

Plants for Sale

Dick Cooper has too many orchids at the moment and wants to sell 50 to 60 plants so that he can provide more room to his remaining plants. Some are flowering size; others are smaller. They include divisions of some of his best plants, including flowering size divisions of a past Grand Champion.

Other flowering size plants are Cattleyas, Oncidiums, Australian Natives, Hardcane Dendrobiums and Epidendrums. The smaller sales plants include Softcanes, Australian Natives, Oncidiums, Hardcane Dendrobiums and some *Dendrobium bigibbums*.

Dick will be away until around the end of July but if you are interested please contact him on either 0402159146 and by email at origma505@yahoo.com.au.

10. CONTROLLING SLUGS AND SNAILS:

There is nothing worse than your best orchid flower becoming the overnight meal of a snail or a slug and it usually happens the night before the show. Snail pellets work but just in case your pets sometimes join you in the greenhouse, it may be better to look at alternative control measures.

Coffee is usually in a cup and we enjoy to drink it, however, researchers have now found that as a caffeine solution spray it will kill all snails and slugs within two days after being sprayed over a particular area. Sprinkled coffee grounds are also recommended for deterring slugs and snails as they do not like to cross them.

I have heard that a saucer of beer will attract them and they end up drowning. What a way to go!

Research has also revealed that slugs and snails will not cross over copper material. You can wrap copper wire or copper tape around the legs of

your benches or the bases of your pots and the slugs and snails will not climb up them. This easily controls these pests without using harmful chemicals.



11. POETS CORNER:

No Ribbons – No Prizes

**I pot my orchids right on time
And keep my every plant in prime.
They send out sheaves that grow and grow
But they're never ready for a Show.
My hopes get up just months before
When I see sheaves and buds galore.
They bloom. I watch them fade and go
About three days before a Show.
I experiment with heat and light
Practically camp out there at night.
And then they bloom on time? Oh no!
Three days to a week after a Show.
Of course, a stinker, a dud or a shmo
Will always bloom in time for a Show!**

12. MONTHLY HINTS

LIME OR DOLOMITE: Throw some on the floor to kill nasties and for greenhouse hygiene.

HY-SAN: Bio-disinfectant for fungal and bacterial infections.

CINNAMON: Sri Lankan is the best type and can be purchased from the Health Food Shop in Little Street, Coffs Harbour. Sterilizes cuts, control fungal and bacterial infections on leaves.

ALGINOX: Is a pool chemical available from Woolworths. Use to sterilise pots. Use as a disinfectant to improve greenhouse hygiene.

MICRO-DOL: Liquid Dolomite – adds calcium and magnesium plus acts as a hygiene agent and improves pH of the potting mix. Spray once a year. Available online from www.batphone.com

SEAL CUTS: Use SteriPrune or Sulfur

DRY WINTER ORCHIDS: Reduce winter watering for Hard Canes, Indian Dens, Soft Canes, Bigibbums and Catasetums.



Phalaenopsis Baldan's Kaleidoscope

13. WHAT'S IN A NAME? PART ONE

(By Dick Cooper)

Whenever we buy and grow orchids it helps if we can obtain information about that particular plant(s), or about the group of related orchids. At the very least we should ascertain the cultural needs. Orchids within each group - Cymbidiums, Cattleyas, Native Orchids, Softcane Dendrobiums, Hardcane Dendrobiums, etc., etc. - have similar needs. But not all orchids have the same cultural requirements and even within some groups different orchids do need to be treated differently. So, how do we find out about what is special about different orchids?

Just knowing the correct name attributed to an orchid, means that we can ascertain the species that comprise its genetic makeup and this, in turn, can tell us about specific cultural needs, e.g. don't water them at particular times, what type of fertilising to give them, what potting media to use, what is the growing seasons, light and temperature requirements, etc. All these aspects can vary. In other words, the name tells us much more about an orchid than just what to call it. It helps us learn how to best grow that orchid and, combined with some trial and error, what plants we can grow best. Some good growers concentrate on growing certain groups of orchids. This allows those growers to apply a single cultural program to all their orchids. On the other hand, someone who was growing Cymbidiums, Australian Natives, Softcane Dendrobiums and Catasetums would likely struggle to achieve good results unless they apply different cultural practices to each group.

Understanding the names on the plant labels is important to understand what plants one has and what is likely to breed with what. There are other reasons too. For Show benching, name tags can tell growers what section their plants must be exhibited in. Correct labels are important for judging purposes - Judges need to be able to verify that plants are correctly entered, e.g. species orchids must be entered in a Species Class and are rarely judged against hybrids. In some Australian States, any un-named orchid (including those labelled as 'Unknown', 'No Id' or carrying a 'made-up' name) may not be entered in a show or will not be judged. Fortunately, this is not the case in NSW.

In addition, a correct label tells growers about parentage.

The origins of the names of species and hybrids differ. During the late 1700s, a Swedish botanist (Carl Linnaeus) developed a system for classifying all living things that allotted a specific name to each naturally occurring group of plants, animals, birds, insects, etc. That name is made up of two terms: the 1st is a noun that indicates the collective name ('**genus**') linking allies (a group of similar objects). The 2nd term (the '**specific epithet**') is an adjective that describes the particular species. Both terms always have Latin endings, even though in some cases the words themselves are not Latin but derived from the Greek, English or some other language. Under internationally agreed naming rules, no other orchid can have exactly the same name unless it is another member of the same species. All allied **species** carry the same **genus name** (the 1st term) but each different species has a unique **specific epithet** (the 2nd term), e.g. *Cymbidium suave*, *Cym. madidum*, *Cym. devonianum*, *Cym. atropurpureum*; or *Dendrobium kingianum*, *D. bigibbum*, *D. speciosum*, *D. gracilicaule*, *D. teretifolium*, *D. discolor*, *D. ruppisum*, etc. Some of these plants have different cultural needs.

Now, where a naturally occurring but distinctive form, or population, of a plant species exists, it can be given a **varietal epithet** (a 3rd term). This is also written in *lower case italics* but is preceded by the abbreviation var. (for variety) or subsp. (for subspecies). For example, there are 3 naturally occurring forms of *Dendrobium bigibbum* [Note: *Den. phalaenopsis** is a synonym and, as such, should not be used]. The 3 forms of *bigibbum* are *D. bigibbum* var. *bigibbum*; *D. bigibbum* var. *compactum* and *D. bigibbum* var. *superbum*. The natural distribution of each of these varieties overlap, resulting in natural interbreeding and colour variation. In addition, breeders actually mix the varieties and the intergrades in their breeding programs as they search for better shape, more flowers and different colour combinations. So, unless you have a special reason for distinguishing a variety, then it is best to treat your *bigibbums* as *bigibbums* only - it may still have a distinguishing clonal name (* see below).

Lots of species do have distinct varieties. For example, *Cattleya purpurata* has 11 varieties and *Cattleya intermedia* has 10 - in Brazil, some shows specifically cater only for forms of *C. purpurata* - which is the national flower. Two *C. intermedia* forms are the purple flowered *C. intermedia* var. *orlata* and the white flowered *C. intermedia* var. *amethystina*. Of the 270+ awards given worldwide to plants of *Cattleya intermedia*, 87 Awards were given to var. *orlata* and 13 to var. *amethystina*. Now, an awarded individual plant is given a distinct **clonal name**. [When written, clonal names are not italicised, may use capital letters and are placed within 'single' quotation marks.] Some Australian clonal names for var. *orlata* clonal names, are 'Graeme', 'Aiden', 'Courtney-Alexandria'; and Australian clonal names for var. *amethystina*, include 'Aranbeem', 'Leah' and 'Leonie. Thus, you may see plants labelled as *C. intermedia* var. *orlata* 'Graeme' or *C. intermedia* var. *amethystina* 'Aranbeem'. These names mean that it is either the actual awarded plant OR a division or mericlone of the awarded plant.

A similar binomial system and clonal names applies to hybrid orchids but instead of having a specific epithet, specific hybrid names are termed grexes. A grex name is never italicised, so labels like *Cym. Black Stump* 'Come In Spinner' FCC/AOC, *Cym. Black Stump* '63 Not Out' AM/AOC and *Cym. Black Stump* 'Howzat' are simply different clones of *Cym. Black Stump*.

Cym. Black Stump was bred by Ray Clement (of Tinonee Orchids). 'Come In Spinner' received an Award of Merit in 2008 and an FCC in 2015 and '63 Not Out' received an AM in 2015. Since the parents of Black Stump are *Cym. Australian Midnight* 'Tinonee' and *Cym. Cricket*, Black Stump carries genetic material from 4 *Cymbidium* species because the parents of Australian Midnight were *Cym. atropurpureum* and *Cym. canaliculatum* and the parents of Cricket were *Cym. devonianum* x *Cym. madidum*. Now, since two of these species are Australian in origin and the other 2 are from SE Asia, it is cannot be benched as an Australian Native Hybrid. Whereas, a hybrid whose parentage comprised only *Cym. suave* and *Cym. madidum* (= *Cym. Kuranda*) is an Australian Native Hybrid and should be benched as an Other Australian Hybrid Class rather than in an Under 60mm (or Miniature) *Cymbidium* Class.

Considering that we know from the label that *Cym.* Black Stump 'Come In Spinner' received an FCC - the highest possible award - and *Cym.* Black Stump '63 Not Out' gained an AM, we should expect that all plants of *Cym.* Black Stump have the potential to compete well at orchid shows and any *Cym.* Black Stump, such as 'Howzat' could be a show bench quality orchid. And, furthermore, we can also expect any plants labelled Black Stump 'Come In Spinner' to produce excellent flowering, if grown well.

Dick Cooper will continue with Part 2 of this article in the September Newsletter.

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 .



**Helen Seiver – *Den.* Lady Gem
x *Den.* *bigibbum* 'Stella'**

15. SPRING SHOW CANCELLATION:

After extensive investigation and thought, the CHOS Committee have decided that there is too much risk in holding the Spring Show set down for the second weekend in September. The Display room at the Botanic Gardens has too many restrictions with social distancing, etc, as a result of Covid-19 regulations and so is an unsuitable venue. Larger venues are far too expensive for the Society's budget. The Committee also feels it has a duty of care to each other, to the Society's membership and to the community in general and holding a physical Show at this time would not be in everyone's best interests. If the pandemic situation in NSW improves then consideration may be given to holding a Summer Show.

In the meantime, it is planned to hold another Virtual Show through the Society Newsletter and perhaps highlights of this on Facebook. This Virtual Show will run during the September and October editions of the newsletter so please send your photos (with labels) to Bob Southwell from August onwards (either email or text with a photo).

16. NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK AND IDEAS:

Any comments, both positive and negative, on the newsletter are always welcome. Sometimes we seem to operate in a vacuum and have no idea what the membership feels about what is included in the newsletter. Is it rubbish? Is it good enough quality (especially the photographs)? What would you like to see included each month? Do you have an item or an article you would like published?

WORRIED ABOUT WHAT THE pH IS IN YOUR POTTING MIX?

NOT SURE IF YOUR TAP OR TANK WATER IS AROUND THE 6 TO 7 Ph?

PLANTS NOT LOOKING HEALTHY EVEN THOUGH YOU FERTILIZE THEM REGULARLY. THE pH OF THE MIX MAY BE LOCKING UP THE NUTRIENTS BEFORE THEY CAN GET INTO THE PLANT.

SOLUTION? CHECK THE pH AND THEN ADD CHEMICALS TO MAKE ANY CORRECTIONS.

BORROW THE CHOS pH METER AND DO THE MEASUREMENTS. COMES WITH ALL THE CHEMICALS AND INSTRUCTIONS.

RING, TEXT OR EMAIL BOB IF YOU WISH TO BORROW IT.



Rhonda Smith – *Cattleya Amaroo*
17. CHANGES IN ORCHID NAMES

This is an ongoing problem for orchid growers. There are always going to be name changes as scientists working with orchids are finding previous errors have occurred in their naming, new biological data points to them not having the same close relations to some groups as previously thought or other research shows they are now more closely related, so in order to correct this error a reclassification and possibly a renaming of the plant is required. The use of genetic techniques to unravel the DNA structure of each orchid has been the greatest tool available to scientists in recent times. Since 2009 most orchids have had their DNA analysed and we now have a greater understanding of the relationships between groups. Many changes have been made in the classification of orchids. Unfortunately, it often takes many years for the changes to filter down to the average grower.

One such example is with the Central American orchid *Oncidium sotoanum*. This was originally called *Oncidium ornithorhynchum* and underwent a name change in 2010 when it was discovered that there was a yellow flowered South American species already given that name long before the Central American orchid was described.

Collections still carry the incorrect name and should now be changed to *Oncidium sotoanum*.



Oncidium sotoanum



Oncidium ornithorhynchum

Another local example is the native Swamp Orchid belonging to the genus *Phaius*. *Phaius australis* has always been considered to be native to Australia while *Phaius tankervilleae* has been considered non-Australian having origins in western China and India. Recent work has shown that these plants are more

closely related than previously thought. The latest classification treats these two species as varieties of each other and both are now considered to be natives to NSW and Australia.

You should change your plant labels to reflect these changes:

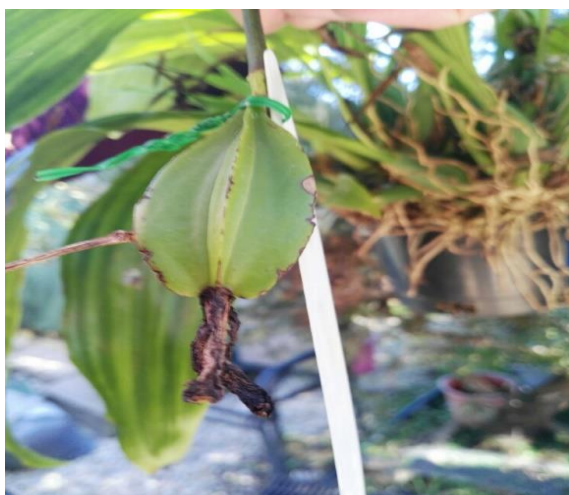
Phaius tankervilleae var. *australis*
Phaius tankervilleae var. *tankervilleae*

(For further details on the new classification see the AOC magazine 'Orchids Australia', June, 2020. Page 22)

BITE THE BULLET. CHANGE THE LABELS

18. COMMITTEE DEFLASKING WORKSHOP:

As many members would be aware, our late CHOS President, Edward Pearce, was a great grower of *Coelogyne* species and hybrids. For a number of years he had been crossing various *Coelogyne* species and had a well established breeding program underway. This meant that when Ed crossed one plant with another, one of those plants would produce a seed pod. After around 12 months he would pick that seed pod and send it to a laboratory for germination. If that germination was successful then the laboratory would, after a further 12-18 months, produce a number of flasks of seedlings from this cross.



Coelogyne seedpod ready for harvest

The CHOS is continuing with the final stages of Edwards breeding program by obtaining the flasks of seedlings, deflasking them and raising the seedlings to flowering stage. This is a process which could take up to seven years before the first ones flower.

We currently have a number of flasks ready for deflasking and the Committee held a training workshop during July to go through the process of deflasking these seedlings.

It is planned to do a similar exercise with all the members at a workshop in 12 to 18 months time when the next seedlings are ready and it is hoped we have returned to normality.



CHOS President, Carole Davis, concentrating on the deflasking exercise.



Judith Whiting and Paige Sinclair at the Deflasking Workshop.

19. CHOS MEMBER SURVEY:

From time to time, members ask for assistance in growing a particular orchid or seek advice on a particular cultural task. A number of members have remarked that they would have appreciated some help when they were starting out to grow orchids.

With this in mind the Committee would like to establish an Advisory Program where members can obtain assistance from the more experienced growers. This would be entirely voluntary and no one would be forced to become involved in the program if they did not wish to.

In order to do this, we would need to find out what is the level of expertise and experience among the current membership. We would also need to ask if you would like assistance in some aspects of orchid growing and if you would be prepared to assist other growers in general cultural areas or in growing specific orchid groups.

The Committee has compiled an electronic survey using special software. You will be asked to select an answer from a number of choices for each question. We have already run a number of trials, ironed out any problems and it is now straight forward and easy to do. When you click on the Submit Button at the end of the survey it will be returned to the Society and the responses will be collated.

Please take time to complete the survey and return it when convenient.

Those that do not have email facilities will already have received a paper form of the survey. We ask that you complete it at your convenience and return by normal post in the stamped addressed envelope.

Once the surveys have all been returned, the Committee will consider if it would be useful to commence an Advisory Program. Responses to the survey will also assist with future planning of Guest Speakers, Workshops, Demonstrations and Excursions as we cater for those areas of need as revealed by the survey.

**THANK YOU FOR TAKING TIME TO
COMPLETE THE SURVEY**



Above: Rhonda Smith - *Zelenkoa onusta*

Di Blay – *Cym. Ruby Eyes 'Red Barron'*

**DAYS ARE GETTING LONGER.
NEARLY TIME TO START
REPOTTING AND FERTILIZING
EVERY WEEK**

**Below: Selisa King – *Laelia superbiens*
(was *Schomburgkia superbiens*)
Carole Davis – *Oncidium Twinkle 'White'***

