



President's Message: Keith Smart

Well, spring is here and most orchid shows are over for another year. I hope you all managed to attend one and receive a prize ticket for some of your plants or, more importantly, acquired a few new plants that will be prize winners in a year or two! With daylight saving, you have no excuse not to get out into your collection and start the spring repotting, making room for your new acquisitions and getting ready for the summer heat. I'm planning to attend the South Island judging seminar in Nelson over Labour Weekend [registration form attached to this email] and am keen to see what South Islanders can grow (without having to transport it across Cook Strait), as well as meet up with orchid friends on their home ground.

Life Membership for Centenarian

Six Waitakere Orchid Club members surprised Walter Krawchenko at his 100th birthday party last month by presenting him with a life membership, the certificate joining his birthday cards from King Charles, the Governor-General and Prime Minister – and a delicious-looking cake! Walter is pictured receiving his award from Waitakere president Toby Marris amongst the orchids at Auckland's Domain Wintergardens.



Yearbook Articles Wanted

Planning has started for the *2025 Yearbook*, with the featured plants being the Pleurothallid Alliance, which includes several popular genera such as *Dracula*, *Masdevallia* and *Restrepia*. Articles about their history, growing, hybridising, etc will be welcomed. Please do not embed photo captions within the photo, but supply separately. And also, of course, we are looking for pieces about anything to do with orchids including stories about your orchid experiences, knowledge, expertise, growing and breeding, etc. We can also include Vales for well-known orchid personalities, especially those who have made significant contributions to Council activities. The deadline for receipt of material is the end of February 2025, but earlier is always appreciated. Please send contributions or queries to [editor Allan Rae via email](#).

Help Keep the Yearbook Afloat

We're asking clubs to please 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.

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.

Club Contact Updates

Thanks to the clubs who are advising us of changes to their contact/meeting details:

Taranaki has a new contact person and postal address; **Bay of Islands** has a new meeting venue and postal address. Visit the [Societies page on our website](#) for the updates.