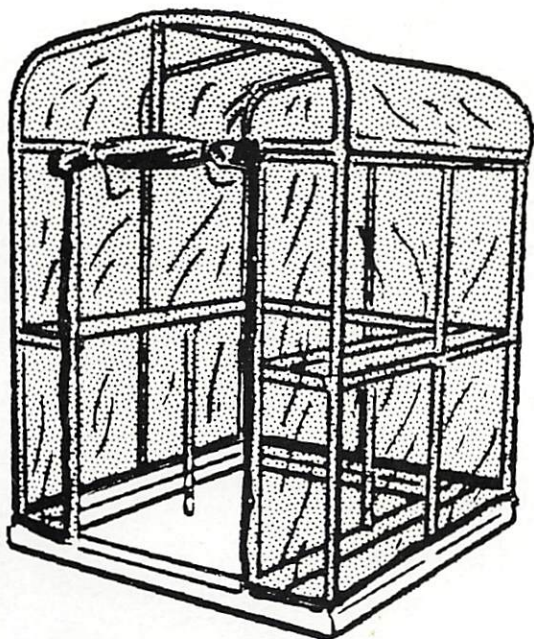
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something different



Catasatum russellianum

Dave Watt of Wellington recently exhibited this plant of *Catasatum russellianum*. The genus is a reasonably extensive one, with some 70 individual species originating from the West Indies to Mexico to Argentina. Interestingly, this genus produces both male and female flowers, large plants producing female flowers under bright light and male flowers under moderate shade.