

# NEWSLETTER

Apr. 2009

**NEXT MEETING Sun 10<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at 1.30 pm**

*Rewrite labels!*

**SPEAKER:** Next meeting we have Russell Hutton (K & R Orchids) who as many will know is one of NZ's leading growers and an expert on species orchids. Plants will be for sale.

**LAST MEETING:** Luckily it wasn't raining with the Custodian only arriving to open the door 5 minutes before the meeting was due to start. We were then serenaded to the alarm siren for some time before they sorted the problem out and we could get under way. It is easy to tell when the speaker is interesting by the way he/she holds the attention of the audience which Anton and Len certainly did. With what was possibly a difficult topic, Anton complete with tool box and precisely measured materials made slatted basket construction a breeze even to clumsy carpenters like myself. Len followed up with an array of gear and greenery finishing off the job to make a very sought after addition to the raffle table.

**AGM:** The meeting started with the President's report followed by the previous AGM minutes and the Treasurer's report. Copies of these were distributed to the members. (Pres. Report will be published in a later newsletter). Janet (Sec) then took charge of the meeting to conduct the election of officers. Results as follows:

President: **Glenn Poffley** (unopposed)  
Vice President: **Anton Wehman** (unopposed)  
Secretary: **Janet Wehman** (unopposed)  
Treasurer: **Jackie Wee** (unopposed)  
Committee Members: **John Muddiman, Julie Duff, Kathy Rimmer, Leonard Cobb, Manee Poffley,**  
New Committee Members: **Ken Tse, Lee Stone, Raewyn McCormack.**

The committee accepted resignations from Paul Yap and Christina Chi (earlier).

**General Business:** A vote was unanimously supported to increase the fees to \$20 Single and \$30 family as previously published.

During an interlude a couple of questions were asked for on the spot prizes. The first was for new members or visitors and was a bunch of Spanish Moss. The question related to the speaker's topic. The second was open to all but unfortunately no one could remember the photo of a 'non orchid' in the last newsletter (email edition) so an easier question was answered by Raewyn who won a nice slab mounted Oncidium. By the way Michelle was the closest with her answer of 'a card from the Queen' as the Hoya was shown directly below this! At one stage I was beginning to doubt I had put it on the photo page myself, but **it is** there.

**RAFFLE:** Another bumper draw with many excellent donations. A very pleased Peggy went away with the basket from the earlier presentation by Anton & Len. Lea & Bryce even sent some orchids in for us with Kathy, as Bryce is still unable to drive.

### **BOP (Te PUKE) SHOW:**

Quite a number from Auckland were down there on the Friday morning so I'm sure the society (and Lions) would have been pleased with the result. As usual a nice show with plenty of very good quality flowers on display. I was particularly impressed with a display of exquisite plants in an array of beautiful colours consisting of *Den. cuthbertsonii* and other miniatures on a small table near the entrance. Elizabeth Bailey (Tauranga) and Bill Liddy (Napier) supplied the orchids and arranged the table. When arranged all together the miniatures and novelties are very effective.

No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

### **EDITOR'S COMMENT**

As a result of a comment by a HOS member I should explain what is meant when the plant name listed in the 'Plants on Display' has an asterix beside it. If possible I write the correct plant name in the newsletter and indicate by an asterix that YOUR label is **wrong**. This means you should correct it! I go to a lot of trouble and time to sort out these and it appears to be a thankless task as I find year after year the same people with the same plant with the same incorrect label is benched. I have an updated version of Wildcatt Orchid database, I check the RHS grex and parentage searches, the Internet Orchid Species website and various other databases for synonyms, even the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, world checklist website to verify names. Sometimes there may still be doubt as the same grex name is used for different plants and many outdated genus names are still in use. I am always open to further revisions if you think it necessary.

Re genera, I am not referring to the more recent significant name changes. Whether we get into these is debatable as there are so many changes.

Many commonly accepted names that have been around for a long time have now been shifted into another genus. (eg *Brassia keiliana* is now *Ada keiliana*).

So please at least try and look as if you are interested when I note a change and I might just keep on doing it. On a more positive note thank you to the people who do take the time to keep their labels up to date.

As to the BIG changes taking place currently such as in the *Cattleya* Alliance (only 28,000 name changes) where we find our well-known *Laelia pumila* becoming a *Sophranitis* then the sky's the limit. If you think that's bad wait until you see what they've done to the *Dendrobiums*. The names are unpronounceable, alien and ten times worse than what your Doctor says you might have wrong with you or prescribes to cure you.

### **MEMBERSHIP FEES** are NOW DUE.

Thank you to all those that have already paid. Please pay at the club or post cheque to;

**The Secretary, Howick Orchid Society, 38 Andrew Rd Howick 2010.**

Cheques crossed and made payable to Howick Orchid Society Inc.

Please pay by the next (May) meeting otherwise you may be deleted from our mailing list and will be required to pay the visitor fee to subsequent meetings.

**A drunk** staggers into a Catholic Church, enters a confessional booth, sits down, but says nothing.

The Priest coughs a few times to get his attention, but the drunk continues to sit there.

Finally, the Priest pounds three times on the wall.

The drunk mumbles, "Ain't no use knockin, there's no paper on this side either."

## PLANTS ON DISPLAY (Apr. meeting)

### OPEN

Peggy Bell-Booth: *Den. subclausum* var. *subclausum*, *Cym. erythrostylum*.

Grahame Leafberg: *Slc.* Susie's Valentine 'Te Puke' HCC/OCNZ, *Milt. spectabilis* var. *mooreliana* 4N x *Odm.* Sheraton\* .

Michelle Tung: *C.* White Bounty, *Milt.* Rio's Tropical x 2, *Phrag.* Cardinal, *Restrepia brachypus*.

William & Man Lo: *Den.* My Song Purple? (Nothing like this on record), *Drac. uniflora*, *Blc.*

Unknown, *Masd.* Falcata\* 'Cold Sun', *Pot.* Orglade's Tradition 'Sun Set', *Slc.* Party Rose, *Oda.* Honiton Lace\*.

Glenn & Manee: *S.* Pole-Star, *C.* Unknown.

Leonard Cobb: *C.* Memoria Neil Ryan\* (Rivermont Imperial x Chocolate drop), *Odm.* Bic-ross\*, (Not Big Ross!!), 2 Unknown Laelias, 1 unknown Odont.

Anton & Janet: *Stenoglottis longifolia*, *Sc\**. Royal Emperor 'Wade'.

Kathy Rimmer: *Blc.* Pamela Hetherington, *Gomesa crispa* 'Ruth'.

Ken & Chui Tse: *Zygo* Advance Australia x Artur Elle, *Milt.* Moir Moir, *Zygo* & *C.* unknown.

### NOVICE

Lee Stone: *Zygo.* unknown, *Masd.* Misfit, *Milt.* Rio's Tropical. (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> in that order)

### NOVELTY

Peggy Bell-Booth: *Den. schneiderae\** var. *major*. (1<sup>st</sup>)

OPEN: 1<sup>st</sup> Anton/Janet (*Sc*), 2<sup>nd</sup> M. Tung (*Phrag*), 3<sup>rd</sup> = W & M. Lo (*Masd*), M. Tung (*C*).

Commentary by Grahame Leafberg and Heather Cooke.

**OPEN DAY** at Grahame Leafberg's (29 Studfall Cres. Pak. ph. 576 7406), Sandra Moore's (35 Trelawn Pl. Howick, ph. 534 5594) and Leonard Cobb's (12 Greenhill Cres. Pak. ph. 576 6303) homes. This will be on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May between 10am and 2pm. Please take the time to visit these growers and see their shade houses.

PLEASE NOTE if the weather is very poor **phone** first to confirm.

**CORRECTION** : The **Internet Orchid Review** will not be mailed out, only sent by email.

## MASDEVALLIAS (a QUICK GUIDE)

I don't profess to be a great grower of these South American high altitude orchids. In fact for quite a period I didn't even like them. They can be a little tricky in Auckland as our summers are too hot for them when they can suddenly lose all their leaves then die. They don't have a pseudobulb so there is no storage organ for when there is drought. This means they need regular moisture, which is achieved from the frequent heavy mists in the areas where they are found. As an epiphyte they will not survive sitting in water for long periods and I have lost more from wet soggy roots than anything. I see many potted in sphagnum but as you will know I am not a fan of this media as it takes ages to dry out and watering must be monitored very carefully. I am not sure why, but for some reason the smaller varieties seem to do better for me. Maybe these are predominantly cooler growers as Masdevallias like many other genera come from varying altitudes.

Some of the advantages of this genus are its compactness, huge range of vivid colours, reasonably insect and disease free and quite a large range available from various growers in NZ.

## COMING EVENTS

**HOS Club days for 2009:** 14<sup>th</sup> June, 12<sup>th</sup> July, 9<sup>th</sup> Aug, 13<sup>th</sup> Sept, 18<sup>th</sup> Oct  
(NB not 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun), 8<sup>th</sup> Nov, 13<sup>th</sup> Dec.

Show set up 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct, Show Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct.

Meetings are held 1.30pm sharp in the Fencible Lounge, Howick every month except January.