



# COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

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[www.coffsorchidsociety.org.au](http://www.coffsorchidsociety.org.au)

## COFFS ORCHID NEWS – AUG 2019

### GENERAL MEETING & ORCHID COMPETITION

1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.shearwaterrestaurant.com.au) or 6651 6063

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### **1. CALENDAR**

- 1 Aug Plant auction
- 17 Aug Bellinghen Orchid Show
- 5 Sep Rhonda Smith – Dendrochilums, how I do it
- 7/9 Sep 2019 Spring Show
- 17 Oct Photography – Ian Warburton.
- 7 Nov AGM. Steve McGrane
- 10 Nov Woolgoolga Workshop
- 5 Dec Christmas dinner and awards

### **2. AUGUST MEETING.**

Our annual plant auction will be held at the August monthly meeting (1st August). This is a great fund-raising activity but relies on members donating plants for the auction. Please bring your plants along prior to the meeting.

It will also be a chance to pick up some quality plants to add to your collection.

### **3. AGENDA for AUGUST MEETING**

Judges – Neil McDonald, Betty Pittaway

Welcome, Apologies, Visitors

Minutes of July meeting – as printed in newsletter

Committee Meeting – newsletter

Inwards Correspondence

1. BCU Statements
- 2.
- 3.

Financial Report – as presented in newsletter

Table talk – Bob Southwell

Sponsor's Spot – Tinonee Orchids

Library

Popular vote, raffle

General Business

1. Spring Show

### **4. MINUTES of JULY GENERAL MEETING**

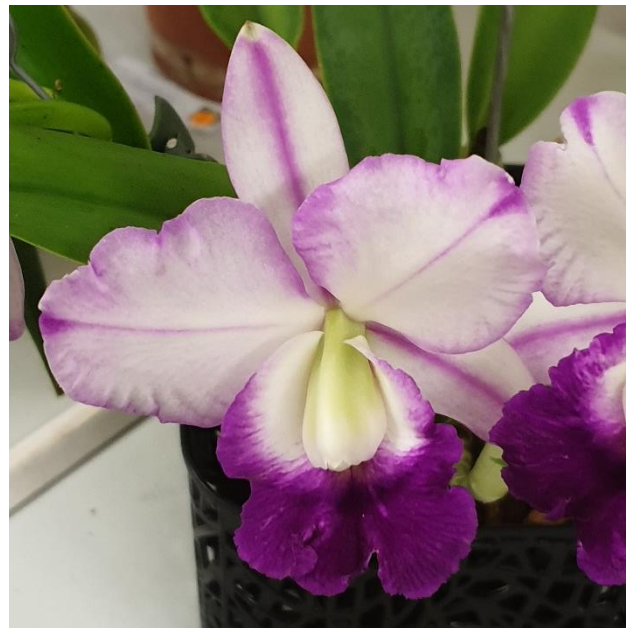
Carole Davis was A/President tonight and welcomed an impressive line up of members and visitors, on a chilly winter's eve.

Tonight's judges for the monthly competition were Bob Southwell and Rose McKay.

**Apologies:** John Sidebottom, Jennifer Lock & Trevor and Sue Peter.

**Visitors:** Jan Fahey, Di Evans, Heather Graham and Lyn & Brian Heath.

**New members:** Paige Sinclair.



**Lovely Blc Robert Strait on display table**

**Minutes of June's meeting:** Moved by Bob Southwell, seconded by Edward Pearce that the Minutes are a true and accurate record of what took place. Carried.

**June's Committee Meeting:** as per Newsletter.

**Inward Correspondence:** BCU statement.

**Finance:** Bruce Hall's Trading Statement of 23/5/19 to 22/6/19 was included in the June Newsletter. Total

income in \$111.00 expenditure \$258.00 balance in our account \$7,916.96. A further \$10,000 is invested as an FTD.

**Table Talk:** Brian Heath our guest speaker gave the table talk. He complimented the growers of the benched plants saying there was an impressive variety considering it was mid-winter. Our attention was drawn to the colour of the mini Cattleyas, Helen Seivers Aerangis/Aerides, the Hard Canes and the Species and last but by no means least Peter Baker's Dendrobium from New Guinea, and Neil McDonald's stunning Vanda.

**Sponsor's Spot:** Coffs Harbour Produce in June Street. They have a wide variety of fertilizers and pest control products for orchid growing. Carole added that they have a good selection of chooks!

**Library:** Carole encouraged the members to peruse the "library table" and borrow the books. She is in the process of selecting some new books that will be of good use to the members.

**Popular Vote:** Neil McDonald's Vanda lenavat 'Sunray' and Peter Baker's Dendrobium capituliform. Congrats to both of you.

**Raffle:** First names only as we had so many prizes. 1 Stefica, 2 James, 3 Di, 4 Ben, 5 Brenda, 6 Pam, 7 Peter, 8 Neil, & 9 Kerrie.

**Growing Plant Comp:** 1st. Peter Baker. 2nd. Betty Pittaway. Peter's plant got extra points for being first flowering.

#### **General Business:**

- 1 Tinonee Open Day. July 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> is Speakers Day and there will be some excellent speakers. Great opportunity to learn plenty about orchid growing and Ray's nursery is bursting with plants looking for new homes, and plenty of accessories. This year we are carpooling and a list was circulated, the committee will discuss this in detail on Tuesday.
2. Spring Show. Bob Southwell is finalizing the list of duties for the Show and the Committee will again discuss on Tuesday. We were told that the Society had applied to get a Growers Licence and we are now able to continue to sell Australian species at our Shows. The members will be instructed in the process.

3. The members were reminded that next month is our Plant Auction, so bring your money and your enthusiasm.

#### **5. BRIAN HEATH'S TALK**

Brian started his talk by saying he hoped to enthuse us to buy a flask when the opportunity arose and have a go at planting out and nurturing on the baby orchid plants. He hoped his demo would show us how easy the process could be given the right equipment.



Mother flasks which contain agar and roughly 40 small plants originate from Thailand (a plastic whiskey bottle shape), Taiwan (a conical glass flask), and a few labs in Australia. Customs have few problems with flasks as they are a sterile medium. Flasks come in all shapes and sizes.

Brian carefully smashed a conical flask, removed the tiny plants embedded in their agar and gently washed them in clean water, they fell apart relatively easy. With all the agar removed they were then placed in a sieve and submerged in a fungicide solution

(Mancozeb) for 3 minutes, they should then be drained and left to air dry for a few hours.

Planting Up. There is more than one way to plant up! Rosella Orchids use the community pot method. Fill the pot  $\frac{3}{4}$  with perlite then arrange sphagnum moss on top and cram in 60-70 plants. Water and fertilise every 5 days in winter and every day in summer. The nursery uses sticky traps to catch the insects (it's cheaper than spraying all the time).

Ron & Craig Alexander deflask into community pots but only put 11-12 plants around the edge, not so hard to untangle when it comes to potting on and not disturbing to roots.

David Wain in Victoria goes from flask to 40mm tubes and places the tiny plant in one corner for warmth. (Not too sure how that works)

Rosella Orchids uses thin biscuits of compacted sphagnum moss. They are gently placed around the bare roots of the individual plants, held together and immersed in clean water for 30 seconds. They are then placed in their individual cell in a tray. The deflasking kit costs \$25 from Rosella.



Brian then invited everyone to come up select a plant and put it in its tiny pot. Everyone seemed to enjoy the process and got to take their little orchid home. It was also correctly labelled. Brian suggested varying

the fungicide we use there are a number of different ones on the market.

Brian was a fabulous speaker and we were very lucky to get him before he and his family move to Queensland in semiretirement.

## 6. ALAN MERRIMAN TALK

Several people attended the talk given by Alan Merriman in Woolgoolga on 29<sup>th</sup> June.

Thanks to Jennifer Lock we have extensive notes and other information from this talk which we will e-mail to members.

## 7. NATIVE PLANT SELLING LICENCE

The Society has obtained a licence to sell NSW Native Orchids to the public. This only covers orchids which have been grown in a plantation (greenhouse) environment and not taken directly from the wild. All CHOS financial members will be covered by this licence if they wish to sell NSW Native Orchids. This includes NSW Species orchids and hybrids in which one or more of the parents have origins from NSW.

Plants will need to be tagged (sticky label on the pot or mount) and details recorded on the form provided by the Society. The Society will provide the tag labels for each pot. Please talk to Bob Southwell (0417695834) if you would like to sell NSW Natives at our Spring Show.

## 8. GROWING COMPETITION

Don't forget to bring your competition plant to the August meeting. It was pleasing to see lots of plants benched at the July meeting.

Peter Bakers specimen had a flower spike with the majority of its flowers fully open. Congratulations, Peter.

Many plants are in spike and we can expect more to be open at the August Meeting. Remember to keep up the water and the fertilizer (low nitrogen type for flowering) as we move into Spring.



**Our competition plant is Dendrobium Rutherford. Does your flower look like this?**

## 9. SPRING SHOW

The Spring Show is set down for Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2019. The Show Schedule is now on the Society website. Copies will be emailed to members as we get closer to the event. Set-up will be on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Sept from 1pm. Benching from 3pm to 6pm on Friday and 6.30am to 7.30am on Saturday.

The Show opens to the public from 10am on Saturday.

Preparation of your plants for the spring show needs to start now by training flower spikes as they develop and properly staking the plant so it is presented at its best when it is benched.

The Show is always a busy time and we need member involvement to make it a success.

- Firstly, we need you to bench as many plants as possible so we have a fantastic display for our members and the public.
- Secondly, we need volunteers to supervise the show room, sell raffle tickets and sales plants, etc. Let Bob Southwell or one the Committee know if you can help over the Show weekend. Thanks in advance.

## 10. COMMITTEE MEETING

We held a committee meeting at Shearwater on 9<sup>th</sup> July. We covered –

- Pleased that growing competition is going well

- Seeking a different date for Bunnings sausage sizzle
- Now have a permit to sell native plants
- Planning for Spring Show
- Venue for Christmas dinner ?
- There will be at least one vacancy on committee for AGM.

## 11. LYCASTES

We've seen a couple of nice Lycastes on our display bench recently – Neil McDonald's Lycaste Abou Sunset x skinneri is one of the best.

This article is copied with permission from Jim Brydie, a Sydney grower who writes articles for Sydney societies.



Lycaste Macama "Atlantis". It is a long time since I have seen this lovely orchid benched, and I'm blown if I know why. It was one of a whole string of fantastic hybrids in the Lycaste alliance created by Fred Alcorn who was one of Sydney's most accomplished orchid growers, and has

won many awards.

Fred Alcorn, lived on Pennant Hills Road at Carlingford, and between the late 1970's and early 1990's, created more than 40 hybrids in Lycaste and related genera including some like Macama that are still among the best exhibition Lycastes we see today. In 1992 Fred and co-author Michael Hallett published a fantastic little book called Lycaste Orchids : Cultivation and Hybridisation. A practical growers guide that I recommend if you are taking an interest in this spectacular genus. They are really quite easy to grow once you understand their needs, but a little practice may be needed to produce a specimen like this one of Geoff Le Marne's. What a stunner.

Lycaste Macama was registered in 1977, right at the beginning of Fred's long run of improvements. Lycastes had long been of interest to orchid growers however, with the first hybrid ever registered being

Lycaste Hybrida in 1878. But surprisingly perhaps, there were only 23 hybrids registered up until the end of the war in 1946, and it wasn't until 1964 that there seems to have been a renewed interest in the genus when Wyld Court Orchids in Great Britain began to regularly make Lycaste and Lycaste intergeneric hybrids with the closely related genus Anguloa. .... And then Fred joined the fray.

The parents of Macama are L. Sunrise and L. Koolena. The species makeup is roughly 78% L. virginalis (syn skinneri), 15.5% L. cruenta, and 6.5% L. macrophylla. I have provided pictures below but please understand that there are many varieties and colour forms of both the species and the hybrids involved. Because Macama Atlantis is white (or at least greenish white), I have deliberately selected white forms of each of the hybrid parents, and also virginalis.

Sunrise (1941) is a surprisingly simple cross of only two generations. It is (cruenta x virginalis), back onto virginalis. It is a real surprise to see the outstandingly round shape exhibited in the picture of Sunrise below, which incidentally, is the only picture of Sunrise that I could find anywhere. There must surely have been a rather amazing clone of virginalis or cruenta in there somewhere, although it is hard to imagine cruenta making it look as round as that.

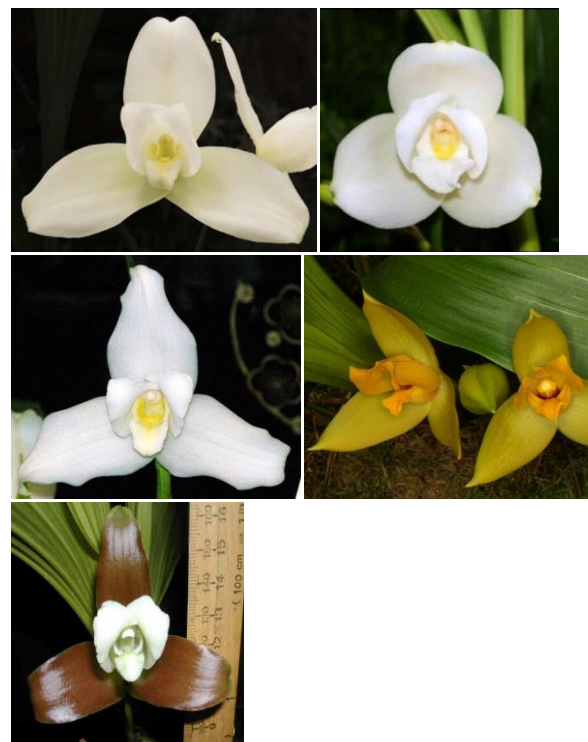
Koolena (1967) is a slightly later, fourth generation cross made by Wondabah Orchids in Sydney, near where Fred Alcorn lived. Koolena also includes Sunrise in its makeup, and is Sunrise x (macrophylla x virginalis), crossed back again onto virginalis.

Of the three species in Macama's makeup, there is an awful lot of virginalis in there. Almost line breeding with a dash of spicy sauce. Cruenta is the odd man out. It is one of the Central American group which come from areas with a very dry winter, are basically deciduous. They generally have green and yellow flowers, and have much smaller flowers than the virginalis/macrophylla group. The other two, are more closely related and belong to a large leafed, large flowered, mostly terrestrial group that retains its leaves and grow where there is still some rain during winter even though it is somewhat dryer. Macrophylla is a rather variable orchid for colour and I have used a picture of a brown clone below because although I am

not sure, I think the predominant colour is a greenish brown. As I said though, this group have significantly larger flowers (macrophylla up to 11 or 12 cm's, and virginalis up to 14cm's) and it is the large showy flowers that make them the core of the exhibition Lycaste hybrid breeding. Koolena for example is recorded with flowers up to 16cm wide. That is a big flower.

You can clearly see the virginalis form in Koolena but while it already incorporates L. Sunrise, there is no sign of the Sunrise shape in any of the pictures of Koolena that I have seen. And yet, when you cross it back to Sunrise, out again comes the Sunrise shape in many clones (but not all) of Macama. The genes are obviously in there somewhere.

How interesting you might say, .... then again many might say who cares. But no matter how you look at it, many clones of Macama must have been regarded as truly outstanding in their day





**COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY (CHOS)**

**TRADING STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD OF 22 June 2019 to 22 July 2019.**

**DATE OF THIS STATEMENT 22/7/2019.**

	<u>Receipt</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>Cheque</u>	<u>EXPEND</u>
00/1	Membership	\$ 10.00		Refer Receipt Book.
00/2	Raffle	\$ 118.00		Monthly Meet, July.
00/7	Newsletter			Copy Centre
00/8	Executive			Petty Cash
02/1	Bank Interest	\$ 85.29		Term Deposit
	<b><u>TOTALS</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 213.29</u></b>		<b><u>\$62.00</u></b>

**DEBIT/CREDIT TOTAL FOR THE PERIOD**      **\$ 151.29**

**Bank Reconciliation for the above trading period.**

Opening Bank Balance 25/6/2019	<u>\$ 7,916.96</u>
Rec for above period	\$ 213.29
S/T	<u>\$ 8,130.25</u>
<b>DEDUCT</b> Exp for above period	<u>\$ 62.00</u>
Pre. u/presented cheques	\$ 311.00
S/T	<u>\$ 373.00</u>
	Chq. 757,808,811,812 and 813
	<u>\$ 7,757.25</u>

**Balance of Income and Expenditure**      **\$ 7,757.25**      Refer BCU Statement @ 22/07/2019.

The following Accts to be paid:      Membership to Bot Gardens, Purchase of library book.

**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  
22/7/2019.