

AUCKLAND ORCHID CLUB BULLETIN

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February plant of the month
Zygostates postulata
Exhibited by Grahame Leafberg

MESSAGE OF THE MONTH

It was great to see so many members at the first meeting of the year. The display of plants was incredible, so many different genera showing off their lovely blooms. Orchids are certainly an 'all year round' hobby. We can have blooming plants at all times if we so wish.

A number of our members will be heading off this month to the World Orchid Conference in France. We wish them safe and happy traveling and we expect them to come back and tell us all about it. Some of them are also traveling through Europe and our President is going to Scotland on the way home to catch up with 'rellies'.

I've noticed mealy bugs are around, so get onto them! *Confidor* does a good job in killing them off. You can buy it in an aerosol can or a handy pre mixed trigger spray, or mix it yourself if you need larger quantities. ED

NEXT MEETING
Tuesday March 1st 2005
7.30pm
Lions Whitehouse

The guest speaker will be Wally Lomas from Whangarei who's topic will be mini phalaenopsis and modern phalaenopsis, with an amazing range of colours and easy culture.

Wally will have plants for sale

Plants on display, trading table and library will all be operating.

Please bring a small plate for supper.

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



Happy March birthday to.....

Linda Alexander, Liline Hewitt and Jonathan Scvachko.



Raffle results.....

Winners in February were, Sebastian Denhan, Helen Brown and Mary Jones.

Thanks to Rai and Lottie Hogan for their raffle donation.

The club made \$49 from the raffle.

Please take note.....

Your subscription is due on March 1st. Fill in the enclosed form and bring it along to the meeting together with your payment or post it to Jim Shaw. His address is on the registration form.

FROM THE FEBRUARY MEETING

President Glenys MacRae welcomed 44 members and also a new member Alan Thompson from Mt Roskill who has been growing orchids for many years. We hope you enjoy being with us Alan.

Apologies: Ken Morse, Jean Treadwell, Joy Intveld, Diana Elfleet and Linda Alexander.

Notices: Don't forget our Autumn plant auction at the April meeting.

Our Ribbon Show is on April 9th, and our Spring Show will be a little bit earlier this year. August 5, 6, and 7 with set up day on the 4th.

The big show in Hamilton this year is on September.....? and we will be mounting a display and having a bus trip down to the show. Mark your calendars.

A Flora Culture magazine was available to browse through, showing information on the Asia/Pacific Conference.

Some of our members attended the Taranaki Summer Show during January and Gary was fortunate to win a flask of plants in the raffle!

The Bromeliad Show is on at the Racing Stables on February 19th and 20th, 10am to 4pm.



Aerangis rhodosticta.

Bev gave me a small piece of her plant last year and it has done really well mounted on soft ponga and kept high up in the glass house. Spanish moss around the roots has also helped with keeping humidity around it. ED



RIBBON SHOW NEWS

To the new members - please come along as this show is for you. It is a fun show and members do the judging, this gives you an insight as to how the judging is done at the big shows. It is a lot of fun and once you have judged at one Ribbon Show I guarantee you will never miss another one! It's the only time we are allowed to have 'our say' as to how the plants are judged! If you have an orchid plant with a flower on it, bring it along as we need all the plants we can get to help make it a successful day.

The show will be held at the **Hobsonville Hall, on Saturday April 9th.**

Staging of plants:	8.30am - 9.45am.
Judging:	10.00am.
Open to the public:	12.00pm - 4.00pm.

There will be a trading table for plants. Phone Heather for sales tickets. We are also having a produce and bric-a-brac table, on this we sell jams, cakes, sweets or anything else you would like to donate. All proceeds go to club funds

After the show we always have a BBQ. Everyone brings a plate and the club supplies meat and refreshments. It is not a late night, so bring the children along.

.Bev needs to know how many of you will be attending the BBQ after the show. Please phone her at **412 2991** and let her know so that she can order the meat. The cost of the show and BBQ is

Did you remember to give your cymbidiums their dried blood boost this month? If not get it done straight away. I know Bruce Hughes has done all his!

GUEST SPEAKER

Gary Cooke

BROMELIADS

Bromeliads are a beautiful group of tropical plants, many of which possess colourful foliage, beautiful flowers or both. They come in many shapes and are easy to care for and are very undemanding.

These are similar conditions to those required by orchids, therefore making them very compatible.

Their main requirements are sufficient light, proper watering and good air circulation. Indoors, bromeliads thrive in an area that receives plenty of light. Outside they generally prefer a semi shaded location that receives morning sun but shade from intense light of midday and afternoon.

An orchid house outside of the flowering season can be very dull and boring. Adding bromeliads makes the house more attractive and exciting, especially when grown in a cluster.

Bromeliads are often overlooked. Their size and the availability of a choice of colours and shapes found in garden centres has not been good. However, things are now changing as hybridisers are creating a much larger variety of colours and shapes. These are now becoming obtainable and affordable.

Tonight I am introducing the miniature *neoregelia*, which because of its size, colour and shape, the ability to be rafted or potted requires only a little of precious orchid space.

They enjoy being foliar fed monthly but a few sheep pellets in the mix is usually sufficient.

Although it is a great idea to 'summer' your bromeliads outside when temperatures are warm, they can tolerate shade/glass house conditions.

Most are grown in pots of well drained mix similar to orchid mix, but with a bit of pumice sand and potting mix added. The mix should not be constantly wet, because bromeliads do best when allowed to dry slightly before you re-water them. Many species are able to hold considerable reserves of water in the vase-like centre of the plant. This centre should generally be kept full of water because the leaves themselves can absorb water.

The vase-like shape of many bromeliads, which collects and holds water, is an adaptation to their tree

dwelling nature. Without soil to retain moisture, you can see how the reserved water held by the leaves helps the plant to survive between rains. Mounted plants are a little more trouble to maintain than potted ones because they require more frequent watering.

Some genera such as *neoregelia* do not produce especially showy flowers, but the foliage in the centre of the plant turns a brilliant colour when they bloom. Indeed, for most bromeliads, it is not the flowers that provide the primary show – but the colourful bracts or modified leaves that compliment your orchids when displayed together.

Comment: I visited Heather and Gary and saw all their beautiful broms and they certainly do look lovely among the Orchids. I also called on Gerry and Margaret Stansfield and was totally 'blown away' with his thousands of broms which cover their entire section. No lawn mowing required here! ED



from behind the shade house.....



Roy and Lee are about to start packing their bags and are heading off to the USA-Santa Barbara in fact. Roy will be guest speaker at the Santa Barbara show, and I just sort of guess he will be speaking on cymbidiums! Lee will be checking out the shops.



Bernadette has gone to visit family in the South Island and will also be calling into the giant pinecone farm owned by friends. She was once bitten by a farm dog here while on a mission to collect the giant pinecones (for me I might add!). They are also going to travel through Moleworth Station. Bernadette will be driving and I am sure it will be a challenge!

Gerry and Margaret are also heading away to OZ to visit their son, daughter in law and grandchildren. Not until after the bromeliad show though!



Margaret Shaw is slowly making progress with her hand after surgery but it has left her with a frozen shoulder. Jimmy has been head nurse and doing a great job.

PLANTS ON DISPLAY

AERANGIS

Aergrs rhodosticta

- Mary Jones

BEALLARA

Bllra Witches Brew

- H & G Cooke

BRASSIA

Brs *longissima*

- Bev Meredith

Brs *vericosa*

- Kim Robilliard

Brs *brachiata* #

- Jim Shaw

BRASSOVOLA

Brassovola *cuculata*

- Bev Meredith

CATASETUM

Ctsm *ornithoides*

- Mary Jones

CATTLEYA

Cat *schofieldiana*

-L & M Denyer

Cat *forbesii*

- Ron Reeves

Cat Kew

- H & G Cooke

DENDROBIUM

Den Impact var Bicolour

- Marie Scotti

Den *hercoglossum*

- Grahame Leafberg

Den (Muisck x Sand Cay 'Pink')

- C & R Hogan

ENCYCLIA

Enc *cochleata*

- L M Denyer

EPIDENDRUM

Epi *ilense*

Epi *prismatocarpum*

- Bev Meredith

Epi Poet's Wine

- H & G Cooke

LAELIA

L *flava*

- Ron Reeves

L Purpurata var Carnea

- R & C Hogan

LOCKHARTIA

Lockhartia *serra*

- Ron Reeves

MASDEVALLIA

Masd Susan

- L & M Denyer

A POINT OF INTEREST

Of the 40 plants on display 21 of these were *species*.

It is wonderful to know that hobbyists are growing so many of the different *species*. With forests and jungles being cut down at the rate they are today without the *species* being raised by hobbyists worldwide they could eventually all die out.

Keep up the good work everyone!

Masd *floribunda*

- Helen Brown

MAXILLARIA

Max *nigrescens*

- H & G Cooke

ODONTIODA

Oda Lavender Lace

Oda Rapid Bay#

- Leroy Orchids

ODONTOCIDIUM

Odcdm Gold Bar 'Mountain'

- Leroy Orchids

ODONTOGLOSSUM

Odm Annwood

- Leroy Orchids

ONCIDIUM

Onc Sydney

- Linda English

Onc *longipes*

- Grahame Leafberg

ONCIDIODA

Oncda Charlesworthii

- Kim Robilliard

PHALAEENOPSIS

Phal Unknown

- Bev Meredith

PROMENAEA

Prom Samsu

- L & M Denyer

SARCOCHILUS

Sarco *ceciliae*

- Faith & Wolf Grausch

SOBRALIA

Sob *xantholeuca*

- Ron Reeves

SOPHROLAELIOCATTLEYA

Slc Medley x C *walkeriana* 'Bette'

- Melvin Alexander

Slc Natalie Canipelli

- H & G Cooke

STANHOPEA

Stan *tigrina*

- C & R Hogan

UNKNOWN GENERA

- H & G Cooke

ZYGOPETALUM

Z Kiwi Klassic

- Linda English

ZYGOSTATES

Zygoststes *postulata*

- Grahame Leafberg

Heather did a magnificent job-tackling the plant commentary by herself.

Thanks also to Diana who checks out all the names and makes sure that we all have our plants labeled correctly. Hers is a very long, slow job and she deserves a good 'pat on the back'.

Those members with a # beside their plant name please correct your label. Names written in *italics* depicts it is a *species*.