

ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND NEWSLETTER

November 2025

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



President's Message: Keith Smart

October's weather was eventful, to say the least, with much of New Zealand experiencing challenging conditions – flooding and heavy rain, gale-force winds and, just last week in the South Island, snow! I hope everyone is managing to navigate these challenges and that the impact on any orchids has been minimal.

After last year's fun getting to Nelson for the South Island Judges' Seminar I was pleased to arrive on schedule this year. Nelson certainly lived up to its reputation as the sunshine capital, and the spring gardens around town were quite lovely. It is always astonishing to see the variety of orchids presented at these events. There was a delightful selection of plants on display, including numerous fascinating *Sarcochilus*. Philip Zhou delivered three informative presentations on Chinese *Cymbidium* species, their cultural background, and his efforts using *Cymbidiums* with the Chinese plants in his breeding programme.

One crucial aspect that we may not fully appreciate in our judging system is fragrance. In Asian cultures, the scent is considered the most significant characteristic, so perhaps we should consider placing greater emphasis on it. Perhaps at the next National Orchid Expo in 2027, we could introduce a class specifically for scented orchids, excluding *Bulbophyllums*!

I would like to express my gratitude to the South Island judging team for their warm hospitality, and a special thank you to the Nelson ladies for their wonderful catering, always presented with a smile.

Information Request from Glenys MacRae

I am looking for Orchid Species (Keith Goodwin) catalogues from Sept 1988 to Dec 1990 and in particular references in them for *Pleurothallis grobyi* and *Pleurothallis cardiothallis*. I am also looking for the proceedings from the 1990 World Orchid Conference held in Auckland or a document from that event that lists the vendors, in particular Motes Orchids (Martin Motes). Published evidence from this time is required for the EPA proof of presence application I am working on to give the full history of these two *Pleurothallis* species and *Vanda lamellata* in New Zealand. If you have any of these documents you could loan me [please email me](#).

Last & First

The North Shore Orchid Society Show on today and tomorrow in Albany is the last New Zealand orchid show for 2025. It's been a busy season so here's hoping the rewards have been there for clubs and societies, certainly the public enjoy our orchid shows very much. The first orchid show for 2026 opens its doors in New Plymouth on January 17 and 18 (Saturday and Sunday). All the orchid show dates to hand for 2026 are [on our website](#).

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](#).