



# NEWSLETTER of the HOWICK ORCHID SOCIETY Inc.

**Jan. 2014**

**NEXT meeting Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2014**

**NEXT MEETING:** Our first meeting of the year will feature our ex Patron Alf Day who will talk on displaying orchids and shows. It's always a pleasure to listen to someone passionate about his hobby and you won't find anyone more so than Alf.



**LAST MEETING:** Our Christmas meeting was a lot of fun and without doubt a LOT of food.

Thank you all for bringing such a wonderful spread which was enjoyed by all. No doubt many of you like me would not have bothered with dinner later.

For a little variety some questions were asked with the usual amusing results but 3 lucky members went home with a bunch of stakes and a couple of orchid pots each.

The questions were:

Approx. how spikes were on the Grand Champ Cym. Cricket at New Plymouth? (Ans: 20 – 30)

Our member John Cairns (Taumararui) also has one in flower at present, approx. how many spikes? (Ans: 75+)

Some years ago at a National show another Cricket was awarded. How many spikes? (Ans: Over 120)

Santa as usual made his appearance heralded by the jingling of bells soon after tea.

All members present received a packet of sphagnum moss and a bundle of stakes.

## EDITOR'S COMMENT

Welcome back for another year of orchid growing, displaying and education. 2014 promises to be another busy year in our society with our regular meetings, the usual shows and displays we need to attend. Our membership numbers are being maintained with new members joining after the show. To get the best out of the society we would like to see you at meetings displaying your orchids and helping in any way you can.



As always finding a variety of speakers is difficult but this year we are well on the way to filling the earlier months with some hopefully interesting and informative talks.

As mentioned in an earlier notice our annual Auction is to be held at the AGM in April but since we have just had one in Nov. we need to ask members if they have enough plants for us to be able to have one this year. Please give this some thought.

We would like to see more people putting their names forward for a position on the committee as many of us have been there a long time and need a rest.



*C. intermedia* (Ken & Chui)



*V. coerulescens* (William & Man Lo)

## CULTURE

Summer can be a difficult time with orchids drying out very quickly in the hot and sometimes windy conditions. Ventilation is very important for your plants for a few reasons the main one at this time is cooling. Plastic houses can heat up very quickly on warm, still, sunny days and unless your plants are cooled down they can be severely stressed or die. Shading can be increased or periodic misting used to cool plants.

Watering and fertilizing must be kept up frequently and in between times a sprinkle to keep up the humidity is very beneficial.

Your plants should be putting on good new growth now. As has been mentioned on many occasions if your plant looks sick it probably is. The first thing to do is repot and check that the roots are sound, the mix has not broken down, or that the pot is not infested with the moth grub



eating the roots. I have even found slugs living in pots.

Depending on space in some previous newsletters I have given some information about a plant on display. This month Kathy's *Capanemia superflua* (Nov. display) deserves some comment as most of us had not seen one before. This small species comes from the cooler moist mountain forests of Brazil and Argentina and belongs to the Oncidiinae group of orchids. It grows on small branches and needs to be kept moist most of the year. A large number of the orchids we grow come from South America and are cooler growers although they need reasonably high humidity and plenty of water during the hotter months.

*Aerides odorata* (Glenn & Manee)

The long hanging highly scented inflorescence had 27 flowers.

This flowered for a long period over the Xmas break.

A warm grower from India and SE Asia.

## RESULTS of POPULAR VOTE TROPHYS

OPEN: 1<sup>st</sup> William & Man Lo 49 points; 2<sup>nd</sup> Grahame Leafberg 44; 3<sup>rd</sup> Michelle Tung 32.  
NOVICE: 1<sup>st</sup> Diane Gurr 63 points; 2<sup>nd</sup> Jessie O'Hara 50; 3<sup>rd</sup> Carol Brown 48.  
NOVELTY: 1<sup>st</sup> Kathy Rimmer 46 points; 2<sup>nd</sup> Michelle Tung 34 ; 3<sup>rd</sup> W & M Lo 27.

## ANNUAL BBQ

This year our BBQ will again be held at Eureka Nurseries, Appleby Rd. Drury.

Date: Sat. 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 4pm. Please keep this day free and try and come along to this enjoyable social event. More details next news letter.



Our 2 commentators (Alf Day and Phil Funnel) admiring new member Michael Tse's beautifully grown Phallies. (left)



(Right) Our hard working ladies at the entry desk getting into the Xmas spirit. (Raewyn left and Lee)



Left. The monster seen at the Winter Gardens Dec 2013!  
*Amorphophallus titanum* (corpse flower)

Right. Michelle's well flowered *Stanhopea tigrina*. They don't last long and the sweet scent is overpowering. (Jan 2014)



## HOS Club meeting Dates for 2014

Meetings start at 1.30pm. Fencible Lounge, Uxbridge Rd.

NB As library is now open on Sundays please keep the rear car park clear at all times and be aware parking restrictions in all other areas may be enforced.

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

9 <sup>th</sup> Feb;	9 <sup>th</sup> Mar;	13 Apr;	11 <sup>th</sup> May;	8 <sup>th</sup> June;	13 <sup>th</sup> July;
10 <sup>th</sup> Aug;	14 <sup>th</sup> Sep;	3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct (show set up);	4 <sup>th</sup> Oct (Show);	19 <sup>th</sup> Oct;	
9 <sup>th</sup> Nov;	14 <sup>th</sup> Dec.				