



Tuckers Orchid Nursery

Presents...

Orchids for Everyone



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FROM ROSS THE BOSS

Welcome back –

Hasn't the weather started to turn? The days are shorter and the nights cooler, the good long summer is coming to an end. The orchids are feeling it too, more spikes coming on. Orchids like Zygos and Odonts, which need bigger day /night temperature differential and Cymbids with heaps of spikes everywhere you look – even on the smaller plants.

We welcome to our staff our newest member Benzon Fernandez, a nurseryman from the Philippines wanting to learn all about orchids.

This months' newsletter is all about the Neofinetia/Vanda type – a very large group of orchids which are not so widely grown on NZ but should be. In shows in Japan & Taiwan, Neofinetia have their own shows within shows, and are exhibited and benched in very attractive pots. They have collectors there who pay very large sums of money for plants.

In the past month we have had visitors from all around the world – South Africa, the Islands, Australia all who have seen our newsletter, so if you know other growers or orchid lovers who would be interested in receiving our super newsletter, just submit their email address to us, or send them the newsletter and have them contact us if they want to keep receiving it. We would love to have more readers and spread the word about orchids as far and wide as possible.

We have just received another shipment of flasks from Taiwan from another large Phalaenopsis nursery, and shortly Roy Tokunaga is due to visit NZ to give some talks at the NZOS Autumn Show. If you are interested in hearing Roy speak, he will be at the Mt Albert War Memorial Hall on Sunday 5th May. Roy is a very knowledgeable and extremely friendly grower who explains all about growing your orchids better, so come along. Contact us if you need more details, and if hearing Roy speak isn't enough incentive, he will be bringing some of his world class flasks of all sorts for you to purchase. They will all have passed border security and be ready for you to grow on. Not a bad reason to come and see an early in the year orchid show and a world class speaker all for free.

Some of our vandaceous seedlings and parents



Rhynchostylis gigantea



Renanthera imschootiana



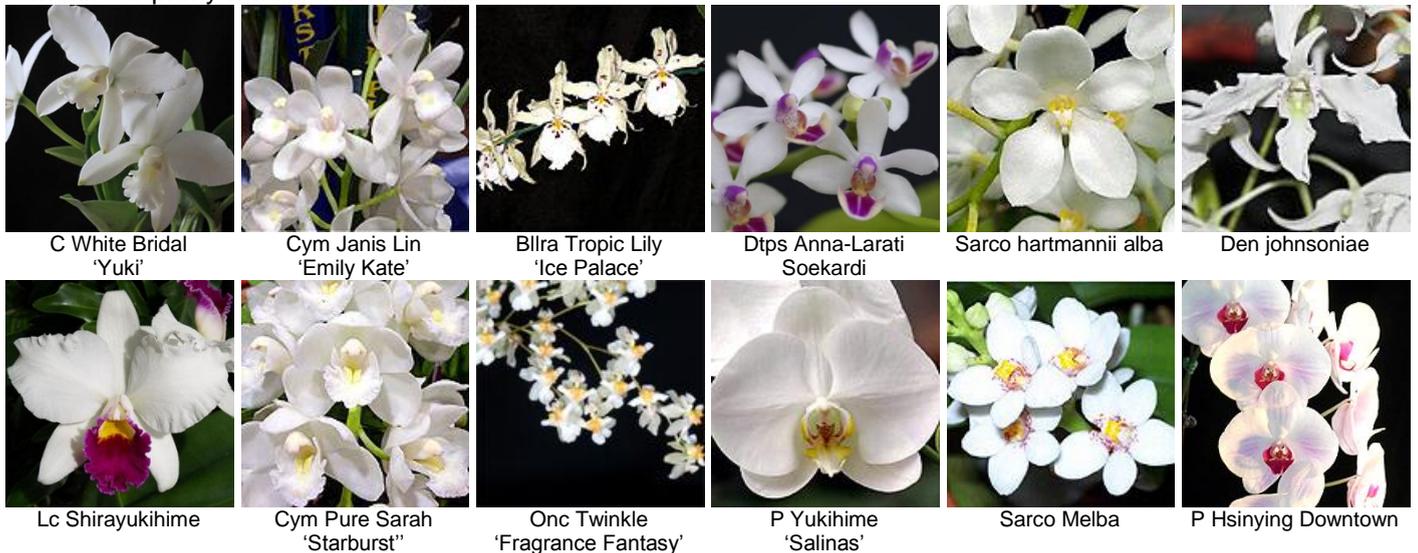
Neostylis Lou Sneary
(Neo falcata x Rhy coelestis)

CATS COMMENT:

To me the Vandas represent true tropical orchids. They have always captivated me and some of the very best I have ever seen with my own eyes were brought into NZ for the World Orchid Conference in 1990. The colours were stunning, blue, pink, yellow, red, orange even white. Different sizes, from flowers the size of saucers to the diminutive Ascocentrums with their tiny clusters of bright jewel like flowers. They really are like jewels; as if you look at them closely their texture is crystalline in nature and the surface of the petals sparkle. I have been pestering Ross to let me do a newsletter on this subject for ages so now you have it. As you can tell I tend to rave a bit about Vandas so I wish they were more widely grown and available. I have grown them off and on for many years with mixed results, but now I think I am getting the knack of it. They can be a bit tricky and are a little slower to grow than other orchids, but the results are worth it. The flowers are long lasting, most are lightly perfumed and will be a talking point and source of envy for your friends when they see you flower them.

There is something very special and pure about white orchids, so this month we are offering a special 6 pack of some of our very beautiful white babies that may include some of those pictured below, as well as some of our vandaceous plants.

Some of our pretty whites and semi-albas



SPECIALS THIS MONTH:

These specials are only available until the next newsletter issue.

6 pack of vandaceous size B	\$50 incl GST
6 pack of white orchids size B	\$50 incl GST
6 pack of white orchids size C	\$90 incl GST
10 pack of white orchids size B	\$90 incl GST

These specials are now available for ordering through our website. Look for them in the Online Orchid Club category. Please let us know if you do not see this category option.

Included are free cultural notes and a special free gift (Delivery charges apply). Whilst you can place an order via email (orchids@clear.net.nz) we would like you to visit our website www.tuckersorchidnursery.co.nz to view our range. We are happy to send these orchids anywhere in NZ only.

WEBSITE WATSUP:

In the December newsletter I touched on how we were working towards putting the newsletter specials on our website. This has now been accomplished and some of our members have managed to work their way through some glitches and ordered our specials. For those that may have tried and gave up, here's what you need to do;

1. The specials are only available to view by Online Orchid Club members. Create an account on our website.
2. Email us once the account has been created and we will change the status over from Retail to Online Orchid Club. We will email you back once this has been completed.
3. Clear your browsing history.
 - 3.1 For Internet Explorer, open the browser window, click on the Tools menu and then select Internet Options. On the first screen, the General Tab, you will see Browsing History. Delete your browsing history.
 - 3.2 For Mozilla Firefox, open the browser window, click on the Tools menu and select Options. On the Privacy tab click on Clear your recent history. Ensure that you then select 'Everything' at the next screen.
 - 3.3 For Google Chrome, click on the button at the top right of the screen showing three horizontal bars. Select Tools and then Clear browsing data. Ensure that you then select 'the beginning of time' at the next screen.
- 4 Log in to our website using your email address and password. You should now see the additional Online Orchid Club plant category on the left hand side.

If you are still experiencing problems, please email me and I will endeavour to sort them out for you. Meanwhile, we will keep last month's specials up for another month to allow for those that wanted them but were having problems getting them.

Note 1: If you are wishing to order specific varieties to be included in one of the multipacks, either type the details into the Comments box at Step 5 of the checkout process or email us straight away. Otherwise we will assume that you wish us to make a selection for you.

Note 2: For the first time since we created this website we have loaded in some new varieties of orchids not previously available. As promised, these will be made available to our Online Orchid Club members first before being made generally available. You will find them in the Online Orchid Club category and they will go to general release once the next newsletter issue is released. Remember, the early bird catches the worm (we pick the best plants first to fill orders).

Susan Tucker



Angraecum sesquipedale



Angraecum dideri



Aerangis citrata

FEATURE OF THE MONTH – ANGRAECUMS & RELATED GENERA

(Plants displayed in this section are for informational purposes only; we may not always have these plants in stock)

Angraecums are a genus in the Vandaceous family of orchids. Their common name is the Comet Orchid. The genus contains about 220 species, and are some of the most magnificent and admired

of all orchid plants. They can vary considerably in size both vegetatively and florally, and are adapted to dry tropical woodland habitat and have quite fleshy leaves as a consequence. Most are epiphytes, but a few are lithophytes.

Tropical Africa and Madagascar contain the majority of the genus. The long-lasting flowers are borne in clusters on short to med length spikes that grow from the leaf axils. They are mostly white, but a few are yellow, green or brown. They all have a long spur at the back of the lip. In the case of *Angraecum sesquipedale*, a species from Madagascar a.k.a. The Star of Bethlehem, on observing the 30cm spur in the lip, Charles Darwin made the hypothesis that, since the nectar was at the bottom of the spur, a pollinator must exist with a tongue at least that long. Otherwise the orchid could never be pollinated. At the time, he was not believed. However, in 1903, the predicted pollinator was discovered, a hawk moth then named *Xanthopan morgani praedicta*. It has an appropriately long proboscis. The specific name *sesquipedale* means "one foot and a half", referring to the length of the spur. This is a perfect example of mutual dependence of an orchid and a specific pollinator.

Aerangis is another genus from the Vandaceous family. It also occurs primarily in Africa and Madagascar and contains approx 50 species. The name derives from the Greek words 'aer' (air) and 'angos' (urn), referring to the form of the lip. Aerangis are predominately epiphytic and resemble small vandas in appearance. Their large, waxy, star-shaped flowers are generally white, cream-colored or yellow. They show a long, nectar-filled spur, often longer than the flower itself. There is a single stem with many flowers on a long raceme. The lip is flat and resembles the petals and sepals. They give off a pleasant smell during the night. There are six to ten parallel-veined, fleshy, evergreen leaves.

Other related genera include the large family of Aeridinae (formerly Sarcanthinae) which is a subtribe of the Vandaceous orchids that grow predominately in Asia.

Genera in this huge family are included below: These are just the more commonly known ones!

Vandas – about 50 species. This genus and its allies are considered to be the most highly evolved of all orchids within Orchidaceae. The genus is very highly prized in horticulture for its showy, fragrant, long lasting, and intensely colorful flowers. The genus has a monopodial growth habit with leaves that are highly variable according to habitat. Some have flat, typically broad, ovoid leaves (strap-leaves), while others have cylindrical (terete), fleshy leaves and are adapted to dry periods. The stems of these orchids vary considerably in size; there are miniature plants and plants with a length of several meters. The plants can become quite massive in habitat and in cultivation, and epiphytic species possess very large, rambling aerial root systems.

Very similar to cultivate are **Euanthe** and **Vandopsis**.



Vanda Gordon Dillon



Euanthe sanderiana



Ascocentrum miniatum

Ascocentrum –Approx 15 species, they are a small genus occur mainly in warmer to intermediate, humid climates of the foothills of the Himalayas, in Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Java and Borneo.

These monopodial epiphytic orchids grow on deciduous trees. They have a short stem (max. 15-18 cm) with an upright, compact, flower spikes, consisting of smaller brightly colored flowers. These flowers have a prominent spur and a strap-like lip. Their bright colors vary between yellow, orange, red, or cerise. They are popular among orchid lovers because they resemble the compact Vanda-like species, which they freely hybridize with.

Neofinetia – only 6 species found in China, Japan and Korea. The type species was introduced to the West from Japan by Carl Peter Thunberg in 1784, and placed in the genus *Orchis*.

In 1925 H. H. Hu created *Neofinetia* as a separate genus.

Neofinetia is named in honor of Achille Finet, a French botanist and author of *Contributions a la Flore de L'Asie Orientale*. The Greek prefix *neo*, (new) was added to distinguish it from another plant genus named earlier to honor Finet. Numerous intergeneric hybrids have been made with other members of the Vandeeae family.

Phalaenopsis - approx 50 species commonly known as Moth Orchids. Mainly found in south-east Asia.

The genus can be classified into two groups

1. A group of species with a long, branched stems(up to 1 m long) and large, almost round flowers with pink or white tints.
2. A group of species with short stems and less rounded, waxy flowers with more pronounced colours.

Intensive cross-fertilization has produced a great number of hybrids in all colors and variations. These are usually more adaptable to artificial conditions than their botanical ancestors. Many are hybrids of *Phalaenopsis amabilis*, *Phalaenopsis schilleriana* or *Phalaenopsis stuartiana*.



Neofinetia falcata



Renanthera philippinense



Renanthera monochica

Renanthera is a genus of large scrambling, monopodial epiphytic and terrestrial species distributed from India, New Guinea, and through to the Philippines. There are approx 15 species. Plants in this genus produce a branched inflorescence containing numerous flowers, ranging in color from yellow and orange to red. These flowers possess large lateral sepals. Species in this genus usually require an intermediate to hot climate with good air movement and generally bright light. Their scrambling style of growth means they are best grown on a hanging mount or basket. If they are grown in pots there must be excellent drainage.

Rhynchostylis - 6 species endemic to India, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

These orchids grow naturally in warm, moist, shaded tropical areas. Hobbyists wanting to grow them will need a warm, humid growing environment with gentle air movement. Their unusually fragrant blooms often appear in the slightly cooler winter months. Despite being in the Vanda Tribe, they are very different than Vandas. They grow more slowly, their roots are more fragile, and almost any direct sun will harm them. However, they are typically grown with no potting mix in slat baskets or mounted just like Vandas.



Rhynchostylis coelestis



Rhynchostylis gigantea



Sedirea japonica

Sarcochilus – approx 25 species endemic to Northern Australia, Eastern Australia, Tasmania and New Caledonia. The name Sarcochilus is derived from the Greek words sarx (= flesh) and cheilos (= lip), referring to the fleshy labellum of these orchids. These are epiphytic or lithophytic orchids with leaves arranged in vertical rows and not originating from a pseudobulb. The flower spike is pendant to arching with a few to many, successive opening flowers with free petals and sepals. The colour of the flowers is variable and goes from pure white (*S. falcatus*) to white and red (*S. fitzgeraldii*). The tri-lobed, fleshy labellum is pouch-like. Some of these species can form keikis, forming large clumps with age. Many species have become endangered or vulnerable, due to illegal collecting.

Sedirea - There are presently two known species. They are found in sub-tropical areas of China, Korea, and Japan, usually as epiphytes. The name is 'Aerides' spelled backwards, a reference to the genus they were originally placed in.

S. japonica is the most commonly found and has traditionally been very popular in the Asian horticultural trade, and recently has also been used in hybridizing. It is an epiphyte growing on tree trunks in open forests or on cliffs along valleys at 600-1400 m.

CULTURE OF ANGRAECUMS AND VANDACEOUS ORCHIDS:

Light: They prefer bright light, either in a glasshouse with approx 30% shade cloth above them, or they can be grown in the house at a North or West facing window, but avoid direct sunlight past 10am as this can scorch them, and the leaves will blister if the sun is too strong. Aim for strong light green leaves. During the summer they would prefer to be outside if at all possible. Terete leaved (pencil like) Vandas like full sun.

Temperature: They will be happy with a min night temp of 12-13 deg C. Like all orchids they do best with plenty of air movement. A small fan can be used if growing indoors or in a glasshouse. This helps to prevent many fungal diseases.

Humidity and Watering: Watering is the most important consideration for good culture. It depends on what medium you are growing them in: If you are growing on a slab or in a basket watering 2-3 times a day may be necessary in the summer months as these plants like a lot of water, but also

like to dry their roots between watering. Smaller plants may be grown in a pot in No 2-3 bark and these can be watered 2-3 times a week. High humidity is desirable at all times.

Feeding: Feed Flowering Orchid Tucker fertilizer weekly, as these are greedy plants. Make sure to flush with plain water between feedings.

Repotting: Use an open free draining mix. Fairly coarse bark is desirable as they do not like to have wet feet! Some Vandas can be adapted to grow on rafts of punga or feijoa wood. If using plastic pots drilling extra holes around the side of the pot will help to increase air movement around the roots. The roots are very fragile and break easily so infrequent repotting is advised. If you can replace the bark by tipping it out without unduly disturbing the plant, do so. Plants grown in baskets can be placed in a larger basket without removing from the smaller one – do not try this as massive root damage will result. Support may be needed for taller growing varieties. If a plant gets too leggy i.e. has leaves and roots at the top of the plant and a bare stem below it can be carefully cut off at the top just below the aerial roots and dusted with sulphur. This can then be potted on its own and will soon come away. Do not throw out the lower bit as it may form a keikei and you may get two plants.

SPOTLIGHT ON SPECIES: *Neofinetia falcata*

From Japan, Korea and the Ryukyu Islands, it is a intermediate to cool grower, found in areas that have shady summers, and because of the deciduous trees that they grow on, almost full sun in the winter. It has a several flowered inflorescence that appears in early summer through fall with nocturnal, fragrant flowers. Best mounted on tree fern or cork in warm conditions yet it can be grown in suspended pots with a very coarse mixture to allow air to get to the roots. The plant is a miniature to small sized, monopodial, vandaceous plant that is less than 5" tall.

We have a number of crosses available using *Neo falcata* as a parent as well as the species itself.

Neostylis Lou Sneary – *Neo falcata* x *Rhy coelestis*

Neostylis Pinky – *Neo falcata* x *Rhy gigantea*

Rnet Sunrise – *Ren imschootiana* x *Neo falcata*

Ang dideri x *Neo falcata*

Most of these are photographed elsewhere in this newsletter. For other new listings, just for you our readers, see our website www.tuckersorchidnursery.co.nz and look in the online members' area.

WHERE WE ARE OUT AND ABOUT THIS MONTH:

Home & Garden Show – Waitakere Trusts Stadium

26-28th April

New Zealand Orchid Society Autumn Show - Mt Albert Memorial Hall

5th May



Next Month we will be focusing on: Miltoniopsis

Milt Rene Komoda 'Pacific Clouds'

Please note, the photos of plants shown in our newsletter are a mixture of breeding plants, plants we have seen in our travels and plants we have for sale. Not all of the plants that are displayed in our newsletter are available as plants for sale. Please check our website for details of what plants we have for sale. We do, however, welcome requests for plants that are not listed on our website as we may be able to supply them or something very similar.

