



President's Message: Glenys MacRae

Orchid Show season is swiftly coming to a close with the last shows of the year taking place this weekend in Hawke's Bay and on the North Shore of Auckland where both societies will be holding *Sarcochilus* and other genera shows. An attractive range of orchids were on display in the photos I saw from the recent Bay of Islands and Canterbury shows. Last weekend I participated in the Howick Orchid Society Show. It was a lovely day and it was pleasing to see the public come through to view the orchids and purchase plants.

More Judges Needed – Please Consider

The OCNZ system of orchid judging is designed to recognise new or superior forms of orchid species and hybrids, leading to improvement in the shape and the colour of the flowers in all orchid genera. The system also recognises the growers of plants showing superior culture. However, to maintain the judging system we need to continually recruit new judges. Currently, there are 72 accredited judges but with an average of 5 retirements a year over the past 5 years – and as it can take up to 4 years to train and become an accredited judge – we need at least 20 associate judges coming through the system just to maintain current numbers. Unfortunately, we currently have only 4 associates.

Judges make a sincere, long-term commitment, and give much of their personal time and resources. In return they acquire knowledge on a wide range of orchid genera, species and hybrids, and hybridisation and breeding trends. If you would like to find out more about becoming a judge, please contact the Chair of your local judging panel. Their names are listed on the [OCNZ website](http://ocnz.org.nz).

Expo Presentations

The recent Expo dinner was a chance to make some presentations. Roy Neale, as patron of OCNZ, presented these awards:

Gillian Lyster received a Distinguished Service certificate for her 13 years on the OCNZ Executive (now retired). She is also in her 18th year as the South Island Regional Chair for the OCNZ Judging system.

Margaret Lomas received her actual Award of Honour after her certificate at the National Judges Seminar dinner in Napier last year. Details of Margaret's award are in the *2023 Yearbook*.

Thomas Brown received awards for growing the Cymbidium of the Year 2022 and Orchid of the Year 2022 (George Fuller Trophy), Cym. Little Beauty 'Ohm Princess' AM/OCNZ. All details are in *Orchids 2023* in the Awards Section.

Ernie & Joan Corbett's certificate for the Cultural Award of the Year 2022 was passed to Murray Dean who was to present it to them at the next Taranaki Orchid Society Meeting.

Earlier in the day, **Patricia Hutchins** received her Species of the Year Award for 2022 while visiting the Expo show.

Murray Dean, chair of the Committee on Awards, made these presentations:

Albert Blumhardt received a Long Service certificate for 25 years as an OCNZ Judge.

Awards of Merit: **Nikki Gold** (Npp. Adelaide Jester 'Memoria John Wardill'); **Jason Strong** (Paph. fairrieanum 'Alexandra'); **Jane Napper** (Cym. John Lennon 'Beautiful Thing'); **Thomas Brown** (V. Velvet Moon 'Joybell' and Aerth. caudata 'Memoria Carl Christiansen'); and **Leroy Orchids** (Rth. Leroy's Star 'Forever').

Certificate of Cultural Excellence: **Leroy Orchids** (Den. delicatum 'Pretty Woman').

Certificates of Cultural Commendation: **Leslie Newton** (Den. bracteosum 'Northwood'); **Ninox Orchids** (Cym. Snow Court 'Elfin Beauty'); and **Thomas Brown** (Aerth. caudata 'Memoria Carl Christiansen').



Above: Alby Blumhardt.



Above from left: Thomas Brown receiving the George Fuller Award, Glenys MacRae and Roy Neale.



Right: Hubert Muisers (Ninox Orchids), left, and Murray Dean.

Below: Jane Napper.



Above: Roy Neale and Gillian Lyster.

**Photos:
Sandra Simpson**



Right: Lesley Newton and Murray Dean.