

CANTERBURY ORCHID SOCIETY

P.O.Box 7131, Sydenham, Christchurch 8240

Bulletin No. 607 – June 2010

President: John Campbell Ph. 328 8215
Email – campbelljohn@xtra.co.nz
Secretary: Ross Bicknell Ph. 325 2779
Treasurer: VACANT
Editor: Lesley Newton Ph. 323 7523
Email – orcats@xtra.co.nz

Next Meeting: June 7th – 7pm.
Orchid of the month by popular vote

Speaker: John Campbell

Subject: Soft Caned Dendrobiums



Pterostylis banksii

It is Subscription time again. SUBS are \$30 and can be paid at the next meeting or by mail

Special Meeting Notice: Monday 26th July
Wayne Harris from Australia is coming.

I cannot believe that our next meeting will be Monday of Queens Birthday Weekend. The year is just passing too quickly. John is going to talk about nobile type dendrobiums. There will be some free named keikeis available to those who are interested in giving them a go.

Plants on Display:



Laelia perrinii

Murray Lister: *Laelia perrinii*, *Phragmipedium Schlimi*, *Vanda coerulea*.

Ron Roy: *Laelia perrinii*

Freda Caldwell: *Laelia pumila*



Aerangis ugandensis

Unknown: *Aerangis ugandensis*, *Gomesia crispa*, *Oncidium varicosum* var *rogersii*, *Cymbidium* One Tree Hill 'John's Quest', A small pink phalaenopsis, *Cymbidium* Tiny Tim, *Coelogyne speciosa*, *Trichoceras parviflorus*.

NOTE: Please write your name and plant on the sheet provided, so I can identify the plants owners.

Speaker:

Ross Bicknall gave us a very informative talk about breeding Pleiones.

Most of the breeding stock in New Zealand is from plants imported prior to 1996. There are only a few people breeding Pleiones world wide, so we are lucky to have Ross creating new crosses here in Christchurch.

The pleione grows in the wild from western China, Tibet through to Nepal and Taiwan. There are 19 species all of which are deciduous. They are tropical but montain, therefore having a dry cold winter and warm wet summers. There are two clear groups, spring and autumn flowering. We have only spring flowering plants here in NZ.

The first registered hybrid was in the 1960's. One of the major breeders is Ian Butterworth of Great Britain with a hundred plus crosses to his name. He is breeding apricots and aiming for reds. Here in NZ we have George Fuller and Ross.

Ross's breeding objective is:

- Longer display time, at least 3 weeks
- More spikes per bulb
- More flowers per spike
- Opening upwards bloom
- Round blooms
- Different colours and flower form



Ross began his breeding programme in 1997. Unfortunately he lost his plants in 2005, when the tunnelhouse collapsed under the weight of snow. He has since built up his collection again and is actively making crosses.

In the last two years his hard work has paid off with several quality awards gained by his plants Pleione Alishan (Lilac Beauty x Versailles) has obtained both an HCC/OCNZ and CCC/OCNZ for a bowl of 6 bulbs and 36 flowers.

Pleione Alishan 'The Jester' AM/OCNZ

Pleione Fangjiang 'Royal Robe' HCC/OCNZ

Ross grows his bulbs in a mix of 30% coconut fibre and potting mix (coconut fibre can be obtained from Grow Pacific, in Wairaki Rd) It is essential they be dried off for winter and store them in a cold dry place; ie the garage. They will not tolerate any warmth through the winter.



In the Glasshouse:

It is the time of the year when in many a glasshouse, there is a flush of yellow flowers dancing in the breeze of the fan. It is varicosum type oncidium season. The size and number of flowers depends on which species or hybrids you are growing. *Oncidium varicosum* and its hybrids may have a lip upwards of 5cm across. It is the species that gives rise to the name "Dancing Ladies orchid."



Oncidium varicosum var *Rogersii*.

These oncidiums are also known as Strap-Leafed Oncidiums. The plants have small to large bulbs that carry wide flexible leaves. The inflorescence arises from the axil of the leaves on this seasons growth. The flower spikes and flowers are very flexible and wave around in any breeze. The flowers have bright yellow labellum or lip which can look like the dress of a ballerina. When the stem waves in the breeze, the flowers dance.

They like to grow on the inner branches or trunks of trees where it is shadier and more humid. Some oncidiums like to have a drier winter and can tolerate cooler temperatures but *oncidium varicosum* likes continuous humidity and moist conditions and virtually no resting period.

I can grow *oncidium varicosum* hybrids quite well in my glasshouse as they seem to like growing with the *phalaenopsis* and *dendrobiums*. I grow them at the northern end where there is more air movement and the light is brighter but they have good humidity.