

## February Newsletter 2009

Welcome to 2009.

Firstly, through this newsletter I would like to record my sincere thanks to the Judging Groups and their members for the overwhelming messages of condolence and support to me and the family on Wally's sudden passing. Knowing how he had touched others in the orchid world is a great comfort to us. Please accept this note as a personal thank you, as to reply to everyone at this time is an overwhelming task.

**The first COA** meeting of the year was held at the end of January. 107 awards were ratified, an increase on previous years although several were from 2007. I would ask the areas to please try to forward their awards as soon as possible to their Regional Chair, especially towards the end of the year when everyone is so busy, so they can be included in the current year's awards.

**Some photography** still remains a problem, with a few awards not considered for higher awards due to the poor photography, or lack of clarity. With digital photography most of these problems should be easily overcome as it is easy to check on the quality of the photo while the flower is still fresh.

Several flowers were out of focus; some had the plants draped with only the flowers showing, which in the Committee opinion has actually detracted from the flowers, some were not taken up close enough. Have a look at the Awards CD and see what you think.

However on the whole photography is improving greatly compared to earlier years.

**Thank you** to those photographers who have given permission for their photos to be used on OrchidWiz. 2007 has been sent, with the other years to follow shortly. If there are members in your area who have not yet replied to my request, could you please give them a gentle nudge? If you have a new photographer in your area please make them aware of OrchidWiz and ask them to give their permission.

You should have received the update to AQ+ and our award disc. The award sheets and photos will no longer be sent out, but if required can be printed off the disc. This represents a large saving in printing costs to the Judging Organisation.

**AQ+ is due for renewal**, does your group use it? It does contain the American Award photos; otherwise all the information is included on OrchidWiz.

**Please**, let either myself or Grahame Hill ([hillcroft@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hillcroft@xtra.co.nz)) know by the end of February if you still wish to receive this disc. It is a waste of money if it just sits in a box and is not used by the group. If your group does use it that's fine, but please let us know as we have to send the order away very soon.

Once again a big thank you to the **Orchid Foundation** for supplying OrchidWiz to the judging groups. I do hope you make use of it.

**Remember** that **Award fees** were reduced from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009. The cost is now \$20 for an award, if the plant receives 2 awards at the same judging (e.g. AM & CCC) the cost is still \$20. I would hope this would encourage more awards.  
Please make sure the Judging Handbooks are changed accordingly.

**CBM.** This is an award Judges may not encounter very often, A  
proposal was put to the COA to amend the requirements for a CBM (page 4 of the Judges Handbook) by deleting the last sentence and replacing it with ‘A majority vote of the judges is required. No point scale is used.’  
This proposal was accepted by the committee; please ensure the Rule Books are changed accordingly.

**Award measurements.** This has been a problem on some award forms this year with incorrect measurements on some forms; others had measurements missing, noticeably the ventral sepals and mainly with Paphs. Please check your forms and make sure the measurements are clear, and in mm before they are sent. COA also request that at least the Natural spreads, vertical and horizontal, are recorded for **CCC awards**.

**Please remember** the National Show in Palmerston North next year. It is not too early to start making plans for travel and accommodation, it would be great to have a good turnout of judges there, and I believe they have some good speakers lined up. The next **National Seminar** is also in Palmerston North this June; I do hope you will make an effort to attend; there will be an overseas speaker.

#### **Orchid of the Year**

*Paphiopedilum* Izayoi Magic ‘Black Beauty’ owned by Helen McDonald

#### **Cymbidium of the Year**

*Cymbidium* Hall Road ‘Hamilton’ owned by Jim James

#### **Species of the Year**

*Paphiopedilum micranthum* ‘Ping Pong’ owned by Burt & Evelyn Ong

**Cultural Award of the Year.** This year the competition was very close and two plants received the award.

*Neofinetia falcata* ‘Macey’ owned by Wally and Margaret Lomas

*Cymbidium* Golden Tiger ‘Lorna’ owned by Maurice Bryson

Congratulations to all the winners.

Please, if you have any matters you wish to discuss with me, or if I can help in any way, let me know. Also note my postal address will change from the PO Box to 45 Bellbird Ave Onerahi, Whangarei.

Regards,

Margaret Lomas

A ‘completed’ award form has been included for those not sure how to fill it in.