



NEWSLETTER of the HOWICK ORCHID SOCIETY Inc.

Aug 2012

NEXT meeting Sun 9th Sep 2012

NEXT MEETING: Mike and Leigh Leaity will tell us all about their recent trip to UK and Europe where they visited the Peterborough Orchid Show (UK) and Floriade horticultural show at Venlo in the Netherlands.

LAST MEETING: Despite the hall looking half empty there were still 43 in attendance to see



Anton & Janet's Phal. Kahurangi x Funky Girl

Phil's slides on *Cypripediums*. Phil had obviously done his research as there was plenty of information about the plants and their habitat. Phil had some slides made available to him from a friend from the Botanic gardens who had recently visited China where she photographed these plants and flowers in the wild. Unfortunately there doesn't appear to be any Cyps available in NZ at present.

There were very few orchids exhibited at this meeting but with another show imminent some of us will have kept their plants at home to ensure they were in good condition.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

It is always interesting to have some fun at the club and I do love to see the looks of puzzlement on many faces when any questions are asked about the newsletter. Of course a few of the more cunning among us bring it along so they can 'cheat' by quickly looking up the answers but at least they have the sense to do this. Last month I concentrated on labeling and names, which is a very important aspect of growing orchids especially if you wish to exhibit or breed with them. We always publish name changes in the newsletter so you can update or alter your labels.



Cym. Dolly Armstrong – Mick Hughes

Even I have been a little remiss with this task as it can be a challenge to keep up with the name changes in recent times. I do understand we can lose labels when disasters happen when a tray gets tipped over, such as I have had when a neighbour's cat jumped up onto a bench one night, or when a whole shelf of orchids got upended during a big storm. I now have doors on all my houses and roofs are well fixed. But even the best laid plans can go awry as during a very strong wind my tunnel house flexed so much it sprung the door open out of the frame. Fortunately my neighbour heard it banging and came to the rescue. I'm not sure how Britain earned the name as the 'windy isles' but I think NZ must be one of the windiest places I have ever been.



Den. Golden Arch (B & L Westlake)

CULTURE

Well the weather has been mostly wet and then it just gets wetter. If you had any orchids outside for the last few months they would have either drowned or evolved into water lilies. At least it hasn't been too cold which is always a bonus. Well we do live in the 'Land of the long black cloud'. Many plants will be showing signs of new growth soon so start to water gradually as the weather improves. Be aware that we can still get some very cold nights well into spring.

Water dripping down onto new flowers is causing me headaches as well as many others I imagine.

Be sure to keep an on eye on the pseudo bulbs and if they start to shrivel they need water. Those without bulbs need more water.

Sarcochilus will be sending out flower inflorescences soon and snails just love them!

As we can see, a few of the Aussie Dendrobiums are starting to flower. They always make a nice show and often have a sweet scent. To make them last longer keep in a cool place.

A spray with fungicide/insecticide may be needed soon as I've noticed an increase in aphids this year since my plants have better protection from the weather.



Michelle' slab mounted Den. schoeninum x contextum

HOS SHOW is fast approaching and more information about this will be given by Anton at the next meeting. You will also be able to fill in the schedule indicating when you can help with setting up or during the show. This is a fun event and usually enjoyed by all who come.

OCNZ Raffle books are now available and will be handed out by Diane Gurr next meeting. Some already have taken their books but we would like everyone to try and sell **AT LEAST** one book. HOS will benefit by **50%** of all sales by our club members.

Plants On Display (August 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)

Open Section

Jeanette Austin	1 Paphiopedilum	
Len Cobb	Cattleya unknown	SECOND
Mick Hughes	2 Cymbidiums	
William & Man Lo	<i>Den. goldschmidtianum</i>	THIRD
John Muddiman	1 Pterostylis	
Lee Stone	3 Masdevallia	
Michelle Tung	1 Dendrobium	
Anton and Janet Wehman	1 Phalaenopsis and 1 Cymbidium	
Bryce & Lea Westlake	<i>Den. Lynette Banks x speciosum</i> = Den. Golden Arch <i>S. coccinea 'Jumbo' x coccinea 4n</i>	FIRST (Plant of the Month)
Alf Day	A display basket of Oncidiinae Alliance	

Novelty

Anton and Janet Wehman	<i>Phal. lindenii</i>	FIRST
Michelle Tung	<i>Den. schoeninum x contextum</i>	SECOND

Commentary was given by Alf Day and Glenn Poffley.

Anton & Janet's slab mounted Phal. lindenii



I've heard from a retired member that **EDEN GARDENS** will take donations of orchids for their garden. Joan Skidmore donated her Cyms and Sarcs to them which I'm sure will do well in their environment. These days we struggle to sell Cyms at our auction so consider donating them.

WOC Show was held recently at Kelston. I must say I and many others present were really impressed with our display which was done all in pink and white flowers with a new white cloth backdrop. It just seemed to come together with the flowers available, which is always dependant

on what turns up on the day. Other colours were benched so they did help with the rest of the show. I was probably a little pedantic in pointing out to many 'the only bright spot in the hall' which our display certainly was as most of the displays (in my opinion) looked old fashioned with black cloth as far as the eye could see. There were a lot of very nice orchids in the show and some very good plants available in the sales area too. Congratulations to Kathy and the team (Michelle, Lea Westlake, Manee, Anton, and Len) for another first place in the display section.

PS. Lee may remember her newsletter but she definitely won't win any prizes for remembering this show!

COMING EVENTS

HOS CLUB DAYS for 2012

5 Oct (Show set up), **6 Oct (HOS Show)**, **21 Oct** (prize giving – Alf Day), **11 Nov** (Auction), **9 Dec** (social).

Meetings are held **1.30 pm** 2nd Sunday of month (usually) at the **Fencible Lounge**, Uxbridge Rd. Howick. Entry is free for members, visitors \$2. Afternoon tea included.



Howick's winning display at WOC show.

On the far right is Lea & Bryce Westlake's *L. anceps* with over 100 blooms on 32 Spikes. This was an outstanding specimen winning the Trophies for Best Specimen plant and Best Species; a fantastic effort not only to grow it to perfection but to get it to the show in one piece. Other certificates were awarded to Michelle; 2nd for her *Pleione formosana* 'Cutie' and 3rd for *Cym. Ice on Fire* 'Nikkita'.

Anton & Janet's mini *Phal.* Bedford Pixie received a 3rd and Pam Forde's *Pterostylus* a 3rd also. Glenn and Manee benched some of their plants (those in colours not suitable for our display) and won a 1st in the small flower species class (*Ansellia africana*), 1st for cluster type *Cattleya* (*C. Pure Yellow*) and a 3rd for small flowered *Ctt.* Fire Dance.

Below are 2 Paphs from Chris Whitby that caught my eye.



Dawn Glory x Robert's Reward



Impulse x Macabre