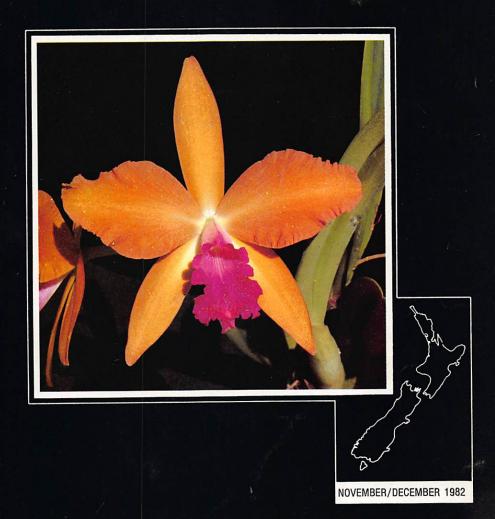
# ORCHIDS IN NEW ZEALAND





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# **ORCHIDS IN NEW ZEALAND**

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**COVER PHOTO.** Another choice hybrid from the private collection of Mr & Mrs I.D. James, Hamilton. Lc. Glowing Embers x SLc. Anzac 'Gallipoli'.

# Paphiopedilums in Summertime

F.R. Askin — Wellington Orchid Society Journal

Normal seasonal potting should all be completed by now, but if you have alling plants whose roots seem to have rotted or potting mix gone soggy, repot them as soon as their condition is diagnosed whatever the time of the year. Such sickly plants should be well cleaned, soaked in spraying strength fungicidal mixture — Captan is good — for about ten minutes, then left for, say, half an hour to dry before repotting into the smallest pot into which the roots will fit. It is a good idea to position the base of the plant against the pot edge and not centrally as this helps drainage. Potting mixes have been described elsewhere but, in brief, a good one is 5 litres of bark graded between 3mm and 15mm, 1 litre each of charcoal and scoria (or pumice) about the same size, and a handful of sphagnum moss — preferably fresh — chopped up finely. All ingredients should be moist before mixing. To this "brew" add about 100ml of shell grit, 50ml of bone dust and 20ml of hoof and horn if you can get it, or blood and bone meal if you can't. Mix thoroughly and leave in a plastic bag for a day before use.

Healthy plants should now be growing vigorously, and although there may be some that will flower during the summer months, the majority will be developing new growths to flower, some in late autumn, but most during winter or spring.

Many of those that flower during the summer months are the varieties that bloom more than once a year and often at about 6 month intervals. The best known of these are P. Maudiae and some of its progeny such as P. Alma Gavaert and P. Faire-Maud. Another but somewhat temperamental paph that may be blooming soon is P. St Alban. On many of these plants the flower buds fail to develop, but instead rot in the sheath, due, usually to moisture lying there. If you have one of these plants it would be well to select a place for it. safe from the risk of drips or overhead watering. It is a matter of some interest that all of these hybrids which are still very popular today are the result of crosses made early in this century. P. Maudiae

dates from 1900, and the youngest of the four is P. Alma Gavaert, made in 1911.

There should be no problems in the next five or six months in keeping the plants warm — rather the reverse! Try to keep the temperature from going beyond 30°C (86°F), though a bit hotter on a few occasions won't do any harm provided the atmosphere is moist and the shading adequate. Although paphs must be shaded from the bright sun, they need good light for healthy growth and regular flowering. The shading should be such that on a clear day, when a hand is passed over the plants, just the ghost of a shadow is discernable. But in mid summer, for temperature control, we usually have to shade more heavily than this; so, as soon as temperature considerations allow it, thin the shading down a bit if the weather has not already done this for you.

Correct watering is probably the most important factor in flower production: too little, and there will be few flowers, too much may result

in severe root-loss. However, with an open mix as described earlier, there should be little risk of overwatering. Rain water is best, and it should be stored in the glasshouse before use to take the chill off it.

For paphs, moisture in the atmosphere is almost as important as moisture in the mix, and unless a high air humidity is maintained the plants will languish. Keep the paths, benches and under-bench areas moist at all times during the summer. On hot days light overhead misting is beneficial provided it is done early enough for the leaves to dry out before evening. But it is a risky practice after January as earlyflowering varieties will be producing flower sheaths then and they are particularly susceptible to rot induced by moisture in the leaf bracts.

Plants in good health need some feeding. Organic manures such as Alaska fish fertiliser are best for general applications at about every fourth watering, and at half the recommended normal strength. From February on, a fertiliser higher in potash and phosphorus and lower in nitrogen — such as Phostrogen — is preferable as an inducement to flowering.

Pests and diseases are rarely troublesome if glass house hygiene is maintained at a high standard. Watch out for slugs and snails! They can be controlled by commercially available baits.

Paphiopedilums comprise an extemely diverse group of orchids, and although their cultural requirements are all much the same, many of them will give of their best only when their individual preferences are recognised and catered for. Careful observation and an enquiring mind will add much to the understanding and enjoyment of growing them.

# COLOURED CATALOGUES RECEIVED

ORCHID LABORATORIES released their second colour catalogue. This is another New Zealand production and is a very nicely presented 14 pages with several large coloured pictures of Cymbidium mericlones which are available in flasks and some as single plants in the smaller size. An addition to the catalogue this year. a small selection of early Cymbidium seedling crosses and for those who want plants immediately there is a choice in the 'Special Plant Selection.' Cushla and Philip Wyatt of Orchid Laboratories are at Victoria Road, R.D.1, Cambridge. All enquiries welcome. PB

**VACHEROT & LECOUFLE'S latest** colour catalogue has many lovely pictures of Cattleyas, Standard Cymbidiums, Miniature Cymbidiums, Miltonias, Paphiopedilums, Phalaenopsis. Odontoglossums miscellaneous orchids. The front cover shows Cymbidium Mirun 'Velmirage' AM/RHS, awarded in February this year and on the back is Catasetum pileatum 'Imperial' var 'Pierre Couret,' a very dark red clone picturing seven blooms. Included is sheet of protected varieties showing five Cymbidiums, three bright reds, one green and one vellow. Plants are offered for sale in various sizes which are clearly marked and keyed for easy reference. Prices are quoted in US \$'s. Something here for everyone.



# A Greenhood Grows in Ohio

by W. James Harper of Palmerston North

It was March 1980 — Ohio, U.S.A. — a cold wind blew the snow across the walk as I came home from work. On the dining room table was some wrapping paper and a scroungy looking match box that had come in the day's mail. There was no note, but the labels on the three plastic packages inside read Pt. curta, Pt. nutans and Pt. revoluta — Greenhoods. The postmark was Melbourne. Several thoughts tumbled through my head — What do I do now was first, followed by a clear picture of a group sitting around a dining room table in a Melbourne suburb two years earlier.

Eloise and I had been present at the first meeting of the Terrestrial Study Group of the Victoria branch of the Australasian Native Orchid Society, of which we were members while I worked in Melbourne for six months. They knew that terrestrial orchids should never be moved, unless they were threatened with destruction. Even then knowledge was insufficient to save many. Terrestrial orchids grew in the suburbs of Melbourne — over thirty species and housing development did — and does destroy numerous plants. Out of an interest in conservation the Native Orchid Society in Melbourne started a tuber bank — and learned how to grow plants that could be propagated from tubers. We had stopped in Melbourne during a trip in 1979, renewed our membership and expressed interest in trying our hand at some "easy to grow" greenhoods. Now they had arrived.

The greatest concern was to get the plants to adapt to the abrupt change in season. Rather than the end of Summer, it was the end of Winter — they were six months out of phase. For the next several months the tubers were kept in dry sphagnum moss. In May they were potted in a mix similar to that used by our friends in Melbourne — two parts of coarse sand, one part of fine pine bark (for buzzer chips), one

part of oak leaf mold (for coastal leaf mold) and one part of garden potting soil without fertilizer (for mountain soil that was at least 500 miles away). Plastic pots 10cm in diameter (smaller pots dry out too fast) were used with wire screen over the drain holes to deter slugs and snails. The pot was filled about 2/3rds with mix, four tubers of each type were put in the pot, and then topped over with about 3cm of additional mix. Coarse sand was put on top (Casuarina leaves are better if available) to reduce risk of leaf rot. The pots were watered down, fingers were crossed and we sat back and waited. The pots were kept evenly moist, and in a few weeks there was growth in all pots. Most of the tubers grew, but none bloomed. in August (late summer) the plants were dried out and set under the bench without watering — except for a light misting every two weeks to keep the tubers from dehydrating. In December I noted growth starting in one pot - so watering was Two of the started. greenhoods responded with growth

— the third (Pt. revoluta) didn't survive.

It wasn't until after we had accepted an offer to come to New Zealand that the first bloom was noted on Pt. curta. We were estatic — and visitors to the greenhouse were properly impressed with this distinctive orchid — a delight to all

that saw it in bloom. A terrestrial as a pot plant is a novelty for Ohio

orchid growers.

Unfortunately, we had to leave it behind and are awaiting word that it has bloomed again — now that it has settled into a more normal

seasonal pattern.

We are looking forward to growing colony forming terrestrials while in New Zealand. However, these will be Australian orchids from the Melbourne tuber bank. Experienced growers there now can get up to a multiplication factor of 4—5 for a number of colony formers. (A number are also being successful in growing non colony formers from seed, but it is a difficult business). The object is to satisfy interest in native species without disturbing plants in the wild.

Our permit for the import of Australian tubers has been received and forwarded - our quarantine box is ready — and we are eager to try again. This time it should be easier — we don't have to change seasonal habits and climatic conditions should be similar between Melbourne and Palmerston North. We have asked for some plants that are common to both Australia and New Zealand and trust that our methods (borrowed from Melbourne orchid growing friends) will be successful.

We can do here what we couldn't do in Ohio — go out in the bush and discover and enjoy the terrestrial orchids growing in the native habitat — leaving them there and taking only a pictorial record for

future enjoyment.

Today on the dining room table there was a package postmarked from Melbourne — inside there were 19 packages of tubers of different Australian species. We hope that what we can learn from these plants will be useful in the future to gain a better understanding of needs of these terrestrial orchids.

### The John Easton Award 1982

The Award this year has been made to Mr E.T.
Bartosh of Otaki

TED BARTOSH — Octogenarian — who has spent a lifetime in horticultural pursuits as market gardener, flower grower, and in later

vears an orchid grower.

He was Foundation Member of Hutt Valley Horticultural Society's Orchid Circle, and a practical and loyal supporter over the years of its continued existence. as well as his home town, Otaki Horticultural Society, of which he has been President over a long number of years. He has been an enthusiastic collector of Orchids on his world wide travels, never returning home without some new acquisitions. He has been a strong supporter of the Golden Coast Orchid Society, and always helpful and generous to newcomers and friends interested in Orchids, and is now the Patron of the organisation.

As an exhibitor of orchids in the Horticultural Society's Shows he has been the mainstay both at Hutt Valley and Otaki and has earned the

gratitude of all concerned.

Born in the Hutt Valley he has always remained a staunch supporter of anything horticultural in the Valley and has always had the support of his wife Doris. He holds the respect of all of his associates, and is a Life Member of the Hutt Valley Horticultural Society's Orchid Circle.

#### **SOCIETY NEWS**

Rotorua Orchid Society has now available copies of the proceedings of the Rotorua Seminar held in August. These are available from the Secretary, Mrs G. Anderson, 421 Pukehangi Rd, Rotorua, for \$3 each.

# THE WORLD OF ORCHIDS

by Eden Campbell

It must be difficult for those not affected by orchids to understand the affinity that develops between an orchid and its 'keeper.' One can imagine meaningful glances and raised eyebrows at remarks such as "isn't SHE beautiful, look at HER lovely form" or "look how strong HE is this year, isn't HE doing well?"

Conversations, one sided though they may be are common in the greenhouse, plants being praised for achievement or sometimes chided for the lack of it are the accepted norm of the true orchid lover.

Our hospitality knows no limits, the criterion being "there is always room for one more" and this could surely not be better illustrated than by my own recent experience. A friend called on the telephone — "Could you manage a couple of youngsters?" said the voice on the line. "Certainly" I answered without hesitation, mentally creating a small space in an already overcrowded greenhouse for the two little newcomers.

What duly arrived were my 'babies' in the company of about forty of their friends, but did this grower turn them away . . . she did not! Did this grower so much as blink an eyelid . . . she did not! Such is the fortitude of the dedicated orchidist.

I suppose we all tend to be possessive with our orchids, guarding them as a parent would guard a child. Protecting them from the sun, sheltering them from the cold, sufficient water, a balanced diet, would a child expect more?

Oh the anguish when one is ill, the care that is lavished upon it. The joy of watching a plant reach maturity, to follow with excitement the progress of a spike and to be finally rewarded with a beautiful bloom. What matter if it is large or



small, few or many, 'our' plant has done it and it is a matter of family pride.

Perhaps, as in all things, we are different in our likes and dislikes. As in colours, we have our preferences, so too with orchids. What is important is to recognize the qualities in them all, to know that each one is part of a magnificent whole and to appreciate the opportunity of sharing their world... the world of orchids.

Accordingly, I wish to dedicate the following verse to orchids everywhere, those still in their natural habitat and those which

share and enrich our lives.

#### THE FAMILY

Orchids are a family, they share their family name Yet all are individuals, no two are quite the same.

There are those with tall and stately spikes, beautiful and bold Those like dainty dancers with flaring skirts of gold.

Some revel in the tree tops where light and air abound Others, shy, retiring, live shaded on the ground.

Some pretend they're something else like butterflies and things Others are like flocks of birds, their petals spread like wings.

Some dress in brilliant colours that say "hey look, I'm here"
Others are so delicate one hardly sees they're there.

And if I'm asked the question "Which one do you like best?"
Who could say that any is more lovely than the rest

With orchids, like a family, one takes them as they come And if YOU are at all like me, you'll love them, every one!

Contributed by: Eden Campbell, 52 Lynbrooke Ave, Auckland 7.

# PHOTOGRAPHING ORCHIDS

No. 2 of a series

# SUPPLEMENTARY CLOSE-UP LENSES

Supplementary close-up lenses or meniscus lenses, sometimes called 'portrait attachments,' are lenses which screw into the front of the

camera lens just like filters. They come in different magnifications, and are generally available in +1. +2 and +3 dioptre strengths. These supplementary lenses shorten the effective focal length of the camera lens to give a larger image, and may be likened to a low powered magnifying glass, the higher the dioptre number the stronger the lens and the closer the working distance. They may be used in combination to give a higher power, e.g.a +3 and a +2 may be used together to give a +5. Two, or even more may be used, but for best results the stronger lens should be closest to the camera lens, and no more than two should be used at once. If a filter is to be used, it should be screwed on last.

To give a greater magnification, these lenses can be used with camera lenses of longer focal length than the standard 50—55mm lenses; up to 200mm. This also provides a bonus by increasing the working distance from the subject, an advantage if flash lighting is to be used.

The Hoya Zoom Close-up Lens is another very useful supplementary lens available in most popular filter sizes. This is a light-weight lens, providing infinitely variable strengths through a range from approximately +2 dioptres to +10 dioptres. Matched with a 50mm lens, it can give an image on film approximately half the size of an original covering an area of about 78mm x 50mm, adequate for providing reasonable photographic reproductions of many of the South Australian Orchids. (Also many of our New Zealand orchids. Ed.) The front ring of this lens is engraved with a scale from .49mm (2.04 dioptres) to 0.1m (10 dioptres). The degree of magnification is selected by rotating this ring, just like focussing a normal camera lens.

Supplementary lenses have a lot going for them but they also have some disadvantages. They are relatively cheap, light-weight, capable of giving reproduction ratios up to approximately 1:2, and need no alteration to the basic exposure since there is virtually no light loss associated with their use. However, the image is really only satisfactory in the centre, so the smallest possible lens aperture should be used to improve sharpness and increase the very shallow depth of field. (Apertures of the order of f8 — f11 or smaller will give acceptable results). Also for some of our smaller native orchids. the magnification provided is not great enough. They are the cheapest and in many respects the most easily handled equipment we could use for close-ups.

#### **Extension Rings**

set of extension rings (sometimes called extension tubes) comprises three small tubes without any optics. Their sole purpose is to move the camera's lens further away from the focal plane in order to cause an increase in the size of the image projected onto the film. The three rings vary in size, and one or more of them may be used together. The greatest advantage of rings lies in the fact that the camera's lens is not degraded by the use of cheaper supplementary lenses, and they can be used with lenses of any focal length, even with bellows.

A disadvantage with some rings is the loss of the automatic diaphragm facility of the lens. Extension rings affect the exposure, and if through-the-lens light metering is not used exposure corrections will need to be made.

To be continued

# HINTS ON GROWING SOFT CANE DENDROBIUMS

by Russell Martin of Australia South Aust. Orchid Bulletin

1. POTTING MEDIA: Without any doubt, loosely potted in live sphagnum moss has proved to be a most successful medium. We are obtaining encouraging results when using 50% chopped sphagnum moss plus 50% local pine bark, which passes through a quarter-inch sieve.

2. TYPE OF POTS: Although originally recommended to use terra cotta pots, we have achieved such tremendous success with the soft black PVC pots on other genera, that a decision was made to experiment with the Dendrobiums in this type of container. Once again, overwhelming success has been achieved and the root development in the plastic container leaves little to be desired in plants from out of the flask size right through to mature flowering-size propagations; further convincing evidence of a mysterious stimulant with black PVC pots in plant growth.

3. WATERING: This is one of the most important aspects of successful Dendrobium growing. Unlike other genera, they definitely have a resting period during which time water must be withheld from the compost. This period extends from approximately 1st May to 31st July, depending upon the climatic conditions of the season. During the months of August, September and October, light watering commences as the new root development takes place. From November through to February-March Dendrobiums require copious quantities of water and should never at any period during this time, be allowed to dry out. The live sphagnum moss on the

tops of the pots should grow vigorously during this period and may even require trimming back with scissors once or twice. In their native habitat rain falls on the leaves of Dendrobiums and it is always my belief that plants cultivated in glasshouses benefit greatly from regular watering of the

During March and April, watering should be tapered off and this. again, is largely dependant upon climatic conditions of the season.

4. MIST: The introduction of a mist propagation unit has proved most successful with seedlings. Upon removal from the flask, seedlings are rowed out in plastic trays and placed immediately under the misting.

Small plants in single tubes continue to grow under the mist for the first six to twelve months. By utilizing this method, rapid growth is achieved and a first cane height of 6—10cm has been achieved. With large plants the introduction of fine mist units operated by a humidistat greatly assists plant growth when used in conjunction with air movememnt.

LIGHT: Light requirements vary with plant sizes. Like all small seedlings. Dendroblums naturally require less light intensity than established plants. We find that, in addition to normal summer shading of a glasshouse, an inner frame, covered with fibreglass flywire, assists with development of roots and growths. Plants with a cane length of 15cm or longer are suspended on a wire frame, extending from 1m to 3m, attached to a brick wall which faces a northerly direction.

The fibreglass covering of this house requires only a light misting of shade during the summer growing period as the mature Dendroblums enjoy a much higher light intensity than most other

genera.

FEEDING: It has been our policy to add five or six grains of coarse Magamp to the top layer of the sphagnum moss in each pot. As Dendrobiums grow vigorously for a short period of time it is essential at this time to supplement their feeding. We have had wonderful success by using a foliar-feeding of Trygon Field Pack Fertilizer at the rate of half an ounce to a gallon of water every seven days. This results in strong, upright, thick canes with glossy bright green leathery leaves and in no way resembles a sloppy brittle growth which often follows excessive nitrogenous feeding. This feeding programme will be suspended at the end of February, as the majority of canes are reaching their terminal growths and it is essential to encourage the plants to form flowering nodes rather than produce aerial growths.

#### **SOCIETY NEWS**

Walkato Orchid Society Spring Show this year was held 1—3 October in the Te Rapa Racecourse complex. The display area was mainly filled with well grown cymbidiums. Commercial stands were scattered around the periphery with the Society sales tables just inside the door ably manned by members. Waikato run a competitive show and the one great advantage for the spectator is the grouping of the same genera together. Cattleyas in one place, Paphiopedilums in another. Following are the main prize winners from a list kindly supplied by a very busy secretary in the middle of the show.

Grand Champion Orchid: Cymbidium Rae James 'Cameo', grown and raised by I.D. James. This clone is a well filled in flat white with a coloured labellum. This plant also won Grand Champion Cymbidium.

Reserve Champion Cymbidium: Went to Tony Ballard's Alegria 'St. Lita', a good middle deep pink flower.

Best Coloured Cymbidium: Sensation

'Chiante', R. & N. Armstrong.

Best Cattleya: Orglades 'Golden Harvest.'

Best Cattleya: Orglades 'Golden Harvest.' J.R. Blackman.

Best Odontoglossum or Allied Genera: Celle Wasserfall FCC, L. & R. Orchids.

Best Phalaenopsis: Lipperose 'H.R.' x Jersey 'Joyful' K.H. Clark.

A most enjoyable show.



#### **OUR INDEBTEDNESS**

On this occasion tribute is paid not to an orchid but to a person.

Recently Mr Fredrick Leo Parker passed away at the venerable age of 90 and since the Pukekura Park orchid collection as we now know it owes its existence largely to him, it is very fitting that mention is made of his skills and generosity.

Though a carpenter by trade, he became known to plant lovers far and wide for if ever a person was blessed with a "green thumb" it seems likely that 'Fred' as he was known to all, had been double blessed.

I have met few people, even amongst trained gardeners with such a skill for being able to understand the requirements of a given plant and then grow it to perfection, but beyond this his abilities as a propagator are almost

legendary.

It is not surprising to learn that he retired himself from house building at an early age and with the support of his wife developed a garden which became so attractive that it was opened to the public to become so famous that most visitors to New Plymouth would have visited it in its

heyday.

My first contact with Fred was as a horticultural trainee working at Duncan & Davies nursery in 1946. I had developed an interest in orchids and needed extra money so was thrilled at the opportunity to work for him on Saturday afternoons. My strongest memories are of his skills with cultivation of begonias and

cymbidiums which he inter-changed in display throughout the year. He was also one of the few people able to propagate Camellia reticulata var. Captain Rawes and Agonis flexuosa var variegata, which he produced in considerable numbers.

garden was the most concentrated array of plants ranging from annuals to trees that I have seen in my travels and looked impeccable on every day of the year.

When I returned from 17 years overseas in 1964 and visited New Plymouth to renew acquaintances I will never forget the greeting I received. Fred's eyes lighted up as he said "Well' George Fuller — Just the man I wanted to see. I intend giving my orchid collection to the City provided they undertake to house and look after it properly. Would you like the job?"

It is perhaps appropriate to point out here with due respect that Fred Parker had a great knack of getting his own way and suffice to say that his proposals were accepted with support from Mr Goodwin, then Director of the Parks & Reserves

Department.

True to his word, by 1966 he had placed his fine orchid collection of many hundreds of plants in the hands of the City for the enjoyment of all. In addition he had personally constructed a growing house and modified display areas to ensure cultural success and even endowed the collection so that it could be kept updated. Such was his thoroughness.

When the transfer was complete and the collection established, he

dedicated it to the memory of his wife, Agnes Mary Parker after whom

the display house is named.

From that point the collection has snowballed in size and range to become one of the most comprehensive in the country with 3,000 approximately plants representing about 500 clones each

of species and hybrids.

Evidence of his skill with plants on a large scale may be seen in the picturesque grounds of two schools near his home where he devoted much time and effort over many vears. His dedication to beautifying the surroundings of children was acknowledged by the awarding of an M.B.E. He was also a very active supporter in the development of the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust near New Plymouth.

It was not surprising that he was elected Paton when the Taranaki Orchid Society was established because his encouragement and assistance to those interested in growing orchids ranged back over many years.

I am grateful for help and advice received over the years and the general public will long be the beneficiaries thanks to the skills, dedication, foresight and generosity

of Fred Parker.

GEORGE FULLER Curator Pukekura Park 29 September 1982

### CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES

by Gordon Maney

December/January Care

Perhaps this is one of the most vital times, because December. January and February are the months the buds are set; and so the feeding, the care and attention of your plants is so important.

From the beginning of December you must cut down on nitrogen and so for liquid feeding, phostragen. maxicrop and similar nitrogenous fertilizers once a week.

For dry feeds once a month, 2 parts blood, 6 parts Super, 2 parts Potash at this time is a must. Too much nitrogen gives you too much growth and few spikes! Approximately a dessertspoon round a 25cm pot which is of course gradually watered into the plant.

Because December is generally much warmer and the plants dry out more quickly, its so important to water more frequently. Not only does it help to keep your plants free from red spider, but because you're feeding regularly a thorough watering is necessary to leach out any salts that may build up in the plants.

Also keep your walk-ways damp at all times and a regular spraying programme for red spider through

these dry months is a must.

Now that your cymbidiums have finished flowering and you're well on your way, or perhaps finished your repotting; the scrubbing down of the houses, cleaning up any rubbish that breeds bugs of all kinds, is a very necessary chore.

Many orchid growers will going away for holidays too, and so some preparation has to be made to at least have the plants watered once or twice a week while you're

not there to look after them.

Many people with a number of plants have fitted overhead watering and in this case it's simple for your next door neighbour or some kind friend to turn on the tap for a couple of hours.

The main thing is to impress on your friend to water early in the morning preferably between 10 am and noon. This enables the plant's leaves to dry out thoroughly by nightfall, particularly in the cooler areas of New Zealand.

Merry Christmas to you all.

# **Durolite and Coralite**

During the past few months I have had numerous enquiries in respect of the above claddings for shade/glasshouse use. I wrote to the manufacturers and herewith publish their reply. Ed.

### Glass Reinforced Plastic Cladding for Greenhouses

For the past twenty years Fletcher Brownbuilt has manufactured in its Christchurch plant a product distributed New Zealand wide and

trade-named DUROLITE.

DUROLITE is a glass reinforced polyester resin clear sheet traditionally used as skylight material in commercial and industrial buildings and during the last ten years more increasingly as a cladding on domestic and commercial greenhouses.

The real success of DUROLITE translucent sheeting for commercial horticulture was only recognised eight to ten years ago with the advent of a surfacing product called Tedlar manufactured by Du Pont of the U.S.A. Tedlar is an inert surfacing material which is opaque to ultra violet light and acts as a barrier between the environment and the more easily damaged polyester resin and glass underlays.

Fletcher Brownbuilt has now had ten years of proven experience in manufacturing a high grade translucent sheeting commercial greenhouses and the results have been outstanding. DUROLITE in a profile commonly called Greenhouse Profile suitable for fixing in the traditional "Down the roof slope" manner. Weatherboard profile, recently launched onto the New Zealand market, possesses the same light transmission qualities but is suitable for tunnel houses or for fixing direct to rafters running the sheet lengthways along building.

DURÖLITE is protected from the weather by Du Pont Tedlar on the outside and from condensation on the underside by a new Melinex film.

The crop yields, the even spread of diffused light and the extremely high levels of visible light have all provided outstanding results for all types of crops from the extreme requirement of tomatoes down to ferns and pot plants. The use of DUROLITE in orchid houses from Queenstown to Whangarei have all been satisfactory with improved crop quality and yields.

DUROLITE is marketed as an extremely high quality superior cladding for commercial houses where a life expectancy in excess of 20 years is a pre-requisite. Bécause of the Tedlar surface the sheet will not break down, the surface will not deteriorate and the delicate resin/glass underlay will be protected from attack from UV light and therefore the high level of visible natural diffused light will be maintained and high productivity will remain within the house for a period in excess of 20 years.

An alternative to DUROLITE is a product also manufactured by Fletcher Brownbuilt tradenamed CORALITE.

CORALITE is a cheaper grade of glass reinforced polyester sheet without the benefit of Tedlar overlay to protect the resin.

CORALITE is a lighter weight sheet and is designed for the domestic and a shorter term commercial application. It is only available in standard sheet lengths up to six metres and is satisfactory for crops where lower natural light levels are satisfactory. There is no long term proven performance records but it is expected to give a satisfactory performance in the areas of natural visible light of around ten to fifteen years. someone is going to clad greenhouse and spend money on framing and labour they would be well advised to use DUROLITE rather than CORALITE.

CORALITE is perfectly satisfactory for screens and patio surrounds but in areas where a drop off in visible light will create a problem it is not ideally suited.

If any grower is considering cladding a small or large greenhouse with rigid fibreglass reinforced plastic sheeting where long term visible light transmission is a requirement then he would be well advised to stay with DUROLITE as opposed to the cheaper plastic type sheetings available from most hardware shops. These types of sheets become increasingly opaque and milky with age and long term satisfactory grade crops will not result.

Further enquiries about DUROLITE and CORALITE and its performance in the area of horticulture will be gladly answered by Fletcher Brownbuilt, PO Box 7124, Sydenham, Christchurch.

Yours faithfully, FLETCHER BROWNBUILT

R. Binning SOUTH ISLAND MANAGER

#### **SOCIETY NEWS**

The Hawke's Bay Orchid Society recently held their annual dinner to coincide with the visit of Mr Andrew Easton. This was held at the DB Heretaunga, Omahu Lounge an excellent place for such a function, and 119 members and friends including Mrs Easton, Andrew's mother, the President of the Orchid Council of New Zealand, Mr Ross Taylor and his wife Maria, Mr Brindsley Rolls, President of the Wairoa Society and some of their members, and Mr Norm Porter from Waikanae. A very happy time was spent over dinner, and there was a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Andy illustrated his talk with some excellent coloured slides, showing the present trend of cymbidiums in U.S.A. and the aims of hybridisers, and also some of his own very fine crosses. At the close, members were not slow in asking questions, and also talking with

him during supper.

We feel that changing the normal night in this particular instance paid dividends and was well worth while, which was shown by the larger than usual attendance and the appreciation of those present. This is something we would consider repeating. Members were all notified of the change per newsletter.

Mention must be made of the beautiful cake made and iced by our very talented member, Mrs Ellie Goodall, which was raffled — we all wanted to win that cake.

Supper brought to a close a very happy and enjoyable evening.

# Some Thoughts on Virus

by Philip A. Wyatt of Cambridge

Every few years the Orchid world gets in a panic over virus infections in plants, there are lots of articles written about it, many experts on the subject suddenly surface, and large quantities of plants are relegated to the tip (or in the case of some growers sold to the highest bidder). It certainly is true to say that virus in orchids is a problem that we shall never be rid of but by constant surveillance we can keep it down to reasonable levels

As with all aspects of Orchid growing there are many facts and fallacies about virus and by reading large quantities of Scientific, semi Scientific, and popular articles we come up with a very confused picture in the layman's mind as to the role of viruses.

Just how important is virus in Orchid collections in New Zealand. It would be an impossible task to check all plants for virus and checking with Plant Diseases Division of MAF provides a poor picture because most of the plants they receive are sent because they are suspect of containing virus. We visit many growers each year in the course of our travels including new and experienced growers, young and old growers, new collections and old established collections.

We find generally it is the old grower with an established collection of older varieties whom often has a very large proportion of collection showing the symptoms of virus on the Teaves. These growers too, often have poorer plants, poorer quality flowers, and a lower flower count. But let's not be hasty and blame these growers for acting as a resevoir for virus. It is well known that to mask the outward appearance of virus the following steps can be taken: increase the amount of Magnesium Sulphate in the fertiliser, use a high Nitrogen feed and grow in dark conditions. Who do you know who grow their plants like this. I must admit though, when we visited one of the larger growers whom we all know. he openly admitted that he had a virused plant down that end of his flowering house and had no intention of throwing it out, this certainly destroys any faith we may have had in him, and he has certainly lost us as a customer. The fact that this grower has also recently commenced propagating plants from his own stock is terrifying. We have enough replating Laboratories proliferating virused plants without someone who should know better doing it as well. O.K. you may say it is impossible to keep my collection virus free but there is no excuse to harbour known virused plants.

The viruses most commonly isolated in New Zealand are Mosaic cymbidium and Odontoglossum Ringspot, mostly identified from cymbidiums, the most commonly grown genus. The virus check generally consists of innoculating two indicator plants with the sap of the test leaf and after two weeks comparing the lesions produced on the leaves of these plants to determine a positive result. These lesions can then be checked through an electron microscope to positively identify the presence of virus particles and virus type. The reactions of the two indicator plants alone can also give

an indication of the virus type. The names of the Virus are derived from the pattern of virus infection on the leaves, the cymbidium Mosaic on cymbidiums usually have a mottling effect and the ORV usually having a ring like effect on Cattleya leaves. Much of the initial work on viruses was done in U.S.A. on Cattlevas in the early 1950's and on cymbidiums in Australia in the same period. The identity of these lesions being virus related, came about around 1946. There were many theories on virus infection, virus host plants, transmission vectors, and how it could be cured, that could now be further investigated. As you may gathered a virus is an extremely small particle that may only be viewed by electron microscopy. They are basically a protein coat, around a strand of Genetic material called Ribonucleic Acid (RNA).

They appear to have no purpose in life except to reproduce themselves and this they do very

efficiently.

The initial stages of replication the virus particle takes over the cells machinery for replicating its own genetic material and uses it for its own service. The plant cells continue to replicate but the virus is reproducing at the rate of a rabbit so it is included in large quantities in the new cells produced.

The plant viruses outside the plant are an inert type of particle and do not have any self means of infecting a plant, they must be introduced by some form of mechanical damage. The particles may then be only localised as in the case of the indicator plants used to identify them with or they are rapidly moved to the growing portion of the plant through the plants vascular system.

The active infection of a cell with virus does affect the cells ability to continue to function fully on its normal diet and subsequently chlorotic (light coloured) lesions appear on the leaves. This may especially happen if a plant is placed under stress and its cell multiplication system subsequently slowed or altered. This effect can be altered by feeding a high magnesium or nitrogen diet or growing in fairly dark houses, which stimulates the production of the chlorophyl in the leaves and is possibly the reason for the masking of the virus presence.

There are many viruses attributed to Cymbidiums: Tobacco Mosaic (TMV) Odontoglossum Ringspot (ORS) Cymbidium Mosaic (CMV) Cymbidium Blackspot (CBV) and Tomato Ringspot (TRS). These can be grouped into three different families TMS and ORS, CMV, and TRS. (CBV = CMV). Normally ORS, CMV and to a very small extent TRS are the only viruses encountered. These orchid viruses are generally fairly host specific and can be more debilitating on some genera e.g. Cattleyas, than on others e.g. Cymbidiums. In Cattleyas with their large single or paired leaves the symptoms are very obvious, and colour break in the flowers is dominant. In cymbidiums there is generally a mottling effect on the leaves and the plant in advanced stages of infection appears undernourished, the flowers coming out thick and deformed and often not opening properly. In the cymbidiums though, with high feeding programmes the effects are often diminished to a point where they do not appear to affect the plant or flowers. A good case of this was our plant of Hi Rated 'Moonstone' which regularly flowered with 15 well formed flowers per spike, in fact it performed to perfection, but it was heavily infected with CMV. plant has been destroyed — alas.

It is commonly believed that orchid virus is transmitted by

people smoking and handling cigarettes, by aphids, scale and red spider, or some other chewing or sucking insects, and nematodes which transmit TRS through the roots, but fortunately due to strict quarantine requirements there has only been one recorded case of this in Cymbidiums (and they came in by flask). The other is Homo Sapiens Var. 'Careless' who does not take precautions interfering with his plants and through dirty habits transmits virus on his uncleaned cutting tools through physical damage to the plants. To be continued.

## Cymbidium Laura Fergusson

by Arthur Dawson of Hastings

Some years ago, in my connection with the Rose Society it was reported that Laura Fergusson, (the wife of our then Governor-General who later became Brigadier The Lord Ballantrae) had remarked how wonderful it must be to have a rose named after oneself. This led me to make the necessary enquiries to ascertain the protocol and facts concerning the naming of a plant after a living person. At this stage the National Rose Body, for various reasons wished me to hand the project to them; this was done, but unfortunately the project remained in limbo for six months. It was found that costs of \$1000 would be involved in payment for a rose breeder to name a rose plant for the wife of our very popular Governor-General. On my request the proposal was passed

A news item in the local Press reporting the death of Lady Laura

Fergusson, who with her companion was killed during a disastrous storm when a tree fell across her car with tragic results. revived my intent and I saw a possibility of success. contacted Andrew Easton of Santa Barbara, a New Zealander emerging as one of the world's great orchid breeders. (Andrew's thesis for his Master of Science Degree was 'Orchids in New Zealand' and in researching the subject found 17 species and varieties of orchid in the vicinity of Tasman glacier). Andrew immediately agreed to my suggestion and I contacted Lord Ballantrae who was happy and expressed great pleasure at the proposal to name an orchid after his late wife. His choice was for a red variety; and a novelty Cymbidium cross sélected:- Cym. Ivy Fung 'Sultan' x Remus 'Sunset.' Lord Ballantrae's one regret was that his wife did not live to know or see the cross. Andrew Easton delivered two plants to his Lordship in Scotland, who passed them into the care of the Edinburgh Botanic Gardens.

Lord Ballantrae passed away shortly afterwards, but recently a letter was received from Geordie Fergusson reporting that the plants had flowered with a great deal of satisfaction to the family. He regretted that his father did not live to see the plants in bloom.

A number of plants of this cross have already flowered, with more to flower this year; my choice so far being Cym. Laura Fergusson 'Gracious Lady', a vigorous plant bearing very lovely deep red flowers nicely placed on upright spikes. A magnificent plant in memory of a truly gracious Lady.

# ORCHIDS

This release by the Abbeville Press is an unusual book. It is published in their Library of Art series, and as such it will be welcomed as a book of paintings of Orchids. Each reproduction is full page, while a number of fold-back pages have a full page reproduction.

The interesting fact about the Abbeville edition is that it discusses individual species, whereas most books on Orchids discuss genera, species, and varieties. There are some forty-seven species listed and discussed as separate subjects, though several of them come into

the same genera.

The text discusses the origin and habitat of the subject, and adds interesting data about its history, and other facts. Culture notes are included; although specific for the U.S.A. there is not much difficulty about transposing the seasons. However, most orchidists who grow species will have cultural notes at hand.

Most of the species in the book are available from New Zealand commercial growers of species.

The chief interest and appeal of this edition will be as an art book about orchids, while the textual material can provide information not readily available in most Orchid books.

The author/editor is Curator of Rare Books New York Botanical

Gardens.

For its price, this book is a valuable edition to our available books on Orchids, and being different should be appreciated for what it is, an edition in a Library of Art series.

Author/Editor: Frank J. Anderson. Published by Abbeville Press, New York. Distributed in New Zealand by Collins. Price is \$NZ9.95.

Ernest E. Bush

# EUROPEAN ORCHID COMMITTEE

On the occasion of the 6th European Orchid Congress, March 25th to 29th, 1982 in Hamburg, there also took place the traditional meeting of the European Orchid (EOC) Committee representatives from eleven European countries were present. For the outgoing chairman, Mr Emil Luckel, Federal Republic of Germany, the Committee unanimously elected Mrs Ena United Haywood, Kingdom, representative of the British Orchid Council as the body which will be organizing the 7th European Orchid

Congress in 1985.

Furthermore, the Committee decided to introduce the position of a standing secretary, this in view of increased activity and the intensification of contacts between the orchid societies of Europe, as well as the endeavours to activate relations to Overseas' organizations. For this position, the Committee elected Mr Charles F. Oertle, Via Scottochiesa, 6616 Losone, Switzerland, member of the EOC, to whom in future all correspondence is to be forwarded. It should be mentioned in this connection that the secretary's office will be open to all individual members of the European Societies for any problems they may have and that any demands or queries from Overseas will also be readily dealt with.

As a special service to the interested members of the individual societies, the EOC decided, already a year ago, to publish an annual booklet containing the newly registrated orchid hybrids of one entire year in alphabetical order and to issue this publication to all individual members upon request at cost. The

edition for 1981 is at present almost complete and shall be appearing in the course of summer 1982. This publication can already be ordered now from the secretary, whereby such orders are also accepted from Overseas.

# Summer & Holiday Care of Cattleyas & Phalaenopsis

lan Milne — Wellington Orchid Society

Journal

Our worthy Editor has asked me to write a few notes on what can be done to help our Cattleyas and Phalaenopsis during the summer and when we are away on holidays. This of course pre-supposes we will have some of those long hot dry sunny days, so nice for holidays but so hard on our plants left to fend for themselves.

The first consideration is of course water. I still say do not water Cattleyas every day, but do give your plants time to dry out. This will of course happen more rapidly than in the cooler weather, but still does not call for constant wetness. Your plants can get root rot just as easily in the summer as in the winter if you keep them constantly wet. When you get that mad urge to water despite the fact that you did it yesterday, mist your glasshouse with a fine spray of water from end to end over leaves and everything. This will satisfy the urge and will do your plants good, not harm, as constant watering will do. This method helps to cool the leaves and allows the plants to absorb what moisture they require through those leaves and at the same time allows the roots to get their heads above water and to breathe. Try and keep glasshouse floors wet, again several times a day if possible. Gravel chips on the floor are a big help in the retention of moisture.

Sawdust is not bad, but gravel is much cleaner and does not stick to your shoes when you come inside — therefore no domestic problems as a bonus!

Shading for Phalaenopsis should be increased to prevent burning as those big leaves are very susceptible to burning. Don't shade completely or you will get very soft and floppy growth; just enough shade to save from burning.

Cattleyas like the sun and will enjoy a lot. When you see the leaves hard and soft green to yellowish colour you have the right conditions to induce flowering. Even a bit of burning, though unsightly, does not do any real harm. Cattleyas require strong light to flower but, as usual, temper your efforts with a bit of commonsense.

Going on holidays and no one to care for your plants is a different story. Increase your shading, leave your fans turned on, and open all ventilators. The temperatures at this time of the year should not drop low enough to do any damage with everything open etc. But they certainly could rise high enough to discomfort cause in glasshouse. Soak all pots by putting them in a bath or tub to allow mix to absorb as much moisture as possible. Thoroughly soak floor and all inside the glasshouse, place as many pots as possible on the floor where they will be cooler and get maximum humidity.

For those people without glasshouses I suggest you use any trays, roasting dishes or similar. Fill with water and place on the floor of your room. Cover the trays with some sort of grill; strips of wood will do, and sit your pots on top. This method can be applied to any house plants quite successfully.

I hope these ideas will be of help and will close with best wishes and good growing for the coming year.

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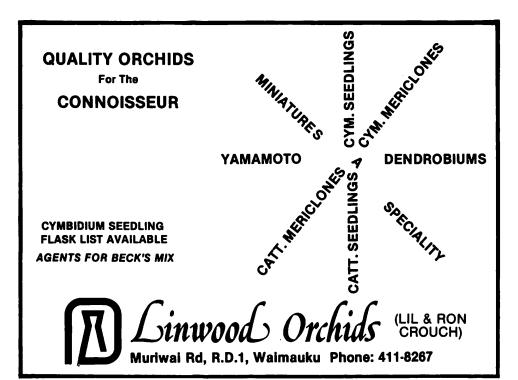
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SLC PACIFIC GEM X C. WARPAINT Clusters of yellow, red or orange flowers, many with a red lip	\$3.50
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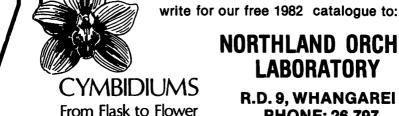
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# ORCHID HYBRID LIST FOR 1981

The European Orchid Committee is issuing annual hybrid lists in book form as being a compilation in alphabetical order of the monthly publications, including part II with parent plants also listed in alphabetical order.

Copies are obtainable from the secretary Charles F. Oertle, Via Scottochiesa, 6616 Losone, Switzerland, the prices per copy including postage being the following:

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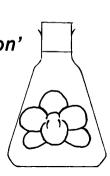
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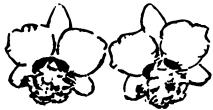
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8026 CARIGA 'CANARY' 4N x WALLARA 'GOOD NUGGET' 4N — Neither of these two parents need introducing. CC 4N shows a willingness to spike. The flowers of which are intense yellow & Labellum white with red band. Crossed with WGN expect yellows of exceptional quality — September/October \$60.00

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Mericione:

(MARQUESSA PRESCOTT 'BAEMAR' x KHYBER PASS 'ROTUNDA RED') 'SARAH' — photographed on the back of our 1982 catalogue, a delightful soft concolour pink, producing up to 14 flowers on strong upright spikes — ideal for show and commerce \$100.00

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