

ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND NEWSLETTER

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Editor: Sandra Simpson (ocnzeditor@gmail.com)

Website: orchidcouncil.org.nz



President's Message: Keith Smart

"As the days lengthen, the cold strengthens," a line my grandfather always emphasised, has resonated particularly this past month. This year has been more like the winters that we had in the past. Last weekend's winter show in Waikato proved we can still grow beautiful orchids in challenging conditions, thanks to all who exhibited. The next shows are the spring shows. Hopefully, you will all be able to get a chance to show off your flowers and buy a few new plants to keep that anticipation that you might get a winner and get a champion ribbon.

Wairoa Seeks Yearbook Donations

The recent flood in Wairoa (late June) has not only written off the car of orchid society president Joce Gregory but written off the box of Yearbooks inside the car! Joce is hoping that other clubs may be willing to send her any spare copies – up to 15 needed for those that hadn't yet picked them up. Please contact Joce for more information, ph/txt 027 251 3665 or [by email](#).

South Island Judging Seminar, Labour Weekend, Nelson

Attached to the email with this newsletter is information about the October 26 and 27 South Island judging seminar being held in Stoke, near Nelson. Register by September 20 for \$70, after that \$85. Non-registrants are welcome to attend the talks, \$5 each.

Index to Yearbook Articles

We have added to our website an Index for all Yearbook articles from 1997 to date. We hope it may be of use, particularly to people with a large collection of the Yearbooks. [Please find it here](#) or, for future reference, under the Past Journals tab.

Ideas for Attracting & Retaining New Members

South Auckland OS has kindly provided some details about how it attracts new members. SAOS is proactive in reaching out – for instance, providing speakers for garden clubs. President Brian Sherson belongs to the Papakura Plants FB group where he's talked about orchids, resulting in 2 new members.

A club member's rapport with a local café resulted in a display table of members' plants with membership forms available. "The cafe was in a perfect location beside the library/art centre where we've done the same display to advertise our recent shows in Pukekohe, held in the hall next to the café," Brian says.

Over time he's got to know the managers and staff at Papakura's Bunnings and Mitre 10. "In recent years when both places have had an expo of some sort and Christmas events, we have been able to have a display table. Both places have always obliged SAOS by having plenty of Phalaenopsis for us to display and also having the display table in a practical place.

"Bunnings have a monthly event on garden subjects and I was invited to talk about SAOS, and we got 4 new members from that."

A club member suggested a 'Dr Orchid' prescription form, which includes lines for a pH test and a moisture test; fertilisers (named fertilisers and rates of application); and leaf cleaning. The filled-out form can be taken home for the orchid owner to refer to. The club also has a Phalaenopsis care sheet as a hand-out.

It's Orchid Show Season!

Please feel free to send the [Newsletter Editor](#) your show flyers for use on our Facebook page. Don't forget to check our [Show Dates page](#) on the website for shows all around the country.