

ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND NEWSLETTER

June 2024

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Outgoing President's Message: Glenys MacRae

The OCNZ AGM was held in Taranaki on King's Birthday weekend – following the AGM I became the OCNZ Immediate Past President with Keith Smart becoming your new President. I've had a busy 3 years in the President's seat and I thank the committee for their support during that time. I wish Keith and the new committee all the best. Keith will be writing the President's message from July.

The Taranaki Orchid Society did a splendid job organising the National Judging Symposium and OCNZ AGM, and our guest speaker, Gary Yong Gee from Brisbane, gave informative talks on judging species and orchid nomenclature. Gary is an excellent photographer with many of his photos featured on his website www.younggee.name, well worth a visit. Following King's Birthday weekend Gary embarked on a short speaking tour of Hawkes Bay, Nelson and Wellington. We hope you enjoyed Gary's presentations.

OCNZ Executive 2024-25

President: Keith Smart (Waikato). Immediate Past President: Glenys MacRae (Waitakere). Vice-President: Allan Rae (Manawatu). Secretary: Phil Thomsen (Wanganui). Treasurer: Jenny Hope (Hawkes Bay). Committee: Toby Marris (Waitakere), Sandra Simpson (Tauranga), Janice Brown (Wellington), Ross Bicknell (Canterbury), Murray Dean (Taranaki). An election was held for the committee with Nik Krawchenko (Hawkes Bay) the unsuccessful candidate. Thank you to everyone who stood and our volunteer scrutineers.

National Judges' Seminar & OCNZ AGM: June 1-3

A great time was had by all, including our speaker Gary Yong Gee – once he made it across the Tasman (fog closed Brisbane Airport and his flight was cancelled). After a marathon effort, Gary arrived in New Plymouth in time for the Saturday dinner.

The dinner was a chance to present some awards. The COA celebrated Anjo McKernan (Auckland, absent) as a fully fledged judge; and Beverley Lowe (Hawkes Bay, absent) who received a 25-year judges' service certificate. The OCNZ presented outgoing Vice-president Bryan Sutherland with a 5-year service certificate. A number of COA Award certificates were presented, as were the Orchid of the Year awards.

The seminar resulted in 6 awards being lodged for ratification: 1 CCC, 1 AM and 4 HCC. Thanks to all the growers who brought plants along for the judges to work with.

Graham Jackson (left, Manawatu) received an outstanding 5 plant awards – 4 AMs and 1 HCC – all gained in 2024, from COA chair Murray Dean. How many more to come? See more about Graham's plants and awards on the OCNZ website, along with all the other awards up to May.





OCNZ Patron Roy Neale had the fun task of presenting 3 Orchid of the Year Awards to himself and wife Lee! Cultural Award of the Year; Species of the Year; and a Special Merit Award. See photos of the plants and read about them in the *Orchids 2024* Yearbook.

How Can We Attract & Retain New Members?

This topic came up at the first meeting of the new Executive based on all those people who come to our shows and buy bags of orchids but who never come to a club meeting or join a club. How do we encourage them to join and how do we retain them? The following ideas came up around the table as being tried and true, but we'd love to share your good ideas too so please [drop us a line](#).

Meet & greet: Assign a friendly face to be on the door on club nights to greet new members / visitors. That person should find out what the new arrival is interested in and introduce them to a club member who grows those plants. Already the new person has met, and knows the names of, two people in the club. A friendly welcome is worth its weight in gold in encouraging newbies and retaining them.

Make it interesting: Schedule events just for new members, eg, workshops or greenhouse visits.

Publicise your meetings: The free – and widely read – community newspapers offer free event listings. Use these to list your club meeting dates and times. Social media is likely to reach a different audience.

Publicise what your club offers: Apart from wanting to know how to grow an orchid, why would people come to your club? Club trips, plant sales on club nights, interesting speakers, a wealth of knowledge that is willingly shared, the social aspect ...

Sell each other's clubs: Someone at your show is not from your area? No problem! Let them know about the [OCNZ website](#) to see if there's a club near them. Our listings include meeting days and times, and details of a contact person.

Plant Names

A quick reminder to encourage club members to get serious about naming plants correctly. If you or your club doesn't have access to OrchidWiz for checking, Google isn't a bad second option with sites like [Orchid Roots](#) and the [Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia](#) (ISOPE) being reliable and easy to use. The [Ravenvision website](#) is useful for checking name abbreviations. Maybe judges could volunteer to give a talk explaining the naming conventions, how they work and why they're important.

Vale Annette Gillan, 1932-2024

Annette, a founding member of the North Shore Orchid Society and the club's Patron, died in May, 3 weeks after a serious fall at home and just 2 days shy of her 92nd birthday. Club president Peter Jenner said, "Annette was an excellent grower and active participant of not only the North Shore Orchid Society but also the Hibiscus Coast Orchid Society. Her presence, guidance, and words of wisdom will be greatly missed, including those marvellous blue eyes that flashed when something was not done according to her liking or exact high standards."