



# *The New Zealand Orchid Society Inc.*

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## ***NZOS NEWSLETTER***

**April-May 2023**

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### **This Month's Orchid:**



**C. Memoria Grahame Leafberg**

(C. Highland Blush AM/OCNZ x C. Fire Fantasy)

Registered by Noel Townsley 28/5/23

This was a seedling I bought from Grahame a few years ago. Best known for his Aussie natives, he had high hopes for this Cattleya cross, unfortunately, he never got to see it flower, but I have registered it in his honour. (The parent C. Highland Blush was also a cross by Grahame that he registered in 2010)

**NEXT MEETING:**

<b>WHEN?</b>	Wednesday, 21 June 2023
<b>WHERE?</b>	<b>Meeting location:</b> Mt Albert Senior Citizens Hall, 3B Wairere Ave, Mt Albert (Next to our old haunt, the Mt Albert War Memorial Hall)
<b>TIME?</b>	7.30pm
<b>WHAT?</b>	Growing Stanhopeas with Yvonne Tapsell



A spectacular flowering of Yvonne's *Stan. oculata*

They don't last long, they are generally highly scented, they weirdly flower from underneath so can't be grown in a pot, but their strange and unusual shapes get everyone's attention.

Yvonne will give us a talk on growing these fantastic plants that produce these huge flowers from comparatively tiny bulbs.

Despite the fact that many Stanhopeas come from a fairly warm environment, and so would prefer it warmer in the winter, Yvonne has had great success growing these in cool conditions in her back yard.

Find out how Yvonne does it (see the flowering she has achieved in the above photo), and so how you too can achieve the same thing.



*Stan. jenischiana*



*Stan. tigrina*



*Stan. hernandezii*

**Note:** Yvonne will have some Stanhopeas for sale at the meeting for those that wish to venture into growing them, or are wanting to add some more to their collections.

## Notes from the President

Welcome to your new-look newsletter. I thought it was time to give the newsletter a slightly different look, something I was going to do for a while, but hadn't had time to do. Hopefully you will enjoy this new look.

Well, it has certainly been a busy time for myself and those on the executive committee over the last few months, culminating with our **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show and Conference**.

We brought in three great speakers from Australia – **Michael Coker, David Banks, and Clive Halls** to improve your knowledge of growing orchids as part of these celebrations. All three did a great job presenting the various subjects they spoke on – especially Clive, who struggled with some form of laryngitis on the second day, but somehow still managed to get through it all.

The show looked great, with some interesting and varied plants on display, both from members and also from a number of other orchid clubs who put on their own displays. We had a good number of the public through over the 2 days (instead of our usual 1 day), many of whom remarked how much they enjoyed the show.

We decided to make the conference free, so that as many of our members and other orchid people as possible could benefit from these speakers, however, in doing so, it means that we will have made a sizeable financial loss on the event, but we hopefully have given everyone who attended a much-needed boost in their knowledge and interest of orchids.

The dinner was well attended, with caterers doing a great job, and topped off with an enjoyable talk by Michael Coker on some little-known facts about orchids.

Having pretty much exhausted ourselves getting all the events together for the show and conference, we decided to forego the monthly meeting in May, which would have been only a few days later, and instead catch up on some much-needed R&R.

However, we are back up and running again for the June meeting.

This month's guest speaker is **Yvonne Tapsell** on how she grows her Stanhopeas so well. These are one of my favourite orchids, and I have to admit that, having missed her talk last year due to an inconsiderate driver, I was keen to find out more about them, so asked Yvonne to repeat her talk that I missed – I also know a couple of other members that also missed it, would like to hear it too and asked for it to be repeated. Stanhopeas are a very rewarding plant to grow so hopefully her talk will also inspire some more of you to take up growing these fantastic orchids.

Over the next few months there are a number of shows coming up, make sure you check them out – refer to the calendar at the end of the newsletter.

I hope to see you all at the next meeting.

Noel

## NZOS Ratified Awards

From the Autumn Show:

Plant	Owner	Award
Bulb. Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry'	Barry Baxter	CC

(A second plant was awarded at this show but is awaiting registration before it can be ratified)

## NZOS annual subscriptions are due for 2023/23

!! A reminder to those who haven't paid yet, that your \$30 annual subscription is **due now**. !!  
Remember to be able to vote at the upcoming AGM, you need to be a current financial member. Renewal is easy, just make payment to our bank account shown below, include "subs" in the description, and you're done!

If there are any changes to your details – address, phone numbers etc, just email that through to me so our records remain correct.

Please make payment to our bank account number **06-0115-0179194-00**

## Report from the April Meeting



Tea's up – members enjoying a break in proceeding at the meeting



Peter with one of the components from a watering system

This was our second meeting at the Mt Albert Senior Citizens Hall, and went a little better than the previous one, where some big event at the War Memorial Hall filled every available parking space – and I can tell you, they were still going strong when Richard and I locked up the hall at the end of meeting!

Peter Jenner talked about the variety of water systems available, what they do, and how you can utilize them in your orchid house, comparing how a commercial operation is run, and how you can do something similar, just on a much smaller scale, at home.

Hopefully his talk helped you to decide what system might work best for you.

Thank you, Peter, for your talk.

## A special report on the 75th Show and Conference



Well, this was a big one for us. As the oldest orchid club in NZ, we are the first to make it to 75, quite a milestone for any club, not just an orchid club, under current conditions.

Over the 75 years, there have been, unsurprisingly, a number of changes and major events - we created an internationally accredited Judging System, we won the rights to hold a World Orchid Conference in 1990, put on several exhibits at the NZ equivalent of the Chelsea Flower Show, the Ellerslie Flower Show, at which we have won several

medals. And in that time we have also had some very interesting characters come and go as members that I can recall – none of which will be named here!

Having joined the NZOS “officially” in 1970, but attending meetings from 1969, I realise that I have been part of that history for 53 of those 75 years. But we have someone who has done even better than that - **Sel Ross**, who is our last surviving Foundation Member. Although he wasn't able to make it, it was good to see his wife and daughter attended the show.

### How it all began – a quick history lesson

On 22 April 1948, at a meeting of orchid enthusiasts organized by the Auckland Horticultural Council, Geoff Laird proposed that those in attendance form an orchid society - and with that the NZOS came into being.

The first “official” meeting of the NZOS followed shortly after on the **12 May 1948**.

**The 75<sup>th</sup> Dinner**

On the **12 May 2023**, members of the NZOS and guests sat down for a celebratory dinner, **exactly 75 years later**.

Noel presented a short history of the NZOS, and then it was down to the dinner.

This was followed by a light hearted talk from our guest speaker, Michael Coker, and the event topped off with the cutting of the special 75<sup>th</sup> cake.



Some of the assembled revelers that attended the dinner



Guest speaker Michael Coker



The beautiful 75th cake



Presidents both past and present:  
Ross Tucker, Leigh Leaity, Noel Townsley, Joe Vance



Memorabilia and history on display



Winning bidder, Terry, with the book kindly donated for the auction by David Banks

### **The Show**

No show would be complete without the orchids, and there were many different plants on display, with exhibits from a number of other clubs all keen to help us celebrate the 75 Years. Plants came from as far away as Whangarei, Waikato and Napier to help fill up the hall, which they did. This was especially beneficial to the show as this is the time of the year when not a lot of orchids are usually in flower, although we do get to see some of the more unusual orchids, which is always a bonus. Our Autumn Show is usually a relatively small show compared to our Winter and Spring shows later on in the year, but the 75<sup>th</sup>, being such a special event, we decided to create one-off trophies and added a number of additional trophies in expectation of a greater number of plants, and it is just as well that we did.

Grand Champion went to a spectacularly flowered *Bulbophyllum* Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry' grown by Barry Baxter, sometimes a tricky thing to grow and flower successfully. It was so well grown and flowered that the NZOS judges awarded it a Cultural Certificate on the day.



### **Grand Champion Orchid of the Show**

Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry' CC/NZOS grown by Barry Baxter

There were of course a number of other trophies to be given out, from Reserve Champion through to the various champions amongst the Cattleya, Paphiopedilum, Zygopetalum and so on.



Lito being presented with the Reserve Champion Trophy, and also Best Cattleya Trophy

**Reserve Champion Orchid of the Show**

Rth. Village Chief North 'Green Genius' grown by Lito Teope

**The other trophy winners:**



Best Dendrobium – Leroy Orchids



Best Paphiopedilum – P & B Jenner



Best Phalaenopsis – P & B Jenner



Best Cymbidium – Rosella Orchids



Best Orchid Grown by a Novice – Jennifer Culthbertson



Best Cymbidium – Rosella Orchids



Best Pleurothallid Alliance – Anjo McKernan



Best Small Display – North Shore Orchid Society

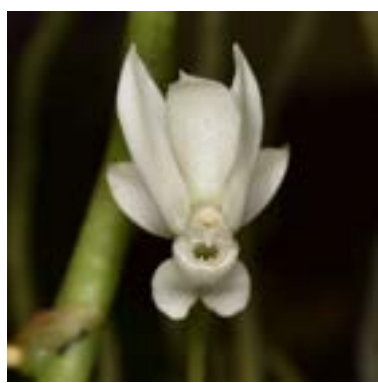


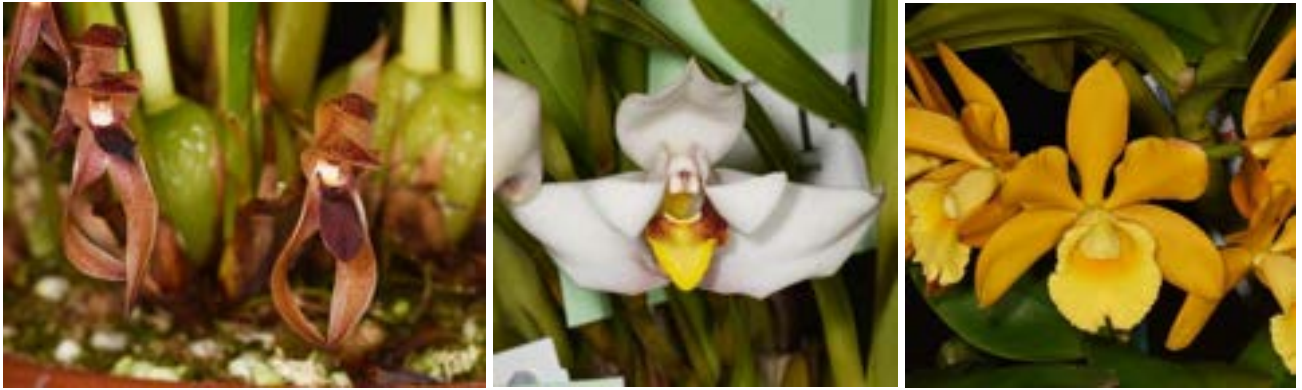
And not only was Barry Baxter's plant Grand Champion, but another plant of his, also won 'Most Unusual Orchid of the Show'!

**Some of the many plants on display:**











An example of *Rareus (Rss.) clive hallsii* found amongst the displays

### **The Conference and the Aussie Trio**

Somehow the planets aligned, and we were able to secure the services of 3 top speakers from Australia to add some extra knowledge to assist with everyone's orchid growing efforts.

There was a whole range of talks on such diverse subjects as rare species and growing particular genera, right through to practical advice on managing your orchid collections.

Hopefully there was something there for everyone – certainly there were a number of people who sat through every lecture, and there was almost an audible sigh of disappointment from some when the lecture came to an end, such was the enthusiasm for more from those attending. It was clear that each of the speakers loved their subjects, and that passion seemed to become contagious – to the point that we could probably have made a week of it without complain – except maybe from some worn-out speakers that is!

Interestingly, although all three speakers knew each other, and had spoken around Australia at different times, this was the first time that all three of them had spoken at the one conference. And David Banks remarked that this was the first conference that he had been to where he was able to sit through the lectures of the other speakers, and learn from them as well.

Our Aussie Trio did a wonderful job, and the extra knowledge gained will hopefully start to filter through over the next few years as our growing improves.



Guest speakers Michael Coker, David Banks, and Clive Halls





David Banks indicates the direction in which all orchids can be found



Clive shows the size he is expecting in his Sarcis



Even the lecturers took in other lectures

It was a lot of work to put the show together, and I would like to thank all those involved that helped to put it together, in what was a memorable two days of emersion in all things orchid. And especially, a big thank you to our three guest speakers, who did such a wonderful job.



With the show dismantled, the workers and helpers were finally able to relax

It was a great show, and I was glad to be part of it, but I can also say I am also glad that it is over!

Noel

## 2022/2023 FUTURE PROGRAMME AND UPCOMING EVENTS

**Please note, there may have been some changes of venue due to the Auckland Council's booking system, make sure you check here**

**21 June 2023** - NZOS Meeting Night & AGM – Mt Albert Senior Citizens Hall

**24-25 June 2023** – North Shore OS Show, Albany Village Hall

**7-8 July 2023 - NZOS Winter Show** – Western Springs Garden Community Hall

**19 July 2023** - NZOS Meeting Night – Mt Albert Senior Citizens Hall

**23 July 2023** – Waikato OS Show – Hamilton Gardens

**16 August 2023** - NZOS Meeting Night – Mt Albert Senior Citizens Hall

**18-19 August 2023** – Whangarei OS Show – Cafler Suite, Forum North

**25-26 August 2023** – Waitakere OC Show - Te Atatu Peninsula Community Centre

**2 September 2023** – South Auckland OS Show - Pukekohe War Memorial Hall

**8-9 September 2023 - NZOS Spring Show** – Western Springs Garden Community Hall

**8-9 September 2023** – Hibiscus Coast OS Show - Orewa Community Centre

**20 September 2023** - NZOS Meeting Night – Mt Albert Senior Citizens Hall

**29 Sep – 1 Oct 2023** – **National Show**, “Orchids & More” – Mystery Creek, Hamilton

**18 October 2023** - NZOS Meeting Night – Mt Albert Senior Citizens Hall

**28 October 2023** – Howick OS Show – Fencible Lounge, Howick

**4-5 November 2023** – North Shore OS “Sarc” Show – Albany Village Hall

**15 November 2023** - NZOS Meeting Night – Mt Albert Senior Citizens Hall

**27 January 2024** – **Orchid Fair** – Western Springs Garden Community Hall



This one is specially for our Aussie guests