

# Orchid Chat



**DECEMBER 2009**

**Hibiscus Coast Orchid Society Newsletter**

**PATRON: MRS JEAN ELLISON**

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**Committee:** June Anderson .....428 5254  
 Colin Grant .....426 3697  
 Londy Prince .....422 3137 WW  
 Valerie Prince .....422 3137 WW  
 Julie Sharp .....425 7189 WW  
 Theo Verryt .....422 9599 WW



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Monthly Venue:  
 Masonic Hall, Centreway Road, Orewa  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month  
 Open 1pm for plant sales  
 Meeting begins at 1.30pm

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

## AFTERNOON TEA ROSTER

From March we will restart the roster for afternoon tea. Those members with the stated surnames to please bring a little something to share.

<b>February</b>	<b>BBQ at the Princes' in Warkworth</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>R - W</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>A - D</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>E - G</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>AGM – Bring a Plate</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>H - Ma</b>
<b>August</b>	<b>Show</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>Mc - P</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>R - W</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>A - D</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>Bring a plate</b>

## Next Meeting

**13 February 2010**

**Saturday – BBQ & Auction**

*Please note we are having the BBQ on the Saturday to avoid traffic jams.*

### December Meeting

Leigh Leighty gave us a presentation on her birthday present – a trip around the world with various orchid related stopovers including Singapore, where the Vanda is the national flower.

### NEXT MEETING – BBQ & AUCTION 12 NOON

*Wet or Fine!*

#### VENUE: The home of Valerie & Londy Prince

**134 Sandspit Road, Warkworth** (see map on last page)

Turn right at the 2<sup>nd</sup> set of traffic lights at Warkworth Drive about 300 meters

Look out for *Trucks Crossing* sign on left

Just past there on your right is #134 (look out for balloons on letterbox). There is a group of 5 letterboxes. Drive right to the bottom of the drive

*Please drive carefully as they are on a dangerous bend*

#### Things to Bring:

- Chair, if you have one
- Plant/s for the auction
- Knife and fork, mug
- Plants to show



Tea, coffee, cold drinks and all else will be provided

As usual, there won't be a speaker this month so we can catch up on the latest gossip and what we've all been doing over Christmas and New Year.

It might pay to allow a little extra time in case there is a lot of traffic. The cooking will start at 12.15.

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**Congratulations** to Theo Verryt who has received 2 awards for his *Cattleya harrisoniae* var. 'Darktide'. He received a culture award and an HCC. Well done Theo!



#### Raffle

Raffle winners were Peter Thomas, Doug Stewart, Joan Cope, Anjo Mckernan, Ann Bezzina, Lorraine Edwards, Margaret Thomas, Judy Murray, Barbara Sanders, Kim U'Ren, Colin Grant, Julie Sharp, Daphne Norris and Daisy Burrell.

We had a great selection of prizes, not all plants but also including bubbly and chocolates.

## FEBRUARY RAMBLINGS

Don't forget it's **dried blood time**. This is a tonic/booster for your cymbidiums and seedlings especially. Cut a generous foot off the end of pantyhose and into it put a large handful of dried blood. Tie off the open end and drop into a 10 lt bucket of water. Let it stand for 3 or 4 days *before* you need it. Throw the "sachet" into the rubbish bin and water your plants with the tea.

For your soft cane or nobile type dendrobiums try: 1tsp **potassium phosphate** to 5lt water. This will help with next season's flower formation.

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- The cymbidiums should be experiencing plenty of **sun and fresh air outside**. With the strong midday sun, 30% shade cloth will prevent burning of the foliage. Equal results can be obtained by placing the plants on slats under the branches of a tree. They must be under the outer branches and not close to the tree trunk. They appreciate dappled midday sun, but can take the full morning and afternoon sun. Cymbidiums are tough plants; many problems arise through growers giving them too much protection in the belief that this is essential, especially at this time of the year
- If you are growing within a structure of some kind, ensure plenty of **ventilation** is provided to keep temperatures, especially night temperatures, down. Try and provide good strong light with low temperatures, as this will ensure the maximum flowering.
- The standard cymbidiums in the main come from the [Himalayas](#), at moderate altitudes. Some of the smaller growing oriental species and hybrids are natives of the [lowland tropical forests](#). It is a characteristic of both these **habitats** that they are exposed to the summer monsoons, a period of warmth but of high rainfall. This is in contrast to the warm but dry conditions locally, and of the many non-monsoonal areas they are being cultivated in. Watering must be maintained, as neglect in this area can set back growth. Also, remember small pots dry out quicker, so it is best to group plants by pot size. When you do water, give plenty of water. 'Because many bark mixes are difficult to wet when they become dry, give the plants a good spray initially. Then, a few minutes later, give a good soaking. This breaks the surface tension around the mix particles allowing it to be properly wetted. Large collections can be placed under a garden spray, but ensure all plants receive a good soaking, as some can be protected by foliage and not receive what they require. Remember, plants are over-watered by too frequent watering, not by giving too much each time.
- Continue to **feed** your plants, to ensure strong growth is maintained. Some will have produced pseudobulbs, some will still be advancing their growths. Because of the increasing maturity, a change to a lower nitrogen to higher potash fertiliser may assist in [flower formation](#). Because bark mixes are nitrogen deficient, do not however, eliminate

nitrogen, just reduce the proportion. Apply Epsom salts (magnesium sulphate) at a rate of 1 teaspoon per 5 litres of water and applied to the plants to facilitate spike initiation

- Some of the early **flower spikes** will now be well advanced, others will be just starting to be seen. [Spike management](#) is more fully detailed on this link page, click on the link. Once they are well up, insert stakes into the mix to protect them, as you do not want them broken off now. The spikes come from the base of the new pseudobulb and the flower spikes are more rounded.
- With hot dry conditions, **red spider and red spider mite** will be a continuing problem. Increase humidity as this keeps these pests down, but if necessary apply sprays. There are specialist products, ensure you follow instructions and safety measures during application. Several applications 7 to 10 days apart may be required because of re-infestation.

Source: *Phil's Orchid World*  
<http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~tomnz/>

## Paphiopedilum Part IV

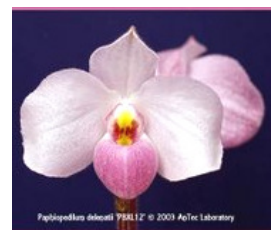
### Species

It is recommended that the beginner venturing into paphs should resist the temptation to acquire species and start with some of the modern hybrids. Many of the species are nevertheless in cultivation in NZ. They are not all difficult to grow but the grower must often fend for himself as information about their cultural needs under local conditions is not always reliable. Some of the species in local collections are listed below. It should be borne in mind that the species are often variable in colour and shape.

*Paphiopedilum callosum*. Long stems bear large flowers with a prominent white dorsal sepal marked with green and purple longitudinal lines. There is a variety with a pure white dorsal and emerald-green stripes. This warm-growing mottled-leaved species is one of the progenitors of the maudiae-type paphiopedilums.

*Paphiopedilum charlesworthii*. A compact cooler-growing plant with glossy green leaves from high altitudes. The salient feature is the broad, tessellated, bright rosy-pink dorsal sepal. Flowers in autumn.

*Paphiopedilum delenatii*. A warm-growing *Brachypetalum* type. Flowers are usually pale pink on long stems. This small plant with its light green leaves mottled with dark green is much in demand. Fragrant. May need higher light intensity and higher temperatures than other paphs. Susceptible to bacterial rots.



*Paphiopedilum fairrieianum*. The dorsal sepals and petals are white with longitudinal violet stripes. The petals curve upwards, giving the flower an 'oriental' appearance. This is a small plant and a cool grower said to be found at elevations of up to 3000m in limestone country in northern India. There are many colour variations of this species, including alba forms.

*Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum*. The flower has a greenish dorsal sepal and long, slightly twisted green petals tipped with purple. The flower stem is covered with purple hairs. Usually considered to be a cool grower but do not overwater in the winter.

*Paphiopedilum insigne*. This cool grower is commonly cultivated in NZ and considered to be a beginners orchid. It has been grown here for many years as a winter commercial cut-flower crop. The flowers are variable but the common form has 100mm wide, glossy green flowers, the dorsal sepal being spotted with red-brown and margined with white.

*Paphiopedilum primulinum*. A relatively 'new' species having been first described as recently as 1973. The tall stems bears up to ten greenish-yellow flowers with a primrose lip. The flowers open in succession from the bottom upwards. A tropical species.

*Paphiopedilum roebelii* (Syn *P. philippinense*). A large plant with glossy green leaves. A tall stem bears several large flowers. The sepals are white, striped dark red. The petals are long (over 120mm), pendulous, twisting and purple-red, the lip pale yellow-green. Warm growing, this species will tolerate more light and nutrients.

*Paphiopedilum sukhakulii*. A popular mottled-leaf species which was first discovered and named in 1965. The flowers are in shades of green, almost 140mm across, the flat horizontal petals being spotted all over with deep purple. Warm growing.

*Paphiopedilum venustum*. Dorsal sepal white, lined with green. Petals and lip green, spotted with deep purple and shading to purple-brown at the tips. Although this species has mottled leaves, it is one of the cooler growers. There are several named botanical varieties.

Source: *The New Zealand Orchid Grower*, ID James

### 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. ? means it doesn't appear in OrchidWiz.

### Category Winners

Small:

1<sup>st</sup> A Gillan Sarco. Dorrigo  
2<sup>nd</sup> V&L Prince Masd. Dark Star

Species:

1<sup>st</sup> V&L Prince Paph. *primulianum* var. *flavum*\*  
2<sup>nd</sup> J&L Sharp Aerangis *mooreana*

Other:

1<sup>st</sup> J&L Sharp Den. Udom Rainbows  
2<sup>nd</sup> A Mckernan Vanda *coerulescens* x (cross unknown)  
2<sup>nd</sup> V&L Prince Den. Gerald McCraith

### Plant List

Annette Gillan Sarco Dorrigo

Bruce Goodall C. Mossiae x C. Intermedia

Anjo Mckernan Angcm. *compactum*

\*Angcm. *didieri*  
Vasco. Arnold's Blue  
C. *forbesii*  
Pol. *vulcanica*  
Ren. *imschootiana*  
V. *coerulescens* x (cross unknown)  
V. Gulf of Siam

Judy Murray Masd. *coccinea* var. *alba*  
Masd. Resplendent Giant 'Amethyst'

L&V Prince Den. Gerald McCraith  
Lc. Chit Chat  
Masd. Dark Star  
Masd. *veitchiana* 'Torbay' 4N  
\*Paph. *primulianum* var. *flavum*  
Sartylis (No name)

L&J Sharp Aergs. *mooreana*  
Den. Udom Rainbows

Theo Verryt C. *warnerii*  
\*Lycaste *brevispathax lawrenceana*  
\*L. *sincorana* x C. *intermedia* x *Itambana*  
(brackets lost)  
Milt. Eljaha  
\*Odcdm Mackenzie Mountains  
Phal. City Girl  
Phal. Anthura 'Liverpool'  
Phal. Haur Jin Diamond x Shan-Ling Maki  
Stewart  
Phal. *philippinensis*  
Sarco. *roseous*  
Sarco. *ceciliae*  
Sarco. *ceciliae*  
Syce. *vitellina*



Angcm. *didieri*



Paph. *Primulianum* var. *flavum*



Phal. *philippinensis*



V. *coerulescens* x  
(cross unknown)

## The Tale of the Old Catt

About 12 years ago a real, professional orchid grower visited our greenhouses in Apopka, Florida. Our 7,000 square feet (eventually expanded to 22,000 square feet) was humble when compared to his large operations in South Florida as well as Central Florida. Not surprising, he was incredibly knowledgeable. What WAS surprising was his friendliness and willingness to share his knowledge.

He told me a "story" which really brought the whole orchid hobby/business into sharp focus. Briefly, he told me if you have a great phal. and someone offers you a reasonable price for it, take it. A wonderful vanda should also be sold for a wonderful (not ridiculous) price. Basically, don't worry about having the phal. or vanda mericloned or mass-produced because these orchids are only a commodity. Fantastic today, forgotten tomorrow!

However, a great cattleya will be a great catt 50 years from now. That simple observation has been proven true every day for the past 12 years. It still amazes me.

Why do I believe this? No one has ever asked me for an old phal. The new phal. breeding is far superior and trends (yellows, harlequins, reds, spots, stripes, etc.) change with the breeze. Phalaenopsis orchids that sold for \$300 at the Miami Orchid Show 5 years ago are now \$25 with multiple spikes. The Awards Quarterly, published by the American Orchid Society, documents the awarded orchids and is a visual journal of these trends.

We are frequently asked if we have one of the old, old catts. Many times the old catt was awarded 20, 30, even 50 years ago. Our receipt of an e-mail with someone's list of 50 old catts that were once in a collection and are now gone is not an unusual event. Again, we have never had a request for a single old phal.

Cattleyas endure and only become more appreciated with time.

Source: <http://www.fendersflora.com>  
Fender's Flora is a nursery in Florida, USA

*Food for thought!*

## 134 Sandspit Road, Warkworth

Entrance is on the righthand side of the road, just past Park Lane, which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> street on the left.

Make sure you start indicating in plenty of time as the entrance is on a bend in the road.

Drive all the way down the long driveway.

