



Orchid Chat

AUGUST 2009

Hibiscus Coast Orchid Society Newsletter

PATRON: MRS JEAN ELLISON

President:	Lex Sharp.....	425 7189 WW
Past Pres.	Barbara Beale.....	424 3199
V-President:	Judy Murray.....	424 1968 A/H
Secretary:	Bruce Goodall	424 1319 A/H
Treasurer:	Annette Gillan	478 8344 N/S
Committee:	June Anderson.....	428 5254
	Colin Grant	426 3697
	Londy Prince.....	422 3137 WW
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Monthly Venue:
Masonic Hall, Centreway Road, Orewa
2nd Sunday of each month
Open 1pm for plant sales
Meeting begins at 1.30pm

Postal Address:
P.O. Box 504, Silverdale 0944

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

If there is a red dot below, your subscription is overdue. Maybe it was overlooked or the cheque is on its way. If you have decided not to renew your membership we wish you well for the future.



Orchid Council Raffle Books

These need to be back with Annette at Show time so don't forget to bring them along with you.

No Meeting in September

SHOW

11-12 September 2009

Orewa Community Hall

Show Programme

Thursday 10th September -- Setup

1.30 – 2.00pm: Setup at the Community Centre
Sales plants can be brought in once the sales folk are ready to accept them.

3.00 – 3.30pm: Plants can be entered once staging is in place.

NB – No plants accepted after 5.00pm

5.30pm -- Judging begins

Friday 11th September 9am to 5pm

We shall also need Door and Raffle sellers and Stewards to wander around to keep an eye on the exhibits and to talk to the public. If you've already put your name down that's great.

If you can only help for an hour please come and relieve someone so that they can get some lunch. Some of us will be at the show from 9-5 and will be very appreciative to be able to get tea and lunch breaks.

Saturday 12th September 9am to 3pm

3pm Close: Please don't grab your plants and run off home without giving a hand to tidy up. Help is needed to dismantle the show and leave the hall the way we found it.

If you have any queries, please phone Theo, the Show Marshall

❖ If you forgot to get a number from Barbara you can give her a ring (09 424 3199) or an email barbwire@xtra.co.nz. Remember that we use numbers and not names on the back of the show tickets.

TROPHIES

If you still have your trophy (trophies) from last year, please don't forget to bring them along to the Community Centre when you bring your plants. They will need to be cleaned and polished and 'ready to go'.

JOHN EASTON AWARD 2009

The recipient of this award for 2009 is Ray Albiston from the Waikato Orchid Society. Congratulations Ray

UP & COMING EVENTS

11-12 Sept Hibiscus Coast OS ~ Our Show

11-12 Sept Dargaville OS, Town Hall, Hokianga Rd

18-20 Sept. NZ Orchid Society, Mt Albert War Memorial Hall

18-20 Sept. Tauranga OS, Racecourse, Cameron Rd

25-27 Sept. North Shore OS, Milford Snr Citizens Hall

26-27 Sept. Waikato OS, Hamilton Gardens, Cobham Drive, Hamilton

26-27 Sept. Whangarei OS, Forum North, Rust Ave

Note: Our Show next year will be on 27 & 28 August due to the Manawatu Expo and the involvement of some of our members.

AUGUST MEETING

Theo gave us some tips for presenting our plants at the Show.

Theo has a special recipe he uses for cleaning the leaves. A lot of people use milk but Theo uses a mixture of Conqueror Oil (summer strength), Pyrethrum and some Shield in water. He also has a great idea which is to put on a rubber glove and then put a cotton glove over the top of it. You soak the cotton glove in the mixture and then just run your hand (with the glove!) down the leaves. Easy peasy!

We also have to make sure we aren't transporting any bugs to the Show, e.g. Scale and Mealy Bug. Confidor is a very useful spray and it also comes in a powder form which, when used at ¼ strength, can be used as a drench. Orchids can take up sprays better from the roots than the leaves so watering it in to the pot works very well. This way you don't to worry about breathing in the spray so another good point.

There are quite a few cosmetic things to take into consideration. I will list a few:

- ❖ Replace the top layer of bark/sphagnum moss in your pots.
- ❖ Don't water the plants on the Thursday. Make sure you water them a day or two earlier.
- ❖ If your plant is in a bag or an old or cracked pot, you can place it inside a new pot.
- ❖ Ensure your pots are clean and tidy.
- ❖ Check for brown tips on leaves – these should be cut off.
- ❖ Dry husks on Cymbidiums need to be removed.
- ❖ Stakes should not protrude above the flowers – cut off just below. In the case of Dendrobiums, canes only can be staked – not flowers.
- ❖ Labels need to be clean and legible.

NAME TAGS:

A list of members' names was taken at the end of the last meeting for those wanting engraved name tags. If there are any other members wanting name tags, please contact Barbara Beale (424 3199) ASAP. They will be black with white writing.

The cost is \$7 each.

Also on the subject of name tags. If you have them please wear them. We have a number of new folk and the name tags also save a lot of embarrassment for those of us who have senior moments!

Pleurothallis



They are generally small plants that can grow in profusion in their native habitats, from Florida South through Argentina and West, with the greatest accumulation in the luxuriant, humid cloud forests of the Colombian Andes, Brazil and Costa Rica. There are over 1,000 species in this genus. The word itself comes from the classic Greek and means "Leafy Rib", referring to the sturdy stem of the solitary leaf, from which the flower stalks grow to bring forth those petite blossoms, singly or in great numbers, according to their natural habits. Pleurothallis plants can be diminutive, growing like moss on a tree trunk or they can be over 30cm tall.

Most of these plants are of fairly easy culture. It is advisable however, to try and find out from where your plant comes. *Pleurothallis truncata* (as pictured) grows in Ecuador above 4500 feet. Cold to intermediate, low light. This is not so important when you grow hybrids. In nature, these species are distributed through such a vast area that there are many different micro climates to consider. Mainly, Pleurothallis would need to be kept semi-shady, moderately cool and quite moist (rainwater!) throughout the year; they do not require a rest period. If they have to be divided, it may take some hostile little plants two years to forgive you!

Pleurothallis do quite well when mounted but then they must receive regular and frequent watering – they must never dry out. The flowers of these mini orchids are often very attractive and have intriguing details – to be admired with a magnifying glass. Their colours range from white through translucent green, yellow, orange, pink, red to lavender and purple. Some of the species I have found interesting are: *P. amparoana*, having flowers like little bowls with half-open lids, all fuzzy, white and sweetly scented. *P. cypripeoides* shows a similar flower in red. *P. niveo-globula* has a single, tiny, snow-white bell growing from the centre of its leaf and it keeps sending one little snowball after another from the same stem – one at a time. *P. pterophera* gets many white, fragrant blossoms on each stem; it is also called the "Lily of the Valley Orchid". *P. ophioccephala* has interesting dark red and purple flowers but is rather foul-smelling, as is *P. tribuloides*, the tiny red "Crab Claw Orchid". *P. schiedeii* has very small, dark red striped

flowers with long waxy fringes on its petals, which tremble in the slightest breeze.

You will have to do some searching to find the orchids that particularly interest you. There may also be problems with these orchids' names because even though the first plants in this genus were described 1813 by Mr. Robert Brown (1773 – 1858), their great numbers have not yet been sorted clearly. But be assured, under whatever name you find them, the little Pleurothallis orchids will reward you with their petite charm.

Ingrid Schmidt-Ostrander - Canadian Orchid Congress



SEPTEMBER RAMBLINGS

- ❖ Hopefully we will all be enjoying the fruits of our growing success now in an extensive array of flowers. If your plants have not flowered this year, but should have flowered, now is the time to **review your culture** for the year to ascertain the reasons for this unhappy state. It may be that the growths did not grow large enough (watering, growing mix unsuitable, insufficient fertilisers), or they may have been kept too warm over the summer (put outside under dappled shade where they receive plenty of sun and cool fresh air), or there may have been something affecting growth (root disease, insect damage etc.). If you do have problems, talk them over with a Club member – it is probable someone may be able to assist.
- ❖ If you do have plants in flower, you eventually must **remove the spikes** from the plants. Do not cut the spikes from different plants with the same knife or scissors – it is better to break the stems. This action prevents the spread of virus disease.
- ❖ Now is the time to start **repotting**. This is usually completed just after flowering. The ideal time is just as new root activity commences in the spring, after the usual winter dormancy. The aim is to get the plant re-established as fast as possible so a strong growth is initiated and reached maximum size at maturity to ensure maximum flowering next year.
- ❖ After repotting, plants should be kept more shaded and somewhat dryer than usual. Misting the foliage only for 2-3 weeks may be all that is required. Normal watering can be commenced once root activity is evident.
- ❖ Do not forget to **re-label** all repotted plants and divisions with their correct name and date of repotting. A plant without its correct name loses much of its value.
- ❖ For plants not repotted, the application of **additional base fertiliser** will be appropriate and some lime or dolomite will help sweeten up a mix which may have soured somewhat during the

winter (1 tbsp of lime per 1 litre bucket). Cymbidiums in particular are gross feeders and supplementary feeding – a little often – is appropriate. At this time of the year when maximum vegetative growth is the aim, products high in nitrogen are desirable. A dry mix of nitrogen, phosphate and potash can be formulated, or one of the proprietary slow release products may be appropriate

Source: *Phil's Orchid World*

<http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~tomnz/>

<http://www.angelfire.com/or3/orchidsnz/>

How to Repot a Phalaenopsis Orchid

Step one is to choose a suitable bark mix.

Step two is to choose a Plant Pot suitable for Phalaenopsis orchids. Firstly, they do seem to like clear pots but you don't have to use one. Don't think that you must repot an orchid into a larger pot, often they will return to the same pot quite happily with just a change of compost. Never over pot - orchids are happiest when tucked tightly into bed.

Step three, remove the old compost and throw it away, look for root damage, and pull off any dead roots, they will come away easily with gentle pressure if they are dead, leaving a fine wire like centre which can be trimmed off. Sometimes Phalaenopsis orchids produce aerial roots, these can be left above the compost, or if you wish to be tidy placed inside the pot with the other roots, where they may re surface or possibly perish.

Step four hold the plant in place inside the pot keeping the base of the plant roughly where it should eventually rest, i.e. in line with the top of the compost. With your other hand, begin to drop compost around the roots, tapping the pot firmly as you do so to shake the compost down amongst the roots. When the compost is almost level with the leaves, the job's done. There may well be some gaps which you can see through the side of a clear plant pot but don't worry, the odd air chamber is beneficial to the plant roots.

GOLDEN RULES

Try to avoid repotting an orchid which is in flower. The best time is just after flowering, but not sooner than 12 month intervals.

Let the compost soak in water overnight before repotting.

If possible always use new plant pots, or if you can't, wash the old one out very thoroughly and rinse with boiling water to kill any pathogens.

Source: www.orchid.org.uk/orchidpotting

RAFFLE

Barbara Hunter won the door prize. Winners of the raffle were Barbara Hunter, Barbara Beale, Margaret Maruska, Valerie & Lundy Prince and Judy Murray.

Once again, many thanks to the prize contributors.

POPULAR VOTE SECTION

If there is an asterisk (*) beside the plant named below it is possible that either (a) the plant has been registered or (b) the name on your plant has been misspelled; please update your plant labels. A question mark means it doesn't appear in Wildcatt.

Species:

1st A Gillan Pleurothallis *truncata*
 2nd L&J Sharp Den. *tetragonum* var. *giganteum*

Small:

1st J Murray Masd. Jeanette
 2nd B Beale Cym. Cherry Blossom

Other:

1st P&M Thomas Blc Ballandean 'Bette' x Slc Dals
 Magic '8001'
 2nd L&V Prince Paph. Lleanum

Cymbidium:

1st T Verryt Cym. High Plateau Silver 'Chiffon'
 2nd T Verryt Cym. Uluru 'Dave'

Monthly:

1st T Verryt Cym. Street Hawk 'Mem Tom Monk'

Plant List

June Anderson Cym. Melanie 'Debut'

Barbara Beale Cym. Cherry Blossom

Annette Gillan Dend. *acoriidum*
 Pths *truncata*

Judy Murray Masd. Jeanette
 Masd. *melanopus*
 Mclna Pagan Lovesong

Val & Lonyd Prince Cym. Pharoah x Sarah Jean
 'Bamboo Baby'
 Cym. Rincon Fairy 'Fancy Free'
 Dendrobium unknown
 Paph. Lleanum
 Paph. Ball ??

Peter & Margaret Blc Ballandean 'Bette' x Slc Dals
 Magic '8801'
 Cymbidium unknown
 Cym. James Tee Kirk 'Geyserland'
 x Yowie Flame 'Geyserland'
 Cym. King Arthur 'Paseo Verde'

Lex & Julie Sharp Cym. Hot Port 'Redoubt' x
 Beauport Trinity
 Den. Graeme Banks x speciosum
 'Gold'
 Den. *tetragonum* var. *giganteum*

Theo Verryt Cym. One Tree Hill x Abacus
 Cym. Claude Pepper x *tracyanum*
 *Cym. Alan Porter
 [was Cym. Red Beauty x Eastern Star)
 x Coratea]
 Cym. High Plateau 'Silver Chiffon'
 Cym. Uluru 'Dave'

Cym. Jimbo Tupp x Khan Flame
 Cym. Ruby Valley 'Clare'
 Cym. Festival x Beverley Smith
 Cym. (Pink Champagne x Jessica
 Dubroff) x Sylvan Love
 Cym. Valley Regent x (Chilly Pepper x
 President Gorbachov)
 Cym. Baltic Glacier 'Mint Ice'
 Cym. Street Hawk 'Mem Tom Monk'
 Cym. Jessie Blakiston x Terama



Cym. Street Hawk
 'Mem Tom Monk'



Den. *tetragonum* var. *giganteum*



Cym. High Plateau 'Silver Chiffon'