



# The New Zealand Orchid Society Inc.

**President:** Noel Townsley

**Secretary:** Email: [secretarynzos@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:secretarynzos@yahoo.co.nz)

**Editor:** Noel Townsley ([ntownsley@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ntownsley@xtra.co.nz))

Ph: 09 8354652, or 0212664522

Website: [www.nzorchidsociety.nz](http://www.nzorchidsociety.nz)

## **NZOS NEWSLETTER**

**June 2023**

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



**Cym. Memoria Mick Hughes 'Lollylegs' HCC/NZOS**

(Splatters x *devonianum*)

Registered by Ross Tucker 13/7/22

This cross was registered by Ross in honour of one of our members, Mick Hughes, who was a keen Cymbidium grower and hybridizer. He was particularly interested in breeding spotted Cymbidiums. Mick and myself bought a flask of this cross, and shared the seedlings. Unfortunately, Mick passed away before any of them flowered, but I am sure he would have been pleased to see the resulting flower, and in this instance, one that the NZOS also awarded. Mick was a keen cyclist, still cycling and even competing, into his 80's. 'Lollylegs' is a reference to his comment that his legs sometime felt like jelly after a race.

**NEXT MEETING:**

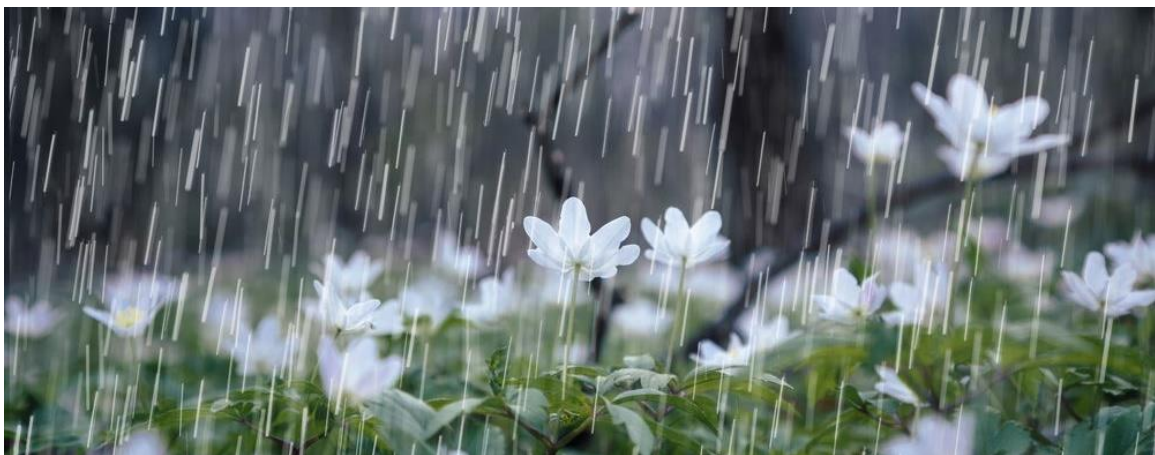
**WHEN?** Wednesday, 19 July 2023  
**WHERE?** **Meeting location:** Mt Albert Senior Citizens Hall, 3B Wairere Ave, Mt Albert (Next to our old haunt, the Mt Albert War Memorial Hall)  
**TIME?** 7.30pm  
**WHAT?** Winter Show Prizegiving, AGM, and talk by Greg Barnes on: How Effective Watering Can Improve Orchid Growth



Yes, there is a lot on this at this meeting, with a prizegiving of the trophies from the Winter Show to give out to the lucky winners, plus the AGM, which we can hopefully keep short. But with that, plus the prizegiving, we have decided to keep the talk tonight to something fairly brief, and so we will have a shorter than normal talk - just to make sure we don't run too late, and we can get back home to our nice warm beds. So, Greg has offered to do a short talk on a simple, but often overlooked aspect of orchid growing – the humble water.



Whilst his talk is on what you might consider is a fairly mundane subject – water (and let's face it, we've seen plenty of that this year) - but water is just water, right? However, water is one of the 3 most important things a plant needs, the others being sunlight and air. So, giving too much, or not enough water, will have a big effect on the plant, and its importance has often been overlooked in the past, but new research has given us a better understanding now. When we water a plant, the roots send signals to the leaves to start photosynthesis, and they in turn send signals back to the roots. This triggering is what helps the plant grow, but if done correctly, then the plants will actually **improve** beyond what it would have otherwise done. All of this is tied to the growing media, and its inter-relationship with the plant's roots.



Find out what you might be doing right, or doing wrong, on this seemingly simple, but very important subject.

## Notes from the President

Well, we only just seem to have got the 75th Anniversary Autumn Show and Conference out of the way, and now we are already having our **Winter Show**.

Yvonne gave a talk at our last meeting on one of my favourite orchids, the Stanhopeas, so hopefully everyone is now a little better informed about growing these wonderful and rewarding plants.

And yes, we are about to have our Winter Show, another chance to see a wonderful array of plants, and maybe you might even win a prize.

We will of course need people to help run the show, so any assistance you can give us will be greatly appreciated.

And then, later this month is our meeting, which has a number of parts to it, with the AGM deferred from the previous meeting, plus we have a prizegiving for our Winter Show, and as well a talk on the importance of watering from Greg – something that we probably haven't really thought much about in the past, but we should have been.

And a reminder, that 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 at the show and the next meeting.

Noel

## We need your help for the Winter Show



Yes, it is that time again, and we are putting on another big show. We need all the plants we can get of course, and also any help you can give on the setup on **Friday 7 July**, and also at the show itself when it is open to the public on **Saturday 8 July**. Any time you can give will be very much appreciated.

You never know, one of those plants you bring along could end up being the Grand Champion, or even a class winner – after all someone has to win it, and if it isn't there, it can't win.

And if not, you can have the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped contribute to yet another great show, and maybe get more people enthused about growing orchids, just like us.

## Welcome To New Member

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest member:

**Mahendra Jina**



## NZOS annual subscriptions are due for 2023/24

!! 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 June Meeting



*Stan. jenischiana*



*Stan. tigrina*



*Stan. hernandezii*

Unfortunately, they don't last long, they are generally highly scented, but their strange and unusual shapes get everyone's attention.

Yvonne gave us an excellent talk on just how easy these plants are to grow – if you know how that is.

Here are some notes that Yvonne has kindly supplied regarding her talk:

All the orchids I grow are all cool growing which means they grow in the shade house or in the garden all year round. One of my favourites is the Stanhopea orchid.

Stanhopeas come from Mexico down thru to Brazil.

It is an interesting orchid as the flowers are pendant. The flowers hang down from the bottom of the plant. Depending on the species, it may have 2 flowers on each inflorescence, or up to 7 or 8. You know when you have a Stanhopea flowering as soon as you go out the door. Some are in a tree 20 m from the house and I just have to see which is flowering.

### How I grow mine

You need a wire basket. Even a wooden slatted basket is not suitable as the slats are too wide and can impede the inflorescence from pushing through. I line the basket with coconut fibre to keep the potting mix in.

Then comes a layer of sphagnum moss. This helps to prevent drying out too quickly in summer. But not too much or in winter or it will keep the roots wet and cold. I use the same bark as I do for cymbidiums.

My house is to the south of an evergreen tree in which I hang the Stanhopeas. This gives some shelter from the cold southerly winds in winter. The tree gives dappled sunlight. Midday sun can quickly scorch their leaves. The plants under the tree give off enough humidity. Hanging them up gives plenty of air movement, also the higher up in winter gets them out of frost range. A tree gives shelter and a little warmth under its canopy.

### Fertilizing

Beginning in spring I give them a handful of sheep pellets to help get them in the mood for growing. From then on my feeding is a bit haphazard. Whatever is at hand, from worm tea, Thrive, seaweed, orchid food is watered in. NO feeding over winter.

### Watering

Watering increases as spring comes and the plants start to dry out, until by summer, it is daily or every second day. I let the water run thru the basket. By autumn I let the weather do the watering. There are some Stanhopea that require a definite dry rest over winter. *Stanhopea jenischiana* belongs to this group and when it was kept dry over winter it flowered for me.

Thanks for your easy-to-follow talk and notes Yvonne.  
Hopefully we will all be growing them better from now on.

At this meeting we also presented the prize for the winner of the Geoff Laird Orchid of the Year for 2022. This year it went to Rossy Fleischer for his orchid Fdk. After Dark 'Korean Dragon'. This plant was awarded both an AM, and a Cultural Certificate by the NZOS judges.



Congratulations Rossy.

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Plants on display - compiled by Noel Townsley









And yes, it was a night dominated by many *Laelia anceps* or their progeny, as Yvonne brought in a number of them.

Maybe we will have to get her to talk about how she grows them next?

**Greg & Lyn Barnes**

Rlc. Hsinying Scarlet 'Ching Hua'

**2nd**

Paph. unknown

Paph. unknown

Onc. Tsiku Marguerite

Rst. Drayton Pearl x Gom. *forbessii*

**Richard Legg**

Ctt. Bridal Beauty

**3rd**

Paph. Rosy Dawn

Paph. Poole 'Sundancer'

**Yvonne Tapsell**

*L. anceps*

Epi. *Ciliaire*

*L. anceps*

*L.* unknown (but clearly has *L. anceps* in it)

*L. anceps*

**1st**

*L. anceps*

*L. anceps* 'alba' (synonymous with *L. sanderiana*)

*L. ashworthii* – seems this is a synonym for *L. anceps* as well!

*L. anceps*

*L.* unknown (but clearly has *L. anceps* in it)

*L. anceps*

**Noel Townsley**

C. Michelle Obama

Onc. Tsiku Marguerite

Noel

**Wondering how to get to the National Show in September?**

If you aren't keen on driving, you might want to think about joining the bus trip being organized by the Waitakere OC.

Here are the details from Lee Neale:

The Waitakere Orchid Club is organising a bus trip to the Expo at Mystery Creek Hamilton and we are inviting members of your club to join our bus. We are going on Saturday 30th September leaving Auckland at 8.30am (probable pick up point is Western Springs but will be confirmed nearer the date) and returning by 4.30pm. The price of a seat is \$65.00 which includes the \$10 entry to the show.

If any of your members care to join us please let me know either by phone, text or email.



My mobile no. is 02102399941 or [leeandroy99@gmail.com](mailto:leeandroy99@gmail.com)

Happy orchiding Lee

(PS Our Club is subsidising our members by \$30 per seat and if we ended up needing a bigger bus than a 28 seater the cost would reduce by \$10 or more depending on numbers and the bus size)

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

With the postponement of the AGM last month, notice is hereby given for the AGM to be held on Wednesday 19 July 2023 starting at 7.45pm.

## 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**

**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

