

NEWSLETTER

Mar. 2008

NEXT MEETING Sun 13th Apr. 2008 at 1.30 pm

Cooler nights soon

SPEAKER: Next meeting is our AGM where the election of officers for next year takes place to run your club. This is an important part of our activities and it is important to attend and have your say rather than disagree about things later. This part of the meeting does not take too long so we have about a dozen large Cattleyas to auction and will give away a few smaller plants to those that can answer a simple question or two. If enough time, a short repotting demo will be given to help a few of the newer members.

LAST MEETING: Brian Main was in his element talking about Phallies. I've seen this presentation before but must admit this was the best. New aspects were brought to light and discussed making it very interesting for even those that have seen these slides before. Taiwan breeding programmes in Phalaenopsis and the advancements made never cease to amaze. We look forward to seeing some of the seedlings Brian brought back in flower shortly.

RAFFLE: Seven good quality plants again. Thanks to those who donated these, a great draw. (Julie-3, Tris-2, Heather-Brom, HOS-Cat.)

TEA ROSTER for Next Meeting: Jess Potter and Apiridee MacAuley.
Please phone **Lea** if unable to attend meeting. (575 5046)

THANKS to all the helpers last day. The tidy up was quick and efficient. Try and be on time as we like to start promptly so you get the most out of the meeting. With new hall management we need to be more diligent with the above. As mentioned last meeting please keep conversations for **later** (or outside) while the speaker (or anyone else) holds the floor. Some of our members find it difficult to hear if there is background noise.

The annual membership fee is due NOW and should be paid as soon as possible. Please pay Jackie at the meeting or post a cheque to one of the addresses below. \$17 single and \$25 family at same address.

It is with regret we have to inform you that **Inga**, wife of our most well known member of recent years, Len **Cobb**, passed away peacefully on 12th March. Inga was an adventuresome young woman coming to NZ from Germany in 1953. This love of travel never left Inga as she often went off overseas leaving Len to tend the plants. Len and Inga have been married for nearly 50 years and built the home in Pakuranga where they lived for 48 years. Inga preferred animals to orchids and often 'punished' Len and I for talking on these in her presence by giving our dog most of Len's dinner!

Many of you will know that Inga had been ill for the last 8 months and our sympathies are with Len and family.

Manee and I will miss the chats, coffee and German cookies we often shared at their home.

President/Editor: Glenn Poffley Ph. 534 8689

Secretary: Janet Wehman Ph. 537 1251

Website

Treasurer: Jackie Wee 250 4218

Vice Pres. Anton Wehman Ph. 537 1251

<http://hos.inetgardens.com>

PLANTS ON DISPLAY (Mar. meeting)

OPEN

Wolf Grausch: *Sc.* Lana Coryell, *Doritis pulcherrima*, *C.* Cherry Chip x Lana Coryell.

William/Man Lo: *Den. amphigenyum*, *Den. lichenastrum*, *Den. laevifolium*.

Glenn/Manee: *Oda.* Snowy River, *Masd.* Redwing, *Slc.* Anzac.

Michelle Tung: *Slc.* * Coastal Gold, *Milt.* Rio's Tropical, *Phal.* Mancervi.

Grahame Leafberg: *Wil.* Bonne Nuit 'Apirana', *Den.* Rosella x Sunglow, *Pleurothallis sonderana*.

Pam Forde: *Den.* (*teretifolium x linguiforme*) = Virginia Jupp* x *speciosum* 'Gold'.

Ken & Chui Tse: *Zygo.* Unknown.

John Muddiman: *Den.* Unknown.

B & E Ong: *Wils.* Bonne Nuit x *Odna** (*only Odm or Rst bictoniense*), *Aerangis Somasticta*, *Onc. pusillum*.

A & J. Wehman: *Lc.* * Royal Emperor 'Wade', *Milt.* Rio's Tropical, *Slc.* Jewel Box? (or maybe not!)

Ron Reeves: *Milt.* Bluntii, *C. bowringiana* var. *purpurata*, *Lockhartia terra*, *Den. subclausum* var. *bicolor*, *Milt.* Moir Moir var. *semi alba*.

Jim Bensemann: 2 x Phals Unknown.

Dieu Tran: *Phal.* Golden Peoker 'Dou Fan', *Phal. violacea*, *Phal.* Dou di Spot x Salu Peoker, *Brassidium Miami*.

PLUS 3 blank tickets!

NOVICE

John Sheppard: *Masd.* Maryann*.

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

OPEN: 1st John Muddiman (Den), 2nd Anton/Janet (Lc), 3rd = Ken & Chui (Zygo) and Glenn/Manee (Slc).

NOVICE: Guess who? (Come on where are all your plants? Last year our Novice members did exceptionally well at shows).

Commentary by **Heather Cooke** with Glenn helping out deciphering labels.

A father passing by his son's bedroom, was astonished to see the bed was nicely made, and everything was picked up. Then he saw an envelope, propped up prominently on the pillow.

It was addressed, "Dad."

With the worst premonition, he opened the envelope and read the letter with trembling hands.

"Dear, Dad.

It is with great regret and sorrow that I'm writing to you. I had to elope with my new girlfriend, because I wanted to avoid a scene with Mom and you.

I've been finding real passion with Stacy, and she is so nice, but I knew you would not approve of her, because of all her piercings, tattoos, her tight motorcycle clothes, and because she is so much older than I am.

But it's not only the passion, Dad. She's pregnant. Stacy said that we will be very happy. She owns a trailer in the woods, and has a stack of firewood for the whole winter. We share a dream of having many more children.

Stacy has opened my eyes to the fact that marijuana doesn't really hurt anyone. We'll be growing it for ourselves and trading it with the other people in the commune, for all the cocaine and ecstasy we want. In the meantime, we'll pray that science will find a cure for AIDS, so Stacy can get better. She sure deserves it!!

Don't worry Dad, I'm 15, and I know how to take care of myself.

Someday, I'm sure we'll be back to visit, so you can get to know your many grandchildren.

Love, your son, John.

P.S. Dad, none of the above is true. I'm over at Tommy's house. I just wanted to remind you that there are worse things in life than the school report that's on my desk. I love you!

Call when it is safe for me to come home.

CULTURE: There is definitely a cooler change evident in the evenings and this is when care should be taken with Phallies as they will quickly succumb to crown rot if left wet on cool nights. You should now be checking to see if any flower inflorescences are developing as there are a couple of 1 day shows coming up. These are always good fun as they are more intimate so you can discuss orchids with others at leisure. Some Laelias and Cattleyas will be flowering in the autumn as well as Miltonias. Phalaenopsis will flower anytime but they need a cooling off of 2 weeks to initiate flowers. Most growers have this naturally happen in autumn when there is a cooling off period meaning that you will get flowers around December (9 months). If you cool them in Dec. you should get flowers in 9 months time, which is when the shows are on (Aug-Oct). Aussie Dendrobiums and Sarcis generally flower in spring through summer although Grahame's very early one last meeting was the exception. Cymbidiums should start to show signs of flower inflorescences soon, they are sharper than new vegetative growths but be careful, as they are very brittle.

As soon as you see flowers buds you need to keep your plants out of severe weather and watch for snail attack. It is very disheartening to wait so long only to have everything ruined in one night.

You should be a little more prudent with watering now as the garden and pot plants are taking longer to dry out. If you are growing warmer varieties or seedlings outdoors you should consider giving them a little more warmth on cooler nights, so watch the forecast night temperatures so you aren't caught out.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

This February Manee and I traveled with an orchid group to Japan to see the Tokyo Dome Grand Prix Orchid Show. In a word it was FANTASTIC. We were just overcome with the range, quality and abundance of flowers on display. The trip included 6 nights in Tokyo and 3 in Kyoto so we had some sight seeing and other activities to partake in as well. With 2 cameras in action full time we have many photos to sort through and picking the ones for a talk will be difficult. I will be presenting this at the June meeting so you will be able to see a few of my favourites as well as some other interesting scenes. It is winter in Japan in February but not a damp cold, so was bearable. We were pleasantly surprised at prices as the popular misconception is it is an expensive country to visit. A good rate on the NZ dollar helps.

Joy Wray (Taranaki) had organized everything for the 13 travelers but allowed us enough free time to 'do our own thing' as well. Included were a full day trip to Mt Fuji, a half day tour of Tokyo and a full day tour of the historic sites in Kyoto.

The flowers displayed at the show were all of the highest quality and such well grown plants they made stunning viewing. The Dome is huge (it's a baseball stadium) and was filled with benched plants, displays, flower arrangements, sales of orchids and many other stalls with sponsors' products. I was particularly impressed with the Cattleyas, Lycastes and Phalaenopsis. The Chinese Cymbidiums were also something new for us especially as there were so many different varieties and colours. The sales stalls were mainly selling potted plants, cut flowers and sponsors' products and it took a long time to get around them all. 1 day is not enough at a show of this magnitude as there is so much to see and do. Surprisingly there were few Europeans evident but with the WOC just a week or so earlier in Miami maybe it was just too much to choose from. Taiwan also has a big show the first week in March so if you had the money and were in the orchid mood there was certainly a lot to see in a short time period.

Language can be a problem but everywhere there was someone to help out.

The train service is unsurpassed making travel a dream (well almost, if you could follow the signs).

If you are worried about 'Big Brother' watching over you don't go as we were all finger printed and photographed at immigration. If you like a country that is spotlessly clean, gives excellent service, friendly and you eat Japanese food then do go.

AUCTION Make sure you come to the April AGM where we will have a small auction of about 12 Cattleyas generously donated to the club from an older grower reducing his collection. Thanks to Alf Day for advising us of this and arranging for our club to benefit.

RESEARCH

First Prize at the Tokyo Show was *Eulophiella roempleriana*, a species from Madagascar found in the tops of pandanus palms. Pandanus grows in wet areas and is a tropical tree although culture notes say this orchid grows from warm to cool conditions. It is one of only 5 species from this genus and was separated from the larger genus *Eulophia*. The flower is waxy, long lasting and very attractive, a little similar to a *Cattleya*. The variety on display was named and could be a line bred one although this is unknown. It had a lot flowers but were hard to see clearly as they were so high. The plant was mounted on a small table and the leaves stood straight up with the flowers on stems another meter so above these so truly a monster of a plant.

WHY I LIKE RETIREMENT

Question: How many days in a week?

Answer: 7 - 6 Saturdays and 1 Sunday

Question: When is a retiree's bedtime?

Answer: Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch

Question: How many retirees to change a light bulb?

Answer: Only one, but it might take all day.

Question: What's the biggest gripe of retirees?

Answer: There is not enough time to get everything done.

Question: Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?

Answer: The term comes with a 10% percent discount.

Question: Among retirees what is considered formal attire?

Answer: Tied shoes

Question: Why do retirees count pennies?

Answer: They are the only ones who have the time.

Question: What is the common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire?

Answer: NUTS!

Question: Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage?

Answer: They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.

Question: What do retirees call a long lunch?

Answer: Normal.

Question: What is the best way to describe retirement?

Answer: The never ending Coffee Break.

Question: What's the biggest advantage of going back to school as a retiree?

Answer: If you cut classes, no one calls your parents.

COMING EVENTS

Bar B Que At Julie Duff's residence Murphy's Rd, opposite Murphy's Bush on Saturday 29th March from 2pm. to approx. 5pm. Parking in the paddock where a HOS sign will be next to gate. HOS will provide the meat and some refreshments. Surnames starting A – M please bring a small desert, N – Z a small salad.

Some lucky prizes to be won. Come and enjoy this very popular event.

Auck. Orchid Club 1 day show, Sun 30th Mar. Community hall, Hobsonville Rd. Ph. Lee 416 6737

Bay of Plenty O.S. show 12/13 April, Memorial hall, main street Te Puke, Open 12am Sat.

NZOS autumn show, 3rd May. Mt Albert Senior Citizens Hall (next to War Mem. Hall) Great Nth Rd.

Bench 8am open to public 10am – 1pm. **NB. Change of venue!**

OCNZ Conference and AGM in Whangarei at Queen's Birthday weekend.

HOS Club days for 2008 so please note them in your diary:

13th Apr, 11th May, 8th June, 13th July, 10th Aug,

14th Sept, Show 26/27th Sept, 12th Oct, 9th Nov, 14th Dec. (Xmas social)

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 13th April 2008 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

Treasurer's 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 2008

I hereby nominate _____

For the position of:

President/Vice President/Secretary/Treasurer/Committee member

(Strike out whichever is not applicable)

Nominator: _____

Seconder: _____

Nominee's signature: _____

(This is to signify your willingness to stand for the nominated position above)

Completed nomination forms to be handed to the secretary.