



Orchids

in New Zealand

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THE ORCHID ADVOCATE

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CONTENTS

1995 The New Year	204
FEATURE	
Papua New Guinea by Malcolm Campbell	206
Orchid Council August Executive Meeting	219
SOCIETY NEWS	
Otago Orchid Club's Annual display	221
Ellerslie The Flower Show with Orchids	223
North Shore Display	227
The Ramblings of a Hobbyist by Val Conway	231
My Favourite Orchids by Lyn Sherlock	234
Winter Woes for the Hobbyist by D. and G. Rivers	239
Awards from the Orchid Council by Ross Tucker	244
Society Show Dates	250

ILLUSTRATIONS

<i>Dendrobium cuthbertsonii</i>	Front Cover
<i>Spathoglottis plicata</i> on Solomon Islands	206
Tenarus Falls Solomon Islands	207
<i>Malaxis auroracum</i>	208
<i>Bulbophyllum pulcherrimum</i>	209
<i>Diplocolobium regale</i>	209
<i>Dendrobium helwigianum</i>	210
<i>Dendrobium rigidifolium</i>	211
<i>Dendrobium sulphurum</i>	212
<i>Dendrobium violaceum</i>	213
<i>Dendrobium cuthbertsonii</i>	213
<i>Epiblastus bascille</i>	214
<i>Pterostylis papuana</i>	214
<i>Spathoglottis plicata</i>	216
<i>Dendrobium violaceum</i> under inspection	217
Otago Orchid Display	222
Ellerslie Gold Medal Display - the overall effect	223
The corner	224
The Waterfall and The Unusual	225
North Shore display - the final result	227
The Selection Panel	228
Many hands make light work	228
Achieving a level playing field	228
Decision time	229
The Conway establishment	231
The general layout of the growing area	232
<i>Prominea crawshayana</i> 'Ted'	235
<i>Stanhopia</i>	235
<i>Cymbidium erythrostylum</i>	237
Bic Helen Brown 'Sweet Alton'	236
<i>Sederia japonica</i>	237
Cymb. Peter's Delight 'Petite'	239
<i>Cattleya guatemalensis</i>	240
<i>Phal.</i> (Juanita x venosa)	241
<i>Coelogyne ochracea</i>	242
<i>Paph. macranthum</i> 'Belinda'	244
<i>Paph. micranthum</i> 'Apple Blossom'	244
<i>Paph. micranthum</i> 'Mindy'	245
<i>Paph. sukukukuli</i> 'Albatros'	245
<i>Paph. Via Compensa</i> 'Rising Star'	246
<i>Paph. Great Pacific</i> 'Island Nation'	246
<i>Paph. Unregistered</i> grex 'Eternity'	247
<i>Paph. Shaenee</i> 'Candlelight'	247
<i>Paph. Unregistered</i> grex 'Mermaids Mirror'	248
Zygo. Blue Lake 'Howzat'	248
Zygo. Blue Lake 'Angela'	249
Lc Constal Breeze	251

1995

... the new year

1995. A year of challenge and change - not again I hear you say. I too hope that life will not have the surprises of the last few years. But as sure as life itself goes on, I am sure the politicians and others will ensure that there will be some surprises.

1995 is the year of the 3rd International Orchid Expo to be held in Palmerston North - as if any orchid grower could be unaware of such an event. With commitment, co-operation and involvement of all, this will be an event to remember. I sincerely hope - in fact I am sure it will - receive the support it deserves from all parts of the country. It is a National event run by New Zealanders for New Zealanders, so lets get ready to enjoy meeting old friends, and make new friends, not only from within this country, but from around the world. Palmerston North and the Manawatu is an interesting part of the country, and I sure those from further afield who make the effort to attend the show will find the experience both interesting and rewarding.

The Magazine

1995 is also noteworthy for another reason. Have

you looked closely at your magazine? Those who have will notice that this issue marks the commencement of Volume 21. Yes, *Orchids in New Zealand* is 21 or will be in July 1995.



1974 saw the founding of the Orchid Council of New Zealand. At that time there were 11 orchid societies in the country, the oldest being the New Zealand Orchid Society which was founded in 1948. Following the establishment of the Orchid Council, the first

issue of this magazine appeared, under the Editorship of the late Graeme Boon. The magazine has gone through a number of changes, but it is a credit to all that it has been able to survive for this length of time. It is now part of the New Zealand orchid growing tradition. But let us not forget that for that tradition to develop, grow or even survive, it must continue to receive the support of all orchid growers and those with an interest in orchids. It is all very much a co-operative effort, and support through subscriptions, articles, photographs and advertising is the only way it will continue to survive.

Those on the first Council included Tom French, Cdr. F.E.J. Mason, N.G. Wood, B.F. Clark, B. Douglas, S. Wray with Graeme Boon the Editor as previously noted. A

number of those names are still recognisable amongst active orchid people today. Perhaps now is the time for some of the early history of the magazine to be recorded and published - how about it Syd??? - your name seems to keep cropping up over the 21 years.

The magazine is a dynamic beast, with changes and improvements continually considered and implemented where appropriate. Readers will have noted last year an objective to introduce increased computerisation into the production process. We believed this would improve the magazine and facilitate its timely production. Unfortunately our best intentions came unstuck. Some moves were introduced to improve the production, but because we were unable to complete the process, we unexpectedly created some additional problems for ourselves, with the result parts of recent magazines did not reach the standards we seek. Certain aspects from parts of the production process brought about this result. It is hoped that further changes will resolve some of these problems which will have caused many of you frustration with the magazine and which also have been major frustration's for me over recent months.

Unfortunately part of the problem revolves around money - or rather the lack of it. Lets hope the Orchid Expo makes lots of money, some of which may be able to be invested in this magazine for the benefit not only of those charged with its production, but also those who enjoy reading it.

Magazines

I have always been an avid reader of orchid magazines, as it is from articles in such publications that one can extend ones knowledge of a wide range of subjects and current developments, research etc. In talking to our society librarian late last year, I was disturbed to note that over a period of some nine months, only six borrowers had taken out periodicals, and even then one person had done so three times. It was also apparent that even the number of books being borrowed were well below levels of previous years, even after allowing for the reduced membership. I do not know if these trends are repeated elsewhere, but if they are, then it may indicate continuing difficulties. Over recent years it has been noticeable at many shows and displays that the numbers of cattleyas, paphiopedilums, and oncidiums, and other orchids requiring greater growing expertise, are

reducing in numbers. Plants which are easier to grow, for example the Aussie. dendrobiums, are becoming much more frequently seen. Is this indicative of reducing expertise amongst many orchid growers? If this is so, then there is both a warning and a challenge to this magazine that we will have to heed in future years. ◀

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Papua New Guinea

Originally there were to be four of us on this trip but it whittled down to Selwyn Hatrick and me. You can not go direct to PNG so of several alternatives we chose to go via Honiara in the Solomon Islands. We had arranged to meet Geoff Dennis an orchid grower of considerable repute and a very fit 76 year old. We arrived at Honiara about 10 pm on the 6th September and decided to contact Geoff in the morning. He arrived about 8.30 am and took us to his place which is on a ridge above Honiara, and if it wasn't for the jungle of trees and palms you would get a good view of the sea. His garden is a very fascinating place, completely overgrown and natural, and you guessed it, every tree has its family of orchids growing on it. A great variety of warm growing Dendrobiums, its 31°C, and we are feeling it, the most common being *Den. gouldii* in different colour forms. Terrestrials also here, *Spathoglottis plicata*, *Calanthe triplicata*, *Liparis* and *Malaxis* sp. A cup of ginger tea went down very well here. *Bulbophyllum* everywhere, one named after Geoff called *B. dennisii*. Our video gives good idea of this garden. In the afternoon he took us to some high ridges to see the view and to go orchid hunting in the bush further inland. On the side of the road we found several colour forms of *Spathoglottis plicata* and when we went in to the bush we found *Calanthe triplicata*, *Diplocolobium* sp. *Bulbophyllum* sp. including *B. dennisii* and *Den. goldfinchii*.



Spathoglottis plicata on Solomom Islands
Photo S. Hatrick

Back to Hotel Honiara a great meal including ethnic food and national entertainment. Pan pipes. The 8th of September was a highlight of our Honiara stay and took us one hour by four wheel drive on the worst pot holed road we had ever been on to date, it was worse in PNG. No such thing as driving on the left side; you simply drove where the pot holes were smallest. Here we met Luke, a national land owner and friend of Geoff's. We set out on what turned out to be a two hour trek up and down ridges and through streams, hardly pausing to view the miriads of non flowering orchids, and no wonder, because at the end it was paradise. A mighty waterfall called Tenarua followed by huge pools of deep clear water cascading from one to another and sheltered by the canopy of the jungle almost meeting over head. Well, we were ready for a swim, but not yet says Luke. We have to climb above the waterfall for best swimming and best orchids. Half an hour later we arrived and we thought the last place was paradise but now we knew we had found it. I expected the water to be cold but it was absolutely fabulous and the orchids were too. *Coelgyne asperata* in giant clumps about 2m up trunks, an unnamed *Dendrobium* with canes that hung down 3-4m from



Tenarua Falls Solomon Islands
Photo S. Hatrick

horizontal branches, *Bulbophyllums* in masses everywhere, *Liparis* sp. *Diploclobium* sp. and orchids I never got to find a name for, and the only

sad thing was that we still had to climb out of here. Well, the return journey took a little longer, and there is a very descriptive word in pigeon which is

buggerup, and that best describes how we felt when we got to the truck. I thought I was fit but this 76 year old was hardly puffing and set about driving us the one hour trip back to the hotel. The next day was mostly rest but we did find *Den. gouldii* in the casuarinas along the water front, huge big plants of it. Sat 10th September saw us on our way to PNG with transit stop at Vanuatu and Port Moresby and finally to Goroka in the Eastern Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea. ◀

The Highlands of PNG

It was about 7.30pm when we hit Goroka and walked to the LUTHERAN GUESTHOUSE where we were welcomed by Oscar and Irene Joppich who were acting as support for the new national manager David? whom we met the next day. They had saved a meal for us and made us very much at home, which it was for the next 8 days. The first day we learned all about patience. If you think Maori time is a problem, go to PNG. You are in a different world. We had arranged to meet Gopsy Gazapao in the morning. First mistake; in the morning is a very casual statement. Finally,



Malaxis autorcentrum
Photo S. Hattrick

late afternoon, after the league match was over, Gopsy turned up with all the arrangements for the next few days and I have to give credit where is due, except for the odd 20 minutes he didn't let us down again. He had arranged a four wheel drive ute and driver from the car pool. You have to have the driver, and just as

well too. I told you the roads were worse in PNG. Just as in the Solomons you pick the side of the road according to the size of the pot holes. Things like double lines in the middle of the road are an indication it is time to pass especially if they are going around a corner. But I don't complain because we only nearly hit a pig, once.

Well, over the next two days we drove through four provinces and the summit of the road read 2478m. We started in EASTERN HIGHLANDS through CHIMBU to WESTERN HIGHLANDS and on to ENGA PROVINCE. We had many stops, to view orchids, comfort, food etc. but one was quite interesting. A national was selling orchids on the side of the road so we stopped for a look see. Gopsy was intrigued by some *Den. hellwigianum* a beautiful cerise colour and there were heaps more up in a tree high above the road. So he arranged that on our way back we would stop



Bulbophyllum pulcherum
Photo S. Hatrick



Diplocobia regale
Photo S. Hatrick



and get some. To be continued. Anyway on to KUNDIAWA, MT HAGEN, WAPENAMANDA and WAYBAG where we stayed the night with Gypsy's brother Mark who manages the Pepsi sales in this area. They treated us like kings and made us very welcome. We are now 285k from Goroka. Next morning about ½hr to Laiagam Highlands Orchid Collection, a collection of wild collected plants growing under shade cloth and mostly on tree fern mounts. Many of these were as a result of gold mining deforestation in this area. Orchids here included *Spathoglottis plicata*, *Den. finistere*, *Den. polysema*, *Coelogyne fragans*, *Den. hellwigianum*, *Bulb. trachyantum*, *Mediocalcar bifolium*, and *M.sp.* unnamed, *Epiblastus* sp., heaps of *Bulbophyllum* sp. *Liparis spectabilis*, *Den. calicilimentum*, *Den. rigidifolium*, *Bulb. pulchreum*, *Erica javanica*, and our first *Den. cuthbertsonii*.



Dendrobium rigidifolium
Photo S. Hatrick

Time to move on and so ¾ hr later we arrive at KAIAP ORCHID LODGE. This is where Andrae Miller had a house at one time, the frame of which is still standing. The collection here is a combination of natural growing plants and mounted wild collected specimens, and is mostly

of the *oxyglossum* and *cuthbertsonii* sections, unfortunately not all flowering but most of the *cuthbertsonii* were. The variety of colour in these, from white through shades of pink, orange, red, purple to bicolours that

included red and orange, red and yellow, pink and white and so on. Some other favourites here were *Den. sulphureum*, *Den. delicatulum*, a white and a purple form, *Den. dichaeoides*, *Den. cruttwellii* and *Den. rigidifolium*. This

Left: *Dendrobium hellwigianum* Photo S. Hatrick

is a great place for orchid lovers.

We now have about 300k to travel back to Goroka with more stops to view etc. But the interesting stop is at our roadside orchid seller. On arriving at his stand, and it is now dark, we toot the horn and he is down that cliff in a flash and in the light of the ute he showed us all that he had collected in the meantime. Five big branches covered in *Den. hellwigianum* which yesterday was still in the tree high above. To cut a long story short and after a lot of talk in local

language Gopsy tells us he could have the lot for 20K = \$NZ 40.00. Do you ever get the feeling you are being conned. So Selwyn and I decided to donate it to GAHAVISUKA RESERVE where Gopsy works. One delighted Gopsy. So there branches covered in orchids, and there were two other species on them as well, were loaded and tied securely on back of ute and the rest of the journey was unevent-full.

Next morning Gopsy collected us and took us to Mt Gahavisuka Reserve where we had a lovely Bar-

be-que lunch and tramped the trails and viewed the collected specimens and generally had orchids coming out our ears and took video slides of both orchids and habitat so by about 5.30pm we were ready to go home (Goroka). Mt Gahavisuka Reserve starts at 2000m and rises to 3000m. We definitely needed a rest the next day but still managed to climb to the local lookout about two hours up and one down, temp about 26°C, met some lovely kids in small village who ran and got some photo albums to show us.



Dendrobium sulphurum
Photo S. Hatrick



Dendrobium violaceum
Photo S. Hattrick



Dendrobium cuthbertsonii
Photo S. Hattrick



Epiblastus bascilie
Photo S. Hattrick

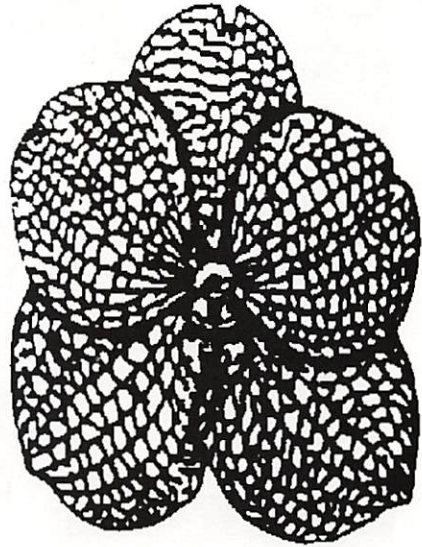
Pterostylis papuana
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Spathoglottis plicata
Photo S. Hatrick

Kids are the same the world over. Went to the ROUN ROUN THEATRE that night. A very professional performance of a national folk story, spoken and sung in pidgeon. I'm sorry we missed the point of some obviously very funny parts, but enjoyed it just the same. The next day is my birthday and at breakfast when we are still sitting down, Oscar bangs a native drum and announces it to all, and at the same time Irene brings in a beautifully iced birthday cake. All sang happy Birthday. I thanked everyone and said it was

just like home, cut the cake, and all had some. 18 people I think.

Today and the next day and a half is Goroka Sing Sing. This has to be experienced to understand. Imagine 33 different tribes all singing and dancing their different traditional war dances etc all at the same time and you will start to get the feel of it. Around the main field there were stalls of all sorts a bit like our summer shows. After two days here we were ready for HOME and I mean HOME. 18th September saw us start the

return journey. Goroka, Port Moresby, Vanuatu, Honiara. 19th September I packed a sad, and the bot got the best of me so I went back to bed. Selwyn met Geoff again just to say goodbye and collect some pods and then came the 20th September we were on our way home. We can honestly say we never felt threatened even when we were not accompanied by Gopsy and given the opportunity and the money we would go again tomorrow, but we would like to use helicopters instead of four wheel drivers.

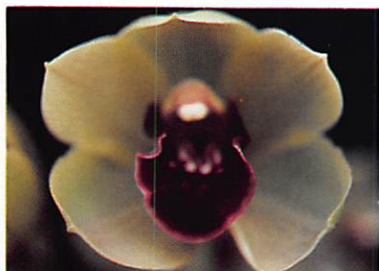
Cheers Malcolm Campbell.



Dendrobium violaceum under inspection
Photo S. Hatrick

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August Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee met in Palmerston North on Saturday 27 August 1994. Items from this meeting may be of interest.

Visiting Speakers

Through the Speakers Fund your executive tries hard to bring to societies the best speakers that are available from within NZ and from overseas. It was disappointing, however, to learn that on a recent visit by James Rose of Cal Orchid Inc, James drew poor attendances. In Auckland we could only muster 45 members and at Bay of Plenty only 35 attended.

On a more positive note, the visit of Sue and Graham Guest is about to take place and we hope your society will give their support to these first-class speakers.

Over the next year or so the Orchid Council has an impressive line up of speakers coming to societies. Please make it worthwhile by giving them your support.

Show Handouts

Has your society considered giving out an information sheet at shows or shopping malls? An Auckland Society recently handed out a special

invitation at their show. It was an invite to attend their General meeting, they were pleasantly surprised when twenty-one potential new members turned up at the meeting. Printed below is a copy of the hand-out that the Hawkes Bay Orchid Society have complied. Maybe your society can get some ideas from this.

Magazine

Magazine circulation is rising slowly. Perhaps your society would consider mailing out a gift subscription form with your newsletter. Gift subscription forms have been forwarded to your society.

Orchid Expo 1995

Show space is filling fast, there is not a lot of space left. If your society is considering a display, book now to avoid disappointment.

There are a number of sale booths still available.

Registration forms will be available soon for those who wish to take up early registration offer.

National Orchid Week

Note the change of name, the executive still intends to get this idea off the ground. We have approached a number of prospective sponsors, we are still waiting to hear from them. We will keep you posted.

Joe Vance
Publicity Officer.

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3. - [Sukhakulii 'Papa Aroha' BM/CSA x Joannes Wine HCC/AZOS]
4. - [Wardii 'Papa Aroha' x Maudiae 'Prieta' FCC/AOS]
5. - [Vintners Treasure 'Mem Hazel Brljevich' AM/NZOS x Ernest Read 'Coromandel']

New seedling list will be available in March and will be sent to those who ask, or order

South Island Orders: — \$15.00 Packaging and Postage
North Island Orders: — \$10.00 each.

Otago Orchid Club's Annual Display

After several months of preparation the weekend of September the 3rd and 4th arrived. A busy group spent Friday afternoon and evening preparing the hall and constructing the display which was a mock up of the display we are going to stage at Palmerston North next year. It was free-standing pear shaped, approximately 5 metres by 4 metres, and incorporated a large variety of genera which were set off by the accompany greenery. This year we had so many flowering plants supplied by members we could not fit them all in one display so had to stage a separate display of cymbidiums.

We had two invited commercial growers - Cee-R- Tee Orchids from Christchurch and Irvings Orchids from Invercargill. Our club also had a large sales area which was very successful. The repotting service was kept busy all weekend. For the first time we had a refreshment stand offering afternoon tea which was well patronised and certainly held the crowd longer. It was pleasing to see how busy the information table was with it attracting 8 new members to our club.

On the Saturday evening we had a pot luck tea which was a heap of fun and a great way to unwind and relax after a busy day.

Our local judging group, though be it small, had a short judging session before opening on Sunday.

During the weekend approximately 600 people attended the display and many could not believe that such a variety of orchids existed and were amazed that they are all grown in the Dunedin area.

After a very quick demolish of the display and clean up of the hall it was time again to reflect on another successful display. Despite keeping prices the same as precious years profit was up 20%.

We are looking forward to staging our next display at Palmerston North in October. Our next display to be held in Dunedin will be our 20th Birthday Seminar at Labour Weekend 1996. This weekend also incorporates the South Island Seminar with commercial growers and clubs from through out the South Island in attendance.

PS: May I also take this opportunity to say how much your publication has improved; making it quarterly has certainly helped.

Many thanks for a great magazine.

Graham Letts
Otago Orchid Club Secretary

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Otago Orchid Display
Photo G. Lette

Ellerslie

The Flower Show with Orchids

From the very start orchids were going to be a part of the 1st Ellerslie Flower Show. How to achieve the best results and to promote our type of flower against all the others was going to require some team work. The timing of the show in early November was not the most appropriate for orchids and without an abundance of flowers it might not create the effect sought. So with the co-operation of 4 different societies, namely the New Zealand Orchid Society, South Auckland Orchid Society, Howick Orchid Society and the Auckland Orchid Club, we were able to overcome the overlapping effects and create one large display. The main theme for the display was Orchids in the Wild, with a magnificent 2 metre waterfall and rocks, with the widest possible range of orchids available, all grouped together in colours and shades to give the best possible display.



Ellerslie Gold Medal Display - the overall effect

It was with great enthusiasm that our team set to work gathering props and plants and manpower. It took over one day to set up the display with the most creative orchid plant arranges used in Auckland. The judging firstly by the international expert Chelsea Judges, selected this display to be the best in the Specialist Marquee and granting a Prestigious **Gold Medal Card**, a well deserved result. Secondly 100,000 paying public acknowledged a very good display of very unusual orchids.

The stand was manned continually throughout the show by volunteers who fielded many and varied questions - like "what is that Orchid?", "Can I grow that orchid in the Conservatory?", "Will that grow down in Stewart Island?" and also gave away nearly 4000 information sheets on orchid growing in Auckland, to the many enquiries. It was truly a successful Orchid Flower Show.

Thanks must go to the many volunteers who created the display, especially the Co-ordinator Mrs Nancie Bonham, the creative



The corner

arrangers Mrs Iris Cooper, Mrs Val Balyiss, Mrs Caroline Scholes, Mr Len Cobb, Mr B. Corsbie, and to all the others who manned the stand and supplied the orchids.

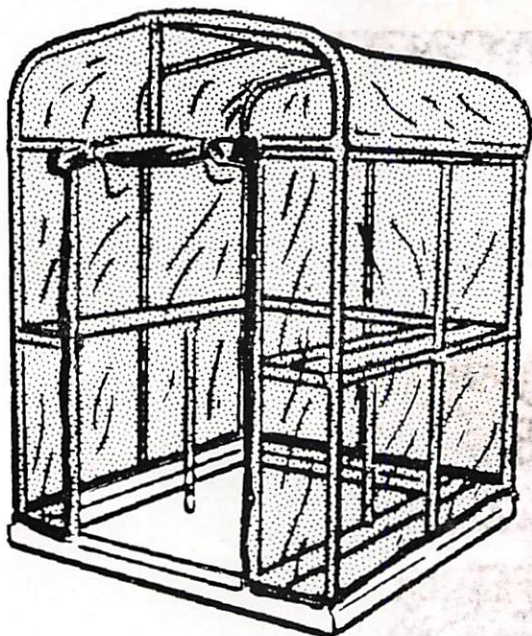
Orchids were also well represented by having another display in the same marquee and the follow up is their story.



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North Shore Display

In October 1993, the North Shore Orchid Society was invited to enter a display at the inaugural Ellerslie Flower Show, which was to be the most ambitious floral exhibition to be held in the Southern Hemisphere. The challenge was accepted with enthusiasm.



North Shore display - the final result

The main criteria set by the organising committee called for a clearly recognisable theme, distinct labelling, impact and originality. The theme chosen was based on the fact that 1994 was the Year of the Family, the obvious choice was the Orchideaceae Family.

To achieve maximum impact and originality, it was decided to create a non-traditional setting to display each individual plant to its best advantage. Simplicity was the answer. Black and silver would prove to be the ideal background to highlight the crystalline whites,

vibrant oranges, velvet textured purples and all the other colours, tints and shades, to be found in this exciting family.

The construction of the floor, trellis walls and overhead canopy was undertaken by an enthusiastic group of

society members. The set was built in a rumpus room. Litres of black paint were liberally applied to the floor sections, the trellis and unfortunately, in places, to the walls which were originally white. After many hours of painting, re - painting, checking and double checking to ensure that complete coverage had been obtained, the entire setting was ready to be assembled. During this period of frantic activity, not only was the painting being completed, but black plastic plinths were cut and glued, the overhead canopy was being designed and pre-fabricated and the lighting organised.

E Day minus 4 arrived, trucks and vans were loaded and moved on to the site.

Whatever happened to our level playing field? This was not like the floor of the rumpus room. However with patience, perseverance, packing and Peter the level playing field was eventually achieved. With the help of a cordless drill, a hammer, and many willing hands, the walls were set up. Black fabric was next attached to the back of the trellis. This could only be done by the slimmest members of the team squeezing between the



The Selection Panel



Many hands make light work



Achieving a level playing field

framework and the walls of the marquee. With the aluminium honeycomb canopy at last in place, it was time for yet another coat of paint on the floor. Woe betide the person who dared to set foot on the stage wearing shoes.

Finally, it was time for flood lights and flowers. After careful consideration the plants were selected for quality, colour and suitability to the theme and general design. Many hours were spent

arranging the plants in an effort to achieve balance and colour co-ordinated perfection. Silver on black display cards were attached to the plinths to identify the plants. At last the spot lights were switched on and the display was complete. The effect was all that had been aimed for.

The show opened and judging by the comments made by people approaching the stand, it was obvious that many

were being introduced, for the first time, to the incredible range and diversity to be found in the orchid family.

The effort and hard work were made worthwhile by the appreciation and acclaim given by the general public and the award by the judges of a bronze medal certificate.

Will we do it again? Of course we will!

John McColm/Ross Tucker



Decision time

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The Ramblings of a Hobbyist

My introduction to growing orchids came as a result of doing home-aid work for Joy and the late Bruce Douglas, who will be familiar to some of you. Bruce soon realised that I enjoyed growing things and before long I had my first *Cymbidium* back bulb.

A visit to an orchid show in Hamilton convinced me to have a go at growing more and that perhaps I should join the **Bay of Plenty Orchid Society**, which eventually did. But ohhh! those long tongue-twisting names! Getting my tongue around those names played havoc with my confidence. I felt I would never come to terms with them and what then seemed to me like a "specialist" type hobby. I felt I was more of a "back-yard bum" better suited to coleus, cyclamen, begonias and the like. After two years I gave up attending meetings but, somehow continued to collect orchids from friends and attending the orchid sale that was held annually in Te Puke in days gone by. Eventually I rejoined the orchid society and now hate to miss a meeting. I really enjoy the shows, greenhouse visits and other related activities. And I can now handle the names!

My first shade house was about 18 ft x 3 ft and was situated between the garage and the fence. The walls were simply those of a garage and the fence. The ends were of shade cloth and the roof, Nova roof. It got little sun and

plenty of wind. In fact it was a wind-tunnel, but the five orchids, which were all I had then, thrived. Before many years had passed this house became outgrown.

Eventually a bigger house was built on the



The Conway establishment
Photo by author

opposite boundary against a brick wall which was expected to be warmer in winter. It faces east so it got the early sun but alas, in winter it wasn't enough to really warm it except at roof level. In fact, I habitually wore ugg boots and two pairs of socks when I went out there in an attempt to keep warm!!

Being a hanging basket fan, the roof soon became 'chocka', which did nothing for the light available to things growing on the benches. However, in spite of this, I had

reasonable success, but less than in the original 'wind tunnel'. By this time I had started collecting other genera and before long this house was full, too, and there was definitely no plans to build another. However a small lean-to extension on the north wall did eventuate. This provided more space and better light and air movement for cymbidiums dendrobiums which stayed there all year round.

In late 1989 my neighbour announced her intention to have the

shared block wall removed to shift and rebuild her garage, so the shade house had to be moved yet again. I had dreams of a better situated house but had never expected to get it, let alone for this reason. Also, it had to be done immediately after the 1990 WOC. Oh dear, all those orchids to rehouse temporarily after an already busy period!! The carport proved handy for this purpose, with temporary benching set up for the potted things and cup hooks for the hanging



The general layout of the growing area
Photo by author

baskets. As it was spring it provided a lovely display from the back door. In October 1990 the new house was started using, where possible, the same materials. It is approx. 14 ft x 12 ft, has five large vents, is very light and airy, faces north, has tiered benching, plenty of hanging space in the roof and wide eaves where I hang the Aussie dendrobiums in winter. It also has an adjoining large open extension and bench where the dismantled house had been. The neighbour had a change of plan and didn't demolish the block wall so it was reused. But I'm not complaining - now anyway!! I have a lovely sunny house, with almost full sun in the winter, plenty of outdoor space under the extension in the summer, and my plants are rewarding me with lovely spring displays, even the previously unsuccessful mini cymbidiums. I have also utilised the now disused carport again and have had most of my cymbidiums in there for about three and a half years. They are back in a 'wind tunnel' again and they love it. Many of them have multi spiked and they are, of course, more exposed to the bumble bees.

In the spring of 1992 I had about 130 plants in

flower between August and Christmas. These were in the main cymbidiums, and dendrobiums, but there were also masdevallias, cattleyas and sarcophilus. Spring 1993 produced much the same results but sadly for me I didn't see them when they were at their best due to a lengthy period of hospitalisation.

From my start with cymbidiums, Aussie dendrobiums, mini cymbidiums and masdevallias have become my favourites. I also have a few paphs, odonts and coelogynes, to mention a few of the other genera I grow. For the last three years I have grown most of my cymbidiums in a mixture of pumice, ponga fibre and bark, about 1/3 each. I drill large holes in the sides of the pots to ensure good drainage. Most of my Aussie dendrobiums are grown in pots and I plant these direct into moss which I collect from the floor of native bush. They love it, particularly when grown in shallow baskets which I make from wire netting. My original keikei of *Dendrobium kingianum* was grown in the moss in a 10 inch basket and thrived in it for 15 years until I finally decided it needed attention last year. Everything else goes into bark to which I may add some polystyrene or

pumice. With these, too, I make extra hole in the sides. As for feeding, I don't find the time (and I'm too lazy) to put granulated fertilisers around each pot and basket, about 500 in all. They simply get *Thrive* watered in the pots and over the foliage with my long handled Nylex watering wand. I put about 1 tablespoon in a small bag made out of pantyhose and place this in the container intended for the fertilizer pellets. I do this twice weekly from late spring until the end of February. It's a 'hit and miss' method but I seldom see signs of excess nitrogen. Very occasionally they all get Epsom Salts. Temperatures vary from 3 degrees or less at night in the winter and up to 35 degrees in the summer.

This is a look at my orchid growing over the past 18 years. I'm still just a "back-yard bum" as far as expertise is concerned. The success I've enjoyed comes more from good luck and good management but I enjoy the hobby, and also the companionship of the BOP Orchid Society. This, folks, is the first time I've ventured into print. If I can so can you. Give it a go. Let's hear your stories, too. ◀

Val Conway, Kawerau.

My Favourite Orchids

by Lyn Sherlock

If you believe that the Editor of 'Orchids in New Zealand' is doing a great job and deserves more support by submitting copy, and when the Council President is requesting Executive to submit profiles on themselves, the only way out of a dilemma, is to put on your thinking cap and write an article.

Trying to determine which are your favourite orchids is daunting - there are so many to choose from and, of course, the ones currently in flower blot out the has-beens. If you have spent any appreciable time sifting through all the literature available, whether something recently penned by a modern breeder expounding the value of their plants, or records of earlier discoverers searching far-flung countries for elusive species, you will determine that various orchids have their time of being fashionable, with-it or any other suitable adjectives you wish to use. They say everyone likes a Champion and no doubt plants do become popular when proved on the showbench against allcomers, but for me the criteria that usually sways my decision, plus a huge dollop of charm which is high on the

Richter scale before size or shape (you can tell I'm not involved in judging can't you?), is perfume.

"Just follow your nose" is the advice often given to youngsters when asking for information on obvious issues, but how many of us nowadays follows that adage! Certainly car fumes and all the modern-day pollutants don't encourage too deep a sniff at the ozone but what about in a greenhouse? Without consciously considering what we are doing, many wave the proboscis around, flare the nostrils and 'take in' the flavour of the glasshouses we are visiting. Why? Like the Polar Bear swimmers of mid-winter dipping their toes into the sea around New Zealand, we are testing; - testing the air to see if it smells right as an indicator of the cultural conditions within. Olfactory senses may not

be regarded as an essential item for the orchid grower, but apart from the odd bout of colds, it is still a pretty good barometer, cheap at the price and easily maintained. Sinus sufferers may beg to differ, but flower growers usually appreciate their treasures more if it wafts subtle perfumes in their direction.

Recently in Japan and at the 14th WOC in Glasgow, the opportunity was given for the sniffers of the day to test out the soft ware! Then in April-June issue of the American "Orchid Digest" I see a number of articles on this very subject - could it be a further dimension to be included in the Judges By-laws - . . . large, well-trained noses essential . . . glue sniffers barred . . .

So where does all this lead to, how DOES one list the supposed favourites.

Can they still be a favourite if you haven't grown it and have only seen a glossy reproduction is some publication (of course, you are naturally suspicious that any flower can look THAT good), or is it the sort of plant you cannot grow in your conditions but another orchidist grows to perfection on a shelf in the back porch? Guess it really should be from your own collection and perhaps apart from its perfume (or lack of), the pleasure it has or is giving should be paramount, although plants given by friends score pretty highly for me as constant reminders of happy times spent talking about and generally enjoying orchids. So here are some plants I enjoy.

**P R O M E N E A
CRAWSHAYANA 'Ted'**

Given to me by the late Ted Bartosh, an import from 1924. Small, bright yellow with purple spots. How could you not enjoy the ring of flowers around the rim of the pot - a treasure of a mini.



Prominea crawshayana 'Ted'
Photo by Lyn Sherlock



Stanhopia
Photo by Lyn Sherlock

**SOPHRONITELLA
VIOLACEA:**

This time a violet cutie of delightful charm which doubles its growth production every year. A must for the lover of small but beautiful orchids.

STANHOPEAS!:

Call their perfume what you like, but you just cannot ignore them when in full flood, and their structure is something to

be seen to be believed - Mechano magic.

**C Y M B I D I U M
ERTHYOSTYLUM:**

Yes, even I cannot fail to love and enjoy this

cymbidium and its distinctive shape to me is far superior to those rounded-monsters and then of course there is its subtle perfume.

CATTLEYS:

Glorious, glorious flowers you just cannot ignore with blazing colour of every description and so many with really delicious perfume which fills the greenhouse but perhaps B1c. HELEN BROWN 'Sweet Afton' with its green colouring and Irish name has a definite pull.

SEDERIA JAPONICA;

Flower spikes about 6-8 inches in length carrying creamy-white flowers (purple brushings on the lip) lasting three months or more and that lily-of-the-valley perfume - an absolute favourite.

I have only listed a few and kept my bias towards *paphiopedilum* and *phragmipedium* strictly under control (though *P. delenatii* and *P. malipoense* have lovely perfumes). *Zygopetalum*s, angraecums and brassias, and such as *nodoso* - The Lady of the Night - are well known by many orchid-buffs, but why don't you follow YOUR nose and see what you can sniff out and enjoy. ◀



Cymbidium erythrostylum
Photo by Lyn Sherlock

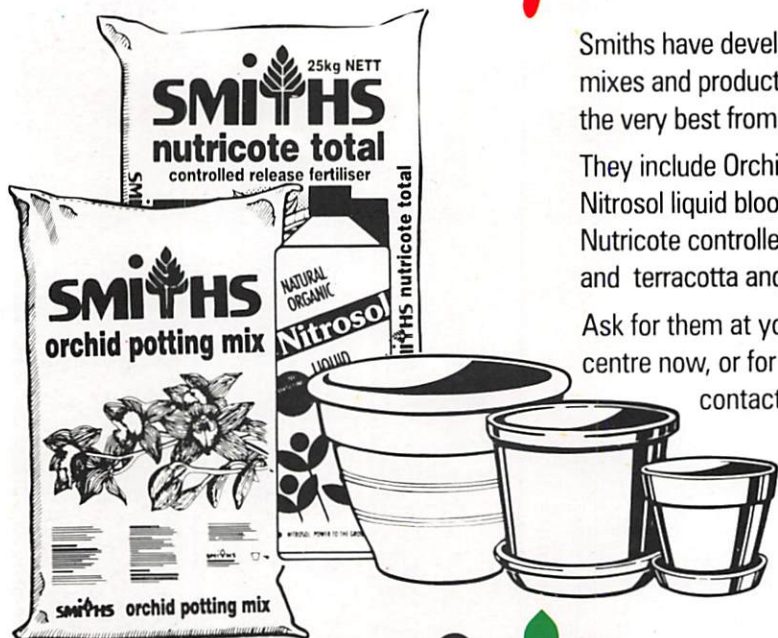


B1c Helen Brown 'Sweet Afton'
Photo by Lyn Sherlock



Sederia japonica
Photo by Lyn Sherlock

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Winter Woes for the Hobbyist

There has been a lot of interest created recently in "Cool Growing Orchids". Ross MacDonald of Wanganui has recently published his very informative book of this title, which will be available to everyone very soon. A must for most orchid growers library's.

It was this same topic that I chose to speak to a small group of enthusiastic *Cymbidium* hobbyists in our new retirement district. I called my topic '*Cymbidium* Companions' but meant the same. Cool growing orchids, ones that grow in an environment where one does not need to worry about artificial heat or having to have a glasshouse to grow plants in, to protect them from the elements.

When we moved from the Manawatu our friends joked about us migrating to the Winterless North, where the sun always shines. This is quite true most times, but with everything, there are exceptions. Have we copted the lot. It is of no consequence when one looks at the devastation, dead and dying plants everywhere to be told by 'the locals' that the gales we have had, were the strongest that they have experienced in 20 years or that the rain was the heaviest the area has

experienced in 17 years. And that they haven't experienced a -4 degrees C frost in 42 years.

Our plants, those cool growing ones, have not liked what they have had to endure, especially the



Cymb. Peter's Delight 'Petite'
Grower N. and R. Armstrong

frost. Even inside our new high ceilinged fully covered with plastic house we registered -4 degrees C. Our orchid collection was reduced by 50% overnight. Our flower count by even more and of course next years flower count as well, as it was the tender new growth of the plants that was so vulnerable, next years flowering capacity blackened, gone mushy or just burnt white.

A very good learning experience, one that I could have done without. But I do feel more knowledgeable now with regard to which of our 'cool growing orchids' can be relied upon to enjoy cooler growing conditions. Our experience shows more clearly why one should familiarise ones self with the natural habitat and be aware of the climatic conditions of the different genera, if one is going to persevere with a mixed orchid collection. One more step is to know the differences within the genera and the different parentage of the intergeneric hybrids. The *Odontoglossum* Alliance for instance - the ones that just turned white overnight, the cool growing plants, the *Masdevallias*.

No amount of TLC for the *Miltoniopsis* is going to make the slightest

difference to their revival even if I shared my electric blanket with them for the next 12 months. When I look at the black and sometimes 'mushy state of the *Paphiopedilums* and *Sarcochilus*, it is apparent that with some careful handling and relocation, for instance draping them around the lounge during the day and to the kitchen for the night, might just save the plants but not the flowers.

The *Zygopetalums* and *Cymbidiums* and other plants that have pseudobulbs needed to have their leaves and spikes trimmed because of the frost-burn but will in all probability bloom another year. Our Aussie *Dendrobiums* and some *Oncidiums* as well as our *Dendrochilum* are resprouting again already. *Onc. cheiroporum* lost all it's leaves but is blooming now with 3 spikes.



Cattleya guatemalensis

Likewise some *Masdevallia* and soft cane Dendrobiums are budding again but the light level is rising too high for the former so we must get on and repair the shade-cover that was blown off in the gale. Something that never happened in the Manawatu, in 20 years of hobbyist growing and several different 'Health Robinson typegrowing situations'.

Are you feeling very sad for us. Well the good news is that our glasshouse survived the unfriendly elements up here and the temperatures did not drop below 5 degree C in there. Our small Ralta fans worked miracles. We have a lovely display of Paphiopedilums at the moment. Lots of *Cattleya Alliance* buds everywhere, and *Phalaenopsis* in spike. *Lycaste* and *Milt.* (Herbert Johnson x Alderwood) flowering and *Sle Hazel Boyd* 'Elizabeth' which has been sitting on the dining-room table since June still looking beautiful with her lovely apricot coloured blooms. Some cymbidiums are flowering in spite of everything, the *Coelogyne*, especially *ovalis* is sending out flower shoots in all directions but *Coel massangeana* is a mess.

Moral to this story
Be prepared for any weather anywhere. That

nature cannot be relied on, neither can long term residents be reliably, accurate with their weather forecasting. That cool growing orchids means cool growing and not cold, especially not freezing. That orchids do not like temperatures below 5 degrees C or above 35

degrees C. That *Odontoglossums*, *Brassias*, *Zygopetulum*s and *Dendrobium*s are *Cymbidium* companions for the most part, but not during the winter unless they are all pampered. That *Laelia anceps* and *Laelia gouldiana* didn't seem to be affected by the



Phalaenopsis Juanita x venosa
Grower H. Peichel

first frost but collapsed following a second one a month later.

I am not convinced that the big fan that we had in the plastic house on the night of the big frost didn't add to the destruction of some plants, by increasing the wind chill factor. I am still completely confused by the fact that some flower buds burnt on the same plant, whilst others were unaffected, right alongside one another.

That the plants that were in a shade-cloth covered Pergoda type structure built on the side of the garage was more sheltered than our newly constructed plastic-covered aluminium framed tunnel type house which is in the open, with no building nearby. Growing environments are very important and have to be relearnt if one changes districts. What works for one grower will not necessarily work for another or what worked in one district will not necessarily work in another.

A different twist to the cartoon we sent our buddies at Christmas time.

"We put up shade-cloth to counteract the hole in the ozone layer. Drains in case of tropical storms.

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"Then we put the plants in our new house and the darned slugs got them!"

Nobody mentioned FROSTS!

D. & G. Rivers
Whangamata



Coelogyne ochracea

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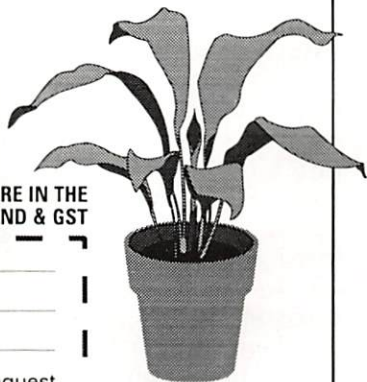
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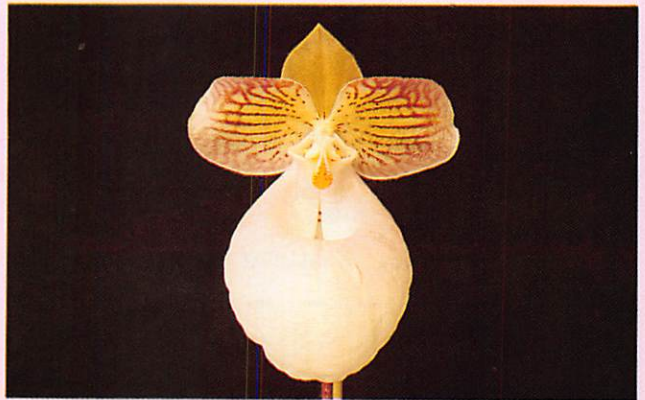
Awards from the Orchid Council of N.Z.

The Orchid Council of NZ has 3 main quality awards and these are abbreviated by H.C.C. (Highly Commended Certificate) scoring on a points system 75 - 79 points. A.M. (Award of Merit) 80 - 89 points and F.C.C. (First Class Certificate) 90-100 points, so a plant given 77 points would have the abbreviation HCC/OCNZ behind it's name for all time.

During 1992 one genus dominated the awards, gaining over 25% of all awards granted with 3 HCC's and 10 AM's to the *Paphiopedilum* and with the *Paph. micranthum* again to the front with 3 AM's to 3 different cultivars. The largest of these was *Paph. micranthum* 'Belinda' AM/OCNZ with a natural spread of 86.5mm. A very large striking flower; petals pale yellow green with a pouch white flushed pink and spotted magenta inside. The plant was exhibited by the Holmes Family of Kaukapakapa. Another *Paph. micranthum* 'Mindy' AM/OCNZ was exhibited by C. Law of Christchurch, natural spread 84mm slightly different from the first more elongated and a paler pouch colour. The third for 92 was *Paph. micranthum* 'Apple Blossom' AM/OCNZ exhibited by Ron Roy of Christchurch again slightly different with a more



Paph. micranthum
'Belinda'
AM/OCNZ 92/29



Paph. micranthum
'Apple Blossom'
AM/OCNZ 92/34

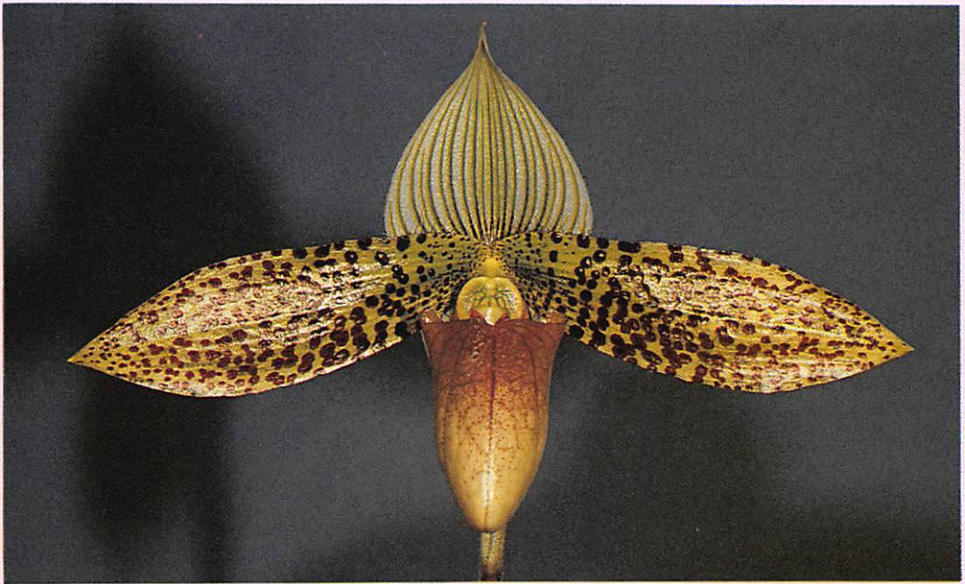
green shading and a whiter pouch, overall width 78mm.

Two other species *Paphiopedilums* were awarded during 92 with *Paphiopedilum wardii* 'Brian' gaining an AM/OCNZ for the Holmes Family of Kaukapakapa because of it's good size and form for the species with a strong colour on the petals and sepals and a natural spread of 118mm.

Perhaps the most impressive species went to *Paphiopedilum sukhakulii* 'Albatross' grown and exhibited by Rex Williams of Tauranga, a large plant



Paph. micranthum 'Mindy'
Am/OCNZ 92/38



Paph. sukhakulii
'Albatross'
AM/OCNZ 92/35

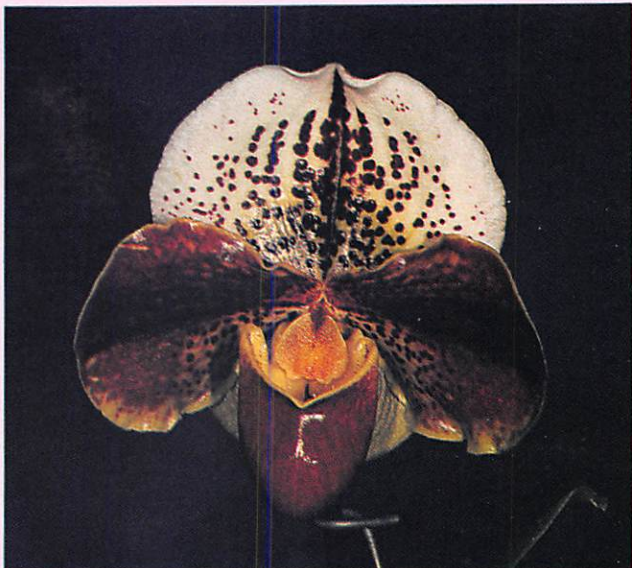
with four nicely displayed flowers. Particularly rich dark colours with a heavy gloss finish. The most impressive feature which the judges commented on, was the size, a huge 170mm natural spread gaining a well deserved AM/OCNZ.

New Zealand has many fine *Paphiopedilum* growers who regularly exhibit overseas and produce world class flowers. One grower in 92 has produced a superior batch of seedlings and was awarded no less than 5 AM's on one day in New Zealand, no other NZ *Paphiopedilum* grower has achieved this to date, in New Zealand Award Judging Systems and certainly sets the standard to which other growers will try and match or better.

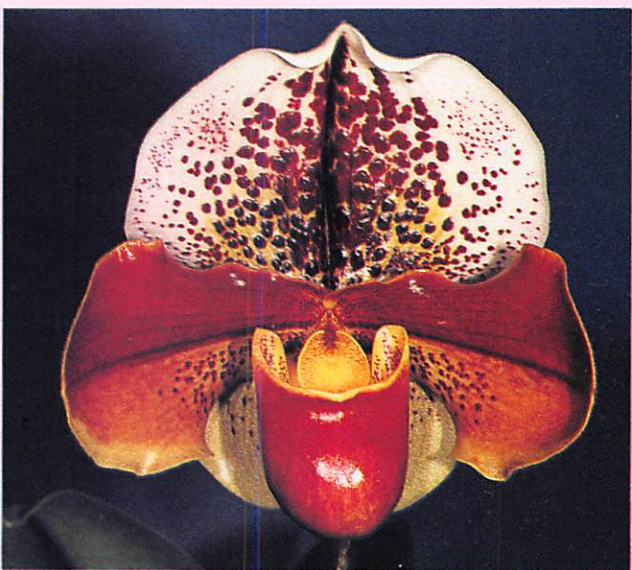
The very experienced Mr Dan Collin of Tauranga achieved this feat with:-

(1) *Paph.* Via Recompensa 'Rising Star' AM/OCNZ a morron spotted paph. with overall width 105mm.

(2) *Paph.* Great Pacific 'Island Nations' AM/OCNZ a (Pacific Ocean x Winston Churchill) seedling a fine example of a spotted paph. with beautiful sheen, overall width 127mm.



Paph. Via Compensa
'Rising Star'
AM/OCNZ 92/19



Paph. Great Pacific
'Island Nation'
AM/OCNZ 92/21

(3) *Paph.* Unregistered
Grex 'Neptunes Crown'
AM/OCNZ another
seedling of (San Carlos x
Prime Time) a massive
green with beautiful clarity
of colour and shiny texture
overall width 140mm.

(4) *Paph.* Unregistered
Grex 'Eternity' AM/OCNZ
a seedling of (Mildred
Hunter x Western
Horizon) overall width
117mm.

(5) *Paph.* Shawnee
'Candlelight' AM/OCNZ
Light maroon brown with
very broad dorsal with
attractive white band and
nice sheen, had an overall
width of 117mm and was
a seedling of (Winston
Churchill x Inca).

(6) *Paph.* Unregistered
Grex 'Mermaids Mirror'

Another Gemus which is
creating an interest and is
fulfilling expectations in
breeding and
development has been the
Zygopetalum Alliance, with
a cross of *Zygopetalum Blue
Lake* which is (*Z. crinitum*
x B G White 'Bayswater')
starting in 1992 to gain
awards for this cross and
subsequently achieved a
rare Plant Breeders Award
(PBA) from the NZOS for
the cross and the
hybridizer. (Tuckers
Nursery of Redvale,
Auckland) see back issue of



Paph. Unregistered
'Eternity'
AM/OCNZ 92/23



Paph. Shawnee
'Candlelight'
AM/OCNZ 92/24

magazine for the article on the PBA.

The first *Zygopetalum* Blue Lake 'Howzat' gaining an HCC/OCNZ for its exhibitor and hybridizer, R. Tucker was a bright apple green with brown blotching and a white lip with purple striping, a well grown plant with overall width of 79mm.

The second *Zygopetalum* Blue Lake 'Angela' gained an AM/OCNZ with a much better size and shape than the previously awarded clone 'Howzat' HZZ/OCNZ. A rich mahogany brown with a heavily striped lip, overall width 86.5mm. This plant also obtained the Grand Champion Orchid for the North Shore Orchid Society Spring Show 1992 against strong competition also exhibited by R. Tucker.

It is very worthwhile to see plants which have been hybridized and raised in NZ obtaining a worthy recognition by way of awards when many growers often criticize. Perhaps they should submit their plants to be judged and then they may learn what their contemporaries think of their plants.

R. Tucker
Regional Chairman



Paph. Unregistered grex
'Mermaids Mirror'
HCC/OCNZ 92/20



Zigo. Blue Lake
'Howzat'
HCC/OCNZ 92/26



Zygo. Blue Lake
'Angela'
AM/OCNZ 92/41

1995

**SHOW
1995
DATES**

DATE	SOCIETY	VENUE, ADDRESS
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
May 6, 7	CAPITAL CITY	Karori Community Hall, Beauchamp Street, Karori, Wellington
May 7	NEW ZEALAND	Octagonal Building, Western Springs, Auckland
May 20, 21	HOWICK	All Saints Church Hall, Cook Street, Howick
May 28	WAIKATO	Chartwell Seminar Room, Hamilton Gardens Pavillion, Cobham Drive, Hamilton
July 29, 30	WANGANUI	Wanganui City College, Ingestre Street, Wanganui.
August 5, 6	WAIKATO	Chartwell Seminar Room, Hamilton Gardens Pavillion, Cobham Drive, Hamilton
August 26, 27	KAPITI	Senior Citizens Hall, Paraparaunu Beach
Sept 2, 3	TAURANGA	Greerton Hall, Cameron Road, Tauranga
Sept 2, 3	HOWICK	All Saints Church Hall, Cook Street, Howick
Sept 9, 10	NORTH OTAGO	St Patricks Hall, Oamaaru
Sept 15, 16, 17	HAWKES BAY	Hastings Indoor Basketball Stadium, Railway Road, Hastings.
Sept 15, 16	WARKWORTH	Venue to be advised
Oct 13, 14	DANNEVIRKE	St Josephs Church Hall, Allardice Street, Dannevirke
Oct 14, 15	WAIRARAPA	McGregor Hall, Worksop Road, Masterton

*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



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**WHAT IS
HAPPENING**

ESSENTIALLY ORCHIDS

**PALMERSTON NORTH
4th to 8th OCTOBER 1995**

?
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ABOUT TO
REVEAL
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