



# The New Zealand Orchid Society Inc.

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## **NZOS NEWSLETTER**

**May 2024**

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



***Dendrobium cuthbertsonii***

This little cool growing species from Papua New Guinea was very popular some years ago, with a number of members growing them. And given that they are small plants that don't take up a lot of room, but the flowers large, come in a variety of colours - some even two-toned, flower all year round, and the flowers can last 6 months, you can understand why people would want to grow them.

However, in practice, a number have found them to be more difficult to grow than they expected, and have lost them. They need to be kept wet all the time – but not so wet that they start to rot, and, like a lot of other orchids, like good air movement. They also grow well on a slab, something that our speaker Caleb talked about in detail last month. NZOS member Jim James was a keen grower of these plants, and we even awarded one of his plants back in 1992 with an HCC.

Only a few hybrids have been done using this *Dendrobium*, and most of those have been with other PNG species.

You will note from the above photo that they have quite distinctive spikey foliage. It is believed this spikiness helps to shed water from their leaves in the native wet forests where they grow, as well as providing extra surface area for photosynthesis. If you think you are up to growing it, they are a great looking orchid.

## ✦ ✦ ✦ NEXT MEETING ✦ ✦ ✦

<b>WHEN?</b>	<b>Wednesday, 19 June 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>AGM plus Speaker: Leigh &amp; Mike Leaity – What The Judges Are Looking For &amp; How Best To Prepare Your Plants For A Show</b>

With our Winter and Spring Shows coming up, it is a good opportunity to look at how best to display your plants, by making sure *your* plant stands out from the others. so that the judges will pick *your* plant out, over a similar one.

Plus, from an aesthetic perspective, not only will your plant look better when on display to the public at the show, but also you can feel better knowing that you have displayed your plant in a way to show it's full potential.



And what do the judges look for when it comes to the judging of plants in classes at the show, **and** also when it comes to the decision of giving an award for an exceptional plant?

Leigh and Mike will enlighten us more on this. Hopefully this will increase your awareness of what makes a superior plant, and whether some of the plants you currently have, might actually be of award quality. Remember, any NZOS awards that we give out are recognized internationally, because we judge to an international standard.

### ✦ NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

This time of year is quiet for orchid growing, and we are primarily in maintenance mode—watering, feeding, and pest and disease control.

During this time of the year, it's important to be cautious about overwatering your orchids. The potting mixes tend to dry out more slowly, so it's advisable to increase the number of days between watering. If you're uncertain, it's better to underwater than overwater. This simple guideline can help prevent one of the most common mistakes in orchid care.

One of the things to watch out for during wet, cold seasons is root rot. This year, I am applying Buxus Blight Fighter, which has activity against some of the organisms that cause root rot.

You can read more about it from this link: <https://www.grosafe.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/2022-02-Buxus-Blight-Tech-Notes-Web.pdf>

Another thing to watch out for is mould and fungus growth. Both organisms can be controlled with a good copper spray or Physan. Please see the links to these two products below

- <https://www.grosafe.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/FreeFlo-Copper-Tech-Notes-Vol1-LR.pdf>
- <https://www.physan20.co.nz/pages/physan20-plants>

We should start to see our plants producing their winter blooms, and with our Winter Show in 4 weeks, we should start preparing the plants for display.

At our next meeting, Mike & Leigh will give us tips on preparing and staking our plants. Be sure to attend their talk.

I am appealing for helpers at the show. We need floor walkers, people to help at the raffle table, help with setup on Friday, kitchen duties, etc. If you have a few hours spare on Friday and particularly Saturday, please get in touch with me for details.

All the best.

Greg

## REPORT FROM THE MAY MEETING

Caleb Lamond gave us an interesting talk on his obsession for orchids, starting with how he began growing orchids, and then explaining why he has decided to try to grow all his plants on slabs, as well as putting a number of plants in trees around his garden at home.

His dedication to growing his orchids on slabs has led to the upstairs bathroom and a lounge area being overrun with plants, so he is building an outdoor area for them now as well. The big problem with trying to grow them indoors is that they require more frequent watering than when in a pot, and also require an area for the water to drain off into, so you aren't wandering around the house in gumboots.

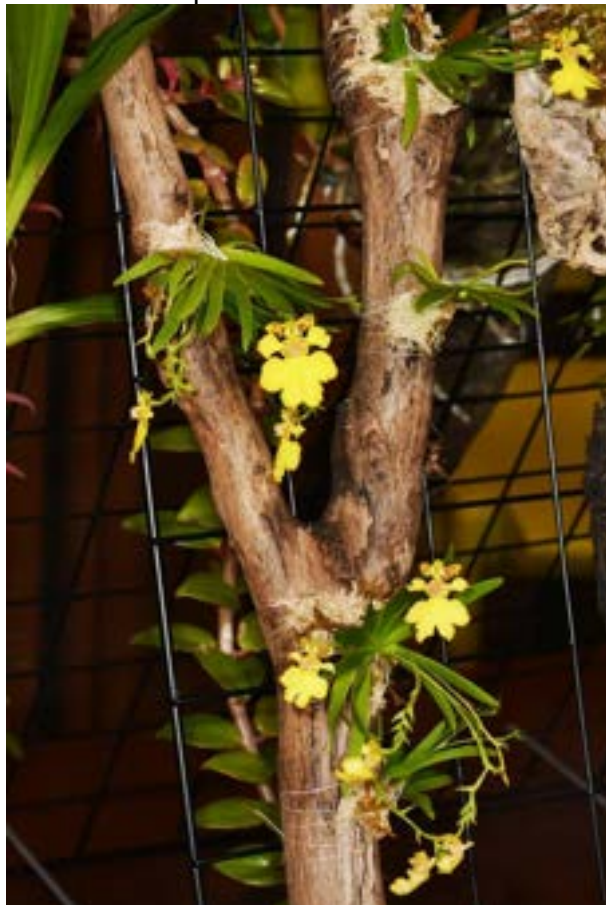
What Caleb sees as the major advantages in growing orchids on slabs is:

- They never seem to suffer from root rot
- You can keep a lot more orchids in an area than you would be able to with plants in pots
- They look and grow more naturally
- Many simply grow better on slabs than in a pot

Caleb uses elastic bait thread (available at your friendly local fishing shop) for tying his plants to the slabs. This allows for the plants to expand underneath the thread without it cutting through them, and will eventually break down even if you forget to remove it once the plant has attached itself. If he is using something like fern fiber to mount the plants, he will round off the square edges so that it looks more natural – when was the last time you saw a square branch on a tree?

To illustrate his various points, Caleb had brought along a number of his plants currently in flower for us to view, and it was clear they were all growing well.

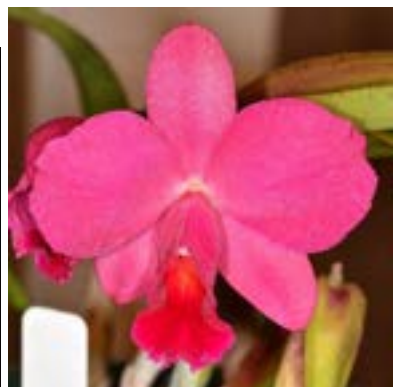
See some of those plants here:





Thanks for an interesting talk, Caleb, and hopefully this inspires a few more members to attempt to grow their plants using these methods.

Plants on display - compiled by Noel Townsley





**Richard Legg**

Paph. Gael 'Camira'

Z. mackayi

Hmwsa. Bali Quest x Milt. Guanabara(?)

**1st**

**Noel Townsley**

Milt. Eljahar

Rlc. Stippled Sunset

Milt. Bittersweet 'Black Rose'

Milt. clowesii

Whm. Ayy Vida 'Bronte'

C. Lindy-lou

C. Memoria Grahame Leafberg

**3rd**

**2nd**

◆ **TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP** ◆

Yes, it is that time again!



◆ For those of you who haven't paid your subscription for the coming year yet, now is the time to pay it.

If you are simply renewing your membership, then there are no forms to fill in, you can simply renew by using one of the payment methods shown below.

If any of your details have changed, then please advise Noel Townsley or the secretary at:

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

◆ It is also that time of the year when the various positions on the executive will soon be coming up for re-election.

***The society needs your help.***

**This is your chance to join the committee to help run the society.**

Our AGM is coming up soon, so now is the time to:

- 1) get thinking about what you might like to see happen in the club over the next year
- 2) think how you might like to contribute to your club over the next year by joining the team

To use well-worn phrases:

'Many hands make light work' & 'It's more fun in a group'.

We always love new ideas and new blood (so to speak) so if you would like to contribute to running the club, do let us know.



If you'd like to find out what it might involve, we'd be happy to chat to you.

◆ Please send in any nominations you may have for the listed positions, either on the form accompanying an earlier newsletter, or even just by email to the secretary - if you are going to nominate someone - please do ask them first though!

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

### Membership Renewal

The subscription for the 2024 – 2025 year is due by April 30th 2024.

There are no forms to fill out unless your details have changed.

Please pay your \$30 by

- cash at the meeting, or preferably by
- direct credit to Bank account number 06-0115-0179194-00

## ◆ NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ◆

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Orchid Society Inc, to be held at Mt Albert Senior Citizens Hall, 3B Wairere Avenue, Mt Albert, on Wednesday 19 June 2024, commencing at 7.45pm.

Remember, you must be a financial member in order to vote at the AGM.

And there is still time to nominate someone for the various positions on the executive, or consider coming on the executive itself.

## ◆ WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS ◆

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

**Barry Baxter**

**Gaye Tatro**

**Gina Brighthouse**



## \* NOTE: CHANGE OF TRADING TABLE COMMISSION

Following a meeting of the NZOS executive, due to the increasing costs we face as a club, it was agreed that the commission rate we charge for the sale of plants at our shows will increase from 10% to 15%.

This increase will come into effect from the next show, however, selling plants on meeting nights will continue to be free.

The shows are a great time to sell any excess plants you have, and at the same time help support the NZOS.

## \* MORE ON THE AUTUMN SHOW (a continuation from the last newsletter)

Carrying on from the April newsletter, here are some of the plants that were on display at the Autumn Show.











Once again, a big thank you to all that contributed to the show, and congratulations to the trophy winners.

## NZOS ANNUAL WINTER SHOW

Yes, Winter is upon us, and so it is time for our Annual **Winter Show**.

This will be held at the **Western Springs Garden Community Hall**.

Set up day is Friday **5 July** with judging later on that day – refer to the show schedule accompanying this newsletter for full details.

And the show will open to the public on Saturday **6 July** from 10am to 4pm.

We will of course need as many as plants as possible to make the show a spectacle for the public.



Plus, we will need help at setup, and during the show itself, so any time you can give here 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.

## \* NORTH SHORE OS WINTER SHOW

For anyone who is wanting to put their plants into the North Shore Orchid Society's Winter Show, Peter Jenner has asked if you can please let him know by emailing him at:

[northshoreorchidsoc@gmail.com](mailto:northshoreorchidsoc@gmail.com)

Show set up will be Friday 28th June at 3.00pm onwards, and will finish on Sunday 30th June at 3.00pm.

## \* 2024/2025 FUTURE PROGRAMME AND UPCOMING EVENTS

**19 June 2024** – NZOS Meeting Night & Annual General Meeting

**29-30 June 2024** – North Shore OS Winter Show

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

**17 July 2024** – NZOS Meeting Night – Pot Luck Dinner

**28 July 2024** – Waikato OS Winter Show

**21 August 2024** – NZOS Meeting Night Speaker: Alan Watson

**30-31 August 2024** – Waitakere OC Spring Show

**6-7 September 2024** – Hibiscus Coast OS Spring Show

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

**18 September 2024** – NZOS Meeting Night

**22 September 2024** – Waikato OS Spring Show

**29 September 2024** – North Shore OS Spring Show

**16 October 2024** – NZOS Meeting Night

**19 October 2024** – Howick OS Show

**2-3 November 2024** – North Shore OS “Sarc” Show

**20 November 2024** – NZOS Meeting Night

**19 February 2025** – NZOS Meeting Night

**19 March 2025** – NZOS Meeting Night

**16 April 2025** – NZOS Meeting Night

**10 May 2025** – NZOS **Autumn Show** – Western Springs Garden Community Hall.

**21 May 2025** – NZOS Meeting Night

**18 June 2025** – NZOS Meeting Night

