

AUCKLAND ORCHID CLUB BULLETIN

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~~PRESIDENT: Glenys MacRae~~

~~SECRETARY: Pauline Weeks~~

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The February plant of the month was won by our newest member Beryl Calder with *Lc Mari's Song*.

MESSAGE OF THE MONTH

I imagine every one of you is getting sick and tired of watering, watering, watering-I know I am! It has become quite a mission to keep the plants cool with fans and trying to catch any breeze that is about.

Here's hoping that you and your plants are not getting too stressed.

While I was in Akaroa earlier in the month I did a bit of a bush walk to visit a 2000 year old totara. While everyone else was watching the ground I was scanning the trees to see if I could find any orchids. Unfortunately I saw none but later that day the group of walkers I was with found a large area of terrestrial orchids way up high in the hills and brought me a sample back. I shall have to get a native orchid guru to identify it as I have never seen one of this particular orchid species before.

Keep an eye on those plants, remember the Ribbon Show is coming up fast so keep the slugs and snails off the plants and benches.

ED

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday March 6th

7.30pm

Lions White House

At the time of printing this newsletter we had not yet decided on a guest speaker so it will be a surprise on meeting night.

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

Please bring a small plate for supper which will be held during the evening.

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



Happy March birthday to.....

Linda Alexander, Evelyn Ong and Man Lo.



Raffle Results....

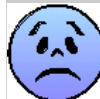
Prizes this month were donated by Bev Meredith, Jim and Margaret Shaw, and Ken Morse. Thanks.

The raffle made \$43.00 for club funds.

Sorry, the stand-in scribe did not make a note of who won the prizes.



Sorry to hear that Diana Elfleet has had a short stay in hospital.



Beryl Finlay had a nasty car accident . and Pam Hughes fell over in the house and hurt her ankle.

Hope everyone else is OK!

FROM THE FEBRUARY MEETING

52 members attended including our newest member Beryl Calder. Welcome to the AOC Beryl. Visitors for the evening were Phillip and Ganghi Zhou.

Apologies: Mary Jones, Miriam and Assid Corban, Jean Treadwell, Diana Elfleet and Patrick Stepanicic (who has broken his wrist).

Notices: Gary and Heather Cooke have booked a bus trip to the Te Puke Show on 31st March and will be collecting money at the next meeting.

The cost is \$30.00 for members and \$36.00 for non-members.

Ribbon Show: 14th April, cost of entry and BBQ is \$6.00. Please pay Lee.

Bromeliad Show: Mt Eden War Memorial Hall (opposite Potters Park in Dominion Road) 24th and 25th February.

Hazmobile Brochures:

Available if needed.

Firewood:

Kindling size to logs available from Kim Young.

Taranaki Orchid Society Summer Show: Ron Reeves gave us his impressions of this show. That it was a great time for those who attended and the Boot Sale was particularly supported by AOC members, some of whom had great difficulty packing their car with all their purchases to return home.

Alf Day reinforced this opinion but emphasized the Disa display - colours ranging from white, red and yellows and this was one of the biggest displays of Disa he had seen. It was well worth the visit.

Dried Blood: Gary had prepared bags of dried blood ready to use as it needs to go onto cymbidiums in February. Immerse the bag in a bucket of water and after 3-4 days use this water, diluted if necessary to water your plants. The idea is to produce growths now, to encourage flowers for next year.

Mike Leaity suggested that the bag can be re-used in another bucket, while Alf Day anchors his with a stone and a piece of string and drops it into his 1200 litre tank from which he waters continuously. It is not recommended to use on cymbidiums for more than 2 weeks as the flower spikes which have already formed will grow too fast and will be too soft.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT Glenys MacRae

This message may seem early but we are only four club meetings away from the AGM and we do need to start talking about positions on the executive committee.

At the time of writing this the positions that need to be filled are President, Vice President, Treasurer and Programme Chairman.

Vice President – This is a very easy job. You don't have to do anything except be available to stand in for the President on the rare occasion that person cannot attend the meeting.

Treasurer - Our current Treasurer would consider taking on a different role on the executive if someone took over the Treasurers job. Lee has done a marvelous job with the accounts and I'm sure it wouldn't be too difficult to pick it up with some initial assistance from Lee.

Programme Chairman - Currently we don't have one which has meant the rest of the committee has been taking turns to organize programmes. However, we are all busy with other committee work so it would be nice if someone could take this on and lessen the load. The person taking on this job will get plenty of support from the executive so don't think you would have to come up with all the ideas yourself.

President - Most of you will be aware that I am in my third and final year as President. Due to an increasing workload and extra responsibility in my 'daytime job', I do not have the energy to continue as President.

The President does have to make the commitment to the club but we have a fantastic executive and show committee to organize everything, so really the President just has to be available for meetings.

If standing and talking in front of a group of people is putting you off I can tell you, that you very quickly become used to it and the butterflies in the stomach soon disappear! I am not a natural public speaker but the regular practice club meetings gives has assisted me in my job where on occasion I have to address groups of people. Being able to deliver a lecture to 80-100 Unitec students without butterflies is a great achievement.

Please consider taking a position on the executive. The club cannot function without a committee. Some of us have been on the committee for years and we are getting tired. Apart from doing your bit for the club, committee work is a great way of getting to know people better.

DON'T FORGET THE RIBBON SHOW ON APRIL 14TH

KEEP AN EYE ON THOSE PLANTS– YOU JUST MAY
HAVE THE GRAND CHAMPION SITTING IN YOUR
SHADE HOUSE!

PLANTS ON DISPLAY

ANGRAECUM

Angcm *scottianum*
- Grahame Leafberg

ASPASIA

Asp *lunata* #
- Ron Reeves

BRASSIA

Brs Rex 'Choice'
- Pauline Weeks

CATTLEYA

C schofieldiana
- Leroy Orchids

DENDROBIUM

Den *crepidiferum*
- Leroy Orchids
Den *crepidiferum*
- Grahame Leafberg
Den (*teretefolium* 'Black Pam' x *linguiforme*) x
teretefolium
- Wolf and Faith Grausch

DISA

Disa *uniflora* 'Goldstreak' x *uniflora* Alba 'Torbay
Moonbeam' (First flowering seedling)
Disa *uniflora* 'Torbay Pomegranate'
Disa Issey Klein #
Disa Alec Lurie 'Paradise Paramount' AM/OCNZ
Disa Issey Klein x *uniflora* #
- Dennis Chuah

LAELIA

L *purpurata carnea* #
- William and Man Lo

LAELIOCATTLEYA

Lc Mari's Song
- Beryl Calder

MASDEVALLIA

Masd Violetta
- Dennis Chuah

MILTONIA

Milt Herralexandre
- William and Man Lo

ONCIDIUM

Onc *sphacelatum* #
- Ron Reeves

Onc *longipes*
- Grahame Leafberg

PAPHIOPEDILUM

Paph Harrisianum 'Balls' Var
Paph Drewettii
- William and Man Lo

PHALAENOPSIS

Phal Unknown
Phal Cis Ryerson x (Cherryvale x Evangeline)
- Kim Young

Phal Unknown
- Linda Alexander

Phal Kahurangi
- Dennis Chuah

PROMENAEA

Prom *xanthina*
- Leroy Orchids
Prom *stapeloides* x Self (4 plants)
- Wolf and Faith Grausch

SARCOCHILUS

Sarco Unknown
- Anjo McKernon

SARTYLIS

Sarts Blue Knob# Reg 1973
Made up from Sarco *hartmannii* x *Rhynchostylis*
retusa
- Ken Morse

SOBRALIA

Sob Songbird (2 plants)
- Peter C Elfleet

SOPHROLALIOCATTLEYA

Slc Precious Jewel x Sc Chester#
Reg 2004 now called Slc Jewel Chest
-Slc Coastal Gold 'Geyslerland'
Slc Teen Angel 'Copper Clad'
Slc Teen Angel 'Hoky Poky'
Slc Bright Hawaii 'Show Off'
- Beryl Calder

STANHOPEA

Stan *devoniensis* #
- Ron Reeves
Stan *tigrina*
- Wolf and Faith Grausch

VUYLSTEKEARA

Vuyl Cambria 'Noyo'
- Leroy Orchids

WILSONARA

Wils Bonne Nuit x Odm Mont Mado
- Leroy Orchids

ZYGOSTATES

Zygostates *postulata*
- Grahame Leafberg

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

Plant names written in *italics* depicts it is a *species*.

The plant commentary was ably performed by
Heather Cooke and our newest (but very knowl-
edgeable member) Beryl Calder.

There was a fantastic array of quality plants for
them to view.

Thanks to all members who brought plants to the
meeting.

Bev' plant has not yet been
registered, so we have no
heading for it.
Cyrtorchilum *edwardii* x
Baptistonia *enchinata*



CULTURE QUESTIONS

Q. From Timaru Orchid Society by email.
Why does my Den Hilda Poxon drop its flowers when the spikes are partly formed?

A. Den Hilda Poxon is Den *speciosum* x *teretifolium* one of which flowers in the spring and the other in autumn, so the plant can get confused with flowering times while fluctuating temperatures can also be a problem.

Q. Heather brought in a sample of fertilizer solution the CF tested 9. What does this tell us?

A. The caloric factor (CF) indicates the strength of food and a CF of 9 can be used on cymbidiums as long as it has built up to this strength over a period of weeks. If you use a CF greater than 5 on Odonts the bulbs are likely to split and growth stop, while it has been recommended that cattleyas prefer 8-10.

GUEST SPEAKER

Alf Day

Alf used to grow odontoglossums and although the plants haven't changed he now grows 'the Greater Oncidium Alliance' - the name has changed!

The Greater Oncidium Alliance is comprised of many genera and intergeneric hybrids, some of which are easier to grow than others in our climate. Alf suggests you shop around to get the plants that will suit your growing conditions. Wilsonara's and odontocidiums are more temperature tolerant and will put up with more temperature fluctuations than most of this alliance and are therefore easier to grow in Auckland. Odontoglossums are not hard to grow as long as they do not dry out and really thrive in an area with automatic misting, plenty of air movement and a buoyant atmosphere. Alf then proceeded with a slide show which had been prepared by Leigh Leaity for judges training. It was a very informative resume explaining the composition of many intergenerics in this alliance. For example, *Miltonia* x *Brassia* = *Miltassia*.

Odontoglossum x *Miltonia* x *Brassia* = *Degarmoara*, these plants have long spikes, big flowers and are easy to grow so it is worth having 1 or 2 in a collection. Alf gave us numerous examples with colourful slides as examples of each.

Intergenerics make judging difficult as all components in the breeding need to be considered. The Greater Oncidium Alliance will however give growers the biggest range of colour and shape and

the opportunity to spread flowering throughout the year.

Culture: Alf repots when they have a new growth about 20cm long. If ferns are growing in the pot he repots when there is a growth and removes all the fern. He hoses off the old bark being careful not to damage new roots.

Back bulbs can be taken off, treat the cut with flowers of sulphur then place the bulbs in a clay pot in about 5cm of sphagnum moss. Keep misted and about 60% will grow in about 6 weeks.

The plants in the Greater Oncidium Alliance do not have a 'rest' period unless there is a lot of oncidium in the cross.

Alf believes we need to 'look' at our plants to keep in touch with how they are growing.

Thanks Alf for sharing your knowledge and enthusiasm with us.



from behind the shade house.....

As I was going through and checking the plants on display labels from last month a strange one appeared with Leroy's name on it. Quote: "Oldie - any one able to name?' Lee, I am positive the name you are looking for is Roy!



Heard that Grahame and Ruth Leafberg have become grandparents for the first time. Congratulations to you both. Another wonderful part of your lives has begun. Loads of fun and babysitting !

**AUCKLAND ORCHID CLUB
RIBBON SHOW**

April 14th 2007- Hobsonville Hall

Entry price is \$6.00 per person which includes a BBQ lunch. Please pay Lee at the next meeting as we need to know numbers attending the BBQ.

This is a great day and not to be missed!
Get to know your fellow orchid club members!