



COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

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www.coffsorchidsociety.org.au

COFFS ORCHID NEWS – AUG 2018

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>	PAM WARBURTON	0409 660465
<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

- 2 Aug Plant Auction
11 Aug Visit to Helen Seiver's orchid house
31 Aug Kempsey Speciosum Show – Mark Clements
6 Sep TBA
8/9 Sep Spring Show
11 Oct Ian Warburton – Photography
1 Nov AGM – Plant Forum
11 Nov Woolgoolga Workshop
6 Dec Christmas dinner at Shearwater.
7 Feb First meeting of 2019
7 Mar March Meeting
4 Apr April meeting
26/28 Apr 2019 Autumn Show

2. AUGUST MEETING.

The annual plant auction will be held at the August monthly meeting.

Donated plants will be auctioned during the meeting and all proceeds will go to support the Society's activities. Please donate as many plants as you can so we make this a monster event. While orchids are what sell well, bromeliads, succulents, etc, are also welcome.

There are always bargains, so come along prepared to take part in the bidding process and take home one or two new additions to your collection.

3. AGENDA for AUGUST MEETING

Judges – Sue Flanders, Neil McDonald

Welcome, Apologies, Visitors, New member?

Minutes of June meeting – as printed in newsletter

Committee Meeting – newsletter

Inwards Correspondence

1. BCU statements

Sponsor's Spot – Shearwater Restaurant

Table talk

General Business

1. Spring Show

Raffle, popular vote.

Plant Auction

4. MINUTES of JULY GENERAL MEETING

Ed welcomed all to the July meeting.

Apologies: Judy & Ron Cowling; Barbara Pearce; Jan Farr; Noelene Jackson; Kerrie Reeves; Jennifer Lock; Silesa King; Jean Wong, Sue Flanders & Carole Davis.



There were some lovely hard cane Dendrobiums on the display bench at our July meeting

Minutes of June's meeting: Moved by John Sidebottom, Seconded Neil McDonald that the Minutes are a true and accurate record of what took place. Carried.

Correspondence: BCU statements were collected and given to the Treasurer.

Sponsors Spot: Ed talked about the continued support that Coffs Harbour Produce in June St, gives our Society. They are an excellent place to buy most of your orchid needs especially pest control agents etc.

Table Talk: This month Ed gave the table talk and started by congratulating Helen Seiver on her beautiful Laeliinae, when asked what her regime is she said watering with half strength Campbells Yellow fertiliser and various trace elements including dolomite. Di Blay's Paphiopedilums were a picture she has the knack to produce beautiful plants. The stunning colour of Helen Seiver's Dendrobium was also noted. There was an increase in number of Cymbidiums benched mainly the cascading varieties which seem to do better in our warmer climate.



There were some lovely Laeliinae on the display bench – this one was a lovely rich colour

General Business:

1. Next Saturday 14th July is our annual trip to Tinonee Orchids Speakers Day. There was 1 place left on the bus leaving at 7.45 am sharp.
2. We were reminded that Bob Southwell has 40 lt bags of orchid bark @ \$25/bag. The bark is 2 sizes 8-12mm, and 12-18 mm.

3. Raffle; Lucky winners were in order, Trevor Bissett; Di Blay; Pam Warburton; Ed Pearce and Bob Southwell.
4. Growing competition; 1st Sue Williams & 2nd. Pam Warburton.



Popular Vote: Bob Southwell with his spectacular Lycaste.

5. DOUG BINN'S TALK

Doug's love of plants is centred around the orchids, bromeliads & cacti of Brazil – specifically the Central Out Range where all 3 grow together in many areas. The rocky terrain where the 3 groups of plants grow is at an altitude of 2000mts, there are undulating sandstone and quartz outcrops that go for miles. The rainfall is around 1500mm per annum similar to our total in Coffs.

Doug normally travels there in May or June (a non-rainy time) as walking for miles in the rain may be rewarding finding a plant in flower which he hasn't seen before but being cold and wet on a bleak rocky outcrop can be soul destroying.

Doug gave a slide show of the typical areas he visited in the Central Outrange. There were many shots of all 3 plant varieties growing side by side in the bleakest of conditions. The orchid varieties that Doug saw

were Bulbophyllum, rock dwelling Cattleya, Epidendrum, Lycaste, Oncidium in scrubby areas along with Cyrtopodium, Habenaria is a terrestrial orchid found in sandy areas, & Vanilla orchids happily grow in palms.

The Bromeliads Genera that Doug observed were Dyckia, Tillandsia, Vriesea, Hohenbergia & Orthophytum (now Sincoraea). He bought along a mature Sincoraea albopicta and donated 2 smaller plants to our raffle.

To venture into these areas in Brazil, ideally you need to have a basic knowledge of Portuguese, stay in hotels and B&B's. Check out the National Parks and know where you can and can't go. Google maps could also be a help.

6. COMMITTEE REPORT

We had our committee meeting at Shearwater on 10th July. Matters discussed were –

- Arrangements for bus trip to Tinonee
- Upcoming Spring Show
- Arrangements for new donations box
- Nominations for November AGM
- Visit to Helen Seiver's
- Charcoal available

7. BUS TRIP for TINONEE OPEN DAY

The bus trip to the Tinonee Orchids Open Day was a very enjoyable day. If you haven't been on one of these trips perhaps think about joining us next year.



Jean and Neville Wong enjoying some sunshine.

There were some interesting speakers and there was a large number of plants to choose from if you wanted to buy some plants.



Some of the flowering plants that were for sale.

Thanks again to John Sidebottom for driving. We are fortunate to have a licensed bus driver in our group.

8. VISIT to HELEN SEIVER'S HOME.

Helen and Doug Seiver have agreed to open their orchid house for a members' visit at 2pm on Saturday, 11th August, 2018. Helen is well known for her prize-winning orchids and this may be an opportunity to discover some of her growing secrets and look at some of the innovations incorporated into the orchid house design.

Helen and Doug's address is 5 Zara Place, Coffs Harbour. (Zara Place is off the western end of Bailey Avenue, just before Joyce Street).

9. ORCHIDS in CHURCHES

When Judy and I were in England in May we learned about orchid carvings in one England's impressive cathedrals, St. Albans in Hertfordshire. Like many of these cathedrals it has a history dating back more than a thousand years during which it has variously been an abbey, a church, a school and now a cathedral.

The restoration of what had become a very dilapidated structure took place during the late 1800s and carvings of *Coelogyne cristata*, *Miltoniopsis vexillara* and *Cattleya trianae*, as well as other flowers, ferns and fruit were carved into the columns.



Cattleya trianae



Coelogyne cristata

10. GROWING COMPETITION

Don't forget to bring your Growing Competition Plant along for judging. With still more than half the competition to go it is important to collect as many points as you can. Plants should be benched by 7.15pm.

11. SPRING SHOW

Organisation is well underway for the Society's Spring Show. This year's show will be held on Saturday, 8th September and Sunday, 9th September, 2018.

Benching will take place on Friday, 7th September between 5pm and 7pm and then on Saturday between 6.30am and 7.30am. Judging will commence at 8am and the show will open to the public from 10am on the Saturday morning. Presentation of trophies will take place on the Sunday from 3pm.

As usual we will require members to assist with the setting up of the Show Room at the Botanic Gardens during Friday afternoon. Unfortunately, the venue is not available until 4pm so we request as many members as possible be in attendance to set the room up as quickly as possible.

We are also requesting assistance over the weekend with the sale of raffle tickets, plant sales and supervision in the Show room. If you can help with any of these tasks then please contact Bob Southwell on 0417 695 834.

All members will receive a Show Schedule in the near future. A copy is on the Society's website.

12. ORCHID BARK and CHARCOAL

With Spring fast approaching, the potting season is about to commence. Make sure you have adequate supplies of bark so that you can easily get this task done.

The Society has bags of high quality Orchiata bark in two common sizes – 9 to 12mm and 12 to 18mm. Bags are priced at \$25 per 40 litre bag. Contact Bob Southwell (0417 695 834) for pick up or delivery at the next meeting.

The charcoal orders have arrived just in time for Spring potting.

Unfortunately, only 50 litre bags were available. These are reasonably priced at \$25 per bag.

Bob Southwell will contact you if you have placed an order to arrange delivery or pick up in the near future. There may be one or two spare bags so contact Bob if you would like to purchase a bag.

13. GROWING MEDIA for ORCHIDS

Are you confused about what material you should grow your orchids in? Here is an article written by Jim Brydie in the Karingal Orchid Society newsletter which he has kindly allowed us to publish.

This is the first part of his article – the second part will be published in the next newsletter.

From what I have seen on my travels, very few orchids grow in pots in nature - orchids grow on trees, on rocks, and in the ground. We put orchids in pots purely for our own convenience, which brings us to the need to provide a medium in the pot. It is impossible to reproduce an orchids natural root environment in a pot or any other way but what we can do, in our artificial growing houses, is to provide a benign root environment with an appropriate balance of air, moisture, and mechanical support. Luckily for us, orchids are very adaptive little devils and most will take to our pot culture without too much fuss.

The balance of air and moisture in the pot seems to be the critical factor. They will all put up with being saturated temporarily when we water them but they need excess water to be shed pretty quickly. As the pot then dries out after watering, the medium needs to provide an airy but moist environment in which the roots can live and thrive. The need for moisture hardly needs explanation but keep in mind that air is an equal necessity. Roots are a living organ of the plant and they have to breathe as they work. In a well-functioning medium, fresh air will be drawn into the pot as the medium dries out and be exchanged evenly throughout the pot. There will be no stale pockets of air.

Different plants require different rates of drying out and it is this that we design into the various mixes we use. Any number of the commonly used potting materials will do the job provided that:

- you get the air/water balance within bounds acceptable to the plant concerned,
- you give the plant regular food and water,
- the mix provides a reasonable pH in which the roots can live and grow.

The latter point is very important. The recommended pH range for orchids is 6.0 to 6.5 as this optimizes the availability of the nutrient elements in the fertilizer you provide. Orchids will of course tolerate a much wider range of pH than this but some kinds of orchids are touchier than others in this regard. In my experience, the roots of some, like Paphiopedilum and some of the Oncidiinae (e.g. those that used to be called Odontoglossum), decline rapidly as the mix ages and I think this is because it gets too acid.

As I said above, many different combinations will serve adequately if other factors are right, but to improve on 'adequate' I think you need to focus on the root system. Roots are the key to maximizing growth. The bigger and more vigorous the root system, the bigger and more robust will be the rest of the plant. Fine tuning the potting medium is the way to maximize root growth and to do that you need options with your potting materials.

When you take your car to a garage for repairs you expect the mechanic to have a full set of whatever tools are necessary for the repair. Why then, do we think we can grow orchids to their potential if we only keep two kinds of bark in the potting shed. For any reasonably sized, mixed orchid collection, the range of environmental needs will be far too wide for any medium to suit all. It is my contention that we need more tools in our shed than that.

There are 4 basic potting medium components that I recommend you keep on hand. These are bark, sphagnum moss, perlite (with peat moss or coco-peat), and coconut fibre. Each has different characteristics and its own strengths and weaknesses. There are a range of other materials that are useful, such as styrene foam, pebbles, sand, etc) but I consider these fringe additives as opposed to major components and I am sure you can succeed without them.

The challenge in a mixed collection is that the plants are usually all jammed together. Watering often takes place for all at the same time regardless of the needs of some plants for different moisture requirements and different drying times. Some differences can be accommodated through choice of microclimates in your growing area. e.g. hanging plants higher, placing them in the bright end versus the shady end, or nearer the fan etc, but beyond that, adjusting the potting medium gives us a mechanism that can have a multiplier effect on microclimate differences.

The rest of this article will be in the next newsletter.

COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY (CHOS)
TRADING STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD OF 27 June 2018 to 23 July 2018.
DATE OF THIS STATEMENT 24/7/2018.

	Receipt	<u>INCOME</u>	Cheque	<u>EXPEND</u>	
00/1	Membership	\$ 10.00			Refer Receipt Book.
00/2	Raffle	\$ 92.00			Monthly Meet, June.
00/5	Affiliation		224	\$35.00	M/Ship to Bot Garden
00/7	Newsletter		222	\$16.00	Xerox, July Issue.
01/2	Special Sales	\$ 425.00			Bark sales
02/1	Bank Interest	\$ 93.23			Term Deposit
04/2	Spring Show		223	\$60.00	Posters
05/1	Tinonee Bus Trip	\$ 180.00	225	\$250.00	Sales, and fuel costs
05/1	Grow plant	\$ 30.00			
	<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>\$ 830.23</u>		<u>\$361.00</u>	

DEBIT/CREDIT TOTAL FOR THE PERIOD **\$ 469.23**

Bank Reconciliation for the above trading period.

Opening Bank Balance 25/6/2018	<u>\$ 6,186.53</u>
Rec for above period	\$ 830.23
S/T	<u>\$ 7,016.76</u>
DEDUCT Exp for above period	<u>\$ 361.00</u>
Pre. u/presented cheques	\$ 94.00
S/T	<u>\$ 455.00</u>
	<u>\$ 6,561.76</u>

Chq. 217

Balance of Income and Expenditure **\$ 6,561.76** Refer BCU Statement @ 24/07/2018.

The following Accts to be Tinonee bus trip, payment of bus hire, refunds to members one seat cost to be banked.
AOC fees.
Hall Hire

NOTES:

CHOS has a sum of \$10,000.00 invested as a FTD with all interest earned rolled into the daily account and is shown in the appropriate trading statements.

HALL. B.G.
Hon. Treasurer
24/7/2018.

Member Name	Intermediate Cymbidium Hybrid 60-90 mm	Miniature Cymbidium Hybrid Under 60mm	Cymbidium Species Inc. Australian Natives	Laelinae Exhibition Hybrid over 100mm	Laelinae Intermediate Hybrid 60 to 100mm	Laelinae Cluster Hybrid (min 5 flowers)	Laelinae Novelty Hybrid spotted flower non exhibition	Paph exhibition	Novelty Paph & allied Hybrids	Paph and Allied Species
Class	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	11	12	13
Di BLAY										
HALL B						3	3	5	5	5
PEARCE Edward	3									
SEIVER H			2	5	5		2			
SIDEBOTTOM		3	3							
SOUTHWELL		2								

Member Name	Oncidinae Hybrids over 65 mm	Oncidinae Hybrids 25 to 65 mm	Oncidinae Hybrids under 25mm	Vandaceous Hybrid under 60mm	Vandaceous SPECIES	Dendrobium Hardcane Hybrid Non Native	Dendrobium AOV Hybrid Non Native	Australian Native Hybrid Inc Dendrobium	AOV Hybrid over 50mm	AOV species over 50mm
Class	14	15	16	20	21	27	28	30	34	36
HALL B				3	3		3			
Murray C		2								
PEARCE Edward								5		3
SEIVER H						5				
SIDEBOTTOM			3							
SOUTHWELL	5	3							3	

Popular Vote BOB Southwell