



**NZ ODONTOGLOSSUM ALLIANCE**

# **NEWSLETTER**

**Volume 6 Number 3  
September 1995**

## From the Editor

Spring Shows and judging have started already! All held early to avoid clashing with the Palmerston North National show. This early season start is like getting out of bed early in the morning. It's hard to get enthusiastic. Some good may come from the early start for me. It will force me to get the newsletter back on time again.

Has winter been and gone in the north? There's heaps of snow on the central volcanic mountains and school holiday skiing should be better than usual. The Desert Road was closed for 10 days continuous and a lot of other days! Cold? Yet in my area we are having the mildest winter for years. I see the third noticeable frost melt from my lawns as I write. The reason for this? Very wet, cloudy weather over winter with a few nice days starting to come out now at last. Perhaps those frosts are going to be late this year. Meanwhile the South Islanders revel in heavy snow and frosts! The coldest temperature ever recorded in New Zealand was in the south this year.

As you will read elsewhere it is all go for the conference and our display. As we are spread the length and breadth of the country it hasn't been easy to organise a display — until Dee and Jeff Hibberd took up the task. Please, please let the world see how beautiful and varied the odontoglossum or onciidiinae family are. Make our display an eyestopper by earmarking several of your best odonts for our display. We need lots! I doubt if any will get turned down at our display for lack of room!

Next two issues should see photos and articles on the prize winners. Hopefully that will stir an interest in odont members to put pen to paper. Don't forget to book for the dinner now if you are attending the conference

Ron Maunder  
Editor. Ph/Fax (07)5525570

## INTEREST GROUPS DINNER — FRIDAY 6TH OCT.

With requests coming in for a get together at the conference it was decided to organise a dinner on the free night. I have been supplied with a list of suitable restaurants by Dee Hibberd and we have booked the Northcote Inn, Queen Street which is close to the conference venue.

So that we can take over the entire restaurant (up to 60 people) I have invited the Masdevallia and Paphiopedilum groups to come along too. George Fuller (Masdevallia) and Lynn Sherlock (Paphiopedilum) were enthusiastic and they will be advising their members over the next weeks by newsletter. The buffet dinner will cost \$20 per person. BYO drinks. We will meet upstairs before the meal for socializing and the Odont members will return there after the meal. The management are happy to allow another group to use the restaurant when cleared away. The smallest group can retire to a members motel unit if they wish.

Tickets will be available at the registration desk (we hope!), and will be on a first come basis — or you can book in advance by sending payment made out NZ Odont. Alliance, P.O.Box 2107 Tauranga, NOW.

Nothing has been arranged for the after dinner meeting upstairs, but if the US Odont alliance videos arrive one or two lectures could be screened.

NOTE: Payment is the only way to be sure of securing a meal.

## TUCKERS ORCHID NURSERY

New listing available at Palmerston North Show

Imported plants and flasks

New Intergenerics

*Odm.* species from Equador

Very Limited

New Odont seedlings

At the Show

or

Send SAE to 51 King Edward Ave, Bayswater, Auckland 9. Ph/Fax (09) 4456692

## 3RD NZ INTERNATIONAL ORCHID EXPO

**DISPLAY PLANTS:** If you are not attending but have plants for the display from Auckland area, please phone Jane Frear (09)2784698 who will do her best to arrange their transport to and from Palmerston North. Ron Maunder will travel to the Waikato to Alan Locke's (Ph. (07) 8724554) to collect more plants there, before heading south via the Western Taupo road to the show. Please phone him if you have plants in other areas which need collecting. He will travel down on Sunday 1st October. (Ron's phone is (07) 5525570).

**SETTING UP:** This will start with the erection of the display next day Mon. 2nd. Plants will not be needed until Tuesday. If you have or are bringing plants please fill out the enclosed form and return or phone Ron by Sat.30th Sept.

**HELPERS:** We have been allocated a number of passes for carriers and helpers while setting up. If you will be available to help please advise us. Thank you Jim and Maureen Grantham from Perth, Western Australia for phoning to volunteer!

**DISPLAY DESIGN:** Who could resist! Jane Frear has persuaded her daughter and son in law in Pahiatua — "Just over the hills from Palmerston North" to take on the design and building of our display. Within a week of receiving the layout, rules and proposed island idea Dee and Jeff had it all under control! With help from Don Eyles for some staging materials, they are enthusiastically assembling and accumulating props. It is a great relief for us up north and great to have non-members so enthusiastic. Thank you all. Contact phone for Dee and Jeff Hibberd, is (06) 3768756.

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Next day was Sunday and Wally had arranged for me to go to an AOS Judging in Tacoma across the border in Washington State. At 8am he drove me across Vancouver to Marilyn Burritt's place where I had time to inspect her immaculately grown orchid collection. There was a wide range of genera in her small greenhouses with some well grown *Miltoniopsis*, *Odont* species and *Masdevallias*.

Daughter Diana supervised the loading of a couple of specimen *Miltoniopsis* plants into the air conditioned van along with lunch and provisions for the 200 mile (each way) trip. Soon we were at the US border and the special day-permits to take the plants through into the US were stamped and we were off down the multi lane highway. Various place names to towns such as Bellingham, Snohomish, Alger and Edmonds reminded me that this area was where *Miltoniopsis* hybrids from Gordon Hoyt, Baker and Chantry and Bealls had originated. Some time later as we bypassed Seattle we encountered a huge traffic jam and after inching along for half an hour or so we were diverted off the motorway where a major accident was being sorted out. The highways are magnificent but the maximum speed limit was 80mph. Around lunch time we arrived at a small suburban hall in Tacoma and ate lunch with other judges, some of whom had also travelled hundreds of miles to get there. This area had been the training ground for Andy Easton's AOS judging while he worked in the Chase Gardens and several old timers asked if I knew him — after I had been welcomed as a guest judge from NZ. The judging session was rather low key but I met several personalities including Pat Pettit of Chieri Orchids who is a very keen *Odont* Alliance grower and hybridizer and is also strong in *Masdevallias* — one of which was awarded that day.

We left for home in the late afternoon in sweltering heat and loaded up with "gas" and cold drinks at a petrol station nearby. The airconditioned vehicle made travelling much more pleasant and Diana who drives her Mum to judging each month knew the road well. Around 6pm we crossed the border again into Canada and I was dropped off at the ferry terminal where I said goodbye to my kind hosts. I was given the phone number of the Victoria O.S. president to phone once I got on board the ferry to Vancouver Island. In quick time the magnificent ferry sailed over to the coast of Vancouver Island and past the rocky shore with houses and settlements amongst the forested bays. Just on dark I disembarked with hundreds of passengers and vehicles and was met by Ingrid Ostrander, the local society president who whisked me home to meet Will her husband and to a welcome meal.

We talked orchids, inspected Will's paintings and looked over Ingrid's downstairs flask room and laminar flow flasking area. *Phragmipedium* flasks were one of her specialities. After breakfast next morning we had a roam around Ingrid's sizeable greenhouse where she grew a wide range of genera, but I have memories of some well grown *Miltoniopsis* and an excellent collection of *Phragmipedium*. Greenhouse cladding was doublewall polycarbonate material. At noon Fred Moss arrived to take me off visiting local nurseries, so with another couple of flasks and an excellent pair of surplus Austrian tramping boots given to me by Will, I said goodbye to some more very hospitable orchid people.

Fred is not really an orchid grower but a retired orchardist who usually spends his winters in NZ with Ray and Lottie Hogan of Auckland (NZOA members). He often calls in here to the nursery to buy his friends a plant and they often spend our winters over in

North America with him. Anyway Fred wanted me to go and meet Poul Hansen not too far away and would have taken me to the famous Butchart Gardens if I'd had the time. Poul also has a large and well grown collection of *Miltoniopsis*, *Paphiopedilums* and Odont Intergenerics. He was working away in his greenhouse without his shirt on and I could have spent hours with this enthusiastic guy! He had corresponded with Goodale Moir in Hawaii and had a number of divisions of famous Moir Odont Intergenerics and equitants.

Outside under the trees he showed me some native terrestrials as we were about to leave, (the next winter snows collapsed his greenhouse so I am told). Next stop was at Konrad and Lioba Samer's where I was thrilled to see beautifully grown *D.cuthbertsonii* and other colourful high altitude PNG dendrobiums. We finally ended up at Erik Davis' place — an ex Kiwi who erects hobby greenhouses on Vancouver Island. I had met Erik in New Plymouth at the Taranaki Summer Display weekend a year before. Erik grows lots of mini orchids on slabs and once again *D.cuthbertsonii* were a favourite. He was baching while his wife was interstate, so the three of us retired to a chicken dinner restaurant for an evening meal and he insisted on paying the bill!

Next morning I was up early at Fred's and much to his disappointment I decided that I had better keep moving south so I could be in San Francisco by the weekend. Fred's apple orchard property had been subdivided into housing over the years but he still had an acre or so of veges! High electric fences kept the wild deer at bay but he showed me his really mutilated roses and said travellers at night often hit deer on the road.

I caught the 8.30am airport bus to Vancouver Airport and this took me onto the ferry, over to the mainland and to the airport without changing buses. There I bought my air ticket and armed with it set about bailing my two cartons of flasks out of the customs bond store! What good news, what bad news! Releases from Canadian Customs then over the passage to US customs. "Sorry Sir without a Phyto certificate you can't take them into the USA". By this time I was being paged, then the airline girl came and removed my luggage labels and told the pilot by cellphone not to wait! Next flight several hours away. Just then the US officer who'd been consulting about my Phyto, came out and gave the all clear. I yelled to the retreating airline girl who stopped the plane, taped back the labels and hurried me along corridors and down a rank of small planes angle parked outside. My plane was an Alaskan Airlines one which could hold 20 or so passengers and it had a huge bearded and hooded trapper's face motif on its tail.

If I had had a spare arm I would have hugged that helpful young woman who could have been rather irritable, to say the least. Next stop Portland Oregon — where I had phoned from Fred's to visit Hills' View Gardens, owned by Teresa and Bill Hill.

Ron Maunder, Tauranga

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**A WHITE ODONTOGLOSSUM:** Our members have been offered seedlings (in flask) from a cross that Frank Brljevic has made. The parentage is a Charlesworth premier type *crispum* which was imported in the 1960's by Jim James and he gave it the varietal name 'Special'. The other parent is a white *Odm.* Soissons (*crispum* x *Myston*) This is a large 4½ inch pure white. The cost to our members will be the cost of flasking and if there is sufficient interest we will make up small flasks of 10 / 12 plants at a cost of about \$25. If you are interested would you contact Ron Maunder Ph/Fax 07 5525570.

## NOTES ON MAKING A CROSS

These are just a few ideas and observations for the new grower who has just made a great decision. You have just flowered a very nice new seedling and someone has suggested that it would make a good parent. You are fired with enthusiasm and decide 'why not'. Your eyes roam around the greenhouse looking for a potential partner for your pride and joy.

Stop right there. Think and think again. Making a cross and investing the time and space to bring it to flowering is no small investment. Look at your plant and decide what improvements it needs to make it perfect. Is the stem too long and floppy or too short and stunted? Is the flower a tad small? The shape is perfect and the colour very good. If the spike is short and the flowers bunched it would be courting disaster to partner it with a plant with similar defects. Similarly to make the cross with a flower where the basic colour would only muddy the good colour you already have is not a good move. To make the cross with a flower which is perceptually larger but with not quite such a good shape is often acceptable because sometimes shape not as variable as other qualities.

Right. You have looked all round your greenhouse and there is nothing suitable in flower there. Ring up your friends and other members and ask around. Still no joy. Go to the shows and look carefully. If you see something suitable contact the owner, sometimes the owner will say no but most are flattered that you like their plant. The next step is very important. Check the health of both plants. If you put pollen from a virused plant onto your plant it may develop virus but any seed may be virus free. However we will assume that there was no virus and you then used your new found skills and fertilized the plant. Nothing may happen at all or if everything was favourable a pod will form.

There is another scenario however. If you do not find a suitable partner for your plant while it is still in flower all is not lost. While the flower is still fairly fresh remove the pollinia from a flower and wrap it carefully in plain note paper(labelled and dated) and store it in the vegetable compartment of your household refrigerator. Pollen has been known to be viable for up to a year and in that time you just might find the perfect complementary partner for your plant. You might even flower one yourself.

When using pollen you have borrowed you will of course make sure that the donor gets a fair share of the progeny resulting.

There is no point in making a cross if you think that the plant in question is perfect for you can achieve nothing. For Odont alliance growers there are some species which the writer doesn't believe could be improved. *Cuitlauzina pendula* (formerly *Odm.pendulum*) for one, this happens to be, in my opinion, the most beautiful species in the alliance. I just wish it was more widely grown and easier to propagate. We have tried to self fertilize it with no success. It can be done but not apparently with our clone.

Having said all the above you will find as many another before you that there is no thrill like the first flower to open of a cross you have made and that no-one has made before you. If it is a good cross you will rightly glow with pride and modestly say it was luck when you know better or if not up to your expectations lie a little and say it is the first step in a two generation project.

May fortune smile on your endeavours.

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## BREEDERS CORNER

New seedlings flowered recently with me are:—

1. *Oda*.Durham Picot 'Lyoth Desire' x *Oda*.Harrods Forever 'Lyoth Dresden'. A superbly shaped flower of an immaculate white overlaid in centre with deep purple pattern. Very small and only 5 flowers but very promising. From McBean's.
2. *Oda*.Ingmar 'Lyoth Princess' x *Oda*.Durham Destiny 'Lyoth Tyne'. 4 flowers on a small plant, good shape, creamy white ground with soft mauve at  $\frac{1}{3}$  depth around all segments. The inner pattern a bright chestnut with paler spots on a large cream lip. From McBean's
3. *Odcdm.* (*Onc.tigrinum* 'Canary' x *Oda*.Red Rum 'Dawlish' AM/RHS.) A tall spike, 2 branches at base, rest single flowers. Colour a rich dark wine in all parts and top half of lip with lower half being a pale yellow that slowly turns to deep mauve — lovely shining surface to flowers but I never could take to lips changing colour as the flower ages. Been around a while but new to me. From Mansell & Hatcher.
4. *Degarmoara* Mosaic (*Mtssa*.Olmec x *Odm.* *triumphans*). First time one of these has flowered here due, I suspect, to extra light and warmth from 2 Philips heat lamps that come on if temperature drops to 12°C. Very 'spiky' looking, long tips to flowers, background a greenish yellow overlaid dark brown bars the full length of each segment. The long lip a cream shade with spots of lighter brown. A very willowy spike of 5 flowers on a small plant. Ron says this one completely different from his clone of same cross. From Santa Barbara.
5. *Oda*.Dekala Jestto ( *Oda*. E. bury Court x *Oda*.Alstir) a really beautiful seedling. 4 of the most perfectly rounded flowers I have seen in a long time. Basic ground white tinged palest lilac with a very deep maroon heavy pattern, stands out in striking fashion. Lip  $\frac{1}{2}$  white and  $\frac{1}{2}$  maroon. Sure looks an award possibility at maturity. From Alf Day. Jane Frear, Auckland

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## MISSING PERSON !

Anyone knowing the address of Lorraine Slinger who joined the NZOA at the last Summer display please ask her to contact Ron Maunder, Box 2107, Taurangā as we cannot send her newsletters.

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## ILLUSTRATIONS

Photo 1: *Odm.* Stropheon 'Bayswater' AM/OCNZ. "Orchid of the Year" 1994. This attractive, full shaped flower of deep plum shading and strongly outlined in sparkling white was voted "Orchid of the Year" by the NZ Orchid Council, COA Judging Committee for 1994. The plant was purchased as a seedling from Mansell and Hatcher a number of years ago and carried 9 flowers with 92mm spread on one spike.

## Show Time can be Stress Time for Odonts!

As well as you getting “stressed out” at show time, your orchids can suffer too. The normal weekend show is no big deal but you should take particular care of crispum odonts when exhibiting in week long shows like the Palmerston North one in October. Crispum type odonts with long spikes or with not many bulbs can shrivel badly in the warm dry conditions at long shows. The organisers keep temperatures up for the Phalaenopsis, Cattleyas and warm growing genera and the warmth of a sunny day and the additional heat generated by thousands of visiting bodies doesn't help. Sure you can mist your plants in the display several times a day but the moisture is all gone in a few minutes.

To stop your plants dehydrating at the show there is a surefire way to help them other than taking them outside for a drink. When you are preparing the plants for the show, water them for the last time and let them drip dry. Then pop the pot into a new plastic bag which is large enough to cover the pot and tie around the base of the bulbs. Surplus plastic is folded down over the pot and the pot is placed inside another clean pot of identical shape and size or next size bigger (to hide the plastic). Covering the surface of the pot with plastic stops all evaporation of moisture from the mix and the drainage holes. This is usually sufficient to keep the plant moist enough for most of the show. If you think the warm temperatures might be stressing the plant then a long handled sprayer wand on a pressure sprayer can be adjusted to squirt some water down amongst the bulbs of the plant without removing it from the display. Any surplus moisture is contained by the bag. Tying the bag below the bulbs will not cause the bulbs to rot as they can dry out. Those arranging your display can easily cover any sign of the plastic bag with moss or spanish moss. This method of stopping the plants from dehydrating at shows came from Paul Gripp who was speaking in NZ a number of years ago. It really does help. Try it this year.

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## ILLUSTRATIONS

Photo 2: The awarded spike of *Odm.* Stropheon 'Bayswater' AM/OCNZ. Owner Ross Tucker. The parents of Stropheon are *Odm.* Opheon x Robert Strauss. *Odm.* Stropheon was originally registered by McBean's in 1957.

Photo 3: *Degarmoara* Mosaic 'Paradise Tiger' HCC/OCNZ. Parentage is *Mtssa.* Olmec x *Odm.* triumphans. This cross was registered by Santa Barbara Orchids and is owned by Ron Maunder.

Photo 4: *Odontocidium* Peggy Mac 'Bayswater' HCC/OCNZ. Parentage of this cross, registered by Kuhn in 1975, is *Onc.* maculatum x *Odm.* Peggy Richardson. The awarded plant carried 23 flowers and 14 buds on one spike. Overall width of flowers was 85mm. Owned by Ross Tucker.

Photo 5: *Odm.* Christa Sang 'Bayswater' HCC/NZOS, (*rossii* x Stonehurst Yellow), awarded to Ross Tucker. Registered Sang 1988. One spike with 10 flowers, overall width is 85mm.

Photo 6: *Onc.* Lynette Banks 'Bayswater' HCC/NZOS (*varicosum* x Palmyre). Registered Banks 1980. Owner Ross Tucker. One spike with 6 branches and 38 flowers, the overall width of the flowers was 55mm.

Photo Credits: 1, 2, 4, 5 & 6 Val Bayliss, Howick.  
3, Bob Goodger, Tauranga





(1 & 2) Odm Stropheon 'Bayswater' AM/OCNZ  
"Orchid of the Year 1994"

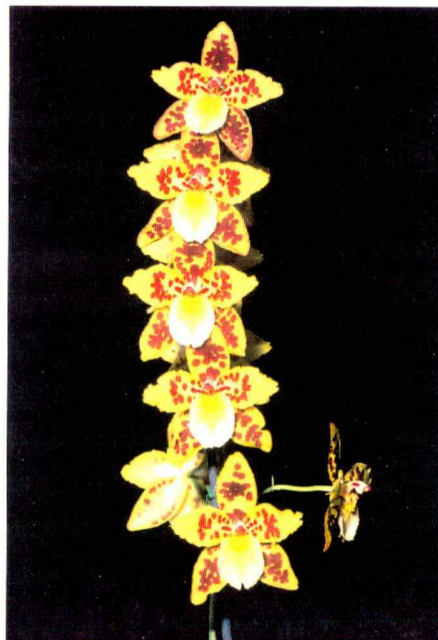


(3) Dgma Mosaic 'Paradise Tiger' HCC/OCNZ



(4) Odcdm Peggy Mac 'Bayswater' HCC/OCNZ

(5) Odm Christa Sang  
'Bayswater'  
HCC/NZOS



(6) Onc Lynette Banks 'Bayswater' HCC/NZOS