



COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

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www.coffsorchidsociety.org.au

COFFS ORCHID NEWS – FEBRUARY 2021

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

FEBRUARY MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE DISPLAY ROOM, BOTANIC GARDENS

| | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------------|
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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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**2021 MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE
PLEASE PAY BRUCE HALL AT THE NEXT
MEETING OR POST OR DIRECT DEPOSIT**

1. CALENDAR, 2021

- 4 Feb – Monthly Meeting, 7.30pm Member Presentations
- 4 Mar – Monthly Meeting. Member Presentations
- 1 Apr - Monthly Meeting. Dick Cooper “Hardcans”
- 24-25 Apr – Autumn Show
- 30 April – 2 May – Coffs Agriculture Show Display
- 6 May – Monthly Meeting. Bruce Hall
“Constructing a Greenhouse”
- 3 June – Monthly Meeting. Ray Clement, Tinonee
- 4 July – Final Open Day, Tinonee Orchids. Visit
- 15 July – Monthly Meeting. Hans Schiabe -
“Dendrochilums”
- 5 Aug – Monthly Meeting. Doug Binns –
“Orchids and Broms of Mexico”
- 2 Sept – Monthly Meeting. Plant Auction
- 7 Oct – Monthly Meeting. Guest Speaker TBC
- 4 Nov – AGM/Monthly Meeting. Elections.
Dick Cooper “Birds”
- 14 Nov - WDOS Workshop. TBC
- 2 Dec – Christmas Awards & Presentation.

***FOR YOUR 2021 ORCHID CALENDAR -
AUSTRALIAN ORCHID COUNCIL CONFERENCE AND SHOW, LOGAN, QLD.
TITLED “FOR THE LOVE OF ORCHIDS”. GREAT SPEAKERS AND MANY PLANT
VENDORS. DATES: 1 – 5 SEPTEMBER, 2021. THIS EVENT IS STILL ON AND WILL
BE A GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR ALL ORCHID GROWERS.
MEMBERS OF CHOS INTEND BEING THERE. WHY NOT JOIN US?***

(2) WE ARE BACK!

The good news is that face-to-face monthly meetings will resume again from Thursday, 4th February with the meeting starting at the usual time of 7.30pm. These meetings will be conducted in the Display Room at the Coffs Harbour Botanic Gardens.

At the present time there is a limit of 30 persons in the room. We ask that members who intend coming to the meeting register their names with the Secretary, Paige Sinclair, as soon as possible. Only members who register can participate in this meeting. Please phone or text message Paige on 0427 591 901 or email at paigesinclair@me.com. Please make sure you receive confirmation of your registration from Paige.

For the February meeting there will be presentations given by three Society members:

- (1) Paige Sinclair – Technology in the Greenhouse
- (2) Neville Anderson – Potting Mixes plus fertilizers for Monsoonal Orchids
- (3) Bruce Hall – Demonstration of ‘Topping a Vanda

At the February meeting we will NOT have the usual monthly flowering orchid competition as there is not enough space to erect tables within the room. Instead, we request that each member bring ONE flowering orchid for 'Orchid of the Night' display. These will be placed on tables in the breezeway between the two security gates. These orchids will be judged by two qualified judges to determine the best orchid. Orchids should be benched by 7.15pm and judging will commence at 7.20pm. It is hoped to return to full orchid competition as soon as restrictions are eased.

We will NOT be judging the Growing Competition plants at the February meeting so please do not bring these plants along for the February meeting.

There are a number of Covid-19 rules that we all need to follow so we comply with Government Regulations. These Covid-19 rules are:

- Members to enter through the metal security gates. Do not use the side door. Maintain Social Distancing if there are other members present.
- Use the Hand Sanitiser supplied.
- Each member to sign in with name and contact phone number.
- If you have bought an orchid then place it on the tables provided in the breezeway area.
- Name tags will not be used and library books will not be available for borrowing.
- Seats will be positioned 1.5 metres apart. Family members may sit closer together but all others are to maintain the 1.5m distance. Members are asked not to stand around taking but to stay seated wherever possible.
- You will be able to purchase raffle tickets in the breezeway area.
- No supper will be available at this meeting. If you will require a drink or food then please supply your own.
- We ask that you wipe over your seat at the end of the meeting. Antiseptic wipes will be provided for this purpose.
- Masks are not compulsory but if you feel more comfortable wearing a mask then please do so.
- **If you have any Covid-19 symptoms please do not attend the meeting.**

CHOS Membership Fees for 2021 are due from the start of February, 2021. They will continue to be \$10 per member and \$15 for family membership. The Treasurer will be happy to receive your membership payment at the 4th February meeting. It would be appreciated if you would place the exact money (\$10 or \$15) into an envelope, write your name on the envelope and hand to Bruce Hall when you arrive at the meeting. Bruce will give you a receipt at a future meeting. Envelopes will be available if you don't have one.

You can post a cheque or money order to CHOS, PO Box 801, Coffs Harbour and include your details. Alternatively, you can Direct Deposit the money into the Society's BCU bank account.

Details are:

BSB – 533-000, Account Number: 60050. Account name is Coffs Harbour Orchid Society. Inc. Please include your name and the word Membership in the Reference Section. Membership fees must be paid by May 6th, 2021.



Photo A

Photo B

Photo C

Photo D

Photo A – *Bulb. echinolabium*
 Photo B: *Den madidum*
 Photo C: *Coel. Burfordiense*
 Photo D: *Phal. violacea*
 (Bob Southwell)



Winners of Popular Vote at Christmas Dinner Meeting, December, 2020:

1st: Bruce Hall – *Coelogyne pandurata* 2nd: Helena Axelsson – *Miltoniopsis*
 Lila Fearneyhough '#10'

3rd: Helen Seiver – *Lc. Ballet Folklorico* 'Eloquence'

3. AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY MEETING:

- (1) Welcome / Covid-19 procedures / Simplified Meeting – regular items will return to future meetings
- (2) Apologies
- (3) Clem Murray – one minutes silence
- (4) Minutes of March, 2020, meeting – as printed in newsletter
- (5) Correspondence
- (6) Finance Report
- (7) Membership Fees
- 8) Sponsors Spot – Coffs Coast Motors
- (9) Orchid of the Night
- (10) Raffle
- (11) General Business
- (12) Members Presentations: (i) Paige Sinclair – Technology in the Greenhouse
 (ii) Neville Anderson – Potting Mixes and Fertilizers for Monsoonal Orchids
 (iii) Bruce Hall – Demonstration - Topping a Vanda
- (13) Please clean your seat with wipes provided

WELCOME BACK!

4. 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 keikis 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.
16. **Draw for Growing Competition Sarco:**

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.

17. 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.

18. 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.



From the greenhouse of Dick & Barbara Cooper:

Ruth. Free Spirita'Ray Wicks' x
Angel flare 'Cynthia' HCC/AOC

Den, Chao Praya 'Moonlight'
(2 spikes, 42 flower + 5 buds)

Den. Impact 'Select'
(In flower for 4+ months)

5.. FACEBOOK REPORT: (Paige Sinclair)

What's in Bloom Facebook Page

Over the summer months there has been plenty of photos posted in the 'What's in Bloom' Facebook page of members beautiful orchids. In November, 51 pictures of orchids in bloom were posted to the Facebook page. Bob Southwell's name was drawn for the person to get the free orchid. And for December, 39 photos were posted and Sue Flanders was the name drawn out of the bag. Congratulations to both winners and happy growing.

With January almost at the end, get your camera out and post your blooms on the 'What's in Bloom' Facebook page, your name could be the next one drawn.

Sarcochilus Growing Comp – Facebook

This comp is still on, take up has been rather disappointing, but we do have prizes for the plants that are still alive and are on top of the leader board as seen below. Currently plant No.26 is a clear winner with Plant no.5 in second place. Seeing as it will almost be a year since we received these plants – for February from the 1st to the 7th please post a ‘before’ and ‘now’ photo of your Sarcochilus.

| Plant No# | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan-21 | Total |
|-----------|-------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|-------|
| 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 25 |
| 7 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 23 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| 24 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 20 |
| 25 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| 26 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 29 |
| 27 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 14 |
| 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 7 |
| 37 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| 38 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| 39 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 13 |
| 40 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 20 |
| | 14 | 18 | 20 | 23 | 20 | 22 | 20 | 12 | 14 | 10 | 173 |

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.

Recently in flower in the orchid collection of Rhonda Smith:



Ctna. Why Not ‘Lea’ HCC/AOC x Self

Colmanara (now Oncostele) Wildcat ‘Teddybear’

Bulb. bicolor ‘Red Flare’

6. SPONSORS SPOT: 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. Phone: 6652 3122.

211 Pacific Highway, Coffs Harbour. Visit their website – www.coffscoastmotors.com.au

7. VALE CLEM MURRAY: (12/6/1949 – 16/1/2021)

It is with sadness that we need to inform members of the unexpected passing of Clem Murray. Clem passed away in Coffs Harbour on the 16th January, 2020 after a short illness. Clem joined the Society in 1999 and has regularly attended meetings and participated in Shows during that time. Clem had a wide range of interests but his great loves were firstly his family, followed by kayaking and orchid growing. He also had a great interest in photography and members will remember Clem spending time taking photographs at each monthly meeting and Show. He was also an active member of Coffs Harbour Pacific City Lions Club.

Clem was very adept at building, welding and general handyman jobs. He took great pride in designing and building his own kayaks. He has assisted many members of the Coffs Orchid Society by building their green houses for them. He has been a valued member of the Society and will be sadly missed.

We extend our condolences to Clem's family.



8. BARK SALES:

Repotting will be continuing with most growers. The Society can provide you with quality potting bark at a reasonable price and we now stock four different grades:

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

These 40L bags sell for \$27 each. We also have 35L bags priced at \$26.

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.

A good guide as to what bark to use: small plant = small bark, etc. / small pot = small bark /mixing small and large sizes may give greater water holding capacity of the mix.

9. CHOS MEMBER GAINS PRESITGEOUS AWARDS:

Malcolm Ide has been awarded a First Class Certificate (FCC) for the recent flowering of *Dendrobium* Calico Twist 'Mandy Lee'. This is the highest quality flower award that can be granted in Australia by the Australian Orchid Council (AOC).

In addition, the growing of the plant was so exceptional that the AOC also awarded Malcolm an Award of Cultural Excellence (ACE) which is the highest cultural award available to Australian growers. Congratulations to Malcom and Mandy for these two outstanding awards. They have brought great credit to themselves as orchid growers.



Dendrobium Calico Twist 'Mandy Lee' FCC/AOC – close up of flower plus overall view of the inflorescences.

In determining if a plant is worthy of an award, the usual practice is for a minimum of 5 judges to directly view a plant in order for an award to be granted. However, to cope with Covid-19, a revised system was introduced early last year. In this case two local judges (including Dick Cooper as the Mid North Coast Region Registrar) inspected the plant, took photos and completed the paper work. Everything was referred to the NSW Deputy Registrar who circulated the information to all other NSW Registrars and the OSNSW Vice President. The overwhelming decision was that the flower quality warranted awarding a First Class Certificate (FCC) and the overall culture of the plant warranted an Award of Cultural Excellence (ACE). These are the highest Australian orchid awards in each category.

Dick Cooper believes this is the first time a plant of any CHOS member has been awarded an FCC or an ACE and the result is a credit to Malcolm.

Photo Credit to Grahame Beatton and AOC

10. JOKE TIME:

Some quarantine jokes:

- Whose idea was it to sing “Happy Birthday” while washing your hands? Now every time I go to the bathroom, my kids expect me to walk out with a cake.
- Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.

- My husband purchased a world map and then gave me a dart and said, “Throw this and wherever it lands—that’s where I’m taking you when this pandemic ends.” Turns out, we’re spending two weeks behind the fridge.
- Ran out of toilet paper and started using lettuce leaves. Today was just the tip of the iceberg, tomorrow *romaines* to be seen.
- My mom always told me I wouldn’t accomplish anything by lying in bed all day. But look at me now, ma! I’m saving the world!
- If I keep stress-eating at this level, the buttons on my shirt will start socially distancing from each other.
- I never thought the comment “I wouldn’t touch them with a six-foot pole” would become a national policy, but here we are!
- The World Health Organization announced that dogs cannot contract COVID-19. Dogs previously held in quarantine can now be released. To be clear, WHO let the dogs out.
- I’m not talking to myself, I’m having a parent-teacher conference.
- Day 121 at home and the dog is looking at me like, “See? This is why I chew the furniture!”

The Official flag of 2020



**TAKE NOTHING BUT PICTURES
LEAVE NOTHING BUT FOOTPRINTS
KILL ONLY TIME**



Paige Sinclair – Miltoniopsis
Rubenesque ‘Brockton’



Helena Axelsson – Phalaenopsis NoID



D & B Cooper -Den. Merrylyn Bertus
(Parents are Den. San Paulo ‘Memory’
x Felicity ‘Nicole’. Bred by David Banks)

11. 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. Start and prepare your NSW Natives for sale at this year's Autumn Show at the end of April.

12. VALE ALICE HIPKINS: _ Mother of Kevin Hipkins – almost 70 years involvement with a commercial orchid nursery – Royale Orchids at Peats Ridge, NSW.

A sad start to the New Year with the announcement of the passing of Alice Elinor Hipkins, the grand matriarch of Royale Orchids, wife of Roy, mother to Ray and Kevin and grandmother to Ray's four sons and a great grandmother to many.

Alice had a long life and passed peacefully at 9.30am on the 1st of January 2021, just 6 weeks shy of her 100th birthday.

Alice loved orchids and together with her husband Roy started Royale Orchids at Woy Woy in 1953, the nursery later moved up to Peats Ridge where it still operates today.

Alice loved her Cymbidiums and worked in the nursery potting up Cymbidiums well into her 90's. There were many quality orchids that featured the clonal name of 'Alice' throughout the nursery. Alice was an active person and always on the go, she loved baking and regularly brought fresh biscuits up to the nursery for morning tea where she was never shy to offer up an opinion and she was a formidable character who stood her ground.

If you were in the 'good books' she was always ready to have a chat with you and she loved to reminisce about the past especially about her early married years when Roy was alive, and this always brought a smile to her face and a tear to her eye.

Many of you will remember her with her puppy Trixie tucked under her arm, this is the quintessential image that will always come to my mind when I remember this great lady!



Posted on Facebook by Jody Cutajar 2/1/2021

13. ORCHID GROWING HINTS:

- Additional shade cloth – ON Melbourne Cup day, OFF Anzac Day.
- To combat fungus and black spot use Mancozeb regularly through Spring and Summer.
- Cinnamon also controls fungal and bacterial infections. Sri Lankan is the best type (Health Food Shop in Little Street, Coffs Harbour). Also, can be used to sterilize cuts.
- Keikis seem to appear when the plant fails to flower so food, light or watering may be an issue.
- Alginox should be used as a disinfectant to improve hygiene in the orchid house. Can be purchased from Woolworths in the Pool Chemical aisle. It could be sprayed on plants, benches and the floor every month or so. Also useful in sterilizing pots.
- Plants which like a dry winter are Hard Canes, Indian Dens, Soft Canes, Den. bigibbums, Catasetums.
- Seal cuts with SteriPrune – available from Bunnings in a spray pack. (more water resistant than Sulfur).
- Make sure your cutting instruments are sterile – use Trisodium Phosphate (Tricleanium from Bunnings – often in the paint aisle). Soak them between plants.
- Dolomite or Lime – a handful in a bucket of water, let it settle, spray the lime/dolomite water around the greenhouse (plants, benches and floor). Spray once or twice a year. Reduces acidity, improves the pH in the pots and helps reduce disease. Autumn and Spring are ideal times to do this.

14. MORE ABOUT ORCHID NAMES

By Dick Cooper

Recently Bob Southwell asked me if *Stanhopea tigrina* and *Stanhopea nigroviolacea* were different species. Based on current thinking, the short answer is NO. They are varieties of one species, *Stanhopea tigrina*.



Stanhopea tigrina var. *tigrina*



Stanhopea tigrina var. *nigroviolacea*

How do I know that? I was able to look them up a database maintained by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (UK). Sure there are differences and some species collectors may want to have both varieties in their collection. Looking on line, there are people still selling plants as *Stanhopea nigroviolacea*. I don't know the reasons why but I guess it may help to sell two orchids to one grower. When judging, the two varieties will always be treated as *Stan. tigrina*. To do otherwise would cause confusion.

The accepted names result from extensive studies undertaken at botanic gardens and universities across the globe. I figure that the people involved know a lot more on the subject than I do and so I should correct my labels and get used to the new names.

When we stop to think about the world as we know it, most of us have been living through extraordinary times.

Leaving aside the problems of Covid-19, the world today is certainly radically different from the one I was born into. Such differences are evident in the classification of orchids. This is why changes in orchid names continue to occur.

Before the 1960s, the standard scientific approach to classifying orchid species was based on what an orchid's floral and vegetative structure and its reproductive features looked like compared with other orchids (and other plants). Then, along came the discovery of *Deoxyribonucleic Acid* (or DNA) - the molecule that encodes the genetic instructions used in the development and functioning of all known living organisms. Using DNA techniques, orchid botanists had gathered a lot of data about different orchid genera so that by the 1980s classification of orchids was then based on genetics rather than plant differences/similarities. The studies inevitably resulted in changes to genus and species names.

Most people will know that I have a keen interest in birds. The DNA thing happened with birds too with the result that in the 1980s the taxonomic order of all the songbirds significantly altered. In essence, it almost completely reversed my previous understanding of the ordering of Australian birds. Today, the classification of all plants and animals relies on DNA evidence, where this can be obtained.

With the arrival of DNA sequencing, scientists from many countries took on the task of reassessing the classification of orchid species. A project commenced in the mid-1990s and run by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) resulted in the publication in 6 volumes known as *Genera Orchidacearum*. The final volume was only published in 2014. The complete set made the *Orchidaceae* (orchids) one of the best documented of all angiosperm families (plants that produce flowers and bear their seeds in fruits).

Although it may appear to have taken a long time, this work is an amazing turn around. In 1993 it was not certain which group of monocotyledons (monocots) the orchids were related to nor how many major plant groups made up the actual monocot family. In other words, uncertainty existed then about the origins and relationships between apparently similar plants.

The orchids are one of the largest of the plant families (currently there are around 27,800 species). The true grasses, the *Poaceae*, also a large plant family and certainly are the most economically important of all plant families, are related to orchids - we now know with some certainty that both belong to the Monocotyledons (approx. 60,000 species): other prominent monocot families are the *Liliaceae* (lilies), the *Arecaceae* (palms) and the *Iridaceae* (irises). These families all share a common evolutionary history.

Even before the *Genera Orchidacearum* project was complete, an international plant convention in April 2002 noted that a world-wide and readily accessible listing of the accepted names for all known plant species and their synonyms did not exist. [To me, this is surprising because there have been at least one world-wide list of birds as long as I can remember and there are individual country lists.] Today there is a World Checklist of Selected Plant Families (also known as the Monocot List). It is co-ordinated by the Royal Botanic Gardens (Kew) and is constantly being updated; it includes all known synonyms. Orchid species are included within this List (based on *Genera Orchidacearum*) and anyone can now use this list to check the currently accepted name of any species. The website can be found at wcsp.science.kew.org. This is where I got the answer to Bob Southwell's question.

What about the names of Hybrid Orchids?

If a species' name changes then any hybrid containing that name is not greatly affected because, once registered as a new hybrid, that plant would be given a new grex name. However, if there is a need to change the Genus name, then this will likely alter the generic name of the hybrid.

A few years back, for example, the genera within the Oncidiinae Alliance were substantially altered. Some changes were that all the *Wilsonara* reduced to *Oncidium*; *Maclellanara* became *Brassidium*; *Cochlioda noezlianus* became *Oncidium noezlianus* which meant that *Odontioda* ceased to be a genus; *Odontoglossum crispum* became *Oncidium alexandre* and other *Odontoglossums* became *Rhynchostele*, etc. etc. For this reason, it is important to be aware that the names of some orchids will change.

Between 1906 and 1960, hybrid orchid registration was maintained by Sander's Nursery (UK). At Sander's request, the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) took over the register which now contains well over 150,000 registered hybrid orchids. 3000-4000 new orchid hybrids as registered every year.

Anyone can register a hybrid orchid (it does involve completing a form and a payment) and anyone can access the register at any time. The website is [apps.rhs.org.uk/horticultural database/orchid register](https://apps.rhs.org.uk/horticultural/database/orchid/register).

Another way to find out about the current names of orchid species or hybrids is to use "OrchidWiz". This is a commercially sold database which is widely used by orchid growers, nurseries and judges and is a great reference medium for checking and tracking the names of species and hybrids. It is based on the names currently used in the Kew Monocot List and the RHS hybrid register. It also draws on the awards given by a large number of national orchid bodies, including the American Orchid Society and the Australian Orchid Council. The names of all synonyms or other known 'aliases' are included in the database. There is an initial cost and an annual charge, but it includes quarterly updates.

Coffs Harbour Orchid Society has a copy of OrchidWiz which members can access.

Photographs for this article were sourced from:

<https://taurangaorchids.wordpress.com/2019/01/30/what-we-grow-stanhopea-tigrina/>

- <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/363243526188193626/>

From Bob Southwell's orchid house:



Aerangis modesta x A. ellisii

Oncestele Wildcat 'Blood Ruby' Stanhopea tigrina var. nigro