

# NEWSLETTER

Mar. 2010

**NEXT MEETING Sun 11<sup>th</sup> April. 2010 at 1.30 pm**

*AGM*

**NEXT MEETING:** Gary Cooke will at last be given the opportunity to 'put his money where his mouth is' by talking about *real* plants (bromeliads of course). Gary and Heather have an amazing collection of these and no doubt we will be shown some of the more unusual ones. The **AGM** will be first on the agenda and this is usually not a long-winded affair.

## **LAST MEETING:**

Noel Townsley was at his best describing a well earned 'rest' at the Melbourne shows and commercial growers last Sept. Fantastic photos of a great variety of orchids and growing houses held the large audience's attention for the whole time. I was very impressed with the quality of Cyms they are producing over there and we will need to get cracking if we want to be competitive in the future.

The **BLIND AUCTION** was again successful earning \$104 for the club funds from 20 plants. We still have more to come.

**Manukau** C.C. once again let us down with the hall and it was only fortunate that some early arrivals managed to get in before the last group locked the doors on us! I am not a political person but I'm fast becoming a supporter of the Super City if this is the best our local council can manage. We had to do without microphones (so I was hoarse at end of day) and the screen but luckily Noel brought his along.

## **PHOTO COMPETITION**

Don't forget to bring those photos in each month so that they can be displayed. The competition is underway NOW. Nothing displayed so far!

**The BBQ** held at Anton and Janet's residence was again a very enjoyable social occasion on a beautiful afternoon. Although a few less than last year attended (28) the food was superb and those that attended were treated to a raffle (winners were Gail Kidd, Sandra Moore and Winsome Webster) plus a lucky draw for 2 large Cymbidiums won by Norm Streater and Gary Cooke.

**RAFFLE:** Another great selection from many donations. Without these we would not have such a great range of prizes so thank you all once again.

**Congratulations** to **Michelle Tung**. At the WOC fun show recently not only did her Paph. Utgard win best Paph. but also Grand Champion of Show and to cap it all off was awarded an AM by the judges present.

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Meetings: Fencible Lounge Uxbridge Rd Howick

**Three aspiring psychiatrists** from three universities were attending their first class on emotional extremes.

Just to establish some parameters,' said the professor to the student from Oxford University , 'What is the opposite of joy?' 'Sadness' said the student.

And the opposite of depression?' he asked the young lady from Cambridge. 'Elation,' she said..

'And you, sir,' he said to the student from Dublin University , 'How about the opposite of woe?'

The student replied, 'I believe that would be giddy up'.

## **EDITOR'S COMMENT**

HOS is currently looking into putting on a display at the **Orchid Extravaganza** in Palmerston North in September. We have deliberately left planning until late as finding people willing to go down was difficult early on. This will be quite an effort, as the plants have to be transported such a long distance in fairly cramped conditions plus props taken to mount the display. Its been done before and I'm sure we can handle this without too much stress again.

Anyone going to visit the show from our society please let me know if you are able to help out in any way. Set up is Tues 7th Sept. judging 8<sup>th</sup>, open to public 9<sup>th</sup> to Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Sept.

I have been busy pollinating this summer using pollen collected earlier in the year to cross with late flowering plants. This should alter the flowering time on the resulting cross but it will be a long time before this is confirmed. Orchid breeding is slow and sometimes frustrating as many of the pollinations will not take. Out of those that do some will abort and there are other things that can go wrong. Out of about a dozen Dens I only got 1 pod, which burst open before it could be harvested. I did a similar number of Sarcis and again only ended up with 1 pod. So far 3 of my Cattleya crosses have aborted and 1 has gone rotten. The only Masdevallia pod had no seed! Determining the ripening time is also a little tricky. Some only take a couple of months whereas others take up to 9 months. From there they are taken to someone with a sterile lab setup to be sown into jars of agar. These are then placed in a light cabinet with temperature control and hopefully germination will occur sometime in the next year (or so). Contamination of the flask can ruin over a year's effort very quickly. All going well the grower then has a big job looking after the seedlings from the flask and there are no guarantees the results will be desirable. Flowering can be anything from 18 months to 3 years out of flask.

## **COMMITTEE NEWS**

As you will be aware the AGM is held at our April meeting. We still need a Secretary and depending on how many committee members stand for re-election there may be some vacancies. A nomination form is available at the end of the newsletter.

**An Aussie** was washed up on a beach after a terrible shipwreck. Only a sheep and a sheepdog were washed up with him.

Looking around, he realised that they were stranded on a deserted island. After being there a while, he got into the habit of taking his two animal companions to the beach every evening to watch the sun set.

One particular evening, the sky was a fiery red with beautiful cirrus clouds, the breeze was warm and gentle - a perfect night for romance.

As they sat there, the sheep started looking better and better to the lonely Welshman. Soon, he leaned over to the sheep and put his arm around it.

But the sheepdog, ever protective of the sheep, growled fiercely until the man took his arm from around the sheep.

After that, the three of them continued to enjoy the sunsets together but there was no more cuddling.

A few weeks passed by and, lo and behold, there was another shipwreck. The only survivor was a beautiful young woman, the most beautiful woman the man had ever seen. She was in a pretty bad way when he rescued her and he slowly nursed her back to health.

When the young maiden was well enough, he introduced her to their evening beach ritual. It was another beautiful evening red sky, cirrus clouds, a warm and gentle breeze - perfect for a night of romance.

Pretty soon, the Aussie started to get 'those feelings' again. He fought the urges as long as he could but he finally gave in and realising he now had the opportunity, leaned over to the young woman cautiously and whispered in her ear, 'Would you mind taking the dog for a walk?'

### **PLANTS ON DISPLAY** (Mar. meeting)

As mentioned last letter not all the full names are being recorded in the newsletter. There is an opportunity here for **someone to do this task** by typing up these and emailing them to me for inclusion. If you can help out let me know. It is a good learning experience also.

With such hectic club days I do not even get time to take any photos sometimes.

#### **OPEN**

William & Man Lo: *Odontoglossum, Aspasia, Dendrobium, Paph, Dracula, Phal.*

Michelle Tung: *Paph, Cattleya, Lycaste.*

Glenn & Manee: *Oncidium, Cat, Miltonia, Phal, Vanda, 2 x Paphs.*

John Muddiman: 2 x *Phals.*

Grahame Leafberg: *Cattleya & seedlings, Lyc, Aeranthes.*

Julie Duff: *Epidendron.*

Pam Forde: 2 x *Phals.*

House of Orchids: *Onc, Den.*

Kathy Rimmer: *Gomesa.*

Betty Everson: *Den.*

Alf Day: Basket of *Odontoglossums.*

#### **NOVICE:**

Lee Stone: *Wils. Hilda Plumtree, Milt. Rio's Tropical, Onc. Sharry Baby, Rstp. brachypus.*

Alan Robinson: *L. pumila.*

Norm Streater: *C. Ironclad, C. Helen Garcia.*

#### **NOVELTY:**

William & Man Lo: *Den. lichenastrum*

Lea & Bryce Westlake: *Ornithophora radicans, Drac. polyphemus.*

Glenn & Manee: *Onc. Kaiulani.*

OPEN: 1<sup>st</sup> Grahame Leafberg (Aerth), 2<sup>nd</sup> Michelle (C), 3<sup>rd</sup> Pam (Phal).

NOVICE: 1<sup>st</sup> Lee (Odm), 2<sup>nd</sup> Alan (L), 3<sup>rd</sup> Norm (C).

NOVELTY: 1<sup>st</sup> Lea/Bryce (Orpha), 2<sup>nd</sup> William/Man (Den), Glenn/Manee (Onc).

Commentary was by our guest speaker **Noel** who picked Michelle's lovely large white *Cattleya* White Bounty as Plant of the Month. It was a split decision with Grahame's *Aerangis grandiflora*.

Noel decided that William/Man's *Dracula* was the most unusual.

Voting in the Open class has been good but other 2 classes poor. Don't forget the **Novice** and **Novelty** sections are separate and there is a voting box for these.

The **early bird** may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese in the trap.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS** are **DUE now**. You can pay anytime, at the meeting or post to the Secretary (see front page). **\$20** Single, **\$30** family at same address.

## RESEARCH

One interesting thing about orchids is that we frequently see an unusual plant that even the experts have not seen or heard of before. These more often or not are species someone has in a collection and could be difficult to flower or only flower for a short time.

Although not that unusual Draculas are not easy to display as they do not transport well. It is not unusual for the flower to collapse after a short time away from home. They belong to the Pleurothallid group, which also contains Masdevallias.

**NEW MEMBERS:** Welcome to **Rex Sellars** (Onehunga).

**How** many of you believe in psycho-kinesis?

Raise my hand.

## CULTURE:

This is another critical time of the year for unwary orchid growers and I still get caught out even though I should have learnt from past experience.

The sudden onset of cool nights is always a trap for those who have watered late in the day when the plants do not have time to dry off. I always put my Phallies out on the porch over summer and they are particularly susceptible to crown rot. This is caused by water sitting in the top of the leaves when the night is cool. Other orchids will also get rot on new soft growths in similar circumstances.

Now that we are going into autumn you should be changing from high nitrogen (N) fertilizer to high potassium (K) to promote flowering. Watering will need to be cut down as the days shorten and the temperatures drop. Depending on how many cool nights we have experienced, Cymidiums should be starting to spike from now on.

**Jane and her husband Barry** went for counselling after 37 years of marriage.

When the male counsellor asked what the problem was, Jane went into a passionate, painful tirade listing every problem they had ever had in the 37 years they had been married.

She went on and on and on: neglect, lack of intimacy, emptiness, loneliness, feeling unloved and unlovable, an entire laundry list of unmet needs she had endured over the course of their marriage. Finally, after allowing this to go on for a sufficient length of time, the therapist got up, walked around the desk and, after asking Jane to stand, unbuttoned her blouse, embraced her, put his hands on her breasts, and kissed her passionately as her husband Barry watched with a raised eyebrow.

Jane shut up, buttoned up her blouse, and quietly sat down as though in a daze.

The therapist turned to Barry and said, 'This is what your wife needs at least three times a week. Is this possible for you?'

Barry thought for a moment and replied, 'Well, I can drop her off here on Mondays and Wednesdays, but on Fridays, I play golf. Can you pick her up?'

## COMING EVENTS

**BOPOS** show 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> April, Te Puke Mem. Hall, main street, 10am – 4pm.

**NZOS** autumn show 2<sup>nd</sup> May, Mt Albert War Memorial hall.

**HOS CLUB DAYS** for **2010**

11 Apr, (AGM)	9 May,	13 June,	11 July,	15 Aug,	12 Sep,
9 Oct (Show),	24 Oct,	14 Nov,	12 Dec.		

Meetings are held **1.30 pm** at the **Fencible Lounge**, Uxbridge Rd. Howick.

## 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 11<sup>th</sup> April 2010 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 2010

I hereby nominate \_\_\_\_\_

For the position of: President/Vice President/ Secretary/Treasurer/  
Committee member

(strike-out whichever is not applicable)

Proposer: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconder: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominees signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Completed nomination forms to be handed to the secretary.