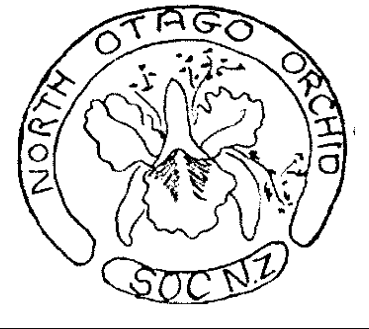




News Letter July 2010  
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**The Orchids opposite are the winners (and only orchids on the display table for June) Joan's unnamed Cymbidium. Marianne's beautiful Catt. Portia x cerulea. It had 6 lovely dark purple- blue flowers. She knocked one off. !!! My Paph. Insigne was not quite open. The flowers may have been scarce, but the members attending the meeting weren't as we had 21 brave members came out in the cold. Our speaker John Creeggan from Ch. Ch. would be the attraction as we always enjoy his talks. His Dend. and Sarc. are lovely and a lot found new homes, and the winners of the raffles he donated were lucky. Many thanks John and I hope you weren't to late traveling**

The monthly meeting of North Otago Orchid society was held on June 10<sup>th</sup>.in the Red Cross Rooms. It was pleasing to welcome a new member Nelson O'Brien. We had very little business to discuss. The plans for our show on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.are well on the way, but a venue for a meal after the Show hasn't been finalized yet. John Creeggan then demonstrated the breaking up and care of plants. He then showed slides of many beautiful flowering plants. Supper was served and the many raffles drawn.

Well we are past the shortest day, but it's harder to look after our plants. Watering can be a problem, but Beatrice came across this guide that may help, although everyone grows their plants differently, some orchid houses are hotter than others. Water 2in pots every day. 3in. every 2<sup>nd</sup>.day. 4in. every 4<sup>th</sup>. day. 6 in. every 7 days. Larger pots every 10. **Proper watering is important.** If the plant does not have water, the pseudo-bulbs will start to shrink. On the other hand if the plants are watered too frequently a similar situation may arise because of the possible loss of roots. If the root of an Epiphyte orchid is given too much water it remains in a water- soaked condition until it ceases to function. This allows the entrance of bacteria which kill the root. When the plant has no active roots, it will live from moisture taken from the pseudo-bulbs or leaves, thus shrinking them, and deterring proper growth of the plant. You can provide humidity by having a tray of pebbles with a little water, but do not stand you plants in the water. Over the winter use tepid water with each pot hand watered, this way you can make sure of not having too much water around. **Sarcochilus.** These orchids are basically cool to cold growing vandaceous orchids. Plants prefer shade and plenty of air movement. Drainage must be perfect. This group tends to do most of their growing in the autumn rather than spring and so repotting and fertilizing should be concentrated around this time also. Use a balanced liquid fertilizer at half strength. S. ceciliae must dry out quickly after watering. They will also tolerate much more light than other Sarcs. S.fitzgeraldii must be kept shaded and demands high humidity levels. This species certainly likes it cool and moist.

**Tips .** Powdered cinnamon makes an effective bactericide and is useful for treating bacterial on Phalaenopsis . Just sprinkle a little on the affected are. **GOOD AIR MOVEMENT is most essential.** **Light** is important for Cymbidium flowers. Pastel and white flowers should be shaded for best colour. Yellows, pinks and reds need bright light for brightest colour. Green flowers need heavy shading for clearest and best colour . Now you should be enjoying the success of a year's good culture – Plenty of Cymbidium **FLOWERS.**  
**BEST OF LUCK FOR THE ORCHID SHOWS TO COME**