



NEWSLETTER of the HOWICK ORCHID SOCIETY Inc.

May 2012

NEXT meeting Sun 10th June 2012

NEXT MEETING: There is a change to our advertised programme as Margaret Liddell is unable to be with us. Instead we have local identity and well known artist **Blake Twigden**. Blake has travelled extensively to many exotic countries studying the birdlife and flora and will share some of his more interesting experiences with us. This is sure to be an entertaining talk.



Onc. tigrinum at NZOS show

LAST MEETING: The meeting was one of our best attendances this year with **59** members and visitors present. We were also pleased to see more new members signing up at the meeting.

To keep you all on your toes **3 seedling** orchids were given away to those that could answer 3 simple questions about items that appeared in last month's newsletter.

Betty Everson, Jeanette Austin and Michelle obviously took note of the last letter and have good memories although the questions were relatively easy.

Grahame's slides and talk on *Sarcochilus* was very interesting with plenty of flowers pictured we would all love to have.

Grahame will have plenty of these for sale and to get something different you could try a seedling or two as you never know what will come out of a cross particularly with all the new hybrids coming out.

COMMITTEE NEWS

The committee has decided to **dispense** with HOS MEMBER'S 50c door entry fee as from the next meeting. Visitors will still be required to pay the \$2 fee as previous.

PROBLEM TABLE

To help new members someone will be on duty near the entry desk to help you out with any problem plants you may have or questions on culture. So don't be shy about bringing in those plants or asking questions.



Onc. forbesii at NZOS Show

OCNZ JUDGING SEMINAR

Venue is Te Tuhi on Reeves Rd Pakuranga. This is opposite the back of the shopping centre not far from The Warehouse back entrance. Some parking at rear.

Set up of Hall is FRIDAY 1st June from 2pm to 6pm. Pack up is Sunday 3rd June from 4 - 5pm. Some help is required for these times.

We **do need** some of your orchids in flower for this event. (On Friday)

The OCNZ AGM is held on Sunday afternoon and anyone is welcome as an observer.

Local growers **OPEN HOMES** for visits on Monday 4th June.

Grahame Leafberg, 29 Studfall St. Pakuranga. Ph. 576 7406

Brian Main, 3 Etherege Place Mellons Bay. Ph. 534 8348

Eureka Nurseries, Appleton Rd Drury. Ph. 294 8963

4 **SALES** tables at the seminar will be open for limited periods generally during breaks etc.

Orchids 4U (Anjo McKernan)

Villa Orchids (Joe & Betty Vance)

Leroy Orchids (Lee & Roy Neale)

Tuckers Orchids (Ross & Susan)



RAFFLE: Another bumper raffle for Mother's Day with a beautiful miniature deep pink Phally and a large Zygo in flower supplied by the club plus another 12 plants donated by members. Yes that equals our record of 14 total last month. There was also a slatted hanging basket donated.

Tolumnia Barbie x Golden Caledonia at NZOS Show



Onc. Bronze Medallion at NZOS Show

EDITOR'S COMMENT

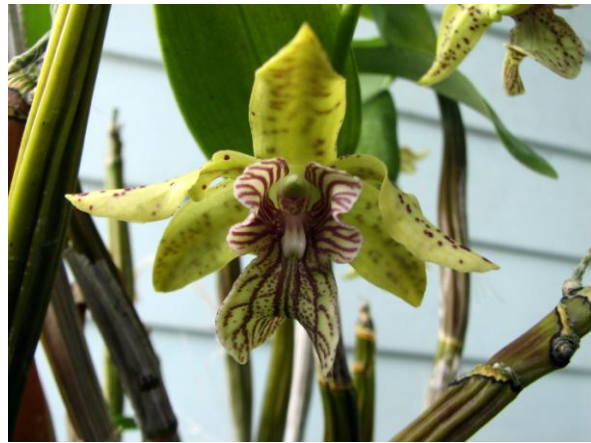
The most important event on our calendar this year is the OCNZ judging seminar and AGM being hosted by HOS. It has been a huge amount of work and we would still like to **see more of our members** participating. We have gone to great expense and effort to do this and you should take advantage while close to home.

The cost of the two days includes morning and afternoon teas and lunches.

If you consider what you pay for a cup of coffee and cake at a café then the refreshments alone are worth the money!

I am still surprised at the poor attendance by our members at many events which clubs host such as the recent visit and lectures by Phil Spence at NZOS. Phil spoke at the recent World Orchid conference in Singapore and is regarded as the world's leading expert on New Guinea Dendrobiums. If you grow these (and many of you buy them) then it was probably the most

comprehensive talk on these I have seen. Just seeing pictures of the countryside and finding out the conditions they grow in has completely changed my views on how I will tackle growing these. Some New Guinea hybrids and species pictured below.



Gerald McCraith (Top L)

Bewitched (above)



subclausum (Left)

cuthbertsonii (below)



CULTURE

Winter these days always seems to come rather suddenly and this year was no exception with a beautiful warm sunny April, then a week of very cool weather and even a frost in parts of Howick and Pakuranga. Fortunately I was quicker at putting all my orchids under cover so no damage was incurred. Watering from now on needs to be very carefully monitored as the drying out time will increase quite dramatically. Plants in sphagnum or with other absorbent media such as coconut fibre added to the bark (such as many commercial mixes) will take up to 3 weeks to dry off. Those orchids with pseudo bulbs will need even less water as they are designed to withstand drought in their natural habitat. In fact a drying off period is essential for many to initiate flowers in the spring or summer. Those that lose their leaves such as Lycastes or Pleiones and the terrestrials must dry out or they will rot. As always with the sun dropping low over winter make sure your plants are not too shaded at this critical time of the year. You do not need to fertilise while plants are dormant as this is just wasted.

Plants On Display (May 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 or parent plant is a species)

Open Section

Len Cobb	1 Laelia	
Betty Everson	1 Dendrobium	
Phil Funnel	4 Cattleya Alliance (C. Sandra Swearingen), 2 Miltonia, and 1 Coelogyne	
Wolf Grausch	1 Cattleya Alliance	
Frances Henrich/Ros Mackay	1 Barkeria	
Mick Hughes	1 Cattleya	
Grahame Leafberg	1 Cattleya	
William & Man Lo	4 Cattleya Alliance, 2 Dendrobiums (Den. Riversun), 1 Cymbidium and 1 Coelogyne	
Sandra Moore	2 Cattleya Alliance (C. Chocolate Drop x Blc. Oconee = Rth./ Blc. Cherry Suisse)	
Glenn & Manee Poffley	4 Cattleya Alliance, 1 Masdevallia, 1 Stenoglottis, 1 Zygopetalum, and 4 Oncidium Alliance	
Shirley Sidnam	4 Dendrobiums and 1 Zygopetalum	
Lee Stone	1 Coelogyne, and 1 Cattleya (C. Quinquecolor)	
Ken & Chui Tse	1 Cymbidium, 2 Cattleya alliance (Slc. Precious Jewel x Sc. Chester = C. Jewel Chest), 1 Miltonia, 3 Masdevallia	
Michelle Tung	<i>Paph. Grecian Maid</i>	FIRST
	<i>Dendrobium subclausum</i>	SECOND
	1 Coelogyne	
Anton and Janet Wehman	2 Oncidium alliance (Onc. Sugar Babies), 1 Barkeria (Bark. skinneri x scandens = Bark. Cyclosky), 2 Cattleya Alliance and 1 Dendrobium	
Bryce & Lea Westlake	2 Paphiopedilum and 1 Stenoglottis	

Novice

Narua Irvine	<i>Cym. unknown</i>	FIRST
Pearl Tam	<i>Maxillaria picta</i> and 1 Oncidium	SECOND

Novelty

Bryce & Lea Westlake	<i>Epidendrum neoporpax</i>	FIRST
		PLANT OF THE MONTH
Frances Henrich/Ros Mackay	<i>Epidendrum neoporpax</i>	SECOND EQUAL
William & Man Lo	<i>Den. lichenastrum</i>	SECOND EQUAL
Glenn & Manee Poffley	<i>Pleurothallis truncata</i>	THIRD

Commentary was given by Wolf Grausch and Glenn Poffley.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES are due and should be paid NOW. If you can't get to a meeting please post a cheque to the Secretary (address first page).

\$20 single, \$30 family (at same address). Please advise if you do not want to rejoin.

WELCOME to new members **Melanie** Guan (Pakuranga) and **Vicky** Farman (Shelley Park).

We sometimes publish cultural information in the newsletter for new members and will endeavour to help you with growing your orchids as space permits.

Otherwise please feel free to ask people at the club as there are always plenty who can help you. Unfortunately we don't always get enough time on club days so it is important to attend some of the social events we organize so you can talk to others in a more relaxed atmosphere.



*A bowl of *Den. cuthbertsonii* at Te Puke Lions Show*

COMING EVENTS

OCNZ Judging seminar and AGM
2nd & 3rd June, open day 4th June

HOS CLUB DAYS for 2012

8 July, (Alan La Roche – Local heritage plants) **12 Aug**, **9 Sept**, (Mike & Lee Leaity)
5 Oct (Show set up), **6 Oct (HOS Show)**, **21 Oct** (prize giving), **11 Nov** (Auction), **9 Dec**
(social).

Meetings are held **1.30 pm** 2nd Sunday of month (usually) at the **Fencible Lounge**, Uxbridge Rd. Howick.

To receive 'The NZ Internet Orchid Review' by email (free), email Nick Miller at ncmiller@orcon.net.nz to be added to the mailing list.

HURRY LAST CHANCE TO BOOK :-

... for JUDGING SEMINAR (By Wed 30th) and/or DINNER (By Mon 28th)