

# NEWSLETTER

May. 2008

**NEXT MEETING Sun 13<sup>th</sup> July. 2008 at 1.30 pm**

*Camera shy?*

**SPEAKER:** Next meeting Dennis Chuah will teach us all about photographing our prized orchids. This is a subject we have never had before and should be of value to all. Dennis is the official NZOS awards photographer and the AOC photographer. You can see many of his photos on their website and other publications including the OCNZ year book.

**LAST MEETING:** After the notices the 5 members who traveled to Whangarei to mount the display were asked to come forward. Each was given a large seedling *Cattleya* in recognition of their hard work and dedication to furthering the interest of orchid growing and publicize HOS. The speaker Glenn showed a variety of photos in Japan with some of the varieties lesser known in NZ. These included *Calanthes*, *Dendrobiums* and *Lycastes*. Others included flower arrangements and displays.

**RAFFLE:** Thanks to those who donated all the orchids, (Mick Hughes, Tris, Julie Duff, Pam). (Amidst the groans of despair the big bad Wolf won the most sought after plant!)

**TEA ROSTER** for Next Meeting: Kathy Rimmer and Joan Skidmore. (Reserve Jess Potter) Please phone **Christina** (575 7517) or **Lea** (575 5046) if unable to attend meeting.

**PLANT COMPETITION RESULTS:** Life member **Val** Bayliss was asked to choose the 2 most well grown *Tolumnias* from those that brought theirs in. 5 plants were displayed but there was no doubt about the first 2, both beautifully grown plants.

**Kathy** Rimmer won 1<sup>st</sup> place and **Michelle** Tung came a close 2<sup>nd</sup>. The other 3 were also grown very well and considering the number that were bought by members these 5 did very well to grow theirs on. Others on display were from William/Man Lo, Lea Westlake and John Muddiman. Kathy and Michelle were presented with a nice seedling *Cattleya* orchid each.

Don't forget that the **Cymbidium** seedling we gave members at the Xmas function last year is the **new** competition plant, so don't lose it or the LABEL! Those that have NOT updated their labels (published in an earlier newsletter) will be penalized.

**WELCOME to NEW MEMBER – Suwaree** Fraser (Howick).

**SUCCESS:** A successful man is one who makes more money than his wife can spend.  
A successful woman is one who can find such a man

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**CULTURE:** There have certainly been some very cool nights recently so the trick here is DO NOT water. As Jim Hickey said on the TV1 weather recently: "Aucklanders will die tonight!" Well maybe the plants could. Most orchids with bulbs will withstand lengthy periods without water during cooler months, in fact some use this drought period as a trigger to flower. The nice days make up for the cold nights though and if you have a good sunny position (preferably covered) then your orchids will appreciate this.

Many spring flowering plants need plenty of sunshine during the winter to encourage flowers and to mature the bulbs.

If you have used shade cloth over the summer then this should be removed to allow that extra sunlight in now. Generally dark green lush leaves are an indication of too much shade.

Bumble bees are becoming nuisances now and will fertilise your orchid flowers, which causes them to collapse very quickly. They love green and are attracted also by the strong scent some of your orchid flowers emit during sunny days.

Fertiliser should be reduced over the winter.

If you are growing seedlings or orchids not long out of flask then a heated room or heat tray is advisable over winter. They can be hardened off the 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

A reminder to some newer members who may not be aware, is that you should not bring Cymbidiums inside while they are in bud as the change in temperature will cause bud drop.

A shepherd was herding his flock in a remote pasture when suddenly a brand-new BMW drives up in a cloud of dust.

The driver, a young man in an Armani suit, Gucci shoes, Ray Ban sunglasses and YSL tie, leans out the window and asks the shepherd: "If I tell you exactly how many sheep you have in your flock, will you give me one?"

The shepherd looks at the man, obviously a yuppie, then looks at his peacefully grazing flock and calmly answers: "Sure. Why not?"

The yuppie parks his car, whips out his Dell notebook computer, connects it to his AT&T cell phone, surfs to a NASA page on the internet, where he calls up a GPS satellite navigation system to get an exact fix on his location which he then feeds to another NASA satellite that scans the area in an ultra high resolution photo.

The young man then opens the digital photo in Adobe Photoshop and exports it to an image processing facility in Hamburg, Germany. Within seconds he receives an email on his Palm Pilot that the image has been processed and the data stored.

He then accesses a MS-SQL database through an ODBC connected Excel spreadsheet with hundreds of complex formulas. He uploads all of this data via an email on his Blackberry and after a few minutes, receives a response. Finally, he prints out a full colour 150-page report on his hi-tech, miniaturized HP LaserJet printer, then turns to the shepherd and says:

"You have exactly 1586 sheep."

"That's right. Well, I guess you can take one of my sheep," says the shepherd.

He watches the young man select one of the animals and looks on amused as the young man stuffs it into the trunk of his car.

Then the shepherd says to the young man: "Hey, if I can tell you exactly what your business is, will you give me back my sheep?"

The young man thinks about it for a second and then says: "Okay, why not?"

"You're a consultant," says the shepherd.

"Wow! That's correct," says the yuppie, "but how did you guess that?"

"No guessing required", answered the shepherd. "You showed up here even though nobody called you; you want to get paid for an answer I already knew, to a question I never asked; and you don't know anything about my business..... Now give me back my dog."

## **PLANTS ON DISPLAY** (June meeting)

A trial was conducted at the suggestion of **John** Muddiman to include a **new section** in the monthly plant display and Popular vote. This is the **Novelty** section and is for unusual or very small flowered orchids and is at the owner's discretion as to where he/she displays their plant, although the flower should adhere to the above criteria. (An experienced member may be nominated to adjudicate in any disputes). This will now be included at every meeting.

If unsure please ask one of the more experienced growers.

There will only be **one** Novelty section for both Open and Novice growers.

I am not sure where Novelists (as 1 member describes some, no offense intended) will enter their plants but I'm sure they will find somewhere.

Plants entered into this section will be voted on and **points awarded** as for the other sections.

### **OPEN**

Wolf Grausch: *Den. Vivid* x *Bellinger River\**, *Wils. Bonne Nuit* x *Oda. Mont Mado*.

Grahame Leafberg: *Dend. cobbianum*, *C. intermedia* x *L. flava?* *Milt. \*cognianum* (or nat. hybrid, no *Onc.* Listed), *Soph. cernua*, *Zygo.* (*Seagulls Landing* x *Artur Elle*) x *Brookside*.

Ron Reeves: *Lyc. Wonda*, *Paph. insigne* var. *sanderiae\**.

Anton & Janet: *Paph. insigne*, *Angcm. giramyae*.

Len Cobb: *Milt. spectabilis?*

John Muddiman: *Phal* unnamed, *Phal. Shirley Vance* x *Verlaine*, *Onc. Sugar Babies*, *Ptst. Nodding Grace*.

William & Man Lo: *Paph. insigne* var. *sanderiae*, *Paph. Yerba Buena* x *Harry Stage*, *Masd. Angel Frost*, *Den. subclausum*, *Dor. pulcherrima*, *Dor. pulcherrima* sib x (*October Seafoam* x *Limefizz*).

Bert & Evelyn Ong: *Phrag. Rosy Gem*.

Glenn & Manee: *L. gouldiana* x 2, *Blc. Amy Wakasugi*, *Alcra. Maury Island 'Fantasy'*, *Odcdm. Yellow Dream*.

Lea & Bryce Westlake: *Epi. neoporpax*, *Paph. insigne*, *Paph. unnamed*, *Onc. Sugar Babies*, *Onc. ornithorhyncum*.

Michelle Tung: *Den. subclausum*, *Den. Kuniko*, *Slc. Seagulls China Flare\**, *Cym. dayanum*.

PLEASE NOTE: Use **new** white cards for display plants and write owner's name on **BACK!!**

### **NOVICE**

Maurice Roffey: *Onc. Sugar Babies*.

Note: \* Label changes required. (Either incorrect spelling or a new name of a registered hybrid)

OPEN: 1<sup>st</sup> Bert/Evelyn (*Phrag*), 2<sup>nd</sup> Anton/Janet (*Angr.*), 3<sup>rd</sup> = Michelle (*Slc.*), G. Leafberg (*Soph*).

NOVICE: 1<sup>st</sup> Maurice (*Onc.*).

An interesting and informative commentary by Val and Len. Len also stressed the importance of keeping *Cattleyas* dry over the winter.

WE are still having a **problem** with some name cards not being collected at the end of each meeting. Please leave these for Tris (or helper) to collect so they can be recorded.

Luckily I found out that **Josc** Jamieson won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Novice section with **Robert** Finley 3<sup>rd</sup> (May display) and these have now been recorded.

**OCNZ YEARBOOKS** are now available at club meetings, those that have not picked up their copy please do so as soon as possible. (See Janet) These will NOT be posted out. This publication has a lot of cultural information, awarded orchids and photographs. It also contains a comprehensive list of all the show dates around NZ for this year.

## **EDITOR'S COMMENT**

We have had many speakers emphasise the importance of pH. Sphagnum has a very low pH (very acidic) and as Roy Tokunaga told us at his lectures (NZOS Sept. 07) a mix at pH 6 allows the plant to take up 100 times more fertilizer than a mix of pH 5. This can be adjusted very easily with the addition (if too acid) of dolomite lime or other products to decrease pH. You can now buy many of the accessories required to measure your mixes, such as pH meter and CF meter (measures strength of fertilizer) quite cheaply on Trademe. Another source is **Bill Liddey** in Napier who has these at a very reasonable price plus many other accessories such as orchid pots, stakes, ties, clips, (and even orchids), available to orchid growers. See below for contact details. They can take the guess work out of your mixes.

Remember the compost (mix) your orchids grow in gradually decomposes over the years (if organic) and goes 'sour'. This means that it gradually gets more acidic until it reaches the point where it will cause reverse osmosis and draw nutrients out of the plant roots rather than let them take up nutrients.

Measurement of your fertilizer strength is also important for the same reason.

(B. Liddey trades as Napier Orchid Supplies, Ph. 06 836 6735, email: wflid@xtra.co.nz)

## **WHANGAREI SHOW & OCNZ AGM**

As many will know a group of 10 HOS members traveled to Whangarei at Queen's Birthday weekend to mount a display to support their show and create some interest in orchid growing. It was a resounding success with the largest display yet attempted by us involving over 70 plants arranged in such a way as to arouse a lot of interest and very favourable comments from both orchid growers and the public. We went for massed colours and this was only achieved by the generosity of the following members who lent us their plants. Sandra Moore (16), Glenn (10), Lea Westlake (10), Alf Day (8), Julie Duff (7), John Muddiman (7), Len Cobb (4), Kathy Rimmer (4), Michelle (4), Anton/Janet (3). There were some very large specimens included with these especially Len's (taken by Kathy), Lea's and Julie's. In addition we transported 12 very large 2m lengths of bamboo, rocks, 4 shelves, cloth, aluminium foil, lights, leads and other props that were required. We spent all afternoon bolting up shelves, hanging the foil and arranging the plants. Kathy had the final say in the colour arrangement but it was a joint effort by all who attended. Those there on Friday were: Glenn & Manee, Lea & Bryce, Kathy & Roy, Julie & Graeme, Ken & Chui Tse. Great to see new members getting involved, so don't be shy as we have more displays coming up this year, the next is NZOS winter show.

The added bonus for those that went to help was a preview of the very well stocked trading table at great prices with some really good orchids for sale. Going by the number of plants coming home we will be able to put on even bigger and better displays when they all flower.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

A question recently asked by a newer member who was traveling overseas was: "if I go to an orchid show and see some flasks, can I buy some and bring them back to NZ?"

This is not as easy as it may seem, as the first thing required is a phyto-sanitary certificate issued by the appropriate authority in the country of purchase. There is usually a fee for this and may be approx. the cost of 1 flask so it is more economic to get a cert for a number of flasks. The plants must be labeled (full names) and accompanied by a list of the species in the crosses (if hybrids). If these do not appear on the list published by NZ MAF then the flasks may be confiscated. There is also an inspection fee of \$25 (minimum) on arrival in NZ. The plants and agar in the flask must not show any signs of contamination be intact and sealed. Unless you know what you are doing then it would be best to leave it to those who know the ropes.

**HONOURARY MEMBERSHIP:** At the last committee meeting it was resolved that Honourary membership be bestowed on the following 2 people. This is a new idea for HOS and will only be used in special circumstances, as seen fit by the committee.

**Dennis Chuah** (currently a member of AOC and NZOS) was given Honourary membership in recognition for all his work in setting up and administering the HOS website. This requires a lot of work for someone who is up to date in the field and is an on going task, including uploading of newsletters and photos. This is also done for us at no cost to the society.

**Mabel Teal** (currently a financial member of HOS) Mabel has been a very long serving, active and supportive member of HOS and due to her age (99) and health is often unable to attend meetings. Mabel has been very generous in donating plants from time to time for raffles and auctions and regularly loans us plants for displays at other shows.

Honourary membership means that the person is considered a member of the HOS and able to attend meetings and functions with all the benefits of normal financial members.

**AUCTION (Nov.)** Thanks to Sandra Moore for some more orchid books.

**AOC** (Auckland Orchid Club) will be registering a name change shortly to **Waitakere Orchid Club**. Will they now be known as WOC's? Surely this name should have been reserved for the eastern suburbs? In fact Westies could be more appropriately called HOSses. It's all very confusing.

A man has six items in his bathroom: toothbrush and toothpaste, shaving cream, razor, a bar of soap, and a towel.

The average number of items in the typical woman's bathroom is 337.

A man would not be able to identify more than 20 of these items.

## COMING EVENTS

**NZOS** winter show will include a display by CHING HUA ORCHIDS from Taiwan. Don't miss this; they are one of the top orchid growers in the world notable for Cats, Phals, Paphs and others. Set up Thurs. 17<sup>th</sup> July. Open to public: 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, from 10am.

**South Auck.** OS show Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Aug. benching only (Frid. ) Senior citizens hall, East St. Papakura.

**Waitakere OC** (AOS) has their silver anniversary in August with a **\$250** door prize on offer to one lucky visitor. This will be held again at Kelston community centre, Gt Nth Rd. 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> August. A dinner will be held Sat night at \$25 with guest speaker Murray Shergold (Australia).

**HOS** Club days for 2008: 10<sup>th</sup> Aug (vacant), 14<sup>th</sup> Sept (Leigh & Mike Leaity),

Show Set up 26<sup>th</sup> Sept, Show 27<sup>th</sup> Sept, 12<sup>th</sup> Oct, (Prize Giving – Alf Day)

9<sup>th</sup> Nov (Auction) 14<sup>th</sup> Dec. (Xmas social)

Meetings are held in the Fencible Lounge every month except January.

Don't forget to check our web page for colour photos from HOS display and other shows.

AND just to make you think.....

Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?

Why do Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?

Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?

Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?