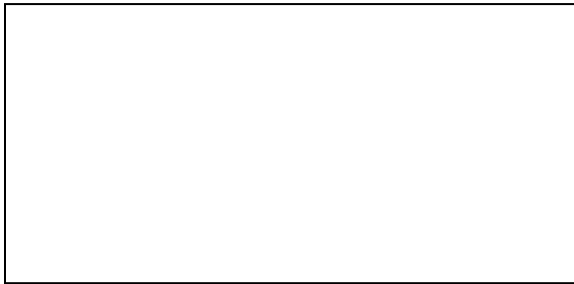


WAIKATO ORCHID SOCIETY
P.O. Box 7101
Hamilton



APRIL 2010 Newsletter



Meeting 7-30pm every 4th Tuesday except Dec, Jan, Hamilton Gardens

PRESIDENTS REPORT

I think I can safely say that the summer has moved on, (but not the drought) and winter is getting close. Now, would be a good time to move to their winter home, those plants that have summered outside,. I am having the annual problem of not having enough room. It happens every year. Plants that fitted comfortably on a bench don't even get close to fitting back after a summer of growing outside. I am sure the trading table will have a few of these plants for sale, for its better to move them on than try and over crowd them in your glass house or on the kitchen window sill.

My trip to Chile was very interesting but I have to say the biggest disappointment was my expectations of seeing lots of interesting plants (South America is the home to many orchids)- I didn't see one orchid growing in the wild. The gardens were very much like here, the same annuals, lots of Roses, Dahlias. Camellias, Rhododendron even NZ Flaxes & Cabbage trees were spotted. Even the weeds are the same, blackberries and thistle (but not gorse or ragwort) being the most obvious. But it was green with great pastures everywhere, just like the Waikato should look like if we weren't having a drought.

I will just have to go back and next time make sure I get to the parts of South America where orchids grow.

Keith

Calendar of COMING EVENTS

Tues 27th Apr

Monthly Meeting at Hamilton Gardens

Tues 4th May

Committee Meeting @ Ray Albiston's

Wed 12th May

Day Meeting @ Spencer Hillmer's place

82 Tuhikaramea Rd

Sun 16th May

Greenhouse Visits 1-4pm

Tues 25th May

Monthly Meeting at Hamilton Gardens

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April Meeting

Tuesday 27th April 2010 7-30pm

“ The Tokyo Dome Spectacle”

For visitors to the annual Tokyo Dome orchid show it is a most overwhelming experience, with the 100's of thousands of Japanese attending, the prizes and the orchid displays. Jeanette Hewer has recently returned from the 2010 show and will share her experiences with us.

Beginners Corner – Subject “Tasks to be done in the *run down to winter*”

Display and Popular Vote

Raffle

Sales table

Supper

Members - Please wear your name badge so that newcomers will know to whom they are talking.

Subs Reminder Subs are now due for the current financial year. \$20 for Single and \$30 for Family membership and \$15 for Associate Single.

Vale Tony Plane recently passed away and many Society members will remember the valuable and loyal contribution Tony made to the Society over a considerable number of years. His skill at growing phalaenopsis was especially notable and his displays of these plants were missed when he decided to retire from the Society a few years ago. We wish to express our condolences to his wife Margaret and family.

DAY MEETING

The next day meeting of the year will be held on Wednesday the 12th of May at Spencer Hillmer's place 82 Tuhikaramea Rd. Hamilton at 10am. All welcome.

Bark The order is not yet placed so make your needs known to Mike at the next meeting. Samples of sizes available will be on display.

Greenhouse visits have been organized for Sunday the 16th of May between the hours of 1 and 4pm. The list of greenhouses available to visit will be available at the next meeting. If you cannot make it, please phone a committee member for details.

POPULAR VOTE for March by Rae James

Overall Winner

D. Willson *Stan. wardii*

Open

1st P. Kenny *Rsc. Sully's Color x C. Hawaiian Snow Candy*

2nd J. Yang *C. unknown*

3rd I. MacPherson *Milt.Hoyt's Legacy (Ambre x Alderwood)*

Small

1st =M. Timm *C. Elusive Heartbeat*

1st = I.D.James *C. Medley*

2nd P. Kenny *Den.(Hilda Poxon x Florafest's Victory)*

3rd J. Yang *Sngl. Neptune*

Species

1st I. MacPherson *Lyc.bradeorum*

2nd D. Willson *Stan. wardii*

3rd D. Willson *Coel. massangeana*

Cymbidium

J. Healy *Cym.(Peter Pan x Bell Ringer)*

Novice
No Entries

I.D.James *C.(Medley x walkeriana)(Sm)*

L. lucasiana x Slc. Orglade's Early Harvest(Sm)

I. MacPherson *Odna. Moliere (O)*

P.& B. Whittam *Stan. wardii(S)*

D. Willson *Coel. speciosa (S)*

C. Joe Yang *Den.(Jonathan's Glory x Zip)(O)*

S. pumila(S)

Plants for Display only: none

NOTE:

I have tried to use the new accepted nomenclature when checking. If it is too confusing (some plants are accepted in 3 different genera – for instance C. Elusive Heartbeat) I give up. What to do? Write new labels but keep your old labels in case they change them back as has happened with some of the Laelias and Sophronitis.

Golden Jubilee Celebration

Enclosed with this newsletter is information about our 50th Jubilee celebration on the 4th of July. To assist with planning of this event please return the tearoff coupon to the Secretary asap. For past and present members only, of the Society, the cost of the lunch will be partially subsidised by the Society as an acknowledgment of the contribution those members have made to the Society during the course of their membership.

Sarcocochilus are a genus that is relatively easy to grow and produces multitudes of small flowers usually late in the year. If you haven't tried before, give them a go. Culture notes below are courtesy of David and Patricia Hutchings of Gisborne, and from whom plants can be purchased.

Sarcocochilus Orchid Culture Notes

This is a small diminutive monopodial epiphyte (a plant which grows on a tree) and lithopyte (a plant which grows on rocks or in bark) from eastern Australia with some from New Caledonia and Papa New Guinea. The plants grow in gullies, gorges, along the edges of creeks and in the fringes of rain forests. They are mostly spring and summer flowering (with careful breeding they can flower all year round), short stems with showy blooms which come in a wide range of shapes and colours.

WHERE TO KEEP THEM

They may be kept inside the house, in a glass house, in a bush house or in a shade house, however they should have plenty of air movement and in the winter should never get frosted.

WHAT TO KEEP THEM IN

Most can be kept in a pot just a bit larger than the plant and let the plant grow into the pot. The pot may have polystyrene or stones in the bottom to allow for drainage; say about one third of the pot and the balance being a medium size bark. In some cases just bark is used.

WATERING

Watering is the most basic task for gardeners. Generally, plants in active growth need more water than when they are in a dormant state. Sarcocochilus do not have bulbs in which to store water therefore they require to be kept damp. Lift the plant up and if it feels light then it most likely needs watering. **NEVER LET THE PLANT GET WET FEET-MAKE SURE THAT THERE IS PLENTY OF DRAINAGE**

FEEDING

Give the plant(s) a good plant food. A high nitrogen fertiliser should be used from late spring to early autumn, when most orchids are in active growth. From mid autumn to spring, use a fertiliser which promotes healthy roots, boosts the quality of the flowers and, overall strengthens the plant.

LIGHTING

Generally, you can tell how much light an orchid needs by observing the foliage. For most plants, you want the leaves to be a light green colour. When exposed to sufficient light, many plants may darken their foliage with plum-coloured pigments. Essentially, this is the plants 'suntan'. It may take the form of spotting or the whole leaf may darken. This shows that the plant has as much light as it can stand and is trying to protect itself from burning. This is the ideal situation for good blooming.

Too much light. If the leaves become very yellow, move the plant to a shadier position. Light that is too intense can cause sun scalding. This is indicated by large, bleached spots that eventually turn black.

Not enough Light. If the leaves become dark and emerald green, move the plant to more light. This colouration shows that the plant requires more light to grow well. The plant will live indefinitely at a lower light level but you may not see any flowers.

RAFTS

Should be used for those plants which grow on tree branches or on the tree trunks, should be watered more and not kept in the direct sunlight. Sometimes these can be hung over a tray of water.

MISTING

Misting system can help to keep your cooler and can be done overhead or under the benches. Ours is overhead and operates on a thermostat.

REPOTTING

When repotting make sure that the pots are clean and have been sterilised and trim all dead roots.

For further information phone 06) 8672567 or write to 32 Sunvale Cres Gisborne or email D S & P R HUTCHINS at dphutchins@xtra.co.nz



There are 14 known species of *Sarcochilus*, with all but one endemic (native) to Australia and all cool growers. Most are epiphytes however there are three that are more robust and being lithophytes grow on rocks boulders and cliff faces. They all belong to the *Vanda* tribe and as such have a monopodial growth habit (ie has a single shoot growing from its terminal bud, each year extending the growth of the previous year, and having alternating leaves on each side of the stem. There is no pseudobulb.) See the illustration left. The most common species used in hybridisation are;



- *S. falcatus* known as the Orange Blossom orchid (white flowers with lip marked with orange and having a crimson-purple stripe) A fragrant orchid that grows on branches and limbs of softwood trees.
- *S. fitzgeraldii* known as the Ravine orchid (white flowers with pale purple-pink spots and a lip with yellow-orange markings) This orchid is most often found on rocks in deep shady ravines hence its name.
- *S. ceiliae* known as the Fairy Bell orchid. (pink, mauve-pink or purple flowers with a white lip) Small flowers 15mm across growing in clumps on rocks.
- *S. hartmannii* Note the spelling with 2 n's and known as Hartmanns orchid. Flowers are white with red blotches with a tri-lobed lip marked with yellow. Easily grown and free flowering, very showy when it forms extensive clumps, best grown in saucers or shallow pots.



Sarc. falcatus



Sarc. fitzgeraldii



Sarc. celiliae



Sarc. hartmannii

An Invitation to - The NZOS Lecture Series. 24-25 July

This year's speaker is Wayne Harris from Queensland, and his topics will be the orchids of Queensland, Western Australia, Papua New Guinea and Borneo. Registration, including lunch for the 2 days will be \$30 and can be made either by email to leaitym@xtra.co.nz or by mail to Secretary NZOS PO Box 45097 Te Atatu Peninsular, Waitakere City

Some "One Line Quotes" from sugar sachets in our motel.

"The man that can't *dance* thinks the band is **no good**" – Polish proverb

"**Boys** will be **boys** and so will a lot of *middle-aged* men" – Kin Hubbard

"**Stupidity** got us into this mess then **why** can't it get us out?" Will Rodgers

"I have my **faults**, but being *wrong* isn't one of them" – Jimmy Hoffa

"**Violence** is the last refuge of the incompetent" – Issac Asimov

"The **large** print giveth and the **small** print taketh away" – Tom Waits

"As I hurtled through *space*, one thought kept crossing my mind- every part of this **rocket ship** was supplied by the **lowest bidder**" – **John Glenn**

SHOW DATES 2010

Date	Show	Venue
2 nd May	NZOS Autumn Show	Mt Albert Memorial Hall Auckland
12-14 th June	Caloundra's Golden Orchidfest Australia	Lake Kawana Community Centre Bokarina Queensland Australia
3 rd July	Hawkes Bay OS Winter	Clive Community Hall
4 th July	Waikato 50th Anniversary Celebration	Hamilton Gardens
23-25 th July	NZOS Winter Show	Mt Albert Memorial Hall Auckland
14 th Aug	CSA Spring Show	Western Springs
8-12 th Sept	6 th National Show Orchid Extravaganza	The Arena Palmerston North
17-19 th Sept	NZOS Spring Show	Mt Albert Memorial Hall Auckland
24-26 th Sept	Tauranga OS	Racecourse Greeton Rd
26 th Sept	Waikato Spring Show	Hamilton Gardens
2-3 rd Oct	Hawkes Bay OS Spring	Taradale Town Hall
6 th Nov	Sarcochilus Show	Taradale Town Hall

Herbert George Alexander, whose name is synonymous with *Cym.Westonbirt*, died in 1972 in his 97th year. In his obituary, it was said that his **greatest asset was his flare for recognising what was best in a flower, and his ability to find the right mate for it. For him a good orchid needed to have character, that indefinable something that appealed and lifted it above others.**