



NEWSLETTER of the HOWICK ORCHID SOCIETY Inc.

Apr. 2013

NEXT meeting Sun 12th May 2013

NEXT MEETING: Glenn will give a talk and show slides on 'Searching for orchids in the North East of Thailand'. You may be surprised at what we found and just where we found them! There will be questions (and prizes) relating to the photos (not all orchids) to keep you awake!

LAST MEETING: Lee Neale gave us all an interesting insight in what to look out for when your plants are near to death. She called her list the 'camel list', referring to the factor that 'breaks the camel's back' (ie 'the last straw'). In other words if your plant is under stress then it may only take one more small thing that is enough to tip the balance. This may be insect attack, too much or lack of water, heat or cold and many other points Lee touched on. Probably something I need to take on board is Lee's culling of weak or disease prone plants as she pointed out these will only continue to be a problem in your collection.

A nice selection of Cattleya seedlings was available for sale from Leroy Orchids. (Mostly their own breeding). Results of the AGM are published below.



*Anton & Janet's beautifully grown slab mounted *Phal. lindenii* with 2 spikes.*

EDITOR'S COMMENT

The BBQ held earlier was another success with 35 members and guests enjoying a beautiful sunny afternoon at Maarten and Coby Van Geest's residence in Drury. With excellent food and drink, plenty of orchids and vegetables for sale, and lots of giveaways everyone had a good time.

Phil and Ken were on the BBQ cooking the sausages and steak to everyone's satisfaction.

Probably the most interesting part (as always) was the answers to the many questions given to those present to ponder. The first was a written questionnaire of 10 general knowledge questions which was won by Yvonne Tapsell (SAOS) with a remarkable 8 correct. I am still wondering about the person who answered '90%' to the question: 'what is the percentage of Asians living in NZ?' Obviously this person must not venture much out of Howick.

Some other quick fire questions ended up being rather drawn out when yet again most were at a complete loss as to the answers. But in the end Michelle went away with a bag of sausages, (she must obviously read our library books), Grahame Leafberg won a bottle of wine, Phil a bag of veges and Kathy's very small flowered orchid won another bag of veges.

The main raffle was won by Maarten (bottle of wine), Elaine (SAOS) wine and Yvonne (veges).

CULTURE

With the change in temperature expected the first thing I did was to remove one layer of shading off my orchid houses to let in more light and allow them to heat up some more. I also closed down the ends where the cold southerly draft can cool things down very quickly. These are small changes which can make a big difference. Fans have been turned down as I don't want evaporative cooling more than is necessary. Those of you who attended the BBQ will have noticed how Maarten's Cattleyas have responded to some heat. They certainly grow a lot quicker and bigger than mine and most other growers I know. But don't be lulled into thinking all your orchids need heat. I have had a busy summer keeping the Masdevallias cool and the Oncidiinae moist. Some genera just don't like it hot. I will definitely be cutting back on the water a lot more this winter after seeing where many of the orchids were growing in Thailand.



Den. biggibum var. compactum
Glenn & Manee



Phal. Ching Hua Fair 'Red Flash'
William & Man Lo



Lc. Intercepts x Mem. Crispan Rosales
Sandra Moore

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

Alf Day	A basket of 3 Oncidiinae Alliance	
Wolf Grausch	Sc. Mini Purple,	First equal
	Sc. Lana Coryell x Mini Purple = C. Elusive Dream ,	
	2 Cattleyas,	
Grahame Leafberg	C. Medley x Lana Coryell = C. Highland Blush ,	
	1 Cattleya,	
	<i>Neostylis</i> Lou Sneary	First equal
		Plant of the Month
William & Man Lo	1 Paphiopedilum, 2 Doritaenopsis,	
	3 Cattleyas, and 1 Dendrobium	
Sandra Moore	5 Dendrobiums, 1 Laelia, and	
	C. Mona Pink 'Hiromi'	First equal
John Muddiman	1 Sobralia	
Glenn & Manee Poffley	3 Cattleyas, 1 Dendrobium, 1 Gomesa,	
	1 Burrageara and 1 Phalaenopsis	
Ron Reeves	2 Angraecums, and 1 Laelia	
Ken & Chui Tse	<i>C. forbesii</i> x Waikiki Gold = Blc. Sarah Sellers , and	
	1 Cattleya	

Anton and Janet Wehman 1 basket of Miltonias, 1 Stenoglottis, **Onc. Sugar Babies, First equal**
Phal. lindenii
 Philip & Gangli Zhou 4 Cymbidiums

Novice

Dianne Gurr *Phalaenopsis* unknown
First
 Jessie O’Hara *Miltonia Bluntii*
Second (pictured right)



Novelty

Glenn & Manee Poffley *Den. dichaeoides*
First (pictured below)
 Michelle Tung *Masd. herradura*
Second
 William & Man Lo *Pleurothallis sanderiana*
Third

Commentary was given by Lee and Roy Neale.



RESULTS of ELECTION

President: Glenn Poffley
Vice President: Anton Wehman
Secretary: Janet Wehman
Treasurer: Phil Funnell
Committee: Len Cobb, Kathy Rimmer, John Muddiman, Sandra Bullock, Diane Gurr, Manee Poffley, Ken Tse.

All the above were elected unopposed. We have had two resignations from the previous year, Lee Stone and Raewyn McCormack and I would like to thank them both for their efforts and help.

PRESIDENTS REPORT 2013

We have again had another very successful year with membership numbers staying approx the same as last year. We seem to pick up new members at about the same rate as we lose those that resign or don’t come back to the club.

Financially we are still doing extremely well even though we have been generous with our outgoings especially those that go directly back to members.

Attendance at club days has been very good which is what we like to see although sourcing speakers is a continuing problem. On a favourable note, we are seeing a gradual increase in plants benched by newer members while others are continuing to support us with plants.

Undoubtedly our biggest event last year was hosting the OCNZ AGM and judging seminar. From all aspects this was an extremely successful event in its organization, smooth running and financial returns. Anton was the main driving force behind this with countless hours behind the scenes setting this up. Help came from others and we must not forget the intense 3 days and more of food preparation and service carried out by the kitchen crew who were faultless in their timing and

organization, having to feed over 70 people. We are very thankful for the hard work and dedication of all the members who helped make this event the success it was.

Another milestone for our club was having Anton elected onto the committee of the OCNZ. It is great that we now have a voice on national affairs that affect all the affiliated societies.

Anton, Len and Phil have also been busy on the steering committee for the 2016 national show in Auckland.

I will not go into too much detail about all the various activities we have sponsored over the year but I'm sure most of you were able to take part in some if not all. Last Christmas we asked members to supply the food, a departure from previous years and I must say I was very impressed with the way you responded with such a fantastic selection.

Our BBQ was held only last week, again at Eureka Nurseries and was a very enjoyable social occasion with plenty of prizes taken home by those present.

Our show was successful despite higher than normal expenses which were needed to make the set up easier. But getting more public through the door is a very puzzling problem. There seems to be an upper limit on this number irrespective of how much advertising we do. Last year 24 signs were erected in the immediate area covering all the main roads into and out of Howick and Pakuranga for the week prior to the show. We know from past surveys these are by far the most cost effective and visible advertising method although it is very labour intensive.

It should be realized by those that use the club to their advantage by selling their orchids at the show and club days there is a limit to how much effort some of us are going to be able to contribute in setting the show up in the future. It is the work behind the scenes that takes the time and effort. Both financially and for recruitment of new members the show does not contribute that much to the society for the amount of work involved, even though we have been refining this to make it easier and will continue to do so.

Our auction was also slightly down on previous years but despite this it is a very quick and effective method of getting established plants to new members at very reasonable prices while the club earns a good income. For the amount of effort involved this is one of the most beneficial events for members and the club. I feel many of you need to understand that there were some extremely cheap good quality plants sold at this and previous auctions, and you should realize these same plants would cost a lot more elsewhere.

At other society shows the team led by Kathy has continued to be successful with our displays and always soliciting favourable comments from the public.

To end on a more pressing point I am now at the point of asking the question 'who wants to take over the Presidency and some of the other executive positions'? I have held this position for too long and do not want to become stale or have members questioning why I am holding on to this position. I and others would like to see more of you stepping up to take more responsibility. I feel we have gone that extra mile to bring the club back to one of the most successful in the country and it may be the time to ask yourself 'isn't it time I contributed in some other way to keep things running smoothly'?

I have been President far longer than most, as have Anton and Janet in their roles as well as many of the committee. We are fortunate to have a very efficient and amiable committee and I wish to compliment them on their excellent support throughout the year. I would like to thank Raewyn and Lee who are stepping down for their input and help.

So to summarise I am at the point where I would like to pursue some other leisure activities as I'm sure would others on the committee. Even though we are running smoothly please think seriously about the directions you want the society to go and who will take up the challenges ahead. We need dedicated people who will see the society through the next period and not flounder like so many have in recent times.



Neostylus Lou Sneary, Grahame's Grand Champ at BOP show April.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS should be paid by the May meeting. These are the same as last year, \$20 single or \$30 double (at same address).

If you **DO NOT** wish to renew your membership please let a committee member know as soon as possible so we can keep our records up to date.

Ron's *C. perrinii* (right)

Health Tip: *If you can't afford a doctor go to an airport. You will get a free X-ray, a breast examination and if you mention Al Qaeda they will give you a free colonoscopy.*



*Lee liked the colour of Glenn's Burrageara Living Fire 'Glowing Embers' (Now an Oncidopsis!)**



Over heard at a Gvt. safety meeting:

'I'm not saying let's go kill all the stupid people, I'm just saying remove all the warning labels and let the problem sort itself out'.

HOS Club meeting Dates for 2013

12th MAY (Glenn) 9th JUNE 14th JULY
 11th AUG. 8th SEPT. 4th OCT. (Show Set Up)
 5th OCT. (SHOW) 20th OCT. (Prize Giving)
 10th NOV. (Auction) 8th DEC. (Social)

***Editor's Note:** I have continued to use the 'old' Sander's genus names for orchids in most cases to avoid too much confusion, especially for the newer members who already struggle with these. The LAST issue of the Australian Orchid Review was received this month. We have decided to invest in more specialist orchid books rather than magazines.