

# ORCHIDS IN NEW ZEALAND



JULY/AUGUST 1983

# Beck's . . .



## ORCHID MIXES

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| ★ Proven       | ★ Fast Drainage |
| ★ Ready to use | ★ Screened      |
| ★ Free flowing | ★ Fertilised    |

**BECK'S ORCHID MIX IS BAGGED IN DRY CONDITION AND SHOULD BE DAMPED PREFERABLY THE DAY BEFORE USE.**



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**Linwood Orchids, Muriwai Rd, R.D.1, Waimauku**

**Hastings:**

**Tom Grimson, 162 Stout St, Gisborne. Ph. 4450**

**Masterton:**

**Bryan Clark, R.D.5, Hastings. Ph. 88-734**

**New Plymouth:**

**Arthur Morris, 24 Sussex St. Ph. 6854**

**Palmerston Nth:**

**Gordon Bruce, 509 Carrington Rd. Ph. 34-583**

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**Stokes Valley:**

**Norm Porter, 443 Te Moana Rd. Ph. 6977**

**Wanganui:**

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**R.A. Spittal, 18 Kells St, Aramoho. Ph. 36-528**

# ORCHIDS IN NEW ZEALAND

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## COUNCIL 1982-83

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*Cover Photo:* *Lycaste Wyldfire* 'Carol Ann' FCC/AOS 1981. This beautiful bloom is in Andrew Easton's private collection and was photographed by him. It is named after his wife.

# 9th ANNUAL REPORT

On behalf of your Executive it is my pleasure to bring to you the 9th Annual Report of the Orchid Council of New Zealand.

## Membership

It is pleasing to report the continued interest and vigour of societies throughout New Zealand. We welcome Tauranga and Capital City as new societies to affiliate.

I must comment that the membership of many societies has dropped slightly but I see this more as a trend towards consolidation rather than as a weakening of societies.

## Magazine

The quality of the magazine has been maintained and once again we must thank our Editorial Staff and the Magazine Committee. Printing and distribution costs have continued to rise and while an increased circulation has helped offset these it has still been found necessary to increase the subscription as well as advertising rates.

It is with pleasure that I report the donation of \$1,500 from the New Zealand Orchid Foundation Trust. This is to be used for the addition of more colour in the magazine.

## Judging

Council have agreed to a recommended procedure for trainees to be promoted to full judging status. This should enable us to maintain a very high standard on our judging panels as only people qualified in growing, exhibiting and judging will be promoted.

Council acknowledges the considerable work put in by the Registrar General and District Registrars in the preparation of these procedures. This is a very important section of our work as it is at the judging level where new breeding is acknowledged along with the results of the best cultural practices.

## Ministry of Sports and Recreation

Once again our aims and objects have been acknowledged by the Ministry of Sport and Recreation. We are very grateful for their assistance and support.

## Seminars

Council was happy to be associated with the seminars in Rotorua and Christchurch. Both these events were outstanding successes and we wish to congratulate both societies for their enterprise in organising these events. Seminars play a large part in encouraging and stimulating the life of societies.

## Slide and Speaker Programmes

These now appear to be operating smoothly, thanks to the work of Mr Maunder. The standard of the programmes must be continually scrutinised and we need the co-operation of members and societies in obtaining new and improved series.

## World Orchid Conference

A decision on the venue for the 1990 World Orchid Conference will be made at the Conference to be held in Florida next March. Council are once again unanimous that it is in the interest of Societies and members that New Zealand offers to host this prestigious event. To this end a preliminary application has been forwarded on behalf of the Council and New Zealand Orchid Society.

## Second New Zealand International Conference

As instructed by the last A.G.M. Council has invited the Wellington Orchid Society and Golden Coast Orchid Society to jointly host an International Conference in 1985. A Committee has been formed and the Wellington Showbuildings have been booked from 8th to 14th October. I ask that all Societies give the fullest possible support to this Committee. The Publicity Officer will keep Societies informed of progress.

## Executive Committee

Finally, I would like to thank the Executive for their support and, on your behalf, for the way that they have addressed themselves to the promotion of orchids. My special thanks to Mr Doug Lawson for the two years that he has assisted me. He is retiring from this office and I know you would want to join me in wishing him well as he returns to spend more leisure time amongst his orchids.

**W. Ross-Taylor**  
President



# List of N.Z.O.C. Judges as at May 1983

## REGION 1

Judges: R. Tucker (Registrar), M. Uren, Ms J. Freer, H. Freer, Ms E. Parry, J. Brljevic, R. Hargreaves, T. Verryt, Ms. J. Parker, J. Mason (Reg. Gen.), D. Leahy, F. Brljevic (Reserve), L.B. Rea (Reserve), F. Brett (Whangarei), Ms S. Gray (Whangarei), S. Wray (Whangarei), Ms A. Stirling (Whangarei), D. Wallard (Whangarei), Ms T. Stonell (Whangarei).

## REGION 2

Judges: I.D. James (Registrar), D.K. Bell (Dep. Reg.), A.M. Clark, Ms. B. Cullen (Katikati), J.T. Dixon, Ms. R.A. James, R. Maunder (Tauranga), P. Wyatt (Cambridge).

## REGION 3

Judges: T. French (Registrar), Mrs P. Boon (Dep. Reg.), G. Boon, Ms. C. Brooke, Ms. B. Watkins, G. Bruce, C. Coles, R. Watkins, P. Whittaker.

## REGION 4

Judges: R. Wilkins (Registrar), Ms. J. Mendoza (Dep. Reg.), F.R. Askin (Wellington), L. Wyatt (Wellington), P. Brookfield (Hutt Valley), Ms. K. Black (Golden Coast), N. Porter (Golden Coast), W. Ross-Taylor (Golden Coast), M. Wilton (Golden Coast), G.J. Jackson (Manawatu), G. Maney (Manawatu), G. Robertson (Manawatu), N. Wood (Manawatu), J. Harper (Manawatu), P. Denzel, (Wanganui), F. Harvey (Wanganui), Ms. B. Hogg (Wanganui).

## REGION 5

Judges: B. Clark (Registrar), R.R. Bickerstaff (Dep. Reg), W.L. Goodwin (Hawkes Bay), Ms R. Bell (Poverty Bay), G. Grimson (Poverty Bay), L. London (Poverty Bay).

## FOOTNOTE

*Would Regional Registrars please notify the Editor of any deletions or additions to the above lists.*

**ED.**

Colour reproductions of the North Shore Orchid Society 10th Anniversary kindly provided by N.S.O.S. from proceeds of their show.

*Our grateful thanks to the Bay of Plenty Society for the generous donation of \$100 to the magazine fund. Members would be interested to know that the money was used towards the colour cover of this issue of the magazine.*

# EDITORS REPORT

*With the May/June issue we complete the eighth year of publication. This year has been the leanest in respect of original material. We have had to rely on Society Newsletters for a number of articles and while these have been of excellent quality I feel that 'regional' readers are not always happy at having to read the same article twice.*

*I know that Council members on return from Executive Meetings do try and 'drum up' original material from their home Societies. There are now 35 Orchid Societies in New Zealand [not all affiliated] and our Council consists of eight members with immediate contact with only eight Societies, the other 27 Societies possibly have little, or no contact directly with Council other than a brief bi-annual newsletter. I wonder if this newsletter could bring people up to date with the needs of our magazine.*

*Good photographic material, both black and white and colour is at a premium. I would ask contributors to include negatives/positives with their articles. We do receive some photographic material but some is not suitable because of technical reasons concerned with processing. Some photos we have retained awaiting articles to match, so don't be disappointed if your photo has not appeared in the current issue.*

*There was no major essay competition held this year. It was apparent from previous years that there were too few articles entered to make another competition worthwhile.*

*The magazine Committee would like to thank those few contributors who have continued to give us their support, and also to those newsletter Editors from whom we have 'cribbed' articles. Our thanks to Societies and to the New Zealand Orchid Foundation Trust for generous financial assistance during the past year. This, combined with careful financial assistance has enabled Council to keep the subscription as low as possible, while still maintaining the quality and also increasing the size of each issue.*

*I wish at this time to mention the valuable service given by Mr Tom French in reporting to Council at each Executive Meeting the current affairs of the magazine. This liaison between Council and Magazine Committee has proved very successful over the past two years.*

Graeme Boon  
Editor

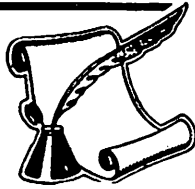
## Prizewinners at the 10th Anniversary Show of the North Shore Orchid Society

### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Paul Leahy, whose plant of *Paph insigne* was awarded a C C C (Certificate of Cultural Commendation) by the Orchid Council of N.Z., as well as a Cultural Certificate from the N.Z. Orchid Society.

Also to L. & R. Orchids. Their plant of Lyc. (Koolena 'Jacks' x Shoalhaven) 'Ellen', which was Grand Champion of the Show, was awarded an H C C by the N.Z. Orchid Society.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Dear Sir,

I have just returned from a three week tour of orchid Orchid Societies and Growers in the South Island. This tour was made on behalf of the Orchid Council of New Zealand in an effort to assist these Societies and to learn of their problems and I am most grateful to the Council and to the Marlborough Orchid Society for their donation towards my expenses.

Through this column may I extend my sincere thanks to the many growers, Committees and Societies I visited in the South Island, for their wonderful friendliness and generosity, while I was with them. I came home with many new friends, new ideas and a better understanding of the isolation and growing problems encountered in the South Island. I hope that I have been able to give some helpful advice here and there and trust that with a first hand knowledge of their various problems I will be able to make suggestions to the Orchid Council of New Zealand Executive on ways it can help them in the future. My thanks also to the commercial nurseries who advertise in this magazine, for their donations of plants, flasks and compots to the nine South Island Societies for raffle plants over the coming year. These were greatly appreciated and created much goodwill.

If any readers are contemplating a visit to the South Island I am sure they would be made very welcome. The smaller or isolated Societies, in particular, would always welcome outside speakers to keep the interest amongst their members. I would be happy to supply addresses, meeting dates, etc., to anyone who cares to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

**RON MAUNDER**

Executive Orchid Council of New Zealand

Sir,

I recently attended the A.G.M. of the Orchid Council of N.Z. at Palmerston North where I was most interested to hear the Secretary of the Council quote a cost of the magazine 'Orchid in N.Z.' as approximately \$1.16 per issue. On speaking to him later about the subject of 'approximate' I was informed the variance would only be one or two cents either way. Let us assume that the figure is \$1.16 per copy. This equates to \$6.96 for 6 issues of a year's subscription. I am given to understand that there is a bulk rate where societies can purchase magazines for members at a cost of 90c per issue or \$5.40 per year.

By paying \$7.00 I am lining the Council coffers to the tune of four cents a year (which I don't mind) against a bulk order subscription of \$5.40 which represents a loss of 11 cents per issue or 66 cents per year — the postage rate of 15 cents does not apply to bulk, this explains the discrepancy between the figures. Someone at the meeting stated that each issue consists of 2000 copies, and, assuming that there are bulk orders amounting to say 1000, this represents a yearly loss of \$660. If the magazines were being sold on a profit earning bases a discount for bulk orders would certainly be the accepted norm, but where the selling price is the same as production costs discounting becomes lunacy or even incompetency. Perhaps there is a source of income which allows you to operate at what appears to be a loss.

If advertising money and donations are being absorbed in direct costs eventually there will be little funds left for improvement to the magazine in regard to illustrated material and size which were two points emphasized at the A.G.M.

WONDERING  
Palmerston North

*Editor's reply bottom of page 10*

# A PIG ISLANDER VISITS THE MAINLAND!

by Ron Maunder

Hil! I'm sitting in a pub in Queenstown on a rainy morning in March. There's no other accommodation in town as it's full of tourists. I know, I walked the streets last night!

My van's windscreen was smashed coming down the Kawarau Gorge yesterday and a replacement is coming in from Cromwell this morning — I hope! I have to be in Invercargill tonight. It seems a good time to drop the Editor a line about what I've seen of orchid growers so far in the South Island.

Before leaving on this trip to visit all the Southern orchid societies, I had heard that they were very isolated and often felt that we up north didn't know they existed. I decided to write to all my fellow commercial nurseries who had advertised in 'Orchids in New Zealand' recently to see if they would like to donate plants for raffle prizes. Within two weeks I had about 14 cartons of plants, flasks and community pots as well as pricelists and colour slides. The interest was overwhelming!

Luckily I have a big roomy van because with all these cartons, 70 grafted subtropical fruit trees for a friend in Nelson, and all my own gear, it was loaded to the gunwales!

After trying to leave instructions of how to cope for three weeks, and seeing the family off, I got away from Tauranga about 3.00 p.m.

After an uneventful trip I turned up in Otaki around 9.00 p.m. to stay the night with the O.C.N.Z. President, Ross Taylor.

Next morning we found some more room for donated plants from Ross and Norm Porter and then I set off for Wellington to catch the 2.10 p.m. ferry for Picton:

With an hour to kill, I drove out to the Wellington Show Building to look at the venue for the 1985 2nd New Zealand Orchid Conference. Luckily I found the caretaker about to move his car out of the building and he gave me a quick look around. It is a huge place and will make an ideal conference display building. It is very central — just around the Basin

Reserve. It has plenty of parking, large access doors, plenty of head room and a large new restaurant which is currently being added to.

The ferry crossing was in bright sunshine and calm conditions. I joined the long line of cars, vans and caravans heading out of Picton for their various destinations in the South Island. The queues of hitch-hikers in the wharf didn't fare too well as most people were intent on holidaying, honeymooning or were homewardbound. No room for passengers in my van either!

In half an hour I was in Blenheim sipping iced fruit juice at the home of the Marlborough Orchid Society Secretary, Joan Bottom. Joan and Jim still have strong English accents but they say this is their home and they wouldn't leave Blenheim for anything. After a lovely meal we went out to inspect Joan's tidy 8 x 12 aluminium glasshouse, where she grows Cymbidiums and mixed Genera, as well as all manner of other pot plants. Beyond the well-kept vegetable garden the neighbour's classy race horse nudged the fence and Jim showed me into the paddock to view a small river where scows loaded with merchandise from Wellington used to come up into the heart of the town.

Just then Judy Coburn, a keen committee member from Picton, arrived and we retired inside to discuss orchids, breeding and how a judging panel might be established in the area.

Next day Joan and Jim departed for work, leaving me the run of the house and garage. I had to select the twenty or



so plants which had been donated, in readiness for the meeting that night. President, Dr. Ken Patterson, soon 'phoned to say he had shifted his patients appointments about and could fit in half an hour or so to show me around. Later in the morning, I then set off to see George Young — a Parks and Gardens Foreman, and found him in the public gardens cleaning out the fountain. He left his boys in charge and we went to his home to see his collection. George and a younger society member have several small glasshouses at the rear of his property in which they are growing Cymbidiums, Dendrobiums and miniature Cattleyas. Frosts are evidently pretty heavy there as heaters and fans were evident. There were signs of expansion, as a tunnel house frame was up and ready for covering. George and his friend were off any day on a trip overseas — to bring back more plants I presume.

At Dr. and Mrs Pattersons I was made welcome and shown their collection. Because his medical practise takes so much of his time and he has to escape to a beach house in Picton fairly regularly, the Patterson's have installed an impressive array of automatic heating, cooling and watering devices. The Cymbidiums were growing well and in the warmer house where Paphiopediliums, Phalaenopsis, Odontoglossums and Cattleyas grew, my eye caught sight of a lovely multi-headed primary hybrid Paphiopedilum in full flower.

Too soon the 'phone began to ring and I had to move on. Back at the house I had lunch and then made arrangements to visit Roger and Thelma Boys, a young couple who had the largest collection I was to see in Blenheim. Their collection was of Cymbidiums and housed in two or three large glasshouses which had once been tomato houses. Roger is an engineer on the Picton-Wellington ferry and during his time off, finds time to help Thelma with the Cymbidiums, do some mericloneing and build gadgetry for the orchids. I was very taken with his one metre Mag Amp

waterer made from 10cm P.V.C. pipe and installed in the watering line. Geoff Laird's idea has certainly caught on! Roger and Thelma export their flowers and pack local flowers for a North Island exporter. Pot plant sales are also part of their business. I was very interested in their potting mix. It seems the only access to pine bark in the Blenheim area is from a mill which debarks logs. The bark and wood silvers are treated or soaked in fish factory waste and this odourless, treated bark is used as a potting mix. It seemed to be growing the plants well, although older mix appeared to be breaking down pretty soon as one would expect. Back home at the Bottom's I had a quick meal and we hurried off to the meeting. A crowd of very keen growers was present and several asked me to call on them next morning. I left Joan and Jim Bottom's next morning with an invitation from them to stay there on my return trip. Such hospitality and kindness is typical of the people I have met and stayed with so far. I had time to call on one or two members that morning before moving on to Nelson. At Ann Edes I saw a well grown Cymbidium collection and in a small aluminium glasshouse nearby an array of warm growing Genera which her husband grows. Ann has a florist shop in a nearby shopping centre and her son is growing some Phalaenopsis and Paphiopedilums indoors under lights in a wardian case.

The road to Nelson ran up through a hot, dry valley. Soon I was climbing up through young pine plantations in the hills and I believe that in a few years these trees will become timber and Blenheim growers will have a good bark supply — not just peelings from the thinnings and posts.

Down the other side and into the Rai Valley, which was very dry and parched and eventually along the coast into Nelson. Here I made my way out to the well known veteran grower Charlie Scott's place. Charlie and his wife Joan were waiting for me and helped unload my 70 fruit trees and cartons of plants. At the meeting that night there was

quite a crowd and Tom French from New Plymouth popped in to see old friends for a few minutes, on his way to a Florists Conference. Armed with a list of members to see next day I eventually bade the committee members farewell at a late hour and found my way back to Charlie's place to find them both still up watching television. After a lot of entertaining stories from Charlie, I finally got to bed in the wee hours of the morning.

Next day I was loaded up early. Charlie insisted he take me to visit the members so we first called and saw President Harry Simpson. Harry had a rather large collection of very well grown Cymbidiums. There were a lot of pods around and Harry told me he was doing his own flasking and mericloneing. Mrs Simpson, who had had a lovely Cattleya at the meeting the night before, showed me proudly through her own heated section which had a good range of Genera.

We then moved on to two charming ladies who lived almost next to each other at Monaco, near the beach. Eileen Wilson who had been the inaugural President and Mrs Richardson the current Treasurer, were good friends and obviously keen growers. From there we drove to Kiwi Orchid Export, where we were met by Jack Stevenson and later Peter Moffatt. These two I was pleased to see again, as I had met them at various N.Z.E.G.O. Seminars in the North Island. Here on the banks of the harbour they had built a fully automated Fletcher greenhouse covered with durolite. The set up was immaculate, with hundreds of mericlones approaching their first flowering. The astounding thing I found was that these beautiful green coloured plants of two bulbs and a growth were only 13 months from the flask! There were spikes coming away from the plants in all directions! I had to know what they were doing to achieve this. It soon transpired that by liquid feeding overhead three times a day and with leaching between and after feeds, the plants were literally popping out of their

pots! Of course there were fans, automatic vents and other aids but the only other clue was heating when temperatures got down to 10°C. (I believe). Obviously the high feed was stopping the yellow appearance we usually see and get under such high light conditions. Time was marching on but Charlie took me in to see Jack's private collection. Just like the commercial house, this was nicely set up but with warm Genera only. Cattleyas and Phalaenopsis abounded but what caught my eye was an outstanding Vandaceous seedling in flower. This was an Opsisanda, crossed with a Rhynchostylis. It probably has a new generic name by now. The spike was upright with a mass of beautifully displayed deep maroon flowers of about 3 cm — 4 cm across. Only half the flowers were open but I wondered where I could get a panel of judges to view this spectacular plant. Unfortunately only Tom French and I were in town — one more judge would have been enough! The leather-like substance of the flower, the colour and shape had come from the Vandopsis parent, the upright spike from the Vando, and the mass of flowers around the spike from the Rhynchostylis. I wonder how many other beauties like this plant miss being judged in the South Island through lack of a judging panel in the area?

Back at Charlie Scotts I had a quick look at his orchids. He had been a nurseryman many years before and one of the first orchid growers to go commercial. Most of his houses were pretty empty but he had kept a lot of good clones. He told me he was thinking of selling off half the nursery as it was getting too much work. Of course he'd told me the same thing 18 months before when I'd called on him after the Blenheim Seminar!

On the road again with a quick detour to Committee Member, Terry Richardson's commercial set up. Terry is a commercial carnation grower who has one or two glasshouses of export Cymbidiums. In a vacant paddock next

door he pointed out foundations for a large new house for export Cymbidiums. A quick look at the plans showed a series of dome shaped roofs. My impression of the Nelson area was that here were some experienced older growers, a lot of newer enthusiasts who were learning quickly, an excellent climate and good potting materials easily available.

The route was South now. A quick detour to the Hope Saddle look-out, gave me views of the snowclad Nelson Lakes National Park mountains. At Kawatiri Junction the road joined the headwaters of the Buller River and turned south-west to follow it through the famous gorge to the sea at Westport.

My contact here was Mrs Dorothy Swears at the Anglican Vicarage. Rev. and Mrs Swears made me most welcome and after an enjoyable meal we drove in rain to the nearby Plunket Rooms. I was greeted by 15 or so people who had had several meetings in private homes during the past year. A few minutes later I was calling for nominations for President and Committee and then the ninth South Island Orchid Society was formed. An enthusiastic Committee with plenty of young blood agreed to meet with President Mrs Swears next day and organise a programme for the months ahead. Next morning it was still drizzling as I inspected Mrs Swears tunnel house.

She had been growing orchids in other parts of the South Island, but was now having bother. It seemed to me after detailed questioning that the very wet summer and dull weather was mostly to blame. The new growths on

Cymbidiums were only 5 cm — 8 cm long in most cases. The pots were sodden and even outside, the plants were dark green. The potting mix was bush mould and tree fern fibre — about all that could be procured on the coast it seems. At Mr and Mrs Barnett's place I found several Cymbidiums growing inside quite successfully — probably in their original bark mixes from the North Island! We discussed the possibility of

closing in the patio so I guess it won't be long before their collection increases dramatically. Over the road at Mrs Jean King's I found Cymbidiums growing on the verandah against the wall. She was feeding them regularly and they looked well, but again very green. The lack of sunshine, I suppose. None were going to flower and growths were only partly grown.

At Mrs Rose Carruthers around the corner I found a newly built shadehouse of unusual design. It's sides were raised and it had the appearance of a maori food house — complete with red ochre stained timber! It was sturdily built and covered with orange corrugated plastic. The plants inside were looking well so far, but I wonder if the orange roof may upset the photosynthesis process eventually. Green roofs are reputed to cause problems for Cymbidiums after awhile. After lunch with Rose and her mother I shot over to Mrs Tina Taylor's place and discussed where and how her husband could build an orchid house. Her plants were in bush fibre out in the open and showed no sign of yellowing or the sunburn we would expect in a similar spot up North.

Off in a rush again to Greymouth, stopping briefly enroute to photograph the rugged coast and raging seas near Punakaiki, and to inspect a Sphagnum Moss Factory at Rununga. At Greymouth I called on the Secretary of the West Coast Orchid Society, Miss Pike. Here I reloaded, had a cool drink and was directed to the Anglican Church Hall where I was to meet the Society in half an hour.

About 20 or so members arrived — plus one or two first timers from Hokitika. The President, Neville Bellis, suggested that they were considering affiliating to the O.C.N.Z. and after I had spoken and shown some slides we were treated to some of the finest slides of native orchids I have ever seen. These were the work of a young Swiss man whose hobby was photographing New Zealand's native orchids. Although only armed with a couple of books on orchids and no outside contacts he has an

excellent grasp on the features which distinguish each species. I was soon very impressed as he put slides of cut away orchid flowers showing the pollination apparatus etc., on the screen.

Afterwards I learnt that Ulrich Walther, mainly took colour prints and these slides were nothing special to him. At 10.45 p.m. I set off to follow Ulrich home to Boddytown, to meet his proud young wife, and view walls lined with prints. I have brought some prints with me and hope to interest Council and Societies in the North in Perhaps displaying some of Ulrich's prints at their shows or seminars. He told me he sells a few to cover his costs and I'm sure the New Zealand Native Orchid group will be interested to hear him. At 11.30 p.m. I followed this talented young man's car out through back streets to the main road south, where I bade him goodnight and did some 'low flying' to reach friends in Hokitika at midnight.

The next morning I was up and unpacking all the plants into my friend's tomato house, to give them some water and daylight. At 10.00 a.m. three of us were off into the mountains for the next three days where we climbed up in the main divide and looked into Canterbury. Some of my accumulated weight was presumably burnt off before I returned to the life of a commercial traveller on Monday again. I visited Mr and Mrs Hemera in Kumara, north of Hokitika and found a glass house and sunporch of *Cymbidiums* there. Mr Hemera is even thinking of tossing out the 'almighty' tomatoes in another small house and putting in orchids! The plants were looking well and obviously the added warmth of the glasshouse and heater and the open draining mix were playing their part. Pine plantations in this area are evidently the farthest south they will grow on the West Coast. So pinebark would be available to growers soon.

At Boddytown I called on Mrs Henry and a neighbour showed me her collection of orchids, gloxinias and beds of roses in the garden. Some of the finest I recall seeing. Not that I'm a rose

fancier normally! Back in Hokitika I called on Ash Hamilton, a young school teacher who was very keen and filling two or three houses with all manner of Genera.

Yesterday I was away at 8.00 a.m. in drizzling rain. I drove non-stop until I reached the Haast Pass. As I drove along I wondered about the isolation, the high rainfall, the low light factor and whether there was much hope of growing orchids successfully on the coast. The locals say it is warm down the coast in the winter, with not many frosts. Perhaps with good open bark mixes which will allow more fertilizing, plants can be grown faster and thus flowered more readily. This last summer has been so overcast and damp that the growths everywhere were far from mature enough to set spikes. Perhaps more heat in the glasshouse is necessary to get the plants moving in the spring? The isolation of the two coast societies will certainly retard their growth. An occasional Nelson or Christchurch grower will come down and speak to them but until some experienced grower shifts there they will find it hard to keep up their enthusiasm. I certainly hope anyone from up north or over on the east coast will visit them, if they are ever passing through Westport and Greymouth.

And now I'd better check out of this hotel, collect my van and visit a local commercial grower before driving down to Invercargill tonight.

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*continued from page 5*

*Some years ago the magazine operated on a profit basis and the idea of a bulk subscription to save the distribution section a lot of work was considered excellent. In the late 1970's when prices started to rise rapidly, we held the magazine subscription as long as possible, or, until the costs virtually became the selling price. Increases have been only in proportion to increased paper costs and other rises associated with the printing industry. The gap between bulk rate and normal rate has grown disproportionately but I am sure that the Orchid Council will work on this one and come up with a proposal that will be equitable to both parties.*

*Editor*

# Story of a Hole in the Ground

*by Alan Beck of Ngatea*

This story begins with the oil price shock of the 70's when diesel jumped in cost and made the diesel burner that I was using to heat my 10 x 6m glasshouse uneconomical. The heater gave protection and warmth to my collection of Cattleyas and Paphs and could keep a temperature of 10°C. except on our very heavy frosty nights when it would drop to around 4 to 7°C. The cost of diesel for 12 months was usually about \$1500. Another worry with this heater was that it was not reliable and over the years that I had used it I had lost two lots of small Paph seedlings as well as all my Odontoglossum plants when it gave out on the odd frosty night.

I then began searching about for a reliable, reasonably priced and efficient system. The only kind that could be considered was a coal fired boiler which, although expensive to set up would be reasonable in cost of running but would be a damn nuisance to operate as the boiler would need a lot of attention. Electricity would work out far too expensive and could not be considered for any large glasshouse. The only thing that I could do would be to forgo the warmer growing orchids and concentrate on the cooler types although even these would need protection from our severe frosts.

A chance remark made by some-one on a farm near here set me thinking hard. He said that a well he drilled years ago to supply water for his farm was unsuitable as the water was not only warm but had a high mineral content. Further inquiries about other wells put down before the Hauraki plains was reticulated with water from the hills that surround the area, gave information that there was a pumice layer in some parts of the plains at a depth of around 80 to 100m and was usually 15 to 20m thick. This pumice layer was put down centuries ago when the Waikato river flowed through to the Firth of Thames. The problem was to know just where this layer was and if it contained warm water. The warm water originated in the fault-line that crosses the plains in the Te Aroha - Waitoa area and flowed through the pumice layer to the sea.

I eventually took an expensive gamble and got the local well drillers to come and put down an unlined well to 130m at a cost of \$12.00 per metre, just outside my glasshouses. The pumice layer was struck at 90 to 110m and above that was mud and sand and below was shingle. It was a big disappointment as the water we got at the surface was cold and had to be pumped. The well diggers went home with a cheque but were as upset as I was. It was two days later that I had an idea and lowered a Maxi-Mini thermometer down to the bottom of the well and it came up reading approximately 30°C. Encouraged, I then put a large capacity pump into the well and let it pump for 2 days. The water was still flowing at the same temperature as was read with the thermometer.

Now came the question as to how best to use it — the idea was to reticulate it through iron pipes either under benches or on the ground. Experiments with that idea gave poor results as not enough warmth came off the pipes. I then thought of large car or truck radiator with fans blowing air through them into the glasshouses. The cores of the radiators were too small and would soon block up as there was a small amount of fine mud in the water. However the idea was right and I then thought of the large radiators that are used in dairy factories to dry the milk powder. These are used with steam instead of water but the principle was the same and I managed to get two large

ones and two small ones at reasonable cost from a recently closed down dairy factory.

5cm large ones were installed on a V shape under the benches with a large 60cm fan blowing through the radiators which circulates warm air around the glasshouse. A pump alongside the well pumped about 6850 litres an hour through the system and hey presto I had lots of warmth of the order of 21°C.

This went satisfactorily for a year and a half until I found that the system was no longer working efficiently as the fine mud in the water was silting up the radiators and no amount of flushing would shift it. Also as the well was now flowing artesian there was gas coming up to the surface and airlocking the pumping, causing start-up problems when the thermometer switched on. Then disaster; several of my grandsons aged four - seven years had a lovely time throwing rocks down the well and blocked it up completely. A panic call to the well-diggers got them on the job and they again drilled down 100m this time lining the bore and I put a secure cover on top. I dismantled the radiators and cleaned the cores of mud and, to avoid further trouble with that problem I installed a double heat exchange system that will circulate only clean water. There are now two heat exchangers in the well itself and two in the glasshouse where the heat from the well is taken out of the radiators and blown around.

I finally have what I wanted, a reliable cheap to run system that looks after itself and will heat the hothouse (which is now 28m long and 6m wide) to 21°C. even on the coldest of nights. The costs to run are no more than \$1.00 per day average over the year. The heat I am finding is more than is required for adult slippers and Cattleyas but the small seedlings out of flasks are loving it. I have yet to find the best use of this heat as it is having odd effects on some of my plants.

I will be taking notes on this phenomena which I hope will be the subject of a future article. My \$1500 gamble has finally paid off.

## Cymbidium Culture Notes

*by Gordon Maney*

I always think the most difficult growing time is in these cold months of winter and even after 20 years of growing I still worry about when to water.

If you have only a few plants, or a large number, if in doubt, don't! A few more days won't matter.

Several years ago I had fans installed in my houses with a reverse thermostat for the winter months. In other words when the temperature drops below 5° celsius the fans come on.

The movement of air stops spotting of flowers and in places where frosts are severe its a must. If I'm going to water I try to pick a day where there's little likelihood of a frost; although I mainly spot water the plants that need it, some plants do get more water than others, particularly where there are tiered benches. For this reason I'll turn up the fans to make sure the plants are dried out in the foliage by nightfall.

This also particularly applies where I have fed with a foliar spray, which necessitates spraying all over the plants.

I hope also that you have taken my advice and regularly thrown around the slug bait.

Feeding too is still vital, that is with Phostragen maxicrop etc., to give you better flowers and stronger plants; although now with the much colder weather it is best to feed at half strength as the growth of the plants will be at the lowest rate of the year, and once a month is all that is necessary until 1st September, and the growing activity increases.

Then of course we start again with Nitrogenous fertilisers to ensure good strong growths early in the new season.

If you have done as I advised in the March - April notes, you will have staked those spikes to ensure they're trained. Some spikes are held erect and others are arching, and so the staking must allow for natural form.

Remember greens and whites need shade, Pinks, reds and yellows need maximum light to bring out the colour.



# North Shore Orchid Society 10th Anniversary

To celebrate their first ten years, the North Shore Orchid Society held a three day Show and Seminar during Queen's Birthday Weekend.

Paul Gripp of Santa Barbara was the keynote speaker and also conducted a class for O.C.N.Z judges. He was a delightful and informal guest, and managed to trip to the Thames Coast for a short quest for N.Z. native orchids. He found six, some of them in flower.

Paul Gripp: 'Fine tuning towards orchid perfection.'

Dr Jim Harper: 'Growing mixed genera of the Americas.'

Mr M. Richards: 'Modern media and feeding programmes.'

Graham Bell: 'slab culture'.

Frank Brijevich: 'selecting plants for the showbench.'

Ron Roy: 'Some aspects of mixed genera growing.'



North Shore would like to express sincere thanks to all Societies who supported them at the Show with exhibits. Without the quality plants which came from all parts of the North Island, the show would not have been the wonderful success it was. Photographs of some exhibits appear in this issue.

Ross Tucker, Regional Registrar for the No. 1 judging panel would also like to express thanks to those who helped in the judging of the show.

The Seminar caused great interest.  
Papers presented were:

Dan Collin: 'Miniature culture and breeding.'

Mrs Kathleen Black: 'Some observations on growing for profit.'

Prof, Ken Milne: 'Pests diseases and modern control programmes.'

It is hoped that some of the notes supplied by the speakers will be reproduced during the next few issues.

Six workshop sessions were also conducted with four speakers on each panel..... The panels dealt with Masdevallia/Lycaste, Cattleya, Odontoglossum Alliance, Paphiopedilum, Phalaenopsis and Dendrobium.

# ORCHID HUNTING IN NEW ZEALAND

## Thames Area

*Ros Bickerstaff, 12 Enfield Road, Napier*

Our Editor, like others I've known, is always requesting material for their magazines. Besides twisting my arm a little and getting me to wrack my brains, offering suggestions and delving into my interests are some of the other pastimes our worthy Editor is good at - ably assisted by his capable wife. I only hope that they can get a better response to their appeals in the future, than they are getting at present. Surely others have experiences to share?

While in Thames a few months ago, I met some people who had only a short time before joining up with an Orchid Society. They saw my HBOS badge on my lapel and asked after my interests. As most of my friends are aware, these are mainly species and New Zealand natives. They had heard that there were orchids in our country but had never seen them. When I mentioned that there were orchids in the bush and fields around Thames, they were keen to look for them. However, it was too late in the day to do anything, so we arranged to spend the following day up the Kauaeranga Valley, just behind Thames.

Soon after passing the Forest Park Headquarters we entered Coromandel Forest Park by a narrow, unsealed road. The scenery was superb, as it usually is in our bush, but the glimpses of the Kauaeranga River as it wound up the valley made the views much more picturesque. Being a warm day we had brought our swimming costumes, as we knew that there were good swimming spots. A sign pointing to one of these made us stop to investigate. As we went down the track to look at it, I wandered off into the bush. Only a few steps in, I saw a host of *Pterostylis banksii*, some in flower. They were growing in leaf-mould and sand not far up from the river. My friends were thrilled to see their first orchids! We found that this species was very common in this valley.

Before continuing further up the

valley, I decided to check the opposite side of the road. Almost on the road were seen numerous clumps of *Earina mucronata* hanging like grass from overhanging branches. Many had the remains of dead flowers still clinging to them. As I worked my way into the bush, I found a broken, rotting trunk of a tree still propped up in the fork of another tree. The top was missing completely, but on its trunk was a mass of dead, dried up bulbs of *Bulbophyllum pygmaeum*. After a careful search, not one live bulb could be found, and - surprisingly - no other tree nearby could be found with *Bulbophyllum pygmaeum* growing on it. While searching, we came across an area cleared as an access route for linesmen to erect wires through the bush to lodges further up the valley. Luckily, this desecration was not visible from the road. In this space, denuded of bush, luscious grass had grown and scattered through it were patches of that tough grassland orchid, *Thelymitra longifolia*, the sun orchid, and a common companion, *Microtis unifolia*. Being warm and sunny the *Thelymitra longifolia* had many of its flowers wide open - beautiful, starry white flowers, slightly incurved petals and sepals, offset with a touch of blackish-brown and gold on the top of the column. Later, I did see a few isolated specimens of this species in open patches in the bush, but most had either no flowers or unopened flowers, probably because it was too shady.



As we progressed further up the valley, we stopped numerous times to go down tracks. No matter where we went we seemed to see quantities of *Earina mucronata* in the trees, and *Pterostylis banksii* on the ground. In a few spots another epiphyte was seen. This was the autumn flowering *Earina autumnalis*, with its dark green foliage.

Past the Education Board Campsite, the valley opened up. We went as far as the swing bridge. Near here we saw some small plants of *Dendrobium cunninghamii* growing on the sides of trees, high enough to get plenty of bright light and moving air. We decided to cross the bridge - a real thrill in itself - and follow one of the tracks for a while. For the first few hundred metres we saw countless plants of *Pterostylis banksii*, and then as the track headed upwards we came into large patches of *Earina mucronata*. At the side of the track, supporting it from slipping, were many felled trees, large numbers of which still had clumps of *E. mucronata* clinging to them. Some of the trees close to the track had *E. autumnalis* growing round the bases, higher up their trunk becoming interspaced with *E. mucronata*, and above this becoming just *E. mucronata*; a good indication that *E. autumnalis* prefers more shade than *E. mucronata*. On some of the trees, were quite large plants of *Dendrobium cunninghamii*, many having their starry flowers fluttering in the breeze like little white moths or butterflies. Except for a single *Thelymitra longifolia* or two growing beside the track, no other varieties of orchids were seen, so we returned to the river, had a swim and returned to Thames. Not a very successful orchid hunt but it achieved its purpose of introducing our native orchids to some of our members.



## O.C.N.Z. AWARDS Nos. 1, 2,3 & 4/83

Award 1/83 AM/OCNZ

*Plant Name:* *Slc Kaka 'Grenadier'*

*Owner:* Mr I.D. James

*Dimensions:* Natural spread of flowers 70mm, Dorsal sepal - length 34mm, width 12mm, Lateral sepal - length 32mm width 13mm, Petals - length 35mm width 19mm, Lip - length 27mm width 13mm.

*Colour:* Flame red petals and sepals with deep orange background.

Deep gold lip with red markings of the petals shade around the edge.

Award 2/83 - 3/83

CCC/HCC/OCNZ

*Plant Name:* *Grammatophyllum Tigers Paw 'Ellen'*

*Owner:* L & R Orchids

*Dimensions:* Natural spread of flowers 75mm, Dorsal sepal - length 35mm width 22mm, Lateral sepal - length 40mm width 22mm, Petals - length 35mm width 18mm, Lip - length 20mm width 10mm.

*Colour:* Deep green flowers heavily blotched and barred with chocolate brown. The plant carried two long arching spikes with a total of 74 flowers and 23 buds very well shaped and presented.

Award 4/83 CCC/OCNZ

*Plant Name:* *Phalaenopsis Francis Roberts x Lipperose 'Topnotch'*

*Owner:* Mr R. Wells

*Colour:* Medium pink shading to light pink with deeper pink in lip. Deep rose marking on white background on keels. One spike with 24 well balanced and well displayed flowers.

# Society Information

## MEETINGS

### AUCKLAND ORCHID CLUB

Meet 1st Tuesday of month. Secretary: D.K. Lilly, P.O. Box 21141, Henderson. Phone: 836-8900.

### BAY OF PLENTY

Meet 2nd Sunday of month. Secretary: Mrs J. Blackwood, 250 Pohutukawa Ave, Ohope Beach. Phone 796 Ohope.

### CANTERBURY

Meet 1st Monday of month. Secretary: Mr J.G. Marshall, 6 Gamblins Rd, ChCh. 2. Phone 326-533 Ch Ch.

### CAPITAL CITY

Meet 3rd Monday of month. See Mrs P. Wlms, 'Wynmead' Ohariu Valley Road, R.D., Wellington. Phone 788-918.

### DANNEVIRKE & DISTRICT

Meet 2nd Monday of month. Secretary: Mr L.N. Feck, 10 Trafalgar St, Dannevirke. Phone 7914.

### GOLDEN COAST

Meet 2nd Monday of month. Secretary: Mrs Betty Norman, 60 The Esplanade, Raumati South. Phone 86-959 Paraparaumu.

### HAWKES BAY

Meet 1st Monday of month. Secretary: Mrs N.F. Allen, R.D.3, Napier. Phone 83-050.

### HUTT VALLEY CIRCLE

Meet 4th Monday of month. Secretary: Mr Jack Francis, 17 Ranfurly St, Trentham. Phone 287-829 Wellington.

### HOWICK

Meets 2nd Saturday morning of month. Secretary: Mrs E. Frost, 73 Ridge Road, Howick. Phone 534-4823.

### MANAWATU

Meet 2nd Thursday of month. Secretary: Mr J.G. Jackson, 18 Hurley Place, Palmerston North. Phone 83-348.

### MARLBOROUGH

Meet 4th Sunday of month, June, July and August. 4th Thursday from September to May. Secretary: Mrs J. Bottom, 24 Snowden Cres, Blenheim. Phone 87-918.

### NELSON

Meet 3rd Tuesday of month. Secretary: Mr T.H. Wells, 5 Browning Cres, Stoke. Phone 79980.

### NEW ZEALAND

Meet 3rd Wednesday of month. Secretary: Mr C.H. Brindle, 24 McIntyre Rd, Mangere Bridge. Phone 689-001, Auckland.

### NORTH SHORE

Meet 1st Sunday of month. Secretary: Mrs Eden Campbell, 52 Lynbrooke Avenue, Auckland 7. Phone 679-804.

### SOCIETY OF SOUTHLAND

Meet 1st Tuesday of month. Secretary: Mr Ray Dodd, Taiepa Rd, R.D.9, Otatara. Phone 80-067 Invercargill.

### STRATFORD ORCHID CLUB

Meet 1st Tuesday of month. Secretary: Mrs Sylvia Voss, 24 Pembroke Road, Stratford. Phone 7715.

### OTAGO

Meet 4th Wednesday of month. Secretary: Mr M.L. Young, 61 Argyle St, Mosgiel. Phone 6550.

### POVERTY BAY EAST COAST

Meet 2nd Monday of month. Secretary: Mrs L. Fitzgerald, Box 795, Gisborne. Phone 76872.

### ROTORUA

Meet 1st Sunday of month. Secretary: Naere Short, 41 Koutu Road, Rotorua. Phone 87-391.

### SOUTH AUCKLAND

Meet 1st Tuesday of month. Secretary: Valerie Burnside, 74 Red Hill Rd, Papakura. Phone 298-3205.

### SOUTH CANTERBURY

Meet 1st Tuesday of month. Secretary Mrs D. Brocket, 16 Baker St, Timaru. Phone 47-136.

### SOUTH TARANAKI

Meet 3rd Thursday of month. Secretary: Mrs Una McCormick, PO Box 275, Hawera. Phone 85-755.

### TARANAKI

Meet 2nd Tuesday of month. Secretary: Mrs Ruth Schellin, 47A Endeavour St, New Plymouth. Phone 511-514.

### TAUPO

Meet 3rd Tuesday of month. Secretary: Mrs L. Galloway, 12 Rimu St, Taupo. Phone 86-481.

### TAURANGA

Meet 3rd Tuesday of month. Secretary: Mrs B. Burgess, Box 2107, Tauranga South. Phone 25-819.

### THAMES VALLEY

Meet last Sunday of month. Secretary: Mr Gordon McKenzie, PO Box 60, Thames. Phone 86-720.

### WAIRARAPA

Meet 1st Sunday of month. Secretary: Pam Shaw, 47 Iorns St, Masterton. Phone 84483.

### WAIKATO

Meet 4th Tuesday of month. Secretary: Mrs Rachel Haggie, PO Box 7101, Claudelands, Hamilton. Phone 494-612.

### WAIROA

Secretary: Mrs R. Gasson, PO Box 191, Wairoa.

### WANGANUI CLUB

Meet 1st Wednesday of month. Secretary: Mrs Frances Harvey, 46 College St, Wanganui. Phone 55-607.

### WELLINGTON

Meet 1st Monday of month. Secretary: Mrs L.G. Cosnett, 35 Clyma St, Upper Hutt. Phone 288-429, Wellington.

### WHANGAREI

Meet 1st Wednesday of month. Secretary: Mrs Pam Bunton, PO Box 1408, Whangarei. Phone 88-497

# Orchid of the Year 1982

The 1982 Annual General Meeting of Conzed Incorporated recommended that an 'Orchid of the Year' be selected annually from the orchids granted awards of quality by the Council Regional Judging Panels. This recommendation was implemented and at the Annual General Meeting of 28th May 1983, the Registrar-General's Report announced the selection of Orchid of the Year for 1982, Cymbidium Rae James 'Cameo' HCC/OCNZ., owned by Mr I. D. James of Hamilton.



The parentage of C. Rae James is C. Green Knight X C. Hi-Rated, the cross being made by Mr James and registered by him in 1975. The clone 'Cameo' is a large white flower of excellent form, substance and texture, the labellum displaying a band of bright red. The strong spike shows the flowers to best advantage.

We congratulate Cymbidium Rae James 'Cameo' HCC/OCNZ and owner and hybridiser Mr James on achieving this further accolade.



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

## UPDATE ON DISA

Having aroused nation-wide interest in cultivating *Disa uniflora* by offering seed through the auspices of the Taranaki Orchid Society (See 'Orchids in New Zealand' Vol. 8, No. 4) it seems appropriate to maintain an update of progress by regular contributions. This will allow an opportunity to investigate successes and failures to the benefit of all in addition to providing a means of passing on current cultural requirements.

The burden of correspondence in this type of undertaking can be formidable and in anticipation, it was made clear from the onset that this would not be engaged in. If, however, those taking part would care to write to me or the Editor concerning their success or failure in germinating the seed or any other observation relating to *Disa* I will endeavour to acknowledge through this column. Please note that I do NOT, however, undertake to answer correspondence personally, much as I would like to.

Firstly, a little background information on the scheme ..... Most noteworthy has been the co-operation. The Taranaki Orchid Society accepted the responsibility for distribution without hesitation as it conforms with one of the objects embodied in their constitution and expands a policy already well established amongst the membership of actively encouraging the cultivation of orchid species.

Having ensured the final requirement (distribution) first, there came a period of trying to get the horse back in front of the cart for we had to advertise a commodity which didn't exist to an unknown market and be geared up to meet an unpredictable demand for a perishable product (New Zealand's economy in a nutshell). Deciding to guarantee the scheme over two

flowering seasons finally got the horse back in front and we were off, with everyone safeguarded.

Five local members co-operated with the Parks and Reserves Department to produce the seed and their generous assistance was most important to the success of the scheme. The finest forms of *Disa uniflora* were inter-crossed (what is termed intra-specific pollination) thereby ensuring a high potential of quality in the seedlings over a range of colour variations. To further enhance this and ensure high viability, the seed was mixed in two batches of maturity.

Nobody volunteered to count the actual number of seeds produced but I can report that a total of 35 pods matured providing a volume of seed equivalent to 88 cubic centimetres which to you and I means about enough to fill approximately four and one half matchboxes.

The next problem was how to packet the seed. Bitter experience had proven to me that the smallest packets one can buy provide the best orchid seed and fern spore dispensers (not containers) possible because they are not sealed at the corners and when squeezed (as in postal handling) act as bellows with disastrous results. Did I hear someone ask "What about those neat little plastic bags which seal when one squeezes them?". One only makes that mistake

once. Static electricity has every seed sticking to the walls and if there is one frustration greater than finding that your precious seed has been "puffed by a postie" it is to have it in your hand but "under the mastery of magnetism!".

Consequently every packet was made by hand using double sided sellotape criss-crossed between sheets of typing paper and then sectioned with scissors. Experience has indicated that this method is satisfactory and I hope that it has proven so in this instance.

How many yielded to temptation? The response came from the length of New Zealand and even extended to Australia. Altogether, close to 200 packets were set out, some in batches to Societies but most to individuals.

Generally distribution went without a hitch thanks to our Secretary who despatched seed as quickly as it was supplied but this phase did beset us with two problems. The first was that I was not able to compile the growing instructions until long after the advertisement appeared in print and as a consequence six pages of A4 had in many cases, to be put somehow into a standard envelope.

The second problem was generated by not knowing the likely response. The seed was to be harvested in two batches and orders were arriving before the first was ready. In the end, I took my pocket knife and pushed it into the mountain of seed and withdrew the blade with a fair portion and then had the tricky job of getting this into the packets.

The outcome of all this is that the scheme from the seed production and distribution point of view has been a great success and all concerned are prepared to repeat it in the coming New Year (1984). The conditions will be the same as advertised in "Orchids in New Zealand" Vol. 8, No. 4 and orders will be accepted as of now but please note that no seed will be sent out until the new harvest in April 1984 and that a business type envelope approximately 220 x 100mm is preferable.

In the meantime, we would like to hear from those taking part so that we can build on the successes or avoid repetition of problems. By the time this is published the initial suspense should be over. By taking a magnifying glass, swelling and green colouration will be evident and two minute leaves will be emerging from the top of the green globule but please note that we are looking for tiny plantlets that will be no taller than about 3mm (1/8") at the best. Anything greater than this can be carefully removed as weeds.

If there has been no response, the problem almost surely is in the growing conditions or handling of the seed as trials with samples taken from the packeted seed and sown at the same time as that for most participants have resulted in satisfactory germination.

As emphasised in the instructions, constant moisture availability and not high temperatures are very important for germination but it seems likely that growth may be enhanced by placing the plants during winter where temperatures do not drop below 5 deg C. A compromise must be struck where competitive growth of algae, liverworts and mosses is not more favoured than the seedlings. Free air movement but avoiding drying is important in maintaining this balance.

#### VALE

*Russell Martin who died in Melbourne at the end of May this year will be missed among the orchid fraternities of Australia and New Zealand. Russell was Managing Director of McBeans Orchids [Australia] Pty. Ltd., for many years he was active in Australian orchid circles, and was on the Australian Orchid Council.*

*His knowledge of orchids, his love of them, and his enthusiastic and energetic participation in everything to do with them, will be sadly missed here and across the Tasman. His contribution to this magazine - a series of articles in earlier years was appreciated by his New Zealand friends.*





*Grand Champion Lycaste [Koolena 'Jacks' x Shoalhaven] 'Ellen'*



*'Winning display 10th Anniversary Show - Whangarei Orchid Society'*

# **Prizewinners at the 10th Anniversary Show of the North Shore Orchid Society**

## **Grand Champion of the Show:**

Lyc. (Koolena 'Jacks' x Shoalhaven) 'Ellen' grown by L. & R. Orchids and displayed on the Gold Coast Orchid Society stand.

## **Society Displays:**

1st: Whangarei Orchid Society  
2nd: N.Z. Orchid Society  
3rd: Auckland Orchid Club

## **Cymbidium:**

1st: Paul Gripp: Nancy Brown 'Lisa'.  
2nd: Gronwall & Dawe: UN-named seedling  
3rd: Paul Gripp: Crackerjack 'Midnight Magic' AM/AOS SM - AD/CSA

## **Miniature Cymbidium:**

1st: Edith Matheson: Sleeping Lamb x *pumilum*  
2nd: Linwood Orchids: Orkney 'Pink Heather'  
3rd: M. Le Sueur: Sarah Jean 'Ena Langdale'

## **Odontoglossum Alliance:**

1st: V. Parnell: Odm. Anneliese Rothenburger  
2nd: R. Wells: Onc. Sultamyre x (*varicosum* x *forbesii*)  
3rd: E. Murdoch: Milt. Hamburg 'Bambi' x Brana

## **Cattleya Alliance:**

1st: Andrew Easton: (Lc. Quadrille x C. Horace)  
2nd: Allan Jones: Sl. Orpettii  
3rd: C.T. & L.D. Duxfield: Blc. Nacouche 'Marya'

## **Paphiopedilum:**

1st: Andrew Easton: (Kowloon x *callosum* 'Merlot')  
2nd: J.S. Hannah: Appoctanianum x *sukhakulii* 'Mitre Peak'  
3rd: Corbans Orchids: Grose x Paeony 'Regency'

## **Any Other Genera:**

1st: L. & R. Orchids: Lyc. (Koolena 'Jacks' x Shoalhaven) 'Ellen'  
2nd: R. Wells: Phal. Jimmy Hall 'Touch Petal' x Jimmy Hall '13'  
3rd: M. Teal: Ascocenda Bonanza x V. Pukele

## **Novice Class - All Genera:**

1st: C.B. Hewitt: Odm. Laeve x Oda. Mem. Donald Campbell  
2nd: Mrs J. Shayler: Lc. Mem. Andre Battle 'La Tuillerie'  
3rd: H. & P. Lines: *Paph. insigne* 'Alice'

## **Best Cultured Plant:**

1st: Paul Leahy: *Paph. insigne*  
2nd: Paul Leahy: *Zygopetalum mackayii*  
3rd: J. Thompson: Min. Cym, Minette 'Green Queen'

# **PHOTOGRAPHING NATIVE ORCHIDS**

by R. J. Markwick

Native Orchid Society of South Australia

concluded.

## **PRACTICAL ASPECTS Part 2.**

**Hand—held shots:** If the camera is hand—held you are bound to lose a few photographs due to focus shifts and/or blurring caused by camera movement. Because they both aim and shoot' photographers can learn a lesson from competitive rifle shooters. Your 'firing' position should be the natural holding position, muscles should not be unduly tensioned. Shift your body position if this is not so. Breathe normally, focus carefully, and suspend breathing (lungs relaxed) during the final second or two when the shutter is released. Don't jerk the camera when you trigger the shutter — squeeze off your 'shot'. When lying prone (as orchid photographers must often do), make your body into a tripod

— camera to eye, elbows and stomach on the ground. I have successfully used shutter speeds as low as 1/8 sec. in this position, but generally use 1/30 sec. Best of all, use a tripod.

**Tripods:** A good tripod should be heavy to minimise vibration. The legs should be capable of being opened to different angles and extended to different lengths. The plan-head and centre-column should be capable of being inverted, and it is useful if the centre-column can be shortened. A currently available tripod fulfilling these criteria is the Velbon Model AEF—3.

**Focussing Rails:** One of the most useful accessories is a set of focussing rails which permit the whole camera to move backwards and forwards on the tripod, allowing much faster and easier setting up. It adds a very handy dimension to tripod movements.

**Shutter Release Cable:** To minimise vibration, a shutter release cable should be used whenever a tripod is used. A cable one metre long will be found most useful. To further minimise vibration, if your SLR camera has a mirror—lock, use it.

**Focussing/Viewing Aids:** There are a number of specialised aids available including eyesight correction lenses, eyepiece magnifiers which magnify the central portion of the image field for critical focussing at the more extreme magnifications, and right—angle viewing attachments which allow right-angled viewing of the entire focussing screen (useful if your subject is at ground level).

I hope these articles have been of some use to orchid enthusiasts, perhaps even stimulating some budding photographers who haven't tried, into giving close-up photography a go. I don't need to tell you that our native orchids make fascinating subjects. To close discussion, it only remains for me to make a few general comments.

**Films:** I use and prefer Kodak Ektachrome 64. There are, however, other excellent colour slide films on the market, some of them very fast, a definite plus for the close-up

photographer who has to cope with small apertures and long exposures. One such film is Fujichrome 400. Try it.

**Notebook:** Always carry a notebook and pencil to record the date, field location, the name of the orchid photographed, and details of its habitat. In this way you will build up a useful body of knowledge on locations, habitats, and flowering dates, which will add not only to your knowledge of our favourite subject, but have the potential for adding to the knowledge of others.

Until you have perfected your techniques, record aperture and exposure times used with different lens extensions, flash distances, etc. These notes will help you determine where you are going wrong, and provide the basis for development of corrective measures.

**Photography for Record Purposes:** If you are into photographing native orchids for study purposes, it is useful to photograph —

- (a) the plants habitat,
- (b) the whole plant,
- (c) the flower from the side, and
- (d) from the front.

Also note the magnification size. Ensure that the photograph shows clear details of the flower's labellum, the column, and any other identifying features of the plant. Also clear away any leaf litter or dried grass which could detract from the picture.

Close-ups are very much a matter of experiment and the photographer has to test-shoot his equipment and his methods. Much satisfaction can be derived from a good photograph of a small object, giving it life so that it is more than just a photographic record. Magnification alone is not enough, even close-ups need some artistic (as well as technical) skill.

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# HUNTLEYA MELEAGRIS

by J. Campbell of Prebbleton.

I suppose orchid growers the world over are like so many in our society and try to grow a very mixed collection from extremely wide localities and varied environments. I particularly like the species and certainly have tried to grow as many of them as anyone in our area.

One greenhouse is backed onto a concrete block wall and faces North, so it does not receive sunlight on the roof 'til mid morning in summer and then only at an angle at which the greater part is reflected off. By afternoon the sun is shining directly onto the roof and often summertime maximum temperatures reach 37 Celsius. New Zealand has very intense sunlight because of the very clear air and in our particular part of the country we are subjected to hot dry North-West winds which last summer raised the temperature in the houses to 48 Celsius for a few hours each day for a three day period. This was almost record temperature and has not occurred before in my time, but 43°C is not uncommon at the peak of summer.

Regular misting helps the plants survive but does not reduce the temperature much. My minimum winter temperature in this particular house is set by thermostat at 13 Celsius and during many cold winter days it seldom goes higher. Because of overhead *Stephanotis floribunda* vines and a central mesh wall of hanging plants, there are areas at the back half of the house running to quite heavy shade. A continuous water trough runs right round the house under the benched and combined with gravel paths which are wet often, helps keep up the humidity. All my greenhouses are clad with a locally made fibreglass material called Durolite and lined inside with clear polythene film. Extra shading is sprayed on during summer.

I purchased my *Huntleya meleagris* along with an ill fated order from Brazil six years ago. Instead of a quick flight from Rio to Los Angeles then South to 'new Zealand, no more than a three or four day trip, it was sent via Japan. The parcel was shunted round the Northern hemisphere for two weeks in one of the worst winters for many years.

The plants finally arrived blackened and frosted, one of the worst looking importations of orchids I have ever received.

From articles I had read I was under the impression that *Huntleyas* came from quite warm and specialised environments but this plant was the least effected of the whole parcel.

Some time previous to this I had been reading of a U.S.A. grower who was having good success with plants on polystyrene foam slabs so I mounted the *Huntleya* on a 30 by 25 x 2.5 cm slab with a little moss over the roots.

It was hung high in the shady side of the house under the vines and from what I've seen when on collecting trips in the jungles of overseas countries the light it receives is about the same as that found near ground level in tropical mountain forests. There is no direct sunlight only diffused light.

The *Huntleya* bolted away right from the beginning with roots spreading rapidly over the slab and new growths appearing in no time at all.

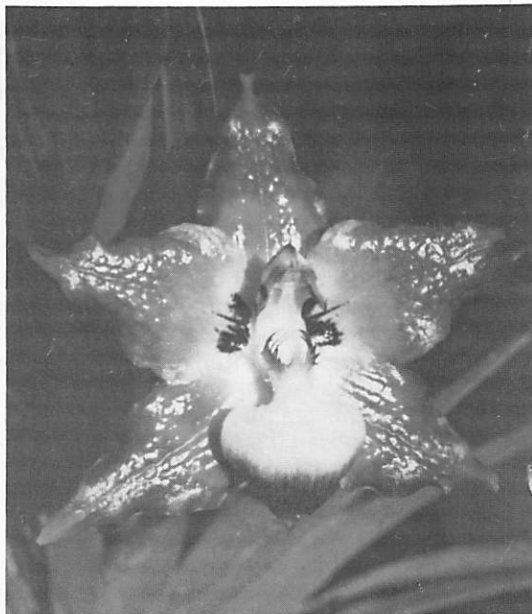
It has grown so well that I have cut off four pieces in the six years I've had it. Two were sold and two are potted in coarse pine bark, but they are not doing as well as the original piece.

During summer I mist the plants daily, watering more heavily depending on the heat of the day and very weak fertiliser is applied with most waterings. Because the *Huntleya* is on such a non-absorbant

material, I make sure it gets a good wetting on fine days but along with all the others it dries out on the surface by mid-day. The roots hold the moisture quite a bit longer in its shady locality.

When my houses are closed, circulating fans keep the air in constant movement. The plant never produces a lot of flowers at one time and only once has it had two out together but there is a flower on it practically all year round. Last year I self fertilised a flower successfully and now have seedlings in flasks.

The plant has received no other attention apart from watering since the day it was mounted and now is so large that the wire on which it is hanging is bent at a crazy angle from the weight. It is a continuing source of interest mainly because such a large plant is growing on such an inert piece of material. This orchid must rate as the easiest one to culture among a collection of several thousand.



*Huntleya meleagris* photo by courtesy of Ros Bickerstaff

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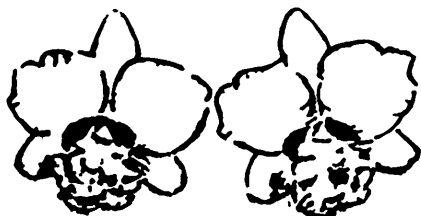
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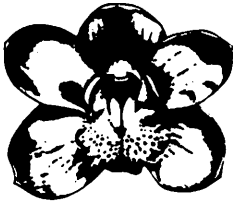
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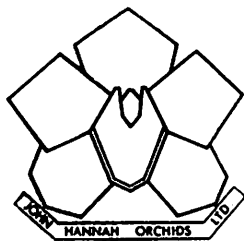
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