

WAITAKERE ORCHID CLUB BULLETIN

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Popular plant winner from the February meeting was V Joseph Falowitz, grown by Beryl Calder Congratulations!

MESSAGE OF THE MONTH

We have lots to think about in the next couple of months.

Did you put dried blood on your cymbidiums during February? There is still time, but you had better get a move on!

Remember that April is our 'Auction Night'. Keep an eye on the plants that you are going to be bringing along to sell. We are very particular as to the condition of these plants and we will not accept inferior ones or those which have obviously just been divided or are wobbly in the pot. Keep in mind that you are selling to your friends so make sure that they are going to receive a quality plant.

For every 5 plants you bring we ask that you donate 1 to club to be auctioned for club funds. Whatever \$\$\$'s you sell your plant for is yours!

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday March 1st 2011, 7.00pm
Lions Whitehouse

March program: We would like **all the Rosette winners** from the Ribbon Show to bring their winning plant to the meeting for a culture discussion.

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

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

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



Happy March Birthday to....

Linda Alexander, Evelyn Ong, Annette Billington, Anthony Ateyo, Pamela Mason and Phillip Zhou.

Raffle Results...

Congratulations to Pauline Weeks, Evelyn Ong and Beryl Calder, our raffle winners for last month.

Thanks to the Club and Roy and Lee Neale for raffle donations.

Our raffle takings for the night were \$90.00, which will go to club funds for rent etc.



FROM THE FEBRUARY MEETING

President Dennis welcomed 47 members and 2 visitors to our meeting.

Notices: Ribbon Show tickets (\$6.00 per person) were for sale at the meeting.

Roy asked members to give some thought about an overnight trip. Perhaps to another club having a show or to the Taranaki Show next January. Please let him know if you are interested.

from behind the shade house....



Heard that one of our newer members had received breakfast and a lovely rose on Valentines Day.



What about the rest of you - any romantic tales to tell or was it just Ho Hum? Let me know!



Thanks to Melvin for bringing along all those plastic pots and sharing them with us.

Melvin and Linda had a lovely holiday at the beach over Xmas. Going on holiday also were some of their very special orchids which share caravan space with them.



True dedication to their hobby - 10 out of 10 to the Alexanders!

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This Sunday, (27th Feb) is our
Ribbon Show!
Hobsonville Hall

We are hoping to see as many of you as possible at this very popular and enjoyable day. Bring your plants in at 8.30 and stay and judge them. If you don't have plants just come along and enjoy the day getting to know your fellow orchid friends.

We can't emphasise enough that new members should really make an effort to come. Bring a plate of either a salad or dessert and enjoy our BBQ! - see you there!

CATTLEYA; Flask to flower How I do It - by Lee Neale

Why Cattleya's?

1. Varied Flowering times: A lot of plants will flower twice a year with no set seasonal flowering time so there's always something in flower.

2. The range of colours is outstanding: Pastels - bright, spots - plethoric.

3. Manageable plant size: Keeping plants to no bigger than a 1.3L pot still produces plenty of flowers and show champions.

4. Multiple choices for growing area: Plastic house, shade house or indoors as a 'house plant' even up a tree in the garden.

5. Economy: The space they occupy is not excessive, the water bill is not excessive and nil or minimal heating in winter. Easy to transport in a car to a Show!

6. Variety: With the intergeneric breeding there is something for everyone and to suit all growing conditions.

7. Fragrant: Many flowers have a sweet and not overpowering fragrance.

8. Pickability: Flowers last a reasonable time when picked so are useful for floral arrangements.

9. From flask to flower can be as little as 18 months with few losses.

Preparation of Materials

During summer I prepare a stockpile of materials so that I can pot at any time without hassles.

Bark: Soak bark in plain tap water for 3 days, after which skim off all the floating bark, dry, and bag ready for use.

Pumice: I use 1 part of pumice to 4 of bark in all my mixes. Thoroughly wash over a fine seive to get rid of the dust. Dry and bag.

Pots: After use, all pots are washed, dried, sterilised and packed in boxes for storage until required

Deflasking:

1. Purchase a 'good' looking flask with plenty of roots evident in the agar and good sized green plants nearly filling the jar.
2. Stand the flask in good light but not in direct sun for at least a week after purchasing. Check daily.
3. Open bottle 24 hours prior to deflasking to allow leaves to harden.
4. Dislodge plants from flask by filling with cold tap water and tipping out. If a tapered glass flask you may need to break the flask.
5. Wash off the agar and remove any dead tissue.
6. Spread on newspaper to dry for about 30 minutes.
7. Holding plants by leaf tips only, pot into a mix of 4 parts No 2 bark and 1 part fine pumice. 1 to 4 plants per 50mm pot, depending on plant size.
8. Water the following day with weak fertiliser solution of CF of 3 - 4.
9. Check daily and water and fertilise when mix looks dry. In the summer this might be alternate days and less often in winter.
10. If the flask looks contaminated deflask immediately, (hours count) and dip plants once agar has been removed in a fungicide solution prior to drying on newspaper. This is the only time I use fungicide.

Ongoing Care

Fertilise every time your plants need water and build up to a CF of 6 - 7 after about a month.

Use a variety of fertilisers

Phostrogen, Thrive, Radifarm etc.

Repot when roots protrude through the base of the pot, as pot size increases, so must the size of the bark and pumice.

I use No 4 bark for 1.3L pots.

Watch for scale and mealy bug and treat appropriately. Always give 2 sprays 10 days apart once bugs are seen.

Watch for growths which trap water - check 1 hour after watering and peel apart any growths acting as reservoirs. Open flower sheaths as well to prevent buds from rotting.

A lot of plants seem to tolerate summer temperatures to 25C (occasionally higher) and winter temps down to 5C with occasional frost as long as the plant is DRY!

In winter only water on rainy days as frosts are not likely to be an issue, and only water every 1 - 2 weeks.

In summer water mature plants twice a week and small plants every 2 - 3 days when the pots look dry.

Check the parentage of your plants to fine tune their cultural requirements.

Enjoy!

PLANTS ON DISPLAY

AERANTHES

Aerth *grandiflora*

- Grahame Leafberg

CATTLEYA

C Lulu Land

C Orglade's Glow 'Dogashima' x self

(2 first flowering seedlings)

- Leroy Orchids

C Mini Purple var *coerulea*

- Grahame Leafberg

C Queen Sirikit 'Diamond Crown'

HCC/OCNZ (17.04.09)

C Fire Magic

- Beryl Calder

C California Apricot x (High Light x Bright Angel) #

- Linda Alexander

CHILOSCHISTA

Chsch *parishii* (leafless orchid)

- Dennis Chuah

COELOGYNE

Coel *pulverula* (was *Coel dayana*)

- Dennis Chuah

DENDROBIUM

Den Frosty Dawn 'Wings of Gold'

- Dennis Chuah

Den Mountain Magic

- Grahame Leafberg

Den Lori's Star

Den *cuthbertsonii*

- Barry Baxter

Den *lasianthera* #

- William and Man Lo

DRACULA

Drac *chiroptera* #

- Barry Baxter

EPIDENDRUM

Epi *robustum* x Epi *cnemidophorum*

'Marion' CBR/AOS

- Dennis Chuah

MASDEVALLIA

Masd Funky x Pixie Leopard #

- Barry Baxter

PHALAENOPSIS

Phal *lueddemanniana*

- Linda Alexander

Phal Baldwin's Kaleidoscope #

- Beryl Calder

PROMENAEA

Prom *stapeloides* # (five plants)

- Wolf and Faith Grausch

PROSTHECHEA

Psh *primocarpa* (was *encyclia*)

- Dennis Chuah

RHYNCATTLEANTHE

Rth Koa 'Christine'

- Beryl Calder

SOPHROLAELIOCATTLEYA

Slc Brandywine 'Gigi' (Now classed as a cattleya)

- Beryl Calder

TOLUMNIA

Tolu Susan Perreira x Robsan #

(now known as Tolu Red Susan)

Tolu Susan Perreira x (Love That Red x Deborah le Monde)

- Dennis Chuah

VANDA

V Joseph Falowitz #

- Beryl Calder

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

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

The plant commentary was conducted by Beryl Calder and Peter C Elfleet.

NOTICE!

At our very popular auction in April we will have available a copy of OrchidWiz kindly donated to the club for auction by the OrchidWiz producers. The proceeds of this will be donated to club funds. The current price if you were to purchase it is US\$295. The minimum starting bid will be NZ\$150 so start saving now! This is a fantastic program showing the breeding, progeny, awards (including OCNZ), with thousands of photos.

Following her talk last month, Lee gave a demonstration on OrchidWiz. If you have plant names you would like to check, please bring them to the show on Sunday or to the March meeting and she will demonstrate the program to you 'one on one'.