SOFTE STEEL WORTH





# Orchids

in New Zealand

Volume 21 No. 3

September 1995



N.Z. Agents for

LIVINGSTON'S

LIVINGSTON

**Orchids** 

Growers and Hybridizers of Quality

Phalaenopsis

5 Plant Compots and hundreds of seedlings available Fantastic Colour Range. Flasks sometimes available.

3 ETHEREGE PLACE, HOWICK

PHONE (09) 534-8348

# ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND INC. **EXECUTIVE 1995/96**

### Patron:

EXCELLENCY, DAME CATHERINE TIZARD

### HAROLD BAYRAM

753 Childers Road, GISBORNE. Phone 0-6-867 9400

## **Immediate Past President:**

#### PATRICIA ELMS

P.O. Box 103, BULLS. Phone 0-6 -322 0966

### Vice-Presidents:

#### **ROD MARSHALL**

Maiseys Road, Redwoods Valley R D 1 Richmond Phone 0-3-544 2759

#### JOE VANCE

363 Hillsborough Road, Mt Roskill, AUCKLAND 4. Phone 0-9-625 8759

### **Executive Committee:**

#### BERNIE KILLINGTON

45 Lichfeild Cres, Tamatea, NAPIER. Phone 0-6-843 2089

51 King Edward Avenue, Bayswater, AUCKLAND 9. Phone 0-9-445 6692

#### MIKE HART

32 Regency Place, MIRANGI BAY. Phone 0-9 479 522

31 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Nelson. Phone 0-3 548 8601

### KATH BRUCE

2 Kipling Drive NEW PLYMOUTH. Phone 0-6 751-3158

#### Secretary:

#### JOY WRAY

C/- P.O. Counter Mail. Ellerslie, AUCKLAND. Phone/Fax 0-9 579 6364

#### Treasurer:

#### **GRAHAM JACKSON**

18 Hurley Place, PALMERSTON NORTH. Phone 0-6-354 3348

#### Chairman of Committee on Awards:

#### **DENNIS BONHAM**

24 Coronation Road, Epsom, AUCKLAND 3. Phone 0-9-625 6300

#### Distributor:

#### TREVOR GILLBANKS

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

# Slide/Video Librarian:

### BERYL GOODGER

9 Somerset Gr, TAURANGA. Phone 0-7-578 4761

## PHILIP TOMLINSON

14 Putnam Street, Northland, WELLINGTON 5. Phone 0-4-475 8765

### ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

C/- PO. Counter Mail. Elerslie, AUCKLAND. Phone/Fax 0-9 579 6364

Published by monthly ISSN 0110-5256

### **EDITOR:**

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

Phone: 0-4-4/5 8/65

All photography by Editor unless noted otherwise.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Vol. 21, 1995 (4 issues) (including postage and GST); \$28.00

to be sent to:

# **Distribution Secretary:**

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

# **Back Issues Secretary:**

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

# All correspondence for:

# President:

HAROLD BAYRAM 753 Childers Road Gisborne

### Secretary:

JOY WRAY C\- P O Box 11-305 Ellerslie, AUCKLAND

### Treasurer:

Mr. G. JACKSON 18 Hurley Place Palmerston North

# **ADVERTISING TO:**

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

Advertising payments may be sent to the Treasurer.

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

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

Printed by W. J. Deed Printing Ltd. 16 Bowen Street, Waiuku. Phone: 0-9-235 7133

SEPTEMBER 1995

# Orchids

# IN NEW ZEALAND

Official publication of

Orchid Council of New Zealand New Zealand Orchid Society

Vol. 21 No. 3

SEPTEMBER 1995

# CONTENTS

EDITORIAL - The Start of a New Era	106
From the President's Desk	
Thanks Wairoa	
Parvisepalum Paphiopedilums by John McColm	
Potting Medium - Is Bark the Best Solution?	
Is there a widening gap between show bench and cut flower	
cymbidiums by Mark Dawe	118
Letter to the Editor	
Growing Paphs in a Mixed Collection	
Why I Grow Orchids by Lesley Newton	
OCNZ Awards 1994	
South Island Australasian Native Orchid Group	
OCNZ News	
Cattleya Culture Notes by Mary Jones	136
Darwin Magic 1994 by Trevor Gillbanks	
June Executive Meeting OCNZ	
Beauty is in the eye of by Franz Zumbuhl	143
Cultural Chart for Mixed Collection Orchids by P. C. Tomlinson	
Seasonal Culture of common orchids	148
NZ Orchid Societies - meeting details	
Show Dates 1995	154

# ILLUSTRATIONS

Paphiopedilum armeniacum Front c	over
Harold Bayram, new President OCNZ	108
Roslee Reedman Bickerstaff	109
Paphiopedilum delenatii	111
Paphiopedilum delenatii group	112
Paphiopedilum micranthum	113
Paphiopedilum niveum	114
Paphiopedilum godefroyae	115
Cymbidium Kristianne Marie 'Miriam'	
Cym. Citation 'Pastel Queen'	120
Cym. Arcadian Sunrise 'Golden Fleece'	120
Cym. Elimination 'Bayswater'	
Paphiopedilum haynaldianum 'Diana'	126
Odm. grande	
Renanthera King Crimson	132
Sarchchilus Arcadia 'Sandra'	
Paphiopedilum Kulyz	132
Dendrobium kingianum	
Blc. Shellie Compton 'Touch of Class'	137
Phal. amabilis 'Q'lander'	139
Dendrobium ochraetum	143
Paphiopedilum markianum	144

# THE START OF A NEW ERA

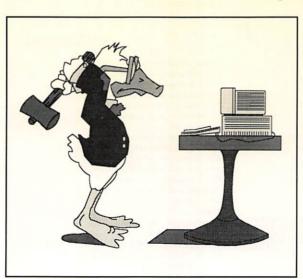
# P. C. TOMLINSON

I do not know if you, the readers, noticed any differences last magazine. Perhaps you did, - all the mistakes that occurred! Well, there was a reason; not an excuse, but what I hope what is a justifiable reason.

As announced in the last magazine, the Orchid Foundation enabled Orchids in New Zealand to purchase a computer programme to enable full computer assembly of the magazine. Well, last magazine was totally completed on the computer. I did not fully know the programme, and, in conjunction with the printer Bill Deed, we

needed to organise how we went about it. This unfortunately took time: Together with the fact that I had a short spell overseas, the production of last magazine and its dispatch to you was later that we wished.





Also, because of the more extended production process, some aspects of the magazine were not up to the quality you are normally used to. I trust you will bear with us and forgive a short drop in the quality that we normally strive for. The computer assembly will improve the magazine, allowing us to do things

that previously were not possible. It will also allow us the flexibility to prepare much of the magazine over longer period of time, which I will relish.

I do not envisage a m a j o r

Page 106

ORCHIDS IN NEW ZEALAND

change to content or style of the magazine, although I hope to integrate text and graphics to a greater extent. Once the production process is fully established, it should be possible to avoid some of the checking and proofing problems that has bothered us - in particular the captions which, because of time constraints, often have not been able to be checked.

One of the changes that computerisation allows is the use of material supplied on disk by authors, something that would

avoid the typing and retyping of material. Where possible, any author able to produce a script on a computer should submit the article on disk (IBM PC format) whenever possible. If you doubt what may be acceptable, please contact me to ascertain what can be used satisfactorily.

# **ORCHID EXPO**

O THE OP

To all those with an interest in orchids, from near and far, from New Zealand and around the world. welcome to the New Zealand's orchid event of the year - the Expo at Palmerston North. Many people have spend hundreds, perhaps even thousands of hours, organising this great event, and now is the time to reap the dividends from all their work. Palmerston North is known for its hospitality, and I am sure the city will not disappoint this time. For those unfamiliar with the Manawatu, I am sure everyone will find items of interest in addition to orchids, so make fullest use of your time and see the area. If you do not know your way around I am sure a local will only be too pleased to assist with suggestions and advice in the regard.

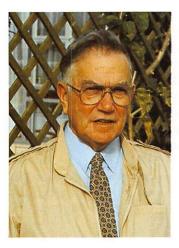
But lets not forget that it is the orchids that eve-

ryone is really here to see. With the best plants from around the country and the display ingenuity of New Zealanders there are sure to be some very striking displays. And do not forget the conference sessions. With a wide range of topics given by authorities from around the world, here is the opportunity to brush up on your knowledge. And also remember if there are not formal papers to your liking there is sure to be someone attending who shares your interests and h

would just enjoy the opportunity to have a chat. And perhaps even exchange a badge or two, you never know what treasures they may have in their pockets.

Orchid growers have a reputation for being great talkers, and if previous similar events are to go by, this Expo will be no different. But do not just talk to those you already here is the know. opportunity to make new friendships and exchange growing experience and knowledge. And do not lets forget the opportunity to introduce new growers to the interest of orchid growing. Most societies sure could do with the new members!!!

Enjoy the show. If you are out of town make the effort to join in fully with all aspects of this event. You are sure to find the experience a good one.



NEW PRESIDENT OF THE ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND

HAROLD BAYRAM

my election to the position of President of

the on Executive Com-mittee I have the background and support to do this job successfully.

With Patricia Elms still with 115 Immediate

Past President, Joe Vance and Rod Marshall as Vice Presidents and being very fortunate to have the experience of Joy Wray as my Secretary and Graham Jackson as Treasurer, we have the leadership to progress into the future.

An important part of the team will be my committee of Bernie Killington, Ross Tucker and newcomers Kath Bruce, Mike Hart and Peter Fisher.

My thanks to the The decreasing mem-Societies who supported bership of societies has been of concern to the Comm-ittee for some the Orchid Council. I time and to take a posifeel that with my 8 years tive step we organised a



special Orchid Week for 14 to 18 August 1995 to be used as a recruitment drive. By the time this article is printed we will know whether this project was successful.

Next up will be the Orchid Expo which will be an excellent chance for societies to show their prize winning orchids and their talents at putting up attractive displays. The Expo Committee have worked very hard to make this a

ORCHIDS IN NEW ZEALAND

resounding success and they deserve the support of all societies and their members.

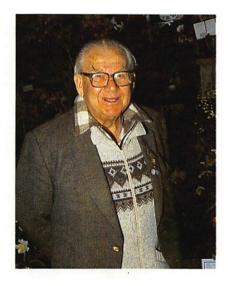
Our aim for the future is to support societies wherever possible, to coordinate National events and to strengthen and encourage new members into the OCNZ organisation. judging system.

Once again many thanks for your support and I am looking forward to the challenge of being President of vour

> Harold Bayram. President.

Thanks to the Wairoa Orchid Society for a donation to the colour fund of Orchids in New Zealand. It is through the generosity of societies such as this that we are able to maintain the colour that adds so much to this magazine. It is always especially gratifying when it is one of the smallest societies in the country that makes such donation.

Thanks again Wairoa members.



# Roslee Reedman Rickerstaff

The last issue included a tribute to the late Ros Bickerstaff. Because of production limitations the above photograph was not able to be included.

# Australian and New Zealand Orchid Hybrids

Malcolm Campbell is researching orchid hybrids between Australian and NZ Genera and would urgently like to hear from anyone who has succeeded with any of these, even if they have not flowered yet. He may be contacted at 104 Awatere Avenue, Hamilton or phone 07 8496 468

# Large Planters/Orchid Pots

For shrub and orchid growers we sell a range of larger planters and tubs both round and square. Some of these versatile planters and tubs are made from heavy duty recycled plastic and others from virgin material. Both are suitable for long term plant growth. Saucers are available for most of this range.



CODE	DESCRIP	TION	DIA. mm	HEIGHT mm	VOLUME 1ltr	PB EQUIV
L40	4 Ltr	Square Planter	175	190	4.0	PB6.5
L50	5 Ltr	Round Planter	210	175	4.6	PB 8
L60	6 Ltr	Round Planter	240	200	6.0	PB 10
L80	8 Ltr	Round Planter	265	200	8.0	PB 12
L90	9 Ltr	Round Planter	260	230	8.7	
L100	10 Ltr	Round Planter	270	245	9.6	PB 18
L120	12 Ltr	Round Planter	290	240	11.0	PB 28
L150	15 Ltr	Round Tub (Orchid)	330	210	14.0	-
L160	16 Ltr	Round Planter	310	290	15.0	PB 40
L180	18 Ltr	Round Tub (Orchid)	340	230	18.0	PB 40
L200	20 Ltr	Square Tub	385	250	20.0	-

Mail Orders Welcome - Credit Cards Accepted

70ll Free 0508 768 748 - 24 Hrs

Athco Industries Limited, 19 Rylock Place, Pakuranga PO Box 25-060, St Heliers, Auckland 11130

Telephone 0-9-576 9091 Fax 0-9-576 6923

# PARVISEPALUM PAPHIOPEDILUMS

# by John McColm

When I was asked to give a talk on paphiopedilums on behalf of the CSA I had a look at the number of awards given to paphiopedilums over recent years and decided that it would be impossible to present a programme with any real meaning without selecting and concentrating on a smaller group.

For several years I have record keeping I have encouraged me to been Registrar of Awards commented several times investigate the reasons for the

N e w Zealand Branch of h Cymbidium Society of America. This means that every time receive a copy of the society magazine T h Orchid Advocate



Paphiopedilum delenatii

through the latest awards and transfer them to my records. Unlike many people these days I do not have a computer, so all this work is done in the old fashioned way, by hand. In carrying out this

that since about 1986 the CSA have been awarding more paphiopedilums than cymbidiums, to the extent that last year the ratio was very nearly two to one in favour of paphiopedilums. This

It did not take me too long to form the opinion that there were two main factors. One was h e formation of branch of the CSA in Japan.

In the short time of their existence they have seen and awarded a large number of high quality paphiopedilums. The second and most important reason for the sudden upsurge was the

SEPTEMBER 1995

read

Page 111

commonly known as the new Chinese paphiopedilums or more properly, parvisepalums. It

introduction of what is eventually flourish. At this early stage it was placed in with the brachypetalum sub group, obviously though

differ between the two groups. With the exception of Paph. concolor, brachypetalums the conform to the classic



Paphiopedilum delenatii Grower Late Frank Askin, Wellington Photo P. C. Tomlinson

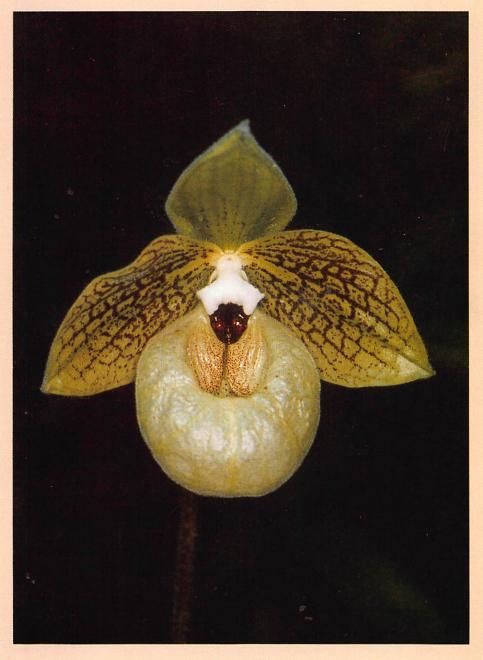
is this group that I have singled out.

A brief resume of the events leading up to the formation the of parvisepalum sub group genus of the Paphiopedilum is as follows. It was in 1913 that Paph. delenatii first emerged and, after a precarious beginning, managed to survive and

different from the rest in this sub group in several ways. There are a higher number of leaves to be expected parvisepalums and to some extent the shape of the leaves are broader in brachypetalum. Shape of the column also seems to differ between the two groups. With the exception also seems to

round form while the parvisepalums have a more open shape.

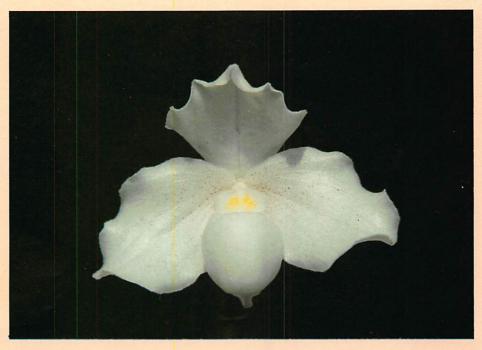
Then in 1951 there was the description of a plant of Paph. micranthum which made virtually no impact on the orchid world. The name micranthum is a rather obvious misnomer these days, as far from being a small flower as the name suggests, it is in fact



Paphiopedilum maliponense

Grower Papa Aroha

Photo P. C Tomlinson



Paphiopedilum niveum Grower/photo F. Zumbuhl

quite large. It is thought that the original specimen must have been poorly developed or immature plant. Anyway, it seems to have faded into the background for awhile, and nothing much was heard of it.

The arrival in 1982 of numbers of an exciting new discovery of the bright yellow flowers of *Paph. armeniacum* really set things moving. It was not long before the taxonomists got to work and in the same year, 1982, Karasawa and Saito created the sub genus

parvisepalums. In doing so they withdrew Paph. delenatii from the brachypetalums and moved it to the new group into which it fitted quite neatly.

This was followed in 1984 with the arrival of Paph. malipoense and the reappearance of Paph. micranthum in a much larger form than The last previously. member to appear was Paph. emersonii in 1986. This plant differs from others in the sub group in that it has no undersides of the leaves.

It was not long before the first awards were being granted to the new species. The first CSA award was a Gold given to Paph. armeniacum 'Royal Jewel' in 1986. Since then over seventy other awards have been made by the CSA to parvisepalum species and their hybrids. This does not include hybrids of Paph. delenatii while it was still in the brachypetalum sub group. If we include these we can go back to 1947 when Paph. Vanda M Pearman, a cross between Paph. delenatii and Paph.

bellatulum gained its first Bronzes. Since then it has received six further awards including one Silver.

The next obvious step was primary hybrids. With only five species within the subgroup there are only ten possible primary hybrids using parvisepalum parents. At the time of writing, seven of these had been registered, with five of having received awards. An

natural hybrid between malipoense and micranthum has been described by Koopowitz and Hasegawa and named Paph. fanaticum.

Primary hybrids using one parent outside the parvisepalum sub group are numerous with at least

fifty being registered, half of these with Paph. delenatii as the parvisepalum parent. Some of these have been awarded, the first being in 1947, Paph., Vanda M Pearman, as mentioned earlier, and the latest to Paph. Deperle (delenatii x primulinum) in 1993.

We then go further to hybrids with species crossed with complex hybrids. The first of these to be awarded was a cross between Paph. emersonii

and Paph. Virgo, a complex white. Once again I exclude hybrids with Paph. delenatii whilst a brachypetalum.

So far we have not seen many hybrid plants parvisepalum parents in New Zealand. What we have seen from slides and in the orchid journals has shown that there are obviously some very exciting new breeding lines to follow and I for one look forw- ard to seeing developments arising from the advent of this new



Paphiopedilum godefroyae

group of parents.

# Feeling Medium - le Cert sine Gest Selvicing

**B**ark has become the most widely-used material for pot culture of orchids, but is it the best? We have arrived at this situation mainly through orchids being grown commercially. Commercial growers need a readily available, easyto-use material that was consistent in it's performance, and so the move to bark was made. Hobbyist growers soon followed suit as it made orchid growing easier. Also, it was getting harder to obtain the fern fibre which they had been using (for details of these mixes see the February, '94 newsletter). We are now seeing some commercial growers moving away from bark and also some hobbyists are questioning it's suitability for some genera. So lets look back to see why it became popular and why it's popularity may now be declining? Pine bark is a waste product of the timber industry and so it is readily available. It can be graded into suitable sizes for the needs of different genera. It is light, free-draining and yet will still retain moisture. It is easy to use, either on it's own or mixed with other material. Some of the problems with bark are that it is acid and may contain some natural toxic substances. In recent years there appears to be a decline in quality due to the harvest of younger trees. This may have also led to an increase in toxicity.

So what are the alternatives. Anything that fits the requirements of orchids i.e.: free draining while still retaining some moisture, nontoxic and neither too light or heavy. I know of commercial growers who are using pumice for cymbidiums and either sphagnum moss or scoria for Phalaenopsis. I once bought a large cymbidium growing in pure sand. It was healthy, well-grown and carried three large flower spikes, mind you, it

weighed a tonne!! I repotted it into bark, and it has never performed well since.

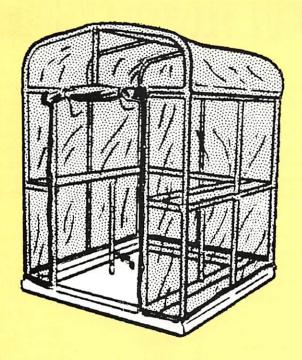
The choices that we can use fall into two categories, inorganic and organic. In the inorganic section, among other things, we have pumice and scoria that are able to retain moisture and are reasonably light. Rocwool - developed as a house insulation product - is popular overseas but the New Zealand equiva-

lent does not appear to be suitable. In organic materials do not break down so do not need to be replaced and plants can be potted-on into the next size pot without disturbing the roots, however, it must be remembered that there is no feed value in these mixes and therefore all the plants needs, must be supplied with a balanced fertiliser program.

Continued on page 152

# SHADE HOUSES

Especially for the Home Gardener. Variety of styles and sizes from \$385 incl. GST.



Made of durable, maintenance free materialscan also be extended to suit your growing needs.

# PLASTIC FANTASTIC

2/155 Target Road, Glenfield. Phone: 0-9-443 2685 Fax 0-9-443 3454

# IS THERE A WIDENING GAP BETWEEN SHOWBENCH AND CUT FLOWER CYMBIDIUMS

The question can be answered in four parts to arrive at a conclusion that there is an emphatic widening of the gap between showbench and commercial cut flower cymbidiums. The first part is the improvement in showbench cymbidiums. In judging standard cymbidiums the CSA allocates 36 points for shape, 36 for colour, 7 points each for size, floriferousness, substance and texture, and spike habit and flower arrangement. We have seen improvement in all these factors as hybridisers and exhibitors strive to find the flower spike to gain maximum points. A single flower is judged against Judges conception of perfection and the spike with the chosen flower must also conform to the judging standards.

The greatest scope to gain points is in shape and colour where we have the most points to start with. There was a big leap forward in shape quality in the early 1980's when Rincon 'Clarisse' 4n seedlings began to flower. Suddenly a new standard of shape appeared. Since then improvements have been more gradual. Reference to the Orchid Advocate award photographs over the last five years, particularly in the Bronze awards, shape does not appear to have changed a great deal over the last five years. What has happened though is

there are more orchids of Bronze Award standard around. There are also more orchids of Silver Award shape standard



seen. Gold medal standards remain scarce although we have recently broken the drought with Peter Dawson 'Grenadier' which retained good shape in spite of being a large flower. No furling or reflexing on such a huge flower is uncommon, on smaller flowers similar quality shape is easier to obtain. In shape therefore there has been an improvement in the overall quality.

We look for clarity and depth of colour for maximum point scoring when judging for colour. As an example, Mary Margaret 'Granados' G/CSA 1970 is still grown as a commercial cut flower as a clear pastel green with no back staining. The colour would be judged just as

good now as it was 23 than the exception in have not been uniform years ago but the shape showbench cymbidiums. over all aspects. Similarly

would no longer be adequate with todays standards. It would be hard to improve on quality of colour but what we are seeing more orchids with equivalent colour, an overall lifting of standards while not necessarily a rise in the top level. We are seeing clearer whites and greens. Intense and pastel



Cymbidium Kristianne Marie 'Miriam' Grower S. Fisken

yellows are about which do not stain. Recently in Australia Royal Fare 'Krista' (Fanfare x Trigo Royale) was seen which is a clear yellow in full sun in Australia. More even pinks without striping are available and so are darker reds. We see all of these as the rule rather

Looking at the remaining characteristics for point scoring, size appears to be no problem to achieve these days and maximum points or near to it for floriferousness are commonly scored. There is still a lot of variation in substance and texture so improvements to quality

spike habit and flower arrangement remain variable. Considering the overall flower standard for showbench cymbidiums, we have seen a lifting of quality level

The second factor in the widening gap is the improvement in cut flower cymbidiums. You may ask that if both show-

bench and cut flowers are improving, why the increasing gap? The answer is we are looking for different things.

I have an interest in a bred of gun dog, the Cocker Spaniel. In the judging situation of these in the UK show dogs are judged quite separately from field dogs. A other side of the world. as it is in a showbench champion show dog more Shape is not so important flower. It is very important

often than not may never have been used as a hunting dog. champion field dog may not look as good as a champion show dog. Rarely is there dog that will win a champion of both show and

field trials. It is the same thing that is happening with cymbidiums. Show bench flowers are bred to look perfect while for flowers commercial growers are looking something slightly different.

So what makes a good export cut flower spike? Remember that an export spike from New Zealand is always judged as a cut spike on the



Cym. Citation 'Pastel Queen' Grower Jean Allen



Cym Arcadian Sunrise 'Golden Fleece' Grower Val Bayliss

to have good colour a n d clarity of colour although it is no longer so important anymore as to what the colour is, with h possible exception of orange a n brown.

These colours are the only ones not favoured in the market at the moment. Large size is not so important as in a showbench flower. For a standard cymbidium as long as it reaches about 100 mm it is satisfactory. Substance and texture are very important, particularly as they apply to keeping quality of the flower during shipment. Spike habit and flower

arrangement are extremely important, particularly in the strength of the spike. An apt phrase used is that a cut flower cymbidium should be "colour on a stick."

growers. A good commercial cymbidium is not only judged on the flower but on the whole plant. There is a local group of commercial cut flower growers who have

commercial cut flower Does the flower produce a lot of nectar? This may not seem important but is a decided inconvenience to a cut flower producer. It is not so important to a grower of exhibition blooms. Obviously an



Cym Elimination 'Bayswater' Grower R. Tucker Photo R. Dix

is also There difference an exportable cymbidium and commercial cymbidium which brings us to the third factor for the widening gap. There is increasing commercial pressure and consequent improving professionalism

been formed to look at new varieties of cymbidiums that may be available for the industry in the future. They have an assessment sheet with 44 factors to consider. For example, as well as colour and shape of the flower, is it susceptible to Botrytis of spotting or cold damage?

upright spike habit and strength of the spike is paramount. How easy is it to tie up and how easy is it to harvest? It is much quicker to go around breaking off spikes than to cut off spikes. Coming to the plant, gross growing is something to be discouraged because too

SEPTEMBER 1995

Page 121

many leaves are hard to work through and clutter up benches and walkways. Productivity to produce multi spiking bulbs is after sought as production from the same bulb on the second year. Then how quickly does the plant recover after dividing up? These are all factors not necessarily important to a show bench cymbidium where the concern is to get the flowering plant perform at it's best on one day, but are extremely important to a cut flower grower.

The fourth reason for the widening gap is there is always going to be time lag in flowering and awarding a showbench flower and getting it into commercial production. We are talking at least ten years. At the end of this ten years then the standard of the new showbench cymbidiums has risen more. I do not know of any cymbidiums widely grown in New Zealand as commercial cut flowers that were awarded after 1975.

In summary, although some attributes of good

cymbidiums are common to both showbench and commercial cut flowers. the gap is widening between them in shape which is less important for cut flowers, and in production rate, spike habit, and inconvenient growing habits which are less important showbench flowers. The time lag in getting a quality showbench cymbidium which may also be suitable as a commercial cut flower is also significant.

CATTLEYA

Flowering size or near flowering delivered to your door

L. anceps var sanderiana \$19, bicolor \$12, bowringiana \$19,
L. lundii \$12, L. anceps x Blc Oconee - deep purple \$12, Slc Brandywine
'Burgundy Beauty' AM/AOS \$15, Slc Damson Queen - deep plum red \$15,
Hawaiian Fantasy 'Dora' \$15, Slc Hazel Boyd 'Red Dragon' \$15,
Slc Hazel Boyd 'Tropical Fantasy' \$15, Pot. Helen Veliz x Old Whitey x
Pastoral \$19, Cat intermedia var alba x skinneri var alba \$12 and \$19,
SL Jinn \$9, C. Landate x Slc Ruben Post 'Razzle Dazzle' - Dark reds \$19,
Lc Rojo x Slc Jewel Box \$19, Slc Sue Fordyce 'Autumn Fires' x Slc
Damson Queen \$15, Aloha Jewel - yellow/orange \$12, Lc Toreador \$9,
Blc Ports of Paradise \$19.

Order 5 get one bonus plant free Order 10 get 3 bonus plants Post & Packaging add \$10.00

House of Orchids

145 Manuka Road, Glenfield Auckland 10

John and Maxine Scott

Phone: 0-9- 444 9771

# **Norm Porter Orchids**

"CYMBIDIUM ORCHID SPECIALIST"



Red Panther 'Rajahs Ruby' x Coratea 'Rewa'
1st flower seedling, upright spike 13 blooms

My stand at the Orchid Expo will have for sale seedlings, community pots and flasks to give results like the one shown.

Also available will be flowering plants and clones of my latest varieties.

# FREE CATALOGUE AVAILABLE

Nursery: 23 Parata Street, Waikanae (next door Mitre 10) Hours - Tuesday - Saturday 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

During the flowering season, May - November, the Nursery is open Sundays & Public Holidays Phone/Fax **0-4-293 6977** 



# LETTER TO THE EDITOR FROM THE MANAWATU

Sir.

Firstly, a limited reply to your Editorial Current Comment in Orchids in NZ June 1995. Although I belong to a society which is currently holding membership numbers, I know the average age is probably well in the 60's plus.

Societies do have to be flexible, catering mainly SEPTEMBER 1995 for orchid growers certainly, but also the spouses/partners of orchid growers as well, hence the friendship club.

The botany, taxonomy and ecology of orchids is not for everyone, but I admit having sat a plant knowledge examination recently (where we had to learn botanical, common and maori names of specimens). It can be an absorbing learning experience, but one would have to be extremely keen to follow some of those things to a conclusion. (I passed the exam incidentally).

Probably the cultural knowledge of orchids gets people delving into books

Page 123

and magazines; it certainly does in our house, especially those written specifically for the Southern Hemisphere. There are also people who join a society for a year or two, who appear to 'gleam'

these groups are of benefit to those who belong, I fail to see how they would benefit orchid growing as a whole. It seems to me that these groups have a membership fee which is over and

I would be interested in other readers opinions, How about it?

Gwen Stoneley Manawatu Orchid Society

# ONE READER HAS HAD HER SAY WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO HAVE YOURS?

knowledge they can and then we do not see them again for various reasons.

As we 'Over 60's' know well, you are never too old to learn something new.

There has been a trend over the past few years which disturbs me somewhat, and I wonder if another reader feels as I do and whether it has any bearing on our orchid society membership.

There have been a number of other groups formed in New Zealand, such as the Paphiopedilum Alliance, Odontoglossum Alliance, and Masdevallia Group to name some. Although above any other subscription which one pays to belong to an area society, so this would limit some people who can afford only one subscription.

Also, the information discussed in these group meetings seems to remain within the group, so it becomes a 'secret' society which surely must be of no value to orchids groups as a whole.

Surely the more varied interests within a society and the more sharing members are encouraged to do, be it plants, culture, habitat, books on the subject etc., etc., the better educated and enthused all members of that society must be.

# GILCHRIST MICRO PROPAGATIONS

Species flasks from as low as \$10

- Dendrobiums
- Cymbidiums
- Oncidiums
- Encyclias
- CattleyaLaelias
- And many more

Many rare and

endangered species Seed imported from overseas

Established seedlings also exotic palms from as low as \$3.00

Contact us for a free flask list and prices:

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

Overseas and commercial enquiries welcome.

# GROWING PAPHS IN A MIXED COLLECTION

When I started growing a few orchids ten years ago in a draughty, unheated leanto, I planned to look after a few cool growing species. From the start I kept well away from Cymbidiums, as they would have outgrown my little shed in no time. I endeavoured to put together a mixed lot with the main effort going into the genus Dendrobium. As this family is at home over a wide geographic area and has lots of cool growing members, I'd have something in flower all year round. Very early in the piece I bought Paph. insigne, soon to be followed all year by P. fairrieanum, spicerianum and venustum. The P. fairrieanum and P. venustum (very small seedlings) could not hack it at my place and departed to the promised land where there is no damping off, no slugs, no scale!

As time went by more plants were acquired. Keith Goodwin sent out selling lists with monotonous regularity, from which one could close a myriad of paphs from between \$10 for barbatum and \$400 for topperii. Those were the days! With the availability of such gems I had to adjust my husbandry and modify the housing. Firstly a hotbed was installed (a heating cable buried in sand). Not long after, a 6 x 3m warm house was erected, complete with heating and insulation. The hot bed is situated in the cool house and is covered with a tent fashioned from plastic sheeting to keep the temperature up to 18-22°C. During most days we lift the front flap to allow for air circulation. In this environment I keep the deflasks and plants that like it hot. But by far the majority of our paphs

live on the bottom shelf of the warm house. This is constructed of wire mesh. and the plants seem to like all the free air flow. They are shaded by 30% shadecloth and quite a few hanging baskets overhead. For the hottest four months there goes on another layer of 30% shadecloth on the roof. In the wintertime the thermostat is set at 15°C at head height, but on the bench, which is only 600 mm of the floor, the temperature sinks to 5°C. This is where all my intermediate and intermediate warm species grow. This might seem fairly low; yes, I would like it to be warmer too, but then think of the next power bill. As my glasshouse had unobstructed access to the first sunrays of the morning during the winter there is a very rapid warming up taking place. a big ceiling fan keeps the air moving, eliminating hot and cold pockets.

As a growing medium I make use of straight medium to fine bark in plastic pots. If there is a sick plant without roots I put it into straight sphagnum, covering the top with a bit of bark to keep the green gunk away. For deflasks and smallish plants I add a few crumbs of Aquarius foam to the bark.

Watering takes place whenever necessary. Quite often I give all the plants a very light fine mist that is hardly noticeable on the leaves. This is done in late evenings with a Cambrian sprayer to imitate night dew.

bill. As my glasshouse I feed my paphs like most other genera; almost to the first sunrays of the morning during the winter there is a very rapid warming up taking place. Right throughout the year diluted rates (1/5 to 1/10)

of what is recommended on the packet). I must have some Scottish ancestry in me; but like one that does not burn any roots!

I find paphs not any more difficult to look after than the other genera. Having no pseudobulbs they are a bit less forgiving and once they start a downhill slide, they take some nursing back. So recognising symptoms of illness is rather important, and that must be done rather sooner than later. I am trying to repot my paphs every 12-18 months, and that exercise makes you aware if the root system is AOK.

I suppose everybody has their pet problem plants. I don't seem to get on with P. acmodontum chamberlainianum, mastersianum, godefroyae. One day I'll have 'em licked!

An aspect in favour of slipper orchids is that most species are very well researched. With a bit of patience and detective work one can sniff out and obtain practically a "full set" (to use a stamp collector's term), which ensures flowering plants all year round. And then of course, my wife thinks paphs are her favourites.

If you think I am oversimplifying the cultivation of my 72 paph species you better believe it. They have to fit in and tow the line with the other 600 species of 120 genera in sharing our 1/8 acre backyard. So the genus Paphiopedilum is only part of my hobby of orchid growing, and I don't like them any more than my other weeds. But I must agree that they are distinct from anything else in the orchid world, and one cannot mistake them for anything else.

Good luck and good growing.

From NZ Paphiopedilum Alliance Newsletter

Paphiopedilum haynaldianum 'Diana' Grower/photo N. Butler

Page 126



# Our West Auckland address is:

18 Cabernet Crescent, Massey (at the end of the North Western Motorway S.H.16 behind the Shell Service Stn)

Phone: 832 1400 Fax: 832 1699

(10 Firth Street, Drury) Phone: 294 8453 Fax: 294 7272

Able to offer at Competitive Prices Able to supply all Horticulturists especially Greenhouse and Glasshouse Growers

- Cartons
- \* Chemicals
- \* Gloves
- \* Footwear
- \* Fertilisers
- Irrigation
- \* Nylex
- \* String
- \* Flower Sleeves (Local & Imported)
- \* Orchid Vials
- Tetron
- \* Flower bunching & grading equipment
- \* Rose stripping machines

- \* Herbage and Soil Analysis
  - \* Seed (Imported & Local)
    - \* Dyna Foggers
      - \* Packaging



# HOURS

MONDAY — FRIDAY 8.00 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. AN ORGANISATION SET UP FOR YOU THE GROWER.

# WHY I GROW ORCHIDS

# by Lesley Newton

**B**efore Christmas, a friend of mine asked me the following question. "Why did I spend so much time and effort with growing orchids?"

These were the answers I came up with.

- I enjoy growing orchids.
- I've made a lot of friends over the years.
- Travelled to interesting places that I would never have gone to otherwise.
- Get out and about, all over the country, now that I have extended my hobby into judging.

I have always enjoyed growing plants. My earliest memories are growing sweetpeas for primary school garden competitions. I guess over the years I just progressed towards orchids.

My first orchid was purchased at a local garden centre. The Cymbidium was of undetermined origin, but it grew and flowered and I was very proud of my achievement. About two years later I discovered an orchid show on at the local horticultural centre. I promptly went along, brought a few more plants and joined the local society. My fa-

ther had made me a small glasshouse out of window-panes and duralite which I tried to stuff all manner of plants into. Many died, but some hung in enough to keep my interest going. I remember buying some paphiopedilums from John Campbell. He took one look at my little glasshouse and commented "they won't survive in there". He was right, they died.

In 1980, I was persuaded to attend the International orchid show at Ellerslie Raceway. What a wonderful few days. I saw flowers and genera I had never seen before. The people were all so friendly and helpful. I came home armed to the teeth with plants. I was hooked.

About that time I discovered Phalaenopsis and Dendrobiums. I bought an Eden glasshouse and put in electricity for heating. It was all downhill from here. My plant collection grew rapidly. I

would go to my monthly meetings with a few display plants, so when I came home with even more plants. The squeak of the glasshouse door would not be interpreted as putting yet more plants in the glasshouse, just returning those I had taken. Growing orchids teaches you to be devious. Growing orchids also teaches patience, especially if you are bringing plants up flower from the flask. The longest I have waited so far is ten years, an Ascocenda I bought in Singapore took ten years to produce a flower spike. Patience is also waiting years for a plant to produce a spike and then going out the hot house one day to either find a snail has had it for dinner or you accidentally back into it and break it off.

In 1984 I bought my own house, so I had to put up another hothouse. This one was larger than the last and built specially for *Phalaenopsis* and other

warm loving genera. At last count I now have around 500 plants, ranging from seedlings just out of flask to large flowering plants that I have had for many years.

Many of my orchids give me fond memories of people I have known and friends that are no longer with us. Some of these plants are more than ten years old and I treasure these as much as the latest hybrid I purchased last year.

In the early 1980's I joined the local judging group. This now opened another horizon in orchid growing. I began to look at my plants in a different light. I learnt all about breeding, genetics, family trees, what to look for in good plants.

In 1985 I judged my first international show in Wellington. It was an exhausting but very enjoyable day. The next major show I judged was the 13 W.O.C in Auckland. That was an exciting day, having breakfast, talking and judging with people you only ever read about in overseas magazines. People like Robert Fuchs and George Vasquez. The day was topped off by the opening that night and seeing all those beautiful

orchids in all their glory, with their awards attached. I thought to myself "I participated in this today."

Last year I travelled, with 42 other orchid growers, to Darwin to attend the Australian Orchid Show. I had a wonderful time and made a lot of new friends. We did things and went to places I never dreamed of ever doing. I dived on the Barrier reef, walked in tropical rainforest, went walkabout in the Kakadu and had a close encounter with a few crocodiles. By the way we did have two days at the show as well. This was my first tropical show. This show was quite different to others I have attended. It was full of hardcaned Dendrobiums Vandas and Phalaenopsis. There was hardly a cymbidium in sight and only two or three masdevallias. What a sight seeing such large Vandas and hardcaned Dendrobiums being grown to perfection. We don't see much of this in the South Island. In fact it can be quite a struggle to get a good spike of flowers on these types of plants in Christchurch.

Another pastime I enjoyed with my orchids is camping. For a while we had a little group of enthusiasts who would disappear into the wilds of the South Island looking for native orchids. Two of our group were geologists, so we learnt some geology as well. One trip we were on, we didn't find any orchids but we came home with a good collection of fossilised wood.

Alas our geologists moved to the North Island and others of our group moved out of Christchurch, so we haven't been camping recently.

I do hope this article answers the question that was asked of me.

I grow orchids because I enjoy the challenge and privilege of growing such a wonderful and diverse family of plants. I have travelled to more places around New Zealand and other countries than I ever dreamed of and I have met over the years a wonderful group of friends and people that all have a common bond.



The two winning plants were illustrated in colour in the last issue of this magazine. The **Orchid of the Year** was *Odm*. Stropheon 'Bayswater' exhibited by Ross Tucker. and Cliff and Ruth Coles gained the **Cultural Award** for their *Masdevallia* Shuttryana 'Candyace'

AWARD NAME		OWNER
HCC V. Rothschi	ldiana 'Midnight'	Jeanette Hewer
	ggy Mac 'Bayswater'	Ross Tucker
HCC Den. Easter	Bunny 'Madge'	Gary & Heather Cooke
CCC Brs. verruce	osa 'Galaxy'	John Campbell
HCC C. Valentin		B. S. & L. M. Gapper
	nce Lambuth 'Redvale'	Ross Tucker
HCC Ascda. lonia		Barbara & Fane Johnson
	Crimson 'Harcourt'	Bernie & Kay Killington
	Crimson 'Harcourt'	Bernie & Kay Killington
HCC Z. Blue Eye		Dora Rivers
HCC Odm. (Rossi		Myra John
	der Bay 'Hori Pokai'	Glenn & Peter Anderson
	ting Sunset 'L & R'	L. & R. Orchids
HCC Bark. lindle		Maurice Bycroft
AM Odtna. Lull		Bernie & Kay Killington
HCC Z. River M	urray 'Nap <mark>i</mark> er'	Ross Tucker
	arium 'Gold <mark>e</mark> n Dragon'	Cathy Hine
AM Paph. Unregi	stered Grex sukhakulii x Lyxel 'Papa	Aroha' Papa Aroha Orchids
	era 'Jenine <mark>Frances</mark> '	Gwenda Parkinson
HCC Paph. hayna		Neville Butler
HCC Paph. Saint	Swithin 'Embach'	Hans Piechl
HCC Slc. Trilogy	'Seminar'	I. D. (Jim) & Rae James
HCC Paph. hayna	ıldianum 'Ti <mark>hi-o-tonga</mark> '	Selwyn Hatrick
HCC Paph. sukha	kulii 'Tihi-o-tonga'	Selwyn Hatrick
HCC Paph. malip	oense 'Tihi-o-tonga'	Selwyn Hatrick
HCC Paph. Airwa	ave 'Orion'	Bev Thomas
HCC Phal. violace		Rex Williams

ORCHIDS IN NEW ZEALAND

Page 130

HCC Cym. Goldilocks Dream 'Glen Avon'

HCC C. trianaei 'Robert Sony' CCC C. trianaei 'Robert Sony'

HCC Z. mackayi 'Blue Lagoon'

AM Paph. malipoense 'Puffball'

CCC Onc. varicosum var. Rogersii 'Clement Stokell'

HCC Cym. Red Beauty 'Nettie' 4N

HCC Den. Tania's Pride 'Sunrise City'

HCC Cym. Mem. Amelia Earhart 'Waverley'

HCC Cym. Red Coral 'Flame'

HCC Cym. Parish Song 'Mulberry'

CCC Den. falcorostrum 'Janice'

HCC Sacro. Arcadia 'Sandra'

AM Odm. Stropheon 'Bayswater'

HCC Wils. Salgrin 'Starbright' AM Paph. Adventure 'Jayden'

AM Masd. coccinea v. xanthina 'Lemon Tart'

CCC Masd. Shuttryana 'Candyce'

HCC L. milleri 'Fulford'

HCC Paph. urbanianum 'Meg'

HCC V. Palmerston Blue 'Bill' Cym. Pure Love 'At Last' AM

HCC Masd. Belladonna 'Ballerina'

Gray & Reid Ellen Manson

Ellen Manson

Carole & Ray Thorne

Ron Roy

John Campbell Kiwi Orchids Ltd.

Agnes & Harold Bayram

David Johnson Norm Porter

Norm Porter Gordon Watchman

**June Swinbanks** Ross Tucker'

Ross Tucker

Cliff & Ruth Coles

Cliff & Ruth Coles Cliff & Ruth Coles

F. Zumbuhl

Holmes Family Gillian Lyster

Roylyn Orchids Nola Chisnall

# KatyBuck<sup>®</sup>

# Hello from Katy Buck and Joy Wray

KATY BUCK INTERNATIONAL LTD started approximately twelve years ago mainly focusing on handcraft supplies - embroidery transfers, Katy Buck Fabric Inks, brushes etc. Eventually a series of New Zealand Birds and Flowers Aerogrammes were created and were well received by the public through New Zealand Post Shops. They are still extremely popular today and some new exclusive designs are currently being launched. Our other New Zealand souvenirs are also well known throughout

The 13th World Orchid Conference held in Auckland in 1990 saw the introduction of a new product range featuring orchids, the main attraction being a handpainted double bed duvet cover and pillowcases which some of you may remember. Since then several more covers have been created and displayed at national and international orchid shows around the world and it is our ambition to develop these for sale to the general

We will have a large range of products all depicting orchids at the 3rd New Zealand INTERNATIONAL ORCHID EXPO in Palmerston North and look forward to seeing you all there. It will be an ORCHID EXTRAVAGANZA not to be missed!

P.O. BOX 11-255 **ELLERSLIE** AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Telephone 64-9-579 6364 Fax 64-9-579 6364

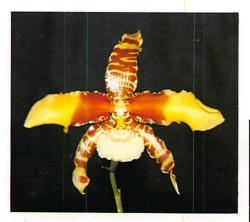
public.



Paphiopedilum Kulyx Grower B. Fraser



Sarchchilus Arcadia 'Sandra' Grower June Swinbanks



Odm. grande 'Daryll' Photo A. John



- When visiting Auckland take a trip to beautiful Waiheke Island.
  - Admire the orchids or vineyards and beaches etc.
  - · Large variety of orchids with picturesque surroundings.
    - A sight not to be missed.



Renanthera King Crimson Grower/photo K. and B. Killington

# SEND NOW FOR BROCHURE:-

R.D. 1 Gordons Road WAIHEKE ISLAND

Ph A/H 0-9-372 8888

# SOUTH ISLAND AUSTRALASIAN NATIVE ORCHID GROUP

There is a correspondence group who are dedicated to learning the cultural requirements for successfully growing and flowering Australasian Native Orchids, concentrating on Dendrobiums Kingianum-types, *Sarcochilus* and some terrestrials.

The aims of the group are to further

are to further their knowledge, and to a chieve good healthy plants which produce flowers regularly. The group has

a library which was kindly started by the Australasian Native Orchid Society Council with copies of their cultural journal (*The Orchadian*).

We have a bimonthly Bulletin containing at lease one article by a leading Australian grower on up to date cultural notes, and a question and answer section.

We have no set meeting dates during the year, as our members are spread throughout New Zealand. So our meetings are arranged when out of town members are

> christchurch or during conferences, or Society shows.

ORCHID ORCHID shows.

Our club has had two badges. The first is a limited edition badge

which is used to raise funds to help keep our subscriptions down. The second badge is our club badge for members. Our subscription year starts on the 1st of July and ends on the 30th June each year. Subscriptions are \$5 per annum. For further information write to:

Gaile Creeggan 51a Glenharrow Ave. Avonhead Christchurch 4



Dendrobium kingianum

# A History of Orchid Badges in New Zealand

# Wanganui Orchid Society

# Heather Crofskey

On the 4th of May 1967 Mrs B. Ardell became first president of the Wanganui Orchid Club. The inaugural meeting netted 12 financial members and subscriptions were set at 50 cents single and 75 cents double.

At an exraodinary A.G.M. on 7th November 1984, Wanganui Orchid Club became Wanganui Orchid Society Inc.

Name badges appeared on the scene on 1st December 1971 which proved very popular with rising membership until the Club badge designed by Mr Tauri was inaugurated in 1981 at a



cost of \$3.00. By simply stating "Wanganui" on the original badge, the newly named Wanganui Orchid Society Inc. cleverly avoided the need to change the die.

The number one badge differs from the number two in that the colours have a matt appearance whilst the number two have a gloss enamel finish. Neither have a resin coating. Both have a tie-tack catch on the back.

The "Life Member" badge for achievement is the sole "extra".

# Quick Quiz

(Answers on Page 115)

- 1. Arachnis What creature does this genus remind you of?
- 2. Lithophyte a plant growing on?
- Triploid has how many sets of chromosomes?
- 4. Conduplicate means 1. Folded down the middle?
  - 2. Petals exactly equal?
- 5. Blc. hybrid of 1. Brassavola, Laelia and Cattleya? 2. Brassia, Laelia and Cattleya?
- 6. Tolumnias used to be called?
- 7. In the last 3 years which Paph. species has gained the most A.M.'s from the OCNZ?
- 8. Name 5 countries who have issued postage stamps featuring orchids?
- 9. Two viruses are prevalent among orchids name them?
- 10. SC Beaufort is a \_\_\_\_\_ hybrid. Name the two parents?
- 11. What does CITES stand for?
- 12. Which genus has most frequently been awarded by the AOS for peloric mutants?
- 13. Who was the last President of the NZOC?
- 14. There are now over 50 hybrids in the Colmanara group what genus make a Colmanara?
- 15. Name the scientific journal of the AOS?

by Helen McDonald Bay of Plenty Orchid Society

# OCNZ News

The Executive Committee met in Palmerston North on Sunday 23rd April 1995. Items from this meeting of interest are:

# **Financial**

The committee is happy to report that a request which was made to the Orchid Foundation for the sum of \$2000.00 has been successful.

The money was used to purchase a professional Publishing Desktop Software package. This will assist Phil Tomlinson, the editor of "Orchids in New Zealand" in the transfer of information to the printers of the magazine. This should reduce some of the errors made in the set up of the magazine. The Orchid Council is once again indebted to Foundation for their support in this venture.

There will be no change in affiliation fees this year.

# National Raffle

The National Raffle will take place from August SEPTEMBER 1995 through to the Orchid Expo in October.

A decision by the committee to offer societies a 20% discount has been made. This will be a great incentive to societies to sell the quota of tickets. This is the second National Raffle which is part of the sponsorship in support of The Orchid Expo at Palmerston North.

The prizes are generously donated by Kevin Salmon of World Travel.

# Magazine

Due to the problems with the publisher, the March issue was not released until April. The June issue should be out on time.

As of 23rd April 1995, only 500 subscriptions have been received for Orchids in N.Z. Please raise this matter with your members - we need 750 subs to break even on the magazine.

# Visiting Speakers

Speakers for the rest of the year will be Everett Stockstill from California. Everett is currently President of the Torrance Branch of the Cymbidium Society of America. Everett has a great reputation for making people laugh and it is said that he heads one of the best societies in the USA. Everett will visit CSA Auckland on August 12th, Te Puke on August 13th, NZOS August 16th, Hawkes Bay on 19th and the capital city on the 21st. The council, the NZOS and the CSA New Zealand Branch are cosponsors in the Everett Stockstill visit. Don't miss this exciting speaker. These dates are tentative and are subject to change. Please watch your notices for further intimations.

Due to the unforeseen circumstances George Fuller will be unable to tour the South Island this year but we look forward to George being able to do the circuit some time in the future.

The good news is that John Hainsworth from UK will visit the South Island in October. The tentative dates are Dunedin 9th, Gore 10th, Oamaru 12th, Christchurch 14th and 15th, Nelson 17th and Marlborough 19th.

Joe Vance Publicity Officer

# CATTLEYA Cultural Notes

# by Mary Jones

To understand cattleya culture we should first know how they grow in their natural habitat

Most are epiphytes, they use their host tree for support only and do not obtain nourishment from it. They are shaded by the leaves and branches and rough bark provides anchorage for the roots as well as channelling rain to the plant. Mosses and lichens provide homes for the seed when it is dispersed by the wind.

By looking at all these points we can take notice and try to grow our plants as naturally as possible. The roots obviously need air around them so we grow them in a medium which allows this, coarse bark or scoria or something similar is ideal.

Air movement is necessary as we imagine them growing up in trees, and shading as leaves naturally supply this. Provide all these and we can't go too far wrong. Most cattleyas require a little more

warmth than some of the other genera we grow, they appreciate a little comfort over the winter months. Heaters, heat boards or even the warmest spot in the greenhouse. 'Ideal temperatures' is always an interesting topic as some can grow their plants with little or no added heat, it all depends on the situation in which they are housed. I grow in a greenhouse, my plants are all in clay pots and I stand these on trays of damp scoria. The scoria is very damp in summer but almost dry in the winter.

Over the winter I water carefully and pamper my plants by using tepid water with each pot hand watered, this way I can be sure of not having too much water around which would encourage botrytis. I have four small fan positioned to create total air circulation around the

greenhouse. Two fans are up almost at roof level and the other two are under the central bench (these two are also the heaters.) The heaters are governed by thermostats which switch on when the temperature drops to 10°C and switch off again when it reaches 17°C. Summertime, all windows, vents and doors are open during the day but I do close them down at night. The fans are still doing their work at night circulating the warm air.

By standing my pots on trays of damp scoria I find I create the ideal humidity levels for my plants and in the heat of the day while I am at work I don't have to worry about my plants having a fit of the 'vapours'! So far this year I have not had to damp down the greenhouse. I don't have overhead watering so this system works well for me.

At this time of the year cattleyas are busing sending up spikes, protect from snails as they can ruin a whole year's work over night. Watch for spikes with a double sheath as these can trap the buds. Use a small pair of sterilised scissors to snip the top off the outer sheath to allow the buds to develop. Water carefully, try not to let the water sit around the base of the sheath as it could cause rot. When the buds are far up enough remove the sheath but please be careful as they snap off with a sickening sound if you don't do it right! Carefully stake the flowers if needed sometimes the flowers are so big that they need a little help to keep their heads up.

Fertilising: Use a high nitrogen solution in spring when the plants are in active growth and later in the season use a high potassium and fee both these solutions weakly, each week. Rest the plants during winter for a few weeks. I find cattleyas a little confusing sometimes when it comes to feeding as in my collection I am very rarely without plants in flower, so which way do I fertilise? I use my own discretion at these times. . . It works for me.

. . It works for me. SEPTEMBER 1995 Spraying: I hate sprays. I will only spray if I have to, by checking my plants regularly I can usually deal with a problem before it gets out of control.

I have only been growing orchids for a few years and have made many mistakes in that time. I am always willing to hear what you may think is a better way of growing these magnificent orchids. I find that by observing my plants they tell me when they are happy and when they need help!



Blc. Shellie Compton 'Touch of Class' Grower Sherlock Orchids Kapiti Coast Orchid Show July 1990

# DARWIN MAGIC 1996 by Trevor Gillbanks Manawatu Orchid Society, Palmerston North

Wednesday 6th: Teresa and I left Palmerston North at 8.30 am with over cast but fine weather and 10°C for Wellington. Departure time of 3 pm saw the weather had cleared and we left New Zealand to an almost cloudless day with Sydney as our destination. A time advance of 2 hours had us there by 5.30 pm and 19°C. On route to the Hilton Hotel we were given a quick tour of Sydney sights. Teresa and I then walked the couple of blocks to the Centrepoint building, the tallest building in the Southern hemisphere at 1000 ft or 304.8 m. The view at night is pure magic and a must see for anyone going to Sydney.

Thursday 7th: 6 am start for Darwin via Brisbane. We meet up with Harold Bayram's group at Brisbane airport so our group of 25 had become 40 noisy kiwis. We arrived in Darwin at 12.55 pm and 28°C. The vast barrenness of the Northern Territory (NT) from the air is awe-inspiring. The people of NT told us that NT stands for "not today, not tomorrow, next Tuesday will do maybe". Once this attitude had sunk in you then found life a lot easier to cope with. Around 4 pm Teresa and I went for a walk and found ourselves at Doctor's Gully and the feeding of the fish. This was a fantastic sight as at high

tide the fish from the open sea come into this small bay and are hand feed bread from the hundreds of people who come to see the event. The fish are wild and are free to come and go as they please, but thousands of milk fish, mullet, stingrays, herring and others is a sight to behold. There is a \$1000.00 fine for fishing there.

When we got back to the Hotel we found that our Societies President and his wife, Neville and Diana Butler were in the room next to ours. They arrived the day before.

We held our first group meeting at 5.30 pm beside the pool and introductions were made all round.

5.30 pm we caught a taxi to Mindle Beach Market. This is a giant flea market with over 10000 people attending every Thursday evening. Food and craft stalls were everywhere and prices varied considerably. It was a pity this was on our first day in Darwin as we could have done a lot more souvenir purchases from the market and saved ourselves a lot of money. We got back to the Hotel at 3 pm and found that the Butlers had returned from Tiwi Island, so a cuppa and a chat before we decided it was time to check out the inside of the evelids. A very long day.

**Friday 8th:** Started with death by fresh fruit

for breakfast (Rock Melons. Paw Paw, Pineapple - this became our daily breakfast then a ½ day

tour of Darwin. Our driver Peter was very entertaining. We saw Art and Science Museum, Fanny Gaol, East Point Military Museum plus a very good tour of the city. Lots of mementos of Cyclone Tracy which totally destroyed Darwin during Christmas 1974.

ist. Most flowers that are seen are **bourganvillias and fragapanis**. There is no shortage of water in



Phal. amabilis 'Q'lander' Photo Trev or Gillbanks

On return to the Hotel we found out that 2 of our group had gone to one of the Hotel bars for lunch and they found out that every lunch hour there is a live strip show in the bar, but that is another story.

Inspite of the temperature, being up around 30°C the humidity was only 10 - 15% so it was quite comfortable. It was noticeable that although there are a lot of trees in Darwin flower gardens as we know them hardly ex-

Darwin and most people have sprinklers going all day.

At 5.30 we went out to the Marrara Stadium for the evening opening ceremony. Pre-opening drinks and nibbles were held and then after dark everyone went into the stadium in darkness. Very short sharp speeches were presented before the opening show took effect. The show theme was Orchid Magic Darwin 94 and to this end a light and

sound show that lasted for about 10-15 min. was presented. The light display featured spotlights dart-

> ing from one another in quickening succession in time to some well chosen music. Our attention was totally captivated with the undressing of the main display to a very provocative tune. This display was a massive arrangement of dendrobs, vandas and oncidiums flowing from a large top

hat. Our appetites were by now well and truly wetted for the final burst of light and sound culminating with **Tinker Bell** flying through the air and being blown up in the explosion of a **toadstool**. With all the displays now lit up we were left in awe. It was worth the trip to Darwin just to see the Opening Ceremony.

After the display we were asked to wait for about 15 min. while all the props were removed and

then we were given a preview of the displays. The Display area was about the same size as our own Manawatu Show. Part of the lack of plants can be attributed to the vast distances that exhibitors must travel. Therefore, many of the flowers on display were cut flowers which of course meant that individual blooms do not take up as much room as a complete plant.

Vast quantities of Cooktown dendrobs, Vandas, Singapore Orchids were on display. Paphanatics from USA bought a large quantity of blooms over. Other international exhibitors included Singapore Flowers and PNG Government House.

Best specimen went to Dendrobium samurai grown by Dennis Herne. This plant was enormous (over 2 metres wide and 1.5 metres high). Best display non commercial was by **Litchfield Orchid Club.** Grand Champion of the Show *Phal. amabilis* 'Q'lander HCC/AOS.

Saturday 9th: Neville Butler, Ernie Corbett, Peter Dyer and myself caught an early taxi to the show to make best use of the pre-public photo session. With help from Nev-

ille I killed 36 slides and 24 prints between 8 and 9 am. 9am was start time for the lectures and as they were not being held at the Show venue Neville and I caught the bus as we wanted to attend the morning lecturers. However, some changes had to be made as the person who was to speak first on Paphs, had had a problem with frosts in Sydney and lost many plants so withdrew at the last minute. (Problem sounds familiar). However the alternative programme that was planned was most interesting and I learned a lot. It was such a pity that I could no attend all lectures but time did no permit.

Monday 11th: Glass-house tours. Kathy Murphy Vandas unlimited. Kathy is widowed and the condition on her grounds were amazing. Thousands of Vandas were everywhere. No potting mix is used in the NT because of cockroaches, slaters and grasshopper getting in the mix and eating the roots. No problems with snails. Fungus is a problem in the wet season.

Rosemary Bromich Large hedge of Terete Vandas, again another lovely setup. Phal. grow outside tied to a fence or on slabs, all orchids with 70% shade cloth in the summer months.

Most growers in NT/ Queensland grow terete, semi terete and strap leaf vandas, plus biggibum (Cooktown) dendrobs plus oncidiums.

Two commercial growers were also visited on **Tour 1**, Tour 2 the next day had 3 commercial growers on the list with the main one being Majestic Orchids. This is place is a story on it's own (amazing).

The rest of the trip to Alice Springs, Ayers Rock, Cairns, Great Barrier Reef, Kuranda, Atherton Tablelands, Mossman, Daintree, Native Habitat, Toad racing, Lonnies Nursery and my love affair with the Wellington customs agent is another story for another time.

See you all in Palmerston North

for

Essentially Orchids 1995.

Don't forget!!!

# Tudor Orchids

Nursery: Greatford Road (State Highway 1) BULLS

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

### Some attractive new hybrids now available

### **DENDROBIUMS** Cooler tolerant antelope type

Den Adrian Lonne (Dandy Dame x canaliculatum)

This is a remake of an excellent cross. Expert dark blues, good shape \$10

Den Queen Cobra x canaliculatum Large red brown antelope type \$10

Den Marj's Dream x Ricky Cornetti Good blue antelope type \$10

**Den Kiyomi Beauty x foelshii 'Purple Tips'** Free flowering bright purple/white semi antelope flowers \$15

### **EQUITANT ONCIDIUMS**

Compact dwarf plants, flowering size, planted in hydraton. The colours vary within crosses and are difficult to predict, however, where possible we have given some indication. These plants are all priced at \$18

Onc Dark Sunset x onustum Very vigorous with mainly yellow flowers

Onc Caledonia Shield x Hawaiian Gold

Onc Dark Sunset x Nuuanu Beauty

Onc Hawaiian Gold x Dark Sunset Variable colours from yellow to orange to red

## TARANAKI SUMMER ORCHID DISPLAY

# Central School — 13th and 14th January 1996

The Taranaki Orchid Society again extends an invitation to join in this unique event. Orchids seldom otherwise seen on display, notably disas and summerflowering masdevallias are featured. Share in a fun weekend. Join in the monster boot sale of orchid plants and sundries. Bring plants for 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 your local society secretary or as below. Deadline 31st December, 1995.

TARANAKI ORCHID SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 635, NEW PLYMOUTH.

# June Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee met in Palmerston North on Saturday 17th June 1995. Items from this meeting may be of interest to your committee and society members.

## **Society Membership**

It was pleasing to note from affiliation numbers that of the 41 societies operating, 13 increased membership in the past year. Most of the remainder held their membership levels. Perhaps we have turned the corner in the membership loss.

# **Judging**

C.O.A. Chairman Dennis Bonham reported that the roll of judging personnel stands at 208, of this 122 are accredited.

For the 1994 - 1995 judging year, 50 plants received awards, namely AM 10. HCC 34, AD 0 CCC 5.

Orchid of the Year was *Odm*. Stropheon "Bayswater" grown by Ross Tucker.

The Cultural Award for the Year was *Masd* Shuttryana "Candice" grown by Cliff and Ruth Coles.

The C.O.A Committee had approved the introduction of a

Certificate of Botanical Merit (CBM) to grant recognition once only to a species or natural hybrid for which definitive information on form. colour size and floriferousness cultivation may not be readily available and to provide a basis in record against which other cultivators may be judged standards excellence at subsequent submissions.

The Executive Committee thanks Dennis once again for his effort over the last judging year. A very difficult year for Dennis while recovering from his illness.

Dennis and Martin have compiled an Awards booklet covering the three judging systems operating in New Zealand, i.e. OCNZ, NZOS and CSA.

Council judges will receive a book via their local panel. Additional copies can be purchased from Dennis or Graham Jackson at a cost of \$5.00 per copy plus postage.

### **National Raffle**

Raffle books should be with societies about the middle of July. Please nominate an organiser to handle this task. Remember 20% of every ticket you sell will go to your society. You may be able to sell them at your shows.

## Magazine

The magazine still struggles for survival. Problem being less than 20% of affiliated members subscribe to the magazine! Are societies doing all they can to promote the magazine to their members?

Orchids in New Zealand has improved immensely over the last few years, less costly than many overseas journals yet some of our members who subscribe to overseas journals still don't take Orchids in New Zealand. Please give this some thought, if the magazine should disappear through lack of support it would indeed be a loss to the Orchid fraternity.

# 

### Franz Zumbuhl

A wee while ago I flowered three orchids which I thought might be worthy of awarding. They were *C. gaskelliana alba, Den. ochraetum* and *L. milleri*. I rang the boss of the local judging panel who organised a posse, which in turn came a couple of days later to have a look. When they, armed with rulers and note paper, got down to business of critical observation, I withdrew. A while later I was informed that the *Laelia* would get and HCC., but that the cattleya's blooms were too small and the dorsal petals were also not standing up straight. The *Den. ochreatum* also ideally should have flowering stems all around the pot.

So far so good. I am reasonably happy with the HCC for the *Laelia*. It had seven spikes with about ten flowers on each. The *Cattleya* was down on size perhaps because it carried three spikes with three flowers on each. Two years ago it only had two which measured almost 20 x 200 mm. I thought then I'd probably get knocked back on the flower count.

Den. ochreatum is a peculiar case. It has not been awarded before, and the panel did not know it, so the four stems with

their 50 brilliantly yellow flowers missed out.

Which brings me to the next plant. At the recent

New Plymouth Summer Orchid Display I asked the judges to look at *Paphio*pedilum markianum Fowl.



DENDROBIUM OCHREATUM Photo F. Zumbuhl

It is a quite recent discoverv and had been described for the first time in 1990. It is a native of the border region between China and Vietnam. Again the judges had the problem of not being able to compere it with previously awarded specimens, in fact none of them had ever heard of P. markianum. However, they awarded it with an HCC. And this is what puzzles me. If the panel does not know the orchid how can they arrive at the verdict they did. Why did the plant miss out on a FCC or at worst AM? All the measurements of my plant are greater than what the description says. The leaves are clean and the whole thing looks a picture of health.

I am a competitive person so I am not taking all this too seriously. I only grow species and there are quite a few people doing likewise around the country. We seem to have a certain affinity with one another. The issue is that there are not many judges growing mainly species and there are not many serious species growers that are judges. This fact creates problems when it comes to awarding species. I am not talking about well documented genera like Cattleya, Odon-Page 144

toglossum etc. What cannot be found in Sander's Hybrid List is beyond most. So they don't seem to take into account how difficult it is to grow some plants, or, worse still, try to flower some of them. Case in point: Den. ochreatum.

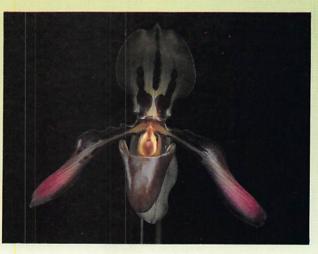
I do not know how to give our judging system more credibility. Should we go the way they do it in Europe, where there are two categories: one for commercial growers and one for privateers? Or why can't we do our own thing downunder? I think with republicanism on the way politically we should be big enough and not tango to American or any other awards anymore. All I know about our local panel is that they are such

a dedicated lot, giving up their free time and come and look at anybodys plants. There are no financial rewards for them, only expenses with seminars, workshops etc.

What disturbs me most is the fact that there must be more arguments and ill-feeling over judging than over any other facet of orchid growing. May be we should abolish marking plants and just do the 'orchid thing' for pleasure. But in the times of the upwardly mobile people, idealists and minimalists don't have a place anymore.

### Franz Zumbuhl

P.S. I am not picking on the Taranaki Judging panel as the above mentioned problems seem nationwide.



PAPHIOPEDILUM MARKIANUM
Photo/Grower Franz Zumbuhl

ORCHIDS IN NEW ZEALAND



# Tuckers Orchid Nursery

Orchids for the 90's

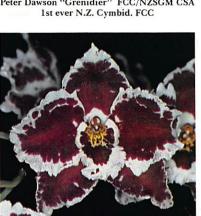
TUCKER'S NURSERY: 51 King Edward Ave., Bayswater Fax or Phone 0-9-445 6692

Selling from our new list available at Palmerston North Show Seedlings, Mericlones and as parent plants

# HAVE YOU UPGRADED YOUR COLLECTION LATELY?



Peter Dawson "Grenidier" FCC/NZSGM CSA



Odm. Stropheon "Bayswater" AM/OCNZ Orchid of the Year 1995



Z. River Murray "Bayswater" AM/NZOS WORLD CLASS ZYGO'S



Ham Margaret "Redlight" AM/NZOS Intergenric Zygo. Alliance

SEPTEMBER 1995

# Culture of Common Orchids

Note:-

P. C. Tomlinson

- 1. General quidelines to growing and culture of common orchids with restricted facilities.
- 2. In controlled temperature and humidity glass house, culture will differ.
- 3. Culture applies to both species and hybrids.
- 4. Some species in many of the genera may differ from the typical for the genus.

### SYMBOLS:

Culture	E = easy (new grower) C = with care (some experience recommended)
Temperature (night)	C = cool 7—13°C (45—55°F) I = intermediate 13—15°C (55—60°F) W = warm 15—18°C (60—65°F)
Watering	1Moist all year 2Dry in winter 3Dry in summer VSpecies vary  * Require cool winter temperature as well.
Shade	F = Full sun $L = Light shade$ $M = Medium shade$ $H = Heavy shade$
Flowering	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
	Ease of Temp. culture Rqmts. Watering Shade Flowering
A contract of the contract of	0 1 0 1 0.0

	Ease of	1 emp.			
	culture	Rqmts.	Watering	Shade	Flowering
Anguloa	C	1	2	L	SpSm
Bifrenaria		1-C	2*	L	WSp
Bletilla	E	C	2	F	Sm
Brassia	C	1	2	L	SpSm
Brassavola	C	1	2	F- $L$	V
Bulbophyllum		1	1	M	WSp
Cattleya	E	1	2	L	V
Chysis	C	1-W	2	M	Sp
Cirrhopetalum	C	1	1-V	M	V
Coelogyne	E	C-1	2*	M	V
Cymbidium	E	C	1	L	AWSp
Dendrobium—Kingianum type	E	C	3	L	Sp
-Nobile(soft cane)	C	1-C	2*	F	Sp
—Phalaenopsis(hard cane)	C	W	2	F	i
—Himalayan Type	C	C-1	2*	F	V
Encyclia		C-1-W	2	L	V
Epidendrum	E	C-1	1	L	V

Gongora	C E C E	1-W C-1 C-1 C C-1	1 2 2 1 1-2	M L M H M	V V WSp V WV
Miltonia	С	1	1	М	V
Miltoniopsis	$\boldsymbol{C}$	C-1	1	М	V
Odontoglossum	$\boldsymbol{C}$	$\boldsymbol{C}$	l	М	WV
Oncidiums—equitants	$\boldsymbol{C}$	1	2	$\boldsymbol{L}$	V
-crispum/varicosa	$\boldsymbol{C}$	1	2*	F	SpSmA
—others	E	C-1	V	L	· V
Paphiopedilum — green leaved—one flowered	E	C-1	1	М	WV
—green leaved—multi flowered	С	1-W	1	М-Н	WV
—mottled leaves	С	1-W	1	Н	WV
Phalaenopsis	E	W	1	М	V
Pleione	Ε	С	2	М	WSp
Rossioglossum	E	1	2*	F	Sp
Sophronitis		C-1	2		W
Vanda and allies	Č	1-W	1	F	W
Zygopetalum	Ĕ	i	2	M	v

### NIGHT TEMPERATURES

Cool 7—13°C (45—55°F)

DAY TEMPERATURES
Smallest increase possible

Bifrenaria
Dendrobium—kingianum type
—nobile(soft cane)in winter
Laelias
Odontoglossum
Oncidium(high altitude types)
Paphiopedilum—green leaved
—single flowered

Maxillarias Masdevallias Miltoniopsis Intermediate 13—15°C (55-60°F)

7°C(10°F)higher

Brassia
Dendrobium—Nobile
(soft cane) in summer
Epidendrum
Miltonias
Oncidiums(the majority)
Paphiopedilums—mottled
leaved

Warm 15—18°C (60—80°F)

7°C(10°F)higher

Ascocendas Dendrobiums — Phalaenopsis (hard cane type)

Phalaenopsis Vandas and allies Paphiopedilums green leaved multi flowered

# SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER CALORCHD CUIT Patricia Elms Cymbidium Culture

September should see you with a lovely array of colour from your mid season flowers. Remember to keep the spikes staked according to whether they are upright or arching. Pendulous spikes should be left to display themselves naturally.

Now is probably a good time to change to a fertilizer high in nitrogen to

promote growth. Do be careful not to use a fertilizer which has high urea content in the nitrogen. Feed after every watering, timing of which will depend on temperatures now being experienced in your re-

gion, but probably every 7 - 10 days. In addition to regular feeding, beginning in October, also feed monthly with 1 teaspoon Magnesium sulphate (Epsom Salts) to 5 litres of water. This can promote spiking initiation.

Ventilation is very important at this time of year, particularly when warm sunny days are followed by frosty nights. A large temperature differ-

ential (of perhaps 20-25C) at this time can cause crippled flowers, so in green

This is the first of a series covering the culture of some of the important groups of orchids grown throughout the country, written by recognised growers in their fields.

house conditions care needs to be taken to keep the daytime temperature down and the night temperature up. This can be achieved, by opening the greenhouse before the temperature gets too high and closing it in the afternoon before it starts to drop, (or if you have a heated house, turn the heat a little higher at night an expensive alternative!!)

Repotting cymbidiums can be commenced now in most areas. Use a me-

dium size bark as a base and depending on your climate you can add a percentage of coarse bark for good drainage or maybe fern fibre or peat if you require water retention. An addition of lime and

general fertilizer or perhaps a slow release one should be added. Some commercial growers offer suitable potting mixes for sale, usually complete with fertilizers.

As the weather warms up keep an eye on red spider and take necessary action. Lots of fresh air, dappled sunlight and water during the latter part of the year should ensure good spiking on healthy plants next season.

# CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES

# by Graham Jackson

Spring is perhaps the most important part of the year for cattleya growers as the actions we take now are laying the foundations for next seasons flowers.

Light. Cattleyas require good light to grow and flower well and under these conditions the foliage will be a medium olive green and growths and flower spikes strong and erect. On a sunny day you should be able to see the shadow of your hand on the leaves.

The continuing increase in day length and light intensity can cause a rapid build up of heat in small growing areas so you must be careful to see that your ventilators are opened whenever possible. This can be difficult to judge particularly in early Spring when changeable weather can also bring cold spells. Shading should also be in place as soon as possible to help in controlling temperatures.

Repotting. Spring is the main repotting period for Cattleyas. As with all or-SEPTEMBER 1995 chids the best time for this task is just before root growth commences. Be particularly careful with the bifoliate cattleyas as for many of these plants root growth does not start until 4 to 5 months after the new growths appear. Always repot depending on the root growth not top growth.

There are almost as many orchid mixes as there are growers but you will find that every successful grower will be using a mix that gives perfect drainage. Cattleya roots are thick and spongy and hold moisture well. It essential to have an open free draining mix to allow plenty of air to get to the roots. I find that bark with all the dust removed works well for me using a 10-20 mm grade for large plants and a 5-10 mm grade for younger plants and miniatures.

Watering. Increasing levels of light and heat will dry your plants out faster and as a result you will need to water more often. The frequency of watering will depend on which part

of the country you live in, the size of your growing area, plastic or clay pots, and the level of natural (or artificial) humidity in you growing area.

Misting of benches and paths will help in maintaining humidity levels and a misting over the plants will help to cool them down on a hot day.

Feeding. Your plants will now be growing more quickly and can therefore use more feed. I find that feeding every 2nd watering works for me and they are fed more often as the frequency of watering increases. Plants in a bark mix need a higher level of nitrogen to ensure maximum growth as bacterial action on the bark uses some of the available nitrogen. A number of growers find that a dressing of dried blood is very helpful.

Temperature. Cold nights during early Spring will mean that some heating will still be required. Closing vents early in the evening will help to conserve heat and save on heating costs. The ideal minimum night temperatures are 15C for the large single leafed plants and 10C for the bifoliates and miniatures. You should aim to keep daytime temperatures to a maximum of 25C.

These notes have been written based on knowledge and experience gained under my growing conditions using a small (15 sq.m.) heated glass house which would be typical of that used by many growers around NZ.

However though all of our growing areas are different, depending on geographical and other factors, the basics of culture do not change - it is over to us to adapt them to the changes in our own circumstances.

# MASDEVALLIA'S

# by Trevor Gillbanks

First discovered over 200 years ago in the Peruvian Andes and given the name Masdevallia, in honour of the Spanish physician and botanist Dr. Jose Masdevall.

Today the genus is enjoying a resurgence of popularity and the 700 plus species and approximately 400 hybrids give the grower a very wide selection indeed. Masdevallias are small epiphytic or semi-terrestrial plants without pseudobulbs and have a tufted growth with clusters of single fleshy leaves. The flowers provide a real fascination for the grower with their size. from minute to large, the shape uniform to grotesque and sometimes bizarre and colours so brilliant to the softest pastels. The sepals are the dominant segments of the flower and are joined together at the base to form a tube of variable length before separating into point or long tails (cordae). The petals, column and lip, situated at the base of the tube, are often so small they are barely visible.

Masdevallias require no additional heating in most areas of New Zealand but do need shelter from the frosts and do not like temperatures below 5°C. Summer temperatures over 25°C are not appreciated. They will show their dislike for high temperatures by dropping

leaves and aborting flowers. Humidity in the range of 70 - 80% with strong air movement is required for good culture.

A good clean bark is recommended for masdevallias, 2-5 mm bark for young plants and those with fine roots. Larger plants and those with more sturdy roots can be potted with 5 - 10 mm bark. Many of the masdevallias are very good subjects for slab culture, and ponga slabs make very good bases.

When dividing, a plant requires care. Unlike most orchids, Masdevallia roots do not branch to recover after having been broken or damaged. Hose off old medium and apply pressure at the rhizome level, easing gently, making sure the divisions are not too small. Do not attempt to break up a plant during hot summer weather.

Cultural requirements September through November: Get all repotting completed by early spring and increase the light level on your plants. Ensure the plants are kept moist but not wet. As the weather starts to warm up ensure that temperatures do not go above 25°C for

any extended period. Regular feeding with any liquid fertiliser is required, but only at 1/2 to 1/3 manufacturers recommendations.

# **ODONT VANDA AND PAPH. CULTURE**

# By Lyn and Kevin Sherlock

Most of the odonts will be in full spike at this time of the year so take time to observe their form and growth and determine if you need to cull. The plants require feeding to promote good, vigorous growth and liquid fertilisers such as Nitrol, Alaska (ordinary garden fertilisers) are ideal, given at approximately weekly intervals. It pays to adjust the ties on the flowering spikes as the weight of the progressively opening flowers can 'kink' the stems. After flowering, repotting or potting on can be carried out. Odonts prefer a cool growing area and daytime temperature that does not exceed 20 degrees Celsius so be ready to hose down

the paths and floor of your glasshouse as the season progresses and the days heat up, and in a spare moment haul out the shadecloth and overall it in readiness for the summer extra shade.

### VANDA ALLIANCE

These sun-loving plants are vigorous feeders and now with their abundance of flowers, require regular fertilising preferably with a liquid nutrient medium. Repotting, or at least replacing the orchid mix with fresh should be carried out on a regular basis preferably at lease every two years. As the temperature increase from mod October onwards remove your Vandas to a shadehouse. The

ideal shadehouse comprises 30% shadecloth for both walls and ceilings and if possible suspend your plants fro maximum airflow and drainage. Remember that good flowering can be obtained by growing these plants at a minimum of 10 degrees Celsius plus all available light, although it should be noted that at a higher temperature of around 15 degrees Celsius better results will be achieved.

### PAPH. ALLIANCE

As the flowering season draws to a close, start repotting, potting on or dividing your plants, but before pulling too many apart, consider the challenge required in growing specimen plants, and se-

Page 151

SEPTEMBER 1995

lect your most likely ones for this. Most growers of this genus know only too well how they can 'fall apart in your hands' quite readily! Regular feeding with liquid fertiliser is important for these plants during this time of the year. Very definitely your plans for summer shading should be in hand and the shadepaint and brush ready - to be followed by shadecloth as the season progresses - no summer protection equates to very dehydrated or at worst no plants by autumn.

# Continued from page 116

In the organic section, there is a whole range of things that can be used, including - redwood bark, punga fibre, peanut shells, coconut fibre and sphagnum moss. The problem with all organic material is that it decays or breaks down. This process initially absorbs a lot of nitrogen and as a result of the breakdown process, acid is produced. This can be countered by adding lime but unfortunately this speeds up the rate of decay. Most of the organic material mentioned here have low nutrient values and so a fertiliser program is needed to compensate this plus extra nitrogen to allow for the breakdown process.

So what to use and where to use it? If you are getting good results from pine bark then stay with it, however, if you are finding problems with some

genera then perhaps an alternative mix may be the answer. Sphagnum moss and find material like punga fibre are best suited to orchids that require to be damp at all times, while pumice and scoria are more suited to orchids needing to dry out between waterings. Mixes of both organic and inorganic can be made to suit the needs of various genera. Pine bark can be included in a mix if you wish. So, this repotting season, when you find problems, experiment and give something else a try.

Finally, one of the most unusual materials to be used to grow orchids in would have to be horsemanure. Reports are coming in from Tasmania, Auckland and various other places of using horse-manure, either on it's own or as a major part of a mix, to grown cymbidiums and other orchids. The results are said to be remarkable with

vastly improved growth rates. Why not try it on a few cymbidiums and see what happens?

Please, share the results of your trials, it is by experimenting and sharing the results that we learn to be better growers!

> Waikato Orchid Society Newsletter Feb. 1995.

SIMPSON

ORCHIDS

Native orchids from flask to flowering.

Specialising in Sarcanthinae species and hybrids.

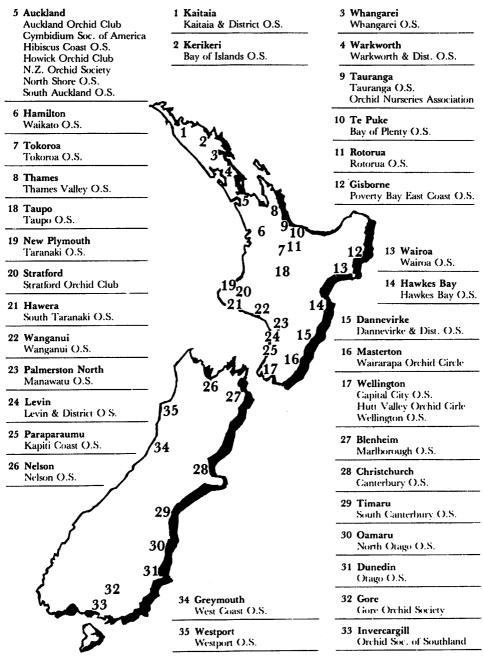
Flasking Service available

Please send stamp for list.

29 Gannon Street, Mt. Mee Queensland 4521, Australia Phone 61-74-98 2185

# **New Zealand Orchid Societies**

Location meeting details follow:



# NZ ORCHID SOCIETIES MEETING DETAILS

Auckland Orchid Club Meets Contact Peter Elfleet 09 837 3685

Bay of Islands Orchid Soc. Meets 2nd Wed. 7.30pm Contact Pat Mount 09 407 6364

Bay of Plenty Orchid Soc. Meets 2nd Sunday 1.30 pm Contact Trevor Signal 07 322 8233

Canterbury Orchid Society Meets 1st Monday 1.30 pm Contact Ken Gwatkin 03 385 6780

Capital City Orchid Society Meets 3rd Monday 1.30 pm Contact Lenaire Witham 04 476 7519

Cymbidium Society of America Contact Ray Dix 09 263 6090

Dannevirke & District

Orchid Soc. Meets 2nd or 3rd Tue 7.30pm Contact Christine Simpson 06 374 7364

Gore Orchid Society Meets 2nd Tuesday 1.30 pm Contact Marie Bonich 03 208 9969 Hawkes Bay Orchid Society Meets 3rd Monday 1.30 pm Contact Allen John 06 876 9222

Hibiscus Coast Orchid Soc. Meets 2nd Sunday 1.30 pm Contact Bernard Beare 09 426 5556

Howick Orchid Society Meets 2nd Sunday 1.30 pm Contact Tui Brunton 09 576 4243

Hutt Valley Orchid Circle Meets 4th Monday 7.30pm Contact Murray Bridges 04 564 6454

Kapiti Orchid Society Meets 2nd Monday 7.30pm Contact Wendy Stephens 04 298 4267

Levin & District Orchid Society Meets 4th Tuesday 7.30pm

Meets 4th Tuesday 7.30pm Contact Lois Woodgates 06 362 6701

Manawatu Orchid Society Meets 2nd Thursday 1.30 pm Contact Helen Ellison 06 358 3789

Marlborough Orchid Society Meets 3rd Thursday 7.30pm Contact Isobel Sheed 03 578 6004 Nelson Orchid Society Meets 3rd Tuesday 7.30pm Contact Heather Verstraten 03 544 8461

New Zealand Orchid Society Meets 3rd Wed 1.30 pm Contact Gary Cooke 09 834 6110

North Otago Orchid Society Meets 2nd Thursday 7.30pm Contact Audrey Bennett 03 434 8302

North Shore Orchid Society Meets 1st Sunday 1.30 pm Contact Annette Hart 09 479 5223

Orchid Soc. of Southland Meets 1st Tuesday 1.30 pm Contact Noeline Murch 03 230 4781

Otago Orchid Club Meets 4th Wed 7.30pm Contact Graham Letts 03 454 2113

Poverty Bay East Coast Orchid Society Meets 2nd Monday 7.30pm Contact Patricia Taylor 06 867 5716

Rotorua Orchid Society Meets 1st Sunday 1.30 pm Contact Shirley Stephens 07 348 1922

# SEE MAP PREVIOUS PAGE FOR SOCIETY LOCATION

South Auckland Orchid Soc. Meets 1st Tuesday 1.30 pm Contact Margaret Emery 09 267 6416

South Canterbury Orc. So Meets 1st Tuesday 7.30pm Contact Mrs. D Barrow 03 686 2022

South Taranaki Orchid Soc. Meets 3rd Thursday 1.30 pm Contact Lorraine Slinger 06 764 8677

Stratford Orchid Club Meets 3rd Tuesday 7.30pm Contact Fay Payton 06 765 6524

Taranaki Orchid Society Meets 2nd Tuesday 7.30pm Contact Eric Doidge 06 758 1129

Taupo Orchid Society Meets 3rd Tuesday 1.30 pm Contact Bill Rademaker 07 378 9417

Tauranga Orchid Society Meets 3rd Tuesday 7.30pm Contact N. Simmonds 07 543 0847

Tokoroa & District Orchid

Meets 4th Wed 7.30pm Contact Betty Blair 07 886 5051

Waikato Orchid Society Meets 4th Tuesday 7.30pm Contact Sylvia Perrott 07 871 4599

Wairarapa Orchid Circle Meets 1st Sunday 1.30 pm Contact Doreen Grantham 06 377 0998

Wairoa Orchid Society Meets 2nd Thursday 7.30pm Contact Gaylene McDonald 06 838 8669 Wanganui Orchid Society Meets 1st Wed 7.30pm Contact Mary Phillips

Contact Mary Phillips 06 343 9413

Warkworth & District Orchid Society

Meets last Wed 7.30pm Contact Edith Wilkins 09 425 8451

Wellington Orchid Society Meets 1st Monday 1.30 pm Contact Gil Neilson 04 478 3901 West Coast Orchid Society Meets 2nd Wednesday 1.30 pm Contact Eileen Pike 03 768 4026

Westport Orchid Society Meets 3rd Wednesday 7.30pm Contact Jewel Lemon 03 789 7134

Whangarei Orchid Society Meets 1st Wednesday 1.30 pm Contact Margaret Honore 09 437 3111

# Quick Quiz Answers

- 1. Spider.
- 2. Rocks.
- 3. 3.
- 4. 1.
- 5. 1.
- 6. Equitant Oncidiums.
- 7. Paph. micranthum.
- 8. N.Z. Aust. G.B. Jersey. Samoa. PNG, in fact most countries of the world.
- Cymbidium Mosaic Virus, and Tobacco Mosaic Virus.
- Primary hybrid. Soph. coccinea and C. luteola.
- Convention on International 1 trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- 12. Cattleya splash petals.
- 13. Mrs Patricia Elms.
- 14. Miltonia x Odontoglossum x Oncidium.
- 15. Lindleyana.

# SIOW DIFFS 1995

Sept. 1,2,3	HAWKES BAY	Centennial Hall, Napier
Sept. 2,3	TAURANGA	Greerton Hall, Cameron Road, Tauranga
Sept. 2,3	HOWICK	All Saints Church Hall, Cook St. Howick
Sept. 9,10	NORTH OTAGO	St Patricks Hall, Oamaru
Sept. 9,10	SOUTH AUCKLAND	Papakura Community Centre, Great South Road, Papakura, Auckland
Sept. 9,10	TARANAKI	Westpoint Complex, Gill Street, New Plymouth
Sept. 8,9,10	HIBISCUS COAST	Community Hall, Main Road, Orewa
Sept. 15,16,17	NEW ZEALAND	Mt Albert War Memorial Hall, New North Road, Mt Albert, Auckland
Sept. 16.17	ROTORUA	Soundshell, Lake Front, Rotorua
Sept. 15,16	WARKWO <mark>R</mark> TH	Venue not advised
Sept. 20,21,22	HAWKE'S BAY	Hastings Indoor Basketball Stadium Railway Road, Hastings.
Sept. 30, Oct. 1	SOUTH CANTERBURY	Caroline Bay Hall, Timaru
Sept. 30 Oct. 1	TAUPO	Great Lake Centre, Tongariro Street, Taupo
Oct. 13,14	DANNEVIRKE	St Josephs Church Hall, Allardice Street, Dannevirke
Oct. 14,15	WAIRARAPA	McGregor Hall, Worksop Road, Masterton
Jan. 12,13,14 <b>1996</b>	TARANAKI	Central School Hall, Pendarvis Street, New Plymouth.

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.

### PLEASE NOTE:

Recently I have been advised of show dates for 1996. Because of space limitations, only shows for the current year can be published in this listing.

All societies are requested to forward ONLY details of current years shows to the Editor for publication here. To preserve a show date for future years, societies may forward details to the Secretary of the Orchid Council who coordinates this information, but only current years dates should be forwarded to the Editor. This will ensure that accurate listings will eventuate especially when last minute amendments are made in the final rush to press time.

Ever wondered how to grow the

# **BEST ORCHIDS?**

We have the answer to providing successful orchids and other Epiphytic (aerial) plants . . . Natural Coco Fibre.

We recommend.

# **ACE PAK**



# CONTAINER GROWING MEDIA

Made from natural coco fibre and heat sterilised pumice

- Contains the latest organic based controlled release fertiliser from Israel
- 50 litre bags, increase in volume with the addition of water
- Free draining with high moisture retention
- Suitable for all types of container growing
- No Legionella Bacteria detected
- Neutral pH

For commercial or household use

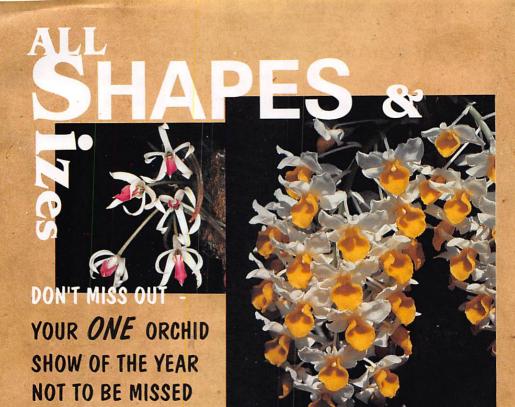
Phone now for details or send a cheque to OAK PACKAGING LTD, P.O. Box 67, Tuakau Phone Bus 0-9-236 8696 Fax 0-9-236 9089



INCLUDES FREE FREIGHT ANYWHERE IN THE NORTH ISLAND & GST

			MONTH TOLAND & O					
		-	-	-		_	-	9
Name:								
Postal Address:								
Delivery Address:						5	ren pine	
Tel No.:	Furthe	r info	rmatio	on av	ailabl	e on r	eque	st





ESSENVULTATION

# ORCELLDS

5 to 8 OCTOBER 1995
PALMERSTON NORTH
Conference Secretary
P.O. Box 181 Palmerston North



