

ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND NEWSLETTER

April 2026

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President's Message: Keith Smart

As I write this, I recall how just last month I discussed the weather, which continues to make headlines, unfortunately, for some regions. Now, the world is facing significant disruptions in fuel supply, impacting our wallets. Travel is becoming something we must consider carefully before proceeding. I genuinely hope this situation settles down as quickly as it arose so we can all return to enjoying life. In brighter news, plans for Orchids & More (National Expo) in 2027 are progressing well, with details being finalised. It promises to be even bigger and better than in 2023!

April 11 Seminar with Dr Torsten Kleffmann

The New Zealand Orchid Society is hosting a one-day seminar with Dr Torsten Kleffmann — scientist, hobby orchid hybridiser, and grower with a passion for the unusual. The programme includes talks on starting out in flasking, Torsten's own hybridising work, and the challenges in managing a diverse orchid collection.

When: Saturday, April 11 from 9am to 4pm. **Where:** Hall 2, Western Springs Garden Community Hall, 956 Great South Rd, Western Springs, Auckland. **Cost:** \$20 (includes lunch). [Full details and registration here.](#)

National Judges' Seminar 2026 ...

To be held in Napier, June 12-14. Guest speakers are John Mort and Jason Strong. Hawke's Bay Orchid Society emailed information and a [link to registration](#) to clubs on February 3. If you have not seen it, please ask your secretary or use the link. **Registration closes May 4.** Any queries to HBOS.

... Plus Cake!

OCNZ will mark its 50th anniversary with a brief speech and a cake-cutting on Sunday, June 14 at 12.45pm between the end of the Judges' Seminar and the opening of the AGM. We invite all judges and AGM delegates to join us.

OCNZ Speaker Fund

OCNZ has created a new [guidelines document](#) for those wishing to make applications to its Speaker Fund, and this may be viewed on the website (click on the link). By opening the fund to applications from clubs and individuals we hope to respond in a more agile way to the call for speaker tours.

Farewell to ...

Barbara Johnson, who had served several times as president of the Whangarei Orchid Society, was on the OCNZ Executive from 1996-2003, and was Yearbook editor from 1997-2000. She and her late husband, Bill, were both judges and before their move from Auckland were breeders of Cattleya orchids. They were both life members of the Whangarei Society.

What Happens to Your Orchids After You Die?

At the request of a club member, OCNZ has drawn up a simple Statement of Wishes document as a guideline we hope will be helpful (and it has been checked by a lawyer). Along with your will, you can leave a direction to your Executors as to how they will deal with your orchid collection. This document should be kept with your will and updated as needed. Unlike a will, however, it is a non-binding document. Please request a copy, which can be adapted as you wish, from the [newsletter editor](#) and one will be sent to you.

Iwitahi Working Bee & Native Orchid Weekend

Friday, December 4th - Sunday, December 6th
At the Iwitahi Reserve off SH5 (Napier - Taupo)



Starts Friday after 4pm
Ends Sunday Lunchtimeish



Includes Meals and 2 Nights' Accommodation at Sika Lodge
(bunk room style)

Light /Moderate Track Maintenance, Weeding etc.
Orchid Identification, Photography, And Discussions On Site

\$125+ / -PP
[THE MORE THAT COME](#)
[THE CHEAPER IT GETS](#)

We would expect to see Calochilus, Chiloglottis, Gastrodia,
Thelymitra and Pterostylis species in flower or bud

If you are unable to attend for the full weekend but would like to join us at the reserve or prefer to organise your own accommodation, please let me know so we can keep an eye out for you

To register your interest, contact me by FB Messenger me or email - tobymarris@hotmail.com



All are welcome at the Iwitahi weekends and useful tasks can be found for all abilities. It's also a very social – and educational – weekend. Bookings and any queries to [Toby Marris](#).

Strange But True

Palmerston North resident (and OCNZ vice-president) Allan Rae emails to say: "A friend was helping his daughter lift an old floor covering – carpet, then lino then a layer of *Woman's Weeklies* all over the floor". Page 50 of June 5, 1952 was given to Allan as it was about orchids, including a few paragraphs about our native orchids, written by 'Notabilis'. Unfortunately, the second half of the article was on another page, not found. *The plants [Cymbidiums] must have good drainage, and to ensure this many growers stand the containers on inverted pots rather than on a bench, which can become too damp. Ashes, screenings or open laths make a good base for the inverted pots.*