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This issue's cover

Stanhopea oculata. This plant is growing in an Auckland garden, attached to a pohutukawa tree. Grower and photographer Geoffrey Marshal. See article on page 20 for details.

Editorial:

Welcome to the first issue of the *New Zealand Internet Orchid Review* for 2010. After a very gloomy year, economically speaking, most of us will be hoping for something better, this year. At least, as orchid growers, we have something to look forward to. The NZ International Orchid Extravaganza, to be held at Palmerston North during early September, represents a get-together that happens every five years. We hope that many of our members are planning to attend, and are already grooming their favourite plants. Such events usually result in a boost to the hobby (business, in some cases) of orchid growing, and we hope that this one is no exception, and that the organisers derive great satisfaction from the results of their efforts..

We have quite a mixed bag in this issue, as you will see from the table of contents. The labelling of plants has stimulated much debate in earlier issues, and we have a rich and varied selection of views to bring forward to our readers. We take another look at wider worlds, this time in the form of vireyas, and there is a book review, not concerning orchids, which continues the theme.

We are also pleased to feature an article on orchids in the garden that we hope will stimulate many, especially in the warmer regions, to venture forth from the glasshouse or shadehouse.

My Orchid of the Month

Frank Zumbuhl (franzanda@xtra.co.nz)

Neofinetia falcata (Thunb.) H. H. Hu 1925

This beautiful little orchid was discovered in 1784 by Carl Thunberg. It has since undergone numerous name changes, including *Angraecum falcatum* Lindl. for its look-alike/similar flowers to that African genus.

N. falcata is the only species in the genus according to most authors, but some sources mention 3 species, spread from China to Korea, Japan and the Ryukyu Islands.

This orchid is held in very high esteem in Japan's horticultural circles. There it is called Fu Ran, (say Foolan), the 'wind orchid'. It is so-called because people can collect plants off the ground dislodged from trees in strong winds.



Neofinetia falcata



Neofinetia falcata Peach Princess

N. falcata is a very variable species, and numerous clones with different hues, spur lengths, shapes and variegations of the leaves are named and catalogued. At their local horticultural shows, varieties of these plants occupy whole tables. Just a bit like *Dendrobium kingianum* at our shows, really.

I grow about half a dozen clones, some from local sources, some imported in flasks. Fancy names like 'Yellow Treasure' or 'Amami's Pink' can engage all of your imagination! Where is the Yellow? or the Pink? Now, 'Peach



Neofinetia falcata dwarf

After dark, the strong, sweet fragrance is not overpowering, just ever so pleasant.

Princess' lives up to her name with the dark pink tails and the peachy tips on petals and sepals. *N. falcata* 'Dwarf' is just what the label says: diminutive in every way, pure white, with a wee turned up spur. The one I call the Type, I purchased in 1989. It is all brilliant white, and it bore 76 blooms in 1998, while still remaining a miniature plant.

My neofinetias live in smallish pots of open bark mix and/or on rafts of punga or driftwood in good light. As long as they get watered regularly and dry out quickly, they seem to be happy and flower readily in Jan./Feb./March in New Plymouth. Cool to intermediate temperatures are fine. I find, that re-potting and/or splitting up sets these plants back quite a bit. But just be patient and do not try to force them, and they'll reward you with a lovely display.

Every respectable orchid grower should have one in her/his collection!

All photos by author.

FZ

Orchids to be ignored??

Ewen Perrott (perrtuita@xtra.co.nz).



Part of Ewen Perrot's disa collection. Photo by grower

My favourite Orchids are without doubt some of the African beauties, named for a Swedish goddess "Disa".

My disappointment is with Orchid societies (bar Taranaki) who gasp a sigh of relief in November of each year, when the so-called season finishes.

What a laugh!!!! As the accompanying photo shows, my, and anyone's display of utter beauty can not be beaten.

Disas need no heat in any Winter, slugs and snails do not touch them.

I grow Disas for their breath-taking display, I daren't cut and sell the stems as I would have nothing to drool over each day. Wake up societies and include Disas in your year's programme.

To show the Registered name or not?

David Hutchins, Sunvale Orchids (dphutchins@xtra.co.nz)

Over the last few years I have noticed in newsletters where, at a club meeting, exhibitors have been told that their plant labels do not have the correct name and to sort it out. This article is written with the view to start debate and not to be pointing the finger at anyone.

Over the years many hybrid plants get 'named', get registered with the RHS and are recorded on the RHS web site. Those who subscribe to the two Australian orchid magazines, 'The Orchadian' and 'Orchids Australia' will note that there are registrations published in nearly every issue. These are also shown on the Orchidwiz program, which can be updated from time to time.

Some examples:

Sarc. Cherie 'Trevor' x *Sarc.* Heidi 'Yellow Lip'

Sarc. Cherie 'Purple Edge' x *Sarc.* Heidi 'Good Purple'

Sarc. Heidi 'Mushroom' x *Sarc.* Cherie 'Marbled YL5'

All of the plants are *Sarc.* Hot Ice, however you will note that each hybrid parent is different and could very well come from different breeders and the resulting offspring may be very different when purchased in flasks.

Many will be aware that we sell sarcs at some of the shows. A few years ago we started to rename the plants where they had registered names. This started to cause a few problems as many people who were browsing through the plants would ask 'what is the breeding of this plant', which meant that we had to bring out the hybrid book. To make it easier from then on we went back to the old way in showing the parents of the hybrid.

So who should be advising the owners of these plants that their plants have been registered? Not everyone has a computer or the know how to find their way around it. Does it really matter when a plant is registered if the plant is exhibited with its hybrid name? Maybe at the club night, if the club has their computer there and there are some plants without the registered name, then they rectify the matter immediately.

What do you think?

See discussion below. Ed.

Discussion: To show the Registered name or not?

1. Thanks for the opportunity to comment. I'm only a hobby grower so it's not as important to me. I mean I have a few plants of *D. Grace Robson*. I have no idea what the parentage of each is, apart from the seller telling me it's this or that, and quite frankly it doesn't bother me. Mind you the day may come where I would like to find out and I have a number of experts around who will either know or be able to find out pretty quickly.

On the other hand, I do find it interesting with other plants to read a label that tells me exactly what I'm looking at. I mean how many *D. delicatum* are there? Dozens of them, each with different parents. Knowing the parents at least gives me an idea of

what I might expect. Whereas if the label just said *D. delicatum*, I wouldn't have a clue. And I have maybe six 'deli' and with each one I'm hoping for a different colour or shape or whatever. On balance, as I write this, for me I'd like the names of the parents on the label. The registered name can come later if I need it.

Graeme Davies (grumpy@ezylink.net.au)

2. As a secretary who has had to write up benching results for a big society, I much prefer to write or type *Sarc. Hot Ice* than the both sets of parent which takes up both time & space.

Bernadette Williams (bvwilliams@optusnet.com.au) – Secretary EDOC [Sydney]

3. David mentions confusion by prospective purchasers querying the breeding where the new registered names have been written.

Where I find that a cross I have purchased has been named I then write a new label with the new name and underneath in brackets the parents of that hybrid. I too like to know what the parentage is when buying, - it can give some indication of the likely outcome of the cross.

That's my two cents worth. Cheers. Glenis Day (dayg@paradise.net.nz).

4. I can see where David is coming from. The plants may be the same grex, but those parents in the crosses that David mentions could, in fact, be siblings, cousins or grandparents, with the resulting seedlings being quite different.

Maybe the label could have the registered name on one side and the cross on the other. We have members in our society who do this. One of these people does not have a computer nor does she know her way around one, but she regularly asks me to check and let her know if a plant of hers has been registered. People do want to know the registered name, and they do like to know the parentage. These are my thoughts on the matter.

Pam Signal (signalp@nettel.net.nz)

5. What an interesting letter from David Hutchins! I belong to four orchid clubs/societies in Victoria, Australia.

I have never experienced Judges comments to "sort out" the correct name of a hybrid crossing; rather, they tend to correct the name written on the tabled label, and in fact when a plant is tabled *Cymbidium*, *Sarcochilus*, *Dendrobium*, *Laeliocattleya*, (for example), or name "unknown", they go out of their way to provide a "name". Perhaps our Judges are more understanding (kinder) than those in New Zealand, realizing that the vast majority (I would guess over 95%) of club members are amateurs, who grow orchids for pleasure and not for profit! They might sell off divisions to purchase different plants, but are not out to "make a fortune".

For the three examples of *Sarcophilus* crosses given as all resulting in the name “Hot Ice”, I do not think that is correct! My understanding of the plant registrations at the RHS is that the FIRST FLOWERING of a crossing would receive “HOT ICE”, i.e. *Sarc.* “Hot Ice”, and different parentage would not be registered as “Hot Ice”.

Therefore, if at some future time *Sarc.* “Hot Ice” was crossed with another *sarcophilus*, the parentage would be *Sarc.* “Hot Ice” x *Sarc.* ? = *Sarc.* ? (after flowering). Subsequent crossings of different parentage of *Sarc.* could not be registered as *Sarc.* “Hot Ice”, but maybe I am wrong?

I think that the reality is that most members want an attractive orchid, that is possibly of different structure, colour or possibly flowers at a different time to their current collection. That is what I try to do, as both myself and my wife Christine bring our flowering orchids into our home (and take them to work) to enjoy!

Unless a grower is going to attempt a crossing with another, the parentage is not really that important, except possibly to infer the qualities of a plant not in flower, and let's face it, of the hundreds of seedlings grown from any crossing there can be a multitude of differences in the eventual flowering.

We all hope to purchase or breed the seedling “that wins shows” but it is not always the case! Many crosses are produced, and after flowering are found to be inferior to the parentage, and are not registered! I know of members who have for example, tabled an unknown *Cymbidium* (whatever) as *Cymbidium* (whatever) “wife's or daughter's name”, never had the name questioned, and won a prize!

Can't we please get back to the pleasure club members have just bringing a flowering orchid to a club meeting, knowing that “I flowered this orchid”, and whether it is a prize winner or not, I am proud of my efforts!

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Foster, Victoria, Australia (gfos1111@bigpond.net.au)

6. Good in theory, I think! What happens when these plants are mericlones?

A mericlone has only one parent (if you can call it that), that is the plant it is propagated (cloned) from, and therefore does not have parentage as such. Maybe the growers need more education in how the registration system works. Possibly that's why hybridisers register these crosses.

David's article is a good starting point; where it goes from here will be interesting. It will be good to see if either you or David receive replies from some of our “learned” judges.

Considering the rate at which registrations are happening for orchids, do they (judges) all know the background of a registered plant when asked? I think not.

Craig Nethery (can666@optusnet.com.au)

7. Re the Hutchin's article, I do have a follow up article on naming but maybe it is better left until later. Personally I'm not sure what he is driving at. Why bother to register at all if you don't change the name? Of course all seedlings will differ, even within the one cross. It is not a valid argument to leaving cross on label [as an alternative] to putting on a new name. Either way the buyer would have to do some research themselves if they were serious. If you are buying a seedling cross you are looking for something out of the ordinary and will see the parent names. If you buy a named plant you are buying either the flower you see or what someone else has already seen, usually.

Regards

Glenn Poffley (gpoffley@clear.net.nz)

8. A short, but very interesting subject! And as coincidence may have it, we were just discussing this subject (from a different point of view) at the Orchid Judges Training day, only last Saturday, at Five Dock, Sydney.

Personally, I do not believe, that the 'average' orchid grower/orchid society member, should have the onus put onto them, to check updated RHS records, to see if their hybrid has had a name registered, clearly because of the facts stated in the article. Not everybody owns, or even has access to a computer, let alone access to the Sander's List of Orchid Hybrids.

Therefore, I believe the onus, almost the responsibility, should be on the more educated members of a society. The people I am referring to are the judges, committee members, and/or other more experienced growers/nursery owners that have access to either one or both of a computer, and the Sander's List. This sharing of knowledge etc, is why most people join societies, in the first place. Let it be learning better and easier methods of cultivation, right down to the correct naming of their plants!

The discussion at last Saturday's Training meeting was about the RHS convention that states, that when two plants are crossed, the pod parent is the first name written, with the pollen parent being last. An example of this is:

Den. Avril's Gold (Den. Aussie Child x Den. speciosum)

The original cross was made using, *Den. Aussie Child 'Avril's' x Den. speciosum var. grandiflorum 'Golden Fluke'*.

(In general this crossing resulted in the flowers having a much better base colour, i.e., more gold and/or vibrant yellow, with the only misgiving, of the bottom two sepals (or legs) usually touching.)

The second cross was made using, *Den. Aussie Child 'Avril's' x Den. speciosum var. speciosum 'Windermere'*.

(This cross resulted in the progeny having much better shape, in general.)

What I'm trying to say is, would the results of the above breeding be different if the roles of pod and pollen parent were reversed, just like some of the '*Sarc. Hot Ice*'

examples in your article? Through the eyes of the RHS, the resultant flowers and even plants might look different, BUT, the answer would be 'NO', and the registered name stays the same. Through my own eyes, and the eyes of orchid breeders, the answer is 'YES', BUT, the naming has to stay as the convention states! This could be another argument altogether, which 'could' validate, and lead to the separate registration of a new and different name for the resultant hybrid from the parents being reversed! Interesting???? (Also see following article – Ed.)

So, to answer to your article, this is what I believe. The name on a tag, should show the correct registered name, plus IF possible, in brackets underneath, the varietal names of the parents used to create the plant/line breed species/hybrid including a notation if the plant is a 2N, 3N, 4N etc, as there is a lot of polyploidy treatment going on now days. The reason for this, is that a lot of breeding programs undertaken by a lot of breeders, include the remaking of 'old' registered hybrids, using superior parents, in the hope of creating better plants.

The possible downside to all this, is, for example, the proliferation and selling of seedlings, created, using variants of registered plants, that in regard to the original variant used to make the original cross, are inferior in quite a few characteristics! A very good example of this are the remakes of *Den. Avril's Gold*, using variant's of *Den. Aussie Child*, that are in no way near the colour and/or quality of *Den. Aussie Child 'Avril's'*. These 'breeders' are just trying to cash in, on the unsuspecting public, who are hopefully trying to buy quality seedlings, at a premium price, without knowing, that these 'new' remakes have yet to be proven, let alone, be anywhere near the quality (shape, flower coloration and count), of the first and original crossings that made *Den. Avril's Gold*, such a desirable hybrid.

In my own, and Tony Blewitt's breeding programs (including Australian Orchid Nursery, and other reputable breeders), the remaking of a number of 'old' registered hybrids, using superior and proven parents, is well under way. Each and every cross will be labeled, exactly as I have mentioned above; that is, with the registered name first, then in brackets after, will be the exact name and varietal names of the plants used as parents, to create these new seedlings.

Robert Bisetto (rbisetto@optusnet.com.au)
The Orchid Tray Company, 0431 037 372
<http://www.orchidtrays.com.au/>

9. I would like to see the registered name on one side of the label and the names of the two plants that are involved in that cross on the other side. Of course it may be a multi-plant cross in which case the names of all those plants involved should be included.

Max Feist (Max@kinect.co.nz) BOPOS Te Puke.

10. Although not politically correct, and it is a pest having to write out hybrid labels in such long detail, it could be considered a good thing if the grower/seller includes those details on their price list. If the awarded clone names are included it

does give the purchaser some idea of what to expect. This also has its flaws because a hybrid swarm can vary so widely.

Just adding my sixpence worth. No doubt some will agree and others will disagree. I agree to agree with those who disagree and vice versa.

John Campbell (campbelljohn@xtra.co.nz)

11. I would like to comment on David's letter. Firstly as an OCNZ judge, the plants need to be properly labelled to be judged (strictly speaking), or the owner will be politely told to correct the omission. Many buyers of plants at shows do not have access to lists of new registrations via sources like OrchidsWiz, and so David should be making sure that they are as correctly labelled as possible when they leave his hands. This is basic customer service.

If he is being constantly asked for the crosses involved then logically they should be included as part of the sales signage. Failing that I suggest he keeps a list of his hybrids and the crosses involved to hand when selling. This is basic product knowledge.

Thanks for inviting comment prior to publication; it will hopefully produce a good debate.

Paul Slattery (slattery.family8@gmail.com)

12. For award judging the plant must be registered, therefore all owners should be encouraged to find that registered name. Who knows when or if the plant will meet the judges standards. The parents names can be left on the label.

If the information is not readily to hand on meeting nights, sharing phone numbers for contact later is recommended. As in: "call me."

Ellen Manson (davellen@paradise.net.nz) (Canterbury Orchid Society)

13. Hi Nick/David. 'Labelling of orchid hybrid seedlings' is an interesting but tricky subject. I not only buy seedlings, but also flasks from time to time and find it very frustrating a few years down the track when a cross is registered and you have thirty or so supposedly obsolete tags to re-write. I write the newly registered name on the reverse side of the tag where possible, and leave the original parentage on the other side. It helps me remember the breeding as well as any future purchaser from the sales bench. I don't know whether any judges would object to this method of identification. It may help them too if they don't have RHS registration details to hand when judging. Hope this helps.

Jim Buchanan (buch1@netspace.net.au)

14. Re David Hutchins article:

My own feeling regarding Registered names for orchids is that, if someone has taken the trouble (and expense) to register a hybrid with the R.H.S., it is only good manners to change the plant label. In reality it doesn't matter unless one is putting a plant up

for an award, when registration of a name for a hybrid is mandatory (at least here in Australia), or unless local rules require it.

To many growers it doesn't matter if, to use David's example, a plant is called *S. Cherie x Heidi*, *S. Heidi x Cherie*, or *S. Hot Ice*. As mericloneing of *Sarcochilus* orchids is, generally, not successful, each plant will be different anyway as will 99.9% of all seedlings. The varietal names will give the *afficionado* some idea of the colour and shape of the resultant hybrid as some make better parents than others (a bit like us really!) but, in general, only those who grow orchids just for the Show Bench will be concerned. Those of us who grow orchids because we love them really don't give a hoot.

Having said that, my practice is to include the parentage on the label so that my plants of *S. Hot Ice* show, in parenthesis, *S. Cherie x S. Heidi* - i.e. - *S. Hot Ice* (*Cherie x Heidi*). I hope you find these comments useful.

Frank Vernon. hanfran@multiline.com.au

15. I think it's a big laugh really. The orchid fraternity like to get snobbish over their plant names. The public just admire them and like to grow them. I sell them at markets without labels and rarely get asked for one! But at a show, oh no, its got no label so its worthless. Won't know what to put on its entry ticket in the show! It's no wonder the clubs are not getting new members! Who in the public wants to listen to all that AND STILL have to change their label? Not many!

It must have a name. It must have the latest name from Orchid Wiz, RHS etc. But on the Kew World Checklist of Selected Plant Families its not accepted. It says it is synonymous with something from the past. No, its now been put in a newly created genus because its molecular makeup proves it! And so it goes on and on! As if the labels and names on them are more important than the plant itself and the flower!

Ron Maunder (paradis orchids@paradise.net.nz)

16. A quick reply to the Hutchins piece. In my opinion, everyone engaged in making, remaking, selling or distributing orchid plants has at least a moral obligation to give the plants correct names. If the cross has been registered, then the registered name should be given. The breeder is free to add further identification if he wishes, and for that purpose should keep suitable records and make that information available on request. (Possibly and arguably there just might also be implications of trade descriptions law, for incorrectly labelled plants?)

In any genus, seedlings from the same seed capsule can turn out very different one from another, and different again if the cross is remade whether using exactly the same parents or using different forms or cultivars of those parents. There is nothing new about Mr Hutchins's dilemma, and it is not confined to Sarcs.

Chris Hubbert (chubbert@jacksonrussell.co.nz)

17. I grow mainly paphs and phallies and I try to keep up with the new registered names. When I print out the labels for my plants I try to put the registered name first and (the two parents underneath) in brackets. This helps me to get to know the new registered name. I also include the varietal names on the label. The varieties used to make a cross are very important to me because if two very good clones are used your chances of some good to better progeny increases. It also helps if it is an alba variety. I have limited space so I try to invest in the best of the best crosses. This is why I do very little breeding of my own and import plants from growers that have a huge variety of stud plants to play with. This is another discussion on its own. My paph labels will look similar to the one shown below.

The printing is exactly the same as that on all my labels. I do not put Paph. before the name because it can only be a paph, as they are not normally crossed with other genera. Sometimes the varietal names are very long so I might shorten it to 'C.H.' (Ching Hua). If the cross offered was Strange Love (*callosum* x Macabre) I do not think I would have bought it.

Strange Love

(*callosum* 'Ching Hua #21 SM/TPS x
Macabre 'Magic Wings' SM/TPS)

For David Hutchins label I would have printed it as follows.

Sarc. Hot Ice

(Cherie 'Trevor' x Heidi 'Yellow Lip')

It takes a lot longer to write on the full parentage but I have always done it, especially if plants will be sold.

I am a member of the Waitakere Orchid Club and all plants on the plant table have their names checked. If a cross has been registered the registered name is printed in the newsletter the following month, with all the plants that were exhibited at the previous meeting. If there were any changes to be made to the label a # is put next to the plant name. This is also if the species name is written incorrectly. I am lucky we have a club that looks after their members.

I know change is difficult but we must move forward if we do not want huge labels that have all parents shown. The other problem is that most of us do not maintain our labels and a lot of names are lost.

Chris Whitby (whitbynz@hotmail.com)

18. To show the registered name or not?

My opinion is that where the registered name is known, the label should reflect that, and perhaps its parents, complete with clonal names, on the reverse.

Orchid hybrid names (grex) are registered with the International Orchid Registrar, and may be researched either through one parent name, or through the hybrid grex name to determine their parentage.

The original name usually registered by the breeder, will show a "clonal" name that

differentiates it from all others, of the same cross.

When a later cross is made by either the original breeder or someone else using the same grex with different clonal names, it will still be known by its original registered name, internationally.

It is up to the breeder to show the correct hybrid name on the plant, together with its parents' and clonal names.

Some nurseries show the parents' names in brackets, in their catalogues and on the reverse side of the label.

If it is important for the buyer to find out the breeding of a specific plant, it is available on Orchidwiz or similar programmes.

Orchid growers/ buyers acquire plants for a variety of reasons; sometimes the name is of some special significance; or they have seen the flower/name featured at a show or in a catalogue. A more serious grower/breeder will be looking for special traits in the genetic makeup of the plant.

Others may be just interested in owning a good pot plant. Most people who purchase a seedling (unflowered hybrid) do so in expectation of something new, or even a plant of award winning potential.

Tony Connelly (aredc@xtra.co.nz).

Plant nomenclature and orchids

Nick Miller (ncmiller@orcon.net.nz)

The nomenclature of cultivated plants is based on the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants* ("Cultivated Plant Code" or ICNCP). It is published by the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) in the series *Scripta Horticulturae*. The eighth edition of this document was published in October 2009. The code regulates the names of cultigens (plants whose origin or selection is primarily due to intentional human activity). The ICNCP, first originated in 1953, operates within the framework of the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* (ICBN), which regulates formal names for plants in general. On the other hand, orchids have a Code of their own that operates within the limits set by the ICNCP.

The ICNCP does not appear to be available online, although the 2005 version of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (ICBN) is available at:

<http://ibot.sav.sk/icbn/no%20frames/Contents.htm>.

A very useful summary and overview of the rules of Orchid Nomenclature, which also points out the common problems that arise, may be found at:

<http://www.robert-bedard.com/orchids/name.html>

It should be pointed out that orchids (of course) are different to most other cultivated plants in that hybrids between one or more different species (or hybrids) are given 'grex' names to apply as a collective name for all the individuals of that particular combination of parents. A particular grex name (plural gregi but sometimes shown as grexes) is applied to all of the individuals that may be raised from a particular cross between two species, two gregi or a species and a grex. Strictly speaking a species may be considered to be a grex. Grex is from the Latin, meaning a flock, herd etc. of animals, or a crowd, troop, clique etc. of people. The concept is still used, to a minor extent, for bromeliads – another group of plants that can also produce large quantities of seedlings from a particular cross. Here the use of a grex is still permissible under the registration rules, but is not encouraged.

For example, in orchids, all individuals from the cross *Dendrobium kingianum* x *Dendrobium speciosum* and the reverse cross (*D. speciosum* x *D. kingianum*) are known as *Dendrobium delicatum*. Similarly, in the example discussed earlier, *Sarcochilus Cherie* x *Sarcochilus Heidi* has been registered as *Sarcochilus Hot Ice*. *Sarcochilus Heidi* x *Sarcochilus Cherie* must also be identified as *Sarcochilus Hot Ice*.

Different individuals of a particular grex are given clone names, if they are considered worthy of such distinction (such as if they are given an award or used for breeding.) Examples already used above are *Sarcochilus Cherie* 'Trevor' and *S. Cherie* 'Purple Edge'. These individual seedling plants were obviously selected out (and named) as being sufficiently superior to be worthy of an award or to be used as parents. If propagated by division etc., the plants that are produced are given the same clone name.

There are various complications to this system, which we will not go into here, and the reader is referred to the website of the Brisbane Orchid Society for a useful clarification of the whole issue:

<http://www.users.on.net/~gmcobin/BOS/Articles/nomencl.html>

Few other groups of cultivated plants have been named by this system of using grex names. Rhododendrons used to be, and such crosses as (*Rhododendron griffithianum* x *Rh. fortunei*) registered as the grex *Rh. Loderi* (typical clones include 'King George' and 'Buckingham Palace') or *Rh. Naomi* x *Rh. campylocarpum* registered as the grex *Rh. Carita* (clones such as Carita 'Charm' and Carita 'Inchmery') are familiar to Rhododendron enthusiasts. This system appears to have been dropped for Rhododendrons, since World War II. Similarly for lilies (*Lilium auratum* x *Lilium speciosum* is registered as *Lilium parkmannii*), camellias (e.g. *Camellia williamsii*) and magnolias, but this has also been dropped, and modern raisings are given only a clonal name, if selected out as worthy. It seems that only a select few groups of plants, much favoured by the 'upper crust' in the 19th and early 20th centuries, have been distinguished with the use of grex names. Only in orchids has the use of the grex name persisted, despite the obvious advantages of it. Maybe as gardening becomes more and more dumbed down, orchid growers too, will follow the trend. Interestingly, the enthusiasts for carnivorous plants are considering introducing the grex system.

In his original article (see above) David Hutchins wrote:

"Some examples:

Sarc. Cherie 'Trevor' x *Sarc.* Heidi 'Yellow Lip'

Sarc. Cherie 'Purple Edge' x *Sarc.* Heidi 'Good Purple'

Sarc. Heidi 'Mushroom' x *Sarc.* Cherie 'Marbled YL5'

All of the plants are Hot Ice, however you will note that each hybrid parent is different and could very well come from different breeders and the resulting offspring will be as different as two peas in a pod when purchased in flasks."

There is a slight additional complication to this situation. The matter of **cytoplasmic inheritance** (also known as non-Mendelian inheritance) is generally overlooked by plant breeders. If we raise the cross *Sarcochilus* Cherie 'Trevor' x *Sarcochilus* Heidi 'Yellow Lip' we are using *S.* Cherie 'Trevor' as the female parent (never mind that 'Trevor' is a male name – that has nothing to do with anything ☺). In the reverse cross of *Sarcochilus* Heidi 'Yellow Lip' x *Sarcochilus*. Cherie 'Trevor', the Heidi is the female parent. You might be tempted to think that the two crosses would give similar results. Very often they do, but not always. The great majority of the genetic material (in the form of DNA) in plants is found in the chromosomes, which occur in the nucleus of plant cells. Many of our readers will have learned about this whole process of genetics and inheritance at school, or through later reading. However, it is less well known that some DNA is found outside the nucleus, in the chloroplasts or the mitochondria of the cytoplasm (i.e. the part of the cell that is outside the nucleus). Some of this mitochondrial or chloroplast DNA may be passed on from a female parent to the offspring. (Very rarely some may be passed on from a male parent, through the pollen, but this is unusual.) Sometimes this maternal cytoplasmic DNA can have a visible influence on the offspring. This effect has not been extensively

studied but it is known, for example, that maternal cytoplasmic DNA can pass on significant traits to the offspring, such as:

- Leaf variegation in African violets (*Saintpaulia*), corn (*Zea mays*) and four o'clocks (*Mirabilis jalapa*)
- Leaf variegation and (maybe) vigour in hostas
- Disease resistance in maize
- Flower development in tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum*)
- Male sterility in a variety of different plants
- Scent and other characteristics in some orchids, maybe (for a brief reference to this, relating to differences between reciprocal crosses in *Disa*) see:

<http://forum.terrorchid.org/viewtopic.php?p=6154&sid=e8447e346cf3086f06b3b1b992f73cb0>

So Orchid A x Orchid B may not *necessarily* give the same range of results as Orchid B x Orchid A. Perhaps, as we learn more of the effects of cytoplasmic inheritance, the rules of plant nomenclature, as they relate to hybrids, may need to be re-examined?

A Companion Garden

Glenn Poffley (gpoffley@clear.net.nz)

As the editor noted last issue many other plants are important to our overall growing experience and the more we grow and get familiar with the better we get at knowing how our plants react to the different seasons, weather and treatment.

Here in Howick (eastern suburb of Auckland) we get quite markedly different conditions to areas not too far away. We noticed a much lower rainfall than Papatoetoe (south Auckland) and warmer winters almost immediately after the 10km move some years ago.

Even the immediate areas of Howick can vary as elevations range from sea level to approximately 100m.

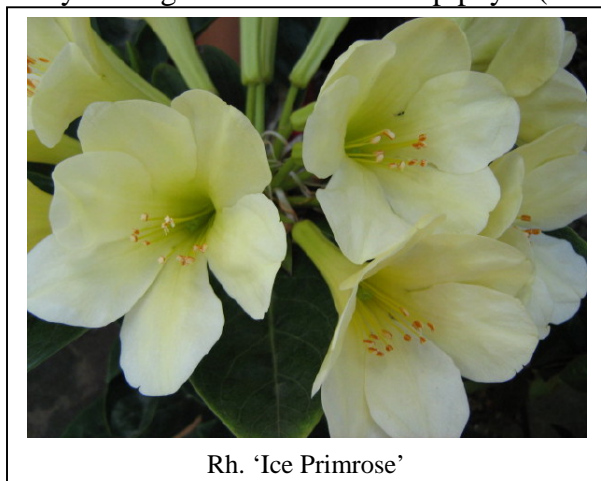


Rh. 'Flash Dance'

We grow frangipani and flower them quite well on our deck (north facing) and other subtropicals such as Vireya rhododendrons outside with a little shelter. In fact the rhodos are doing so well we now have over 40 in large pots in the courtyard next to some orchid shelves and they are shaded by some overhanging climbers. They are sheltered from the prevailing westerly by a timber fence, which also provides afternoon shade; they receive (and relish) the

morning sun and are watered at the same time as the orchids.

Learning to grow these well took a little time but it was the Wellington Botanic gardens that gave us the real clues. Here they grow them hanging up high in ponga baskets in a warm house next to various other subtropicals and orchids. They are in many cases grown similar to an epiphyte (many are regarded as these) so my potting



Rh. 'Ice Primrose'

mix was adapted to mimic these conditions. The commercial 'Just' mix from 'The Warehouse' was fairly open to start with so by adding some pumice and bark the mix became friable and free draining. The large unglazed pots also dry out quickly and these are crocked just like the orchids to about one third with polystyrene and large lumps of bark and charcoal.

Further research shows these plants live in the rotting detritus from trees so the sludge and solids from the

worm farm is used as mulch. Most rhodos have a very fine root ball and are surface feeders so this is ideal. Even old 'leggy' plants that were reluctant to produce new growth from lower down responded very quickly to the worm compost with new shoots sprouting everywhere.



Rh. 'Scented Sun'



Rh. 'Solar Flare'

Some growers advise to cut them back heavily to produce new growth (commonly on the label). One very knowledgeable commercial grower told me that they don't all like this treatment and this can kill some types. Another important cultural tip is they do not like to be buffeted by the wind as this can cause the stem to break away from the root ball resulting in death.

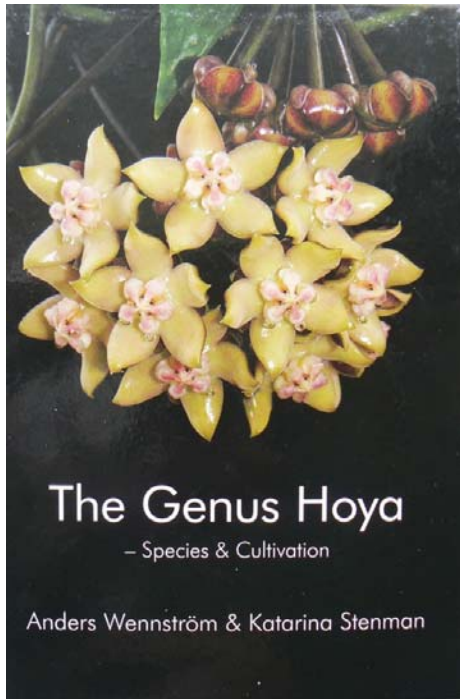
So what is so special about these plants to me? Well the flowers are quite spectacular and they come in a large range of colours, scents and sizes but most importantly we have found many will flower twice and even three times a year. They are also very reasonably priced, with Roger Hunter (Mangere, Auckland) selling an excellent range of quality plants in 2009 for \$10 to \$12. We even managed to pick out some species in amongst the jammed shelves and with a catalogue for reference were able to get a good

selection.

Some problems you may encounter are thrips (attack undersides of leaves) or fungal root rot (phytophthora). These are not difficult to overcome, the second usually caused by the mix remaining too wet.

They make a nice companion plant to your orchids, grow in similar conditions and as well as the flowers, have nice foliage and come in a variety of colours, shapes and sizes. It may be of interest (if you didn't know already) that some notable orchid people were involved with the early hybridisations and marketing of vireyas. Ewen Perrot was one.

(All photos by Glenn Poffley)



Book Review

The Genus Hoya – Species and Cultivation
By Anders Wennström and Katarina Stenman

Hoyas are a genus of (mostly) climbing plants from the subtropical and tropical areas of South East Asia, northern Australia and the Pacific. They have a small but faithful following of growers in New Zealand and elsewhere in the world. Many households have a plant of *Hoya carnososa* twining around their living room or sunporch/conservatory. The semi-shrubby *Hoya bella* is also frequently seen, usually in a hanging basket or pot. There is still one specialist group, which seems to be variously known as The Wellington Hoya and Epiphyllum Society, or The Wellington Hoya and Epiphytic Plant Society

(<http://www.epihoya.freewebsitehosting.com/>). An article, from this society, on various Hoya species, appeared in Issue 4 of the NZ Internet Orchid Review.

There is not a great variety of literature available on Hoyas – certainly nothing compared to the huge abundance of books on orchids. The few books available are generally very expensive and rather controversial in their treatment of taxonomy and nomenclature. So it is a pleasant relief to come across a smallish but beautifully produced volume from Botanova AB in Sweden. The authors have previously written books on Hoyas in Swedish but this is their first such venture in the English language. The language is occasionally slightly stilted, but the book is extremely readable. The book is a limited edition, with only 2000 copies printed.

Initial short chapters introduce the genus *Hoya*, discuss its taxonomy, together with that of some closely related genera, its occurrence in the wild, the morphology of the plants and flowers, their cultivation and propagation. This section is adequate although I would have liked to have seen some discussion on suitable structures for the climbing species to climb on, and also a section on pests and diseases.

This is followed by the main feature of the book, 118 pages detailing 118 species from the (very) approximately 360 known species. Each species receives a detailed description, together with excellent close-up photographs of flowers and foliage, plus hints on appropriate cultivation methods. Any particular cultural peculiarities are highlighted. The majority of the better-known species are covered.

The book is not a cheap one, but it is up to date, and well produced. If you have a keen interest in Hoyas I can thoroughly recommend it.

Price NZ\$105 plus \$6 p&p from Touchwood Books.

Nick Miller

Orchids as Garden Plants

Geoffrey Marshall (gm.jh@ihug.co.nz)

Many of us have enjoyed seeing orchids in tropical gardens growing naturally on trees or in the ground amongst other plants. As much as I enjoy a good potted specimen, there is something much more satisfying about a plant in a naturalistic setting.

Seven years ago we built a new home in Mount Eden, Auckland, and I decided that an area of the garden which was bare except for a large old pohutukawa would make a great site for a subtropical garden where I could naturalise orchids and bromeliads amongst palms, ferns and subtropical perennials.



Looking south: The orchid garden. It's a little bigger than it might appear, but not much.

The area is sheltered by the house to the East, solid fencing topped by hedges to the South and West, and open to the north where low Winter sun can shine directly under the tree canopy. We don't get any frost because of the shelter, and the cold South-Westerly that plagues Auckland is mitigated by the fence and hedging, but overnight winter temperatures can get down to 3 or 4 deg. C – this only seems to be a problem if it happens too often and last winter took its toll. According to my light meter the light levels seem to be lower than I would have hoped but this hasn't stopped flowering although almost certainly has reduced it. The greatest problem is untimely rain – the plants are fine but some flowers won't tolerate heavy showers. And bumblebees are a nuisance – they find a particularly good miniature cymbidium irresistible and fertilize them within a couple of days. I was getting quite a lot of damage to root tips, particularly on Dendrobiums, but spraying them periodically with liquid Mesurool had



Part of the orchid garden, showing how the ponga stumps are scattered among the subtropical planting.

good results. Since reading Tony Connelly's notes on the use of neem oil in NZ Internet Orchid Review 10, I've started the process of building up the level of neem in my plants and hope to see a big difference.

I don't water at all in winter or spring but start a bit in November and then begin daily watering each morning in December and continue with this until perhaps April. I spray foliage and roots with a weak fertilizer solution about fortnightly from mid-December, while the plants are growing well. I should

probably start heavy watering earlier and keep making promises to myself. I think if I did I would get a longer growing season and better flowering.

I prefer to grow species, tolerate primary hybrids, and can't resist some complex hybrids that I come across and think might do well. So far I've having some success, or better, with quite a number of genera including *Ada*, *Angraecum*, *Barkeria*, *Bifrenaria*, *Calanthe*, *Cattleya*, *Coelogyne*, *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium*, *Dracula*, *Encyclia*, *Epidendrum*, *Gomesa*, *Gongora*, *Laelia*, *Lemboglossum*, *Maxillaria*, *Miltonia*, *Odontoglossum*, *Oncidium*, *Paphiopedilum*, *Restrepia*, *Sarcochilus*, *Stanhopea*, *Vanda* and *Zygopetalum*. Some of these shouldn't work but do while others that should do well are proving problematic - most notably the *Masdevallias* (although the *Draculas* are fine) and *Brassias*, which grow well but haven't yet flowered. The most satisfactory are generally those that flower from early summer through to autumn as the flowers are less affected by wind and rain.

I'm thankful to Russell Hutton and Helmer Larsen for suggesting many species that might succeed under my conditions – it's been profitable for all of us – my partner often suggesting I'm merely nailing banknotes to trees. But they have also been generous in giving me plants that they believed I should try but which I was wary of. If there is interest, I will report regularly on what is doing well and describe problems that I'd love help with. I currently have over 100 different taxa being naturalised that are in various states of health from thriving to disappearing.



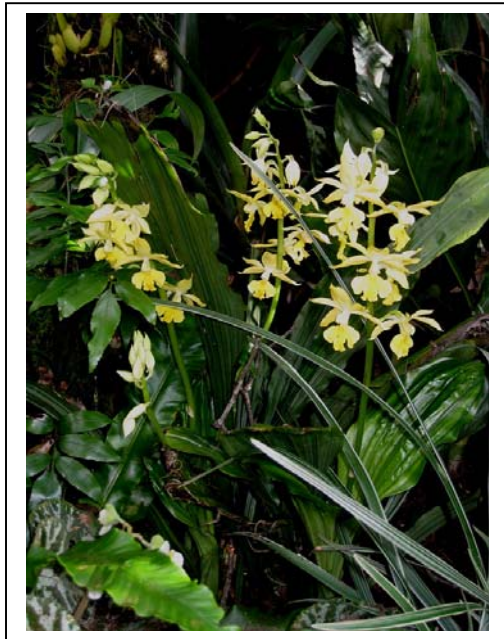
For now, here are a few of the things that seem to be settling in well.

Angraecum germinyanum: Bought as a cutting, it established rapidly on a *Dicksonia* stump and has grown quickly but the many flower buds it initiated all aborted until December '09. The failures were at all times of the year under very different conditions – perhaps it just wanted to be more established? (To left)



Barkeria spectabilis: Only it's second year but happily produced a good head of flowers. I hadn't realised it was deciduous and thought it had died so was very surprised when I suddenly noticed buds (to left)

Coelogyne mossiae: Planted from a small pot into a ponga stump 4 years ago, it has grown well but sometimes loses its flower spikes to the weather. (To right)



Calanthe Sieboldii: In the ground for several years, it has steadily increased and flowers reliably. (To left)

Cattleya intermedia: Grows well but doesn't flower every year – and when it does is easily ruined by rain. (To right)

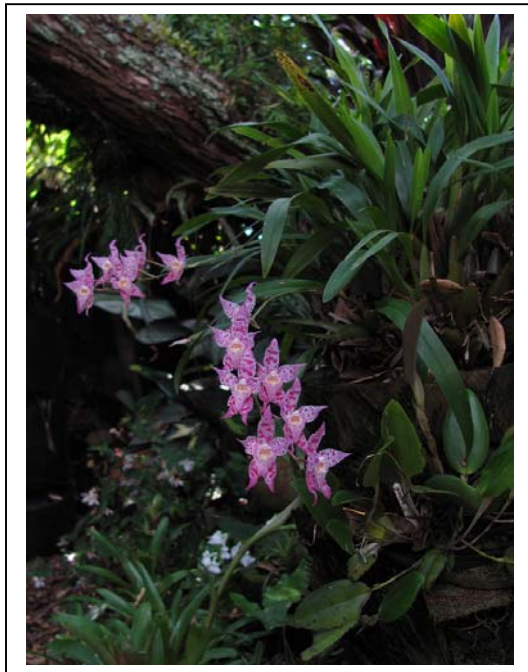




Gongora galeata: Growing strongly in the top of a black ponga stump. (To left)



Lemboglossum cordatum: Planted on top of a black ponga stump, it hasn't looked back. (To right)

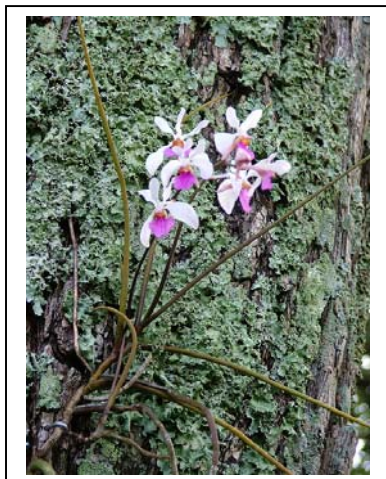


Odontioda Heatonensis: Planted on top of a black ponga stump, it flowers reliably at odd intervals. (To left)

Osmoglossum pulchellum: Very reliable in a ponga stump, but winter weather takes its toll on the flowers (Not shown)



Paphiopedilum insigne: I started with a good-sized plant and it has held its own, planted directly into the deep compost and litter layer. Other paphs I've tried have not found a happy home, sadly. (Above right)



Stanhopea oculata: Deserving its reputation as very easy. I wired a large division to the side of a main pohutukawa trunk and supported some compost under it with coconut matting. Flowers well as long as I remember the snail control! (See front cover.)

Vanda kimballiana: I first stapled a cutting directly onto a main trunk. It took well and a couple of years later I added another piece already established on fern. Both flower reliably but much later than in a glasshouse – usually March or April (To left)

Drymoanthus and host

Wilma Fitzgibbon (tony.wilma@xtra.co.nz)

I thought readers might be interested in the following photo of a *Drymoanthus*? It is growing on a 30-year-old avocado tree in Browns Rd, Te Puke, Bay of Plenty. A piece of plywood was nailed onto the tree to stop the chooks eating the plant.

[*Drymoanthus* is an epiphytic orchid species native to New Zealand.]



Websites

A Swedish company, Dusk Tropic, has developed a synthetic and durable replacement for tree fern fibre (usually derived from various species of *Dicksonia*). This material is made from PET plastic (mostly recycled) and available in various forms for use with epiphytic or self-clinging plants such as orchids, hoyas etc.

Apparently the reptile and amphibian enthusiasts are also finding it useful in their vivariums and paludariums (there's a new word for some of you 😊).

<http://www.epiweb.se/contact.htm>.

Questions and answers

What are the little white things that look like miniature tryphids on my orchids? They seem to exude a sticky substance and have legs all the way around with long feelers at one end. They live on the underside of the leaves and in the forks where the leaves grow from the centre of the plant. I have tried insecticide as well as fungicide. What causes them and how do I get rid of them please?

Diana Grant-Mackie. (grant-mackie@xtra.co.nz)

Publication Details and Charges

The *New Zealand Internet Orchid Review* is published on a quarterly basis, with publication in March, June, September and December.

The email subscription rate is **zero**. We would like to eventually publish a printed version (which would attract a charge), but there would need to be sufficient demand to make it practical. To date that demand has not been sufficient for us to follow it up.

Deadlines for copy

All written copy for articles must be emailed to the Editors no later than one week before publication date. A reminder will be emailed to all regular contributors two weeks before each deadline. Society notices and classified advertising must be emailed to the Editors no later than one week before publication date. If you are running late, please email the editors (ncmiller@orcon.net.nz). We expect the next issue to go out on Friday 18 June 2010.

A reminder notice will go to all subscribers and Society contacts shortly before each publication deadline.

Advertising

If you are interested in advertising in this publication, please email the editors for an information sheet. Our advertising rates are extremely reasonable, being set at \$10 for a page, part pages on a pro-rata basis. Graphics and photos incur no extra charge, provided that you supply them.

Classified advertisements, Society notices

These are published free of charge, maximum of 30 words for a classified ad please.

Letters

Feel free to write letters to the editor. As long as they are not anonymous, obscene, time-wasting or libellous we will publish them!

Question and answer section

If you have any questions relating to any aspect of the growing of orchids or companion plants, we will solicit replies from our panel of experts. Any responses received will be emailed to the questioner, and the question and answers will be published in the next issue. This way you can receive a prompt response to your question but other readers can subsequently benefit as well.

Spread the word

If you have any friends who grow orchids or 'companion plants', let them know of this publication. All they have to do to subscribe is to send an email. If they haven't joined the computer age and/or would be interested in subscribing to a print version, ask them to contact the editors by mail or telephone or else send an email on their behalf. So far only a handful of requests for a printed version have been received.

Please write for us

All submissions are welcome – long or short. If you're not too fluent with the written word, we are happy to edit your copy. Without writers there will be no magazine.

File formats

We prefer to receive copy as a Word document. If you have a very recent version of Word, please ensure that you save your document and send it to us as a .doc file (preferred), or a .docx file. We also prefer not to receive Acrobat (.pdf) files – we actually assemble the magazine in Word and don't convert it to Acrobat until we're ready to send it out. So .pdf files have to be converted to Word – a tiresome business. We are also happy to receive shorter documents as a simple email message. If you are sending us a Word document with photos in it, please shrink the photo file size (to, say, 100 to 300 KB) **before** you insert the photo in the document. We can't shrink the photos from inside your document, without going through a complex procedure. If we fill the magazine with 2 or 3 MB photos then, even after we have converted it all to an Acrobat file, those readers with dial-up access will get very grumpy!

That address again

ncmiller@orcon.net.nz

Please note: If you change your email address and you don't advise us, you won't receive your magazine! Typically, every time we send out an issue, 8 to 12 bounce due to invalid email addresses.

Society Notices

The Orchid Council of NZ has a web site that lists all the shows around the country. The URL is:

http://www.orchidcouncil.co.nz/show_dates.html

Bay of Islands Orchid Society. During the winter months of June, July and August the Society meets on the THIRD Sunday of the month in the St James Church Hall, Stone Store Hill, Kerikeri at 1.30 pm. Visitors are always welcome. Any queries, please phone - Lorna Sinton 09 407 3424.

Tauranga Orchid Society Annual Display, 24/25/26 September at the Racecourse, Cameron Road, Greerton. 10.00am to 4.00pm daily. Entry \$3. Enquiries phone Natalie, 07 5430847.

Waikato Orchid Society Shows for 2010



Waikato OS 50th Jubilee Celebration

- Sun 4th July Hamilton Gardens
- Display plus catered Lunch for Members and friends of the Society
- Guest speaker
- Not open to the public



Waikato OS 1 Day Spring Show

- Sun 26th Sept Hamilton Gardens
- Display and Sales table
- Open to the public
- Repotting demo's

Past Members and friends of the Society are cordially invited to join the 50th Golden Jubilee Celebrations on Sunday the 4th July 2010.

If you wish to be part of this event please email ray.albiston @xtra.co.nz or send your postal details to the Secretary, Waikato Orchid Society, PO Box 7101 Hamilton. Further details of the event will be forwarded to you in due course. Please mark your calendar now.



8th to 12th September 2010 Arena Manawatu Palmerston North

Hosted by the Orchid Council of New Zealand this will be a fully judged show featuring world class orchids in magnificent displays; lectures by international speakers; orchid plants and products for sale; incorporating the 2010 National Daffodil Show

Overseas speakers will include - Norita Hasegawa, USA; Rudolph Jenny, Switzerland; David Menzies, UK; Kevin Western, SA; Kevin Butler, WA; Dennis Diehm, NSW

Plan to be there — It's the place where your orchid friends will gather

For more information or to register your interest visit our website now;
www.orchids.org.nz
Or contact
6NZIOE, PO Box 5223, Palmerston North 4441

Classified advertisements

Information wanted:

In respect of some research I'm doing, if anyone has memories of Frank Gronwall, particularly the cattleyas he imported and grew, I'd appreciate if you could email me at lenb@actrix.co.nz.

Thanks, Melanie Brigden,

Wanted - crucifix orchids: colours other than red, orange, pink or pale mauve. Contact Barbara Parris, bsparris@igrin.co.nz

Wanted - I would like to know if there are any growers who may have any *Diuris* tubers for sale.

David Hutchins - dphutchins@xtra.co.nz

Orchids Needed:

Phal. bellina
Phal. equestris rosea
Paph. philipinense
Odont. rossii

Please contact: John Edwards, ph.07 544 3048, email: sowers@johnwins.com

Advance notice:

There is a new book on *Stanhopea* due to be published in mid-2010. The author is Rudolph Jenny, of Switzerland.

The Stanhopea Book

Rudolf Jenny (2010)

The book includes, beside chapters about history, taxonomy, pollination, habitat, culture, the documentation of 67 species and natural hybrids with more than 850 pictures.

The book will be available by summer 2010 (Northern Hemisphere). If you are interested, please send us your address and e-mail, we will inform you as soon as the book is available

If you wish to receive more details, please email Rudolph at:

RJOchid@gmx.ch

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Flasks of Paph Alex Szabo 'Tawhiri' x Paph Suzie Del 'Nicky' available now
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250mm Port Pot-\$4.00 incl. GST



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Contact Robert Bisetto 0431037372 or George Birss 0413581777 for further product information.



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178 Dominion Rd, Tuakau.

Labour Weekend

October 23 - 25, 2010

10am - 4pm daily

Nurseries in attendance:

K & R Orchids - Russell Hutton & Kimi Ishida will have a huge range of orchid species

Villa Orchids - Joe and Betty Vance will be there with a selection of fine Cymbidiums and Odontoglossums

Tuckers Orchids - Ross and Susan Tucker with a selection of hybrids from Cymbidium, Oncidium, Odontoglossum, Cattleya etc

Paradise Orchids - Ron Maunder and his large selection of Masdevallia, Disa and various Odont alliance plants.

Keith Goodwin Paphs - Keith and Vanessa with their selection of beautiful and some now hard to get Paph species.

Napier Orchid Supplies - Bill Liddy and a wide selection of orchid 'hardware' – real orchid pots, trays, pot hangers etc, etc.

Sunvale Orchids - David and Patricia Hutchins with a selection of eye-catching Sarcocilus and related types.

Other vendors to be confirmed.

Rare and hard to find plants, new varieties and the latest hybrids

Culture Corner
Learn from the experts
Potting, growing, deflasking
Most common genera covered

Continual refreshments including
Sausage sizzle, tea, coffee, juice

SOCIETIES

Bringing a group?
Qualifying groups will be given a basket of orchid goodies to raffle off on your journey home. Conditions apply
Contact Susan for details.

Got a problem plant? Bring it along.
Someone can help with answers

Looking for something special and unique?
Check with us beforehand and if we have it you can be sure that it is there waiting for you

Contacts:

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