



COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

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www.coffsorchidsociety.org.au

COFFS ORCHID NEWS – DEC 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

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

- 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. DECEMBER MEETING.

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

We ask people to be there by 5.45 so we can order our meals before we start a brief general meeting and presentations at 6 pm. 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.

3. AGENDA for DECEMBER MEETING

Welcome, Apologies, Visitors

Minutes of Nov meeting – as printed in newsletter

Committee Meeting – newsletter

Inwards Correspondence

1. BCU statements

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 2018

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.

Sponsor's Spot. Shearwater.

Popular vote.



What do you have in flower now? I have a *Coelogyne tomentosa* with a long spray of cascading flowers. This is one plant of several that are flowering, or will flower soon.

4. MINUTES of NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Ed welcomed all to the November meeting.

Apologies: Rhonda Smith; Judy Cowling; Jennifer Lock, Bill & Jenny Lennon and Di Blay.

New members: Ann Deans received her welcome package.

Visitors: Ian Warburton guest speaker.

Minutes of September's meeting: Moved by John Sidebottom, seconded by Ben Pron that the Minutes are a true and accurate record of what took place. Carried.

October Committee Meeting; as per Newsletter.

Inward Correspondence: BCU statement, magazine Orchids Australia; 2 Air FM Newsletter; Receipt of membership renewal for 2 Air FM.

Finance: Bruce Hall presented his report earlier at the AGM.

Sponsor's Spot: Ed encouraged us to support Shearwater at The Promenade, as they support our Society.

Table Talk: Neville Anderson showed us Helen Seiver's Dendrobium – it had marking on the leaves she was concerned about, Neville identified the problem as a fungal disease and said to sprinkle pure cinnamon all over the plant.

Bruce Hall then presented 3 native Cymbidiums.



Cymbidium canaliculatum var Sparkesii

The name refers to the leaves of the plant.

Occurs in the North West areas of Australia through to Queensland and NSW inland down to approx. Forbes, mainly in the dry western areas – but can also occur in the drier areas of the coastal regions.

In the drier areas, the plant grows in low humidity and low rainfall often in harsh conditions with temps. ranging from zero to 100degrees F., often in full sun. The plant as adapted to these conditions through the thickness and the shape of its leaves, resulting in reduce loss of moisture via the leaf surface and the ability to channel any moisture on the leaf from dew/flog/rain down to the centre of the plant.

The plant grows in hollows of living or dead trees, has a very long and extensive root system. There may be a number of separate plants growing on the one medium; however, they probably come from the same root system. There are a number of different flower colour varieties, the most important being Var. Sparkesii which is a very dark colour (black).



Cymbidium madidum.

This is the largest of the native Cymbidiums, found growing on ferns, in hollows of trees or strums. Grows from the Macleay River up through costal Queensland. Easy to grow in coarse lumps of half rotten wood, peat, and fern fibre pieces. The flowers are smallish yellow through to brownish in colour.



Cymbidium suave.

Smallest of the species – grows on dead or living trees, can occur on the bark of Melaleuca trees.

Grows all along the NSW south coast and along the coastal areas of Queensland and is quite hardy in cultivation. Flowers are quite small and quite numerous ranging in colour from green to a brownish green

All three plants have used widely in hybridisation, along with other Cymbidium species making Cymbidium hybrids with increased heat tolerance with many small flowers on numerous stems.

Growing Competition: 1st Silesa King, 2nd Pam Warburton.

General Business:

1. Christmas Party. It has once more been decided to have our party at Shearwater at the Promenade. We will ensure that all orders go to the kitchen collectively and no-one is left waiting. The Committee will discuss arrangements at our next meeting.
2. Raffle: 1 – Neville Anderson, 2 – Judith Whiting, 3 - Ben Pron.
3. Popular Vote – There was a tie again this month between Bruce Hall & Bruce Hall, he presented two unusual Dendrobiums that caught everyone's eye.
4. Neville Anderson reminded us about the Orchid Workshop on this coming Sunday at Woolgoolga. Being held at the Primary School hall and starting at 9am there will be experts presenting talks all day as well as plants for sale. Morning and afternoon tea will be provided so bring a picnic lunch.

One of our members Kerrie Reeves tripped and fell on the paving on her way into the meeting. Kerrie was shaken up and received cuts to her hand and chin. We suggested she gets checked out by her doctor, and that she phones the Council with concerns about the uneven surface from the driveway into our meeting room.



This is a complex hybrid in the Oncidiinae family – Goodaleara (also known as Aliceara) Pacific Truffle “Surrogate Star”. It is a cross of brassia x cochlioda x miltonia x odontoglossum x oncidium. (Phew!!!)

Guest Speaker.

- Ian Warburton was this month's guest speaker. Ian spent over 40 years working at the ABC as a Director of Photography filming and videoing everything from News to Dramas and everything in between.
- He admitted to know absolutely nothing about gardening or orchids but he does know how to photograph them. He explained the importance of a good light source, a steady hand - always use a tripod and release cable – this helps with getting perfect focus, and a contrasting background.
- Ian made a little “studio” using a cardboard packing case, cutting the sides and top out replacing the cardboard with baking paper. NB Tracing paper or sheer material could also be used to soften the light
- For a light source he used small portable lights attached to poles (broom sticks) by clamps. Bedside lamps can also be used. For a neutral background he stuck some black material to a wall – the material could be velvet or felt.
- He said sunlight is the harshest light, taking photos on an overcast day is preferable especially for portraits e.g. weddings.
- If you don't own a tripod, brace yourself by leaning against a counter, wall or chair. Sit in a chair and brace yourself on the arms. You can also place the camera on a hard surface
- If anyone has any specific queries regarding taking photos, he's happy to try and help you.

The meeting finished at 8.45pm and a light supper followed.

5. MINUTES of 2018 AGM

Apologies: Rhonda Smith, Judy Cowling, Bill & Jenny Lennon, & Di Blay.

Welcome: Edward Pearce welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Ann Deans our newest member, Ann received her welcome package. Guest speaker Ian Warburton was also welcomed.

Minutes of 2017 AGM as printed in the Newsletter were moved and seconded by John Sidebottom & Sue Williams.

Ed Pearce thanked the Committee for all their hard work in the past 12 months.

Bruce – Finance Report.

1. Bruce explained the Finance Report and its structure.
2. Income 2017/18 \$14,422.24; expenditure 2017/18 \$16,815.93 resulting in a loss of \$2,393.69.
3. Bruce said the loss on paper is due to the fact that we purchased bags of bark and charcoal for the members and they are still being sold.
4. It was pointed out that we held 2 Bunnings BBQ's last year giving us a healthy profit both times, and this year we have not had the opportunity to hold any BBQ's so far.
5. Bruce's figures and the BCU Statements balance.
6. There is one cheque for \$1,159.50 which hasn't been presented.
7. Closing balance in our account for 2017/18 is \$6,566.38

Acceptance of Finance Report was moved by Gary Suter and seconded by Bob Southwell to be a true and accurate record. Carried.

Annual Subscriptions: It has been decided that the annual subs. will continue at \$5 per year for juniors, \$10 for seniors and \$15 for a family. Bruce moved, Carole Davis seconded. Carried.

Election of Office Bearers.

Meeting handed to returning officer Gary Suter who announced the results.

President	Edward Pearce.
Vice President	Carole Davis.
Secretary	Pamela Warburton
Treasurer	Bruce Hall
Committee:	Bob Southwell, Leonie Everett, & Neil McDonald

Annual meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Special note.

One of our members Kerrie Reeves tripped and fell on the paving on her way into the meeting. Kerrie

was shaken up and received cuts to her hand and chin. We suggested she gets checked out by her doctor, and that she phones the Council with concerns about the uneven surface from the driveway into our meeting room.



I have a nice species Coelogyne marmorata in flower. I grow it in a hanging basket and it has rewarded me with 4 spikes of nice pale green flowers.

6. COMMITTEE REPORT

We had the first meeting of our newly appointed committee at Shearwater on 6th November. We discussed duties for 2019 and arrangements for our Christmas dinner at Shearwater on 6th December.

7. FACEBOOK

During Ian Warburton's excellent talk about orchid photography the Facebook group BlueNanta was mentioned.

This is a group for people to post pictures of orchids – and there are lots of weird and wonderful orchid photos posted on this site. Some of the photos are very good photos – and some are not.

If you're interested in joining this group go to the Search at the top of the facebook page and type in Blue Nanta and you will find this group which you can join.

And if you Google BlueNanta they have an extensive list of species and hybrids of many orchids.

8. TOM DENNISON

I'm sorry to report the death of another of our members, Tom Dennison. Tom was a member of our society for 8 years and could always be relied on to pitch in when anything needed to be done.

Our sympathy to his family.

9. GROWING COMPETITION

We are only a bit over half way in this competition so it is still wide open. Remember young Cattleyas need plenty of light and regular growth fertilizer (higher Nitrogen content) as we start the Spring growing period.

Don't forget to bring your plant for judging to the February meeting.

10. ORCHID BARK

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.

11. EARLY COLLECTORS: GEORGE URE SKINNER.

During his thirty years as a plant collector based in Guatemala, George Ure Skinner (1804-1867) introduced almost a hundred new orchid species into cultivation in Britain. Among the best known were *Lycaste skinneri* (now *L. virginalis*), *Cattleya skinneri* (now *Guarianthe skinneri*), *Osmoglossum pulchellum* (now *Cuitlouzina pulchella*), *Rossioglossum grande* and *Oncidium cavendishianum* (now *Trichocentrum cavendishianum*).



Lycaste skinneri (now Lycaste virginalis)

Skinner had never heard of orchids before 1834, although he must have seen parasitos, as the natives called them, during his travels through Guatemala. At that time, he and a Charles Klee were traders in Guatemala City. Their main exports were natural dyestuffs (indigo and cochineal), while muskets, textiles and other manufactured goods were their main imports. But Skinner was willing to export anything, including native birds and insects, which he first sent to the Museum of Natural History in Manchester, England. After visiting this museum, James Bateman, a horticultural student at Oxford, wrote to Skinner asking him to send him any orchids that he came across during his travels. Fortunately, Bateman included some sketches with his letter, which helped Skinner to identify orchids in the wild. Imagine Bateman's delight when the first batch of plants arrived, because all were unknown in England at that time. They included *Barkeria skinneri* (which Bateman asked John Lindley to name after Skinner), *Cattleya aurantiaca* (now *Guarianthe aurantiaca*), *Oncidium cavendishianum* (now *Trichocentrum cavendishianum*), *Oncidium leucochilum* and *Odontoglossum bictoniense* (now *Rhynchostele bictoniense*). Bateman later published *The Orchidaceae of Mexico and Guatemala (1837/1843)*, possibly the most valuable of all orchid books - only 125 copies, all with individually hand coloured plates, were made.

Following the success of his first orchid shipment, Skinner continued to search for and export orchids to Britain for the next thirty years. He sent orchids to and corresponded with many others in Britain, including John Lindley, the Duke of Bedford and William Hooker, then director of Kew Gardens (Skinner's 64 letters to Hooker have been preserved). On many occasions over the years Skinner accompanied his orchid shipments back to England. It was not a trip for the faint-hearted, as it first entailed travelling across the mountains of Guatemala by mule, a journey that took a week in fine weather but up to a month during the rainy season. Having reached Ysabal (Isabel) on the Atlantic coast, it was then necessary to catch a coastal sloop to Belize (then British Honduras) before boarding the next mail packet to Liverpool or Southampton, the overall journey taking the best part of two months. Yet Skinner completed the return journey between England and Guatemala City no less than 19 times, as recorded on his tombstone in Colon, Panama, where he died of yellow fever in 1867 (the inscription says that he crossed the Atlantic 39 times!).

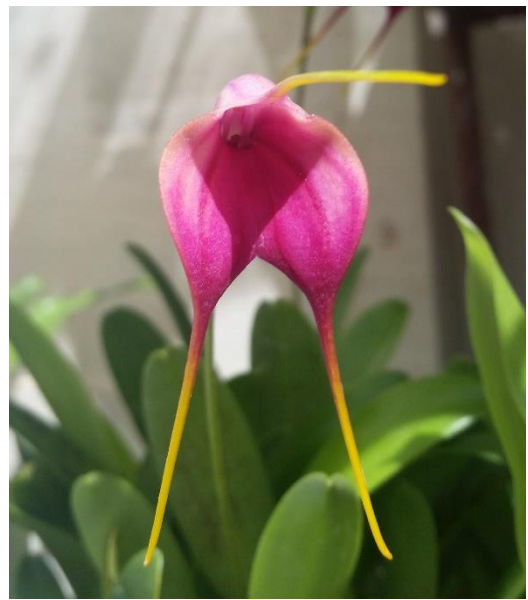
Many of Skinner's collections were made in Guatemala and neighbouring Mexico but he also

travelled further afield, as far south as Peru on at least one occasion. Skinner's trip to Peru almost ended in disaster. First, he was shipwrecked in Costa Rica,

losing most of his plants, and then he had to wait for several months in El Salvador because a revolution had broken out in Guatemala (seemingly a regular occurrence in those times). When eventually he was able to return to Guatemala, Klee's large house (in which Skinner also lived) was besieged by an angry mob; Skinner and Klee were saved only by the intervention of the American consul, a Mr. Savage.

In 1854 Skinner wrote an account of one of his Guatemalan trips for John Lindley, editor of *The Gardener's Chronicle* at that time. An excerpt provides some indication of the number and variety of orchids that he found in the mountains above El Oratorio: "We ascended some 1000 ft into a region of solely pine trees and about 200 ft higher came on splendid oaks all covered with Orchids. Climate about 68°F. As we proceeded, we came upon an extensive tableland all in pasture to the village of Sacualpa, a celebrated place for robbers After leaving Sacualpa we came into pretty undulating ravines in one of which on a riverside I found immense quantities of Orchids – *Brassavola glauca* (now *Rhyncholaelia glauca*) and *B. venusta* (?), *Brassia verrucosa*, *Cyrtorchilum maculosum* (?), *Lycaste cruenta*, *Oncidium leucochilum* etc. – as many of these plants in three miles as would load a ship".

Many of the thousands of orchids that Skinner brought with him on his return trips to England were sold in Henry Stevens' auction rooms in London, especially during the 1840s and 1850s, when Skinner spent much more time in England (he married in 1845). He drew up orchid catalogues for Stevens and served as the in-house orchid expert, even bidding on behalf of friends and other clients at some sales. During these periods his business partner, Charles Klee, with the assistance of Indian collectors, continued to ship orchids to him on a regular basis.



My *Masdevallia* is in flower now. When I moved to Coffs Harbour I had several of these orchids but they did not do well in the warmer climate here. This is the only one which grows – and flowers reliably – here.

Member Name	Intermediate Cymbidium Hybrid 60-90 mm	Miniature Cymbidium Hybrid Under 60mm	Cymbidium Species inc Australian Natives	Laeliinae Exhibition Hybrid over 100mm	Laeliinae Intermediate Hybrid 60 to 100mm	Laeliinae Miniature Hybrid under 60mm	Laeliinae Cluster Hybrid (min 5 flowers)	Laeliinae Novelty Hybrid spotted flower non exhibition	Laeliinae Species	Oncidiinae Hybrids over 65 mm	Oncidiinae Hybrids 25 to 65 mm	Tolumnia (equitant Oncidiiums)	Vandaceous Hybrid over 60mm
Class	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	14	15	17	19
COOPER Dick		3		3	5								
DAVIS									3				
HALL B		2	5					3				5	3
Jackson N								2					
PEARCE Edward	2									5			2
Pittaway B						3	3						
SEIVER H													
SOUTHWELL	3										5		

Member Name	Vandaceous Hybrid under 60mm	Vandaceous SPECIES	Phalaenopsis Hybrid Over 75mm	Phalaenopsis Hybrid 50mm - 75mm	Phalaenopsis HYBRID under 50mm	Phalaenopsis SPECIES	Dendrobium Nobile (softcane) Hybrid	Dendrobium AOV Hybrid Non Native	A.O.V Species Non Native	Australian Native Hybrid inc Dendrobium	AOV Hybrid 50mm and under	AOV species over 50mm	AOV species 50mm and under
Class	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	28	29	30	35	36	37
Anderson N													
BAKER			2	3	3						3		
COOPER Dick							5	3		3			
DAVIS												3	
HALL B	3	3				2			5				
Jackson N													3
PEARCE B				2	2								
PEARCE Edward												5	
SEIVER H								2					
SOUTHWELL			3			3							2