



*Manawatu Orchid Society Inc.  
April 2017 Newsletter*

**The Manawatu Orchid Society meets on the second Thursday of the month at the Community Leisure Centre commencing at 7.30pm.  
The Day Forum meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at various venues commencing at 1.30pm.**

## President's Report



### Greetings,

Like ourselves, our plants will be feeling the change in the seasons, with Autumn settling in. Were the recent sunny warm days among the last for some months? We can't be sure, so we need to keep a close eye on our plants and how we manage them. Should we be reducing our watering, taking off some shade cloth, checking that our heaters (if any) are working? What about an end-of-season clean-up spray for pesky bugs? There will be more on this at our next meeting, when the featured subject is 'preparing for winter'.

Can I also remind members again that our first show of the year takes place in Feilding on Saturday 8 April at the Baptist Church Hall. Hopefully you have been nurturing your flowering plants so as to have them ready for display. Set-up will be 3-5pm on the Friday. If you have any questions about the show, please ask Graham Robertson, our hard-working show marshal. Graham and his team have been working to make this show a great success, both in terms of the plants we put on display, and the support the show gets from the public. Even if you don't have a plant in the show, and don't live in Feilding, please make a point of going over to Feilding – not too far away! – and supporting this event.

I trust that those who attended the Day Group at Greenhaugh Gardens had an enjoyable day, and maybe came home with plants for the garden. We deliberately include some 'non-orchid' destinations in this programme since most, if not all of us, have an interest in many things horticultural, not just orchids.

I look forward to seeing you at our next club night in April.

Cheers,

Allan

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### **APRIL CLUB MEETING**

The next meeting will be on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> starting at 7.30pm. This month we will be having a run down on the Autumn Show and also giving some thought to preparing for winter. The featured genera for the month will be the Cattleya Alliance.

Don't forget your flowering plants for the display and raffle contributions are welcomed.

The May meeting will be our AGM. This is not a reason to stay away. We will have Bill Liddy as our guest speaker that night. He will be talking about some of the orchid hardware he sells and I expect that he will have some available to tempt us. We will also have plants for a further growing competition to distribute and these will be available to those who attend on the night. This time a Sarcocochilus from Australian flasks obtained by the Society at the National Show last September.

### **DAY GROUP**

The next Day Group meeting is on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and we visiting Greenhaugh Gardens on Napier Road between Palmerston North and Ashhurst –look for the sign at the gate There is a \$5 entry fee and facilities are available for our usual raffles and plant display.

Looking further ahead our April meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> we will be meeting in Woodville. First at the home of Jean Cameron, 110 Grey St West, and then on to Neil & Rosemary Brumby at 92 Fergusson St.

## **Meeting Reports**

### **Monthly Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> March.**

The number of attendees and plants tabled were both down a bit this month however President Allen got things under way promptly and moved quickly through the business part of the meeting. We then moved on to the plant commentary and popular vote before taking a break for a chat over supper.

After supper Graham presented the pictures of all the OCNZ awards made during 2016. Some excellent blooms were evident and some particularly good cultural awards. It was pleasing to see that a goodly number of these awards reflected success by some of our local growers

As usual the meeting concluded with the popular vote result and the drawing of the raffles.

### **Day Group 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

Last week on a beautiful sunny day 22 members and one visitor travelled to Waikanae to visit the home of Susan Worthington. The garden was full of nooks and crannies, interesting plants, shrubs and trees and a variety of orchids in both the orchid house and outside areas all of which our two hosts – Susan and Ken Elms were happy to tell us about.

It was interesting to see Susan's art studio and later we were lucky enough to be invited to walk through Susan's house so we could view the large collection of paintings throughout, most painted by Susan.

Ken graciously set the barbeque alight so we could all enjoy a sausage or two wrapped in bread which proved to be a great hit with all who were attending. The pavlova with lashings of whipped cream and strawberries followed by tea and coffee were a nice finishing touch to a lovely afternoon.

Many thanks to both Susan and Ken for hosting our visit.

*Ngairi*

## Website

The Society website has recently had a major overhaul. We are lucky that the site is hosted for us by Inspire Net, the local internet provider, who make available a free hosting service for local community organisations such as ours. The content of our site had become somewhat dated though difficult to change then recent changes to Inspire's hosting facilities meant that we were no longer able to make alterations to the content.

The site address is [manawatuorchid.org.nz](http://manawatuorchid.org.nz)

Take a look. Your feedback would be welcomed.

## Show Dates

Our Autumn Show is not far away now. Make sure you have it marked in your diary and plan to attend. If you have plants in bloom then we need them to be present. The venue is the Baptist Church held in Feilding and the date is Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April opening at 9.00am. Set up is on the Friday afternoon between 3.00 and 5.00pm. Volunteers are still needed during the day on Saturday and your help with that and food contributions for catering would be appreciated.

Looking further ahead our Spring Show at the Leisure Centre on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October.

Make sure they are both marked on your calendar and plan to be there.

## The Culture Bit

We have now reached the March equinox and the days are noticeably shorter and they are currently reducing by about 3 minutes each day. That is going to have a significant effect on your growing environment and you can be sure our plants are even more aware of these changes than we are. Drying out will not happen as quickly now and with the sun not climbing so high temps will track down so we need to be more careful about watering early in the day.

However you can still continue watering and feeding as needed and as dictated by the prevailing weather conditions for most genera. We will continue seeing some growth on many genera as long as temperatures hold up but you may also notice that there are others that have definitely come to the end of their growing season and are showing definite signs of shutting down. Watch for these changes and adjust your watering and feeding accordingly. There is no point however in wasting resources on plants that don't need them and in fact watering a plant that wants to rest may do more harm than good.

I thought it would be useful this month to make a list of some of the genera grown around this area which have a decided winter rest. Watch the watering particularly as they move into an apparent dormant state. If you get this wrong roots may suffer but flowering will also be affected and that is after all the reason we are growing them. Be aware too that for some of these cooler temperatures are also necessary to initiate flowering.

Cool growing: *Pleione*, *Laelia* (Mexican), *Dendrobium* (Indian), *Stenoglottis*, *Bletia*, *Dactylophiza*

Intermediate/Warm growing: *Rossioglossum*, *Dendrobium* (Indian), *Catasetum* (and similar), *Brassavola*, *Cattleya* (some), *Prosthechea*, *Encyclia*

Keep an eye out for bugs and if you are shifting plants back indoors after being outside over summer they should be given a clean-up spray. Those nasties will multiply even faster in a cosy environment.

### **Plants on Display March Meeting.**

Jenny Mair	Gomesa crispa
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	Masdevallia paivaeana *** Masdevallia Shannon Butler
Russell Bird	Masdevallia Falcata's Angel 'Knees' Masdevallia Golden Crown
Ralph Woodhouse	Cattleya Mini Purple 'Coerulea Type' Laeliocattleya unknown Masdevallian Sunset Jaguar Masdevallia triangularis Oncidopsis Cambria 'Plush' Paphiopedilum primulinum f. flavum Sarcochilus falcatus x Weinhart
Neville Butler	Masdevallia Hot Shot – 2 plants Masdevallia Jade Montague Masdevallia Kalani Scire Stenoglottis Durban
Patricia Hayes	Gomesa crispa
Allan Rae	Cattleya Bravo Mary Cattleya Dendi's Double 'Freckle Face' Phalaenopsis Lemon Peel Rhyncattleanthe Nobile's Ambar ***
Graham Jackson	Brassiocattleya Hoku Gem 'Freckles' Cattleya Bravo Mary Masdevallia Hot Shot Oncidium longipes

\*\*\* = check your label. Other plants were also benched but are not included here because details were not provided by the owners.

## **Results.**

### **Cymbidium**

None this month

### **Other Genera**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Gom. Crispa	Patricia Hayes
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bc. Hoku Gem 'Freckles'	Graham Jackson
3 <sup>rd</sup> =	7 plants	Various

### **Manawatu Orchid Society Inc.**

[www.manawatuorchid.org.nz](http://www.manawatuorchid.org.nz)

c/- 18 Hurley Place

**Palmerston North, 4412**

President: Allan Rae ☎ 06 358 3962

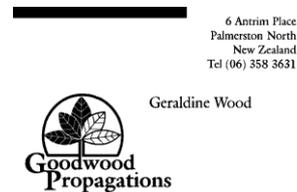
E-mail [ayrae@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ayrae@xtra.co.nz)

Secretary: Ngaire Ormsby ☎ 357 7496

E-mail: [e.n.ormsby@xtra.co.nz](mailto:e.n.ormsby@xtra.co.nz)

Treasurer and Editor: Graham Jackson ☎ 354 3348

E-mail: [g.jackson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:g.jackson@xtra.co.nz)



On the next page some photos of plants from our last meeting:



Gom. crispa



Masd. Golden Crown



Epi.



Masd. Kalani Scire



Bc. Hoku Gem 'Freckles'