

MOS NEWSLETTER



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April 2010

Next Meeting: Saturday 17th April at 1:30 p.m. at the Wesley Centre. Easter was a great break – especially the weather, unless you wanted rain. Once again we are holding our annual “Buy Sell and Swap” meeting. Anything out of your orchid house qualifies – pots, companion plants, even orchids! There are always great bargains at these meetings – or a chance to find a new home for those surplus plants.

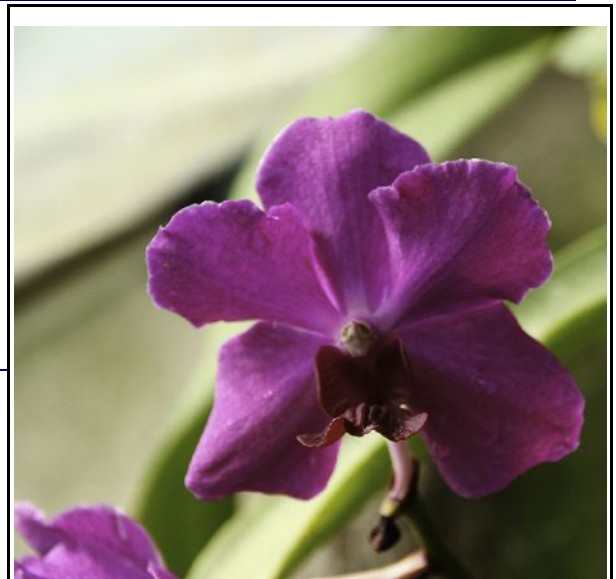
The Societies commission is suspended for this meeting but donations for the club table are always appreciated (at any meeting for that matter).

Previous Meeting

Our March meeting featured a guided trip up a French Canal – a journey enjoyed by all. What was surprising about the meeting was the small number of plants in our display. As a result there was only one Popular Vote. This was a deserving choice and not just the best of a small bunch! See the next page for some Bella Donna pictures – not Tui's one unfortunately. The number of flowers in my own house was down and it seems that others had the same problem – this at a time when we usually get a flush of autumn flowers.

Plant Display:

Masd Tangerine Stripes	- Phil
Masd Bella Donna 'Tickled Pink'	- Tui
(Pop Vote – Best Judged)	
<i>Phrag primulinum var flavum</i>	- Phil
Slc Party Rose	- Phil
Slc Christopher	- Phil
L Interceps	- Coralie
(Best Presented)	



**Now Flowering: Vanda Josephine van Brero x
Gordon Dillon**

Future Meetings

May 15th: AGM – We hope to have a guest speaker so don't be put off by the AGM thing.

May 15-16th: **South Island Regional Judging Seminar** – for all judges, trainees and wanna-be judges. This is a great weekend of pure orchids with no distractions! This is being held in Nelson at Tahunanui. If you are interested contact Rosemary or Phil.

June 19th: Mid Winter Lunch. Venue to be advised.

George Young Memorial Trophy

The annual award for most points earned from the popular votes at the monthly display was announced at the barbeque in February. For those that weren't present here is the points tally. It s good to see five people featured in a year when our number of displays has been down: Phil – 7; Brian – 3; Rosemary – 2; Peter – 2; and Barbara – 1.

The popular vote is very subjective but there are also two cups for straight merit – the Best Judged and Best Presented. A little extra care can see your plants feature in these awards even if you don't have showy or colourful flowers.

Masdevallia Bella Donna

Tui's Masd Bella Donna 'Tickled Pink' is a delightful example of a good pink Bella Donna. Many of this grex are white or white with a pink blush so it is refreshing to see a clear pink one.

Masdevallia Bella Donna is a primary hybrid from *Masd coccinea* and *Masd datura*. *Masdevallia coccinea* is well known for its stunning florescent colours and tall erect habit. Less well known but in it's own way just as stunning *Masdevallia datura* is typically a large white bloom reminiscent of the well known Datura plant.

Masdevallia datura (below left) hails from high altitude cloud forests in Brazil. The small plant bears tubular flowers 6-9 cm long which are heavily perfumed. The substance of datura is not strong but the flowers have a delightful crinkled paper texture and are a crisp white with a lemon yellow throat. As its origins suggest *Masd datura* prefers cool shady conditions and like all Masdevallias does not like to dry out.



Sometimes the fragrance is inherited by *datura's* progeny. *Masd coccinea's* colour seems to come through the cross in a subdued manner while *datura* adds a size and shape component. Most Bella Donna's have the appearance of large pastel versions of *coccinea* with the 'crushed' texture that the *datura's* have. Often Bella Donna will have a lighter substance than *Masd coccinea*.

Masdevallia Bella Donna is a grex that yields a high percentage of good quality flowers. As well as several awards from NZOS and OCNZ in New Zealand, it has been awarded 19 times by the AOS since 1992. Three of these were Cultural Awards and three were AM's (Award of Merit).

The white Bella Donna's are bred from alba versions of *coccinea* as there are no known alba's of *datura*. A good example of a white Bella Donna is this cross - (*coccinea* alba 'White Rabbit' x *datura* 'Morning Glory') (right).

Masdevallia Bella Donna 'Marsh Hollow' CCE/AOS (bottom left) is a fine example of what good culture can do with many Masdevallias. The pink blush is frequently seen in Bella Donna.

