

ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND NEWSLETTER

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President's Message: Keith Smart

Spring has indeed arrived, and here in the Waikato, its presence is noticeable. The birds are building their nests, and I'm delighted to have my first chicks hatched, who appear to be thriving, especially with their vibrant colors. My fruit trees are now adorned with lovely blossoms, and I am hopeful for a bountiful summer harvest, as the recent warm weather has brought many bees to the trees.

Orchid shows have been held in various places, with more planned for October. I trust everyone has been impressed by the beautiful plants on display. I'm looking forward to again attending the South Island Judges' Seminar in Nelson at Labour Weekend. All judges are welcome, and it's not too late to register (the form is attached to this email).

OCNZ 50th Anniversary

The inaugural meeting of what was then CONZED Inc was held on June 8, 1974 with Assid Corban in the chair. The first AGM was held on 22 March, 1975 in New Plymouth with the first issue of [Orchids in NZ](#) published in July 1975 (the link takes you to our archive of this journal). 1974/75 office-holders were President: Tom French. Vice-presidents: John Mason, Norm Wood. Secretary/treasurer: Syd Wray. Committee: Bryan Clark, Bruce Douglas. A look back at OCNZ's first 50 years – and some of the milestones achieved over that time – will be in the *2026 Yearbook*.

Home Club Check

If you have members who are also members of other clubs, it might be worth checking that their OCNZ capitation isn't being paid more than once. People with multiple memberships should have a 'Home Club', which is the club that will pay their capitation and where their Yearbook will be delivered. Having a 'Home Club' column on your membership list is an easy way of keeping track who is, and isn't, part of your capitation payment.

Yearbook Articles Wanted

The 2026 edition will spotlight Paphiopedilums so articles about their history, growing, hybridising, etc, will be welcome. The editors are also looking for pieces on anything to do with orchids in general, including your experiences, knowledge, growing and breeding, etc, as well as Vales for well-known orchid personalities. The deadline for material is the end of February, but earlier is always appreciated. Please send contributions or queries to [editor Allan Rae via email](#).

Show Posters for OCNZ FB page

If you [email your show posters](#) we will include them on our FB page. We try and run each poster twice – a week out from the show and again the day before.

Early Notice of 2026 AGM & Judges' Seminar

Thanks to Hawkes Bay Orchid Society for hosting these events. Dates are June 13 and 14, 2026 (avoiding King's Birthday weekend after feedback on travel and accommodation prices) and the venue is the Napier Cricket Pavillion, Nelson Park, Napier. More details nearer the time.