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ALL ENQUIRIES TO THE EDITOR

ORCHID EXPO VIEWS

HOW ORCHID SOCIETIES HAVE REPORTED THE PALMERSTON NORTH INTERNATIONAL ORCHID EXPO OF 1995

Third New Zealand International Orchid Expo:

Cymbidium Society of America (NZ Branch)

Focus of the 1995 season was this event held once every five years, this time in Palmerston North. Coming rather late, in October, the flush of the season was past. Nevertheless some interesting and well presented cymbidiums and paphiopedilums were present, no doubt helped by the winter which contrived to make the flowering season late.

Best standard cymbidium was the very fine exhibition white Rae James 'Cameo' (Green Knight x Hi-Rated)

shown by Jim James. Jim also had a well flowered *Cym.* Hallmark 'XAT' (Wallara x Balcariga) which must have run 'Cameo' close for the top spot. Best first flowering standard cymbidium was Venetian Fair (Venetian Interlude x Winter Fair), a well formed



white with feint pink centre stripes exhibited by Norm Porter. The ten flowers had white lips edged with a margin of pink suffusion and spotting and a pink column. *Cym.* New Zealand Endeavour 'Choice Lady' (Rose Armstrong x Hazel Tyers) showed up prettily for Beryl Calder with twenty three

white flowers on two arching spikes. The very slight blushing over white and random spotting over pink flushing on lips make this an orchid of character and it deserved the award of HCC/OCNZ. Another standard cymbidium of note was (Wallara x So Bold) exhibited by Colin and Annett McLeod, a rich cream of noble proportions which did not quite head off a very floriferous (Mighty Rose x Goldilocks Girl) by Alan Gray and Ian Reid in the class for Orange, Apricot or Bronze. The Gray & Reid team did rather well with their cross Mighty Goldilocks (Goldilocks Girl x Mighty Mouse) with three different cultivars winning places in classes. Masochists Joe and Betty Vance hauled a monstrous specimen plant of *Cym.* Fancy Free 'Geysersland' (Rincon x Snow Sprite) all the way from Auckland



Cymbidiums on display at Palmerston North Expo
Photo P. C. Tomlinson

with sixteen spikes and more than one hundred and seventy flowers and buds. Great growing and even greater transportation earned it a first in the standard cymbidium specimen class.

Best novelty cymbidium was Norm Porter's Jack Hudlow 'Waikanae' (High Sierra x *devonianum*) an eye catching green with deep burgundy velvet lip. Another cultivar Jack

Hudlow 'Emerald' shown by Colin and Annett McLeod was a lovely green with classic form and a cream lip marked overall with small deep burgundy spots. Still on green novelties the pendulous spiking (Cainas Meadows x *devonianum*) shown by Tudor Orchids was floriferous indeed with thirty rather pointed flowers, with lips boldly spotted red, on a single spike. The novelty

cymbidium cross Kiwi Cascade (Vogelsang x Fascelia) was to the fore in many classes taking out four firsts. Three of these were shown by Norm Porter and the other by Coopers Orchids.

True miniature cymbidiums are rare at most shows when judging criteria for miniatures is strictly adhered to and plant, foliage and flowers are all under consideration for their size. The Palmerston

North show was no exception. Best was Brook Street 'Featherhill' (Mayfair *x devonianum*), a deep reddish brown and a fully coloured deep burgundy velvet lip exhibited by Norm Porter. Also worth remembering was a diploid version of Vogelsang 'Eastbourne' (*devonianum x insigne*) showing much charm.

Paphiopedilums and phragmipediums were of a high standard with seven receiving awards, predominantly species and novelty as is common internationally at the

moment. Tops and receiving an AM/OCNZ was *Phrag. besseae* 'Ruapehu' shown by Selwyn Hatrick. Papa Aroha Orchids exhibited a very strong *sukhakuilii* and a fine cross of (*bellatulum x Mendocino*) both of which received an HCC/OCNZ.

Howick Orchid Society

Orchid Expo at Palmerston North was well worth a visit. A tremendous effort was made by a number of orchid societies from up to

each end of New Zealand, to stage the eye catching displays. It was hard to believe that some of the displays were set up by societies 400 to 700 kilometres from the venue. The time of the year was just right for several of New Zealand's orchids to be displayed in flower. The late flowering of pleiones also enhanced the displays of this genus.

Kath & Stan Tyler, Helen & I met Margaret Earnest, Tui, and Carolyn who had travelled down with a group organized by Roy Neale, and exchanged



General view display area Palmerston North Orchid Expo
Photo P. C. Tomlinson

opinions and "did you see . . ." until the Show was opened by Dame Catherine Tizard. Yours truly tended to lag well behind the other three in our group while putting pen to paper.

Where else but a show like this is one able to meet and talk to Dot Porter, Trevor Nicholls of the New Zealand Native Orchid Group, the editor of the Hawkes Bay Orchid Society Newsletter, Sid Wray of Anne Marie Orchids, or a possible speaker at our society meeting who lives at Greenhithe.

There were displays by specialist societies such as Paphiopedilum Soc., Odontoglossum Alliance, Cymbidium Soc. of America, and N.Z. Masdevallia Alliance with about 100 plants in full bloom. The four of us were so pleased we went. By the time we left for Rotorua on Saturday, there was sitting room only, and woe betide anyone who put their dirty great feet anywhere near my orchids.

Nelson Orchid Society

Jim Smith

Over five years this Expo has been in the news and building in our minds with ever growing expectations as to what it would be like. There were bookings to be made about our space and position. What would we do as a display? Plants - would we have enough variety?

A basket was to be made and filled with plants for our display. We spent a Sunday afternoon getting 'Old Man's Beard'... oh

sorry 'Clematis'! Peter Fisher designed a display and estimated what was needed. All this was explained at our meetings and to get plants ready for our display.

Our travel to Palmerston North was very good with no upsets except at Levin - while having light refreshments a thunder storm broke with very heavy rain. It followed us most of the way to Palmerston North. Our motel was almost opposite the stadium where the Expo was to be staged.

The setting up started on Monday afternoon.



*Redvale Orchids, Nelson
Photo P. C. Tomlinson*



*Tauranga Orchid Society display
Photo P. C. Tomlinson*

We spent a long time measuring and arranging the position of the basket on our site to catch the public's eye. Getting materials meant unloading Jean's trailer and the plants from Heather's van, gathering pellets and beer crates and so on. Black polythene was laid out on the floor and the pellets set out in the shape of the basket. Peter measured it all to make sure it was the right size and that the precut pieces would fit on top of the beer crate edging. Clematis "rope" - what a pile - made a lot of

comment by other show people walking by - "what a lot of grapevine etc." Others were not fooled though.

When the base was completed the clematis was woven and nailed around the basket edge.

The handle was set in and covered with clematis. The lights set in the top along with a beautiful big pink bow - very impressive. The pink crimped paper was laced around the lower part of the handle and finished off with a bow. This was done on each side of the

handle. Fish and chips and a cuppa were brought in and we enjoyed a welcome break.

Black polythene was put inside the basket to prevent water from getting onto the stadium floor. Tuesday was busy doing the inside of the basket fixing levels at which plants were to be set. The Polythene edges around the basket were brought up, tacked to the sides and carefully covered with black cloth. We got ferns from Jean to

be set in with the plants we had brought. It was surprising how much clematis was used. When the basket was finished and the lights switched on, we stood back and looked and thought that the effort was very rewarding. What a good team we had! The basket won second prize in its class.

The next Expo will be in the year 2000 - where has still to be decided. 2000 will be the year of the Olympics, the America's Cup and not least our 4th Orchid Expo.

Can we grow orchid plants? You know some of the plants did get recognition. What about some for award next time?

Wednesday: My chance to take part in judging - I did feel a lot of apprehension. There was talk about how it was to be done. After the judges' breakfast, we were placed in teams of six judges, an associate and two runners. Well my apprehension soon disappeared when meeting the friendly group I was assigned to. It was a pleasure and I hoped to do my best for the team. We all worked hard going around the displays searching out the

plants to be judged with the help of the runners. We did the judging of Dendrobiums. Judging was completed by about 2.00 pm including award judging. I understand some seventeen plants were awarded out of thirty two which were put up, with two gaining A.M.

There was the banquet in the evening which was enjoyable. I have a feeling that some person was to get me to leave on my hands and knees. We were the last to leave.

Thursday was the official opening of the show in the afternoon by Dame Catherine Tizard.

Roseanne and Peter were in the official party. That evening there was the judging seminar when prizes were given out to the winners.

There were opportunities for registrants to visit sales tables for an hour before the public each morning from Thursday to Sunday. By Saturday afternoon, having bought plants and been around the show over hours a feeling for home began to develop.

Lectures started on Friday. Good speakers gave good talks and information on their topics.

A video was made of each lecture which can be purchased by societies. On Sunday it was a round of photographs and a last chance to buy the tempting plants. When the show was closed we bought Chinese takeaways, went back to the motel enjoyed the meal and talked of going home, the show, how enjoyable it was. It took us just over two hours to dismantle the basket and pack the plants ready for home. We finished off putting our purchases in the van later. It was a grey morning but the thought of home was most in our minds.

Crossing the Strait was very calm. Coming from Picton light rain was falling and then was an alarm - stray cattle on the road, quite a hazard. We flashed our lights at an on coming truck. After unloading plants and gear at the Fisher's, we were soon home and off to bed a little after 11 pm.

NELSON ORCHID SOCIETY

PETER FISHER

Well this Expo was one of the best events I have

attended. It all started about a year ago when I was nominated to coordinate the display for the Expo. After asking for members to contact me with some ideas this just drew a blank. After throwing a few thoughts about I came up with the plan and discussed it with Jean (President then) she agreed. During the early autumn months a group going to Expo had an afternoon collecting the *Clematis vitalba*. This was then sprayed and stored in the dry under my boat. The few weeks prior to travel were very busy both at home and at work but all seemed to get done ready for travel on the Sunday morning. I must take time to thank our president Lance for all his time spent collecting and then packing all those lovely *Cymbidium* spikes; it was a great effort and thank you.

Saturday and Friday evening saw us tripping about the region picking up plants and then with help they were all packed late Saturday.

Sunday, Heather and Jim arrived at home early and we packed the van and hay presto it all fitted, lucky eh! So off we headed to Picton,

arrived okay found JJ, she and Rod and Julie had journeyed that far okay.

The boat trip was flat except for about six rolls to port and six rolls to starboard. Some of us travelled well others either slept or had tummy rumbles (almost feed the fish from a great height RF and JJ).

The trip from Wellington was okay, except we were treated to an interesting lightning display and heavy rain from about Levin to Palmerston. We arrived and found our motel with only looking at the map once.

The next morning dawned fine but not for long. The weather for the week was wet, with showers in between and the occasional fine patch thrown in. The fine periods I don't think stretched longer than about a couple of hours at any one time.

Midday Monday saw us able to have entry and start on setting up the display. We worked through to about 9 o'clock that night, except for having fatty KFC for tea.

Tuesday was again busy setting up and finally finishing about 7 pm. We had all sorts of comments

being made during the building stage. Some people thought we were making a boat, a pond, a wine barrel, other things. Of course the vine; well that gave us a few laughs. It was either kiwi fruit vine or grape or even wisteria. There was only one chap that recognised it for what it was. But at the finish it looked really great and we could all feel really proud, it was pleasing to hear so many really nice comments after all that work. Then off to The Pork Express, a shop specialising in pork something like a pork KFC. By this time our motel occupancy had grown to five, with Gillian having joined us. With our motel being just across the road we could go home for lunches and boy did we have some spreads, eh team, like fresh cooked mussels every yummy day.

Wednesday saw everyone up early in order to be at the Judges breakfast by 7.30. Judging got under way by about 8.30 and was not completed till some time after 2.00 pm for most. This was an exciting time for all and most enjoyed it but agreed that all were rather tired by the end. Then registrants were allowed in to look at the displays

and also into the commercial sales area, but for me it was just more Judging work to finish. That evening saw the Opening Banquet up town in the Civic Centre building. The function was very nice and time to meet old friends and make new friends with our lot heading for home about pumpkin time.

The most prestigious prizes were given out at the banquet with the rest having been placed later that day on the relevant displays/plants and we did very well I feel.

Nelson Society display was placed second in its class cool eh? and Jean Jenk's plant on our display received an award Certificate of Botanical Merit, *Drymoanthus flavus*, and one of Gillian Lyster's sphyrastalys gained a First place, so a BIG congratulations to you both.

Also there were other prizes won on displays entered by both Jean and Trevor, and Rod and Julie.

The next few days were busy for most of us either

going to lectures and also there were those that were still spending up large on all those new treasures. The lectures were of high class and well attended by all accounts so when the video is available it will be worth a look.

Sunday 5 pm arrived and all hands on deck to dismantle the display and pack the plants into the van. This went really well and all worked together finishing and back at the motel by 8 o'clock. Earlier that day we had paid our motel account and after some



Stratford Orchid Club display
Photo P. C. Tomlinson



Capital City Orchid Society display

Photo P. C. Tomlinson

time thinking about it we had been fleeced. So before we could leave in the morning we had some discussion with the motel owner and fortunately he agreed so we headed for the boat or home with cash in pocket.

As we had time to spend here or there on the way home we were able to visit some, guess what, that's right orchid nurseries, with all in the van buying some plants. We really do have quite an interesting troupe that travel about these shows, some girls like trying or going to the men's, then there are those that want to feed the fish once

they've eaten, one even hitches a ride back to his abode by the local "boys in blue", then there's one gentleman that goes out at night with a nice young female and doesn't make it home till after midnight, and well I had better stop I think before I get into too much trouble from?

MANAWATU ORCHID SOCIETY

Well, was it all worth the effort?. Three years

of planning preparation and work has reduced Expo 1995 to the realms of memories and photographs, and oh what wonderful memories. For all those who assisted in any way and in any amount we all thank you very, very much. Somehow all the building was completed on time, everything got to Rainbow Stadium on time and the Lord made sure that construction and removal time was completed without too much rain getting on either people or equipment. To everyone who supplied plants what

a fantastic effort. Manawatu members supplied plants for nine separate display stands; Manawatu Orchid Society, Central Display stand, Paph.

Alliance, Odontoglossum: Alliance, Masdevallia Alliance, Glenbrook Orchids, Sherlock Orchids, Tudor Orchids, Pat Hayes Orchids and Levin Orchid Society. How many certificates were won I do not know as the spread of plants was too great to track, however there were many.

The quality of speakers both overseas guests and NZ's was truly outstanding.

One pearl of wisdom from George Fuller was, *"Learn to grow the roots of the orchid and you will have no trouble with the rest of the plant."*

It was such a pity that the weather did not play the game we wanted so the numbers through the door were not as great as anticipated. However I have it on good authority that the books will show a profit anyway. Great effort organisers.

CANTERBURY ORCHID SOCIETY

Between our meeting and the special meeting was the orchid expo in Palmerston North. The societies display was carried north in members cars, and setting up (hampered by the lack of pre arranged props) took place on the Tuesday before the official opening day the Thursday. By all accounts, the four setter upperers needed all the time permitted, and ran themselves ragged getting the display ready.

Judging was on the Wednesday, starting at 7.30 am with a judges breakfast. Judging started at 8.30 am. There were about 150 or so judges to pick 1st, 2nd and 3rd on some 270+ classes. To give an idea of the divisions, there were 42 classes for cymbidiums, and 39 classes for cattleyas. All the commonly grown orchids had several to tens of classes, the smallest class was NZ natives, with just one class. A group of about six judges were assigned to judge roughly ten or so classes, depending on the size, and number of entries. Most of the judging was

done by about 2 pm, although some took a bit longer.

The Societies display was in the class for displays being larger than 18 m². At 18 m. It was probably the smallest in area in its class.

Although unplaced, the display was very well put together, considering the distance members had to travel, and the time and effort put into the construction.

After judging, the show was open for registrants only, as was the sales area.

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The official opening was on the Thursday afternoon with the show being open to the public for the first time on that day.

The show was large by most standards, certainly much larger than ours, with perhaps four times the floor area for displays. There were about 47 individual displays, put on by both orchid societies, and individuals. Some were quite elaborate with artificial rocks, and running water with waterfalls, and goldfish ponds.

SOUTHLAND ORCHID SOCIETY

Adrian and I were lucky enough to go to Palmerston North for the Orchid Expo, on Wednesday October 4th after the judging was finished.

Never apologise for our weather as we had rain every day we were there, which was very disappointing for the organisers.

Our motel was about 20 minutes walk from the venue but because of the weather we took a taxi or hitched a ride with Eric and Hazel Doige who

were in the same motels as us. Hazel sends her love to everyone, especially Nancy.

The show was a real credit to the organisers and to all the clubs that made displays. It is always great to see big specimen plants and the different ideas people use to display these plants. I took notes on a lot of the lectures so you will be able to share some of the good ideas. Otago and Oamaru people were there in force and seemed to spend a lot of time going from the sales area, to the display and back to the sales area again. (We did too).

Allen Moon from the Eric Young Foundation in Jersey spoke to us at a combined Odont., Masd., and Paph. dinner as well as two other times.

On the Saturday we attended the lectures and also the closing ceremony for a meal at night. A beautiful meal. Sunday was the end of the lectures and after 6 o'clock clean up time for all the hard working people who had set up bays.

A great show and we are looking forward to the next one in five years time.

HUTT VALLEY ORCHID CIRCLE

The highlight of the month must surely be the Orchid Expo in Palmerston North. It was pleasing to see such a good response from members in preparing for the show. It seemed to be such a long time in the planning and was all over in such a relatively short time.

Apart from the orchids we enjoyed so much, there were a number of memorable moments for some of our members involved in the show. Murray related a few of the incidents to the meeting - like:

The member that had an unfortunate accident whilst attending a call of nature. The end result was a new pair of glasses required to replace the ones that broke when they fell into the urinal. Just as well you have a good insurance policy Len.

After a roll call to ensure we were all present the bus slowly departed from the hall. Someone just happened to look out behind the bus to see Peter Guise waving his

arms frantically and chasing the bus down Laings Road.

And then there was the surprise birthday party we had on the bus just before departing Palmerston North. Someone had remembered it was Jacqueline's birthday and we had arranged a bit of a celebration complete with plenty of bubbly and a large birthday cake. What a way to end a very successful day.

It was good that we were able to fill the bus to capacity with the help of some of Christel's friends from the German Club. The thirteen or so members of the club appeared to have an enjoyable day out.

We also had with us four students from horticultural classes at Heretaunga and Upper Hutt Colleges. We paid for their bus trip and they paid for their entry to the show. They all had a great time and now know a lot more about orchids than they did prior to the trip.

Following Murray's discussion on the show we viewed the 30 or so minutes of video that Kent recorded over the duration of the show. This was a good, and sometimes humorous,

record of the setting up of our display along with some coverage of almost all of the displays in the show. If anyone would like to borrow the tape to have another look, please contact Kent.

After the video, Lynda gave us a short talk on the various lectures she attended during the show and some of the things she learnt.

Murray thanked all those that helped with the many tasks that were required to get our display prepared and transported to Palmerston North. For many members the bus trip on Saturday was something they will remember for a long time to come. The displays at the show were of a very high standard and the organisers are to be congratulated on the magnificent job they did in putting the show together.

Palmerston North - Another view

Monday, 2nd October. After packing for five hours, we finally got away at midday. I had a thought of a bit of head

reading, close to 600 kms to go, an underpowered van towing a loaded trailer, a snarling mountain in between, no spare tyre for the trailer, nowhere to put it anyway.

The Desert Road soon eventuated, the mountain was not blasting ash and only got the occasional glance. Hunterville was a disaster, got out to check the state of the trailer-load and wished I hadn't. First glance revealed some chaos, shut the door quickly and took a Quickeze. With no further stops, we got to Palmerston North and amazingly found the Expo Complex almost immediately, the time was 5.30 pm. Our motel proved to be a bit elusive, but after a lap of the city we finally made it.

Next day setting tip the display, has been well covered in last month's newsletter.

The Expo itself was a magnificent panorama of orchid genera, a spectacle to be remembered for a very long time. The huge building covering so many ingenious and colourful displays. With waterfalls, waterwheels, ranges, mountain scenes, lake scenes, our own very striking mural as our



Taranaki Orchid Society display

Photo P. C. Tomlinson

display's backdrop, back-ends of cows, Taupo's collection of many different mosses in conjunction with orchids was quite fascinating. Orchids of note, Jeanette's *Cym.* Dr. Baker "Hyacinth", a tremendous specimen plant. The champion bloom very good but debatable, massed pleiones and Otago Orchid Society must have some very accomplished growers.

The sales area, also in a vast, adjacent building, seemed to be doing a lot of selling; if most of the

general public seen carrying plants orchid society members, then every society should be chokka! (E. B. & E. S.) did not miss out on any bargains by only being allowed entry from 10 am each day, although being exhibitors we were still non-registrants.

The final day, Sunday, seemed to drag, we were all well aware of the return trip, and very mindful of the performance of dismantling the display and repacking the plants with care. The hierarchy had informed all

participants that no one be in the display areas for one hour after 5 pm.; the disbelief was electric. Apparently this decision came about by the very dubious idea that some light-fingered types would romp through the place, however, commonsense prevailed and we were all permitted to start dismantling at 5.15 pm This was a time of orderly disorder, an hour and a half later nothing remained but the scaffold which supported the mural.

We struggled out of Palmerston North at

7.10 pm., following Pat Kenny, We had no show, he screamed off to the north as if there was no tomorrow!! Reached Waiouru and stopped for petrol and then a hiccup - the battery was lifeless! Three very willing and cheerful Maoris crawled under the van and fiddled and joked, it really was quite hilarious. They finally, as a last resort gave a push, the engine started. We daren't stop again till arriving home at 1.20 a.m.

A great week with very good company.

E. Perrott.

Otago Orchid Society

Preparing for the trip . . .

The first task was to make adjustments to the trailer so the orchids could be packed for the long journey to the Expo.

As the orchids were received from club members they were covered with dacron felt, then packed as tightly as possible in cardboard cartons and placed in the special area in the trailer to protect them for the journey ahead.

All the display equipment was also packed in the trailer; with all this aboard everything was packed tightly to prevent any movement.

At 8.30 am on the Sunday morning we left Dunedin arriving at Palmerston North at 11 am on Monday morning. The trip was 1840 kilometres.

Colin McKenzie

...and another view

As a member of the Otago Orchid Club I had great pleasure in attending the third New Zealand Orchid Conference at Palmerston North and I must congratulate Colin, Graham and their team for their prize winning display. When one considers the packing and transporting of all the gear as well as the flowers in a 6x4 trailer, the assembling of a display then to return our "girls" in such good condition, it is a mammoth undertaking for the above members.

The Manawatu Sports Stadium was a perfect arena for such an event and was filled with a feast

of orchids. I was very impressed with the number of cymbidiums on display. Looks like Colin will require a bigger trailer next time!

I also attended a number of lectures and some of the speakers mentioned the revival of this species. Most of the lectures were of plants of various types etc., and directed more to the new members or beginners when a large proportion of those present were in fact the big guns of the Orchid World.

The organisers of this Expo should be congratulated. We thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Palmerston North to see the third New Zealand International Orchid Expo. Only the rain tried to upset things. It surely made us feel proud to see that the Otago display gained 1st prize in its class, and well deserved it was too. To those who presented the display, thanks a lot, and congratulations to the many prize winners.

The show to us as registrants, appeared to be very well organised and the orchids were breath taking. We all enjoyed the variety, colour and professional presentation.

P.S. I only brought back four new plants!

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Otago view continues

We thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Palmerston North to see the third New Zealand International Orchid Expo. Only the rain tried to upset things. It surely made us feel proud to see that the Otago display gained 1st place in its class, and well deserved it was too. To those who presented the display, thanks a lot and congratulations to the many prize winners.

The show to us as registrants, appeared to be very well organised and the orchids were breathtaking. We all enjoyed the variety and quality of the sales area as well. It didn't take long to frighten our wallets, that's for sure!

It was good to see so many of our Club members at the Expo and to meet so many of our friends who travelled with us to the Glasgow Show.

Joy and Colin Scott.

... and yet again from Otago

A visit to Orchid Expo 1995 was certainly one of mixed experiences. I

think I could fairly say that I left Palmerston North feeling exhausted, inspired, more informed and quite a lot poorer!

From the judging point of view, the opportunity to be involved with judging such a large number of quality plants of many genera was quite exciting. Also working with so many other National and International judges was a rare opportunity for us all and I'm sure we all left the judging session feeling more knowledgeable and more confident about our own abilities.

The seminar speakers were excellent - some very interesting papers were presented and I was disappointed not to be able to hear more of them, as it was I left with my mind crammed full of information and an ever expanding fist of "Orchids I Must Have".

It was also great to catch up with old friends, especially Eric and Hazel. Making and renewing friendships is also a very important part of events such as Orchid Expo - I'm looking forward to the next one.

Gail Loughrey.

...and still more

After many weeks of preparation the time had finally come to pack the trailer to travel to the Expo at Palmerston North. After about five hours packing, there was not a scrap of area left to fill. With the plants wrapped in dacron and the trailer lined with polystyrene our load was ready to go.

Colin picked us up early on Sunday morning and we set off on the adventure we had been looking forward to for several months. On our way we had lunch at the Timaru Orchid Show before heading to Picton, having in early evening. After going out for tea we got to bed about eleven o'clock only to be up again at three forty five to catch the early ferry. It was a reasonable crossing. We arrived at Palmerston North late morning after visiting Norm and Dot Porters at Waikanae on the way.

Once we had settled in to our motel which was just across the road from the venue of the Expo we started setting up the Club display which was over to one side of the hall. By tea time we had completed the staging

with its valance around the base and tested the water feature- (no leaks). This left us Tuesday to cover in with bark and the placement of plants and labels. We also had to fill out cards for every plant that was to be judged. This was quite a job as you had to nominate what class it was to enter in - one of 273 classes. The display was completed early evening and it was back to the motel to relax with a nice drink and a feed of Chinese takeaways.

Wednesday started early with the judges breakfast at 7.30 am where you were split up into your judging groups before having breakfast. After a few instructions it was into the judging of the plants and the displays entered, followed by Award judging and this went on until about 4 pm There were 17 plants awarded.

The Grand Champion was *Laeliocattleya* Mini Purple "Tamami" Top Dog, with the Reserve Champion a *Dendrobium primulinum*. The large sales area opened at 3 pm and this gave many the chance to lighten their pockets of money! Night came and it was off to the banquet; it was a great meal and an opportunity

to catch up with old friends and meet other registrants from around the country and overseas.

The Expo was officially opened by Dame Cath Tizard on Thursday afternoon and she spent about an hour looking around all the displays. Early evening was set aside for a meeting to summarise the judging but it was a disaster as you could not hear anybody, even with a microphone because the rain was so heavy on the hall roof Thursday evening was great as it gave us a chance to have a meal with Eric and Hazel Doidge whom we had not seen since their shift to New Plymouth some time ago. They send their regards to all members.

Friday was the first day of lectures covering a large variety of topics, each talk was illustrated with a good slide programme. Jan, Maureen and I went to a combined Alliance meal that was organised by Ron Maunder, and after dining Allan Moon the Director of the Eric Young Foundation in Jersey showed slides and spoke about the Foundation, a very interesting evening.

Saturday morning was taken up with more lectures, the one of

special interest - Barry Fraser of Papa Aroha Orchids on Paphs was spoilt when the slide cartridge fell out of the back of the projector, Barry carried on as well as he could, but the slides were not in the correct order so that was very disappointing. The closing function was held in the hall amongst the displays with a great buffet meal. The after dinner speaker was Allan Moon.

The last day arrived so quickly with lectures in the morning. We really enjoyed Nicky Zurcher from Australia on Slipper Orchids. Afternoon gave us a chance to get that last photo and look for bargains from the sales area. Six o'clock came and it was time to dismantle and pack for the journey home. After a great effort by our team of helpers we were all finished and back at the motel by 8.15 p.m.

We returned home over the next two days stopping overnight in Christchurch. After unpacking we found that all the plants had travelled well with only minimum damage. Thank you to all the members who trusted us with their gems, without

your support this trip would not have been possible.

We showed Otago's colours really well by winning top display for our section, three plants gained top of their class and five gained thirds in their respective sections.

Alf, Carol, Colin, Jan and I had a great but very busy time with a lot of laughs, without everyone for company it would not have been so much fun.

Roll on Labour Weekend next year!

Graham and Jan Letts.

... and a final Otago comment

George and I left Dunedin at 8.15am on Tuesday 3rd October. A nice flight to Christchurch with the best view of Mt Cook you could wish for. A very boring five hour wait at Christchurch airport was passed watching the comings and goings of the aeroplanes. Then we boarded the Mt Cook Airlines plane for Palmerston North.

The next morning was lovely, 18°C with passing showers. The Manawatu Stadium with its rainbow colours on the outside was eye-catching. Then you

went inside and saw all these lovely orchids looking at you, a most impressive show all round. Congratulations to our Otago Orchid Club members who did very well in showing their orchids.

There were plenty of stalls for folk to buy orchids. It was nice to see buses bringing elderly people from outlying towns to the Show. On Sunday the 8th we packed our bags and went to the

show once again and saw Hazel and Eric Doidge looking very well, I went around all the orchids again a great experience. After dinner we I taxied to the airport and home we went again.

George saw Bill Ward at the Show and asked him where his gumboots were that he wears when looking at gardens on the Maggie Barry TV Show. He didn't answer!

Marilyn Stapley



AN OLD MAN'S HOBBY
Photo P. C. Tomlinson

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JOHN EASTON AWARD

1995

Patricia
Elms

THIS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD administered by the Hawke's Bay Orchid Society, is the only one of its kind in New Zealand and nominations are open to all members of Societies affiliated Council of New Zealand. The Award is made annually for "the most outstanding contribution to the culture and promotion of orchids in New Zealand". It was sponsored by Andy Easton, in honour of his father and known as the John Easton Award.

Eleven quality nominations were received for a variety of society members who have all made an outstanding contribution. This year it is with great pleasure that we announce Mrs. Patricia Elms as the recipient for 1995. As everyone knows Patricia has been a tireless worker for the New Zealand orchid enthusiasts.

Patricia started as a hobbyist grower when living in the Ohariu Valley near Wellington. With her husband Ken & four sons she moved to Bulls in 1983. She is now a full time orchid grower & exporter of cut flowers.

Patricia was foundation Secretary of The Capital City Orchid Society, and has been involved with most orchid societies in the Wellington area. Is past President of the Wanganui Orchid Society, an Accredited Judge & currently Chairperson of the Central Region of Judge. She organized the North Island Judging Seminars held at Martin and has been a member of the Committee of Awards since its inception.

She has been a member of council since 1986- President from 1992 to 1995, currently immediate past Present. During this term on Council she travelled extensively throughout New Zealand visiting most Orchid Societies. She was Chairperson & Chief organizer of the third New Zealand Expo, (an outstanding success).

Patricia grows most genera and has an interest in hybridizing. She is a collector of ceramic antiques and also gardening when time allows. She is a very busy lady but never hesitates to help any hobbyist grower with her knowledge & experience. I am sure it is with the help and support of her husband Ken and family that she has achieved this outstanding contribution.

Christine Irwin Secretary: The John Easton Award Committee

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AWARDS OF THE ORCHID COUNCIL

BY ROSS TUCKER

MANY PEOPLE do not realise that behind the Awards given to the orchids throughout New Zealand there are many dedicated people who have contributed many dollars and untold hours of study. These people who become Judges for your orchids get very little thanks for their labour and cost in becoming a Judge approximately 4 years training and then to remain up to date reading everything they can get their hands on about new and exciting orchids and then attend shows and deliberate, only to be told at the end "The Judges don't know what they are doing" or "I've got a better orchid than that at home". Ask any Judge and you'll get some very thoughtful stories. Why do they bother? Probably to learn more themselves about their hobby and to help other orchid growers. So you can perhaps help by giving your local Judge the odd word of encouragement every now and again and then all this may be worthwhile. Don't just knock em!

During 1992 the *Odontoglossum* Alliance was well represented with several plants gaining recognition.

The first two were to oncidium species with *Oncidium stacyi* 'Einibee' exhibited by D. Watt of Wellington on gaining an AM/OCNZ in recognition of an improved form, and well grown and flowered example of this rarely seen *Oncidium*, overall width 26 mm with one spike and 15 flowers.

Also during 92 a splendid example of flowers with a natural spread of 26 mm

A number of plants mentioned in this article have been illustrated in earlier issues of this magazine. Where possible plants not previously illustrated are shown this time.

Oncidium varicosum var *Rogersii* 'Clement Stokell' was awarded an AM/OCNZ to its exhibitor J. Campbell of Christchurch. The plant

had 2 spikes and over 70

Odontoglossums were represented during 92 with *Oda*. Rawdon 'Vintners Treasure' exhibited by M. Croft of Matamata gaining an HCC/OCNZ with this burgundy crisp sparkling colour and a fine shape, 10 flowers on one spike, overall width 97 mm.

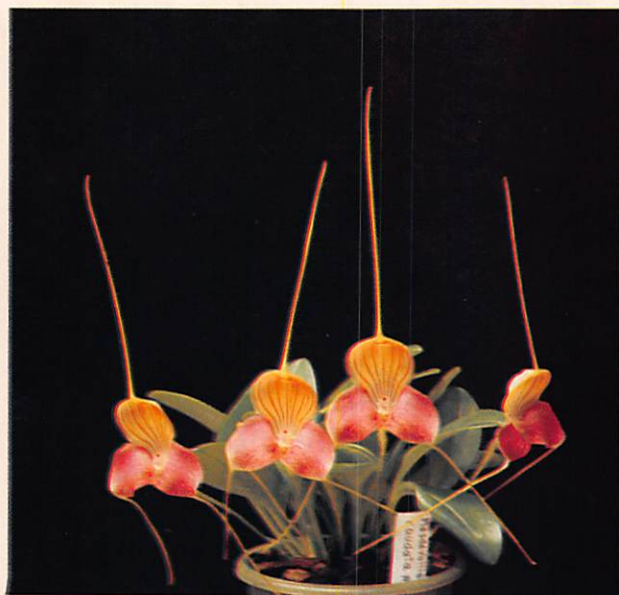
Probably the most spectacular *Odontoglossum* awarded during 92 was one of the new colours to



Laelia pumila
 'Northland'
 Grower F. Brett

appear in New Zealand. I refer to the pure colour of albino. *Odontoglossum/Odontoda* into the fine example of *Oda*. Unregistered Grex 'Papillon Queen' AM/OCNZ which was bred from (*Odm. Rialto*) to produce this strong yellow lip and contrasting markings. Also having 24 flowers on one spike with overall width of 68 mm

Awarded during 92 were some unusual orchids such as *Aerangis riesiorum*. This plant displayed 9 arching spikes with more than 14 blooms per spike and an excellent leaf to spike ratio, with flowers almost hiding the foliage, a well deserved award to G. Lyster of Nelson.



Masdevallia caudata 'Seven Oaks'
 Grower Ron Roy

The cattleya Alliance was well represented during 92 with F. Zumbuhl of New Plymouth exhibiting *Cattleya guttata* 'Fulford' AM/OCNZ. This unusually spectacular coloured species exhibited a good form clear colour and even spots on 1 spike with 15 flowers, with an overall width of 85 mm

Also exhibited by F. Brett formerly of Whangarei, a fine example of *L. pumila* 'Northland' gaining an HCC/OCNZ. A dark even sparkling magenta purple with a good triangular

shape and a natural spread of 120 mm.

Another cattleya from Northland was *C. Unregistered* Grex 'Ina' HCC/OCNZ, exhibited by D. Luke of Kamo with its sparkling crystalline white petals and lemon splashed throat 2 flowers were well displayed on a strong stem with overall width 125 mm. The cross was *C. (Christina Wagtay x Queen Sirikhit)* 'Ina' HCC/OCNZ.

Slc. Minnie Pearl 'St Aubyn' gained an HCC/OCNZ for its exhibitor J. Parker of Auckland. Its excellent deep purple colour with two flowers on one spike and an overall width 137 mm, a well presented plant deserved recognition.

Masdevallias were again well represented in the 92 Awards with two fine examples *Masd. veitchiana* 'Joy M' being awarded AM/OCNZ to C. & R. Coles of New Plymouth. A fine example of this species of burnt orange overlaid heavily with purple hairs, a strong plant of 8 spikes with a natural spread of 55 mm Also exhibited during 92 was *Masd. caudata* 'Seven Oaks' gaining AM/OCNZ exhibited by R. Roy of Christchurch with



Cym. Kuranda 'Arthur Dawson'
Grower W. Ross-Taylor

an excellent size and form. The clear striking colours of striped yellow dorsal sepal and red violet lateral sepals on the 4 flowers which had an overall width 108 mm. This plant also gained "Orchid of the Year" - see back issues.

Cymbidiums gained several awards during 92 but still did not dominate, with a primary hybrid between (*suave* x *madidum*) *Cym. Kuranda*

'Arthur Dawson' gaining both an HCC and CCC for its exhibitor W. Ross Taylor. This plant had a magnificent display of pendulous spikes of over 400 flowers on 9 spikes of olive green petals with overall width 25 mm.

Again another intermediate cymbidium of New Zealand breeding was recognised (*Fascelia* 'Ruby' 4N x Vogelsang Eastbourne 4N) *Cym.*



**Cym. Lustrous Loreen
'Busty'**

Kiwi Cascade grown by N. & D. Porter of Waikanae - a mulberry pink colour with a fine white edging with one spike and 16 flowers overall width 65 mm This variety is 'Black Ruby' and is a fine example of what New Zealand breeders are producing.

Another fine New Zealand hybrid was also awarded during 92 (Musita Pinkie x Joan of Arc) now named Lustrous Loreen 'Busty' gaining an HCC/OCNZ exhibited by R. Tucker of Auckland. This very large attractive flower with petals off white and deep pink spotting on the

lip was exhibited with one spike and 12 flowers, overall size was a large 133.2 mm.

The most impressive standard cymbidium was exhibited during 92 by Mr. J. D. James of Hamilton with *Cym.* Legacy 'Conference' gaining an HCC/OCNZ, hybridized and raised by its owner this flower was judged at the Waikato Orchid Society Winter Show 92 where it gained Grand Champion Orchid with one spike and 11 flowers with an overall width of 120 mm.

It is extremely pleasing to note the New Zealand

hybridizing which is being carried out throughout New Zealand in various genera and that spectacular results have been achieved by dedicated orchid growers. It is also pleasing to note how New Zealand Judges have started to award these results and there will be a lot more to come in the future.

Perhaps you too should consider upgrading your orchid collection and try and take advantage of some of the fine orchids which are available here in New Zealand.

**Ross Tucker -
Regional Chairman**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Sir,

MAORI MYTHS

In Vol. 21; #4 of 'Orchids in New Zealand, on p. 176 you reproduced a photo of *Phal.* SANDRA LIVINGSTON which somehow got the clonal name amended to 'Man^ukau Gold' from 'Man^akau Gold' - cries of shame for Te Raupapaha.

Man^akau is the name given to an area north of Otaki where the Maori tribes of Taranaki and Otaki confronted and legend goes that the fierce reputation of Te Rauparaha alone was enough to put warriors to flight without any battle: in other words Man^akau (Prestige Alone) has some real relevance!

Sorry, Auckland, this one's not for you.

Lyn Sherlock

Dear Sir,

FIELDING OR FEILDING?

We are enjoying all facets of the magazine and I guess in part some of that is because of the Expo content in recent issues.

I really only have one gripe at present and I am sure I speak on behalf of the six people who have donated to the Colour Fund from this town - and trust it was not someone from Palmerston North who compiled the list.

We live in a town called Feilding, named after Colonel William Feilding who purchased this area in 1877. So it is EI not IE as is field.

Those of us who reside here feel obliged to make this correction when we can and I trust this information will be noted by the person who completed this list of Colour fund donors.

Be assured this is a regular occurrence and mistakes have been made by many including AANZ and a new supermarket here who very quickly learnt the correct spelling.

Mrs. Gwen Storeley.

My apologies to those involved. With the wonders of computer spell checkers, or perhaps because of them, problems like this can occur.
-Editor.

April to June

SEASONAL ORCHID CULTURE

CYMBIDIUMS

We have certainly had very warm temperatures in most parts of the country this summer and it has been difficult to keep the plants cool. A misting during the day has been a way to cool them down. With the high light experienced this year and a reasonable drop in temperatures at night we should have a good flowering this season. But now you will have to watch for the drop in temperatures which heralds the frosty season. Plants should probably be given a more sheltered situation now. Care needs to be taken when handling plants as early flowering varieties will be starting to spike. It is a good idea to stake them as the spikes appear, bearing in mind the growth habit of the spikes. Plants should have a natural look, but weak spikes need to be

well tied, while arching spikes may only need a little support.

If you have not completed your repotting, you can still do so, but be very careful handling the plants as it is very easy to destroy the emerging spike. A tip for growers who have young children about is to put an extra label inside the pot when repotting then if the main label disappears you still have a name buried in the mix.

As the weather cools, watering can be gradually reduced to ten days then fortnightly as winter comes upon us, but still keep up the fertilising programme, including an application of Epsom Salts once a month, (1 tablespoon to 5 litres of water). Remember that while the temperatures remain high you need to watch for mites, and spray as required. Do be sure that the spray you

use is suitable if you have buds emerging from the sheath, as some sprays can cause crippling of the flowers.

Have you checked any electrical equipment you use in your glasshouse, fans, heaters etc., and given a general cleanup both inside our out? Make sure there is ample light through the glass or plastic. If your orchids are prone being visited by mice or slugs and snails, now is a god time to start putting necessary bait about, remember to use bait safely if you have little children or pets visiting your orchids. We have a cat who has a particular fancy for rat bait so whenever Talon is used it is put into pieces of downpipe with one end sealed over. The rats and mice can not push the bait right through and perhaps leave it on the ground. Carla has already been through two levies with her taste for

the wartarin based bait. Ridrat which is a bait mixed with wheat does give some protection to the animals, but bird fanciers may be wary of this.

It is a good idea to work towards the show season by keeping your plants tidy and working on those spikes to have them well arranged around the plan for attractive viewing. A well presented plant should certainly help to win a prize at your next show.

Patricia Elms

CATTLEYA

At the time of writing these notes we are enjoying great summer weather, which can easily make you think that it will go on for ever. By the time we get to read them though we are sure to have been reminded that winter is just around the corner.

The main purpose of the Autumn growing season to my mind is to toughen the plants up a bit before winter comes. There are two reasons for this, firstly because there are some plants which are autumn or winter flowering which will need a rest before this happens, and second because the plants will

survive the dull and colder days of winter much better if the luxuriant growth they have been making over the past few months has been well hardened off.

The important factors in achieving this result will be;

Shading. The shading over your growing area should be reduced to an absolute minimum during the early part of Autumn so that as much light as possible is can get through to the plants. You will still have to be careful of burning of course, particularly at the start of the period.

Temperature. This will depend on your shading and ventilation. After reducing your shade you will have to watch the day temperatures on sunny days. I think it is better at this time to control the temperature by ventilation rather than shading. Day and night temperatures should both be dropping now and if you are using heat you will need to be prepared for this as autumn progresses.

Watering. Shorter day length and lower temperatures will reduce the frequency of watering. Wait till the mix is drying out before

watering again and be more careful with when you water. It will be increasingly important to attend to this early in the day as the colder weather arrives.

Feeding. If you continue to feed your plants every second watering you will cut down on the frequency of feeding as your watering times decrease. You should be using a low nitrogen fertiliser such as Phostrogen at this time of the year to assist in hardening off and promoting flowering.

Autumn is the time of the year to prepare for winter and this applies to your orchid housing as much as your plants. Take time to check out the accommodation for leaks and cold draughts. The best way to find leaks is to stand out there for a while on a wet day, but if you are wanting a quick tip you can be sure that they will be just above your best plants.

Graham Jackson

Masdevallias

We are now into the Autumn seasonal change and at this time Masdevallias can be susceptible to unexpected

changes. Masdevallias do not like temperatures below 80 C so early frosts can cause havoc to your collection.

Autumn is a time of quite active growth for Masdevallias so any plants that need repotting can be done so now. Start reducing the summer shade back to about 50% taking care that temperatures in the glasshouse do not go above 25°C. Keep up with regular feeding of your plants, I find that 1/2 to 1/3 of manufacturers recommended strength is sufficient. For those of you into hydroponics then a CF of 4 is ideal for Masdevallias.

Water your plants early in the morning so that the plants can dry out before evening. If plants do not dry out properly then there is the risk of fungus attacks. Increasing the air movement around your plants will also help prevent fungus attacks. Masdevallia like strong air movement and anything that moves air will work. Generally, air movement should be enough to make large leaves move slightly and flower spikes to sway gently. Keep extra slug and snail bait around

at this time as those slimy critters can destroy a plant overnight.

Trevor Gillbanks

VANDAS

After the heat of summer, preparation should be well in had for caring for your plants for autumn-winter, and particularly rehousing those vandas which spend the summer outdoors. Remember to examine each pot to make sure they are free from 'extra cargo' (insects, snails), removing rubbish caught up in the growths, and tearing away dead leaves, etc. before placing them back in the glasshouse. Hopefully your programme of plenty of food and water together with summer conditions will result in good initiation of flower spikes, and these should soon become evident. Compare the vigour, health and flower colour of those plants which holidayed during the summer to those which stayed in situ - the findings could be interesting.

ODONTS

With shortening days and lean sunlight the

shadecloth will no longer be needed, and should be stored away. You need to pay attention to your watering and feeding programme but try to maintain the best possible air movement around your plants by keeping bottom vents open during the day if possible - local conditions determine.

PAPHIOPEDILUMS

Getting your greenhouse ready for autumn winter should be done now; check your fan heaters and thermostats, cables in sand-beds, etc., ready for when you need to throw the switch! Do not forget to examine vents and louvres and what about the lining of your greenhouse - is it still good and able to do its job during the coming months) - linings can make a 5 degree Celsius difference).

Adjust your watering programme but maintain nutrition levels; plants respond well in autumn growing conditions so it pays to have completed your repotting by then. In particular immature plants should be established in new mix before winter conditions

set in when once again you might need to adjust your watering schedule - better to have a light hand than heavy for this time of the year. Remove all dead flowers and leaves and clear the floor beneath the benches, and take away stakes and ties to be cleaned for later use; your aim is to keep a clean greenhouse free of inviting areas where 'nasties' can lurk. The greenhouse can be an inviting warm spot during chilly wintery days not only for you and your plants, for those 'uninvited' guests.

Lyn and Kevin Sherlock

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Last September we had a pot luck meal after the first day of our show. We enjoyed our meal amongst the flowers and when finished we had the privilege of presenting a Life Membership to one of our valued members Sheila McDougall. Her badge, which was our Club badge with a life Membership bar across the bottom with the date on the back was pinned on by our President.

MARCH 1996

Sheila is almost a foundation member (10 years) and a cheerful and busy member of our Club. At our Annual shows Sheila has been a tower of strength, she has been the Show secretary for nine years. We can be sure that everything is done on time, and she can give any information from her little book which is always handy. Her own collection is growing all the time and gives her great pleasure to show off her many flowers, it

doesn't matter which month she can always produce some flowers. Well done Sheila, congratulations and we wish you and your husband Ken all the luck you deserve. A truly valued member and a good friend to us all, and may you enjoy your orchids for many years

Joan Butler

President North Otago
Orchid Society



*Sheila McDougall receiving her Life
Membership badge*

Page 35



Hawkes Bay Orchid Society celebrated its Silver Jubilee in 1995.

We decided to invite all our neighbour societies to

participate in our Silver Jubilee Show held in the Centennial Hall in Napier and our celebratory dinner held in the Taradale Hall.

Gisborne, Wairoa, Manawatu and Dannevirke Societies were very supportive in providing displays and assisting at the judging at our show.

We were extremely lucky in obtaining Andy Easton as our Guest Speaker for our Silver Jubilee Dinner. He also brought along a box of Cymbidium flowers, some of his new releases which were of great interest to our members.

Looking back on our Silver Jubilee Year, I can only say that it has been a very successful one concluding with our results at the Palmerston North Expo.

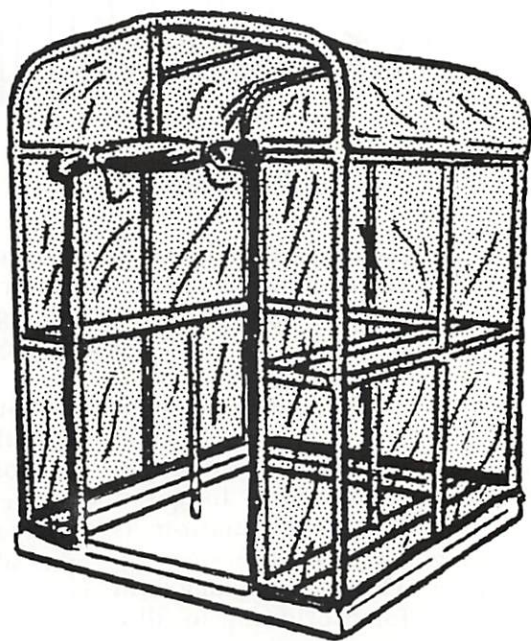
Bernie Killington



Two founder members Ellie Goodall and Noel Allen cutting the cake supervised by the President Helen Eddy.

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HYBRIDISING FOR COMMERCIAL CUT FLOWER CYMBIDIUMS

by Mark Dawe

I AM CHAIRMAN of **Cymbidium Clone Bank Inc.**, a commercial orchid growers organisation formed to investigate new cut flower varieties. We are at present examining the possibility of setting up a hybridising programme and I have found preparing this talk very useful to crystallise my thinking on the subject.

Orchid growing is a fascinating hobby and I consider the growing and flowering of seedlings the most exciting part of that hobby. Orchid growing for cut flowers is a business. As such, decisions should be made for sound commercial reasons. We must look at a hybridising programme and evaluate whether it is commercially viable. In doing this I believe there are six questions that we must ask. These are: why? When? Where? Who? How? What?

Why? Why should we hybridise for cut flower varieties? With hybridising we can expect

an absolute minimum of ten years from pollination to having a new variety in production - longer if careful evaluation is carried out before coning. This is far too long term for hybridising to fill a gap in production. If we don't have a really good early green, for instance, a not so good one that is immediately available will have to do in the meantime. The purpose of a cut flower hybridising programme must be for improvement - to get better varieties. Hybridising for cut flowers therefore differs from hybridising for show bench flowers in that to be worth doing we must

get something that is better than what we have available now. Getting another silver award quality flower like all the other silver award flowers is not worthwhile. Growers will not change varieties without first seeing some real advantage.

Why should any cut flower grower in his right mind want to grow seedlings? There are two conditions that I think must be met (apart from the possibility that any cut flower grower who wants to grow seedlings is not in his right mind). First, there must be a need for better varieties.

Secondly, this need must not be being met elsewhere. I grow some thirty six blocks of clones all of which have some faults that could be improved on. There are very few orchids that are like Mary Poppins, who was practically perfect in every way. There are not a lot of new commercial varieties on offer today and few people are hybridising for commercial varieties. Many of those who are, are conducting exclusive programmes from which plants will not be released. Therefore I would say that both these conditions are being met.

When? If we are to set up a hybridising programme when would be a good time to do so? There is always the temptation to put it off until next year or when we have looked at all existing varieties. My local garden centre has a sign which states "The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second best time is today". The same is true of any long term project. Some families are in their second generations of commercial flower growing. Those that also had hybridising programmes now have good exclusive varieties that make newer growers

wish they also had parents who were orchid growers. If we don't start a hybridising programme now, maybe sometime in the future our children will wish that we had more foresight.

Where? Where should we conduct a hybridising programme? A hybridising programme consists of three parts - hybridising, growing and assessment. These do not need to all be conducted in the same place. They hybridising is best done in conditions similar to those used to grow cut flowers to ensure that the parent plants selected do well under those conditions. It is essential that at least final assessment be done under the conditions in which selected varieties will be flowered. Growing is best done with warmth for faster growth. Northland and parts of Australia would have ideal growing conditions. This phase of the programme could in fact be carried out anywhere in the world, restricted only by travel, freight, and customs problems.

Who? Who should conduct a hybridising programme? Again the three parts don't need to be done by the same person. The hybridising

needs to be conducted by a person with a good knowledge of orchids and of commercial flower growing, to know what can be done and what is needed. The assessment must be carried out by the grower who will grow the plant commercially. In the past too many hybridisers or others selling clones have recommended them for every possible use from pot plants, cut flowers, and show bench, to further hybridising. The growing phase of the programme could be carried out by any of a number of people for example, by the cut flower grower, by a specialist plant producer, or by a pot plant grower.

How? How should we conduct a hybridising programme? In our investigations to date most of the discussion has concerned the growing phase. We could grow our seedlings in our nurseries but this takes area out of production and therefore is not necessarily a cheap option. We could set up a separate hybridising nursery but this would be expensive to do. We could pay a professional plant producer but this entails on going costs. We could grow in conjunction with a pot plant producer possibly in

Australia. This appears to make financial sense but does entail some loss of control and greater travel and freight costs.

If assessment is best done by ourselves in conditions under which we will grow flowers, should we be assessing new seedlings in our own nurseries? Should we set up a separate central nursery? There are several problems involved with growing and flowering seedlings in a cut flower area. More time is taken up with tying up as spikes are often at all stages of development with numerous crosses being grown. More time is also taken in picking a seedling row for the same reason. It is also less efficient picking when there may be mixed colours and plants being assessed as they are being picked. Often, when we get busy picking, the time needed to properly assess a plant is not available, and if a spike of a particular colour is needed to complete a mix it will often be in Japan before we remember to assess it. And finally, when we do have a particularly fine seedling in flower, the tendency to stop and admire it can be a great time waster.

What? What should we be trying to achieve with

a hybridising programme? If we are looking at our nurseries with a commercial eye, for any change in the varieties grown to be worthwhile, it must result in an increase in profitability. We should examine the improvements we may hope to achieve by hybridising and see how they could make us more money. There are, I think, three ways that we can improve profits by improving varieties.

1. Factors that improve the ease of selling our product and or increase prices. Colour. We need to hybridise for clear non staining colours that look good together in a box. Some pinks look nicer when packed in mono colour boxes while other pinks look best when mixed with other colours. We need colours that do not fade or change as the spike matures. Some pinks start out looking peachy and become pinker as they age. Using these as pinks means we are exporting older flowers. Noralunga 'Enfield' when shaded properly can be sold as a green, but how long does it stay green in the vase? While a mixed box continues to attract a high price we should work most on making

improvements to whatever colour is the weakest part of our mix at any time. Spike Strength. We are looking for "colour on a stick", strong spikes with plenty of flowers, and that do not need the tips removed to be strong. Flower Arrangement. The ideal is not actually crowded on the stem but close enough together so that one flower may be removed without showing. Having flowers arranged so that most face in one direction improves the impact of the spike in a box and also makes packing much easier. Shipping. We need varieties that can be packed and shipped overseas without bruising. Too many plants have been cloned and sold without testing this vital characteristic. Keeping. We need spikes that will last in a vase for at least four weeks. Again this feature is often not tested for. Some varieties produce spikes that do not take up water properly and their flowers collapse after a few days.

2. Factors that increase the amount of product. Production should be looked at on an area bases, not just as spikes per bulb. Plant size affects the required spacing and can have a marked effect. Flowering

for a second year on a bulb increases production and obviously cannot be tested for on a first flowering seedling.

3. Factors that reduce costs in the nursery. Plant size and Leaf Habit. Long floppy leaves make rows of plants difficult to move down and make it more difficult to find emerging spikes. Lagoon 'Valley High' is an example of a clone whose spikes often get caught under its leaves. Ease of Tying Up. Arcadian Sunrise 'Golden Fleece' is a beautiful early yellow that most cut flower growers have and would love to get rid of. Its spikes go through a quick growing soft stage before hardening up and need constant vigilance to keep straight. In contrast, Lagoon 'Shirley' has spikes that grow straight and often require no tying at all. Honeydew. Some flowers produce excessive honeydew and often grow sooty mould. The cleaning up on such spikes is very time consuming. Ease of Harvesting. There are three types of spike all of which can be adequately strong. "Crisp" spikes are reminiscent of a nice juicy apple. They rely on water in the spike for their strength, they are heavy but break easily when

harvesting. "Woody" spikes tend to be lighter while still being strong and usually break well. "Fibrous" spikes are similar to crisp spikes with the addition of long fibres within the stem. They often need to be cut when harvesting. Cold Tolerance. Cold tolerant varieties allow us to reduce heating costs and reduce damage for those growers who do not heat. Disease Resistance. Some varieties, for example, Cherilyn 'Swansea' often get botritis while others do not under similar conditions. Some varieties appear to have root rot problems. Resistance to Mechanical Damage. Lagoon 'Valley High' is one variety that can have damage on the backs of sepals or petals but not show up on the front of the flower. In contrast Kate Bell 'Wodonga' shows up any damage as a dark spot. Clarity of Colour. Plants that do not require shading to produce clear white or green flowers are obviously desirable.

There are obviously a large number of characteristics that we can try to improve on to increase profitability. Where then can we make the greatest improvements? In mid season varieties the colour

range is mostly covered by reasonably good varieties but some improvement is still possible. Jungfrau 'Dos Pueblos' requires some heat and Eliot Rogers is still considered too dark for some markets. But probably we would do better to direct our attention at the early or late season first. A typical early colour mix could use:

White - Cherilyn 'Swansea', Not productive enough, botritis problems. Karaka Parks. Will probably replace Cherilyn, but we are still learning their vices.

Pink - Red Beauty 'Mieke'. Soft top of spike, needs heat. Florapinks. Needs heat.

Green - Happy Days. Some are large growers and have gross flowers, others not really green and require heavy shade. Vanguard. Not very early with a wide spread of flowering, very pale if not shaded.

Yellow - Arcadian Sunrise. Poor growers, spikes need a lot of training and some soft spikes, part of production may be too early.

A typical late colour mix could use:

White - Dingwall 'Lewes'. Pollen caps go brown in heat.

Pink - Kate Bell 'Wodonga'. Damages easily and shows badly.

Green - Dr. Lloyd Hawkinson 'Piedmont'. Needs very heavy shade.

Yellow - Mostly late spikes on mid season varieties.

There would appear to be ample room for improvement. In attempting to improve on these varieties we run into a number of problems. We are obviously trying to produce something better than we have to start with. How do we produce a non staining late green, for instance, if all the available late green breeding stock stains badly in high light? We may need to undertake a two stage programme with an outcross to a non staining white or yellow followed by a second generation to hopefully recombine the green genes with the non staining ones. Building in desirable characteristics into the pure colour lines. Such a programme will be very long term and costly to undertake but the results may be worthwhile.

As well as looking at our needs a hybridising programme must be based on the parent material available. We

obviously cannot hybridise for particular characteristics if we do not have suitable parent plants. Usually any plant good enough to be used in hybridising should also be considered good enough to clone for cut flower production. If this is not so, why should we expect to produce hybrids with superior cut flowers? One exception to this would be in two stage hybridising programmes. In a two stage programme to bring new characteristics into the pure colours, for instance, the first generation may produce some odd colours. If all other characteristics are right such a plant could be the best parent for the second generations crosses.

Before making any cross it is important to assess the characteristics of the plants being considered as parents. We should try to reinforce desirable characteristics by having them in both parents used and at the same time avoid a double dose of genes for any undesirable characteristic. One way of assessing the value of a plant as a parent is to look at the results of earlier hybridising programme around such a plant. I believe Balkis

'Compact' to be a parent that should be used a lot more for hybridising for cut flowers. It has produced a very good result in the tetraploid Alegrias, a number of which have been cloned for flower production. The triploid cross (Balkis x Pink Champagne) has produced some plants that literally flower themselves to death by continually producing spikes at the expense of growths. We already have good pinks from Balkis 'Compact' in the Alegrias but it should be crossed with greens, yellows and clear whites. This sort of hybridising programme should give very good results but at a flowering time when good varieties are already available.

In closing I would like to comment on a reported discussion at the 1994 Cymbidium Congress (Orchid Advocate Vol. xx no 4, pp 152-3). The speaker, Loren Batchman, talked about Solana Beach 'St Francis' and it's influence on modern hybrids. In the ensuing discussion it was stated that the typical percentage yield of awardable plants from its crosses is low: an old rule of thumb is that one in twenty is awardable in a cross. To which someone commented "Why breed

with it?". If in hybridising for cut flower varieties as many as one in twenty seedlings are good enough to be worthy of further assessment, it would be considered a useful cross. Only one in several hundred seedlings is likely to be worthy of cloning to replace a variety already in production. It appears much simpler to breed for award quality than for cut flower quality cymbidiums.

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NATIVE ORCHID CONSERVATION TRIP

Neville Hewinson
WHANGAREI

ON SATURDAY 14th OCTOBER 1995 at 7.15am, 12 of us from the Whangarei Orchid Society set off for a day trip to the Motutangi Swamp, which is situated about 22km north of Kaitaia with Ranganu Bay and Harbour on its eastern side and 90 mile beach to the west.

The weather forecast was marginal for the weekend which was a bit worrying as none of us will ever see 21 again. After awhile the sun came out to my relief but as we neared the Maungamuka Ranges the cloud came down and so did the rain and a few comments. I replied "wait until we get over the Maungamuka's we'll be right" which created further comments. Imagine my relief when the sky got brighter as we neared Kaitaia.

After a brief stop to buy donuts etc we carried on to Awanui and stopped at the old Awanui Dairy Factory which now houses a mill and furniture factory and they process the kauri logs and stumps

which have been recovered from the surrounding swamps. In their retail shop we had a look at their products, there were all manner of turned bowls, lampstands and nic nacs to mention a few but the furniture had to be seen to be believed. Table and chairs, armchairs made from one solid piece of wood, coffee tables and the finish was terrific. Unfortunately none of us had a cheque book big enough.

On to our destination a farm on the southeast side of the swamp at a place called Kaimaumau where we arrived at about 10.30am and were met by Barbara, a dear old lady of 83 who knows all the botanical names of the

plants in the area and who for many months now has been walking over certain areas of the farm (which is going to be planted in trees) which a spade and two buckets and transplanting orchids, ferns and anything else that Barbara feels are endangered.

So after a quick cup of tea and a bite to eat off we went armed with trowels, army shovels and super market bags. First we went to see the *Cryptostylis subolata* growing in a small area. They were first discovered in 1975-6 the seed having blown over from - Australia. In the last year or so they are becoming established over a wider area, another year or two will make a big difference.

Then it was on to where we were going to transplant the orchids but we had to watch where we trod because thelymitra and micotis were everywhere. Then it was down to business. We dug up *Thelymitra longiflora*, *T. malvina*, *T. carnea*, pinks and creams, *T. venosa*, clumps of *Caladenia alata*, one only *Pterostylia plumosa*. Then back to the house for lunch after which the planting began.

Then some decided they wanted to see the grass trees (*Dracophyllum*) which has a trunk about 20-25mm diameter and is 2 metres or so high and the leaves like blades of grass grow out of the trunk. There we also found *Caladenia* aff. *lyallii*. Unfortunately we were probably a week or so too late to see them in flower but they all had seed pods. They were probably the smaller variety with flowers approx 1.5cm in diameter. Then we found *Calochilus herbaceus* much to Barbara's delight. In 50 years of living at Kaimaumau Barbara had never seen a *Calochilus* there before.

The NZ Native flycatcher Sundew was everywhere (they trap sandflies and mosquito with their sticky flower heads). Kumeraho

(Pomaderris) the gumdiggers used the flowers as soap when washing. Pimerlea prostrate native daphne was everywhere and so was a terrible vine the Maoris called Taihoa (wait a minute). It grows along the ground but fortunately not south of Ahipara.

The Motutangi Swamp is a very destitute area. It is mostly covered with stunted Ti-Tree (Manuka) and gorse. It was originally covered in Kauri Forest and with the weight of the -tees they sank probably 40-50,000 or more years ago and another forest grew on top of them. In the 1920's and 30's the gumdiggers dug pits 20 to 30 feet square and 12 feet deep looking for gum and their wives stood on the top pumping the water out with pumps made from tins. The watertable

on the 14 October was only about 100 to 150mm below the surface on the higher ground.

'We came home through Mangonui and down the east coast and arrived in Whangarei about 7 p.m. Very weary but very pleased with ourselves. I estimated that we transplanted about 1200 orchids. I don't know why as there will still be 100's of 100's or millions still there and they will keep growing amongst the new trees.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

YATES LUSH ORCHID FOOD

Orchids need food in order to produce healthy, vigorous growth with plenty of flowers. This should be provided as a constant supply of nutrients at the correct strength. The main elements taken up by the plant are nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium but orchids also need calcium, magnesium and sulphur, plus other micro elements in minute quantities.

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Lush Orchid Food is best applied in addition to a base fertiliser to maintain optimum nutrient levels for the orchid plant.



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Sept 14,15
Sept. 20, 21
Sept 20,21,22
Oct 19,20

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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:

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.

SLIDE AND VIDEO LIBRARY

With reference to the catalogue published last issue, please note at programmes 23,24 and 25 are no longer available for general use.

CONTINUED FROM LAST PAGE

The day cost us \$25.00 each. Many had never seen orchids in the wild. They are not as big or flamboyant as orchids from other countries but they are still beautiful and yes some of us did bring a few *Thelymitra* and *Caladenia* home.

This was my third trip to Kaimaumu and I have a few natives growing in my tunnel house with my *dendrobiums*, *cattleyas* and *odontoglossums* etc very successfully. The *Cryptostylis subulata* grows like weeds and is multiplying vegetatively. I haven't been successful yet in pollinating it. (I've only tried the once with a few flowers). The books tell you the *cryptostylis* flowers from November to March. In my conditions they are always in flower and like plenty of water remember they are a swamp plant.

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From the Manawatu Evening Standard.

Magnificent Orchid Show

Sir: - From October 4-8 an orchid conference of international ranking was held in Palmerston North. Such an event occurs only once in five years in New Zealand.

Because of convincing enthusiasm expressed by Manawatu and surrounding Orchid societies; this is the first occasion on which such a prestigious event has been attempted outside a main centre. High costs of an appropriate venue with commensurate potential public response are important considerations.

Unfortunately, it seems that a high proportion of the public still presume that an orchid show will simply be comprised of rows and rows of flowers staged in boring repetition.

A relatively low attendance of visitors, despite widespread publicity, suggests this to be the case. Few will have realised that the ingenuity used in displaying these plants of incomparable diversity, resulted in presentations the likes of which will only otherwise be seen at Ellerslie or even Chelsea.

The realisation may only dawn when Palmers Garden World features items from the display.

But I do not wish to lament too deeply on a public response which has raised doubts over whether holding such an event should be contemplated outside a main centre again. Rather, I seek this opportunity to publicly congratulate those relatively few, dedicated local enthusiasts who worked so very efficiently to make the event the great organisational success that it was.

The Taranaki Orchid Society, of which I am a member, is one of many which spent over a year of effort and a considerable amount of money bringing to your locality, something rather special in terms of floral display.

It was both a pleasure and a privilege to be offered such wonderful facilities and good back up.

Thank you Manawatu Orchid Society and satellites for taking on such a formidable task, and completing it so harmoniously and efficiently. The fact that so many in the community did not avail themselves of the opportunity to view such a unique display does not diminish the standard of your efforts.

George Fuller
New Plymouth

