



EPIFLORA

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Mar 2011

The Programme for 2011	3
December Meeting and AGM	4
January visits to gardens and collections.	6
February meeting on hoyas.	11
Wellington Hoya and Epiphytic Plant Society 1990-2011 ..	12
Now is the time	13
Publication Details	16

From the President

Well this is it – my final contribution to Epiflora, and one of my last acts as President. I rather reluctantly accepted this position just over a year ago when no-one else was willing and it looked like the society was in danger of falling over.

Our Society has had over twenty years of companionship, being formed primarily by members of the Cactus and Succulent Society and on similar lines to the Auckland Epiphyllum and Hoya Society.

I was cajoled to attend one of the early meetings and thoroughly enjoyed the friendly atmosphere and the interesting talks even though my interest in and knowledge of Epi's and Hoyas was minimal.

Like myself, many of our current members are of long standing and have become good friends. They have all done their bit in serving the club in a wide range of responsibilities.

Sadly others have passed on or moved away as indicated in my report to our twentieth AGM and no-one remains who is willing to do the work necessary to keep the club going.

We are now in the process of disposing of our assets.

So I will just say goodbye and keep up your love of our beautiful plants

Happy Growing

Brian Read.

February 2011

The Programme for 2011

Meetings are at Johnsonville Union Church (Dr. Taylor Terrace). Starting time 1.30pm.

March 12th

This will be the final meeting of the society.

Bring one or two of your favourite plants (or the one you hate most). Bring it or its picture or its flower and say why you love it/hate it

Bring some food for afternoon tea.

December Meeting and AGM

*At this meeting **Brian** presented the president's report for the year and **Alice Hannam** presented the accounts for the year to date..*

President's Report

This has been a difficult year in many ways with your committee having difficulties providing a meaningful programme.

Attendances at our monthly meetings have been gradually decreasing with several of our long time and expert members attending seldom or not at all.

The reasons for this are many with aging, other interests taking priority and maybe our changing focus from concentrating on epiphyllums and hoyas to covering a range of epiphytes and other plants being some of them.

However we have had some interesting meetings this year, although they have not succeeded in attracting many of our members or any new members.

Your treasurer will talk of a further deficit of \$300 for the year with no suggestions on how to improve the situation.

I wish to acknowledge, with many thanks, the work of Alice, Penny and Virginia and, in particular, of Robyn who has been the main reason for the society surviving this year. We are very sorry about her broken ankle and even sorrier that she is not available for the new committee.

Now it is up to you. If you wish to continue, we must elect a strong committee and must have significant input from every member of the society to provide a vibrant and interesting programme for next year.

Epiflora

The New Committee

No committee was elected at this point

The Accounts.

WELLINGTON HOYA & EPIPHYTIC PLANT SOCIETY
Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2010

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Bank	1766.25	Epiflora & Post	525.78
Subscriptions	596.45	E/F post+env	228.44
Donation	5.00	Calenders	20.00
Calendar	20.00	B.B.Q. Meat	60.21
Commission	3.90	Rent	406.00
Sales Table	110.30	Petrol Vouchers	50.00
Raffle	136.00	Epi postage	53.79
B.B.Q.	50.00	Cheque book	1.50
Sale of B.B.Q. Meat	26.90	Stamps	8.50
Society Sales	53.50	Bank	1448.78
Epi advertising	35.00		
Commission from purchase of bulbs by members	53.20		
	<u>2803.00</u>		<u>2803.00</u>
	=====		=====
Deficit for year	\$317.47		

Discussion

There was discussion on what the way forward might be, however no conclusions were reached. Eventually a suggestion that further discussion be deferred until the January meeting was made and taken up. At this meeting there would be opportunity for informal conversation prior to a formal discussion

January visits to gardens and collections.

Again this year our January meeting took the form of visits to two Kapiti gardens finishing with a barbeque lunch and a business meeting.

Visiting Alice and Rex Hannam's burgeoning garden is always a great pleasure and there always seem to be new things to see. Vegetables and plants grow in happy profusion. Dahlias were flowering well as were the Calla lilies and the vegetables and fruit trees were thriving. Then of course there were schlumbergeras, hoyas and epis on the fence, in the porch and in the two shadehouses.

At Jane and Roy Griffith's garden, we saw some hoyas in flower, some carnivorous plants and some orchids, however there were very few epi flowers (the season being well over for this collection). Then we cooked our lunchtime barbeque.

We then gathered for a business meeting .

1. After hearing everybody's views on the way forward it was, reluctantly, agreed that the society should close after the March meeting.
2. We agreed a process for disposing of our library (Merv and Kaye Keighley agreed to initiate this by writing to all members).
3. We agreed a process for disposing of other assets.
4. It was reported that investigations into where the society records should be deposited were ongoing.

The meeting closed. As always on these occasions we are very grateful to our members for opening their gardens and collections to us.

Photos from our Society's Album.

In the following pages is a selection of photos taken over the years. They show displays we have put on, visits we have made, parties we have had and some of the people who have been to the conventions we have run. Two things may occur to you as you look at them- we love food and how young we all were...



**Mid winter 1995 at St John's
First Wellington Epi & Hoya Convention (St John's)**





**Society display at the Begonia House (Wellington Botanic Garden) Nov 1994
Hutt Horticultural Show Nov 1994**





Nov 1996 meeting at the Firth's

At our New Plymouth Motel – Second Taranaki Visit





Visit to Foxton Feb 2002

Visiting gardens/collections – Jan 2007



February meeting on hoyas.

At our February meeting **Jane Griffith** gave a talk on hoyas..

Jane had brought a number of plants to show and discuss - and highlighted problems developing with some of the plants. There was discussion on how these problems should be treated and then more general discussion on other aspects of care and propagation.

When the time came for the meeting to deal with general business

1. It was reported that all library books had now been disposed of by the committee following the process agreed at the last meeting
2. It was proposed by the committee that after all outstanding bills had been paid any money remaining in the Society's bank account would be divided between three societies: the Wellington Cacti Society, the Hutt Valley Horticultural Society and the Friends of the Botanic Gardens.
3. For our final meeting in March members were asked to bring two plants to show and talk about and a contribution for afternoon tea.

The meeting was declared closed.

Wellington Hoya and Epiphytic Plant Society 1990-2011

Jane Griffith reflects on the twenty some years our Society has been in existence..

Twenty one years ago a seed had already been sown and was about to germinate. A few members of the Wellington Cacti and Succulent Society were particularly keen on the growing of epiphytic cacti, in particular epiphyllums and schlumbergeras. Their enthusiasm for these plants and hoyas was sufficiently great that they met and decided to form a separate society – the Wellington Epiphyllum and Hoya Society was born.

Some of these founder members were already members of the Auckland Epiphyllum and Hoya Society and had attended conventions in Auckland. In the early stages of our society we received a great deal of encouragement and practical help from the Auckland Society.

It was decided that we should meet in Johnsonville as this was reasonably central for all members . This has been the venue of our meetings from the beginning until the end.

Our local membership grew as a result of word of mouth, attending local shows and advertising. Members fund-raised to provide the Society with a financial base and enable the Wellington society to organise and run two national conventions. Many members will remember the week-end we went to the St James Theatre prior to its renovations and were participants in an advert for Canadian television. How many times did we do the Mexican wave that weekend?

Our meetings soon took on a regular pattern with speakers (mainly on epiphyte-related subjects), demonstrations, panel discussions and slide shows followed by afternoon tea and society business. From the beginning members always took an active part in meetings and made sure all their questions were answered on the topic of the day.

A number of outings were arranged away from our venue including two to Taranaki as well as continuing to support the Auckland conventions. In fact for a while conventions became a biennial event with Auckland and Wellington alternating organising the event.

Epiflora

Gradually with the increasing use of the internet our society attracted more and more out of town members – members who were unable to attend meetings but enjoyed the rich content of Epiflora. This magazine has been an essential part of the society since its inception.

About five years ago the scope of the society was expanded to include bromeliads, tillandsias and orchids. It was hoped that this expansion would encourage more members but unfortunately this did not eventuate.

All of our local members at some time in our existence have been involved in some way in making our Society the success it has been. But like many specialist organisations the Society attracts very few younger members and the older members are less able and willing to take on leadership roles. At a recent meeting every person present was asked about their commitment to our Society and the comments were unanimous that there was little enthusiasm to become more involved and that peoples interests had changed over the years.

Our enthusiasm for growing epiphytes is unlikely to diminish and hopefully we will still have opportunities to share our knowledge with others.

Now is the time

We may be reluctant to admit it - but soon summer will be leaving us and autumn will come. Although the days are hot some nights are becoming cool and we should expect this now so it is a good thing to play it very safe - water in the first part of the morning before the sun gets too hot and early enough that the plants will absorb the water even if it does not appear!. As always pay great attention to what the weather is doing at your place. Here are some suggestions for Wellington growers - if you live in the north or the south you may need to adjust things a little.

Epiflora

Epicacti - It is time for work! The flowers are just about over for the year (though some species epis may still have buds and flowers) so you should prune and repot as necessary. Cut away old growth as well as any damaged or diseased stems and aim to encourage new growth from the base of the plant. Take cuttings if you wish - others might like to extend their collections. Keep an eye out for pests and deal with any you find. Water regularly - preferably early in the day.

Hoyas - Enjoy the flowers - water when dry. Fertilise. Keep a wary eye out for mealy bugs and other pests - they love warm humid conditions. It is probably too late now to take cuttings unless you can provide artificial heat.

Schlumbergeras - fertilise and water sparingly when the plants seem dry.

Rhipsalis - reduce watering. Prune and/or repot if you wish..

Aporophyllums - Water less - or at least more carefully. Now that flowering has finished for the year you can prune and tidy up the plants. Repot if they need it and you are brave.

Ceropegias - Enjoy the flowers. Water when dry. You should continue the regular task of unwinding runaway growth that is invading other plants. Keep in a warm sunny place for maximum flowering. Any plant that still looks dead probably is - so deal with it appropriately. Check for pests and deal with any you find immediately.

Orchids- Phyllis Purdie tells us to:

“Not to do any repotting of Cymbidiums now until autumn or you might damage the flower shoots which should be forming. Grow them outdoors or in open shade-houses but not in glasshouses; they can also be grown under the outer branches of trees. The leaves should be yellow/green in colour. Let them dry out and then give them a thorough soaking. You can mist spray on hot days. Give them a low nitrogen/high potash fertiliser to promote flower growth. Stake new flower shoots as they appear. Most other orchids should be watered when they are drying out - in hot weather they can take a lot of water.”

Bromeliads - Andrew Flower advises - "As long as the hot weather continues you should be watering frequently but not fertilising. Many of the tillandsias, in particular, do most of their active growing during autumn and early spring when our temperatures are getting down to the the range 10-14°C and daytime temperatures where they are growing are in the mid twenties. If you want to fertilise - wait until March at the earliest. At this time of year try to give the plants as much air circulation as possible"

Change is almost always a good thing

"So its goodbye from me....

... and its goodbye from us.."

This is the final edition of Epiflora. On behalf of all the editors I wish you well and hope that you have found our journal both useful and enjoyable. Thanks are in order to all those who have contributed to its production in any way - by writing articles, by proofreading and improving the text and by providing photographs and illustrations.

sincerely

Roy Griffith

Publication Details.

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

Comments and contributions were 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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