



President's Message: Glenys MacRae

Welcome back to another year of orchids and orchid events. The Taranaki Orchid Society kicked off the year with their popular Summer Show. There was an interesting range of genera on display and plenty of plants in the car boot sale. Grand Champion was Den. glomeratum exhibited by Graham Jackson with the Reserve Champion going to Bryan Sutherland's Catasetum. Chris Whitby gave a fantastic after-dinner talk on Saturday describing how he became interested in orchid culture and where that interest has taken him. On Sunday morning Chris spoke on Paphiopedilum culture. Sorry my phone rang during your talk Chris, something we had joked about the night before!

Don't forget that the **National Judges Seminar and OCNZ AGM** will be at the Auto Lodge in New Plymouth over King's Birthday Weekend (June 1-3) with an overseas speaker due to be announced soon. For those travelling to Taiwan for the World Orchid Conference and the Taiwan International Orchid Show, which are being held concurrently in February, we wish you safe and happy travels.

Your Yearbook Needs You!

Deadline for articles for the 2024 Yearbook is the end of February. If you're planning to submit, please advise asap editor Allan Rae, a.n.rae@massey.ac.nz. We would also invite clubs to consider donating to the Yearbook's printing costs. Due to rising costs, we're facing a per copy cost that is more than we receive from capitation. Donations may be made to a/c number **02-0727-0548974-00** using your club/individual name and 'YB printing' in the reference fields. Thank you.

Profile of OCNZ Patron Roy Neale

A profile of Roy Neale, patron of OCNZ, has just been added to our website. [Please find it here.](#)

Iwitahi Working Bee, December 2023

Iwitahi co-ordinator Toby Marris reports that numbers for the working bee are heading back to pre-Covid levels and recently comprised 16 enthusiastic volunteers (not all in the photo), including people who had been part of the setting up the reserve. "We also had a student doing research for Te Papa as our guest, so discussions around the past and future of the reserve were lively to say the least, with some good plans formed," Toby says.

"An additional treat was a walk up the road from Sika Lodge into Kaimanawa Forest – while orchids were limited to mostly Thelymitra on the roadside it was great to compare the different sorts of forest – Kaimanawa being mainly beech and the reserve being under pine. Orchids were late flowering this season but there were plenty of Calochilus, Chiloglottis, Adenochilus and Pterostylis, as well as Gastrodia through the new pine planting beside the reserve."



The 2024 working bee is from December 6-8 (Friday-Sunday) with accommodation available near the site on the Napier-Taupo highway. If you would like to book a place, or your club would like a talk on the work being done there please email Toby Marris, tobymarris@hotmail.com.