



NEWSLETTER of the HOWICK ORCHID SOCIETY Inc.

May 2011

NEXT meeting Sun 12th June 2011

NEXT MEETING This month we have something completely different. Margaret Liddell is coming from Hamilton to speak on lilies. We went to a show at Western Springs earlier in the year and were amazed at the variety of shapes and colours now available. Not only is Margaret an avid grower of these but is well known in the rose world and of course orchid circles as well.

LAST MEETING What a great turnout on Mother's Day and it was certainly worth coming to hear Jackie Chambers entertaining talk with her great selection of slides from around the world. There were many comments on how she had fitted in such a number of botanically related jobs in such a relatively short career. Not only working at world-renowned establishments such as Wisley and Kew, Jackie had completed her Masters degree in between jobs. We are fortunate she has come to NZ to work at the Auckland Botanic Gardens and hope she stays long enough to share more of her knowledge and enthusiasm.

RAFFLE: Its good to see many new members winning the orchids in our popular raffle where we always have a great selection of plants to choose from.

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome to **Greg** Barnes (Dannemora) and welcome back to **Paul** Yap and his wife **Mei** from China.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

It was conveyed to me that many of you took advantage of Villa Orchids open day so we may see some new orchids on our display benches soon. I am very pleased with my purchases. I was surprised not many from HOS came to see the NZOS autumn show the following week as it was a very good one with a lot of plants exhibited and all of a very good standard. There was a large sales table and with free entry quite a number came through and bought plants.

We have had a very good response from members paying their membership fees. If you can't get along to pay please post a cheque to the Secretary as soon as possible. (Address below)

If any of you are still having trouble getting the newsletter by email it will more than likely be in either your JUNK mail box or SPAM box.

Progress for the 2012 OCNZ AGM and seminar has finally been made with a suitable hall booked. We now have to finalise the Saturday night dinner arrangements and sort out all the minor details. Anton, Janet, Glenn and Manee will be representing HOS in New Plymouth at this year's AGM.. GARY Yong Gee spoke at Nth Shore O.S. recently to a large audience. Anton managed to win the raffle (a large Epi. ciliare in flower) with Lea Westlake picking up 2nd (a big white Phally). To keep it all with HOS members Manee got 3rd prize and Lea another draw, which she declined. I lovely afternoon tea was enjoyed by all after the meeting.

The difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED.....

When you marry the right one, you are **complete** and when you marry the wrong one, you are **finished**.

When the right one catches you with the wrong one, you are... COMPLETELY FINISHED

CULTURE

Now that winter is approaching maximum light should be given to most of your orchids. The more tender varieties can still burn in direct midday sun and water on left on leaves will cause rot.

Watering still needs to continue if new bulbs are growing as many of mine are. It may be better to water on a wet day, which is usually warmer than clear ones when frosts are possible. An early morning watering gives the plants a chance to dry out before night.

I have recently put everything under cover for the winter, which helps in the control of water.

As many of you will have seen in Anton's talk last year it doesn't have to be anything fancy if you are growing predominantly cool varieties.

Although you can grow many of the 'intermediate' ones cool it does pay to keep them dry over winter. I have found that some extra comfort with these (eg. Cattleyas) will pay dividends with better growth and better flowering.

The article in the Wairarapa newsletter, which was forwarded to you gave excellent coverage of these points.

Slugs and snails are very active this time of the year and can ruin a good flower that you may have been waiting a long time for.

There are a number of methods for stopping condensation dripping onto plants. Double skin covering is the best. Steeply pitched roofs are better than flatter ones. Fans kept going in the orchid house can help.

What CONFUCIUS didn't say!

Man who runs in front of car gets tired, man who runs behind car gets exhausted.

RESEARCH

Another couple of puzzles have appeared, one brought up by Michelle. With her eye for detail I was asked why the labels on two identical plants were different. One said Oda. Charlesworthii and the other had Oncda Charlesworthii. Now this may appear a small difference but in fact is quite significant.

Oda. = Odontioda (Odontoglossum x Cochlioda)

Oda. Charlesworthii = C. noezliana x Odm. harrayanum

Odcda. = Oncidiota. (Oncidium x Cochlioda)

Oncda. Charleworthii = C. noezliana x Onc. incurvum

My guess is that the plants we commonly see labeled with Oda. should be Oncda. based on the photos and descriptions I can find but next time they are in flower I will get them analysed by our expert Alf Day. Unfortunately that won't be until next year.

If something is confidential, it will be left in the copier machine.

HOS ANNUAL AUCTION will be held at our November meeting. Don't forget to put a plant or 2 aside for this now so they are well rooted. This is always a good event and one at which we raise a lot of money for the club.

HOS ANNUAL SHOW is your opportunity to show the public our flowers and see how they compare to other growers.

Plants On Display (May meeting)

Compiled by Glenn

(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 or parent plant is a species.

OPEN SECTION

Grahame Leafberg

C. Angelwalker x Queen Sirikhit

C. Mrs J. W. Whitely

Den. tetragonum var. *giganteum*

William & Man Lo

Den. Tweetie

Den. victoria-reginae

Phal. Anthura New Delhi (Trade name)

Lc. Angel Love

Z. James Strauss

Glenn & Manee Poffley

C. unknown

Paph. insigne var. *sanderæ*

Max. picta

Max. nigrescens

Masd. barlaena x Whiskers

Mtssa. Orange Stars

Z. Iron Baron

Den. subclausum var. *pandanicola*

Den. subclausum

Lee Stone

Z. mackayi (accepted name now ***maculatum***)

Z. unknown

Cym. (Valley Rajah x Claudona) x Miss Muffett

Raewyn McCormack

C. Love Call 'Nora'

Z. unknown

Ken & Chui Tse

L. pumila 'Black Diamond'

Mtssa. War Eagle

Anton & Janet Wehman

Angcm. giryamae

Francis Henrich/Ros Mackay:

Blc. Ed Pickell x Chollada

Ron Reeves:

Max. nigrescens

Max. picta

House of Orchids:

Den. Frosty Dawn

Ddc. magnum

Sngl. Neptune

Leonard Cobb:

C. Memoria Neil Ryan

C. Chocolate Drop 'Kodama'

Wolf Grausch:

Slc. Ruby Embers

Slc. Medley x 2

NOVICE

Phil Funnell:

Milt. spectabilis

C. Judy Small x *L. purpurata*

Alan Robinson:

Onc. Sugar Babies

NOVELTY

Glenn & Manee Poffley

Epi. neoporpax

Onc. Kaiulani

William & Man Lo:

Pths. allenii

House of Orchids:

Ddc. glumaceum

Meanings of abbreviations

Angcm – Angraecum, C – Cattleya, Ddc – Dendrochilum, Den – Dendrobium, Epi – Epidendron, L – Laelia, Masd – Masdevallia, Max – Maxillaria, Milt – Miltonia, Mtssa – Miltassia, Onc – Oncidium, Pths – Pleurothallis, Sngl – Stenoglottis, Z – Zygopetallum.

Popular Vote

Open: 1st **Wolf** Grausch (Slc Ruby Embers), 2nd G. Leafberg (Den.), 3rd William & Man (Zygo.)

Novice: 1st **Phil** (Lc.), 2nd Alan Robinson (Onc.), 3rd Phil (Milt.)

Novelty: 1st **Glenn & Manee** (Epi.), 2nd Glenn & Manee (Onc.), 3rd House of Orchids (Ddc.)

Commentary was given by Anjo McKernan and Wolf Grausch.

Plant of the month is Grahame Leafberg's large, slab grown Den. tetragonum with a mass of flowers. Not the easiest of plants to grow but worth a try when you see something of that quality.

COMING EVENTS

HOS CLUB DAYS for 2011

12 June (Margaret Liddell – Lilies); **10 July** (Chris Hubbard – Tokyo Dome Show);

14 Aug. (Mike Leaity – Zygos); **11 Sept.** (Phil Funnell – UK orchids);

Frid. 30 Sept. (Show set up); Sat. 01 Oct. (Show); 16 Oct. (Prize Giving)

13 Nov. (Auction); 11 Dec. (Social).

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