

AUCKLAND ORCHID CLUB BULLETIN

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VOLUME 25 No. 10

November 2007

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Beryl Calder, Dennis Chuah, Lee and Roy Neale, standing proudly by their award winning display at the Ellerslie Flower Show.

MESSAGE OF THE MONTH

This month I have just got to tell you about our success at the Ellerslie Flower Show. Lee and Roy Neale, Beryl Calder and Dennis Chuah took on the mammoth task of setting up this display. Months of planning and arranging went into it with lots of hurdles to get over as some plans went awry at the last minute. These were overcome and four very tired Auckland Orchid Club members were rewarded for their dedication, sleepless nights and hard work.

 They were awarded a **Gold Medal** - and to top it off they also were awarded the **Supreme Award for Horticulture**.

Our congratulations and thanks for honoring our club. We are very, very proud of you. Lee struggled with no voice but managed to carry on regardless!

I visited the show and was 'blown away' by the sight of all those gorgeous orchids. I could not fault the display. Crowds surrounded the area and feedback was very positive. Three cheers for the fabulous four!

Thanks to all those members who contributed plants for the display. ED.



NEXT MEETING
Tuesday December 4th
7.00 pm
Lions Whitehouse

This will be our Xmas party and we would like you to bring along a friend or partner. **Don't have dinner** - we are asking you all to bring along a plate of food that can be eaten with fingers. We don't want anything that requires a knife and fork. The club will supply Strawberries and ice cream for dessert and refreshments. **Please note the earlier time, 7.00 pm.**

We would like you all to bring a small gift for the continuous raffle, (something that you would like to receive - we have had some rather disappointing gifts in the past) and also a gold coin donation to go towards those wonderful yummy hampers we had last year. **Don't forget your money for raffle tickets!**

There will be NO trading table or plants on display.

Help will be needed to vacuum the hall after the meeting



FROM THE NOVEMBER MEETING

President Roy welcomed 45 members to our meeting.

Apologies: Pam and Bruce Hughes, Merilyne Brown, Beryl Calder, Peter C Elfleet and Jean Treadwell

Sick: Patrick Stepancic who has a broken arm!

Notices: Free tickets to the Darwin exhibition at the Museum and some books available from Lee.

Various leaflets on garden tours.

The Ellerslie Flower Show display is progressing, hiccups and all!

A reminder that 2008 is our 25th Anniversary and we shall be incorporating the celebration with our Spring Show in August 2008. We have lots of plans afoot, so keep watching this space!

David Young of Sunrae Orchids won 22 medals at a recent wine makers convention in Nelson. Many AOC members sampled several of David's wines during our recent BBQ and Bus Trip.

Gelllets (growers we visited on our recent Bus Trip) have offered to sell us clear pots if we were interested.

Lee brought along our mini cat plants she had deflasked last month. They are all growing beautifully 4 weeks out of the flask. She has raised the fertiliser CF from 4 to 6 now that they are getting bigger..



Happy December birthday to.....

Faith and Wolf Grausch, Don Hodge, Graham Marshal and Antal Kalosca1.

and happy January birthday to.....

Lee and Roy Neale, Diana and Peter C Elfleet, Betty Major, Patrick Stepancic, Brian Main, Jean Treadwell, Kim Young, Dennis Chuah and David Lam.

Psst.. Lee is having one with an '0'!

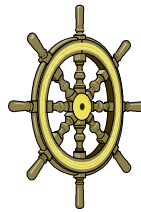


The Raffle winners last month were: Margaret Shaw, Rai Hogan, Diana Elfleet and Dennis Chuah. Raffle prizes were donated by Faith And Wolf Grausch, Sunrae Orchids and the club. Thank you. We made \$72.00 for our club funds. Congratulations to the winners.



from behind the shade house.....

Apologies to Jim Shaw and Bev Meredith. I forgot to post your birthdays in last month's Bulletin! Don't know how old Jim was - but I do know that Helen is sending money to Bev every fortnight now!



Bernadette has been away to the nether regions of the South Island to visit her son and family. She was promised some Bluff oysters, and was hoping he wasn't going to insist that she go out with him in the boat to get them as the weather was rather rugged at the time!

Irene is very excited about her holiday. She is off to South Africa to spend Xmas with her family. We hope you have a wonderful time Irene.



Oh Dear! Did you see on Fair Go where the Telecom Ad starring Kim's little dog was voted worst ad!

Grahame Leafberg has been given a Plant Breeders Award for 6 different plant clones of sarcochilus from the same seed pod -2 of which received AM's. The seed was raised by Peter Elfleet Snr, and grown by Grahame. The quality and colours of the flowers were outstanding, ranging from magenta-crimson-carmine and cream. They were judged at the Regional Judging Seminar in Hamilton Nov.3rd 2007 by a unanimous show of hands.

Plant name: **Fizzy Dove x Burgundy on Ice.**

Reg name by Grahame: Sarco Fizzy Ice.

Congratulations Grahame.



Your Bulletin crew, Lee, Roy and Mary would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

This will be your last Bulletin for the year. There is NO meeting in January. A short newsletter will be sent during January. The next club meeting will be February 5th 2008.

PLANTS ON DISPLAY

ASCOCENTRUM

Asctm miniatum

- Burt and Evelyn Ong

BRASSIA

Brs keilana

- Bev Meredith

CATTLEYA

C intermedia x Gigi #

C Snowblind

- Anjo McKernan

C intermedia #

- David Lam

CYMBIDIUM

Cym Itchycoo Park

Cym Henna 'Golden Gladis' **

- Ross Crabb

Cym Happy Valentine

- Joy Intveld

DENDROBIUM

Den Snow Jump

Den kingianum 'Purple Star' x (*Aussie Merit* x *Red Baron*)

- Leroy Orchids

Den Emma

- Anjo McKernan

Den Christmas Chimes

- Diana and Peter Elfleet

Den Unknown

- Melvin Alexander

Den fimbriatum occulatum #

- William and Man Lo

LAELIOCATTLEYA

Lc Desert Orange

- William and Man Lo

Lc Trick or Treat #

- Jill Mickleburgh

MASDEVALLIA

Masd Sunset Jaguar

- Ken Morse

Masd coccinea 'L.R.G.'

(two plants)

Masd Lyn Sherlock 'Otaki'

- Dennis Chuah

MILTONIOPSIS

Milt Herralexandre '189'

- Anjo McKernan

PAPHIOPEDILUM

Paph Victoria mariae **

Paph Lady Isabel x philippinense #

Now registered as *Paph Isabel Booth* (1994)

Paph micranthum

- William and Man Lo

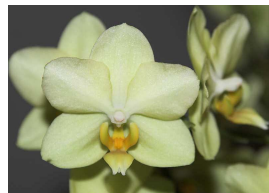
The plant commentary was conducted by Heather Cooke and Diana Elfleet.

We had a wonderful display of well grown plants in colours to die for!

Well done all those members who went to the trouble to bring their plants to the meeting!



Plants on display last month was a 'tie', with Diana's *Den Christmas Chimes* and Jill's *Phal Unknown*. Congratulations! (Jill's first win!)



PHALAEENOPSIS

Phal deventeriana x *venosa*

- Joy Intveld

Phal Brother Love Baron x *Black Ball*

- Dennis Chuah

Phal Unknown

- Jill Mickleburgh

Phal Unknown

Phal Anthura

- Linda Alexander

Phal California Plum x *Zamberosa* x *Ronde* **

Phal Unknown

- Kim Young

Phal Brother Nugget x *Brother Knight* x *John Angel*

'White Knight'

- Bev Meredith

POTINARA

Pot Peggy Huffmann x *Lemon Tree* #

- Anjo McKernan

SARCOCHILUS

Sarco Burgandy on Ice x *Fizzy Dove* 'Grahame' (six plants)

- Grahame Leafberg

Sarco Dove x *Heidi* 'Ruby Red'

- Dennis Chuah

Sarco fitzgeraldii 'Pinkeye' #

- Burt and Evelyn Ong

Sarco Burgandy on Ice (two plants)

Sarco Pinkhide #

Sarco Fitzhart

Sarco hartmannii 'Heather'

Sarco Melody 'Big Centre'

Sarco Melody 'Champagne'

Sarco Starstruck 'Red' x *hartmannii* 'Phena'

Sarco George Colthup x *Velvet* 'Cool Dude'

Sarco Heidi 'Rose'

- Wolf and Faith Grausch

Sarco hartmannii x *Kerri* #

- Ross Crabb

SOPHROLAELIOCATTLEYA

Slc Damson Queen 'Coberg'

- Bev Meredith

Slc Wendy's Valentine 'June' AM/AOS

- Anjo McKernan

WILSONARA

Wils Lyoth 'Ruby'

- William and Man Lo

VUYLSTEKEARA

Vuyl Esprit 'Muriel' HCC/NZOS

- Leroy Orchids

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

**

Means we can't verify your plant name on Wild Cat.

Please take note

Three lots of x's in a plant name should have one pair bracketed.

THE ORCHID FAIR

Gorgeous start for a lovely Labour Weekend, sunny morning, smiling faces and everybody raring to go! All 43 of us on a fun bus trip to the Orchid Fair in Tuakau, hosted by K&R Orchids and seven other of NZ's top orchid growers plus Easy Orchids and Tinonee Orchids from across the ditch.

There was much excitement and anticipation in the air as our ringmaster Roy Neale kept the actual details of the trip to himself. First surprise 'stop' was at Gellert's Nursery in Papakura. The owner Steve Gellert was on hand to take us on a one-hour conducted tour of his very impressive hi-tech growing areas modeled after those in Holland. They supply grafted seedlings like tomatoes to commercial growers on demand and also produce a diverse range of bromeliads, phalaenopsis orchids etc for the NZ market. Fantastic eye-opener for most of us and an opportunity not to be missed.

At 12.35 pm we arrived at the Orchid Fair in Tuakau. Most of us were famished by then but luckily there was an impressive array of yummy sandwiches and box lunches available to satisfy our rumbling tummies for just \$5 a piece! But yours truly just headed straight to the trading tables to see what is left...grabbed two flasks of a highly exotic species from Easy Orchids that hopefully no one else would have throughout the length and breadth of NZ! Then I saw Keith Goodwin from the corner of my eyes and quickly darted over and rounded up a few of my favourite Parvisepalum-type slipper orchids before fellow enthusiast William Lo could see it! Soon, plastic bags and boxes were filling up fast everywhere....only then did we sit down for a cuppa and tuck into something. It was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with fellow orchid people and have a yarn about the latest orchid 'going-ons'.

Credit should be given to Russell Hutton for his initiative and foresight in promoting such an interesting and long awaited event. Was told orchid fairs were a norm in Aussie and have become an established sales idea of preference for vendors and buyers to get together under one roof. Every indication tells us that it is a great success.... Enjoyed by all. Can see this easily becoming a popular yearly event. Already heard in the grapevine that other orchid clubs also intend organising similar bus trips for their members too. Let's keep our fingers crossed.

After loading all our precious and newly acquired 'treasures' into the bus we set off once again.

When we reached Ramarama Roy directed the driver to suddenly turn into a side road with a very visible sign-age for Plumbing Service! Gosh, most of us in the back seat were worried...'emergency repairs' and 'waterworks' keep cropping up in our mind! Poor Roy. But to our immense relief, the bus finally came to a stop....our 2nd surprise stop, outside a huge warehouse belonging to Joshua Commercial Cut-Flowers. A smiling Gus Sonneveld was waiting for us when we alighted from the bus to take us on another conducted tour.

Here again, we witnessed Dutch ingenuity at it's best in all aspects of the cymbidium cut flower business. We were impressed by all the huge cymbidiums grown to perfection with countless spikes on them! Grand Champion quality, each and every one. What a sight!

Our final destination was Sunrae Orchids in Drury... arriving at 4.10 pm. The main display shade house was stocked to the brim full of coloured denrobs and reasonably priced too. Almost everyone, including those who said they had enough, snapped up something in a mad buying spree! Poor Jason was manning the shop for the day... he was literally mobbed with cash strapped customers and yet the moneybag around his waist was almost bursting at the seams! That was how good business was! Ken Morse on hand, giving us his much sought after professional advice on which plant to choose from. Good on you Ken, and yours truly also found out how useful Dennis Chuah could be when he helped me to retrieve a bunch of Spanish moss high up in the ceiling, putting his 12 inches advantage over me to good use! I need Spanish moss so badly to replace the ones that are consistently stolen from our garden by those jolly blackbirds with the yellow beak for their short-cut to nest-building! Just wonder how long this lot of moss will last?

Then it was off to wine tasting with compliments of Drury Hills Winery...fustily exquisite taste of plum, strawberry, feijoa, blackberry and macadamia wines. Tamarillo port and much, much more! The spread for the BBQ buffet dinner was simply impressive and the taste divine. Many of us went back for a second helping before diving into the fruit salad and ice cream dessert. Then there was coffee and of course back once again to more wine tasting. There were heaps of happy faces around...maybe the sweet nectar was beginning to work it's magic!

At 6.30 pm we bade farewell to our generous host at Sunrae's and boarded our bus to prepare for our journey home. Almost immediately, before any of us could quietly fade away into a wine induced nap Jim Shaw sprung into action and out came the raffle tickets. We were told everyone should buy some to help out in the club fund and there was no escape as we were all trapped in the moving bus. The first draw for a bottle of red wine donated by Sunrae Orchids went to Gangli Zhou, our local Chinese cymbidium expert. He was invited to draw the next number and miraculously to everyone's amazement, he drew another of his own tickets to win the 2nd prize for a pot of *Den kingianum*. Panic sets in, and Roy immediately swung the raffle box at Olympic speed across to Peter Elfleet's direction instead, for the 3rd prize draw to prevent another repeat! It was a sigh of relief when it went deservedly to our hard-working Show Marshal Bev Meredith... a lovely bottle of white.

Congratulations to all winners and on behalf of all the members at AOC, a round of applause should go to the entire organising committee for giving us such a fun and yummy 'orchid' weekend!

Burt Ong