

## ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND NEWSLETTER

July 2024

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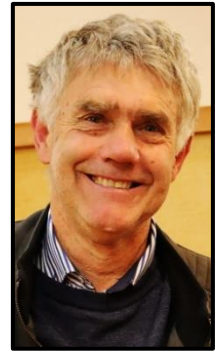
Website: [orchidcouncil.org.nz](http://orchidcouncil.org.nz)



### Incoming President's Message: Keith Smart

I am honoured to have become President of the Orchid Council New Zealand after an involvement with OCNZ since 2018. I would like to take this opportunity to share a bit about myself and my background. I am a semi-retired dairy farmer who still gets my hands dirty, but not needed for the day-to-day responsibilities. I am happily married to Sue, and we have three adult children and four grandchildren.

My journey with orchids began in the late 1970s. Around that time, I joined the Waikato Orchid Society and became an active committee member in the mid-1980s, as well as joining the judging group. I have served as President of the Waikato Orchid Society, been on the committee, still serve as Treasurer, and am a Life Member. My collection primarily consists of Cattleya orchids, but I also grow a mix of other genera that have caught my eye or have been gifted to me.



As you know, OCNZ does not govern individual clubs or societies. It was established to oversee national interests, with its primary responsibilities including oversight of our judging system, producing the yearbook, supporting national shows and Iwitahi Native Orchid Reserve, and liaising with government departments on matters such as plant importations. I recognise the importance of attracting new members and retaining them to sustain and energise our clubs and activities, which ultimately benefits the judging system as well. I am hopeful that under this OCNZ Executive, we can assist societies in attracting new, energetic members.

### 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.

### Ideas for Attracting & Retaining New Members

Following on from last month's thoughts, here are a few more ideas that we hope may be helpful.

**Selling your show to Millennials, etc:** Include a QR code on show posters containing the show information – dates, opening times, etc. Free QR code generators are available online, [this one](#) is in New Zealand.

**Social Media:** It's not just young people on social media, plenty of 'snow on the roof' types adeptly navigate, say, Facebook. If your club does use social media, try and post regularly to keep interest up. Nothing worse than finding a club site (of any sort) where the most recent post is from 2019!

**Hawkes Bay Orchid Society has kindly shared its New Members' Programme:** Barbara Bird and Jenny Hope realised that new members didn't have the opportunity to advance their orchid knowledge at general meetings. The newest 6 members were invited to Barbara's and the turnout was 100%. Barbara provided seedling Cattleyas and Sarcophilus and the newbies potted these up. This has now developed into an enthusiastic sub-branch and will apply to the committee for funding for further materials. The group meets regularly and over the past year workshops have included: Repotting Cymbidiums, ongoing care and printed info; repotting Miltonias and care info; splitting a large, donated Coelogyne cristata; rafts; and splitting two large species Coelogyne, seeing the mounts made and mounting. A second such group may be starting, thanks to the first one being such a success.

### 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.