



# NEWSLETTER of the HOWICK ORCHID SOCIETY Inc.

**Feb. 2015**

**NEXT meeting Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Mar. 2014**

**NEXT MEETING:** HOS long term member and grower Francis Henrich will give her views about orchid culture. We hope that a series of talks along these lines will reinforce other speaker's discussions and help our members to understand what is needed to be a successful grower.

**LAST MEETING:** Anton and Len gave a very comprehensive and well thought out talk on potting your orchids. Many examples of various media were shown to the interested audience. I'm sure many learnt a lot about growing orchids from this talk. It was certainly a well attended meeting with over 55 members and visitors present to take advantage of these hints.

## **EDITOR'S COMMENT**

Remember to bring your flowering orchids to display each meeting as they all contribute to a nice show for everyone to admire. You will learn more about the various types during the plant commentary where we will try to give you some more in depth information on where they come from and what conditions they grow in. Voting for the 'Popular Plant' competition is also very **important** and this can be done by filling in the paper with the number of the plant you *like best in each section* and putting it in the correct box. Last meeting only 20 votes were recorded in the open section resulting in no clear 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Depending on space there may be some comments and cultural information in the newsletter about an orchid displayed.

As it is always a bit rushed at meetings photos of some plants may not be taken or may not turn out good enough to publish. I also try to vary the photos so they are not all of flowers we see frequently. Questions asked at the following meeting about the newsletter are still unable to be answered even though we are offering prizes for correct answers.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS** are due for the next year so can be paid anytime from next meeting. These are the same as last year, \$30 family (at same address) or \$20 single.

**AGM – APRIL** meeting will be held at the HOWICK RSA, downstairs lounge as the Fencible Lounge will be closed for renovations. Nomination forms and more details will be in the next newsletter.

**ANNUAL BBQ** – will be held at our usual venue in Drury on 21<sup>st</sup> March from 3pm. This is a fun day with good food, raffles, other prizes and a time to socialize at a nice venue. Address Eureka Nurseries, Appleby Rd. Drury. Take Waihoehoe Rd. off roundabout at Drury shops, turn left down Appleby Rd. cross small bridge and it is on your left just before the sharp right turn and Harry Dodd Rd on your left. Parking is outside on grass. The carpark through gates is now used by others. Members free, but please bring a plate of salad or dessert. Non members \$6. HOS will provide drinks, nibbles and meat. A further reminder will be sent out nearer the day.

## CULTURE

It is now time to change your fertilizer to a 'Flowering' type which will usually be higher in the 'P' and the 'K' values than the 'Grow' type, which has a more balanced ratio of N P K with a relatively high 'N' value. We still have both types of fertilizer at our club for sale (\$6) so please ask if you want some. The advantage of a flowering fertilizer is to give the plants more of the elements required to produce a good flowering as the bulbs should now be well developed and not need too much Nitrogen. Too much nitrogen can cause weak and lanky growths which are more susceptible to rot and insect attack.

Ensure watering and fertilizing are kept up while the warm weather continues. Remember your plants will dry out quicker in windy conditions and hot days.

It is never too late to repot a plant if it is looking unhealthy or overgrown, although for optimum recovery you should not leave it too long as in winter the plant will be dormant.

The club still has stakes in bundles of 10 for sale at \$1 (small only).

Compressed sphagnum packs are \$5.

The above items are sold at cost price so you won't buy cheaper anywhere else.

We do not stock many items and if you want specialized orchid pots or products our best advice is to source them at some of the other society orchid shows where sellers *may* be present.

### Plants On Display (February 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)

(Use of italics denotes that the plant is a species)

### Open Section

Alf Day	A basket of Oncidiinae Alliance
Dianne Gurr	<i>Phal. equestris</i>
Wolf	<i>Prom. L x R x Black Face,</i> <i>C. schillereana x leopoldii = C. Mareeba Tiger</i>
Grahame Leafberg	<i>Den. tapinense</i>
Frances Henrich/ Roslyn MacKay	<i>V. Pachara Delight "Blue Universal",</i> <i>V. Kultana Blue x V. sanderiana, Aerth. Grandiose</i>
William & Man Lo	<i>Paph. Ho Chi Minh x Malipoense = Paph. Lynleigh in Pink,</i> <i>Paph. Utgard, Drac. chimaera,</i> <i>Srts. Blue Knob, Z. Artur Elle,</i> <i>Den. Paradise Lorna x glomeratum</i> <b>PLANT OF THE MONTH</b>
Sandra Moore	7x <i>Promenaea</i>
Glenn & Manee Poffley	<i>Aranda Noorah Alsagof, 2x C. Quinquecolor,</i> <i>C. Fedora x Penny Kuroda, C. leopoldii,</i> <i>Blc. Sarah Sellers, Lc. Orlenus,</i> <i>Mps. James Iver Mattson, Mps. the Universe,</i> <i>Vuly. Memoria Mary Kavanagh, Ons. Wildcat, Onc. Unknown</i>
Ron Reeves	<i>Sob. Songbird, Phal. teraspis,</i> <i>Max. paranaensis, Paph. godefroyae, Odm. cordatum</i>
Kathy Rimmer	<i>Sob. Songbird</i>
Shirley Sidnam	<i>Den. Royal Wings, Epi. Pacific Sunset, Cym. suavissimum</i>
Ken & Chui Tse	<i>Pot. Lisa Taylor Gallis</i>
Michelle Tung	<i>Zyt. grandiflorus</i> <b>FIRST</b>
Anton & Janet Wehman	<i>Onc. Sugar Babies and Wils. Hilda Plumtree</i>
Bryce & Lea Westlake	<i>Ons. Wildcat and Brs. verrucosa var. gigantea</i>

Note: No second and third place

## Novice

Barry & Penelope Casson	<i>Onc.</i> (?) name	<b>FIRST</b>
Lily Han	<i>Phal.</i> (?)	<b>SECOND</b>
Lea Jooste	<i>Masd.</i> Ohio Gold (?)	
Heather Hunwick	<i>E. cochleata gigantea</i>	<b>THIRD</b>

## Novelty

Glenn & Manee Poffley	<i>Neost.</i> Lou Sneary, <i>Oncsa.</i> Sarah's Comet, ( <i>V. Thonglor</i> x <i>Prora.</i> Luke Thai) x <i>Asctm. curvifolium</i> , <i>Masd. ventricularis</i>	<b>SECOND</b> <b>THIRD</b>
Michelle Tung	<i>Neof. falcata</i>	
Anton & Janet Wehman	<i>Hal. retrocalla</i>	<b>FIRST</b>

Commentary was given by **Anjo McKernan** and **Glenn Poffley**.

## **PRIVATE PLANT AUCTION**

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March at the residence of Beryl Calder, 125 Old Railway Rd. Kumeu.  
Starting at 10am - 12am. Viewing is *strictly* from 9.30am – 10am. Most of Beryl's collection of superb Cattleyas will be sold. Other various orchids will also be sold, some in multiple lots.  
Please note payment by CASH only, no eftpos or cheques. All welcome.

## **SPECIAL MEETING**

The Orchid Council of NZ has organised a guest speaking visit by Carlos Lehnebach, curator of botany at Te Papa Museum, talking on NZ Native Orchids. This meeting will be held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March, commencing 7.30pm (hall booked from 7pm) at the Mt Albert Baptist Church Hall, corner New North Rd and Alberton Ave (opposite the Mt Albert War Memorial Hall).

Entry fee will be \$2 per person to help cover the costs of the Hall and a donation to the speaker. The \$2 will also include tickets in a raffle prize, donated plants have been pledged by 2 growers so far. Please take advantage of this opportunity to hear an entertaining and knowledgeable person speaking on our own orchids a subject most of us know very little about.

## **HOS Club meeting Dates for 2015**

Meetings start at 1.30pm at the Fencible Lounge, Uxbridge Rd. Howick. (Next to library)

**PLEASE NOTE** these dates in your diary or calendar.

8<sup>th</sup> Mar;      12<sup>th</sup> Apr;      10<sup>th</sup> May;      14<sup>th</sup> June;      12<sup>th</sup> July;      9<sup>th</sup> Aug;  
13<sup>th</sup> Sep;      11<sup>th</sup> Oct;      16<sup>th</sup> Oct. (Set Up);      17<sup>th</sup> Oct. (SHOW);      8<sup>th</sup> Nov;      13<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**ANYONE** is welcome to bring a small donation for afternoon tea.

We do not charge members for entry or tea at our meetings but to help cover costs non members and visitors are charged a fee of \$2.

**Raffle** prizes are usually a combination of HOS bought goods or donated orchid plants. If you wish to donate to the raffle please restrict this to orchid plants or products pertaining to orchid growing only.

At the last committee meeting it was decided to hold an orchid plant **auction** at the AGM meeting in April. **Donations** of plants are required to make this a success so please put aside any plants that you no longer require. This is a good opportunity for new members to increase their collection.