

# AUCKLAND ORCHID CLUB BULLETIN

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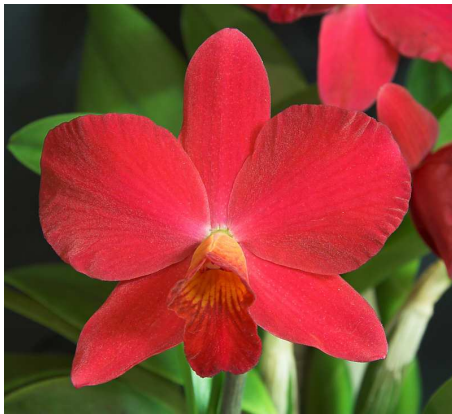
VOLUME 26 No. 03

MARCH 2008

**PRESIDENT Roy Neale**

**SECRETARY: Pauline Weeks**

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Plants on Display this month was won with Slc Jewel Chest 'Ruby'. The colour of this flower was incredible – well done Beryl!

## MESSAGE OF THE MONTH

I hope you have been looking after your orchids as our Ribbon Show is almost here, in fact by the time you get this newsletter it will only be a matter of days away. **Sunday March 30th.** If you haven't booked your BBQ seat you may miss out – get cracking and phone Bev **now!** I outlined last month what was needed so a quick reminder is all you should need now. A salad or dessert for the BBQ, plants for the show, (we will find a spot for them on the show bench) - brick-a-brac and plants for the trading table.

Set-up is at 8.00am, staging of plants 8.30am – 9.30am and judging at 10am. We need you to help with judging. It will be a great day, don't miss it!  
ED.



## Raffle prizes.....

Pam Hughes, Anjo McKernan and Irene Levet won the raffle.

Thanks to Jim and Margaret Shaw, Beryl Calder and Peter C Elfleet for raffle donations. The club made \$74.00.

## NEXT MEETING

Tuesday April 1st 7.30pm

Lions Whitehouse

This is our Auction night. Bring along your plants to sell. We want well grown quality plants – not your rejects! Whatever price your plant sells for is entirely yours. For every 5 plants you have in the auction we expect you to donate 1 plant to be sold for club funds.

The library and plants on display will be operating.

Please bring a small plate for supper during the evening.

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



*Happy March birthday to....*

Linda Alexander and Evelyn Ong



## **Subscriptions are now due.....**

Please find enclosed with your newsletter, your membership renewal form.

It would be much appreciated if you could fill this out and get it back to us as soon as possible.

An important box has been added. We would like you to name your parent club as this reflects the amount we have to pay to the Orchid Council for each member.

Do you want to add to this?

## FROM THE MARCH MEETING

President Roy welcomed 34 members to our meeting.

**Apologies:** Betty Major, Jean Treadwell, Miriam and Assid Corban, Linda Alexander and Merilyne Brown.

**Sick:** Sheila Peet and Peter Elfleet Snr.

**Notices:** A very big thank you to Bernadette for lending her garage for the show Flower Power bits and pieces. Thanks also to others who offered to help out.

Roy asked for a show of hands for a bus trip to the Te Puke show on April 12th. We need 40 to fill a bus. Unfortunately this has had to be cancelled through lack of support.

Gary was concerned that he was unable to contact Honey Denyer. We have since found out that she has been unwell and has moved.

Roy talked about the recent show in Japan. The first prize was a Mercedes car and \$250,000! Bert suggested we start small for our show and have a 'push bike' as an incentive for Grand Champion!



**Culture:** Ross Crabb's *Neofenetia falcata* which won plant of the month last month has since been given a Cultural

Award. Great news Ross!

Some of our members were having difficulty growing on from flask, overseas growers plants. They brought their plants along to show us what was happening.

**Diana:** She put hers into sphag moss sprinkled with dolomite and set them in the glasshouse. It got too humid in there so, in her words 'sod you, you are going outside!'. She then put them in the shade house and they are growing well. She has not fed them. The baby cattleya's are not doing as well as the dendrobiums.

**Lee:** Hers were potted in small bark and she realizes now that perhaps they needed sphag moss. She is having trouble with her *C Walkeriana* hybrids as they are growing very slow. Wolf suggested that these are notorious for slow growing and that selfings are even worse! (Great comfort for Lee!).

**William:** (Dennis was acting as translator so we hope he wasn't telling us lies!)

William is growing his in No2 bark, sphag and pumice in trays for 2 months, then into 50ml tubes with pumice on the bottom, styrene balls and No2 bark. The plants sit in a plastic box lined with styrene and this box has a lid with 2 plastic tubes inserted in it. The temperature varies between 15°C-35°C during the day At night he blows into the box via the tubes and then blocks the tubes with a cork-CO2 is now trapped inside the box.

The theory being that plants absorb this during the night and the tubes are uncorked for the day for O2 to be absorbed.

**They are growing beautifully!!!!**

Asked William how he found out about this-he replied in perfect English- 'on the internet on a Chinese Orchid Society website - anyone can go there!' (Yeah, Right! - first you have to be able to read Chinese!)

**Dennis:** He had some baby *disa* plants flowering and *masdevalia* plants in sphag. His dendrobiums were in bark and not doing too badly but he felt they needed to go into sphag. A community pot with some small cattleya's had a few plants struggling while the others were progressing quite well. Dennis also had a *barkeria* baby in sphag and had sprinkled dolomite lime on the top. These orchids like to be rafted.

**Bert:** A tiny wee *oncidium* was on a raft and flowering!.

## GUEST SPEAKER

### Peter C Elfleet - Sobralia culture

The Sobralia is the National flower of Peru.

It is always a great evening when one of our own members is able to share their love of orchids with us. Peter is a very passionate orchid enthusiast and willingly talks on one of his favourite species - sobralia.

There are over 100 different species of sobralia mostly coming from South America. They are easily grown in NZ. The flowers of some last only up to 2-3 days and other species can last up to 10 days. They flower sequentially

Peter's Power Point presentation was spectacular and I am sure a lot of our members will be very keen to add some to their orchid collections. Peter has very successfully done a number of crossings so plants will be available from him soon.

Sobralias do well in a shade house, they like lots of water but don't like to remain wet, so a well drained potting medium is needed.

*Osmocote* is used for feeding and this can be applied at regular intervals as sobralia's will put up growths all year round.

They flower in NZ during our summer months so are not very often seen on the show benches.

Thanks Peter for a wonderful insight into these beautiful orchids.

## PLANTS ON DISPLAY

### AERANGIS

Aergs Somashka  
- Bert & Evelyn Ong

### ASPASIA

Asp *lunata*  
- Dennis Chuah

### BRASSAVOLA

Brassavola *cordata*  
- Rai & Lottie Hogan

### BULBOPHYLLUM

Bulb *picturatum*  
- Rai & Lottie Hogan

### BRASSOCATTLEYA

Bc Jackson Majestic 'Kahakura'  
- Anjo McKernan

### CATTLEYA

C Slim Warner x (Coquina x Brabantiae)  
- Heather & Gary Cooke

### CHRONDRORHYNCHO

Chdrh *discolor*  
- Dennis Chuah

### DENDROBIUM

Den All Season 'Pink'  
- Anjo McKernan  
Den *chrysanthum*  
- Dennis Chuah  
Den Shawnie # Reg 1997  
- Wolf & Faith Grausch  
Den *amphigenyum*  
Den *lichenastrum*  
- William & Man Lo

### LAELIA

L Marisabel deLas Casas #  
- Anjo McKernan

L *xanthina*

- Wolf & Faith Grausch

### LAELIOCATTLEYA

(C Helene Garcia x L *rupestris*) x C Little Bit  
- Leroy Orchids

### MASDEVALLIA

Masd *coccinea* 'LRG'  
Masd Blushing Belle  
- Dennis Chuah

### MILTONIA

Milt Moir Moir  
- Patrick Stepancic

### ONCIDIUM

Onc Aloha Iwanaga #  
Onc *pusillum* #  
- Bert & Evelyn Ong

### PAPHIOPEDILUM

Paph *lowii*  
- Ken Morse

## SOPHROLAELIOCATTLEYA

Slc Tiny Titan 'Dusk Maid'  
Slc Brandywine 'Gigi'  
Slc Firelighter 'Exotic Miss'  
Slc Memoria Dorothy Worden 'Lemon Drop'  
Slc Jewel Chest 'Ruby'  
- Beryl Calder

### VANDA

V Unknown  
- Anjo McKernan

### WILSONARA

Wils Hilda Plumtree 'Purple Wings' #  
- Anjo McKernan

### ZYGOPETALUM

Z Blue Eyes 'Purple Thunder'  
- Ken Morse

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

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

The plant commentary this month was conducted by Peter C Elfleet and Roy Neale.



Plants on display for February was won by Ken Morse



from behind the shadehouse.....

It was a long wait, but eventually baby Emma arrived to make Lee a very happy, no, I think besotted is the word – Grandma. I've seen a photo and I can agree she is a real cutie. Congratulations Grandma Lee!



Both Jimmy and Margaret Shaw are waiting to go into hospital. Margaret for another new hip and Jimmy for a cataract to be removed. Let's hope it won't happen at the same time or we will be having Jimmy with a white stick and Margaret on crutches – could be traffic jams in the doorways!

A big hullo to Beryl Finlay, Honey and Les Denyer, Jean Treadwell and Sheila Peet.



We know you have not been well and would like to send our best wishes to you.  
The Executive and members AOC

I had a terrible time this month trying to decipher some of your handwriting. Please, please try and write names clearly – it would save me heaps of time re-checking names. ED