

NEWSLETTER

Aug. 2009

NEXT MEETING Sun 13th Sept 2009 at 1.30 pm

Read Schedule

SPEAKER: Next meeting see the 'Wild Orchids of Brunei'. A talk and slides by Glenn Poffley from a recent 2 day trip into the 300 year old Borneo jungle.

LAST MEETING: Patti Carr gave an amazing demonstration of the art of Ikebana with 6 different arrangements produced in rapid succession before our eyes. A large audience were spellbound at the speed they appeared and simplicity, yet effectiveness of the designs.

RAFFLE: Thanks to another incredible number of donations making our raffles eagerly sort after. A special mention of **Gary** for the excellent CD's on Tillandsias he donated to the club, which added another \$20 to the club funds. There are only 2 left and a bargain at \$5.

PHOTO COMPETITION: Quite a number of photos were posted this month so don't forget to get snapping. The rules are now finalized and are fairly straightforward. The photos are to be your own, can be taken anywhere and may be digitally enhanced but not manipulated. There are 2 classes, orchid plant and orchid flower. Judge(s) will be appointed by the society to pick the winners. The competition will close after the November meeting and the winners announced at our Xmas social.

HAVE YOU... picked up your **Year book** yet, sold your OCNZ **raffle tickets**, returned **trophies** and put aside some orchids for our **auction** in November?

A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, a nurse said, 'No change yet.'

EDITOR'S COMMENT

South Auckland O.S. Show was another success for HOS with a 2nd prize awarded for our lovely display and another \$50 to the club. This year their show was display only and everyone agreed this made a far better presentation for members and public. The hall certainly was arranged nicely with far better movement around the well-spaced displays. There was also a marked increase in the number of orchids exhibited and quality was very high. HOS members did well again especially our Novice grower Lee who came away with 2 trophies.

Thanks to all the usual helpers for plants and gear in setting up and breaking down the display.

If **electricity** comes from electrons, does **morality** come from morons?

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Meetings: Fencible Lounge Uxbridge Rd Howick

CORRECTION: The photo of the Cattleya in the last newsletter named as Goldenzelle etc was actually Pot. Kauai Kittens x Mildred Hollingsworth (thanks to growers Barbara & Fanie Johnston for pointing this out).

PLANTS ON DISPLAY (Aug meeting)

OPEN

Ron Reeves: *Pleione limprichtii**, *C. intermedia f. alba*, *C. quadricolor*, *Cym. dayanum*.

Grahame Leafberg: *Den. Graeme** Banks x *speciosum*, *Den. Candice 'Ace'* x Lusty 'Bobs', *Mtssa. Dennis Kleinback 'Crowhurst'*.

William & Man Lo: *Slc. Bright Hawaii*, *Paph. Primrose Lady* x Valwin, *Paph. Black Velvet* x Ruby Leopard, *Den. Riversun* x Avril's Gold, *Den. Colonial Campio* x *speciosum*, *Phal. Sogo?* Prince.

Michelle Tung: *Sc. Bob Kanzer*, *Slc. Seagull's China Flare*.

Betty Everson: *Pleurothallis atropurpureum*, *Phal. Unknown*.

Glenn & Manee: *Cym. Oriental Legend 'Wild Rose'*, *Paph. Grand Ruby*, *Dend. incorrect name*, *Den. (Star of Riverdene x Golden Fleck)* x Star of Gold, *Pot. Kauai Kittens* x *Slc. California Apricot*, *C. Barefoot Mailman* x Chocolate Drop, *Slc. Hazel Boyd 'Elizabeth'*, *Cym. hookerianum*.

Ken & Chui Tse: *Paph. insigne*, *Paph. (Our Love x Sandra Mary)* x Sandra Bay*, (*C. granulosa* x *Epi. atropurpurea*) x *C. Chocolate Drop*.

John Muddiman: *Ludisia discolor*.

Pam Forde: *Ptst. curta*, *Odm. pulchellum*, *Den. speciosum*, *Sc. Lana Coryell* x *S. coccinea*, *Ptst. Nodding Grace*, *Den. Jonathon's Glory* x (*Bicentennial Blush* x *Gulginni*).

NOVICE:

Lee Stone: *Den. Cassiope*, *Den. speciosum*, *Sarco. falcatus*.

Jessie O'Hara: *Cym. Unknown*.

Josc. Jamieson: *Zygo. Unknown*

Alan Robinson: *Den. Ellen Surprise* x *speciosum* var. *capricornium*.

NOVELTY

Glenn & Manee: *Masd. melanopus*.

John Muddiman: *Pleurothallis atropurpureum*.

William & Man Lo: *Dock. schoenina?* 'Delight' x *convoluta?* 'Red'. (Closest match)

OPEN: **1st** Glenn & Manee (Paph), **2nd** Pam Forde (Ptst), **3rd** equal Ken & Chui (Epicat) & Betty Everson (Phal).

NOVELTY: **1st** William & Man (Dock.), **2nd** Glenn/Manee (Masd), **3rd** John Muddiman (Pleur).

NOVICE: **1st** Josc. (Zygo), **2nd** Lee (Sarco), **3rd** Lee (Den).

Heather and Glenn commented on the great display of orchids this month.

The man who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.

CULTURE: Spring is just around the corner hopefully with some very pleasant days recently and noticeably warmer temperatures. This is the time when you should be taking advantage of the rapid growth your orchids should soon be making. Water, light and fertilizer are the important things they will need to achieve this. Flower spikes need training and support with a stake where needed. I know we have been critical of some of your flower presentation efforts recently during the plant commentaries (including mine) but it can mean the difference between a prize certificate and being overlooked. Give your flowers the best possible chance by making them stand out and look up at the judges, not hang their heads in shame. Get rid of unsightly foliage with a pair of scissors, trim stakes to be level with the top of the flower inflorescence and use ties that are unobtrusive such as the green clips or green coated wire.

RESEARCH

Ron Reeves benched 2 unusual orchids at our last meeting that deserve mention. The first was *Cattleya quadricolor* a native of Brazil and not often seen displayed. I had one for a while which never flowered and finally succumbed to the cool conditions it was subjected to. Ron grows his indoors and it certainly looked healthy with lots of greenery and 2 beautiful flowers which have a natural habit of not opening fully and consequently regarded (undeservedly) as not a show plant. The other plant of his was the pure white *Cattleya intermedia* f. *alba*. It is fairly hard to find in cultivation these days. This was flowering well with no hint of colour even in the lip. The inflorescence stands up and displays itself to its full glory glistening in the light with a white almost as pure as you could get.

My slab mounted *Laelia autumnalis* flowering now should possibly be renamed 'springalis' as it was a little out of season. This is another plant seldom seen on the show benches and I was fortunate to revive it from an old collection gradually bringing it back to life with plenty of new growths after it responded favourably to some judicious back-cutting once it was in growth. As Alf noted last meeting this along with many other *Laelias* do well in our climate and we should be growing more of them. But do your homework before purchasing, as there are a number of warmer growers too. (See photo pages)

A **sign** on the lawn at a drug rehab centre said: 'Keep off the Grass.'

NEW MEMBERS CULTURE: Great to see some more Novice plants back on our benches. HOS show rules have been changed and we now classify a Novice grower for 3 years after the Beginner class. It is considered most club rules re a Novice don't give them a chance with usually 3 firsts in any show enough to send them up to Open Class. These days with so few Novice exhibitors this is frequently achieved in 1 year.

New growths on your orchids are quite delicate and brittle and very prone to being 'knocked off' by big fingered growers like myself. It has taken me a long time to realize this at the expense of many a new bulb, flower spike and developing 'eye' unseen hidden down in the media. Be extra careful repotting as the last thing you do, pressing the media down into the pot, will be the straw that breaks the new growth off.

Keep flowering plants on the cool and dry side to prolong them for the shows in the best condition.

WE NEED YOU to make an **all out effort** to sell your OCNZ raffle tickets now. Don't forget HOS will get a **20%** commission of all sales made by our members. Please **return ALL** books at the Sept meeting (sold or not).

COMING EVENTS

HOS SHOW: Please indicate on the sheet provided next meeting where and when you can help. Help is required on **Frid.** to set up the hall from 11am and especially on the **Sat** from 7.45am for judging. Please note only helpers are permitted in hall during judging. Sales area is also closed. We will need some **finger food** provided on the Sat morning for the judging team.

PLEASE RETURN ALL HOS TROPHIES NEXT MEETING

NZOS Spring Show 18 – 20 Sept. at Mt Albert War Mem. Hall. (No club displays)

HOS Club days for 2009: 18th Oct. Prize Giving (NB **not** 2nd Sun), 8th Nov. 13th Dec.
Show set up **Frid. 2nd Oct. 11am – 6.30pm.** Show **Sat. 3rd Oct. Open 10am.** Held at venue below.
Meetings are held 1.30pm sharp in the Fencible Lounge, Howick every month except January.

PS. **Don't join dangerous cults:** Practice safe sects! (In other words join an orchid club)