

# Cymbidium Seedlings of Merit

## DAG 'LITTLE JEWEL' B/CSA X NILA 'GREEN GOLD'

Expect 25% pure coloured miniatures all coming in green shades. Longer spikes than many 2nd generation miniatures. The 75% normal coloured seedlings will also be green with bright red lips.

## ANN MILLER 'MIDNIGHT' x REMUS 'SUNSET'

Expect intermediate red miniatures on tall spikes moderate flower count which should not require staking.

## KALINKA 'PACIFIC' x ANN MILLER 'MIDNIGHT'

Expect some very dark colours from this crossing, tall stems of beautifully formed 7cm flowers.

## KALINKA 'PACIFIC' x CHIEF JOSEPH 'FEATHERHILL'

Heaviest in red shades of miniatures. Robust growers with medium sized pseudobulbs.

## SHOWGIRL 'COBURG' x KHYBER PASS 'ROWES RED'

Reds and pinks with very bold lip markings. Intermediate in flower size and growth habit. Miniatures.

## KURUN 'TROUBADOR' x EARLYANA 'EGRET'

Very early bloomers from blush white to pinks. The tall straight spike of Kurun 'Troubador' will balance the Earlyana influence nicely and nearly all will be very free blooming.

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## DAG 'LITTLE JEWEL' B/SA X ALNWICK CASTLE 'ADA'

Early blooming miniatures many of which will be concolours with little or no lip markings. Colour heavily in greens and yellows. The shape in all the Alnwick Castle hybrids is very good.

## DORIS AUREA 'CARDINAL' 4n x SHOWGIRL 'COBURG'

Larger than mini, expect many strong pinks from this cross. Some will be tetraploids and useful for further breeding lines.

## FIREWHEEL 'RUBY' 4n x CLEO SHERMAN 'CANDY CANE'

New tetraploids which will come heavily in the pink shades, very large flowers of exhibition quality.

## ACAPULCO GOLD 'COBURG' x SWALLOW 'GOLDEN GATE' 4n.

Expect 100% yellows, bright flat flowers of full form. Also available in the reverse crossing.

## SWALLOW 'GOLDEN GATE' 4n x DORIS AUREA 'CARDINAL' 4n.

Swallow 'Golden Gate' is one of the best all round clones of this cross. We expect bright colours with yellow predominant.

## RINCON 'CLARISSE' 4n x SCARAMOUCHE 'COBURG'

Expect pink to rose red tetraploids with very bold lip markings. Form is certain to be superb in all crosses with Rincon 'Clarisse' 4n.

# ORCHIDS IN NEW ZEALAND



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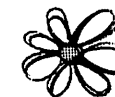
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## WHANGAREI ORCHID SOCIETY

The Whangarei Orchid Society are having a most successful year with a big increase in membership. We have had speakers on most subjects of orchid culture. Our display table has gone from strength to strength with a wide range of genera being shown. During the year we have had some enjoyable outings to visit members collections. We had a bus trip to the New Zealand Orchid Society's winter show and also visited three members of the North Shore Society. We are all working hard towards our annual exhibition on the 15-16-17 September. Visitors to Whangarei are most welcome to attend our meetings held on the first Tuesday of the month at the Kensington Bowling Club, Whangarei, commences 8 p.m.

## MARLBOROUGH ORCHID SOCIETY

News from the 'Sunshine' town. The above Society is looking forward to their second year as an Orchid Society with interest. Last month Mr Graham Smith of Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust travelled from New Plymouth to address the Society and gave a very interesting talk of work at Pukeiti Rain Forest where Malayan rhododendrons are being grown in conjunction with orchids from New Guinea and some Australian Native orchids in a heated glasshouse. Several members from Marlborough are hoping to visit New Plymouth during their travels and will be assured of a warm welcome from Mr Graham Smith.

This month, June, we are fortunate to have speaking to us Mr John Campbell of the Canterbury Orchid, Begonia and Fern Society and Editor of their monthly bulletin. It was thanks to John's help and interest in orchids, which first inspired a desire to form a Society for Marlborough orchid growers, John will be speaking on orchids and his recent visit to Bangkok. In July, Mrs Kath Black of Black's Orchids, Levin will be speaking to us.

During the weekend of the 17th June, five of our members including our President, travelled to Wellington for the Wellington Winter Show and visits to the glasshouses of members of Wellington's Orchid Societies.

## 5th AUSTRALIAN ORCHID CONFERENCE - HOBART 1979

The North Shore Orchid Society is off touring again. This time we will be travelling overseas to attend the 5th Australian Orchid Conference, which is to be held in Hobart, Tasmania, between the 1st and 7th October 1979.

Travel arrangements are not yet complete but it is our intention to leave Auckland on Friday, 28th September and fly to Melbourne where we will visit McBeans' two nurseries as well as other sightseeing.

On Monday, 1st October fly to Hobart for the Conference. After the Conference will travel directly to Adelaide for a visit to Orchid Nurseries there as well as the Barossa Valley for a wee-drop of wine tasting.

From Adelaide we fly to Sydney and here again will visit several large Orchid establishments and will be meeting with the North Shore Orchid Society, Sydney, which have arranged their monthly meeting to coincide with our visit.

Returning home on Sunday, 14th October. While away shall advertise our own 1980 Conference and feel that when arrangements are completed we will have catered for all.

If you are interested in joining us - please write to me at P.O. Box 33-493 Takapuna and I will add your name to our mailing list.

L. Godwin - President.

# ORCHIDS OF NEW ZEALAND

Volume 4, No. 3

Published bi-monthly.

November/December

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND

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### Annual Subscriptions, including postage:

New Zealand \$5.50.

Surface rate: All overseas countries \$NZ6.00.

Advertising Rates: Available on request.

All manuscripts, photographs, news items, etc. to reach Editor six weeks prior to publication.

Views and opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Orchid Council of N.Z. The Orchid Council does not assume responsibility for any transaction between advertisers and readers.

**COVER PHOTO:** Disa uniflora, South Africa's most famous orchid, restricted in nature to the margins of mountain streams in the south-western Cape Province. This orchid was originally described in 1767, from a single flowered plant and given the name Disa uniflora, but plants bearing three to five flowers are more common and twelve flowers on a single spike have been recorded. It is only one of at least seventy species of Disa which occur within the Republic. Photo by courtesy of Keith Goodwin of Rotorua.

## ORCHID HUNTING IN NEW ZEALAND: 4

Ros Bickerstaff, Napier.

### LAKE WAKATIPU - DART RIVER AREA

Somehow this copy became misplaced, for it should have preceded Part 3 (Vol. 3, No. 1).

During the year my family and I had arranged to go south again to the "mainland", and spend Christmas with a Doctor friend and his family at Arthur's Point, overlooking the Shotover River, a few kilometres north of Queenstown. It is amazing how soon one's friends get to know of these things! It was not long before I had "requests" - "If you find any blue Thelymitras, please bring me some?" Well, I was hoping to get some for myself too, - especially some 'Thelymitra venosa', as I had lost those in my collection.

At last we arrived, after gorging on cherries and strawberries as we passed through Roxburgh and the Clutha Valley. Although there was snow on the tops of the surrounding hills, the weather was glorious. We had the best of weather while the rest of New Zealand struggled to remain dry. It was just the weather to get out and look for orchids!

I seemed to look in all the wrong places, for all I could find was that ubiquitous terrestrial, 'Microtis unifolia'. It seemed to grow anywhere and everywhere, in the fields, at the sides of the roads, and along the tracks especially on the clay banks. A few days later I was delighted when our families decided to go for an outing to Paradise, at the head of the Lake. I had been there before so I knew there were numerous areas we would pass which had various species of

orchids growing. However, our plans were changed. When we got to the head of the Lake, we met an old friend who was holidaying there. We found that the road to the start of the Routeburn Track was easily traversed these days and suitable for cars, so decided to cross the Rees and the Dart Rivers and go up to this area instead, which brought back memories of old tramping days, - the Harris Saddle and blizzards on Christmas Day, - a young married couple with the husband whose feet were so blistered and raw that it was difficult to remove his new boots to treat them.

(Incidentally, we have kept in touch with these two and occasionally stay with each other.)

After more than two and a half decades it is surprising how bush and tracks change. Only the hills remain unchanged; even the rivers have altered - the bed is in the same spot but the channels are different and the deep holes are in different places.

Well, with my Doctor friend I entered the bush. We searched and searched the trees for orchids but without any luck. The trees, mainly beech, seemed to be devoid of any epiphytes. We separated; soon I came to a small hollow, - and there were my first orchids for the day! - a clump of 'spider orchids', 'Corybas macranthus'. I felt that my luck was changing!

I walked along a track for a time without finding anything further. Soon I came to a small dried up creek bed. It looked interesting with its mossy banks. I turned up it and

## PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

A group tour of N.Z. Orchid growers led by Assid Corban, a Past President of the N.Z. Orchid Society will be departing early in March 1979 for a 3 1/2 week tour which will incorporate two major orchid events in California.

\*\* 4th Annual Congress of the Cymbidium Society of America in conjunction with the 34th Annual Santa Barbara International Orchid Show - March 16th - 18th, 1979.

\*\* The Orchid Digest Corporation's 23rd Western Orchid Congress in conjunction with the San Diego County Orchid Society's spectacular 33rd Annual Orchid Show, and the American Orchid Society's Spring Trustees Meetings. March 21st - 25th, 1979.

This tour, limited to 34 participants will also visit HONOLULU, SAN FRANCISCO, LOS ANGELES (Disneyland and Hollywood), and LAS VEGAS. Visits are also planned to major orchid nurseries and the itinerary will allow ample time for shopping, visiting friends, independent sightseeing etc.

For further details contact:-



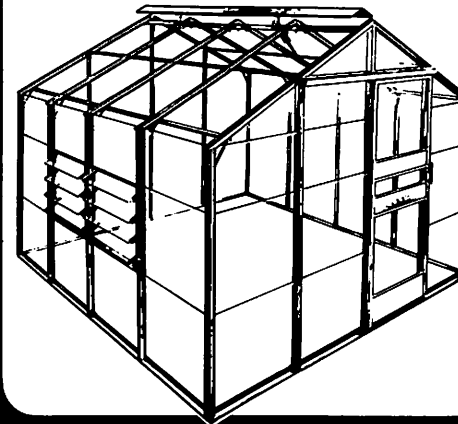
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## Two Of The Phaius Tribe

By BEVERLEY O'DOWDA,  
North Shore Orchid Society

In early September I was particularly taken with two flowering plants of the Phaius tribe among many interesting orchids grown by Betty and Bob Lodge of Takapuna. These two orchids are perhaps not generally known or grown in this country, but would be well worth cultivating if you have a heated area for 'other genera'. Both plants grown by the Lodges need a constant temperature in a heated house to bloom successfully, and both require a fair degree of light as well.

The Phaius tankervilleae was just opening and was a handsome plant bearing two spikes, both about 50 cm high, with a high flower count on each spike. The flowers, quite large, are red-brown in colour with a dark wine red colouration inside the labellum, and are known as the 'veiled nun' because the petals and sepals give the fragrant blooms a hooded look. As far as is known, there are about 30 species of Phaius extending through the Pacific region from Africa, Southern Asia, Madagascar and India. Phaius tankervilleae is an Indian species, flowering in spring or summer. It is used quite widely by breeders, and can be bred with its tribe-member, the Calanthe, but also of interest in N.Z., it will cross successfully with the Cymbidium to produce the intergeneric hybrid Phaiocymbidium.

The Calanthe comes from similar regions of the globe, but this species is much more numerous, numbering about 150 varieties. Calanthe vestita, the species I viewed, bears an attractive white flower, again with numerous

blooms to the spike, and with a pink-mauve, fairly prominent lip. Unlike the Phaius, which blooms while the leaves are still on the bulb, the Calanthe sheds its leaves before flowering, so that you are left with two, three or four rather large, brownish coloured, angular pseudo-bulbs with the racemes of attractive flowers arching above an otherwise fairly bare pot. However, both these species hold their flowers for some weeks and for their colouring and interest are well worth cultivating.

Both these orchid species are treated similarly in Takapuna, being in clay pots and in a mix suitable for terrestrials - i.e. bark, charcoal, and a smattering (in this case) of ordinary garden compost). They are fed mostly by foliar-feeding, and as mentioned above, dwell in the highest area of the glasshouse for adequate light.

**Footnote:** Bletilla, the fairly common-ground orchid widely grown in this country, is also a member of the Phaius tribe.

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### NOTICE

**10th World Orchid Conference  
11-18th September, 1981.**

The South African Orchid Council extends a cordial invitation to orchid growers throughout the world to attend the 10th World Orchid Conference and Show in Durban during September, 1981.

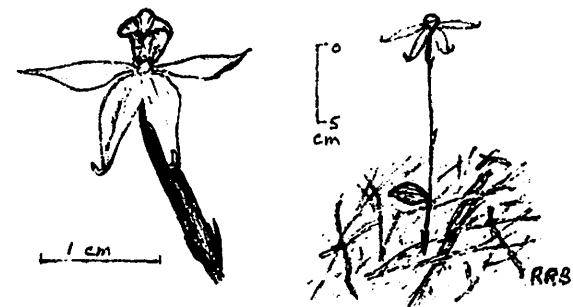
If you would like further information, please write to: The Working Committee, 10th World Orchid Conference, P.O. Box 10630, Marine Parade, Durban, Republic of South Africa, 4056.

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about twenty metres in, I saw a curious white, star-like flower growing up through the moss and forest debris. It looked so beautiful and solitary that I just had to stop and examine it. Imagine my surprise when I realized that I was looking at an orchid! It was the first time that I had seen this kind, but it was unmistakably an orchid. I carefully scratched around looking for the bulb. There was none. The flower came from a rhizome - an underground stem growing horizontally below the surface of the moss, and on the compost of rotting forest debris. The only orchid that it could be was 'Adenochilus gracilis'. It certainly lives up to its name 'gracilis', for it holds itself up so gracefully and delicately, star-like, bowing in the gentle breeze, that it looked almost regal.

not long before I had my camera ready for action. Have you ever tried to take photos of flowers when there is a breeze blowing, and the clouds keep obscuring the sun? - especially when the sun has to shine through the branches of trees. Well, I did get a 'sort of' photo - the flower must have moved slightly in the wind, for the slide is not as sharp as I would have liked.

My next discovery was also accidental. I was making my way down to the river through the bush when I saw a thickish stem, topped by a cluster of young buds, 30cm high, pushing up through the sandy humus beneath the beech trees. It was one of the Gastrodia spp., probably 'Gastrodia cunninghamii'. In a small clearing nearby, close to half-buried beech branches I found



(a) *Adenochilus gracilis*, (b) in forest debris.

I took a shortcut back through the bush to get my friend, who was searching in another area, to show him my 'find'. I was glad I did. The forest floor was spotted with little white stars - dozens of these 2cm flowers were spaced separately amongst the twigs and fallen leaves. Strangely, there was no moss anywhere in this new area. It was

five more *Gastrodia* plants. Again I scratched away the soil to examine the plant. This terrestrial, too, has a rhizome, thickened and club-shaped. They were thirty to fifty centimetres deep in the sandy alluvial humus; it seemed as though the river often flooded this area of forest floor, for many fallen beech branches were buried in the

sand and had to be dug clear to free the rhizomes. These rhizomes did not appear to be attached to living roots, but were surrounded by mycelia in the vicinity of the decaying beech branches; they were thick (1.5 - 2cm), branching, and easily broken.

On the return journey, as we followed the road close to the Dart River, I could see patches of scrub. I casually remarked that it reminded me of the type of country near home where I often found *Thelymitra* growing. Naturally, my friend wanted to stop and examine these patches. No onion-like patches of *Thelymitra* could be seen anywhere. However, very soon I heard a call from my friend. He had found a strange plant growing in the mossy ground on the sunny side of a bush; it looked peculiar with its two leaves - one long and the other short - lying on the surface of the moss. It was no stranger this time! One look was enough to realise that he had found '*Aporostylis bifolia*' - the odd-leafed orchid. There were quite a number of these orchids seen seemingly resting on the moss. (I collected a few specimens and brought them back home with me. At the moment, the bulbs, which are about 3-4mm in diameter, have growths about 1cm long pushing their way up through the mossy humus in which I am growing them, and I'm looking forward to the time I hope to see them in flower). Even though we searched this area very closely we did not find any other orchids. As the afternoon was quickly passing, we took our families on to see Kinloch, which they had expressed a desire to see, and then back over that long dusty road to Queenstown.

## Orchid Council of New Zealand Programme Committee

### ATTENTION TO ALL MEMBERS ELECTED TO PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

I am still attempting (not very successfully) to assemble sufficient slides to produce Slide Programmes for Council distribution for Societies use. I am appealing again for slides of outstanding blooms or plants, species or hybrids or of any good displays at shows etc. A suggestion to anyone taking slides is, take two and perhaps make one available for future programmes. We need a good cross section of genera to be able to produce a variety of interesting programmes. Slides are expensive to produce, so if members have any suitable, would they forward them to me for copying and the original will be returned. An important point is to name the slide correctly and give a brief description.

I would ask if any of our overseas readers, firms and growers who may have spare copies available, to contact or forward these on to me. Any costs involved would gladly be refunded.

We also require more speakers. It would be a help if any person willing to speak would contact the Secretary of the Society concerned beforehand. COME ON MEMBERS, get behind this project and let us produce something worthwhile. Finally, a word of thanks to members who have sent me slides.

Yours hopefully,  
**Bryan F. Clark,**  
R.D. 5, Hastings

Americans intend coming down for the event. Andrew Easton of Featherhill Exotic Plants, California, is another who intends bringing a party and he has offered practical support in the form of flasks for sale to boost Conference funds - an offer which has been gratefully accepted as initial expenses will be heavy. Several Australian groups have indicated their intention of forming parties, and North Shore hope to foster this interest by taking a sizeable contingent to Hobart in October next year.

Support from N.Z. Societies is wholehearted, with most Societies intending to exhibit at Ellerslie and many groups offering to donate trophies. The Show Schedule is in its final form and should be available at an early date. Large and small societies will be adequately catered for, we hope, by the classes offered, i.e. group displays to occupy 80 sq.ft. or 40 sq.ft. A full prize list is drawn up for all genera, such plants to be judged from, but to remain an integral part of, group displays. Some societies are already drawing up the outline of the form they hope their exhibit will take.

A brochure outlining our programme is another project we will have available well in advance. This will contain the full programme, together with forms of registration. Registration fees will depend on expenses relative to the Conference itself, as distinct from the Show, which should be self-sufficient from door sales. Following the example of the Adelaide and Perth Conferences in 1973 and 1977 in particular, however, we intend to keep fees to the minimum required to cover costs - but they will include the opening cocktail party which we feel will be a must for all registrants to meet for the first time. This is

scheduled for the early evening of Wednesday, October 16.

Social events not included in the registration fee will be a Maori hangi at St. Stephen's School, Bombay, on the Friday evening, and the closing banquet on Saturday night, to be held in the Newmarket Room at Ellerslie.

Full and half-day tours have been arranged to span the duration of the Conference. We hope that our programming will enable our visitors to attend the Conference sessions which interest them, to view the International Show to their heart's content, and also to participate in local tours which will feature most of Auckland's attractions. Such tours will include the Waitakere Ranges where native orchids should be in evidence, Rangitoto Island as the main feature of a harbour cruise, the Henderson Valley vineyards, a thoroughbred stud at South Auckland, and the Naval Base at Devonport.

A pre-Conference tour is being arranged for the three days prior to Ellerslie and this will take in both coasts of Northland, with two nights at Waitangi. After the Conference, a tour will leave for Rotorua, Waitomo and New Plymouth, with a flight to the South Island to follow for those who wish to take it.

Accommodation will be arranged individually by those wishing to attend. Fortunately Ellerslie is well situated with ample motel-type facilities nearby - several within walking distance of the Conference venue.

Any enquiries regarding 1980 may be forwarded to the Conference Secretary, P.O. Box 33-493, Takapuna, Auckland, 9.

(4) That decisions as to whether a cultivar epithet applied to a mutated cultivar should show its relationship to the parent cultivar and - if so - the way in which the epithet was formed to indicate such relationship, was a matter for individual growers, subject always to the provision that such cultivar epithets be formed so as to fall within the rules of admissibility already prescribed by the "Handbook" (as taken from ICNCP). Similarly as regards the way in which growers might indicate that unflowered plantlets ex-meristem proliferation had been subjected to treatments which might induce mutation. The diversity of possible treatments was such that no specific guidelines could be prescribed by IOC, and it was a matter of each grower to add such

explanatory data in his catalogues, etc., as he deemed proper - such data not forming part of the actual name of the plant.

It was further agreed that points (1) to (4) as resolved above be circulated for publication in major orchid journals at the earliest opportunity; also that the normal rule of priority should prevail in cases of new cultivar epithets applied to mutated cultivars - for example, in the case of a tetraploidised cultivar (i.e. that form of induced mutation in which a tetraploid has been vegetatively produced from a non-tetraploid parent cultivar) the earliest published cultivar name for the tetraploidised cultivar should be used - e.g., *Cymbidium Lunagrad* 'Elanora'.

## 1980 CONFERENCE

When the North Shore Orchid Society was invited to host this Conference one year ago, it seemed there was plenty of time for planning, but suddenly, 12 months have passed and the first International Orchid Conference to be held in this country is not so very far away.

However, much ground work has been done in preparation during this time, and the response both from overseas and within N.Z. is so encouraging that the Conference Committee formed at the outset is confident that it will be a week to remember.

Firstly, the calibre of our overseas speakers. As we go to press, invitations to speak have been accepted by Paul Phillips of R. and E. Ratcliffe (Orchids) Ltd., England (Paphiopedilums), David Stead of Mansell and Hatcher, England

(Odontoglossums and Allied Genera), Colin Harman of Green Mountains Botanical Gardens, Queensland (Australian Native Orchids), and Syd Monkhouse of Adelaide Orchids (Miniature Cymbidiums).

Papers will be presented on the mornings of Thursday, 17th and Friday 18th October, and these will be required in advance in order that they can be printed in booklet form and made available to registrants at the opening of proceedings.

Initial letters publicising 1980 went out world wide earlier this year and have been followed up at strategic points by representatives of Air New Zealand, our Conference carriers, and such enthusiastic ambassadors as Kath Black of Levin, who recently returned from America with reports that many

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Sensation 'Chianti' (champion red 4th Australian Orchid Conference).

Mimi 'Sophee' (a superb red miniature);  
Sensation 'Vieux Rose' (a champion red); and Fine Breeder.  
Tom Thumb 'Calliope' (a sensational green miniature with superb lip).

Zuma Boyd 'Yowie Bay' AM/AOS (an awarded July green);  
and other superb early and colourful cymbidiums.

#### EXAMPLE OF CROSSES

- X192 ANGELICA 'ADVENT', AM/RHS x HAMSEY 'THE GLOBE', AM/RHS**  
A gold July champion carrying twelve well shaped flowers on erect spikes crossed with an August burgundy champion carrying twelve plus perfectly shaped flowers. Expectancy-gold, burgundy and polychrome award-type tetraploids from July to September, with excellent labellums. This cross must, in our view, produce future champions. If this cross doesn't 'turn you on' nothing will! (4N)
- X190 KING ARTHUR 'SOVEREIGN', AM/RHS x TOM THUMB 'CALLIOPE'**  
An awarded miniature of erect spike habit and shapely golden flowers crossed with a superb green novelty that carries in excess of 20 shapely flowers of perfect substance and fine texture; possessing absolutely first class labellums that are displayed to perfection. Expectancy - both parents are tops. The progeny - award-quality green and gold miniatures and novelties. Don't miss this one. (2N)

Many others. Don't be disappointed. Apply for full flask list offer now.  
**PLEASE NOTE** - All flowering times are based on South Australian weather conditions.

## MY SOLAR GREENHOUSE

By ROSALIE J. McCULLOUGH,  
WHANGAREI.



This house is 13m x 5m x 5m high, sloping down to 3m at the back wall.

Both front and back walls are on a 70 deg. angle while the roof is on a 30 deg. angle. These angles are very important for catching all the winter sun. The house also faces north.

The main and eastern walls are covered in Nova Roof (this is a hard plastic sheeting) and are lined inside with soft plastic to keep in heat. The roof, back and western walls are covered in corrugated iron, lined with 5cm thick polystyrene strips which are held in place by hardboard lining.

The hardboard on the back wall is painted white for light and heat reflection and ventilation is provided by large windows each end at the highest peak. The doors are off-set at each end to stop through draughts.

The house is heated by heat storage in rocks, and containers painted black and filled with water.

These heat up through the day keeping the house warm at night. Without artificial heating the house has not gone below 9 deg. C at night or above 32 deg. C during the day in the three month period it has been in use.

The plants are sitting among rocks that are piled on sawdust. Also they hang from pongas and rafters. This house has a loft for the plants which need higher temperatures such as Phalaenopsis, Hardcane Dendrobiums and seedlings etc. These are thriving in temperatures not going below 13 deg. C.

The plant roots since the shift, are in new growth after closing off for the winter in the old house. Many species, such as Phalaenopsis, Paphiopedilums, Rhyncostylis, Nobile Dendrobiums and Hardcane Dendrobiums are all in bud.

This is just a description of the new type of greenhouse which I built for my orchids.

## Induced Mutation Of Cultivars

The following item was extracted from the Minutes of the 6th Plenary Session of the International Orchid Commission in Bangkok in January this year, 1978.

### (b) INDUCED MUTATION OF CULTIVARS [e.g. 'TETRAPLOIDISATION']:

A very long discussion took place on the subject, originally raised by the Australian Orchid Council, of nomenclatural principles to be applied in the case of induced mutation of cultivars produced by meristem proliferation. Mr Greenwood pointed out that the purely nomenclatural position was covered by Rule 9, Page 11, of "The Handbook on Orchid Nomenclature and Registration" (1976), wherein it was provided that such proven and consistent mutations, whether deliberately or accidentally induced, or whether naturally occurring, should be treated as new cultivars of the grex or species concerned, and should receive their own distinctive cultivar epithets; this position was also covered in ICNCP (1969) Art.

11. However the problem as to whether growers should indicate mutation attempts in citing the name of such plants for sale, or submitting them for awards, remained open - as did the question as to whether any new cultivar epithets given to proven mutations should indicate the relationship to the parent cultivar. Such questions had in fact been discussed in IOC meetings in Frankfurt, on request of the "Handbook" committee arising from earlier memoranda circulated on "Handbook" revision proposals, and the decision had then been deliberately taken to exclude such questions from "Handbook" provisions.

After the Chairman had summarised the discussions, the following points were resolved:

(1) That in no circumstances should any indication or symbol of ploidy (such as 4N) be added to the name of any cultivar until its ploidy had been proven by actual chromosome count.

(2) That, as per ICNCP (1969) Art. 11 and "Handbook" (1976) Rule 9, vegetative progeny permanently distinct from the parent cultivar and from each other, for ANY REASON (e.g. whether the result of deliberately or accidentally induced mutation through chemical or irradiation treatment, or whether the result of naturally occurring mutation) should be treated as new cultivars of the grex or species concerned, and as such should each receive its own distinct cultivar epithet. Awards to the parent cultivar would not carry to such mutated progeny and each new cultivar so derived should be judged on its own merits.

(3) That in the next edition of the "Handbook", the provisions of Rule 9 requiring three consecutive bloomings consistently distinct from the parent cultivar to establish 'permanent distinctness' be modified to allow such permanent distinctness to be alternatively corroborated by a checked and documented chromosome count which differed from that of the parent cultivar likewise checked and documented.



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## VALE: BRUCE DOUGLAS

After a long struggle against a painful illness Bruce Douglas died on October 10, 1978. Born in Mosgiel 53 years ago he spent most of his life in the North, yet he never lost his regard for the far South.

He spent the war at Waiouru and shortly afterwards went to work for the Forest Service at Waipoua, thus beginning a long career with plants. From there he moved in 1949 to the Auckland Botanical Gardens. The years he worked here saw him build up an unrivalled collection of orchids and an immense fund of knowledge on their culture.

It was in this period that he took an active part in the New Zealand Orchid Society, holding the offices of Secretary, Treasurer and for many years Editor of their magazine.

From Auckland he moved to the Hamilton Gardens for two years before taking up his appointment with Tasman at Kawerau in 1962. While this period saw the development of his own illness and that of his wife, rather than reduce his activities he increased them. In 1971 he helped to set up the Bay of Plenty Orchid Society and was for many years its Secretary.

In 1975 he attended the inaugural meeting of the Orchid Council of New Zealand and was a committee member for two years.

Outside of orchids Bruce was active in his church, being an elder for 28 years. Paraplegics was another of his causes. He served on the Council for many years, as well as being Secretary for the Central North Island district.

Bruce Douglas was a kindly unassuming man who devoted his life to his job and to helping others. A very knowledgeable person he was ever ready to assist others if he could. The New Zealand Orchid scene is the poorer for his passing.



## INDEX ORCHIDS IN NEW ZEALAND 1975 - 1978

Compiled by:  
**MRS DOROTHY COOPER**  
of the Wellington Orchid Society.

Limited number of copies.  
Send 50 cents (Includes postage) to:  
**Mrs K. Bruce,**  
509 Carrington Road,  
R.D. 1, New Plymouth.

Those who use the magazine regularly for reference purposes will find the index very useful. It lists (alphabetically) all the subject material published over the past three years.



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# AN EXPORTERS VIEWPOINT

By Fred Burke, Whakatane.

Reading Mervin Dunn's most recent article "Determining Flower Quality of Cymbidium Juvenile Plants" and his comments on the need to alter judging rules prompts me to pen a few thoughts of my own.

As one whose livelihood depends upon the ability to produce stems of flowers suitable to the requirements of customers in many countries in the Northern Hemisphere I have become increasingly aware that our own Judges' interpretation of a perfect Cymbidium bloom and the awards given, should have little influence on an exporters selection of plants suitable for future cut flower production.

As a commercial grower, I have to be able to offer the buyer what he wants, and at the same time, make sure that what he wants is a financially viable proposition for me. So many of those Cymbidiums that have been awarded (worldwide) do not make the commercial growers plot. Why? Production too poor? Spike habit not good enough? Conformation of flowers suitable for judging rules but unacceptable for commerce? Or is the flower presented for award judging an entirely different flower when left to fend for itself with thousands of others? I fear that this last reason is quite often the case. I suspect that, too often, a grower sees the glory and possible financial gain in an award if the buds are manipulated to the right position; plants de-spiked to leave one stem that will bear larger flowers, or stem lengthened by artificial means. End result is some very disappointed buyers of awarded mericlone plants when flowered five years or so later.

Judging rules forbid the overstaking of stems, manipulation of buds etc. and yet those judging have been heard to freely admit that they are guilty of just that. No doubt this is a world-wide complaint. Who first hoodwinked the judges that to get a top award a Cymbidium flower had

to be as large and round as a dinner-plate anyway? Some are so large that after a florists added efforts, a corsage leaves the wearer hidden in the shrubbery for the evening. Certainly we have had to advance the flowers since nature made them, as she did not intend them to travel 19,500 kilometres to end up in a vase or corsage. For a flower of commerce, I believe a slightly more open bloom is required and this is borne out by our success in exporting, in visiting commercial concerns overseas and conversing with growers, buyers and florists.

Markets are good for New Zealand exporters at present but with increasing competition from other countries in the Southern Hemisphere (countries closer to the markets and with a much cheaper labour force) we are going to have to give far greater consideration to what our markets require. In fact, commercial growers may well have to breed and grow new stock for just the quality, colour and characteristics required. Production will be of major importance, not an abundance of flowers per stem, but a required number of blooms, well placed on tall upright stems that grow naturally without stakes or ties. Plants producing this type of

**Temperatures:** Where you have a glasshouse, watch from now on. While you may not be going to equal summer temperatures yet, spring heat can build up very quickly. Plenty of air circulation will be one of the main things to strive for as practically all orchids you may grow will have air circulating in their native habitat. Again, without air circulation you could lead yourself into both cultural and pest control problems.

**Humidity** is another must. There are not many forests in this world that have a low humidity. Keep this up by spraying with your hose around the pots and under the benches. I always overhead my orchids for further humidity and a freshen up. It also controls red spider, so check that one out.

**Shading:** Right through New Zealand I would expect all glasshouses to be shaded at least for the first time in the season. Orchids are generally, and largely the ones that you will be growing, to be found in association with trees. This will mean shading from strong sunlight to dappled light through the leaves. It must become important then to protect your orchids. Where only shade houses are used, temperature, humidity and shading may look after themselves, especially at this time of the year. Watch your air circulation, keep doors and vents open when possible.

**Feeding:** Always remember orchids are gross feeders. This is not to mean that you double the strength of your 'brew', but rather, feed often with small doses. You will know the result if you gorge yourself for a week or so - soft, flabby. Orchids are just the same and with a well balanced feeding programme will

give strong healthy growth (other factors being even). Most types of orchids will be into their growing season. What results they give will depend entirely on you and what you do for them. So do your best.

**Pests:** Can I write notes without some reminder about pests. Perhaps all that needs to be said this month is that you must never let this sort get away on you. All previous notes could be checked but watch (early) and see what is developing.

**General:** These notes are of necessity very general, for readers will be anywhere in New Zealand. My notes cover most genera in one way or another, with Cymbidium being at the forefront. Cattleyas will, as for Cymbidiums and Paphiopedilums etc. need shading, humidity, watering, feeding and so on though their respective mixtures may vary as would their watering, shading, humidity etc. But these things are really variations and indeed will even change depending on your being in a warm or cooler area. All this simply means that to grow your best orchids you will need increasing knowledge as the months and years go by. Read, watch, listen and talk and your chosen hobby will reward you ten fold or more. Grow orchids for some reason without interest at heart (like keeping up with the Joneses) and you may never progress past the scruffy plant stage. So observations with interest become important in growing anything. What does a person with 'green fingers' have? May I suggest the art of observing things with interest.

Oh! when should we pot or re-pot? Preferably as soon as the new season's root growth starts or as soon afterwards as possible.

# Cultural Notes

By Bruce Douglas, Kawarau.

The excitement has passed! Were you pleased with the plants you flowered? Did you help with your local show or display? Did I hear a NO! Why did you not help?

I think competitive shows are not everyone's choice but displays on your own - with your Society - or a friend can do a lot to help you as well as the public. Depending on how many orchids you have, this period can be the heaviest of the year - potting. When does one pot??? Experience can tell us a lot but not all of us have experience. Right? The trend today is to use bark and perhaps your other "goodies" you feel should, or even need to be included. This has a decided advantage over the fibres that used to be used, for when the plant is taken from its container it is quite easy to shake (or perhaps wash) the bark from the roots. Further more when the plant is placed back in a pot such a mix will tap down fairly easily through the roots to leave no air spaces. Of course, meantime, you cut away broken or damaged roots and you may even have divided the plant to get those back-bulbs away.

There seems to be no point in potting on 'adult' plants or those getting near to it and leaving old compost to be mixed haphazardly with the new mix. Should you do so you run the risk of root fungus and areas of soggy broken down mix and so make watering very difficult. Perhaps this is the time to mention the size of pot to use. Overpotting can probably cause more problems than anything else. This would go for all orchids. Select a pot that will give two years growth before the

next potting. The plant should not be broken up into small pieces otherwise flowering is effected, added to the fact that you have to re-establish each plant.

More than a slight shrivelling of the pseudobulbs and the chances are high that the problem is with the roots.

- (a) overwatering and rotting the roots.
- (b) underwatering and not enough moisture for the roots to get at
- (c) roots attacked by some fungus. The fungus would be in the mixture and has killed all or some roots.

Perhaps you should seek expert advice here.

At this time of year you will probably finish up with many Cymbidium backbulbs. Make sure you label each one correctly as you place them in the starting mix be it sand, sawdust, moss etc. For those of you who may be potting only one or two plants and have only one or two backbulbs, try putting them in a plastic bag with a little damp moss and then tie at the top. Place in the hot water cupboard or on the window sill until ready for further attention. Should they have been placed in the cupboard they must come out as soon as the shoots start growing. Nothing grows strongly in the dark.

There is no point in potting up until little roots are just starting beneath the shoot. These little roots break easily so be very careful.

stem must have the ability to produce not just one stem per bulb but 2 or 3 and then the same bulb must have the ability to do the same thing the following year. This is not a pipedream! There are plants about that will do this with good culture, and these plants must be used in breeding the commercial Cymbidium of the future. If the commercial grower relies on the show enthusiast to do his breeding for him, I fear he is doomed for failure. As competition grows, even within New Zealand, production per square metre and per labour unit will be the deciding factors with regard to success or failure.

Corsage (single bloom) and stem (vase arrangement) are the markets we are concerned with. The first will take any number of flowers per stem but the latter which is much the larger, requires not more than 15 well arranged flowers and preferably a fewer number than that, so that is what a grower must aim for to be able to switch from one market to another.

As Merv has written, shape is of the last importance in a flower of commerce. It does not matter if the flower is not as "big and round as a dinner-plate". It does not matter if the gaps between the petals "are wide enough to drive a horse and cart through". What is most necessary is that the flowers and the arrangement on the stem has appeal. Appeal! The most important factor in a flower of commerce. If the flower has it, someone will want it, if it hasn't, it is of no use to anyone. There is no doubt that outstanding plants having these characteristics will be closely held in commercial nurseries in future years.

Valley Orchids have for long enough been voicing most of the

points above as well as the need of a flowering time chart to plan a continuance of flowers and colour range required throughout the season. An assessment of the commercial flower quality of their mericlones is also available.

Here in our nursery we have already become involved in hybridizing. Commercial flowers of the future as our object. Hopefully these crossings of exclusive new clones together with mericlone of those of ours giving us the flowers we want, plus selected mericlones from outside will keep us in the forefront of commercial growers. Comments such as "They're all \$1.75 flowers" from one famous visitor in 1977 leads us to believe we are right. Alas, that \$1.75 is thousands of kilometres from New Zealand, and after the flower has passed through several hands, the grower gets the smallest slice of the cake.

Shows are a necessary and vital part in orchid societies activities, and perhaps a different flower to what an export grower is seeking is preferred as the champion bloom, but in a country where hobbyist, showman and commercial grower alike are trying to get on the export band-wagon, I suggest that Societies and Judges give more consideration to the export bloom.



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## O.C.N.Z. Awards - 1978

### **Odontoglossum crispum 'Sue Reynolds' HCC/OCNZ 1/78**

This plant carrying one spike of ten flowers was awarded a Highly Commended Certificate. The flowers were fresh clear white, light flush mauve-purple median of ventral sepals, lip white, nicely marked with yellow and little purple around margin. Very full form and flat appearance. Sepals and petals attractively waved and goffered without effecting outline. Natural spread of flowers 100mm.

Owner: Mr E. Reynolds, 13 Blake Street, Waitara.

### **Renanthera Brookie Chandler 'Ted Reynolds' AD/OCNZ 2/78**

This plant owned by Mr E. Reynolds carrying one branched spike of 72 flowers was awarded an Award of Distinction. The flowers were light orange thickly overlaid scarlet red. Brighter and more intense red than the normal for this hybrid. Shape was quite fair. The judges were impressed with the outstanding brilliant colouring. Natural spread of flowers 65mm long by 33mm wide.

### **Dendrobium Summit 'Devon Gold' AD/OCNZ 3/78**

This plant owned by Mr Tom French, 69 Devon Street East, New Plymouth. The plant of three spikes carrying 56 flowers gained an Award of Distinction. The flowers of intense yellow gold, shaded to yellow green at base. Lip solid orchid purple red, margined light green. Keel lines white. Colour has great impact, but is pleasing to the senses. Natural spread of flowers 78mm.

## BOOK REVIEW

### **TEN-YEAR INDEX TO PLANT ILLUSTRATIONS IN 10 INFLUENTIAL ORCHID PERIODICALS**

(With a Few Extras Thrown-In)  
1968-1977.

Compiled by **GEORGE E. WOOLFSON.**

68pp. + XIV. 7" x 10". Preface by Robert M. Hamilton. 9,000 references indexed by genus and species, in 482 genera. Paperbound. Available from publisher: Twin Oaks Books, 4343 Causeway Drive, Lowell, Michigan 49331. \$7.95 (US) postpaid, anywhere.

This is a reference with a difference. Plant illustrations. Where to find - what pictures have been printed in the last ten years and in which of the ten publications. The author states 'My real wish was that someone else would go to the trouble of making an index such as this . . . so that I could simply send for a copy. As it didn't appear that this would happen . . . I had to do it for myself!'

Those who have back copies of the Orchid Review, Orchid Digest, Australian Orchid Review, Orchid Advocate, and Cymbidium Society News etc. will find this publication invaluable when trying to track down illustrations of various orchids published in the listed magazines over the past 10 years.



**WANTED:** Divisions of Cymbidiums. Blue Smoke 'Green Meadows', Stanley Fouraker 'Vesta', Sunrise 'F.K. Sander'. J. Mendoza, 99 Waddington Drive, Naenae, Lower Hutt.

**FOR SALE:** Limited number of Cattelya seedlings available. Pam Boon, 30b, Waiwaka Tce, New Plymouth.

## DISA UNIFLORA

By Keith Goodwin, Rotorua.

Although generally known as Disa uniflora, this striking terrestrial from South Africa would be more appropriately called Disa grandiflora, such is the attention it demands when in flower. Small first year plants will have one flower, with older, well grown plants producing six or seven. The generic name Disa is from Swedish mythology where Queen Disa was commanded to appear before the King, neither dressed nor naked and made her appearance draped in a fishing net. Other myths exist regarding the difficulty of cultivation and of the necessity of providing conditions near to its natural habitat.

As with most terrestrials, the plants have an underground tuber instead of pseudobulbs and this gives rise to a rosette of long, soft fleshy leaves. The new growth appears in autumn, enlarges throughout the Winter and in Spring will elongate to form the flower spike which can grow up to a metre tall. The buds gradually colour and open in January to reveal the magnificent 10 cm flowers. The lower sepals are vivid scarlet contrasting with the upper hooded sepal which is cream flushed with red and heavily veined with crimson (the fish net). The flowers do not all open at once but a few days elapse between each one, then the whole inflorescence will remain in first class condition for several weeks. Seed pods are readily formed although they do not always contain seed which remains viable for a short period only.

Most orchids will only tolerate cool conditions in conjunction with a dryer rest period and cannot be truly termed cool growing, but the

Disa is in active growth in the winter months. An unheated glasshouse or covered shade-house providing plenty of fresh air and some shade is quite suitable. We use a fairly fine potting mix composed mainly of peat and sand so that it may be kept moist. 12 or 15 cm pots are preferable as numerous offshoots pop up near the edge of the pot and with care may be removed without disturbing the main plant. These are potted separately and given similar conditions to the parent plant.

If you are looking for ways to enrich your collection try this one. It is truly superb.

### SOCIETY NEWS

A warm welcome to the Otago Orchid Club, recently joined the Council. President: Mr A. Paterson, Vice President: Mrs K. Bowdler, Secretary: Mr M.L. Young. The Otago Orchid Club meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7.30 p.m. at the Roslyn Baptist Church Lounge, Dunedin. Would all Secretaries please send News letters etc. to Mr M.L. Young.

Another recent member society to the Council is Canterbury Orchid, Begonia and Fern. A warm welcome to you too. For all enquiries please contact Mr. J. Campbell, 21 Blakes Road, Prebbleton, Canterbury.

### WAIKATO ORCHID SOCIETY

By now the orchid growers who attended our Seminar in July have had a good chance to think about the proceedings and from 'tit-bits' that have come back to us from various sources it appears that those who attended gained much from the lectures and various sources it appears that those who attended gained much from the lectures and discussions which naturally follow any such event. We in the Waikato were indeed pleased to have had the opportunity to be hosts to growers from all over the Dominion and although we did incur a small loss financially we were in fact prepared for this and I feel that much credit is due to the small sub-committee and especially to our President and Secretary for its success.