ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND NEWSLETTER
November 2026
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President's Message: Keith Smart

It feels like spring has officially wrapped up, and the show season is just about behind us. It's hard to believe, but I'm sure we're only days away from seeing Christmas decorations in the shops. It feels like 2027 is already knocking on the door, but before we get there, we've got plenty to look forward to with all our upcoming club meetings and the Iwitahi weekend at the beginning of December; I am just the cook on these weekends, and Toby, with his passion for native orchids, leads.

I've just come back from a lovely Labour Weekend in Nelson for the South Island judging seminar. The hospitality was top-notch, and it was so good to catch up with old friends and meet some new faces, too. It really reminded me why these events are so worth the trip. Also, a quick shout-out to the Nelson gardens – they were looking absolutely amazing!

It sounds like we're in for a dramatic summer with a "Super El Niño" on the way. My one bit of advice is to *make a plan and be prepared*. Things are likely to get very dry, but at the same time, they're also predicting tropical storms that could get pretty "wet and wild". Now is the time to think about how to save water for the dry patches, and what to do if we suddenly get too much of it!

Idea for a Meeting Topic

Wanganui Orchid Society recently had an interesting, and surprisingly moving, plant display at a club night. "Members were invited to bring plants that had special meaning. In most cases, this was an orchid that had been inherited from a parent or family member. I've often noticed that living things can be a more meaningful connection to those who have passed than inanimate objects. It was also great that most of the plants displayed were brought by members who don't normally bring their plants to meetings."

National Orchid Expo Trophies

Orchids & More organisers are grateful to the clubs and the individual who have already spoken up and donated cash prizes for trophies, but there are plenty more trophies left. Amounts are either $200 or $100. Please refer to the most recent Orchids & More newsletter (Oct 14) for the trophy list (noting that the Vandaceous Alliance Trophy, value $100, was omitted in error and is available). Please ask by email which trophies are available before paying.

Some non-Council Orchid Events

A slow wander through the Te Matuku bush on Waiheke Island to look at the habitat native orchids prefer, and how to spot them among leaf litter, moss and tree trunks. Led by Kim Patterson from the Native Plants Nursery, where she helps collect and propagate rare and threatened native species. Sunday, November 15, 10am-1pm. Meet: Onetangi Hall (no dogs). Register by email.

AOS Culture Day: Tiny Treasures of the Orchid World, Monday, November 16, 5-10am (NZ time), $US40 (members)/ $US50 (non-members). Read more here.

Help with the **annual survey of red-bearded orchids (Calochilus robertsonii)** at Arawa Park Racecourse, Rotorua, to determine population size and distribution. Friday, November 27, 9am-1pm. Details from Paul Cashmore, 07 349 7432 (wk), 027 205 1922 or email.