



NEWSLETTER of the HOWICK ORCHID SOCIETY Inc.

Apr. 2011

NEXT meeting Sun 8th May 2011

NEXT MEETING we have a special speaker Jackie Chambers presently working at the Auckland Botanic Gardens and originally from Canada. Jackie will talk and show slides about her experiences with orchids at Kew Gardens where she has also worked.

LAST MEETING was the AGM results of the election of officers are included below. Alf Day gave us a talk on the basics of orchid growing which many of us seem to forget. He stressed that drainage is the most important factor giving examples of how the nurserymen in England back in the 1800's were required to first learn how to crock the orchid pots correctly. He showed us some historic prints from the early days of orchid growing confirming that the flower displays achieved then were in many cases a lot better than today. Other hints were to keep ferns out of your orchid pots, watch out for pests, be wary of potting media which retains a lot of moisture, read up on what orchids may suit your growing area and conditions.

RAFFLE: As usual we were spoilt with many draws and bags of fruit to be given away to those who wanted it. It is nice to see food being utilized rather than rotting on the ground.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL Please ensure you pay by the next meeting, as we will not continue to email you the newsletter after May. You will also have to pay the visitor entrance fee. Remember HOS members on the email list will get prior notice of any local events coming up many of which we cannot put in the newsletter as they occur before this is published.

RESULTS OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: GLENN POFFLEY (unopposed)
VICE PRESIDENT: ANTON WEHMAN (unopposed)
SECRETARY: JANET WEHMAN (unopposed)
TREASURER: WINSOME WEBSTER (unopposed)
COMMITTEE MEMBERS: **Sandra Bullock (NEW)**, Leonard Cobb, Kathy Rimmer, Ken Tse, John Muddiman, Lee Stone, Raewyn McCormack, (all unopposed).
Julie Duff and Manee Poffley have resigned from the Committee, each serving for a long term and we thank them for their contribution in many ways not always obvious at meetings.

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome to Phil Funnell (not long out of UK) Phil was an orchid grower and club member in the Southwest of England. We look forward to some talks from Phil.

DEPRESSION is merely anger without enthusiasm

EDITOR'S COMMENT

What an excellent response to our request for your email addresses. Nearly everyone has now provided us with one and the few that haven't have made other arrangements with friends to get them a copy of our letter. We will have some printed versions available at the club days.

I would also like to acknowledge those members that kindly offered to print extra copies and even deliver these for us. This sort of support is what makes our club successful.

It just goes to show with a little effort anything is possible.

CANNIBAL: Someone who is fed up with people.

CULTURE

It is definitely autumn now with cooler nights and shorter days. If you are paying attention to your orchids you will have noticed they are drying out a lot more slowly so your watering should be tapering off. Many with large bulbs require a winter rest and this usually means very little water for the cooler months. Some growers will cease watering of many Dendrobiums and Cattleyas from Anzac Day only giving them enough to stop shriveling of bulbs. The ones I always seem to have difficulty with are the terrestrials, as these should be kept moist but not wet enough to rot the underground tubers, a fine line I always seem to cross. The time to cease watering is when the new growths are mature (ones with bulbs), when the leaves turn yellow and fall off the terrestrials, but others without bulbs will require some watering throughout the year.

Condensation will now be a nuisance in glass/plastic houses with cool nights after warm days.

This can ruin your flowers; cause unsightly spotting of leaves and can rot out the centre of new growths if water is left pooling in these.

Inflorescences should be starting to show on Cymbidiums now so watch out for slugs and snails.

SECRET: Something you tell to one person at a time

RESEARCH

I recently heard a talk about Vandas at NZOS by Anjo and hopefully we can hear it our club at a later date. I shied off these initially as I thought they were more suited to tropical conditions but there are a few that do well here. *V. coerulea* comes from northern Thailand at elevation and this is quite a cool area. I decided to try a seedling (*V. coerulea* x *Rothchildiana* = Rose Davis). The hybrid was originally registered in 1951 but the new one was a recent remake in NZ. The first year it stayed in an unheated plastic house all year. The second year I moved it outside, leaving it under shelter from a climber and went away on holiday during one of the coldest autumns Auckland has ever experienced. I expected to see it dead on return but it looked as good as ever so left it where it was all winter. Amazingly it has flowered with 7 flowers open now, 3 years from a seedling when I purchased it. Considering the parentage it is not surprising it has enjoyed these conditions as *Rothchildiana* is 50% *coerulea* so making my plant 75% *coerulea*. I have a few others now, mostly doing quite well although some are more cold sensitive and stay in a closed house for the winter with some heat to take the chill off the cold nights. If you are tempted to buy any it is advisable to get something with a fair amount of *coerulea* in it for our conditions although finding these is quite difficult. The other problem with growing Vandas here is keeping up the humidity to a plant that does not like to be in a pot or have its roots covered.

TOMORROW: One of the greatest labour saving devices of today

Thanks to Michelle for improving the format of the Plant Display List. Another advantage of not being restricted for space by having to print.

Plants On Display (April meeting)

Compiled by **Michelle Tung**

(Plant names in bold type denote label changes are recommended - either incorrect spelling or a new name of a registered hybrid)

(Use of italics denotes that the plant or parent plant is a species)

Open Section

Grahame Leafberg	<i>Cym.</i> Eastern Venus <i>Den.</i> Colonial Maid
William & Man Lo	<i>Blc.</i> Autumn Glow 'Tridescent' <i>Epi.</i> <i>prismatocarpa</i> x <i>sibling</i> (now Psh) <i>Gsl.</i> Maple Land <i>Lyc.</i> Edinensis <i>Paph.</i> <i>helenae</i> <i>Paph.</i> Mirriam Williamson x Beeches Dark Gem <i>Drac. cordobae</i>
Glenn & Manee Poffley	<i>Phal.</i> Hsinying Yukihime x Hsinying Hakucho (unregd grex) <i>V.</i> Rose Davis (1 st flowering) <i>Milt.</i> Tropic Dawn x Bluntii <i>Vuyl. Memoria Mary Kavanaugh</i> <i>Lc.</i> Mini Purple 'Lea' <i>C.</i> C.G. Roebing <i>C.</i> Memoria Neil Ryan
John Sheppard	<i>Masd.</i> <i>rolfeana</i>
Lee Stone	<i>Phal.</i> Orchid connection Jewel (Texas Jewel x Cornustris) <i>Phal.</i> unknown
Michelle Tung	<i>Oncda.</i> Charlesworthii <i>Pol.</i> <i>fallax</i> x <i>virginia</i> (unregd grex) <i>C.</i> White Bounty <i>Milt.</i> Moirmoir var. alba
Julie Duff	<i>Z.</i> Memoria Grace Drawry 'Black Pearl' x <i>Agwa.</i> (?Pbt.) Kiwi Gold 'Bayswater'
Lea & Bryce Westlake	<i>Onc.</i> <i>marshallianum</i> <i>Onc.</i> Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance' <i>C.</i> unknown
Anton & Janet Wehman	<i>Onc.</i> Sugar Babies <i>Sngl.</i> <i>longifolia</i> <i>Sngl.</i> Neptune

Novice

Alan Robinson	<i>Gom.</i> <i>crispa</i> <i>Coel.</i> <i>tomentosa</i> (Syn. <i>Coel. massangeana</i>)
Jessie O'Hara	<i>Onc.</i> Sugar Babies

Novelty

Glenn & Manee Poffley	<i>Den.</i> <i>dichaeoides</i> <i>Onc.</i> Kaiulani
Michelle Tung	<i>Rstp.</i> <i>brachypus</i>

Meanings of abbreviations

Agwa. – Alangreatwoodara, Blc. – Brassolaeliocattleya, Coel. – Coelogyne, Drac. – Dracula,
Gom. – Gomesa, Epi. – Epidendrum, Lyc. – Lycaste, Masd. – Masdevallia,
Milt. – Miltonia, Onc. – Oncidium, Oncda. – Oncidiota, Pbt. – Propabstopetalum,
Phal. – Phalaenopsis, Pol. – Polystachya, Rstp – Restrepia, Sngl. – Stenoglottis,
V. – Vanda, Vuyl. – Vuylstekeara, Z. – Zygopetalum, Psh - Prosthechea

Popular Vote

Open: 1st Julie Duff (Z.), 2nd William & Man (Blc.), 3rd Glenn & Manee (V.)

Novice: 1st Alan Robinson (Gom.), 2nd Alan Robinson (Coel.), 3rd Jessie O’Hara (Onc.)

Novelty: 1st Glenn & Manee (Den.), 2nd Glenn & Manee (Onc.), 3rd Michelle (Rstp.)

Commentary was given by Alf Day and Glenn Poffley

Plant of the month is Cattleya C. G. Roebling picked by Alf.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT 2011

It has been another very successful year for the society with everything running smoothly especially our club days and administrative tasks.

The big event of the year was the Orchid extravaganza at PN, which we supported by putting up a display. This was done by 5 of our members traveling there and spending a week away from home. Displaying at other societies is an important and fun part of our activities.

I am pleased to see many of our members arriving early to help with the set up of the hall and other necessary tasks but all too often it is obvious in some other societies people have no interest in helping either with manual or committee work. It is also obvious that these societies are in decline as this lack of interest feeds upon itself.

We are fortunate that we have a friendly and helpful group and we want it to remain that way so ask you all to contribute in some way even if it is just to try and make a new member or visitor welcome to the club. We are also grateful for all the orchids donated for the raffle, which is a very successful part of our club days. A few of you are kind enough to bring home baked cakes etc and we encourage anyone to bring something along now and then so it is not left up to the same people every month.

We see a lot of new members sign on at the show and very often they don’t turn up at any meetings. It seems that the initial enthusiasm is not sustained after they go home and think about it. How we encourage these people to return is a difficult question. Despite that our membership has grown to 102 (up from 100), and we will register 78 (up from 67 last year) as HOS their home club to the OCNZ which makes us one of the largest societies in the country. The larger increase in registered members is due to resignations of members who belong to other societies and an increase of members new to orchid societies.

Our society has been asked to help in hosting future events in Auckland and this has required a considerable amount of effort in time and travel by a couple of our committee members. With distances large, traffic heavy and timing so critical these people have gone to a lot of effort and expense investigating possible venues. Anton and Len have gone the extra mile with research into HOS hosting the 2012 AGM and seminar, and we can report that this has been a very frustrating task with many venues either too expensive or not suitable. We are also involved with the 2016 national show to be held in Auckland.

As for our members we ask you to support this event in a variety of ways, which we will tell you about closer to the time.

There have been a few changes over the year, the most significant will be the cancellation of the mail service which has become a heavy financial burden.

This year we cancelled the BBQ for reasons outlined in the newsletter and going by the numbers that turned up to Len's open day it is doubtful if we will continue with these.

We would like members other than those on the committee to step forward to help out with some of these events where possible. We have not had any bus trips for some time as the cost of these if not fully supported is now prohibitive with fuel costs still rising. To run any event we need the maximum support from members otherwise they will be run at a loss.

We gave away approx. \$1000 of gifts and food directly to our members last year, plus a generous donation of seedlings from Grahame Leafberg, those eligible actually receiving much more than the membership fee. We are also making a donation to the Salvation Army Christchurch appeal. This year with some persuasion Anton has accepted a nomination for a committee position on the OCNZ. If elected we feel this will be a big step forward for HOS by having a representative on the National body.

We are looking forward to 2016 when Auckland hosts the 2016 National Show. With this in mind we are encouraging you to build up your orchid collections so that we will have a reasonable selection of plants to pick from for a good display. We are also hopeful of having some representation on the organizing committee for this show so that some more innovative ideas can be introduced.

With so many new growers in our club we want you to learn quickly and have therefore tried to get speakers suitable for new growers from time to time.

You should all be considering the future when some new committee members and executive are required. The current group have already been in office for a lengthy period and cannot go on for ever.

Thank you all for your support throughout the year, particularly the committee, the regular helpers at club days, at our show and erecting displays other societies. It is always dangerous to name people as invariably someone is forgotten. You have all put in that extra effort last year which has kept our club vibrant and interesting. Remember the society is only what you make it and it is for our common enjoyment of growing orchids.

Fred walked into a doctor's office and the receptionist asked him what he had. Fred said: 'Shingles.' So she wrote down his name, address, medical insurance number and told him to have a seat. Fifteen minutes later a nurse's aide came out and asked Fred what he had.

Fred said, 'Shingles.' So she wrote down his height, weight, and his complete medical history then told him to wait in the examining room. A half hour later a nurse came in and asked Fred what he had.

Fred said, 'Shingles.' So the nurse gave him a blood test, a blood pressure test, an electrocardiogram, and told him to take off all his clothes and wait for the doctor.

An hour later the doctor came in and found Fred sitting patiently in the nude and asked him what he had.

Fred said, 'Shingles.' The doctor asked, 'Where?'

Fred said, 'Outside on the truck. Where do you want me to unload 'em?'

COMING EVENTS

HOS CLUB DAYS for 2011

8 May (Jackie orchids at Kew); **12 June** (Margaret Liddell – Lillies); **10 July** (Chris Hubbard – Tokyo Dome Show); **14 Aug.** (Mike Leaity – Zygos); **11 Sept.** (Phil Funnell – UK orchids); **30 Sept.** (Show set up); **01 Oct.** (Show); **16 Oct.** (Prize Giving + Alf Day) **13 Nov.** (Auction); **11 Dec.** (Social).

Meetings are held **1.30 pm** at the **Fencible Lounge**, Uxbridge Rd. Howick.