



# NEWSLETTER of the HOWICK ORCHID SOCIETY Inc.

**June 2012**

**Next Meeting: Sunday 8 July 2012**

**Last meeting:** this meeting was very well attended with several visitors who came to hear Blake Twigden talk. Blake brought with him some sketches of orchids he has made and also a most exquisite painting of a butterfly next to an orchid. The talk about his travels had everybody spell bound and you could hear a pin drop, so absorbed everybody was. I am sure we will invite Blake back again in the future to hear more of his exotic travels around the world.

**Next meeting:** This meeting we have another outstanding speaker, Alan La Roche on Local Heritage Plants. Alan is well known for his involvement in the Howick Historical Village and as the author of "The History of Howick and Pakuranga." I am sure this is a subject orchid growers and gardeners alike will enjoy.

## Problem Table

At the last meeting we had a "help desk" set-up to give advice to growers who are experiencing problems with their plants. We had asked Len Cobb to man the table, however due to Len falling ill this did not happen. Len has now recovered and we hope to have him available at the next meeting.

Results of the popular vote:

### Novice:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Pearl Tan
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Connie Lo
- Dianne Gurr
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Pearl Tan

### Novelty:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bryce and Lea Westlake
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Anton & Janet Wehman

President: Glenn Poffley, 38 Andrew Rd, Howick, 534 8689  
Vice President: Anton Wehman, 26 Booralee Avenue, Howick 537 1251  
Secretary: Janet Wehman, 26 Booralee Avenue, Howick 537 1251  
Treasurer: Phil Funnel, 21 Puriri Rd, Beachlands, 536 4535

**Open:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ken Tse  
Shirley Sidnam
- 2<sup>nd</sup> William & Man Lo  
Ken Tse

**Plant of the month:** Shirley Sidnam.

**OCNZ JUDGING SEMINAR & AGM**

Well it's all over and we can be proud of ourselves of an enjoyable very successful event. Friday was set up and after an anxious wait for the main auditorium to be vacated by another group we could finally get under way. Orchids were already piling up in the foyer ready to be benched and thankfully this was made a lot easier when we were instructed that there would be six tables of mixed genera. In fact so many plants were arriving we needed two full sized tables for each of the six and they were all full by the end of the day.



Norm Streater, John Muddiman, KenTse with Anton and Glenn were busy from 2pm – 6pm in the hall while Janet was checking in registrants. Kathy Rimmer, Lee Stone, Michelle, Cannie Lo and Manee amongst other tasks were helping out with table clothes which had been washed earlier by Lee and Kathy. When we finally looked around the hall it was like a full sized show there were so many orchids present from many different clubs from around the country.

*Just 2 of the 6 display tables*

*Anjo counting the money!*

Our four commercial tables were already being well patronized almost from the moment they were ready by both visitors and club members.

Saturday morning was an early start as the food preparation was a priority with approx. 70 people to cater for.

I cannot emphasize just how much work was done by **Kathy Rimmer, Lea Westlake, Lee Stone, Sandra Bullock, Manee, Janet** and new member **Marylin** on the food preparation and service with help from Phil later.



There was so much high quality food baked and prepared on and off the premises it was more of a banquet than teas and lunches. Everything was home-made except the plain bread rolls.

*All set to go!*



Saturday night dinner at the RSA Howick was another success with great food, a nice selection from the carvery and plenty for seconds. None of the visitors had any trouble finding the venue so we again ran on time with everything going to plan.

*Margaret getting seminar underway*

At the dinner our highly successful raffle was drawn with first prize (a flask of Angraecums donated by Ken Tse) going to HOS member (and newly elected to committee) Diane Gurr. Second prize (a bottle of good wine) went to Pauline Weeks (Waitakare OS) and third (cheese platter) to Kath Bruce (Taranaki OS).



*Raffle tickets were in big demand*



*Dinner guests*

Sunday was yet another day of hard work especially for the kitchen staff of Kathy, Lee, Janet and Manee. In the background Anton and Glenn were always ready for any unforeseen problems or requests from people attending the seminar.

*Lea Westlake's bacon/egg pie was a hot favourite*



The judging part was over by lunchtime and growers could pack up their plants and the hall made ready for the OCNZ AGM. More shifting of tables and chairs was needed and then finally at 4pm (an hour early) we could pack up to go home.

The most important result for HOS from the AGM was the election of Anton Wehman to the OCNZ committee something we have not had for at least as long as I know of. Finally I am sure this event will be long remembered for the truly stupendous effort on the part of the catering team led by Kathy and we are most grateful to them. And of course the whole event which ran like clockwork was organized and coordinated by **Anton** and his helpers of Len, Glenn, Janet and Manee.

(Article written by Glenn Poffley)

The following is a short synopsis of an article written by Fred Clarke which appeared in the Australian Orchid Review June/July 2012.

Fred Clark is well known as the owner of Sunset Valley Orchids in California and also as a hybridiser. He has been in New Zealand several times, giving talks and selling flasks.

### **Cattleya Plant Culture**

#### **Watering and fertilising:**

Let the roots dry out between watering. During the summer months water twice a week with a weak fertilizing solution (half the recommended strength)

During the winter months once a week is sufficient. Do not water if frost is expected.

#### **Light level, Temperature and air movement:**

Use 50% shade in winter and 70% shade in summer. Try to keep temperatures to between 24-30 deg during the day and 15-24 at night for the summer, during the winter 18-26 and 12-15 deg at night. Good airflow is needed in the growing area.

#### **Potting Mix:**

Kiwi Orchid Pine bark is good and lasts for 3-5 years. Mix 3 parts of bark with 1 part of perlite. Do not over-pot, allow for 2-3 year growth.

#### **Re-potting:**

Generally in spring or summer, wait until you see new active root tips before re-potting. Keep the size of the divisions between 3 and 5 pseudobulbs. Remove most of the old media from the root system. If the roots are too intertwined with the old media, it is better to leave the old media in place so as not to damage the new root system.

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For more detailed information please read the original article.