

NEWSLETTER

Jan. 2009

NEXT MEETING Sun 8th Feb. 2009 at 1.30 pm

Happy New Year

SPEAKER: Welcome back to another year of orchid mania. We hope to be able to present a variety of great speakers again this year starting with our own **Grahame Leafberg** who will enlighten us on slab/raft culture. This is a really interesting subject and you will learn how to succeed in growing orchids 'naturally' (naturally) as they do in the wild.

LAST MEETING: Our Xmas event was marked by the arrival of Santa after a sumptuous afternoon banquet provided by Dieu Tran (White Flower Bakery). Santa had some extra special gifts this year and all members were treated to a huge **Oncidium Sugar Babies**. (Put a label on it now). It took 2 sleighs to transport all these plants to the Fencible Lounge where the nearly 60 members present gratefully received them. We look forward to seeing them in flower next year. I've heard many are already putting up inflorescences. Thanks to Lea and Bryce for the 'Punch' and others who helped set up the food and tables.

RAFFLE: 8 draws with some lovely donations of orchids and even a Bromeliad (I hate those prickly things, sorry Gary)! I was amazed as the first 2 winners passed up the HOS Odont. letting 3rd draw, Manee get the plant she had her eye on. Consequently I got an early Xmas present!

RESULTS of POPULAR VOTE FOR 2008

OPEN.	1 st – William & Man Lo	(65 points)
	2 nd – John Muddiman	(48 points)
	3 rd – Burt & Evelyn Ong	(42 points)
	4 th – Glenn & Manee Poffley	(39 points)
NOVICE.	1 st – John Sheppard	(44 points)
	2 nd – Ken & Chui Tse	(21 points)
	3 rd – Philip & Gangli Zhou	(15 points)
	4 th – Maurice & Audrey Roffey	(12 points)
NOVELTY.	1 st – William & Man Lo	(12 points)
	2 nd – Glenn & Manee Poffley	(9 points)
	3 rd – Michelle Tung	(8 points)

Assistant Show Marshal John Muddiman presented each winner with a seedling Cattleya orchid. Trophies were not available and will be presented later.

Popular Vote convener **Tris Wakelin** presented his report for the year and told us the best month for Open exhibits was November with 74 orchids on display. In August the Novice class had 18 orchids displayed.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

It's been a nice spring/summer with some great growing conditions for orchids and the garden in general. The orchids are putting on a lot of new growth with the warm humid weather. My experiment of removing the plastic off the shade houses and changing some of the plants to new areas hopefully will result in more flowers. The plastic will have to be replaced again of course in the autumn but at least it will be a lot cleaner than before with more winter light. Hopefully you don't have the problem I have of the neighbour's reluctance to prune his trees, which are now seriously blocking the light to my orchid houses and harbouring mosquitoes in their thousands. We look forward to seeing you all back with renewed enthusiasm and plenty of flowers to show at our club days and the shows throughout the year.

The **first** local show is the WOC 1 day event at Whenuapai Community Hall on 15th Feb. This is a lot earlier than usual. You will need to book for their BBQ lunch.

CONGRATULATIONS to **MABEL TEAL** on celebrating her **100th** birthday on Dec 31st 2008.

It is wonderful to see Mabel still tending her garden full of many plants and keeping up her interest and love of orchids. A nice article and photo was printed in the local paper.

On a sadder note we heard of **Wally Lomas** passing away suddenly on Dec. 9th 2008. Many who went on the bus trip to Whangarei will remember our visit to Wally's home, our first stop. Wally specialized in Phalaenopsis but grew many other beautiful orchids in his extensive houses. I bought a Vascostylus seedling from Wally on that trip and it is very fitting that it is now in flower for the first time.

He was very active in societies in Northland and was President of the OCNZ for 3 years. He will be missed by all and is a great loss to the orchid fraternity. Our sympathies are with his family.

PLANTS ON DISPLAY (Dec. meeting)

OPEN

Anton & Janet: *Slc* Jewel Box 'Dark Waters'.

Glenn & Manee: *Enc. hanburyi*, *Epicat* Nebo, *Oda*. Victoria Village, *L. milleri x purpurata*, *Odcdm*. Jane Frear, *Lc*. Pink Lady.

John Muddiman: *Phal*. Ching Her Golden x Brother Purple, *Phal*. (Sara Lee x Brother Passat) x (New Glad x City Girl), *Phal*. Unknown.

Ron Reeves: *Masd*. Jim Harper 'Ohio Gold', *Cym*. Peewee, *Masd*. falcata, *Cochleanthes discolor*..

Wolf Grausch: *C*. Snowblind.

Michelle Tung: *Renanthera imschootiana*, *Paph*. Utgard, *Den. mohlianum*, *Masd*. Tangerine Stripes.

William & Man Lo: *Phal*. Sogo John x Katie Morris, *Masd*. picea, *Odm. cordatum*, *Paph*. {(Keyeshill x Decameron) x Mildred Munday} x Kilvanna, *Paph*. (Cocoa Cherry x Red Maude) x Mod Maude, *Paph. sukhakulii*, *Brassidium* Fly Away 'Miami', *Den. alatieaulinum*, *Den. tetragonum 'Giganteum'*, *Den*. Flower Baby, *Angr. calceolus*, *Angr. germinyanum*.

Dennis Chuah: *Masd*. Curley George, *Liparis cuelogynoides*, *Thunia marshallianum*, *Thu. Veitchiana*, *Disa* (Foam x Diares) x (Riette x Kiwi), *Stenocoryne vitellina*.

Grahame Leafberg: *Sarco* Melba x *Plectoriztha tridentate*, *Angr. elephanticeps*, *Sarco roseus*, *Phiaus tankervilleae*, *Milt. spectabilis*, *Pleurothallis grobyi*.

Ken & Chui Tse: *C. intermedia*, *Masd. barlaena* x *Drac. cordobae*.

Jim Bensemam: *Phal*. Unknown x 2, *Phal*. Dou-dii Girl x Black Prince.

Pam Forde: *Sarco*. Empress, *Phal*. Unknown x 2.

NOVICE

John Sheppard: *Masd*. Falcata 'Sunlight Yellow'.

NOVELTY No entries

Dennis Chuah and **Heather Cooke** gave the commentary on another excellent display of orchids.

CULTURE:

Summer can be a bit of a trap I've found. Even though it may be hot and dry some orchids do not like water sitting on them for too long. They risk sun-burn (fleshy leaf varieties especially) and also rot around the top of new growths or in the crown of the plant if water sits there. The best thing is to water early in the day and ensure they dry off before night. Make sure they do not sit in full sun with water on the leaves. High Nitrogen fertilizers should be added to your water during this period. Remember to reduce the strength by half of what the label tells you. Some mixes can dry out so much at this time of year that when you water it passes through without actually wetting the mix. The best remedy for this is to soak the plant in a tub of water to rewet the mix. Those plants growing on slabs need watering every day.

MORE ON THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

Uncertainty has now hit Japan. In the last seven days, Origami bank has folded, Sumo Bank has gone belly up and Bonsai Bank has announced plans to cut some of its branches. Yesterday, it was also announced that Karaoke Bank will go up for sale and will likely go for a song, while shares in Kamikaze Bank were suspended today after they nose-dived. Samurai Bank is soldiering on after sharp cutbacks, 500 staff at Karate Bank got the chop and analysts report that there is something fishy going on at Sushi Bank where it is feared that staff may get a raw deal.

NEW MEMBERS

Your plants will hopefully be looking good at this time of the year but don't be fooled into complacency. Fertilising and watering should be regular in this warm humid weather. My advice is to **repot** your Xmas gift plant now (if not done already) as some I have checked are showing signs of the mix breaking down. Then **back-cut** it so that it is divided into at least 3 bulbs each division. If you are unsure on what to do bring it along to the next meeting (repotted of course). All of your repotting should now be completed. Long lasting flowers on some plants should have been cut as at this time of the year flowering puts a lot of stress on the orchid and you should be trying to get as much new growth as possible.

TEACHER: George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it. Now, Louie, do you know why his father didn't punish him?

LOUIS: Because George still had the axe in his hand.

NEW LIBRARY LISTINGS

Orchid Fever (Eric Hansen) donated by John Muddiman.

PRISON: The guard locks and unlocks all the doors for you

WORK: You must often carry a security card and open all the doors for yourself

COMING EVENTS

HOS Club days for 2009:

8th Feb, 8th Mar, 12th Apr, 10th May, 14th June, 12th July, 9th Aug, 13th Sept, 18th Oct (NB not 2nd Sun), 8th Nov, 13th Dec. **Show** set up 2nd Oct, **Show** Sat. 3rd Oct.

Meetings are held 1.30pm sharp in the Fencible Lounge, Howick every month except January.

Waitakere O.C. 1 day show at Hobsonville Hall Sun. 15th Feb. Set up 8.30am. Open 1pm.

Bay of Plenty Show (in Te Puke) is different to that advertised in the Orchid Year book.

New dates are Friday 3rd April (10.30 – 5.00) and Sat 4th Apr. (10.30 – 4.00)

NEWS FLASH: The local Police Station has had their toilet stolen. Police have nothing to go on!