

CANTERBURY ORCHID SOCIETY

P.O.Box 7131, Sydenham, Christchurch 8240

Bulletin No. 601 – November 2009

President: Marco Gonzalez Ph. 352 4046 or 021 951 625
Email – gonzalezm@asurequality.com
Vice President: John Campbell Ph. 328 8215
Secretary: Ross Bicknell Ph. 325 2779
Treasurer: David Rushworth Ph. 980 5483
Editor: Tony Connelly Ph. 384 8444
Email - aredc@xtra.co.nz

Next Meeting: Monday 2nd November - 7pm
Display, orchid of the month, by popular vote
Speaker: Melanie Bridgen
Subject: Sophronitis.



Pterostylis banksii

57th Annual Orchid Show:

Friday afternoon 2nd October was fine and the setup went smoothly with Nelson North directing operations as growers arrived with their prized plants.

Considering the extreme and variable weather conditions during the winter months, there was a very good number of flowering plants from local members.

A tiered central display accommodated most of the numerous orchid plants contributed by society members. It was a most colourful and interesting collection of plants that kept cameras clicking as viewers studied the many different genera.



The Society Display

A popular attraction was the wonderful array of flowering plants for sale brought from North Shore Auckland by Susan Tucker, from Tuckers Orchid Nurseries. The bulk of the flowering plants were Cymbidiums and an extensive range of very attractive Phalaenopsis. She also brought many exotic non flowering plants of other genera.

Goodwins from Rotorua had a unique sales table of species slipper orchids, with many in flower. Plants such as these are difficult to source and we are most fortunate have them visit us each year.

Moffatts Roses from Halswell provided a stunning bench of white and pink Phalaenopsis for sale. These were very popular with buyers as house plants.

An outstanding feature of the Show was the large number of colourful Pleione orchids on display.

The Grand Champion was a fine specimen of 'Ursus arctos' seated on a bench, surrounded by at least a dozen colourful dishes of Pleiones. It is thought to be the first time in all orchid judging history that a 'teddy bear' has been honoured in such a manner!

Seriously, the massed Pleiones were stunning and a great credit to the breeder and grower, Ross Bicknell.



Grand Champion of the Show

The large Horticultural Hall was filled with other society member displays, from Lesley Newton/

Glenis Day, John/Gail Creeggan, & Tony Connelly. Goodwins and Tucker Orchids also mounted small but high quality displays.

One of the most outstanding plants at our show this year was *Dendrobium jonesii*. It won the best *Dendrobium* Species Class.

The plant has been cared for by Brian Syder for the past few years but it was originally bought and grown to specimen size by our oldest member, Maimie Kennedy, now aged 94.

Maimie bought the plant approximately 30 years ago, after Maurey McSaveney our then president, recommended it to her, as a plant that would grow well. Colin Law was selling some plants from a deceased estate and Maimie wasn't sure what to buy so she asked Maurey. It was a weedy little single growth plant then, but now has grown to specimen size.



Dendrobium jonesii

In 1993 it won Grand Champion of the show, about half the size seen today.

Other contributors were the Bonsai Society, China painters, Cake decorating, Margaret Cook, Wood turning, Brian Syder, Orchiata Bark supplies, John Campbell with growing techniques. Others to mount displays were Pat Kelly/Sheila Dietrich and Owen Swan, as well as the ever popular Society sales table.

Tuckers donated a lovely cymbidium named Sir Edmund Hillary bred by them, as a raffle prize, and Margaret Cook donated a beautifully decorated iced cake for another. It was no wonder the raffle prizes generated a record amount financially.

All together, it was a successful show with numbers attending a little up on last year, and judging by the smiling faces of people leaving with purchases was much appreciated by orchid lovers.

A big thankyou is owed to Nelson North and the organising committee for once again staging a successful event.

October Monthly Meeting:

Hard on the heels of the show, the monthly meeting was held the following Monday evening.

There were 24 members present to hear Susan

Tucker tell us about Tucker Orchid Nurseries and how it began with her husband Ross, 25 years ago.

They grow orchids in two locations, Bayswater Devonport, and where they now reside at Redvale, North Shore. They breed and propagate a wide range of genera for local growers and overseas. They lead a very busy life attending many shows, sometimes in two places at once, throughout the whole country.

They are both qualified judges and often join in when attending Orchid Shows in many exotic parts of the world.

Susan showed us a huge range of *Cattleya* flower pictures that are the parents of seedlings they have for sale now. The range of orchid plants available from Tuckers is surely one of the largest in the country.

Susan was warmly thanked for her presentation and for their contribution towards making our show a success.

Orchid of the Month:

Maybe it was the "over indulgence" of flowers at the show, but only two people managed to bring a flowering plant along for display.

What lacked in quantity was made up with quality.

The first was brought along by Alison Evans. It was a small beautifully mounted Australian species in full bloom, named *Dendrobium nugentii*, otherwise known as *D. linguiforme*. Tony Connelly brought the other plant on show. It was a Novelty type



Cymbidium Street Tango 'Ooh Ah' HCC/AOC.

Street Tango is certainly well named after its parents Brook Street and Last Tango both display the dark colouring in their flowers.

He is not sure if this particular plant is a clone or a back bulb. However it made him say "Ooh Ah" when saw the first flowers open, the day after the show. How it came to be in his collection he is not sure, but he thinks he may have purchased it at the "Boot Sale", when attending the "Famous Taranaki Summer Orchid Display" in January 2007.

Coming Up:

At our next meeting in November, Melanie will be speaking to us on Sophronitis and the influence they have in hybridising.

The December meeting will be held at our usual venue and will be a "Pot Luck Supper" affair, with a well known speaker to entertain us.

There will be no monthly meeting in January.

For February, it has been mooted that we visit three orchid houses and conclude with an early evening BBQ meal, details are to be finalised at our next meeting.

The 19th Australian Orchid Council Conference & Show will take place from the 10th to 16th September, 2012 in Perth W.A.

Details can be found at www.waos@iinet.au

Open House Weekend:

Tony Connelly had a three day 'Open house' over Labour Day weekend for Society members and invited guests.

We were blessed with three beautiful spring days and were able to sit around outside and enjoy the afternoon sunshine, while Tony spoke about orchids and gave practical demonstrations.

Durham Ganda came all the way from Greymouth and Grahame Letts our South Island representative on the Orchid Council of N.Z. came from Dunedin.

Over the three days, six established members of the society found time to come, and about eight new members attended who really enjoyed all the flowers and afternoon tea provided by Doreen.

For our first meeting in the New Year, orchid house visits have been suggested concluding with a BBQ, and it is to be hoped this can be arranged.

Potting Media the Key to success:

The primary requirements of successful orchid growing are situation, heat, light, moisture, humidity, fertiliser and lots of patience.

All of these important factors will count for nothing if we "make do" with inferior type potting materials.

For many years the orchid growing fraternity in the North Island have had access to good quality pine bark, available due to demand from the commercial orchid growing industry.

In the South Island, for many years hobby growers have been forced to laboriously prepare raw pine bark grades into something suitable for orchids.

For those who have only a few plants it is generally not practical to go to such lengths and they have been often forced to rely on inferior type prepared products.

The primary requirement for uniform success is to

have a potting media that is free draining, yet retains some moisture, doesn't break down quickly and is dust free. It should be graded into sizes, suitable for the stage of growth or the type of orchid grown.



519 Wairakei Road
Phone 359 8288

We are most fortunate to have GROpacific situated right here in Christchurch, with every grade of bark suitable for orchids.

Although the bark product is transported to Christchurch from the North Island, the company is owned locally

Garry Clark the manager, is very approachable and is well qualified to advise you on which grade is best for you.

It may be that a 40litre bag @ \$15.00, is more than you require, then it is just a matter of sharing it with another grower.

As our Society is affiliated to the Orchid Council of New Zealand, we are invited to visit the site and check it out. Included in it are, OCNZ Awards, Society meeting dates, club news, introductions to the Orchid Council executive committee and several links to other interesting sites, including newsletters from other societies.

Take a look next time you are on line at: www.orchidcouncil.co.nz



Guess Who?

Taranaki Orchid Society Summer Display

This annual event will take place from 7.30pm Friday 15th to 1.00 pm Sunday 17th January 2010.

Visitor's plants, for display, will be most welcome, but each plant must be identifiable.

Please fill out the Plant List form at your leisure before you leave home.

Specialist meetings, orchid display, boot sale, Saturday night dinner, will all be held at the HIGHLANDS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL HALL, 260A CORONATION AVE. NEW PLYMOUTH.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Friday 5 00pm	Registrations open
7.30pm	Welcome and Paphiopedilum Group meeting
Saturday 8.00 am	Disa Group meeting
8 00 am	Judging (All judges welcome.)
9 00 am	CSA Meeting (Cymbidium Society of America NZ Branch)
10.00 am - 4.00 pm	Display open to Public
11 00 am - 3.00 pm	Car Boot Sale of orchids and sundries at Hall car park, wet or dry. Limited sites available The pre purchase of indicators is highly recommended. Flat rate of \$15 per car boot, indicators must be displayed.
3.30 pm	Odontoglossum Group meeting
6.30 pm	Evening meal. Highlands Intermediate School Hall. (Tables available for those who wish to be seated for dinner)
9 00pm	Guided viewing of Pukekura Park illuminations, weather permitting. Walking shoes recommended and please bring a torch.
Sunday 9.00 am	Masdevallia Group meeting.
10.00 am - 1.00 pm	Display open to the public.
1.00 pm	Breakdown and farewell.

RETURN SLIP PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE RETURN BEFORE 31 DECEMBER 2009

Name

Address

Phone

Preferred name tag title

Email Address

Person/s all weekend @ \$60.00 each (dinner included) \$
\$55.00 if paid by 31 Dec2009.

Person/s Saturday only @ \$50.00 each (dinner included) \$
\$46.00 if paid by 31 Dec.2009

Dinner Saturday night @ \$32.00 each \$

Car Boot Sale Indicator \$15 \$

Please return to The Treasurer, P.O.Box, 635, New Plymouth

Inquires to the Show Marshall, Joy Wray. Email: joywray@xtra.co.nz