



Tuckers Orchid Nursery

Presents...

Orchids for Everyone



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FROM ROSS THE BOSS

Welcome back –

The Orchid Show season is now in full swing and the first couple have been and gone. So I write this after a good start to the season. Out of 30 plants entered at the recent NZOS show we gained 12 - 1sts, 4 - 2nds, 4 - 3rds, 7 trophies and 2 awards. As well, several other plants sold by Tuckers (not grown by us) also received awards and trophies. Keep up the good work.

Spending a little time helping out around the show, I was keen to notice what took the eye of the 'all knowledgeable orchid growing public' and what they were spending their money on. Well it was fantastic to see that what we had imported into NZ as flasks and in various colour forms, was *Onc Twinkle* and these were in hot demand by the public. With numerous plants around the show, the public were seeing well grown plants, and smelling the beautiful aroma. They were quickly sold out. As they grow and stay miniature they can always fit in between other plants and give a lovely display for the size of the plants.

At an Orchid meeting I was talking to Phillip Zhou, our Chinese Cymbidium orchid grower, and he was explaining that he had numerous crosses and plants in flower, so I invited him to bring his plants to the nursery to show some of the public which come into our nursery the new Cymbidiums he has bred. He decided to advertise in the Mandarin Times newspaper for the Chinese speaking public. The response was fantastic. There were groups all day Saturday and Sunday, and he was able to give expert advice. They acquired many of his new hybrids and he almost sold out.

Susan, on the same weekend attended the first Orchid show held in Warkworth, hosted by the Hibiscus Coast Orchid Society. This was a one day show on the Saturday, and it has proved a roaring success, getting orchids out to the people, with a sizeable display and lots of plants sold, which made a tidy profit for the club. "An active Orchid Club is a growing Orchid Club."

This month's newsletter is all about Brassias. These plants combine well with the *Odontoglossum* family to produce flowers often referred to as Spider Orchids. Some have very large, long petals and sepals but are also often very wavy or twisted, but always impressive on a long spike.

The further breeding of these has created some interesting new colour combinations with unusual patterns and stripes. Cathy will deal with the cultural requirements, but they are easily accompanied with *Oncidiums*, Aussie *Dendrobiums* and *Cymbidiums*.

Preparations are well underway for the National Orchid Show in New Plymouth this year, with numerous overseas growers making contact, so if you have some general or specific requests let us know and we may be able to help. Don't forget flasks bought in New Plymouth have already complied with our strict Biosecurity requirements, and generally they will be a lot cheaper than you can import them for. So be prepared. Get a group together to share a flask as it will be the ideal time to deflask them.

CHECK OUT THE PLANT GALLERY ON OUR WEBSITE

These plants are to show you what we are breeding. They are not available for purchase.

Some of our newer Brassia hybrids:



Aliceara Pacific Nova 'Okika'



McIna Yellow Star
'Golden Gambol'



Beallara Lunatic Fringe 'Ikes Yikes'



Beallara Big Shot 'Kitty Kat'

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.

SPECIALS THIS MONTH:

6 pack Brassia hybrids Size B	\$55
6 pack Brassia hybrids Size B+	\$80
10 pack Brassia hybrids Size B	\$90
10 pack Brassia hybrids Size B+	\$125
6 pack new Odont hybrids Size B	\$55
6 pack new Odont hybrids Size B+	\$80
10 pack new Odont hybrids Size B	\$90
10 pack new Odont hybrids Size B+	\$125
6 pack pink orchids Size B	\$55
6 pack pink orchids Size C	\$95
10 pack pink orchids Size B	\$90
10 pack pink orchids Size C	\$150
Plantacote Slow Release Fertilizer 200g	\$8
Dolomag 300g	\$8

All prices 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). To place an order you can email us at orchids@clear.net.nz or visit our website www.tuckersorchidnursery.co.nz to view our range. We are happy to send these orchids anywhere in NZ only.



CATS COMMENT:

Brassias are the only large spiders that I am happy to have any dealings with! I'm sure I'm not alone in this regard. Quite a few orchids have been named after the insects, flowers or animals they resemble. For example, Miltonias are often called pansy orchids, Oncidiums are often known as the dancing ladies because of their large yellow lips resembling a long skirt. The European and American Cyripediums are known as ladies slippers due to the large shoe shaped pouch that is the lip. The Asiatic Paphiopedilums are also commonly known as slipper orchids. Another European terrestrial orchid genus, the Ophrys, is commonly named after various flies or bees as that is what they resemble when in flower – a swarm of bees. They are often wasp pollinated. The Diuris genus is a native from Australia and it is commonly known as the Donkey orchid as it appears to have large ears. Another Australian native is the flying duck orchid – Caleana major.

Phalaenopsis are known as the moth orchid but their column often resembles a birds head. Many of the Dracula species from South America are known as monkey faced orchids.

The pictures of some of these are shown below. Many of them are very rare species and unfortunately we do not have any of these available for purchase.



Bee orchid
Ophrys apifera



Donkey orchid
Diuris carinata



Cyp calceolus
Ladies slipper



Flying Duck orchid
Caleana major



Dracula simia
Monkey faced orchid

We are coming into the warmer months now and it is time to start thinking about repotting again. Plants that have finished flowering, or did not flower for any reason this year, can be repotted from August onwards. We have good supplies of Kiwi bark available. This is the best bark I have found for repotting as its quality is very consistent and it does not seem to contain any dust or dirt like other makes sometimes do. I use No 2 for all small plants up to 5" pots and No 3 for larger pots. Incorporating a little bit of slow release fertilizer into the mix (about 1tsp per 5" pot), covers me if I don't get the time to feed my plants as regularly as I would like to. I also add a tiny bit of sphagnum peat so stop the plants drying out too quickly in the hotter months. Happy growing!

FEATURE OF THE MONTH – BRASSIA

Brassia is a genus in the Oncidium alliance. It was named after William Brass, a British botanist and illustrator who collected plants in Africa for Sir Joseph Banks. Brassias are commonly known as spider orchids. Brassias can be found from South Florida, the West Indies down to the Peruvian Andes at altitudes up to 1500m in the rain forests. Brassia has a very specific method for pollination: It uses entomophily - that is pollination by female spider-hunter wasps. Mistaken by the similarity of Brassia to a spider, the wasp stings the lip, while trying to grasp its prey without any success. By these movements the wasp comes into contact with the pollinarium that then sticks to its head. By flying to another Brassia flower, this flower gets pollinated.



Brs arcuigera



Brs caudata



Brs gireoudiana



Brs verrucosa

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

We have two new Brassia hybrids to tempt you with this month (see photos earlier in the newsletter), plus some new Odontoglossum alliance hybrids from Hawaii. (Size B & B+ only)



Onc Copper Scarab
'Brass Brethren'



Onc Aka Baby
'Raspberry Chocolate'



Onc Twinkle
'Pink Profusion'



Vuyi Carnivale
'Okika'



Wils Castle Issa
'Hilo Bay'



Onc Heaven Scent
'Rendolence'



Odcdm Wildcat 'Magic Leopard'



Odcdm Sunlight 'Pesky Panther'

Our other offering this month for our specials is our new Pink packs. These can include any genera we currently have listed e.g. Cymbidiums, Cattleyas, Phallies, Sarcochilus, Dendrobiums and Odonts. You can choose your varieties or let us choose some quality plants for you, just indicate which genera you prefer to grow – Size B or C.

We have 6 or 10 packs available. Here are just a few suggestions to brighten up your winter.



Cym Aussie
Connection 'Redvale'



Cym Kurralta Park
'Tennyson'



Den Australian Rose
Beauty crosses



Den Jonathans Glory
'Dark Joy'



Dtps Meidarland
'Annaberry'



Phal schilleriana
crosses



Slc Hawaiian Splash
'Lea'



C Hsinying Cognac
crosses



Sarco Cherie



Sarco Melody



Neostylis Pinky
(falcata x gigantea)



Billra Pluto's Drummer
'Pacific Pink'

SPOTLIGHT ON SPECIES: *Brassia verrucosa*

Common name - The Warty Brassia

This large species is a cool to intermediate growing epiphyte of open humid, cloud forests on tree trunks and larger branches from altitudes of 900 to 2400 meters that range into Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Peru and Brazil with ovoid slightly flattened pseudobulbs that has 2, leaves. It is distinguished from the other Brassia by the green warts on the base of the lip. They flower in the late spring through to early autumn on a 60 cm long, erect to arching, spike forming on a mature pseudobulb, which are strongly double ranked and have from 10 to 20 flowers per stem. They have a slight fragrance of black pepper and need regular waterings and fertilizer year round.

CULTURE OF BRASSIAS

Brassia species and their hybrids are easy to grow.

Light: They prefer bright light with approx 30% shade cloth above them, but avoid direct sunlight as this can scorch them, and the leaves will burn 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.

Temperature: They will be happy with a min winter night temp of 12-13 deg C. They can cope with summer temps up to 30 deg C without too much stress. 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: Water freely during the summer months, letting the mix become just damp before watering again. Most Brassias like a rest after flowering—that means keep the watering to a minimum and no feeding for a few weeks. When the plant makes new root growth, start gradually increasing the frequency of feeding and watering.

Feeding: Feed Flowering Orchid Tucker fertilizer weekly. Make sure to flush with plain water occasionally between feedings.

Repotting: Use an open free draining mix. Medium grade bark is suitable for most hybrids and species. Some Brassia hybrids do well on slabs and can be adapted to grow on rafts of punga.



WEBSITE WATSUP:

Fastway's Rural Delivery Zones available online:

Fastway's rural delivery zones are different to NZ Post. Mostly, Fastway is rural where NZ Post is not, however that rule cannot be applied across the board. We're considered rural under NZ Post but not under Fastway. Check to see what you are. They are available on the home page under Shipping and Returns.

Viewing the specials on our website:

- You must first create an account on our website. This new account will be set up as a regular Retail account.
- Email us to let us know that you have set up the account. We will then switch the status over to Online Orchid Club.
- Login 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 have any difficulties viewing the new category please try clearing your cache/browsing history using the following steps;

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

If you are still experiencing problems, please email me and I will endeavour to sort them out for you.

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: New varieties 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.

Susan Tucker



WHERE WE ARE OUT AND ABOUT THIS MONTH:

14th August – CommHort Trade Day – Mangere

17th August – CSA Show – Garden Rooms, Western Springs

23rd – 24th August – Waitakere Orchid Club Show – Kelston Community Centre

26th – 1st September – Lynn mall

6th & 7th September – Hibiscus Coast Orchid Society Show – Orewa Community Centre



Next month we are focusing on Paphiopedilums

Paph Frank Pearce