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in New Zealand

Volume 20 No. 4

December 1994

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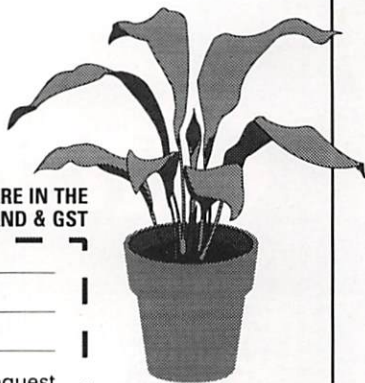
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Published by monthly
ISSN 0110-5256

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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.

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P.O. Box 181
Palmerston North

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ADVERTISING TO:

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

Advertising payments
may be sent to the
Treasurer.

Opinions expressed by authors are
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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. 4

DECEMBER 1994

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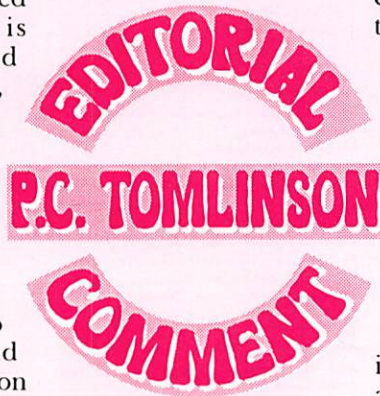


COME TALK TO US

One of the biggest problems facing society secretaries at the moment is finding someone to talk at the monthly meetings. If the members of the society are to be kept both informed and entertained, it is important that good speakers be secured, otherwise much interest in the meetings will be lost, perhaps eventually even leading to a loss of members. Within any society there are always those able to contribute cultural and other advice and pass on their years of growing expertise. The panel forum of question and answer can always be relied on to bring out valuable information of assistance and interest to both long term and novice growers. But there is a limit to the number of times such sessions can be run in any one year.

There is a limit to the number of speakers a society has. Any programme must include a number of outside speakers. The Orchid Council of New Zealand

address is heard by the widest number of orchid growers possible. It is perhaps an aside that even this resource seems not to be fully utilised, as some recent visitors have not enjoyed the attendances that their presentations deserved.



has an Overseas Speakers Fund where authorities from around the world are brought in to address society meetings. Unfortunately, because of costs and resources, they can only speak to each society on rotation, and joint meetings are the norm to ensure their

The obvious solution to this is to seek speakers from outside the society. It may be that other topics are covered, but generally the subject will be orchids, or orchid related material. There is a lot of goodwill amongst orchid growers, and most experienced growers are only too happy to oblige in talking to other society meetings, not only in their immediate locality, but travelling considerable distances in some instances.

There is, however, a limit to this goodwill. If common courtesies are not

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ORCHIDS IN NEW ZEALAND

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE

ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND

G.S.T. No. 23-074-773

Mr C PERRY
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 Eltham
 Taranaki
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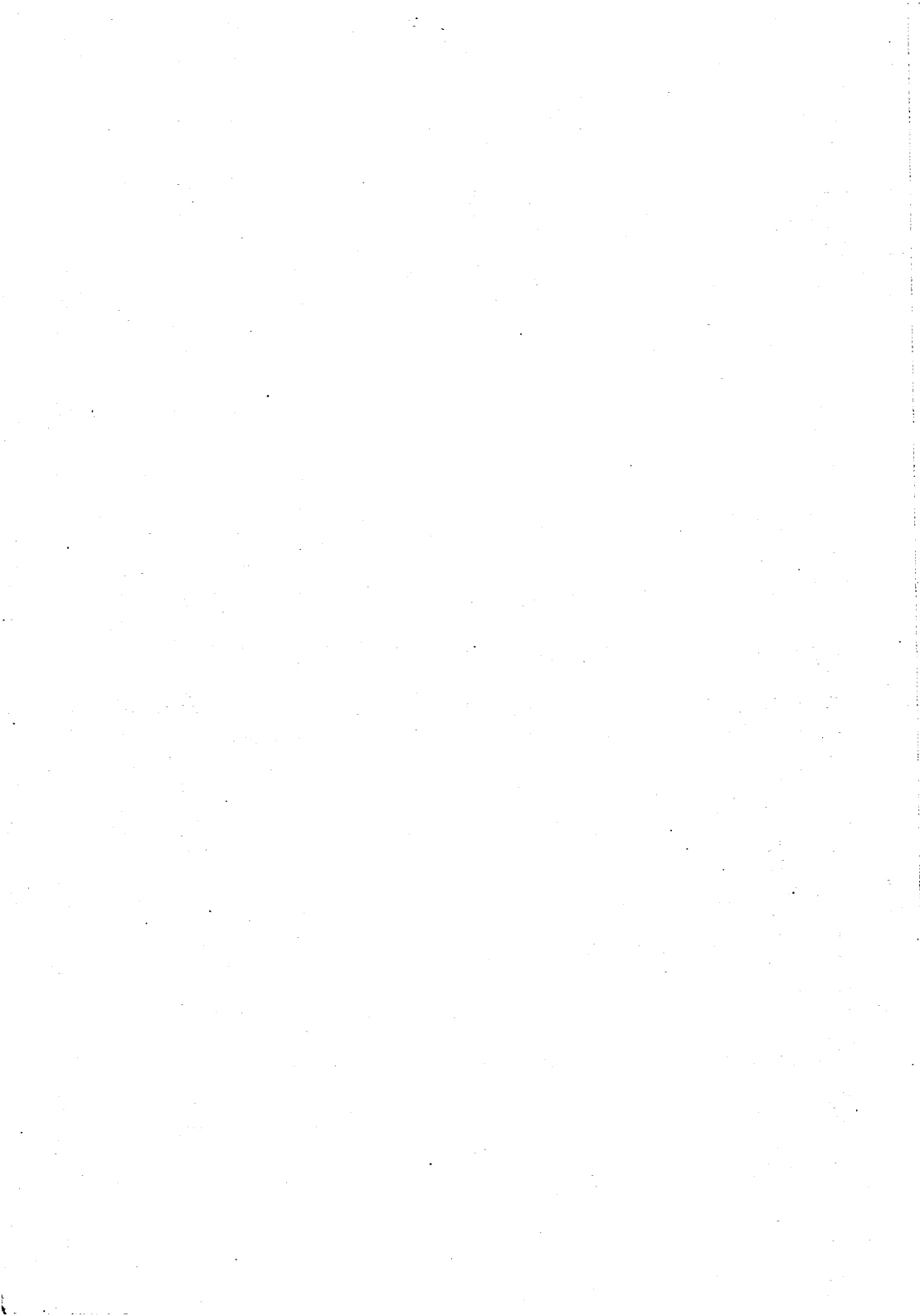
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followed, then societies will find it difficult to get outside speakers. At the last AGM some examples of how some speakers had been treated upset some of those attending the meeting. But the examples were certainly not unique and it is incumbent on all societies to ensure that such unsatisfactory treatment is not repeated.

Those involved in commercial orchid nurseries will speak, but remember that time away from the nursery is money lost. Some of their expenses may be tax deductible, but there are still costs they will have to meet. If a commercial grower is asked to speak to a meeting, isn't it reasonable that he or she be allowed, no, not just allowed, but invited to sell some plants on the sales table. And perhaps it would be nice for someone in the society to help the visitor in this task. But is it reasonable that they then be charged commission on any sales

made? To attend a meeting some distance away could well take up half a days time, so is it not fair for some fair and reasonable recompense to be provided.

I know that some societies offer to provide accommodation and offer petrol vouchers etc. But have you really thought what costs the speaker has incurred. A ten or twenty dollar voucher may look



generous, but for a speaker travelling 150 to 200 km, and with current car costs worked out by the AA at some 70 cents per kilometre, that hardly even covers the petrol costs alone. A commercial dealer may be able sell

some plants to recoup some costs, but what about the poor amateur speaker who has nothing to sell. And many of them may be retired and on a fixed income.

Here we are talking about the end, but do not forget the start. Remember to ensure a proper invitation is offered to the speaker, with full details of time and location. An invitation on the bottom of some other correspondence, "come and speak to our meeting, - phone me and say when you are coming" is hardly appropriate, but that is how one invitation was extended by one society. How would you like to receive such an invitation to your place.

I know most amateur speakers do not look for remuneration, but with the costs of travel in particular that are involved these days it is fair to ensure your speaker is not totally out of pocket.

Where a speaker is initially first contacted by

phone, follow up in writing with details of meeting venue, location of hall etc if the speaker is unfamiliar with the venue. Ensure a parking space is provided and that assistance is offered to set up and take down any equipment required. Such consideration will ensure that the experience of speaking to your society is remembered with pleasure and not distaste.

To do a talk of half an hour or so can involve two or three hours preparation. If you want speakers to come to your society, surely it is not too much to ask that they be

treated reasonably. If this does not happen, you may find increasing difficulties obtaining competitive speakers. Perhaps this may well be the reason some societies are already experiencing difficulties in this regard.

I do not want to be a 'winger' but from a number of comments made recently it is obvious that some speakers have not been treated well. It is important that those invited to speak do prepare themselves fully to provide the best 'performance' possible - and I am sure they generally do, as I have

heard very little criticism of the speakers' presentations. Some societies deservedly have a great reputation for being good hosts, having no difficulty finding speakers. But from what I hear, there are quite a few that do not share this attribute. I hope this is not your society because we all must share the limited resource of good speakers. Orchid growers generally have a very good reputation for friendliness, so let's not spoil that impression by being poor hosts. ▶

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See page 173 for details.

MILTONIA — THE EYECATCHER

The Colombian *Miltonia*, recently reclassified *Miltoniopsis* is a small genus of some five species originating from Costa Rica, Panama, Venezuela, Equador and of course Colombia. From the five species that comprise the genus there have been a myriad of hybrids made in all colours and patterns. The genus is an easy one to grow providing a few simple rules are followed.

As the natural habit of the plants is at and above the 1500 metre level, the plants are ideally grown in good light combined with steady temperatures. In southern Australia this probably means heating to about 12° - 15°C in winter and cooling in summer, which is not always easy to provide in a mixed glasshouse. The plants grow actively in the early autumn period and benefit from good watering and feeding during this time with a decrease as the bulbs mature. From observing plants in my own collection I have noticed that the plants that complete their growth early and then "have a rest" tend to flower the most profusely.

As with most members of the *Oncidiae* tribe, the ideal time to repot these plants is when the new growth is about a quarter the size of a mature bulb and leaf. If not carried out at the right time, it is easy to upset the growth pattern of the plant and if it should cause the plant to flower

"out of season" I find the blooms to be quite sub-standard compared to those flowering in the main season in September — November. It is imperative to keep the plant growing strongly and it seems most beneficial to only leave healthy white roots on the plant when repotting and remove the old back-bulbs and old roots, leaving a vigorous plant.

I repot each two years and generally find I get a better flowering in the second year after potting. The plants can be left in relatively small pots, in fact it is important not to overpot these plants.

An ideal growing medium is composted bark about 4 - 8 mm particle size with about 20% polystyrene granules, to which a small amount of slow release fertiliser and dolomite lime can be added. When the plants are in active growth liquid feeding, weakly, weekly is of great benefit.

It is most important that the plants are kept

reasonably moist at all times, with water frequency greater when the plants are growing, down to 7 - 10 days at other times. When plants are watered it is important that they are *thoroughly* watered.

Flowering

The regular flowering period for these plants is September through to November, but once a reasonable sized collection is obtained it is not uncommon to have plants in bloom throughout the year. It seems that there can be quite a variance in the flower quality even on the same plant from year to year or even from month to month. The conditions that the flowers form in, and importantly, open in, seem to have a marked effect on flower quality. Cooler periods seem to produce the finest quality flowers, where the blooms can open slowly. It is vitally important that the buds and flowers be kept dry — water can ruin the flower in a matter of hours in warm weather. Again it would



Miltonia Bleuana

seem to be of great advantage to have an evaporative cooler in warmer climates to obtain these conditions.

Pests and Diseases

Apart from the "regular" orchid pests such as snails and slugs, the major problem as far as pests is concerned seems to be mealy bug. Regular preventative spraying with the least toxic spray to do the job most adequately, or if your collection is small, the simple cotton-bud and methylated spirits is a good standby. Whatever the problem, regular observation of the plants often can detect a problem long before the damage is done.

Damping-off diseases, *Pythium* and *Phytophthora* also affect the plants in the spring and autumn and systemic fungicide such as Fongarid could be used to advantage.

From just five species there have been countless thousands of hybrids made — now covering a wide range of colour and patterns in the "mask" of the flower.

The influence of *Milt. phalaenopsis*, with the magnificent waterfall patterned labellum has been carried onto hybrids such as *Milt. Celle*, *Milt. Echo Bay* and *Milt. Evergreen Premier*.

Indeed, from the few species there seem to be endless combinations still to be found in tomorrow's seedlings. ◀

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4. - [Wardii 'Papa Aroha' x Maudiae 'Prieta' FCC/AOS]
5. - [Vintners Treasure 'Mem Hazel Brljevich' AM/NZOS x Ernest Read 'Coromandel']

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Awards from the Orchid Council of New Zealand

Part II

By Ross Tucker

Awards granted by the O.C.N.Z. are internationally recognised and respected. The nation wide judging system, allows any orchid to be judged any where throughout the country. If you wish a plant to be judged, please contact your Regional Judging Group through your local society and they will arrange for a judging.

New Zealand is truly the land of cymbidiums, the majority of orchids grown here are cymbidiums and in 1991 there was a wide range of cymbidiums which were awarded.

One Intermediate *Cymbidium*, One Tree Hill 'Waikanae Canary' grown and exhibited by R & C Crosbie of Auckland, a brilliant clear golden yellow with striking red lip, overall width 80mm was awarded an HCC/OCNZ on one spike and 15 blooms. This plant was bred and raised in NZ from a cross of (Coraki x Dolly) and is now readily available as mericlones.

An interesting mutation of *Cym.* Starbright 'Capella' grown by C. Verschoor of Wellington was awarded an AD (Award of Distinction) due to its colour form of a cream/green with brush strokes of light rosy maroon, creating a delicate porcelain effect.

Standard cymbidiums were also awarded, one to Eunice Reardon of New Plymouth for her plant of



Cymbidium One Tree Hill 'Waikanae Canary'
Grower C. Verschoor.



Cymbidium Starbright 'Capella'

Cym. Sensation 'Chianti' 4N. An intense glistening ruby red with an edging of white and a strong lip. Although Sensation 'Chianti' 2N has been available for quite a time the recognition of an improved form and colour of the tetraploid (4N) was the reason for this plant gaining an HCC/OCNZ.

One of the newer hybrids to be awarded in '91 was a cross of (Solana Beach x Lunagrad Elanora) x Peter Dawson 'Ice Cool', grown and exhibited by R. Dix of Auckland. This now famous cross, a brother of which Peter Dawson 'Grenadier', gained the first FCC/NZOS for the NZOS judging; see **Orchids in NZ 1992** for the articles. Peter Dawson 'Ice Cool' was exhibited with 1 spike and 11 flowers grown in an arching spray with a nicely filled in form and a very heavy substance. This form represents today's standard *Cymbidium* for a HCC/OCNZ, overall width 97mm. This plant has been used as a parent and it will be interesting to see some of the results in the near future.

Probably the most impressive *Cymbidium* for '91 was one of the smallest. L & R Orchids of Tuakau again produced one of



Cymbidium Sensation 'Chianti' 4N
Grower E. Reardon Photo George Fuller.

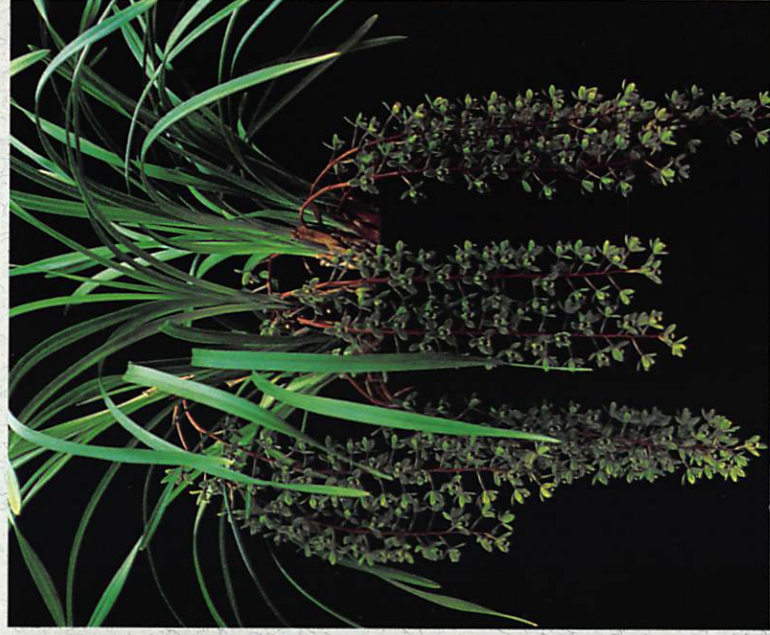


Cymbidium Peter Dawson 'Ice Cool' Grower Ray Dix.

their species masterpieces with *Cymbidium suave* 'L & R' gaining both a CCC (Cultural Certificate) and an AM (Award of Merit) for this fine cultivar. The judges were most impressed with the exceptional depth and clarity of colour, a deep clear green contrasting red/brown banding on the lip and an excellent flower count on a remarkably well grown plant with 12 spikes and over 450 flowers with an average overall width of 23mm.

Although cymbidiums were well represented in awards of '91, their proportion in the total number of awards leads to the question 'where have all the good cymbidiums gone?' We in New Zealand have some of the best and most prolific *Cymbidium* breeders in the world. Do we need to grow more good seedlings and not worry about plants that should have been retired years ago.

Another orchid which has recently been highly awarded here in New Zealand and throughout the world is the Chinese *Paphiopedilum micranthum*. *Paphiopedilum micranthum* gained, with two different cultivars, both an HCC and an AM in '91 *Paph. micranthum* 'Linda' gained an HCC/OCNZ for K. Luff with overall width of 46mm and a much more impressive and worthy



Cymbidium suave 'L & R' Grower L and R Orchids.



Paphiopedilum micranthum 'Glyndale' Grower J. Schofield.

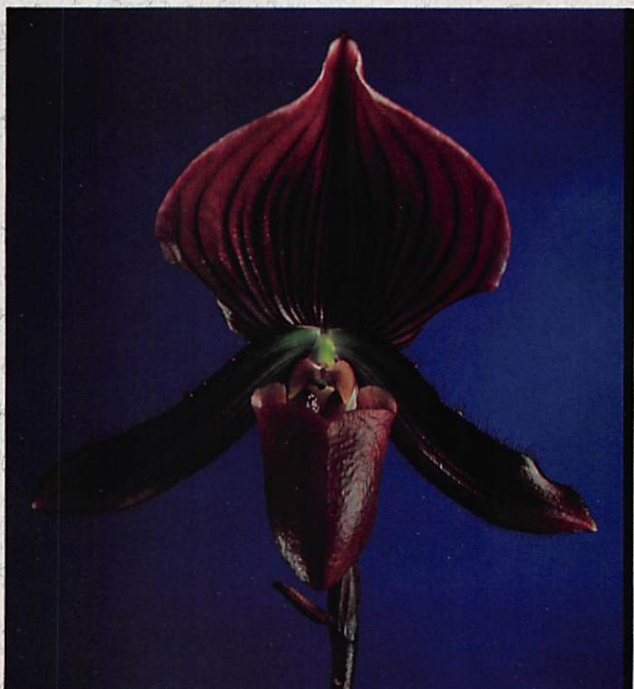
AM/OCNZ to Mr J. Schofield of Taradale for a plant of *Paph. micranthum* 'Glyndale'. This is a clear bright yellow/green colour with claret veining, with a lovely pouch with a tinge of mauve spotting, and an overall size of 72mm.

Another *Paphiopedilum* awarded during '91 was a *Paph. Maudiae* 'B. J' gaining an AM/OCNZ and exhibited by B. Ellmers and J. Smith of Gisborne. One flower a very dark raspberry purple with black veins and a deep purple pouch. These paphs are commonly referred to as a vini-colour; and their colour makes them very striking and noticeable, overall width 120mm.

Paph Shillianum (Gowerianum x *rothschildianum*) 'J. M. Barry' exhibited by P. & W. Stephens of Paraparaumu gained an HCC/OCNZ with a fine flowering of this hybrid with an overall width of 128mm.

The Champion orchid of the Waikato Orchid Society Winter Show, 1991, was *Paph. Coromandel* Gold 'Troy' AM/OCNZ, exhibited by J. R. Blackman of Te Kuiti. This

Right: *Paphiopedilum* Shillianum 'J. M. Barry'
Grower P. J. and W. D. Stephens.



Above: *Paphiopedilum Maudiae* 'B. J.'
Grower B. M. Ellmers & J. J. Smith.



strongly coloured golden yellow with white border on the dorsal created a full and well proportional flower, natural spread of 125mm.

The most heavily awarded genus for '91 was the *Masdevallia Alliance* with many examples of fine species and hybrids awarded. Two growers who have done much to introduce this genus to other New Zealand orchid growers over the past few years have gained recognition with their many awarded plants. I refer to L & R Orchids and C & R Coles, both of whom have received several AM's and HCC's during the past seasons. The last few years have seen this genus appear from its jungles and now become an interesting part of the orchid world as plants and hybrids have become readily available throughout New Zealand.

One of the many fine species to be awarded in New Zealand was *Masdevallia veitchiana* 'Debra Maree' HCC/OCNZ with 7 flowers of cinnabar red overlaid with purple hairs. This plant had exceptionally strong colour and very good substance, exhibited by C & R Coles of New Plymouth.

Another fine species *Masdevallia mucrura* 'Jennie' was grown and



Paphiopedilum Coromandel Gold 'Troy'



Masd. veitchiana 'Debra Maree'

Grower C. Coles

Photo George Fuller.

exhibited by T. & J. Houghton of Feilding. This extremely large 283mm flower exhibited good shape and colour for its type gaining HCC/OCNZ.

Also awarded during 1991 was *Masd.* Kimballiana 'L. & R. Super'. A superior form of this hybrid gained an AM/OCNZ showing exceptional orange/apricot colour overlaid with red/brown hairs and a tremendous form, overall width 46mm. exhibited by L. & R. Orchids of Tuakau.

Masd. Angel Frost 'L. & R. Gold' a splendid hybrid with extremely good form and intense glowing apricot with an overall width of 38mm. Colour earned this plant another AM/OCNZ for its exhibitors L. & R. Orchids of Tuakau.

Also displayed during 91 was a (*Masd. triangularis* x Angel Frost) hybrid, now named Sunny Angel 'Dorothy' by M. Dougherty of Porirua, which gained for its exhibitor and HCC/OCNZ with a well displayed 3 golden yellow flowers of exceptional substance and crystalline texture.

Finally, an extremely well grown and flowered *Masd.* Falcata 'Cliffy's' (*coccinea* x *veitchiana*) colour burnt orange overlaid with thick purple



Masd. macura 'Jenne'
Grower T. E. and J. A. Houghton.



Masd. Kimballiana 'L & R'
Grower L. and R. Orchids.

hairs, gaining its owner C. & R. Coles of New Plymouth an AM and CCC/OCNZ.

It is not yet possible to comment on all of the awarded plants of the OCNZ but in the next few issues I will try and catch up on most. Any of your comments or questions please send to 51 King Edwards Avenue, Bayswater, as we are trying to inform you on some of New Zealand's latest trends and orchids which are gaining prestigious OCNZ awards throughout the years. This is one way in which the Orchid Council is seen to be doing something for the orchid community throughout New Zealand, by allowing any orchids/orchid growers to gain some recognition by way of awards and that we too do grow World Class Orchids.

So don't just sit back and criticize. Why don't you submit your plants to be judged. You will soon learn whether you have a champion or just another orchid. You may also learn to tell the difference, and that will certainly help you grow better orchids.

Ross Tucker
Regional Chairman

Right: *Masd.* Angel Frost
L. & R. Gold



Masd. Sunny Angel 'Dorothy'





Grower C. and R. Coles

Masd. Falcata 'Cliffy's'

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NZOS Awards 1994

This is the second batch of awards made this year for your use and information. I am also compiling a similar list for all 1993 awards but this will take a little more time.

Odbrs. Peggy Mobley
'Bayswater' (Odm.
bictoniense x *Brs. verrucosa*
'Gigantea').

Awarded HCC/NZOS June
15th 1994.

Grower: Ross Tucker.

10 Flowers and 2 buds
on an upright spike almost
1m high. Overall width
97mm, sepals 51mm long
and 12mm wide, petals
67mm long and 10mm
wide, labellum width
32mm. Long and spiky
petals and sepals pale
green overlaid with heavy
dark brown markings.
Paler yellow green
labellum with lace like
brown patterning.

Odm. coronarium 'Golden
Dragon'.

Awarded HCC/NZOS June
15th 1994.

Grower: Cathie Hine.

13 flowers on a long
spike. Overall width
72mm, sepals 31mm long
and 30mm wide, petals
40mm long and 20mm
wide, labellum 36mm
wide. Very glossy bright
red/orange flowers with
serrated edging and fine

Above Right: *Odbrs.* Peggy
Mobley 'Bayswater' Grower
Ross Tucker.

Right: *Odm. coronarium*
'Golden Dragon' Grower Mrs
C. Hine.



yellow margin. The long lip with brown/orange marking flares out to a wide bright yellow tip. The whole plant mounted on a slab.

Z. Unregistered *Grex* 'Lambeth' (Arthur Elle x Helen Ku).

Awarded AM/NZOS June 15th 1994.

Grower: Phylis Paice.

15 flowers and 5 buds on 4 spikes. Overall width 70mm, sepals 43mm long and 19mm wide, petals 37mm long and 17mm wide, labellum 48mm wide. A very well grown and presented plant which earlier was the Grand Champion of the North Shore Orchid Society Winter Show. This and being the first awarded plant that Phylis has grown was a big thrill for her. Hybridised by Norm Porter the deep chocolate brown petals and sepals with a margin of green were set off well by the wide flat white lip heavily overlaid with deep blue/violet veining and suffusion.

Paph. Picture Rock 'Papa Aroha' (Sarella x Diversion).

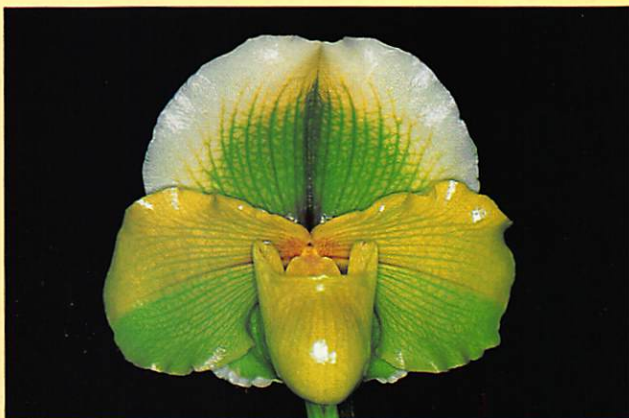
Awarded HCC/NZOS July 7th 1994.

Grower: Papa Aroha Orchids.

2 flowers on 2 stems. Overall width 107mm, dorsal sepal 66mm long and 96mm wide, petals 75mm long and 52mm



Z. unregistered grex 'Lambeth' Grower Mrs P. Paice.



Paphiopedilum Picture Rock 'Papa Aroha' Grower Papa Aroha Orchids.

wide, labellum 34mm wide. This was the Grand Champion Paphiopedilum at the New Zealand Orchid Society winter show, a high quality complex paphiopedilum of very good form and colour. Dorsal was white with apple green veining covering the basal two thirds. Lower half of petals were chartreuse shading into greenish yellow on the top half. Pouch had similar

colouring to the top portion of the petals.

Den. Aussie Starlight 'Emily' (Aussie Ira x *speciosum*).

Awarded HCC/NZOS July 20th 1994.

Grower: Alf Day.

18 flowers well displayed on a tall upright spike. Overall width 35mm, sepals 37mm long and 9mm wide, petals 35mm long and 5mm

wide, labellum width 9mm.

Lemon cream sepals and petals with sepals overlaid carmine on edges and having carmine dots and bars on basal two thirds. Petals having a small carmine bar at the basal end only. The lip is almost solid deep carmine with only a lemon yellow mid line.

A few days earlier Alf Day had exhibited this good example of a modern "Aussie native" hybrid at the Waikato Orchid Society winter show where it was Grand Champion.

Z. Blue Lake 'Galaxy' (*crinitum* x BG White).

Awarded HCC/NZOS July 20th 1994.

Grower: Ross Tucker.

5 flowers on a single spike lime green covered with dark brown mottling over about 80% of sepals and petals. The labellum has a base white with purple veining.

This is a plant from Ross Tuckers successful cross which received a Plant Breeders Award last year, and well up to the standard displayed by the six plants for that award.

R. W. Dix.



Z. (Arthur Elle x Helen Ku)

Grower Mrs P. Paice.



Dendrobium Aussie Starlight 'Emily' Grower Alf Day.

Levin Display

Levin South Rotary held a Trade and Hobbies Expo in Levin during the May school holidays for three days to show our town what was available to them.

Our orchid club decided to join the display to show our community what we did. Along with groups from cake icing, model aeroplanes, model steam engines, spinners and weavers, photography, needlework plus several other hobby groups we set up on the Thursday afternoon. Not ever having set up a display this was a big challenge for me. After a couple of hours of moving, shifting because it didn't look right, we were

ready for the public to come in on Friday.

We had a real variety of genera including Cats, Vandas, Cymbis, Paphs, Aussie Dens and several other genera. One side of the display was in the yellow and green colours and the other side were in pinks and blues. We also displayed several orchid books on the table for interested people to view and gave away flyers with information about our society.

Our display was manned over the three days by members of our society. Whether we are lucky enough to get any new members only time will tell, but at least we were in front of the public eye to be seen. There were a lot of people through the show in the three days and a lot of interest was shown in our display.

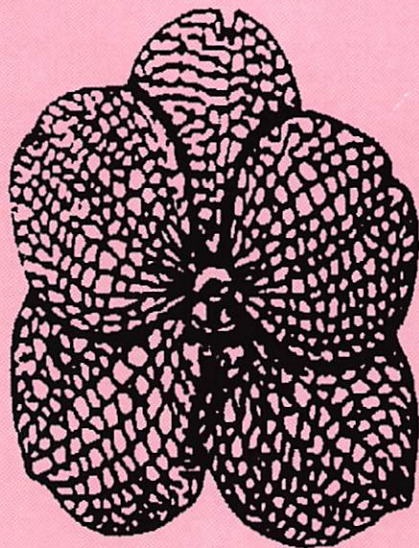


Levin Display.



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MARLBOROUGH ORCHID SOCIETY DISPLAY

Our society, with our membership declining, has had to think of ways to raise funds and hopefully promote orchids, and encourage public interest. This has been very successful. Starting from humble beginnings to our recent effort, interest had indeed grown. We have a strong group of hard working members who baked, made sweets, manned our stalls and raffles, and their efforts will go a long way towards us being able to attend the 1995 Expo in Palmerston North and other events.

The public interest in our orchid display, which we always stage at these promotions, is very favourable, and we hopefully will encourage a few new members. The following photo was taken at a recent promotion and stall held in a local shopping mall.

Isobel Sheet
Secretary
Marlborough Orchid Society



Marlborough Orchid Society sale and promotion of orchids held at a local shopping mall during two days in September 1994.

ORCHID OF THE YEAR 1994

The following are some cultural notes on the Orchid of The Year announced in the last issue

This years ORCHID OF THE YEAR was awarded to Mike Hart of Auckland's North Shore Orchid Society. The plant awarded was *Phag. cordatum*. It achieved a high Award of Merit from the Orchid Council Judging Panel, and most certainly deserved its honours.

The plant was exceptionally well grown, and when exhibited had flower dimensions exceeding similar plants when they were awarded.

Its form is very interesting, having long petals dangling down which allow pollinators to climb up and fertilise the flowers. It was purchased as a seedling from L and R Orchids, Tuakau.

Mike's culture includes growing in a warm house

with a temperature range between 12°C to 28°C, with high humidity maintained during the warmer months. Fans maintain air movement continually. The plant is grown in a 50/50 mix of fine bark and ponga fibre. The plant is watered more heavily than paphiopedilums in the same house. The feeding programme is liquid fertilisers, alternating with Nitrasol, Brigitta or Lush once a week during the summer, and reduced to

once every three weeks during the winter, all at 50% of the manufacturers recommended strength. It is pleasing to note that such a fine form of *Phagmedidium cordatum* species was voted superior to the many modern hybrids, and that species of this quality can still achieve such honour. Special mention must be made of the brilliant photography of Val. Bayliss for capturing such a special plant.

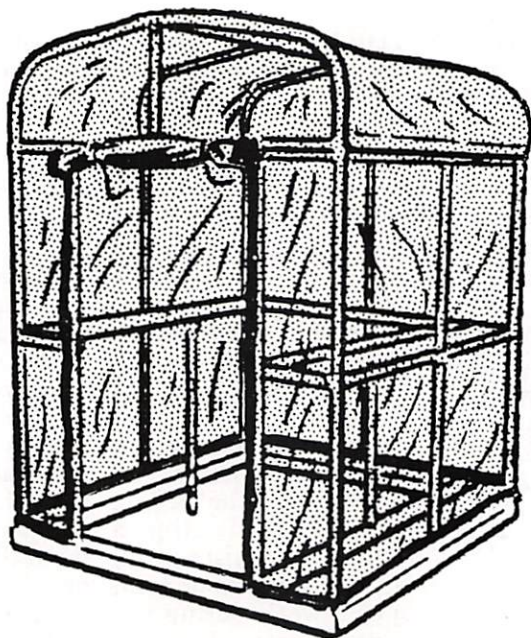
CULTURAL ORCHID OF THE YEAR 1994

This years Cultural Plant of the Year was awarded to H. Woltman of Wellington, for the plant *Phalaenopsis schillerianum*.

This plant achieved a Certificate of Cultural Commendation (CCC) from the Orchid Council Judging Panel, for its magnificent display of flowers. As you would expect the plant exhibited superior culture from the grower, with the plant displaying its flowers to perfection.

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12 Months to go and counting!

The details for a number of the activities at the Expo have now been finalised and this newsletter will help to bring you up to date.

Please assist us by making sure that this information is passed on to your Society members - we are both wasting time if this is just filed away to be referred to as inward correspondence at your next Committee meeting!

FLORAL ART:

Within the Show Schedule there will be a section for financial members of an orchid society to exhibit their floral art and we would encourage everyone with an interest in this subject to enter. This is to be an open competition with six classes - remember the show theme "Essentially Orchids". Be planning your designs now and watch for the class titles in the Show Schedule.

NEEDLEWORK:

We can confirm that the needlework display indicated in our last newsletter will be held. The information included here should be enough for intending participants to get started.

Three different classes of hand needlecraft will be accepted - counting cross-stitch, embroidery and tapestry. All entries will be

required to be mounted or framed.

This will be a non competitive display which is not judged as we feel that it will be difficult to gauge the number of entries in a new field which has a wide variation of styles.

ACCOMMODATION:

A number of people have advised that they have been having difficulty in arranging motel accommodation for the show. Quite simply this is because the committee have made a block booking of over 250 beds which are being held for registrants. It is also one of the reasons we wanted the pre-registration forms which were included in the last newsletter completed and returned.

None of the motels booked are more than 2.5km from the venue and a number are within a comfortable walking distance.

TOURS:

Much of the detail for sightseeing and conference tours has now been completed. To give you an idea of what will be

available we are listing a summary of them below;

Half Day Tours

- OE1 City Tour AM
- OE2 City Tour PM
- OE3 Tokomaru Steam Engine/Kairanga Craft Cottage
- OE4 Night Tour - Dinner & Movies in the old style

Full Day Tours -

- OE5 Cross Hills Gardens/Westoe Gardens/Ohakea Museum
- OE6 Tokomaru Steam Engine/Flaxville Miniature Village/Foxton
- OE7 Southward car Museum/Lindale
- OE8 Colenso Memorial Tour
- OE9 Hawkes Bay Wine trail

Five Day Post Conference Tour -

- OE10 North Island Tour terminates in Auckland

Seven Day Post Conference Tour -

- OE11 South Island Tour terminates in Christchurch

SPEAKERS:

The members of the speakers committee have spent a lot of time over recent months trying to arrange a speakers programme which while being interesting and informative will also be right up to date with what is currently going on in the orchid world.

We are aiming to provide a balanced team of local and overseas speakers with talks about orchids that you will just not want to miss.

At this stage the following overseas speakers have confirmed their acceptance;

Ray Clements *Aust.*
Australian native orchids

John Hainsworth *U.K.*
Odontoglossums

Clive Halls *Aust.*
Species

Kevin Hipkins *Aust.*
Cattleyas

Bill Livingstone *U.S.A.*
Phalaenopsis

Gerald McGraith *Aust.*
Odontoglossums

Nicky Zurcher *Aust.*
Paphs and phrags

SPONSORSHIP:

The travel firm of Russell & Somers has recently been acquired by Air New Zealand and as a result of this Air New Zealand have now become our principal sponsor. We

have appreciated their assistance and support particularly with regard to the initial raffle prizes and the overseas speakers.

BADGE CORNER:

The Badgeaholics will be active at the Expo and an area in the Commercial Sales section has been set aside for their display and swappers corner. We understand that they are planning to arrange a silent auction and will provide more information as the details are available.

DISPLAY AREA:

The response for display space has been excellent and at this time over 90% of the 40,000 square feet of display area has been allocated.

We will be seeing orchid displays from orchid societies, commercial orchid nurseries and individual growers. There will also be displays of orchid theme material - badges, stamps and needlework. The floral art area will involve six classes by orchid society members and also the Designer of the Year competition for members of floral art societies from the lower half of the North Island.

COMMERCIAL SALES AREA:

At the present time about half of the available commercial area has been

allocated with the majority of that space having been taken by commercial nurseries and societies.

We are arranging for the commercial sales area to be open to registrants only from 9am each morning so you will have 1 hour each morning before the public have access to the area.

EXPO BADGE:

Supplies of the pre - Conference Badge are still available and may be obtained by writing direct to the Secretary at Box 181 Palmerston North.

The price is \$7.50 each - payment with order please.

Supplies are limited so you will need to place your orders quickly not to miss out.

Graham Jackson
Publicity Convenor.



Show Badge



3rd International Orchid Show Expo venue Palmerston North.



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HOURS

MONDAY — FRIDAY 8.00 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

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COOL FLOWERING ORCHIDS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

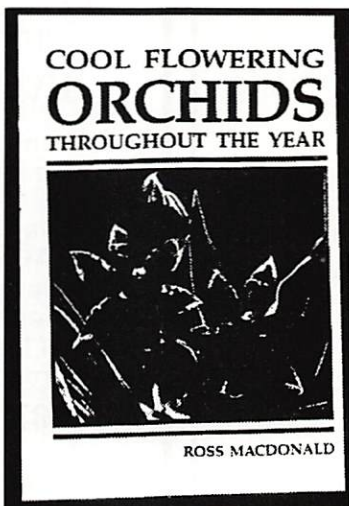
By Ross Macdonald

There is a real shortage of home grown orchid books - for New Zealanders by New Zealanders. It is great to see this new addition to your libraries written by Ross Macdonald of Wanganui.

Ross is a primary school principal who has had a lifelong interest in natural history, and in orchids in particular over the last 10 years. He is a member of the Wanganui Orchid Society. His interest in orchids and photography have been combined in the production of this book.

This publication is about culture, although the prime concentration is on time of flowering - the contents are broken into 4 flowering season groupings. This is a unique presentation, and one that will be of interest to many growers, especially those who are looking to select plants flowering at a specific time of the year.

The concept is a good one, but with the wide environmental spread throughout the country, it is perhaps unfortunate



that no effort has been made to indicate the variation that could be

expected throughout the country. The value of the book could have been significantly enhanced if data along these lines could have been included. Orchids are perhaps unique for plants in that a substantial amount of flowering information has been published in the numerous orchid society magazines, from all parts of the country. I would think that there would have been sufficient information on similar plants for some interesting conclusions to be reached.

This book is primarily a picture book. Overall the standard of photography is good, although some of the backgrounds are

distracting, some-what spoiling what otherwise would have been an impressive publication. There are several photographs which have been printed with the wrong orientation, but only a few which stand out in this regard. For scope of the book this is, a commendable effort as

most printers have absolutely no idea what an orchid should really look like.

Unfortunately some inconsistency in the type setting of some of names is distracting, but never the less the book is a great 'browse', and will appeal to a wide range of readers.

The book, which is available direct from the author, will find a ready place in the libraries of both orchid societies and individuals.

Local authors deserve support, and I hope that this publication receives the support it deserves.

Don't forget the

ORCHID PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

in conjunction with the 3rd International Orchid Expo
Palmerston North 1995



See page 173 for details.

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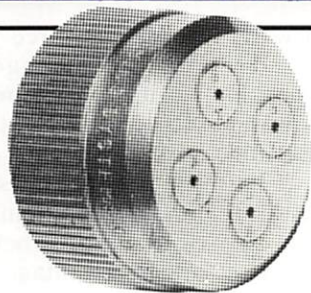
An essential reference book for all those with an interest in this Genera. This well illustrated book was written by the late Fred Alcorn of MACAMA Orchids and subsequently published by Mrs Alcorn and Michael Hallett.
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Ideas from the Dutch for a Orchid Specialist

While visiting Norm Porter Orchids in Waikanae to see his new hybrids and study his breeding program, a consortium of Dutch orchid growers suggested to Norm that he should utilise unused hothouse space below the roofing to grow additional plants. They also advised him to improve his heating system to enable the plants to grow faster and flower earlier.

Norm has been growing orchids for 36 years and is one of the country's leading breeders. The result of his discussions with the Dutch is 1,500 extra plants growing in plastic troughs suspended from the ceiling, and two new 100,000 b.t.u Pulse-System Gas Heating units. The heaters are so efficient they vent via plastic chimneys.

As an incentive to switch to gas, the Natural Gas Corporation provided a full advisory service and the entire installation, including ducting, wiring, thermostats and piping at a heavily subsidised cost. The heaters don't have a flame; the heat comes in pulses from explosions and I am told the principle is the same as the pulse jet engines in the Nazis V1 Flying Bombs (or Doodlebugs) directed at London in 1944-45.

An overhead benching system was built with the suspended plants in tapered pots sitting in holes cut into Marley rectangular PVC rainwater downpiping. Each plant

receives 20 mls of water and nutrients 3 times a day via an individual trickle feed. Any surplus water drains into the pipe and runs out the end. It has only been installed 3 months and already the roots are down to the bottom of the pots. Using this system with heat the Dutch growers flower their plants in two years from flask on plants large enough to give them a pretty good evaluation of their future potential.

The orchids are *Cymbidium* hybrid seedlings and come from Norm's stud plants. He crosses selected plants and allows their flowers to develop seed pods, each containing about two million seeds. The pods are sent to a commercial laboratory in Napier where Ross Taylor of South Pacific Orchids germinates as many as Norm requires and then disposes of the rest of the seeds.

In approximately 6 years time the seedlings come back in agee jars, 45 per jar. Then they are grown in the seedling

house for three years to flowering stage when Norm can see the results. "Its a bit like selecting from a litter of kittens or pups, you keep the ones you like the look of, but in the case of cybidiums there is the added advantage that you can take into account the ploidy or chromosome count and with the advent of new calchacine converted tetraploids, the results are more predicable and of more constant quality".

As Norm grows 40-120 seedlings from each cross to flowering the chance of flowering a good one from his "Litters" are greatly increased. The selected ones are then grown on and flowered for another 1-2 years to evaluate, then a decision is made as to whether they are good enough to clone for the cut flower or hobbies plant trade.

Other commercial growers have shown interest in his new system and Norm is kept busy advising them on the finer details. ◀

SOCIETY SHOW DATES 1995

**SHOW
1995
DATES**

DATE	SOCIETY	VENUE, ADDRESS
January 6, 7, 8	TARANAKI	Details to be announced
May 28	WAIKATO	Chartwell Seminar Room, Hamilton Gardens Pavillion, Cobham Drive, Hamilton
April 8	MANAWATU	Senior Citizens Hall, Bowen Street, Feilding
April 22	LEVIN	Methodist Church Hall, Kent Street, Levin
April 22, 23	BAY OF PLENTY	25th Anniversary Show Te Puke Memorial Hall, Jellicoe Street, Te Puke
August 5, 6	WAIKATO	Chartwell Seminar Room, Hamilton Gardens Pavillion, Cobham Drive, Hamilton
Sept 9	NORTH OTAGO	St Patricks Hall, Oamaaru

*All societies are offered the free listing of their current years 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.
Details should be forwarded to the Secretary of OCNZ.; if publication dates are close always advise the Editor direct.*

ISSUE	REQUIRED BY	ISSUE	REQUIRED BY
MARCH	1 JANUARY	SEPTEMBER	1 JULY
JUNE	1 APRIL	DECEMBER	1 OCTOBER



Norm Porter holding section of downpipe with plant, note gap for drainage.

N.Z.O.S. Show July 1994

The annual Winter Show of the **New Zealand Orchid Society** was held at the Mount Albert War Memorial Hall from July 8th to 10th. There was a magnificent display of top quality orchids on show with the Grand Champion *Cym. Peter Dawson 'Grenadier'* FCC/NZOS. This was the same plant that won in 1993 then obtaining the first FCC ever recommended for a *Cymbidium* in New Zealand. It was again exhibited by Neville and Rose Armstrong.

The grand Champion *Paphiopedilum* was *Paph. Picture Rock 'Papa Aroha'* grown by Barry Fraser of Papa Aroha Orchids.

In the display section where the theme was "Promise of Spring", the winning exhibit, depicting a spring bride, was by the New Zealand branch of the Cymbidium Society of America; second was the NZOS exhibit and third the South Auckland Orchid Society.

Attracting particular interest was a display of Australian Native *Dendrobiums* exhibited by Neville and Rose Armstrong and Alystair Duthie.

Dennis Bonham.



NZOS Winter Show - NZOS Display.



NZOS Winter Show CSA stand.



NZOS Winter Show Duthie and Armstrong display.

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Plant breeders Award to Andy Easton

The plant raisers Award granted by the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc.) Lincoln University of Canterbury is presented to any nominated individual or organisation, who has raised in New Zealand a cultivar considered to be sufficiently meritorious. The award shall consist of an inscribed metal. NOTE:- a cultivated plant which is distinguished by any characters significant for the purpose of horticulture and which when reproduced sexually or asexually, retains its distinguishing features. The terms cultivar and variety are synonymous for this award.

Some recent awards have been made to Camellia, Osteospermum, Alstromeria, nerine and callas.

The 1963, our late friend Bert Blumhardt was awarded the silver medal for his two miniature cymbidiums; - 'Little Kiwi' and 'Little Tiki'. These were the first New Zealand raised and registered *cymbidium* crosses and they were amongst the earliest *cymbidium* hybrids which were just making their appearance in America. We are pleased to say that both these cultivars are growing in Alf Day's collection.

The Plant Raisers Award was presented to Andrew Easton of Geyserland Orchids, Rotorua, New Zealand, by Dr. Ross Ferguson, president of the R.N.Z.I.H. This occasion was hosted by the South



Frank Brljevich, Andrew Easton and Ron Ferguson
(from RNZIH).

Auckland Orchid Society at their Christmas 1993 meeting, attended by many friends, family and well wishers. Frank Brijevich gave a outline of Andrew's involvement in orchids, both at home and overseas and offered congratulations on behalf of all.

Dr. Ferguson outlined some of the activities of the R.N.Z.I.H. and then presented Andrew with his inscribed silver medal. The two clones selected are *Cym. Tracey reddaway* 'Geyserland' and *Cym. Geysergold*. As a memento of this happy

evening, the society then invited Mrs Amy Hassock, the most senior member, to present two framed photos.

Amongst those present were Jane Easton and her parents Edna and Roger Foster; Maree Ballard and Heather and Wally Steen. From Thames several members of the R.N.Z.I.H. were there to offer their congratulations; - with Dr. Ross Ferguson were Dr. Rod Bieleski; a society member; Brian Buchanan; manager; and Roger Price; Education Officer from the Auckland's Regional Botanic Gardens.

The O.C.N.Z. was represented by V.P. Joe Vance;- five presidents of the local orchid societies together with the Cymbidium Society of America representatives. Two special guests. Derek King (ex Continental Airlines) who steered many orchid visitors and boxes of flavours through Mangere International and Murray Anderson who worked with Andrew both in Santa Barbara, California and at Geyserland Orchids also attended.

A truly memorable evening. ◀



Tony Ballard, Andrew Easton and Cliff Hutchings.

TARANAKI SUMMER ORCHID DISPLAY

Central School — 7th and 8th January 1995

The Taranaki Orchid Society again extends an invitation to join in this unique event. Orchids seldom otherwise seen on display, notably Disas and summer-flowering Masdevallias are featured. Share in a fun weekend, and be prepared to join in the monster boot sale of orchid plants for sale and/or display. No competition.

ILLUMINATIONS

The spectacular lighting effects of Pukekura Park and the city are unexcelled.

SPECIALIST GROUP MEETINGS

During the weekend, opportunity is afforded for specialist groups to gather for discussions.

CHARGES

All weekend, including lunches, morning and afternoon teas and Saturday evening meal, \$30. Saturday only \$25. Saturday night only, \$20. Full details and registration form available from our local society secretary or as below. Deadline 31st December, 1994.

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The Environment

by Alf Day

We all visit orchid shows, oooh, and aaaaah, and enthuse over this bloom and that flower, don't we. That is natural when orchids are your hobby and they are such beautiful flowers.

Each exhibitor has taken their plants along to be a challenge for a red, blue, or a yellow place card. The orchids are happy there, for the two or three days of the show as well. What have these plants come from, where are they going back to, and most of all, what about all those plants which are bought from the sales table.

Is this where we slip up? Are we doing things in the right order? The more senior hobbyists have sorted this out long ago. There are, however, several of us who have yet to decide on which genera to stick with. A mixed collection is fine, as long as the grower had done his/her homework and is providing the appropriate conditions for the genera that is being grown. For example, I endeavour to keep with genera which are cool growing and require similar growing conditions. I slip up at times and have had some deaths, but my

plants seem to have remarkable stamina! Then again, there might be something done correctly.

Heat applied during the three or more colder months, could help give some genera a twelve month growing period. On the other end of the scale, there are genera which have to have a rest period for ripening — as do some *dendrobiums*, or for seasonal climatic reasons as do pleione. Sometimes, placing pleione in the refrigerator induces it to think it is at home in the Himalayas.

Phalaenopsis will not tolerate conditions which *Cymbidiums* enjoy. If you wish to grow these two, then something is going to be done so you are able to enjoy both species. This is where ingenuity comes to the fore.

We have a wonderful library, and a helpful librarian, so that is where you can find a host of information on how to get the best growing conditions for the genera you wish to grow. There are general information books, and there are books on a single genera. This is your major source of "how to do it!" It is also the cheapest!

It has been proven more than once, that each of us can grow a species better than another member of our society. Each of our properties has a mini-climate which another has not. This is where your membership with our society is so enjoyable and exciting as well as helpful.

Some species will continue to grow without a rest period, and are capable of growing, and flowering at the same time. Perry Reichardt has shown one of this type at one of our monthly displays. Given the suitable conditions, think of the joy a plant like this can give you.

Should you decide to stick to one genera, read all you can on it and speak to society members, or an orchid grower who specialises in that genera, and if possible, visit them to see how that genera are responding to the growing conditions given them. Listen to discussions, advice, and methods, then think, and follow what seems logical to you.

Remember that some species have moist clouds around them so combine



Dendrobium falcorostrum
Grower Gordon Watchman.



Dtps. Maufant 'Trinity'.

that with air movement, semi-shade, and open medium, you should be close to emulating some growing conditions. Low humidity in the hotter months will cause rapid dehydration of the plant because the plant is losing more moisture than is being taken in. In these conditions, try to keep the ground or area beneath the orchids moist so that evaporation will help the humidity. ◀

From Howick
Orchid Society Newsletter
October 1992

Epiphronitis Veitchii

An early bigeneric hybrid orchid not infrequently seen in choice collections today is *Epiphronitis* Veitchii. This interesting and beautiful little plant, a cross between *Epidendrum ibaguense* (*E. radicans*) and *Sophronitis coccinea*, was originally produced in the Veitch Nurseries in England in the year 1890. Since that time it has become quite popular in many parts of the orchid world, due to its profuse flowering habits and relatively simple growth requirements. As soon as one spike of the brilliant orange-red flowers has stopped producing blooms, another usually takes its

place; thus in some cases the plant retains blossoms almost all year round.

The general habit of the plant is that of the *Epidendrum* parent, but the floral shape and colour is much like that of the *Sophronitis*. Due to this latter influence, the plant is dwarf, generally attaining a height of only about 200 mm when not in flower. The stems are leafy, the foliage being alternate, from 25 - 50 mm long, and up to about 20 mm across, ovatelanceolate in shape, obtuse at the apex, and rather leathery in texture.

The inflorescence is terminal, about as long as the leafy portion of the stem, occasionally branching with age, and bears a few — to many — flowered raceme at the apex. It is almost covered by long sheathing bracts. The flowers are over 35 mm across, 40 mm long, and rather long-lived. The sepals and petals greatly illustrate the influence of the *Sophronitis* parent being almost of an identical colour and shaped very much like it. They are of a sparkling orange-red colour, as is also the lip, which has a bright area on the disc, which in turn has a few scattered little blood-red spots, a raised lined yellow callus down the middle, and two lateral calli at the tip of the column. The column is curved, orange at the base,

shading to bright yellow at the apex, and irregularly toothed at the tip.

This beautiful little plant is a most satisfactory orchid for the small collection, since it is so profuse in its flowering habits, and the blossoms when attractively arranged, form a pretty corsage or bouquet. The stems should be severed below a couple of roots each year after flowering, and replanted in fresh compost for best flower production. *Epiphronitis* Veitchii always adds a spot of colour to a greenhouse, and few orchids can equal it for abundance of blooms over such a long period of time.

Ronnie Wilson

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How to Sow Orchid Seed without Flasks

Some years ago some of us tried this with varied degrees of success. If you have a pod handy why not have a go, the cost is minimal but the satisfaction with success is great! Here's how. You need a medium sized flower pot (clay or plastic but I found a clay pot much better), a strip of towelling, some washed river shingle from the size of almonds to small walnuts, a small amount of fresh growing sphagnum moss.

Method:

1. Boil the towelling, then rinse it in clean water — then line the scrubbed clean pot so that the towelling reaches the rim — trim off any surplus towelling. Place the stones in the pot to within about 30 mm of the rim.
- 2) Sterilise a saucer, then take the ends off some of the growing roots of the pod plant, and crush them in the saucer — add some cooled boiled water and dabble the moss in this solution before laying it on the stones.
- 3) Now scatter the seed on the strands of moss and immerse the pot into a container of clean water reaching three quarters of the way to the rim. Drain this for a few minutes then insert it into a clean clear plastic bag, blow into it, and tie the top tightly.
- 4) You may peep into the bag in about three weeks — if no tiny

green beads are visible, blow into the bag again and retie the top tightly. Try again in another three weeks.

Notes regarding this exercise:

- (a) Not suitable for cold weather.
- (b) Pot should be in a well lit position but not in direct sunlight.
- (c) This method is not suitable for *cymbidiums* and complex crosses e.g. *Blc.* etc.
- (d) *Epidendrums (crucifix)*, native orchids, or two species from the same family crossed would be more likely to succeed.
- (e) Explanation of moss processing above — the growing tips of the roots contain a minute fungus which is common to the particular orchid from which the seed came and this fungus is known to assist the growth of these seeds. I had great success using

Pods from *Epidendrum radicans (crucifix)*.

- *i) I have read that *Epidendrum seed* scattered on the crown of a maidenhair fern and then carefully watered will germinate and grow.
- ii) *Epidendrum seed* scattered around the base of its own plant will often germinate and grow.

*Anyone interested in *propagating ferns?* Many of us grow these under our benches and right now spores are appearing on some varieties. You need a clean brick or scoria, some fresh clean peat and the fern leaf containing spore. Now, sterilise and cool the brick and place it in a container containing water, sprinkle peat on top then lay the fern leaf spore side down on the brick. Put the container in a large clear plastic bag and tie the end. Keep it in a warm sheltered place and await results. ◀

From Poverty Bay
East Coast
Orchid Society Newsletter
January 1992

HUMIDITY

Humidity is the word used to describe the amount of water vapour in the air. Water vapour is water in its gaseous form and any sample of natural air will contain some water vapour.

Water vapour is colourless and therefore invisible. Cloud is not water vapour, it is very fine liquid water droplets small enough to defy gravity. When the water droplets join together the size of the drops increases, gravity intervenes, and it rains.

At any temperature there is a maximum amount of water vapour that can be held in the air, and this amount increases as the temperature increases. The ratio of the actual amount of water vapour in the air, compared with the maximum amount that could be held is called the relative humidity (R.H.), and is usually expressed as a percentage. As an example, at 10 degrees C. approximately 9.5 grams of water vapour will saturate a cubic metre of air, that is achieve 100% R.H. If the same air only contains 4.75 grams of water vapour then it is said to have a R.H. of 50%.

We have already said that as the temperature of a sample of air increases so does its ability to hold more water vapour at 10°C

and 17.5 grams at 20°C. Therefore if the R.H. of the air sample at 10°C is 100%, and it is warmed to 20°C without excess to additional water, its R.H. drops to 54%.

Measuring R.H. accurately is difficult, partly because the base to measure against varies as the temperature varies, and partly because 10-20 grams of water vapour in a cubic metre of air is a fairly intangible thing to do anything with anyway.

Fortunately orchid growers are satisfied with R.H.s expressed in broad terms, such as between 50 and 70% and so any of the commonly available instruments designed to measure R.H. will achieve an accuracy sufficient for orchid culture.

The level of R.H. in the air at any particular time is the balance of interacting relationships including energy availability, atmosphere pressure and water availability. In general terms we experience high R. H. when warm moist air cools (tropical depressions moving south on to New Zealand) or where there is

good access to liquid water (in mist or adjacent to wet ground on a warm day). Low R.H. occurs when cool dry air is warmed (a southerly on a warm sunny day) or where there is a lack of water to evaporate into water vapour.

Applying these generalisations very simply to a daily cycle we experience rising R.H. in the evening as the temperature drops; this is manifested by dampness in the air and dew on the ground. In the morning the temperature rises and the R.H. falls to a level depending on the balance between available water to evaporate (dew, wet foliage, puddles etc), and the speed at which the temperature rises.

I will now try and relate this information to glasshouses through my own experiences.

I started growing orchids because I had a glasshouse. My first orchids, a mixture of genera mostly bought from the Society's sales and watered only when the compost is fairly dry. Having read so many times that more plants are

killed from overwatering etc. I was not going to fall into that trap. Before leaving home each day, especially in the summer, I would open up the glasshouse with the door, the windows, and the vents open to allow the wind to ventilate the plants, and to keep the interior of the house reasonably cool. However the temperature still managed to rise into the 30's, which in itself, and according to the books, was acceptable. But — all my orchids, particularly the odontoglossum hybrids, dried up, and in some cases died.

What I did not appreciate until I started measuring humidity was that the R.H. in the glasshouse was falling rapidly as the temperature rose. Normal Karori (better than Ngaio) air was entering the glasshouse at probably 18°C with a R.H. of say 40%. Through the glass the sun was heating it to maybe 33°C with little or no additional water vapour. The R.H. plummeted to around 10% and the plants were well and truly baked.

Naturally things had to change but they did so more by evolution than by instant action. I stopped buying odonts which considerably reduced the risk. At about the same time my wife came home with a large fan purchased in a sale. That stirred up

the air fairly well and cut out the need to rely on natural sources.

At the same time I was loath to increase the shading because the local micro-climate is on the cool side due to being 600 feet above sea level, and we experience more cloud than average from the Wellington region. To achieve a full season's growth during the summer I need maximum growth, ie. maximum light, warmth and food consistent with growing sturdy plants.

Time solved the shade problem as the cherry tree overhanging the glasshouse continued to grow and extend its dappled shading effect over the house. With a little judicious pruning to let the light in early in the morning it is quite effective. During the winter it sheds its leaves and allows stronger light into the house.

Initially I dealt with the humidity problem by spraying whenever possible, but finally, and unintentionally, by a more permanent method. Sometime ago Russ Wilkins gave a talk on using sand beds, with soil warming cables in them, to grow orchids on. Much later I got round to building them. The house is a 8 x 12 Eden and there is now about 65 square feet of wet sand supporting a

mixture of genera and, more importantly for the purposes of this article, assisting with humidity maintenance. In a day or two sufficient water can evaporate from the bed to dry out the top inch or so or the sand.

Now the routine is different. Before leaving home in the morning I check that the sand is wet, and usually close the door behind me. Vents and windows have long been lost behind bubble plastic. The temperatures still go up into the low/mid thirties but the humidity is maintained. In the evening, while I am having a wander round, the house is ventilated to maintain reasonable humidity levels during the night.

The odonts have returned.

M. F. Davison
Reprinted from
Capital City Orchid Society
Newsletter March 1991

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Annual General Meeting and Executive Committee Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held in Palmerston North on Saturday 18 June 1994 and was attended by 36 delegates and a large following of observers from Manawatu and elsewhere. The executive Committee met on the Friday to complete arrangements for the A.G.M. The new committee met early on Sunday morning to attend to any urgent business and appoint the new sub-committees for the ensuing year. The following items from those meetings may be of interest to your committee and society members.

A special General Meeting was held prior to the A.G.M. to consider the motion that was moved by the Council Executive Committee to reduce the committee members from seven to five. The motion was fully discussed and passed unanimously.

Annual General Meeting - Election of Officers

The following officers were elected for the coming year.

Patron - Dame Catherine Tizard

President - Patricia Elms

Vice President - Harold Bayram and Joe Vance

Secretary - Lyn Sherlock

Treasurer - Graham Jackson

Committee: Bernie Killington, Rod Marshall, John Scott, Ross Tucker, Joy Wray.

Sub Committees: Magazine - Patricia Elms, Graham Jackson, Lyn Sherlock, Phil Tomlinson (Editor), John Scott (Auckland Rep).

Speakers Fund: Joy Wray, Harold Bayram (Assistant).

Service Recognition Committee: Joe Vance (Chairman), Bernie Killington, Ross Tucker.

Liaison Officer: Roy Clareburt.

National Liaison Officers: Bernie Killington, Rod Marshall, John Scott, Ross Tucker, Joy Wray.

Newsletter/Publicity Officer: Joe Vance.

Orchid Foundation Trust: Jack Hart (Secretary), Roy Clareburt, Joe Vance.

Committee on Awards: Dennis Bonham (Chairman), Harold Bayram, Patricia Elms, Joy Wray, Regional Chairman Farnie Johnson, Ross Marks, Peter Fisher.

NZAAA Rep: Rod Marshall.

A.G.M. Organisation

The executive and delegates would like to thank officers and members of the Manawatu Orchid Society for the warm welcome and organisation of the A.G.M. and social events. All functions were well attended. A special thanks to those who opened their

glasshouses on Sunday and supplied lunch and cups of tea on the way round on a cold and wet day.

A.G.M. Delegates

The Executive would like to thank those societies who sent delegates and we hope that the delegates will report back on the proceedings of the meeting. A number of apologies were received from societies not attending.

Remits

- i.) Wellington orchid Society: Resource Kit (carried)
- ii) Wellington Orchid Society: Membership (Lost)
- iii) Wellington Orchid Society: Reduction/Capitation Fees (lost)
- iv) Wellington Orchid Society: Bulk Distribution Discontinued (carried)

Orchid Species Database

Owing to the lack of enthusiasm for the service,

and the implications of the Privacy Act, Gordon Sylvester has recommended that the Database be closed.

President Patricia Elms presented three recognition awards. The first went to Judy Coburn. Judy was unable to attend the meeting. Patricia and the executive thanked Judy for her help and support during her 9 years of service.

The next award went to Ken Christie who was presented with a gold medal of achievement. Patricia spoke of Ken's many qualities and his continued effort behind the scenes. Ken has spent many hours re-writing rules, advising on procedures and working on our behalf with the NZAAA. Ken was delighted to accept the award and talked of the enjoyable time he had working on the council executive.

Last but not least was the gold medal of achievement awarded to Syd Wray. There was a moving moment or two for Syd as he recalled driving to his first meeting where he was to become the first Secretary/ Treasurer of the Council.

Patricia recalled the many officers Syd has held during his many years with the council executive and also the enthusiasm he

shared with us all. Syd received the good wishes of all present at the meeting.

Under general business a discussion took place on falling membership. The executive are working on plans to combine a membership drive with flower displays throughout the country with all societies taking part. This could be called Orchid Awareness week. The co-operation of your society will be necessary to make this event a success. More to come when we have worked out the details.

Next A.G.M.

A motion from the council executive to introduce a special rule (24) to allow a postal ballot next year instead of the AGM was passed. This was done to relieve the society of the double expense of attending the AGM and the 1995 Orchid Expo.

Orchid Expo 1995

Those of us who were fortunate enough to be still there on Sunday were given a grand tour of the 1995 Expo venue. We were all impressed with the plans and layout.

Orchid Expo 2000

Offers to host a conference in the year 2000 are being received. If your society is interested please let us know soon.

STOP PRESS

GRAEME BOON

It is with regret that I record the recent death of Graeme Boon of Taranaki.

Long term readers of this magazine will be aware that Graeme and his wife Pam were the initial Editors of *Orchids in New Zealand* Responsible for setting up this publication and its continuing production for a period of over 10 years. Graeme and Pam finally retired from this responsibility in early 1985.

We hope to record more fully Graeme's considerable achievement with the magazine in a later issue.

A History of Orchid Badges in New Zealand

Hutt Valley Orchid Circle

Twenty eight keen orchid enthusiasts got together in 1961 & formed an orchid section within the **Hutt Valley Horticultural Society Inc.**

Today **Hutt Valley Orchid Circle** enjoys a much larger membership who meet in the Lower Hutt Horticultural Hall on the 4th Monday evening of the month May through August and then from September a change to the 4th Sunday afternoon is made.

Twenty years were to go by before a club badge

designed by Joy Francis was introduced in 1981/82. *Pterostylis banksii*, one of our larger indigenous terrestrials and found locally, features on the badge.

To date a total of four different issues exist fig.1. Clockwise from top left: No. 1 darkest brown, green orchid; No. 2 brown a shade lighter, blue-green

orchid; No. 3 cinnamon brown; No. 4 & current light milk-choc. brown. All are resin coated.

The long service **LIFE MEMBER** badge is the sole addition to the general membership badge fig. 2. ◀



Hutt Valley Orchid Circle badges.



Hutt Valley Orchid Circle life member badge.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

THE "CHALLENGE" IS BACK WITH AN ABORTION OF A NAME

Sir:

After our article "The Challenge" in the December 1993 issue of **Orchids in New Zealand** some friends called in at Tui over Labour Weekend to have a look at the orchids, and to give us a shock that we will not forget. It was in the form of two of NZ *Paphiopedilum Alliance Newsletters*, Vol 3 No 3 and Vol 3 No 4 which contained several articles on *kolopakingii*. They have taken it upon themselves to abort its name without having any consultation with us what-so-ever over the last 10 months. We should have been told as soon as it was noted that the plant was mislabeled.

Their logo of *To grow, To study, To Share, and Enjoy the Paph.* does not apply in this instance. However, I wish them luck in finding out our *Paphiopedilum*s correct name.

When we purchased the plant at a cost of \$75 it was one of 24 *Paphiopedilum*s that we purchased on 15th June 1990 at a cost of \$649.60. We were sent a list with the words "*we have purchased the entire stock of*

NZ's largest Paphiopedilum grower". The plants were all in bud, or in flower, and we purchased all that were available.

Yes, some were in flower and in bud, but they were not plants as such as they were divisions, some with no roots or with very few. However, they all survived after T.L.C. and thirty five years of know how. Some of them looked like they were just out of a flask, with leaves 37 mm, the *Paphiopedilum* in question being of this size.

Perhaps someone can tell me where to go from here. The question is how many more have the wrong label. Do we have to research every plant as we normally do to find out all we can for the plants benefit. However, some of our plants are very rare and not much information is available about them.

Some of the readers would know about our *Oncidium stacyi* that flowers freely for us and has now some 300 off-spring due to our successful self pollination of this rare and beautiful species. It requires a different

treatment from the rest of our orchids; this information is available if requested. (*Perhaps an article for this magazine? - Editor*)

Well, readers, and to those whom this article is directed, we feel as I am sure lots of you do, that if commercial sellers or growers of orchids cannot guarantee the plants they sell are true to label, they should hold them until flowering and be sure of satisfied customers. Or maybe even replace the plant.

Now that I have got these comments off my chest, I trust that I have not offended anyone.

We have renamed the orchid "Challenge" in the meantime.

Kevin A. Crosbie

Note: The articles in the *Paphiopedilum Alliance Newsletters* raised the question of the correct name of the plant discussed in the earlier article, but have been unable to come up with a correct identification - *Editor*

A MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

Sir:

I have received *Orchids in New Zealand* magazine since 1978, and thoroughly enjoy them all. One often wonders how many people who read

them as I do, really stop and think just how much thought and hard work goes into compiling such a lovely magazine by the Editor? Your efforts and great work are certainly much appreciated by me.

Gwen Thomassen
Warkworth and District
Orchid Club.

Thank you for your kind comments. It is great to receive such a letter as often the only comment received is criticism. The magazine is very much a team effort, and I am sure all those involved appreciate your kind words of encouragement. Editor

Legionella Bacteria Beaten!

A breakthrough by a small Tuakau Company has resulted in the production of a potting mix which has tested free of this dreaded killer disease. Oak Packaging, who prepare heat sterilised pumice for horticulture, hydroponics and Industry, have successfully overcome the problem experienced by professional and amateur gardens throughout the country.

Prompted by the deaths of two gardeners in Christchurch last Christmas, Company Manager Morris McDonald researched the conditions which encouraged the breeding and growth of the bacteria and found the ideal situation was caused by the moist acidic conditions of the bark, peat and heat generated within the plastic bag.

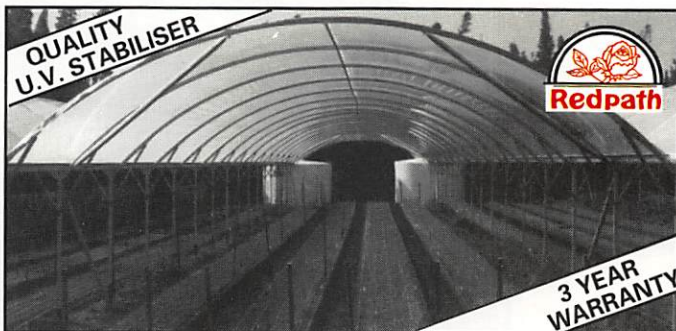
The logic was to destroy this environment and replace it with a hygienic situation unsuitable to sustain bacteria, but beneficial to the plant requirements.

The solution was to replace the bark and peat with the finite media for plant growth - disease free coco fibre in conjunction with heat sterilised pumice.

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See advertisement this issue.

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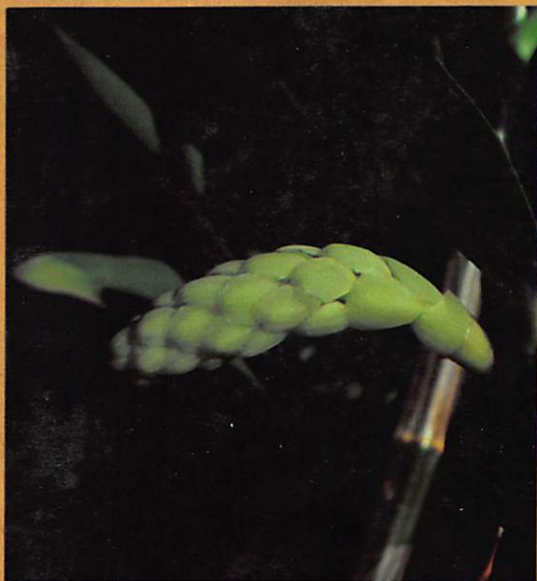
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HAPPENING**

ESSENTIALLY ORCHIDS

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