



NEWSLETTER of the HOWICK ORCHID SOCIETY Inc.

Mar. 2015

NEXT meeting Sun 12th Apr. 2015

NEXT MEETING: The AGM is to be held at the Howick RSA hall as the Fencible Lounge is closed for repair work. We will also hold an orchid plant AUCTION so please don't forget to donate something to make this a successful day.

LAST MEETING: Francis gave a thoroughly engrossing talk on orchid culture following on from the previous one. Educational as well as entertaining it was given in a light hearted and amusing manner with many clues on how to grow orchids successfully. Francis had some spectacular specimen orchids on display, all of which were a credit to her and Roz' attention to detail and their growing skills. Her 50 year old Vanda just refuses to stop flowering with multiple spikes of beautiful flowers. There were a variety of other well grown plants from the speakers showing what can be achieved with some effort.



EDITOR'S COMMENT

We were very pleased to see another **7 new members** join our society last meeting. This is very encouraging considering many clubs are decreasing in membership currently.

We trust you enjoy your time with us and become avid orchid growers. Remember, taking part in the activities is the best way to enjoy your club.

Francis mentioned during the plant commentary we need more members displaying orchids at our meetings. We always have a great display but it is usually the same people contributing.

We have been stressing culture at all of our talks so far this year and hopefully will continue to do this if we can find enough experienced speakers on this subject.

You should by now realize we are not really doing our plants favours by trying to confine them in pots with all manner of mixes which they often don't like. Every month we are approached by new members who have bought plants from a nursery in totally unsuitable pots and mixes. Inevitably these die soon after they are brought home, usually by rotting of the roots. Most of the orchids we grow are Epiphytes (growing on trees) or lithophytes (growing on rocks). Their roots are exposed to the air and may get drenched but quickly dry out. At our May meeting Alf Day will give his views on orchid culture.

As mentioned at the last meeting, as well as orchids we require ferns and other greenery for our display in 2016 at the National Show. The hall is large and there is plenty of space to fill!

Pictured front page: Kathy Rimmer's Coelia macrostachya, a species from Central America and one we rarely see. There are 5 species listed in this genus and are characterized by their large ovoid pseudobulbs. This is the first time it has flowered in approx. 12 years possibly due to the very warm summer and mild winter we experienced. This very large plant has a number of leafless 'back-bulbs' so will need dividing next spring.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are due for this year so should be paid now. These are the same as last year, \$30 family (at same address) or \$20 single. If paying by Post please send to the SECRETARY (address front page).

Many paid last month and we thank you for your promptness.

If you do not want to renew your membership please drop me an email so we can keep our list up to date as this affects what capitation we pay to the OCNZ.

AGM – APRIL meeting will be held at the HOWICK RSA, Wellington St. (near the roundabout with Ridge Rd.) downstairs lounge. Please enter through the **downstairs** entrance, adjacent to car park. Upstairs is only open to RSA members bar facilities.

There is parking available at the lower level or opposite in the public car park. Bring your display plants as usual.



Mick Hughes surprised everyone with his Cattleya Lululand! (Above)



Jim Gilchrist graced us with his presence coming all the way from Whakatane and benching some nice plants including this Cattleya

CULTURE

It is coming into autumn and now is the time to remind you of the pitfalls of watering at this time of the year. Cool nights can occur at any time and if your plants are wet will quickly develop fungal diseases. It is therefore important to keep an eye on the weather forecast and make sure watering is carried out on days when night temperatures will not drop too much. Depending on your mix and the size of pot, these will take longer to dry out and roots will eventually rot if they stay wet too long. Watering frequency can gradually be reduced as the days get shorter.

Francis did say to remind you that many orchids require a drop in temperature for a short period to initiate flowering. I usually give my Phallies 2 weeks out on the porch during autumn when nights are cooler but make sure they aren't wet or exposed to direct sun.

Francis also mentioned to always pull a plant out of the pot soon after you buy it to see what is going on in the pot. This is something I always do to ensure I know when my plants will need

watering. If it is in a mix you are unfamiliar with or not happy with, replot it into something you are happy with.

If you think your plant has a problem bring it in to a meeting for someone to look at.

Be very wary of 'orchid mix' as sold by the commercial nurseries as it often has too much fine material in it which will clog up the pot.



Above L: Grahame Leafberg's Dendrobium Magic Mountain x glomeratum (A New Guinea type hybrid)

Above R: This unusual unnamed Oncidium from Warren Mullins was commented on favourably by Alf Day

BBQ Another great day for those that took advantage of great food, good company and some fun. The prizes for the various competitions and raffle were well spread around with Michelle, John and Alan taking away the top ones.

Our chefs John, Anton and Phil did a superb job with the steaks, meatballs and sausages. Diane made the very tasty meatballs from prime beef and lamb and the salads and desserts brought by members were mouth watering. As usual Maarten had some veges and orchids for sale although his operation is slowly winding down.

Thanks to all those that helped with the furniture and the lovely food. It was an enjoyable and relaxing day where new friends were made at a nice venue away from the city.

PLANTS ON DISPLAY (March meeting)

Compiled by Michelle Tung

(Plant names in bold type denote label changes are recommended - either incorrect spelling or a new name of a registered hybrid)

(Use of italics denotes that the plant is a species)

Open Section

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|------------------|---|
| Alf Day | A basket of <i>Oncidium Alliance</i> , and
1 <i>Epidendrum</i> |
| Grahame Leafberg | <i>Den. Mountain Magic x glomeratum</i> , |

	<i>Den. lichenastrum</i> , and <i>Den. White Grace</i>	FIRST
Wolf Grausch	<i>Slc. Angel Eyes</i> x <i>Pot. Lisa Taylor Gallis</i> = <i>Rlc. Memoria Rose Graham</i>	
Mike Hughes	<i>C. Lulu Land</i>	
William & Man Lo	<i>Paph. Utgard</i> , <i>Z. Arthur Elle</i> , <i>Cym. Zig-Zag</i> , <i>Den. Paradise Lorna</i> , <i>Paph. sukhakulii</i> , and <i>Den. Maiden's Blush</i>	THIRD
Warren Mullins	1 unknown <i>Onc.</i>	
Glenn & Manee Poffley	<i>C. Fascelis</i> x <i>Calummata</i> , <i>C. Schulzeana</i> , <i>Onc. Gold Finger</i> and <i>Onc. Unknown</i>	
Kathy Rimmer	<i>Coe. macrostachya</i>	
Ken & Chui Tse	<i>Bllra. Peggy Ruth Carpenter</i> , <i>C. Ruby Love</i>	PLANT OF THE MONTH
Michelle Tung	<i>Coel. mooreana</i>	
Anton & Janet Wehman	<i>Lc. Intercepts</i> , <i>Bct. Little Mermaid</i> , <i>Lc. Mime</i> , <i>Slc. Mahalo Jack</i> x (<i>Lana Coryell</i> x <i>S. coccinea</i>), <i>Colm. Wildcat</i> , <i>Mtssa. War Eagle</i>	SECOND
Novice	No Entry	
Novelty		
Peggy Bell-Booth	<i>Den. Virginia Jupp</i> , and <i>Gchls. japonicas</i> x (?) <i>Sweetie</i>	
William & Man Lo	<i>Pths. Unknown</i> , and <i>Epi. anceps</i>	THIRD equal
Glenn & Manee Poffley	<i>Ddc. uncatum</i> , <i>Onc. Misaki Twinkle Obry</i> , and <i>Phal. lindenii</i>	THIRD equal
Kathy Rimmer	<i>Pths. sanderiana</i>	FIRST equal
Michelle Tung	<i>Neof. falcata</i>	FIRST equal

Commentary was given by Frances Henrich.

HOS ORCHID AUCTION

Please bring donated plants up to the front of the hall. Make sure you have some cash as we do not have eftpos on club days.

HOS Club meeting Dates for 2015

Meetings start at 1.30pm at the Fencible Lounge, Uxbridge Rd. Howick. (Next to library)

PLEASE NOTE these dates in your diary or calendar.

10th May; 14th June; 12th July; 9th Aug; 13th Sep; 11th Oct;
16th Oct. (Set Up); 17th Oct. (SHOW); 8th Nov; 13th Dec.

ANYONE is welcome to bring a small donation for afternoon tea.

We do not charge members for entry or tea at our meetings but to help cover costs non members and visitors are charged a fee of \$2.

Raffle prizes are usually a combination of HOS bought goods or donated orchid plants. If you wish to donate to the raffle please restrict this to orchid plants or products pertaining to orchid growing only.



*(L) Francis enjoying herself during the plant commentary.
 (Above R) Francis and Ros' Vanda plus others.
 Mostly in open well drained pots or baskets.*



*2 of Glenn's Vandas that flowered during summer
 (L) Cedric Saunders and (R) Aranda Noorah Alsagoff*

(Below) This Rlc. Redland City impressed me at Wellington O.S. show late last year.



(R) Something we don't see much of either. (WOC spring show)