



The New Zealand Orchid Society Inc.

President: Greg Barnes (Ph: 0274530024) **Secretary:** Email: secretarynzos@yahoo.co.nz

Editor: Noel Townsley (ntownsley@xtra.co.nz) Ph: 09 8354652, or 0212664522

Website: www.nzorchidsociety.nz

NZOS NEWSLETTER

September 2023

In this issue:

Next meeting

Notes from the President

Report from our last meeting

Reminders

Notices

New day meeting/garden visit

Report on our Spring Show

Some club's shows still to come

New members

The NZOS at the National Show

Important Dates

Iwitahi Working Bee

This Month's Orchid:



Stanhopea embreei

Stanhopeas have amazing flowers, however, they last only about 3-5 days.

They have quite small bulbs, but are able to produce large, scented, and very waxy flowers.

The flower of this Ecuadorian species was only described in 1975, and was named after Alvin Embree, an American orchidologist. It is found growing in a wide variety of conditions, although it is probably best categorized as an "intermediate" grower.

I have had no problems growing it in cool conditions (but protected from frost), and of course it is in a basket due to its habit of sending flower spikes straight down. Like most Stanhopeas, when the flower spikes appear, they quickly lengthen, and the flowers open up in a short space of time. A plant that is well worth growing.

Follow this link to an excellent short video (25 minutes compressed into 16 seconds) of the flower opening:

<https://youtu.be/SvNGmnbX9U>

NEXT MEETING:

WHEN?	Wednesday, 18 October 2023
WHERE?	<u>Meeting location:</u> 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?	Guest Speaker – Actually an excellent Webinar on growing Bulbophyllum from the American Orchid Society



The full title of this webinar is “**How to Buy & Grow Bulbophyllum with Charles Wilson**”.

Bulbophyllum is a genus of mostly epiphytic and lithophytic orchids. It is the largest genus in the orchid family and one of the largest genera of flowering plants in the world, with more than 2,000 species.

The webinar is presented by Charles Wilson. Charles is a member of the Species Identification Task Force and chair of the Conservation Committee. He has been growing orchids for over 40 years and his special interests range from Bulbophyllums, Cattleyas and Coelogynes, to Dendrobiums and Paphs and about everything in-between.

He holds a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Zoology and Animal Behavior from Oklahoma State University. He is a past president and lifetime member of the Memphis Orchid Society and retired as Director of the Memphis Zoo in 2001.

Although his talk is about Bulbophyllum, there is also a lot of practical and straight forward advice that will help in regards to other orchids, in particular, a very simple bark mix that, with a little tweak, can be used to grow virtually every type of orchid.

So, come along and find out more about how to grow these orchids, that are relatively easy to grow once you know how, and how the knowledge you gain can be applied to growing other genera as well.

Notes from the President

For our last club meeting, Anjo talked about repotting and growing cymbidiums, and I shared a bit about the different fertiliser strategies. We had a good question-and-answer time after the presentations as well.

The club put on a lovely display at the 10th National Orchid Expo, and it was great to really immerse ourselves in orchids with so many of them on display in the one place.

I would like to thank all the members who provided plants and to Noel, Yvonne, Martin and Anjo, who helped set up and take down the display.

In response to numerous requests for daytime meetings, I am happy to announce that we are holding our first meeting and garden visit this month, at the home of Sandra and Bob Moore. Please see below for further details.

Sandra is well known in the orchid growing scene with many years of growing experience. She has several greenhouses and will give us a guided tour of her setup. I am sure she will have a few plants for sale as well. I would like to thank her in advance for offering her home and gardens to visit. We look forward to seeing you there!

And don't forget our upcoming meeting, which should provide a lot of growing tips for you all on growing orchids, even if you don't specifically grow Bulbophyllums.

Greg

A special extra daytime meeting and garden visit for members

Our inaugural meeting and garden visit will be hosted by Sandra & Bob Moore.

- **Date:** Saturday 21st October
- **Time:** from 2-4pm
- **Location:** 35 Trelawn Place, Cockle Bay

The meeting will be casual in nature, offering a unique opportunity to see how other people grow their plants and pick up some tips along the way.

You are welcome to bring plants to show and to sell.

Kindly Note: Please bring a small dish to share and your choice of beverage.

Tea & coffee will be provided.

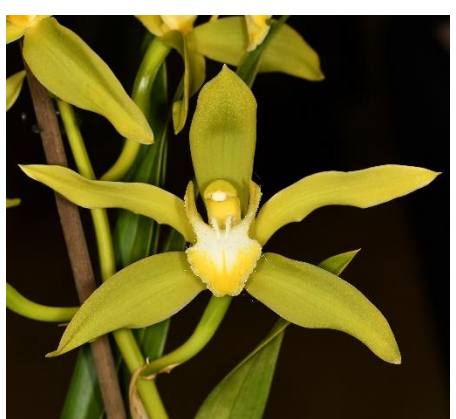
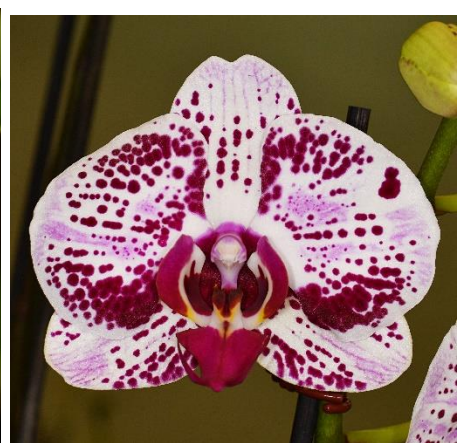
Report from the NZOS Spring Show

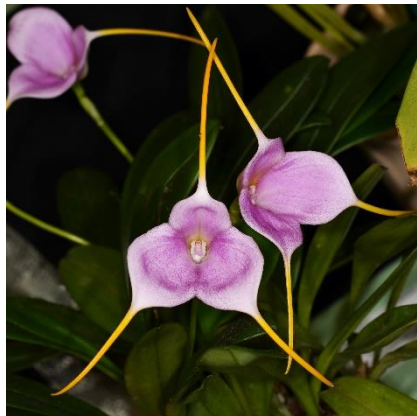
Well, we managed to get a relatively fine day for our Spring Show again this year - not an easy task given the fickle weather this year in Auckland.

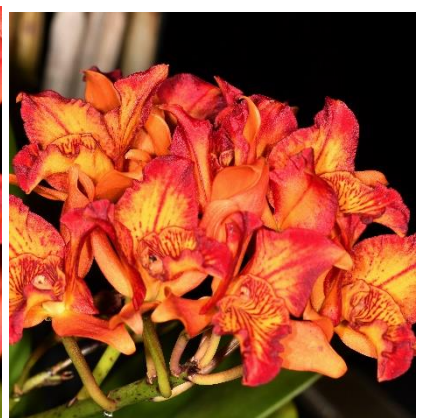
Crowds were again on standby waiting for the opening, and it was another great looking show for the public to marvel at as they entered the hall.

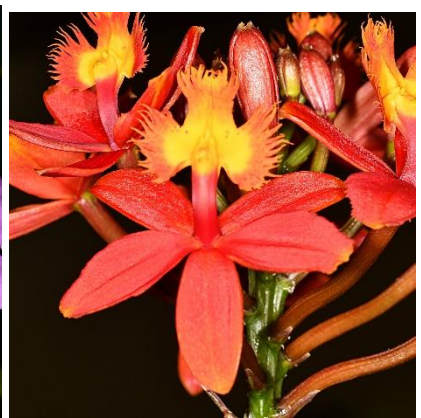


The judges had been busy the night before, with class judging and trophies all done – and there were also some NZOS awards given out to plants as well. It is always good to see new and different orchids, and there were again a number that caught the eye.











And the Show Winners are.....

Grand Champion Orchid of the Show (Centennial Cup):



plus

Geoff Laird Memorial Trophy (Best specimen plant):

Den. x delicatum 'Pretty Woman' — presented to: Leroy Orchids



**Grand Champion Cymbidium
(Society's Cup)**

**Reserve Champion Cymbidium
(Waikato Orchid Society's Cup)**

**Champion Intermediate Cymbidium
(Hazel Hanson Memorial Trophy)**

plus

**Best Miniature Cymbidium
(Frank Brljevich Trophy)**



Cym. Golden Boy
Grown by: **Ninox Orchids**

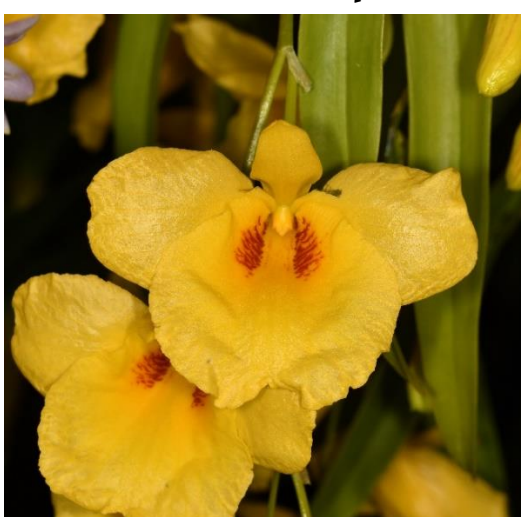


Cym. Memoria Marvin Gaye
Grown by: **R & S Tucker**



**Best miniature species or hybrid
(Joan Parker Trophy)**

**Best Dendrobium
(Ross Cup)**



Pho. cantonensis
Grown by: **Anjo Mckernan**



Den. Golden Aya 'Special'
Grown by: **Leroy Orchids**



Best Cattleya Alliance
(Beryl Calder Cup)



Rth. Leroy's Star 'Forever'
Grown by: **Leroy Orchids**

Best Odontoglossum / Oncidium Alliance
(Blackmore Trophy)



Onc. Tiger Glow
Grown by: **R & S Tucker**



**Best Pleurothallid Alliance
(Carpenter Trophy)**



Masd. Quaint 'Cardinal Haze'
Grown by: **Barry Baxter**

**Best Phalaenopsis and Best Novice Phal.
(Domandic Cup and Connelly Cup)**



Phal. Chian Xen Red Rose
Grown by: **Carol Boyle**



**One Pleione pseudobulb in flower
(Pleione Trophy)**



**Best Lycaste Alliance
(Alison Cup)**



Pln. Maypole
Grown by: **Barry Baxter**



Lyc. Murasakino
Grown by: **Anjo Mckernan**



Congratulations to all the trophy winners on their well grown plants.
And a big thank you to all those members who contributed to the show by providing plants and/or helped with putting the show together on the day. It all helped to create a great event.



Some of those involved in the show finally relaxing once the show was dismantled and the hall cleaned

Welcome To New Members

The NZOS would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members:

Ninox Orchids
(Hubert & Tania)

Toni Farnilo



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**. !!
 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 Noel so our records remain correct.
 Please make payment to our bank account number **06-0115-0179194-00**

Report from the September Meeting

Our guest speaker at this meeting was Anjo McKernan. Anjo is a commercial orchid grower, growing a large variety of orchids. Her talk on the growing and repotting of Cymbidiums and was followed by some practical advice on the fertilizing of Cymbidiums by Greg Barnes.



Anjo demonstrating the best way to split a cymbidium so as to cause minimal damage

Anjo reminded us that Cymbidiums come from a similar temperature environment to that of Auckland, however, the winters are dry, and the summers wet, so we just need to adjust our growing to that scenario. She also had a number of tips for growing them successfully:

1. If you have them growing outside and are worried about how wet they are becoming, then lay the pots on their sides until the rain is over
2. Repot using wet bark, so that you minimize watering while the plants recover
3. Any cuts to the rhizome to clear out old back bulbs etc., need to be sealed with Flowers of Sulphur or cinnamon
4. Allow about 10 days for the plants to fully recover from being broken up – water lightly during that time
5. Increase fertilizer (she uses a 10-10-10 fertilizer), once it warms up and plants start growing
6. Do not put plants into too big a pot – allow enough room to accommodate them for just two years of expansion
7. Don't overwater as that can cause root rot, but also don't let bark completely dry out either



Greg giving practical advice regarding the fertilizing of Cymbidiums

Greg's advice: Cymbidium orchids, known for their elegance, grow and flower well in elevated light conditions. This elevated light significantly increases their need for nitrogen, which is essential for supporting photosynthesis and growth. Consequently, the choice and application of fertilisers are important to achieve optimal growth and prolific flowering.

To understand the cymbidium's nutritional needs, it is imperative to recognise they have two distinct growth phases:

Vegetative Phase: Spanning from September to December, this phase is characterised by the orchid's focus on producing new roots, shoots, and leaves and priming the plant for flower production. A high-nitrogen fertiliser is recommended to bolster this new growth during this period.

Blooming Phase: From January to August, the cymbidium shifts its energy towards producing flowers. In this phase, a fertiliser with reduced nitrogen content is more suitable. This helps plants put their energy into producing blooms and less energy into leaf production.

Many orchid enthusiasts adopt a streamlined approach. They opt for using a balanced fertiliser throughout the year and still produce cymbidiums with good leaf and flower production.

The typical potting mix used for cymbidiums is not nutrient-rich, especially not to the extent that cymbidiums require. As such, they benefit from a weekly feeding regime.

Furthermore, when selecting a fertiliser, one should consider its nutrient composition. Plants require a spectrum of approximately 80 nutrients for robust growth and reproduction. A good fertiliser will be formulated to contain about 14 to 16 nutrients. Count the nutrients on the label and choose the fertiliser that has the most nutrients.

Much like humans require a balanced diet for optimal health, so do plants. To bridge the nutrient gap for the missing nutrients in fertilisers, a monthly application of high-quality seaweed can be beneficial, providing those additional nutrients missing from the fertilisers.

I spoke about using Osmocote as a slow-release fertiliser option but that it did come with some challenges with needing warm temperatures to release the nutrients. One of our members (Sorry, I can't remember who it was) mentioned that Nutricote is a better option to use for a slow-release fertiliser. The release of nutrients is more consistent because it is not dependent so much on temperature. The excerpt below explains Nutricote's release mechanism:

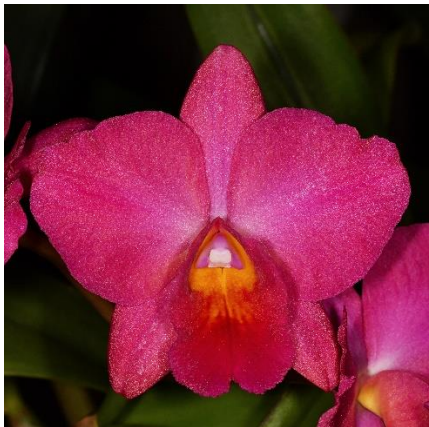
- *The release rate is controlled by a releasing agent, which is added to the resin. The amount of release agent in the coating determines how porous the coating is, which determines how fast the nutrients will diffuse into the root zone.*
- *Nutrient release is independent of soil moisture, soil type, soil pH or microbiological activity.*



Get your Cymbidiums growing well, and this can be the result

Plants on display - compiled by Noel Townsley





Vanessa Continillo

Masd. Curly George
 Ons. Margarete Holm 'Larkspur'

Rossy Fleischer

?? likely a Renanthera hybrid

Richard Legg

Coel. Unchained Melody (2x plants)

Anjo McKernan

Pln. Loulan

Yvonne Tapsell

Coel. *flaccida*
 Den. Bicentennial Blush
 Den. Tooloom
 Sarco. Fitzhart 'Red Virgin'
 Den. King Wong 'Big Foot'
 Sarco. *hartmanii* (Syn. Sarco. *aequalis*)
 Den. Tina's Heart

2nd**3rd****Noel Townsley**

Den. Bardot Rose
 Cym. Red Planet x Ruby Eyes
 Cym. Disney Girl 'Fantasy'
 Alkra. Peggy Ruth Carpenter
 Pths. *truncata*

1st

The NZOS at the National Show in Mystery Creek

To go into detail at this stage will make this newsletter into a book, so a fuller report will be in the *next* newsletter. In the interim, I can report that the NZOS had a display at the show, along with a number of other clubs from all around the country.

If you went, good on you, as there was a number of excellent orchids on show, and of course, some that you may not have ever seen before. You can see them in a book, but you just can't beat seeing the flowers "in the flesh".

So, here are just a few snippets for now, a much fuller story will be in the next newsletter.



The NZOS display. This was split into two with the theme "From Tropical Jungle to Concrete Jungle".



A view of the NZOS display from the other ("jungle") side



A view of the show with the various displays all but finished

Howick Orchid Society & North Shore Orchid Society's "Sarc" Show



There are now just two orchid shows left until the end of the year. Dates and locations are in the "FUTURE PROGRAMME AND UPCOMING EVENTS" section below. The Howick club show is offering prize money for the 13 classes in their show. The plants will be judged on the morning of the show by exhibitors and helpers who are present after set up. For each of the classes, a first placed plant will receive \$10, second place \$6 and third place \$4. In addition to these, the Grand Champion will be selected from those 1st placed plants in each class, and will receive \$75. A second place is also offered of \$50 (look upon it as "Reserve Champion" I guess), and a third place of \$25. The North Shore Orchid Society's 2-day "Sarc" Show follows soon after. Although all orchids are included in this show, it was originally held at this later time in association with the ANOS group, to try to capture as many *Sarcochilus* as possible as they traditionally flower in late spring, when many other orchids have finished flowering. If you are interested in putting plants into either of these shows, I have been supplied with the Show Schedules for each, and they accompany this newsletter.

Interested in NZ Native Orchids and want to help with their conservation?

You can help by joining the working bee at the Native Orchid Reserve at Iwitahi in December. Details below:



Iwitahi Working Bee & Native Orchid Weekend

**Friday, December 1-Sunday, December 3
at the Iwitahi reserve off SH5 (Napier-Taupo)**

starts Friday after 4pm
ends Sunday lunchtime-ish

**Includes meals & 2 nights' accommodation at Sika Lodge
(bunkroom-style)**

**Light/moderate track maintenance, weeding, etc
Orchid identification, photography & discussions**

We would expect to see Calochilus, Chiloglottis,
Gastrodia, Thelymitra & Pterostylis species in flower

**Saturday night will include a moderated discussion on research
& management plans for the reserve**

If you are unable to attend for the full weekend but would like to join us
at the reserve, or prefer to organise your own accommodation,
please let me know so we keep an eye out for you.

\$110 +/-
The more that come,
the cheaper it is!

To register your interest email tobymarris@hotmail.com

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

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

21 October 2023 - NZOS *Day* Meeting – Sandra & Bob Moore's home - details above in the newsletter

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

9 December 2023 – NZOS Christmas get together – AHC Rooms, Western Springs

12-14 January 2024 – Taranaki OS Summer Show, New Plymouth

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

