



NEWSLETTER of the HOWICK ORCHID SOCIETY Inc.

Feb. 2011

NEXT meeting Sun 13th Mar. 2011

Watch for cool nights

Next meeting we have Joe & Betty Vance (**Villa Orchids**) who regularly exhibit many champion blooms at shows around the country. They took away the Grand Champion trophy at our last show. They will divide a Cymbidium and give many cultural tips so that you too can grow them successfully.

Christchurch Appeal: HOS will be asking members to consider how much we will donate to the EARTHQUAKE Relief fund at the next meeting.

PHOTO COMPETITION

Bring your camera and get clicking so that you have a selection of photos to choose from later on in the year for our photo competition. You can also enter these into the OCNZ national competition.

I take a lot but only a few are going to be good enough at the end of the day. By taking many in different conditions you may be lucky enough to come up with something out of the ordinary.

LAST MEETING

Eric Scanlen showed us some amazing 3D images of NZ native orchids that he had photographed in the wild, having to travel from one end of the country to the other. With approx. 120 named species and 80 unnamed species found here it surprising they are not seen more often. Being so small, unless you know what you are looking for it would take some skill and knowledge to know where and when to look.

BBQ

This year the committee has decided to **cancel** this event for a number of reasons. A suitable venue could not be arranged in time and falling attendance numbers is another concern. We hold this as a social get together and have been disappointed at the low numbers who turn up. It is also left up to the same people to organize, supply the gear and do the cooking. If anyone else has some positive suggestions we may reconsider holding this in the spring. BUT we will have an informal OPEN day at Len Cobb's residence 12 Greenhill Cres. Pakuranga on 27th March from 1.30pm - 4.30pm. We look forward to seeing our newer members getting to know some of the long-term members and be able to learn more about orchids in a relaxed garden setting. Please make an effort to support this.

A young boy asks his Dad, "What is the difference between confident and confidential?"
Dad says, "You are my son, I'm confident about that. Your friend over there is also my son, that's confidential."

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

We are fast approaching the end of the financial year and would like to remind you that fees are due anytime from **next** meeting. We appreciate **early** payment as it helps get the books in order before auditing. We are not increasing fees this year so they remain at \$20 single or \$30 family at same address.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

Some societies further south are having anniversary shows this year (Wellington and Taranaki) so there should be plenty of good ones to visit if you are thinking of going for a trip.

Orchid Soc. shows are some of the best places to get new plants for your collection at very reasonable prices. We have often found great buys out of Auckland with many of the shows featuring other sales such as bromeliads, succulents, air plants, crafts and home preserves. Local markets are often held over the weekends in these towns and are usually the 'old fashioned' farmers market style rather than the trendy expensive ones you find around Auckland.

We are still eating some of the best jam I've ever tasted (apart from our own of course) we bought in the Wairarapa during our time at the Orchid Extravaganza last year. Combining your holiday to include a show is something else we endeavour to do and hope to do that this year with the World Orchid Conference in Singapore.

SAOS Charity show held at Botanic Gardens last year was a great success with \$7231 donated to the Sth Auck. Hospice. HOS received a certificate of appreciation for our support. These shows have enabled approx. \$65K to be donated over the past 10 years.

PLANTS ON DISPLAY (February meeting)

Compiled by **Michelle Tung**

(NOTE * change your label) Either incorrect spelling or a new name of a registered hybrid.

OPEN

Grahame Leafberg: *Vuyl*. Mem. Mary Kavanaugh, *Epi. cristatum*, *Slc.* Dal's Cutie x Jungle Gem

William & Man Lo: *Den. lasianthera**

Francis Henrich / Ros MacKay: *Blc.* Roadrunner

Anton & Janet: *Phal. violacea*

Glenn & Manee Poffley: *Onc.* unknown, *Ddc. uncatum*, *Ascda.* Memoria Kay Killington, *V. tricolor* var. *sauvis*, *Phal.* Lady Penelope, *Potinara* Dal's Joy x Lana Coryell = *Potinara Koa**, *C. Kew*, *L. Amoena*

Ken & Chui Tse: *Den. victoriae reginae*

Ron Reeves: *Gga. galeata*, *C. forbesii*, *Blc.* Harrisonii, *Den. crepidiferum*

Lee Stone: *Lyc. cruenta*, *Den. tapiniense**, *Phal.* unknown

Michelle Tung: *Gga. galeata*, *Masd.* Otago gold, *Phal.* Sweet Memory, *Phal.* Sogo Yukidian

Wolf Grausch: *Sc.* Lana Coryell x (*Slc.* California apricot x *Blc.* Pamela Hetherington) = Rlc. Kihia Kahukura*, *Sc.* Lana Coryell x sibling, *Lc.* Mini Purple.

Lea & Bryce Westlake: *V. coerulea*, *Brassia* gigantean.

Novelty

Lea & Bryce Westlake: *Ornithophora radicans*

Meanings of abbreviations

Gga. – Gongora Lyc. – Lycaste Vuyl. – Vuylstekeara Ascda. – Ascocenda

Epi. – Epidendrum Blc. – Brassolaeliocattleya Ddc. – Dendrochilum V. – Vanda

POPULAR VOTE

OPEN: 1st Lea & Bryce (Vanda.), 2nd Lea & Bryce (Brassia), 3rd Ron Reeves (Gongora).

NOVELTY: 1st Lea & Bryce (*Ornithophora radicans*)

Commentary was given by Alf Day and Ron Reeves. Plant of the month was Lea's huge Brassia.

CULTURE

We are still getting the warmth so all you need to do is supply the 'wet'. Growth this summer has been prolific with a better than average number of new shoots and their development into larger than normal bulbs. I'm even having good success with back-bulbs from some of the more difficult genera showing new shoots.

Keeping up the water has been a real chore over the summer. The high humidity has been beneficial but watch out for those unexpected cool nights when fungus diseases can start very rapidly. A general spray with fungicide in March is sensible.

Many experts recommend now (end Feb) is the time to give your orchids a dose of dried blood (especially Cyms) to encourage autumn growth. Put the dried blood in a stocking and soak in a bucket of water then use the water on the plants. Direct application of the powder can encourage pollen mite.

If we don't get any cool nights soon then a spray of your Cyms in the evening may be enough to cool them down to encourage flower spikes to set.

Make sure you are keeping ants under control as they love to make nests in orchid pots.

TOOTHACHE: The pain that drives you to extraction. (The bill will drive you to bankruptcy).

NEW MEMBERS

Last month I wrote about 3 of the easier orchids to start with. If you are keen or want to try some of the others then there are plenty to choose from. Early on I didn't have any success with Sarchochilus but once you find the correct place to grow them they are very easy and very rewarding. They come from Australia and generally grow very well in Auckland. Some prefer pots and others do better on a slab. The way to work this out is if you have a few which are all doing well in pots except one, then take it out and try on a slab or a flat ceramic dish which I find some prefer. They need more shade than many other orchids and generally a cool spot in your growing area with plenty of air movement. As they do not have a pseudo-bulb they will need more frequent watering than others. As with most of my orchids I grow them in a relatively coarse free draining mix, which does dry out quickly.

Now if you can grow these then the next step is to grow Masdevallias. These thrive in very similar conditions to the Sarcs and I grow them next to each other.

I use a similar mix although some species do require damper conditions. Only experience or research will solve the problem of which these are.

Like all orchids there are warm to cool growers in the same genus so do find out before you buy.

Utilise the books in our library to research the plants in your collection. The internet is another way of researching the parentage of hybrids. RHS has up to date information on all orchid hybrids.

YAWN: An honest opinion openly expressed.

COMING EVENTS

Next show will be the NZOS autumn show.

Don't forget this year (Nov) the World Orchid Conference and show will be held in Singapore.

There are some trips being organized by others and more details will be available later.

We are still endeavouring to arrange speakers for the remaining club days that are available.

HOS CLUB DAYS for 2011

10 April	8 May	12 June,	10 July	14 Aug.	11 Sept.	30 Sept.
(Show set up),	01 Oct. (Show),	16 Oct.	13 Nov.	11 Dec.		

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