

NEWSLETTER

Feb. 2008

NEXT MEETING Sun 9th Mar. 2008 at 1.30 pm

Fees due anytime now

SPEAKER: Next meeting we have our own Brian Main, Phalaenopsis grower and breeder who last year attended the big Phally show and conference in Taiwan. Brian will show us slides and talk about this interesting and spectacular experience. Taiwan is the world leader in developing, growing and exporting 'moth orchids'.

LAST MEETING: David Mc Conachie presented us with a different view of orchids to what we are familiar with. David is President of the Native Orchid Group and so was able to touch on these and many other unusual orchids he grows in windy Wellington. With some slides of their show as well, it made a very interesting talk. Thanks David for the long trip to Auckland and back in a day.

Our treasurer **Jackie** has a new addition to her collection (It's a primary hybrid from Brunei/Sarawak with commendable parentage of good shape and quality) She is so proud, but wouldn't be persuaded to put him on the display bench! Jackie has officially registered the youngster with a cultivar name of 'Noel'.

RAFFLE: Five good quality orchids were on the table to be won. Thanks to those who donated these. (Val, Tris, Glenn, Sandra, HOS)

TEA ROSTER for Next Meeting: Hilary Whitham and Judith Grobelny.
Please phone **Lea** if unable to attend meeting. (575 5046)

THANKS to those that arrive early to help with furniture setting up and tidying up each meeting. You don't have to be a committee member to help out on club days with any of these and other tasks to ensure a smooth operation. Please advise if you are willing to help with any other tasks such as library, distribution and collection of labels, suitable speakers, help at shows etc.

We were sad to here of the passing away of **Bruce Corsbie** in January, Bruce was a stalwart of South Auckland O. S. for many years and imported and grew many Miltoniopsis orchids.

NEW NAME: Please note that the Cymbidium seedling you received at our Xmas party has now been registered at RHS by Grahame. The new name is **Tiger Moon** (label = Tiger Orb x pumilum).

As you will note above our annual membership fee is due soon and should be renewed as soon as possible so we don't have to chase you for it. \$17 single and \$25 family at same address.

PLANTS ON DISPLAY (Feb. meeting) (MAKE SURE YOU VOTE very few recorded last time)

OPEN

Betty Everson: *Epi. prismatocarpum*.

William/Man Lo: *Disa watsonii* 'Cesar', *Slc.* Bright Hawaii, *Phal.* Dou-dii-?* x Black Prince, *Phal.* Golden Peoker x Ming Shin ? (no 'stripe'), *Phal.* Golden Peoker x Goldberry, *Phal.* Brother Love x Black Ball, *Den. cuthbertsonii*, *Den.* Oberon, *Den. biggibum* var. *alba*, *Den.* ? (no 'My Song'), *L.* (looks like *milleri* x *purpurata* as var. Elias is a white) .

Glenn/Manee: *Lyc. aromatica*, *Onc. flexuosum*, *Odm. crispum* x (*Odm.* Colorado x *Oda.* Lautrix), *Odm.* Queen Charlotte Straits x *Oda.* Red Knight) x *Odm.* Soissons, . *Vuyls.* Mem. Marion Sheehan, *Lc.* Small Talk, *C. lodigessii*, *L.* Amoena, *Phal.* Gypsy x (Sands whim x Golden Gift), *Phal.* unknown, *Phal.* Tzeng Wen Sentra x Ching Her Goddess.

Michelle Tung: *Phal.* Sogo John x Dou-dii Spot, *Den.* Mountain Magic, *Den. bracteosum*, *Sc.* Red Jewel. *Sl.* Marriottiana x *Slc.* California Apricot, *C.* Chocolate Drop x *Sc.* Colorama.

Lea/Bryce Westlake: *Vanda coerulea*, *Onc. flexuosum*, *Oncidesa* Sarah's Comet? (*flexuosum* x *crispa*)

Pam Forde: *Wils.* Yellow Somebody*, *Epi. prismatocarpum*, *Max. tenuifolia*, *Phal. lueddemanniana*, *Phal.* Callum's Carnival x Florida Snow, *Phal.* Anthura Gold (trade name).

Kathy Rimmer: *Lc.* Mime.

John Muddiman: *Phal.* Red Fox* x Morning Mist, *Phal.* Taipei Gold x Hsingying Beauty, *Sobralia Veitchii**.

B & E Ong: *C.* Chocolate Drop x *Lc.* Colorama, *Gomesa crispa*, *Paph. delenatii* x 3 , *Ren.* Tom Thumb, *Den. cuthbertsonii* (tray of various colours).

A & J. Wehman: *Phal.* Kahurangi, *Phal.* Golden Peoker x Goldberry, *Phal.* 8519? *Prom.* Crawshayana, *Phal.* Appalachian Dots x Hausermann's Golden Moon*.

Popular Vote: 1st B & E Ong (Den), 2nd Lea (Vanda), 3rd = Pam (Epi), John (Phal), Bert (Disa).

NOVICE

Norman Streater: *Odm.* Unknown. (obviously Norm won this section)

David gave us a very interesting plant commentary, with lots of new information about the plants we grow.

Note: * Label changes required. (Either incorrect spelling, no such name or a new name of a registered hybrid)

CULTURE: A long hot summer is what we all dream about and this year has been the best for a long time. Watering is obviously the main consideration particularly when there is a breeze as well which will dry out your plants very quickly. From now on you should be slowly building up the Potassium (K) in your fertilizer as this is what ensures good flowers. You can do this by changing the NPK ratio fertilizer you are using or adding a supplement to your usual one. Some members ask why they get lots of kiekis on their Dendrobiums. This is usually because of a fertilizer too high in Nitrogen (N). Or on the other hand they may be starving and trying to survive by reproducing. Different genera prefer different fertilizers and different strengths, so again learn which is most suitable for what you are growing. Don't forget the dried blood treatment for Cymbs (and others) around end of Feb. to initiate new growths. This is preferably achieved by soaking the dried blood in a stocking in a bucket of water for a week and using the liquid only. Use of the blood sprinkled on plants encourages a mite, which attacks the pollen cap turning it black.

Again be reminded that sunburn can damage leaves as one I took to New Plymouth was burnt badly in the car.

Over heating also caused my Stanhopea to lose all 3 flower buds as it sat in the car 2 days and a motel room for 2 as well. I took it in the hope that it would open and ended up with no flowers.

Plants in flower at this time need to be watched carefully as bulbs will shrink rapidly. If this happens a good soaking in a tub will fatten them up again. Slab mounted orchids can also be soaked if they dry out too much. These will need watering very frequently in this weather.

I recently received a very interesting article forwarded from Eldon Ormsby in Palmerston North. It was about a study on fertilizers done at Michigan State University in the USA. The bottom line was that P (Phosphorous) is not as important for flower promotion as previously thought. Too high P causes an increase in take up of Nitrogen (N) and this promotes vegetative growth rather than flowers.

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS – Lee Stone and Raewyn McCormack (both of Maraetia Beach)

EDITOR'S COMMENT

This year looks like being a bumper year for orchids as growing conditions have been excellent. Look out for all the shows where I'm sure there will be some excellent plants displayed and many for sale. There are a lot of growers I know are overstocked as many have been growing seedlings from the large number of flasks that have been bought from overseas or locally bred. I must also plead guilty to the above!

OCNZ: As you will be aware we rejoined this national body last year and are already reaping the benefits. Although we pay them an annual capitation fee we save a substantial amount on their public liability insurance as the private one we normally paid has increased hugely this year. All members will receive a magazine later in the year, the annual year book. This is an interesting publication and I urge you all to take advantage of the many society shows and growers listed around the countryside who are pleased to open their gardens.

NEW PLYMOUTH summer show. This year for the first time Manee and I attended this show held in early January. It has been held at this time for many years and has always been a popular meeting place for orchid growers. Saturday is the car boot sale where some of the best bargains I've ever seen were available from a big selection of sellers who are only required to pay \$10 for a site. On Saturday evening a catered dinner is held at the show venue and this year 119 were in attendance. The show itself was most interesting as at this time of the year you can expect to see a lot of different orchids in flower to what you normally see throughout the year. After the meal when it was starting to get dark a large group led by George Fuller (ex. Parks Curator) gave a guided tour of Pukekura Park festival of lights. This was a picturesque and very interesting walk and this year the fern houses and indoor growing areas were beautifully lit up as well as other areas of the park.

Check your **OCNZ magazine** later in year or **OCNZ website** for other society show dates around the country.

STATISTICS from last year (compiled by Tris Wakelin)

OPEN: Best display months Sept. (49 plants), Oct (42), March (34)

NOVICE: Sept. (23), Oct. (18), June & Nov. (17).

Don't forget to place a yellow label on your displayed orchids each meeting. Each plant entered receives 1 point towards the Popular Vote trophy, 1st gets 10, 2nd 7 points and 3rd 4 points.

OBITUARY

STAN HARRIS

Our sympathies are with Ethel and family on the passing of her husband of 64 years on 3rd Feb. 2008. Stan was very active some years ago in the Howick Orchid Soc. and grew a wide variety of plants specializing in slab culture. Many current members will remember Stan as he held a number of plant sales in recent years for our club members where we were able to add to our collections from a good selection of well bred plants.

COMING EVENTS

Bar B Que At Julie Duff's residence Murphy's Rd, opposite Murphy's Bush, Manukau on Saturday 29th March from 2pm. Parking in the paddock where a HOS sign will be next to gate. HOS will provide the meat and some refreshments. Surnames starting A – M please bring a small **desert**, N – Z a small **salad**.

Some lucky prizes to be won. Come and enjoy this very popular event.

OCNZ Conference and AGM will be held in Whangarei this year at Queen's Birthday weekend. So being close to Auckland this is a great opportunity for our members to visit this very good show, meet new orchid growers and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere I have always found up there.

We hope to be able to put on a small display if possible.

Bay of Plenty O.S. show 12/13 April, Memorial hall main street Te Puke, always worth visiting.

NZOS autumn show, 4th May, Horticultural Soc. rooms 990 Gt Nth Rd opposite Motions Rd.

HOS Club days for 2008 so please note them in your diary:

10th Feb, 9th March, 13th Apr, 11th May, 8th June, 13th July, 10th Aug,
14th Sept, Show 26/27th Sept, 12th Oct, 9th Nov, 14th Dec. (Xmas social)