

## ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND NEWSLETTER

November 2024

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Website: [orchidcouncil.org.nz](http://orchidcouncil.org.nz) [Find us on Facebook](#)



### President's Message: Keith Smart

What a whirlwind weekend the South Island Judges' Seminar turned out to be! Originally, I was all set to be in Nelson on the Friday, but Mother Nature had other plans. My Friday flight couldn't land due to fog — who knew sunny Nelson could be so foggy — and my transit stop of Wellington had gale warnings and very dramatic take offs and landings. My North Island room-mate ended up having to land in Blenheim on Friday and was bused to Nelson. When I asked why my flight couldn't do that, the answer was that we were too late, all the available buses (and accommodation) in Blenheim had been taken!

Despite the hiccups, I made it to Nelson by Saturday afternoon and caught the last session of the day. It was wonderful to reconnect with friends (and make new friends) from the South Island team. Even though the main speaker couldn't attend (again weather upset the best-laid plans), we still engaged in good discussions and had many great plants to judge — and it certainly was a memorable event for those of us travelling by air. After 30-plus years I can now say I have judged orchids in the South Island!

I hope everyone had a productive Labour Weekend filled with blooms and beautiful moments. My orchid collection sure needs some TLC as they are all waking up and needing repotting. Fortunately, for the next few weekends I am staying home and catching up on jobs.

### Last & First Orchid Shows

This weekend sees the final orchid show for the year at the Albany Village Hall on Auckland's North Shore (10am-3pm both days). And attached to this email you'll find information about the first orchid show for 2025, in New Plymouth. Time to crack open next year's diary!

### Vale Betty Vance

We will have an appreciation of Betty's life in orchids in the next edition, but wanted to mark her passing on October 26. Her funeral was in Pokeno on October 31. Our best wishes to Joe and family.

### Iwitahi Native Orchid Reserve Working Bee

December 6-8 on-site, 25km from Taupō. Accommodation available and catering is included in the cost. Jobs can be found for all abilities. Please [email Toby](#) to book or for further details. The more people who sign up, the cheaper the accommodation cost. Anyone wanting to be a day visitor is most welcome, just let Toby know your arrival details. Please note that if it's windy, no work takes place on site. A flyer is attached to this newsletter.

### Yearbook Articles Wanted

The Pleurothallid Alliance is the focus for *Yearbook 2025*, but as well as those plants, articles on all kinds of other things to with orchids will be happily considered by editor Allan Rae, eg, stories about your orchid experiences, growing, etc. We can also include Vales for well-known orchid personalities. If you have any questions or want to 'sound out' an idea for an article, please email [Allan Rae](#). In-hand deadline is the end of February.

### Help Keep the Yearbook Afloat

We're asking clubs to consider a donation to help meet the Yearbook's printing costs. Due to never-ending rising costs, we now have bill for 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 in advance.