



# COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

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[www.coffsorchidsociety.org.au](http://www.coffsorchidsociety.org.au)

## COFFS ORCHID NEWS – MAY 2021

### GENERAL MEETING & ORCHID COMPETITION

1<sup>st</sup> THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7.00 for 7.30 PM, UNLESS OTHERWISE ANNOUNCED  
at NTH COAST REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS, HARDACRE ST, COFFS HARBOUR

**THE MAY MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE DISPLAY ROOM, BOTANIC GARDENS**

<u>PRESIDENT:</u>	CAROLE DAVIS	026658 1354	
<u>VICE PRESIDENT</u>	BOB SOUTHWELL	0417 695834	
<u>SECRETARY:</u>	PAIGE SINCLAIR	0427 591901	<a href="mailto:paigesinclair@me.com">paigesinclair@me.com</a>
<u>TREASURER:</u>	BRUCE HALL	0447 742030	
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	JUDITH WHITING	0438 187028	
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### SPONSORS

#### 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](http://www.shearwaterrestaurant.com.au) or 6651 6053.

#### 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](http://www.tinoneeorchids.com)

**(More details in May Sponsors Spot)**

#### COFFS COAST MOTORS

For Mazda and Honda vehicles, also second-hand vehicles, and ALL your servicing needs. Ring for an appointment 6652 3122, or visit 211 Pacific Highway, Coffs Harbour. You won't be disappointed.

#### 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.

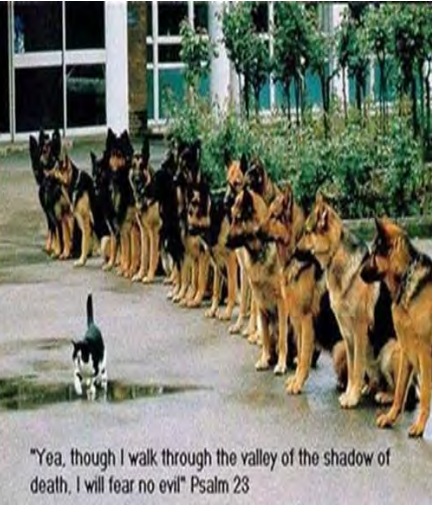


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**2021 MEMBERSHIP FEES MUST BE PAID  
BY 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2021  
PLEASE PAY BRUCE HALL AT THE NEXT  
MEETING OR POST OR DIRECT DEPOSIT  
INTO CHOS BANK ACCOUNT**

- 1. CALENDAR, 2021**
- 24-25 Apr – Autumn Show (Set-up on 23/4)
  - 30 April – 2 May – Coffs Agriculture Show Display
  - 6 May – Monthly Meeting. Bruce Hall  
"Some considerations in designing and building 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. Guest Speaker TBC
  - 7 Oct – Monthly Meeting. Plant Auction
  - 16 Oct – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon at Opal Cove  
Guest Speaker – Jody Cutajar
  - 4 Nov – AGM/Monthly Meeting. Elections.  
Dick Cooper "Birds"
  - 14 Nov - WDOS Workshop. TBC
  - 2 Dec – Christmas Awards & Presentation.



## **(2) MONTHLY MEETINGS:**

Dick Cooper spoke at the well-attended April meeting on the classification and culture of Hard Cane Dendrobiums. Dick outlined the major types of hard cane orchids, the features to look for when purchasing a quality hard cane orchid and the methods that he uses to produce show quality orchids. A summary of the cultural methods adopted by Dick is published later in this newsletter.



During the April meeting, Dick, in his role as Mid North Coast Judging Panel Leader, presented Malcom Ide with two awards – a First Class Certificate (FCC) and an Award of Cultural Excellence (ACE) for Malcolm's superb *Dendrobium* Calico Twist 'Mandy Lee' FCC/AOC. Both these awards are the highest obtainable for merit and cultural categories. Congratulations to Malcolm for both these achievements.



Once again at the May meeting, we will NOT have the usual monthly flowering orchid competition as there is not enough space to erect tables within the room and still maintain social distancing. Instead, we request that each member bring ONE flowering orchid for 'Orchid of the Night' display. These will be placed on tables at the front of the Display Room and not in the breezeway. 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.

The Committee is considering returning to full competition, supper and use of the library and name tags from the 3<sup>rd</sup> June meeting.

**Members are also asked to bring their Sarcochilus Growing Competition plant to the May meeting for judging. A table will be provided at the front of the Display Room and the plants will be judged on the night. Remember you gain one point by bringing your plant, the best on the night receives an extra two points and second best gains one extra point.**

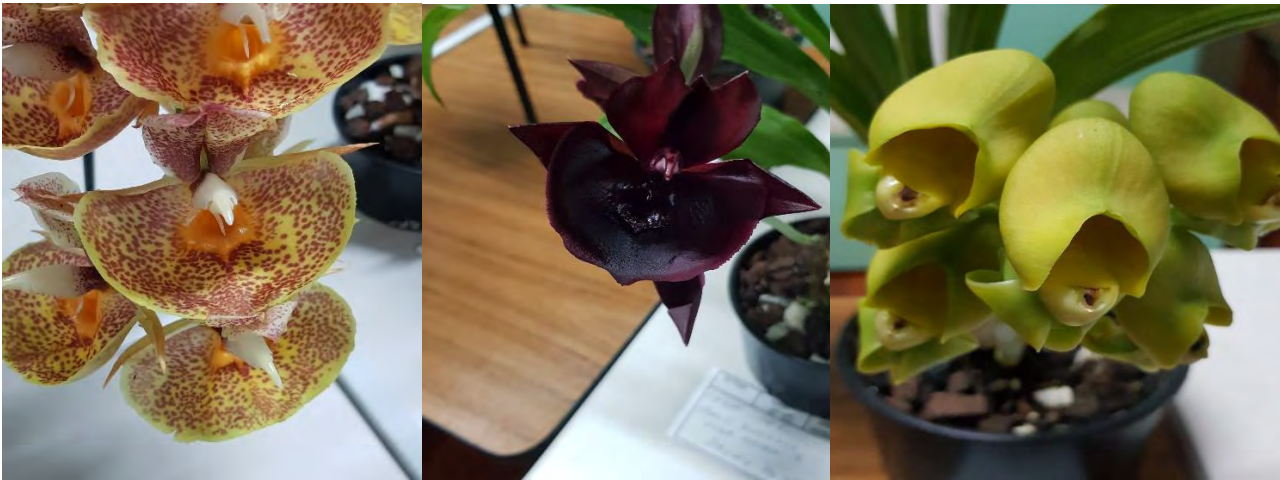
**We will continue judging your Sarco plants each month and try to finalise this competition in September this year. We plan to commence a new Growing Competition in Spring this year. More details in future newsletters.**

Once again 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 inside the Display Room.
- 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, and those that have travelled together, 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.
- **If you have any Covid-19 symptoms please do not attend the meeting.**



Catasetum Orchidglade  
(Terry Pullen, NVOS)

Ctsm. John C Burchett 'Ursa Major' X Ctsm. Dagny 'Fantastica' – male and female  
(Bill and Jenny Lennon)

**CHOS Membership Fees for 2021 are now due and must be paid by the 6<sup>th</sup> May meeting. 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 meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> May. 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: 32817199. Account name is Coffs Harbour Orchid Society. Inc. Please include your name and the word Membership in the Reference Section. **Please note that this is a NEW account number.****

### **3 AGENDA FOR THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY MEETING:**

- (1) Welcome / Covid-19 procedures
- (2) Apologies
- (3) Minutes of April, 2021, Meeting – as printed in newsletter
- (4) Correspondence - Paige
- (5) Finance Report - Bruce
- (6) Membership Fees due by 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2021
- (7) Sponsors Spot – Tinonee Orchids
- (8) Orchid of the Night

- (9) Judging of Sarco Comp Plant
- (10) Raffle - Judith
- (11) General Business – (i) June Meeting - Bob
  - (ii) Show Report – Bob/Carole
  - (iv) Bunnings BBQ - Paige
  - (iii) Other Business
- (12) Guest Speaker – Bruce Hall “Some considerations in designing and building a Greenhouse”
- (14) Please clean your seat with wipes provided.

#### **4. MINUTES OF APRIL GENERAL MEETING AT NCR BOTANIC GARDENS – 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL, 2021:**

- 1. Welcome:** Carole Davis opened the meeting at 7:34pm and welcomed everyone including three guests; Brenda from Woolgoolga, Tony from Coffs, and Mark from Glenreagh. She asked for apologies and commented on the COVID-19 restrictions and meeting requirements.
- 2. Apologies:** Noelene Jackson, Yuli Dwi, Neville Anderson, Hazel Earnshaw, Dianne Evans, and June Kinnear.
- 3. Minutes of March 2021 meeting:** Moved by Paige Sinclair, seconded by Judith Whiting that the Minutes are a true and accurate record of the proceedings. Carried.
- 4. Correspondence:** Paige Sinclair listed two items: BCU Cheque Book and a Bank statement. She moved that all the correspondence be accepted as presented, seconded by Helena Axelsson. Carried.
- 5. Facebook Report:** Paige Sinclair spoke about the number of likes/followers on the CHOS Facebook page, noting that since February 2020 we had tripled the number from 33 to 101 people.
- 6. Finance:** Bruce addressed the members present summarising the Society’s financial position from 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 to 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. He reported that income for the period was as follows: Membership \$160.00, Raffle Sales \$90.20, Bark \$27.00 and Sponsorship \$100.00, which totalled \$377.20. Expenditure totalled \$75.00 for the show posters. Current balance in the Society’s account is \$7,337.24. Moved Bruce Hall, seconded by Ann Deans, Carried. Bruce Hall outlined the new cheque book procedures.
- 7. Membership Fees:** Due by May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021
  - (a) **New Members:** No new members
- 8. Sponsors Spot: Ludo Collectables:** Carole Davis had recently been to his shop in Ulmarra. She informed the group that he stocked collectables and antiques, and often bought deceased estate goods. She asked that if you are in his area that you stop in and say ‘Hi’.
- 9. Award Presentation:** Dick Cooper was pleased to present a number of awards to Malcolm Ide for his Dendrobium Calico Twist. A ‘First Class Certificate’ (FCC) (which is the highest award given) from both the Orchid Society of NSW and the Australian Orchid Council. Additionally, he presented Malcolm with a ‘Cultural Award of Excellence’ for doubling the number of spikes in flower on his plant, and the same plant won ‘Hybrid of the Year’.
- 10. Orchid of the Night:** Dick Cooper and Bruce Hall judged the plants on the table and awarded Malcolm Ide first place for *Cattleya Deception Drop* and second place went to Carole Davis for her *Prosthecea cochleata*.
- 11. Raffle plants** – the winners were Rhonda Smith, Judith Whiting, Frank Pappalardo, and Bob Southwell.

12. **Sarcochilus Growing Competition:** April 2021 was the first month the Sarcochilus plants were tabled. Paige Sinclair was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place with three points, and Peter Baker was 2<sup>nd</sup> and picked up two points, all other plants tabled received one point.
13. **Sarcochilus Growing Competition on Facebook** – Paige Sinclair announced the top three plants on the fun Facebook competition 1<sup>st</sup> place – Helena Axelsson, 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Paige Sinclair, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place Tim Deans.
14. **Presentation of prizes for the Mounted Growing Competition:** Bob Southwell presented first place to Ann Dean, second place and first flowering went to Peter Baker.
15. **General Business:**
  - (a) **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon:** 16 October, 2021 – save the date! The cost is \$25.00 per person (subsidized by CHOS), and partners are welcome. The CHOS is supplying welcome wine and soft drinks on the table, but for those who would like something different there will be a cash bar. The venue is Opal Cove Resort in the Opals Room at noon. Please bring a plant for the judging. Jody Cutajar will be our guest speaker – he is an experienced judge and grower.
  - (b) **Autumn Orchid Show:** VENUE: North Coast Regional Botanic Garden Hardacre St, Coffs Harbour, BENCHING: 3-6:00pm 23rd April 2021 and 6:30-7:30am 24th April 2021, PRESENTATION: 3pm 25th April 2021,
    - PRIZES**
    - Grand Champion: \$40, Trophy & Ribbon
    - Reserve Champion: \$30, Trophy & Ribbon
    - Champion Specimen: \$15 & Ribbon
    - Section Champion: \$10 & Ribbon
    - Class Winners: 1st \$10, 2nd \$5

There will be a sales table to sell your unwanted orchids, the sales tags must be filled out correctly with your name and price on both top and bottom of the tags. If you have any NSW Native Orchids you will be able to sell these plants under the CHOS license, additional paperwork needs to be completed, if in doubt please just ask Bob Southwell.
  - (c) **Coffs Harbour Agricultural Show** – 30<sup>th</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021, we need plants for a display, we also need volunteers to help both days. Please contact Carole Davis.

16. **Dick Cooper – Phalaenathe Dendrobiums Presentation**

Dick Coopers is a highly qualified and experienced Orchid Judge, he is also a respected author on birds and their habitat. He presented to the group a very interesting talk on Phalaenathe Dendrobiums. He pointed out their characteristics and gave us his pointers on culture and growing techniques. He will write a synopsis on his growing tips for the newsletter for all to read.

Meeting closed at 9:35pm

## 5. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT:

The April Committee Meeting was held on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2021.

Topics discussed included:

- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon – Discussion of details and update of budget. Tickets will be available in the near future.

- Autumn Show Organisation – Finalising the organisation for the Anzac weekend. Roster has been completed and will be emailed to members involved. Any additional help will be appreciated. All activities on the Committee check list were ticked off as completed or in-hand. Need for increased publicity in local newspapers.
- Noted that some members have not yet renewed their membership for 2021. Emails will be sent to those members reminding them that fees need to be paid by 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 or they will become unfinancial.
- Coffs Harbour Agricultural Show will be held from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> May. The Society will mount an orchid exhibition at the show. This is a joint venture between CHOS and WDOS. Volunteers required to complete the supervision roster (See Carole Davis).
- The CHOS is to obtain its own QR Code for use at monthly meetings and at shows.
- Format for May Meeting to stay the same. Proposed that some further changes be made for the June meeting.

## **6. FACEBOOK REPORT:** (Paige Sinclair)

### **Coffs Harbour Orchid Society Facebook**

April 2021 – Currently, the society has 101 likes or followers on our Facebook page. This is up by 33% or 68 people since February 2020.

For our Autumn Orchid Show, I have created an event on Facebook. Please indicate if you will be attending. It will help spread the event to more people, thus perhaps getting a few more visitors to the show.

### **What's in Bloom Facebook Page**

March 2021 saw only 19 posts of Orchid blooms, and the winner of the raffle was Neil MacDonald. Neil's name was drawn at the April meeting and he received 5 tickets in the raffle.

If you have something pretty to share, share it! Not on Facebook then contact myself, Paige or Bob and we will post the photos for you.

## **7. SPONSORS SPOT: TINONEE ORCHIDS**

Tinonee Orchids is a specialised orchid nursery located at Tinonee, near Taree. They now open on Thursdays and Fridays of each week (other times by appointment only). They also operate a popular online ordering service which can be accessed any time through their website - [www.tinoneeorchids.com](http://www.tinoneeorchids.com). The items on the shopping cart will go through as usual but there are no longer any payment options listed on the website. You will now need to contact the nursery to make payment.

Alternatively, you can ring or email the nursery to place an order (02 6553 1012 or [orchids@tinoneeorchids.com](mailto:orchids@tinoneeorchids.com)). They have a range of hardware plus a huge variety of orchids with quick delivery to your front door.

Tinonee Orchids have a number of quality guest speakers lined up to speak at their Annual Open Weekend and Workshop which will be held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2021.

This could be the final Open Weekend for Tinonee Orchids so it is one to mark on your calendar and not miss the events and the special sales that will be on offer.

The CHOS plan on operating a car pool so members can attend the Open Day event. We thank Ray Clement for his continued sponsorship.

Tinonee Workshop will be held on  
Saturday 3rd July 2021

10am - 3pm  
Great line up of knowledgeable Orchid growers.

. . . . then on  
Sunday 4th July 2021

## Open Day

Gates open at 8am - Show opens at 10am  
Light refreshments and food will be available all day.  
Help us to support Retina Australia through our raffles.  
Lots of flowering plants available on the day.

Contact the Nursery for more information 02 6553 1012  
or 0448 531012 or [orchids@tinoneeorchids.com](mailto:orchids@tinoneeorchids.com)



From April Meeting:  
Cat. Deception Drop (Orchid of the Night)



*Prosthechea cochleata* (R/Up)



*Oncidium Sweet Sugar*



## 8. BARK SALES:

The Society stocks 40 litre bags of NZ Orchiata Bark selling at \$27 each and 35 litre bags selling at \$26 each. There are four sizes – 6 to 9mm; 9 to 12mm; 12 to 18mm and 18 to 25mm. Contact Bob Southwell on 0417 695 834 or email [bssouthwell@bigpond.com](mailto:bssouthwell@bigpond.com). Remember if you desire quality plants then always use quality potting mix. New stock just arrived. Get in early and finish your potting before the cooler weather sets in. Remember, in general terms, most orchids should be repotted every two years but some, such as Phalaenopsis, respond well to repotting every year. Bob can often deliver to your house. Give him a call this week.

## 9. AUTUMN SHOW

The show will be conducted over two days in the Display Room at the North Coast Regional Botanic Gardens, Coffs Harbour - Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> April and Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 (Anzac Day). Judging will take place early Saturday morning (8am to 10am) and the Show will be open to members and the public from 10am. Presentation of prizes will take place on Sunday from 3pm.

Setting up for the Show will take place from 1pm on Friday, 23rd April. The Roster for the Show weekend is attached with this newsletter. If you can provide additional assistance (especially at the set-up and pull-down times), then please ring Bob on 0417 695 834 or just turn up on the day.

Benching of plants for the Autumn Show will be from 3pm to 6pm on Friday and 6.30am to 7.30am on Saturday. Tables will be provided at the side door so you can organise your plants during the registration process. White plant cards will be available at Registration for you to record details of the plant plus your name (on the back of the card). Remember use Hand Sanitiser or Gloves and maintain Social Distancing at all times.

A Show Marshals Receiving table will be set up inside the room and we ask that you place your plants on this table after registration. The Show Marshals and their assistants will then place these entries into the correct Sections on the benches. Please do not place your own plants onto the show benches unless the Show Marshals direct you to do so.

We also welcome plants for the Sales Table. Sale Plant tags will be available prior to the Show. Plants do not have to be in flower but should be healthy and well established.

If you are selling NSW Native Species or Hybrids then you will require a tagging form and sticky tags. You can obtain these from Bob Southwell.

**Please enter as many plants as you can as we once again want to fill the Show Room with colour and perfume and to make this a Show to remember.**



## DISTRICT SHOW DATES FOR AUTUMN, 2021

Hastings OS, Wauchope – 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Wauchope RSL

Maclean & District OS – 30<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May. Bowling Club

Nambucca Valley OS – 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May. NH Seniors Hall

Woodburn/Evans Head OS – 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May – Mem. Hall

Port Macquarie OS – 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> May – Community Centre

Mingara Orchid Fair & Show – 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> June – Mingara Recreation Club, Tumbi Umbi.

*For more information Google the Orchid Society name*

It's better to look back on life  
and say:

"I can't believe I did that."  
than to look back and say:  
"I wish I did that."



*Counselor and  
Professional  
Life Coach*

**Mistake**

makes us human

**Failure**

makes us stronger

**Hope**

keeps us going

**Love**

keeps us alive



Ray Clement from Tinonee Orchids will address the Society's 3rd June meeting. Ray is always an outstanding speaker and will provide all members with helpful hints on how to grow better orchids. Ray will bring a selection of plants and orchid hardware for sale. If you require something special then email or give Ray a ring and he will bring your order with him and you will save on freight costs.

Email: [orchids@tinoneeorchids.com](mailto:orchids@tinoneeorchids.com) Phone: 02 6553 1012

"To plant a  
garden is to believe  
in tomorrow."

-Audrey Hepburn



TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
IN SOMEONE'S LIFE, YOU  
DON'T HAVE TO BE BRILLIANT,  
RICH, BEAUTIFUL, OR PERFECT.  
YOU JUST HAVE TO CARE



## 10. JOKE TIME:

(1) A husband and his wife were celebrating 50 years together. Their three kids, all very successful, all agreed to a Sunday dinner in their honour.

"Happy Anniversary Mom & Dad" gushed son number one, a surgeon, "Sorry I'm running late. I had an emergency at the hospital with a patient, you know how it is, and didn't have time to get you a gift."

"Not to worry," said the father, the important thing is that we're all together today."

Son number two, a lawyer, arrived and announced: "You and Mom look great, Dad". I just flew in from Los Angeles between depositions and didn't have time to shop for you".

"It's nothing," said the father. "We're glad you were able to come."

Just then the daughter, a marketing executive, arrived. "Hello and Happy Anniversary! I'm sorry but my boss is sending me out of town and I was really busy packing, so I didn't have time to get you anything."

After they finished dessert, the father said, "There's something your mother and I have wanted to tell you for a long time. You see, we were very poor. Despite this, we were able to send each of you to college.

Throughout the years your mother and I knew we loved each other very much, but we just never found the time to get married."

The three children gasped and all said, "You mean we're bastards?"

"Yep," said the father, "and cheap ones too!" 😊

**(2) Joe Biden walks into a bank to cash a cheque. As he approaches the cashier he says, "Good morning, could you please cash this cheque for me?"**

**Cashier: "It would be my pleasure sir. Could you please show me your ID?"**

**Joe Biden: "Truthfully, I did not bring my ID with me as I didn't think there was any need to. I am Joe Biden, the President of the United States of America!"**

**Cashier: "Yes sir, I know who you are, but with all the regulations and monitoring of the banks because of impostors and forgers and requirements of the banking legislation, I must insist on seeing ID.**

**Joe Biden: "Just ask anyone here at the bank who I am and they will tell you. Everybody knows who I am."**

**Cashier: "I am sorry, Mr. Biden, but these are the bank rules and I must follow them."**

**Joe Biden: "My goodness. I am urging you, please, to cash this cheque."**

**Cashier: "Look Mr. Biden, here is an example of what we can do. One day, Tiger Woods came into the bank without ID. To prove he was Tiger Woods he pulled out his putter and made a beautiful shot across the bank into a cup. With that shot we knew him to be Tiger Woods and cashed his cheque. Another time, Andre Agassi came in without ID. He pulled out his tennis racket and made a fabulous shot; the tennis ball landed in my coffee cup. With that shot we cashed his cheque. So, Mr. Biden, what can you do to prove that it is you, and only you?"**

**Joe Biden stands there thinking, and thinking, and finally says, "Honestly, my mind is a total blank, I have absolutely no idea what to do, I don't have a clue."**

**Cashier: "Will that be large or small bills, Mr. Biden."**

(3) As it's no longer politically correct to direct a joke at any racial or ethnic minority, try this one:

An Englishman, a Scotsman, an Irishman, a Welshman, a Gurkha, a Latvian, a Turk, an Aussie, a German, a Yank, an Egyptian, a Japanese, a Mexican, a Spaniard, a Russian, a Pole, a Lithuanian, a Jordanian, a Kiwi, a Swede, a Finn, a Canadian, an Israeli, a Romanian, a Bulgarian, a Serb, a Swiss, a Greek, a Singaporean, an Italian, a Norwegian, an Argentinian, a Libyan, a Muslim, a Hindu, a Buddhist and an African went to a night club.

The bouncer said, "Sorry, I can't let you in without a Thai".



**(4) Four ladies were playing cards together for a short time and soon realized they had something in common. They all had a son who was a Priest.**

**The first lady to speak said that her son was a “Monsignor” and that when he walked into a room, people would say “Hello Monsignor”.**

**The second lady said that her son was a Bishop and that when he walked into a room, everyone would say “Hello Your Worship”**

**The third lady said that her son was a Cardinal, and when he walked into a room, people would say “Hello Your Eminence”.**

**There was a short break with the three women looking at the fourth.**

**So, she calmly said “My son is only a Priest but he weighs 300lbs and is seven feet tall. When he walks into a room, everyone says Oh My God”.**

### **11. COFFS HARBOUR AGRICULTURAL SHOW ORCHID DISPLAY:**

It is excellent news that the Coffs Agricultural Show is up and running, and we are looking forward to participating once again with our usual superb exhibition of orchids. Over the years we have put on some magnificent displays which have been highly successful and appreciated by so many members of the public. This is taking place over the weekend of 1-2 May, just one week after our Autumn Show, so it is an ideal opportunity to present your plants once again in all their glory, including those which didn't quite reach their peak the previous week – and we will all probably have a few of those! If you have any other examples of interesting foliage, please feel free to include them. Plants can be brought to the Pavilion from noon on Friday 30 April, and collected at 4.30pm on Sunday 2 May. If you need help with transport, please let me know and I will endeavour to assist. We also have a Roster for Saturday and Sunday, and some complimentary passes are available for volunteers to oversee our exhibition, and answer general enquiries. I do hope that as many of you as possible will be able to support our participation in the Coffs Ag Show with as many plants as possible. Thank you.

Carole Davis (0408581354)



**Dendrobium Hard Canes from April Meeting: Left and Centre from D and B Cooper, Right from Peter Baker**



## 12. HOW I GROW HARDCANE DENDROBIUMS

By Dick Cooper

To grow Hardcane Dendrobiums (Phalaenanthe, Intermediate or Spatulata Dendrobiums) in the Coffs area, most of the year you need a roof over them - especially from late Autumn until Spring and during any long, rain periods. Low temperatures (below 15°C), low light, frequent rain periods and/or poor air circulation can all cause leaves to drop; plants may even die. In addition, if they remain wet and cold, they can be prone to fungal attack (root and bulb rot).




I only grow Phalaenanthe and Intermediate Dendrobiums. My Phalaeanthes grow in a small hothouse all year. It houses around 60 Phalaenanthe plants along with a dozen or so *Den. bigibbum* and *Den. affine*. The temperature is held between 15°C and 32°C. I usually have some Phalaeanthes in flower throughout the year but they are reluctant flowerers if something in their culture does not suit them. In such cases, it is likely they are too dry and/or too cold. Intermediate Dendrobiums cope OK with cooler weather. Mine are in the shade house. Spatulata (Antelope) types have similar requirements but need extra light and feed.



Good air movement is important. Small Phalaenanthes Dendrobiums can be hung to help with the airflow. I can't hang larger plants, so for airflow, I have 3 fans circulating 24 hours a day every day of the year. These consume about 90 watts/hr - solar power halves the overall cost. Air movement is a key need through the cooler months to help keep the canes and potting mix drier and it helps flowering as well as disease control.


***Spatulata* and Intermediate**

*Den. bigibbum*




+

*Den. gouldii*



=



*Den. Jaquelyn Thomas*

Although I will mention some *Spatulata* species and hybrids, I mainly grow Phalaenanthes and Intermediate hybrids.  
So, when I talk about growing conditions, I am referring to these hybrids.

From 1 May until mid-August, my hothouse is heated at night (consumes 50 watts/hr); the hothouse has 2 roof-top air vents (1 is automatic) so it cannot get too hot. An automatic sprinkler system runs for 6 minutes at 8AM every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. This is straight Coffs tap water. I allow intervals between watering because the plants only need to remain moist between watering's and this reduces the potential for fungal or bacterial diseases. Watering is reduced to twice a week during June-July because the diurnal temperature is generally lower - less drying occurs. Differences of 15°C between day and night temperatures are tolerated but these plants don't like to be overly dry. To provide constant humidity, plants on the lower bench sit in beds containing 50mm of wet gravel.

I fertilise weekly - usually Sunday mornings: Saturdays (when I have other commitments). I use Merrifert (similar to Campbell's Yellow) at 5 gms/9 litres. Whenever I fertilize, I lower the pH of the water to around 6.2. I do add other chemical fertilizers to suit my feeding program. I also fertilise on Wednesdays following the appearance of new leads and roots, i.e., from late Nov/mid-Dec until mid-March. Most plants flower in autumn off the new growths so they need more food to encourage strong pseudobulb growth and flowers. When in this period of active growth (during Summer and early Autumn), plants also need ample water.

Slight drops in night time temperatures can initiate flowering at other times so I can have flowers at any time of year. Dendrobiums need to make an extensive root system in clean media and receive as much nutrient as possible to make large healthy bulbs. If this can be achieved, they flower readily.

Once canes start to significantly elongate and/or grow side shoots, I space plants (about 1 pot space between). Canes do need to be staked as they grow taller. I do this in early February when the first signs of flower spikes occur. It will then take 2 - 3 months for the flowers to fully open. Grown well, each spike will produce 10 - 20 large flowers (often 80+ mm wide). I aim to encourage multiple actively growing inflorescences, which result in more flowers per plant.

Potting - I prefer deeper pots. I put gravel in the bottom (to discourage benched plants from falling over). When they flower, Phalaenanthe Dens often become top heavy - the extra stone helps to stabilise the pots.

My mix is mainly medium bark and charcoal (2/3 bark, 1/3 charcoal) to which I add more gravel and polystyrene. The gravel, polystyrene and charcoal keep the mix open if the bark breaks down too soon. I aim to change the mix every 2-3 years - the gravel and polystyrene additives provide a bit of a safety margin. Phalaenanthe and Intermediate Dendrobiums should always be confined in their pots - do not overpot!

These orchids grow when the wet monsoonal weather is approaching, so I try to repot just as the plants are coming out of dormancy – this starts when new roots appear from early Summer (mostly). If repotting is delayed too long the roots can be damaged or break off which is not helpful in the lead up to the flowering season.

When potting/repotting I mainly pot-on - trying not to disturb each plant too much. I never divide plants just for the sake of splitting them up though eventually, of course, plants get to a stage where you have no option but to divide them to remain manageable. Some plants mope after repotting – showing virtually no sign of growth for 1 or 2 years after being disturbed.

After a period, I do trim older back canes off having given them the opportunity to show signs of keikis. If any have new keikis emerging, I leave those canes. I prefer to only pot keikis that have a 2<sup>nd</sup> lead - this takes time. I then repot these plants using fine bark and fine charcoal. Each potted keiki is sprayed with Auxinone (a root hormone).



Cercospora



Dendrobium Beetle

Pest & Disease Control - I have very few problems with most Hardcanes however I do spray for Cercospora (a leaf fungi), apply Phosacid to the pots regularly (to discourage root rots), very occasionally have to remove Boisduval Scale and Dendrobium Beetles (which like all orchid flowers) and I find that spider mites will attack the leaves if kept too dry. *Dendrobium Sonia* is one plant that is reportedly susceptible to health issues - I purposely do not grow it.





Boisduval Scale

### 13. CHOS 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

*This year marks fifty years since the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society separated from the Coffs Horticultural Society in 1971 and became a stand-alone organisation.*

*We plan to mark this event with a luncheon at Opal Cove Resort on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2021. Please mark this not-to-be missed event on your calendar. Tickets for the event (at a very reasonable \$25 per head) will go on sale in the near future. Seats will be limited so you need to obtain your ticket early. More details of the celebration program will be published in future newsletters.*

*Highly qualified orchid judge and experienced grower, Jody Cutajar, has agreed to be the guest speaker at the luncheon event.*

*Jody Cutajar holds an Advanced Certificate in Horticulture gained from Melbourne University.*

*He is a well-known speaker and has presented numerous talks to orchid societies and clubs in Australia and Internationally, he is currently an active member of several orchid societies and is a past AOC accredited judge.*

*Some of you may know him from his time at Royale Orchids where he was the nursery manager working under Kevin Hipkins. His role there included responsibility over the hybridising program where many awarded Cymbidiums were created.*

*Jody started growing orchids when he was 16 years old and he has amassed some 35 years of orchid knowledge and he has travelled the world attending orchid events.*

*His main personal focus is on orchid species and Australian Native Dendrobiums and he has approximately 5000 plants in his personal collection with a special focus on *Laelia purpurata* and *Laelia anceps*.*

*More details of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be provided in future editions of the newsletter and on our website.*