



COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

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www.coffsorchidsociety.org.au

COFFS ORCHID NEWS – JULY, 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

JULY 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. **UNDERGOING RENOVATIONS – SOON REOPENING**



INDEX:

1. Calendar
2. Editorial
3. Presidents report
4. Facebook Report
5. Sponsors Spot
6. Annual Subscriptions
7. Bark Supplies
8. Orchid Profiles – Phalaenopsis
9. Woolgoolga Open Air Meeting
10. pH Meter
11. What Does Your Orchid Need?
12. Sticky Insect Traps
13. Harbour Hybrids Orchid Sales
14. Tinonee Open Day
15. CHOS Fifty Year Anniversary, 2021
16. Australian Orchid Foundation
17. Dark Star Orchids want Stanhopeas
18. Financial Report – Bruce Hall

1. CALENDAR

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 2 July | Meeting – Hans Schiabe ‘Dendrochilums’
CANCELLED |
| 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’ |
| 28 Nov | Tinonee Orchids Open Day – Society Visit? |
| 3 Dec | Awards Night - Dinner at Shearwater |

2. EDITORIAL:

We all have different ways of doing things. That does not mean that the way we do something is wrong if it achieves a working outcome. We learn from our mistakes and the mistakes of others.

We can all share each other’s experiences and we should all appreciate well meaning advice. It is often worth trying a particular solution to see if it works for your situation.

If it works then you may adopt it, if not then you have learnt something in the process. There is often more than one solution to the same problem.

One of the aims of the CHOS is to educate members to grow orchids successfully and appreciate the beauty and variety of the plant family Orchidaceae. We hope that every member of our Society continues to develop a love for orchids and to gain essential knowledge that will help them grow better orchids.

The Society conducts monthly meetings with knowledgeable guest speakers, runs members workshops, produces this monthly newsletter, has an active Facebook page and website all of which provide education opportunities for its members.

To further this aim of passing on ideas to other members, the Committee plans to introduce an advisory system for new members where a more experienced orchid grower will be available to pass on advice to these new members if they require it. I know that many other growers truly appreciate advice from our experienced growers and would also like to be involved in such a scheme. The Committee is looking at how this may be achieved. We will pass on more information as it becomes available.

The Society also provides a platform for showing of members orchids and providing healthy competition. Some may be obsessed by winning but for most of us we grow orchids for their beauty and their fascination and a win or a place on the Show bench is simply a welcome bonus.



We are all hoping that Covid-19 restrictions will continue to be progressively lifted and the September Spring Show will go ahead as planned. The Committee is in full Show planning mode and we will keep you informed over the next few months. You should start now to prepare your orchids for benching in mid September. Keep your fingers crossed. It will be a massive Show.



The Late Edward Pearce's *Coelogyne mooreana*

2. PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Hello Again.

Well I was hoping that perhaps/maybe we would be able to let everyone know that we will be able to recommence our Monthly Meetings from August, and this remains a possibility (hopefully not remote) but again we have to put on our *wait and see hat* until we hear from Council as to their policy on what will open, when, and how the community areas are to be managed. Certainly we don't want to rush too fast but we do want to get there !!

I keep my hard-copy Newsletters for a couple of years before the folder becomes too bulky and then each month I discard the oldest one but not before reading it through to see if there are any gems of information I would like to reinvestigate. Well, guess who won Champion, Reserve and the Steve Clemesha Trophy at our Autumn Show in 2018 – yes, Bill and Jenny Lennon !! They are excellent growers and certainly consistent. Congratulations again for an outstanding result in our 2020 **Virtual Show**.

At this stage we are keeping our fingers crossed that our Spring Show will occur in this reality, rather than a *virtual* one and the Committee have set in motion the tasks which need to be completed in readiness for this event. We met in person (physically distanced of course) and if all goes well, we will be ready to roll. Consideration is being given to looking around for a larger venue for our Monthly Meetings/Shows but the cost implications may be prohibitive. Any suggestions would be gratefully received.

Wearing my **Librarian** hat, the Treasurer has opened the War Chest, and I now have \$200 to

spend on new texts. If you think there are any obvious gaps in our selection, please do let me know. We have a lot of general books giving all sorts of *How To* advice, and certainly some more specific genera volumes which drill down with detailed data, but you may know of other titles which you think would be of interest.

Our Facebook page is getting a lot more visitors/hits (I think that is the right terminology !!) and don't forget to upload photos of your special plants for everyone to enjoy, as well as keeping in touch with how the Sarcophilus Growing Competition is progressing.

Our past-President Ed Pearce was a *Coelogyne* tragic, and he had established a breeding program involving a fair number of flasks in different stages of development. The Committee agreed to support these initiatives and later to share the results amongst members, possibly at a de-flasking workshop.

Finally, *Did You Know??* Next year will be the 50th anniversary of our Society – I think that is something to celebrate and we are working on it – not sure about the fireworks but ???

Carole Davis,
President

Every time you flower a new orchid it's like gaining a new friend. When you flower it again it's like meeting an old one.



Carole Davis – *Oncidium sotoanum*

3. FACEBOOK REPORT:

CHOS What's in Bloom Group - Facebook

Reminder to all members to post images of your plants in bloom on the 'CHOS What's in Bloom' Facebook group. Last month we had 50 posts from members showing us their stunning orchids. Each month we will put the name of the person who posted into a draw, for each post they made. As an example, if a person posted five different plants in five separate posts, then that person would get 5 entries into the draw. At the next face-to-face meeting, we will draw one name out to receive 5 free raffle tickets into that night's plant raffle draw. Get 'Posting' you might win a free plant.

Sarcochilus Growing Comp – Facebook

The fun Facebook 'Sarcochilus Growing Competition' had one additional plant entered this past month, welcome to plant no 7. This comp is still not as popular as it could be, but Plant number 26 sitting on 10 points, slightly ahead of plant number 24. Below is the current leader board.

Plant No#	April	May	June	July	Total
5	2	2	2		6
7			2		2
23	2	2	2		6
24	2	2	4		8
26	4	4	2		10
27		2	2		4
37	2	2	2		6
38		2	2		4
40	2	2	2		6
	14	18	20		52

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.

5. SPONSORS SPOT: Ludo's Oldwares, Ulmarra.

Ludo's Oldwares is your go to place for all antiques and collectables. It is located in Ulmarra on the Old Pacific Highway (once the bypass fully opens it will be called Big River Way). They buy and sell everything from old wares and collectables to clothing, boots and vinyl records. Ludo tells me he is still active in buying from the Coffs Harbour area and is currently looking for old rusty treasures, railroad memorabilia, petrol station signs, old oil bottles, farmyard items such as axes and other tools, military medals, badges, knives, uniforms and any old Aussie silver coins. If you think you may have an item that may interest Ludo then give him a call on 02 6644 4080 or his mobile 0402 044 601 or email him on ludogayko@gmail.com.

If you are driving through Ulmarra then call into the shop at 21C Pacific Highway and tell him you are a member of CHOS. He says he has even given the shop a clean-up in anticipation of your visit.

Support Ludo as he supports us.



Rhonda Smiths Slc. Precious Jewel 'H & R' x Cattleya Caudebec 'Carmela'

6. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES:

The Committee has decided to put a moratorium on the payment of 2020 membership fees until normal monthly 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.

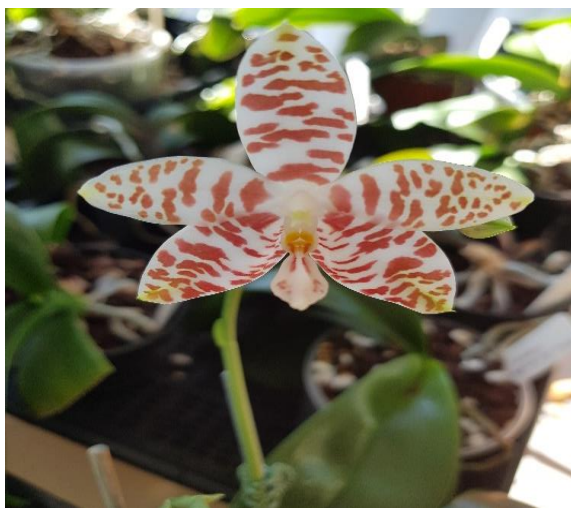
7. BARK SALES:

The Society has 5 bags of Orchiata NZ Bark left—two bags of 9 to 12 mm and three bags of 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. If you need bark urgently then contact Bob Southwell on 0417 695 834 to make your purchase.

It is hoped to obtain a new supply in time for Spring repotting and we intend to expand the range to four sizes with 6-9mm and 18-25mm being added to what is currently available.

8. ORCHID PROFILES – Phalaenopsis

These are one of the worlds most popular orchids. A large proportion of flowering orchids sold in world markets are Phallys.



Phalaenopsis amboinensis (White form)

They are generally warm growers and often successfully grown as house plants. The preferred temperature range is 12 to 30 degree C but will tolerate lower temperatures (Eg. 7 deg C) for short periods. Water and fertilize frequently in summer (weak solution each week) and less often in winter (every two weeks). Do not let root systems dry out completely but also avoid saturating the potting media- so don't use a pot without drainage holes and use well draining mix. Phalaenopsis have no pseudo-bulbs for storing water or excess food so the grower needs to provide all that the plant will require especially if grown inside or under cover. Good air movement should be provided all year. The plants also thrive in a humid environment so placing them in a tray of moist gravel or pebbles will assist in maintaining a humid environment around the leaves. Excess water left in the leaf axils at night may cause fungal infections.

In summary, Phallys like what you like – a warm, humid environment.

Potting medias can vary but most growers use a mixture of bark and perlite (you could add charcoal, pebbles, etc, if you wish). Fertilize with a growth fertilizer during the growing period and then use a higher phosphorus/potassium fertilizer on approaching flowering (Campbells Yellow or Focus Bloom, etc). Spike initiation will occur when there is a night time temperature drop of around 8 to 9 degrees for a period of 10 to 14 days usually in early to mid autumn in Coffs Harbour. Care is needed in staking and arching flower spikes so the best flower presentation is achieved.

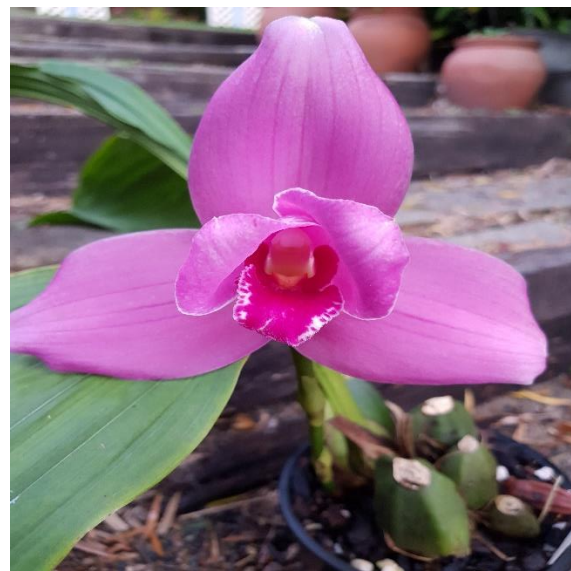


Keep an eye open for insect, mites, fungal and bacterial infections and treat using the appropriate method to maintain plant health.

Phalaenopsis tend to respond well to frequent repotting. Usually at least once a year following flowering is the usual pattern.

Most growers remove the spent flower stalk by cutting it off with clean instruments about one or two centimetres from its base. This allows the plant to rest and prepare for the next flowering season. However, there can be a second flowering on the old flower stem if it is still green and active.

Some growers either leave or cut the old flower stalk just below the bottom spent flower and leave this flower stalk in place. It may produce buds and another flush of flowers. These buds are often smaller and fewer than the original flowering.



Lycaste Abou Sunset X Lycaste skinnerii

Yesterday is History

Tomorrow is a Mystery

Today is a Gift



9. WDOS OPEN AIR MEETING:

Woolgoolga District Orchid Society are planning on conducting an open air meeting from 2pm on Saturday, 27th June, 2020. The meeting will be held, weather permitting, at the Centenary Drive Sports Ground, near the High School. The WDOS has a storage container at this location and are planning to conduct the meeting in small groups with five demonstrations of various orchid potting techniques.

Small groups, keeping the correct social distancing, will rotate from speaker to speaker during the afternoon. Members are asked to bring their own chair. No afternoon tea will be provided by the Society (if you wish bring your own snacks and drinks).

10. pH METER:

If you would like to borrow the Society's pH Meter and take some acidity/alkalinity readings of your water supply or of the potting media, then please contact Bob Southwell on 0417 695 834 to book the instrument. It comes with all necessary chemicals and instructions.

11. WHAT GOES WHERE IN A GREENHOUSE?:

This is an often asked question. You have just built a new greenhouse or have purchased a kit, erected it and you are ready to fill it with plants. Does it matter which orchid goes where in the greenhouse?

Most growers will tell you that if a plant does not seem to be growing happily and eventually flowering then perhaps you need to move it to better location in the greenhouse (needs more light) or perhaps it is struggling because this climatic zone does not meet its needs (perhaps it needs heating on cool nights). So, with this in mind, perhaps it is important to try and work out what are the needs of a particular group of orchids and where in the greenhouse should they be placed.

In general terms all orchids need to be provided with the following basic needs:

- Adequate light levels in order to flower. Use the light level guide issued in the March edition of this newsletter to determine the needs of each Genera you grow and what the levels are like in you shade house. Use your hands above the plants and check out the amount of shadow or purchase a light meter or use a light meter app on your mobile phone. Light levels may be higher near the edges of the greenhouse or up near the roof level (depending on the percentage of shade cloth you have installed – most use from 50 to 70% on the

roof and 50% on the sides). Lower light levels can occur on lower shelves or under hanging plants. You may find it desirable to place an extra layer of shade cloth over part of your greenhouse so you have a more shaded area for shade-loving orchids. Cattleya and Oncidiums like higher light levels than Paphs . If you are growing plants like Phalaenopsis inside a window in your house then keep an eye on light levels as the position of the sun changes during the year. In winter plants can get sunburn when the sun shines directly in the window even though it is mid winter



A portable light meter for measuring Lux levels

- Provide enough water for each orchids needs. How often you water is determined by a number of factors. Has there been rain? Does the potting media hold lots of water (as in sphagnum moss or coconut chip)? How hot and humid has it been? You can use a water testing meter with a probe to insert in the potting mix or simply insert you finger into the mix to determine if it is wet. Sometimes just the weight of the pot (or lack of weight) will tell you that the plant needs watering). You should research each orchid needs but in general terms most orchids need watering once a week in summer and much less in winter. Orchids which originate from a monsoon climate require a dry period which is usually during the winter. Soft canes, hard canes, Catasetums, etc, do not need any water at this time. This means you need to provide a part of your greenhouse where watering will not occur during this dry period. This means you may need to move those plants to another area which is dry during this period. Or you need to cover one section of the greenhouse shade cloth with clear plastic or a solid waterproof roof. If you have an overhead watering system then this

needs to be turned off for that part of the greenhouse during this dry period.

- Correct humidity levels is essential for proper plant health. Plants need to have humid air around their leaves and aerial roots. On hot days humidity needs to be increased by using overhead misters or foggers or simply by damping down the greenhouse floor so the air has a higher humidity. Placing plants in a tray of wet gravel will also help maintain higher humidity levels. This especially applies to plants without pseudobulbs which store water (Phallys, Vandas). Some areas of the greenhouse (near the floor) may be more humid than others.
- Air movement is important. This is important for healthy, disease free plants. It may be necessary to install fans throughout the shade house or some sides may have better air flow than others.
- Provide an ideal temperature range for plants so they achieve maximum growth. You need to research what the correct temperature conditions are for the plants you grow. You may need to find a cooler spot for plants such as *Sarcochilus* or *Sophronitis* so under a lower bench may be better for these plants. It may be warmer near the roof. You may have to provide heating for some plants especially in winter.

Purchasing a maximum and minimum thermometer will be helpful as it will tell you what the temperature range is and which parts of the house are warmer, etc.



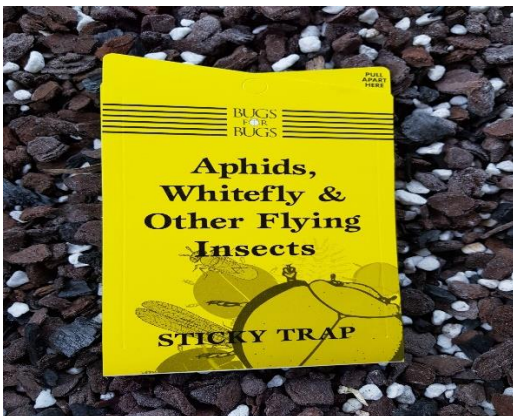
- Space between plants is important. In fact space (or lack of it) will be one of the significant factors you have to deal with in managing your orchid house. Plants don't need to be packed too closely together. They need room so they are not shaded, space allows for air movement and proper uninhibited growth. Don't forget the vertical space (hang some plants from the roof) or the

hanging space provided by the house walls and the edges of benches.

Remember if the plant is not doing well then try another part of the shade house that may be more suitable.

12. STICKY INSECT TRAPS:

These are useful in the greenhouse to indicate small insect activity, helps to reduce the number of insects and may assist with identification of what insects are present. If these are harmful to orchids then you may decide to take the appropriate control steps. The traps are usually suspended above the foliage on a bench (or attached to a stake) at various intervals throughout the greenhouse (often around two metres apart). Smaller insects such as flies, aphids and thrips are attracted to the trap and stick to its surface. Monitoring them at intervals will reveal the amount of small insect activity in the greenhouse. Replace them when coated in insects or no longer sticky. Supplies can be purchased from most orchid suppliers (Tinonee has them at \$2 each).



14. HARBOUR HYBRIDS ORCHID SALES:

Ron and Craig Alexander operate this orchid nursery from West Korora, Coffs Harbour. They have a small shop located near their front gate or would be happy to make an appointment for you to visit the nursery. They stock a variety of common orchids and specialise in the breeding of native Dendrobiums such as *Dendrobium bigibbum*. The nursery is located at 66 Old Coast Road, Korora and their phone number is 02 6653 6454 or contact Craig at ozziden@yahoo.com.au .

15. TINONEE ORCHIDS OPEN DAY:

This was set down for mid-July but due to Covid-19 restrictions it has been postponed to the weekend of 28-29th November. Ray Clement says he will open the nursery to the public over the originally planned weekend of 11 and 12th July but there will be no guest speakers or the usual festivities. The November date will see well known guest speakers, demonstrations and lots of nursery specials. Ray is planning this as a major event as it may be the nursery's last open day. The Society is considering organising a bus or a car pool for Saturday 28th November if there is enough interest and we are all back to some form of normality by then.

16. CHOS FIFTY YEAR ANNIVERSARY:

On the 7th April, 1971, the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society was official born. The Society had been part of Coffs Harbour Horticulture Society (CHHS) prior to this date and the number of orchid growers in the CHHS had increased to where it was obvious that they could form a society in their own right. They were given the blessing of the committee of the CHHS and the new CHOS was so named on 7th April, 1971. This means that our Society will be celebrating fifty years in 2021.

Your present Committee feels there is a need to celebrate and would welcome any ideas members may have as to what activities could occur during next year to mark the occasion. Please pass on any ideas or information you may have to any Committee members (contact details on page one of this newsletter).

WISE SAYING:

*Give me coffee to change things I can
and wine to accept those that I cannot*



Rhonda Smiths Pot. Little Toshie 'H & R'

**JULY MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED BUT
THERE IS A GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT
AUGUST WILL GO AHEAD AS PLANNED.**

GET YOUR ORCHIDS READY

17. AUSTRALIAN ORCHID FOUNDATION

APPEAL FOR ORCHID SPECIES SEED:

The Australian Orchid Foundation runs an international seed bank to promote and facilitate the propagation and conservation of orchid species. The Orchid Species Seed Bank urgently requires more fresh seed.

AOF members and friends frequently ask, "What can I do for the AOF?"

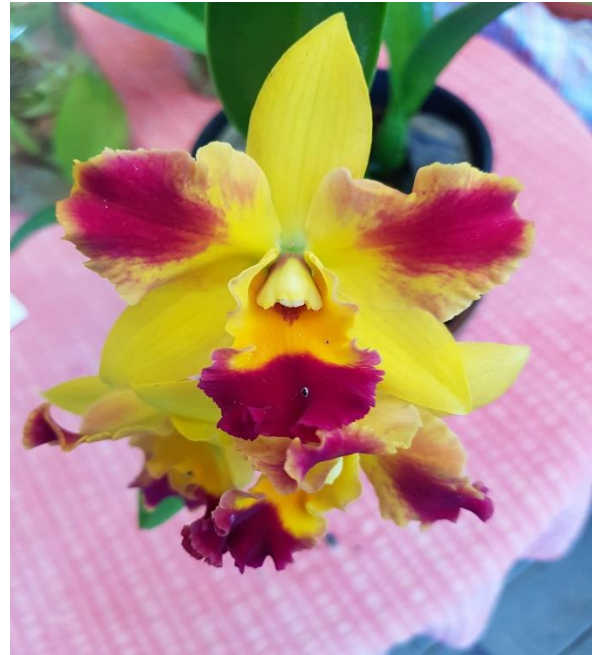
There is something everyone can do, donate seed from one ripe capsule at least, just once a year, and suggest that your friends do also, especially that interesting species. Cross pollinate flowers of different clones which will produce more viable seed. Send the dry seed to the SEED BANK, harvested as the capsule yellows. Place in a paper envelope and post in a crush-proof container, e.g. small postal carton. Believe it or not, orchid seed is delicate and can be crushed in the mail. Don't delay; try your hand at pollination for the conservation of species.

Send to: AOF Species Seeds and Protocorm Bank,
Mr. Richard Thomson, P.O. Box 2152, Templestowe Lower. Vic. 3107
(Phone: 03 9850 9867
Email: Protocorm@australianorchidfoundation.org.au)

SEED CAPSULE MATURITY:

Estimating the ripening time of a seed capsule is a difficult task. Many an amateur and professional hybridizers have had the disappointment of finding the seed capsule of that desired cross split and its contents scattered to the wind. There are many factors that come into play regarding the ripening of a seed capsule e.g. time of year, weather conditions during maturation of the capsule, etc.

After fertilization, seed development can be gauged by the swelling and ripening of the developing seed capsule which may take a few weeks or occasionally as long as a year or more, depending on the genus.



Selisa King – Cattleya Noid

As a seed capsule ripens it changes colour from green to yellow or brown then splits to release the seed into the air. It is recommended that when the seed capsule begins to yellow at one end, it is ripe for harvesting and sending to the seed bank. If you are unsure of how much time there is before the capsule will split, try tying tissue paper or an empty tea bag over the capsule a few weeks before hand and examine it from day to day.

Below is a list of the expected time for ripening of seed capsules. This is an *approximate guide only* and may be of assistance to new growers.

Ascocentrum 150-170 days to ripening

Bulbophyllum 80-120 days

Cattleya 160-180 days

Coelogyne 270 – 365 days

Cymbidium 250-300 days

Dendrobium 160-180 days

Epidendrum 130-145 days

Laelia 140-160 days

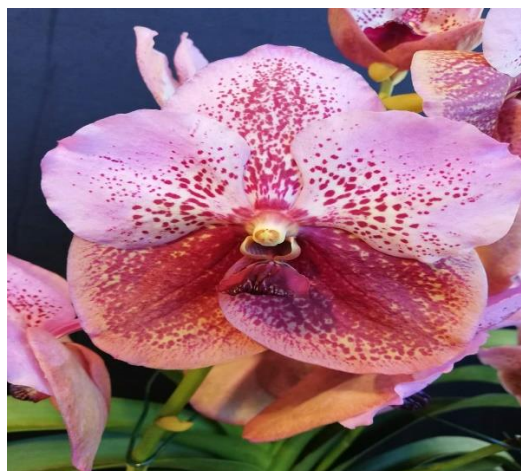
- Maxillaria 130-150 days
- Miltonia 145-160 days
- Oncidium 100-130 days
- Paphs 150-170 days
- Phalaenopsis 130-140 days
- Phrags 180-190 days
- Renanthera 180-200 days
- Sarcochilus 200-210 days
- Sophronitis 100-120 days.

Murphy's Law for Orchid Growers

1. *Anything that just can't go wrong WILL go wrong and worse than your wildest nightmares.*
2. *Things don't get worse - they become disastrous*
3. *If everything is going right then you have forgotten something.*
4. *Nature helps its own - not you.*
5. *Grubs prefer to eat unopened buds of prize orchids - not old half withered flowers.*
6. *The pot you knock over always breaks off all new emerging flower spikes.*
7. *All your favourite insect pests have just become resistant to all the latest insecticides.*
8. *When fine weather is predicted for the set-up day of your Show - beware.*
9. *If anything could go wrong, the one thing that does is that which causes the most damage.*



Selisa King – Lc. Purple Cascade
'Fragrant Cascade



Neil & Elinor McDonald – Vanda Lenavat
X Vanda Sunray



Coelogyne Kirribilli Hubert Dixson – largest flowers of all the Coelogyne.

18. DARK STAR ORCHIDS

This is a popular local orchid nursery located west of Bowraville. Hans Schaible is the owner and operator and he will be well known to many members. Hans is interested in purchasing Stanhopea orchids, so if you have any for sale then please ring the nursery on 02 6564 4088.

Check out Dark Star's web page at www.darkstarorchids.com.au. Lots of orchids for online sale. Hans stocks many unusual orchids and it is well worth looking at the site.