



Manawatu Orchid Society Inc.

August 2009 Newsletter

www.manawatuorchid.org.nz

Presidents Report

Maybe we are heading for an early spring with such lovely weather today. It's great to see the spring bulbs starting to flower. I'm being very optimistic! The orchids certainly appreciate these sunny days.

We are heading for a busy show schedule starting with a display at Levin on August 22nd & 23rd. We will be looking for display plants so please keep that in mind and advise Jenny, Don or Brian if you do have some available. You may well earn a monetary prize! Also remember to support our neighbours as well as our own show. Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find dates of other shows in the area. Many of you will have received your raffle books now and I hope the tickets are selling well. The profit from this raffle is in support of next year's Extravaganza after our society receives 20% of our sales.

Our next meeting should be very interesting when Alison and Ted Mannell take us on their tour when they visited the World Orchid Conference in Miami and their travels following the show.

It's great to hear Graham Robertson is recovering well after his surgery in Wellington and our good wishes go out to you Graham. We are looking forward to seeing you at meetings again soon.

Patricia Elms



The next meeting of the Manawatu Orchid Society will be on **Thursday August 13th** at the Community Leisure Centre, 569 Fergusson Street, Palmerston North where Ted Mannell and wife Alison will speak about the World Orchid Conference in Miami and their travels following the show.

The next **DAY FORUM** will be held at **Tudor Orchids** on **Thursday August 27th** at 1.30pm. Remember to bring some money as I'm sure Patricia & Ken will have some plants for sale.

Dates for Diaries. Upcoming Spring Shows

August 21st – 23rd Levin & Districts Spring Show. Memorial Hall, Cnr. Queen & Chamberlain Streets, Levin.

September 12th – 13th Taranaki Orchid Society Spring Show.

Highland's Intermediate School, 260A Coronation Avenue, New Plymouth.

September 12th – 13th Capital City Orchid Society Rose Gardens, Botanical Gardens, Wellington.

September 19th – 20th Hawkes Bay Orchid Society Spring Show.

Taradale Town Hall, Cnr. Lee & Meeanee Roads, Taradale

September 26th – 27th Manawatu Orchid Society Spring Show.

Community Leisure Centre, 569 Fergusson Street, Palmerston North.

October 3rd – 4th Wairarapa Orchid Circle, Spring Show.

Masterton Town Hall.

October 10th - 11th Wanganui Orchid Circle Spring Show, Memorial Hall, Queen's Garden's, Wanganui.

November 7th Hawkes Bay Orchid Society Sarcophilus Show. Taradale Town Hall.



Subscriptions 2009 - 2010

\$17 Single & \$24 Double

Discount \$2 if paid by August Meeting

Subscriptions are now **due**. Please pay at this month's meeting or post a cheque to Graham Jackson at

MANAWATU ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

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☺☺ - NO PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTION - NO MORE NEWSLETTERS AFTER THIS ISSUE ☹☹

Message from your New President: Roy Neale.

I am pleased to report I am now fully recovered from my health glitch and looking forward to being involved with you all over the next 3 years. I will try and visit as many clubs as possible during my tenure. My first invitation is to attend the Hibiscus Coast Orchid Society's 25th Anniversary luncheon and I am looking forward to that event on 19th July. My personal thanks to Joy Wray who has agreed to continue producing this update to members.

WONDERLAND The Mystery of the Orchid exhibition is now in full swing at the Auckland Museum. During her opening address, the Auckland Museum Director, Dr Vanda Vitali, mentioned by name some of the local orchid identities and thanked them for their input in the show - Ross and Susan Tucker, Alf Day, Dennis Chuah and Eric Scanlen. Eric was also represented along with Albert Blumhardt and Lee Neale, by their Great Aunts, Eleanore and Lydia Blumhardt, who's paintings were included as part of the Art exhibition.

Not a typical orchid show but certainly something of interest for everyone. The journey takes us from the origins of the species, to Darwin and through to the modern day cloning techniques and beyond.

Well worth a visit and **open until 12th October 2009.**

OCNZ Raffle. All raffle books have now been distributed for members to sell, remember your club receives 20% of the takings for the tickets it sells, so make an effort to get maximum benefits and help fund your involvement with the 2010 International Show. **Thanks, Roy Neale.**

Tickets can be sold over three months from 1st July to 30th September. We all need groceries so the prizes are applicable to everyone, not just orchid growers - ask if they would like \$1500, \$1000, or \$500 worth of groceries for \$1.? It's not hard to sell tickets and you can have a lot of fun! Lets go 4it and have a 100% sellout !!

The AGM Weekend in Palmerston North was packed full of interest. The Show that came together with plants from all over the country was lovely and it is amazing the quality of flowers that are shown in the middle of winter. Judges were kept really busy over the weekend with various tasks they were set and four plants were given a quality award. Grand Champion of the show was awarded to Odontobrassia Peggy Mobley, grown by Ted Mannell from Masterton, Congratulations Ted.

Senior Judge Sotatus was presented to Kath Bruce and Joy Wray, congratulations to them both. (That was a big surprise and well kept secret !).

Council's guest speaker, Gary Yong Gee and his partner Roger Sawkins, were very well received and they participated in proceedings throughout the weekend, after which they carried out a whirlwind speaking tour to Hawke's Bay, Tauranga, Waitakere, Waikato, Taranaki and Capital City Societies. Gary had some excellent talks prepared and they were well presented. He certainly knows his species. They were well impressed with their visit to NZ and are seriously thinking about coming over to enjoy our big show next year in Arena Manawatu.

Many thanks to Ruth Coles who organised all of this tour - a job well done.

Yearbook 2009: These were distributed at the AGM and, as was pointed out at the time, there have been a few books with slight defects. If any have been found in your society's allocation, please let any of the executive committee know, asap, or email Joy direct, so that replacement copies can be sent. The Printer does have some spares and will see us right.

This winter is the coldest we've had for some time, so trust you and your orchids are coping well.

Kind regards

From the Executive - OCNZ

Committee Rules

- ✓ Never arrive on time, or you will be stamped a beginner.
- ✓ Don't say anything until the meeting is half over; this stamps you as being wise.
- ✓ Be as vague as possible; this prevents irritating the others.
- ✓ When in doubt, suggest that a subcommittee be appointed.
- ✓ Be the first to move for adjournment; this will make you popular - it's what everyone is waiting for.

Plant Commentary list for July 2009

July 2009 Day Forum

We were greeted by Diana and Neville Butler, Eileen Maney and welcomed by Chrissy Hoys, Sales Manager to the Julia Wallace Retirement Village. They had set up tables and chairs on the end of the lounge for our meeting. Members were given folders containing information about Julia Wallace, writing paper and pen, sweets and an invitation to join them for lunch.

We had a good display of plants that members talked about – great support for the raffles with prizes going to staff of Julia Wallace and club members. Then Chrissy took us for a tour of the main building – swimming pool and spa, Gym, small meeting rooms and a lovely indoor garden area with fish pond and even an orchid plant, then served us for afternoon tea.

Then we went to view Eileen Maney and Diana and Neville's homes and Neville's small glasshouses with approx. 300 very healthy plants.

Thanks to Chrissy, Diana, Neville and Eileen for a very enjoyable afternoon.

Lorraine Bird.



Jenny Mair	Dendrobium 'Star of Gold'. Tillandsia recurrifolia
Jill Palethorpe	Onc. Summit Lc Coastal Breeze Dendrobium Pompadour Den. Hilda Poxon (2x)
Ted Mannell	Wilsonara 'Tiger Brew' Onc. Tweinkle 'Fragrance Fantasy' Onc. Twinkle 'Weston'
<u>Tudor Orchids</u>	Odm Bic-ross Oda Mavis Hart Baffrey Odm Stamfordiense Ocdm Bittersweet Odm bictoiense x Odm Somelle
<u>Graham Jackson</u>	Oncidium Twinkle 'Fragrance Fantasy' Dendrobium Ellen Rose Beallara Witches Cauldron 'Magic Brew' Laelia autumnalis Laelia gouldianana Paphiopedilum Henrietta Fujiwara

Results of Plant Commentary

Other Species

- 1st Oda Mavis Hart Baffrey Tudor Orchids
- 2nd Lc Coastal Breeze Jill Palethorpe
- 3rd Beallara Witches Cauldron 'Magic Brew
Graham Jackson

GROWING TIP

Orchids Remove flowering orchid stems before flowers fade for maximum flower production the following year.

SHOW RULES 2010

1. To display plants a person must be a financial or life member of the Manawatu Orchid Society.
2. Financial members of other Orchid Societies may display plants at the discretion of the Show Marshall. These plants will be eligible for award judging only.
3. Plants exhibited for show judging must have been in the exhibitor's care for the period of time that covers the 'spike initiation' of the blooms on display.
4. All plants must be presented in a clean and disease-free condition and be well established in their growing medium. Pots should be clean and for club displays if outer display pots are used they must not detract from the plants. The Show Marshall will make the final decision on what is acceptable.
5. Flowering plants other than orchids are not to be displayed. Foliage only may be used.
6. A label, which should be legible within the display, should be placed so that the plant is easily and correctly identifiable. Only labelled plants will be eligible for judging. The owners name can be on the front or back of the label. Pale green card is expected to be used for labels in club displays.
7. Invited commercial growers must have a display. Labelled plants may be eligible for show judging. If any plants on the display are sold, they must not be removed until the end of the show.
8. Only exhibitors may offer plants for sale either on their own or the club's sales table.
9. All tables and trestles used in the Exhibition are to be fully draped unless it is inappropriate to do so, e.g. as part of a display.
10. All plants presented for sale on the clubs sales table must be recorded separately on the sales form. Each plant is to be labelled showing the sellers name and the identifying sheet code and number from the sales form.
11. All sales plants must comply with rule 4 above. There is an expectation that the majority of plants presented for sale will be orchids.
12. The Show Marshall has the right to reject any plants not considered to be up to standard.
13. While all care will be taken no liability will be accepted by the Society for any loss or damage of plants for sale or display.
14. Watering of plants: All plants should be watered no less than two days before display to allow for drainage and avoid damage to the drapes. Plants in sphagnum moss are particularly prone to this and double potting may assist.
15. Displays are not to be dismantled until 10 minutes after closing time on the last day of the show or at the discretion of the Show Marshall.
16. The Show Marshall shall have the final say on any show matters which may be unclear or under dispute.

These rules were revised by a sub committee under the chairmanship of Graham Jackson. September 2005.





All photos of plants on display above taken by Ted Mannell.

The July club night took the form of a panel discussion amongst members present telling what and why they fed their orchids on various fertilisers and some of the sprays used. Most members use readily available fertilisers from Garden Centres while a few used less common brands.

A mixture of organic and inorganic fertilisers were used ranging from Seaweed based products, worm pee to Phostrogen and Hydroponic mixtures including Manutec which is quite readily available locally. The other point that came through was that many hobbyists varied their fertiliser from time to time – rightly or wrongly.

Although there are a number of Phostrogen mixtures available one grower was thinking of changing the one he used because the main Nitrogen source had recently been changed to urea, almost useless for Orchids.

It was an interesting discussion with the conclusion that we all have our own pet feeds, likes and dislikes. This was a programme well worth including on an annual basis.

LIGHT

This is probably the single most crucial factor in determining whether or not your plants will **bloom**. The appropriate amount of light is necessary for proper plant growth and nutrient storage. Without the right light levels, your plant either cannot produce enough food stores to power a blooming cycle (if it gets too little light) or it may get sunburned and scorched or desiccated due to rapid transpiration (if it gets too much light).

Generally, you can tell how much light an orchid needs by observing the foliage. For most plants, you want the leaves to be a light green colour. When exposed to sufficient light, many plants darken their foliage with plum-coloured pigments. Essentially, this is the plant's "suntan." It may take the form of spotting or the whole leaf may darken. This shows that the plant has as much light as it can stand and is trying to

protect itself from burning. **This is the ideal situation for good blooming.**

Too much light: If the leaves become very yellow, move the plant to a shadier location. The same goes if you see sudden brown splotches or orange patches, particularly at the apexes of leaves or at folds where long leaves reflex. Light that is too intense can cause sun scalding. This is indicated by the large, bleached spots that eventually turn black, crispy, and dry, looking charred. **Not enough light:** If the leaves become dark emerald green, move the plant to more light. This colouration shows that the plant wants more light to grow well. The plant will live indefinitely with light that is lower than ideal, but you probably won't see any flowers. The good news is that a large and otherwise healthy plant that has been grown for a long time without adequate light will often put on a dazzlingly impressive display once given desirable light conditions. All articles and images appearing in this newsletter remain the copyright of the original owner.

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E&OE.



Calypto borealis

Common name: Eastern fairy-slipper

Plant: terrestrial, small tuber, single leaved, 10-20cm

Flowers: showy solitary flower, normally light pink, white lip streaked with purple and with tufts of yellow hairs.

Courtesy of Orchid Society of Nova Scotia

Manawatu Orchid Society Inc.

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Hi Eldon:

Reading your message about Spring show dates reminds me to tell you that I appreciated being on your mailing list and keeping up with what is happening in the orchid world of New Zealand. Been meaning to let you know I enjoy all the messages, and have meant to say so for a long time.

We had 31 members of the Central Ohio Orchid Society at our place last Sunday for their annual Summer picnic.

All the best,

Jim Harper

(Received from Jim Harper 29th July 2009)

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Geraldine Wood

Fragrance in Orchids

Many orchids are known for their fragrance and this is one of the items that orchid lovers can concentrate on for their collections. It is estimated that about 60% of orchids use scent to attract their pollinators which are searching for nectar as food or pollen. Some orchids even mimic the pheromone of female insects in order to attract the males of the species to try to mate with the flower. Fragrance is used by plants to attract insects, mostly bees and moths and butterflies, in order to pollinate their flowers. In addition to these pollinators, several species of orchids produce scents of rotting meat (as well as flowers that look that way) to attract flies which are their pollinators.

Probably the most famous fragrant orchid is *Oncidium Sharry Baby*, or *Sherry Baby*, which smells like milk chocolate. Here's a link to a picture on the Orchid

Forum with a well grown specimen: [The Orchid Forum](#). You can do a search and find them for sale at a number of different vendors. I've even seen them at local hardware stores in the orchid sections.

Another group which makes really fragrant orchids is the Cattleya Alliance. One of the best know of these is [Rhyncholaelia digbyana](#) an extremely fragrant orchid which has been used extensively in breeding to produce frilly lips in Cattleya hybrids. It has a very attractive fragrance that is somewhat lemony and is produced after the sun goes down as the pollinator is a moth.

A great deal of breeding has been done lately to produce compact or small orchids (fondly called Mini-Catts) which have nice flowers as well as good fragrance. Most of the fragrance comes from the large varieties and most of the color on the small flowers comes from the *Sophranitis* genus, which has little fragrance since it relies on brightly colored flowers to attract pollinators which are thought to be humming birds.

[Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis](#) is the best known of the carrion orchids which attract flies as their pollinators. Look at the picture and you can see how the dark red flowers resemble meat and would attract both by smell and by sight the flies they need to pollinate their flowers.

Fragrance in orchids is achieving new importance and now has been added by many authorities, among them the Japanese Prize International Orchid Show, as a category for judging flowers. Let's hope that this is the start of a trend that will continue so that we can enjoy the flowers as well as the scent of our orchids.

From an article by Susan Taylor AOS.



Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis