



NEWSLETTER of the HOWICK ORCHID SOCIETY Inc.

Oct. 2010

NEXT meeting Sun 14th Nov. 2010

Members only Auction

NEXT MEETING is our annual members auction where a variety of donated orchids and possibly some orchid books will be sold at prices determined by you. Previously we have had plants to suit most tastes and look forward to more donations again this year. Even 1 plant from everyone goes a long way to making this a success.

THE HOWICK ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW

We are pleased to be able to report another very successful event held on a fine day even though the forecast was for rain. With excellent numbers through the door and bumper sales we again have made an excellent profit although our main object is to further the hobby of orchid growing. An effort was made to present the display in such a way that more of the public would be enthusiastic and want to join us, which they did with 3 family and 3 single new members. (9 total)

Jean Main (Brian's wife) helped by **Kathy** presented a beautiful display of Phalaenopsis orchids on the stage, which supplemented the article that featured recently in the local paper.

We would especially like to thank **John Cairns** who transported 50 large Cymbidiums and 10 Dendrobiums all the way from Taumaranui in the heart of the King country for the sales bench and selling all but 1 Cym. and a few Dens. He also brought plants for display on the CSA stand.

Ron Maunder (Paradise Orchids) came from Tauranga bringing in not only his usual Masdevallias but some Dendrobiums and Phallies as well.

Maarten Van Geest had his usual large top quality Phallies and a good selection of Cattleyas. Without the support of these growers and our own members we would not have had such a fantastic selection of plants for sale.

I was again very pleased to see the support and help from many of our newer members who came along to help set up, assist with judging duties, bring food and generally be available during the show. It is difficult to single out individuals but there were certainly some who went that extra mile, many on duty all day long without a break. These are the ones that make it a success. Then there is the behind scenes work picking up gear, putting out the advertising signs and the huge task of reconciling the finances afterwards.

Of course without the flowers from members and other societies' displays we wouldn't have a show. This year the support was exceptional with many top quality blooms getting their deserved praise from an appreciative public.

So thank you to everyone who came along with food or helped and we hope to see you during the year at our meetings. We still have our auction and Xmas social day (catered) to go this year, recommencing our club days in February next year.

PHOTO COMPETITION: MORE Photos needed to make this interesting. Competition closes Nov.

TROPHY LIST HOS Show Oct 10

Lady Stevenson Cup: **Villa Orchids**
Val Bayliss Cup: **Villa Orchids**
Alice Shirley Memorial Trophy: **Mick Hughes**
Howickville Rosebowl: **Villa Orchids**
Frost Trophy: **Michelle Tung**
Moya Younghusband Tray: **Michelle Tung**
Scholes Cup: **Brian Main**
Iris & George Jones Trophy: **Beryl Calder**
O'Connor Trophy: **Brian Main**
Anne Marie Orchids Cup: **Paradise Orchids**
Howickville Cup: **Chris Whitby**
Walker Cup: **William & Man Lo**
Ratcliffe Cup: **Villa Orchids**
Arnold Jolly Memorial Trophy: **Pam Forde**
Betty & Harry Tomlin Cup: **Not judged**
Concord Trophy: **Not judged**
Borough of Howick Trophy: **Lee Stone**
Howick Orchid Soc. Trophy: **Lee Stone**
Norm Gibbs Trophy: **Lee Stone**
Solona Cup: **Lee Stone**
Larsen Cup: **Not presented**

GRAND CHAMPION OF SHOW
CHAMPION CYMBIDIUM
CHAMPION STD CYMBIDIUM
CHAMPION INT. CYM.
CHAMPION MINI CYM.
MOST DECORATIVE PLANT
FIRST FLOWERING SEEDLING
CHAMPION CATTLEYA
BEST PHALAENOPSIS
BEST ODONTOGLOSSUM ALLIANCE
BEST PAPHIOPEDILUM
BEST MASDEVALLIA
BEST AUSTRALIAN SPECIES/HYBRID
BEST NOBILE TYPE DENDROBIUM
BEST SPECIES
CULTURAL EXCELLENCE not Cyms
BEST STD CYM. - NOVICE
BEST INT. CYM. - NOVICE
BEST MINI CYM. - NOVICE
BEST OTHER GENERA - NOVICE
BEST CULTURE - BEGINNERS

A full list of Class results will be published next newsletter.

SHOW RAFFLE RESULTS

1st prize (Large white **Phalaenopsis** donated by **Brian Main**) - Elizabeth Thomas (Howick).
2nd prize (1 year subscription to **WEEKEND GARDINER** magazine - **donated**) – Andrea Gillett (Bucklands Beach).
3rd prize (Cascading Cymbidium) – Mr & Mrs Walker (Whitford).

LAST MEETING:

The meeting started with an in depth look at the Palmerston Nth Extravaganza by our Patron Alf Day with slides taken by Glenn at the show. Alf had some interesting observations about the displays and where they could be improved. The selection of photos showed the large range of genera exhibited with some different to what is seen around Auckland. Alf also made some very pertinent remarks about the importance of club members growing a selection of plants and making them available for the displays at the many shows that are put on for the benefit of the public. An in depth show report was given by show Marshal **Anton** who complimented us all on a job well done, one of our most successful shows for some years.

Alf then presented the trophies to the successful growers.

Our usual plant giveaway this year (Dendrobiums sourced from Napier Orchid supplies) was supplemented by a generous donation of 45 Cymbidium seedlings (Chinese crossed with the 'usual') by member **Grahame Leafberg**. Earlier Grahame complimented us on running the club successfully and putting a lot back for the benefit of members and also the support he has received throughout the year from our members. It was stressed later during the plant commentary that we want to see more of our giveaways back on the display benches when they flower.

If you were not at the last meeting and qualify for a plant they will still be available at the next meeting ONLY.

NEW MEMBERS: A BIG Welcome to all who joined up at our Show.

Alan & Pat Griffith (Hwk), **Lily** Radhakrishnan (Dannemora), **Vasantha** Munusamu (Northpark), **Lester & Bev** Ching (Pak), **Wesley** Govender (Dannemora), **Charles** Jeffery & **Carol** Brown (Pak).

PLANTS ON DISPLAY (Oct. meeting)

Compiled & printed by **Michelle**

(NOTE * change of label recommended) Incorrect spelling or a new name of a registered hybrid.

OPEN

Peggy Bell-Booth: *Sarco.* Carnival and *Sarco.* Armstrong 'Rose'*

Julie Duff: *Cym.* Vogelsang 'Eastbourne' and *Cym.* Miss Muffet

Glenn & Manee: *Restrepia striata (brachypus)*, *Masd.* Don's Dream 'Jasper', *Masd.*

schroederiana, *Specklinia grobyi**, *Den. linguiforme*, *L. jongheana*, *C. Can't Stop*, *C. warneri*, *Sc.* Jinn x unknown.

Grahame Leafberg: *Sarco.* Bernice Klein x Zoe, *Sarco.* Burgundy on Ice and *Den.* Our Native.

Pam Forde: *S. acuensis*, *Gsl.* Hazel Boyd 'Sunset' AM/AOS, *Den. kingianum*,

Den. nobile, *Phal. amabilis var. formosanum** and 3 others *Phal.* unknown.

Michelle Tung: *Sarco.* Elise, *Lc.* Rojo and *Oda.* Saie x *Odm. nobile*.

William & Man Lo: *Angraecum viguieri*, *C.* Lucy Ingram, *Arpophyllum giganteum*, *Masd.*

macrura, *Masd.* Bocking Hybrid, *Sarco. hartmannii x plectorhiza* unknown, *Sarco. fitzgeraldii**,

Wilsonara Blazing Lustre x *Odcdm.* Tiger Hambuhren = *Wilsonara* Burning Tiger*, *Wilsonara*

Jean Du Pont*, *Den. crepidatum* and *Den. mohlianum** 'Tanna'.

Bryce & Lea Westlake: *C.* Betty Webb, *Masd.* Falcata 'Saffron' x Kimballiana 'Gina', *Paph.*

sanderae? and *Phal.* unknown.

Francis Henrich / Ros MacKay: *Phal.* Dou-dii Rose 'Ch' x Chingruey's Sike Deer (ex. HOS giveaway), *Blc* Media Noche x *Lc.* Susan Holguin 'Geysersland', *C.* unknown.

Anton & Janet: *Sarco.* Rosie Glow and *Sarco.* Cherie x *fitzgeraldii* = *Sarco.* Enid* (registered grex), *Lc.* Trick or Treat and *L. milleri* 'Red Light'.

Len Cobb: *Masd.* Angel Glow 'Tuakau Sunset', *Masd. coccinea* and *C.* Lynn Spencer 'Pearl'

Kathy Rimmer: *Sarco.* (Heidi x Otways) and *Den.* Armand? (unreg).

Ken & Chui: *Masd.* Peppermint Rock

Novice

Lee Stone: Two *Sarco. hartmannii**, *Sarco.* (Powder Puff x Bernice Klein), and *Sarco.* Fitzhart x Aurora.

Novelty

Man and William Lo: *Plectorrhiza tridentate* 'van der heide', *Den. lichenastrum* and *Den. lichenastrum var. prenticei**.

POPULAR VOTE

OPEN: 1st Len (*Masd. Angel Glow*), 2nd Man & William (*Angcm*), 3rd Glenn & Manee (*Rstp*).

NOVICE: 1st Lee (*Sarco. hartmannii*), 2nd Lee (*Sarco.* Powder Puff x Bernice Klein), 3rd Lee (*Sarco. hartmannii*).

NOVELTY: 1st Man & William (*Plchs.*), 2nd Man & William (*Den. lichenastrum*), 3rd Man & William (*Den. lichenastrum var. prenticei*)

Commentary was given by Joe Vance and Glenn Poffley

Plant of the month (picked by Joe Vance) is Len Cobb's *Masd.* Angel Glow. This receives an extra 5 points.

Don't forget to place your vote each meeting for the plant you would like to take home, not necessarily the prettiest or best on display. Many times I've felt a bit guilty by passing over possibly the best as I already have one in my collection!

How pointless is juggling? If I wanted to keep three or more things in the air simultaneously, I'd use a shelf.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

As usual we have been analyzing the show set up, running, schedule, sales and many other aspects to see where we can improve next year (even though there were few problems).

The schedule is already being refined to make benching and judging easier.

The flow through the sales area has always been a problem and we are looking to make some changes to the layout here. This year we borrowed a portable eft-pos machine from Russell Hutton, which was a big help with approx. half the sales going through this.

The door entry area will also be modified to stop 'free rides' as our intrepid doorman John Shepard stopped a number pushing past while the people manning the door were busy.

On the whole security was good with an almost 100% reconciliation of all the figures from the sales. Late-comers wanting free entry and/or bargains are another problem we hope to eliminate. We usually close public entry to the hall at 3.45 as the sales area is closed at this time. We will look to have more members involved in security next year.

We were happy with the advertising campaign but lost 3 large street signs this year, obviously smashed down by hooligans on the Friday night.

On the whole though we can all be very proud of an excellent presentation in every aspect.

If you received a Cymbidium seedling it is either **Eastern Venus x Whitiae**, or **Easter Venus x Peter Dawson 'Grenadier'**. The majority was the Whitiae cross. This plant will be our next competition plant so look after it, they are seedlings and will need that little bit of **extra care**.

Grahame has also offered a good prize to the first person to flower this.

CULTURE

It's a bit of deja vu as when I looked at last year's culture notes for this month I was amazed to see that we had experienced unseasonable cold weather with snow and rain. This year has been the same with some very cool nights still slowing many flowers from opening in time for the shows. On the other hand the warm days and plenty of wind is drying the plants out very quickly so watering is still needed more often than you might expect. Do try and get your repotting done as soon as possible as most of the orchids are showing signs of new growths. It is also a good time to divide and tidy up your plants getting rid of old back bulbs and a general spray. Weak fertiliser should be added to your watering system or a 5 month slow release although not ideal is an easy option. This year I'm trying Bio Boost which is a pelletised slow release by-product from the New Plymouth Waste Treatment plant. Many growers south of the Bombays are using it with good results. It is relatively inexpensive if bought bulk. It is actually cheaper than blood and bone (Auckland prices). Being organic it won't burn the roots but does have an unpleasant odour.

Paddy is passing by Mick's hay shed one day when through a gap in the door he sees Mick doing a slow and sensual striptease in front of an old red Massey Ferguson Tractor.

Buttocks clenched, he performs a slow pirouette and gently slides off first the right gumboot, followed by the left. He then hunches his shoulders forward and in a classic striptease move, lets his braces fall down from his shoulders to dangle by his hips over his corduroy trousers. Grabbing both sides of his checked shirt, he rips it apart to reveal his tea-stained vest underneath and with a final flourish; he hurls his flat cap onto a pile of hay.

"For goodness sake what the hell are you doing Mick?" says Paddy.

"Jeez, Paddy. Ye frightened the livin' bejusus out of me," says an obviously embarrassed Mick.

"But me and the Missus been having some trouble lately in the bedroom department, and the Therapist suggested I do something sexy to a tractor."

LIBRARY: Michelle has been too busy reading the most recent purchases to find any more!

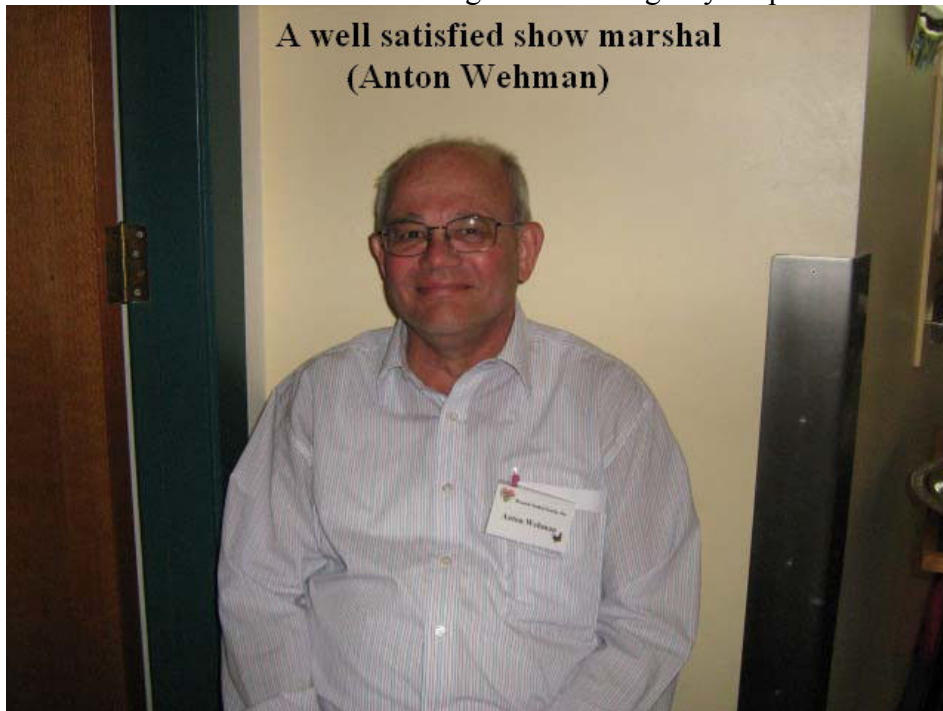
RESEARCH

I have a division of Anton's *L. milleri*, which is probably 2 – 3 weeks later in flowering than his. As we only live 2 streets away at a similar elevation and grow in similar conditions it is a little strange that there is a significant difference in flowering time. Many of my other orchids have been flowering at odd times too, some many months different to their usual time.

There are various reasons for this the most obvious being variations to the normal weather patterns or changing the location of your plants during the growing season.

Dividing or repotting can set back your plants, which may even prevent flowering for a season or in severe cases much longer. Feeding and keeping up the water at critical times can also be crucial in sustaining the growth and development of the new growths. Stressing your plant at a critical time can promote flowering.

Feeding and water is very important from now through summer as many orchids only flower on new growths. Although many of these points have been emphasized before they are worth repeating. Nitrogen is probably the most important macro element during the **spring** growth phase. Extra Potassium is needed to promote flowering and this is generally given in the **autumn**. Some organic fertilizers are beneficial from time to time especially seaweed, fish products or worm tea. These contain most if not all the nutrients needed by your plants and leave no chemical residue. Possibly the next most important factor misunderstood by many growers is light. I have over the years visited many commercial growers of various genera and I would say in most instances I am surprised by the **high** light levels the most successful of these are giving their orchids. A dull winter can be most detrimental to a good flowering of your plants.



A well satisfied show marshal
(Anton Wehman)

COMING EVENTS

North Shore Sarcochilus and other genera Show **13th & 14th** Nov. St. Annes Hall, corner Beach and Glencoe Rds Browns Bay. **NOTE** the **CHANGE** of dates from those previously advertised.

OPEN DAY at **Grahame Leafberg's** home Studfall Pakuranga, 20th Nov. from 10am to 2pm.

HOS CLUB DAYS for **2010**

14 Nov (Auction), 12 Dec (Social).

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