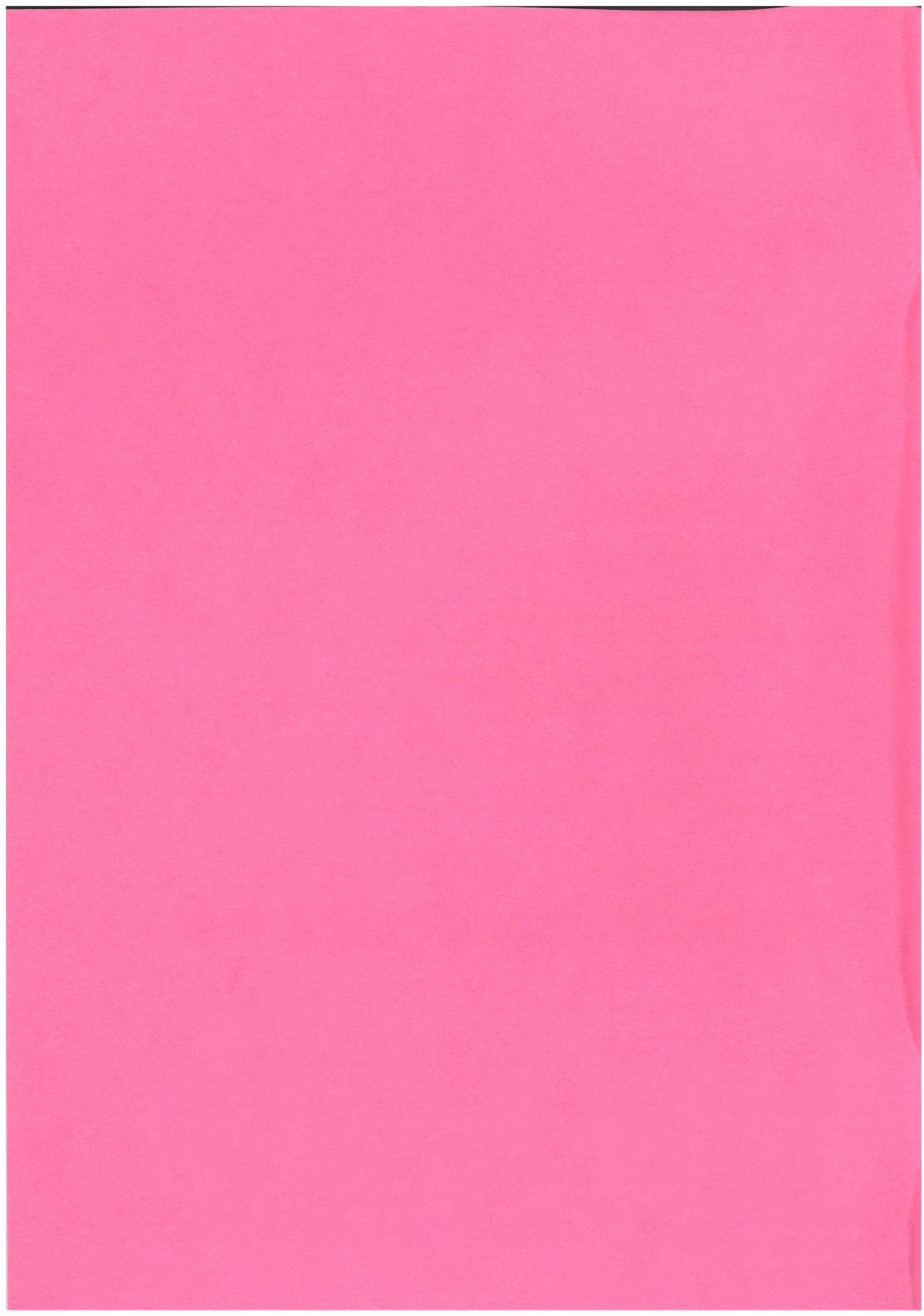




EPIFLORA

Volume 16 No. 4

Nov 2007





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From the President

Dear fellow epiphyte growers

Summer is here – officially by the time you receive *Epiflora* but even as I am writing this in the third week in November it feels as though summer has already arrived. We have had glorious warm, sunny days and as a result the growth in the garden is spectacular.

What a wonderful time it is for epiphytes! Each day new flowers are opening on the epicacti and hoyas are flowering profusely. Our growing collection of orchids are also thriving with *masdevallias* showing off their beautiful iridescent colours. Even in the garden we have an abundance of orchids – wild ones of course. For some reason totally beyond us *microtis uniflora* finds our garden a great place to grow – by the pond, in and around roses, between rhododendrons, etc. Last year I was pulling these orchids out as I thought they were weeds but when I read that they were actually wild orchids they gained complete respect from me.

It's a year since the society expanded both its name and the plants covered by us. Therefore maybe it is time to reflect on how successful this has been and what we might do to make it even more successful. I am sure that each one of you has ideas about this – if you will be at the AGM in December do bring these thoughts with you to discuss and if you are unable to be with us how about e-mailing me (j.r.griffith@clear.net.nz) or writing to let me know your ideas so that they too can be incorporated in our discussion in December.

You will notice that we have a Situations Vacant section in this edition of *Epiflora*. Do seriously consider whether you are able to undertake one of these tasks as, being a small society, we really do need each person, if possible, to do their bit.

I hope that you have great enjoyment from your plants this summer and have a restful and relaxing holiday period.

Kind Regards

Jane Griffith

November 2007

The Programme for 2007/8

Meetings are at Johnsonville Union Church (Dr. Taylor Terrace) and start at 2.00 pm. Sales, library books etc. are available at 1.30 pm.

Those on duty are responsible for preparing the room, assisting with tea and tidying the room at the end of the meeting and bringing a plant or other item for the raffle. If for any reason you are unable to do your allocated duty please arrange for someone else to do it.

December 8th

AGM and Christmas Meeting

On Duty: *Robyn Gibson, Vicky Gibson, Anne Goble*

Please bring:

- a plate for afternoon tea
- a "lucky dip" gift (value \$5 or less)

January 12th

Visits to some Kapiti Collections and Nga Manu Nature Reserve followed by a BBQ (More details later)

On Duty: *Brian Read, Nola Roser, Penny Luckens*

February 9th

Cultivating Ceropogias

On Duty: *Alice and Rex Hannam, Marion Austin*

March 8th

Hoya Topic

On Duty: *Virginia and Jim Hayler, Alison Beeston*

April 12th

to be finalised

May 10th

Visit to Manfeild Park Garden Festival (More details later)

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<i>June 14th</i>	<i>Endangered Species: Ghekos and Skinks</i>
<i>July 12th</i>	<i>Midwinter Meeting</i>
<i>August 9th</i>	<i>Vireya Rhododendrons</i>
<i>September 13th</i>	<i>Insights on the Internet</i>
<i>October 11th</i>	<i>Plant Clinic</i>
<i>November 8th</i>	<i>Epicacti topic</i>
<i>December 13th</i>	<i>AGM and Christmas Meeting</i>

Visit to Wellington Botanic Garden.

In November a group of us visited the Wellington Botanic Garden and, with a guide, saw the epiphytic plants growing there.

In November a group of us went to the Wellington Botanic Garden to see the epiphytes growing there. We were met near the visitors centre by Jenny Hickman who took us on a walk around the areas where they grow. This large collection must be one of the garden's better-kept secrets – and it certainly does not show on the garden map. Epiphytes, vines and mistletoes are often thought of as a feature of tropical forests so it is perhaps surprising that the New Zealand temperate forests are home to so many. The New Zealand plants are quite small and most live in the forest canopy – but some grow lower. Epiphytes (not being parasitic) are susceptible to drought – so various strategies have developed to mitigate this. Some store water, others have developed foliage that minimises transpiration.

We started by walking around the fern garden and there, in the trees were epiphytes in abundance. There were a number of species of orchids, as well as spleenworts, and ratas. Our guide pointed them out and discussed the plants and adaptations that they had made to survive in a New Zealand forest.

Some of us then climbed up through the camellia garden to the path through the cork-oaks, and they too hosted a varied collection of epiphytes.

Oh – some of our members may remember a speaker from Pukeiti talking about

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rhododendrons growing as epiphytes – there is one growing that way in the Botanic Garden!

Philately Botanica.

*We persuaded **Brian Read** to revisit this topic for us at our September meeting. Here is some of what he said*

It is eight years since I last displayed any of my stamp collection – how time flies!

An American Postmaster General once said: "The Postage Stamps of a nation are a picture gallery of its glories. They depict in miniature its famous men and women, the great events of its history, its organisations, its industries and its natural wonders. No-one can pursue this hobby without developing a greater knowledge of its national heritage".

I will not repeat my previous explanations of the history and functions of postage stamps – why people collect them and the vast range of topics displayed by so many countries. You can read a summary of that talk in *Epiflora* (February 2000).

Not too much talk today – I'm just displaying some examples of the vast range of stamps with botanical features – mainly flowers –starting with Great Britain, my country of birth, and concluding with New Zealand, my country of adoption. As this is a compilation from several different collections there is a wide variety of page types and only occasional write-ups on the pages.

Having given this introduction Brian proceeded to lay out and discuss sheet after sheet of stamps from almost all countries of the world. He compared the styles of artwork and the quality of the printing. He covered four tables with all the sheets and we all then had the opportunity to inspect and admire them more closely. Once again thank you Brian for a fascinating presentation.

Hoya macgillivrayi..

Jane Griffith writes about one of the plants in our collection.

We have owned a plant of *Hoya macgillivrayi* for about five years, having purchased it from Joy West when on a trip to Auckland and it flowered for the first time in October.

We were absolutely delighted and blown away with the beauty of it. Seven large pendant flowers in deep waxy red with some white streaks near the centre. The amazing thing was that the flowers lasted a fortnight. Thank goodness they did last awhile as we were on holiday in southern Queensland when the flowers first opened.

The native habitat for this plant is northern Queensland amongst the tropical forest – a very different environment from Waikanae. Therefore every late autumn as the night-time temperatures dropped we brought the plant indoors and on really cold nights it, with other tropical hoyas, were taken into the lounge where they enjoyed the dying embers of the fire. Some would say that no plant is worth such pampering but our beautiful *Hoya macgillivrayi* has proved its worth every bit of effort.

The plant is now putting out healthy new growth – the new growth is a beautiful bronze colour and waxy – in itself something to get excited about. We are hoping to be able to take some cuttings of the plant and nurture them through the winter on a heat pad.

It is interesting to note that Dale Kloppenburg in his book *The World of Hoyas* says that *Hoya macgillivrayi* is an easy plant to grow and flower. This is a good example of how climatic conditions need to be borne in mind when considering ease of growth. There is no doubt that *Hoya macgillivrayi* would be easy to grow in California but is more of a challenge to those of us who live in cooler climates.

Situations Vacant.

Firstly many thanks to Carol Rogerson who responded to a request for help earlier in the year and will be receiving our plant lists in the next few weeks. Carol will then act as the liaison between those who want specific plants and those who might have them. It will be important that we keep Carol informed of changes to our lists.

Several tasks need volunteers to help in the smooth running of the Society. Please consider carefully whether you are able to take one of these on for the forthcoming year.

1. In charge of our Sales Table

It has been found that the sales table works more efficiently if we have a coordinator who receives items as they are brought in by members, prices them and encourages people to buy. If you choose to take on this role you wouldn't need to be "tied to the table" all meeting but keep an eye on how things are going.

2. Library

A task that many have enjoyed doing in the past as the bonus of the job is that you have the library books at home to browse at in your leisure.

The job involves storing the library books; compiling an inventory of all our books in order to produce a library list for all members; receiving requests for library books and bringing these books in to the next meeting for local members and sending them off to out of town members.

3. Committee member

Alison Beeston and Anne Goble are not seeking re-election for the committee therefore we need new members. The committee meets four times a year before regular monthly meetings of the Society and plans the meetings, arranges outings and generally ensures the smooth running of the Society.

How about joining us for a year and bring your ideas to make the Society function even better.

So what happens when ...

Grant Bailey has been taking an unconventional approach to growing seedlings...

Have you ever thought of growing epi seedlings? Maybe you have grown them ... gee they take a long time to flower ... some of mine from last century are just beginning to flower for the first time ... wow! What a long time... So much has happened already ... A couple of buildings attacked by planes in America... Travel internationally is more restrictive with what you can take on board as hand luggage. Another country (actually several) damaged by war. The planet's temperature is higher. Roads have got busier. Petrol has gone up in price. More people use the internet. More people dying of cancer, lack of water, lack of food ... New Zealand sports players did well, but not always taking the big prize (e.g. sailing!!! ha ha oh and a ball game) And I'm 7 years older! AND it's taken over seven years for some of my epis to even look like flowering ... Ah but wait ... so what happens when ...

Over the last couple of years I quadrupled the 'recommended dose' of fertiliser on my epi seedlings ... then added heaps more! AND then, most of the time, practically drowned the seedlings in water. They loved the wet and well fed conditions!!!! I've never seen them grow so fast as they sat in my north facing window in full sun!. I think they would have baked or been sun burnt if there had been any less water!

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This year I have seedlings flowering. I noticed that the seed planting date for some was 05 ... I thought it a mistake... but no. April **2005** plants!!! Some Lollipop crosses and a number of my *Epiphyllum crenatum* x *Heliocereus speciosus* (*Disocactus speciosus*) seeds, planted in April 2005 will (I am expecting to) flower in late October - early November this year... Two and a bit years from seed to flower. Amazing!!! So that's what happens....

One species which LOVES water/swamp conditions is *E. crenatum*. So what happens with hybrids???

I have removed some un-named seedlings from my front garden ... they were planted about '97 ... and I potted them up last autumn (April 07). One plant was 'neglected' and has been sitting in an over-sized bucket of water... it has also been in full sun through the winter and still is now in spring.... The plant is covered in buds! I thought the plant would have drowned... but no! ... to enjoy the flowers is definitely better!!!

At this stage there are no signs of bud drop. This is the first time flowering ... though it may have had buds in previous years, they would have been gouged off by snails radulas. I have left the plant in the swamp conditions with a bit of 'Quash' to help keep the snail population down!

So what happens when my epis are overfed, over watered or have wet feet (and plenty of light) ... they tend to be over run with flowers ... I like that!

Hoyas.

Another of the "verses" from our July meeting...

It all depends where you have come from
As to what you see in a name
To all our society members
 Growing Hoyas is part of our game

But to those who live in North Honshu
Hoya, Maboya means food
Not your everyday fare like rice noodles
But a speciality item (looks rude)

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Not the sort of food favoured in this land
Like muffins, scones, biscuits and tea
But something much closer to kina
 Same colour, from under the sea.

A strange shape with many projections
In colour an apricot pink
It grows on a sandy mud bottom
 Looks a bit like a cactus you'd think

It's really a primitive cordate
Whose backbone got lost on the way
It has relatives down in Dunedin
 Some call them 'sea tulips' they say

It's eaten on special occasions
Along with sea urchins and such
Perhaps if you called it a sea squirt
 You wouldn't enjoy it so much.

But now that I'm back in New Zealand
(we call it the land of the free)
I'll just grow my Hoya carnosa
And eat muffins for afternoon tea.

Penny Luckens

The pictures on the following pages are:

- Brian Read and others examining stamps (by Kaye Keighley)
- A small epiphyllum growing in Brisbane Botanic Garden (by Jane Griffith)
- Hoya macgillivrayi* (by Jane Griffith)
- Wellington Botanic Garden - epiphytes on a roof (by Jane Griffith)
- Wellington Botanic Garden - epiphytes on a cork oak (by Jane Griffith)
- Wellington Botanic Garden - an epiphytic rhododendron (by Jane Griffith)



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Plant Clinic.

*At our October meeting we had a "Plant Clinic". Members were invited to bring ailing plants - and collectively advice was given on how to deal with them.. **Bev Parsons** was there...*

Dianne had a *H. carnosus* that was her mothers and the leaves were falling off. She took it to Morris Tarr about 13 years ago and they cut it back; after that it grew well but now the leaves have started to go yellow. It was suggested that the plant needed some Epsom Salts (magnesium) to keep the leaves green (1 tsp in water). It was also noticed that the plant had some scale. The consensus was that a drench of 5 ml of summer oil to 1 litre of water would help this; the foliage should be washed afterwards.

A comment was made that glass was better for light than plastic in hot houses. Also that Nitrophosca was best to use (does not have chloride) for plants across the board indoor & out. Nitrocote not good in glass because it has chloride.

Andrew brought in a bromeliad with brown leaves to show the damage that cold can do. To bring it back right just put it in the warmth. He also brought in another bromeliad with marks on the leaves that indicated either a nitrogen or potash deficiency. There is an article in the Bromeliad Journal written by Thorn Beck on nitrogen and potash deficiency.

Tillandsias left in the full sun will have stunted growth. It is better to water the floor than to water the tillandsias directly as the air in a glasshouse can dry in 10 minutes if it is a hot day. In the Andes the mist comes in the morning or late afternoon, but it is best for us not to water at night here, as we do not have the temperature to dry the plants out.

Ruth Finlay had an epi with prickles on the stems it was said that this was because it was a juvenile plant and in time the prickles would disappear. She also brought in a plant that had spots on its leaves; they were thought to be a fungus.

It was asked if it was better to put fertiliser in the bottom of the pot? If the fertiliser is in the bottom of the pot when you first water you will lose about 85% of the fertiliser. It was suggested that putting the fertiliser in the top of the pot was preferable, as you would not lose as much, although it would be best to give the plant a really good water the first time.

Further reading

Our Society receives journals from a number of other societies with similar interests. These journals are all available from our library. In the last couple of months a number of interesting items have been published. Here are some snippets that you might find interesting. (Of course you really should go and read the articles for yourself!)

If you need a good , comprehensive primer on the care of epis in the summer you can do no better than read the piece by Galen Pittman in the summer edition (volume 62/4) of **The Bulletin** (Epiphyllum Society of America) he covers all the basics thoroughly - from growing conditions to managing pests. Just remember that the months are upside down - as this is a northern hemisphere publication.

Epi-flora -published by EPRIC is notable for its excellent colour photos. The text is in both English and German. Issue number 5 has a short piece on *Strophocactus wittii* - together with a beautiful habitat photograph. They note that "it is virtually impossible to cultivate this plant" - so you wont see it in collections any time soon.

Another journal notable for its beautiful photographs is **EPIG**. The majority of the text is in German - but there are English abstracts and the plant names are the same in either language. The latest issue - No 59 has glorious photographs of schlumbergeras and aporophyllums .



In the June-September issue of **Fraterna** (International Hoya Association) is an illustrated account of a visit to the Hoya collection of Leiden University and an article by Ann Wayman on taking and growing cuttings of hoyas.

And finally - a new publication for our library - the first issue of "The Internet Orchid Review" arrived in September. This is a quarterly publication that arrives by e-mail. There is no charge for the e-mail version. If anyone is interested in receiving the magazine we can provide the contact details to subscribe. The next issue is due out on December 14th.

Happy reading.!

Sale – Sale – Sale – Sale – Sale

Final Clearance of excess plant stock.

Only potted plants, some varieties have never been catalogued in NZ

1, 2, 3 and 4 year old plants, many flowering.

Sales from nursery only. No mail-order. Selling on a first in, first served basis.

Beginning 10.00am 20th October (Labour Weekend) and continuing to 31st December 2007 (or while stocks last).

Plants from \$6 to \$10 each. No EFTPOS.

Also selling excess hanging plastic pots, all clean and sterilised \$2 each complete.

Beat over inflated internet "Trade Me" prices.

Craigmyle Epiphyllum Nursery
36 Manutahi Road,
Bell Block RD 2,
New Plymouth

Ph: 06 7553328

Andrew and Yvonne Brunton

A New Nursery Opens

Hello everyone,

My name is Carol Rogerson , my husband Doug and I will be opening a new Epiphyllum and Daylily nursery: SOUTH PACIFIC EPIPHYLLUMS at the end of November.

Our website link is: www.southpacificepi.co.nz

All contact details will be available on there.

We're situated in Pukekohe at the base of Pukekohe hill and have a temperate to subtropical climate. The majority of plants grow extremely well here, epiphyllums being no exception.

Our emphasis will be on providing top quality plant material and good customer service. At this stage due to other business commitments we are strictly mailorder only.

Epiphyllums will be available from the end of December after flowering has finished, until the end of May each year.

They will be available as calloused cuttings, some rooted cuttings will be available from time to time, please feel free to inquire.

You can continue to send orders through via the website while the nursery is closed. The orders will be processed and confirmed in order of receipt from the end of December onwards ie on a first in first served basis.

Due to intense local interest it is expected that most available cuttings will be out of stock quickly for this season, therefore try to get your orders in early.

As the website is very new please keep checking back regularly for more additions to the varieties available, news and specials.

Daylillies will be sent bareroot as freshly dug bloom size plants.

These will be available from the beginning of September until the end of May. We import daylily seed from America using the latest hybrids as crosses and in the future we hope to be able to register and offer our own introductions.

We are really looking forward to this new venture and as time permits we hope to be able to travel to Wellington to meet other members of the society.

Carol Rogerson

Now is the time

Summer is now with us - and the cool nights seem to be behind us. In Waikanae the coolest it has been over the last month is 5 °C so it is wise to continue to play it safe. As the sun rises earlier and is hotter it also pays to be careful about leaving water drops all over your plants. And as always - what you should be doing right now depends not a little on exactly where you live. Here are some suggestions for the Wellington growers. The overall theme is water regularly and enjoy the flowers. If you live in the north or the south you may need to adjust things a little.

Epicacti - Start watering regularly - preferably early in the day, enjoy the flowers as they come. After each plant has finished flowering you can repot and prune it.

Hoyas - water when dry. Fertilise. Keep a wary eye out for mealy bugs and other pests - they love warm humid conditions. Start enjoying the flowers - it is not too late to take cuttings.

Schlumbergeras - still a good time to repot - using slow release fertiliser (purchased from the society sales table) in the mix. Water when the plants seem dry.

Rhipsalis - water regularly as rhipsalis come into flower. A little fertiliser will assist the plants..

Aporophyllums - again - water regularly and enjoy the flowers. After flowering a plant can be lightly (and carefully!) pruned.

Ceropegias - Flowers should be beginning to appear. Water when dry. You should start the regular task of unwinding runaway growth. Keep in a warm sunny environment for maximum flowering. Give the dead-looking plants just a little longer before you throw them out.

Orchids- Phyllis Purdie writes: "You can water everything when they are getting dry, this will depend on the weather and where you grow them. Also plants which have flowered can be given fertiliser which has a high nitrogen content which will encourage growth. Others need to flower first so a low nitrogen fertiliser should be used on them. Make sure plants are not getting burnt with increased sunshine".

Now is also the time.....

To pay subscriptions for the coming year..

The society's year runs from January to December so subscriptions for 2008 are now due. You will find a renewal form in with this issue of Epiflora (unless you have already paid). Please bring it with the cash to the December meeting - or send it to our Treasurer.

Odd cuttings and seeds

Hello and Goodbye.

As you will see from the advert earlier in the journal Craigmyle Epiphyllums are closing. Yvonne and Andrew wish to pursue other interests. Thank you both for the plants you have grown and the hospitality you have shown us.

However as you will also see from the other advert in this journal Carol Rogerson and her husband are opening South Pacific Epiphyllums (and that is not all they will be selling). We wish them well and hope the business will bring them both pleasure and profit!.

An online resource..

The Missouri Botanical Garden Library with the help of some generous benefactors has embarked on a project to digitise and make available online early botanical books. So far they have some 250 books available - the first being one written by Richard Bradley on Cacti and Succulents in 1716.

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The web-address is www.botanicus.org .

New Zealand Native Orchids

Iwitahi Native Orchid Heritage Protection Area consists of 14.3 hectares of *Pinus nigra* in the Kaingaroa forest along the Napier-Taupo road. It is also home to over thirty species of New Zealand native orchids. They have an excellent web-site www.wildwoodgallery.co.nz/iwitahi.orchids.htm .

Back numbers of "Epiflora"

The first edition of **Epiflora** appeared in March 1992. We have limited stocks of back numbers for most issues from Volume 2 (March 1993) onwards. Ask the editor for details.

Future Publication Dates.

EPIFLORA is published quarterly by the Wellington Hoya and Epiphytic Plant Society.

Comments and contributions are most welcome. The society aims to encourage discussion and debate; opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the society. It is the policy of the society to publish corrections of fact but not to comment on matters of opinion expressed in other publications. All material in Epiflora may be reprinted by non-profit organisations provided that proper credit is given to WHEPS, Epiflora and the author.

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WAIKANAE.

Or: griffith@globe.co.nz

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Autumn 2008 Edition - 9th February 2008

Summer 2008 Edition - 10th May 2008

Subscriptions:

Subscriptions are due on 1st of January and are:

<i>Members -</i>	<i>\$12.00</i>
<i>(overseas members)</i>	<i>\$NZ24.00 or \$US12.00)</i>
<i>Additional Associate Members -</i>	<i>\$4.00</i>
<i>(At same address as a member)</i>	

Society web address:

Find us on the web at : www.epihoya.freewebsitehosting.com/

