

The Taranaki Orchid Society Inc.

P O Box 635, NEW PLYMOUTH



NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2009

NEXT EVENING MEETING

8th December 2009 – Make a note of it on your calendar now!

in the Central School Hall, Pendarves Street, New Plymouth, commencing at 6.30pm.

Come along and join in for this evenings POT LUCK XMAS DINNER.

NOTE: THE EARLIER STARTING TIME. Arrive from 6:30pm; Dinner will be from 7:00pm.

It's our Christmas party! Please bring along:

A plate of food for sharing (also bring crockery or cutlery and serving utensil for your food)

A Santa gift to the value of \$5

Trophies from the Spring Show will be presented to the clever winners!

- * 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.
- * If you're looking for that special present for Xmas, 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: Members of the Committee**

NEXT DAY GROUP MEETING

17 December 2009 – Make a note of it on your calendar now!

The next Day Group meeting will be our Christmas function in the form of a BBQ on Thursday, 17 December 2009, at **Jennie & Graham Meads, 12 Totara Terrace, Inglewood**, Phone: 756-7998, gathering between 9:30 and 10:00am. As this will be our last Day Group Meeting for the year, Jennie has again invited us to stay on for a BBQ lunch. Bring along your saussies, steak, or whatever you enjoy on the Barbie, as well as a share salad or dessert. Picnic crockery and cutlery would be helpful too. Bring along a Santa gift to the value of \$5.

Don't forget a wee something for a raffle prize so we can all have some fun with a big 'end of year' draw.

Jennie's directions - Head through Inglewood towards Stratford. At 'Marinoto Old People's Home' turn right onto Tawa St (last Street on the right before leaving the Borough). Go to the end of that Street then turn left onto Mahoe Street. Take the next street left, which is Totara Tce. Jennie is up a drive almost straight ahead off the cul-de-sac, Number 12 and will have a sign up front.

TOOTAPPS TOPIC

Hi once again folks.

It looks like things are finally shaping up well in my tunnel house at long last. The mazzies are in full flower and flower spikes on other genera are forming big time. It almost looks like I will have a few ready for the show. Speaking of the show, its time to remind you once again, offer to lend a hand somewhere that weekend, and come along to have a very enjoyable time. PLEASE. Or I will haunt you.

It would also be great to see a big muster for our Pot Luck Christmas meeting in December, so please all come along and join in the socialising and fun of the night to help with that 'Christmassy' feeling.

Wishing you all a wonderful time over the Festive Season with family and friends and safe travels if you will be on the road. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cheers, 'til next month.

Muzza

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Patron: George Fuller
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Secretary: Allan Watson
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Reports from LAST EVENING MEETING

President Murray welcomed everyone to the meeting, who were seated in a new semicircle format to encourage a friendlier atmosphere and more participation.

Murray asked the meeting to stand for a minute's silence in respect of the memory of Mary Morris who passed away suddenly a few weeks ago. Our thoughts and sympathy are extended to Neville and family.

The meeting followed with two talks by members, who reported as follows:

Growing Phalaenopsis My Way by Ruth Scheliin.

I do not pretend to be an expert on growing Phallies as I own only six. I do not have a glasshouse so they are growing in the kitchen. So here goes.

You must remember that in nature the phallies grow in the tropics there they enjoy a high rainfall and warm temperatures that cannot be replicated in my home. The warm temperature in winter, but not the rainfall, not inside. So what to do to keep them happy?

What do I do? In the winter I will soak the plant once a week in water that has had the chill taken off it, never in cold water. I add to the water a small amount of fertilizer. If it is dry fertilizer and the packet reads 10 grams per litre, I add one gram per litre. If it is liquid it would be 1ml, definitely no more than that. I also have a small plastic squirt bottle, which can be bought from Payless Plastics. I mist the plant over lightly every second day (or when I remember) making sure that those roots that are not in the pot are misted.

Summer, I will water at least twice a week following the above, only the water can be cold and I will mist the plant every day, sometimes twice a day.

As I wrote in the beginning, my phallies are growing in the kitchen – they do not get any direct sun.

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Recently while visiting Adelaide, Adrienne and I attended the monthly meeting of the Orchid Club of South Australia. This club is in its 71st year and although in its prime in the 1970s-80s with a membership in excess of 1000, it still has a membership of over 400.

Like us they have both day and night meetings, with both being well attended.

The night we attended there were about 120 people of all ages there, with quite a few younger ones. We were told that some 'country' members drive for more than 2 hours to attend meetings.

The plants were on display in an adjacent room where they are set out in their 'divisions', and were being rather noisily judged while the rest of us were listening to the speaker for the night. I was surprised by the relatively small number of plants on show for such a big club.

The speaker was Jane Higgs, an AOC judge who is very involved with the conservation of Australian terrestrial orchids, this includes growing quite a number in pots as part of a 'tuber bank'. She said that they have about 125 spp in the collection. She and her husband have received several awards for their efforts in conserving orchids and other plants and improving the environment on their property.

On their property are several wetlands with the two largest being permanently wet. As the pH of these two is not the same, the range of plants including terrestrial orchids is quite different on each one.

When they took over the property the wetland areas had a considerable cover of blackberry up to 9 metres tall, this was cut down with a large mulching cutter on the end of a long tractor mounted boom. After spot spraying the regrowth the areas were replanted with plants native to the area. As a result of this many hitherto unnoticed native orchids started to pop up including several that appear to be new species.

It was a very good talk and illustrated with a number of slides showing before and after blackberries; and some of the orchids found there.

While we were in Adelaide we had day temps of 35 and 37°C and nights up to 25°C.

These temps are the reason very few people in Adelaide grow Masdevallias, Disa and other cooler growing orchids any more. I was told that a number of orchid growers have lean-to style houses with either a glass or plastic roof and mesh sides. This allows hot air to flow out freely and draw in relatively cooler air from lower down. Along with severe water restrictions and the heat, I take my hat off to those people growing the groups of orchids on display. They included Sarcs, Odont alliance, Australian Dendrobiums, Cattleyas, Paphs, etc.

I got the feeling that the judges allowed for foliage damage from the previous summer's very high temps as there was some evidence of foliar burning on quite a number of plants, however the flowers were very good and unmarked.

It was interesting to see how all the plants are set out in their divisions and judged at each meeting in a very formal way, which doesn't seem to have the warmth of our own informal system, nor the resume that we have.

Ken Davey, Nov 2009.

Popular Vote: 1st: *Dendrobium* x soft cane, owned by Marea Faigan
 2nd: *Dendrobium thyrsoflorum*, owned by Cyril Whittaker
 3rd: *Masdevallia* Peppermint Rock '5 striper', owned by Paddy Fox

Lucky Door Prize: Grahame Hill

Raffle Winners: Murray Fawcett, Robert Clement, Grahame Hill, Doreen Whittaker, Flo Potter.

PLANT LISTS

George Fuller

Cymbidium tigrinum
 " Wild Silk x *tigrinum*
 " Tiger Hunt
 " Aldaniti 'Andy' HCC/OCNZ
Sarcochilus hartmannii
Masdevallia coccinea fm alba 'Pearler'
 " *coccinea* fm alba 'Sunbird' AM/AOS
 " " xanthina 'M. Wayne Miller' AM/AOS
 " " " 'Geyserland'
 " " " 'Lemon Tart'
 " " 'Shocking Pink'
 " " 'Lavender Rose'
 " " 'Lilacina'
 " " 'Lines'
 " " 'Extra'
 " " 'Rosea'
 " " 'Red Glow'
 " Jeanette ('f')
 " Heathii 'Syd'
 " Falcata 'Golden Gift'
 " Fraseri 'Red Lips'
 " Fraseri 'Merry Christmas'
 " Lyn Sherlock 'Otaki'
 " Grace Arms 'Sunrise'
Dracula robledorum 'Resplendent'
Disa tripetaloides 'Uno'
 " *sagittalis*
 " Kewensis 'Torbay'
 " Eloise Harper 'Candy Floss'
Pleione chunii (Syn. *P. aurita*)
 " *Stromboli* 'Fireball'

Murray & Hazel Fawcett

Odontoglossum Summit
Masdevallia Hani
Masdevallia Bella Donna 'Marshmellow'
 " *coccinea* 'Pink'
 " Peppermint Rock
Pleurothallis triangulipetala
Paphiopedilum unnamed

Maureen Russ

Masdevallia Fraseri
 " Peppermint Rock
Sarcochilus Heidi 'Too Tapps'
 " Rachael

Paddy & Gerli Fox

Cymbidium Pee Wee
 " Touchstone 'Janis'
Dendrobium densiflorum
 " *hasseltii*
 " *virginale*
Epidendrum Pink flower, no name
Masdevallia Peppermint Rock '5 Striper'
 " Minaret
 " *wubbenii*
 " *coccinea* 'Lavender Rose'
 " Peppermint Rock
Sarcochilus (Mavis x *australis*) = *Sarco.* Emily **

Dawn Bowen

Cymbidium Amesbury 'Patrick'

Ken Davey

Pterostylis cardiostigma

Marea & Gary Faigan

Dendrobium beckleri
 " *striolatum* 'Neville' x 'Corriabare'
 " Pukekura
 " Softcane cross
Paphiopedilum Momag x Feldspar
 " Grand March x Farnmoore
Masdevallia coccinea 'Shocking Pink'
 " *coccinea*
 " Susan
 " Prason - ? *
 " Veitchii ? * (*veitchiana* ?)
 " Falcata
 " Falcata 'Tropicana'
 " Charms
 " (Marguerite x Angel Frost) = Angel Glow **

Franz Zumbuhl

Aliceara Royal Ebony
Dendrobium Gerald McCraith
 " *melinanthum*
Laelia cinnabarina
Masdevallia ignea 'Margaret'
Odontoglossum lindleyanum

Cyril Whittaker

Dendrobium thyrsoflorum

* This name not found

** Please update your label

VALE - It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Mary Morris, who was a very staunch supporter of her husband, Neville, when it came to the social gatherings that have been held by the society over the years. Mary loved to participate and socialise with the members at society Christmas dinners, BBQ's and also she and Neville were very happy to host Day Group meetings at their home. When the society went down to the Wanganui show on an annual basis, Mary was always there to lend a helping hand in putting up our displays. We appreciate all the support that Mary gave to the society and she will be missed. Our thoughts and sympathy to Neville and family.

SUMMER SHOW – January 2010.

This event is fast approaching and there is a lot to do between now and then, not only with 'orchids'!! The notification and registration forms have been sent out with a previous newsletter, but if you need one, please let any of the committee know. Please give some thought as to how YOU can be of help with the setting up and running of this show. If anyone has any ideas to help with the organizing of the show, please let any of the committee know asap, so that we can give them due consideration in plenty of time. It is the only orchid event that is held at this time of the year and we have people register from all over the country, so we must make sure we put on the most enjoyable weekend that they could wish for.

Judging will take place from 8:00am on Saturday morning and members are encouraged to join the judging as observers if they are interested. Please contact Kath Bruce, Ph: 751-3158.

Members who are working at the show will be provided with a lunch ticket. For those who are not assisting, there will also be a limited number for purchase on the day - \$10-00.

Members – can you please provide some food for morning and afternoon teas, muffins, loaves, slices (and anything else that you may be a dab hand at making!!) are always appreciated.

Also, your flowering plants for the combined display will be most welcome. Set up is on Friday afternoon so please bring along your plants any time after 2:00pm.

Any questions, please call Joy Wray, Ph: 751-1184, or any of the Committee.

Report from LAST DAY GROUP MEETING

On Thursday 19th November 2009, 12 Members attended the Meeting hosted and Chaired by Cliff Coles. There were numerous apologies due to other functions at this time of the year.

The Meeting commenced with a small plant display mainly contributed by Ruth Scheliin which had been well flowered. Ernie Corbett talked about his plant at home called *Aeridovanda mundii* and described the growth habit, plus asked any suggestions how to replant. No suggestions offered so Ernie travelled home and returned with the plant which was attached to a thin stake a metre tall, with the roots embedded into the stake. Still no suggestions on repot but thanks Ernie for letting us see first hand a most unusual orchid with several pinkish flowers and leaves which did not appear to be such. *Aeridovanda* is a crossing between *Aerides* and *Vanda*, which the name suggests.

Cliff invited us into his greenhouses and what was a magnificent display of *Masdevallias* and *Draculas*. All colours of the rainbow and all shapes and sizes, plus a number of first flowering showing a lot of promise.

On behalf of the Committee Nola gave some comments from the last Committee Meeting and some details of progress for the Summer Show in January.

Raffle winners were Cliff x 2, Lois, Grahame x 2, Dawn, Ruth x 2, Terri x 2.

Cliff was thanked for his hospitality and it was announced the final Day Meeting for the year will be at Jennie Meads, 12 Totara Terrace, Inglewood, in the form of a shared Barbeque, on Thursday, 17th December 2009.

Many thanks to Grahame Hill for providing this write-up.

COMMITTEE NEWS

The next committee meeting will be held on **Thursday, 22 January 2010**, commencing at 7:15pm - venue to be advised. Please notify the secretary, Allan (Ph: 755-0676) 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.

Hi all.

With the blessing of the committee, we will be holding a small display at the Horticulture show.

Time is February 6th & 7th at the racecourse.

We are looking for some flowering plants; the space to fill is 2x1 metres.

Plus plants for sale, we have a small space so not too many from each.

If you can help, please phone the following:

Allan Watson, Phone: 755-0676; or

Cyril Whittaker, Phone: 759-4388.

Would any new members who joined since the 2008 AGM, which was held in July 2008, please contact Cyril Whittaker at your earliest convenience. Ph: 759-4388.