



PATRON: MRS JEAN ELLISON

- President:** Lex Sharp.....425 7189 WW
V-President: Judy Murray.....424 1968 A/H
Secretary: Bruce Goodall424 1319 A/H
Treasurer: Annette Gillan478 8344 N/S
Committee: June Anderson.....428 5254
 Colin Grant426 3697
 Londy Prince.....422 3137 WW
 Valerie Prince422 3137 WW
 Julie Sharp425 7189 WW
 Theo Verryt.....422 9599 WW



Newsletter Editor: Judy Murray

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 or email: decorhomes@xtra.co.nz

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

AFTERNOON TEA ROSTER

This month is the AGM.

Please bring –

- A plate of finger food to share
- Your nominations
- Your 2010 subs (if you haven't already paid)
- A plant to show

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| June | AGM – Bring a Plate |
| July | H - Ma |
| August | Show |
| September | Mc - P |
| October | Special meeting, please bring a plate |
| November | R - W |
| December | Bring a plate |

Next Meeting

13 June 2010

AGM – 1pm Start

AGM & SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

We will start at **1 o'clock** to allow plenty of time for the meetings, the nominations and the consumption of food and drink.

Your Committee will be standing down and we will need to elect a new Committee for the coming year.

Anybody wishing to put forward their name for the Committee or to nominate somebody else please fill out one of the forms on the last page. Voting will be taken directly from the floor so please give it some serious thought. It's fun to be involved and to have a say in our Club activities so why not give it a go. It doesn't take up very much time at all.

The monthly meeting will follow the AGM.

Remember that your membership is due for renewal and you won't be able to vote at the AGM if you have not renewed it by the start of the meeting. Annette will be ready and waiting.

If you don't want to wait in line at the meeting you can post your subs directly to: Mrs A. Gillan, 31 Sunrise Ave, Mairangi Bay 0620

MAY MEETING

Many thanks to all those who came along to what turned out to be a non-meeting. As the key was not available we were unable to get into the hall and hold the meeting. As we were also unable to make contact with anybody else we spent some time in the carpark before holding a very short meeting and going home. The keyholder will be getting a reminder in future.



Some of us were keen to establish if anybody was interested in becoming President as Lex is coming to the end of his three years in office. All those present were keen for Lex to continue for another year and carry through with all the hard work he has been putting in getting ready for our display at the show in Palmerston North in September.

Although I am the Vice President I just don't have the time to take on the Presidency and do the job justice. Lex said he would be happy to carry on for another year so we will see what eventuates at the AGM next month.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Three years have disappeared so quickly - where have they gone? I have enjoyed my 3 years as President of the Hibiscus Coast Orchid Society, to which I owe many thanks to the members for making it such a pleasant job.

During this time we have had the 25th Anniversary of the Society along with 2 bus trips; one to the Whangarei Show and one to K&R Orchids and Villa Orchids, which was a very costly event but a most enjoyable day.

February BBQs and Auctions held at members' homes were very popular and well received by the members because of the relaxed atmosphere. Special thanks to those members who opened their homes for these events. Christmas meetings were also very enjoyable as were all other meetings.

We have had some very interesting speakers over the last 3 years and thanks to Anjo for organizing them for us. In October this year we will be hosting Kevin (and Helen) Western from Australia as our guest speaker.

I would like to thank all the Committee members, Secretary, Treasurers, Past President, Vice President and Editors of the Newsletter for their sterling efforts over the years and making things run smoothly.

Thanks to the Show Committee and last year's Show Marshall for doing a great job in running, organizing and making the shows a great success. Thanks to all the members who supply plants etc. for the raffles, the ladies who do the cups of tea and to those who help in any way.

Thanks Hibiscus Coast Orchid Society for being so friendly and a pleasure to work with and it is now time for me to move over and let someone else hold the reins.

Lex



JUNE RAMBLINGS

Cymbidiums

Gradually reduce frequency of watering as temperatures cool – in the winter months every 2 weeks should be adequate. Frequent feeding with magnesium sulphate will assist spike formation. Reduce nitrogenous component of fertilizer being used. This is also a good time to remove old dry leaf material on bulbs and generally clean up plants.

Dendrobiums

These plants need good potassium food now to encourage the flowers along and ensure good colour.

Nobile type: A dry winter period with misting to stop the canes from shrivelling is recommended.

Laelia – maintain misting and watering and ensure air movement is always present. After flowering, a rest with less moisture is beneficial. Individual species and hybrids may prefer different degrees of sunlight.

Lycaste – When the plant is leafless it requires a cool dry rest with only a little water given every so often. As new shoots appear the plant requires moderate shade and humidity and light watering until the roots are seen to be growing. When in full growth, water freely until new pseudobulbs are formed.

Masdevallia – If temperatures are dropping, extra shade can be gradually removed. However shade and moisture must be maintained as should air movement.

Odontoglossum Alliance

Watering and misting must be maintained, though reduced slightly as daytime temperatures become cooler. Humidity and air movement are still required. Shade may be reduced carefully. Maintain fresh potting medium by regular repotting – which can be carried out in the autumn.

Zygopetalum – Gradually reduce watering so that in the cooler months only light watering is maintained. Supply good light all year. The foliage of these orchids can be sensitive to sprays.

Source: Cool Flowering Orchids Throughout the Year by Ross MacDonald

UP & COMING EVENTS

16-18 July NZOS Winter Show, Mt Albert
20-22 Aug Waitakere OS, Kelston
27-28 Aug **Our Show**
8-12 Sept NZOC 6th International Orchid Expo, Arena Manawatu, Palmerston North
17-19 Sep NZOS Spring Show, Mt Albert

MESSAGE FROM THE OCNZ

Hello Everyone

31st May 2010 - A gentle reminder for you to send in your registrations (\$90 up to this date) for the 6th NZ International Orchid Extravaganza 2010, Palmerston North, in September 2010, if you wish to take advantage of the Standard Rate. Photo competition entries are coming in. Entries close end of June 2010.

Heartiest congratulations go to the Manawatu Orchid Society who were awarded a Gold Medal for their display at a recent garden show held at Manfield, Feilding in the Manawatu.

The Waikato Orchid Society is about to celebrate their Golden Jubilee at a one day social event to meet old friend and past and present members, on Sunday 4th July, at the Hamilton Gardens Complex. Congratulations to them on reaching this milestone and we hope you have a wonderful celebration.

The Hawke's Bay Orchid Society will be celebrating their 40th Anniversary on Saturday, 3rd July with a show and dinner at the Taradale Town Hall, Taradale, Napier. Congratulations also to the Hawke's Bay Society on achieving this milestone.

The Orchid Council executive held their meeting on Saturday, 22 May and there was much discussion on all subjects that they are charged with looking after on your behalf.

Iwitahi - in the very near future we will be setting up the Committee: if anybody wants to attend the inaugural meeting of the Management Committee, please let Clive know if you wish to be part of or want to attend this meeting. Please email either Clive at secretary@orchidcouncil.co.nz or cliveperrynz@hotmail.com

Orchid Council are purchasing Annual Maintenance Plan and update to Version 7 only for OCNZ copies of OrchidWiz. Council will not be purchasing maintenance plans and update for private users. Kind regards and happy orchiding. Orchid Council Executive.

Odontoglossums

In general

The Odontoglossum Alliance is large and diverse with some of the most colourful, unusual and showy flowers in the orchid family. They have their origins in the Central and South American high country, sometimes very high. This means they are in the main cool growing, often very cool. What this means to you is that you must provide conditions appropriate for high altitude plants. This can be a problem if you live in a warm climate, but a little ingenuity with fans, misters or air conditioning and shading will usually solve the problem. In the past years modern hybridizing has produced a whole range of Odontoglossum Alliance hybrids usually involving Oncidium that are exceptionally heat tolerant. In many cases these plants will grow alongside your more traditional Cymbidium, Zygopetalum or native orchid. For the cooler type i.e. Odontoglossum and Odontioda of the *O. crispum* line, we suggest a maximum temp. of 30C, lower if possible. Minimum should be 5C with lower than that, even a light frost, not fatal.

For the warmth tolerant varieties i.e. Odontocidium, Wilsonara, Colmanara, Burrageara and most others that end in '- ara' we can raise the maximum temp. to 35C+ but under 40C. Lower is still better. Winter min. temp. can still be down to 5C but lower is no good, warmer is better.

General growing conditions therefore are cool, airy and humid. Shade to keep cool but don't put them under the benches in the dark. Give them plenty of light in the winter, early spring and late autumn. Be sure not to keep them in the shade you use in the summer or you will get no flowers and weak growth.

Watering

This should be carefully attended to. Odonts. do not like over watering nor do they like to be dry for very long. For this reason the correct potting medium in good condition is essential. Annual repotting is usually recommended. Decaying and sour medium is difficult to water correctly and the roots will soon stop growing and turn rotten.

Potting – Mt Beenak's Way

We are now totally converted and sold on coir fibre as our preferred potting medium. The grade we use is 6-9mm. Washed once and then in another fresh change of water we add 75gm per block of Iron Sulphate and 75gm of Magnesium Sulphate. Then drain and the mix is ready to use. Most important when potting is to firm the fibre evenly and quite tight. We don't mix anything with our coir fibre. However it is hungry and we add a slow release fertilizer

when potting. This is our special orchid Osmocote which has a NPK Of 9-5-15+Mg+Trace elements. It lasts 8-9 months, in practice it lasts 12 months. We add the grains in the bottom 1/3 of the pot once the drainage holes are covered. Liquid feed such as Manutec Blossom Booster is used every 10 days or so. Seaweed is also beneficial every so often. You will find this works very well. Pots dry out relatively slowly without becoming too wet.

We use the same coir fibre mix for all our genera, in all cases pot firmly being careful not to bury the base of the plant. Some small stones about pea size are handy as drainage and added weight to keep the plants upright. Cover the drainage holes to a depth of 6-8mm. Then some coir fibre, then Orchid Osmocote, then pot as described.

The other traditional potting medium is fresh Sphagnum Moss. As with the Masdevallias I often use coir fibre in the bottom half, then add Osmocote then top off with moss, it works well but usually still only lasts a year. We have recently potted a large number of Odonts. in coir. We are very pleased with the results so far.

(You may wish to stick to what you are currently using)

Pests and Diseases

We currently use the full range of products from Organic Crop Protectants for total control of all the nasties which may attack your plants. The only other pest you may and will get are slugs, snails and garlic snails. Use snail bait regularly.

Things to watch in Odontoglossum culture

Odonts. like good water, not too alkaline and no salt. If you can use rain water so much the better. Fertilizer in liquid form must not be too strong. When we use Osmocote High K we only use Acadian Seaweed extract and Aminogro as stimulants every 4 weeks. Leaf tip die back commonly becomes a problem thru over feeding and poor water. It will be worse if the plant's root system is not in good condition.

In summary

Odontoglossums like an airy humid and cool environment. Stuffy hot houses definitely don't suit. Pot annually in Spring or Autumn depending on growth. Odonts. are potted when the new growth is an inch high, not when dormant. Odonts flower on young plants but don't leave flowers on for too long. Many growers believe flowering every two years gives the plants a better chance to flower well. Leaf colour should be green and shiny. Pale yellow leaves suggest too much light or lack of Nitrogen. Give plenty of air, when it's hot and dry, make sure you maintain humidity which should be 70% - 80%. Bulb shrivel will occur if you leave flowers on for too long or the root system is inactive or dead.

If all this sounds too hard well it's not really, and it's what most of your orchids will need to thrive. Odonts. perhaps are more fussy but grow them well and you will be well rewarded and all your companion orchids will benefit from the better climate you have created.



Wils Franz Wichman 'Riverview'

Source: Mt Beenak Orchids – <http://mtbeenakorhids.com.au>

HIBISCUS COAST ORCHID SOCIETY ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Name:

Address:

Area code Phone: SINGLE: \$15.00 / FAMILY: \$20.00 (delete one)

Email address (would like to receive the newsletter by email?) **Y / N**

(This form updates our records ~ please ensure that it accompanies your payment)

Post to: The Treasurer, Hibiscus Coast Orchid Society, P.O. Box 504, Silverdale 0944

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HIBISCUS COAST ORCHID SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOMINATION FORM

I wish to nominate: Signed:

For the position of:

Proposer: Seconded:

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