



COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

PO BOX 801, COFFS HARBOUR, NSW, 2450. E-mail coffsos@gmail.com
www.coffsorchidsociety.org.au

COFFS ORCHID NEWS – APRIL, 2020

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>	CAROLE DAVIS	02 66581354
<u>VICE PRESIDENT</u>	BOB SOUTHWELL	0417 695834
<u>SECRETARY:</u>	PAIGE SINCLAIR	0427 591901
<u>TREASURER:</u>	BRUCE HALL	0447 742030
<u>COMMITTEE:</u>	LEONIE EVERITT	0427 146149
	NEIL McDONALD,	0414 342978
<u>NEWSLETTER EDITOR:</u>	BOB SOUTHWELL	0417 695834

APRIL MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19 VIRUS

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, 211 Pacific Highway, 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 6053

INDEX

1. Calendar
2. Agenda for April Meeting – 2nd April
3. Minutes of March General Meeting
4. March Committee Report
5. April Meeting
6. Annual Subscriptions
7. Growing Competition
8. Bark Supplies
9. WOS Nutrient Recommendations
10. Proposed Judges Training Course
11. Preparing Plants for the Show Bench
12. Love that Flower
13. Orchid Society Facebook Page
14. Selling Native Orchids
15. Autumn Show
16. pH Meter
17. Points Score from March Meeting
18. Financial Report – Bruce Hall

1. CALENDAR

- 2 Apr April Meeting – **CANCELLED**
25-26 Apr 2020 Autumn Show
7 May May Meeting – Member Presentations 2
9-10 May Coffs Agricultural Show Display
4 June June Meeting – Dick Cooper ‘Hardcanes’
2 July July Meeting – Hans Schiabile ‘Dendrochilums’
11 July Tinonee Open Day – Bus/Car Pool
6 Aug August Meeting – Doug Binns ‘Orchids and
Broms of Mexico’
3 Sept September Meeting – Neutrog Company
12-13 Sept Spring Show
15 Oct Plant Auction
5 Nov AGM – Dick Cooper ‘Birds’
3 Dec Awards Night - Dinner at Shearwater

2. AGENDA FOR APRIL GENERAL MEETING

Welcome

Apologies

Judges: Betty Pittaway and Neil McDonald

Minutes of March Meeting – as printed in newsletter

Sponsor’s Spot – Coffs Harbour Produce

Table Talk – TBA

Library

Facebook Report

Growing Competition Results for Dendrobium and for Sarcochilus

Popular Vote

Raffle

General Business

Members Presentations:

Bill Bright – Phragmipediums

Neil McDonald – Solar Panels and Fans for an orchid house

Paige Sinclair – Orchid Apps for Phone and Computer

Bob Southwell – Monthly Competition Labels plus brief Autumn Show preparation



Blc. Gene May x Blc. Maikai at March meeting

3. MINUTES OF MARCH GENERAL MEETING AT NCR BOTANIC GARDENS – 5TH MARCH, 2020

Judges: Barbara Pearce & Paige Sinclair.

1. Welcome: Carole Davis welcomed everyone to the meeting. She drew our attention to the Show posters and asked people to come and collect them at the end of the meeting. She also reported that the Bunnings BBQ was a real success and thanked all who were involved. Last but not least she announced that there were changes to the points score of the orchids that were benched monthly at our meetings.

2. Apologies: Kerrie Reeves, Hazel Earnshaw, John Sidebottom, Rhonda Smith, Brenda Mayled.

3. Visitors: Judy Lehner.

4. New members: Nil

5. Minutes of February's meeting: Moved by Sue Williams, seconded by Helena Axelsson that the Minutes are a true and accurate record of what took place. Carried.

6. February's Committee Meeting: as per Newsletter.

7. Inward Correspondence:

1. BCU Statement. 18/2
2. Post Box Renewal. 18/2
3. Rosella Orchids Catalogue. 18/2
4. Community Radio's Feb Newsletter.
5. Pam Warburton's letter of resignation to Carole Davis.

Outgoing Correspondence:

Show Schedules posted to nine of our affiliated Societies on the Mid North Coast.

8. Finance:

1. Bruce's Report is in the Newsletter, covering the period Oct to Jan.

Bruce moved that it be accepted, Carole Davis seconded the motion. Carried.

9. Library: This month we had two generous donations of books from members. Dick Cooper handed over two very good books on Oncidiums and Bruce Hall donated Alan Merriman's book on Pests and Diseases in Orchids.

10. Sponsors Spot: CFS Travel. This month Carole dropped in to CFS opposite Big W at the Plaza. They were Ed's Agency of choice and Carole was given an extensive catalogue with alternative travel ideas in Australia during these troubled times.

11. Raffle: 1. Marcia Lusted 2. Judy Lehner. 3. Sue Williams.

12. Growing Plant Comp: 1st. Stefica Jones. 2nd Helen Seiver.

13. Popular Vote: There was a draw between 2 orchids, both were grown by Malcolm Ide a *Miltonia spectabilis* and *Miltonia moreliana*.

14. General Business:

1. Service Awards. Betty Pittaway was given her 25 year certificate.
2. Face Book. Paige Sinclair told the meeting that our FB page was up and active again and that she'd like lots of photos and articles of interest for the page.

15. Table talk: Neville Anderson kindly did the Table Talk for us. He was impressed with the large variety of orchids benched this month. We were told that our monsoonal orchids eg Indian Dens. should start to be weaned off food and water in about a months time, if they weren't they'd produce kakis instead of flowers next Spring.

He pointed out a majestic *Cattleya* then Bill Bright's beautiful *Phragmipedium*. There were many different *Oncidiums*, and Malcolm Ide's spectacular *Miltonias*, Carole Davis's *Dendrochilum* and Bruce Hall's *Lycaste* were picked out for special attention. All in all a wonderful display and Neville's knowledge of all things orchid made for an informative time.



A lovely Cat from the March meeting - Blc. Alma Kee 'Timpalee'

2020 Growing Competition Draw.

There was quite a production line going. The draw was done in order of payment, you then picked your

plant number out of a bag that Bob held. Helena called the names out in order, they picked their plant's number and Pam recorded it, and Paige and Di popped the plant and information pages "How to grow your Sarc." into a bag.

Repotting a Sarcophilus.

Bob Southwell used his own competition plant to demonstrate the technique. He removed it from a 50mm pot and up sized to an 80mm pot, he felt one slightly smaller would have been ideal.

The plant came out of small perlite pellets. He felt a mixture of 6-9mm bark, with perlite 80/20% mix would be fine.

All the instructions are on the printed sheet provided with each plant, covering all aspects of their care.



These are the two parents of the Sarcophilus selected for this year's Growing Competition.

pH and Your Orchids.

A few months ago the Society bought a pH meter so that member could have a loan (via our Library) and measure the pH of their orchid water supply.

Bob once again gave an easy to follow demonstration on how to use and care for the meter. He talked about the ideal pH conditions for orchids 5.5 – 6.5 and this was illustrated with a good Power Point demonstration.

The meter comes with everything necessary to conduct the tests and to care for the meter, and easy to understand instructions. We hope as many members as possible take the opportunity to test their water and learn to grow better orchids.

The meeting finished at 8.55pm followed by supper.

4.COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee met at Shearwater on 10th March, 2020. Carole Davis was nominated for the position of President and Bob Southwell for the position of Vice President. Both accepted these nominations and were elected.

Pam Warburton's resignation was regrettably accepted and Paige Sinclair was nominated as Secretary. Paige accepted the nomination and was elected. The Committee is now considering how to fill the Committee vacancy.

President Carole thanked Pam for her dedication and hard work during her time as Secretary and wished her success with her new ventures.

Other topics discussed were the Autumn Show, New Growing Competition, Reactivation of Facebook Page, List of member Presentations for April and May meetings, Display at Coffs Ag Show and possible visits to members orchid houses.

5. APRIL MEETING CANCELLED

This meeting will feature four members who will make brief presentations about various orchid topics. A similar series of presentations will be given at the May meeting. Special thanks to those members who have agreed to give these presentations. Their assistance is greatly appreciated.

The following members will make presentations at the April meeting:

- Bill Bright – Phragmipediums
- Neil McDonald – Solar Panels and Fan for an orchid house
- Paige Sinclair – Orchid Apps for Phone and Computer
- Bob Southwell – Labels for the Monthly Orchid Competition

During the May meeting the presentations will include:

- Peter Baker – Tolumnias
- Malcolm Ide – Cymbidiums
- Neville Anderson – Topic to be confirmed
- Bruce Hall – Repotting exercise

6. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Membership fees for 2020 are due now and must be paid by the April Monthly Meeting.

Single Membership is \$10 and Joint Membership is \$15. Bruce Hall will be happy to accept your membership fee at the April meeting if you have not already paid.

Members may wish to pay directly into our bank account. The BSB is 533000 and account number is 60050. This is a BCU account in the name of Coffs Harbour Orchid Society



Galeopetalum (Giant x Artur Elle) 'Old Port' now in flower.

7. GROWING COMPETITION

Don't forget to bring your mounted Dendrobium along for the final judging at the April Meeting.

Prizes for this competition will be presented at the May Monthly meeting.

The first judging of the new Sarcochilus seedling will take place at the April meeting so don't forget to bring that plant along as well.

Good luck to all for this new growing competition.

There are six Sarcochilus competition plants left. Ring or text Bob Southwell and have one reserved for you. \$8 each.

8. BARK SUPPLIES:

The Society has a good supply of Orchiata NZ Bark in two sizes – 9 to 12 mm and 12 to 18mm. Bags are priced at \$25 each. The Society does not make a profit in selling the bark but we wish to ensure that all members have access to a quality bark product that will improve the culture of their orchid collection.

Ring or message Bob Southwell (0417 695 834) if you need bark supplies.

9. WOS NUTRIENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Woolgoolga Orchid Society have published a recommended fertilizer rate for your orchids.

Here are their suggestions. These should be used as a guide only. Some growers use higher rates and you may wish to experiment with variations of these recommendations. However, care should be taken not to overdo it or root scalding, etc, may occur.

Campbells A (Yellow) – 3 grams/litre of water
Magnesium Sulphate (or Sulfate) (Epsom Salts) at ¼ gram/litre. Mix these two together and apply once per week. If you wish you could also add an Organic Fertilizer at half strength to this mix.

Calcium Nitrate at 1 gram /litre every two weeks or 2 grams/litre once a month. Apply as a separate application to your other fertilizers.

Do not mix Calcium fertilizers with other fertilizers as this causes a chemical reaction and a precipitate will form on the bottom of the fertilizer container. This locks up the nutrients and they are not available to your orchids.

(1 gram of water is equal to 1 millilitre of water, while this is not true for other substances, in this form of bucket chemistry you can assume that grams and millilitres are equal)



Malcom Ide's striking *Miltonia moreliana* won Popular vote at the March Meeting

10. PROPOSED JUDGES TRAINING COURSE

The Mid North Coast Judging Panel is proposing to conduct an Orchid Judges Training and Appreciation Course with a possible start in mid October, 2020.

The course would be held approximately every four weeks (with a break from mid December to February) and would continue through 2021.

Full details will be available closer to the October starting date.

This course can lead to you becoming a qualified Orchid Judge or you may wish to use it just to get a greater understanding of the different type of orchids and how these may be judged at monthly meetings.

If you are considering taking part in this course then see Bob Southwell, Bruce Hall or Dick Cooper and this will ensure you are provided with the latest information as it becomes available.



***Dendrobium* Hugh Fisher on display at the March meeting.**

11. PREPARING PLANTS FOR THE SHOW

BENCH:

Proper cultural techniques, watering, adequate nutrition, good disease and pest control, etc, will result in healthy, actively growing plants which will always look great on the show bench.

Early staking is important to ensure that flowers develop with correct orientation and present well to the Judges. You can use clips in the early stages but it may be better to replace these with ties prior to the show. Often an arching inflorescence presents better than an upright one.

You need to follow the basic staking rules. Make sure that stakes are cut short so they don't cause eye damage, etc.

Remove any additional travelling ties so the orchid presents well. Sometimes removal of hanging hooks gives the orchid a cleaner look. Prior to the Show clean up the plant. Remove old flower stalks, dead leaves, etc. Cleaning the leaves (metho, etc) may help in presenting a nice-looking plant.

Remove any signs of disease and pests. For example, a small amount of scale can be removed with a cotton bud dipped in methylated

spirits. Please don't bring diseased plants to the Show. The Show Marshal will remove them as they may endanger plants of other growers. Each pot or mount needs proper support. Don't expect the Show Marshal to do it for you. Plants that are not self-supporting may be removed from the exhibition as they can fall over and damage other entries. Use a larger pot, pot feet, etc, to make sure the plant is stable. Proper stands or upside down pots may help to elevate the plants.

Clear labels for each plant are desirable. If the name is not known, then say Unknown on the label (Eg: *Dendrobium* Unknown or NoID). It sometimes helps to look up the orchids name to check that it is spelt correctly. A proper label assists in deciding if the orchid is a species or a hybrid. 4B, 5B and 6B pencils can be used to make a long-lasting label. A permanent marker also does the job.

Water the plant the day before benching or early in the morning if benching late in the day. The plant needs to survive without water for three days but it is important to avoid pools of water on the show bench from freshly watered pots. Avoid wetting the flower petals as this may cause spots, etc.

Once you register your plant with the Show Officials you will be given a white card, a number for each plant plus a small piece of blu tac. Write your name on the back of the card. Place the numbered dot on the front of the card in the right-hand corner above the line. Write the name of the plant on the front of the card below the line. Use the blu tac to stick the card onto the side of the pot you want facing the Judges. Tables will be provided outside the Show Room so you can unpack and label your plants before benching.

When ready, place your plants on the inside receiving table or hand to an official at that table. The official will then place the plant in the correct place on the bench. Please do not bench the plant yourself. If you have a large specimen plant then please talk to the Show Marshal who may then direct you as to where to place it to save double handling.



Coelogyne Edward Pearce named after the late Ed Pearce, past CHOS President.

12. LOVE THAT FLOWER

Do you recognise this plant?



If you are an orchid grower in Coffs Harbour then you will be very familiar with this plant.

It is called Love Flower or Pastel Flower (perhaps because gardeners love to hate it). Its botanical name is *Pseuderanthemum variable*.

It is an Australian native that grows naturally on the floors of rainforests and wet eucalyptus forests of northern and eastern Australia north of Bega NSW. It is a plant that attracts many types of butterflies. However, it has gained a reputation as a pest of a weed in orchid collections.

It seems to grow in any media, including the gravel on the floor of the greenhouse. It is difficult to remove because it has a long, carrot-like root system. It has large seed capsules that develop on very young plants and seed is easily spread.

Hand weeding is the common method adopted by most growers to remove this pest. However, it can be killed by painting Glyphosate (Round-up) on its leaves. Use a 50/50 Glyphosate/water mixture. Orchids can be killed with Glyphosate so take care. However, it takes a lot of Glyphosate to kill an orchid, so don't be scared.

Best to water the plant the day before and then don't water again for as long as possible.

Some growers say they have success by spraying with Aerogard but this can also be harmful to orchids in high doses.



A nice *Lycaste* on show at the March meeting.

13. ORCHID SOCIETY FACEBOOK PAGE

Exciting news!

Our exclusive Facebook page the 'Coffs Harbour Orchid Society' is looking for new followers and the 'CHOS What's in Bloom Group' is ready for you to post photos of your blooming beauties. Please click on the link or copy into your browser the following address;

<https://m.facebook.com/coffsharbourorchidsociety/>

Once on our main Facebook page please click on the 'thumbs-up icon'. You will also see the 'CHOS What's in Bloom Group' which is pinned to the top. Ask to join and follow the prompts.

On the 'Coffs Harbour Orchid Society' page we will post regular updates, reminders, fun facts, open up discussion on orchids and post any orchid related issues or helpful hints.

When you join the 'CHOS What's in Bloom Group' you will be asked a simple question. Just quietly the answer is ... orchids.

Get snapping with the camera and let's see those awesome orchid pictures.

Need help, ask me at the next meeting.

Paige Sinclair.

Facebook Administrator

14. SELLING NATIVE ORCHIDS

The Society holds a licence for selling NSW native orchids to the public.

As a member of CHOS you are able to sell orchids at our Show Sales Table under the protection of that licence. There is a simple form you need to complete

and you need to attach a Licence Tag to every NSW native orchid that you plan to sell. Bob Southwell has

supplies of the forms and will issue you the licence tags. These tags have a sticky back and easily attach to the pot. Both NSW native species and Hybrids, where at least one of the parents is a NSW native orchid, must be tagged. NSW native orchid which are not tagged will not be offered for sale to the public.

15. AUTUMN SHOW

This year's Autumn Show will be held over the weekend of 25th (Anzac Day) to 26th April at the North Coast Regional Botanic Gardens, Hardacre Street, Coffs Harbour.

Set-up for the Show will start from 1pm on Friday 24th April. All members are welcome to come and assist. Benching of orchids will be from 3pm to 6pm on Friday and on Saturday from 6.30am to 7.30am. Judging will be from 8am to 10am on Saturday. The Show will be open to the public from 10am – 5pm on Saturday and 9 – 3pm on Sunday. The Presentation will be from 3pm on Sunday.

The Members Roster for the Show weekend and the Show Schedule will be emailed to members during April. If you do not receive email then you can check the Show Schedules on the Society website.

16. pH METER:

The pH meter can now be borrowed by members so you can check the pH of your water supplies and calculate any adjustments you may require. It will also provide you with some indication of what is happening in the root zones of your orchids if you measure pH using 'the pour through method'. Full instructions and buffering agents are supplied with the meter. The idea is to borrow it at a meeting and return it the following month. You may wish to share it during the month with fellow members but the borrowing member has the responsibility to make sure it is returned and signed off at the next monthly meeting. Any issues with the meter, please contact Bob Southwell.

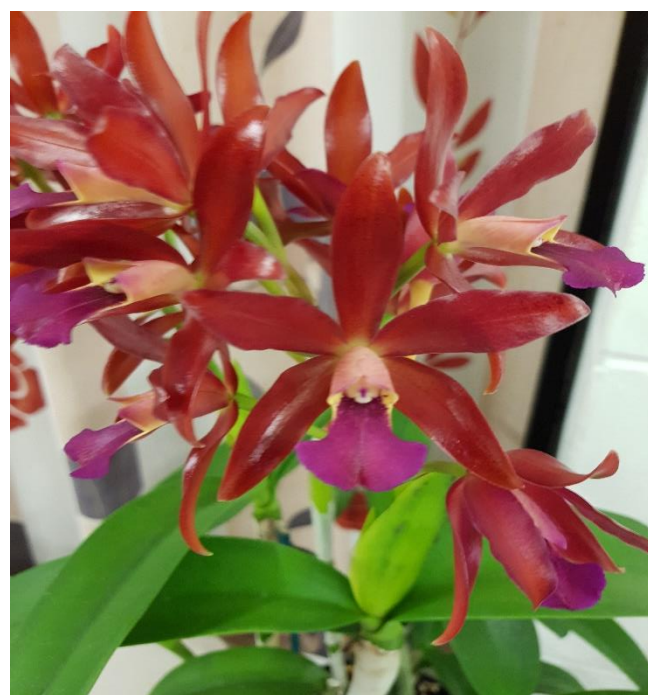
MAY NEWSLETTER: There will be an article on 'Light Levels in the Greenhouse'.

Have you provided the best light levels for your orchids?

Find out what you need to know in next months newsletter.



Dendrochilum longifolium owned by Carole Davis is putting on a fine display



An eye-catching cluster at the March meeting – *Cattleya Towering Inferno* 'Geoff'

EDITORS APPEAL:

Please make suggestions on what you want to see in your Newsletter.

Do you want just Society news or articles on orchid culture, growing hints, jokes, more photos etc?

Do you have something you wish to contribute? If so please email the Editor at bssouthwell@bigpond.com.

COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY (CHOS)

TRADING STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD OF 20 February 2020 to 18 March 2020.

DATE OF THIS STATEMENT 18/3/2020.

Receipt	<u>INCOME</u>	Cheque	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
00/1 M/Ships	\$ 165.00			Refer Receipt Book
00/2 Raffle	\$ 114.00			Monthly Meet, Mar.
00/3 Hall Hire		306	\$40.00	Mar Meeting
00/6 Statautory		302	\$361.40	OSNSW Insurance
00/8 Excutive Expenditure		307	\$50.00	P/Cash
03/2 Autumn show		305	\$75.00	Pepperprint, Posters.
03/2 Autumn show		304	\$88.00	Signage, Stickerman
05/1 Other Promotions	\$ 120.00	303	\$320.00	Growing Plant Sales/Purchase Tinonee.
06/1 Sponsorships	\$ 300.00			Ludos, Coffs Produce, Geoff King.
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>\$ 699.00</u>		<u>\$934.40</u>	
	-\$235.40			

DEBIT/CREDIT TOTAL FOR THE PERIOD

Bank Reconciliation for the above trading period.

Opening Bank Balance 21/2/2020	<u>\$7,465.85</u>			
Rec for above period	\$699.00			
	<u>\$8,164.85</u>			
DEDUCT Exp for above period	<u>\$370.00</u>			
Pre. u/presented cheques	\$1,154.35	Chq.301,550,548,537,549,546,545.		
	<u>\$1,524.35</u>			
Balance of income and expenditure	<u>\$6,640.50</u>			Refer BCU Statement @ 18/03/2020.

The following chqs have not been presented: 302,304,305,306. totalling \$564.40.

The following Accts to be paid: Post office box rental.

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
18/03/2020

March

Member Name	Laelinae Intermediate Hybrid 60 to 100mm	Laelinae Miniature Hybrid under 60mm	Laelinae Cluster Hybrid (min 5 flowers)	Laelinae Novelty Hybrid spotted flower non exhibition	Laelinae Species	Novelty Paph & allied Hybrids	Oncidiinae Hybrids over 65 mm	Oncidiinae Hybrids 25 to 65 mm	Oncidiinae Hybrids under 25mm	Oncidiinae & Allied Species	Phalaenopsis Hybrid Over 75mm
Class	6	7	8	9	10	12	14	15	16	18	22
Anderson N								3			
Axelss/Dean				2							3
Bright W						3					
HALL B	3			3						2	
IDE M			3		3		3			4	
Jackson N						2					
WILLIAMS Sue								3			
Total Class count	3	0	3	5	3	5	3	6	0	6	3
No Name											3

Member Name	Phalaenopsis HYBRID under 50mm	Phalaenopsis SPECIES	Dendrobium Hardane Hybrid Non Native	Dendrobium AOV Hybrid Non Native	Australian Native Hybrid Inc Dendrobium	Australian Native species Inc Dendrobium	OV Hybrid over 50mm	Oncidiinae Hybrids 50mm and U	Popular Vote
Class	24	25	27	28	30	31	34	37	42
Axelss/Dean	5				2				
COOPER Dick			5	6		3			
DAVIS C								3	
HALL B							3		
IDE M		3							
SEIVER H									6
Total Class count	5	3	5	6	5	3	3	3	6