



January 2003

Newsletter

From the Editor

Hi there all,

Oh dear, another year has gone by without a newsletter. Well, after what's gone on in my last year, I hope you can understand. 2002 has been a rather tumultuous year.

First of all, Ross's father was very ill from before Christmas until his passing in the middle of February. This involved frequent trips to North Shore Hospital. Meanwhile, Ross and I were getting ready for a couple of shows, one in Tokyo and the other in Santa Barbara, California. Alan passed away on a Thursday – Ross and I were booked to fly out on the following Tuesday. The funeral had to be slotted in on the Saturday to enable a nephew to sit an exam on the following Monday as well as our impending departure. Following our return three weeks later, we've become a significant support network for Ross's mother, Margaret.

Coinciding with all of the above was my departure from work within the confines of the government department I was employed by. I'd handed in my notice to finish up a week and a half before our trip. It seems the timing was rather opportune what with what was in store for us during the next week. A little less than one month later and my right hand was again playing up. The injection of cortisone had only delayed the inevitable. I needed surgery for the Carpal Tunnel Syndrome in my hand.

That put me out of action for a solid week and on light duties for the next two or three. Then came the next stage – Carpal Tunnel in my left hand as a result of favouring my right hand. To be expected – I guess. I've had an injection of cortisone in the hope that I have caught it and have treated it early enough to have more of an effect. I've also been told by a doctor relation that short bursts of vitamin B12 are able to keep the symptoms of Carpal Tunnel at bay. I hope they're right. I hope I can avoid further surgery. I can tell you that it's a right pain having one hand out of action, even more so being right-handed.

The last few of months have been preoccupied with getting settled into the new job. I now work for Ross. My official title is Sales and Marketing Manager. Have you ever heard of a Sales and Marketing Manager being paid adult minimum wage? In reality, I'm a general dogsbody doing whatever needs doing at the time. One of my more major achievements has been an upgrade to the website. It's looking better all the time so please check it out and let me know what you think.

So anyway, this newsletter is finally underway. It'll be a little light but one of my hopes is to contact a number of you directly and ask for an article. I have slowly been building up a number of subjects that I think you as readers would be interested in and hopefully I'll find some willing people to write them. If you know of anyone that you think would be able to contribute an article please let me know and I shall try and twist their arm (or break it if needs be!☺). It needn't be someone actually involved in the Odontoglossum Alliance - just someone who has something worthwhile to share.

One of my thoughts that I'll discuss with you at the Taranaki Show is the possibility of assigning each edition of the newsletter to differing people and they would be responsible for writing the main article for that edition. We could brainstorm a few ideas on what to write about at the show. I am very willing to support people in any way they need in writing their article. My problem is as I've mentioned before – I don't grow Odontoglossums myself, Ross does, so I can't write about them.

As it has been a year without any newsletters what I propose is that those who have paid their subs for 2002 will not need to pay for 2003 – your subs will be carried over. For those with a pink mark on your address label, this means I have no record of receiving your 2002 subs. If this is wrong or if you have decided not to renew your subscription please let me know. I am including a new subs form for you to complete if you would like to continue receiving the newsletter.

For those who also receive the US Odontoglossum Alliance newsletter a new subscription for 2003 will need to be paid. I also enclose a subs form for this.

'Til next time,

Susan Tucker

Email: tuckersorchidnursery@clear.net.nz

Website: <http://www.tuckersorchidnursery.co.nz>

Ph/Fax: (09) 489-2689

Hugh Cuming (1791-1865)

Following upon the introduction of 'natural plant curiosities' brought back from an increasing number of expeditions, plus the fashionability of orchids as "stove" plants, it was natural that enterprising men should endeavour to supply a growing demand for these rare tropical epiphytes. Thus emerged the professional

orchid collector. One of the most sagacious of these was Hugh Cuming, an Englishman who roamed the western oceans seeking and discovering great quantities of natural wonders—not the least of which were new and unusual orchids.

Hugh Cuming was born to parents of modest means at West Alvington, Kingsbridge, in the county of Devon, England, on 14 February 1791. As a child he displayed an avid interest in plants and shells, and through his acquaintance with Colonel Montagu, the then celebrated author of *Testacea Britannica*, his love of natural history was encouraged and developed. At the age of thirteen he was apprenticed to a sail maker. Here he was brought into contact with seafaring men who fired his imagination with their stories of remote ports and life at sea. Seeking adventure, in 1819 he shipped out on a voyage to South America, settling in Valparaiso, Chile, which had just received its independence from Spain. From there he actively commenced collecting shells in an ample field. Here he met Mr. Nugent, the British consul, and Lieutenant Frambly, a noted conchologist, who both stimulated and assisted him in shipping plants and shells back to England. The specimens were eagerly received, and returning ships brought increasing orders for exotic materials.

In 1862 Cuming gave up his business and completely devoted his time to collecting. For this purpose he commissioned a yacht to be built according to his own specifications. Christened the *Discoverer*, the yacht was designed expressly for the collection and stowage of objects of natural history. For nearly twelve months Cuming cruised among the islands of the South Pacific, dredging and collecting on sea and shore.

Easter Island, the Tuomotos, and the Society Group were included in his travel repertoire, and during a visit to Pitcairn Island, he was the house guest of John Adams, one of the survivors of the *Bounty* mutiny, forty years before. Returning to Valparaiso with his boat stocked full of plants and shells, Cuming was commended by the authorities, who were highly impressed with his work of the past year. Consumed with the ambition to increase the collection of shells in the British Museum, he consigned numerous cases to that institution. He also sent many more cases of pressed plants - and as much living material as possible - to the botanical gardens of England. Shortly afterward plans were made for an extended trip along the coast of Chile and Mexico. The Chilean government, further honouring Cuming, granted him duty-free anchorage in its ports and the privilege of purchasing stores free of duty. He was also furnished with letters to the authorities of all the states he visited, who received him with hospitality and extended every facility available. For two years he explored the Chilean coast, adding plants and shells from as far north as Acapulco, Mexico.

Concluding the trip, Cuming returned to England. The Zoological Society had just previously been organized, and Cuming's arrival in 1831 was considered a great event, his accumulated stores of plants, animals and shells becoming the subject of discourse at numerous memorable meetings. He soon became acquainted with men at the top of their professions - directors of museums and botanic gardens - and supplied fresh material to them and the Zoological Society for thirty-four years thereafter.

In 1835 he made ready for another exploration, this time in an area rich in natural phenomena and relatively untouched by naturalists - the Philippine Islands. Recommendations from the Chilean government and letters from the authorities at Madrid assured him of a welcome by the Philippine missionaries and officials and acceptance by the people. With freedom to travel where he wished, he continued to collect shells but, more particularly, he became interested in the rich and varied flora of the islands. In his four years of combing the Philippines, Singapore, St. Helena, and the Malacca areas, he filled his storage chests with a magnificent series of land shells,

the likes of which had not previously been seen. He was aided greatly in these collections, hiring the services of local school children who gladly scoured the woods and forests for plants and snails. This enabled him to assemble the richest collection gathered by a single individual up to that time.

His orchid discoveries were numerous as well, and he became the first to ship living orchids successfully from Manila to England. Letters to Dr. William Hooker of the Botanic Gardens at Glasgow reveal that "Orchidea also is worthy of notice; of plants 3,500 species." Messrs. Loddiges were the recipients of at least one shipment sent from Manila. *Aerides quinquevulnerum*, *Dendrobium anosmum*, *Dendrobium superbum*, *Grammatophyllum scriptum*, *Phalaenopsis amabilis* var. *aphrodite*, and *Vanda lamellata* are only a few of the species which were introduced through his collecting. A number of others bear his name: *Coelogyne cumingii*, *Podochilus cumingii*, *Bulbophyllum (Cirrhopetalum) cumingii*, and *Liparis cumingii*, to mention a few.

His vast assemblage of materials, immediately distributed to museums at home and abroad, included 130,000 specimens of dried plant material, 3(1,000 conchological species and varieties, large numbers of birds, reptiles, quadrupeds and insects, and numerous living orchid plants - thirty-three of them hitherto unpublished species.

Before his sojourn to the Philippines, Cuming had brought together by purchase, exchange, and discovery the finest and most valuable collection of shells then in existence. His Philippine additions increased this to an enormous extent, and from then until the end of his life he continued in the arrangement and addition of the collection. He was determined to build the greatest shell collection in the world. In the Philippine Journal of Science he is quoted as stating: "The greatest object of my ambition is to place my collection in the British Museum that it may be accessible to all the scientific world and where it would afford to the public eye a striking example of what has been done by the personal industry and means of one man." Toward this end, in later years he financed several collectors to carry on the work.

A glimpse of Mr. Cuming is given in a commentary of E. L. Layard, a close friend with similar conchological interests:

I can see the old gentleman now! His heavy florid face beaming over his white "choker" and his extensive, prominent white frilled shirt and black vest; he always dressed in black - I only knew him when he was like the larger of his two portraits - he gave it to me himself, and wrote his name on it in my presence. And this reminds me, I do not think he could do more than write his name. All his letters to me were written by his secretary, though signed by himself.

The rigors of his years at sea began to exact their toll on him before his return to England. In correspondence with Dr. Hooker he remarked, "The ill health and fatigue that I have experienced has been very great, my eyes are much injured by the sun; in short I am ten years older than I ought to be." He had long been subject to chronic bronchitis and asthmatic attacks, each successive paroxysm causing his friends increased reason for alarm. Following a visit to the Crystal Palace on 26 July 1865, he suffered a major recurrence of his ailments. Symptoms of dropsy, to which he had previously been subject, reappeared, and on the tenth of August he died in his house at 80 Gower Street, London. His shell collection, which had been the object and comfort of his life, surrounded him in his last days and he continued to occupy himself in its contemplation until within just a few hours of his death.

Odm. Anna-Claire 'Kati' (*maculatum* x Geyser Gold)

Results of this cross made by Andy Easton were first seen around Auckland at the Auckland Orchid Club spring show in 2000. Alf Day exhibited a striking first flowering that was a pristine white with pronounced burgundy spotting at centres to petals and sepals. The lip was also white except for a yellow centre and burgundy spots to mirror those on the segments. Shape was very full and the only thing holding the plant back from a quality award was that the immature plant had only five flowers. Two aspects were discussed over coffee after judging. One was that would the plant grow more flowers in future? The other was, where had the gold colouring gone to from the other parent *Odm. Geyser Gold* or conversely, where had the white come from?

At the Orchid Expo 2000 show in Hamilton another cultivar was exhibited by Ewen and Sylvia Perrott. Answer to the first question was plain since this cultivar had thirteen flowers. It was clear that Anna-Claire can generate a good number of flowers. It was also had white flowers and they were also full of form. In the next year more different cultivars were exhibited in Auckland shows and all of them were white spotted burgundy until the South Auckland Orchid Society spring show. Here, *Odm. Anna-Claire 'Kati'* was exhibited as a first flowering, and it was a golden yellow. Thus the cross has produced at least one yellow cultivar. This one has the similar full form of the whites and even on an immature plant held eight flowers. It was given to me by Joe Vance as a young seedling and seems to be the only yellow so far seen. So where did all the whites come from? As far as I can tell from looking at ancestry, there is *Odm. Rialto* in the 3rd generation back and this is a pure colour and is a grandparent for the famous white *Odm. Royal Wedding*. There are also other hybrids in the ancestry of *Odm. Geyser Gold* that include pure colour clones and there is our old friend *Odm. crispum* with a good percentage inclusion. It is therefore no surprise that amongst clones of *Odm. Anna-Claire* there should be many that are white. What is perhaps more of a surprise is that there seems to be no trace of *Odm. maculatum* in the appearance of cultivars so far seen.

Where does the name 'Kati' come from? It is the name of my four-year-old younger grand daughter. As soon as she saw the pretty golden yellow *Odm. Anna-Claire* she liked it. She knows a good orchid when she sees it.

Ray Dix
Auckland

PhotoFile

Please excuse the various errors on the colour pictures. The names described below are the correct ones.

Odontoglossum crispum var. *lehmannii*

Grown by Paul Cable

A distinct variety of *Odm. crispum*, the attractive flowers are displayed on arching inflorescences which bear 15 to 25 flowers, much smaller than the standard species and are about 70mm. across with pale maroon blotches on the labellum.

Odontoglossum crispum 'Lyoth Snowtop' AM/RHS

Grown by Paul Cable

This is a fine example of a line bred *Odm. Crispum*, the flowers are presented on a gently arching inflorescence and have an overall spread measurement of 105 mm. This species is very variable and can be found with spotting in varying degrees, it is native to the Columbian Andes at elevations between 2200 and 3000 metres, where it was once prolific before indiscriminate collecting.

Odontoglossum Anna-Claire

Grown by Alf Day

Odontoglossum Anna-Claire 'Kati's'

Grown by Ray Dix

These two slides are referred to in the article by Ray Dix.

Odontioda Snowy River

Grown by Paul Cable

Beallara Tahoma Glacier 'Sugar Sweet'

Grown by Ngari Jordan

These two pictures were taken at last year's Taranaki Show and were 1st and 2nd in the *Odontoglossum* class.

Coming Event

Taranaki Orchid Society Summer Display

January 10th – 12th 2003

Central School

New Plymouth

It's that time again! The Odontoglossum Alliance is scheduled to have their meeting on Saturday afternoon at 4pm. Bring along your thoughts, questions and ideas as well as your plants for the display. We can all discuss what we've bee up to in the last year. If you've got any slides (or photos) you would like to show everyone, bring them along as well.

Don't forget about the show itself with the lavish dinner on Saturday night and the guided tour of Pukekura Park. Also, bring plenty of money to catch that bargain or find that missing plant at the boot sale on Saturday afternoon.

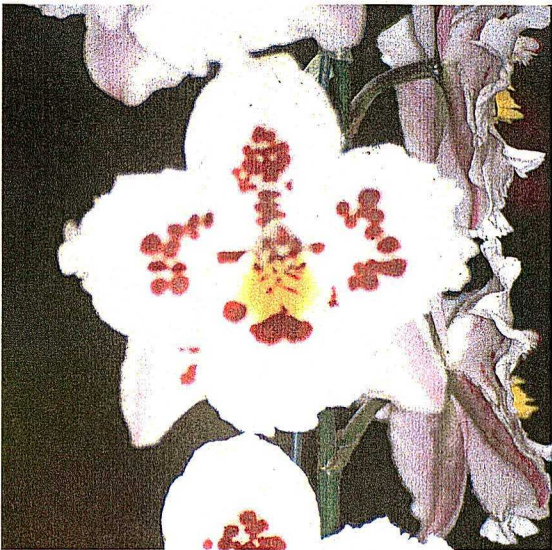
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 596 597 598 599 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 696 697 698 699 700 701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 776 777 778 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 788 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 796 797 798 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900 901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 916 917 918 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926 927 928 929 930 931 932 933 934 935 936 937 938 939 940 941 942 943 944 945 946 947 948 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956 957 958 959 960 961 962 963 964 965 966 967 968 969 970 971 972 973 974 975 976 977 978 979 980 981 982 983 984 985 986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994 995 996 997 998 999 1000 1001 1002 1003 1004 1005 1006 1007 1008 1009 1010 1011 1012 1013 1014 1015 1016 1017 1018 1019 1020 1021 1022 1023 1024 1025 1026 1027 1028 1029 1030 1031 1032 1033 1034 1035 1036 1037 1038 1039 104



Odm crispum var. lehmannii



Odm crispum 'Lyoth Snow Top'



Odm Anna-Claire



Odm Anna-Claire 'Kati's'



Oda Snowy River



Beallara Tachoma 'Glacier' Sugar Sweet