

NEWSLETTER

Mar. 2007

NEXT MEETING Sun 15th Apr. 2007 at 1.30 pm

AGM this meeting

CORRECTION: It was stated in the last newsletter that our club day is during Easter. It is NOT. It is on the date as advertised but this is not Easter. It is the 3rd Sunday (to avoid Easter). **Tris** was the only one to pick this up and bring it to my attention. A well deserved Cym. seedling for Tris!

SPEAKER: Barbara Johnson unfortunately will not be speaking as previously advertised due to this mix up of dates. **Grahame** Leafberg will give a slide presentation of Dendrobiums instead.

AGM: As usual we will conduct our Annual General Meeting on this club day. Agenda and nomination form attached. (Last page)

LAST MEETING: **Leigh** Leaity gave a very informative and valuable presentation on judging orchid flowers and displays. The pictures and graphics were excellent leaving no doubts to those present just what the judges are looking for. Thanks to Leigh and Heather for this great talk. Two more questions were asked regarding the previous newsletter. Norma Clark and John Sheppard received a Cymbidium seedling each.

Q.1 What is the Howick Orchid Soc. internet address?

A. <http://hos.inetgardens.com>

Q.2 How many times did this appear in the last newsletter?

A. 4 times.

RAFFLE: Thanks to the many plants donated for the raffle. The two main prizes were beautiful Odonts from Alf Day. 9 orchid plants for raffle draws made this a bonanza for those present.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

The AGM is an important part of our society's functions and is a time for introducing a few new people to help on the committee. As with many clubs getting people to run them is always a problem and is usually left to a dedicated few. We are fortunate in having a conscientious and hard working group on the committee who enjoys their work. So please give some thought to helping out if asked. As we have mentioned before you don't even have to be a committee member to help out with some things such as afternoon tea, library and displays at other shows.

Our AGM is usually an efficient and relatively quick affair with the most part being the election of officers.

As we have revised our Constitution only recently there should not be too much 'Other Business'. The nomination form is also attached to this newsletter and must be signed by both the nominator and nominee. **All positions** can be applied for. In the event of more than one nomination received for any position then this will be decided by a vote.

The committee has recommended that the annual membership fee remain the same for 2007/08 financial year. (\$17 Single and \$25 family at same address).

NEW RULES

Unfortunately there are always a few who make life difficult for us so we are forced to implement these. The society has been generous with you and now we need some small considerations from you in return. Please pay your **subscriptions** promptly, they are due **NOW**.

Post to the Secretary or Treasurer, addresses listed on first page or **pay next meeting**.

At the last committee meeting it was agreed that late payment of subscriptions would now be penalised.

President/Editor: Glenn Poffley Ph. 534 8689
Treasurer: Jackie Wee 250 4218

Secretary: Janet Wehman Ph. 537 1251
Vice Pres. Anton Wehman Ph. 537 1251

If you have not paid your subscription in full by the May meeting, you will be considered a 'Visitor' to the club at any subsequent meetings and be required to pay \$1 entry. You will also not be eligible for other club member benefits available at that time including the newsletter.

Afternoon Tea Roster. Lea will be getting this ready and your NAME will be published in the newsletter preceding the day on which you are required to help out. If you are not attending the club day on which you are rostered on, then it is YOUR responsibility to phone someone else to help on the day. This will apply to everyone (including men) other than those with designated tasks such as library, raffle or popular vote.

As we use disposable cups this is an easy task.

HALL SET UP

Please help with setting up the hall by arriving a little earlier and also cleaning up at the end. It seems to be the same ones doing all the above tasks every week. We don't expect the old or infirm to do heavy lifting.

Executive and Committee positions.

Currently the following have indicated they will be standing for re-election.

President: Glenn Poffley

Vice President: Anton Wehman (Show Marshal)

Secretary: Janet Wehman

Treasurer: Jacquelyn Wee

Committee member: Julie Duff (Other Soc. Displays), Paul Yap, Kathy Rimmer (Library), Lea Westlake (kitchen), Bryce Westlake, Leonard Cobb (signage, public relations), Manee Poffley (raffle),

CULTURE: It's been a late summer in Auckland with very warm days and also warm nights.

Consequently growth has been good and new shoots are still appearing on many plants.

Cymbidiums: Higher P and K fertiliser now through autumn. Keep cool at night with a sprinkle of water.

Watch for any early inflorescences showing and be careful not to damage them.

Cyms are gross feeders so you can give higher concentrations of fertiliser.

Cattleyas: High light and dry out between waterings. Same fertiliser as above (low strength) as many will produce flowers in autumn on new growths. Some Laelias will be coming into flower shortly.

Dendrobiums: High light, continue watering and fertilising. Dens prefer a low Nitrogen fertiliser. New canes will continue to appear even now if given the correct culture. Nobiles very high light from now on through winter and frequent fertiliser until about May.

Odontoglossums: Keep up the water to ensure fat bulbs and new growths. They prefer more shade than the orchids mentioned above and must not dry completely.

Masdevallias: As for Odonts and must be kept as cool as possible otherwise they will drop their leaves if heat stressed.

Phalaenopsis: Beware of spotting or crown rot in autumn! A sudden cool night will wreak havoc at this time of year especially if they are wet at night from watering. The leaves should be firm and not limp.

Zygos: As for Cymbidiums. To avoid leaf spot do not overhead water.

Oncidiums and Brassias: Can be watered frequently but must be very well drained. Can cope with higher light levels than Odonts.

Miltonias: As for Odonts. Should be flowering now or very soon.

Miltoniopsis: Very finicky, require year round even temperatures, not too hot and not too cold. Also need constant humidity. These are not easy to grow well.

Paphiopedilums: I only have a couple and keep these with the Odonts. Many like extra calcium as they grow on limestone. They prefer to be constantly moist but if you rot the roots it is almost impossible to get them to grow new ones.

There was some discussion last meeting inspired by Wolf re the last newsletter's Culture Notes. When I suggested we should not be using high Nitrogen fertilisers and then saying to apply the dried blood now (which is high N) it appeared to be contradictory. My understanding from the expert who advocates this, is that the dried blood has some hormone in it, which activates new autumn growth especially in Cymbidiums.

Like all these ideas everyone has a different theory and the latest AOS magazine's article on Phalaenopsis suggests (with University research to back the claim) that Potassium (K) not Phosphorous (P) is the most important chemical needed to get optimum flowering. This also contradicts my previous culture notes where I suggest you get some Mag-Pro or similar that is very high in P! No doubt the chemical companies who make all these products will be rushing out to sponsor more research to reassess their time proven products before sales plummet. Please note Dyna Grow products are available from Len, they aren't sold in shops.

PLANTS ON DISPLAY (Mar. meeting)

OPEN

Len Cobb: *Lc. Mime*, *Phal.* unknown, *Masd* Angel Glow 'Tuakau Sunset', Mixed orchids on mount.

Grahame Leafberg: *Den. toressae*, (*Slc.* California Apricot x *C.* High Light* 'Angel Wings') x *Sc.* Bright Angel 'Patsy' 4N, *Slc.* Mem. Ken Martin*, *Sc.* Jeannie Wolf, *Sl.* Isabelle Stone.

Pam Forde: *Den.* Virginia Jupp x *speciosum* 'Gold', *Odm.* Hallio-Crispum x Parade 'Holiday Gold', *Den. johnsoniae* 'Kip's Special'.

Betty Everson: *Phal.* equestris 'Riverbend' AM/AOS x Zuma Beach.

Glenn/Manee: *Phal.* Lady Penelope, *C. loddigesii*, *Oda.* Snowy River.

Wolf Grausch: (*L. briegeri* x *Slc.* Minx 'Jezebel')* = Medley, *Sc.* Lana Coryell, (*Slc.* Rajah's Ruby x Precious Stones)* = Ruby Embers.

House of Orchids: *Den.* Sarah Jean 'Manly'.

Ron Reeves: *Onc. excavatum*, *Paph. primulinum* var. flavum*, *Milt.* Moir Moir, *Kerferstiana tolimensis**, *Doritis pulcherrima*, *Oda.* Charlesorthii, *Den. topaziacum*, *Onc. incurvum*.

Lea Westlake: *Epiphronitis veitchii**, *Onc. varicosum*, *L. pumila*.

Michelle Tung: *Restrepia striata**, (*Slc.* Carol Kanzer x *Sl.* Psyche)* = *Slc.* Bob Kanzer, *Phrag.* Cardinale*.

NOVICE

John Muddiman: *Phal.* Ever Spring Sunshine, *L. longipes* x (*C. harrissoniae* x *C. bicolor*).

Note: * label changes required.

OPEN: 1st **Michelle** (Phrag), 2nd **Grahame** Leafberg (*Sl. Isabelle Stone*), 3rd **Glenn/Manee** (Phal.).

NOVICE: 1st **John** Muddiman (Cat), 2nd **John** Muddiman (Phal.).

A **very poor** number of votes cast, less than half of the members present took part.

Not a big display, another indication of a late flowering season, but saved by a few and especially Ron Reeves' superb collection of unusual species orchids (but what were those rogues doing in there?). Commentary was by Leigh Leaity who was really on roll giving an in-depth coverage of all the plants on display. Leigh was helped by Wolf.

RESEARCH

Grahame's *Dendrobium toressae* displayed last meeting interested me. Firstly I could not find any record of it on the RHS site but there was a reference on an Australian Government site that it had been renamed in 2002 to *Stilbophyllum*. Grahame assured me it was listed in his big *Dendrobium* book and it was also listed for sale at an Australian nursery as a *Dendrobium*. In Jay's *Orchid Species* site it is given as all of the above including a vague reference to a misspelling of 'Stelbophyllum' plus the synonym *Bulbophyllum toressae*. This is often the way with unusual plants particularly if they are not commonly grown or available.

It's difficult enough trying to get the name right without all the synonyms and name changes.

The common name of this orchid is the Torres Strait Orchid as it comes from the islands between Australia and New Guinea. It grows in exposed locations as an epiphyte or lithophyte (on trees or rocks) at altitudes from 910m to 1200m and will grow hot to cool.

Ron's beautiful *Den. topaziacum* from the Philippines, is correctly known as *Den. bullenianum*.

Another problem plant was Michelle's *Restrepia striata*. The correct name for this plant (after a lot of puzzling reading) is *Restrepia brachypus*.

What has often happened with a lot of orchids is that back in the 1800's when there were various botanists rushing around discovering new species they often named very similar ones differently. These were later found on closer inspection, to be the same species although maybe slightly different in appearance or colour, possibly due to regional or climatic influences.

Restrepias are a genus of approx. 50 species from South American and are related to the Pleurothallids (Masdevallias etc). These orchids come from Mexico through to Northern Argentina and are found at elevations of 1800m to 2400m in open areas near rivers or streams, so are definitely a cool grower. This particular one comes from wet rain forests so would prefer more shade. They can grow into large specimen plants and are easy to propagate from kiekies.

Many of the Restrepias are very showy and hardier in cultivation than some of the Masdevallias.

As for some of the other label updates required some are even more puzzling. For instance it is highly unlikely that 2 species crossed (in the more commonly grown genera) will not have been named. John's Cattleya had in it *C. harrisoniae* x *C. bicolor*. Now I certainly don't expect a novice grower or newer member to realise this so I looked it up. The big problem here is that there is listed a *C. harrisoniana* as well as *harrisoniae* in RHS.

Harrisoniana appears to be the more commonly accepted species name. An amateur Brazilian website (Awarded the gold medal for amateur sites at Dijon World Orchid Conf.) lists *harrisoniae* as a synonym for *harrisoniana*. Jay's Orchid Species website lists *harrisoniae* as either a subspecies of *loddigesii* or a synonym for *hardyana*, which I now believe to be outdated. As Greg Alikas on his Orchidworks site comments '*C. harrisoniana* has endured a case of mistaken identity for almost a century, for much of that time it was known as *C. loddigesii* var. *harrisoniae*'.

John's cross according to RHS has not been done, unless you put in *hardyana* (natural hybrid) or *loddigesii* then it has been! In fact there are 2 completely different names for *bicolor* with *loddigesii*. One name for the natural hybrid and another for the cultivated hybrid. To make matters worse there are 2 different names for the cross with *Hardyana*. But I think I am fairly safe in saying that it should be *C. harrisoniana* (syn. *harrisoniae*) x *C. bicolor* = *C. Duchesnei*.

I wish I'd never started this. If the weather had been decent and the fishing better I wouldn't have.

NOTE: There will definitely NOT be a question on this next meeting.

Yes its nearly that time again!

A tourist to NZ arrives on a rainy day. He gets up the next day and it's raining. It also rains the day after that, and the day after that. He goes out to lunch and sees a young kid and asks out of despair, "Hey kid, does it ever stop raining around here?" The kid says, "How do I know? I'm only 6."

TEA ROSTER for Next Meeting: Terry & Jeanette Austin, Peggy Bell-Booth.

Please note that if you cannot attend then it is YOUR responsibility to arrange for a replacement.

COMING EVENTS

SHOWS:

Auckland Orchid Club Ribbon Show Sat. 14th April Hobsonville Hall, Hobsonville Rd. 1pm – 4pm. Benching 8.30am – 9.30am, judging by members and visitors. BBQ lunch at 12.30 - \$6 each, bookings essential before 30 Mar. ph. 416 7319. Sales table plus bring and buy table. Open to public 1pm – 4pm. See their website <http://aoc.inetgardens.com> for more details.

NZOS Autumn Show Sat 28th April, Auck. Horticultural Centre, 990 Great North Rd. Western Springs (opposite zoo). Set up 9.00am. Judging 10am. Open to public 1pm

HOS Club days: 13th May, 10th June, 8th July, 12th Aug, 9th Sept,
14th Oct, 11th Nov, 9th Dec.

Annual Show: Saturday 29th September, Set-up on Frid. 28th Sept.

Notice of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Notice is hereby given of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Howick Orchid Society Inc. to be held on Sunday 15th April 2007 in the Howick Fencible Lounge, Uxbridge Rd Howick.

Agenda:

Welcome by the president
Apologies
President's annual report
Minutes of the previous AGM
Matters arising
Treasures annual report.

Election of officers.
President
Vice president
Secretary
Treasurer
Committee. (9 members max)

Other business.

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Howick Orchid Society

Annual General Meeting – April 2007

I hereby nominate _____

For the position of: President/Vice President/ Secretary/Treasurer/
Committee member
(strike-out whichever is not applicable)

Proposer: _____

Seconder: _____

Nominee's signature: _____
(This is to signify your willingness to stand for the above position)

Completed nomination forms to be handed to the secretary.