



Next Meeting: Saturday 27th February. Our barbeque will be a lunchtime gathering in Anne & Phil's garden at 86 Battys Road. A chance to relax in a garden where the weeds are not your problem, you don't have to feed the orchids and you can enjoy some fine company.

Time: 12:00 midday onwards, if weather inclement (it hasn't happened yet but who can tell this summer!) call Phil for changes – Sunday is our backup.

Bring: Meat and Salad; drinks; partner - family; chair if you want (we have many). Note cutlery, crockery and dessert will be supplied. There will be sheltered space for display plants so bring them along.

A reminder that subs for 2010 will be due on 1st April.

Previous Meeting

Last November's Rarangi Ramble was not well attended for various reasons. The committee have a few ideas about how to make this years visit more accesible and fun for more people. The meeting day presentation of native slides was less relevant as few had been to Rarangi. Those present were treated to a fascinating and enlightening video on what Writhlington School in Radstock, England is doing with orchids. This inspiring video was enough to make the most hardened wagger want to go back to school!

This and another great video was sourced from Apple's 'itunes U' an online library of lectures and papers. Watch for the second one at a future meeting.

Our Christmas Dinner at the Fairweather on Scott restaurant was a great success and of course a very sociable gathering.

Upcoming Meetings

The committee is working on a program for the year right now so if you have any suggestions bring them up at the barbeque. So far:

March 20 – Phil will present a slide show and talk on his and Anne's holiday on a canal boat in Bourgogne and rented house in a medieval village in Provence.

April 17 – Buy/Sell/Swap

May 17 – tba

June 19 – Mid Winter Lunch
(venue suggestions?)

September is the 2010 Orchid

Extravaganza in Palmerston North. This is a world class event with top class speakers. It is an excellent opportunity to see stunning orchids and outstanding displays not too far from home. It is also an opportunity to buy orchids that are not commonly available. Early Registration closes on 28th February. If you have not got a form contact Allison or Phil or get one online. The Show website is www.orchids.org.nz



Doritis pulcherrima

Colin Symonds

Quality Awards 2009

Judges around the country have been busy on and off during the year assessing the best that growers present. Each year in January the Committee on Awards select the “best of the best” for special mention. This year like most years whittling down the top 20% is relatively straightforward. It is heartening to note that the top 20% are very hard to separate and split votes are common.

Puzzlingly the number of Cymbidiums awarded this year is significantly down. Hopefully this is just blip and not a reflection on the effects of the cut flower market.

The following are what the CoA considered to be the crème de la crème.

Orchid of the Year:

Rhyncattleanthe Koa ‘Scorpio’

Owned by Iris Symonds.



Cymbidium of the Year: Cym. Flaming Beauty ‘Redvale’

Owned by Ross & Susan Tucker.



Species of the Year: *Doritis pulcherrima* ‘Poppy’
owned by Margaret Lomas (see first page).

Cultural Award of the Year: A reflection on the standard of awards the CoA could not separate two plants and agreed to a tie: *Paphiopedilum* William Ward owned by Maureen Fryer, Palmerston North, and *Masdevallia Heathii* ‘Bryan’ owned by Paddy & Gerli Fox, New Plymouth.

