

# LEVIN & DISTRICT ORCHID SOCIETY

c/- 16 Burn St. Levin 5540

Note: our box number is closed!

## PRESIDENT

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## SECRETARY

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## TREASURER

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## Newsletter September 2009

(Spring –increased but sparing water – feeding with growth fertiliser –repott as necessary – almost time to bring Cymbidiums outside – but not quite)

- ❖ **Next meeting** – Tuesday 22 September at 7.30 pm in St. John’s Hall, Kent St., Levin .  
Tonight will feature members of the Floral Art Society giving a demonstration and discussion on floral displays – should be something fresh and different!
- ❖ **NZOC Raffle** – please bring the books back, must be handed in next Tuesday:
- ❖ **Evening Club Raffle:**  
Bernie and Dawn Townsend, Yogi Weber
- ❖ **Our very own -Levin Show** – was a great success – thank you to all who helped and contributed.  
Main awards were:-

Award	Name	Plant
Show Champion	Tudor Orchids	Wilsonara – Tiger Brew
Reserve Champion	R. Macdonald	Ludisia Discolor
Judges commendation	K. Sherlock	Paphiopedilum Villosum
Best Major display	1. Wairarapa Society 2. Manawatu Society 3. Tudor orchids	
Best Miniature – Val Barnett trophy	M & N Powell	Maxillara Sophronitis
Cultural award – Horman trophy	1. R.MacDonald 2. Glenbrook orchids	Ludisia Discolor Den Warranbool
Best species –Goodwood propagation cup	1. M & N Powell 2. J. Palethorpe	Maxillaria Sophronitis Den. Glumaceum
Table top Display	1. G & J Robertson 2. T & G Stoneley 3. N Brumby	

- ❖ **Upcoming shows:-**  
**September 26th – 27th** Manawatu Orchid Society Spring Show.  
Community Leisure Centre, 569 Fergusson Street,Palmerston North.  
**October 3rd – 4th** Wairarapa Orchid Circle, Spring Show.  
Masterton Town Hall.  
**October 10th -11th.** Wanganui Orchid Circle Spring Show,Memorial Hall,Queen’s Garden’s,Wanganui.  
**November 7th** Hawkes Bay Orchid Society Sarcophilus Show. Taradale Town Hall.

As our Society is affiliated to the Orchid Council, your committee feels that the Council website should be included in our newsletter. We invite you to visit the site when you have a moment and check it out. Included in it are, OCNZ Awards, Society meeting dates and show 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](http://www.orchidcouncil.co.nz)

### ❖ Manawatu Orchid Society Spring Show 2009 TIMETABLE

**Friday Sept. 25th:** 4.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m. Set up displays. There will be no access to the hall prior to this time. Exhibitors are asked to move their vehicles, if necessary, as soon as they have unloaded.

**Saturday Sept. 26th:** 7.30 am. Setting up continues.

**Club members are asked to park vehicles near the Recycling Centre so there is Public Parking available during Show time.**

9.00 am. Show opens to the Public. Judging begins. Only **labeled** plants will be judged.

4.00 p.m. Show closes to the public.

4.30 p.m. Cocktail Hour and Awards.

6.00 p.m. Dinner. \$30

**Sunday Sept. 27th:**

9. am Show opens.

4.00 p.m. Show closes to the Public.

4.10 p.m. Dismantle displays.

### ❖ **Masdevallia Culture**

Masdevallias form the largest percentage of the genus Pleurothallis. The compact growing and sometimes colorful plants are found in a wide range of geographical locations starting in Mexico through South America. The climates that Masdevallias are found vary widely.

To generalize the culture of these jewels of the orchid world would be a profound injustice to their cultural habit. At Carter & Holmes we grow under extremely high humidity and very high heat. We have found some modest success controlling light and air movement during our sizzling summers.

**Temperature:** To maintain the relatively stress free climate throughout the year, try to attain a night temperature of 12 degrees and a daytime temperature of 20 degrees.

**Moisture:** Water and humidity play a vital roll in good masdevallia culture. This group of orchids does not have pseudobulbs for storage of water and nutrition. Maintenance of a high humidity of 70% is vital. Good to excellent water quality is critical for good root formation. We can not stress these points more. Light amounts of fertilizer and ½ to ¼ strength every third time the plant is watered is beneficial.

**Soil:** It is critical to maintain a somewhat moist root system. Accidental drying of the medium is not harmful if you are experiencing low night temperatures. One of the drawbacks of maintaining such a moist root system is rapid breakdown of the potting medium. Frequent repotting is necessary. There are many mixes that are used for repotting. We found that sphagnum used exclusively in pots larger than 1-1/2" or 2" will sour and cause root loss. (Again, our high heat and humidity).

We use a mix as follows: 6 parts clean 1/8" x 1/4" douglas fir bark , 1 part sponge rock (#3 perlite) , 1 part medium tree fern shredded , 3/4 part ground Sphagnum, 1/3 part horticultural perlite

Light and air movement go together and can work for or against the plants culture if not properly balanced. In nature this group of orchids experience medium to low light with good to almost rapid air movement. The rule of thumb here is the more light the greater the air movement. Up to 1500-foot candles is fine.

By following these basic guidelines, one can become addicted to these little gems. The frequent flowering habit adds to the enjoyment of growing masdevallias.