



MOS NEWSLETTER

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October 2009

Next Meeting: October, Saturday 17th, 1:30 p.m. Once again it is time for our Orchid House visits. Houses that are open are:

Ian Blissett	3/7 Leefield St	Delightful small orchid house; Ian never fails to impress.
Peter Peterson	1 Argosy Place	A mixed collection. Peter reports some very nice flowers at present.
Brian & Rosie Day	188 Howick Road	Fine collection of well grown cymbidiums, paphs and Phalaenopsis.
Phil Norton	86 Battys Road	Mixed collection in two houses. Dendrobiums, Vanda, Cattleya etc.
Anne Ede	3 Cherry Wood Park	Mixed – Cymbidiums.

We are having afternoon tea at Anne & Errol Ede's (3:30 pm) so bring a small plate please.

September:

Our display and sales table at the Horticultural Society Show went well by all accounts with a good display. The sales table trade well as did the raffle. The winner of the raffle Grocery prize was Coralie; Second was J. Lacey and third was 577-7825.

Plant Display:

As promised Spring was closer than we thought as reflected in this great display table!

Cymbidium		Phalaenopsis	
<i>Cym</i> Vogelsang (Best Cymbidium)	Peter Peterson	Phal Bedford Lemon Candy	Brian Day
Cattleya		Phal In the Pink (Best Large)	" "
Cat Aurantimedia	Rosemary Clark	Phal amabalis 'Bedford Cutie' x Bedford Beauty AM/AOS	" "
Dendrobium		Phal Sandra Livingston	Rosemary Clark
Den Chinsai	Rosemary Clark	Other	
Den Susan x fleckeri	Peter Peterson	<i>Onc ornithoryncum</i> 'Lilac Soap'	Brian Day
Den Penny Rose x Blushing Rose x Purple Star	" "	<i>Coel mooreana</i>	" "
Den Zip Imperial x Bardo Rose 'Lisa'	" "	<i>Coel cristata</i>	Tui Vercoe
		Masd Rubicon	" "
		Pleione	" "
		Onc unnamed (Best Small)	Peter Peterson
		<i>Paph hirsutissimum</i>	Rosemary Clark

Up-Coming Meetings & Events

November 14th: Field Trip to our local GLOS (Great Little Orchid Spot). These interested will gather around 1:30 on site for a short stroll amongst the native orchids (see feature next page). If you are interested contact any committee member. Bring your camera, field guide and magnifying glass. A field guide to what has been found on previous visits is proposed.

November 21st: Meeting - This months focus is native orchids. To follow on from the field trip we will have a look at the Native Orchid DVD and to see the plants that grow locally and work out when & where we should be able to see them.

December: Our Social Committee is working on a venue for this year's Christmas social function. Aston on Main is under new ownership and looks an attractive option. Details and final decision will be in the November Newsletter.

Notices:

Our members have been doing well for themselves lately: Our hearty congratulations go out to Allister for his Gold Star & Certificate for services to the RSA.

Pam took out Grand Champion at the recent show in Hamilton with her Sarc Burgundy on Ice. With six spikes and 52 flowers it thoroughly deserved the Award of Merit (AM) that it also got from the OCNZ judges.

I understand that John Creegan also had at least one plant awarded at the Nelson show however I don't have the details.

Of much lesser note I was pleased to see a new Sarc of mine in flower when I got home despite a severe lack of water – photo at right; Plchs Richard Jost.



Drymoanthus adversus

Flowering now in my cool house is a tiny native orchid, *Drymoanthus adversus*. The flowers definitely qualify as 'miniature' in any company. The whole plant is no more than 40mm across and the flowers barely 4mm.



Drymoanthus is a genus of four species closely related to the Australian *Sarcochilus*. Two species are found in New Zealand; *Drymoanthus adversus* is widespread in the North Island but is also found across the top of the south and Westland and Fiordland. The other New Zealand species, *flavus* is uncommon in Nelson and southern parts of the South Island.

Over fifty host trees are reported in the North Island. I have seen plants on the south side of Beech trees in the Marlborough Sounds and on Rata in NW Nelson but no doubt it can be found on many others. Being so unassuming it can be difficult to spot.

D. adversus can be distinguished from *flavus* by the thickening in the labellum. This can be seen clearly in the photograph and sometimes joins to form a transverse ridge. Seed capsules are disproportionately large on this tiny plant and I usually cut mine off to avoid draining the plant.

It is possible to breed these species with the *Sarcochilus* genus. You might ask why but the answer as with a lot of crosses with small species is to inject some colour into what is commonly a white genus. The hybrid with *Sarcochilus* is called, logically, 'Sarcomoanthus'. Orchidwiz has four hybrids recorded; Emarcy Gem (x *S. ceciliae*); Maungatapere; Rosey Posey; and Little Sparkle (x *S. falcatus*) by Lois Dougherty. Pictures I have seen of Emarcy Gem look a lot like 'ceciliae' so perhaps the *Drymoanthus* has not added much. The Little Sparkle though looks interesting (right).

My '*adversus*' grows mounted on a small log in a moist shady spot next to some *Masdevalia*'s in my cool house where it has flowered regularly for many years, often with more than one spike. It may be my smallest orchid but is also one of my most reliable!

