

NEWSLETTER

Jan. 2010

NEXT MEETING Sun 14th Feb. 2010 at 1.30 pm

Happy New Year

NEXT MEETING: The first meeting of the New Year will feature **Anton** Wehman, **Len** Cobb and **Glenn** Poffley giving some cultural hints especially for new growers. Learn where to grow different genera, how much light, warm or cool, fertilizers and many other growing tips. Be prepared to ask plenty of questions and bring any plants along if they have a problem.

BBQ – Sat. 27th Feb. from 4pm to be held as previously at the residence of Anton and Janet, **26** Booralee Ave, Botany Downs. Please **bring a plate** of salad or desert. (Surnames A-K desert, L-Z salad) and a CHAIR. HOS will supply meat and non alcoholic drinks. Non-member cost is **\$6**.

LAST MEETING was our Christmas social with a huge turn out (64 approx) of enthusiastic members all eagerly awaiting the food and later on Santa. **Dieu** Tran (**White Flower Bakery**) supplied a delightful selection of food again and **Norma** Clark baked and decorated a sumptuous cake. Dieu has now opened a new café (**Café Tran**) in Onehunga Mall next to ASB. Santa brought all members at the meeting orchid accessories this year (pots, clips, stakes etc) supplied by **Napier Orchid Supplies**. Note: the club policy is that you must be present to receive your gift.

Early in the meeting the results of the Popular Vote trophies were announced by **Tris** Wakelin and the winners of the Photo Competition by Glenn. See below. Anton also did his conjuring trick and produced the 4 carefully stored away trophies not available at the Prize giving so they could be finally presented.

RAFFLE: With eleven draws of nice plants we were again treated by the generous donations of our members plus a nice flowering Cattleya from HOS.

POPULAR VOTE TROPHIES

OPEN: 1st **William & Man Lo**, 2nd Michelle Tung, 3rd Pamela Ford.

NOVICE: 1st **Lee Stone**, 2nd Josc. Jamieson , 3rd Alan Robinson

NOVELTY: 1st equal **W & M Lo** and **G & M Poffley**, 2nd Michelle Tung , 3rd Julie Duff.

Tris gave a run down of the numbers of plants on display and voting figures over the year.

PHOTO COMPETITION (5 photos were permitted to be submitted by each person)

WHOLE PLANT: 1st **Lea Westlake**, 2nd Lea Westlake , 3rd Michelle Tung

FLOWER CLOSE UP: 1st **Manee Poffley**, 2nd Manee Poffley, 3rd Michelle Tung.

Each received a small gift from organizer **Ken** Tse while **Val** Bayliss commented on the photos.

Pres/Editor: Glenn Poffley Ph. 534 8689
Sec: Janet Wehman Ph. 537 1251
Website: <http://hos.inetgardens.com>

Vice Pres: Anton Wehman Ph. 537 1251
Treasurer: Jackie Wee Ph. 250 4218
Meetings: Fencible Lounge Uxbridge Rd Howick

Do illiterate people get the full effect of Alphabet Soup?

EDITOR'S COMMENT

Please make use of our extensive library of orchid books and remember to return them the following month. There are other society newsletters also available.

This year we want to try a few new ideas with the display table now that we are getting such a good number of plants each month. We will endeavour to place similar genera together to make the plant commentary easier and the commentators will be asked to select a 'plant of the month' for special mention. This will generally be something a little unusual or special.

If you are unsure where to place your plant please ask someone for assistance. New signs will be made and placed on the tables. The popular vote will still remain as previous (Open, Novice and Novelty) and don't forget each plant benched receives 1 point.

NEW MEMBERS CULTURE

With warm temperatures you shouldn't be experiencing too many problems. But don't be complacent, do some research on the plants you have and make sure that the ones needing shelter when the cooler weather comes are separated so they can be protected quickly.

All flowers, which have been on the plants for some time, should be cut giving your plants time to produce new growth. Many new growers cannot bear to cut a stem especially if it is the first time the plant has flowered but this time of the year is when the plant needs to re energise and flowering will just sap energy out of it. Many orchid flowers will last very well in a vase.

All the new bulbs growing should be getting larger than the previous bulbs and fattening up.

If this is not the case then it could be you are not watering and/or fertilising enough.

It is normal for some of the older leaves to yellow and finally dry up then fall off your orchids.

Usually the lower ones on Phals do this at this time of the year and all the leaves off one or more old bulbs on others. If new or recent growths are getting too yellow it could be a sign of too much light. Dark green leaves indicate too little light and your plants may not flower.

The FBI had an opening for an assassin. After all the background checks, interviews and testing were done, there were 3 finalists, two men and a woman. For the final test, the FBI agents took one of the men to a large metal door and handed him a gun. 'We must know that you will follow your instructions no matter what the circumstances.'

Inside the room you will find your wife sitting in a chair . . . Kill her!!'

The man said, 'You can't be serious. I could never shoot my wife.' The agent said, 'Then you're not the right man for this job. Take your wife and go home.'

The second man was given the same instructions. He took the gun and went into the room. All was quiet for about 5 minutes. The man came out with tears in his eyes, 'I tried, but I can't kill my wife.' The agent said, 'You don't have what it takes. Take your wife home.'

Finally, it was the woman's turn. She was given the same instructions, to kill her husband. She took the gun and went into the room. Shots were heard, one after another. They heard screaming, crashing, banging on the walls. After a few minutes, all was quiet. The door opened slowly and there stood the woman, wiping the sweat from her brow. 'This gun is loaded with blanks' she said. 'I had to beat him to death with the chair.'

CULTURE: Now we are in the grips of summer your orchids should be getting plenty of care. Do feed and water frequently. Don't 'cook' them. Watch out for direct sun on water droplets on thick leaves. Keep insects under control now. In hot weather a small infestation can go through a collection very rapidly. Ensure there is plenty of air movement in any confined area, glass houses can heat up very quickly, mist frequently to reduce temperatures.

PLANTS ON DISPLAY (Dec. meeting – not considered for trophy next period)

OPEN

William & Man Lo: *Den. mohlianum*, *Den. lichenastrum*, *Den. Gerald McCraith*, *Den. nobile*, *Paph. Onyx*, *Drac. gaskelliana*, *Vanda coerulescens* x unknown, *Lc. Desert Orange*, *Angr. calceolus*.

Michelle Tung: *Sarco. Elise*, *Masd. Tangerine Stripes*.

Glenn & Manee: *Enc. hanburyi*, *Epicat Nebo*, 3 x Phals, Basket of Masd and Sarcs.

Ken & Chui Tse: *Disa. Veitchii?* *L. Santa Barbara Sunset* x *Lc. Trick or Treat*, *Aerangis. Luteoalba* var. *rhodostricta*.

Grahame Leafberg: *Masd. coccinea* 'LRG', *Milt. spectabilis*, *Angr. elephanticeps*, *Den. Gerald McCraith*.

Leonard Cobb: *Prosthechea prismatacarpa*.

Dennis Chuah: *Thu. Veitchiana*, *Masd. Copper Queen*, *Sob. Yellow Kiss*, *Den. crumenatum*.

NOVICE: No Entries (or no cards?)

NOVELTY: No Entries.

Alf Day was coerced yet again to give the plant commentary with a little help from Glenn.

Support bacteria. They're the only culture some people have.

RESEARCH

Dennis brought some interesting plants last meeting. *Thunias* (Thu) usually flower in the summer so his was a little early. The flowers don't last long so not a lot of people grow them. Unless dried off once the foliage dies down they will rot over the winter.

His *Dendrobium* with the little white flowers again has a very short flowering period, the flowers only lasting a day. With lots of flowers though they make up for the brief flowering.

Sobralias are sequential flowering, which means they keep on coming so can flower for quite a while if grown well. There are not many around orchid growers in NZ so keep your eye out if you see any for sale. They can grow into a large clump making quite a specimen.

The *Masdevallia* was labelled 'remake'. This means that the cross was previously made and registered but his plant has the same two parents (in name) re-crossed. The hybrid must be named with the previously registered name. Quite often growers will do the remake with better quality parents hoping for an improvement on the original, which may have been done many years previously.

99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.

BLIND AUCTION at next meeting of some *Cymbidiums* from Life member **Stan Fiskén**.

Place your **bid** on a piece of paper with your **name** and put in the pot next to the plant.

Highest bid opened after tea will win the plant. In the event of a tie the highest bidders will bid against each other.

Plants are named. An indication of expected colour will be put on the pots.

COMING EVENTS

HOS CLUB DAYS for 2010

14 Feb, 14 Mar, 11 Apr, 9 May, 13 June, 11 July, 15 Aug,
12 Sep, 9 Oct (Show), 24 Oct, 14 Nov, 12 Dec.

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

Just remember -- if the world didn't suck, we would all fall off.