

# AUCKLAND ORCHID CLUB BULLETIN

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**Honey Denyer's magnificent display of Pleionies won popular vote for October.**

## MESSAGE OF THE MONTH

Labour Weekend has just passed and we should be thinking of extra shade for our plants. I know that I will be putting on my extra shade cloth this weekend as we are getting some lovely days in between the fickle Auckland weather patterns.

The orchids are growing quite rapidly and are enjoying the warmer climate and feeding as they wake up from their winter slumber.

The snails and slugs have also come out of hibernation and have chomped a few of my plants while I wasn't looking.

It is a crucial time with laying baits as animals are attracted to them as well as the 'greebies'. I have baby blackbirds on the ground and worry about the parents feeding their babies with snails that have perhaps recently eaten baits, so please be careful.

Try using *Quash* by Tui as it is not harmful to animals but I am not sure about birds.

ED.

## NEXT MEETING

*Tuesday November 1st*

*Lions Whitehouse*

*7.30pm*

This month we will be having a panel discussion.

Please bring along your questions, especially regarding the running of the club and our club activities.

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

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

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



## *Happy November birthday to.....*

Dudley Eyes, Jimmy Shaw, Lucille Rowe, Allan Tantau, Bev Meredith and David Forsyth.



## *Raffle Results*

Winners were: Lottie Hogan x 2, Faith Grausch, June Sutton x 2, Lee Neale x 2, June Hogg, Heather Duxfield and Mike Leaity.

Thanks to Kim Robilliard, Grahame Leafberg, Ken Morse, Honey Denyer and Lee Neale for donating prizes.

The raffle made \$70.

**TIP:** If your cattleya roots are sticking to the outside of their clay pots, soak the pots in a bucket of water for a few hours and they come off very easily. Thanks for that handy tip Beryl. ED

## FROM THE OCTOBER MEETING

President Glenys welcomed the 46 members present. Jill Mickleburgh was attending for the first time and Glenys welcomed her also. Jill grows a few different genera of orchids. We hope that she enjoyed the evening and will return next month. Rai and Lottie were also welcomed back after Rai's holiday in Vancouver and Lottie's stay in hospital.

**Apologies:** Diana, Peter and Peter C Elfleet, Bernadette Edmiston, Jean Treadwell, Gary Cooke.

**Sick:** Peter Elfleet is in Waitakere hospital. Jean is also in Waitakere Hospital in Muriwai ward, room 6. She would love to have some visitors. Visiting is 2.00pm onwards.

**Notices:** The Year Books were still available to those members who had not collected their copy. Glenys thanked Dennis and Bev for promoting our club at the Kumeu Garden Show.



Some of the plants in the display at the Kumeu Garden Show

### SHOW COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

**Show Marshal:** Bev Meredith

**Show Secretary:** Linda Alexander

#### **Committee**

Melvin Alexander, Glenys MacRae, Diana and Peter C Elfleet, Dennis Chuah, Joy Intveld, June Sutton, Lee and Roy Neale.

Glenys thanked Heather Cooke for her 22 years service on the Show Committee. Heather was not standing for office this year.



### **GUEST SPEAKER Beryl Calder.....on Cattleyas**

Beryl started growing cymbidiums in 1978 (and according to Roy – not very well)! She still grows them - much better now, and loves the excitement of flowering a seedling for the first time and the pleasant surprise when the buds first open, to see it's potential as a prize winner.

Four years ago she decided to grow cattleyas, but found it very hard to find a source for new plants or flasks – mostly having to rely on flasks from overseas.

Because of this difficulty she decided to try her hand at hybridising. Wolf Grauch gave her a few lessons and those initial crosses are now beginning to flower after 3 years. This has been a very proud moment for Beryl and she has dreams like all of us that some of these babies will be award winners in the years to come.

**Standard** cattleyas have very round shaped flowers.

**Novelty** cattleyas are more spidery in shape.

**Temperatures:** Beryl's greenhouse can get very warm - at times up to 30° C.

In winter if a frost is expected she will use a fan heater. Cattleyas can tolerate temperatures down as far as 2° C for short periods and with a fan heater going it usually can raise it to a more comfortable 7° C. This shows that they can be grown quite cool.

In summer big fans are used to circulate cool air and usually twice during the afternoon she will hose the plants and greenhouse to cool them down. Spidermite can be a problem when plants are dry and are at high temperatures.

**Watering:** In the summer every day or every other day. In the winter according to the weather. If it is cloudy or damp or a frost is imminent don't water.

**Bark:** Waitara No 4 or No 2 for babies. Soak it for 7-14 days and add dolomite lime.

**Feeding:** They are not gross feeders. Fertilise weekly, weakly. She uses a variety of fertilisers.

**Picture above:** A few of Beryl's wonderful plants  
A mini show all on it's own!







## CULTURE NOTES

Roy and Chris had a busy time testing the strength of various different fertiliser samples that had been brought along by members. It was amazing to see the range of strengths that were being used as per instructions on packets of feeds. One person using worm pee went right off the meter, meaning that the poor plants were virtually being 'microwaved'. One sample that should have read 6 was actually 93! They even tested some ones gold fish pond water!

These are certainly 'magic wands' and have saved a lot of disappointment to hobbyists who have inadvertently killed their plants with so called kindness.

Make sure that your plants get a good flushing between feeds and don't collect the flushed fertiliser and use it again as it could spread disease.

Chris finds that Phallies need flushing even with in pot irrigation - he now hand waters each plant. Feed your phallies high nitrogen in summer as they don't stop growing. Feed low nitrogen and high potash in winter to help initiate spikes.

Paphs need continuous weak feeding all year round.

If the tips of your cymbidium leaves are dying off it is an indication of a build up of salts in the pot.

Wolf told us that the clay pots with large holes in the sides are available from a Clay and Pottery outlet in Foundry Road Silverdale . \$5 for 5 pots.

*Lorsban* is a good spray for scale on cattleyas and cymbids but **not** for sarcochilus. Spray in October, January and February. If you have flowers on plants, cover them with a plastic bag before spraying. Treat all newly introduced plants to your collection for scale before adding them to the greenhouse.

Always mix sprays according to the packet or bottle instructions. Using spray at lower strengths can cause the bugs to build up an immunity to the spray.

Cattleyas don't need to be repotted every year, they enjoy being in a situation where there is not a lot of potting medium around the roots and they will not stay wet in cooler temperatures. A well drained mix is required.

No one seemed sure of what caused bulb rot in cattleyas.



*from behind the shade house.....*



Melvin, being a conscientious hobby orchid grower took a sample of his fertiliser to Roy's place to get him to check the strength. As he came down the drive and around the pond the jar fell over and he lost the lot!

Now, Melvin, you don't have to cool fertiliser like Linda's strawberry jam - so put a lid on it next time!!!!



Honey and Les are to become grandparents again. The little one is coming from an orphanage in China to the USA where her new parents live. Her name is Michele and she will have a big sister Katy (also from China), who was adopted almost 4 years ago. Michele will be between 19-20 months old. There are certain orphanages in China that are vetted by USA for adoptions.

The Editor went to OZ for some sunshine. Unfortunately I broke their drought and had only 3 days of nice weather! I did however, meet up with Marie Scottie and her husband and family at Australia Zoo - it is certainly a small world out there!



While shopping in a Mall on the Gold Coast I came upon an Orchid Club trading table. Beautiful cattleyas and disgusting looking cymbidiums. The members selling were telling me all about a show that they heard of that was worth a trip to NZ for. Yep, it was our Spring Show they were talking about! Goes to show that the effort the Show Committee puts into our show pays off with fame spreading far and wide.

**WE STILL NEED A SECRETARY. THIS IS GETTING RATHER URGENT!  
PLEASE PHONE GLENYS IF YOU CAN HELP. PH 835 1216.**

Thanks to Kim and Warehouse Stationery for the printing of our newsletter each month. Don't forget to shop at Warehouse Stationery for all your stationery requirements.