

COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

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www.coffsorchidsociety.org.au

COFFS ORCHID NEWS – AUGUST, 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

AUGUST MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

<u>PRESIDENT:</u>	CAROLE DAVIS	026658 1354	
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<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. Presidents Report
3. Editorial
4. Facebook Report
5. Sponsors Spot
6. Annual Subscriptions
7. New Bark Supplies
8. Growing Competition
9. Orchid Profiles – Vandaceous
10. Controlling Slugs and Snails
11. Poets Corner
12. Monthly Hints
13. What's in a Name? Dick Cooper
14. Harbour Hybrids Orchid Sales
15. Spring Show Cancellation
16. Newsletter Feedback
17. Changes in Orchid Names
18. Committee Deflasking Workshop
19. CHOS Member Survey
20. Financial Report – Bruce Hall

1. CALENDAR

6 Aug	August Meeting – CANCELLED
3 Sept	September Meeting – CANCELLED
12-13 Sept	Spring Show - CANCELLED
15 Oct	Plant Auction, Etc. ???
5 Nov	AGM – Dick Cooper 'Birds'
28 Nov	Tinonee Orchids Open Day – Society Visit?
3 Dec	Christmas Meeting - Dinner at Shearwater

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Hello Everyone,

The light at the end of the Covid-19 tunnel seems to be getting dimmer as each week passes and now, unfortunately, even our September meeting, indeed the Spring Show, look to be wishful thinking. However, given the success of our *Virtual Autumn Show*, if necessary, it will be easy enough to set everything going again for a *Virtual Spring Extravaganza* so that all the hard work of growers, and the plants themselves, will not go unseen but can be shared as previously. Perhaps there is a button which could be pushed to enable all images to appear in 3D, together with any fragrance. Way above my pay grade, and I suspect it constitutes even more wishful thinking!! Now, the last Newsletter referred to those sticky insect

traps. Well, I bought some ages ago but after catching a couple of geckos and some butterflies decided that they weren't for me, instead I should be more careful about closing the doors to the shadehouse!!

Wearing my **Librarian** hat, I have purchased some new books which I hope you will be able to enjoy in due course. They include *Orchid Pests and Diseases Guide* (American Orchid Society), *Spider Orchids – Caladenia Orchids of Australia* (Gary Backhouse), *Australian Orchid Growing Vol 1 Cymbidiums* and *Vol 3 Paphiopedilums* (Australian Orchid Council), plus *Bulbophyllums – The Incomplete Guide from A to WHY??* (Bill Thoms), and *The Astonishing Stanhopeas* (Barney Greer). This last one contains a bit of history and an illustration where the artist drew the flower pointing up because he *knew* that plants don't or shouldn't flower downwards!! Silly man. I only have an allowance of two shelves in the Botanic Gardens Meeting Room cupboard (no pecking order in this Society) so will have to do some spring cleaning to make room for these new acquisitions.

Your Committee followed up on another Bunnings BBQ (could be in the next century), an update to our OrchidWiz, the Questionnaire for an Advisory Program, various avenues for advertising ourselves given that the hard copy of *The Advocate* is no more and, of course, *WHAT TO DO* for our 50th Anniversary next year. I wish I was that young!! Other bits and pieces are in this Newsletter, including the *Sarcochilus* Growing Competition. Don't forget the Facebook page to upload photos of those really special plants in your keeping. I'm being a little bit selfish and have enclosed a photo of my lovely *Acacia fimbriata* in full bloom which I hope you will enjoy. Obviously not an orchid but to justify its inclusion there is a *Vanda Martha Hartley* hanging in the middle (if you have a magnifying glass!!)

Finally, these may be gloomy times in some sense, but orchid-wise there is plenty of colour and beauty, and often you can espy a surprise flowering at the back of the bench previously unnoticed - that hidden gem.

Carole Davis, President



Fringed Wattle, *Acacia fimbriata*, is native to this area and a colourful garden plant.

3. EDITORIAL:

Why belong to an Orchid Society?

A fundamental question we may all ponder on, especially when our annual membership fees are due. Do I get my money's worth out of my membership? What advantages do I have by belonging to a Society?

Belonging is probably a good word to start with. We join an Orchid society so we can fraternise with like-minded individuals who also have a love for orchids and wish to share the growing experience.

To many it is a chance to show off their prize plants at monthly competitions and one or more annual Shows. To the rest of us we enjoy being able to look at these awesome plants and dream that one day we also will be able to grow them just as well.

Societies also are a source of information on how to improve your growing technique, what orchids should I grow, how to control that mystery leaf spot that has appeared overnight, etc.

Orchid Societies have many experienced growers who are always willing to assist others in growing better plants. Monthly guest speakers, regular newsletters, workshops, and demonstrations all provide an opportunity to learn something new and make us all better growers. Active Facebook pages and modern Society websites also act as a source of information and interaction between members.

When you join a local Orchid Society you also become affiliated with the State group (OSNSW) and the Australian Orchid Council (AOC). This allows you to participate in all shows, competitions, conferences, etc, conducted by local orchid societies and those run by the State and National organisations. It also provides you with an opportunity to have your orchids assessed for State and National awards. These State and National organisations also provide qualified Judges to preside at all orchid Shows conducted throughout the year. Both these organisations have active websites which provides lots of useful information on orchid topics.

The local Society also pays a proportion of your membership fee to the Orchid Society of NSW to cover insurance for when you are taking part in Society activities. Other Society funds are also used to cover meeting room rental, printing costs, competition prizes, postage, post box rental, annual Show costs and a host of other items which help the society run smoothly and support the membership.

All of these items listed above make you, as a Society member, better educated as an orchid grower, provide opportunities you would not otherwise have outside a Society and allow you to enjoy the company of other orchid loving people.

Well worth the price of annual membership.





Rhonda Smith's *Dendrobium tetragonum* 'Black Widow' X *Den. tetragonum* (Red type x Gypsy's Red)

Plant No#	April	May	June	July	Total
5	2	2	2	3	9
7	0	0	2	0	2
23	2	2	2	2	8
24	2	2	4	2	10
25	0	0	0	2	2
26	4	4	2	3	13
27	0	2	2	2	6
37	2	2	2	2	8
38	0	2	2	2	6
39	0	0	0	3	3
40	2	2	2	2	8
	14	18	20	23	75

Reminder if you need help joining or posting on Facebook Paige Sinclair is available to assist. Contact her via telephone 0427 591 901 and she will either help you over the phone or visit you in person. The next window to post your Sarcophilus plant is the first 7 days of each month. Just a reminder, there are prizes for this fun group, so get posting.

4. FACEBOOK REPORT:

CHOS What's in Bloom Group - Facebook

WOW! – there are some beauties being posted in the CHOS What's in Bloom group. If you haven't posted your pretty blooms, get posting as this could result in extra raffle tickets at our next face to face meeting. If you need help contact Paige Sinclair on 0427591901, she will be able to help you. For the month of June there were 38 posts of members orchids in bloom.

Sarcophilus Growing Comp – Facebook

The fun Facebook 'Sarcophilus Growing Competition' had two additional plants entered this past month, welcome to plant no 25 and 39. Congratulations, Plants numbers #5, #26 and #39 - it was a three-way tie, so your plant gets 3 points. See below for the leader board. Plant number #26 is the lead-plant for the July 2020 period.

5. SPONSORS SPOT: Coffs Coast Motors

See Coffs Coast Motors for Mazda and Honda vehicles, also second-hand vehicles, and all your servicing needs.

Agents for quality new and used Mazda and Honda vehicles. Check out their websites and the Showroom for all the new models. They pride themselves in making the process of owning a Mazda or a Honda easy and exciting.

When it comes to keeping your vehicle in tip-top shape, then only a genuine service from Coffs City Motors can deliver the assurance and peace of mind you are looking for.

For all enquiries and to book service appointments phone 6652 3122, 211 Pacific Highway, Coffs Harbour.



Rhonda Smith - Sl. (now Cattleya) Pole Star X Rth. Love Sound 'Dogashima'



Another Rhonda Smith beauty.
Rlc. Village Chief Armani 'Red Dragon'

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.

REMEMBER IF YOU DON'T HAVE INTERNET BANKING THEN MAIL A CHEQUE TO CHOS, P.O. BOX 801, COFFS HARBOUR. 2450

7. BARK SALES:

We have sold all of the current supply of Orchid Bark but the good news is that new stock will have arrived by the time you receive this newsletter.

This year we have again combined with Woolgoolga and Grafton Orchid Societies so we can get a good deal and then pass the savings onto members.

We will now stock four different grades of bark:

- * Classic – 6 to 9 mm
- * Power - 9 to 12 mm
- * Power Plus – 12 to 18 mm
- * Super – 18 to 25 mm

This will allow members to use the correct size bark for the plant they are potting. While there are some exceptions with some orchid types, in general terms a small plant usually means a small pot and small sized potting media (small bark, small perlite, small charcoal, etc).

The Classic bark is ideal for seedlings and small plants while the Super could be what you need for large Vanda's and Cattleya's. Some growers blend some of these mixtures to achieve a mix that suits their orchids and growing conditions.

Unfortunately, there has been a price increase of two dollars per bag with this new shipment. Each Society makes very little from the sale of each bag and the aim is to provide members with quality potting mix at a reasonable price. We will sell these bags for \$27 each.

If you need supplies of bark then please contact Bob Southwell on 0417 695 834 or email to bssouthwell@bigpond.com. You can organise to pick up or Bob may be able to deliver to your house. There are only limited supplies of the small and largest sizes so get in early if you need these new sizes.



Selisa King – *Oncidium Twinkle* 'Fragrant Fantasy'

8. GROWING COMPETITION:

There are still two active growing competitions taking place – the mounted *Dendrobium* and the potted *Sarcochilus*. Keep watering and fertilizing these plants at the same time as you do the rest of your collection. The next judging of these will take place as soon as normal meetings resume. In the meantime, don't forget the *Sarcochilus* Growing competition taking place on the CHOS Facebook page during the first week of each month. Check it out anytime and take part from the 1st of August. All you need to do it take a current photo of your Sarco, making sure the number is clearly visible, and post it on the Facebook site. Good luck to everyone.

9. ORCHID PROFILES – Vandaceous

A very extensive and popular orchid group usually requiring warmer conditions. This alliance is made up of warm and full-sun growing orchids with colourful flowers that originate in tropical Asia. Commonly hung in baskets with very coarse potting mix, how coarse depends on the size of the plant. Many are suitable for pots with coarse, quick draining potting mix. The larger *Vanda*'s grow best in baskets where their roots can hang free. Vandaceous orchids often develop extensive aerial root systems and care needs to be taken to minimise root damage when moving pots or baskets or when repotting. Water and fertilize regularly during warmer parts of the year when plants are growing rapidly. *Vanda*'s enjoy high humidity and good air movement. Misting on hot days will help increase humidity around the plant. The plants like to be watered well in summer (often every day) but it is best if the roots dry quickly. Water sparingly in winter.

Avoid retention of water in the leaf axils.



Ascocenda Boonyarit Red 'Thai Ruby'

Vanda's need high light levels in order to grow and flower properly. They will tolerate full sun if introduced to it slowly but grow best in slightly shaded conditions.

Strap leaf *Vanda*'s need winter protection from cold winds with temperatures best above 10 degrees C.

Many Terete leaved Vanda's (narrow, pencil shaped, rolled leaves) will tolerate lower temperatures for a short period but like most Vanda's they do best in warm, humid conditions.

Vanda's are heavy feeders and need regular fertilizing with a weak strength fertilizer.

The difference between a well grown and a poor plant is usually due to proper watering and fertilizing.



*Keep our distance
Wash our hands
Use hand sanitizer
And
Be kind to each other*