



# NEWSLETTER of the HOWICK ORCHID SOCIETY Inc.

Aug. 2010

**NEXT MEETING Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Sep 2010 at 1.30 pm**

*Repotting time*

**NEXT MEETING:** Anton and Len will discuss and show slides of simple greenhouses, shadehouses, glasshouses and home growing areas that may be suitable for your orchids. This will show many of our newer members how some of us grow at home and how you may be able to make a simple growing area for your orchids. In NZ we are renowned for 'knocking something up' out of old bits and pieces found around the house and garden. You don't always need to go to the expense of fancy commercial growing buildings for small or unheated collections.

## **HOWICK ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW on Sat. 09 OCT. (Set up 08 Frid)**

There will be more about this at the meeting and the next newsletter. Please help by adding your name to the schedule of tasks, which will be handed out next meeting.

## **EDITOR'S COMMENT**

It is always a worry when you make statements regarding orchid plant names or orchid identification publicly. There is the risk that you may be completely wrong. At best we can make some educated attempts but the final say must go to the experts.

It was pointed out rightly to me that we can't base our attempts at naming on colour alone. My guess that the *Dendrochilum* I thought was not *glumaceum* was in fact based on more than just colour and I really should have made that clearer in the last newsletter. The ones we generally see here are white but there are other colour forms. A good clear close up picture was what was needed in this case so that it could be analyzed further.

There are many orchids that have not been identified and so not named. Some that have been named are now considered to be varietals of an already named species and vice versa. Also we see numerous name changes as science gets more exact.

So where does this leave us amateurs? Puzzled to say the least. Some of the orchids we see have been around a long time and could have been brought into the country by travelers or growers long before the restrictions we now face. I wonder whether the *Dendrochilum* I viewed falls into this category, like Lea's *Laelia* a rarity among growers today.

And then there is the problem of finding the expert. Even many of these will disagree. As Dennis pointed out recently ask 5 Botanists to classify an orchid and you will get 10 different answers. In NZ people specializing in orchids are becoming thin on the ground and I have been forced to send photos overseas to prove or disprove a point.

Which brings me to the observation that 42.7 percent of all statistics are made up on the spot

**NEW MEMBERS:** Welcome to **Carol** Claridge (Whitford) and **Kevin** McLaren (Howick).

**LAST MEETING:** Our Constitution has been brought up to date and inline with what is required for us to become registered as a Charity. This is very important to reduce our liability for income tax.

Ron Maunder (Paradise Orchids, Tauranga) gave a most interesting talk and slide presentation on his trip to Equador where he saw a variety of orchids growing in the wild.

Talks like these always give me itchy feet and the urge to travel to exotic places to see and experience different cultures, fauna and flora.

Ron's many Massies sold like hot cakes and we will no doubt see him again at our show.

**RAFFLE:** I lost count at the number of prizes, in fact we may need to book the hall longer if any more orchids are donated for this. Mick won the very nice Cym. (ex. Stan Fisken) he had his eye on and Heather luckily got a second draw to get the Sarc Gary forgot to pick up first time.

**LIBRARY:** Thanks to **Grahame** Leafberg for the donation of another good orchid book. Michelle has been busy on the internet searching for more bargains to update our library. We are endeavouring to get more specialized orchid books. These are mostly being sourced overseas and at exceptionally good prices even with the postage cost.

### **WAITAKERE ORCHID CLUB Show.**

Despite my publication of the wrong hall and the local West Auckland paper placing it in the Glen Eden hall, most people managed to find it.

Our display team led this time by **Lee Stone** constructed another beautiful display, which was unanimously agreed as **first place** winner by the judging team. Thanks again to the many willing hands who helped set up. Prizes as follows, an excellent result for all these in the Open section.

**Glenn & Manee:** Trophy (Best Dendrobium), 1<sup>st</sup> *Den.* Anne's Rainbow Surprise (Aust. Dendrobium white/yellow), 1<sup>st</sup> *Masd.* Lemon Meringue (small flower Masd.), 2<sup>nd</sup> *Paph.* Pathfinder Navigator (large flower specimen), 2<sup>nd</sup> *Coel.* cristata (large flower species), 3<sup>rd</sup> *Den.* Pukekura (other Dens).

**Lea & Bryce** Westlake: 1<sup>st</sup> *Paph.* Starter 'Grace' x Magic Mood 'Spring Days' (Red tones, standard), 1<sup>st</sup> *Den.* Tomoflake (Nobile Den.).

**John Muddiman:** 1<sup>st</sup> *Ptst.* Cuerta (small flower specimen), 2<sup>nd</sup> *Phal.* unknown (any other colour).

**Ken & Chui** Tse: 1<sup>st</sup> *Angr.* Veitchii (large specimen), 3<sup>rd</sup> *Cym.* (Claude Pepper x Loch Lomond) x Pure One.

**Michelle Tung:** 1<sup>st</sup> *Phrag.* Cardinale (Phragmipedium any colour), 3<sup>rd</sup> *Slc.* (Yellow Ball x Anzac) (Cattleya large flower).

**Lee Stone:** 2<sup>nd</sup> *Onc. reflexum x sphacelatum* (Oncidium), 3<sup>rd</sup> *S. coccinea* (small Cattleya), 3<sup>rd</sup> *Cym.* *Lowio-grandiflorum* (Novelty Cym).

**Kathy Rimmer:** 2<sup>nd</sup> *Max. variabilis* (small flower specimen).

Also a big thanks to Grahame Leafberg who supplied plants for the HOS display, Anton and Janet for their display plants, and Raewyn for her lovely Phalaenopsis, which unfortunately due to a technical hitch was not judged.

It is worth pointing out that apart from the large display, HOS home society members benched another approx. 30 plants in the general show area.

One of the features of this show is the large number and variety of orchids on sale and I know by the hole in my wallet (and others) that quite a few found their way back to the Eastern suburbs. Fortunately some of the expense is offset by prize money, which most of us were lucky to get.

**A hacker** attack briefly shut down Twitter the other day. Millions of Twitterers were forced to talk with each other the old fashioned way – through Face Book.

CSA 1 DAY Seminar and show was attended by a few HOS members plus others from as far away as Palmerston North, Taumaranui and a large contingent from the Waikato. A very good talk was given by 2 world authorities on pests and diseases Drs Dave and Nancy Beck who own West Coast Orchids (Cut flower exporters).

## **PLANTS ON DISPLAY** (August meeting)

Compiled & printed by **Michelle**

**(NOTE \* change of label recommended)** Incorrect spelling or a new name of a registered hybrid.

### **OPEN**

Brian Main: *Phal. maculata*

Glenn & Manee: *Coel. cristata*.

Grahame Leafberg: *Den. Yondi*, *S. coccinea* 'Bright Eyes', *Cym. Del's Delight* 'Iris' HCC/NZOS.

Pam Forde: *Burrageara Living Fire*, *Den. speciosum*, *Sc. Lana Coryell* 'Wattle Downs' x *S.*

*coccinea* (unregistered grex) and *Phal. amabilis var. formosum*.

John Muddiman: Three x *Phal.* unknown

John Sheppard: *Cym. Amapola*, *Arpophyllum spicatum*.

Ken & Chui Tse: *Cym. goeringii*, *Den.* unknown.

Michelle Tung: *Sc. Annabarina* x *Gsl. Katy True*, *S. Marriottiana* x *Sc. California Apricot* (unregistered grex), *Gsl. Pure Yellow*, *Dockrillia* ? wrong name on label\*.

Wolf Grausch: *Oda. Niamay* 'Raroa' x *Oratia Parade*, *Oda. Piemont* x *Ingmar* (unregistered grex).

William & Man Lo: *Den. Candice* 'Ace' x *Den. Lusty* 'Bob', *Den. Riversun* x *Den. Avrils Gold*, *Den. Rosella* x *Den. Edda*, all unregistered grex, *Osmgls. pulchellum*, *Slc. California Apricot* x (*C.?High Light* x *Sc. 'Bright Angel'*), *Masd. macrura*, *Milt. spectabilis*, *Pths. loranthophylla*, , *Dockrillia* ? wrong name on label\*.

Francis Henrich / Ros MacKay: *Lc. Excellency* 'Orchidglade' HCC/AOS x *Blc. ?*.

Anton & Janet: *Wils. Blazing Lustre* 'Tikitere' x *Wils. Comitan* (unregistered grex).

Len Cobb: *Rsc. Dark Canyon*\* (registered grex).

Kathy Rimmer: *Maxillaria variabilis*

Ron Reeves: *Cym. dayanum* and *Den. speciosum*.

Philip Zhou: A large number of *Cymbidium goeringii*. (more than 10)

### **Novice**

Raewyn McCormack: *Phal.* unknown

Lee Stone: *Wils. Hilda Plumtree*, *Onc. (reflexum x sphacelatum)*, *Cym.* unknown.

Winsome Webster: *Cym. So Bold* x *Yowie Flame*. (unregistered grex)

Alan Robinson: *Cym. Cracker Jack*

Maurice Roffey: *Cym.* unknown

### **Novelty**

Michelle Tung: *Rodriguezia decora*

Man and William Lo: *Polystachya* (?*Bella* x *virginia*)

### **POPULAR VOTE**

**OPEN:** 1<sup>st</sup> Brian (*Phal*) ,2<sup>nd</sup> Wolf: (*Oda. Niamay* 'Raroa' x *Oratia Parade*), 3<sup>rd</sup> Pam (*Burr*).

**NOVICE:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lee (*Wils*), 2<sup>nd</sup> Raewyn (*Phal*), 3<sup>rd</sup> Winsome (*Cym.*).

**NOVELTY:** 1<sup>st</sup> Michelle (*Rdza*), 2<sup>nd</sup> Man and William (*Pol*)

Commentary was given by Ron Maunder and Glenn.

**Plant of the Month** (picked by Ron) was Williams's cute little Aussie Dendrobium with the very striking markings.

PLEASE WRITE clearly, a lot of difficulty reading labels this month.

Paddy's pregnant sister was in a terrible car accident and went into a deep coma. After being in the coma for nearly six months, she wakes up and sees that she is no longer pregnant. Frantically, she asks the doctor about her baby. The doctor replies, 'Madam you had twins..... a boy and a girl. The babies are fine, however, they were poorly at birth and had to be christened immediately so your brother Paddy came in and named them. The woman thinks to herself, 'Oh suffering Jesus, no, not me brother, he's a thick clueless idiot. Expecting the worst, she asks the doctor, 'Well, what's my daughter's name?' 'Denise' says the doctor. The new mother is somewhat relieved, 'Wow, that's a beautiful name, I was wrong about my brother', she thought....'I really like Denise'. Then she asks, 'What's the boy's name?' The doctor replies 'Denephew'

## **RESEARCH**

Do I dare mention it? The dreaded *Dendrochilum* rears its head yet again! At the WOC show every year is Species specialist seller Geraldine Wood who brings her unusual orchids all the way from the Manawatu to sell to us here in Auckland. I was quick off the mark to secure 3 rare(?) species of *Dendrochilum* orchids. As usual there is always one plant that causes problems with identification. This was *Ddc. ventricosum* from the highlands of Sumatra. This is about all I could find out about it with the means at my disposal and one of the reasons we are trying to source more specialist orchid books. The internet does have its limitations. *Ddc*'s come from mainly the Philippines, Borneo, Indonesia and a few other areas and can grow from the lowlands (hot and steamy) all the way up into the high mountain areas where it gets very cool. I have been up to Baguio City in the Philippines (about 1750m above sea level) where it is normal to see everyone wearing warm clothing and thick jackets. It can snow at the equator in the higher areas of New Guinea (and in the Andes). Nice specimen plants of *Ddc. arachnites* and *tenellum* were benched at the WOC and although the flowers are small, long inflorescences and lots of them make a lovely display.

**People** never grow up; they just learn how to act in public.

## **CULTURE**

With so much rain recently I hope you haven't left your plants out in the open to effectively drown. That is the reason I use a very open mix on my plants as they can dry off quickly. I have quite a few hanging under trees so don't want to be constantly shifting things. The seminar I (and others) attended at NZOS recently was very helpful in the culture of New Guinea *Dendrobiums* and I've already made some changes to where some of these plants are located. There are just so many different areas orchids grow we need to be always researching culture, especially if some plants are not performing well. With spring just around the corner (hopefully) it is time to start thinking about repotting. Generally as new growth starts to show is a good time to decide what plants need a bigger pot to grow into. You can repot any time of the year but spring is always a favourite as the plants can grow into their new pots quickly without setbacks.

**Before** you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes.

**HOS sends its BEST WISHES to JOHN SCOTT**, who will be out of action for a period after undergoing major surgery. We hope to see him back soon.

Young Paddy bought a donkey from a farmer for £100.  
The farmer agreed to deliver the donkey the next day.  
The next day he drove up and said, 'Sorry son, but I have some bad news. The donkey's died.'  
Paddy replied, 'Well then just give me my money back.'  
The farmer said, 'Can't do that. I've already spent it.'  
Paddy said, 'OK, then, just bring me the dead donkey.'  
The farmer asked, 'What are you going to do with him?'  
Paddy said, 'I'm going to raffle him off.'  
The farmer said, 'You can't raffle a dead donkey!'  
Paddy said, 'Sure I can. Watch me. I just won't tell anybody he's dead.'  
A month later, the farmer met up with Paddy and asked, 'What happened with that dead donkey?'  
Paddy said, 'I raffled him off. I sold 500 tickets at two pounds a piece and made a profit of £898'  
The farmer said, 'Didn't anyone complain?'  
Paddy said, 'Just the guy who won. So I gave him his two pounds back.'

Next meeting will see a number of us away at the **ORCHID EXTRAVAGANZA** in Palmerston North setting up the **Howick OS display**. 4 car loads are going down carrying all the plants and accessories. This is no small task as a lot of things are being taken down and it will be a 2 day trip for most so that we arrive fresh for the work required. Lee Stone is taking a 4WD full of tables, boxes, 30m of cloth, greenery and other heavy items. Kathy and Glenn will be taking orchids in their station wagons. Ken will pick up the taller plants on the way. We are all aiming to be at the hall around lunchtime on the Tuesday and spend the rest of the day setting up and entering the plants. Looking at the extensive and complex schedule this will be quite a task in itself. There is some good prize money on offer and depending on how well we do will determine whether it will be necessary to raffle off any dead donkeys on our return.

**I have a dream** - a dream that one day, chickens can cross the road without having their motives questioned.

## COMING EVENTS

**We encourage as many of you as possible to visit the show in Palmerston North next month.**

You will all have received the pamphlet last meeting giving details.

Details are also available on the OCNZ web site and year book.

I have always been impressed with the variety and quality of orchids on show in some of the regional areas of NZ and I'm sure this will be no exception with most societies and commercial growers putting on large displays. The next show like this will not be until 2015 in Auckland.

**NZOS** Spring Show is from Frid 17<sup>th</sup> Sept to Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Mt Albert War Mem. Hall New Nth Rd.

**South Auckland** Show (combined with Charity show) at the Botanical Gardens. Set up Frid. 15<sup>th</sup> Oct. open Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> and Sun 17<sup>th</sup>. (*HOS Display required*)

**Annual Auction** Don't forget to put an orchid or 2 aside for this popular event for Members only. Check your 2010 **Year Book** for more shows and details. Pick up your book at our club as we do NOT post these out.

**HOS CLUB DAYS for 2010**

12 Sep,            **8 Oct (Show setup) and 9 Oct (Show)**,        24 Oct (**4<sup>th</sup> Sun**, Prize giving),

14 Nov (Auction),    12 Dec (Social).

Meetings are held **1.30 pm** at the **Fencible Lounge**, Uxbridge Rd. Howick.

Always **remember** you're unique. Just like everyone else.