



# NEWSLETTER of the HOWICK ORCHID SOCIETY Inc.

**Apr. 2015**

**NEXT meeting Sun 10<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

**NEXT MEETING:** We've all been waiting for this talk from resident expert Alf Day who will reveal the mysteries of how orchids grow and function with special emphasis on root structure and mechanics. Be prepared for some revelations on orchid physiology.

Don't forget we are back to our usual hall at the Fencible Lounge next meeting.

As there was so much going on I never had time to take any photos again so will publish some from my archives (some growers not known). I have tried to find some similar to plants purchased at the auction.



*Lea Westlake's multi-awarded specimen Laelia anceps  
Many of you will now have a division of this plant from raffles and auction*

**LAST MEETING:** Another AGM is out of the way with a few changes as below.

Members were welcomed and apologies accepted. Glenn explained how under the Constitution all committee members were required to step down. They can be re-elected for further terms except that after 3 years in office if someone else was nominated for that position they then must stand down. The President's report was then read and accepted.

The minutes of previous AGM were read and the Treasurer's audited report circulated.

Both were accepted.

Election of officers:

President:	Glenn Poffley (unopposed)
Vice President:	Phil Funnell (unopposed)
Secretary:	Janet Wehman (unopposed)
Treasurer:	Diane Gurr (unopposed)
Committee:	Greg Scheurich, Kathy Rimmer, John Muddiman, Manee Poffley, Anton Wehman (Show Marshal).

Welcome to new Committee members: **Alan Robinson, Heather Hunwick, Marilyn King.**

Sandra Bullock has resigned from the committee and we would like to thank her for the contribution she has made, especially for her efforts during the OCNZ AGM hosted by HOS.

Leonard Cob was nominated and elected as Patron for a further term.

A question from the floor asked if the Vice President automatically took over from the President if the current President resigned. If the resignation was mid-term this would be the case but if at an

AGM, an election would be held. There is currently no position on the committee for 'Immediate past President'.

Sandra Moore moved that Glenn be thanked for his efforts in running the society. There was no other business.

**AUCTION:** This was a very well attended and supported event this year with a good selection of excellent plants and very good prices bid. Many new members went away with some great buys of mature plants. Greg Scheurich stepped in as auctioneer and was soon getting into the swing of things and enjoying the challenge. A big thanks to all members who were very generous with their donations and those that purchased plants. HOS made an exceptional **\$840** from this event.



*Bifrennaria harrisoniae* var. *alba*



*Above: Laelia purpurata*



*Right: A well grown ponga mounted Den. loddigessii*

## EDITOR'S COMMENT

A reminder is probably helpful to new members who have now acquired some new orchids for their collection. These notes apply especially to what I can remember was sold at the auction.

**Laelias** are cold tolerant and will grow outdoors in Auckland with shelter in winter. Keep dry over winter and in a very open mix.

**Miltonias** as above but will require some more watering. They will be better in a finer mix or sphagnum aerated with polystyrene.

**Cattleyas** will do better with some more comfort especially in winter otherwise as for Laelias. Keep an eye out for white scale insect on undersides of leaves.

**Masdevallias** can be a bit of a challenge over our hot dry summer. Keep moist and cool.

**Phalaenopsis** are an indoor plant and should be kept warm. Grow in an open mix in a bright area but not direct sun. They are surprisingly resilient. Watch for mealy bugs in leaf folds!

**Odontoglossum type Oncidiinae** can be grown similar to Miltonias. Reasonably disease free.

**Coelognes, Bifrennaria, Maxillaria** are mostly cool growers (particularly the ones sold). Provide a little shade. Relatively disease free and fast growers.

**Australian Dendrobiums** are cool growers, drier in winter, open mix and plenty of light.

**Soft Cane Dendrobiums** (nobile type) as above. Beware snails love them!

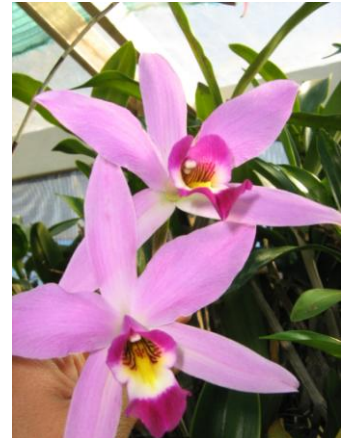
**Sarcochilus** are again Aussie cool growers but need more water as they do not have pseudobulbs. They do well mounted on ponga or similar. Brown scale sometimes a problem.

**Zygopetalums** are another cool grower, grow similar to Cymbidiums but avoid getting leaves wet as they will develop brown spotting.

All orchids will need to be **protected** from too much water and frost over winter. Good light in winter is advantageous. Water well during the growing season, **never** leave wet for long periods. Fertiliser can be reduced from now on to **none** in winter. (Available for sale at club days at \$6).

Orchids will be much healthier in good air movement with less insect problems. If you want advice on any of your purchases please don't hesitate to ask.

The **private auction** held recently at Beryl's home was a great success with about 500 top quality orchids finding new homes. HOS members were well represented (at least 11) all winning a box or more containing approx 5 – 8 mature plants. I had 2 or so boxes earmarked to buy but like many missed out on those and ended up with 2 others, which I was still very pleased with.



*Three varieties of Laelia anceps: (L) var. Sierra; (Middle) var. vietchiana; (R) The more common form. (Note differences in shape as well as colour). Laelia anceps is one of the easier orchids of the Cattleya Alliance to grow and can be very rewarding. They come from Mexico and need cool temperatures to initiate flowering. It is reported they have been seen covered in frost!*

**SUBSCRIPTIONS** are now overdue for this year. These are the same as last year, \$30 family (at same address) or \$20 single. If paying by Post please send to the SECRETARY (address front page). You can also pay by direct credit to the Howick Orchid Society Inc. bank account:  
**ASB BANK: 12 3040 0537527 00**

If you do not wish to renew your membership please email the secretary. ([wehman@xtra.co.nz](mailto:wehman@xtra.co.nz)) This will be the last newsletter for those that do not renew by the May meeting.

## CULTURE

I now bring indoors or put under shelter any plants that are outside in the elements now. Some obviously will cope but it takes a while before they look 'sick' and by then it is usually too late. Yellowing of upper leaves (lower ones naturally will die off after a period), limp growth, no new growth and other signs are an indication your plant is suffering. If roots have 'green tips' this means they are still growing, although these will gradually seal off in winter. Good roots are white and firm. Soggy brown ones are usually dead. Do not cut off good roots outside of pot.

A plant that is climbing out of the pot is sometimes an indication it doesn't want to be in a pot! Old bulbs will drop off leaves and this is natural. Gradually these old bulbs will wither up and dry off. If still green and fat they can provide nourishment to new growths although too many old bulbs can eventually be divided off the plant.

Rotting of bulbs or new growth is usually a sign of serious fungal problems and should be removed immediately; the cut should be treated with fungicide.

Brown or white spotting and marking of leaves in many cases can either be a fungal problem or mineral deficiency but could be virus. Colour break in flowers is another indication of virus but can also be caused by sprays or insect damage at bud stage.

There is no sure way of knowing except by testing with a virus kit. If unsure isolate the plant and check if the new growth or subsequent flowers show similar discolouration. (I have been fooled a few times, so don't rush into dumping a suspect plant)



**\*\*HOS is pleased to announce that we will sponsor the BEST Cattleya Alliance and also the BEST Oncidiinae Alliance prizes at the 2016 national show. Each will receive \$100 cash.\*\***

## **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 is a species)

## **Open Section**

Barry & Penelope Gasson	C. Happy Face	
Wolf Grausch	C. Angel's Fantasy x C. Red Elf, C. Dal's Girl x C. Lana Coryell = <b>C. Dal's Elite</b> , C. Caudebec x <i>Lc. Angel Heart</i> = <b>Lc. Alexandr Zub</b> , C. Brandywine x <i>L. sincorana</i> , and C. Dream Catcher	
Diane Latto	<i>Phal. unknown</i>	<b>THIRD equal</b>
Glenn & Manee Poffley	C. Sulley's Color x C. Hawaiian Snow Candy, C. C.G. Roebeling, <i>C. maxima</i> , <i>C. Kew</i> , <i>Den. intermedium</i> x <i>Den. Theodore Takiguchi</i> , <i>Den. subclausum</i> , <i>Milt. Moirmoir</i> , and <i>V. Rasri</i> x <i>V. coerulea</i>	
Ron Reeves	<i>E. glumaceum</i> , <i>Phal. fasciata</i> , <i>C. maxima</i> , <i>C. Harrisoniae</i> , <i>Angcm. eburneum</i> , <i>Den. mohlianum</i> and <i>Den. tetragonum</i>	
Kathy Rimmer	<i>Milt. Goodale Moir</i>	
Ken & Chui Tse	<i>C. bicolor</i> , and <i>C. Anne Tapper</i>	<b>THIRD equal</b>
Michelle Tung	<i>Pol. fallax</i> x <i>Pol. virginica</i> , and <i>Cym. Pat Ann</i>	
Anton & Janet Wehman	<i>Milt. spectabilis</i> var. <i>moreliana</i> , <i>Phal. violacea</i> , and <i>Colm. Wildcat</i> 'Rainbow'	<b>SECOND and PLANT OF THE MONTH FIRST</b>
Bryce & Lea Westlake	<i>Milt. unknown</i>	

## **Novice**

Heather Hunwick	<i>E. cochleata gigantea</i> , and <i>Sngl. Durban</i>	<b>FIRST SECOND</b>
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## **Novelty**

Glenn & Manee Poffley	<i>Ddc. cobbianum</i>	<b>FIRST equal</b>
Michelle Tung	<i>Ddc. uncatum</i>	<b>FIRST equal</b>

A very brief commentary was given by Glenn Poffley.



(Above L) *C. Lana Coryell x Dal's Joy*.  
I knew I had a photo of this somewhere!



(Above R) A nice *Zygopetalum*.  
This will be very similar to those sold.



(Above) *Coelogyne flaccida*, these make great specimens.

(Right) An amazing range of superb Aussie *Dendrobiums* displayed in 1 of 4 houses.  
Don't you just wish there were still nurseries like this to visit locally?  
This was taken at Sunrae Orchid Nursery in Drury on a club visit back in 2008. Even further back there were a lot more to choose from selling a large variety of quality orchids.

### **HOS Club meeting Dates for 2015**

Meetings start at 1.30pm at the Fencible Lounge, Uxbridge Rd. Howick. (Next to library)

**PLEASE NOTE** these dates in your diary or calendar.

14 <sup>th</sup> June;	12 <sup>th</sup> July;	9 <sup>th</sup> Aug;
13 <sup>th</sup> Sep;	11 <sup>th</sup> Oct;	16 <sup>th</sup> Oct. (Set Up);
17 <sup>th</sup> Oct. (SHOW);	8 <sup>th</sup> Nov;	13 <sup>th</sup> Dec.



I have been reading the first issue of Orchids 1997, the first issue of this publication.  
In a very well written and amusing article by **George Fuller** he quotes:

**'(society).... funds should be spent to benefit those who generate them and not simply held intact for future members who just may not materialise.'**