

AUCKLAND ORCHID CLUB BULLETIN

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Grahame Leafberg won plant of the month at the May meeting with Oncidium Golden Drops.

MESSAGE OF THE MONTH

Our Auckland weather has suddenly decided that winter has arrived. We have had a lot of rain which makes it a little bit tricky with watering our orchids. Please be careful and make sure your plant leaves and plant centres are dry before evening as the water sitting in these areas can cause rot and botritis on the flowers, especially if it does warm up to cause humid conditions. There is nothing worse than to watch a special orchid in flower ruined by botritis.

Those members that have not registered for the Queen's Birthday weekend seminar please contact Lee or Roy as soon as possible as we need to know how many will be attending. Make the Saturday night dinner at Wings Restaurant an AOC 'night out with friends.'

This is going to be a great weekend so come along and enjoy it with us. ED

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday June 6th

7.30pm

Lions Whitehouse

Our guest speaker will be Mike Harrison from Australia. Mike has a number of topics that he speaks on but at this stage we don't know what he has decided for us. We do know that whatever it is it will be good!

As we have invited several clubs to attend our meeting we would like you to make a little more effort with supper donations as we will be catering for a lot more people.

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

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



Happy June birthday to.....

Gary Cooke, Grahame Leafberg, June Sutton, Beryl Finlay, Peter Elfleet Snr and Mary Jones.



Raffle results....

Winners for this month were Diana Elfleet, Heather Duxfield and Beryl Finlay. Thanks to those members that donated prizes. The raffle added \$52.00 to club funds.

AUCKLAND ORCHID CLUB AGM

Please take note that our Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 4th July 2006, during the course of our monthly meeting. We are always looking for help on our Executive Committee, so please give this some serious thinking. It is a very rewarding job and a great deal of fun as well. Give it a go!

FROM THE MAY MEETING

President Glenys welcomed 49 members and friends to our meeting. Betty was visiting tonight and we hope she enjoyed our meeting.

Apologies: Honey Denyer, Linda Alexander, Helen Brown, Assid Corban, Susan and Allan Tantau.

Sick: Bruce Hughes, Jean Treadwell and Chris Whitby.

Notices: After the fiasco last month with the Hall we were not charged hall hire for the evening.

Thanks to Heather and Gary for the great bus trip to Te Puke.

Grahame Leafberg was presented with an HCC award and a CCC award for **Den Aussie's Tapestry 'Phil'**. This plant was exhibited at the Taranaki Summer Show in January. Congratulations Grahame, from all of us.

Roy asked if any member was interested in opening their shade house or glass house for those members who had traveled to Auckland for the Orchid Council AGM.

Help with baking donations for the morning and afternoon teas for the weekend was asked for and members doing so were asked to phone Bev or Lee and Roy if they could help out in this department. Billets may still be needed.

Friday of Queen's Birthday weekend is the set up day for your Orchid plants.

Glenys announced that it was Kim's last night with us and thanked him for his support and for the printing of the newsletter. Kim replied saying that we were the 'coolest orchid club he had ever known, that he had loads of fun being with us and to keep it up and keep it going!'

(We sure are going to miss Kim for his wonderful sense of humour and camaraderie. ED)



AOC members and friends enjoying our Ribbon Show.



CULTURE QUESTIONS

Q. I have a cymbidium seedling that is just 3 years out of flask that has a small spike on it. Should I remove the spike?

A. Seedlings are always exciting when they first produce a flower. Take a look at the flower and then remove the spike, so that the plant can channel it's energy into growing a nice strong plant for next season.

Q. I have aphids on my flower spikes - can I spray them?

A. Some fly sprays have a 'dry spray,' these can be used. *Arundel* a spray available from Veg Grow is also suitable.

Q. What do grasshoppers do to cymbidiums?

A. They sit on the end of the spike and eat the top buds.

Katydid's prefer odont spikes!

Check out.....

www.culture.aoc.intergardens.com

The Orchid Culture booklet which is in colour , is available here.

VALE

BEN HARDY

Nov. 22, 1920 to May 9, 2006

Ben Hardy lived an adventurous life. He served in World War 2 and the Korean War in Japan, Korea and Greenland. He was awarded the Letter of Commendation Medal and a Bronze Star.

He was the co-owner of Hardy and Forquette Orchids, and a life member, Past President, and Historian of the San Diego Orchid Society. Among other organisations, he was active in the San Diego Horticultural Society and a member of the New Zealand Orchid Society, and the Auckland Orchid Club.

He led orchid tours to New Zealand, Australia and Hawaii. A man of many varied interests, he had many friends around the world. Up until this year, Ben always answered "How are you?" with "Excellent".

Leigh Leaity.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Fanie and Barbara Johnson

Barbara and Fanie became interested in orchids while living in Blenheim. Growing them was a challenge there as they needed heat in the winter. They later moved to Auckland and again had a challenging situation as they were living in a pole house on a very steep section. By her description I felt that they both must have been kept very fit tending their plants in such a situation. Whangarei is now home and they have 4 acres of flat land and a large plastic house to accommodate their plants.

Barbara's passion is cattleya's. She fell in love with the great big 'chocolate box' cattleya's and has now progressed to a more compact form, being those with big flowers but flowering on a small plant.

She admits that it took a long time to learn how to grow cattleya's successfully, and we were very pleased that she was going to share her secret with us.

Her plants are grown in a single skin shade house with no heat in winter and with plenty of air movement in the summer and also during the winter on good sunny days. Winter temperatures in the shade house go down to about 4° C.

The cattleya's like to have lots of water in the summer but kept drier in the winter. Feeding is done at almost every watering. Fanie has a recipe for fish fertilizer that he makes himself and by the sounds of it, the aroma is rather strong! (Probably a good thing that they live on 4 acres!) Feeding is done throughout winter as they like to keep the plants growing.

The baby plants like to have some comfort in the winter and are potted in a finer bark with pumice for good drainage. The bigger plants are in a larger size bark with pumice added.

We were treated to a wonderful Power Point presentation of the most gorgeous cattleya's I have seen in a long time.

Plants and flasks were available for us to purchase and there are a number of new plants living in Auckland since the meeting. We are all looking forward to flowering our new cattleya babies.

Thank you both for a wonderful evening.

PLANTS ON DISPLAY

BRASSOLALIOCATTLEYA

Blc Waikiki Gold (unable to verify this name)

- Melvin Alexander

DENDROBIUM

Den *subclausum* Var *pandanicola*

- Grahame Leafberg

Den *crepidiferum*

Den Kouchis Pride x *johannis nigrescens* #

- Leroy Orchids

CALANTHE

Cal Brandywine 4N (Eric Young Foundation remake of an old cross)

Cal Pink Glory (1st flowering of a self-sown plant)

- Peter C Elfleet

EPIDENDRUM

Epi *porpax* Var *alba*

- Diana and Peter Elfleet

MASDEVALLIA

Masd Angel Frost 'White Hairs'

- Dennis Chuah

ODONTIODA

Oda Oratia Bride

- Ken Morse

Oda Joyful x Memtor - registered 1992 now known as Oda Apperley Bridge #

- Leroy Orchids

ODONTOBRASSIA

Odbrs Peggy Mobley

- Pauline Weeks

ONCIDIUM

Onc Golden Drops

- Grahame Leafberg

PAPHIOPEDILUM

Paph Bill Pamill

- Mary Jones

Paph Rosy Dawn 'Superba'

- Corbans Orchids

SOPHROLAELIA

Sl Polestar 'April Jewel'

- Ken Morse

Lc Mem Frank Gronwall

- Wolf and Faith Grausch

SOPHROLALIOCATTLEYA

Slc Medley

Slc Angel's Fantasy

- Wolf and Faith Grausch

Slc Bright Angel 'Patsy'

Slc Tiny Titan

- Grahame Leafberg

Slc Isabelle Stones x Anzac

- Heather and Gary Cooke

Sc Lana Coryell x Lc Bethune

- Leroy Orchids

VUYLSTEKEARA

Vuyl Edna 'Stamplalands'

- Ken Morse

ZYGOPETALUM

Z *mackayii* - Leroy Orchids

Those members with a # beside their plant name, please correct your label. Plants written in *italics* depicts it is a *species*.

Heather Cooke conducted our plant commentary this month.

Kim Young won plants on display from last month.

There is no 'behind the shade house' this month as you all must have been perfect little Angels!

Yeah Right!