



# The New Zealand Orchid Society Inc.

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## **NZOS NEWSLETTER**

**December 2023 – January 2024**

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### **In this issue:**

**Next meeting**

**Notes from the President**

**Report from our last meeting**

**Notices**

**Upcoming Webinar**

**Welcome to new member**

**NZOS Christmas Party**

**Important Dates**

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



**Gongora (Gga.) *truncata***

Many of you will be familiar with *Gongora galeata*, which is grown by many members, but not so many will be with this particular species. It is found in Mexico, Belize, and Honduras, and grows in a wide variety of conditions from cool right through to warm growing.

Like a lot of *Gongoras*, it produces a number of flowers on a cascading flower spike, so it is probably best grown hanging in a basket. From the photo, you can see they look somewhat like a *Stanhopea*, and that is because they are related to them, and can be crossed onto them.

These intergeneric hybrids have been named, and are known as *Stangora* (*Stga.*). The few crosses that have been done seem to have created plants that have larger flowers, thanks to the influence of *Stanhopea*, but, as most *Gongora* flowers are relatively small, a decreased the flower count, again because of the influence of the *Stanhopea*.

I have this growing at home, and have found it a rewarding plant, that flowers regularly, and grows readily in my cool conditions.

**NEXT MEETING:**

<b>WHEN?</b>	<b>Wednesday, 21 February 2024</b>
<b>WHERE?</b>	<b><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)</b>
<b>TIME?</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>
<b>WHAT?</b>	<b>Guest Speaker – Greg Barnes on the manipulation of your growing media</b>

Bark is just bark right?

Well to some extent that is true, but by adding a few extras, you can make that bark work better for you.

For example, you can help it retain moisture for longer, or dry out quicker, or exchange the air better, or help retain fertilizer for longer.

Greg has spent a lot of time researching and experimenting with different mixes as part of the business he had, which supplied different growing media to customers and to retailers.

He will impart some of that knowledge he has gathered along the way, so that you can better adapt your bark to suit your growing conditions, or the way that you water your plants, so that you can provide the optimum growth and health to your orchids.

You will then have the knowledge to adapt your bark accordingly and improve your plant's growth. This will be a practical, hands-on talk.

**Notes from the President**

As we begin another Orchid Year, there is a sense of renewed activity and enthusiasm.

Firstly, I'd like to extend heartfelt congratulations to Noel Townsley on receiving the NZOS Gold Medal. This award is a testament to Noel's tremendous effort in supporting NZOS throughout his lifetime. Although he's a person of few words, his dedication to the welfare of NZOS has been unwavering. Particularly in the last decade or more, Noel has played a crucial role in keeping NZOS functioning. His willingness to assist with various tasks and his valuable advice and counsel in club matters as the incumbent president are deeply appreciated.

Congratulations, Noel, on this well-deserved honour.

Last year ended with our Christmas function, which, unfortunately, Lyn and I missed due to illness. It sounds like everyone had a good time. I only wish we could have been there.

We've planned an exciting program for this year. It starts with a visit to Allan Benson and Roger Gass near Thames. A write-up about the outing will be in next month's newsletter.

And we have our first meeting for the year this month, which will be a practical session around growing media, and how to get the best from it.

A few days after that is our webinar, on February 24th. Eric Sauer will discuss the cultivation of the less commonly grown Phragmipedium orchids. Having watched Eric's webinar previously, I can attest to its quality. It is one of the more informative online orchid webinars I've watched. Eric has travelled often to South America to study these orchids in their natural habitat, which has given him unique insights, which he translates into practical growing advice.

Details on how to join the webinar can be found later in the newsletter.

As always, please keep an eye on our website for updates, and details of upcoming events.

All the best. Greg

**Welcome To New Members**

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

**Kathie Figgins**



## Brief report on the Christmas Party held at Western Springs

Held at the AHC rooms in Western Springs, we had a pre-Christmas party for members, which was very well attended. It was a very relaxed and informal event, and I think a good time was had by all. There was also a great selection of food brought along by members to choose from which was enjoyed by all.

There were a number of plants brought along by members to view, but being an informal meeting, we did not have a plant commentary or popular vote session, instead we just enjoying the plants that were on show, and there were a few that are not often seen, so it was great to see these.

The NZOS judges had a brief meeting beforehand, at which votes were cast for the Geoff Laid Orchid of the Year for 2023. The winner of this will be announced later in the year.

And, of the plants brought along, one was also given an award. Unfortunately, this plant still needs to be registered, and then the award ratified by the NZOS Executive, so it could not be included in the 2023 Orchid of the Year, however, we already have our first award for 2024!

It also turned out to be an occasion when a NZOS Gold Medal for Achievement was awarded to someone – in this instance to Noel Townsley.



Joe Vance presenting the NZOS Gold Medal of Achievement to a surprised and delighted Noel Townsley



A great and relaxing afternoon was had by all

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**Plants on display - compiled by Noel Townsley**

Despite December being a time when not many orchids are in flower, there was a number of plants brought along, including some plants not often seen, as shown below.





### **Rossy Fleischer**

Aslla. *africana* (light form)  
 Aslla. *africana* (dark form)  
 Den. Kumiko  
 C. x *irrorata*

### **Richard Legg**

Paph. *delenatii* x Snow Squall  
 Paph. F.C. Puddle  
 Paph. *primulinum* var. *purparascens*

### **Glenn & Manee Poffley**

Epi. *parkinsonianum*

### **Noel Townsley**

Onc. Mozaic  
 Onc. Valerie  
 Lc. Joanna Rose '#1'  
 Onc. *tigrinum* x (Aloette x Saint Aubins Bay)  
 Pptm. Ada's Choice '#7'  
 Zga. Phyllis Paice (Phyllis was an old NZOS member who was very keen on Zygos)

### **R & S Tucker**

Onc. Kaleidoscope x Memoria Len Page  
 Paph. Hung Sheng Queen x Hsinying Web  
 Ctd.(that's a *Cyrtocidium* – was a Wilsonara) Kolibri 'Carolyn'  
 Ons. Aloha Sparks  
 Rlc. Hsinying Pachi Pachi 'Ching Hua #6'

## **Report from the "Orchid Fair" held on 27 January**



Fortunately, this year, the Orchid Fair didn't suffer from the same fate as last year, where the afternoon before, Auckland received it's highest ever rainfall, and severe flooding occurred across much of the city.

However, it wasn't free from bad weather completely, with some early rain arriving just after we had set up, despite the forecasters saying it wouldn't be here until the early evening, but it did clear again, and allowed us to pack up at the end of the day without getting wet.

There was a crowd waiting for the doors to open at 10 am as usual, and after the initial rush, it was just steady for the remainder of the day, but surprisingly, with a number of people turning up in the last 15-20 minutes before we closed.

As it is a small event, we don't have a show schedule with classes etc, but we do have a First, Second, and Third prize.

First prize went to Richard Legge with his very well flowered Stan. *tigrina* - originally with 14 spikes, but some had to be removed as they had finished – such is the short life of Stanhopea flowers. Second prize went to Philip Zhou's Epi. Pacific Volcano X Pacific Artist, and Third prize to Carol Boyle's well flowered pink Paph. unknown.



**First Prize: Stan. *tigrina* grown by Richard Legge**

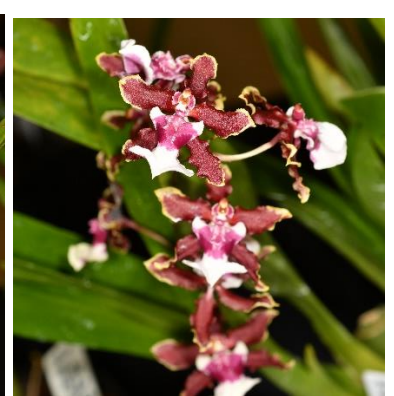
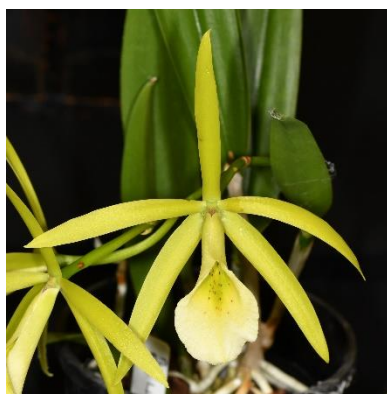


**Second: Epi. Pacific Kiwi x Pacific Launch  
Grown by Philip Zhou**

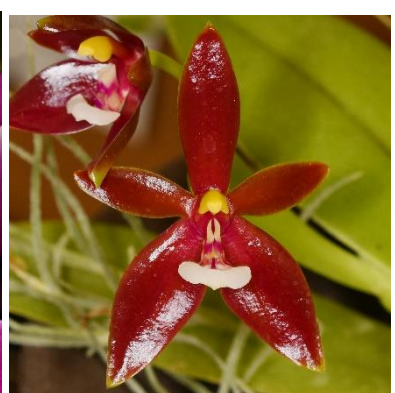


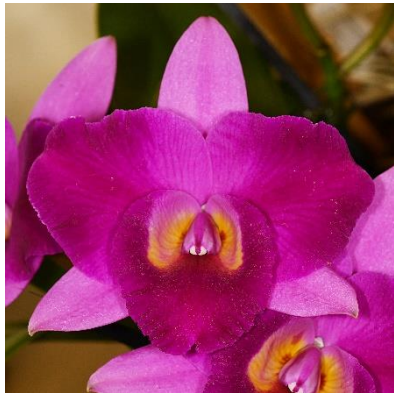
**Third: Phal. Unknown  
Grown by Carol Boyle**

Plants on display - compiled by Noel Townsley









**Greg & Lyn Barnes**

Phrag. Unknown

**Carol Boyle**

Phal. Fusheng Polar Bear

Phal. unknown

Phal. unknown

Phal. unknown

Rlc. Hsinying Aloha 'C.H. Super' x Hsinying Aloha

**3rd****Mahendra Jina**

Prom. Dinah Albright x Bushfire Rage

**Richard Legg**Den. *densiflorum*Stan. *tigrina*

Ctt. Something Blue (White Bridal x C. Itsa Blue)

Paph. ? 'Poole Sundancer'

Rlc. Hsinying Luna Gold (Hsinying Boy x Williette Wong)

**1st****Nebula Orchids**

Phal. Hsinying Blueberry

Psh. Elfin

Epi. *cristatum*Phal. *cornu-cervi***Rosella Orchids**

Vandachostylis (Vanda x Rhynchostylis) Lou Sneary

Vandaenopsis (Vanda x Phalaenopsis) Till Eulenspiegel

Sarco. *cecilliae*

Prom. unknown

Prom. Angel Fire

Masd. Firebrand

**Yvonne Tapsell**

Masd. Hot Shot

Pcv. Key Lime Stars

Ohd. Cherry Fudge 'Carmella'

Prom. Wine Light

Den. Paradise – suspect this is not the full name for this plant, please check label

**Noel Townsley**

Onc. Finial Fire 'Clown'

Ons. Papageno

Bif. Lynchmere

Alcra. Tahoma Glacier x Onc. Wearside Prospect

Ons. Wildcat 'Rainbow'

Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'

Alcra. Mosaic

Alcra. Winter Wonderland 'White Christmas'

Wils. Jean Du Pont

**R & S Tucker**

Onc. Phoenix  
 Aerth. *grandiflora*  
 Epi. Pacific Kiwi x Pacific Launch  
 Rlc. Hsinying Aloha 'C.H. Super'  
 Rth. Purple Rainbow 'Roo' HCC/NZOS  
 Onc. Kiwi Village  
 Ctt. White Bridal 'Yuki'  
 Cyr. [was an Odont.] Californian Vintage

**Philip Zhou**

Epi. Pacific Volcano x Pacific Artist  
 Pch. *cochleata*  
 Phal. *cornu-cervi* var. *vini* 'Wan-Kou'  
 Phal. *pulcherrima*  
 Stan. *tigrina*

**2nd****NZOS Webinar - Phragmipedium Species and Hybrids" with Eric Sauer**

We have organized a Webinar (via Zoom) with an excellent speaker from the USA, Eric Sauer (River Valley Orchids, Ohio) who will be speaking on "Phragmipedium Species and a Few of Their Hybrids". This will be at **2pm on 24 February**. If you are interested in this talk, mark that down in your calendar.

Eric has travelled to South America several times to see how they grow in the wild, and has some interesting observations from those trips.

To secure your spot, please register via the NZOS webpage: [Online Events - New Zealand Orchid Society \(nzorchidsociety.nz\)](#). The webinar is open to all, and we encourage you to share this invitation with your orchid friends, and anyone you know who is interested in orchids.

As is often the case, even in you are not currently growing Phragmipedium, there is often a lot of practical information and advice that you can relate to other orchids.

We look forward to seeing you at the webinar and exploring the captivating world of Phragmipedium orchids together.

**Amendment to the last newsletter**

In the last newsletter, I listed all the plants that were on display at the November meeting, but included the pictures of the plants on display at the October meeting again - a consequence of trying to put the newsletter together over a number of days when I have the time.

Most interesting is that **NOBODY** noticed! - or if they did, they didn't tell me.

Anyway, for the benefit of those people who did bring their plants along, here are the photos of those plants at the November meeting.







### It's Coming around – again!

Do you get the feeling of Deja-vu?

If so, it might be because, 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, and in the same place. 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.



**WOC**  
TAINAN **2024**

THE 23<sup>rd</sup> WORLD ORCHID CONFERENCE  
— IN TAINAN —



**CONFERENCE**  
Feb.25-Feb.28

**EXHIBITION**  
Feb.25-Mar.10

**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER TAINAN (ICC)**



**2024 FUTURE PROGRAMME AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

**10 February 2024** AHC Festival of Flowers – Western Springs

**21 February 2024** – NZOS Meeting Night

**24 February 2024** – (2pm) - NZOS Webinar - Phragmipedium Species and a Few of Their Hybrids with Eric Sauer

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

**20 March 2024** – NZOS Meeting Night

**5-6 April 2024** – Te Puke OS Show

**17 April 2024** – NZOS Meeting Night

**11 May 2024** – NZOS **Autumn Show**– Western Springs Garden Community Hall

**15 May 2024** – NZOS Meeting Night

**19 June 2024** – NZOS Meeting Night

**6 July 2024** – NZOS **Winter Show** – Western Springs Garden Community Hall

**17 July 2024** – NZOS Meeting Night

**21 August 2024** – NZOS Meeting Night

**14 September 2024** – NZOS **Spring Show** - Western Springs Garden Community Hall

**18 September 2024** – NZOS Meeting Night

**16 October 2024** – NZOS Meeting Night

**20 November 2024** – NZOS Meeting Night

**a scammer called my grandma  
and said he had all her  
passwords**

**she got a pen and paper and said  
'thank god for that, what are  
they'**