

The Taranaki Orchid Society Inc.

P O Box 635, NEW PLYMOUTH



NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2010

NEXT EVENING MEETING

Tuesday, 13th April 2010 – Make a note of it on your calendar now!

in the Central School Hall, Pendarves Street, New Plymouth, commencing at 7.30pm sharp.

At 7:30pm sharp, we will have Culture Notes, Hints, Questions, Answers.

Our evening programme will be driven by Kath Bruce, who is Supplemental Chairperson of the Taranaki Group of Orchid Council Judges and is also a Senior Judge. Kath will take you through the intricacies of judging orchids and will show you a few of the latest awards that have been given around the country.

- * Bring along your plants for display, sometimes this may be the only way others get to see and enjoy them
- * Don't forget some gold coins to buy raffle tickets.
- * There may be members with plants for sale at the meeting.
- * Last but not least – please remember to wear your name label at the meeting!!
- * **Supper Duties: Dawn Bowen and Sue Young.**

NEXT DAY GROUP MEETING

Thursday, 22nd April 2010 – Make a note of it on your calendar now!

The next Day Group meeting will be held on Thursday, 22nd April 2010, at the home of Florence Potter, 1 Holsworthy Road, Lower Vogeltown, Ph: 757-4301, gathering at 9:30am for a cuppa, meeting commences at 10:00am. If you have any questions about any orchids that you are growing, this is the time to ask them. There's sure to be someone at the meeting that can give you some advice. Don't forget to bring something for the raffle and of course, some gold coins to purchase some tickets! And a big smile ☺

TOOTAPPS TOPIC

Good morrow to you all. (A greeting from the Shakespeare Centre)

Thank you all for the prompt start at the last meeting, it was very pleasing for me to have good input from many for Beginners Corner, I sincerely hope we manage to keep the wheels on it this year.

Having been unemployed for the last five weeks means I have got a great deal of work done around the place, Hazel pays me well and in return I do dinner at the end of the day. I now have a good vegie garden and my orchids have had a real good clean up. It looks like I will have a great show of Cymbids this year, as there certainly seems to be a lot of spikes appearing (and being broken off. Shame on me!).

Keep lavishing heaps of love on your plants, and lets have some really good specimens for Palmerston North, take on board any information you can to insure you give it your best shot, so we are able to put on our usual brilliant display.

Cheers 'til next month.

Muz.

Secretary – We have received and accepted (regretfully) the resignation of Secretary, Allan Watson, due to increasing work demands on his time. We therefore ask all members if there is anyone who would be happy to be Interim Secretary until our AGM in July. Please approach any committee member if you can help. As there seems to be so few of us, the committee are under a lot of pressure at present to keep the society running smoothly, so your help would be very much appreciated.

President: Murray Fawcett
Ph: 06 - 765-6259

Patron: George Fuller
Ph: 06 - 753-2882
Email: tootapps@slingshot.co.nz

Secretary: Position Vacant

Report from MARCH EVENING MEETING

President, Murray Fawcett, welcomed members, including new member Cynthia van Beers, to the meeting and asked everyone to stand for a minute's silence in respect of the passing of Peter Bradley, Past President and long serving member of the Society. Members also remembered Keith Loasby, previous member of the society who moved to Tauranga, who also recently passed away.

Volunteers were called for help to organise the Orchid Council of NZ AGM weekend, which our Society is hosting in June 2011. Any black cloth belonging to the Society is also requested to be returned so the committee can do a stock take on it and to make further purchases if necessary for forthcoming show requirements.

'Culture Spot' concentrated on cleaning up of plants ready for displays and shows. Main requirement is to make sure plants are free of bugs, i.e. scale (wipe off with meths), white fly which concentrates around sweetness on plants, use Confidor or Mavric; ants (fly spray); garlic snails (cut fresh apple on top of pot – draws them up, only works on fresh cuts). Grow your plants well and you will have less disease in them. If you buy new plants, keep separate for a while in case of any disease or infestation. Much easier to eradicate before integrating with your collection.

George says to keep feeding your pleiones for another month or so to plump up the bulbs for flowering next season.

The Society has a new supply of marker pens - \$8-00 each.

Cyril Whittaker reported that he and Ernie Corbett had a dummy run and built up the basic construction for our display at the 6th NZ International Orchid Extravaganza in Palmerston North in September. Theme 'Energy'. It will be transported down to Palmerston North on Monday, 6th September. Plants are required for display. Hope to have a couple of people go around growers to check all plants suitable, free of bugs, correct names etc. List required a week before so labels can be prepared. Everyone to write a list of their own plants and submit. Uniform colour of pots is required and owner's name clearly written on, but not to be in an obtrusive place when displayed. Some accommodation has been booked and deposits are required by, or at, the next meeting. Anyone else who requires accommodation any time during the week of the show, please contact Nola Hill, Ph: 759-1606.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Adrian, from Fairfield Garden Centre, with his 'Travelling Road Show'. Adrian brought along a variety of products, useful for many things in the growing of orchids and he explained their different uses and cures. Many 'harmful' sprays have been taken off the market and the majority are now natural remedies, organics, such as: Foschek, Perfection for mildews and fungus, liquid sulphur (not lime sulphur) for spider mites and mildews; Natures Way products, Bio Gold which is purely organic; insect and mite spray, (organic); Dynamic Lifter, fish or seaweed liquid; Plant Tonic, spray from top to bottom, chelated trace elements are instantly available to plants. Insecticide, Success for white butterfly etc; Neem, spray over or put granules on pot (granules are a by-product from neem oil); man made pyrethrum, Permethrum for a quick knockdown; cellophane bubble for ants, cut corner and leave around ant trails; copper tape, Slug Stoppa Tape, Copper tags on wire stands; Skunk Shot, animal repellent; Stay Off, citronella base, relatively rain proof; Kiwicare, No Possums, put about 2m high out of cattle reach; Blue Lupin / Mustard / Oats blend for a good green crop, grow to 15-20cm then dig in; Gardena hose flow controls; Vermisol, worm fertiliser made from worm casts, stimulate soil microbes; BioFeed, chemical free, compost tea, high nitrogen; Weed killers: Roundup, Shortcut WeedBuster, guaranteed not to leave poisonous residue; Pulse, (Rainguard to make the spray stick), Salt, put on paspalum, oxalis to eradicate. Beans "Italian Flat" – not stringy, great flavour, crunchy.

Murray thanked Adrian for his most informative presentation and presented him with a token of our appreciation, which the members confirmed by acclamation.

Popular Vote: 1st : *Dendrobium engae* owned by Franz Zumbuhl.
2nd =: *Arpophyllum picatum* owned by Murray Fawcett.
2nd =: *Disa* Pukekura Park 'Red Statement' (proposed registration), owned by George Fuller. George mentioned that he has done ten years breeding to get a red orchid flowering for Valentines Day! which makes this one very exciting.

Lucky Door Prize: Maureen Russ

Raffle Winners: Grahame Hill, Terry Wood, Jean Nicholson x 2, Maureen Russ, Judy Watt x 2, Gary Faigan x 2, Joy Wray, Joy Furze x 2, George Fuller x 2, Doreen Whittaker.

Dendrobium engae - I had been keen on finding / purchasing *Dendrobium engae* because I like green flowers. I bought my plant as a wee seedling in 2003. Now it is about 40cm tall and has an inflorescence bearing nine very long lasting 6x6cm wide open blooms.

Den. engae is a native of Papua New Guinea, growing at about 2700m. It does well for me in cool to intermediate conditions.

Franz Zumbuhl.

Report from MARCH DAY GROUP MEETING

Held at Joan and Ernie Corbett's place and we were fortunate enough to have a lovely day.

Apologies were received from Neville Morris, Dale Whittaker and Jenni Meads.

A plant of *Dendrobium thysiflorum*, which had 6 lovely flower spikes, was discussed generally on what is required for a Cultural Commendation and agreed that, though the overall appearance of the plant was appealing, the leaves looked stressed. It was suggested that this might have been caused from growing outside in the weather. Cooler growing plants grow and flower well outside, but unfortunately insect and fungus damage are often seen as a result. George Fuller, as usual, had a lovely number of plants. His *Maxillaria variabilis* had very dark red flowers. This colour is, as the name suggests, one of many of the same species. George commented that it is rarely out of flower. Though they are small flowers they are very attractive. Restripias are all different and often called the cockroach orchid and they certainly look that way. George and others have a number of these unusual plants where the flower lies along the leaf.

Draculas were discussed and though his *Dracula gigas* flower stems stand upright, mostly they hang down, as in nature they sit on branches which allows them to do this. He also had *Zygopetalums* and *Disas*, the latter flowering later than others, so are a good prospect for end of season.

Ruth Scheliin discussed her phallies, *Masd. Barleanea* and *Masd. Magdalena*. Ruth stated that if these plants flower in the heat the flowers are often smaller than usual.

A question was asked what causes black tips to the leaves. This was discussed fairly fully as it can be caused by lack of food, too much food or too strong, too little water or too much, which causes the plant to stress. If there are any worries it is a good idea to tip the plant out and check the roots.

A discussion was had on the 6th International Show in September. The overall look of the stand can be as crucial as the state of the plants, so it was suggested that all plants be in black pots. This did not mean tip them out and repot, but it is possible to put them in a slightly larger pot closer to show time and pack the outside pot with bark to dummy it up. This means you have to be even more careful than usual as you handle them so that they do not tip out. Robert Clement has offered use of one of his sheds for collection point the weekend before the show.

RUNNERS are required on the judging day to aid the judges to get around more quickly. The runners are supplied with a list of plants in a class that the judges are looking at. The runners go ahead of the judges and point the plants out to the team leader. All plants are listed with numbers and the stand number is also supplied, so this makes them easier to find. When the team is finished judging that class the runner takes the results to the scrutineers. There is more than one runner per group, if we can get plenty of runners, making the job a lot easier and also there is opportunity to listen in to the judges (though you are not allowed to talk) and perhaps understand the system better. Thanks to Joan and Ernie for their hospitality.

Many thanks to Kath Bruce for providing this write-up.

Show Marshall – The Committee has appointed Cyril Whittaker as Show Marshall for the Society Spring Show being held at the Highlands School Hall on the weekend of 2nd and 3rd October 2010, with set-up being on Friday, 1st October. If you have any ideas for the running of this show, please contact Cyril, Ph: 759-4388, or any of the committee members.

COMMITTEE NEWS

The next committee meeting will be held at Nola's on **Thursday, 22nd April 2010**, commencing at 7:15pm. Please notify the president, Murray (Ph: (06) 765-6259) if there is anything you wish to add to the agenda. Also, please contact Nola Hill, Treasurer, (Ph: 759-1606) if there are any accounts to be passed for payment.

PLANT LISTS

George Fuller

Encyclia vitellina

Restrepia sanguinea (cockroach orchid)

Odontoglossum Mt Diablo x *Odm.* Nicky Strauss

Disa Pukekura Park (Proposed Name) 'Red Statement'

Disa Uniflora 'Yellow Ambition'

Maureen Russ

Dendrobium Elizabeth

Gomesa recurva **

Oncidium serratum

Murray & Hazel Fawcett

Arpophyllum picatum

Franz Zumbuhl

Aerangix brachycarpa

Brassavola nodosa

Dendrobium engae

Lc. Sweety

Neofinetia falcata

Rangaeris amaniensis

Dendrobium alexandrae

****Please update your label**

Please Note: Nola and Grahame Hill are now keeping some bags of bark available for anyone in the town area. Please phone order before calling in, Ph: 759-1606.

As I am running out of time to get this newsletter out, I will copy an article from Bay of Islands newsletter, via Hibiscus Coast newsletter, on culture notes for the next few weeks.

- Now that we are entering autumn, reduce the amount of shading over the plants if you have not already done so. Plenty of bright light helps ensure maturity of the pseudobulbs, and development of the spikes. With colder weather, at least during the evenings, bringing into a protected area will ensure continued good growth. If grown in a glasshouse, day ventilation only may be appropriate.
- By now all the final repotting should be completed before winter. Sufficient time must be allowed for the plant and particularly the root system to become re-established before the winter to enable it to survive that period.
- Spikes should now be appearing in abundance on cymbidium plants of sufficient size. If a plant is of sufficient size, but is showing no flowers, dry it out for a period. This can assist in ensuring maturity of the pseudobulb and encourage spike development.
- As the flower spikes lengthen, insert stakes to protect them. The use of bamboo or wire supports are satisfactory, but remember to bend the tops of wire stakes over to ensure they do not poke an eye out when you inspect a plant closely. Do not insert the stakes around the edge of the pot. Most roots extend to the outside edges and then run around the container. Root damage from stake insertion will usually be less if it is placed 25 mm in from the edge.
- When tying the spike to the stake, ensure further growth can take place. Also, remember different plants have different spike habits; some plants produce erect spikes, some gracefully arching and some sharply pendulous.
- As the spikes develop, do not alter the orientation of the plants with respect to the light source. If you pick a plant up and put it down turned around somewhat, this can cause the spike to grow in a different direction to where it was. A bent spike is not attractive. Try and provide good even all-round light. Strong top or side lighting can result in pulling spike development in that direction. The effect of light on flower colour is not important until the buds exit the sheath.
- It pays to separate flowering and non-flowering plants as those in flower are identified, spend a few minutes tidying up the plant and its container. Remove dead leaves and old leaf bases from the cymbidium back bulbs (split down the centre line and pull half to each side), generally making sure all is in order. If you check your plants at this stage you can ensure there are no hidden problems, and reduce the grooming that will be necessary when the flowers are out, and the plants taken into the home, or to orchid meetings and shows.

Source: Phil's Orchid World

<http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~tomnz/>

If you would like the plants you take to the meetings written up in the newsletter, please ensure you place your list in the green box next to the plants on the night of the meeting. If you do not have it available at that time, please post or email to Joy Wray, PO Box 635, New Plymouth 4340, or email: joywray@xtra.co.nz

We encourage everyone to participate in the Popular Vote at the meetings, i.e. write on a piece of paper the number of the plant that you would most like to take home. Then put it in the box provided, on the display table. There are plenty of pieces of paper and pencils available to carry out this small task. There have been very few votes cast lately and it would be nice to have to count at least the number of votes for the number of people in attendance.

As our Society is affiliated to the Orchid Council, your committee feels that the Council website should be included in our newsletter. We invite you to visit the site when you have a moment and check it out. Included in it are, OCNZ Awards, Society meeting dates and show dates, club news, introductions to the Orchid Council executive committee and several links to other interesting sites, including newsletters from other societies. Take a look next time you are on line at: www.orchidcouncil.co.nz

An 83 year old talked herself out of a speeding ticket by telling the young officer she had to get there in a hurry before she forgot where she was going!!