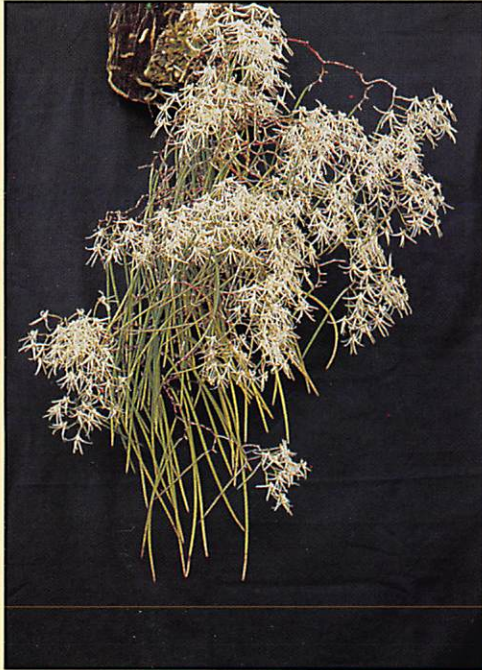


Cultural Awards 1995



Cym. Cricket 'Cascade'
grown by June Matches.
Award photo

Den. teretifolium 'Elsie' grown by
Graeme and Margaret Lundon
Award photo



Orchids

in New Zealand

Volume 22 No. 2

JUNE 1996

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July 19,20,21	NEW ZEALAND	Mt Albert War Memorial Hall, New North Road, Auckland
Aug. 9,10	HIBISCUS COAST	Pacific Plaza, Whangaparaoa
Aug. 30,31 Sept 1	WHANGAREI	North Exhibition Hall, Whangarei (21st Birthday)
Aug. 30, Sept. 1	AUCKLAND	Corbans Winery, 426-448 Great North Rd, Henderson
Sept 7,8	STH AUCKLAND	Venue not advised
Sept. 7,8	NELSON	Stoke Hall Nelson
Sept. 13,14,15	NEW ZEALAND	Mt Albert War Memorial Hall, New North Road, Auckland
Sept. 14,15	KAPITI	Senior Citizens Hall, Ocean Road, Paraparaumu Beach
Sept. 14,15	LEVIN	Horowhenua College Hall, Weraroa Road, Levin
Sept. 14,15	NORTH OTAGO	St Pats Hall, Oamaru
Sept. 20,21,22	TAURANGA	Greerton Hall, Cameron Road, Tauranga
Sept. 20,21,22	HAWKES BAY	Indoor Basketball Stadium, Railway Road, Hastings
Sept. 20,21,22	TAURANGA	Greerton Hall, Cameron Road, Tauranga
Sept. 21,22	TAUPO	Great Lake Centre, Taupo
Sept 27,28	WAIROA	Presbyterian Methodist Hall, Queen Street, Wairoa
Sept. 28,29	MANAWATU	Community Leisure Centre, 569 Ferguson St Palmerston North
Sept. 28,29	HOWICK	All Saints Church Hall, Cook Street, Howick
Sept 28,29	WAIKATO	Venue not advised
Oct. 5,6	TARANAKI	Westpoint Complex, Gill St, New Plymouth
Oct. 5,6	WANGANUI	Wanganui City College Hall, Ingestre St, Wanganui
Oct 11,12,13	NORTH SHORE	Browns Bay Community Centre, Bute Rd Browns Bay Auckland
Oct. 19,20	WAIARAPA	Masterton Town Hall 21st Birthday Show
Oct. 26,27,28	OTAGO	SOUTH ISLAND SEMINAR John McGlashan College, Pilkington Street, Maroi Hill, Dunedin
Jan. 10,11,12 1997	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:

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.

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Orchids

IN NEW ZEALAND

Official publication of

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New Zealand Orchid Society

Vol. 22 No. 2

JUNE 1996

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ILLUSTRATIONS

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Sarcochilus (Parasarcochilus) spathulatus 68
Back cover Cym. Cricket 'Cascade' Grower J. Matrices
Den. teretifolium 'Elsie' Grower M & G London

BACK ISSUES

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WHERE TO FROM HERE?



Orchids in New Zealand is an established part of the orchid growing community in this county. It has been part of the national scene since it was first published in July 1975. During the years it has established itself as an essential feature of the hobby in this country. It has served the orchid growing fraternity during a time of rapid expansion during the 1980's, and I like to think that it continues to meet the needs of current readers and growers. It has been produced with dedication by a significant number of enthusiastic orchid growers over that time, names that form part of the Hall of Fame, names that have done much to foster and encourage orchid growing in New Zealand.

Like all activities, orchid growing must compete in a very competitive environment. Whether we

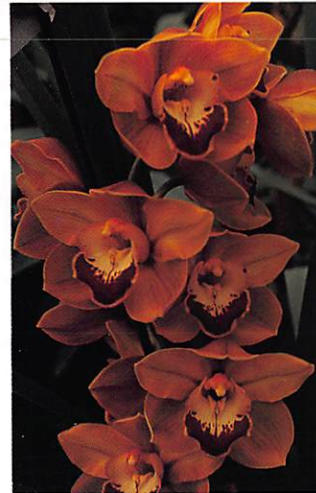
like it or not we are a service organisation, providing a specific service to growers, advertisers and readers. Our success, indeed survival, is dependant on the quality of that service. We believe that we are successfully doing that within the quite significant financial and cost constraints that are imposed on us. From the little feedback we get from readers we believe this assessment is true; *no news is good news* so the saying goes, but is this a true reflection of the facts? We have undertaken surveys to find out what you, the readers, want, and we have made changes to the magazine as a direct response of those surveys. We have increased the amount of colour, we have tried to ensure a wide range of

quality articles, although this has been limited by the articles forthcoming. Although we have been well served by our voluntary authors, we have not received much by way of society news or profiles of orchid growers, both topics you said you wanted more of. As has been emphasised many times before, this is a publication produced mutually, depending on the support **and involvement** of all orchid societies in this country. Some societies have been heavily involved and we sincerely thank those for their support, but there are others that have shown little interest in **their** magazine, remembering that this publication is owned by all affiliated societies of the Orchid Council in this country, and indirectly by all orchid growers who are members of the affiliated societies.

All hobbies, interests and sports organisations go through a typical sequence of involvement

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by members - from the initial excitement, developing interest, full involvement, declining interest and apathy before withdrawal from the organisation involved. A healthy organisation must have people at all stages of involvement. As people loose interest and leave, there must be new entrants coming in to sustain the activity. If this does not occur, then there will be serious repercussions for the organisation involved. The lack of new growers and members in many societies is therefore a cause for widespread concern, and is also a matter which directly impacts on us.

As has been said recently, this magazine is at a critical stage in its history. YOU have to decide if you want it to continue, YOU the subscriber, YOU the advertiser, and YOU the member of the various orchid societies who are the owners. We cannot continue as we are without addressing some of the critical issues, and without securing a commitment from the various parties involved. In particular we need more subscribers and advertisers or major financial sponsorship.

The discussion at the next Orchid Council AGM is critical and I trust all societies will have discussed the issues and briefed their delegates. We cannot continue the losses without the members of Council discussing the issue, and taking informed action.

publication, it is an essential part of orchid growing in this county and has been so for many years, but its future needs to be seriously discussed. If you want it to continue, then it must be supported by way of advertising, readers, contributions and subscribers.

I believe in this It is all over to you.

S.O.S.M

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CAN BE INCREASED.**

**WITH YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT WE
WILL CONTINUE**

.... but

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

As readers will see, there have been several major changes to the magazine this issue. These changes have been directed by the Orchid Council of New Zealand because of the financial position of this magazine. As many readers will know, subscription numbers have been falling. The number of members of orchid societies, and the number of capitation levies paid to Council, have fallen significantly over recent years, to the stage where they are only some one third of the numbers of several years ago. This reduction in numbers has flowed through to the number of growers subscribing to this magazine. Now there only approximately one in six persons taking the magazine, a rather disappointing level of support.

We have reached the stage where the number of subscriptions are such that the fixed costs are at a level that the subscription would have to be so high as is totally unrealistic if Council is to break even with the production of *Orchids in New Zealand*. The future of the magazine is to be fully discussed at the next Council meeting and AGM in Oamaru, but it is likely that some major decisions will have to be made. In the interim, we have had to reduce the costs of the magazine production, and the changes you see are a direct result of that cost cutting exercise.

I am sure many will be disappointed with this action, but it would be totally irresponsible to continue as we have been without the matters being fully discussed with members.

Editor

Yellows and deep burgundy were colours wanted by the hobbyist, where as the general public or mass market prefer light to medium lavenders.

Miniatures and compacts such as Hazel Boyd are also still in demand.

While no specific authorised entity determines the classification by plant size, the hybridisers generally concur that the micro miniatures are under 150 mm tall, miniatures between 150 mm and 250 mm, and compacts overall height from rhizome to leaf tip, 300mm.

For breeding miniatures *Slc* California Apricot is one of the most successful parents being used. It is (*Lc. Pacific Sun* x *S. coccinea*) which can bloom up to three times a year.

Another excellent parent is *Sc. Beaufort* (*S. coccinea* x *C. luteola*), the tetraploid form 'Elwood' is the form being used. Also used is *Slc* Jewel Box 'Beverly' (*Slc* Anzac 'Orchidhurst' x *C. curanthaca*) which is a parent of *Slc* 'Hazel Boyd' 'Apricot Glow'.

One of the great success stories in compact

breeding has been found in *Lc* Drumbeat v 'Heritage' (*C. Horace Maxima* x *Lc* Bonanza). While searching for compact growing plants Potinaras have produced small plants with large flowers, when the new true miniatures have been utilised. Potinaras, the result of crossing *Cattleya*, *Laelia*, *Sophrontis* and *Brassavola* (usually *B. digbyana*) produce on average, flowers of 150 mm to 200 mm, particularly those where *Bc. Hartland* or *Bc* Norman's Bay hybrids are used. Another Potinara of interest is *Pot* Aussie Pet which has flowers 125 mm across and good form. This is bred from (*Bc* Mem. Crispin Rosales x *Soph. coccinea*).

Hybridising of yellow cattleyas has fluctuated; in 1994 little breeding of these was carried out but this year more interest has been shown and Stewart Orchids have continued with basically the same lines as Ned Nash was using.

These include *Blc* Fortune 'Golden Throne' (*Lc* Mem. Albert Heinecke x *Blc* Xanthette), *Blc* Goldenzelle 'Ambrosia' (*C. Horace* x *Blc* Fortune), *Lc* Amber Glow 'Magnificent' (*Lc* Derna x

Lc Ann Walker), *Blc* Toshi Aoki (*Blc* Faye Mryamoto x *Blc* Waianae Flare) *Blc* Orange Nugget (*Blc* Manu Akaka x *Bc* Daffodill), *Blc* Mem. Helen Brown (*Blc* Xanthette x *Lc* Ann Follis).

It is interesting to note that *Blc* Xanthette is featured in the breeding of two of these parents. *Blc* Xanthette apparently has the ability to reduce crippling or deforming which is often noted in yellow cattleyas. Deformity occurs more frequently as the plant ages and if it continues it is probably best to discard the plant.

For those enjoying the large standard sized pinks and whites, the old favourite *Bc* Mount Hood is still being used successfully.

Dark reds, burgundy wine and dark purple cattleya hybridising is generally dominated by certain parents *Lc* Lustre 'Westonbirt' FCC/RHS an old timer, is the prime breeder involved in the majority of all major purple breeders. As can be assumed, this was originally bred by H. G. Alexander of England. Another *Laeliocattleya* now being used is *Lc*

Continued on page 77

after lavender which carries five flowers 220 mm in diameter on big stems.

The last comments regarding the Geyslerland collection is about Lc Puppy Love x Lc Stephen Oliver Fouraker 'Geyslerland'. This plant carries five to six of the palest lilac flowers of good size, shape and substance, and is considered by some to be the apex of L anceps breeding.

Species are an important part of the hybridising scene and many popular species are available from Gilchrist Micropropagations in Auckland, these include, amongst others *C. bowringiana*, *C. guttata*, *C. skinneri* v *coerulea* and *C. walkeriana*, the latter to be commented on later.

Also available are *L. annabarina*, *L. purpurata* and *L. purpurata* v *Coerulea*. In comparing the species lists from New Zealand stockists and those from overseas, there is little to suggest any particular trends or popularity of certain species that are being used in hybridising. It is interesting to note however, that certain species are featured quite regularly in the awarded crosses recorded in the AOS Awards Quarterly.

These include *L. pumila*, *L. purpurata*, *C. aelandiae* and *C. walkeriana*.

This last species, which comes from the states of Bahia, Minas, Gerais, Sao Paulo and Goias in Brazil, has a very wide distribution from near sea level up to 2000 metres (6000 Feet) and is being used in hybridising more than most of species. (Possibly due to the mutated polyploid form that is superior to the regular collected forms.

C. walkeriana is very easily cultivated and it passes this trait on to its progeny. The relatively large, fragrant flowers grow on compact plants which are ideal for cartleya hybridisers as they have a floriferous quality that is hard to beat.

Originally crosses in 1917, a re-crossing of *Bc. Cynthia* (*B. digbyana* x *C. walkeriana*) which has proved most successful was made by Stewart Orchids, and produces 120 mm clean, fragrant, waxy pink flowers of full shape. The plants will flower two or three times a year if grown in sufficient light and generally are no more than 300 mm tall.

Lc Mini Purple (*L. pumila* x *C. walkeriana*) is

becoming an important parent producing three to five lavender flower twice a year, when used with another parent having multiple blooms per stem. *Lc Mini Purple* 'Coburg' HCC/AOS for example regularly produces three flowers per stem. Some highly awarded *Lc Mini Purples* have come from Japanese remakes using tetraploid *L. pumila*, so are sterile.

Opinions differ as to the future use of *C. walkeriana* as a parent. Some growers have every confidence in its potential and are using it extensively. One hybridiser, however, feels that a recent crossing using *Lc Janet* (*C. intermedia* x *L. pumila*) 'Cornucopia' a pure white of superb overlapping petals could supercede and replace *C. walkeriana* v *alba* as a favoured breeder.

In general, what are the trends in the U.S.? These are often dictated, not always by the hybridiser, but by the demand from hobbyist growers and the general public. The "pot plant" market (the general public who are not yet dedicated hobbyists) is growing very rapidly and must be reckoned as a very important market by hybridisers.

(from Waikato Orchid Society
April Newsletter)

Yes, Disas are Easy

WH HOEVER COINED the phrase "One swallow doesn't make a summer", could have my efforts in mind when completing a year of reasonably successful Disa culture. I consider, in retrospect, that the success was about 85% and am coming up with a few ideas to cover the remaining 15%. In the few following sentences I will outline last year's methods, which can prove satisfactory for anyone interested enough to master the growing of these gorgeous orchids.

The basics are: rainwater (never town water), a very free-draining mix, good light but not direct sunlight, as cool as possible summer temperatures and minimal fertiliser. I use 50 litre black polythene bins: each bin half full of river shingle or clean, washed scoria with an overflow at approximately 25mm above the scoria. Rainwater is gravity piped from any

adjacent guttering. If there is no rainfall beyond a three day period, the water level is topped up from water storage. Any good potting mix with the

logging, which can be fatal. Small plants require small pots and thus, slightly less immersion.

"Give it a Go!"

-Euan Perrott

The foregoing is so different to methods used here by our growers I thought it worth copying in case someone wants to give it a go. But be aware - it's not essential. It just makes it easier to grow larger numbers.

Copious daily watering by tap (or rain) water, reduced

Two articles are presented on disas. These attractive plants make ideal additions to a collection, and are now reasonably widely available.

addition of 5mm pumice, at the rate of two mix to one pumice, appears to be a satisfactory mix.

The pots are placed in the scoria with the depth in the water depending on the size of the pot, for instance, a 10mm pot at about 15mm to a 150mm pot at 25-30mm. Extra holes (5mm) are drilled in the walls and bottoms of the Pots to ensure the availability of oxygen is not impeded and to ensure against water-

in winter, and fine bark are all that's needed for just one or two plants that can be grown outside in frost-free and shaded (except for Morning Sun) conditions in Masterton. Expect the tap water in Carterton, Greytown, and Featherston would do also. Don't know about Martinborough's. Pot size and depth don't appear to be critical. Disas cannot be dried out. They are terrestrial plants and grow in free-draining damp conditions.

DISA

Joan White

THE NATURAL HABITAT of most of the species we grow is Table Mountain and the mountains of the South Western cape of South Africa. This is a winter rainfall area. In summer the mountains are moistened daily with misty clouds that ensure the streams don't dry up. Disa grow in colonies along the banks of streams, near waterfalls or mainly where there is moving water. Disa also experience good air flow here at all times. This region is sandstone rock and sandy, acid soil of poor quality. High humidity, moving cold water, and very good drainage.

There is no true dormant season for Disa. Even when the flower stem dies back there is continuous activity below the surface, forming new tubers and stolons producing new plants by vegetatively multiplying.

New plants merge and grow slowly over the winter, flowering in summer from November to March.

Nutrients are provided by decaying humus, bird and animal manure and some trace elements leached from the sandstone. Due to the excellent drainage system these nutrients are continuously supplied in weak concentrations.

Disa need moisture (never dry), good

drainage, weak feed, air movement and cool growing conditions. conditions are different, it all comes back to balancing water, air and light.

How do I grow Disa?

My plants are potted in square pots 1/2 to 2/3 full of 6-10mm pumice (size of peas). The top 1/3 is a size finer (1-5mm pumice). A very small plant may have a topdressing of sphagnum moss to get it started, the moss being removed after about three months as it goes green and loses its freshness. By then the plant should be well established.

Some grower's pot in just sphagnum moss, others in a mixture of pumice, coarse river sand, peat and metal. Some add fine bark. Everyone's growing

I overhead water in summer. The pots sit in 1/2 to 1 inch of water that overflows from the tray they are sitting in each time I water. The water must not be allowed to sour. Once a week I empty the tray, wash it, and put fresh water back in.

I use town supply water, while others prefer rainwater as too much chlorine is harmful to Disa. In the warmer months I feed 1/2 the strength I would normally feed other orchids. Non organic feed only.

Disa get bacterial rot very easily. They also like

Trends in Cattleya Hybridising in New Zealand and Overseas

September 1995
Wendy Simpson McColm

CATTLEYA HYBRIDISING in New Zealand appears to be very limited at present, with no major commercial concerns concentrating on hybridising the genera within the cattleya alliance. Three New Zealand growers and a species specialist have been chosen, on which to comment.

Firstly Jim and Rae James, noted cattleya growers from the Waikato, have put all their recent efforts into producing small cattleyas using the *Sophronitis coccinea* complex, together with the following species: *C. walkeriana*, *C. aelandiae*, *C. luteola*, *L. pumila*, *L. suncorana*, and some encylas. They have had some pleasing results from *Slc* Kaka crosses. *Slc* Kaka (*Slc* Glowing Embers x *Soph coccinea* has vibrant red 70 mm flowers often produced more than once a year. A hybrid crossing using *Slc* Kaka is *Slc* Alchemist (*Slc* Kaka x *Slc* Hazel Boyd). In the opinion of some growers the standard set nearly 20 years ago by *Slc* Hazel Boyd has never been equalled or exceeded by any others. Mini cats with smaller

flowers on small plants are very popular with the hobbyist.

The crossing of large, brassavola type cattleyas has not featured in the James's programme for many years.

Barbara and Janie Johnson of Kahukura Orchids are concentrating on two types of Cattleya hybridising.

Firstly, the big purple cattleya and secondly, novelty types using *C. aurantiaca* instead of *Soph coccinea* which does not suit their conditions.

The parents being used to produce the big purples are old favourites such as *Blc* Hawkeye (*Blc* Momercia x *Lc* Spring Reward), *Bc* Hartland, plus a more modern breeder from Geyserland Orchids, *Blc* Major Edition. At Kahukura

apparently their aim is to perpetuate purples of overpowering dimensions.

Andy Easton of Geyserland Orchids, plans to be out of cattleyas by now. This is partly due to the departure of Ned Nash, former manager of Stewart Orchids for whom Geyserland did a significant amount of hybridising.

Some of the best cattleyas to come from Geyserland Orchids include *Slc* Unique Splendour 'Geyserland' a superb 150 mm *Slc*, white, with a coloured lip bred from *Slc* Our Joy 'Unique'. This has been cloned in America. *Blc* Jack Stalker as a cross produces large exhibition lavenders, and the key to this cross is *Lc* Ruth Montgomery 'Geyserland'. This highly sought

ARE YOU COOL INTERMEDIATE OR WARM?

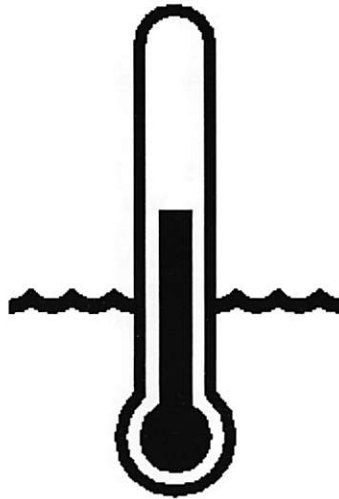
So, its nothing to do with Libido's, so what's it mean for orchids?

Cool for orchids means that they can withstand cool nights. They can be divided into:

- 1) Those that require cool days as well as cool nights, and
- 2) Those that require warm days, and cool nights.

Both groups are from higher altitudes. Group 1 types include orchids such as Most Masdevallia, Columbian Odontoglossums, Cochliodas, and Disas. They typically have active growth throughout the year, and go into a decline if the temperature goes to high for any length of time.

The second group include many Dendrobiums, Laelias, Oncidiums, Encyclias etc. These plants can be given a Cymbidium like treatment, but many will



require reduced water over the winter months. The dryer period is often accompanied by higher light (No rain means no clouds), and is necessary to ripen the pseudo bulbs for flower production.

Intermediate orchids have basicly similar requirements to the cool types, but have a higher minimum night temperature requirement, and the dry or rest period may be shorter. Examples are Cattleyas.

Laelias, Oncidiums, Dendrobiums, Vandas, and Paphiopedulums.

Warm orchids are typically from tropical lowland areas and usually grow through all seasons. Included in this group are Phalaenopsis, Vandas, most mottled leaf Paphiopedulums, and hard cane dendrobiums.

Here is a guide to the minimum temperature for summer and winter.

	WINTER	SUMMER
	Day Night	Day Night
Cool.	12-18 5-10	16-18 ambient
Int.	18-21 10-12	18-21 12-5
Warm	21-25 18 or higher	20-25 18-21

Temperatures are in Degrees Celsius and are approximate. Often warmer growers will survive at a cooler temperature if they are kept dryer than normal.

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their roots cool. Their roots can grow down into the water but don't allow the tuber to be under water as it will rot. Don't have the water too deep. Air temperatures can be high as long as there is humidity and air movement.

Filtered sunlight (50% shade) produce strong flower spikes and good colour in the flowers. I give little more shade to younger plants, similar to what I would give to masdevallia, odonts. or tuberous begonias.

Disa can be attacked by greenfly, red spider or caterpillars in summer. It is safe to spray with *Shield*, *Captan*, *Dithane*, *Funginex* or *Physan 20* - all at 1/2 strength. Not *Target* or *Benlate*. With a hobbyist greenhouse, if I need an insecticide I often use *House and Garden Spray*. This does not mark the Disa plants or flowers. Misting helps keep away Red Spider. Disa are rewarding for the hobbyist in that you can grow your own seed and have your own plants flowering in about two or three years. Less if grown in flask.

To pollinate your flower, using a toothpick take pollen from the flower and place it on the sticky stigma. The flower

will die, and a pod will form over six weeks. The pod will start to split open when ready. Pick the pod and put it in a dry place to dry out for a couple of days. The seed has a short viable life of a couple of weeks. If you wish to keep it longer, it can be kept for up to a year in the freezer. Water from the bottom or mist very carefully so you don't wash the seed away.

When sowing the seed I use washed fine pumice with a topdressing of shredded sphagnum moss, you don't wash the seed away, Water well, then sprinkle the fine seed. Cover with *Gladwrap* to prevent drying out, and then cover with shade cloth until it germinates.

It takes about four weeks before you can see the seed start to germinate depending on the weather.

Orchids Australia

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Missus Flower will be missed

Forwarded by Mrs Audrey Hewson, Tauranga



ORCHID LOVERS in Queensland and Papua New Guinea are mourning the death in December from cancer of Andree Millar, of Clontarf, aged 79.

Regarded as the most methodical collector of Papua New Guinea orchids in the years after World War II, Mrs Millar was known throughout the country as "Missus Flower".

She also completed an arts degree in Auckland and worked as a journalist in Sydney.

Mrs Millar's husband John, who died in 1966, was an engineer and part-time agricultural officer. With an infant son and daughter, she taught kindergarten and also brought up two "gift sons" given to her by a Papua New Guinean headman.

In 1956, she joined the staff of the Lae Botanical Gardens, becoming curator of one of the world's great orchid collections.

Recognised as a botanical authority, she received many awards and addressed international conferences from Thailand and Japan to Germany.

She made radio broadcasts and wrote weekly newspaper columns which were collected and published in book form.

She was awarded an OBE in 1975 and the University of Papua New Guinea awarded her an honorary doctorate of science in 1981.

Retiring in 1984, she came to the Peninsula in 1991.

Since then, she was active in the Redcliffe Orchid Society, the Native Orchid Society of Queensland and the Australasian Native Orchid Society's Kabi Group.

Her book, *Orchids of Papua New Guinea*, published in 1978, is shortly to be republished in expanded form.

At the time of her death, she had partly finished another book on her life in PNG, which is to be completed by her photographer.

"She was a very colourful lady," said orchid specialists Eddie and Mary Thorogood of Scarborough.

The funeral service was conducted by Lutheran Pastor Rob Paech, who paid

tribute to her forthrightness, sense of humour and appetite for reading and knowledge.

Former Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare and the curator of the PNG National Capital Botanical Gardens Justin Tkatchenko sent messages of condolence.

"Mrs Millar was the queen of the orchids of PNG," Sir Michael said.

"She put Papua New Guinea on the map for its orchids and developed a reputation of high esteem throughout the world.

"She was a lady that was loved by many, and will be sadly missed.

"Papua New Guinea was her second home, with her love and heart still remaining in Papua New Guinea for ever."

She is survived by her son Roger, who is an engineer in Perth, and daughter Dorothy, a doctor in Camden, NSW.

Her "gift sons" became a carpenter and a businessman. †

'Hannah' was grown by S. & N. Pye of Auckland. This plant was awarded AM/OCNZ for its chrome yellow colour and excellent shape with its overall size larger than previous awards. It was exhibited with four flowers and overall width 38mm.

Others to have gained recognition are *Aerangis* Seagull gained HCC/OCNZ for its seven spikes of 76 flowers of pale green on a well displayed plant. Overall width 69mm owned by G. Lister of Nelson.

A Cultural Certificate was given to R. & J.

Marshall of Nelson for their *Coelogyne cristata alba* 'Delaney' with its 510 flowers on 102 spikes. The plant was about one metre across and was well worth a CCC/OCNZ.

These are just a few of the awards granted in 1993, more to follow. †

Continued from page 81

Imperial Torch 'Fiery Splendour' HCC/AOS a magnificent flower grown by Fordyce Orchids out of (*Lc* Waianae Sunset 'Pokai' x *Lc* Pirate King 'Port Wine').

Probably the most frequently used modern parent that is producing award winning plants in this colour range is *Blc* Oconee 'Mendenhall', which passes along intense purple - red to its hybrids, along with excellent growth habits and exhibition form.

A noteworthy hybrid bred from *Blc* Oconee 'Mendenhall' AM/AOS is *Blc* Owen Holmes (*Blc* Oconee 'Mendenhall' AM/AOS x *Blc* Harlequin 'Act One' AM/AOS) a potentially great parent, producing large brick red flowers.

Research shows that of *Blc* hybrids registered

since 1992 the following parents appear to have been used most often, the number following the name, being the number of times it is listed as a parent.

Blc Oconee (36), *Blc* Bryce Canyon (22), *Blc* Bouton D'Or (14), *Blc* Toshie Aoki (13), *Blc* Fortune (13), *Blc* Mem. Crispin Rosales (12), *Blc* Mem. Helen Brown (12), *Blc* Orange Nugget (9).

Now to mention a few of the specific parents used in breeding unusual cattleyas, *Blc* Meditation (*Bc* Déesse x *Lc* Fedora) when crossed with *Slc* Tangerine Jewel (*Slc* Little Beamche x *S.* coccinea) has produced *Potinara* Heavenly Jewel 'Puanani' bearing 125 mm very round white flowers with brassavola lips. It grows and flowers in all directions and is

only 300 mm in height, a gorgeous sight and one of the finest forms of semi-alba compact growers. *Bc* Stunner (*Bc* Déesse x *C.* High Light 'Angel Wings') produces standard white flowers with attractive pink edgings to many of the petals and sepals.

A trend, which hopefully is not too prevalent is in regard to ploidy and the observance that anything different and superior to the norm, is elevated by some breeders, to a tetraploid (4n) without any scientific confirmation. This is because very little chromosome counting is being done primarily due to the fact that it is a difficult and time consuming task and few technicians are

Continued on page 74

white lip and red/violet stripes. This plant was also awarded Grand Champion at the Hibiscus Coast Orchid Society Show, overall width 72mm and runner-up Orchid of the Year.

Probably the most under rated Zygotetulum also achieved an award. This is the plant of Z. Titanic 'Bayswater' from the remake of the cross (Z. John Banks 'It'll do' AD/NZOS x Z.B.G. White 'Bayswater' HCC/NZOS) gaining an HCC/OCNZ. It was exhibited with one spike with five flowers and one bud, an excellent shape of rounded form and wide segments with a strong wide lip, overall width 81mm. It is currently being used as a successful parent. Also during the year an intergeneric (Zygotetulum x Colax) = Zygotetulum (Zcx.) Elfin Jade 'Redvale' was granted an HCC/OCNZ for its fine display of 2 spikes of 4 flowers and 4 buds of green and chartreuse lines and dots, overall width 72mm. Also from the same cross Zcx. Elfin Jade 'Eartha' appeared and was granted another HCC/OCNZ with its striking green overlaid heavily with purple brown and contrasting white lip with

bright violet striping. It was exhibited with two spikes and seven flowers, overall width 72mm.

Probably the most unusual to flower during the year on the Zygotetulum Alliance was the cross of Hamelwellara an inter generic containing five different species of orchid (Zygotetulum x Zygotetulum x Aganisia x Batemannia x Otostylis) The plant of Ham. Margaret 'Purplelite' gained an HCC/OCNZ for its intense even colour of shiny plum and heavy substance and matte texture, overall width 66mm.

The above six Zygotetulum were grown and exhibited by R. Tucker.

During the year many fine examples of the Masdevallia were also judged worthy of awards. The most novel has to be the Masd. Jazz Time 'L & R' which gained an HCC/OCNZ for its bright orange colour and its cork-screwed feature (two revolutions). For those judges who need to know its dimensions by Fuller Time its 70/18 x 18 (10 - 12) Pleurothallid Index. It still looks a good flower to me even if I can't measure it.

Also from the same growers L & R of Tuakau, Masd. *macrura* x *cucullata* 'Port Wine' also gained an HCC/OCNZ for its overall blood red colour, with very straight caudae and two spikes of flowers.

Masdevallia Mary Staal grown and exhibited by Mrs E. Manson of Christchurch was awarded an HCC/OCNZ for its six flowers and five buds of lemon darkening towards the tails, overall width 87mm given the varietal name 'Ellen's Delight'.

Also the species *Masd. ignea* 'Saltash' grown by C. & R. Coles of New Plymouth gained an AM/OCNZ. This well displayed plant had its flowers well above the foliage and has a bright orange base colour with fire engine red markings. There were four flowers and nine buds overall width 43mm.

One of the first species of *Masdevallias* is *coccinea* and the var *alba* 'Gerli' was awarded an HCC/OCNZ to Mr P. & G. Fox of New Plymouth for its pristine white with good form carried high above foliage with 30 flowers, its overall width 45mm.

Another fine example of *Masd.* Sunny Angel

ORCHID EXPO VIEWS

George Stapley

A final comment from our series over recent issues

THE MANAWATU Sports Stadium, big enough for five side by side basketball courts, two other stadiums big enough for three courts and what seemed like a quarter acre section under a grandstand for lectures: all this for the Orchid Expo. It was a real eye opener. Congratulations to the club display team for winning their section and to all the club members who won prizes. Well done.

To me the plant of the show was a *Lycaste* (couldn't read the name), which had ten lovely cream and white flowers out, and 14 to 16 more to open. A marvellous sight. My second bloom would be a *Prag. bessiae* with two flowers out. Such a magnificent, very even orange on the dorsal and petals, with the pouch less brightly coloured. My third choice would be the

Champion bloom, a very evenly coloured mid purple *Cattleya*.

One that stood out in the Paphs. was an unnamed unplaced *Armeniacum* cross. Very evenly coloured, it showed the characteristics of both parents.

I had several short but informative talks with Viv Cave, Selwyn Hatrick and Barry Fraser. Barry was telling me that American breeders are re making the original and old crosses with superior clones and getting startling results, with bigger and better hybrids. From Barry's lecture, it appears that primary hybrids using a multi-flowering parent are going to be popular. Another trend 18 more use of Chinese Paphs in breeding. This may increase the size of the flowers also.

Rex Williams of Tauranga, has sold all his

plants to Keith Goodwin who has gone into breeding Paphs along with his other business. With Keith, Andy Easton, Selwyn Hatrick within 20 miles of each other, and Barry Fraser not too far away, the Rotorua area is a powerhouse for breeding Orchids, mostly Paphs. Pat Elms from Bulls is New Zealand agent for Andy Easton.

I don't know how many times I walked around the Show, many times always find something to drool over. The organisers of the Expo deserve the plaudits of everyone who entered the door.

I didn't come home empty handed either!

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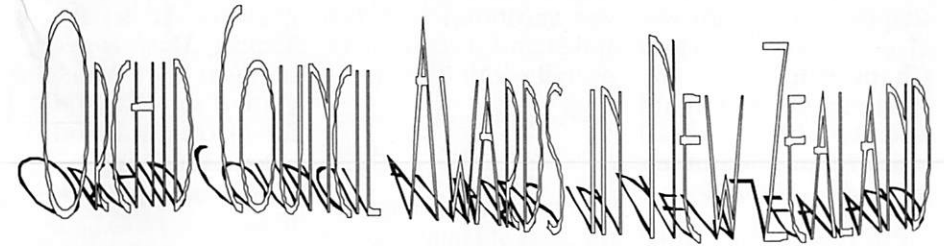
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HOURS

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



by R. Tucker

DURING 1993 many fine plants were granted awards throughout New Zealand and to choose between them was a difficult task but there can only be one Orchid of the Year. This was granted on the basis of the highest awards given and the winner was Phrag. caudatum 'Regency' AM/OCNZ grown and exhibited by M. Hart of Auckland. This first flowering well grown young plant had 2 spikes of 6 flowers overall width 60mm and a vertical dimension of 510mm. Overall green colour with darker veining. Mention must also be made of the photography by Mrs Val Bayliss of Auckland, achieving such an excellent photograph representing the ideal image of the Orchid of the Year 1993.

The **Cultural Plant of the Year** went to (H. Wortman), in for his fine plant of *Phalaenopsis schilleriana* with its fine

certificate. The plant was given a cultivar name of 'Anneke'.

During the year one of the genera to win many awards was the *Zygopetalum* Alliance and represents many years of hybridizing by the grower R. Tucker. In the *Zygopetalums* one plant which gained an HCC/OCNZ was the Z. Kiwi Klassic 'Kracker' a new hybrid of Z. (mosenianum x Z. Artur Elle) exhibiting six nicely positioned flowers of excellent colour of deep reddish brown on one spike with overall width 60.6mm.



display of over 106 blooms on a single spike of deep pink blooms, a well deserved cultural

Also at the same time another new hybrid of Z. Kiwi 'Alan Tucker' received an AM/OCNZ for its two spikes of 11 flowers of bright yellow/green and heavily banded reddish brown and a striking

Because of the costs of colour printing, we are no longer able to publish colour illustrations of award plants. Many have, however, been published in earlier issues of this magazine, and those illustrations should be referred to.

many friends, been on lots of outings plus two Australian trips with them, kept in touch with the lady I bought my first three orchid plants from and visited her home twice. She passed on a few years ago. It has always been a pleasure to give blooms to friends who don't grow them and to share pieces of plant with those that do. Since 1964 the dainty flowers of *Laelia anceps alba* have decorated daughters' wedding cakes and grandchildren's christening cakes. I look forward to our Circle meetings, often coming home with new ideas, or another plant from the sales table. Our display table is very informative as each grower gives a short talk on how they grew and flowered their plant.

Looking back over the years one wonders why so many plants died, perhaps I fussed over them too much, who knows? These days the orchids are doing well, many have grown to specimen size and there are plenty of blooms which my husband likes to bring inside to enjoy. Now having taken up art, I can paint my favourites on to canvas to enjoy another side of them. I keep saying "the collection is too big, no more", but there is always a lovely new hybrid to tempt one yet again! ✨

The AGM of the Orchid Council is coming up. There are some important issues being discussed, including the future of this magazine. Ensure your delegate knows your views. If possible ensure the issues are fully discussed at a meeting of your society.

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interested in doing this vital service for hybridisers.

Lastly hybridising in Epicattleyas. This should be taking on more prominence as they are easier to grow and bloom, than some of the fussier cattleya hybrids. However, there has been little organised breeding and out of the thousand species in this genus the following seven are the only ones which have been used with any real frequency: *E. cordigera*, *E. tampensis*, *E. mariae*, *E. phoenicea*, *E. vitellina*, *E. alata* and *E. gracilis*, *Encyclia cordigera*, once commonly known as *Epidendrum atropureum*, is the most frequently used encyclia in modern hybridisation. There have been one hundred and thirteen crosses up to 1992.

The species *E. cordigera* itself is quite popular and has received several AOS awards. *Encyclia cordigera*

is a fairly large plant with fat pseudobulbs and long lanceolate leaves. Almost all of its progeny strongly resemble the species parent. Only one outstanding first generation hybrid is, *E. picattleya* Viola (*C. bowringiana* x *Encyclia cordigera*).

The form of this flower is that of *C. bowringiana* and not the encyclia parent and the colour of the best of the progeny is a dark purple. These are comparatively easy to grow in the Auckland area and can of comparatively easy to grow in the Auckland area and can often be seen exhibited in local shows, displaying a good inflorescence of 45 mm heavy substance dark purple flowers.

Trends and fashions in orchids are never static and in the US there is recent evidence of a changing market from

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AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHIDS

by Ray Clement

In this article I propose to deal mainly with the cultivation of Australian native orchids, in the dendrobium and sarcochilus groups. Some of our terrestrial genera will be briefly referred to. The cultivation of Australian native orchids has grown in popularity over recent years to the extent that this is probably the most popular group of orchids grown by the hobbyist in Australia today. This is due mainly to a greater awareness of our own native plants and also to the fact that the hybridist has made some startling improvements within many genera, so that now this group offers growers generally, plants that are easy to grow, relatively quick to flower, and with the potential to win championships at major shows.

Dendrobiums

Dendrobiums occur in most areas of coastal New South Wales and Queensland, although the preferred locality of many species varies greatly. I will refer to some of these later, but for now I shall attempt to generalise my advice on cultivation. Plants in the *Dendrocoryne* group tend to grow well under 70% shade cloth, providing no other shade is given from trees, buildings etc. Good air movement is essential, especially during the hot summer days, when plants like regular waterings, and then to dry out fairly quickly. As the weather cools, reduce watering to the point where the plant is kept just moist during the winter. I feed the plants with half strength liquid fertiliser while the plant is growing strongly, usually late spring and

summer. In autumn I switch to a low nitrogen fertiliser and continue with this till the following spring. I do not believe these plants are gross feeders, it is certainly better to underfeed than overfeed. I use a compost of 10 parts fine pine bark and 1 part quartz gravel in 50mm and 100mm pots. For larger plants I use the same ratio, but with medium grade bark and gravel. NEVER overpot natives, or indeed any other orchid. Potting on can be done at most times of the year, but if the plant is to be divided, try to time reporting with the emergence of new growth.

Finally, Pests and Diseases. Australian native dendrobiums are susceptible to many pests and diseases, as are most orchids. Special care should be taken to watch for Red Spider mite,

which, especially in warmer areas, can be persistent and troublesome to control. Many sprays are available, or if you prefer, predatory mites are proving very effective. Another problem to watch for is *Glomerella* leaf blight. This fungus becomes troublesome during wet weather and has become prevalent over the last couple of years. Use Bordeaux spray, Daconil or Bravo. As a preventative, spray the plants monthly in spring and autumn with Fos-Ject or Foli-R-Fos. This will dramatically reduce the incidence of glomerella infections in your orchids.

Special requirements

In the *Denrocoryne* group a couple of species have noteworthy requirements from the generalisations above. *D. falcorostrum* does not seem to grow and flower well unless the plant gets cold in winter and has good air movement around the plant at all times. *D. speciosum* and *D. aemulum* which I regard as the toughest in this group, require perfect drainage and a little more sun than most of their cousins. In the *Phalananthe* group, most of the species grow

in areas that receive ALL their rainfall in the warmer months. Plants from this group do not like to be cold and wet at the same time, so be very frugal with watering during the winter. I believe this should be considered when growing these, or hybrids between this group and the *dendrocoryne* section.

Sarcochilus

What a beautiful, rewarding group of little orchids and I think, my favourites amongst the Australian natives. These orchids are basically cool to cold growing vandaceous orchids. The *Sarcante* group are easy to grow if this is kept in mind. Plants prefer fairly heavy shade, at least 80% shadecloth is necessary, and even full shade in the afternoon is preferable to the hot summer sun. I grow my collection under a solid roof with open sides so that I can control watering but not impede air movement. The air should be buoyant and moving around the plants, and preferably cool rather than warm. Our plants are grown in a compost of 4 parts medium to coarse bark and 1 part quartz gravel. **Drainage must be perfect.** This group tend to do most of their growing in autumn rather

than spring and so reporting and fertilising should be concentrated around this time also. Use fertiliser sparingly as the fleshy roots will burn easily. We use a balanced liquid fertiliser at half strength all year round and sprinkle a little Hoof and Horn fertiliser around the top of the pot 2 or 3 times a year. Most pests and diseases are not a great problem with Sarcs, keep an eye out for Scale and Mealy bug.

Special requirements

S. ceciliae must dry out quickly after watering, especially around the base of the plant. We grow this species under cover, and pot the plants high in the compost to expose the root base. They will also tolerate much more light than most other Sarcs. Conversely, *S. fitzgeraldii* must be kept heavily shaded and demands high humidity levels. This species certainly likes to be cool and moist rather than dry and warm.

Australian Native Terrestrials

Terrestrials are the largest group of Australian Natives, generally growing in open timber country

We were all experimenting with different containers and growing mixes, exchanging ideas at our Circle meetings. The lighter colours of plastic buckets I found formed moss on the insides, so now except for the dendrobiums, my collection is grown in black plastic pots. Looks better too.

Everyone had different feeding programmes. My first, liquid fish manure and blood & bone, made the glass house stink, impossible to work in and drove the cat and dog silly, my foxy eating the potting mix too. Someone wrote about the virtues of mag amp, so by running hose water through a container of the coarse granules, feeding and watering became easier and my pets calmed down.

I made up many different potting mixes but so many plants died during those first years. It was not till the early seventies when Norm Porter became agent for "Beck's Orchid Mix" that the trial and error days were over and potting up became easy. By 1966 I was thrilled when the first flowers on seven cymbidium plants opened. It spurred me on, so that spring I posted a pound note with an order for

Australian species to a nursery in Townsville, Queensland, Australia. Prices ranged from 3/6 to 12/6 so quite a large box arrived on my doorstep. During 1969 I acquired a number of hybrid dendrobiums from Sydney to form the foundation of my now 50-plus collection, all different. For a few years they sulked in the glass house, so I thought a shade house might help. A magazine article suggested putting one near the kitchen with table and chairs one end and orchids the other, an idea my husband thought was great. With visions of meals outside all summer, we put together a 6 x 12 foot sarlon shade covered, galvanised pipe frame butted on to the kitchen wall, facing north in the patio. Alas the orchids took over so a decision to build a pergola partly roofed against the remaining north wall worked well, with room for chairs, table and astro turf on the ground. A shelf behind against the house held more orchids so everyone was happy.

It was a good decision to repot the dendrobiums, with cymbidium potting

mix, into wire baskets lined with black plastic, with drainage holes cut out and to hang them just under the shade cloth, as they really took off. Over the last 15 years they have stayed in the shade house all year round with no ill effects. After the odd hail storm I just hose the ice off. The warmth from the house makes a micro-climate during winter.

I don't spray, preferring to use a small brush and damp cloth for cleaning. From January to March they get a thorough clean up, repotted if necessary and the main yearly feed of *Cymbidium* Osmocote pellets and dolomite lime, a dessert spoon of each for large containers, less for smaller plants, plus a little liquid fertiliser during the year.

I feel patience and disappointment go hand in hand, like waiting eight years for *Paphiopedilum Insigne's* first flower, then have the plant die after. Being thrilled to see nine long new shoots on *Dendrobium* Andrew Persson, but a closer inspection shows the centres all chewed out. The following night armed with a torch reveals a surprise "Willie Weta" is the culprit.

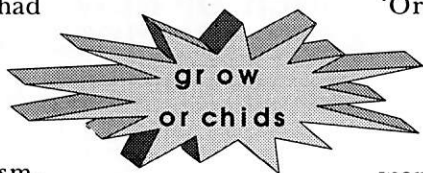
After 30 happy years in the Circle, I have made

Was I Talked or Quietly Monoevvred into Growing Orchids

Marguerite Flett 1995

Perhaps the heading should be "Why start something one knows nothing about?" In 1963 my being a keen gardener, growing African Violets and other pot plants, inspired an acquaintance to suggest "why don't you grow orchids?". She had a small collection and, being a member of the newly formed Lower Hutt Orchid Circle, was bubbling over with enthusiasm. My idea of orchids were big purple cattleyas growing in hot steamy jungles, so with no glass house I did not pursue the idea. Later she invited me to join the Circle on a trip to Australia for the 1963 Sydney Orchid Festival. She then mentioned the idea to my husband, who came home from work one day to announce "you are going to Australia with the Orchid Circle".

Early in September 1963 we started on our tour, an experience I shall always remember. Everything seemed so large - the vast distances on day trips to the country, up into the hills, the glass houses, especially those exporting



cut flowers, the size of collections with such a variety of genera, making it hard to decide which orchid I liked best. The show was wonderful. My lasting memory is of tier upon tier of large containers of Australian natives packed across one end of the hall, the soft mixed colours making an eye catching splash, with their spicy perfume being almost overpowering. That was

when I fell in love with the Australian natives and I have been growing them ever since. I brought home three orchids to start my now 200 mixed genera collection plus lots of helpful advice from friendly people. Now, as most of us know, once the 'Orchids Bug' bites, a collection never stop growing and mine was no exception.

With no shelter outside, my plants were arranged in the house, a great idea until the standard cymbidiums took over. My husband - a dedicated sports fan, not a horticulturist, gazing around at what he called 'buckets of coarse grass', was heard to mutter, if he did not do something about a glass house we would be entertaining friends in the garage. So at last a plastic house did eventuate, also a fenced off patio.

amongst grass and leaf litter. Most will not grow out of their native habitat, however a few genera such as Pterostylis and Diuris will grow happily in pots and are very rewarding plants to grow. They need 50% shade, plant tubers about 25mm deep and 25cm apart in a medium sized pot during their dormant period. Use a soil type compost, say 40% soil, 40% sand and 20% peat moss. Some leaf mould can be added. Plants can be kept moist whilst growing and a complete fertiliser applied to green

leaves. Once the plant has flowered and dried off keep the pot as dry as possible.

Conclusion

Australian Native Orchids have enjoyed a dramatic increase in popularity over the last decade or two. This is because of a number of reasons:

1. They are easy to grow in confined areas under temperate conditions.
2. New hybrids offer improved plant vigour, colour, size and floriferousness.

3. These orchids are relatively cheap to purchase.

4. As Australian orchids, they attract support from purist native plant growers.

Australian Native Orchids will continue to grow in popularity and will become an important group of orchids, not only in Australia, but overseas also. We must continue to hybridise carefully, and learn more about these beautiful plants. Finally, there are no longer any commercial reasons for bush collecting our native orchids as better quality, more vigorous plants can be produced in the laboratory cheaper than they can be collected. Orchid growers generally should resist purchasing collected plants, so that in future plants in their natural habitat can be preserved, and perhaps viewed and enjoyed, without being destroyed.

Tinonee Orchids,
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OTAGO
CELEBRATES
BIRTHDAY WITH
S.I.
SEMINAR

1996 is proving to be a busy year for the Otago Orchid Club. This year we are celebrating our 20th Birthday by hosting the South Island Seminar which will include a Judging Seminar.

The venue is John McGlashan College in Maori Hill, Dunedin. The date is Labour Weekend, 26-28 October 1996.

The Displays and Commercial Sales Areas will be open to the Public from noon on Saturday 26th until noon Monday 28th.

Several speakers have been invited to speak during the weekend.

Our special Birthday Dinner will be held on the Saturday Evening.

Register interest for more detailed information from the Secretary, Graham Letts, 41 Elliffe Place, Dunedin. Ph 03 4542113

So, come to Dunedin at Labour Weekend and help us celebrate.

Australian

Orchid

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before ANOS judges. It has everything one would want in a sarc. and colour is something else! Basically lime-green very heavily overlaid with maroon- brown with deeper maroon, edging on all segments and a very heavily marked labellum with orange-brown and mustard. Parachilus Tigerson "Kwokka" HCC/AD NMQOC. The second one came up a bit short on shape but colour is excellent similar to "Kwokka" lime green overlaid with a very much brighter colour somewhere between rust red and burnt sienna.

Whole flower very heavily covered by this deep colour with very little lime green showing and labellum light cream heavily marked with brown and mustard Parachilus Tigerson "Wollumbin" AD/AOC NMQOC. The surprising thing about the cross was variation of colours. Some were wholly lime green with very little markings, some white edging some dark edging. Gold green, orange/brown, maroon with a wide variety of shapes. Some quite poor small with narrow segments while others large and very full shapes.

We remade P. Tigerson again last year but lost the pod before it was ready but certainly will be giving it a go again along with many others. As you can probably guess we did sibling cross between the two awarded clones and it fertilised but dropped during and excessive heat in early New Year. There is a mountain of work to be done with this little beauty and I am very confident some tremendous progeny will result!

F. Simpson
29 Gannon Street
Mt. Mee Qld 4521

Continued from page 74

miniatures to large standard cattleyas, due to the fact that they are being featured in the background setting of all types of advertising from magazines to movies. Most cattleya lovers will find this very pleasing, as of all orchids it is hard to exceed the beauty and dramatic effect of large, fragrant, frilly lipped cattleyas that are truly the Queen of Orchids.

I would like to acknowledge the help given to me by the New Zealand hybridisers mentioned by name in this article and also particularly Frank Fordyce and Marianne Matthews for sharing their personal knowledge and experience with me and their encouragement in preparing this script.

STOP PRESS

The Orchid Council announces the following awards for 1995.

Orchid of the Year

Milt. Clive Halls
'Jessica Mary'
grown by Ellen Mason

Cultural Awards

Den. teretifolium 'Elsie'
grown by Graeme and Margaret Lundon

Cym. Cricket 'Cascade'
grown by June Matches.

Full Award list next issue

Vanilla is from an Orchid

EVER wondered how to get the vanilla flavour in Your Ice Cream? The Spanish Conquistadors discovered the South American Indians using vanilla pods to make an aromatic tea when they invaded. Vanilla is mainly a South American Orchid. Growing vanilla is also a mainstay of the Madagascar economy. There are no natural pollinating insects for Vanilla in Madagascar, so women are employed to pollinate the flowers. A good operator can pollinate about 1500 flowers per day. Owners put their initials on developing pods to brand them in an effort to combat pod rustling.

However technology has caught up with hand pollinating pods for vanilla extract. A California biotechnology

company is producing vanilla flavouring in the



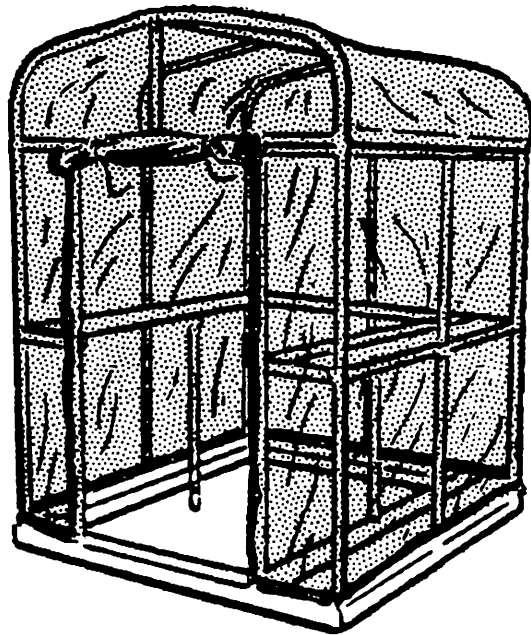
lab using cell culture. It does this by growing vanilla cells, and causing them to excrete the natural vanilla flavouring, bypassing the hand pollination, and the waiting time for the pod to grow to harvest size. Farmland is not required, intensive labour is not needed, and the growing conditions are laboratory controlled.

The trouble for Madagascar is that it produces about 75% of the world's natural vanilla where there are some 70,000 small farms producing the pods for processing. It is said that laboratory production of vanilla will not go ahead because it would ruin the Madagascar economy.

Contributed by John Campbell. Canterbury Orchid Society

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Sarcochilus spathulatus

Sarcochilus spathulatus common name Tiny sarcochilus. Discovered by H. Curtis 1925 on Tamborine Mountain S. Queensland named by Rogers 1927.

This is another victim of name changes originally *Sarcochilus harriganae* 1938, *Parasarcochilus spathulatus* Pteroceras spathulatus 1972 and more recently back to *Sarcochilus*. A hybridist's nightmare? You bet!

Small epiphytic, pendulous two to eight leaves, thick tough spotted and if exposed to stronger light leaves can turn dark brown. Racemes to 65 mm with two to six delicately perfumed and blooms. They are quite open and range from lime green through green shades to purplish brown. Labellum white - to light cream with numerous red - purple markings and heavy purple striped along column. Flowers winter to mid spring usually spring.

Grows in ranges between Sydney and Newcastle N.S.W. and Bunya Mountains Queensland and I have seen it around Toowoomba Queensland Ranges. Found on outer

tips of fine branches also occasionally on trunks overhanging water courses and often in proximity of *S. hillii*, *S. dilatatus* and *S. olivaceus*. Likes edges of rainforest and foothills usually only up to 2,000 feet. As is the case with *sarcochilus* epiphytes this one also has a very long root system.

Slab culture is a must although I have seen it do well on outside of terracotta post. We prefer *Callistemon* in filtered part sunlight well protected from drying westerlies but as with all **GOOD AIR MOVEMENT** most essential.

Probably because of small size not much hybridising has been done. First being *Parachilus Perky* which was made with *S. hartmannii*. A very attractive hybrid mostly cream to lime green on good racemes and quite easy to grow. Occasionally some red - brown spotting which comes as somewhat of a

surprise when one sees the colours from similar hybrids. Obviously *S. hartmannii* is responsible for colour retardation. As we have used *S. spathulatus* with *S. Fitzhart* which we registered as *Parachilus Tigress* and colour range was tremendous. Gold with very large areas of red/orange - green and orange and even a few pinks. Very evident that this tiny "surprise packet" has a very extensive colour gene bank. The best surprise of all was when *P. Tigress* was crossed back on to the original *S. Fitzhart* 'Wollumbin' HCC/AOC. One would expect that parent for the second time would "wash out" colour but when they flowered WOW! Colour and shape, size and good flower count! What more could one want? Two of original batch were awarded and the first being quite controversial in missing out on a state award through ignorance on part of judges but that will be overcome next time as it will be put

PAPH FANATICS

Since its inception in February 1991, members of the NEW ZEALAND PAPHIOPEDILUM ALLIANCE have gathered annually at Manakau, near Otaki, in order to exchange cultural thoughts, monitor breeding trends, view slides and appreciate display plants.

This summer the venue was changed to Rotorua and the response was heartening with members (to mention a few) from Taranaki, Whangamata and the 'capital' end of the country attending.

Although an early Saturday evening gathering was scheduled, the enthusiasm was such that by 4 o'clock, most of the travellers were in situ, eager not to miss a beat and conversations flowed thick and fast. After a delicious barbecue, the meeting briefly dealt with necessary housekeeping before turning to discussion on paph/phrag. matters. The pros and cons of cultural variations and problems encountered, over-watering, under-ventilating, etc., all were debated plus pitfalls in hybridizing, before viewing slides from Europe, America and NZ which gave us plenty to think about and something for the Judges to get their teeth into. The meeting broke up shortly after 11 o'clock.

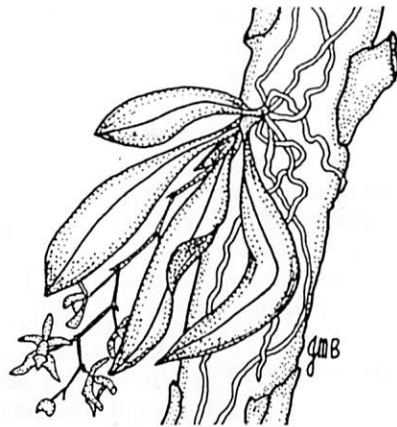
Next morning the intrepid band assembled to view more plants, this time at a commercial venue, after which they collected their lunch, thoughts and belongings before heading home, each no doubt reflecting on the 'buzz' the weekend had provided.

It is intended our future summer meeting will become a weekend affair to be held alternately between Rotorua and Manakau to facilitate members but local 'mini' meetings are to be created

to establish better communication and encourage membership. (Currently NZPA produces 4 newsletters with colour reproductions per annum).

We are always keen to welcome new members and invite any interested growers to contact me, Lyn Sherlock, at Atkins Road, RD1, Otaki as the aim of the Alliance is -

"TO GROW, TO STUDY, TO SHARE AND ENJOY THE PAPH. ALLIANCE"



Sarcochilus (Parasarcochilus) spathulatus
(from Native Orchids of Australia by David L. Jones - an excellent authoritative reference on Australian native orchids)

***I'd Pick
More Daisies***

If I had my life over again, I'd try to make more mistakes next time. I would relax. I would limber up. I would be sillier than I have this trip. I know of very few things I would take seriously. I would take more trips. I would climb more mountains, swim more rivers and watch more sunsets. I would do more walking and looking. I would eat more ice cream and less beans. I would have more actual troubles and less imaginary ones.

You can see I am one of those people who lived carefully and sensibly and sanely hour after hour, day after day.

Oh, I've had my moments; and if I had to do it all over again, I'd have more of them. In fact.. I'd try to have nothing else. Just moments; one after another instead of living so many years ahead of each day. I have been one of those people who never go anywhere without a thermometer, a hot water bottle, a gargle, a raincoat, aspirin and a parachute. If I had to do it all over again, I would go places, do things and travel lighter than I have.

If I had my life over I would start barefooted earlier in the spring and stay that way later in the fall. I would play hookey more. I wouldn't make any good grades except by accident. I would ride on more merry-go-rounds, I'd pick more daisies.

Nadine Stair, aged 85.

Orchid Society of Southland Newsletter 3/1994

GET INVOLVED



SITTING on the hard seats at our last meeting, I couldn't help thinking what a very diverse group we are, we who come to orchid society meetings.

Some are probably like me and just enjoy growing things, and orchids, well yes, they are special. Somehow they conjure up thoughts of glamour and quality. Myself I love them for their long-lasting flowers. They look wonderful in my big silver vase. Everyone learns a lot from the various speakers, slides and demonstrations. The comradeship is great too.

When it comes to Sales Tables, always so well-filled

with lovely plants. I can't help noticing there are many members who don't display plants.

Some may be like ourselves, lazy sometimes when it comes to sorting out plants to take to the Club. Then they may feel as we do at times that our plants aren't up to the standard of others displayed. Probably many like us grow plants in less than ideal conditions so flowering them gives special satisfaction. For July we did make an effort and sort out plants, and beyond

expectations, took home a Cup for our Cymbidium. It just goes to show !!!

I hope others will be encouraged to bring along their plants. What makes a good grower anyway? And really, what does it matter, as long as we enjoy what we are doing and the results are rewarding to ourselves, BUT sharing them with others is an added bonus ...

Joan Rankin

Levin & District Orchid Society Newsletter August 1994

Letter to the Editor

Sir,

I have been asked by the Committee on Awards to write to you about your provocative comments on page 163 of the December edition concerning the Expo. at Palmerston North.

You appear to have confused class prizes with Awards.

1624 plants were entered and these were judged in 195 classes. The first plant in each class received a gilded medal which was a class prize not an Award. Some 30 plants were nominated for Awards and after a further assessment 17 were recommended for Awards of AM, HCC, CCC and CBM. (This latter of which one only was given is a new Award called a Certificate of Breeders merit. We are sure that growers are clear in their minds about class prizes and Award Certificates.

Dennis G Bonham.
Retiring
Chairperson.

In the editorial 'awards' was spelt with a small 'a' and not 'Awards' with a capital letter. - there IS a difference - perhaps I should have tried to make the comments clearer.

I am interested to note I have received NOT A SINGLE communication regarding the 'provocative comments', so I must therefore presume there is general agreement with the matters raised.

AND ...

Sir,

I am a regular reader of the magazine *Orchids in New Zealand*, a publication which I always enjoy.

I am 'getting on a bit now' and my memory is not as reliable as it once was, so when I wanted to confirm how frequently the magazine was published I had to refer to the information column on page three and lo and behold discovered it was published 'by-monthly'.

I know I am a bit of a pinpricker, but surely 'bimonthly' would be the correct word to use.

There is a problem with today's word processors and spellcheck systems

that cannot detect when a word of similar sound is used instead of the one intended.

I suspect that you are probably aware of this situation and that the cost of correcting is more than necessary.

Hope to continue reading *Orchids in NZ* for some years to come.

Stewart Lauder
Greymouth.

Thank you for your letter. When we changed the publication frequency I thought all references to the bi-monthly frequency had been deleted. But it looks as if one has escaped.

It is amazing that this has persisted, given the number of people that have looked at that page over recent issues, updating the other various items. I guess it is a matter that 'familiarity breeds contempt'.

Thank you also for the comments on the magazine. It is always great to get some feedback - unfortunately it is not often that readers bother to write in, despite this page being available to all readers of the magazine.

Editor