NEWSLETTER

June. 2009 **NEXT MEETING Sun 12th July 2009 at 1.30 pm** *Shelter plants*

SPEAKER: Next meeting we have Lester Ching (Pakuranga) who will speak on Tillandsias. These are a member of the Bromeliad family and are usually grown as an air plant, many having very pretty flowers. Lester will bring samples and plants for sale. (Gary won't miss this!)

LAST MEETING: Leonard showed us some lovely photos from Hong Kong, Europe and Japan and gave us an interesting insight into his trip abroad. It was certainly different scenery to what we see here and some lovely shots of the contrast between old and new.

RAFFLE: As usual a very successful one with lots of donated orchids and some more of those prickly things that one or two like so much.
We have 2 new people to help out with the raffle next time so please keep up the support and buy plenty of tickets from **Lee** and **Raewyn**. Manee is taking a well-earned rest and will now have no excuses for not voting for my plants on the display table!
Thank you to those that have stepped in to help at the library table and other duties when other members have been away.

PHOTO COMPETITION: As mentioned in earlier letters this is now underway so if you have any nice orchid or orchid related photos please get a 6 x 4 print and bring it along to the club day. These will be displayed on the white board and depending on how many we get the pick of them will be displayed and judged at our show. A prize will be awarded for the best in each category. To make this a success we **need** your **support**. Digitals are now very cheap and easy to get printed at many stores.

COMPETITION PLANT: Remember the Cymbidium seedling many will have received from the club one Xmas? This is our competition plant and it is now time to bring it back to see how you are growing it. You may also remember that in a newsletter subsequent to the handing out of these plants the cross was given a **new** name. Those that have not updated their labels may be penalized if the final decision is close.

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome to Kevin & Kitty Yong (Epsom) and also welcome back to Kelly O'Meara.

Our **PATRON Alf Day** has been unwell and we wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him back at our meetings where his vast knowledge is invaluable.

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EDITOR'S COMMENT

My berating of members at the last meeting for the poor attendance at the open days held the week after the May meeting is more than justified. The people who open their gardens for inspection go to a lot of trouble tidying up, presentation and having orchids available for sale. More importantly it is your chance to see the growing conditions of experienced growers first hand and to get some ideas on where improvements can be made in your own backyard. I have learnt more visiting homes such as these than from any book I have read. You are looking at conditions in you own area and plants commonly grown by members in this area. Some of these homes not only have orchids but a wide range of other interesting and unusual plants as well. We will endeavour to open these and some more gardens later in the year if there is enough interest.

The butcher backed into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.

PLANTS ON DISPLAY (May meeting)

OPEN

Julie Duff: *Epidendron neoporpax*
Grahame Leafberg: *Onc*. Golden Prince, *Den.* Avril's Gold x Jazz, *Den.* Avril'sGold 'Tommy'.
William & Man Lo: *Paph.(haynaldianum* x Lady Isobel) = Stone Eridans, *Onc. charlesworthii, Masd.* imposter x Sib. *Mclna.* Pagan Lovesong x *Oda.** Red Cougar, *Masd.* Tuakau Goldstrike*.
Ron Reeves: *Paph. villosum, Angcm. longicalcar*, Paph. gratixianum, C. percivaliana** var. *alba, Odm. crocidipterum*, Masd. polisticta*.*
Leonard Cobb: *Max. picta, L. anceps.*
Pam Forde: *Burr.** Living Fire, *Sc.* Lana Coryell x *S. coccinea*, *Onc.* Unknown.
Ken & Chui Tse: *Burr.** Living Fire, *L. anceps* var. Sierra.
Glenn & Manee: *Masd.* Angel Frost, *Masd.* Sugar Baby, *Masd.* Firebrand 'Perfection' x 2, *Milt.* Anne Warne 'Alii', *L. gouldiana, C.* Queen Sirikhit x Angelwalker, *Odcdm.* Tiger Hambuhren x *Odm.* Holiday Gold, *Den.* Hilda Poxon, *Den.* Anne's Rainbow 'Surprise', *Phal.* Unknown.
House of Orchids: *Angcm. germinyanum* 'Prolific', *Paph.* Holdenii var. alba*, Paph. villosum, Onc.* Sugar Babies, *Den.* (Colonial Surprise x Graham Hewitt) = Louise's Rainbow.

NOVICE: No Entries

NOVELTY

Glenn & Manee: *Onc. ornithorhyncum* 'Clonburn', *Masd. leptoura.*
House of Orchids: *Acianthus sinclairii, Enc.* calamaria.* (now *Anacheilium calamaria*).

OPEN: 1st Ron Reeves (Angcm), 2nd equal Pam (Sc), William Lo (Masd), Glenn/ Manee (C), G. Leafberg (Den).
NOVELTY: 1st Glenn/Manee (Masd), 2nd Glenn/Manee (Onc), 3rd House of Orchids (Enc).
John Scott gave us the benefit of his knowledge and expertise on a large variety of well displayed orchids.

A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.

NEW LIBRARY LISTINGS

Due to the $NZ dropping significantly we have discontinued the American Orchid Soc. monthly magazine but will replace this with the Australian Orchid Review (every 2 months).

Betty Everson wishes to thank all those that helped her after a fall on leaving the May meeting. This is also a reminder that there is a ramp at the rear of the hall for those that may be a little unsteady, especially in the wet. Note parking at this entry is for pick up and drop off only.

Three first year engineering students were sitting around talking between classes, when one brought up the question of who designed the human body.
One of the students insisted that the human body must have been designed by an electrical engineer because of the perfection of the nerves and synapses.
Another disagreed, and exclaimed that it had to have been a mechanical engineer who designed the human body. The system of levers and pulleys is ingenious.
"No," the third student said, "you're both wrong. The human body was designed by an architect. Who else but an architect would have put a toxic waste line through a recreation area?"

CULTURE: Winter certainly struck with a vengeance and I'm not sure whether I was fortunate to be overseas at the time or not. Poor Len was in a panic rushing around to cover up my seedlings (successfully) so they would be safe from the huge frost. This is a lesson to all of us, as we now know for sure that **global cooling** is for real! It was even evident in the UK where we actually got something unusual (global warming) for a week before the dreaded summer was upon us yet again with temperatures plummeting and snow in the north just before we left.
Many orchids will survive a cold snap but it is sustained cold and especially if wet the damage really occurs. Watering should be minimal for most of the epiphytic types now as they are designed to have a winter rest. To this end get your orchids under shelter NOW. Those without pseudo bulbs do need to be kept moist though.
Warmer growing orchids such as Phallies, tropical Dendrobiums and Paphs should be kept indoors. If your orchid looks like it is under stress then move it.
Cymbidiums will be producing inflorescences and these must be protected from rain and frost. Do not bring these inside until the flowers are open otherwise the buds will drop off.
Staking is important as the inflorescences develop. If you are not vigilant they can get caught under leaves, grow up through shade cloth, twist and turn towards the light or be eaten by snails.

A circus owner runs an ad for a lion tamer and two people show up. One is a retired golfer in his late sixties and the other is a gorgeous blonde in her mid-twenties.
The circus owner tells them, "I'm not going to sugar coat it - This is one ferocious lion! He ate my last tamer so you two had better be good or you're history. Here's your equipment -- chair, whip and a gun. Who wants to try out first?"
The girl says, "I'll go first." She walks past the chair, the whip and the gun and steps right into the lion's cage. The lion starts to snarl and pant and begins to charge her. About half way there, she throws open her coat revealing her beautiful naked body.
The lion stops dead in his tracks, sheepishly crawls up to her and starts licking her feet and ankles. He continues to lick and kiss her entire body for several minutes and then rests his head at her feet.
The circus owner's jaw is on the floor. He says, "I've never seen a display like that in my life." He then turns to the retired golfer and asks, "Can you top that?"
The tough old golfer replies, "No problem, just get that lion out of the way."

MEMBERSHIP CARDS are not sent out anymore but if you don't receive a newsletter you may have been deleted from the list as having not paid.

APOLOGY Many people come and ask me to mention things at the meeting and I usually forget to announce these, as I am so busy with other tasks. If you do have something of note then please ring me sometime before the meeting so that I can note it down.

TEACHER: Now, Simon, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?
SIMON: No sir, I don't have to, my Mom is a good cook.

NEW MEMBERS CULTURE: You will hear a lot of new words now that you have joined the orchid fraternity. Don't be afraid to ask what they mean as it was new to me once too.
Eg. Pseudo bulb: an orchid bulb is not a 'real' bulb in the sense of a bulbous plant.
Epiphyte: grows on trees, although orchids are not parasites (feed off the host).
Phally: short for Phalaenopsis (the moth orchid we commonly see for sale at nurseries).
A talk I heard recently put a lot of emphasis on light. This more than anything is what your plants need to produce the chemicals needed for growth and flowers. Many orchids are grown too shaded. As we saw recently in the tropical jungle they grow in the tops of very tall trees in very bright light.
Grow the easier varieties first and if you are keen and want to learn more get a few of the unusual ones, but please do some research as to what conditions they grow in. New growers get disillusioned if their expensive purchases languish, never flower or die. (Mind you, so do I at times).

Saint Peter was manning the Pearly Gates when forty people from South Auckland showed up. Never having seen anyone from South Auckland at heaven's door, Saint Peter said he would have to check with God. After hearing the news, God instructed him to admit the ten most virtuous people from the group.
A few minutes later, Saint Peter returned to God breathless and said, "They're gone!"
"What? All of the people from South Auckland are gone?" asked God.
"No!" replied Saint Peter. "The Pearly Gates!"

AUCKLAND MUSEUM orchid display starts next month. I hear that our very own Patron Alf Day has been invited to be an advisor for the reference material.

Once upon a time in a village, a man appeared and announced to the villagers that he would buy monkeys for $10 each.
The villagers seeing that there were many monkeys around, went out to the forest, and started catching them. The man bought thousands at $10 and as supply started to diminish, the villagers stopped their effort. He further announced that he would now buy at $20. This renewed the efforts of the villagers and they started catching monkeys again.
Soon the supply diminished even further and people started going back to their farms. The offer increased to $25 each and the supply of monkeys became so little that it was an effort to even see a monkey, let alone catch it!
The man now announced that he would buy monkeys at $50! However, since he had to go to the city on some business, his assistant would now buy on behalf of him.
In the absence of the man, the assistant told the villagers. "Look at all these monkeys in the big cage that the man has collected. I will sell them to you at $35 and when the man returns from the city, you can sell them to him for $50 each."
The villagers pooled all their savings and bought all the monkeys. Then they never saw the man nor his assistant again, only monkeys everywhere!
Now you have a better understanding of how the stock market works.

Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.

Please ensure your displayed orchids are placed in the **correct section**, Open, Novelty or Novice. All plants should be labeled with your name on the reverse.

MAKE SURE to bring your **photos**, **competition plant** and **orchids** for display next meeting.

The following article is reproduced from PHILS ORCHID WORLD website with his permission. This is a NZ website by a very respected orchid grower from Wellington.
http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~tomz/index.htm
Thanks also to Anton for getting this prepared and approved.
Now that we are entering autumn, reduce the amount of shading over the plants if you have not already done so. Plenty of bright light helps ensure maturity of the pseudobulbs, and development of the spikes. With colder weather, at least during the evenings, bringing into a protected area will ensure continued good growth. If grown in a glasshouse, day ventilation only may be appropriate. With cooler conditions generally, watering should be able to be reduced in frequency.
Water early in the mornings as the plants must be allowed to dry out before nightfall. Water lying in the axis of the growths under cold night temperatures can give rise to rots in the new growths, often leading to the loss of next years growths. The use of fans running at night providing air movement in the glasshouse can reduce the risk of this loss occurring.
By now all the final repotting should be completed before winter. Sufficient time must be allowed for the plant and particularly the root system to become re-established before the winter to enable it to survive that period. The use of a propagating bed providing bottom heat assists re-establishment and extends the period when repotting is possible.
Spikes should be appearing in abundance on all plants of sufficient size. If a plant is of sufficient size, but is showing no flowers, dry it out for a period. This can assist in ensuring maturity of the pseudobulb and encourage spike development.
As the flower spikes lengthen, insert stakes to protect them - there is nothing worse than breaking one off accidentally after months of anticipation. The use of bamboo or wire supports are satisfactory, but remember to bend the tops of wire stakes over to ensure they do not poke an eye out when you inspect a plant closely. Do not insert the stakes around the edge of the pot. Most roots extend to the outside edges, and then run around the container. Root damage from stake insertion will usually be less if it is placed 25 mm in from the edge.
When tying the spike to the stake, ensure further growth can take place. Also, remember different plants have different spike habits. Some plants produce erect, some gracefully arching, and some sharply pendulous spikes. Allowing natural spike shape to develop will generally produce the best and most attractive display.
As the spikes develop, do not alter the orientation of the plants with respect to the light source. If you pick a plant up, and put it down turned around somewhat, this can cause the spike to grow in a different direction to where it was. A bend spike is not attractive. Try and provide good even all through light. Strong top of side lighting can result in pulling spike development in that direction. The effect of light on flower colour is not important until the buds exit the sheaf, and this will be covered in detail next month.
It pays to separate flowering and non-flowering plants. As those in flower are identified, spend a few minutes tidying the plant and its container up. Remove dead leaves and old leaf bases from the cymbidium back bulbs (split down the centre line and pull half to each side), generally making sure all is in order. If you check your plants at this stage you can ensure there are no hidden problems, and reduce the grooming that will be necessary when the flowers are out, and the plants taken into the home, or to orchid meetings and shows.

COMING EVENTS

NZOS winter show, Mt Albert War Mem. Hall, New Nth Rd. 17 – 19 July.
HOS Club days for **2009**: 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**. Held at venue below.
Meetings are held 1.30pm sharp in the Fencible Lounge, Howick every month except January.