



MOS NEWSLETTER

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June 2010

Next Meeting: June: Saturday 19th, 12:00 a.m. Winter Solstice: Our Social committee has chosen 'The Secret Garden' for this years winter solstice celebration. We are meeting at 12:00 to dine at 12:30. Numbers are limited at this venue so if you haven't already advised Rosemary then you may be too late as we have had good interest.

A reminder about subs - these are \$20 for an individual or \$30 for a family and are now overdue.

The May Meeting:

The result of the AGM was predictable however our guest speaker was not. Ken Ham enthralled everybody with his observations on life, the trials of being blind and the joys of his dogs.

Attendance was as appropriate for such a quality speaker and a good display was held despite three of our judges being in Nelson for the SI Regional Seminar.

Plant Display:

Strangely no cymbidiums this month after there being several last month. I was in Nelson so my Mary Pinchess was not there therefore I have reproduced it here for your veiwing pleasure.

Phalaenopsis

<i>Phal unknown</i>	J McDonald (Best Presented)
<i>Phal Buenos Aires (mini)</i>	Brian Day
<i>Phal Frank Gottenburg x deventeriana 'Treva'</i>	“ “

Others

<i>Vanda Fuchs Fortune x coerlea</i>	Brian Day
<i>Den (unkn) (Best small)</i>	Brian Day
<i>Ansellia africana var nilotica</i>	Ian Blissett



Flowering now:
Cym Mary Pinchess 'Shamrock'

Next Meeting: July 17; 1:30pm

Our next meeting will be back at the Wesley Centre. The feature will be a very good short film of an orchid hunting nature. I can highly recommend seeing this so mark your diary now. There may not be a formal newsletter next month however a reminder will be issued.

SI Regional Seminar

Rosemary, Peter & Phil attended last month's Regional Judging Seminar held in Nelson. Fo various reasons the numbers were down and so was the number of top quality plants available for judging. It was nothing to do with the weather despite torrential rain and flooding in the region. Despite being a South Island Seminar there were two visitors from New Plymouth enjoying the Nelson hospitality.

The guest speaker, Alf Day was a great draw card and he did not disappoint. Alf gave a number of talks throughout the weekend and made an invaluable contribution to the

exercise sessions. Alf has extensive experience with all things related to orchids. He is a skilled judge and is very willing to share his knowledge with anyone who cares to listen. Most of us there expected Alf to talk on his specialty, Odontoglossums, (on which subject he is national expert) however he did not. For me his most interesting talk was on the history of breeding Cymbidiums and his speculation on where that is going.

The judges were divided into groups for the practical sessions and a number of plants selected for judging. Most were only exercises however three gained awards. Of those the owner chose not to proceed with one and another had already been awarded (Den Dazzle Mae). Paph Deena Nicol (see mini article below) owned by Leslie Newton of Christchurch, was awarded an HCC (Highly Commended Certificate) and this award is proceeding. Despite this all judges were asked to write a description of several flowers, something we all need practice at. A favourite exercise at these sorts of gatherings is to read out a description and have the group attempt to identify it!

Saturday evening featured a magnificent roast dinner prepared by our Nelson hosts followed by an entertaining and very well presented slide show of the last Tokyo Dome Orchid Show by Leslie.

The conviviality of these judging weekends is a good reason for being a judge and everybody went home satisfied that they had learnt something as well as renewing old friendships.

Feature Orchid: *Paphiopedilum Deena Nicol*

This delightful *Paphiopedilum*, grown by Leslie Newton is a hybrid between *Paph philippinense* and *Paph glanduliferum (praestans)* made in 1987 by Paphanatics. Both species are quite variable and as can be expected the hybrid is as well. The AOS records 15 awards from HCC to AM and a few CCM's for exceptionally well grown specimen plants. This plant is in good company but can hold its head up.

The plant is well grown and its strong inflorescence displays the flowers well. Three flowers open at once is good for this grex. The flowers are of good size, nicely proportioned and with rich pleasing colour.



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