

CANTERBURY ORCHID SOCIETY

P.O.Box 7131, Sydenham, Christchurch 8240

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Next Meeting: 5th July - 7pm.
Orchid of the month by popular vote
Speaker: Tony Connelly
Subject: Cymbidiums



Pterostylis banksii

SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE: Monday 26th July at 7pm.
Wayne Harris from Australia will be in Christchurch and will be talking to us.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION TIME.
The SUB is \$30.
If you haven't paid by the end of July this is the last bulletin you will receive.

12 brave souls turned up at our meeting in appalling weather to hear John Campbell talk about growing Nobile Type (soft caned) Dendrobiums. John likes growing his plants on a piece of fern fibre, which is then placed in a pot of stones to hold them up right. During the growing period, they can take lots of water and fertiliser and high light. Around ANZAC day reduce the watering to just enough to stop the canes from shrivelling and do not feed them with any fertiliser. Don't be concerned if any leaves turn yellow and dry off. This is quite normal. From winter on, look for the appearance of budding nodes, usually on the previous year's growth. They appear opposite the leaf axel. These nodes begin to swell and should develop into flowers. Sometimes they don't and they turn into young plants called Keikis. These keikis can be potted up when the young roots are about 5 - 10cm long. Another way to produce more plants is to take off an old growth and lay on a bed of sphagnum moss. Any dormant nodes should produce young plants.



A well grown and flowered plant can look quite spectacular. John then showed slides of other types of dendrobiums worthy of growing. Some of his slides were from the collections of some of the founding members of our society. It is great that John has kept this historical record.

John finished off his talk with slides of one of his trips to Thailand.

At the end of the talk there were a variety of named keikis available for people to take home to try for themselves.

Soft caned dendrobiums at the Japan Grand Prix 2010.

In My Glasshouse:

Soft caned dendrobiums are a rewarding variety to grow. Today's hybrids are much shorter and therefore much easier to grow in a small glasshouse. They have one flowering period in late winter and spring but I find the newer hybrids around today quite often have intermittent flowers at other times of the year.

I grow my dendrobiums above the phalaenopsis. This provides extra light for the dendrobiums and shading for the phalaenopsis. The plants grow well with high nitrogen fertiliser in the early summer but switch to a high potassium fertiliser around Christmas. During the winter they get the same treatment as the phalaenopsis. The only problem I found is because the glasshouse is at a minimum of 15 deg C, they flower too early for any shows. This year, I have brought my plants into the coolest room in the house with no direct sunlight and drying them out more, so hopefully I will slow the flower development down and I will have lovely flowers for September.

Websites to Wander Through:

I thought I would add a little section on orchid websites to look at. There is a lot of information out there today and they are highly educational.

Since this month's talk was about nobile type dendrobiums, I went delving in the Yamamoto Dendrobium site. www.yamamotodendrobiums.com. This is their Hawaiian production site.

Jiro Yamamoto started his nursery in 1952 and began his breeding programme with nobile type dendrobiums in 1957. There are beautiful photos of the latest varieties and their extensive glasshouses. There is also excellent information about their culture. You just have to adjust the months to the southern hemisphere. It is a site worth visiting.



Photos: courtesy of Yamamoto Dendrobiums.



Doreen and Tony Connelly tell me they are moving into a retirement community. He is taking his favourite orchids with him to a smaller glasshouse but like all of us he has too many plants to re house. From your editor's personal perspective, they are really nice well grown plants.

If anyone is interested in purchasing some plants, Tony can be contacted, at 384 8444.

He also wishes to give away to a good home some of our native orchids. They are growing on rafts of tree fern fibre and need quite specific conditions to thrive. If you think you have those conditions, please contact Tony. He has an *Earina autumnalis* - 60cm across, *Earina mucronata* - 1m x 80cm and *Wineka* - 90cm.

Below are examples of what he might have for sale



Cym. Miss Muffet



Nice Sarccochilus