

WAITAKERE ORCHID CLUB

BULLETIN

EDITOR: Mary Jones

1 Gunner Drive TeAtatu Peninsula. Ph/Fax (09) 834 6989 Email: jonzie@clear.net.nz

VOLUME 20 No. 05

MAY 2010

PRESIDENT: Dennis Chuah
22 Amery Place, West Harbour. Ph(09)416 7873
Email: Dennis@inetgardens.com

SECRETARY: Pauline Weeks
50 Gloria Ave, TeAtatu Pen. Ph(09) 834 3459



Chris Whitby won the popular plant vote this month with Paph Magic Lantern.

Congratulations! This flower was stunning!

MESSAGE OF THE MONTH

At last I have my new computer up and running. It has a new program in it so I am finding it a bit tricky to find all the marvellous things it is supposed to do!

Apologies to those of you who have not been receiving your newsletter by email.

I think winter has found us today, it's really miserable outside and the heater is going flat out! If you haven't got your plants 'winterised' yet you had better hurry up as some of them will be needing more comfort.

AGM time again. Please put your hand up and give a little of your time to help keep your club running smoothly. Give a thought to those who have worked hard to present a lively meeting each month. 'Give it a go'. ED.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday June 1st 2010

Lions Whitehouse

This is our AGM evening. Following the AGM we shall be having Chris Whitby as our speaker for the evening.

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

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

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



Happy June Birthday to....Gary

Cooke, Mary Jones, Grahame Leafberg, June Sutton, Beryl Finlay, Peter Elfleet Snr and Ann Bernard

Raffle Results...

Winners were Bev Meredith, Joy Intveld and Pauline Weeks.

Thanks to Jim and Margaret Shaw and the club for donating raffle prizes.

Club funds have been boosted by \$84.00



SUBSCRIPTIONS

Those members who have not yet paid your subscription, this will be your final newsletter.

FROM THE MAY MEETING

Apologies: Ann Bernard, Bernadette Edmiston, Patrick Stepanic, Diana and Peter Elfleet, Peter C Efleet and Kim Young.

Notices: Mt Albert Floral Art Club is having a display at Western Springs 22nd May. (Refer to flyer).

The club has name badges available @\$10.00 each. See Jim Shaw.

Margaret Le Sueur who recently passed away has donated two new trophies for our Spring Show.

The Auckland Horticultural Council has its AGM at the end of the month and is looking for officers. Phone Lee for details. 416 6737.



QUESTION TIME

Q. How important is bark as a potting medium?

A. Not at all. Phallies will grow bare rooted as long as the roots are watered regularly.

Q. What about marble chips?

A. Marble chips are only used to keep the plant anchored.

Bark is used to keep humidity around the roots. We use various mediums to try to imitate the same conditions the plants are used to growing naturally. We use perlite, rockwool, pumice, bark, and other mediums to do this. When orchids are growing in the wild they are certainly not growing in pots or in mixtures just mentioned. We must keep in mind how they actually grow in the wild and try to mimic nature as best we can.

It also depends on the root structure to which medium you use.

Q. Where do masdevallias grow in the wild?

A. A lot grow in South America on trees and

rocks high in the mountains and cloud forests where they are constantly being misted. They are not sitting with wet roots.

Other masdevallia species like coccinea types like to have a bit more light.

Therefore: Masdevallia prefer certain degrees of light and humidity and we try to copy these conditions for successful growing.

Disa on the other hand are terrestrial. They grow in South Africa on the edges of streams and waterfalls high in the mountains. They get their rain in winter and grow drier in the summer, and since they are growing high they also enjoy clouds and mist.

Q. What about moss growing on top of pots?

A. We got a variety of answers for this one! Regular watering for those plants that prefer it do grow moss. It doesn't seem to worry the plant. If you don't like it-pick it off! Moss grows when acid is present, so it could be caused by bark breaking down. If you alter the PH the moss will not grow. Add some lime to the mix.

Q. *Coelogyne massangeana*. I am having trouble getting it to flower.

A. Hang it high in bright light and rotate it every three months. It is happy outside in semi-shade. Don't let the frost get it! Apply slow release fertiliser in the spring. It flowers when it feels like it!

Q. My stanhopea has been growing in the shade house really well but has not flowered.

A. Put it outside under a tree where it will get good air movement.

Q. My zygopetalum looks sick (plant shown to members).

A. "If it went to hospital it would be sent straight to the morgue!" (Good thing the owner agreed!). It looked like it had suffered from cold and wet at night and hadn't dried out. This plant was in a pot way too large for it. This was a good example of over-potting.

Q. My *Laelia gouldiana* has a sticky substance on the buds and won't open properly.

A. The plant actually produces this substance. Give it a good hose down!

Q. A cattleya was shown growing everywhere else as well as in the pot! What should I do with it?

A. Some said to leave it alone because it looked quite happy. Others said to break it up. It really is your own personal choice.

Beryl commented. If your cattleya is not looking happy, grow it in a clay pot. You will usually find that within eighteen months it will be doing well. These pots are porous so don't allow the plants to sit in wet mixture and they are also warmer for the plant.

Dennis showed us two pots of Bee orchid. One was growing beautifully and the other was a real runt! They were from the same flask and grown beside each other. This seems to prove that some plants are better than others and there will always be runts, so it is up to you to dispose of them or let them struggle and take up good space in the greenhouse and never come to anything much.

Ken grows a lot of masdevallias and grows them really well. he says they hate the humidity in Auckland so they must be grown in a cool place in Auckland with plenty of air movement. Give them a bit of food now and again. Don't ever give them lime or you will kill them!

Chris suggests that from time to time we should re - grade our plants. Get new ones! There are lots of new plants available - get rid of the stragglers!

Kristin is a beginner. She was talked into buying a flask at a show. She felt that she wasn't told clearly what to do with it. She did her best but lost the lot!

This was a shame as she should have been better advised.

Try to de-flask in warmer weather. (Not during the winter if you can help it). Make sure you wash off all the flasking medium and then dip them in a fungicide. Plant them in a suitable medium and water them carefully by misting them regularly but not so much as that you may rot them. Talk to somebody who has had lots of experience at de-flasking.

We asked **Barry Baxter**, a newer grower and member of our club to tell us how his orchid growing was progressing.

He started with a couple of cymbidiums, so joined a club and found that he could not connect. Then he found our club and is very happy with us - (we like you too Barry!).

He has been speaking to members and adapting his growing on advice given. He has had a lot of help from our members and is enjoying his growing and getting good results.

He now has a glasshouse with an internal plastic skin and is growing cattleyas. A shade house is home to his cymbidiums and cooler growing plants. (I believe the shade house has replaced the swimming pool!).

Barry thanked members for their support in helping him get to where he is now with growing his plants.

EDITORS COMMENT: I think we had a wonderful club meeting night and I am sure we all learned something about our plants. The advice given should be listened to, but if your plants are growing happily don't mess around with them. We all have different micro climates in our sheds.

My stanhopea will be going outside in the spring. I don't have any trees big enough for it to hang but I shall make sure to create something similar.

HOPE YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT COMING TO PALMERSTON NORTH TO HELP WITH OUR DISPLAY IN SEPTEMBER.

SEE ROY AND DENNIS FOR DETAILS. WE NEED YOU THERE!

PLANTS ON DISPLAY

AERIDES

Aer lawrenciae

- Ray and Lottie Hogan

BARKERIA

Bark Martinas Erste

- Leroy Orchids

BRASSOCATTLEYA

Bc Mount Anderson

- Barry Baxter

BRASSOLAELIOCATTLEYA

C Rivermont Imperial x Blc Amy Crispin

- Ken Morse

CATTLEYA

cC Fire Magic 'Nora' (WOC plant 1st flowering)

- Anjo McKernan

CYNOCHES

Cyc cooperi

- Chris Whitby

DENDROBIUM

Den Onono Komdchi (unable to confirm name)

x Yellow Tsuden

- William and Man Lo

DORITIS

Dor *pulcherrima*

- Irene Levet

LAELIA

L *gouldiana*

- Pauline Weeks

LAELIOCATTLEYA

C Chocolate Drop x L *pumila*

- William and Man Lo

Lc Medley

- Wolf and Faith Grausch

Lc Intercepts

- Glenys MacRae

MASDEVALLIA

Masd Rubicon x L Taylor (unable to confirm L Taylor)

- Barry Baxter

Masd Mary Ann (unable to confirm name)

Masd Marguerite

Masd Angel Heart

Masd Heathii

- Ken Morse

Masd *rolfeana*

- Dennis Chuah

ONCIDIUM

Onc Sugar Babies #

Onc Twinkle 'Western'

- Barry Baxter

PAPHIOPEDILUM

Paph Magic Lantern

Paph Ruby Leopard x Blackberry Delight

- Chris Whitby

Paph Shillianum

Paph *sukhakulii*

Paph Milmoore x John Bown (can't confirm name)

- William and Man Lo

STENOGLOTTIS

Sngl Neptune

- Barry Baxter

Sngl *longifolia*

- Dennis Chuah

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 Wolf Grausch and Chris Whitby.

From behind the shadehouse.....



Jim and Margaret Shaw are off to Thursday Island on Wednesday! Margaret has family there so it will be quite an adventure. Jim hopes to get some fishing in. Hope they have a great time!



Speaking of great times. Lee and Roy recently were in Las Vegas. Lee went off to view the Grand Canyon and Roy went on a tour in a van. The van doors jammed and everyone but Roy climbed out the window. He's got hip replacements and therefore was stuck! The had to weld the door off to get him out-and nobody took a photo!



My turn this month! My new best friend John has promised to give me money every fortnight. He's also giving me a Gold Card so I can go on the bus, train and to Waiheke Island free!



All I had to do was have a birthday!