

NEWSLETTER

Aug. 2007

NEXT MEETING Sun 9th Sept. 2007 at 1.30 pm

Show time!

SPEAKER: Pat Kenny from Hamilton is our guest speaker in September and will talk about growing Dendrobiums. Pat has been growing these for many years and has a very large collection, especially the Australian types. Pat has also been experimenting with crossing these with the New Guinea Dendrobiums.

LAST MEETING: Barbara Johnson showed us some beautiful photos of 'compact' Cattleyas, which were just stunning. Combined with the cultural hints it was a talk no one should have missed. Two tables full of Barbara and Fanie's sale plants were cleaned out in minutes!

OCNZ RAFFLE: Please try to sell the ones you have as other clubs have sold all theirs and are waiting for more. **BRING ALL books** (sold/unsold) plus money **BACK** next meeting. Raffle closes 30th Sept.

TEA ROSTER for Next Meeting: Pamela Scott, Joan Skidmore, Chui Leung.
Please phone Lea if unable to attend meeting. (575 5046)

CULTURE: It's been a very wet winter; so make sure any plants outside are sheltered from excessive rain unless they are very well drained.

CYMBIDIUMS will be coming into flower now through to summer. Watch especially for snails and water dripping down onto buds. From the end of August you should start watering more frequently and lightly fertilizing to get them conditioned for the spring.

CATLEYAS can flower at any time but more so either spring or autumn. Those that are showing new growths should be watered and fertilized while those requiring a rest can withstand less water and fertilizer.

Some Laelias will flower in the summer and will be showing signs of flower sheaths now.

ODONTOGLOSSUMS will be putting out new growths and some will be coming into flower. Continue to water these, as they don't like to be dried out completely. They can flower any time of the year.

PHALAENOPSIS should all be in warm conditions. Many will be growing new leaves they started in autumn. At present mine get a good watering once a week but they are kept fairly warm. If your conditions are cool at night then they may not require as much water especially those in sphagnum.

DENDROBIUMS should all be showing signs of inflorescences soon. Most of the Aussie ones will flower in the spring. Water can be withheld from these over the cooler months.

OTHERS will be in various states of growth and you should use discretion in determining whether to water/fertilise at present.

Anything looking 'sick' should be moved immediately and checked to see if it has rotting roots, an insect infestation or fungus disease. If none of these it may need warmer conditions.

The Howick O. S. members wish Len's wife Inga, a speedy recovery from her recent major operation.

RAFFLE: A big flowering Cymbidium purchased from Mick plus another he donated made nice 1st and 2nd prizes. Thanks also to Kathy (4 Dens), Grahame Leafberg and Barbara Johnson for other orchids.

NZOS SHOW

What a great effort that went into our display and from such a lot of members who came to help. Kathy Rimmer led the team by example by donating a 'sparkling sea green' cloth and also making a one half metre high lighthouse. Len's 2.4 x 1.2 metre seascape was the backdrop (what would we do without him?) and many wonderful orchids provided by members gave the finishing touches. Extra lighting gave a display that really took the visitor's (and judge's) eye, giving us first prize (and \$100) for the floor display section. We decided that floor displays are much easier to construct as we generally have a lot of flowers.

As for the plants well I've never seen so many with certificates for a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd. (See below) It was a joint effort with great help coming from Lea and Bryce Westlake, Christina Chi, Michelle Tung, Paul Yap and Glenn writing the entry cards.

John Muddiman: 1st Specimen plant (Open) *L.anceps*; 2nd Other genus (Novice) *Ptst* Nodding Grace.

A & J Wehman: 3rd Small Species, *Angcm. calceolus*.

L & B Westlake: 2nd Specimen plant, *Epi. neoporpax*; 3rd Mini cym. white/green, Dag.

L. Cobb: 1st Paph. hybrid white/green, Harvest Splendour 'Bobs'.

M. Tung: 1st Den. not Austr. Kuniko; 2nd Cattleya large std. *Pot. (Blc. Yellow Ball x Slc. Anzac)*.

Dieu Tran: 1st Mini Cym. brown/red Amapola 'Milford'; 2nd Large Species, *Ansellia nilotica*.

Brian Main: 1st Std Phal. white, *Dtps. Callum's Carnival x Dtps. Etherege Angel*; 1st Std Phal. white + stripes/spots, Brother Heather 'Heather' HCC/AOS; 1st Mini Phal. Barbara King x Zuma's Pixie; 1st Std. Phal. other colour, Orchid World 'Zuma Canyon HCC/AOS; 2nd Std. Phal. white, *Dtps. Etherege Angel* 'Queen AM/NZOS; 3rd Std. Phal. white, *Etherege Firefly x (Shirley x Verlane)*.

G & M Poffley: Del Chandler Trophy most outstanding Oncidiinae alliance, *Onc. cheirophorum*, 1st Onc. Alliance (*Onc. cheirophorum*).

Kathy Rimmer: Joan Parker Trophy, (best miniature in show) *Howeara* Mini-Primi. (2nd year running!) 3rd Onc Alliance intergeneric, *Hwra. Mini-Primi*, 3rd Cattleya Alliance novelty, *Lc. Desert Orange*, 3rd *Miltonia*, Echo Bay 'Midnight Tears'.

Grahame Leafberg also had some placed plants on our display but certificates not collected.

Thanks also to Paul and Julie for providing plants.

RESEARCH

Laelia anceps is a very commonly grown Mexican species. It is very hardy and one of the easier to grow in our climate and can cope with a wide range of temperatures from subzero up to 30 deg. C. The problem is identifying some of the less common varieties, which appear from time to time. The most common is the lavender coloured one but the ones that cause the argument are the whites that nearly everyone labels as 'alba'. The correct 'alba' is pure white with a small amount of yellow on the throat and no other colour markings. Anton's white with the red stripes on the throat is var. *Williamsii*. I have another (from Len) with pale purple blushes on the lip, which is var. *Ashworthiana*. Another white with red stripes in the throat and pink blushes on the lip is *Sanderiana* and there is also *Delicata* and *Hillsii*. One of the prettiest is *Veitchiana*, which has a large full flower with blue markings on the lip. We were fortunate in having Russell Hutton (K&R Orchids) bring many of the above along to the July meeting where he spoke and described in detail the differences between them. Hopefully those of you with incorrect labels will now change them and have confidence in the names when displaying these plants again.

The Santa Barbara Orchid estate website has many photos of various *anceps*. Some orchid growers specialise in just this species as there are so many variations of colour and form, from pink through to lavender and even blue as they state. This is another orchid that has been line bred giving many different flowers of the same species. One of the line bred white *anceps* from SBOE is 'White Wings' (red stripes on throat) and is a very fine form. Another is var. *alba* 'Bulls' awarded an FCC.

What happens when it rains cats and dogs?

You have to be careful not to step in a poodle.

(With apologies to Gary and Heather)

SOUTH AUCKLAND O. S. SHOW. was held more recently with some good results for Howick members.

Novice Section. **Paul Yap.** 1st mini Cym. (Mini Mint)

John Muddiman. Prestige Trophy, Best Novice Bloom, (Cym. Coraki Beauty 'Forest of Green)

Aldred Cup, Best Novice Specimen, (Phal. Shirley Vance 'Jean' x Verlane)

1st Standard Cym. (as above) and 1st white or pink Phalaenopsis (as above).

Open Section. **Mabel Teal.** 3rd Standard Paphiopedilum (Jacqueline Kranzer x Ranchero 'Roots)

Michelle Tung. 1st Cattleya over 90mm (Lc. Mabarina x Katy True).

Glenn & Manee. Beejay Trophy, Best White Phalaenopsis, Sarlon Reid Trophy, Best Phalaenopsis (unknown), 1st White Phal. (as above), 2nd Species (Onc. cheiroporum), 2nd Specimen plant (Den. Hewitt Glow), 2nd Mini Cym red/brown, 3rd Masdevallia Hybrid (Marguerite 'Geyser Gold').

PLANTS ON DISPLAY (August meeting)

OPEN

Betty Everson: *Phal.* unknown, *Haemaria (Ludisia) discolor.*

Wolf Grausch: *Den. arachnites*, *Den.* Rutherford Sunspot x Ausie Quest.

William/Man Lo: *Masd.* Tuakau Candy, *Paph.* Phips, *Paph.* Gold Creek 'Sunset' x Honda Gold 'Tyrol',

Paph. Eden's Delight x (Raisin* Jack x *acomodontum*), *Paph.* Ruby Leopard x Marie* Joyes, *Paph.*

Hellas 'Westonbirt' x Stefoni Pito 'Valerie Jonkin', *Paph.* Carolina Park 'Coromandel', *Paph.*

spicerianum.

Glenn/Manee: *Cym.* Pipetta 'Magenta'.

Michelle Tung: *Lc.* Mabarina x Katy True.

Ron Reeves: *Barkeria melanocaulon** (Epidendron), *Den.* Cassiope, *Pleurothallis atropurpureum** (*aspergillum*).

Anton/Janet Wehman: *Paph.* Peralta x Virginia Randolph, *Den.* Gillean Healy? (could be Leaney) x Aussie Black Brother (no such name).

Lea/Bryce Westlake: *Den.* Colonial Surprise x Tannock, *Den.* Hewitt Glow, *Epi. neoporpax*, *Pot.* Esther Costa 'Orange Fantasy' x *Blc.* Peach Parfait, *Cym.* Dag.

Grahame Leafberg: *Soph. coccinea*, *Soph. rosea*, *Sophronitella violacea*, *Dinema polybulbon*, *Den.*

Yachico 'Grahame' CCC/OCNZ, *Den.* Lorikeet x Yondi Tina 'Goliath'.

Pam Forde: *Odbrs.* Golden Glow, 2 x *Den.* Starbright Corona, *Den.* Berry x Red River, *Coel. cristata.*

NOVICE

Christina Chi: *Den.* King Star x (Penny Rose x Blushing* Rose).

John Sheppard: *Cym.* (Pink Champagne x Jessica Dubroff) x Sylvan Love.

John Muddiman: *Cym.* Coraki Beauty 'Forest of Green'.

Paul Yap: *Cym.* Mini Mint.

OPEN: 1st Michelle (Lc.), 2nd Betty Everson (Phal), 3rd Lea/Bryce (Den. Hewitt Glow)

NOVICE: 1st John Sheppard, 2nd John Muddiman, 3rd Paul Yap.

*Name change or spelling error, please change label.

Ain't it the Truth!!!

A woman goes to the doctor for her yearly physical. The nurse starts with certain basic items.

"How much do you weigh?" the nurse asks.

"115," replies the woman.

The nurse puts her on the scale. It turns out her weight is 140.

The nurse asks, "Your height?"

"5 foot 8," she says.

The nurse checks and sees that she only measures 5' 5".

She then takes her blood pressure and tells the woman it is very high.

"Of course it's high!" she screams, "When I came in here I was tall and slender! Now I'm short and fat!"

CSA Show was held recently at Western Springs and was well attended. This group only displays Cymbidiums and Paphs and as usual there were some very nice examples of these. John Cairns from Taumararui won Grand Champion with a large green Cym. John is also a member of HOS so we hope to see some more of his quality plants displayed at our show in September, including some for sale.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

The Tolumnias are certainly a challenge as one of mine has died already and the 2nd failing fast. I found out very quickly that they don't like the cool nights if left wet. I bought a few different ones to try in various media and had to remove the two in sphagnum as they looked very poor. They were all mounted on different slabs and seemed initially to be happier but now I've removed them and put all back in pots. The roots were drying out too quickly and a dehumidifier doesn't help. It is important they dry before a cool night so give them sun during the day. A larger flowering size one (slab mounted) has already put on new growth.

This year seems to be a bad one for orchid shows clashing. I realize many clubs have to book halls early (as we do) but some have changed their usual dates creating problems. When there are too many on at once it is difficult for growers and members deciding which club they will support. With shows very close together transporting and leaving flowers in a hall for a few days will result in damage.

I leave flowering plants in the garage where it is cool and dry to ensure they are not damaged by wind, rain or bumble bees. This way they are ready to go to a show in good condition.

Give them a good watering a few days before the show so they do not drip all over the show benches.

Trim off unsightly leaves and peel off dry sheaths. Stake inflorescences and ensure these don't protrude above the flowers.

Make sure the pots are clean and free of ant nests as these have a habit of visiting other plants.

Please **return all trophies** as soon as possible.

As mentioned in the show notes if you are unsure of which section to enter your plant please confirm with a more experienced member as incorrectly benched plants may be disqualified. Check sizes and colours.

Measure across the widest part of the flower and the colour that predominates is a guide to the class. If you require some room on the benches to display your plant please ask the Show Marshal (Anton) before moving any plants.

This year the raffle will only be flowering orchid plants.

So make sure you come along and enjoy the day.

LAST CHILD SUPPORT CHEQUE!!!

Today will be Joe's baby girl's 18th birthday.

He's so glad that this will be the last child support payment!

Month after month, year after year, all those payments!

So he calls his baby girl, to come to his house and when she gets there, Joe says,

"Baby girl, I want you to take this check over to your momma's house and tell her this will be the last check she's ever gettin' from me. And I want you to come back and tell me the expression on your momma's face"

So, his baby girl takes the check over to her momma.

Joe's anxious to hear what she says, and about the expression on her face.

When baby girl walks through the door, Joe says, "Now what your momma say 'bout that?"

She says to tell you that "you ain't my daddy

And then see the expression on YOUR face!"

MORE BOOKS!

We are pleased to announce that retired members (also ex. Committee members)

JO NOBLE and **JUDY KEESTRA** have donated some gardening books to the society. Those suitable for the library (orchid books) will be added to this and the others will be auctioned at a later meeting.

A husband and his wife were sound asleep when suddenly the phone rang. The husband picked up the phone and said, "Hello? How the heck do I know? What do I look like, a weatherman?" He then slammed the phone down and settled into bed. "Who was that?" asked his wife. "I don't know. It was some guy who wanted to know if the coast was clear."

Don't knock the weather; 9 out of 10 Aucklanders couldn't start a conversation if it didn't change as often as it does!

HOWICK ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW

It's time again to take note of all the following items and put your name down to help where you can. The main job to do before the show is ADVERTISE it amongst friends, associates, shops, clubs, or anywhere you can think of. Take a pamphlet or two next meeting.

FRIDAY 28th Sept. From 12pm we will be setting up the hall with the tables, styrene and cloth. Some MEN are required to lift these and arrange them in the hall. Some small snacks to eat would also be appreciated for the workers during the afternoon. From about 2pm bring in your plants to display and any surplus stock (orchids) to sell. Please fill out the entry cards **clearly** and correctly and check with someone if unsure which class it should be entered in. Note. HOWICK OS members are asked to write '**HOS**' in the top right corner of entry cards. Make sure **all** your display plants have a swing tag identifying the owner of the plant. Sales tickets **require** a seller code and price, and a master sheet is required with a list of these with the sales ticket numbers. Check plants in with the sales table supervisor.

SATURDAY 29th Sept. From 7.45am we require stewards to help the judges. This is an important task where newer people can learn a lot. Please be early when you will be briefed on your duties. The table for collating winners' cards will also need help at this time. During the morning we will require some nourishment for the judges especially at 10am. A small **plate** of finger food would be appreciated from all members in attendance. Other important tasks are: Door security, door entry, kitchen help, raffle table, sales table and area, mixing and mingling with prospective members and other duties as they occur. **All** members of the **public** should be out of the hall at the time of dismantling and packing up of plants. CLEAN UP helpers are required at the completion of the show.

PARKING: As usual be aware that there are restrictions in the immediate areas and long-term parking is available across the road. The rear of the hall is for drop off/pick up only and vehicles in this area must be attended at all times.

FREE ENTRY to the show for HOS members, so we expect to see you all there!

PRIZE for all HOS members who exhibit on the show benches. (Maximum of 1 per family) You are not eligible if your plants are in another society's display. You **must** attend prize giving to receive your gift, no rain checks or others are permitted to pick this up.

Schedules, entry cards, sales tickets and sheets will be available at the next meeting. Please ensure your plants whether they are for sale or display are free from insects and disease. Sales plants should be well rooted and not recent divisions. Please read the schedule and if you have any questions ask the Show Marshal (Anton). All plants displayed and unsold plants to be picked up at 4pm. (Sat) PLEASE phone **Anton** if you are able to help during week before the show erecting or putting out signs.

COMING EVENTS

NZOS Spring Show Mt Albert War Memorial Hall, set up Thurs. 20th Sept. open 21 – 23 Sept.
Seminar at NZOS (Mt Albert War Mem. Hall) September, Roy Tokunaga from H & R Orchids Hawaii.
Check your OCNZ yearbook for show dates of other societies

HOS Club days: 14th Oct. (**Prize Giving**), 11th Nov, 9th Dec. (**Xmas social**)

HOS Annual Show: Saturday 29th September, Set-up on Frid. 28th Sept.

DON'T FORGET we want all raffle books and money back next meeting. Hand to Jackie so she can check off the numbers.