



The New Zealand Orchid Society Inc.

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NZOS NEWSLETTER

October 2023

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WOC in Tiawan in March 2024

This Month's Orchid:



***Cym. floribundum* (syn. *Cym. pumilum*)**

This little plant I came across at the National Show in Hamilton last month. *Floribundum* means easy bloomer or rich bloomer. An almost insignificant flower which most people would probably pass by today, this little Cymbidium is found across Southern Asia. However, while its stature may be small, its impact on the breeding and popularity of miniature Cymbidiums cannot be understated. According to OrchidWiz, this little plant has 285 first generation offspring, and an astonishing 4,241 progeny to date. *Cym. floribundum* has very small bulbs, leaves and flowers, making it a true "miniature" plant, hence why its use was seen as a way of making Cymbidiums smaller. Early breeding starting in the 1960's, which saw these plants generally crossed onto standard Cymbidiums to achieve a better shape and increase the colour range, as the number of other miniature species is quite small. The first generation produced famous plants like Sarah Jean, Mimi, Ruby Eyes, Pee Wee, Tom Thumb, and Dr. Baker. *Cym. Sarah Jean* alone has 122 offspring. Successive generations have followed, with little *floribundum* there in the background, but now with increasing size as more of these small plants were crossed back to standard cymbidiums again, thus creating the much more common "intermediate" sized Cymbidium we know today.

So, next time you are looking at a nice intermediate, it could have this diminutive species in its background.

NEXT MEETING:

WHEN?	Wednesday, 15 November 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 – Anjo McKernan on how to de-flask orchids



Buying a flask is a cheaper way to get a number of plants. If these plants are seedlings, then there is the chance of getting something new, and maybe something really special out of the flask, as each seedling will be different.

The process of de-flasking is often daunting for new

growers, or even experienced growers who have not done this before, so Anjo will show you how to go about the process.

With this knowledge, you can then think about buying a flask for yourself in the future.

Following the National Show in Hamilton, the NZOS took the opportunity to purchase two flasks of smaller flowered and cooler growing *Cattleya* crosses from one of the two international speakers at the Conference – in this instance, the infamous **Fred Clarke**. Fred is very well known in the USA for not only his Fredclareara After Dark, but increasingly for the variety of *Cattleyas* he is now producing, in particular his quest to get more blue *Cattleyas*.

Our longer-term aim is to grow these plants until they are well established and larger, and to then sell them to *you*, our members, at a good price. This will hopefully result in some extra revenue for the club in the end, but more importantly, give members the chance to purchase some excellent new crosses that Fred has done, without the need to purchase a whole flask of plants.

Anjo, who has her own laboratory, and so has de-flasked many thousands of plants, will show us how it is done, and then talk about what to do with them afterwards.

So, you will see these small plants as they come straight out from the flask, and get planted up so they can continue to grow on and eventually flower.

You will then have the knowledge to “give it a go” yourself.

Notes from the President

Thank you to all who attended the last meeting.

At the last meeting, we enjoyed Charles Wilson's insightful webinar on How to Buy and Grow *Bulbophyllums*. Some of the takeaways were so practical that our newsletter editor (Noel) has included a snippet about his approach to standardising the potting mix he uses and recommends. With Spring unfolding, bringing longer and warmer days, it is a good time to consider increasing the dosage of fertiliser and adapting your watering regime to cope with the increased orchid metabolism.

If you have not already done so, now is the time to start repotting your orchids. Something you can do to help your orchids cope better with transplant shock is, right after repotting, flush the potting mix with a solution of seaweed and fertiliser. Repeat this weekly for four to six weeks. Seaweed solutions contain growth-promoting compounds that can stimulate the growth of roots and top growth. By the way, a monthly dose of seaweed greatly benefits orchid health and growth. Looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting. Don't forget to bring your flowering orchids to share with the members.

A number of us had a wonderful day at Bob and Sandra's home where we got to see their lovely gardens, have a small bush walk as well, and of course, a look at the orchid houses. A big thank you to Bob and Sandra for hosting us on this special day.

And, given the interest there is for more garden visits, we are looking at another one early next year, but a bit further away, which will take a little bit more logistics to organize, but stand by as there will be more to come.

This month's meeting will be all about deflasking orchids with Anjo. Following the National Show recently, the NZOS has secured some flasks, which once opened, and the plants grown on for a while, will be offered for sale to members at a very good price.

All the best. Greg

Our first daytime meeting and garden visit for members for some time

Due to covid and other factors, garden visits are something that had taken a back burner for a while, so it was great to have done one again recently. Those that attended I am sure got a lot out of the visit. No matter how much someone might describe the way they grow their plants, you can't beat seeing it for yourself, and so it great to see how Sandra grows the great plants that she does. Here are some photos from the day.



A big thank you to Sandra and Bob for hosting us.

Report from the October Meeting

Our guest speaker at this meeting was Charles Wilson talking on “How to Buy and Grow Bulbophyllums”, thanks to the American Orchid Society’s webinar.

The webinar covered the many Bulbophyllum, the most numerous orchid genus, their different types, and also their cultivation. And there were a number of amazing looking flowers in the presentation - many were species, but there were a number of hybrids as well.



Now, for most of us, we might struggle with growing Bulbophyllum because, as Charles stressed in his talk, they like to grow warm, but the talk was more diverse than you might think, and there were a lot of tips along the way that can be applied to the growing of other orchids.

Among them, was his simple formula for his orchid mixes, as shown below, all using the same basic 7-1-1 ratio.

And then, with a small modification, can also be used for the growing of terrestrial orchids as well.

Bulbophyllum mix
(for finer rooted orchids).

7 parts small bark
1 part small-med charcoal
1 part small-med perlite



Although called a “Bulbophyllum mix”, Charles uses this small bark mix for not only Bulbophyllums, but all other fine rooted orchids, such as *Oncidiums* (think *Odontoglossum*), *Miltonias* and the like

Substitute
Medium size bark
in 7-1-1 ratio
(for *Cattleya*, etc
big rooted types)



And the larger bark mix he uses not just for thicker rooted Bulbophyllums, but other heavier rooted plants such as *Cattleyas*

Add an equal part potting soil to the 7-1-1 small bark mix to create a terrestrial mix.



And take that small bark mix, add some potting mix, and you have a terrestrial mix

Another interesting item from Charles, was his clearly handmade clips, and I think we all learnt a new word that night - thigmotropism. Unfortunately, it made me think of an old saying my parents had when they couldn't remember the name of something and called it a "thing-a-me-jig", however this is not the case here. It is really a form of anchor to press and hold the plant down, and as the image below indicates, causes the plant to start generating roots at that point, which in turn anchors the plant into the pot. In the past I have used U-shaped hoops to try to anchor plants until they can produce roots, however, using these has met with only some success, as pushing them into the bark hasn't been that easy, and if the plant moves in the wind, then the hoop tends to get pulled up and in so doing, loosening it's hold on the plant. By utilizing the side of the pot instead, should overcome this problem.

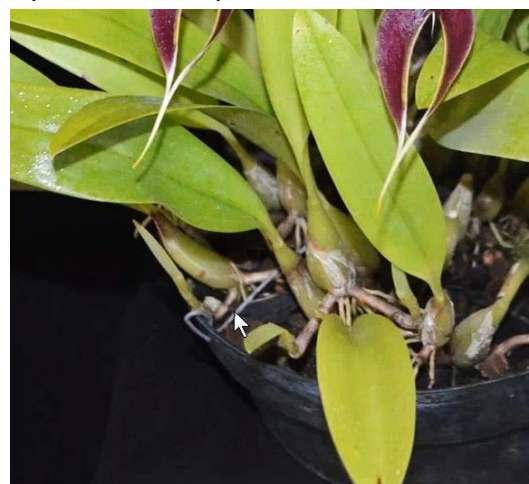
Use rhizome clips to insure roots are 'engaged' with the media.

(Thigmotropism - a directional growth movement which occurs as a mechanosensory response to a touch stimulus.)



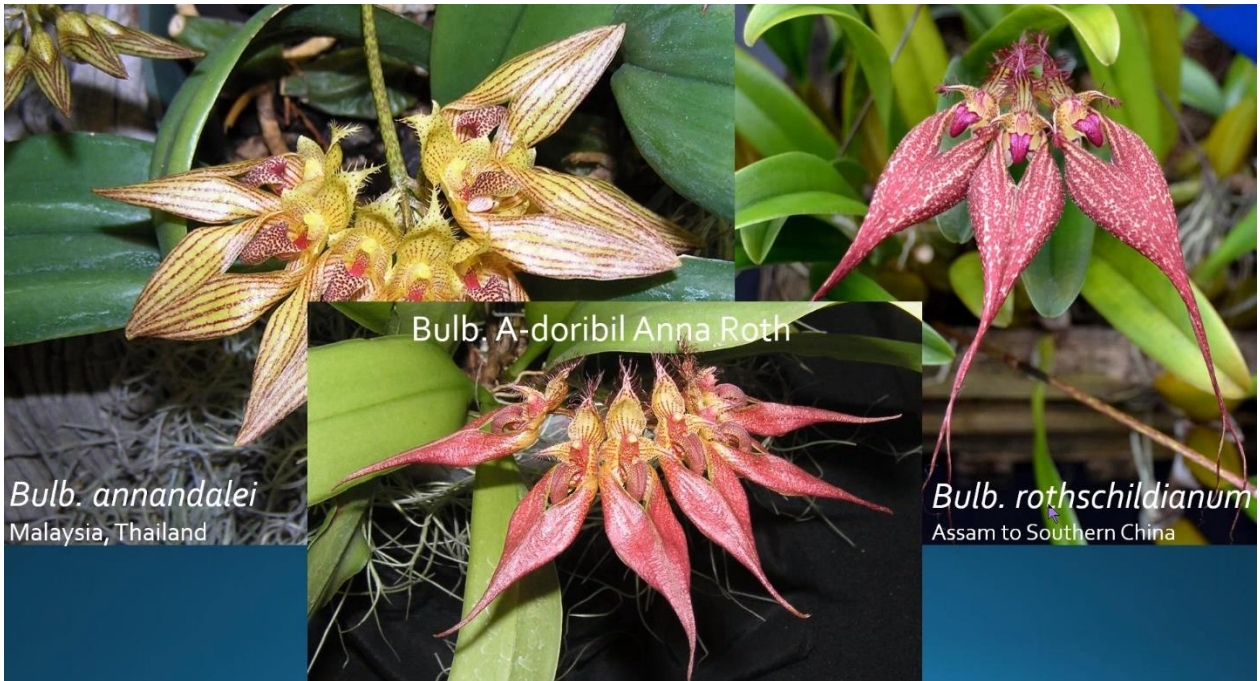
Rhizome clips. Thigmotropism – a fancy name for ensuring a plant is help in the pot

You can see from the photos below how these types of clips have been put to use.



A close up showing the rhizome clips in use – you will see they are attached to the edge of the pot.

An example of a Bulbophyllum. This is a hybrid of Bulb. *annandalei* x *rothschildianum* creating Bulb. A-doribil Anna Roth



Bulb. annandalei
Malaysia, Thailand

Bulb. A-doribil Anna Roth

Bulb. rothschildianum
Assam to Southern China

And perhaps the most well-known Bulbophyllum hybrid in NZ – Bulb. Elizabeth Ann ‘Buckleberry’:



Bulb. amplebracteatum

Bulb. amplebracteatum forma album

Bulb. amplebracteatum

Bulb. amplebracteatum, showing 3 different forms of the same species



Bulb. septemtrionale 'Chasus' HCC

(Section: *Intervallatae*)

New Guinea

This *Bulbophyllum* is a sequential flowerer, with each stem continuing to produce flowers for a period of 3 years!
Who knew that about *Bulbophyllums*?

Plants on display - compiled by Noel Townsley

We had another excellent collection of plants on display again at the meeting, despite it now being past the main flowering season.





Greg & Lyn Barnes

Paph. Fumi's Delight'

2nd

Richard Legg

Paph. *primulinum* var. *purparasce*

Den. Alison x Inferno

Cym. *lowinanum*

Paph. F. C. Puddle

Paph. *villosum* h.v. *graxtixianum*

Onc. Lyoth 'Ruby'

Paph. (Macabre x Hsinying Velvet) x (Eerie Flame x Nightshadow)

Yvonne Tapsell

Den. *kingianum* var. *silcockii*
 Den. Bicentennial Blush
 Den. Ellen (2 plants)
 Sarco. Fitzhart 'Red Virgin'
 Masd. unknown
 Sarco. Sunvale Heidihart
 Den. Suffusum x self
 Sarco. Ailsa (Dove x Heidi 'Ruby')

R & S Tucker

C. Itsa Blue
 Onc. Golden Filigree x Ons. Joyce Stewart
 Onc. (Orange Glow x Trithay) x San Elijo Gem
 Ons. Daydream
 Onc. Victoria Village x Wearside Pan
 Cym. Key Largo x *devonianum*

1st

Kim & Ken Young

Den. Roy Tokunaga
 Den. Sherry Abe
 Den. Comet King 'Akatsuki'

The NZOS at the National Show in Mystery Creek

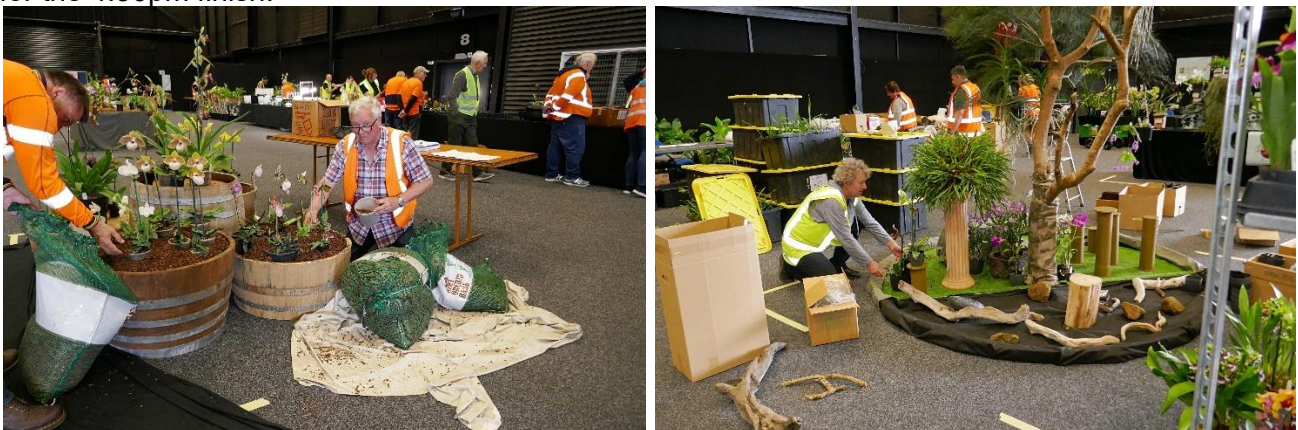
This is an event that only comes around every few years, so for those who love orchids, this was **THE** place to be this year, where a collection of orchid clubs come together to display their passion to a bigger audience.

Preparations no doubt started many months before – working out a design, constructing if ahead of time if necessary, and then of course the logistics of getting it all there, hopefully undamaged.

And so it was, that on 27 September, all of that work came together to create the show.

There was a total of 140 orchid classes in the show schedule, plus those for the displays themselves. This would keep the judges busy the next day.

All displays had to be started and completed during the day of 27 September, with judging the following morning, so it was a busy time in the hall all day to ensure they were all completed in time for the 4.30pm finish.



Displays under construction

The next day judging would begin with the displays, with judged divided up into groups. This was then followed by the judging of the plants themselves, with the results fully revealed by the end of the day.

There were too many displays to show them all in this newsletter, so I have shown a variety of them, and some that took my fancy in particular.



The Tauranga Orchid Society display - certainly one of the most ambitious, with a French theme, including a fully lit metal replica of the Eiffel Tower.



Ninox Orchid's display



Tuckers Orchid's display

Both featured plastic in different ways – Ninox as littering our landscape, and Tuckers as a tongue-in-cheek future of orchids, with a new everlasting variety – Phal. Sogo Yukidian 'Plastique' -just needs the occasional dusting.



The Taranaki Orchid Society display which had a scaled down version of their well known Te Rewa Rewa Bridge



The Hawkes Bay Orchid Society display - which included a nesting seagull



The Bay of Island Orchid Society display



The Howick Orchid Society display – a day at the potting shed

THE WINNING DISPLAYS

Champion Display & Best Display over 9 sq. m.



The Waitakere Orchid Club display - which included a live water fall

Best Display – under 9 sq. m



Whangarei Orchid Society

Best Table Top Display



North Shore Orchid Society

Best Commercial Display – Any Size



Growing Zone

THE ORCHID CHAMPIONS

**Grand Champion Orchid of the Show & Champion Hybrid
& Champion Oncidiinae**



Onc. Tiger Hambuhren x Holiday Gold — R & S Tucker
This plant will also be the recipient of an OCNZ and a NZOS award once registered

Reserve Champion of the Show & Champion Paphiopedilum



***Paph. lowii* 'Katipo' AM/NZOS**

Champion Cattleya Alliance



***C. amethystoglossa* — H McDonald**

Champion Cymbidium



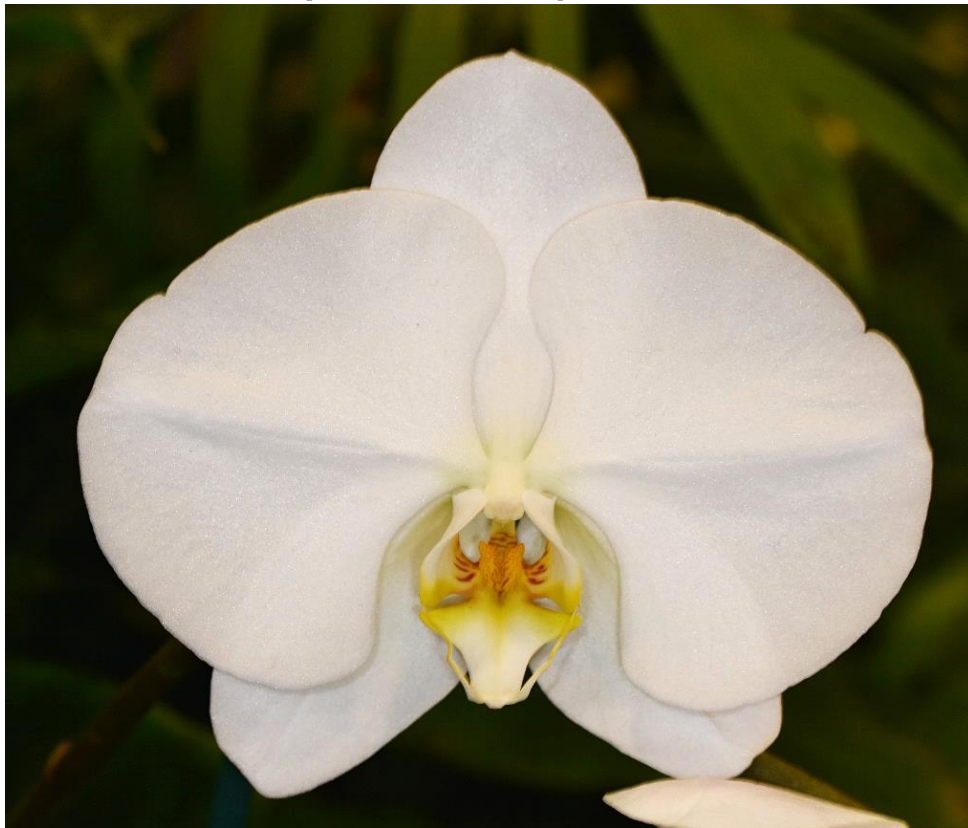
Cym. Hungary Gala 'Jane' — Jane Napper

Champion Dendrobium



Den. Fairy Moon 'Sweetie' — Lesley Newton

Champion Phalaenopsis Alliance



Phal. Sogo Yukidian 'V3-Shelley' — Lito Teope

Champion Pleione



Pln. Mambo — Jenny Mair

Champion Pleurothallid Alliance



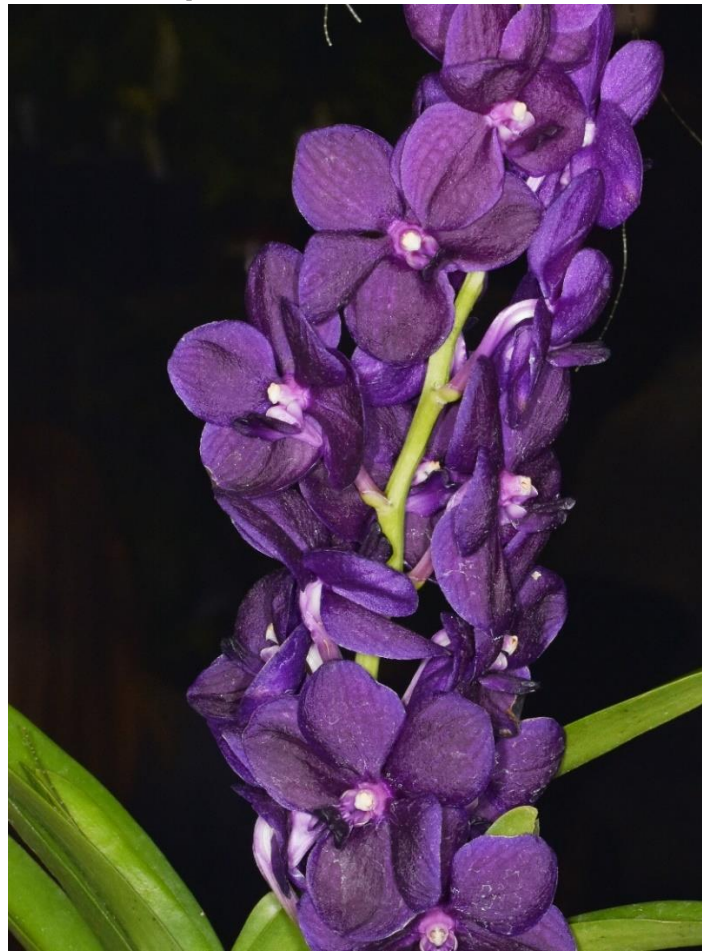
***Dda. zebrina* — Rosanne Fisher**

Champion Sarcochilus



***Sarco. Kulnura Ballerina* — H McDonald**

Champion Vandaceous Alliance



V. Memoria Kay Killington — Ninox Orchids

Champion Specimen Orchid



Coel. *Cristata alba* — Conrad Coenen

Champion Miscellaneous Genera



Zga. Queen of Adelaide x Zga. Freestyle Meadows — Nincox Orchids

Champion Australasian Native Orchid



Den. ruppiosum — H McDonald

In the next newsletter I will show more of the plants on display, including some of the rare and more unusual orchids that were at the show.

It's Coming – again!

Yes, the World Orchid Conference that had to be cancelled virtually at the last-minute back in 2020 due to a worldwide outbreak of Covid, is back on again. These only come up every 4 years, so you may want to consider going to this one. And given it is in Taiwan, it is likely to be a very good show.



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

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

25 February – 10 March 2024 – **World Orchid Conference** – Tainan, Taiwan

