

COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

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www.coffsorchidsociety.org.au

COFFS ORCHID NEWS – JUNE, 2020

GENERAL MEETING & ORCHID COMPETITION

1st THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7.00 for 7.30 PM, UNLESS OTHERWISE ANNOUNCED at NTH COAST

REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS, HARDACRE ST, COFFS HARBOUR

JUNE MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

<u>PRESIDENT:</u>	CAROLE DAVIS	6658 1354	
<u>VICE PRESIDENT</u>	BOB SOUTHWELL	0417 695834	
<u>SECRETARY:</u>	PAIGE SINCLAIR	0427 591901	paigesinclair@me.com
<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	bssouthwell@bigpond.com

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



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2. EDITORIAL:

If the orchid photographs in this newsletter, the previous edition and on Facebook, are any indication, this year's Autumn Show would have been totally awesome. I doubt we would have fitted into the Show Room at the Botanic Gardens. We can only dream of what might have been and look forward with enthusiasm to the September Spring Show.

Thank you to everyone who submitted photos of their orchids. This has enabled a wide audience to view our Virtual Shows in the newsletter

and on Facebook. Congratulations to everyone. The quality of your plants has been outstanding and we thank you all for sharing.

How are you coping during this time of upheaval? Have you settled into a routine during this period of isolation and social distancing? Are you missing the usual contact with others? Others probably feel just like you so please make a point every few days of contacting someone by phone or email just to see if they need to talk or need some help in shopping or getting orchid supplies, etc. If you can't help them, you may know someone who can. Just a simple phone call may brighten their day and that might be the only human contact they have that day.

You will have noticed that fortunately the orchids have not gone into lockdown and they are still growing, flowering and going through their normal growth cycles. This means you can't lean back and relax just because you are staying at home. Your plants still need you. They still require watering, fertilizing, repotting, disease and pest control so that come September they are in magnificent condition for the Spring Show. Perhaps this pandemic is a bonus for your orchids as you are forced to spend more time at home and therefore more time working with your plants.

We are hopeful that the Spring Show scheduled for the second weekend in September will get off the ground. With all the time you are now spending with your orchids this is certain to pay dividends with a magnificent display of flowers next Spring.

**Keep safe and well, wave to your neighbours,
enjoy life and be kind to each other.**

1. CALENDAR

- | | | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 4 June | June Meeting – Dick Cooper | CANCELLED |
| 2 July | July Meeting – Hans Schiabe | '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, Etc. | |
| 5 Nov | AGM – Dick Cooper | 'Birds' |
| 3 Dec | Awards Night - Dinner at Shearwater | |



3. PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Once again - Hello Everyone

It seems that **COVID-19** is still lingering – it hasn't gone away but perhaps we are now starting to get the upper hand with the various protocols which have been put in place, and which are now being eased to allow more social and economic interaction. Probably small, careful steps initially, which will soon show if we are able to go forward with a leap, maybe even a bound !!

Firstly, thank you so much to all of you who contributed to our **Virtual Autumn Show**. What an absolutely spectacular display of orchids – so much variety – over 80 photos on Facebook (thank you Paige for setting this up), many of which are reproduced in this Newsletter, including of course, the *Grand Champion* and *Reserve Champion*, as voted by our Members. Hearty congratulations to Bill and Jenny Lennon for their magnificent winning plants – so well grown, and it is a pity that we can only award *Virtual* ribbons, rather than the real-life ones which they so rightly deserve. At this stage we are keeping our fingers crossed that our Spring Show will occur in this reality, rather than a *virtual* one!

Now, please welcome Jude Whiting (pictured) as our new voice on the Committee. She joined CHOS in 2014, after relocating from Melbourne, and needing some hints and tips on growing orchids in a different climate zone. Jude says she bought one or two plants and then became hooked – as we all do – so has quite a large collection in a relatively small area. It has been a learning curve and she would like to thank everyone for their friendship, advice and support. We re-ZOOMED for our May Committee meeting and, amongst other matters, discussed the Sarcophilus Growing Competition, purchase of OrchidWiz to be installed on the CHOS computer for members to use at our Monthly Meetings, allocation of funds for Library purchases, the Spring Show, a Privacy Policy, and a Mentoring Program – ostensibly for new members, but certainly to engage with anyone who is keen to participate.

Last month it was with great sadness that I had to let you all know that Rose McKay had passed away unexpectedly. Her husband, John, has offered to supply a plant for the Plant Raffle each month as a way of remembering this delightful lady. Thank you, John.

In regard to our Monthly Meetings, it is in the hands of Council with any new protocols which may be established prior to re-opening our meeting room. So, July – who knows, maybe August, but will certainly keep everyone informed as soon as we have any positive details.

Well, finally and in retrospect, perhaps the last few weeks have reminded us to focus our attention on what really nurtures us – family, friends, nature, inward reflection and, of course, orchids in all their glory !!

Carole Davis, President.



**SOME PEOPLE WANT IT TO HAPPEN.
SOME PEOPLE WISH IT WOULD
HAPPEN. OTHERS MAKE IT HAPPEN.**

Michael Jordan



4. VALE ROSE MCKAY:

Most members would be aware that Rose McKay had been ill for some time and she passed away in Coffs Harbour Health Campus on Thursday, 16th April. Rose had been an active member of the Society for a number of years and was always willing to be involved in any Orchid Society activity.

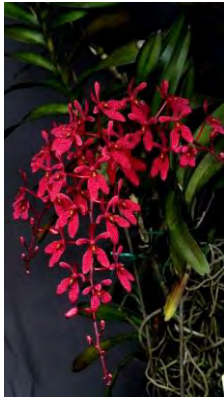
We greatly appreciate all her willing contributions to the Society. She will be greatly missed by all of us. Our sincere condolences to her husband John and their family. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this time.

5. FACEBOOK REPORT:

Congratulations goes to Bill and Jenny Lennon for taking out the ‘Grand Champion’ and ‘Reserve Champion’ in our recent Facebook virtual ‘People’s Popular Plant’ event with their plants *Renanthera* Merritt Island B & J AM . AOC and *Cattleya* Donna Kimura'ParadiseTami', respectively. There were over 80 plants posted on Facebook by members for this competition. With these many plants we would have had a fabulous Autumn Show had the event been held. From the feedback the committee has received the event was a huge success. Currently we have 52 members of the ‘CHOS What’s in Bloom Group’. Check out this group on Facebook to see images of other members blooming orchids. Almost everyday someone posts photos of their plants in bloom. The fun Facebook ‘Sarcochilus Growing Competition’ is not doing as well as we think it could. Currently only 11 members have joined this group out of a possible 34 members who bought the plants. After two months we have a clear leader – Plant number 26 sitting on 8 points. Reminder if you need help joining or posting on Facebook Paige Sinclair is available to assist, contact her via telephone 0427 59 1901 and she will either help you over the phone or visit you in person. The next window to post your Sarcochilus plant is the first 7 days of each month. Just a reminder, there are prizes for this fun group, so get posting.

Below is the current leader board.

Plant No#	April	May	June	July	Total
5	2	2			4
23	2	2			4
24	2	2			4
26	4	4			8
27		2			2
37	2	2			4
38		2			2
40	2	2			4
	14	18			32



Grand Champion



Reserve Champion

6. SPONSORS SPOT: COFFS HARBOUR PRODUCE

Coffs Harbour Produce are one of our long standing sponsors, so please consider them when you next need some orchid growing products.

They stock a wide variety of rural products in their extensive store at 26 June Street, Coffs Harbour.

From an orchid growers perspective they carry a range of orchid potting mixes, perlite, charcoal, fertilizers and an extensive range of pest and disease chemicals (insecticides, miticides, fungicides, etc).

As well as providing fertilizers in bulk, you can also buy some fertilizers in smaller lots which may be more convenient to you when you are only using a small amount each time.

They also have a wide range of normal garden products at reasonable prices. Tell them you are a member of CHOS when you next visit. Their phone number is 02 66522599.

They support us so please support them.

7. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS:

The Committee has decided to put a moratorium on the payment of CHOS membership fees until normal meetings resume. However, we would like to encourage you to pay them now by direct deposit or by the normal postal service.

Single Membership is \$10 and Joint Membership is \$15.

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.

Please put your name in the Reference Box so we know who to credit the membership to.

Alternatively, you may wish to forward a cheque or money order to The Treasurer, CHOS, PO Box 801, Coffs Harbour.

8. GROWING COMPETITION:



The two Growing competitions are now on hold until normal meetings resume. You should continue to care for and fertilize both the mounted Dendrobium and the new Sarcophilus so they are healthy and point winners by the time things return to normality. You might like to consider repotting the Sarc now conditions have cooled off slightly. I draw your attention to the Sarcophilus Growing Comp being held on Facebook and encourage you to enrol and take part. We still have six Sarc plants available for purchase. These are priced at \$8 each. If you don't want to be part of the main competition then you may like to purchase a plant for your orchid collection. Each plant comes with a detailed growing guide. Contact Bob Southwell to reserve your plant.

This is a photograph of the Sarco. that was reported at the March meeting (which seems so long ago). You need to repot yours and fertilize weakly each week. Good Luck!

9. BARK SUPPLIES:

The Society has a 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. We have had healthy sales since the last newsletter and members have been able to pick up the bark and still follow Covid-19 distancing rules. So if you need bark, or wish to reserve some bags, then ring or message Bob Southwell (0417 695 834) (or email).



This joke panes me.

10. USING LIME OR DOLOMITE IN THE GREENHOUSE:

Growers often spread Lime or Dolomite around their greenhouses once or twice a year (say Autumn and Spring). This is carried out for a number of reasons:

- As a means of disinfecting the orchid house and attempting to control fungal and bacterial diseases lurking on your greenhouse floor, benches, pots and plants.
- The Lime or Dolomite can also alter the pH of the potting mix which overtime breaks down and becomes more acidic. As lime and dolomite are both alkaline, they can bring the pH towards a more desirable neutral pH level. (For a more accurate analysis we should use the Society's pH meter and test the pH of the potting mix before and after applications of lime or dolomite).



- Agricultural Lime contains the compound Calcium Carbonate and Dolomite is a mix of Calcium Carbonate and Magnesium Carbonate. So, Lime will provide some Calcium while Dolomite provides both Calcium and Magnesium, which are both essential for healthy plant growth. Many growers prefer Dolomite as it provides both nutrients.

These products can be purchased as a solid powder which can be mixed with water to form a suspension. Add two or three handfuls to a 9 litre bucket of water, stir and let settle. Drain off the liquid (contains small particles in suspension) and spray or water over your plants, benches and greenhouse floor. Top up the bucket with water, stir, let settle and

continue to use. Some growers prefer to spread the dry powder around the greenhouse, benches, pots and plants and then water in.

The Lime or Dolomite is also available as a concentrated form in products called Micro-Lime and Micro-Dol. These contain small particles of suspended lime or dolomite which can be sprayed onto the plants (to purchase these go to the website at www.batphone.com.au). Your plants will probably have a white residue over them (so I usually do it after Shows in Autumn and Spring) but this will wash down into the pot over successive waterings. At the same time it is a good idea to soak your mounted plants in the lime or dolomite suspension. These mounts also become acidic as they break down over time and this provides an ideal environment for fungal growth. By soaking the mounts you will extend the life of each mount and provide a better growing environment for your plants.



11. ALGINOX:

Alginox (plus the lime and dolomite mentioned above) was listed in the previous newsletter and a number of members have asked for further details about how to use this product. Alginox is a product used to control microorganisms (especially algae) in swimming pools. However, it has many uses around the home and is useful in keeping pathogens (fungi and bacteria, etc) under control in the orchid house.

Growers use it to spray floors, benches, pots and plants in an effort to maintain hygienic conditions in the greenhouse.

From the table below you will see that it has a wide range of uses around the greenhouse. Suggested rates are given for each use. Many users have suggested that these rates could be used at a slightly higher level without any ill effect. For most situations in the greenhouse a rate of between 2 to 4 mls per litre is usually applied. It is best to apply the rates listed below and see if you achieve effective control before increasing the application rate.

This is a chlorine based product and you should wear a protective mask and glasses while using it (and maybe gloves). Please read directions on the Alginox container before using. The chlorine smell will dissipate in a short time. Woolworths Supermarkets stock this product. At Toormina Gardens Woolworths it is found in the Pool Chemical Section and priced at a reasonable \$16 for 2.5 litres.

ALGINOX – SUGGESTED RATES AND APPLICATIONS

USAGE	RATE	APPLICATION
Dividing Plants	15 mls to 4 litres of water (ie 3.75mls per litre)	Remove old compost, soak plant for 5 minutes before dividing with sterilized cutters. Trim the division and its roots, soak again for 5 minutes before repotting.
Seedlings from flask. Protect from damp off.	7 mls to 4 litres of water (ie 1.75mls per litre)	Soak plants including agar, in Alginox solution for 5 mins. Remove agar, soak compost in Alginox solution. Afterwards, spray once per month or anytime disease is evident.
Adult plants	50 mls to 20 litres of water	Spray once a month or anytime disease is evident. Soak compost when disease is evident.
Maintenance dosage. (Dendrobium cut flower growers spray)	20 mls to 20 litres of water (ie 1ml per litre)	For specific problems such as rots or Botrytis, use the recommended dosage until under control. Then resume this maintenance dosage & spray once a month.
** Disinfectant - to kill virus, bacteria, fungus, algae on contact.	5 mls to 1 litre of water	Wipe plant sap from the cutting edge first. Submerge cutting tool in Alginox solution before using again.
Rots such as black rot, brown rot, Erwinia etc	15 mls to 4 litres of water (3.75ml per litre)	Remove compost, soak entire plant 10 minutes or more. Trim all rot from plant using sterilized cutter. Soak plant wounds 10 minutes or more. Repot using compost soaked with Alginox solution.
** Brown rots in Vandaceous orchids	25 mls per 10 litres of water (ie 2.5ml per litre)	Spray weekly during rainy periods. Ensure the solution gets in and around the leaf bases. Do not omit spraying because it is raining.
Spraying walkways and under benches	15 mls to 4 litres of water (ie 3.75ml per litre)	Spray heavily under benches and on walkways.

Table courtesy of Ku-Ring -Gai Orchid Society Newsletter, October, 2016.

Bob Southwell

12. VIRTUAL AUTUMN SHOW, 2020 – PART TWO:

As a result of the Corona Virus Pandemic our Autumn Show has been cancelled. We continue our Virtual Show with Part Two displayed below. Thank you to all the members who sent in photos of your orchids in flower so we can all enjoy their beauty.

Dendrobiums:



Dick & Barbara Cooper
– Den. Grace Robson #2

Dick & Barbara Cooper
-Den. James Dick x
Den .Kristen Ann ‘Royal Velvet’

Dick & Barbara Cooper
- Den. SisterAnn-Maree
x Den. Elva Ann

D & B Cooper – Den. bigibbum
‘Samford Good Guy ‘ x Self



Dick & Barbara Cooper
– Den. bigibbum

Dick & Barbara Cooper- Den. NoID

John Sidebottom – Den. NoID

Malcolm Ide – Dendronium
purpurea alba

Laeliinae Alliance:

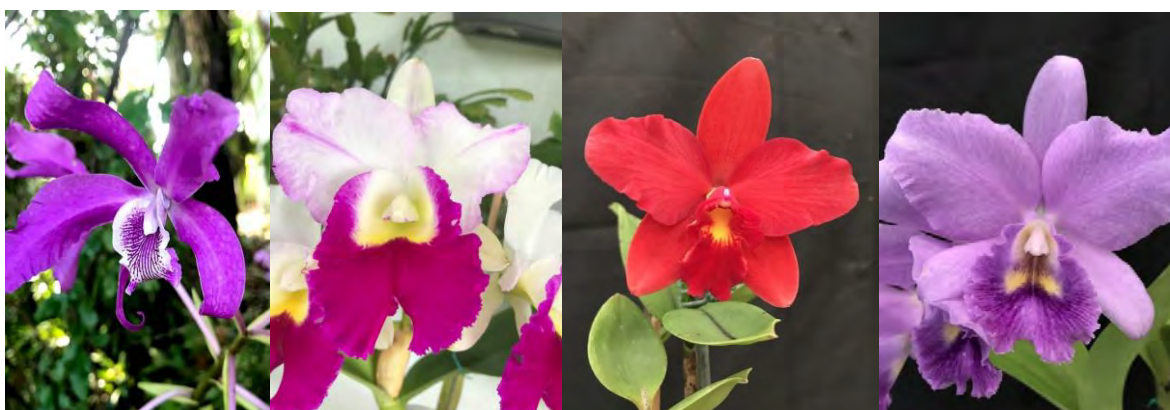


Helena Axelsson – *C. bowringiana*
‘Lilacina’

H. Axelsson – *Laelia anceps*

Bruce Hall – NoID

Bruce Hall - NoID



Helena Axelsson
– *Cattleya maxima*?

Helena Axelsson – *Rcl. Memoria*
Anna Balmores ‘Convex’

Rhonda Smith – *C. Bright Angel* ‘OC’

Rhonda Smith – *Blc. Blue Grotto*
‘Soft Touch’



Carole Davis – Prosthechea cochleata



Mal Ide – Rlc. Kaye Green 'Wobbles'



Malcolm Ide – Bc. Monarch x Bc. Dals Choice



Helen Seiver – Bc.em. Wilson 'Sthn Inferno' x Pot. Shin Shiang Diamond

Oncidium Alliance:



Bob Southwell – Oncidium Sweet Sugar 'Super'



Bob Southwell – Oncid. Alusuka 'Claire'



Bruce Hall – Oncidium NoID



Neil McDonald – Oncidium Sweet Sugar 'Super'



Di Blay – Psychopsis Kahili



Rhonda Smith – Howeara Mary Eliza

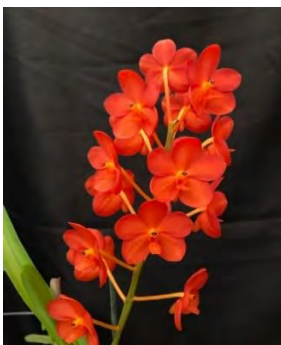


Rhonda Smith – Oncid. Moonshadow 'Tiger Tail'



Rhonda Smith – Oncidium Sweet Sugar

Vandaceous:



R. Smith – Ascda. Banghunting Gold X Asctm. miniatum 'KBR'



Rhonda Smith – Ascda. Adisak Happiness



Neil & Elinor McDonald – Vanda Somsri Glory 'Blue'



Neil & Elinor McDonald – Aerides quinquevulnera var. calayana

Paphiopedilum Alliance:

Any Other Variety:



R. Smith – Paph. Mystic Jewel x
Paph. Hsinying Biwa



Di Blay – Phrag. Sedenii



Judith Whiting – Paph. insigne?



Carole Davis – Coelogyne fimbriata



Rhonda Smith -Fredclareara After Dark
'SVO Black Pearl'



Carole Davis – Dendrochilum
wenzellii Red

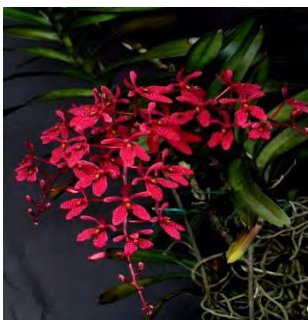


Bulb. rothschildianum

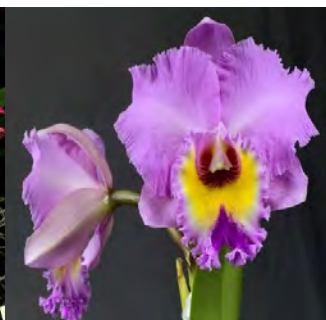


Sue Flanders - Bulbopyllum
Elizabeth Anne Buckleberry

FINALISTS IN THE CHOS FACEBOOK VIRTUAL SHOW, APRIL, 2020:



B & J Lennon – Renanthera
Merritt Island B & J AM



B & J Lennon – C. Donna Kimura
'Paradise Tami'



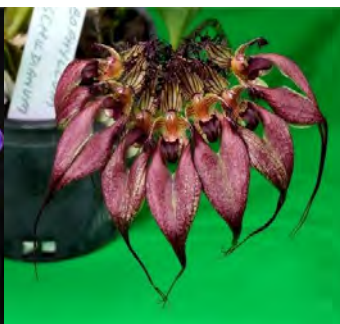
D & B Cooper – Den. Kristen Ann 'Royal Velvet'
X Den. Hickman Deb 'Walcrest'



Sue Williams – Dendrochilum wenzellii



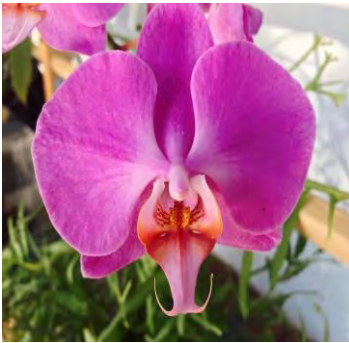
Vanda Bangkok 'Blue'



Bill & Jenny Lennon - Bulb. rothschildianum



Helena Axelsson - Odont. Sunlight – B. & J. Lennon - Blc. Little Mermaid B. & J. Lennon - Slc. Jungle Beau 'H & R' 'Pesky Panther' 'Janet'



Helena Axelsson - Phalaenopsis NoID

RECYCLING YOUR OLD POTS:

Orchid pots can be expensive and many growers reuse their old pots every time they repot. There is nothing wrong with this as long as you make sure they are properly cleaned and disinfected. Other growers use only new pots each time they repot and discard the old pots. If the pots still look presentable and are in good condition then there is no reason why you can't recycle them. The usual way to clean and disinfect a pot is to wash it (even scrub it) to remove surface dirt and chemical residue. Then soak the pots in a solution of household bleach for a few hours. Drain the pots, rinse and let dry.

13. AUSTRALIQN ORCHID FOUNDATION ESSAY PRIZE, 2020:

The Australian Orchid Foundation (AOF) is pleased to announce the establishment of the AOF Essay Prize. The AOF Essay Prize has been set up to encourage local orchid growers to participate in letting others know of their initiatives and practices in the cultivation and conservation of orchids.

It is an annual writing competition, established with a generous endowment by the Slade Family who have been actively involved with the AOF since its inception.

There will be three prizes –

1st Prize \$350.00

2nd Prize \$250.00

3rd Prize \$150.00

The Foundation invites all Australian orchid growers to consider the topic for 2020 and submit an entry. We would not only like to reward you, but we would like to hear about your ideas and experiences and benefit from them.

ESSAY TOPIC FOR 2020:

"Growing orchids in a small area or balcony"

Got any tips for other growers that you are prepared to share? Please email them to Bob Southwell for future newsletters

In this day and age when more people are living in apartments, smaller areas, and might only have a balcony or pocket-handkerchief backyard, how do you overcome the lack of space, and what are the advantages?

The deadline for receipt of all entries is June 30th 2020

Send your entry to:

AOF Essay Prize P.O. Box 440, Yarra Glen 3775 or electronically to

aof@australianorchidfoundation.org.au

Please include your name, address and telephone contact.

Entry Rules:

- This competition is open to Australian residents only.
- The essay will be an original article, not previously published
- The essay must be no more than 4,000 words, short essays are most welcome
- The essay is to be in English and typewritten.
- Entries may include art work or images
- The authors of the essays will remain undisclosed to the judges, whose decision will be final. If in the opinion of the judges, no worthy essays are received, there will be no award that year.
- Non-winning entries will be returned to the sender if requested. These entries may be submitted to the editors of Australian orchid periodicals for publication, with permission from the author.
- The winning essay will be announced at the AGM of the Foundation in October 2020
- The winning entry will be published on the AOF website and in Australian orchid periodicals

Three wonderful plants grown by Helen Seiver



Left: Rc. Deception Variable

Middle: Cat. Patrician

Right: Den. Lady Gem x bigibbum 'Stella'

WANTING TO BUY ORCHIDS

Martin Smith from Dorrigo is interested in buying some orchids that would grow in the cooler Dorrigo area. If you can help Martin would you please contact him on 66 573 347 or 0429 646 851 .

DON'T FORGET THE 10% DISCOUNT OFFER FROM TINONEE ORCHIDS DURING THE MONTH OF MAY. NOT LONG TO GO SO GET YOUR ORDER IN TODAY.CONTACT