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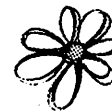
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JOHN EASTON AWARD 1978

The John Easton Award for the most outstanding contribution to the culture and promotion of orchids in New Zealand was presented at the Hawke's Bay Orchid Society show this year to Tom French, President of the Orchid Council of New Zealand.

Over the years Tom has instructed groups of young horticultural students in basic botany and orchid lore. He served on the Committee of the Taranaki District Council of the Royal Institute of Horticulture from 1964-66 and then was elected President of this Society for three years and served concurrently 1967-69 as Vice President of the Dominion Council.

He was a foundation member of the Taranaki Orchid Society and served as its first President for three years and has remained a Committee member. In 1974 he was instrumental in founding the Orchid Council of New Zealand. The following year he was elected President, a position which he still holds.

The administration of the Award is in the hands of the Hawke's Bay Orchid Society.



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MARLBOROUGH ORCHID SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

SPRING SHOW 1978:

For the second time the young Marlborough Orchid Society staged a display at the Spring Show held in the Centennial Hall in conjunction with Camellias and Daffodils. Again they were awarded a Special Merit Certificate and the President Dr. Ken Patterson received a Blue Ribbon for the Best Vase of Cut Flowers - he staged a miniature Cymbidium Pinafore 'Comet' with over 30 flowers out - it is rumoured a Caesarean Section was performed the previous day.

A fine collection of Cymbidiums, including 4n Pure Colours, and a wide range of other genera caught the public's eye and challenged 'beginners' to buy from the Sales Table. A beautiful Ascocenda received much favourable comment and members could be proud of the Paphiopedilums, Pleiones, Phalaenopsis, Dendrobiums, Epidendrums, Cattleyas - you name it, they had them growing from a wide selection of ferns. Native orchids were attractively arranged on ponga bases. It was a hectic and satisfying day for members and augurs well for the future.

During October and November visits to members' Orchid collections were enjoyed. In November for the final meeting of the year, members are gathering for a buffet dinner and the Entertainment Group will do their thing!

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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COVER PHOTO by courtesy of Mr A. H. Blackmore, North Shore, Auckland. Lc. Masterpiece 'Renaissance,' a lovely clone from the cross C. Leda x Lc. South Esk, hybridised by R. H. Gore of America and registered in 1953. This plant is in the private collection of Mr Blackmore.

In Search of Karng Kob in North Thailand

By J. Campbell, 21 Blakes Road, Prebbleton.

Some of the memories we have of the 9th World Orchid Conference were not so nice and will soon be forgotten but other memories will live on vividly for the remainder of our lives and beckon us to return to that country of contrasts. I perhaps, got more out of the trip than most visitors to Thailand. With three children in the middle of their schooling it is a time when the average working man should least consider tripping abroad. Sacrifices have been and will continue to be made by my family so that I was able to go to Thailand. I was under the initial obligation to see and record as much on film as possible to show the folks at home and help them enjoy the trip with me. I believe I have successfully accomplished this and I wouldn't stand a chance of getting away by myself again.

Bangkok would probably contain the most varied contrasts in all of Thailand, certainly of any part I saw. I travelled over 1900 kilometres through the country. From the plush hotel we stayed in you could walk 20 to 30 metres and plunge down through all the social scales of Thailand, right to beggars and refugees from the war torn countries nearby. The only thing, and perhaps the most saving grace was that no one looked underfed. Bangkok is business, everyone is trying to sell you something and it can be annoying, but once they realise you do not want to buy, but rather talk about them and their families then you are faced with a totally different race of people. Those of us who made the attempt to meet the people on their home ground and find out all we could about their social structure, will carry the longest and fondest memories of Thailand.

As well as colour slides (450 all told) I kept a diary of things I saw or found out as I went along and from these I am able to relate stories by the hour.

Bangkok city is hot, crowded (some 4 million people) and crammed full of motor traffic which runs 24 hours a day. It is not a place I would stay long in again and the frustrations of being trapped in our bus in traffic jams or being hustled around 'tourist attractions' began to wear a body down.

I had this terrible phobia of running out of money, so apart from our prepaid good old bacon and egg breakfast, I lived on the very cheap fruit, cheap buns and water from the hotel room.

I realised after the first week that I was going to have a stack of money left and I had nursed the idea of going South to Phuket and making a try for the Birdnest Islands - the home of the white slipper orchids or, going North to Chiang Mai into what was reputed to be THE orchid area of Thailand. I must add at this point, when I speak of orchids, I'm thinking of species in the jungles not the acres of hybrids we saw near Bangkok.

I chose Chiang Mai and booked a berth on the night train North.

I must confess that I harboured a fair amount of apprehension as I

Since Mr Poole's donation of the foundation collection, other growers in the district have donated orchids including Mr Ted Bartosh, and Mr and Mrs B. Watson, who made substantial contributions. The collection is under the cultural care of Mrs C. Mills, who is employed by the City Corporation, but to assist the council with the expansion of the collection along very organised lines a committee known as the "Friends of Tutukiwi" has been formed. The Friends of Tutukiwi will publish a seasonal newsletter, a weekly article in the local paper on the orchid of the week, and generally encourage the love and appreciation of orchids and ferns. In particular our own native orchids and ferns.



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BOOK REVIEW

Orchids of Papua New Guinea - an Introduction

Review by E.O. Campbell

It has been known for a long time that New Guinea has the greatest concentration of orchid species of any area of equivalent size in the world. However, very few people have been privileged to admire the beauty of the flowers in their natural habitat. But now Mrs Andree Miller in "Orchids of Papua New Guinea - an introduction" describes 160 different kinds from this country. All are illustrated by beautiful colour photographs taken by Roy and Margaret MacKay. The species selected come from a wide range of habitats which include tree boughs sprayed by sea water, rock faces, lowland savannah, riverine forest and high mountain moss forest.

In addition to information on the orchids there are useful descriptions of the habitats, notes on cultivation and on photography.

The book is of especial interest to New Zealand orchid enthusiasts, as Mrs Miller is New Zealand born, holds a University of New Zealand Arts Degree (Auckland) and recently visited Orchid Societies in Auckland, Hamilton, Gold Coast and Wellington. Her present position is Director, National Capital Botanic Garden, Papua New Guinea.

Her book of 101 pages is published by the Australian National University Press on good quality paper. The price, A\$9.95, is very reasonable.

Tutukiwi Orchid and Fern House

by Ron H. Wilson, President Hutt Valley Orchid Circle; Chairman Tutukiwi Project.

When Mr Herbert Poole donated his extensive orchid collection to the City of Lower Hutt, because as he said "I am too old to care for them," little did he know what an exciting chain of events he had started, and which ended with the opening of the "Tutukiwi Orchid and Fern House."

Mr Poole inherited from his father the love and appreciation of horticulture and in particular orchids. Seventeen years ago he founded the Hutt Valley Orchid Circle as a branch of the Hutt Valley Horticultural Society Incorporated, and over those years introduced many people to the world of orchids. Nobody left his glasshouse without a piece of this or that, and some words of wise advice.

The President of the Hutt Valley Orchid Circle, Mr Ron Wilson, and committee member Mr Ted Mills, both being members of the Rotary Club of Hutt considered that Mr Poole's donation, and his service to horticulture should not go unnoticed so approached their club with a proposal for the construction of an Orchid and Fern House as a Rotary Project. Approval was granted from the club, and also from the Lower Hutt City Corporation, who enthusiastically received the project—allocated a site in the civic centre adjacent to the Town Hall, and made a cash grant to enable an immediate start to be made. Funds were raised by an auction, selling of symbolic panes of glass at \$5 each, and cash donations, the largest being from the Hutt Valley Horticultural Society Inc.

Fifty-four companies donated or discounted materials and/or time towards the project, and special mention must be made of Angus

Construction Ltd and Poole's Engineering Ltd, whose joint effort was most generous. It was late August when the Club Architect Mr B. Girdlestone, had completed plans and construction started, with the voluntary help of Rotarians and members of the Hutt Valley Orchid Circle, under the chairmanship of Mr Ron Wilson.

Eight months later on 29th April 1978 the president of the Rotary Club of Hutt, Dr M. Watson, presented the completed project to the City of Lower Hutt debt free but valued at \$60,000. Over 2500 people visited the house that weekend and it was a thrill to see Mr Poole's obvious pleasure at the great interest shown by the visitors. Only a few weeks later Mr Poole had the privilege to show Mrs Mondale the American Vice President's wife, and Mrs Muldoon through the house.

As the native ground orchid *Pterostylis banksii* can be found on the hills surrounding the Hutt Valley it seemed fitting to name the Orchid House "Tutukiwi" after the Maori name for *Pterostylis banksii*, so named because of the flowers resemblance to a "Little Kiwi."

Tutukiwi is open free to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during week days, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. during weekends and public holidays when members of the Hutt Valley Orchid Circle voluntarily act as caretakers.

waited among the crowds of Asian folk at the station. I didn't see one other European waiting for the train and I felt I was going off into the wilds of Thailand alone. I had made no arrangements for accommodation and just hoped I could find something when I got there.

Chiang Mai is a beautiful city, cooler and so much cleaner than Bangkok and with little night traffic sleep is more possible there.

Fortunately, I had met the President of the Chiang Mai Orchid Society at a dinner given by Thai Orchids back in Bangkok so I telephoned him as we had previously arranged and he sent a friend to my hotel to discuss the possibility of a trip collecting in the jungle.

I was particularly interested to see *Paphiopedilum bellatulum* growing in the wild so he promised to see what could be arranged.

I had been talking to several trishaw and taxi drivers during the morning and had learned that 'Long Tao Na Ree' shoe of the lady orchids did indeed grow in this area. I had several colour photographs with me and learned that the white slipper orchid was named 'Karng Kob', frog chin, quite an apt description I thought.

Mr Subin Tovijakchaikul, (he said to call him Subin) came back to the hotel that evening to say he had found a man who owned a farm about 100 km to the North and that *P. bellatulum* had been found in that area in the past. The next morning we set out early and the trip itself is another complete story. Mr Manas, the farm owner, travelled with us, he spoke no English so all conversation had to be directed through Subin. They were as interested to know all about our way of life as I

was of theirs and I was kept busy jotting down little snippets of information passed on during the conversation.

We arrived at a little remote area known as Ban Tam Grab which means Cave of Rice Flour and during the latter part of our journey we had passed several monoliths of dark rock with fresh white faces. I suspected these were limestone or dolomite, which was the case, and no doubt there was a cave in one of these skyscrapers of rock which would be the place where rice flour was stored.

We had some difficulty in locating the man whom we hoped would guide us as the farm plots are cut out of the jungle and several had to be tried before we found where he was working.

Mr Som Maneewan was a small but very wiry son of the soil and with the teak forests pressing in all around, he, and I suspect all the others in that little settlement, had a great knowledge of the surrounding country and the foods it could supply. He spoke no English so I kept Sudin hard at it asking and answering all my questions about the local area.

Only Som, Subin and I went into the jungle and we had to make several rest stops to allow Subin, the city dweller, to catch his breath. I was fairly fit as I had been doing a lot of running and swimming before I went to Thailand so I kept up with Som quite well. The going was fairly steep in places, up and down rolling hills until we reached the bottom of one of the great monoliths. Som indicated that these towering castles of rock were the home of Karng Kob. Subin had gone far enough at this point and elected to wait at the bottom for us. I could not see how we could ever

get very far up the sheer sides of this rock and we certainly did get turned back by impossible faces at several spots. Orchids were growing everywhere, thousands of them, some I knew but many of the botanicals I had never seen before. The rock was eroded into very sharp and dangerous pinnacles rather like stalagmites, a fall in such a place would have meant almost certain death on these jagged spikes. They were however, extremely hard as I found out when I tried to break off a small piece to bring home and they offered very secure hand and foot holds. I had on a pair of strong leather shoes but Som, the jungle man, wore only jandals. His feet were like horse hooves and I really had to admire him scrambling about this sort of country almost barefoot. The higher we got the thinner the trees became and the thicker the orchids grew. Banks of *Coelogyne* were everywhere, the odd one in flower but it was mid-winter there, extremely dry and cool enough in the mornings to need a jersey till about 8 a.m. I saw no other orchids in flower but the trees were festooned with epiphytes, some were obviously *Dendrobiums* but many I did not recognise so I collected about three pieces of each species just to have a representation of what was growing there. As well as orchids, there were many other interesting plants which Som pointed out, unfortunately I could ask no questions, all our communications were by grunts and hand signs. There were some very beautiful creepers in flower which I photographed.

At one point Subin called out from far below us and it was not till then that I realised just how steep the rock was and how high we were. I looked over the edge and the voice was coming from the jungle directly

below us some 120 metres down. I have a photograph which I took and it looks like an aerial photo of tree tops. At last Som called my attention to a spot some six metres above us right out on an exposed face with no cover at all. There sandwiched between fissures in the rock was a group of *Paph. bellatulum*. What a great thrill this was for me, here I was thousands of kilometres away from home high above the jungle and looking at a sight which I'd dreamed about for years. Som was about to dig the group out but I indicated that I wished to photograph it and took several shots and while adjusting my position to get a better view I sat on a spiny *Euphorbia* which added to Som's amusement.

While he was digging out that group, I went on exploring higher and after some time located another small plant with three growths and a couple of seed pods. I feel some pangs of guilt at removing plants like this which are becoming rare, so to ease my conscience a little I sprinkled the seed into various protected crevices in the hope that it would replace that which I had removed.

Som indicated that we should now return down the cliffs but as we were so close to the top I indicated that I would like to go on, so he waited while I climbed the last 20 metres. What a magnificent view, I could see for miles and as we were fairly near the Burmese border I have no doubt I could see into that country. In another direction I would suspect that I could see into Laos as it too is not very far away.

From my vantage point high above the jungle, I could see other monoliths the same as the one I was on. I was about 155 metres above

Ballard's home where the Ballards have about 1/2 acre or more which gives room to expand their growing facilities if they wish to in future. Frank Briljevich had taken a few plants to Tony Ballards to help make a display there and it was indeed very nice. We adjourned then to the Manukau Boating Club's rooms on the foreshore of the Manukau Harbour for afternoon tea in ideal surroundings. Tony is President of the Boating Club. The usual speech of thanks and appreciation for a good day was made by Daryl Bell, our President and of course a bit of "Borax" was bandied about as well to end a very happy day. We climbed on the bus - 45 of us, and reached Hamilton at about 7 p.m.

SOCIETY NEWS

SOUTH TARANAKI SHOW

Held in the Hawera Community Hall, 31 September and 1 October 1978; an artistic layout of Islands created with ferns, bamboo and carax. Out of this jungle, the orchids poked their heads. No pots to be seen. Some blooms that caught my eye were *Cym. Sleeping Beauty* 'Golden Queen' a deep pure colour; *Cym. Valya Craig* 'Sutherland', another yellow with a blushed deep pink lip; *Cym. Volcano* 'Menehune', a smallish bloom but a most attractive brown with cream contrast; *Paph. Miriam Sacher* 'Harvestman', a good yellow-green with a white edged dorsal sepal; *Mini Cym. Flirtation* 'Princess Royal', several clones of this lovely pink and *Cym. Starlight* 'Crown', a light green with a white lip highlighted by a yellow crest.

The afternoon-tea end of the hall was gay with sun umbrellas decorated with ivy and camelia blooms, a pleasure to sit quietly for a moment and take in the over-all scene. Well done South Taranaki for your first show.

NOTES FROM THE NORTH SHORE ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW

After four years, a change of venue to the more spacious North Shore Teachers' College Hall proved to be the right decision.

The innovation this year of an art competition, run in conjunction with the Show, all entries to feature orchids, provided over 100 entries from amateurs as well as professional artists, from all over the North Island. The competition, organised by Betty Lodge and catalogued and hung by Betty and her husband Bob, made a great impression, and a forceful start to the Show, the first prize of \$100 cash being won by Jean Boulton with her painting entitled "Duo" - an unusual treatment of two watercolours of cattleyas presented in the one frame.

In the main body of the hall, the Show featured trading and corsage tables, floral art bays, a flasking unit, and a stamp collection - all featuring the universal appeal of orchids.

On tiered stands some 200 *Cymbidiums* were displayed, with Valya Craig 'Surprise' taking first in the open section, followed by Ivy Fung 'Radiance' with five spikes and over 100 blooms.

The Novice *Cymbidium* section was headed by a delightful Clarisse Carlton 'Tia Maria' with a seedling. Charles Darwin x Fireball taking second place. Next, the two stands of miniatures - every one a beauty.

Another four stands of the "odd balls" including five different N.Z. Natives, all in flower. Species from Australia and Papua New Guinea, plus 15 other genera. Here the judges gave the open section to *Dendrobium* 'Bardo Rose', grown to perfection, and this plant also won the Smithers O'Dowda Award for culture. Second prize went to a large white *Phalaenopsis*: 'Ilikai x 211'. The novice 'other genera' section was headed by *Dendrobium jamesianum* with *Odontoglossum* 'Red Rum' second.

Without a doubt the 'piece de resistance' was the stage area with a glorious display of natives, species, *Cymbidiums*, and ferns, etc, all complemented by a variety of cut Vandas, and Arandas specially flown in by Air New Zealand for the Show, and all enhancing the four-tiered waterfall in centre stage - the whole stage area was a masterpiece arranged by our Theo Verryt, Show Marshall.

A Society Excursion

By Martin Clark
Waikato Orchid Society.

On the 27th August our Society paid its biannual visit to glass-houses of growers in and around Auckland city. As usual this was very efficiently arranged by N.Z. Orchid Society members and a good day was had by all. For many years now these visits have been taking place - Waikato to Auckland one year and the next year, the reverse. It is always a worth while day and we come home with food for thought about how we grow by comparison. Although I may say we are always a little jealous of the very easy climatic conditions for growing, but jealousy gets you nowhere, so we just have to make the best of it.

Our party left Hamilton by bus at 8 a.m. and we went straight to the home of Mr Ken Blackman in Papatoetoe where we were welcomed by the President of N.Z.O.S. and had the chance to enjoy a very welcome cup of tea and a big spread, as well as seeing how Ken does it. It was unfortunate that Auckland is experiencing a very late flowering season, the same as we are, apparently caused by the very cold weather in late May followed by a lot of overcast days throughout the mid winter months. Ken had some very nice plants in flower and I can't but help remarking that I have never seen his plants looking better. We then went to the home of Mr Alf Day who has a wider variety of genera interestingly displayed, then to Mr Ken Nicholson who had had an accident and was in plaster but

was never the less determined to welcome us on crutches - 'no show without Punch'. He had a very nicely arranged display and I told him I would like to pinch his pool and fountain and very pretty surrounds. We then went to the homes of Mr and Mrs Harvie and Mrs Orr who are neighbours and their gardens open out at the back to a lovely golf course. Both had some nice flowers to show us. We were taken to the Monumart Motel in Otahuhu for luncheon. After which we went on to the new home of Mr and Mrs Underwood in what I think would be either Royal Oak or Onehunga. They have a lovely outlook and have managed to get their growing facilities near to completion. Mrs Underwood had some lovely plants in bloom and some big fat spikes well on the way. On next to Des Leahy in Mangere where we were shown by Des, to use his own words, 'how he endeavours to get maximum flower production for 'export and show' from his one glasshouse.

It is certainly a model of tidiness and neatness which would put most growers to shame. He also has a very interesting method of watering and feeding his plants. We were then taken to Cliff and Shona Brindle to see how they grow Cattleyas. They have only three small glasshouses but it is amazing to me how many beautiful prizewinning Cattleyas come from these houses over a 12 month period. Finally we visited Tony

the jungle and the next great rock would have been twice as high and more inaccessible. There were others in the distance which could be classed as mountains in their own right and I can only assume they all have populations of Paph. bellatulum and it would be my guess that many plants would be safe from collecting because of the steepness and danger in such an area.

The plants I collected, grew in crevices with very restricted root areas. They are exposed to full sun or at least, very bright light and must suffer all the weather conditions which prevail in their exposed position. I have plants in my hothouse which are in 3-inch clay pots in a very well drained mix of native bark, fibre and limestone chips and the pots are crammed with roots. Although not exposed to direct sunlight, my plants do get about an 18 hour light period extended with fluorescent lights and they grow as well as any of the white slipper orchids I have. What I saw on the cliff tops of Ban Tam Grab makes me feel that I was not too far away from the natural environment and I will continue with the same culture.

After a long and careful climb down we were again united with Subin and set off back along the trail which Som had marked with slashes on the trees. I don't think those hill people could survive without those big knives, they can be used for such heavy work as slashing a path through the jungle or such delicate operations as removing a thorn from one's foot. No doubt they are used in self defence and would be most effective.

We arrived back at the houses about mid afternoon and I was

invited to share a meal with the family. This was another experience, shoes are left outside, no furniture, everyone sits on a mat on the floor and takes what one wants from the bowls of rice, pork and other spicy mixtures.

On our way out from the farm the track was blocked by a large felled teak limb and one man was away up in the very top of a huge tree cutting off the branches. I did not ask why this was being done but noticed throughout Thailand odd teak trees were trimmed like this. Of course, the thing that caught my eye were all the orchids clinging to the branches. Quite a few were different to the ones found earlier, so I collected some of these also.

It had been a long hard day by the time I arrived back at my hotel in Chiang Mai. As long as I live I'll never forget my trip collecting orchids and the wonderful people I met in Thailand.



O.C.N.Z. Awards - 1978

Laeliocattleya Masterpiece alba
'Renaissance' HCC/OCNZ 4/78

This plant owned by Mr Albert Blackmore, 34A Evelyn Place, Northcote, Auckland 10, was awarded a Highly Commended Certificate. The flowers have clear white sepals and petals, frilly magenta lip with white patch on each side of its centre from which are gold veins running to the centre of the throat. Natural spread of flowers 160mm.

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SOCIETY INFORMATION

Manawatu Orchid Society

Meeting: 2nd Thursday of each month
Venue: All Saints Church Hall,
Cifurch Street,
Palmerston North.
Time: 7.45 p.m.
President: Mr N.G. Wood.
Secretary: Mr J.G. Jackson,
18 Hurley Place,
Palmerston North.
Phone: 83-348.

Wellington Orchid Society

Meeting: 1st Monday of every month.
Venue: St. Orans College,
High Street, Lower Hutt.
Time: 8.00 p.m.
Beginners Forum, 7.15 p.m.
President: Mr F.R. Askin.
Secretary: Mr L. Wyatt,
43 Hardy Street, Waterloo,
Lower Hutt.
Phone: 695-101.

Taranaki Orchid Society

Meeting: 2nd Tuesday of month.
Venue: Baptist Church Hall,
Lemon Street,
New Plymouth.
Time: 8.00 p.m.
President: Mr R. Clearwater.
Secretary: Mrs D. Whittaker,
2 Nelson Street, Waitara.
Phone: 8896.

Waikato Orchid Society

Meeting: 4th Tuesday of month.
Venue: Senior Citizens Hall,
Clarence Street, Hamilton.
Time: 8.00 p.m.
President: Mr D. Bell.
Secretary: Mr P. Wyatt,
P.O. Box 7101,
Claudelands, Hamilton.
Phone: 7095, Cambridge.

Hawke's Bay Orchid Society Inc.

Meeting: 1st Monday in month.
Venue: Pakowhai War Memorial
Hall, Pakowhai.
Time: Beginners Class 7.15 p.m.
Main Meeting, 8.00 p.m.
President: Mr R.L. Brown.
Secretary: Mrs E. Allen,
R.D. 3, Napier.
Phone: 83-050.

Wairarapa Orchid Circle

Meeting: 1st Sunday in month.
Venue: Old Folks Hall, Cole Street.
Time: 2.00 p.m.
President: Mr B. Bradley.
Secretary: Mrs I. Booth,
112 Essex Street,
Masterton.
Phone: 6343.

Bay of Plenty Orchid Society

Meeting: 2nd Sunday in month.
Venue: Lyceum Club Rooms,
Te Puke.
Time: 1.30 p.m. (sometimes
7.00 p.m.)
President: Mr J. Forrest,
19 Fairview Place,
Te Puke.

Golden Coast Orchid Society

Meeting: 2nd Monday of month.
Venue: St. Lukes Hall,
Waikanae.
Time: 7.30 p.m.
President: Mr W. Ross-Taylor.
Secretary: Mr J. Matthews,
459 Te Moana Road,
Waikanae.
Phone: 6169.

Poverty Bay East Coast Orchid Society

Meeting: 2nd Monday of every month.
Time: 7.30 p.m.
President: Mrs M. Sundon.
Secretary: Mrs M. Jacobs,
6 Buchanan Street,
Gisborne.
Phone 89-531.

North Shore Orchid Society Inc.

Meeting: 1st Sunday each month.
Venue: Senior Citizens Rooms,
Milford, Auckland 9.
Time: 1.00 p.m.
President: Mr L. Godwin.
Secretary: Mrs B. Godwin,
Box 33493, Takapuna.
Phone: 485-886.

South Taranaki Orchid Society:

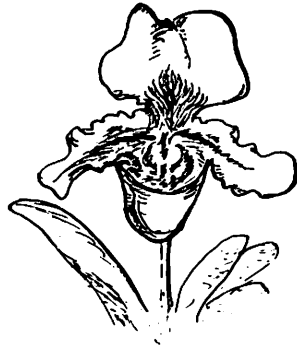
Meeting: 3rd Thursday in month.
Venue: Lounge, Community Centre,
Albion Street, Hawera.
Time: 7.30 p.m.
President: Mr R.L. Watkins.
Secretary: Mr B. Millard,
10 Ropata Street, Hawera.
Phone: 7383.

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NORTH SHORE ORCHID SOCIETY will be holding an Autumn orchid display on April 7 and 8 1979 at the Horticultural rooms, Hurstmere Road, Takapuna.

TARANAKI ORCHID SOCIETY will be holding a display and seminar early June 1979 in conjunction with tours of Pukekura Park and private glasshouses.

Notes on Odontoglossums and Allies

by Mike Wilton, Levin

Modern hybrids of Odontoglossums and their allies are probably the most colourful of all orchids. Basic colours include white, yellow, orange, red and purple which may occur in solid colour or infinite combinations of markings including speckles, blotches delicate suffused patterns. A single flower may be quite a spectacular multicoloured eyeful.

The Odontoglossums used as parents of modern hybrids come from the mountains of Columbia. Odm. crispum, pescatorei, harry-anum, triumphans and a few other species account for the size and shape found in today's hybrids and all the colours except red.

Small but dazzling bright red Cochlioda noezliana was hybridised with Odontoglossums to produce the intergeneric Odontioda (Oda.). These hybrids extended the colour range into the reds.

Columbian (Pansy type) Miltonias when hybridised with Odontoglossums, gave Odontonias (Odna.). Odontonias have the colour range of Odontoglossums but their special feature is a large showy lip. Also inherited from the Miltonia is the ability to throw several spikes per bulb.

When all three species are involved in a hybrid, the result has the tongue twister name of Vuylstekeara (Vuyls.) pronounced Voolstek-ee-ah-rah. These hybrids have all the qualities of Odontonias plus an extended colour range.

Oncidiums have been hybridised with Odontoglossums and Odontiodas to produce Odontocidiums and Wilsonaras with long multiflowered spikes from heat tolerant plants.

I shall refer collectively to all the above as 'Odonts,' the cultural conditions being much the same.

Of all commonly grown orchids, Odonts are probably the most sensitive to environmental factors but when everything is right they can grow at a rate which is quite staggering for one who is used to watching slowpoke Cymbidiums. My Odonts grow steadily all year round but put on a growth spurt during March-April and September-October. During summer, high temperatures slow them down while in the winter, low light levels are the limited factor.

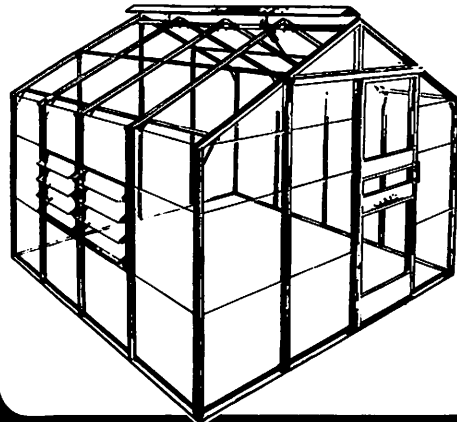
I grow my Odonts mostly on the floor of a heated glasshouse where the temperature may fall to about 7°C at night. Odonts may take the night temperatures down to 0°C without harm. Where temperature is involved, summer heat is more likely to be a problem with Odonts than cold in the winter. The optimum daytime temperature for these plants is in the 15-20°C range. If these temperatures can not be maintained in the glasshouse during summer, then the plants would benefit by moving them to a shade-house or bush-house or some such cooler situation during the summer months. Temperatures above 25°C will bring growth to a halt in Odonts and prolonged high temperatures may kill them.

Most Odonts will tell you when they are getting enough light. They develop a suntan. I give my Odonts enough light so as to produce a light bronzing of the leaves, excessive light will produce a heavy bronze cast over yellow leaves.

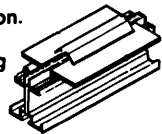
I feed my Odonts once every week or fortnight stretching to once

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a month in winter. I use a very dilute solution of fertiliser either Ammophos or Nitrophoska. The dilution factor is about half a teaspoon of fertiliser to 10 litres of water.

I have found water is far more critical with Odonts than feeding. At the end of a season there is little difference in growth between plants fed weekly and those fed every month to six weeks, where as, plants which have extended dry periods between watering show drastically reduced bulb and flower size. I water my Odonts whenever the surface of the mix shows the slightest sign of dryness. This can mean watering every two days or so during fine summer weather, also during these weather conditions the plants are given a spray of water over the leaves once or twice a day. Such treatment produces strong growth, large bulbs and large flowers. Low humidity will greatly reduce flower size.

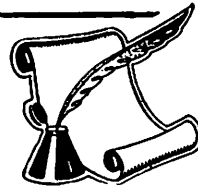
Repotting is best done in the spring. I use shallow, well drained plastic pots and a mix of approximately equal parts of bark (7-10mm), pumice (same size) and styrofoam granules. I have found that Odonts grown in this mix under conditions outlined above, produce a rampant root system very quickly. Strong roots result in a strong plant.

Odonts may be propagated from divisions where there are several leading growths or from backbulbs. When removing backbulbs special care must be taken to cause as little damage as possible to the rhizome as it is only from the rhizome that the new growths will arise, unlike Cymbidiums which may produce new growths from the sides of the backbulbs. Provided the rhizome is undamaged, single Odont bulbs with leaves still attached usually sprout with little trouble but leaf-

less backbulbs are best left in clumps of two or three. Sometimes I use a method which is commonly used with Cattleyas. Carefully cut the rhizome where the plant is to be divided and dust the cut with fungicide, all without removing the plant from the pot. Later, when the back portion has sprouted, it can be potted up separately.

Although Odonts may perhaps need a little effort to find or create the right conditions the rewards in blooms will make it well worthwhile. The delight of having orchids in flower outside the Cymbidium season is an added bonus as Odonts will flower at any time of the year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



The Editor
Dear Sir,

I have followed with interest the series of 'Ten Favourite Cymbidiums' but note a disturbing trend developing. While originally it was stated that all clones named should be reasonably available, one recent list has named plants of which the sole clones are in the possession of the writer, and another commercial grower took the opportunity to plug a large number of clones which are available only as small mericlones from himself.

This makes these lists useless as unbiassed guides to new growers.

Yours faithfully,
AQUARIUS.

The lists are provided by both amateur and professional growers and published in good faith. Thank you Aquarius for bringing this matter to the attention of readers and myself.
EDITOR.

wonderful effort for the size of the plant.

Hybridizers have recently discovered that this species crossed with modern Odont hybrids is giving Odontocidiums which are large flowered and yet retain the incurvum spike habit. We will hear more of this delightful orchid in the future.

SOPHRONITIS COCCINEA

This plant is one of the miniature gems of the orchid family. It is one of only six dwarf growing plants making up the genus Sophronitis which form part of the Cattleya alliance. Being from the cooler areas of southern Brazil they require quite different cultural conditions from other members of the Cattleya group if they are to be grown well. The plants have only a small pseudobulb with a single leathery leaf and a full grown plant would be about 8 cm tall. They grow best under cool conditions where they can be kept evenly moist throughout the year though less water would be required during the winter months when drying out would not be so fast.

Sophronitis coccinea, often called S.grandiflora, has as its name suggests sepals and petals of a brilliant scarlet with an orange yellow throat in the lip. The 5-7 cm flowers are produced singly in the Spring and are long lasting. This has become an important plant in hybridizing within the Cattleya group because of its ability to transfer the brilliant colouring to its offspring. Many quality modern day (and some not so modern still of good quality) hybrids such as SLC Anzac, SLC Falcon, SLC Jewel Box, SLC Paprika SLC Brandywine or Potinara Rebecca Merkel all show the effect of the sophronitis blood in their make-up.

SOCIETY NEWS

WHANGAREI SPRING SHOW

By Fred Brett - Show Marshall.

The growth of the Whangarei Orchid Society was reflected in the display of plants on exhibition at the 3rd Spring Show held on 15/17 September, 1978. The improvement in the standard of the display and the number of plants on show was quite marked.

With a certain amount of trepidation the committee decided to try a 3-day show and found that their faith in the Society and in the public regard for beauty was justified as there was a continual stream of visitors from the time it was opened by our patron, Mrs Jill Elliott at noon on the Friday, until the close at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

The Ladies' Gardening Club Hall was a mass of colour and although Cymbidiums were there in numbers there was also a variety of other genera on show - one specimen of Paphiopedilum insigne with 23 flowers attracted a lot of comment. The quality of the plants and blooms was high - particular attention was gained by two which won cultural certificates, a superb specimen of Angraecum veitchii grown by Chris Voss and a miniature Cymbidium Evening Star "Everglades" exhibited by Mrs Nita Goings.

The many visitors to the show, including some from England and Australia expressed admiration for the quality of the blooms on show and I am sure that from the number of cameras in action the local photographic shops must have found the show a real bonanza.

A group of enthusiasts from North Shore came on the Saturday and later were entertained at a function held in the evening. Some of the alcoves set up in the hall were arranged by members or groups of members while other areas were filled with plants from growers who had only one or two plants ready for exhibition. The response from members as a whole was a credit to the Society and the participation and assistance given from everyone gave a great deal of satisfaction to the committee who worked so hard to ensure the success of the display.

Interesting Species

By J.G. Jackson, Palmerston North

CALANTHE VESTITA

In the mid nineteenth century Calanthes were grown in large numbers in England mainly because they were readily obtainable and of easy culture, and because their long lasting flowers made them an ideal table decoration. The first orchid hybrid raised was from this genus. The cross was made in 1853 by a John Dominy who was a grower for Veitch and Son. He crossed *C.furcata* with *C.masuca*, two evergreen types to produce *C.Dominyi* which flowered in 1856.

Sanders in his 1927 Orchid Guide states that "Calanthe Veitchii, the well known hybrid between *C.rosea* and *C. vestita* might be termed a common garden plant. It was first mentioned in 1859 and is now one of the most popular and largely grown orchids". *Calanthe vestita* is one of the deciduous terrestrial species with stout pseudobulbs up to 15 cm tall and broad 30-45 cm leaves. They require repotting every year so the new growth commences in a rich compost - a pot plant mix is suitable provided that drainage is adequate. Water carefully at first increasing the rate as growth progresses until by the middle of summer when the pot should be full of roots; they can be liberally watered to keep the compost continually moist.

The bulb is made up in the autumn when the flower spikes also appear, and watering should then be gradually reduced until after flowering and then not given at all through the winter.

A sunny position is needed throughout the year and while the thin leaves will stand strong light they are very prone to rot if water is allowed to remain on them for any length of time, particularly the centres of the growths. The flowers are up to 5 cm across with 10-20 on an erect 60 cm spike. Sepals and petals are white and the lip has a large rose pink eye, however as the plants are naturally spread over a wide area the extent of the pink shading on the lip and also the sepals and petals is variable.

ONCIDIUM INCURVUM

Oncidiums form one of the large families of New World orchids. There are over 750 known species extending over the large area from Southern Brazil up through South and Central America to Florida. The range of plant sizes and types within the genus is as wide as their habitat.

The cool growing variety *O. incurvum* comes from Mexico, has long lasting fragrant flowers which are produced in the autumn on a long (1-2 metre) branched many flowered spike which commences to grow in the spring. Flowers are about 2.5 cm across and are white with rose markings and a rose band on the lip. The pseudobulbs are ribbed and about 10 cm high with leaves growing to about 30 cm in length. A well grown plant will throw a spike of up to 100 flowers - a

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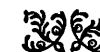
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be visiting other growers too.



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.



PUKEKURA CORNER

By George Fuller, N.D.H. [N.Z.],
Curator Pukekura Park, New Plymouth.



Gastrochilus somai

The regular flowering and neat appearance of this Formosan species, make it a very desirable subject for those with limited space, intermediate growing conditions and a desire to have something different.

This orchid belongs to the Vanda group but whereas we tend to think of scrambling, rambling aerial-rooted plants in that section, *G. somai* could be regarded as a miniature. Another distinction is the short, thick leathery leaves which look more like those of a Hoya than a Vanda. Incidentally, if you have any plants of the Vanda alliance, even *Drymoanthus* (*Sarcochilus*) from New Zealand, take a close look at the leaf-tips and you will find that the two halves are always irregular and in some cases so distinctly so that one can identify various species with the clues they provide.

Our specimen of *G. somai* grows well on a slab of treefern fibre and each year in April and May can be relied upon to produce one or two sturdy clusters of flowers which emerge in what is called an umbel, similar to that of *Hoya carnosa*. Individual flowers are long lasting, about 15mm across, creamy white with tints of green. The lip has a hollowed section in the base of which is a patch of yellow overlaid with fine reddish spots. A similar patch occurs on the face of the labellum and the whole colour scheme is livened by a collar of bright red around the base of the column. The overall effect is one of neatness and crispness and I can recommend the group to anyone with a relatively warm glasshouse.

The genus extends from the Himalayas to Indonesia with a northern limit in Japan, and most suppliers from India or S.E. Asia have some to offer. Other species available include *G. acutifolium*, *G. bellinus*, *G. calceolare*, *G. dasypogon* etc., but they are often listed under *Saccolabium*. All are beautiful in their way, especially the last named but we have found *G. somai* the most successful, perhaps because it comes from a cooler climate than the others.

NOTICE

It has been proposed that a study group be set up to investigate New Zealand Orchids. Such things as their cultivation, distribution and raising from seed etc. Anyone interested contact W.J. Forrest, 19 Fairview Place, Te Puke.

ORCHIDS WITH A DIFFERENCE.

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Combining the genera *Leochilus*, *Oncidium* and *Rodriguezia*. Miniature plants displaying comparatively long spikes of showy yellow and red blooms.

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