

AUCKLAND ORCHID CLUB BULLETIN

EDITOR: Mary Jones

8 May Ave. Te Atatu Sth. Ph (09) 834 6989 Fax (09) 834 6889 Email jonzie@paradise.net.nz

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PRESIDENT: Glenys MacRae
721 Te Atatu Rd, Te Atatu Pen. Ph (09) 834 6428

SECRETARY: Linda English
55 Anich Rd, Massey Ph (09) 833 1443



Grahame Leafberg's *Sophronitis coccinea* was the August meeting plant of the month. It is a magnificent specimen. Well done Grahame!

MESSAGE OF THE MONTH

By the time this newsletter arrives in your letter box, our show will be over. However at the time of writing this, life for the Show Marshal and Show Committee is all **GO!** The last minute arrangements are being made and we are wondering if the weather is going to be as kind to us as it was last year. Plants are being nurtured and baits laid for beasties who dare to take a nibble at the flowers!

The glasshouse is starting to wake up after the winter and is a great place to head for when the outside temperatures are not compatible with gardening. Cleaning up the plants and the floor areas under the benches is very important at this time of year as the bugs seem to be coming out of hibernation. Take the opportunity to study your plants and plan for their next move. It may be that they need dividing or are just needing fresh mix. Make sure they are in active growth though as you don't want them to be set back by getting too enthusiastic. By planning ahead it helps get over that overwhelming feeling when you

walk into the glasshouse or shade house and find everything jumping out of the pots and saying ME, ME, ME! ED.

NEXT MEETING
Tuesday September 7th
7.30pm
Lions Whitehouse

We will be having our usual 'after the show' meeting in the form of questions about plants. This is to introduce any new members who are at the meeting as a result of our show

The trading table, produce table, plants on display and library will all be operating.

Please bring a small plate for supper after the meeting.

Volunteers will be needed to help vacuum the floor after the meeting.



Happy September birthday to.....
Margaret LeSueur, Virginia Becroft and June Hogg



Raffle winners.....

Jimmy Shaw, Bev Holdsworth, June Sutton and Marie Scotti.

Raffle donations.....

Dennis Chuah and Grahame Leafberg.

Thank you.

The raffle made \$60.



Thank you to Peter C Elfleet for donating time and materials to set up all our new spotlights for the show.

FROM THE AUGUST MEETING

President Glenys welcomed the hardy 43 members and friends who braved the chilly night.

It was lovely to see our associate member Norma Manuel at the meeting also.

Apologies: Margaret Stansfield, Gary and Heather Cooke, Assid and Miriam Corban and Gwen Bennett.

Sick: Lucille Rowe. Lovely to see Pauline Weeks back after her surgery. I believe Helen has been taking good care of her plants while Pauline has been recovering from her op.

Notices: Sales tickets were available for those wanting to sell plants on the trading table at our Spring Show. South Auckland Orchid Society had sent a show schedule for their coming show. Keith Goodwin has also sent a list of plants for sale. Raffle books need to be sold, Glenys asked all members to take one home.

Reminders for helping out at our show. Runners were asked to be at the hall by 7.30am on Friday 27th.

The trading table had lots to sell and we were encouraged to support it.

SHOW DATES TO REMEMBER

NZOS Mt Albert War Memorial Hall
September 10th –12th (set up Thursday 9th)

Hibiscus Coast Orchid Society
September 10th -11th
Community Centre, Hillary Square

ANOS Eden Gardens
September 25th-26th (set up Friday 24th)

Howick Orchid Society
October 2nd

Sarcochilus Show Eden Gardens
November 7th (set up Saturday 6th)

**THANKS TO WAREHOUSE STATIONERY
FOR THE PRINTING OF THIS
NEWSLETTER.**



QUESTION TIME

Roy Neale and others!

Q. My laelia has been badly frostbitten and the canes are black and spongy, What do I do with it now?

A. Cut the damaged area off and apply either sulphur or cinnamon to the fresh cut.

Q. The same laelia has a sheath but no buds have developed within the sheath. Why?

A. Maybe there has been too much water given to it over the winter resting period. Laelia's like their water in the spring and summer. Reduce watering in autumn and winter.

Q. My vulylstekeara has awful leaves, many are badly marked. What has happened?

A. It has been kept too wet. Move it to warmer place for this time of the year.

Q. My odontoglossum flowers are very crowded on the stem, how can I remedy this?

A. It is a genetic fault, however it may be helped if you encourage the spike to arch, thus displaying the flowers a bit better.

Q. Has anyone noticed the lack of bugs at this time of the year. Usually there are more about?

A. The weather may have something to do with it. In West Auckland where we have been sprayed for the Painted Apple Moth there have been less bugs about. However weta's have been chewing some members prize flowers. As they are a protected species, it is a hard one to control.

CULTURE HINTS

It is important not to move your cymbidiums indoors while the buds are unopened. This temperature change causes bud drop and also the flowers may contort from being moved. Wait until most of the flowers have opened.

If you don't want to lay snail baits, protect the flowers by putting cotton wool around the base of the flower spike.

Roy has bark from Waitara arriving just before the show. If members are interested please give him a call.

GUEST SPEAKER

*Graham Andrews
Pacific Growers*

Graham works in the family business which has been operating for 16 years and very experienced in their field. They have also been growers, so know what we as hobbyists are trying to achieve and what problems we are coming up against.

Graham was imparting so much information - so swiftly I was barely able to scribble it all down so I shall do my best to cover all that he was telling us.

His first big bit of advice was that we must put on all our safety gear **before we even open a packet or bottle of insecticide**. One drop of concentrate is extremely toxic. If you haven't the safety gear - get it! Pacific Growers has available: irrigation supplies, fertilisers, sprays, foliar fertilisers, cocopeat, vermiculite, perlite, clay balls, landscaping supplies, misting systems, heating blankets, cables, thermostats propagating boxes, ornamental stones etc. If there is something that I haven't mentioned, give him a call and I guarantee he has more than likely got it or can tell you where to get it!

Sprays: Pacific Growers carries a complete range of commercial sprays ie. (those that don't damage the flowers). As temperature changes cause lots of diseases, they have the spray to fix it. For the hobbyist who doesn't want to buy a huge amount of commercial spray, Graham gave us a hint. Check the contents of the sprays on the back of the packet in the garden centre and if it contains aluminium it will be a good fungicide. *Aliette* being one of these.

Use wheat soaked in pesticide to kill off crickets etc that nibble at flowers.

Always remember that an oil based spray will mark flowers badly.

Slugs and snails: *Quash* will not harm animals. I was most interested in this as my ragdoll kitten was trying to get at my snail baits. After 2 plantings of broccoli seedlings and snails consuming every one of them it is nice to know that there is a safe bait out there.

Mesurool is now called *Baysol*, and is toxic to animals.

Foliar feeding: A number of growers are very skeptical about foliar feeding, however we were persuaded to think about trying it as it does indeed work. Some of the tougher type foliage may be slower to absorb a foliar feed.

Plantafol is the spray for foliar feeding and is priced at about \$10 per packet.

Verkon is an anti-viral, anti-bacterial sterilizing substance for tools.

Scale: For hobbyists: *Orthene*, or *Confidor*.

Whitefly: *Confidor*, *Megafol* or *Target*. Aphids will also be destroyed by these sprays.

Megafol is safe to use on vegetables. Always remember to wash your vegetables before eating them regardless of having sprayed them or not.

Ants: *Orthene*.

Graham is more than happy to help out with any problems you may be experiencing with your plants and flowers. Phone him at Pacific Growers 573 5775.

This was a very interesting and informative talk, we thank Graham for his time and for sharing his knowledge with us.

* The editor hopes that the spelling of the brand names of the sprays etc are correct. If you have any doubts please phone Graham. All brand names have been written in *italics*.

If any members are on line please give us your email address. Here are some that we have.....

AOC website

http://www.geocities.com/auckland_orchid

Helen Brown
Dennis Chuah

hwbrown@xtra.co.nz
dennis_cs_chuah@hotmail.com

Gary Cooke
Ray Dix
Finlay/Duxfield
Mary Jones
Irene Levet
Bev & Pete Meredith
Lee & Roy Neale
Glenys MacRae
Kim Robilliard
John & Annette Scott
Margaret Stansfield
Jean Treadwell

gary.cooke@xtra.co.nz
redcym@xtra.co.nz
duxfield@clear.net.nz
jonzie@paradise.net.nz
ilevet@clear.net.nz
meredithpb@xtra.co.nz Lee &
leeandroy@ihug.co.nz
gm@pclfeeds.co.nz
Kim@jungleinstinct.co.nz
j.a.scott@xtra.co.nz
gerry.stansfield@xtra.co.nz
jean_treadwell@paradise.net.nz
nz

Pauline Weeks

peweeks@slingshot.co.nz

If you want to have your address added to this list, or if you have changed your address, please email Mary

PLANTS ON DISPLAY

BIFRENARIA

Bif *indora*

- Mary Jones

CYMBIDIUM

Cym Red Beauty x Pure Love 'Pink Pearl'

- Leroy Orchids

Cym Memoria 'Marvin Gaye'

- Glenys MacRae

DENDROBIUM

Den Rutherford Sunspot 'Kilaben' x Aussie Quest 'Sampson'

- Wolf and Faith Grausch

Den Cheryl's Glory

- Leroy Orchids

Den Jonathans Glory

- Ken Morse

Den Kevin Mitchell #

- L & M Denyer

LAELIA

L Intercepts

L *anceps*

- Joy Intveld

MASDEVALLIA

Masd Copper Angel 'GF'

- Leroy Orchids

ODONTIODA

Oda Jan's Pride#

- L & M Denyer

PAPHIOPEDILUM

Paph *insigne*

- Jean Treadwell

PTEROSTYLIS

Ptst Nodding Grace

- Grahame Leafberg

SOPHRONITIS

Soph *wittingiana*

Soph *rosea*

Soph *coccinea*

-Grahame Leafberg

VUYLSTEKEARA

Vuyl Cambria 'Plush' 4N x Oda Esteemed HCC/AD NZOS

- Leroy Orchids

Those members with a # beside their plant name, please correct your label.

A plant name written in *italics* depicts it is a *species*.

Apology. Sorry Melvin I wrote your Phally up as a Paph last month. ED

The plant commentary was conducted by Wolf Grausch and Grahame Leafberg.

PLANTS ON DISPLAY

June

Joy Intveld

July

Melvin Alexander

IT'S TIME.....

Start feeding your plants again!

Bring along a sample of your fertiliser (already mixed at the strength you use) and Roy will bring his 'Magic Meter' and test it for you. This will help you decide if the strength you are using is correct. You may well be wasting your fertiliser and we all know that some are quite costly! Money saved gives you more to spend on new plants!



from behind the shade house.....



Our new Secretary and family had a wonderful cruise in Fiji and came home to the flu! Perhaps they should have stayed longer and dodged the bugs!

Honey and Les Denyer are getting ready for a visit from their Son and his wife and little granddaughter from USA. The little one will have her third birthday while they are here.



I have to put myself behind the shade house this month. While making the bed my eye caught what I thought was my white ragdoll kitten so I proceeded to have a conversation with her. When I took a better look, it was the duvet inner I was talking to!

Congratulations to Jimmy and Margaret Shaw who celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary on September 11th. Hope you have a wonderful day. The Executive, Show Committee and members send their love to you both.



Joan McLintock, one of our past members living 'way up north' now has just become a grandmother for the first time. Dawn has had a wee girl.