



COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

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COFFS ORCHID NEWS –JUNE 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

THE JUNE 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	
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	JUDITH WHITING	0438 187028	
<u>NEWSLETTER EDITOR:</u>	BOB SOUTHWELL	0417 695834	bssouthwell@bigpond.com

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 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

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 fertilizers, insecticides and fungicides for orchids, as well as general garden needs. Phone 6652 2599.

(See more details in Sponsors Spot)

BRUCE HALL

Bruce provides the raffle items which are a major fundraiser at our shows.



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1. CALENDAR, 2021

- 3 June – Monthly Meeting. Ray Clement, Tinonee
- 3-4 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. Bruce Hall –
“Preparing Plants for the Spring Show”
- 7 Oct – Monthly Meeting. Plant Auction
- 16 Oct – 50th 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
at Green House Tavern.

(2) EDITORIAL:

WOW, what a great Autumn Show after a break of eighteen months - we definitely haven't lost our touch. Excellent weather, a great display of well grown orchids, good public participation, amazing plant and raffle ticket sales. Congratulations to all the Champions. Well done!

Paige Sinclair has provided photographic details of the major winners. Thanks Paige, this is a great way to view the winning orchids. A very professional production.

Thank you to all the growers who benched plants - the Judges were impressed with the overall quality of our display - plus a very special thank you to all our members who contributed their time and skills over the weekend setting things up, and then dismantling everything in record time. Without your help and dedication, we would not be able to present such a highly successful Show. We estimate that around 650 to 700 visitors came to the Show over the two days.

Thanks to the Committee for their hard work, and to Ann Deans for her expertise and efforts in her new role as Catering Manager. The Judges and Committee certainly appreciated her efforts in providing refreshments on the morning of the orchid judging. Thanks also to the experienced Judging Team led by Dick Cooper as without their participation the Show would not be possible

For the first time in recent years, a Popular Vote was conducted where members of the public cast their vote for what they thought was the best orchid on display. It proved to be of great interest, especially among the children, and large numbers participated in casting their vote. The Popular Vote is certain to be included in the September Spring Show.

So, to everyone involved thank you again for your assistance. We are looking forward to an even more spectacular and successful September Show.

AUTUMN SHOW POPULAR VOTE RESULTS:



1st Place –Vanda - Paige Sinclair



2nd Place –Cattleya - Helen Seiver



3rd Place –Dendrobium - Malcolm Ide

RESULTS OF THE SHOW RAFFLE DONATED BY BRUCE HALL:

1st Prize: Purple Ticket No. A73 won by Noia Nolte. 2nd Prize: Green Ticket No. B86 won by Leanne.

(4) MONTHLY MEETINGS:

For the meeting on Thursday, 3rd June we will return to the normal pre-Covid format. This will include the full points score competition where orchids can be displayed in the 42 orchid categories and points awarded for 1st (3 pts), 2nd (2pts) and 3rd (1pt) place in each section. Popular vote will also be conducted and selected by the members present on the night. Please bring as many orchids as you can so we can put on a good evening display.

Members are also asked to bring their Sarcocylus Growing Competition plant to the June 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 also ask that members bring a plate of food for supper. Tea and coffee will be provided in disposable cups and the food will be served using tongs. At this meeting it is planned to have the supper break just before the Guest Speaker talks. This will give members a chance to inspect the various orchids on display and purchase some plants from Tinonee Orchids.

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:

- 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 or use the CHOS QR Code.
- 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.
- You will be able to purchase raffle tickets in the breezeway area.
- 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.**



5. AGENDA FOR THURSDAY 3RD JUNE MEETING:









(Judges: Helena and Tim)

- (1) Welcome / Covid-19 procedures
- (2) Apologies
- (3) Minutes of May, 2021, Meeting – as printed in newsletter
- (4) Correspondence - Paige
- (5) Finance Report (Autumn Show and Monthly Reports) - Bruce
- (6) Sponsors Spot – Coffs Harbour Produce
- (7) Table Talk – Ray Clement
- (8) Popular Vote - Judith
- (9) Judging of Sarco Comp Plant

- (10) Raffle – Judith
- (11) New Member Presentations
- (12) General Business
- (13) Supper Break – 15 minutes
- (14) Guest Speaker – Ray Clement “Growing Vanilla Orchids plus other orchid matters”
- (15) Please clean your seat with wipes provided.

6. MINUTES OF MAY GENERAL MEETING AT NCR BOTANIC GARDENS – 6TH MAY, 2021:

- 1. Welcome:** Carole Davis opened the meeting at 7:31pm. She asked for apologies and commented on the COVID-19 restrictions and meeting requirements.
- 2. Apologies:** Dick Cooper, Helen Seiver, Stefica Jones, Rhonda Smith, and Yuli Dew.
- 3. Minutes of April 2021 meeting:** Moved by Paige Sinclair, seconded by Tim Dean that the Minutes are a true and accurate record of the proceedings. Carried.
- 4. Correspondence:** Paige Sinclair read out the following items:

 210417 Bunnings BBQ	17/03/2021 7:11 PM
 210322 AOC	22/03/2021 11:53 AM
 210322 OSNSW	22/03/2021 11:56 AM
 Societies the show information was sent to	22/03/2021 1:18 PM
 20210322 Sue Williams	22/03/2021 1:51 PM
 20210228 BCU Statement	23/03/2021 1:01 PM
 20210311 Mid-North Coast Judges Panel - J...	23/03/2021 1:03 PM
 20210324 Mid-North Coast Orchid Judges P...	24/03/2021 1:23 PM

Paige Sinclair moved that all the correspondence be accepted as presented, seconded by Judith Whiting. Carried.

- 5. Facebook Report:** Paige Sinclair reported that the CHOS Facebook page had 117 likes and 133 followers. This is up by 16 people for the April 2021 period. Results from the Advertisement placed on Facebook for the Autumn Show were as follows: total cost \$50.00. Event Responses – 131; Reach - 3,763; Cost Per Event Response - \$0.38. This ad reached 3,763 people in our audience, which was 50km radius from Coffs Harbour. Made up of 92.7% Women and 7.3% Men. Paige Sinclair moved her report, Helena Axelsson seconded. Carried
- 6. Finance:** Bruce Hall addressed to members saying that the Financial Report was as per the report in the Newsletter. He verbally summarised the financial outcome from the Autumn Show saying that we had made a profit of \$759.00. Bruce Hall moved his report be accepted; Ann Deans seconded. Carried.
- 7. Sponsors Spot: Tinonee Orchid Nursery** – Carole Davis stated that the owner of the nursery Ray Clements was a regular speaker at our society meetings and would be our 3rd of June speaker. Anyone interested in purchasing supplies from his website should do so prior to his visit, as he would deliver. Ray will be bringing plants for sale should anyone be interested. Reminder that we are planning a road trip to the nursery July 3rd to attend the ‘Open Day’. More details to come.
- 8. Orchid of the Night:** Bruce Hall and Helena Axelsson judged the benched plants on the table and awarded Neil McDonald and Malcolm Ide first and second place respectively.
- 11. Raffle plants** – the winners were Peter Gough – who requested a re-draw, Selisa King, Gary Suter, and Bob Southwell.
- 12. Sarcochilus Growing Competition:** Paige Sinclair was awarded 1st place with three points,

and Peter Baker was 2nd and picked up two points, all other plants tabled received one point.

13. General Business:

- (a) **June Meeting** – Bob Southwell informed members that Ray Clement would most likely talk to the group about growing Vanilla Orchids. He also mentioned that Ray is considering retirement and would be closing the nursery in a year or two.
- (b) **Show Ribbon Presentation**- Carole Davis presented Helena Axelsson with the Section Champion Ribbon for SECTION C: PHALAENOPSIS HYBRID.
- (c) **Orchid Show Report** – Carole Davis gave the members a verbal report on the recent Autumn Show. Total plants benched 138, total growers 16, down on previous years, but only marginable, (Nambucca also down on plants and growers), approximately 700 people went through the doors, with just over 600 votes cast in the ‘People Choice’ awards which was a new addition this year. The voting was close, with the winning plant receiving 43 votes, second was 37, and third 35. Paige Sinclair was the winner, Helen Seiver placed 2nd, and Malcolm Ide third.
- (d) **Coffs Agricultural Show** – Carole Davis thanked all the people who contributed plants and volunteered their time. While the number of people through the gate was down, what was interesting is that many of the people who stopped to chat, grew orchids at home and were successfully in flowering them. Many also inherited collections from family members.
- (e) **Bunnings BBQ** – Paige Sinclair asked for volunteers for the BBQ we are hosting May 9th, 2021 (Mother’s Day).
- (f) **50th Anniversary Luncheon**: 16 October, 2021 at Opal Cove, the cost is \$25.00 per person (subsidized by CHOS), and partners are welcome. More information and tickets to TBA.

14. Member Talk - Bruce Hall –‘Some considerations in designing and building a Greenhouse’

Bruce Hall gave the members some valuable information regarding what questions you might ask and answer yourself before constructing a new Greenhouse. Especially placement on your site in relationship to the rotation of the sun throughout the year. Other issues such as winds, large trees, shade cloth, utilities, shelving, work areas and terrain, should be considered.

Meeting closed at 8:35pm



Carole Davis & Helena Axelsson



Carole Davis & Helen Seiver



Mal Ide with Dick & Barbara Cooper

7. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT:

The Committee met on 11th May, 2021. Topics discussed included:

- (1) June Monthly Meeting – Ray Clement is the guest speaker and will talk about “Growing Vanilla Orchids” and associated topics. We return to normal pre-Covid meeting format with full flowering orchid competition and supper during the meeting. Supper will be taken during the meeting with a fifteen-minute break before the guest speaker. Members are asked to bring a plate for supper. Popular Vote will be conducted during the meeting.
- (2) September Meeting Guest Speaker - Bruce Hall to talk on preparing your orchids for the Spring Show.
- (3) 50th Anniversary Luncheon – Discussion of details and update of budget. Tickets and advertising poster will be available in the near future. Jody Cutajar has confirmed he is very happy to be the Guest Speaker. His address will be entitled “Brazilian Orchid Road Trip” and looks at orchid and non-orchid aspects of Brazil.
- (4) Bunning BBQ - \$500.12 profit.
- (5) Discussion on successful Coffs Agricultural Show Orchid Display.
- (6) Discussion of highly successful Autumn Show. Popular Vote to be included in the Spring Show.
- (7) Treasurer, Bruce Hall has indicated he will not be renominating for the CHOS Committee at the November AGM.
- (8) Tinonee Nursery Visit - 3rd July. Judith Whiting to organise car pool, etc.
- (9) CHOS to purchase a Square Payment Facility for credit card payments.
- (10) Junior Membership (under 18 years) to be set at \$5 per year.
- (11) Non-financial members will be removed from the membership register.
- (12) The December Christmas Dinner and Annual Presentation Night will be held at the Green House Tavern, Coffs Harbour (Thursday, 2nd December, 2021).

Next Committee Meeting will be held on 8th June, 2021.

8. FACEBOOK REPORT, MAY, 2021: (Paige Sinclair)

Currently, the society has 117 likes and 133 followers on our Facebook page. This is up by 16 people for the April 2021 period. Results from the Advertisement placed on Facebook for the Autumn Show were as follows. Total Cost \$50.00 Event Responses – 131; Reach - 3,763; Cost Per Event Response - \$0.38. This ad reached 3,763 people in our audience, which was 50km radius from Coffs Harbour. Made up of 92.7% Women and 7.3% Men

What's in Bloom Facebook Page April 2021 saw only 1 post from our members of Orchid Blooms. Perhaps we were all too busy to post any pretty blooms, but 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.

9. SPONSORS SPOT: Coffs Harbour Produce

Coffs Harbour Produce are one of our long standing sponsors, so please consider them when you next need some orchid growing products.

They stock a wide variety of rural products in their extensive store at 26 June Street, Coffs Harbour.

From an orchid growers perspective they carry a range of orchid potting mixes, perlite, charcoal, fertilizers and an extensive range of pest and disease chemicals (insecticides, miticides, fungicides, etc).

As well as providing fertilizers in bulk, you can also buy some fertilizers in smaller lots which may be more convenient to you when you are only using a small amount each time.

They also have a wide range of normal garden products at reasonable prices. Tell them you are a member of CHOS when you next visit. Their phone number is 02 66522599.

They support us so please support them.



Show Prize Winners with President Carole: Left: Rhonda Smith. Centre: Jenny & Bill Lennon. Right: Malcolm Ide

10. BUNNINGS FUND RAISING REPORT (9th May, 2021):

Thank you so much to the volunteers who looked after our Bunnings Sausage Sizzle – preparing, cooking, serving, and cashiering. As it was Mothers’ Day, we realised that the number of customers would probably be reduced, and this was certainly the case, however, there was still a good crowd who were hungry and appreciated our offerings. The Popular Vote display orchid was well received and generated a lot of interest so we will definitely have a few plants on show next time. The weather was on our side until mid-afternoon when the heavens opened with a vengeance, and although we were shutting up shop during the deluge there were still a few hardy shoppers wondering if there were any sausages left!! Thank you again to everyone, especially those at the end of the day who were rather wet by the time everything was packed away, with no sausage sandwiches left to warm them up.

Carole Davis, President.

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

11. COFFS HARBOUR AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY SHOW - Saturday/Sunday 1-2 May 2021

Thank you very much to the five people who volunteered for the Roster and, although we had less than 50 plants (brought in by four members), we put on a pretty good display by spreading them out which, in fact, gave the public an improved view of the various genera.

The Show organisers receive little or no funding, hence the weather plays an important part in the financial success of the event and, unfortunately, this year there were some heavy falls of rain which made it quite heavy going for a lot of the activities. Overall, all judged sections in the Hall were very much smaller than before and, in some cases, merely exhibits. There is always some doubt as to whether or not the Show will be in a position to run the following year but I believe that our display is appreciated and certainly there were many very positive comments from the public, in fact we have gained a new Member as a result. Obviously, there are a lot of people who own/grow orchids, often inherited from family or friends, and who are keen to further their knowledge.

For the time and effort expended, I think it is worthwhile to gain more exposure for our Society and to support this local Show. So, again, thank you to everyone who participated in our display at the 106th Coffs Harbour Agricultural Show.

Carole Davis. 6 May 2021



Paige and Judith working at Bunnings BBQ



Part of the CHOS display at the Coffs Ag Show

12. 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. 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.

DISTRICT SHOW DATES FOR AUTUMN, 2021

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

Macleay Valley OS – 28th August – Kempsey Heights Bowling Club, Polwood St, Kempsey.

Nambucca Valley OS – 2nd to 4th Sept – Nambucca Seniors Hall, Nambucca Heads.

Kempsey Speciosum Show - 4th Sept – Alverton Street, Greenhill, Kempsey.

Coffs Harbour OS – 11th – 12th Sept – Coffs Botanic Gardens.

Woolgoolga District OS – 2nd October – Primary School, Woolgoolga.

For more information Google the Orchid Society name

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. His major topic is "Growing Vanilla 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 Phone: 02 6553 1012

13. JOKE TIME:

Neville, the boat owner -- The Australian Tax Office believed a boat owner wasn't paying proper wages to his help. An agent from Wollongong was sent to the fishing village of Kiama to investigate the boat owner.

Govt. Agent: *"I need a list of your employees and how much you pay them".*

Boat Owner: "Well, there's Clarence, my hired hand. He's been with me for 3 years. I pay him \$200 a week plus free room and board. Then there's the mentally challenged guy. He works about 18 hours every day and does about 90% of the work around here. He makes about \$10 per week, and pays his own room and board. I buy him a bottle of rum and 3 dozen stubbies every Saturday night so he can cope with life.

Oh, and also, he gets to sleep with my wife occasionally".

Govt. Agent: *"That's the guy I want to talk to - the mentally challenged one".*

Boat Owner: "That'll be me. What'd you want to know?"

Never lose your grandson

My small grandson and I became separated while shopping in the mall and he was lost. He approached a uniformed security guard and said: "I have lost my grandpa!"

The guard asked "What's his name?" and the little boy replied "grandpa"

The guard smiled and asked: "what's he like?" The little guy paused for a moment, thinking hard, and then said "Crown Royal whiskey and women with big breasts."

Dating Column in retirement Village Newsletter - Male, 1932 model, high mileage, looked after and in good condition, some hair, many new parts including hip, knee, cornea, valves. Not in running condition, but walks well.

14. CHOS 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We plan to mark this event with a luncheon at Opal Cove Resort on Saturday, 16th 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.

Highly qualified orchid judge and experienced grower, Jody Cutajar, has agreed to be the guest speaker at the luncheon event. His presentation is entitled "Brazilian Orchid Road Trip" and features orchid and non-orchid aspects of Brazil. He will be happy to answer any questions about his work with breeding Cymbidiums and his role as a manager of a large orchid nursery.

It is hoped to present a number of special awards at this event, have an Orchid of the Day contest and Lucky Door prizes. Further details in the next newsletter.



15. MILTONIA HYBRIDS – Jim Brydie (taken with permission from the KOS Bulletin, April, 21)

These must be one of the most frequently grown 'garden' orchids in Sydney. They are short, compact growing, have relatively large, colourful flowers, and are quite hardy hanging in baskets under trees in a backyard in Sydney.

Unfortunately, as often happen with hardy backyard grown orchids, the 'hardy' doesn't always translate to spectacular growing and covered in flowers, especially if they are neglected, and never get fertilised or repotted. If left to look after themselves for twenty years under a small tree, they might not die but they will certainly look scraggy, moth-eaten, and rather unattractive. Make sure you repot all your orchids regularly (every 2 to 3 years) and at the very least use a little slow release fertiliser at whatever frequency is appropriate to the life rate of the fertiliser you use.

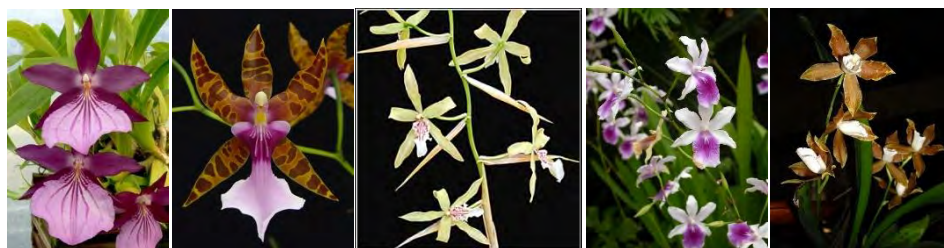
Jenny's Milt Goodale Moir 'Golden Wonder'



But getting back to the subject, let's talk about what these Miltonias are. There are about 9 to 12 species of *Miltonia* but there are also quite a few naturally occurring hybrids that were originally described as species until it was later proved they were natural hybrids. Just about all are from Brazil but one species can also be found in Argentina, Paraguay, and Peru, and one other species can also be found in Venezuela.

They are mostly from coastal zones at only moderate elevations but as southern Brazil is a temperate zone, they seem to tolerate at least most of Sydney's level of winter temperatures.

Of the 'about' 9 *Miltonia* species, only 3 form the basis of nearly all the hybrids – i.e. *Milt. moreliana*, *Milt. clowesii*, and *Milt. flavescens*. Then there are two others that have a lesser but still substantial influence – *regnellii*, and *candida*.



Without doubt, the most spectacular *Miltonia* species is *Milt. moreliana*. Until quite recently it was regarded as a select, dark coloured variety of *Miltonia spectabilis*, but it is now recognised as a species in its own

right. Its lovely plum colour and bigger, fuller flowers, have always made it a favourite with growers, but when I first started in our hobby all those years ago (now don't be nasty, it was less than 50), 'variety *moreliana*' had a serious defect in all the plants I ever saw. It had a very long stretch of rhizome, between each pseudobulb (perhaps 8-10 cm) and when you potted it up, it marched in a straight line across the pot and over the far edge in no time at all. It was very hard to grow a pot full with multiple flowers that might look somewhat spectacular.

These days, breeders seem to have overcome that defect, presumably by intensive selective line breeding. Modern cultivars are far superior. In this month's Virtual Benching, Dora's plant of *moreliana* "Big Ben" is a perfect example but there are other very good cultivars about as well. Dora's plant was really well grown but I haven't used that picture here because I wanted to show you a bigger plant that lets you clearly see the lush compact growth. This shot is Jan Robinson's Big Ben when it received an AM award in 2012. My old wild collected cultivar would have been lucky to fit 10 pseudobulbs in the same size pot. How is that for comparison. Jan's Big Ben is what a well grown specimen plant of *Miltonia* should look like.



Moreliana is the only deep plum coloured *Miltonia*, so you can easily see where all the plum purple *Miltonia* hybrids get their colour from. However, it must be remembered that there is confusion between records listing *Milt. spectabilis* as a parent and those listing *Milt. moreliana* as a parent. Until only quite recently, *Milt. moreliana* would have been registered as *Miltonia spectabilis* variety *moreliana*, or just *spectabilis*. I don't know for sure, but from a quick look at the hybrid database, it seems that if the *spectabilis* parent was particularly identified as variety *moreliana*, or variety *atro-rubens*, or similar, those breeding records have now been changed to show *Milt. moreliana*, but I suspect many other records that listed the parent as just 'spectabilis', were also *moreliana*. Which means many present records hide a *moreliana* heritage.

A good example is *Milt. Bluntii* (also listed as *Milt. x bluntii*, a naturally occurring hybrid). It is listed as *spectabilis* x *clowesii*, but if you look at pictures of *Bluntii*, like the one at the right, it seems clear to me that *moreliana* has to be the parent and not *spectabilis*.

M. Bluntii ►



The species we know as *spectabilis* today comprises all the paler forms. It is still a very attractive flower (see pictures of 3 different varieties below). But as a result of the duality of the records, I tend to regard all breeding records of *spectabilis* parentage as being more likely *moreliana*.

It is hard to determine when the first *Miltonia* hybrid was made because until the latter part of the 20th century (1970?) the current genus *Miltoniopsis* was still *Miltonia* and most early 'Miltonia' registered hybrids used parents that today we know as *Miltoniopsis*. In addition, many of the very early registrations were listed as 'unknown' x 'unknown'. The first genuine *Miltonia* hybrid I can be sure of is Milt. Anne



Warne (registered in 1949 by Milton Warne). It's parents were Milt. x *bluntii* x Milt. *spectabilis*, which makes Anne Warne 75% *spectabilis* (or *moreliana*) x 25% *clowesii*.

M. *spectabilis* - var *rosea* 'Floralia' - var. *Legolas* M. Anne Warne

Surprisingly, Jenny's lovely Milt Goodale Moir was the second, although I suspect her cultivar was more likely a later remake using select parents. The original cross was made by Woodlawn nursery in Hawaii in 1954. The parents are Milt *clowesii*, and Milt *flavescens*, the two species often used to impart yellow colours and patterning in the petals. Woodlawn also registered Milt *Gaiety* in 1955.

It is interesting that their first *Miltonia* hybrid was named for W. W. Goodale Moir, a famous sugar cane Agronomist and orchid lover from Hawaii, because from 1958 until about 1971 Goodale Moir himself dominates the orchid registrations for *Miltonia* hybrids and he is the one who really developed the group as popular orchids. I wonder if Mr Moir was working with Woodlawn to develop those first couple of *Miltonia* hybrids?

In 1958, Moir registered his first two official *Miltonia* hybrids. Milt. Rio (*spectabilis* x *flavescens*) x *regnellii*, and William Kirch (*clowesii* x *spectabilis*) x *regnellii*. It seems he was experimenting with *regnellii* that year.

Next came May Moir (*spectabilis*, or more likely *moreliana*) x Goodale Moir, and then Purple Queen (*spectabilis*/ *moreliana*) x *russelliana*. In both cases the resultant hybrid is more or less plum purple toned so I am assuming the *spectabilis* parent was really *moreliana*. Over the next 30 years Moir registered over 30 *Miltonia* hybrids. He experimented with the benefits and values of a number of species and back crossed some results to produce colourful and growable *Miltonias* that are still grown scattered in orchid collections all around the world. A few of his hybrids are shown below but please understand that these are selected examples of these crosses. Seedlings across each hybrid cross will contain many colour variations and patterns.



May Moir

Purple Queen

Minas Gerais

Honolulu

Matto Grosso

Brasilia

Culture – Do you recall that I mentioned earlier that *Miltonias* are often left neglected for way too long, dangling in hanging baskets under a friendly tree in the backyard, and that they can start to look a bit bedraggled and with few flowers. Well, that is what mine look like at present so I can't offer growing advice based on my current experience.

The following is from an AOS article by Gary Baker from Bill and Lorraine Dobson's website so I am sure it is good.

“Brazilian Miltonias can be grown right along with your Cattleya hybrids and Oncidiums. They tolerate the same light intensity, although they can be grown with much less light. Normally, Brazilian Miltonia have quite yellowish leaves. It is typical for someone first encountering these to be concerned about the yellowish leaves but it is normal.

If they are grown under light intensities significantly lower than those for Cattleyas or Oncidiums, the leaves will become much darker green.

Indeed, treat these Miltonias like Oncidiums or Cattleyas and you should find them thriving for you, Problems are few. Mealy bugs like them and aphids are sometimes seen on flower buds. From my experience, 70% isopropyl alcohol is as safe and effective an insecticide as you will find. Just spray it on undiluted, straight from the rubbing alcohol bottle. Perhaps the worst problem is the die back seen on older leaf tips. I suspect this is a result of fertilising too often or too heavily, resulting in a salt deposit in the leaf tips, This deposit kills the cells in the apex of the leaves, leading to infections by bacteria and fungi. Keep the dead leaf tips cut off, and your problems should be minimal.

However, two words of caution are necessary. First, these need a lot of water when they are actively growing. They are much more like the Colombian Miltoniopsis than Cattleyas in this respect. Their roots are quite fine and thrive in fine compost, similar to what you would use for Oncidiums. Fertilize as you would for Cattleyas or Oncidiums.

Mount them on cork or else put them into baskets! Give them lots of room to grow over the next half dozen years and you will be rewarded with copious amounts of colourful flowers with a minimum of effort on your part.”

JB again – seeing that Gary wasn't specific regarding the potting mix, perhaps I could suggest 8 to 12mm bark with perhaps 10% added perlite and 10-15% added crumbled styrene foam. I also suggest that you repot every few years to keep the pot fresh. Like most orchids, repotting should be matched to the growth cycle. Wait until you see new growths starting and then repot before they become too advanced and before new roots start to form.

16. JULY MEETING GUEST SPEAKER:

Hans Schaible from Dark Star Orchids at Bowraville will be the guest speaker at our July Meeting. Due to the school holidays this meeting will be held on Thursday, 15th July from 7.30pm. Hans will give a photo presentation on Dendrochilum orchids. He will have a variety of plants for sale on the night.

Check out the Dark Star website at www.darkstarorchids.com.au. There is an extensive list of plants available which can be ordered online or you can ring the nursery on

02 6564 4088 and speak to either Hans or Sue Daniels. You may wish to put in a special order and have Hans deliver it freight free to you at the July meeting.

