



COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

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www.coffsorchidsociety.org.au

COFFS ORCHID NEWS – DEC 2017

GENERAL MEETING & ORCHID COMPETITION

1st THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7.00 for 7.30 PM, UNLESS OTHERWISE ANNOUNCED, at NORTH COAST REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS, HARDACRE STREET, COFFS HARBOUR.

<u>PRESIDENT:</u>	ED PEARCE	0418 519908
<u>VICE PRESIDENT</u>	CAROLE DAVIS	6658 1354
<u>SECRETARY:</u>	ANNIE HOUSTON	0410 628662
<u>TREASURER:</u>	BRUCE HALL	6658 9891
<u>EDITOR:</u>	ED PEARCE	0418 519908

SPONSORS

YELLOW BRICK ROAD – WEALTH MANAGEMENT

YBR offers a range of services such as home loans, financial advice, insurance, superannuation, cash and investments. Please contact Tim Klingbiel for advice. Shop 82 in City Square, Coffs Harbour Or call on 6653 7407, or tim.klingbiel@ybr.com.au

CFS TRAVEL

See Julie Larkey at CFS Travel, shop 27A in the plaza (opp Big W) Personalised service for all your travel needs. 6652 6555 or julie@cfstravel.com.au

LUDO'S OLD WARES

Buying and selling antiques, old wares and collectibles. Deceased estates. Ulmarra. 0402 044601

TINONEE ORCHIDS

Tinonee Orchids carries a wide variety of orchids and orchid growing supplies – coconut, pots, etc. They provide quick delivery of orders. 6553 1012 or www.tinoneeorchids.com

COFFS COAST MOTORS

For Mazda and Honda vehicles, also second-hand vehicles, and ALL your servicing needs. Do your shopping while your car is serviced. 6652 3122, 41 Grafton St., Coffs Harbour.

COFFS HARBOUR PRODUCE

Coffs Harbour Produce is at 26 June Street in Coffs. They carry a good range of fertilisers, insecticides and fungicides for orchids, as well as general garden needs. 6652 2599.

BRUCE HALL

Bruce provides the raffle items which are a major fundraiser at our shows.

SHEARWATER RESTAURANT

Brekkie and Modern Australian dishes in a light, upscale locale with outdoor tables and lovely views over Coffs Creek. 321 Harbour Drive. www.shearwaterrestaurant.com.au or 6651 6063

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1. CALENDAR

7 Dec	Christmas dinner at Shearwater.
1 Feb	General Meeting – Ray Clements.
1 Mar	General Meeting
5 Apr	General Meeting
27/29 Apr	Autumn Show



Many of the photos in this newsletter are of orchids I have in flower now. This is *Coelogyne pandurata* (I think!) which I bought from Larry Thornton. There is some controversy about whether the plants sold in Australia are really *pandurata* or perhaps a similar green *Coelogyne*. I haven't yet been able to confirm what it is really.

2. DECEMBER MEETING.

Our Christmas meeting this will be a dinner meeting at Shearwater on the Promenade in Harbour Drive.

We will start at 6 p.m. with a brief general meeting followed by some presentations. Meals will be ordered from their dinner menu.

We won't be having the usual plant display, but members are encouraged to bring ONE plant along, and there will be an award for the most popular plant.

REMEMBER THAT WE START AT 6 PM, and WE WON'T HAVE THE PLANT GROWING COMPETITION – NEXT SHOWING IS FEBRUARY MEETING

3. AGENDA for DECEMBER MEETING

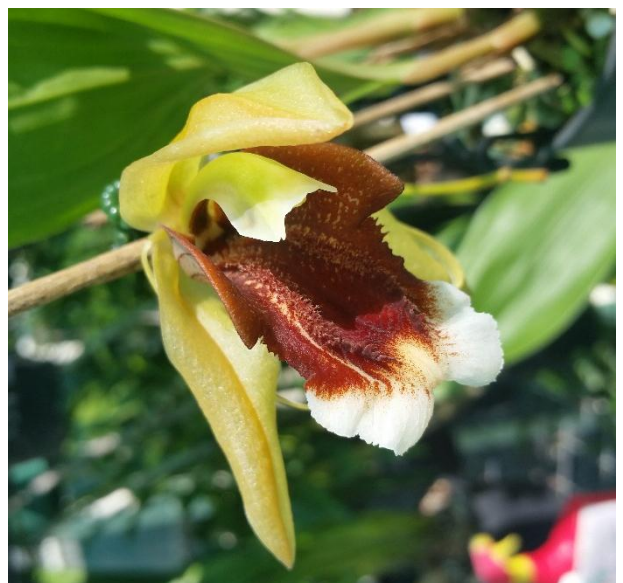
Welcome, Apologies, Visitors

Minutes of Nov meeting – as printed in newsletter

Committee Meeting – newsletter

Inwards Correspondence

1. BCU statements
2. Post Office re post office box
3. Hastings River Orchid Society with show dates.
4. 2AIR FM – membership receipt



This is a *Coelogyne speciosa* that I bought from Hans Schaible. *Speciosa* varies quite a lot in colour and this

one looks like the green form but the lip is darker than usual.

Active Service Awards. – this is given to members who have been members for 10, 15, 20 or more years. Sometimes our records are incorrect – please let me know if you think there is a mistake.

Awards for Monthly display – based on plants brought along each month to our meetings.

Glad Fleming Perpetual Trophy – awarded to the member who has the most points overall for 2017

Sponsor's Spot. Shearwater.

Raffle, popular vote.



Ascocentrum Suksamran "Beauty"

4. MINUTES of NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

October minutes – previous meeting – Pam moved and Ben seconded

Committee - All information is in the newsletter re meeting. Please ask if any questions.

Correspondence – nil

Plant growing competition:

1st Trevor Bassett

2nd Clem Murray

Table talk – Bob and Bruce

1. Bob – showed orchids – name? Very small. Likes to get wet. Dries out quickly. Flowers progressively down the spike. Need a magnifying glass to see the flowers well.
2. Psychopsis – butterfly orchid – orange and yellow hybrid. Belongs to the Oncidium group. There are four species of Psychopsis and some debate about a fifth species. There are 17 registered hybrids.
3. Phalaenopsis – do we cut off the flower spikes? Half of the people say yes, half say no. If you leave the spike on it can re-flower. Bob cuts it off and allows a new spike to grow. Many growers are planting Phalaenopsis in clear plastic pots now as there is some identified photosynthetic activity in the roots of Phalaenopsis. If they are planted in a dark pot they seem to want to get out. The advantage of clear pots is that you can see what is happening; root rot and if they need water, for example.
4. Bruce – on Sarcocilus species. They grow on the eastern seaboard. Will grow in an exposed condition. The leaves will go purple with too much sun. They do suffer from root rot. Bruce has mounted Sarcocilus on cork with good effect. The roots grow down. Prevent water from getting in the crown. You can put them in a pot on a stone so the water flows away from the crown. They are a bit difficult to grow.

Dendrobium canaliculate – Australian native. Grows naturally around Townsville, Northern Territory. They grow on Melaleuca in the full sun in swamps. They can be grown in pots but are best mounted. One hybrid "Desert Sands". Keep dry in winter, and give plenty of water in the growing season.

Sponsors section: Yellow Brick Road - for financial services.

General business –

1. Christmas meeting Shearwater – 27 have signed up. Date for this is December 7th. Starts at 6pm - Celebration and awards and meal afterwards. We

will order the meal first and while that is being prepared we will have the meeting. Members to bring one plant to the meeting. There will be a popular vote. We need to show the Shearwater staff what the Orchid society does.

2. Woolgoolga workshop – 12th November – Sunday. Neville – starting 9 – 9.30. Four international speakers. Bring 2 orchids in flower. Popular vote will be held. Morning and afternoon tea will be provided. Bring Lunch. It will be at the school in the usual place. Everyone is invited. Scott Barry will be doing a talk on Sarcocylus. Bring anyone who has an interest in orchids. Six orchid societies will be invited to come. There will be a sales table.
3. Edward acknowledged the close cooperation between Woolgoolga and Coffs orchid societies and said that the collaboration is complimentary to both. Neville thanked the President for this.
4. Info – not as many plants on the sales tables at Shows as previous years. The President suggested that some small plants be purchased from Tinonee orchids, grown on by members who are interested and sold in a couple of years on the sales tables.

Popular vote:

Peter Baker for his Phalaenopsis

Peter says he grows his Phalaenopsis in a coarse bark mix, in a half glass house, with a fan from 8am to 4pm. He waters heavily every second day.

Raffle

- 1st prize – no 34 Helen
2nd Prize – no 29 Tom
3rd prize – no 8 Sue

5. MINUTES of 2017 AGM

Apologies: Dick Cooper, Judy Cowling, Gloria & David Small

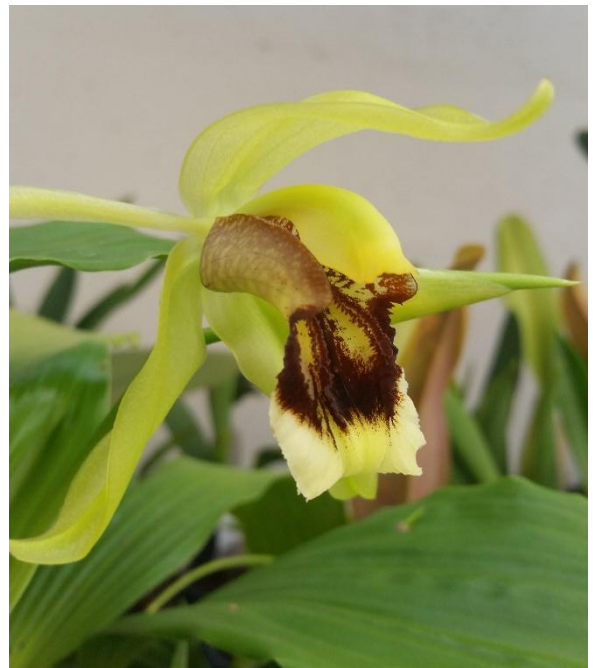
Welcome from the President – Edward Pearce

Visitor: Neville Anderson, Guest Speaker: Ian Corbett

Minutes of the 2016 AGM – moved and seconded by Ben and Sue

President's Report:

1. Mission statement – why do we have an orchid society? Reason: to learn more about orchids and to have fun
2. We have done well with the mission statement over the past year; we have had 2 shows, guest speakers at the meetings, 2 bus trips, 2 sausage sizzle fund raisers at Bunnings, 2 well attended workshops (thanks to Bob and Bruce)
3. The work of the Committee was commended. The committee has worked hard; there has been a consensus on decisions.
4. Thanks to Sue, Barbara and Bronwyn who are all stepping down. Their contributions have been very much appreciated and all three are thanked for their help.
5. Steve Clemesha has also stepped down after 41 years as an active member of the orchid society in the roles of president, secretary, vice president and public officer. Steve has also been a OSNSW judge. Sadly, Steve is not well and we wish him all the best.



Kevin Dawes gave me this plant of Coelogyne Kirribilli "Norm" a couple of years ago when we were in Canberra for Floriade.

Bruce – Finance report:

1. Bruce explained the Finance report and explained the structure and activities of the societies finances
2. Income – \$18,133.42; expenditure, \$15,651; profit \$2482.41

3. There are some outstanding matters to be paid next year
4. Reconciliation – 50c out
5. Error in accounts fixed with the bank and all square and correct
6. Detailed expenses are listed in the accounts and monthly reports in the Newsletter
7. Any Questions?

Finance report moved by Betty and seconded by Trevor

Formal motion

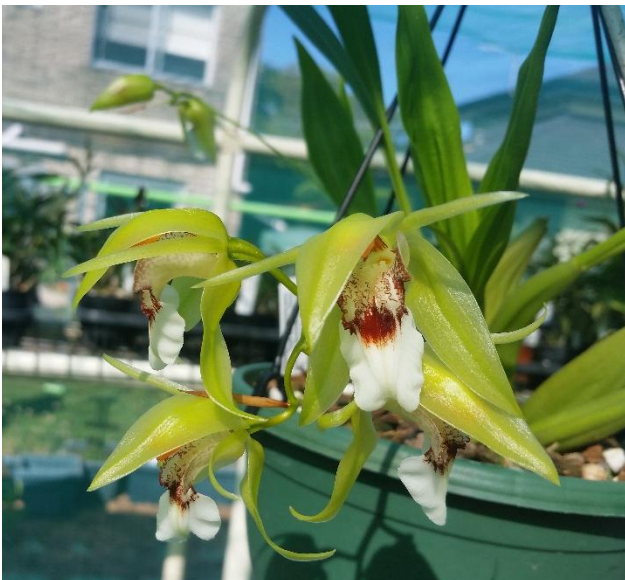
1. Annual subscription to be the same as previously; \$5.00 juniors, \$10 seniors, \$15 couples
Treasurer moved, Cathy seconded.

Election of Office Bearers

Meeting handed to returning officer Ron Cowling who announced the results:

President	Edward Pearce
Vice President	Carole Davis
Secretary	Annie Houston
Treasurer	Bruce Hall
Committee	Pam Warburton, Bob Southwell, Neil McDonald

Annual meeting closed 7.45pm



This is *Coelogyne marmorata*, a nice light green flowering *Coelogyne*.

6. GARDENS as HABITATS

Our guest speaker for the November meeting was Ian Corbett who previously was head gardener at the Botanic gardens. Ian spoke our suburban gardens as habitats for flora and fauna. Some of the points in his most interesting presentation were -

1. There were 127 bird species identified in a Korora back yard
2. Open spaces for wildlife are dangerous – they are exposed and can be caught by predators
3. We need to create niches for wildlife.
4. Habitats need to be encouraged for a variety of wildlife
5. People need to work together, with neighbours to create habitats for animals. Animals don't identify with human boundaries – e.g. fences
6. We need to plant the right plants to encourage wildlife
7. Trees and bushes need to be at staged heights to provide for animals and birds at all levels
8. Different birds will choose different bushes and trees according to their needs; seed eaters, fruit eaters, honey/nectar eaters
9. There are lots of beneficial bugs
10. Blue tongues will eat snails and slugs
11. There is safety in hollow logs
12. Pond design is important – all wildlife needs water and ponds are essential for encouraging wildlife to enter your garden.
13. Light pollution is a problem – heavy overhead lights, spotlights, garden lights are no good for nocturnal animals
14. Habitat gardening can be stylish as well as practical
15. Lizards – for example water dragons need high rocks or vantage points to show off their red chests for breeding
16. Backyard Birds – a group that watches and counts birds for environmental reasons is useful for preserving species. You can join online. Last count from this group; 1,400,000 birds counted, 61,000 people took part.
17. The president thanked Ian for his presentation which was very interesting.

7. MY FIRST COELOGYNE HYBRID.

When I was in Adelaide a couple of weeks ago I visited Kevin Western of Western Orchid Laboratories. He is raising my first two successful pollinations and a couple of flasks were ready for me to collect.

It was very interesting to see all the flasks he is raising for people - I think our recent guest speaker Hans Schaible has hundreds of flasks there – and to see the laboratory where he does the flasking.



This shows a few of the flasks in Kevin Western's temperature controlled growing area.



Here are the 2 flasks I brought home. The one on the right has fewer but bigger plants so this is the one I de-flasked.



And here are plants after I took them out of the flask and planted them. I've put a couple in sphagnum moss and the others in my regular potting mix.

I collected just two flasks for now – there are several others I left with Kevin – and I brought them back to

Coffs Harbour. I've de-flasked one flask – *Coelogyne Kirribilli "Joyce"* x *Coelogyne pandurata* – and now I'm waiting with fingers crossed to see how this goes.

I wonder what the plants and the flowers will look like. The parents are



Coelogyne Kirribilli "Joyce" is one of Kevin Dawes' hybrids and the plants are "bushy" and the flowers hang down from the pot.



Coelogyne pandurata grows into a big plant with a very upright flower spike.

I'm anticipating the flower will be green, but I'll have to wait to see whether it will be an upright spike habit like *pandurata* or pendulous like the *Kirribilli "Joyce"*. Of course, some of the plants might be upright and others might be pendulous.

It has taken 2 years to get to this stage and it will take another 4 or 5 years to get my first flowers. It takes patience to breed *Coelogyne*s. And they might die – sometimes my de-flasking doesn't work.

My other flask is a cross *Coelogyne Kirribilli "Norm"* with *Coelogyne mooreana "Brockhurst"*. The plants in this flask are smaller – and there are more of them – so I'm waiting for them to get a bit bigger before I deflask them.

8. WORKSHOP 2

POTTING.

1. Bruce uses a mix of bark, perlite, zeolite and fine quartz gravel. Perlite can be obtained at Bunnings, Zeolite comes from Norco Horticultural supplies. (Also, Graham and Liz McPherson, 6563 1599; info@northernnurserysupplies.com.au) Quartz gravel can be obtained from MI Organics.
2. In the bottom of the pots, Bruce places a heavy layer of coarse gravel for good drainage and also to prevent the pots toppling over.
3. Bruce mentioned that there is nothing Judges dislike more than a pot on a show display toppling over and taking out some other plants near it
4. The reason for repotting is that Potting mix gets sour, breaks down and can get soggy, killing plant roots. Plants also grow out of the pots and this threatens their ability to get food and water to enable growing



5. Drainage should be such that when you water the plant, the water runs straight through.
6. It is important to water all sides of the plant – not just one side
7. Swivel hangers – available from Tinonee orchids for \$3 each are very good
8. When repotting the plant, cut off any dead roots
9. Healthy roots have little green tips
10. Put sulphur (available from Coffs produce) on the cut off bits, or you can use Listerine (available in Woollies, Coles etc) and Mancozeb (available at Coffs Produce or Bunnings) mixed together for antifungal, anti-bacterial effect. Steriprune (available at Bunnings or Coffs produce) can also be used
11. Any roots affected by bugs can be sprayed with Confidor (available at Coffs Produce)
12. It is imperative to have sterilised instruments; leave your pruners soaking in Metho, Bleach,

Tricleanium (available in the paint section in Bunnings) Alvanox spray – a chlorine based steriliser, is available in Woollies in the Pool section.

Process for repotting:

1. Take plant out of old pot. Cut pot if necessary to avoid damaging the orchid too much
2. Cut off any dead roots.
3. Cut off any old flower spikes and apply sulphur or Listerine/Mancozeb to cut ends
4. Apply Confidor to roots if there has been a bug infestation
5. Ensure the new pot is just big enough to snugly fit the trimmed orchid without it being packed in
6. Place coarse gravel in the bottom of the sterilised new pot
7. Place some potting mix into the pot
8. Put the orchid into the pot.
9. If necessary rotate the roots around and gradually lower into the pot if the roots are long
10. Pack potting mix around the orchid roots
11. Apply a sprinkle of dolomite lime to the potted orchid
12. Label the orchid – put the date of potting on the back of the label and the name of the orchid on the front. Use a pencil on the label – 4b, 5b or 6b
13. Spray with anti transpirant polymer
14. Water the orchid
15. Hang or place on bench.

Back cutting a Cattleya

1. Take the Cattleya out of the pot
2. Cut the Cattleya allowing for a good root structure on the front cut. If you wish to save the back cut, ensure there are enough roots on that too
3. Cattleya's grow forward, so the front cut needs to be placed with as much room in the front as possible to allow it to grow forward in the middle of the pot. The back cut should be placed to the edge of the pot.
4. Place coarse gravel in the bottom of the pots
5. Pack some orchid mix into the pot
6. Place the orchid into the pot
7. Stake the orchid when finished (small stakes can be obtained from Woollies in the BBQ section – kebab stakes
8. Label the orchid using a 4b, 5b or 6b pencil. Put the date of potting on the back of the label and the plant name on the front

Top cutting a Vanda

1. Using sterilised cutters, cut the Vanda about half way along its length or wherever you decide there are enough roots to make it grow well

2. In this Case Bruce cut the Vanda allowing 4 large branching root structures to remain on the top cut of the orchid
3. Use a tall pot
4. Place a small pot with holes in it upside down into the tall pot with its base resting on the gravel base
5. Ensure a good, thick layer of coarse quartz gravel is on the bottom of the pot to add weight, encourage drainage and to prevent to mature orchid toppling over
6. Press potting mix into the bottom of the pot
7. Rotate the long roots into the pot "screwing them in" gently till the plant roots are all sitting in the pot
8. Pack potting mix around the roots
9. Apply a sprinkle for dolomite lime to the surface of the potting mix
10. Label the orchid
11. Water the orchid



Bruce and Bob demonstrating how to re-pot a Vanda.

MOUNTING ORCHIDS

1. Not all Orchids are suitable for mounting
2. Orchids come in 3 main categories: Terrestrial (grow in the ground), Lithophytic (grow on rocks), Epiphytic (grow on trees)
3. Epiphytic orchids can be mounted, but some still grow better in pots. You need to study up and find out what their natural growing conditions are like and go on from there
4. Examples of orchids suitable for mounting include; some Dendrobiums, some Bulbophyllums and some Oncidiums
5. Today's mounting practical session will involve an Oncidium called "sweet sugar", which the class will mount onto a tree Fern block
6. It is important to dip the tree fern block in a solution of dolomite lime every 6 months. They do go acidic and this prevents that.
7. Stands to display mounted orchids are available at K Mart and are a standard stock item. They cost about \$6 each
8. Mounted orchids can be placed on a bottle filled with rocks for display – this looks nice
9. Mounts need watering more frequently than potted orchids.
10. They also need regular feeding.
11. Dipping the whole mount into a bucket with fertiliser in it is a good way to feed and water mounted orchids
12. An advantage of having mounted orchids is that they take up less space.
13. They can be hung on Mesh – off the ceiling or the sides of the orchid house
14. Barbed wire, as suggested by Bruce is a good idea too, as the mounts can hand between the "barbs" which prevents them slipping or moving
15. In nature, orchids grow in the clefts of trees, or the sides of trees so that is a more natural way to grow them.
16. However, they do not hold food and water the way potted orchids do and will need watering every second day or so in the summer and on very hot days every day
17. Bob mentioned a book on Australian orchids that has a list of those suitable for mounting, potting etc in the back. Before mounting your orchid, check the list. The book is Flora's Orchids - ABC Gardening Australia, Senior consultant David P. Banks
18. You can't use treated timber for mounts.
19. If there is any paint on hardwood fence palings, all the paint must come off before mounting orchid
20. Cork bark can be used. You can get this from Tinonee Orchids
21. To put the orchid onto the mount, you can use a hot glue gun, fishing line, sometimes a superglue that is used for humans can be used. This is called EPI glue. Liquid nails can also be used to mount the orchid onto the structure
22. Dolomite lime is important to use rather than straight lime, as dolomite lime has magnesium and calcium carbonate in it – best for orchids
23. A PH testing kit can be obtained from Bunnings. Orchids like a PH of 6.5 – 7

Process for mounting an orchid – Practical session

What you need:

1. Mount – tree fern block
2. 5 pieces of Dynamic Lifter – from Coffs produce
3. Potting mix including 6-9mm mix of gravel (bark, perlite, gravel)
4. Sphagnum moss
5. Coco fibre

6. Fishing line- 2m
7. Dolomite lime powder
8. Plant to mount
9. Spray bottle with anti transpirant polymer such as Yates Defender in it



Laelia purpurata.

Process of Mounting an Orchid

1. Take block, with hook facing away from front of mount
2. Tie fishing line around the block and knot it. Loop the fishing line under the knot and bring it out again
3. Place 1 tsp dolomite lime on the block where the plant will sit
4. Place the 5 pieces of Dynamic Lifter on top of the dolomite lime
5. Place a heaped teaspoon of potting mix on top of the lime and dynamic lifter
6. Place the plant on top of the potting mix
7. Put some sphagnum moss over the roots
8. Put some coco fibre on top of the sphagnum moss
9. Tie the orchid on with fishing wire, weaving over the coco fibre and ensuring the orchid is firmly in place
10. Tie the top of the orchid to the mount with a piece of raffia so it doesn't fall forward.
11. Label the orchid, date of mounting on the back with an HD pencil
12. Water the mount thoroughly. Ensure water runs right through the mount.
13. Every six months, soak the whole mount in a dolomite solution, or spray the mount with micro dolomite solution.

9. COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee met at 10.30 on at Shearwater.

- We welcomed new committee members, and congratulated Bruce on being longest serving committee member.
- Discussed life membership – will be put on website
- Decided we should aim for Bunnings fund raiser once a year.
- Concern about lack of plants on sales table at shows – we'll see how it goes
- Thoughts about topics for further workshops
- General discussion about what we can improve next year
- Need to write down our "standard operating procedures", etc
- Speakers/topics/program for next year?
- Christmas dinner

10. TROPHIES

In the previous newsletter I listed past winners of the 2 perpetual trophies that we award at our Spring Show. Another perpetual trophy we have is the Glad Fleming trophy which is awarded each year to the grower who wins the most points for the plants on the monthly display bench. Past winners have been

2008/9	Ivy Wheeler
2009/10	Ivy Wheeler
2010/11	Ivy Wheeler
2011/12	Edward Pearce
2012/13	Edward Pearce
2013/14	Peter Baker
2014/15	Peter Baker
2015/16	Bruce Hall
2016/17	?

Who will be our winner this year? I know there are 3 growers who have been bringing along plenty of plants for our displays.

11. RED COELOGYNES

Recently I was at the Bellinghen community Saturday market and I bumped into Hans Schaible. He told me that he had imported some flasks of a red Coelogyne from China but he couldn't remember what it was called.

The next day in my Facebook feed there was a red Coelogyne – quite a coincidence? It is called Coelogyne tsii, or Coelogyne ecarinata.



But now I want to get one of these so I can use it in my breeding. None of the usual sellers have got one so I may have to wait until Hans has one from his flasks.