

CANTERBURY ORCHID SOCIETY

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Next Meeting: Monday 1st March – 7pm.

Member's plant display table

Speaker: Murray Lister with pictures

Subject: Recent Native Orchid Field Trip

Annual General Meeting: Monday 12th April



Pterostylis banksii

The first monthly meeting for 2010 was a rather low key gathering of 21 members who were treated to a colourful picture show compiled by John Woolf, who visited last year from Australia. Lesley Newton expertly operated the projector and gave a well informed commentary on the *Miltonia* and *Cattleya* alliance pictures featured. Adrienne Rushworth acted as Treasurer for the evening, in the place of David who has given notice of his resignation, effective from our A.G.M. in April.

Due to a change in his work schedule he is no longer able to attend meetings or give time to the on-going demands of Treasurer. We owe him a hearty vote of thanks for the many hours of meticulous work he has performed for our Society. The position of Treasurer is vital to efficient running of our club, and as a member you are invited to consider filling this vacant position. At the conclusion of the meeting the Committee met briefly to confirm an invitation to host Wayne Harris at a special meeting to be held on the 19th of July.

The Society will meet his travel costs from Auckland and he will talk to us about Papua/New Guinea and Western Australia specie orchids.

Plants on Display February

Two plants stood out on the display table this month. One was a fine specimen of *Cattleya purpurata* var. *carnea*, displayed by Owen Swann. The other was a plant growing in a small wooden slatted basket. Grown by Murray Lister, it contained an un-named *Stanhopea* with two large yellow brown flowers, protruding downwards from the base. They were highly scented and would last for about five days, before collapsing.



Murray Lister's un-named *Stanhopea*


GROpacific

Garry Clark

519 Wairakei Road

Ph. (03) 359 8288

--- don't forget, you can get all grades of pine bark suitable for orchids. Speak to Garry.

Reminder: Cut off date for registration discounts at the P.N. International Show is 28th February.

The Orchid House Visit and Summer Social BBQ held on Sunday 14th of February.

It proved to be a fine warm afternoon and commenced at Tony Connelly's house at 1pm. Only about five regular club members with partners turned out, but the gathering was swelled when nine invited visitors from the South Canterbury club turned up.

They enjoyed looking at the flower garden, the hanging begonias with large specimen orchids and many succulents growing in the patio area.

The orchid house didn't contain many plants in flower as half the house is taken up with many hundreds of *Sarcochilus* seedlings.

They are in various stages of growth from flask to flowering size, and don't flower until October or November. Everyone was most interested to see the different growing methods employed and the house construction.

By 2.15pm, everyone had moved on to Adrienne and David Rushworth's home to see their stunning gardens and orchid houses. It was interesting to see other cultural growing methods and the use of a shade house mainly for *Cymbidiums*.

The warmer growing house contained many well kept species and hybrids. The outstanding feature was the many *Miltonias* in flower.

The weather continued to be kind, with no sign of the predicted southerly and everyone departed for Murray and Gwenda Lister's Ashburton house.



Inside Murray's remodelled orchid house.

Over the last year or so, his growing area has been completely re-built almost entirely from re-cycled materials from other buildings.

Old bricks have been used to clad the northerly side, up to one meter in height, providing insulation and stored up warmth.

Around the south and east walls air flows from vents, placed at ground level. Air moves upwards and exits through a large automatic vent, 3M x 800mm set high up, on the north facing side.

A feature of the structure is its height, rising up three meters. It is 6M x 6M covering a floor area of 36sq meters. The walls are heavily insulated all around to keep the Mid-Canterbury winter at bay. Attractively displayed, are a wide range of many orchid genera, together with begonias and other exotic plants.

The water feature built out of split rocks, set in a pond, has circulated water cascading down to provide some additional humidity.

The walkway is covered in pine bark chips and the under the benches area has a wood chip layer. After we had enjoyed viewing the orchid house and Glenda's stunning begonia display, we wandered around a peaceful garden path boarded with native trees and garden plants.

By this time it was time to fire the BBQ up and sizzle some sausages that Marco had brought along, courtesy of the Society.

Eighteen people, predominately from the South Canterbury Society, sat down to enjoy one another's company and an abundance of tasty dishes brought along for the occasion.

A vote of thanks was given to Gwenda and Murray by Marco for providing such a memorable occasion. The gathering broke up about 5pm, to return to their homes in Timaru, Clandyboye, Ashburton and Christchurch.

Cultural Tips for March

Cymbidiums need plenty of light and ventilation at this time to induce a good flowering season. Over the next two months you can expect to see flowering spikes appear. Keep watering well, and feed flowering size plants with a high Potash fertiliser and Epsom Salts weekly. Younger plants need higher nitrogen feed.

Nobile type dendrobiums still require plenty of moisture and a high Potash feed, as well as high light to ripen their canes.

Paphiopedilum - Early flowering types will begin to send up flower growths this month. Don't let them dry out and feed with high Nitrogen every third watering. Reduce fertiliser as the leaf fans begin to mature and as we move into autumn.

Phalaenopsis - Keep up the feeding and humidity to help good growth at this season. Light should be about 60% of natural sun light. Take care the plants don't get chilled with a sudden cold weather change, as this can interfere with the whole flowering cycle.

Be on your guard for snails and slugs that are likely invade your growing house on colder nights and during wet weather.

Slug Out granules broadcast over the entire house from time to time will give good protection. It will withstand water for a period of about three weeks.