

# AUCKLAND ORCHID CLUB BULLETIN

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PRESIDENT: Glenys MacRae

SECRETARY: Pauline Weeks

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Grahame Leafberg won the popular plant of the month with this beautiful orchid.

Slc Angel's Fantasy 'Flame'  
AM/AOS



## MESSAGE OF THE MONTH

*'We don't know how lucky we are'*

Last month Chris Whitby was going to give us the reasons why, and a few tips on how, to arrange your plants in a display to show them to their advantage. Unfortunately Chris had to take a quick trip to hospital in the early hours of the morning on the day of the meeting.

I am pleased to report that Chris is making good progress and is willing to re book at a later date.

Lee and I did the best we could to arrange something to fill the gap- but really it was the club members that made the night.

In all my years of being involved with running the evening I have never had so many complimentary comments about a club night.

In analysing the nights' activities I am now more than ever convinced that we are fortunate indeed to have so many willing and knowledgeable members. The way in which members responded and got involved with the nights' activities was marvelous – hence my heading.

Poor Margaret attending for the first time must have wondered what she had struck, at least now she knows where the Peanut Butter Ad. got it's jingle from. 'They're all nuts in there anyway!'

Thanks again one and all for a very enjoyable evening, the humour interspersed with knowledge really made the night.

Roy Neale  
Programming Committee

**NEXT MEETING**  
**Tuesday March 7th**  
**7.30pm**  
**Lions Whitehouse**

Our guest speaker for March will be Barbara Johnston from Whangarei.

Barbara and her husband Fanie are well known orchid growers and hybridisers. Cattleyas and Phalaenopsis are their first specialties.

Barbara will bring plants for sale so don't forget your money!

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

Supper will be served during the evening so please bring a small plate.

Help will be needed to vacuum the hall after the meeting.



### **Happy Birthday to.....**

Linda Alexander, and Evalyn Ong.  
Also to Sheila Peet, Honey Denyer,  
Francis Ng and Liliane Vadam who  
had birthdays last month.



### **Raffle Results....**

Winners were Pauline Weeks, Leigh  
Leaity and Mary Jones.  
Thanks to Kim Robilliard for donating  
raffle prizes.  
The club made \$55.00.

### **FROM THE FEBRUARY MEETING**

President Glenys welcomed 42 members and friends  
who attended the meeting on February 7th.  
Margaret was attending for the first time, we hope  
you enjoy being with us Margaret and we are sure  
you will soon be growing loads more orchids! Ron  
Reeves brought along some friends and we hope they  
enjoyed their night with us.

**Apologies:** Bev Meredith Patrick Stepancic, June  
Hogg, Linda and Melvin Alexander.

**Sick:** Chris Whitby, Jean Treadwell and Diana  
Elfleet.

**Notices:** Bernadette sent a card to thank members  
for their love and support.

Gary was disappointed with the response to the Te  
Puke Bus Trip. We felt that it needed to go back to  
the Executive to discuss at their next meeting.

Award certificates were presented to:

**Ken Morse**

HCC for Paph Houghtoniae 'Ann'

**Wolf Grausch**

CCC for Den Aussie Spectrum 'Hamilton'

**Grahame Leafberg**

FCC for Dockrillia *fairfaxii* 'Kevin'.

CCC for the same plant.

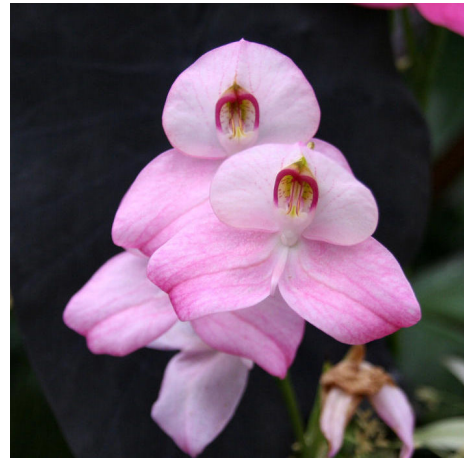
CC C for Sarc Melba 'Grahame'

HCC for Slc Susie's Valentine 'Te Puke'

Dennis spoke briefly on his first experience traveling  
to New Plymouth for the Taranaki Orchid Society  
Summer Show.

Pauline and Dennis made it into a family holiday  
with daughter Dorothea and Dennis' mum Irena. He  
managed an amazing amount of sight seeing and also

climbed the Sugar Loaf rock on the seafront.  
He was most impressed with the disa especially,  
and came home with a few plants to start his own  
little collection. The boot sale was also a highlight.  
I believe that next years trip is being planned al-  
ready!



**One of the disa that caught Dennis' eye in  
New Plymouth**



### **CULTURE QUESTIONS**

**Q.** Phalaenopsis spike has one flower looking the op-  
posite way to all others on the spike, what is wrong?

**A.** The bud decided to look over it's shoulder!!!

**Q.** Do Roy and Lee still use palm fibre, pumice and  
seed raising mix when de flasking their cymbidiums.

**A.** Yes.

**Q.** Had a miltoniopsis in flower given to me in Oc-  
tober, growing in sphagnum moss, it has now fin-  
ished flowering. What do I do with it?

**A.** Wait for a new growth to appear and then repot it  
into good quality sphagnum moss or No 3 bark in the  
bottom of the pot with sphagnum on the top. At the  
moment keep growing it as cool as you can, but give  
it some comfort in the winter, no less than 10°C .

**Q.** Is it dried blood time?

**A.** Yes. Put it on cymbidiums in February –it initi-  
ates new growths which appear in March and April.  
Soak a handful or two in an old pair of pantyhose in  
a container of water. There are varying thoughts on  
how long you should soak it, suggestions ranging  
from a few days to a couple of weeks. Throw away  
the panty hose and water the plants with the  
'yummy' water.

## ALLELOPATHY-WHAT IS IT?

I thought Lee was just amazing the way she leapt into the ring on club night to give us a talk on allelopathy. Most of us had never heard of the word –let alone were able to spell it!

She reminded us of our 2005 Year Book and advised us to go to page 24 and read Mike Meads article on this subject. I have done this and admit that I hadn't thought a lot about what was staring me in the face in my green house. Plants are really clever things, mother nature has done a great job in enabling different species to protect themselves by very simple methods.

Allelopathy is a chemical process used by plants to keep others 'out of their space'. This can be done by dropping leaves allowing nothing to grow around the plant. Leaching chemicals into the soil and also emitting gases to ward off others.

The signs that our plants can be in trouble are mosses growing on top of the pots or ferns invading the pots. Not all mosses are toxic, as we now know that sphagnum moss contains an antibiotic and is a great way to restore a sick plant to health. This does not mean that every plant likes to be grown in sphagnum moss. Plants are like us, some are happy with one situation and others not.

Flush pots regularly to get rid of chemicals and repot when bark or any potting medium looks tired. If your plant is not progressing move it to another spot, and again just like us' keep in mind that it may not be happy with it's neighbour.

Get out your 2005 Year Book and refresh your memory.

### **RIBBON SHOW 2006**

***Saturday April 1st  
Hobsonville Hall***

***Bring along your plants to our 'fun show'. Remember, you, the members judge this show.***

***This year we are having a BBQ at lunch-time so make sure you come along and enjoy the day with us. Prize giving will be after lunch and the rest of the day the show will be open to the public . More details will be at the next club meeting and in next month's Bulletin.***

***Keep this date free!***



**Just a small section of the Taraniaki Summer Show.  
Photo taken by Dennis**

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

**AOC website**

**[http://www.geocities.com/auckland\\_orchid](http://www.geocities.com/auckland_orchid)**

Helen Brown

[hwbrown@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hwbrown@xtra.co.nz)

Dennis Chuah

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John & Annette Scott

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Margaret Stansfield

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Jean Treadwell

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Pauline Weeks

[WEEKSFAMILY@xtra.co.nz](mailto:WEEKSFAMILY@xtra.co.nz)

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

**DON'T FORGET THE TE PUKE BUS TRIP - THIS IS ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR. IF THERE IS NOT ENOUGH SUPPORT - WE CAN'T GO! IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO MISS OUT ON A GREAT DAY OUT.**

**PHONE GARY NOW! 834 6110**

### **Is there anyone...**

Interested in becoming a trainee judge?

Please call Diana Elfleet on 838 7502.

Full training is offered to those who are prepared to spare some of their time to join a group of experienced orchid judges.



## PLANTS ON DISPLAY

### AERANGIS

*Aer rhodosticta*

- Mary Jones

### DENDROBIUM

Den Aussie's Tapestry Phil' CCC/AM/OCNZ

- Grahame Leafberg

Den *undulatum* Var *johannis*

-Leroy Orchids

Den Impact

- Lottie and Rai Hogan

### BRASSOLAELIOCATTLEYA

Blc Toshie Aoki 'Robin'

-Mary Jones

### GOMESA

*Gomesa crispum*

- Faith and Wolf Grausch

### MASDEVALLIA

Masd *stenorhynchos* 'Select' #

Masd Copper Froth

Masd Copper Angel

Masd Caloptera

Masd Tuakau Goldstrike 'Always'

(always in flower).

- Ken Morse

### NAGELIELLA

*Nageliella purpurea*

- Lottie and Rai Hogan

### PAPHIOPEDILUM

*Paph parishii*

- Ron Reeves

### PHALAEENOPSIS

Phal Anthura Gold

- Irene Levett

### SOPHROLAELIOCAT-

### TLEYA

Slc Angel's Fantasy

'Flame' AM/NZOS

Slc Memoria Ken Martin #

Slc Ruby Members

- Grahame Leafberg

C *walkeriana* x Slc Medley

- heather and Gary Cooke

### WILSONARA

Wils Bonne Nuit 'Apirana'

- Grahame Leafberg

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

Plant name written in *italics* depicts it is a species. Thanks to those members who brought in their plants.

## OUR 'NEW LOOK' PLANT COMMENTARY

We decided to try out a new way of presenting our plants on display this month. All members who had a plant on the display table were invited to explain 'how when and where' they looked after their plant.

We had lots of wonderful comments on each plant as each member demonstrating their technique.

The 'how' part was about potting medium, rafting, or cool, intermediate or warm positions they were grown in.

The 'when' was about times for repotting, spraying and watering etc.

The 'where' being how they were placed - high up, low down or 'tossed under the bench'.

A very enlightening evening with lots of great growing advice.



*From behind the shade house.....*

Did you hear that the writer of our editorial this month (I will mention no names) celebrated his 70th Birthday in January. A great party with family and old, (but not as old as him) friends, and a poor little piggy on a spit (that tasted great!), and together with superb weather made it a lovely day for a celebration.



Yours truly has also made the gossip pages this month. I turned on the hose to water the orchids and nothing came out. Panic. Something is the matter with the pump! I phone my son who says he will come the next day to look at it. In the meantime I decide to tap the tank..... Empty!!! Son duly arrives and I have to confess my mistake. He tells me to do a rain dance! Remember that storm we had? Yep, a couple of days later my 30.000 ltr plus tank was filled in just 4 hours! Any empty tank problems, just give me a call!!



Jimmy and Margaret Shaw have recently returned from the South Island, they had a wonderful, very extensive, Bus Tour. Hope my rain dance didn't get you down there!

PS

Did you sell raffle tickets on the bus Jim?

