

NEWSLETTER

Aug. 2008

NEXT MEETING Sun 14th Sept. 2008 at 1.30 pm

Show this month

SPEAKER: Next meeting **Leigh** and **Mike** Leaity will give us a tour of the world of orchids with photos from their recent trip. They spent time in UK, Europe, USA and Hawaii visiting some interesting growers with many different orchids to what we see here.

LAST MEETING: Noel Townsley gave a very interesting talk and slide show on NZ native orchids of which 43 are growing in the Waitakere Ranges. Most of them can be seen in the Hunuaas too. Although many have very small flowers there are others with much larger and colourful flowers. I must confess like many others to previously not knowing where to look or what to look for so hopefully we are all a little wiser of what is around us.

RAFFLE: Thanks to those who donated all the orchids, (Tris, Lee Stone, and some others but unfortunately we did not see who brought them in) and club Oncidium.

TEA ROSTER As we will have a new Tea Person a little help may be required on the day to get this organized. Please come forward and lend a hand so that it gets off to a smooth start.

HOWICK O.S Annual 1 Day show

At the end of this newsletter (or by separate email) is a schedule for our show so you can familiarize yourself with the classes etc. If you have any questions please ask so you are able to bench your plants in the correct section. Plants benched in the wrong class may be **disqualified**. At the next meeting there will be some advertising posters for display so please take 1 or 2 and put them up on a public notice board or prominent place. We need all the **advertising help** we can get. PLEASE return all **TROPHIES** to John Muddiman next meeting.

HELP is required both on the Friday (set up) at 11am and on the Saturday (from 8am). A roster with times and tasks will be circulated again next meeting.

CULTURE: After last month's depressing weather I thought we might have had something to look forward to, but no such luck. With a record 29 out of 31 wet days recorded in Auckland for July who could blame you for tossing out the orchids and growing water lilies instead. Many have had their plants damaged with the high winds and I imagine that's not all. The main cultural requirement at this time is to look after flowering plants so they may be exhibited at the shows. There are still many cool nights to come so don't be fooled by a few nice days here and there. If you have had plants outside then they really should have been sheltered from the excessive rainfall we have experienced. Roots will rot if they are kept wet for prolonged periods in cool weather.

PLANTS ON DISPLAY (Aug. meeting)

OPEN

Betty Everson: *Phal.* New Cinderella.

John Muddiman: *Paph.* unknown, *L. anceps*. *Phal.* Hsinying Park x *Dtps.* Sun Prince = *Dtps.* Kay's Pride*.

Grahame Leafberg: *Cym.* Del's Delight 'Iris', *Den. teretifolium*, *Dinema polybulbon*.

William & Man Lo: *Paph.* Zealandia, *Paph.* Kimberley Szabo, *Epi.* porpax, *Den.* Riversun x Averil's Gold, *Den.* Lisa Turner, *Cym.* Sara Jean 'Ena Langdale', *Onc. ornithorhyncum*.

Michelle Tung: *C.* White Bounty, *Lc.* Mabarina x Katytrue, *Slc.* Jeannie Wolf.

Dieu Tran: *Paph.* Blackberry Delight x Goultenianum*, *Paph.* Kimberley Szabo x Anna Szabo = Fraser's Fire*, *Cym.* Amapola 'Milford'.

Jim Bensemann: *Paph.* Unknown, *Paph.* Beaute '524'.

Philip & Gangli Zhou: All Chinese Cymbidiums – *goeringii* x 2, *goeringii* 'Snow' x 2, *goeringii* 'Yu', *goeringii* 'Divine Red' x 2, *goeringii* 'Divine Yellow' x 2, *goeringii* 'Long's', *goeringii* 'Yangi's', *goeringii* 'Song Mei', *goeringii* var. *longibracteatum* x 2, *faberi*.

NOVICE

John Sheppard: *Cym.* Amapola 'Milford',.

Lois Caldwell: *Phal.* Unknown.

Lee Stone: *Cym.* Unknown.

NOVELTY

John Sheppard: *Masd. triangulapetala** = *Trichosalpinx triangulapetala*.

Betty Everson: *Ptst.* Nodding Grace.

Still more Novelty entries required!

Note: * **Label changes required.** (Either incorrect spelling or a new name of a registered hybrid)

OPEN: 1st G. Leafberg (*teretifolium*), 2nd Betty Everson (*Phal.*), 3rd D. Tran (*Cym.*).

NOVICE: 1st J. Sheppard (*Cym.*), 2nd Lee Stone (*Cym.*), 3rd Lois Caldwell (*Phal.*).

NOVELTY: 1st John Sheppard (*Masd.*), 2nd Betty Everson (*Ptst.*).

Commentary by Heather Cooke and Dennis Chuah.

Please **note** on your **entry card** if it a Novelty section plant.

Thank you, **Philip** and **Gangli** for an excellent display of species cymys not often seen in NZ.

SAOS WINTER SHOW

This was held at their usual venue on a wet and miserable weekend, which possibly kept the public and exhibitors away. Major traffic delays on the Friday evening also dampened the spirits of many attempting to get there before benching closed at 7pm.

Despite these set backs this was another very successful event for HOS exhibitors.

Sandra Moore: 2nd Cl. 23 *Den.* Hilda Poxon, 2nd Cl. 24 *Den. moniliforme* x *virginalis*, 2nd Cl. 35 *Pleurothallis matudiana*, 2nd Cl. 41 *Den.* Gulginni x Red River, 3rd Cl. 35 *Masd. macrura*.

Michelle Tung: 1st Cl. 20 *C.* White Bounty, 3rd Cl. 20 *Lc.* Mabarina x Katytrue.

John Muddiman: 1st Cl. 31 *Phal.* Sogo Red Ruby, 2nd Cl. 30 *Phal.* Hsinying Park x *Dtps.* Sun Prince.

Julie Duff: 1st Cl. 15 *Cym.* Fairy Rouge 'Lavender Falls', 2nd Cl. 12 *Cym.* Dr. Baker 'Hyacinth', 2nd Cl. 13 *Cym.* Sarah Jean 'Sprite'.

G & M Poffley: 1st Cl. 12 *Cym.* Persuasive Miss, 1st Cl. 29 *Phal.* Unknown, 1st Cl. 35 *Masd. melanopus*, 2nd Cl. 36 *Masd.* Violetta, 2nd Cl. 38 *Paph.* Pathfinder Navigator, 3rd Cl. 22 *Den. kingianum* x Gillean Leaney, 3rd Cl. 30 *Phal.* Unknown.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

One of the great things about orchid growing is the diversity of flowers, different species and hybrids from many genera. Every time I go to a show or visit another society I find something I've never encountered before, plus a few eccentric growers to add to the variety. Buying one of these odd plants is always a challenge, as you really don't know what to expect, how to grow it or what conditions it prefers. This is where we can take advantage of the club library, internet or our own books to do some research and learn more about what we are growing.

Sometimes I'm surprised to find that the newly acquired plant is on the endangered CITES list, is rare in its native habitat or has some other unique feature making it a desirable plant to be coveted. Growing one of these well and flowering it makes me even more satisfied. There are many growers around the country who have quite large mixed collections and sometimes they decide to cut back or get rid of particular genera in order to specialize in others. Maybe it is a plant that has just sat doing nothing for years and the grower has decided to make room for something new or it is something they are not interested in pursuing. We may be able to give these plants conditions more to their liking and succeed where others have failed. Collecting unusual or rare species and hybrids can be an advantage to those wishing to breed new hybrids. Older hybrids are sometimes useful for increasing the diversity in new crosses and hopefully will add to the range of new flowers available to growers. Many older hybrids are more vigorous than something that has been bred over and over again. I personally have been seeking out these and other odd species with breeding in mind. I first check the family tree of my plants on Wildcatt (orchid programme) and determine whether I would consider it worthwhile for what I have in mind or hope to achieve. For instance I recently found a very nice old *Cattleya Portia* var. *coerulea* at the Whangarei show for sale. Some would consider it not up to the standard of modern hybrids but in actual fact it has good shape, colour, form and is a compact plant. Being vigorous, free flowering, long lasting and almost a primary hybrid makes this just what I want. Obviously everyone has their own theories and unless we put them to the test then we won't get the diversity or go in new directions. Being such a large family of plants there are many different genera people can specialize in putting their own knowledge to good use.

NEW MEMBERS

Hopefully you will have put your plants somewhere secure and out of the weather over the winter. With spring around the corner (hopefully) new growths will soon be showing and this is the time to start repotting, fertilizing and encouraging your plants to put on some rapid growth.

We would encourage you to bring any orchids in flower to our show. Exhibiting your plants and helping during the judging on Sat. morning is where you can learn a lot. All club members get free entry to our show and don't forget we have a good sales table with commercial growers from Tauranga, Whakatane and locally selling orchids.

WAITAKERE ORCHID CLUB - SILVER ANNIVERSARY SHOW

This is a club that pulls out all the stops to ensure a well-attended, very successful event every year and this; their Silver anniversary was certainly one to be remembered.

With lovely displays and some exceptional orchids it is a show not to be missed. Sales were boosted by many commercial growers stalls including Easy Orchids (Australia) selling flasks on the Saturday. Murray's talk on Madagascar at the dinner on the Sat. night was spell binding with amazing photos of the wild flora and fauna much of which is unknown to botanists and found nowhere else in the world.

HOS mounted a display going for a simple colour scheme of yellows and whites, which had the desired effect. With many *Den. speciosums* in flower we built the display around these with Len's massive specimen taking centre stage and attracting a lot of comment.

Results: (Displays were not judged)

Len Cobb: 3rd Cl. 79 (Std Paph.) Harvest Splendour.

Kathy Rimmer: 2nd Cl. 85 (Other hybrids) *Howeara* Mini-Primi.

Michelle Tung: 1st Cl. 2 (Min. Cym. pink/red) Vogel's Magic 'Waikanae', 2nd Cl. 78 (Paph. species or novelty hybrid), 3rd Cl. 70 (Oncidium) Sugar Babies.

Manee Poffley: 1st Cl. 94 (Floral Art – Silver Jubilee)

G & M Poffley: 2nd Cl. 4 (Min. Cym other colour) Persuasive Miss, 2nd Cl. 56 (Den speciosum) speciosum, 2nd Cl. 75 (Masd. small) melanopus, 3rd Cl. 40 (Phal. white) unknown, 3rd Cl. 52 (Aust. Native/hybrid Den white/cream) Gillean Leaney x kinianum, 3rd Cl. 57 (Aust. Native hybrid/species specimen) speciosum.

Thanks to everyone who helped (Michelle and Steven) and also to **John Muddiman** for transport of large plants and help with the display.

COMING EVENTS

NZOS Spring Show Benching only. All members are welcome and encouraged to display their orchids on the show benches. With 2 well known overseas visitors they want to make this Diamond Jubilee event another to be remembered.

Benching Thurs. 18th Sept. open to public from 10am Friday 19 to Sun. 21 Sept.

Usual venue Mt Albert War Memorial hall, New North Rd Mt Albert.

HOS Show benching Frid. 26 Sept. open 10am Sat. 27th Sept. **Sales plants** to be tagged and priced with the corresponding master sheet. Display plants to be labeled by owner with a swing tag.

HOS Club days for 2008:

HOS Show Set up Frid. 26th Sept, **Show Day** 27th Sept,

12th Oct, (Prize Giving – Alf Day) 9th Nov (Orchid and Book Auction) 14th Dec. (Xmas Social)

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

A man with a gun went into a bank and demanded their money. Once he was given the money, he turned to a customer and asked, "Did you see me rob this bank?"

The man replied, "Yes sir, I did." The robber then shot him in the temple, killing him instantly.

He then turned to a couple standing next to him and asked the man, "Did you see me rob this bank?" The man replied, "No sir, I didn't, but my wife did".

HOWICK O.S. SHOW

As usual we have many requests for help on the 2 days, Friday set up and Saturday of the show.

From **11.30am on Frid** we will be setting up tables and laying out the hall. Some manpower is needed earlier for the lifting as we hire extra tables and bring in others we own as well.

From **8am sharp on the Sat.** stewards are needed to help with judging. Last year we had a good number making this a very efficient operation.

On the Sat. we require some food for the judging group and helpers at around 10am. Anyone who can bring a plate of finger food (hot or cold) please do so. There is a warmer and oven in the kitchen. Tea and coffee will be also available to helpers during the day.

DON'T forget to fill out the roster available at the meeting if you are able to help in other ways.

Door and sales area security, talking to prospective new members, helping the public with orchids on display are all tasks that are on going throughout the day.

Bring in as many orchids in flower as you have to make this a great display. There will also be a society display on the stage area. Remember it is as much for the public as it is for us so just because you may not have a first place winner they all contribute to the show.

If anyone is interested we will be asking at the next meeting for bookings to go out for a meal on the Saturday after the show. This will be local at about 6.30pm.