



MANAWATU ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

FEBRUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER

[www.manawatuorchid.org.nz](http://www.manawatuorchid.org.nz)

### President's Message

A happy New Year to you all. I do hope the festive season went well for you.

The next eight months will be a busy time as we count down for the 6<sup>th</sup> NZ International Orchid Extravaganza. Do remember to get your registration in by 28<sup>th</sup> February to qualify for the discounted price. Registration entitles you to attend all the lectures during the four days and the opening night function and Prizegiving. Registration Handbooks will be available at our meeting but also online at [www.orchids.org.nz](http://www.orchids.org.nz). Some specialist breakfast meetings will also be held so check your registration form for various costings.

I hope you have been able to get your repotting completed. (unlike us, where we have had a number of distractions over the past six weeks and the plants have had to wait their turn). Remember to give your plants lots of TLC and start staking as spikes appear, to present them in the best possible way. The display committee have some great ideas but will need many flowering plants.

At the next meeting our guest speaker is David Williams of Redpath Pacific Greenhouses here in Palmerston North. David will talk on greenhouse maintenance and products they have available to protect and monitor your plants.

We have planned a varied an interesting programme for the next few months at both the day and evening meetings. Remember the Autumn Show is just a few weeks away on April 17<sup>th</sup> but at a new venue in Feilding - the St John Ambulance Hall. More about that next month.

*Patricia*

The first meeting of the year will be on Thursday February 11<sup>th</sup> commencing at 7.30pm. in the Community Leisure Centre, 569 Fergusson Street, Palmerston North.

The speaker will be David Williams from Redpath Pacific Greenhouses, Palmerston North.

The first **Day Forum Meeting** will be a visit to Ted Mannell's , 6 Kitchener Street, Masterton on Thursday February 25<sup>th</sup> . Further details on travel arrangements will be given at the club meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Ted's setup is always worth visiting !!

### **Opaki Rd – State Highway 2 - to Masterton, Directions.**

1. Head **south** on **Opaki Rd** toward **Third St** 0.2 km
2. Take the 1st **left** on to **Third St** 0.4 km
3. Turn **left** at **Totara St** 0.2 km
4. Turn **right** at **Kitchener St** 0.3 km

It has been suggested that members meet at the park in Masterton for lunch prior to meeting at Ted's home at 1.30pm.

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Geraldine Wood

Plant Commentary December 2009

<u>Ted Mannell</u>	Aerides rosea Vandofinetia Blaupunkt Onc. Longipes Phal.Otago Raspberry Red Bedford Timmy Snow Bright Peacock Sogo Lit Angel
<u>Jenny Mair</u>	Dactylorhiza maculate
<u>Jill Palethorpe</u>	Sarc(Fitzhart.x Pinkhart) x Fitzgeraldii 'Watermelon' x Coaldude Sarc. Cherie Sarc.Fitzhart x fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' Onc. Robustissimum Oda. Florence Stirling x Somelle
<u>Geraldine Wood</u>	Bifrenaria tyrianthiana Coelogyne merrilli Dendrobium tapiense Dendrobium Tangerinum Angraecum magdalenae Angraecum didierii
<u>Graham Jackson</u>	Miltonia spectabilis Dendrobium Gerald McCraith Dendrobium Lori's Star Dendrobium Formidible Cattleya Gilded Bird 'Tudor' Cattleya Kaka x luteola Cattleya Aclands Jewel Paphiopedilum lowii 'Lynn' Brassidium Fly Away 'Miami' Angraecum scottianum Restrepia elegans

Results of plant Commentary December 2009

Cymbidiums

1<sup>st</sup> Cricket 'Cascade'                      Tudor Orchids  
2<sup>nd</sup> Key Largo                                Eldon & Ngaire Ormsby.

Other Species.

1<sup>st</sup> = Aerides fieldingii                      Ted Mannell  
1<sup>st</sup> = Odontioda Rapid Bay                Tudor Orchids  
3<sup>rd</sup> Dendrobium Gerald McCraith      Graham Jackson.

Here is another crozzle puzzle for your enjoyment. Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words are always in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them. The word's are taken from the book, Flora's Orchids.

AERIAL GROWTHS  
AERIDES  
ANCISTROCHILUS  
ARACHNIS  
DARWINARA  
HELISEA  
OPHRYS  
PABSTIA

POTINARA  
SEDIREA  
SERRULATUS  
TISSUE CULTURE  
TELIPOGON  
TRIAS  
TRICHOCENTRUM

S	C	G	N	M	C	C	F	G	W	S	E	D	I	R	E	A
E	F	M	N	M	H	J	H	G	A	Z	X	C	V	B	E	N
R	F	A	E	R	I	D	E	S	K	Q	D	R	S	R	P	C
R	M	N	G	H	H	F	H	J	E	T	T	Y	I	H	O	I
U	A	S	D	H	J	S	P	O	T	I	N	A	R	A	T	S
L	Z	D	F	G	F	F	R	Y	R	I	L	C	O	R	K	T
A	A	S	A	S	D	T	Y	U	I	G	H	J	I	P	I	R
T	A	D	C	S	A	I	R	T	R	K	L	M	A	E	N	O
U	U	H	L	A	B	L	U	O	K	C	A	B	E	B	G	C
S	S	A	R	A	N	I	W	R	A	D	S	M	S	B	I	H
S	Y	L	H	H	M	T	K	J	K	T	B	C	I	L	S	I
D	R	I	H	L	H	P	L	K	I	T	O	M	X	E	E	L
J	H	P	B	S	S	D	S	A	S	H	A	D	E	S	S	U
L	P	F	F	B	K	J	G	A	A	R	A	C	H	N	I	S
N	O	G	O	P	I	L	E	T	A	S	W	R	U	N	W	S
N	M	U	R	T	N	E	C	O	H	C	I	R	T	O	P	T
Z	R	U	P	V	D	D	T	E	T	I	P	A	E	U	E	Q
A	D	T	T	E	R	U	T	L	U	C	E	U	S	S	I	T

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Is it good if a vacuum really sucks?  
Why is the third hand on a watch called the second hand?  
If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we ever know?  
If Webster wrote the first dictionary, where did he find the words?  
Why do we say something is out of whack? What is whack?  
Why does "slow down" and "slow up" mean the same thing?  
Why does "fat chance" and "slim chance" mean the same thing?

Why do "tug" boats push their barges?  
Why do we sing "Take me out to the ball game" when we are already there?  
Why are they called "stands" when they are made for sitting?

Why is it called "after dark" when it really is "after light"?  
Doesn't "expecting the unexpected" make the unexpected expected?  
Why are a "wise man" and a "wise guy" opposites?

Why do "overlook" and "oversee" mean opposite things?

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**E&OE.**

### How to Choose a Healthy Orchid

When you are looking at orchid plants in a nursery the chances are that they will be healthy and well grown. However, there are some things you can look for to ensure that the plant you're buying will be the best you can get.

The best way to get flowers that you are going to like is to buy a plant in bloom, or a plant that is exactly the same (a mericlone) of one that you have seen in bloom. Check the leaves on the plant to make sure that they are plump and smooth looking not wrinkled or pocked. They should be of uniform colour and have few if any spots. Some varieties of orchids will develop spots on the leaves from high light levels, so ask your vendor about it. Look for insect damage under the leaves and check the media to make sure that it and the visible roots look healthy.

The flowers should be free of any odd looking colour breaks which might indicate a viral infection. Colour breaks can be anything from unusual patterning when the color should be plain to blotching. If you think a flower looks odd, check with another vendor if possible for the same plant and compare flowers. One exception would be the harlequin Phals. which have spots which can be different on each flower.

If possible, take the plant out of the pot to inspect the roots so that you know they are healthy and growing and not rotting. This is not always possible to do, especially if you are purchasing from a vendor such as a supermarket or hardware store. In that case, make sure that the orchid has not been overwatered and sitting in water. The leaves will show withering and sunken spots from overwatering just as they do from under watering. In many cases it is possible to save these orchids by immediately taking them out of the decorative plastic and repotting them in a good medium. Water carefully afterwards. See that the plant is labeled correctly.

Always be sure to **quarantine new plants** if you have healthy plants already. Most new growers will learn this lesson the hard way by bringing home just one infected plant that will cause problems with all the others. Remember orchids only grow one or two new shoots a year. It will take years to replace all the leaves from a really bad insect devastation! Spray for insects and fungus and keep separated for approximately 10 days at the least. A month is even better.

### Taranaki Summer Show. 2010 – from an article in the Taranaki Daily News.

More than 400 plants with wondrous variety were on display at the Taranaki Orchid Society's summer show at the weekend. First and second prizes were handed out in 15 sections at Highlands Intermediate School, including a group of the select best that were inspected by judges from the Orchid Council of New Zealand. Show marshal Joy Wray said visitors from Ohio in the United States told her that they often get only 300 plants for their shows back home, which showed how popular this local event is. Bill Guild had designed the special certificates which were handed out to the best in each section. Waitara's Jenny Walsh was proud of her rare red coloured sarcochilus. "It probably took about four years to have its first flowering. Sometimes they sit and sulk a wee bit, but I find them very rewarding, I have quite a lot of sarcochilus growing. "You don't get a real lot of red in the sarcochilus, normally they flower in late spring – November – but this has got a little species in it called hirticalcar, and it flowers at this time of year."It's a funny little fellow – it's yellow, and it looks like a little clown, and it has red markings on it, hence that's where the red's come from." New Plymouth's Paddy Fox, a society member since the mid-1970s, had a couple of winners among the impressive collection of 25 plants he had brought down to display. "I'm a bit quirky with anything that grows. Got quite a variety of stuff. Try one, try another, bits and pieces. "I'm quite pleased with the dendrobium crepidatum, it's quite a nice one, and also that ancibarina, is also very nice – they're all nice in their own way."A lot of them are [flowering] just once a year, but different times of the year – summer, winter, autumn, depends what variety.. "It's enjoyable, different."



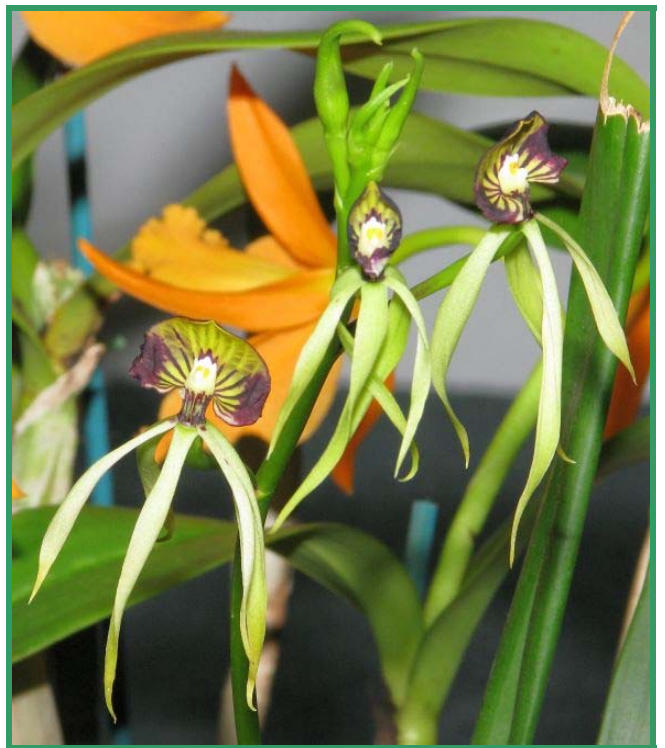
Graham Robertson & Ronnie Rowntree cutting the Xmas Cake.



Ted Mannell's *Aerides rosea*



Tudor Orchids *Cymbidium* Cricket 'Cascade'



Eldon Ormsby's *Encyclia cochleata*

All photos taken at the Xmas meeting 2009 by Eldon Ormsby.

### LOST ORCHID DISCOVERED AFTER 83 YEARS.

As some of you may have read in the local press, a Victorian *Caladenia* species, thought to be extinct, as it had not been seen for 83 years, was recently rediscovered. Here is the DSE Press Release and a photo of the rediscovered plant *Caladenia pumila* R.S. Rogers, (1922). The Kew website has this species listed and annotated with the "†" symbol signifying that the species is extinct. Kew will need to be notified to update its data base!!

**7 December 2009**

#### **'Lost' orchid re-discovered after 83 years**

A native species of orchid, thought extinct for the best part of a century, was rediscovered by two orchid enthusiasts in the Greater Geelong region two months ago. For the protection of the species the exact location remains undisclosed.

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and plant sciences department at the Royal Botanic Gardens (RBG) Melbourne have since been working together to conserve and protect this remarkable find.

DSE Biodiversity Team Leader Andrew Pritchard said "Until its rediscovery by Hans and Christa Korth in September 2009, the Dwarf Spider-Orchid (*Caladenia pumila*) had not been seen since 1926. "The rediscovery of this species is a wonderful surprise. To put it in perspective, when the Dwarf Spider-Orchid was last seen Stanley Bruce was Prime Minister, George the 5th was King and Don Bradman was a teenager vying for state selection,"

Mr Pritchard said. "The Korths found the two plants in a Parks Victoria reserve, subsequent searches have yet to find any more. These two plants make up the total known population of this species." "Since the re-discovery of the Dwarf Spider-Orchid we have been working with the land manager Parks Victoria, local volunteers and the RBG Melbourne to protect this significant find, explore opportunities to increase the number of plants and increase our knowledge of it."

Senior DSE Scientist, Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research, Dr Michael Duncan said: "This is an incredibly exciting discovery. It is the botanical equivalent of finding a Thylacine (Tasmanian Tiger)." "It must be an enormous thrill for the Korths to

be responsible for changing the status of a species from extinct to extant," Dr Duncan said.

"One of the most exciting things about the rediscovery of this species is that we can learn so much more about it."

"Before September 2009 the only image we had of the species was a watercolour painting by renowned orchidologist William H. Nicholls, now we are able to observe it in person and collect critical data about its life cycle and reproductive processes." Other than its rarity, the greatest threats to this species are trampling, browsing, and theft.

A range of works have been carried out to protect the species, including hand-pollination to encourage seed production, the isolation of the mycorrhizal fungi associated with the orchid and the collection of seed. Attempts are being made to propagate *Caladenia pumila* through the Orchid Conservation Program at both the RBG Melbourne and DSE Horsham so the plants can be reintroduced to the wild. The recently opened Horsham program is successfully growing many of south west Victoria's rare and endangered orchids.



*Caladenia pumila* - Dwarf Spider orchid.  
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The December Christmas meeting was attended by a disappointingly small number of members. This is a pity as it was a fun evening of socializing and entertaining even if a somewhat difficult quiz devised by Graham Jackson had everyone trying hard to guess what the everyday objects screened and had been greatly magnified were. While it wasn't a serious event it showed just how difficult it can be to recognize an everyday object from a greatly magnified small snippet. Fortunately scores weren't collected!! After the plant commentary there was a lovely supper provided by members. In addition each member present was presented with a new cymbidium cross plant as a present from the Society. There were generous donations to the Foodbank and the raffle which was much larger than recently resulted in nearly everyone collecting at least one prize. This was a pleasant way to end the club's activities for the year.