

# WAITAKERE ORCHID CLUB BULLETIN

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Our new President Dennis won our popular plant vote this month with *Cal vestita*. Well done Dennis!

**NEXT MEETING**  
**Tuesday August 4th**  
**7.30pm**  
**Lions Whitehouse**

Guest Speaker will be Peter C Elfleet on his recent trip overseas.

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

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

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



## MESSAGE OF THE MONTH

Our main message this month is to get those lovely orchid plants groomed for our show. With frosty nights becoming a regular occurrence, be very careful with those plants in spike. A lot of damage is caused by an unexpected frost. A whole season of nurturing can be destroyed overnight!

Keep your plants free of bugs and water very carefully as botrytis can occur and a frost straight after watering will destroy your plant. With watering, if in doubt – don't water!

Generally just keep an eye on them, as we want every plant you have in flower at our show! ED



***Happy August Birthday to....***

Joy Intveld, Audrey Pople, Burt Ong and Leigh Leaity



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

Raffle prizes were donated by the Club. Leroy Orchids and June Sutton (2) - thank you.

Prizes were won by Evelyn Ong, Glenys MacRae and Bev Meredith.

Raffle takings were \$55.70.



Plants on display for June was won by Bev Meredith.

The plant commentary was conducted by Wolf Grausch and Dennis Chuah.

**Photo on your left shows Waitakere Orchid Club display at NZOS Winter Show. Ken Morse did the display for us and won third prize for his efforts. Thank you to all members who helped out with plants. Well done and thanks from us all Ken!**

### FROM THE JULY MEETING

**Apologies:** Mary Jones, Pam Hughes, Beryl Calder, Patrick Stepancic, Peter and Diana Elfleet, Peter C Elfleet.

**Notices:** Our new President chaired the meeting- he would like your input and suggestions.

Congratulations to Roy Neale, recently elected President of the Orchid Council of NZ.

Year books are available to all members who have stated that this club is their parent club. There were some books printed with pages assembled wrong, please return your book if it is flawed.

OCNZ raffle books are available for distribution to members. The club receives 20% of all sales, so please make an effort to sell tickets.

The WOC is putting on a display at the International Orchid Show in Palmerston North, volunteers are needed to work on the display and any ideas for a theme will be considered. The area is 3 x 6m. Start working on your plants now so they will be in prime condition next year. Kingsgate Hotel in Palmerston North provides great accommodation, consider booking now. The club is looking at organising a bus trip to the show, it would probably involve two nights away, start saving now! For anyone who wants to be more involved, remember there will be overseas speakers to provide a great program. Next week is the NZOS show. Ken Morse is putting on our display. Please provide your quality plants for Ken to use. They can be taken to the NZOS meeting on Weds night or delivered to the show. Thursday around 1pm.

### WAITAKERE ORCHID CLUB SHOW

**Set up:** Thursday 20th August.

**Runners for judges:** Needed Friday 21st at 8.00am.

**Flower Power:** Needs flowers and foliage.

**And of course:** Help during the show as well as people to floor walk for security, door sales, raffle table, kitchen and baking. The Club trading table will need your spare plants to sell and assistance on the table during the show.

On Saturday **August 1st** there will be a **working bee at Lee and Roy's home, 6 Rata Rd, Whenuapai, Ph 416 6737** to prepare the signs. 2pm - 4pm if you can help out with a bit of painting or even just . Please arrive and bring a paint brush if you have one.

A plate would be appreciated for afternoon tea. Tea and coffee will be provided.

We were advised of the death of an Australian Orchid icon, Gerald MacCraith passed away recently aged 100.

**Bulletin:** If you have requested to get your Bulletin by email and it has not arrived by that method, please let Dennis know.

**The Exhibition:** Wonderland, the Mystery of Orchids is currently running at the Auckland Museum. Please try and visit this very interesting display.

**Cattleya name changes:** Please look at the American Orchid Society web site to see up to date name changes for the cattleya alliance.



### CULTURE QUESTIONS

**Q.** What do you feed calanthes on?

**A.** Hydroponic food *Budzilla* available from Switched on Gardener. Use at CF6.

**Q.** How many people with open shade houses had problems with the recent heavy frosts and what can we do to cope with frost?

**A.** Wrap shade house in light plastic before the first winter frost.

Place frost cloth over plants when frost is expected.

Use heat cables under our plants.

Reduce watering and try to ensure plants are dry on frosty nights.

Burn a wax candle-the extra CO<sub>2</sub> will also promote growth, but be careful and safe.

Back windows of cars have heater cables-buy one from a car wrecker and set it up.

Keep a fan going-air movement stops the frost settling.

Oil filled heaters keep the chill off the air and are not too expensive to run.



*from behind the shade house....*

The Editor missed the last meeting-spent the time at Waitakere Hospital in the delivery suite, when my young friend decided to have her baby very early. Her mum and I enjoyed the wonderful experience! (Don't know about the new mum though!) It's a girl!



A well deserved rest in Rarotonga was enjoyed by two of our members who have had a very hectic few months. As a result they only have one house now and a lot less orchids!

**GUEST SPEAKER - Rodney Draper**

**Stenoglottis**

**Distribution and natural habitat:**

Stenoglottis are distributed widely in eastern Southern Africa from the coast to 1800m. Most grow at altitude where they get a lot of mist in winter. They grow naturally as terrestrials amongst the forest vegetation. Their fleshy tuberous roots which are hairy allows the plant to attach itself to rocks, earth banks and moss covered tree trunks.

There are 6 species found in South Africa, the most common 3 of which in NZ are Sngl. *longifolia*, *fimbriata* and *woodii*.

**Cultivation:** In winter temperatures range from 6-22° C and in summer as high as 34° C. Humidity should range from 50% - 80% in summer.

Stenoglottis are from a summer rainfall area with an active growth season from spring to autumn and a short dormant period in autumn. After April leaves start to yellow and die back. Remove dead leaves and prune flower stems. Withhold water to allow medium to dry, but it is vital that they do not dehydrate completely. To prevent this, drench the pot every 2-3 weeks and allow to dry. When new rosettes of leaves emerge in late winter or early spring, water lightly until the weather warms.

**Repotting:** Leave for at least 2 years before repotting into larger pots or replacing old potting mix. Repot during the dormant stage-May to July.

Stenoglottis require a free draining medium, 50% river sand, 40% leaf mulch and 10% vermiculite.

Remove the root ball from the pot, the dead leaves and most of the old potting medium. Divide the root ball if required. Place a layer of coarse stone chips in the bottom of the pot for drainage. Fill pot to ¾ with fresh potting medium and arrange tuberous roots to allow the growing point to be planted below the potting medium surface. Cover. Shallow pots and pans are ideal.

**Pests:** There are few insect problems but watch out for aphids and mealy bug, and treat.

**Medicinal and cultural uses:** Roots are used by Africans in the preparation of an enema for flatulence relief.

Rodney did not grow orchids until he arrived in NZ, so it was natural that he should show an interest in the orchids of his homeland.

Stenoglottis grow not far from where Rodney lived, but he has never seen them in their natural habitat. Maybe on his next trip home he will seek them out! Thank you Rodney for a fantastic presentation with accompanying slides.

**Now for Rodney's joke....**

**Q.** What do you get if you cross an epidendrum with a stenoglottis?

**A.** An epiglottis! (At least I laughed Rodney-Good one! Lee)

**PLANTS ON DISPLAY**

**BARKERIA**

Bark *skinneri* # (first flowering seedling)

- Dennis Chuah

**CALANTHE**

Cal *vestita* (two plants)- Dennis Chuah

**CATTLEYA**

C Unknown. (one of Janet Clay's)

- Bev Meredith

**DINEMA**

Din *polybulbon* #

- Ray and Lottie Hogan

**DENDROBIUM**

Den Vivid x Belling River (two plants)

Den Ellewong x Vivid

- Wolf and Faith Grausch

Den Sri-Racha x Ted Dicum #

- Ray and Lottie Hogan

**GUARISOPHLEYA**

Gsl Rajah's Ruby #

- Bev Meredith

**MEDIOCALCAR**

M *decoratum* #

- Ray and Lottie Hogan

**ONCIDIUM**

Onc *ornithorhyncum* #

- Ken Morse

**PHALAENOPSIS**

Phal Golden Sun 'CH#36' x Taisuco Glory #

- Ray and Lottie Hogan

**PAPHIOPEDILUM**

Paph *insigne*

- Ray and Lottie Hogan

**RHYNCHOSOPHROCATTLEYA**

Sc Little Oliver x Rsc Lavender Bay #

- Dennis Chuah

**SOPHROCATTLEYA**

Sc Tiny Titan

- Heather and Gary Cooke

Sc Mari's Love

- Leroy Orchids

Sc Stephen Oliver Fouraker 'Addison' HCC/AOS

-Bev Meredith

**THWAITESARA**

Thw Dal's Joy '#2' x Sc Lana Coryell #

-Dennis Chuah

**ZYGOPETALUM**

Z Alexis Linder

- Ken Morse

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

Names written in *italics* depicts it is a *species*.