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in separating the species. His talk was illustrated by drawings pointing out some of the differences in some of the species. Ted drew attention to the fact that some of these habenarias grew in widely separated areas and wondered whether there were not examples of some plants from the intervening areas. He suggested that the orchid societies in those areas should make a thorough search to try and find intervening colonies of these particular habenarias.

The following morning bright and early the party met for breakfast and then in a number of cars set off for the base of Sentinel Peak. At the end of the road the cars were parked and the party set out on foot. Not far from the cars the first orchid, *Schizochilus albiflos*, with its little nodding head of light flowers with the yellow lip, was found. The ubiquitous *Satyrium longicauda* in all its colour forms was soon found. The party had not proceeded to any great height when the first plants of *Holothrix incurva* with its yellow flowers and hairy flower stem were discovered growing in crevices in the rocks. These plants were duly photographed. Proceeding further we soon came upon the plants of *Disa fragrans* with flowers which varied in colour from brown and white to a burgundy and white colour. This species is, as its name suggests, fragrant and is characterised by leaves which are spotted with maroon. Proceeding onwards the party came upon plants of a *Corycium*. We then all learnt that plants that we had glibly passed as *Corycium nigrescens* could in fact have been *Corycium dracomontanum*, a species which has not been fully described yet. Ted pointed out that the difference between these two species. *Corycium nigrescens* and

Corycium dracomontanum, lies in the shape of the lip. Both species turn black on drying. Onwards, ever upwards! A shout from some energetic members of the party drew the attention of the laggards to plants of *Pterygodium hastatum* growing in dampish soil on the edges of the mountain. This is one of Natal's three *pterygodiums* and has a pale greenish white flower. The plants are small, approximately 10 cm high.

As we proceeded higher plants of *Pterygodium leucanthum* were found by Joyce. Although similar in appearance to *Pterygodium hastatum* closer examination showed some differences. Close to the *Pterygodium leucanthum* one found numerous plants of *Neobolusia virginea* which unfortunately had just finished flowering and only one or two plants still had flower spikes on with dried flowers present. Searching in the grassland alongside the path some of the members turned up a *satyrium* which resembled *Satyrium longicauda* superficially but Joyce pointed out that *Satyrium longicauda* always has hairlike structures on the lip and this *satyrium* was lacking in these structures.

By now the energetic members of the party were out of sight of the laggards who were criss-crossing through the grassland looking for orchids. As the party proceeded higher plants of *Disa cephalotes* with its little tightly bunched head of white flowers spotted with mauve were discovered in the grassland. Close by these colonies of *D. cephalotes* a plant of *Disa frigida* was found. Before we left our cars Ted had warned us to watch the clouds behind the mountain and should black clouds appear we were all to retire as promptly as possible from the mountain.

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COVER PHOTO: *Cycnoches chlorochilon*, the swan orchid, has large yellowish-green flowers, creamy white lip with a blotch of very dark green at the base. Is fragrant, of heavy substance and long lasting. Spring to summer blooming, intermediate to hot growing conditions and originates from South America. This photo kindly donated by Mr George Fuller.

In the latter part of 1978 we had two changes; printers and paper size to metric. As with any major change all kinds of problems arise and we have had our share of these. However, they have now been overcome and we look forward to continued 'new look' issues.

The change to metric size led to a more attractive format but unfortunately less printed matter and to cover this shortfall four pages have been added which more than compensates for the slightly smaller size. The filling of these extra pages with written material is becoming a problem and I would make my annual plea to all readers for articles both large and small. We need articles on Society News, cultural notes on popular genera and glasshouse or shadehouse management.

The space for Buy, Sell and Exchange, Letters to the Editor and Readers Enquiries is not being utilized, and I feel that more use should be made of these particularly as to Readers Enquiries as a large number of our readers are not members of Societies.

Remember, the success of the magazine depends on the continuing supply of written material.

Whangarei Orchid Society

Meeting: 1st Tuesday of month
Venue: Kensington Bowling Club,
Huapai Street
Time: 8.00 pm
President: Mrs S. Gray
Secretary: Mrs J. Shayler,
P.O. Box 4115,
Kamo
Phone: 50-219

SOCIETY NEWS

TARANAKI ORCHID SOCIETY

Open Day Seminar, Saturday 16th June 1979. Meet at Pukekura Park, 9.30 – 10 am, for morning tea followed by a tour of the City Council Orchid Collection under the guidance of George Fuller. A light lunch will be provided for which a small charge will be made. After lunch there will be talks given by competent speakers on practical aspects of orchid growing. Those attending are reminded to bring plants for display. For those staying overnight, a social evening will be arranged.

More details can be obtained from the Secretary of your own Society or if you are not a member of an Orchid Society and wish to attend, write for further information to Mrs D. Whittaker, 2 Nelson Street, Waitara.

SOCIETY INFORMATION

Wanganui Orchid Club

Meeting: 1st Wednesday in month
Venue: Camera Club Rooms,
Cooks Gardens,
Trafalgar Place entrance
Time: 8.00 pm
President: Mr A.W. Larsen
Secretary: Mr M. Fletcher,
30 Seddon Street,
Wanganui
Phone: 32-579

Marlborough Orchid Society

Meeting: 4th Thursday
Venue: A.A. Rooms
Time: 8.00 pm
President: Dr K. Patterson
Secretary: Mrs C. Mitchell,
33 Bomford Street,
Blenheim
Phone: 4526

Otago Orchid Club

Meeting: 4th Wednesday in month
Venue: Roslyn Baptist Church Lounge
Time: 7.30 pm
President: Mr A. Paterson
Secretary: Mr M.L. Young,
61 Argyle Street,
Mosgiel
Phone: MSI 6550

With the 10th World Orchid Conference and Show being held in South Africa in 1981, we are going to reproduce some articles from that country to give readers a greater understanding of the wide range of orchids to be found there.

The Witsieshoek Affair — An Affair to Remember

M.J. O'Connor
South Africa

At last the weekend was upon us and orchid enthusiasts from Pretoria, Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban journeyed to Witsieshoek. By 12 o'clock on Friday the 21st January most of the party had arrived. At lunch plans were made for a short outing to reconnoitre the surrounding areas. However, whilst the members lunched the storm clouds gathered and by the end of lunch the first flashes of lightning were seen. Undeterred a small party decided to press on with the planned afternoon outing.

The Witsieshoek Mountain Resort is situated in the corner of the Orange Free State which has been designated as the Southern Sotho Qwa Qwa homeland. The resort is bounded on the one side by the Natal — Free State boundary and a gate opens into the Royal Natal National Park. All along the boundary fence and close to the camp were plants of *Satyrium longicauda* varying in colour from a deep almost burgundy colour to a whiter form. The plants of *Satyrium longicauda* were smaller than those usually seen in the coastal regions. Also present were plants of *Corycium nigrescens*. Passing through the gate

our intrepid orchid hunters set off in search of orchids and returned to the camp at about 5 o'clock to welcome Ted Schelpe and Joyce Stewart who had done some botanising in the Van Reenen's Pall area on the way up to Witsieshoek. Ted proudly showed us a *Habenaria anguiceps* which he had found on the Van Reenen's Pass. This plant was promptly photographed by people who were interested.

That evening the party was serenaded by the Manager of the mountain resort and made to feel welcome. After supper, we were treated to two lectures on indigenous orchids. The first was by Freida Duckitt on the genus *Satyrium*. Freida told us how she grew her *satyriums*. Orchid growers who attended the Third South African orchid conference in Cape Town will know how well Freida grows her *satyriums* when they remember her magnificent plants which far exceeded in size and number of flowers those that were shown in their natural habitats on the ecology tours. Freida also showed us some of her slides of *satyriums*. This was followed by a talk by Ted Schelpe on the genus *Habenaria*. Ted outlined some of the taxonomist's difficulties

Honolulu Orchid Society's 1978 Show

Mona and Hugh Wilson North Shore Orchid Society

It was a joy to visit the Honolulu Orchid Society's 1978 Show, held in the Neal Blaisdell Centre Exhibition Hall. In the 44000 square foot hall were massive displays of colourful orchids and exotic Hawaiian flowers. Orchids of every colour, size, shape and type, as well as anthuriums in dazzling assortment of lovely colours.

There were demonstrations and talks on plant culture, and flower arrangement.

We were proud of the New Zealand arrangement. Mrs Shona Brindle made an excellent display, mainly with Cymbidium orchids, and had the responsibility of bringing back to New Zealand the award trophy, and one for Mr I.D. James of Hamilton for his beautiful Cymbidium.

There were very few Cymbidium orchids, other than from New Zealand, in the show. They were outstanding and greatly admired.

The Orchid Societies on the islands of Kauai — Oahu — Maui and Hawaii were most generous with their hospitality, and we have returned home with leis — happy memories of tours — picnic lunches — barbecues — chinese dinners — jolly evening meetings and many friends, as well as our visits to numerous orchid nurseries and the University of Hawaii Plant Laboratory.

Coinciding with all this was the GALA ALOHA WEEK, and a two hour long bonanza Parade of 20 flower floats — bands and palu riders through Waikiki. Sixty percent of each

float or decorated vehicle had to be covered with fresh flowers. Fragrant frangipani — chrysanthemums and orchids by the hundreds of thousands. Perhaps the most intriguing aspect of the Hawaiian Parade was the prancing lei-bedecked palu horses with their women riders clad in brilliantly hued satin robes and escorted by cowboys. Each of the eight groups wore the leis and colour of a different island. For the visitor each island has its own attraction, and it is difficult to answer the question "which is the best?"

Orchid growing seems to be easier in the Hawaiian Islands, but there are difficulties to overcome, as we have in New Zealand, if you aim for an outstanding bloom. In the visits to many nurseries we were shown many species, and collected plants. The subject of orchids is an open invitation to friendly chats and exchange of cultural methods.

We would like to thank Mr Ben Koddama for examining and packing our plants. With an import permit, obtained before leaving New Zealand, we had no trouble with customs examination. Mrs Dora Yamamoto and Mrs Violet Yamaji were our escorts, and to them we say "thank you" for the many very enjoyable experiences.



Orchids in the trees

Graham Cooper, Taupo

With a "T" square under one arm, a pile of orchid books under the other and a head full of intentions I arrived at Pago Pago Airport on the Island of American Samoa.

A commission to design a house in Samoa meant another visit to the tropics and on this trip I intended to make time for the investigation of the Native Orchids. If luck was with me I would find some plants and condition them to pots for future importing to New Zealand.

The enveloping wave of hot air that I was expecting as the hatches of the Air New Zealand D.C. 8 were opened at Pago Pago Airport brought with it a balmy sea breeze and a flood of forgotten memories. Memories of the glare of the sun, clammy clothing and that over ripe smell of lush vegetation, quickly washed over my enthusiasm for seeking out the elusive orchid plants.

Slowly the lassitude that is part of the Tropics crept through my jet lagged mind.

My hosts met me in the customs hall and together we progressed through the official procedures and language barriers of the ordinary English spoken amidst the babble of this strange environment. Eventually we emerged from the hall with my baggage plus twenty pounds of New Zealand Sausage — a real delicacy in the Islands, and two Taupo Trout.

The plane had left Auckland on a wintery Saturday afternoon and flown across the Pacific and through the peculiarities of the International Time System to land into Samoa's Tropical Friday evening. By the time we drove away from the Airport the glaring sunlight of our arrival had faded into the long shadows cast in the setting sun by the mountainous hills of the Island.

On most of the coastal fringes and high into the hills, clusters of fale's or houses nestle into the dense vegetation. Oblivious to our curious gaze dogs, pigs, chickens and small children played or just sat in the deepening shadows whilst the adults and older children progressed with the household chores, cooking, weeding or cropping the always neat patches of grass of the village area. Now and again we could observe a group of people sitting on the floor of the open houses talking, drinking beer or watching one of the four TV channels.

By New Zealand standards the houses would be considered very casual but then so is the whole way of life on the Island. The driving habits are equally casual with close to four thousand vehicles on only twenty five miles of road. Often, it seemed, all at the same time. The rarely observed speed restrictions of 10 mph in the villages and 25 mph on the "open road" between, result in an almost continuous wailing of sirens as the twelve police cars pull over as many speeding offenders as can be ticketed in a twenty four hour day.

By the time we had collected shopping, groceries, beer and children and arrived at my clients house, darkness had fallen and the noises of the Tropical evening prevailed. There was much to talk about and even

We find that this occurs mid-winter and mid-summer where the temperature drops to 0 degrees centigrade or rises over 30 degrees centigrade. Small plastic pots are quite suitable using a well drained potting mix that is capable of being kept moist but does not become waterlogged. A cool humid atmosphere is easy to provide particularly as no heating is necessary. A large passionfruit vine

provides shade for our Masdevallias, consequently they become a little too shaded at times due to the vines vigorous habits.

Suitable growing conditions are very important for production of good quality flowers. A plant can produce disappointing flowers one year and exceptional ones the next, but generally speaking Masdevallias require little attention to provide a spectacular and unique attraction.

ONE UP WITH FOUR TO PLAY

Anon

I read somewhere that if one has grown orchids for five years with reasonable success then that one can claim to have become an orchid grower.

It started almost two years ago when a friend, quite without warning, loaned us a standard Cymbidium in flower saying "just water it thoroughly once a week" — Horrors — we treated it as though it were a baby. It survived and was returned to the owner with our grateful thanks.

Then I realised that this was an answer to one of those nagging worries. Retirement in about two years time with one hobby which would keep me occupied for about half the time. But what about the other half! Orchid growing.

The first step — a 3m x 4m kit set glasshouse with half of it to be set aside for vegetables (they have all been banished) and with the advice of friends a quick build up of Cymbidium stocks from the 15-20cm L.L. to flowering divisions. Then an extension to the glasshouse and now we want a shade house.

The advice from Orchid Society members has helped tremendously though sometimes if conflicting can be perplexing.

We still debate with ourselves as to how often to water, what manures to use, what potting mixes. With regard to the last a proprietary mix available locally has been chosen and we propose when re-potting to standardise on this. It may not be the best (all claim their own to be that) but we think we can manage better that way.

We have endeavoured to keep to Cymbidiums with a bias towards miniatures, finding all of them in flower a delight, but some more delightful to the eye than others.

Failures — yes — if you call some divisions not flowering the first season after re-potting, failures. So far there have not been losses although there were two near misses which were saved with the help of a senior member of the local Society.

Our first year is behind us. As we have been bitten with orchid fever the following four years are awaited eagerly.

though I was exhausted from the excitement of the afternoon we continued long into the evening.

The following morning in picturebook fashion the neighbourhood roosters crowed at first light and unused to country sounds I woke to the strange shuffles, grunts and bumps that turned out to be the local pigs investigating the garden.

Feeling more refreshed after a sleep and more comfortable in the cool of the early morning, I wrapped in a towel and headed for the kitchen for an early cup of tea. The House Girl was preparing a massive breakfast and it was impossible to communicate to her that all I wanted was a simple cup of tea, and the way she wielded her bush knife put me off trying to enter her realm to make my own.

Grabbing a cup of fresh made coffee and a piece of toast I decided retreat was in order and headed out for a stroll around the garden. From previous visits I knew that some orchids were planted in the front garden and so made for this area to see how they had developed.

There were several clumps of epidendrum bound to pieces of tree fern. Although these were in full sunlight for most of the day, at least two plants were completely clear of the ground and would be considered truly epiphytic in habit. Another clump similarly bound to tree fern was a terete vanda type supporting an eggshell blue flower on the top most leaf stem tip.

The squawking of one of the hens fluttering into a nearby tree drew my attention to a clump of dendrobium nestling into the branch of the tree. It was at this moment that I realised that there were orchids in the trees and to

the amusement of the neighbouring children, being still clad only in the towel, I clambered up the nearest tree for a closer look.

Before leaving we had researched every available orchid book but no amount of reading would have prepared me for the great variety of shape, size and type of plants to be found. With only limited practical knowledge gained from experience, confusion reigned when confronted with such an array of orchids, so varied from the theoretical information gathered in New Zealand.

Resisting the urge to pry all of the orchids and pieces of bark off the trees I decided to take time out to reorientate my thinking and went inside to confront that enormous breakfast. Much to the House Girl's disgust the cooked food was passed over for fresh fruit, toast and more coffee. The casual way of life in the Islands meant that my hosts would not be rising until late into the morning so, taking my breakfast onto the veranda, I curled into a large chair with the orchid books and set about to pass away a peaceful morning.

At about nine thirty much to my piece of mind the House Girl cleared the table only to immediately set about cooking again. Shortly afterwards I was joined by my host with her breakfast of fruit, toast and coffee. I never did discover what became of all the cooked breakfast so laboriously cooked every morning.

After a pleasant morning chatting and catching up on the Island gossip we showered, changed and made a quick tour of the town before setting off for the first of my business appointments.

To be continued.

(virinalis), *L. aromatica*, *L. deppei*; *Masdevallia* spp.; *Maxillaria* spp.; *Miltonia* (Bred from those coming from high altitudes); *Odontoglossums* and their intergenerics — *Odontioda*, *Odontocidium*, *Odontonia*, etc.; *Oncidium flexuosum*, *O. incurvum*, *O. ornithorhynchum*; *Paphiopedilum* (mainly those with green leaves) — *P. insigne*, *P. leeanum*, *P. exul*, *P. villosum*, and also — *P. barbatum*, *P. callosum*, *P. fairieanum*, *P. Hirsutissimum*, *P. sukhakulii*, *P. venustum*; *Phaius tankervilleae* (needs a sheltered sunny spot); *Pleione formosana* (pricei); *Promenaea crawshayana*, *P. xanthina*; *Ornithophorus* (*Sigmatostalis*) *radicans*; *Sarcochilus hartmanii*; *Sobralia macranthus*; *Sophronitis cernua*, *S. coccinea*; *Stanhopea* spp.; *Thunia marshalliana*, *T. alba*; *Vanda coerulea*, *V. stangeana*, *V. cristata*; *Vuylstekeara* hybrids; *Zygopetalum crinitum*, *Z. intermedium*, *Z. mackayi* and most of our New Zealand species, but don't forget to limit your collecting to small mature specimens until you have mastered their growing conditions.

It is better to leave them to grow where they are if you cannot grow them in a suitable spot, and give them attention.

The above list is by no means complete. However, you should be able to select something to keep your interest alive in the "off-season." Good luck with your growing.



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MASDEVALLIA FALCATA

by Keith Goodwin, Rotorua

The *Masdevallia* genus has enjoyed a dramatic upsurge in popularity in recent years. In the early days of orchid culture they were widely grown but for some reason faded into the background. Few *Masdevallia* hybrids have been made due in part to the difficulty in producing viable seed and apparent incompatibility of many agar nutrient media to seed germination and growth.

However, the plants, if not too ruthlessly divided, are very vigorous growers and *Masdevallia falcata* is no exception. *M. falcata* is a primary hybrid between *veitchiana* (Peru) and *coccinea* (Colombia) which grow at high elevations in the Andes. Both plants are large compared with others of the genus and *M. falcata* is more robust than either of its parents. The leaves are up to 25cm long and 3cm wide with the flower scapes twice this length. The flowers as with most of its relatives are borne singly and are triangular in shape, the sepals terminating in tails. Intensity of colour with brilliant hues of orange, red and purple, almost iridescently so, is characteristic of the *coccinea-veitchiana* group. They are long lasting making a magnificent display as they sway on their slender stems high above the tufted greenery.

M. falcata thrives in cool, moist and shaded conditions with a temperature range of 8 degrees centigrade — 20 degrees centigrade. These are the optimum temperatures but they will tolerate a few degrees either side with a resulting decline in the growth rate.

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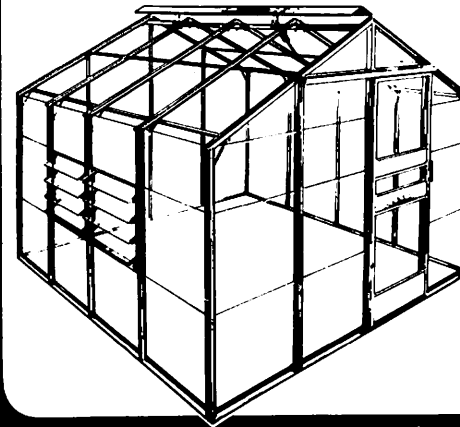
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CULTURAL NOTES

PAPHIOPEDILUMS

Frank Askin, Wellington Orchid Society

A mixed collection of Paphiopedilums, especially if it includes species and primary crosses, can provide flowers all the year round.

Many growers advocate repotting immediately after blooming, but there are advantages in waiting until the short cold days of winter are past. Paphs. don't have a resting period, and if in good condition continue in growth throughout the year, though most vigorously from late Spring, through the Summer and well into Autumn. Annual repotting seems to suit them best: healthy plants need lots of water and even the most durable potting mix deteriorates after a year especially if fertilisers (must be very dilute) are used regularly. Vigorous growers can develop a dense network of intertwined roots in one season, and if this is not dealt with in time it becomes almost intractable a year later when one tries to clear out the old mix and replace it with fresh.

I have tried out a variety of mixes over the past few years and noted particularly the vigour and condition of the roots at repotting time. For adult plants — in say 4 to 6 inch pots — the coarser the mix used the better was the root system. The best roots had grown in a mix of coarse pine bark, up to 1 inch size, charcoal chips, and a very small quantity of chopped moss. All fine bark, less than ¼ inch had been screened out. Most pine bark that we get these days comes off relatively young trees and tends to be

too thin and flaky for my liking. But we must make do with what we can get. If you gather your own bark, make sure it is old and well weathered, free from the inter-layer between bark and wood.

Now for the potting mix itself: Paphs. will grow well in a wide range of mixes provided the culture — and especially watering — is suited to the growing medium. The mix must never be allowed to get bone dry, nor must it get waterlogged.

Pine bark provides good foundation for what might be called a fairly "safe" mix. Screen out everything under 1/8 inch for small plants, and under ¼ inch for large plants. The maximum size for plants going into 3 inch pots should be about ½ inch, and for bigger plants up to 1 inch.

Suggested proportions are:

Bark — 8 parts, Charcoal — 1 part, Chopped Sphagnum — 1 part. These are not critical, and if you can't get charcoal you are not much worse off.

To a 2-gallon bucket of the above mix add about a third cup of crushed limestone, a tablespoon of bonedust, and half this amount of superphosphate. Mix the lot thoroughly, moisten, mix again, and leave to mature for three to four days before use.

Don't water plants for several days before removing them from their pots. The old mix will shake out from the root ball much easier if it is fairly dry. The hairy roots often attach

ORCHIDS TO GROW WITH YOUR CYMBIDIUMS

Ros Bickerstaff
12 Enfield Road, Napier

It does not take long for new orchid growers to realise that most Cymbidiums flower in the late winter and through the early spring. This means that for the greater part of the year they are caring for non-flowering orchids, waiting for the time when the next flowers appear. At monthly Society meetings there are always some asking the inevitable question — "What can I grow with my Cymbidiums?" And, as I grow a wide range of genera, mostly cool, I have been asked to supply some information for those who are interested in extending their scope, and in having something in flower throughout the year.

Firstly, I must state that I grow most of my orchids out-of-doors in shade-houses, or in the outer branches of deciduous fruit trees. I am on the hill in Napier, with a northerly aspect, and get only two or three very light frosts each year — almost a temperate climate. However, my conditions can be readily copied by any orchid grower with a glasshouse which is unheated. Actually, often I am envious of those who grow under glass, for in wet weather I have many blooms spoilt by the rain spotting them.

It will take you a few months to see if your plants are happy in the position you put them. Some need more light, others more shade; some prefer more warmth, and others cooler conditions; some like to be drier, while others need very moist composts. It is only

by studying their likes and dislikes that they grow happily. A change of position to another place only a pot away, or a shelf higher or lower, can alter its growing conditions considerably. Many of the orchid books, and dealers price lists can give you an idea as to where to start your growing.

The list of suitable plants is quite considerable, but I shall limit it to those that are able to be obtained from New Zealand growers. All those that I mention, are plants that I am growing at present. (NB. I do not grow for sale). At a later date, if there is sufficient interest, I could give some growing conditions for the lesser known genera. Not that I am an authority, but that I have accumulated information from various sources, much from books that are now out of print.

Anguloa clowesii, A. uniflora; Bifrenaria harrisoniae; Bletilla striata; Brassia verrucosa, B. brachiata; Bulbophyllum spp.; Cattleya labiata, C. claesiana; Cirrhopetalum spp.; Cochlioda noezliana; Coelogyne spp.; Cyperorchis elegans, C. cochleare; Dendrobium spp. (especially 'nobile' type), and Australian spp.; Dendrochilum glumaceum; Disa uniflora; Encyclia citrina, E. vitellinum; Epidendrum spp. (reed-stem mainly); Epiphronitis Veitchii; Eria carinata, E. coronaria; Gomesa spp.; Gongora galeata; Laelia anceps, L. lundii, L. cinnabarina, L. gouldiana, L. grandis, L. harpophylla, L. purpurata, L. tenebrosa; Lycaste skinneri

being registered, some more thoughts would need to be taken. It was at this stage that the Executive of the Orchid Council of New Zealand nominated a small Committee with myself as Chairman, with instructions to prepare Standards of Regulations for judging. These were prepared and ratified by the Executive and the Committee was then instructed to train Judges and set up Regional Judging Panels.

Standards for judging Miniature Cymbidiums for Awards

After examining the present situation and looking into the future the Committee decided that the Miniature Cymbidium and the Standard Cymbidium should have different Judging Standards for Awards and the following are those in use. Note that these are for Award Judging only. For competitive Show many classes can be placed in the Show Schedule, the judges are always required to act on the instruction of the Show Committee as provided by the Schedule.

Cymbidium Miniature

Shape 20, Colour 20, Substance and Texture 10, Habit of Spike 10, Floriferousness of Spike and Plant 15, Flower Arrangement 10, Appearance and Foliage 5, Overall Charm and Distinction 10.

The **plant** is to be judged and it must be a miniature, irrespective of parentage. No Cymbidium with a natural spread across the petals of more than 75mm will be admitted into Miniature Cymbidium category regardless of breeding.

Cut spikes will not be judged.

Cymbidium Standard

Shape 30, Colour 30, Size of Flower 10, Substance and Texture 10, Habit of Spike 10, Floriferousness 10.

England's Unpatented Automatic Grub Eliminating Device

Pat and Chris England

As orchid enthusiasts who don't like sprays and chemicals, we are currently engaged in an experiment in grub elimination, the essentials of which are outlined below. Progress bulletins on our experiment will be issued as they become available.

Method

1. Build a structure guaranteed to attract grubs — a shadehouse full of orchids is ideal.
2. Secure the lower edges and door so your England's Unpatented Automatic Grub Eliminating Device (hereafter referred to as the EUAGED) will be safely confined.
3. Acquire your EUAGED. A stout heart and a stout container, plus gloves and torch are necessary. EUAGED'S are found outdoors on dark nights. They are recognised by their long pointed noses and sharp spines. (The kind found flattened on roadways are quite unsuitable).
4. Bestow upon it a suitable name such as Mrs Tiggywinkle or Bogor.
5. Release your EUAGED in your shadehouse, supply it with shelter and sufficient food to keep it feeling happy but peckish, and wait results.

NEWS FLASH

EUAGED escaped! A move is now afoot to discover HOW — the WHY can be guessed. It is suggested that EUAGED'S are not suitable during spring.

themselves to the inside of the pot, so be careful when removing them not to break the roots which are more brittle than most others. Remove all dead roots and generally clean up the plant. It is a good idea to dust the base of the plant, especially the underside, with a rose dust which contains sulphur, an insecticide and a fungicide.

With a free draining mix such as the above, plastic pots are best, and crocks are unnecessary. Check that the drain holes are clear.

The size of the root system, not the plant itself, will determine the pot size. Choose one which will just accommodate the roots comfortably. If anything, err on the small size. Settle the roots into the pot so that the base of the plant is slightly below the level of the top of the pot. Pour in some of the mix, which should be just

moist and free running, tap the pot on the side to settle it, and repeat until the pot is full. Choose a warm and well shaded place for newly potted plants, and don't water until the next day. Thereafter water when the mix looks like drying out — a matter of judgment based on experience — which with our mix will probably be about once every three or four days during winter and maybe daily in mid-summer.

Paphs. like cosy conditions: good air movement but not draughts, shade, warmth and atmospheric moisture. So keep the benches and floor moist and temperatures not below 10 degrees centigrade. A bit higher minimum would be better.

Don't feed newly potted plants. This is something for the future which will be discussed in later notes.

KEITH & SHIRLEY GOODWIN

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Offer a choice selection of seedlings, both species and hybrids including:

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CATTLEYA SEEDLINGS

C. DORETTS, large whites with long stems, 3-4 flowers. **B-\$5.00. C-\$7.50.**
Bc. AMY WAKASUGI 'CARNIVAL'
HCC/AOS x Bc. MOUNT HOOD
'ORCHIDGLADE' AM/AOS, medium lavender, long lasting and fragrant. **A-\$3.00, B-\$4.50.**

Bc. DANA THOMAS x Bc. MALRICK, a yellow crossed with a red, some nice art shades here. **B-\$4.50.**

Lc. AHMAD SHEIKHI X (Lc. MEM. MAGGIE HOOD x C. SNOW BUNTING), semi-alba, eye catching. **B-\$5.00.**

Lc. DOC STACY x (L. FLAVA x C. BOW BELLS), bright yellow with red lip. **B-\$5.00.**

These and others, available from:

Pam Boon

30B Waiwaka Tce,
New Plymouth.

Telephone 86-544

STRAIGHT TALK



At this time of record-breaking orchid sales in New Zealand, it may be appropriate to pause and reflect awhile.

Inevitably when the demand for a product like Cymbidium orchids exceeds the supply, plants which are either outdated or inferior will find their way onto the market. If you are contemplating buying divisions, backbulbs or meristems from an established cut flower grower and exporter, make certain the grower in question is still growing a block of that same variety. In other words, don't try and establish an export collection with another grower's rejects. Not that we would suggest that all older varieties have been superseded. In fact varieties like Jungfrau 'Dos Pueblos', York 'Sahara', Ethel Weber 'Brentwood' and Eliot Rogers are still the backbone of fine cut flower collections the world over.

Beware too, of extravagant claims made by orchid plant-producing Companies that have never been involved in the "rough and tumble" of cut flower growing and exporting. To say a clone is "more bountiful" is really to say nothing about its productivity per square foot, its shippability or its growing idiosyncrasies. A clone like Wallara 'Gold Nugget' has super individual flowers, a bright yellow colour and classic form. But look at its slow growth rate, short spikes and poor blooming record and you must realise its value is almost negligible to a progressive cut flower grower.

So is it too with some of the colchicine converted tetraploids. We generally prefer to think of them as breeders' tools, using them in crosses to improve future Cymbidiums. Others are mass-marketing the results of their "colchicine craziness," in many instances long before they have even seen any of the converted clones bloom. Yes, we have received many requests for clones like Sensation 'Chianti' 4n or Volcano 'Menehune' 4n and it would be tempting to supply the seemingly insatiable demand for them. But we have seen both these clones in bloom at our nursery and in Europe. Frankly they were disappointing. Sensation 'Chianti' 4n comes very bunched on the spike and the flower count of Volcano 'Menehune' 4n seems always to be discouragingly low. Remember, improved substance and shape will not counter-balance reduced floriferousness in a cut flower operation. Even a clone like Fanfare 'St Franis' 4n, the finest tetraploid green we have seen, is a shy "spiker" in the leading cut flower ranges of California. Need we repeat — look beyond the pretty pictures, after all its your money!

Miniature Cymbidium Judging Standards

by Albert H. Blackmore

Ever since crosses of Miniature Cymbidium specie with Standard Cymbidiums were registered in 1955, orchid judges have given thought to their Standards of judging, both for Awards and Show Judging. By the end of 1960 nine first crosses using pumilum, a Miniature Cymbidium specie, were registered. All were diploids except one, Oriental Legend a triploid, having the Standard Cymbidium Babylon which is a tetraploid, as one parent.

This triploid threw the cat among the pigeons, until some bright spark said "Call this two thirds Standard and one third Miniature, a Polymim." So Polymim it became along with others like it, which quickly followed. Two classes on the Show Schedule now became necessary, namely (1) Miniature and (2) Polymim.

Miniature Cymbidiums became so popular that many hybridisers got on the Band Waggon and by 1970 one hundred and seventeen First crosses, using pumilum, were registered, several of which were Polymims. Besides the specie pumilum, many other miniature specie were used.

If hybridisers had left their breeding efforts to first crosses all would have been well in the judging world, but not so. Many second generation crosses were made using first cross diploid Miniatures and Standard Cymbidiums. We then had on our hands three classes, namely, (1) Miniature, (2) Polymim and (3) Second Generation, which became known as Novelty. These latter came fast, one of the first being Showgirl (Sweetheart x Alexanderi) registered in 1962.

The second generation seedlings provided flowers that gained Awards, whereas the first generation plants did not when using Judging Standards for Standard Cymbidiums. When using old Standards, Show Committees and Judges had many an argument, some saying, "Classify them by their breeding, making a class for each," others said, "Measure and classify them by size." In most orchid

organised countries the latter classification won and the next question was, "What would be the maximum size for a Miniature before the plant was placed in the Novelty class?" At this stage the class Polymim had become a thing of the past.

Members of Show Committees, who had to recommend Show Schedules discussed the question loud and long and I remember in Auckland the size being 2 inches some years and 2½ inches other years. All flowers had been measured and the plants placed in neat rows by Stewards. Sometimes a poorly grown second generation would be placed with the Miniature class and a well grown first generation would be placed in the Novelty class all because of size. Result: Unhappy exhibitors, unhappy judges, unhappy Show Committee, unhappy Show Marshal. The latter, hoping to please all would manufacture other classes such as Decorative Class, Speciman Plant Class etc.

If the Show and Judging world thought that now all was well, they soon realised that with third and fourth generation from the Miniature specie

Thanks

Many thanks to the following Societies that have generously donated funds to the Council and the magazine.

Taranaki Orchid Society — \$100, for educational purposes. Whangarei Orchid Society — \$100, for the magazine. Wellington Orchid Society — \$100, for the magazine.

Hawke's Bay Orchid Society — \$50, expenses for this years winner of the John Easton Award given to the Council.

This money is gratefully received and the donations to the magazine will help towards continuing colour blocks on the cover. This is an important feature of the magazine and one which we must continue.

Thank you for your support.

A SELECTION OF QUALITY SEEDLINGS

Howears Mini-Primi: (Rodricidium Primi X Leochilus oncidoides). A delightful miniature plant. Slender spikes of dainty yellow and red blooms. A conversation piece.

Phal. Jimmy Hall 'Touch Petals' X Jimmy Hall 13: Large, heavy textured whites of superb shape and stem arrangement to be expected. \$5.00.

Phal. Zwingli X Dtps. Melanie Beard: Vivid red stripes on pastel pink background. Flowers about 114mm.

Dtps. Jason Beard X Phal Amboinensis: Expect yellows with red lips from this cross. Medium size blooms.

Phal. Carol Curry X (Dos Pueblos X Scotti Maguire): Exhibition whites.

(Phal. Utopia X Scotti Maguire) X Rabbit: Large exhibition whites.

(Phal. Daryl Beard X Quality Belle) X (Utopia X Scotti Maguire): Large whites of superb quality.

Brassovola Nodosa X C. Catherine Patterson: Cool colours to be expected from this cross. Vigorous and free flowering.

SLC. Naomi Kearns' Fireball' AM/AOS. X BC. Ojai' Verte': Brilliant yellow-orange 'art shades'.

Angraecum Comorense 'Gwendolyn Copley' AM/RHS: Lovely greenish white flowers in graceful sprays. \$6.00

Phal. Catherine Pillsbury 'Featherhill' X Catherine Pillsbury 'Greeneyes': Large shapely whites with green lips on most.

(Phal. Redfan X Ubangi) X Ambassador X Grace Palm: Very large whites of excellent shape. Some with red lips. Only a few of these. \$5.00

Dtps. Mary Cefaly 'No 1' X Xylophone: Pastel mauves with red candy stripes. Many will have red lips.

Phal. Viroonchan X Candy: Excellent whites with pink candy stripes.

Seedlings are well established ex 3" — 4" pots. Post free on orders \$15.00 or more. Lesser orders, airmail and South Island add 50 cents. Descriptions given are expectation only, as seedlings will show some variation.

Except where otherwise stated all are priced at \$4.50 each.

TOM AND PAT FRENCH

Blue Bird Floriste, 69 Devon Street East, New Plymouth. Phone 83-795 or 70-179

We would like to remind you that John Hannah is our sole Australasian agent. His business ethics, honesty and straightforwardness have always made us proud he chose to represent us. If you've started in the Cymbidium export business and would like the straight scoop from a current exporter, we might suggest you contact the Dresners of Santa Maria Orchids, Pyes Pa, R.D.3, Tauranga. Tom Dresner, a former executive with Trans World Airlines and his wife Anna, are two of the brightest lights on the New Zealand orchid export scene. And if we may make a plug for a friendly competitor in the NZ Orchid seedling business, surely Norm Porter of Waikanae is the most knowledgeable and far-sighted orchid hybridist back home. Its another example of the grass not always being greener across the Tasman or even across the Pacific!

We apologise for occasional delays in filling orders for seedling flasks etc. but as we normally do these to order as a means of keeping prices low, delays are sometimes unavoidable. Often, too, with the more difficult crosses, it is easy to miscalculate the number of replates which will be available for sale. Of course we could make lots of crosses between everyday parents that would produce copious seedlings of inevitably poor quality just to cash in on the present demand. But is this really what you would want to buy?

Carol and I would like to wish you all, success and happiness in 1979, a fine flowering season and many exciting new seedlings.

We repeat our commitment to hybridizing better orchids for your future, rather than making a fast buck today.

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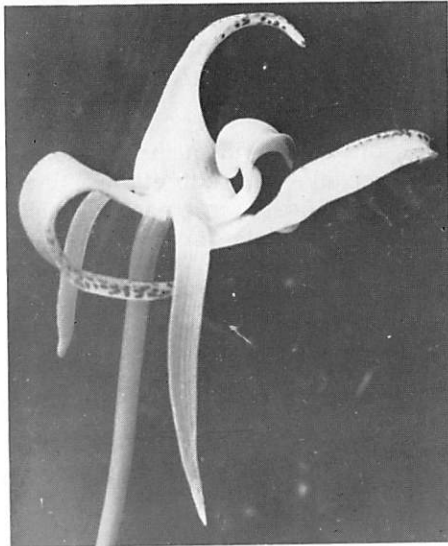
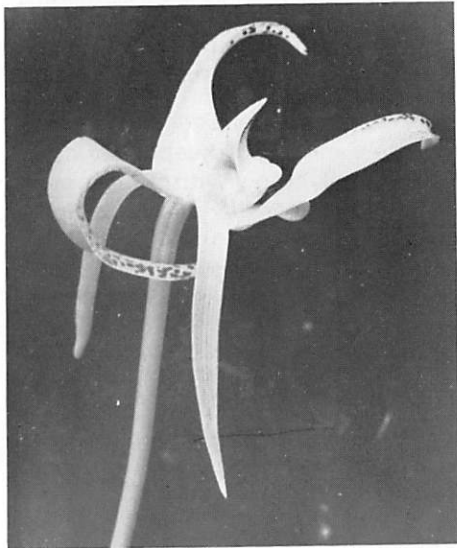
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PUKEKURA CORNER

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



Bulbophyllum lobbii Ldl.

It will come as rather a surprise to most orchid enthusiasts to learn that the genus *Bulbophyllum* is the largest in the orchid family, representing close to 2000 species.

With its centre in New Guinea (approx. 600 species) the distribution is vast and even transcends the 'east is east and west is west' theory, for representatives are found on the African, Asian, Australasian, South and North American continents and many points between, even New Zealand.

Despite the great numbers and wide distribution, relatively few appear in

cultivation perhaps due mainly to lack of size and unspectacular colouring in general, but what they lack in the above two characteristics they certainly make up in others. Sophistication in ensuring pollination is their most fascinating attribute and this takes many and complex forms. Many rely on attracting carrion flies and smell repulsive, one having been likened to the smell of a dead herd of elephants!

One of our two representatives *B. pygmaeum*, is quite minute, ranking as one of the worlds smallest orchids and is rather special in another way

for it appears to be a real 'do-it-yourself' Kiwi, in that it is able to pollinate itself without the flower even opening. Others have very cunning trip-mechanisms which overbalance a visiting insect and project it gracelessly into the 'reproductive department' so to speak. The species highlighted this month falls into this category.

B. lobbii is an epiphyte found throughout S.E. Asia from Thailand to Borneo. Having seen it flower in England I was thrilled when a plant was donated to the Park collection but it shares the peculiarity of many of its clan and it was several years before we were to see it flower. I might add that it has not repeated that fascinating spectacle though it continues to thrive on its treefern slab in the warm house.

I have not made a point of elaborating on flower size and shape in this series and perhaps that is just as well, for words fail when it comes to describing *Bulbophyllums*. However, in looking at the illustration try to image the bloom about 10cm across, buff-yellow with the sepals spotted with purple on the outer surface. The lip is a strange, hinged 'mobile' structure, very delicately balanced in such a way that any sizeable insect attracted by the fragrance and walking forward after alighting on it will pass the point of balance and be catapulted head-first into the orchids 'vitals' (centre). In struggling to extricate itself it can hardly fail to dislodge the pollen mass which will adhere to the back of its head or body. Should it be tempted onto another flower the same thing will be repeated.

Our plant bloomed in January and November 1976 and I **do** wish it would do it again.

THUNIAS

by A.B. Porter
Cumberland Orchid Circle Australia

Thunias flower about Christmas or in some seasons in January. The flowers come from the top of the pseudobulb, and a flowered cane will not grow any larger, but one which has not flowered will continue to grow until about April, in late autumn the leaves and roots die and the pseudobulb remains quite dormant and should be kept fairly dry until early spring.

At the beginning of August repot in a rich, well-drained mixture such as two parts dry cow manure and one part coarse sand, retaining enough of the old roots to give the base a grip on the compost. New growths, often more than one to a cane, soon start and quickly form new roots. From then on the plant needs lots of water and lots of light. Full sun is ideal and never let them dry out.

Under these conditions the plants grow rapidly and reach maturity by December when buds are initiated. A late start or checks from lack of water or feed will delay maturity of the new canes and result in failure to flower.

At repotting time it is advisable to tie the bare pseudobulbs to stakes to avoid damage to new roots. Four or five bulbs in a 10" pot will make a fine show.

When the flower buds appear, move into moderate shade as the white bracts and buds are liable to burn on a hot day. At this stage the old leafless bulbs may be cut off to make the plants look tidy.