

Greetings, I hope you and your orchids are not suffering too much from the winter weather.

A reminder to all Judges about the International Orchid Extravaganza in September, remember this is also the National Judging Seminar and attendance is part of your commitment as a Judge or Trainee Judge. I know there are many reasons members find it difficult to attend including health and finance but I would urge all to try to attend. Remember there is a two day registration for Judges who cannot attend for the full week. If you cannot make it this year please remember to send your apology to me. Thank you to those Judges who have sent in their registration, the show schedule is in its final stages of preparation and will be sent to registrants when completed.

You will shortly receive the latest update from AQ+. This will be the last CD from AQ as COA has decided to discontinue its subscription. Reasons for this include the cost, difficulty of use, and lack of use by most areas. It is a shame after all these years, but the cost could not be justified against the lack of use. Although the pictures will not be present, the award information can be accessed on OrchidWiz.

Congratulations go to Roy Harris of the Bay of Plenty Judging Group; Roy has been nominated and approved as a Senior Judge. Roy stepped up and took over the local group and kept it going for many years after the passing of the late Fred Brett. Roy joins a small group of Judges who have been honoured by their peers for their outstanding contribution to the Judging System.

Congratulations also to Pamela Etheridge and Joyce Waller of Waikato of attaining Accredited judge status.

I would remind all judges to take care filling in Award Forms, especially the measurements. Masdevallias and Draculas are to have their segments measured, length and width. This is the dorsal and ventral sepals in Masdevallias, and the lip if appropriate in Draculas, most Masdevallia lips are too small. It seems people are confused since the Pleurothalid Index was removed, but it was stated at that time that those bits were still to have their measurements recorded.

Paphiopedilums also have their synsepal measured, and the three measurements for Natural Spread are required, please remember this if using up forms pre 2007, don't forget the Vertical measurement.

Please take the time to read through your award description, remember others who read it will not have seen the flower.

As my printer is off line at the moment could I please ask you print this off and make sure all your Judges are aware of the contents?

Take care over the winter months,

Margaret Lomas

June, 2010