

COFFS ORCHID NEWS – SEPTEMBER, 2021

PUBLICATION OF THE COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

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EDITORIAL:

Wow! Wow! Wow! That would have been the reaction of those who attended the August monthly meeting held in the Uniting Church. What a great venue! Lots of space comfortable seating with even lounge chairs if you were so inclined and a great PA and Audio Visual System. What a magnificent display of orchids. You all did yourselves proud. Congratulations to everyone!

A VERY big thank you from President Carole and the Committee for the continuing support from Society members during these trying Covid-19 times. It was great to see a good attendance and the flowers were superb—a magnificent display. Special thanks to Doug Binns who presented an entertaining session on the Orchids and Bromeliads of Mexico, a country with an amazing variety of flora. Thanks Doug, it was a great journey.

Coffs Harbour is now in regional lockdown and hopefully these restrictions will be eased towards the end of August. Your Committee is taking a positive attitude and planning to hold the September monthly meeting in the Uniting Church. Bruce Hall will discuss how we can prepare our orchids for presentation at the Spring Show. With even more positivity, we are going ahead with planning for the Spring Show which is set down for 11th and 12th September. Spring is nearly here and the orchids are budding up so this should be a spectacular Show. We will keep members fully informed as we get closer to these events.

STOP PRESS: DUE TO CONTINUED LOCKDOWN WE HAVE HAD TO CANCEL THE SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING & THE SPRING SHOW

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CHOS COMMITTEE 2021**CONTACT DETAILS**

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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, Coffs Harbour.
www.shearwaterrestaurant.com.au or Phone 6651 6053.

LUDO'S OLD WARES

Buying and selling antiques, old wares and collectibles.
 Deceased Estates. Ulmarra. 0402 044601

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. Phone 02 6652 2599.

COFFS COAST MOTORS

For Mazda and Honda vehicles, also second-hand vehicles And ALL your servicing needs. Ring for an appointment 02 6652 3122 or visit 211 Pacific Highway, Coffs Harbour.

You won't be disappointed .

TINONEE ORCHIDS

Tinonee Orchids carries a wide variety of orchids and orchid growing supplies—coconut fibre, pots, etc. They provide quick delivery of orders. 02 6553 1012

www.tinoneeorchids.com

BRUCE HALL

Bruce provides the raffle prizes for both the Autumn and Spring Shows.

CALENDAR, 2021

2 Sept—Monthly Meeting. Bruce Hall "Show Preparation"

CANCELLED

11-12 Sept - Spring Show

CANCELLED

7 Oct—Monthly Meeting - Auction

16 Oct - 50th Anniversary Luncheon at Opal Cove Guest Speaker - Jody Cutajar.

4 Nov—AGM/Monthly Meeting Dick Cooper "Birds"

14Nov—WDOS Workshop. Woolg Primary School 9am to 3.30pm

4 Dec— Lunch at Green House Tavern. Awards & Presentation

3 Feb, 2022 - TBA

3 Mar, 2022 - TBA



MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Unfortunately, the September meeting has been cancelled due to Government Covid-19 Restrictions. Restrictions are due to be lifted on 10th September or shortly after. It is hoped that the situation will have improved by then so we can conduct the Plant Auction at the scheduled meeting on 7th October. The venue for the meeting (Uniting Church or Botanic Gardens) will depend on the severity of the new restrictions at the time of the meeting. We will keep members informed as we get closer to the meeting date.



Hear 6 Expert World-Renowned Speakers
FREE morning & afternoon tea
Bring picnic lunch

Free

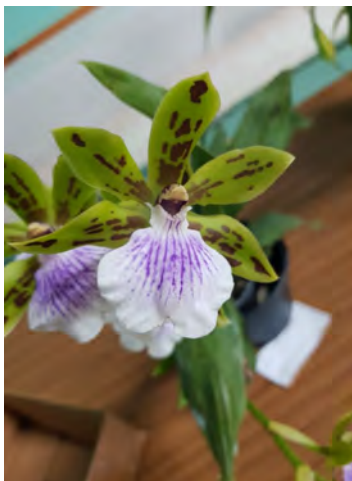
Woolgoolga District Orchid Society Inc.

Orchid WORKSHOP

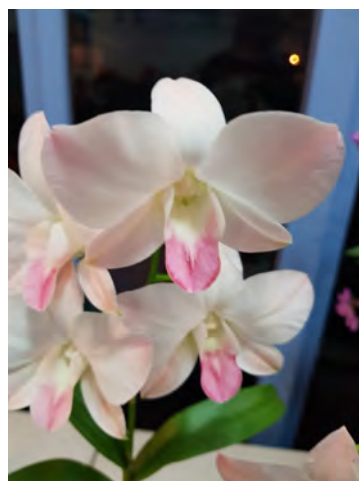
Woolgoolga Public School
Yeates Hall
1-11 Scarborough St.

Sunday November 14
9.00am - 3.30pm

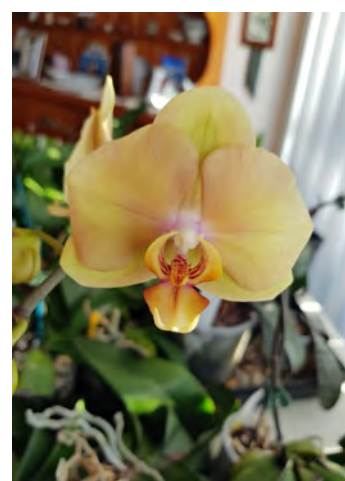
Nurserymen's Orchid Plants on Sale
Lots of Prizes to be Won!



Zygoneria Adelaide Meadows
'Braebrook' X Zygo. Titanic'Jane'



Den. Peach Blossom



Phal. OX Lottery Prince

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON TO BE HELD AT OPAL COVE ON SATURDAY 16TH OCTOBER, 2021. GUEST SPEAKER IS JODY CUTAJAR.

TICKETS @ \$25 EACH AVAILABLE FROM PAIGE SINCLAIR

3. AGENDA FOR THURSDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER MEETING:

Welcome / Covid-19 procedures

Apologies

Minutes of August, 2021, Meeting – as printed in newsletter

Correspondence - Paige

Finance Report - Bruce

Sponsors Spot – Coffs Harbour Produce

Table Talk

Popular Vote

Judging Results of Sarco Comp Plant

Raffle – Judith

General Business – 50th Anniversary Luncheon Tickets

- New Plant Growing Competition

- Other General Business

Supper Break – 15 minutes

Guest Speaker – Bruce Hall—“Preparing Plants for the Spring Show”

Please clean your seats with the wipes provided.

MEETING CANCELLED



Pterostylis curta



Zygopetalum Kiwi Choice 'Highclere'



Paph (Gold Acre x Brownley) x May Green x (Green Beret x Gwenpur)

4. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT, AUGUST, 2021:

The July Committee Meeting was held on 10th August, 2021.

Topics discussed included:

- 50th Anniversary Luncheon— Tickets now on sale \$25 per person. Timeline reviewed. Invites to Sponsors ready to send out. Discussion of an alternative Guest Speaker if Jody Cutajar still in lockdown.
- Roster completed and all supplies ordered for Bunnings Fund Raising BBQ for 14th August.
- Revised Orchid Information Pamphlet ready for proof reading and printing.
- Spring Show organisation to go ahead and its feasibility reviewed as Govt. restrictions are altered.
- Sarco growing competition to be completed at the October meeting. A new competition to commence from the October or November meeting.
- New flasks from Edward Pearce's Coelogyne Breeding Program will arrive from the Qld Laboratory in the near future.
- Discussion of copyright laws in relation to the use of members and Facebook photos by CHOS.



Should You Buy Another Plant?



6. FACEBOOK REPORT: (from Paige Sinclair)

Coffs Harbour Orchid Society Facebook August 2021 – Currently, the society has 142 likes and 162 followers on our Facebook page. This is up by one person for the July 2021 period, and from the creation of our Facebook page 79 people or over 300%.

What's in Bloom Facebook Page July 2021 was an excellent improvement, with 20 posts of member's orchids on the 'What's in Bloom' page of the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society Facebook page. Thank you to all, and get out to your growing area and start taking some photos of your blooms. Bob Southwell or Paige Sinclair will post them for you if you need help or don't have a Facebook account.



From Facebook:

Paige Sinclair's fabulous Cl. Rebecca Northern 'Grapefruit Pink' X Morm. Mimi 'Extra Wide'

7. 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.

8. BARK SUPPLIES FROM CHOS FOR THE SPRING POTTING SEASON:

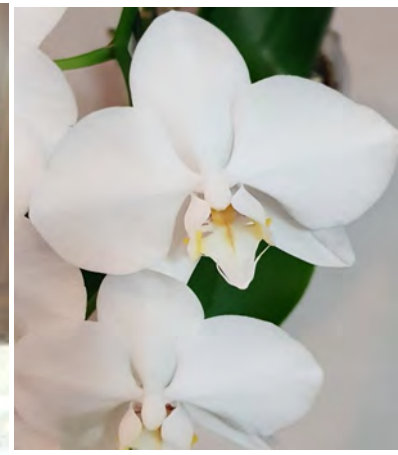
The Society stocks 40 litre bags of NZ Orchiata Bark selling at \$27 each and 35 litre bags selling at \$26 each. There are four sizes – 6 to 9mm; 9 to 12mm; 12 to 18mm and 18 to 25mm. Contact Bob Southwell on 0417 695 834 or email bssouthwell@bigpond.com. Remember if you desire quality plants then always use quality potting mix. Spring has arrived and it is time to start repotting with the aim being to repot at least 50% of your orchids each year. Remember, in general terms, most orchids should be repotted every two years but some, such as Phalaenopsis, respond well to repotting every year. **Bob is happy to supply bark at anytime but with Covid-19 restrictions in place you will need to organise a contactless method of pick-up and payment.**

Here is a reasonably new product from Scotts Osmocote range. This is a Controlled Release Fertilizer especially formulated for use on orchids.

Many growers use slow release fertilizers especially when repotting. It is suggested by the manufacturer that each application will last up to six months. The product is available in a 500g container.

The release of nutrients from the fertilizer prill depends on temperature – more when its warm and the plants are growing and less when it is cooler and growth is slow.

We haven't used this product yet but would be interested to hear from anyone who has incorporated into their fertilizer program.



Di Blay—Dendrochilum uncatum Silesa King— Epidendrum 'Pacific Sizele' Phal. aphrodite



Bruce Hall—Bulb. longiflorum B & J Lennon –Vanda pimporn x chiangai X Asc. Varut Leopard

10. **JOKE TIME:**

An old country farmer had a wife who nagged him unmercifully. From morning till night she was always complaining about something.

The only time he got any relief was when he was out ploughing with his old mule. He tried to plough a lot. One day, when he was out ploughing, his wife brought him lunch in the field. He drove the old mule into the shade, sat down on a stump, and began to eat his lunch. Immediately, his wife began nagging him again.

Complain, nag, complain, nag - it just went on and on. All of a sudden, the old mule lashed out with both hind feet, caught her smack in the back of the head. Killed her dead on the spot.

At the funeral several days later, the minister noticed something rather odd. When a woman mourner would approach the old farmer, he would listen for a minute, then nod his head in agreement; but when a man mourner approached him, he would listen for a minute, then shake his head in disagreement.

This was so consistent, the minister decided to ask the old farmer about it. So after the funeral, the minister spoke to the old farmer, and asked him why he nodded his head and agreed with the women, but always shook his head and disagreed with all the men.

The old farmer said, 'Well, the women would come up and say something about how nice my wife looked, or how pretty her dress was, so I'd nod my head in agreement.'

'And what about the men?' the minister asked.

'They wanted to know if the mule was for sale.'

Two guys were discussing popular family trends on sex, marriage, and family values..

Bill said, 'I didn't sleep with my wife before we got married, did you?'

Larry replied, 'I'm not sure, what was her maiden name?'

A little boy went up to his father and asked: 'Dad, where did my intelligence come from?'

The father replied. 'Well, son, you must have got it from your mother, cause I still have mine.'

A blonde calls Delta Airlines and asks, 'Can you tell me how long it'll take to fly from San Francisco to New York City?'

The agent replies, 'Just a minute.'

'Thank you,' the blonde says, and hangs up.

Her: "babe, can you take me to one of them places where they cook in front of you?"

Me: "say no more baby"



11. The Cymbidium Death Wish Genre

by Jim Brydie (a revision of a 2016 article)

(Printed with permission from Jim Brydie and the KOS Bulletin)

You know I like “different” orchids, and boy, are these ones different. Death Wish is a stunner and virtually came from our own backyard as it was created by the late Kevin Hipkins of Royale Orchids up at Peats Ridge, just outside Sydney. The parents are Cym. Pywacket and Cym. Disney Girl, each of which contains 50% of that wonderful species Cym. tracyanum, and the tracyanum influence dominates.

Tracyanum has a striking flower with a nice upright spike and about 15 (12cm) flowers. The flowers have somewhat narrow segments but are boldly coloured with red stripes on a cream to green background.

Another unique and pleasing characteristic is its unusual perfume which smells very similar to apricot fruit.

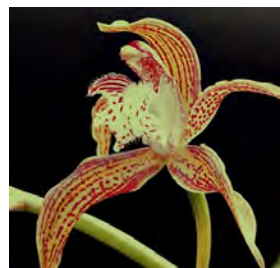
Like most species, the colours in tracyanum can vary a bit and I have seen many different individuals during the 40 odd years I have been growing orchids. The most popular always seem to be the ones with darker colours – usually having a more intense green background and darker red stripes, but there are many variations. The most common types seem to be the paler ones with a more yellowish cream background and paler red stripes. But, when I did a bit of research for this article, I must admit that I was quite surprised at just **how** different some of them can be.

I am only guessing, but based on what I have seen over the years, I think that some of the current very dark forms are the result of man made line breeding, and even artificial chromosome doubling, but that doesn't mean they all are. There are certainly records of very different forms going way back before man started playing his laboratory games.

In the small gallery below, I have borrowed a few pictures from the internet to show you some extent of today's variations within the species. When you see some of these newer types, it is easy to see where the inspirations for eye catchers like Death Wish came from, but I would never have imagined it in all the years I have grown tracyanum. (10 different clones of tracyanums ↓)



fairly typical, good form



paler, common form



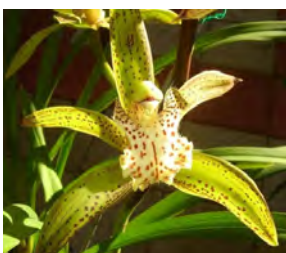
unusual spotted form



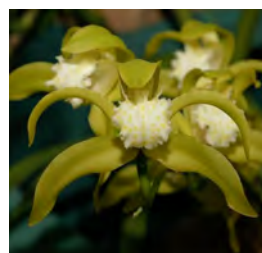
clone at Royale



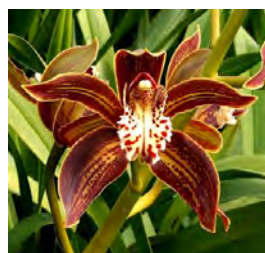
'Atlantis'



nearly green form



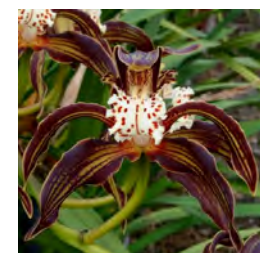
albino



'Julian' 4n



'New Start'



tracyanumFCC RHS

However, getting back to Death Wish, let's look more closely at its parents Disney Girl and Pywacket.

Both were developed by Andy Easton's Geysers-land Orchids in NZ but were registered by growers in California. Disney Girl's parents are tracyanum and 'Robin'. We can never know which clones were used, but in the case of Robin, only one clone (Freckles) ever seems to be mentioned. It has 4 of the 5 awards for Robin, and accounts for all of the dozens of



Robin 'Freckles' Disney Girl 1 Disney Girl 2

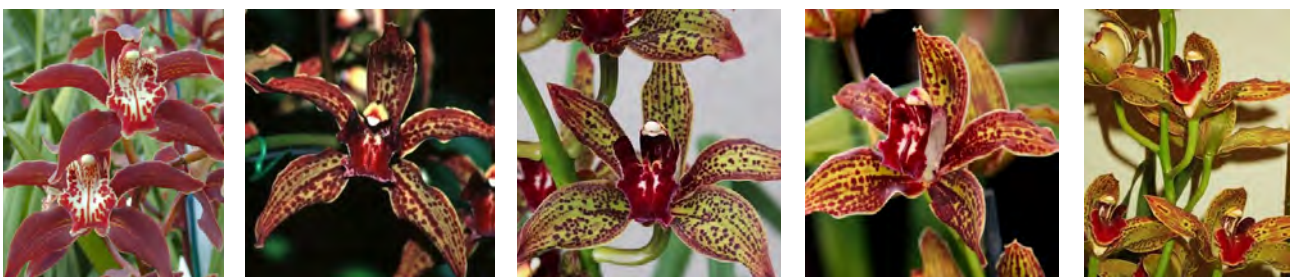
pictures available anywhere. As you can see in the pictures above, Robin 'Freckles' was an unusual orchid in itself. There is no tracyanum in its genealogy but it has very strong speckling in all segments. Crossing it with tracyanum didn't improve the shape but seems to have intensified the spotting and emphasised the lines of spots. The two examples of Disney Girl above show that it is certainly an attractive orchid itself but now has tracyanum characteristics in the gene pool.

Pywacket is another tracyanum cross but with very dark colours. The parents are Tethys and tracyanum. Tethys was famous in its day for the dark colour of many clones, and its very dark lip. It was bred from earlier dark red Cymbids like Khyber Pass, and Volcano. Again, we don't know which clones the hybridist used, but the picture of 'Brenda Starr' below gives you a fair idea of what Tethys looked like. 'Brenda Starr' was maybe the darkest of the Tethys but most had that fantastic full red lip you see in Brenda. Andy Easton was a very experienced Cymbidium breeder and I believe he would have readily imagined how crossing Tethys with tracyanum might intensify tracyanum's red colours before later crosses could be used to improve shape. Pywacket did exactly that.



Pywacket Heathrich Hills Pywacket (sdorchids) Tethys 'Brenda Starr'

Combining Pywacket and Disney Girl was a stroke of genius from Kevin Hipkins, He sure didn't do it to get a full round shape standard Cymbidium. I think he deliberately looked for exactly what Death Wish gave us. It was registered in 2001, and was an instant sensation. Growers couldn't get enough of it. There have been 4 clones awarded so far. 'Tiger Jade' and 'Peats Ridge' have an HCC, 'Royale' and 'Speckled Spectre' have an AD. I can't find a picture of Tiger Jade but the pictures of the clones below show some of the range. However, I must warn you that in looking at pictures of these clones, there seems to be a huge colour and pattern variation within supposed pictures of the same clone. Whether this is due to growing in different conditions such as brighter light or more shade, or just the photography, I can't say. Just be aware that if you buy one, it may not flower for you exactly the same as these pictures.



'Dark Desire' 'Speckled Spectre' 'Saratoga' 'Peats Ridge' 'Royale'

I am not sure whether I should call it the “Death Wish genre” or perhaps the “Pywacket genre”, as Pywacket actually came first, but it was Death Wish that sparked public demand. Since then, this genre has sparked a range of similarly ‘different’ orchids that many growers find irresistible.

In this month’s Virtual Benching we had a Death Wish, a Cym Arachnid (=Death Wish x erythraeum), an unnamed hybrid of Death Wish x It Started With a Kiss, and a Death Wish looking hybrid with parent names I can’t find. In addition there was a delicious looking hybrid of the same genre called Ken Siew. This one is erythraeum x tracyanum and looks like a small flowered dark tracyanum – another of Kevin Hipkins experiments.



Cym. Ken Siew

I think we are going to see more of these dark ‘tracy’ shaped hybrids in the future as more breeders feed the demand for real eye catchers .



**Joint winners of the Popular Vote at the CHOS August Meeting:
Bob Southwell’s Phal. Lianher Happy Song and Mal Ide’s Cym. Sarah Jean ‘Pearl’**

A smiling crew from the August Bunnings Fund Raising BBQ held by the Society. Paige (front), Stefica , Frank and Jude in the back row.

All reports indicate that it was a highly successful event and we can expect a good financial result from our members efforts.

Thanks to Paige for her organisation and to all those who gave up their time to staff the BBQ. Thank You!

Your efforts mean we can pay the bills and plan to provide more for members in the future.



12. ORCHIDS FOR SALE?

THE SOCIETY OFTEN GETS REQUESTS, THROUGH EMAIL OR THE WEBSITE, ON WHERE TO BUY ORCHIDS FROM LOCAL GROWERS. IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF WE HAD A LIST OF POTENTIAL ORCHID PLANT SELLERS SO WE COULD PASS YOUR DETAILS ONTO THE POTENTIAL BUYER.

MANY MEMBERS ARE CURRENTLY EXPRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE CANCELLATION OF THE SPRING SHOW AS THEY WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO PURCHASING ORCHIDS FROM THE SALES TABLE.

IF YOU HAVE ORCHIDS FOR SALE, ESPECIALLY THOSE YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR SALE AT THE SPRING SHOW, THEN SEND PAIGE OR BOB YOUR NAME, PHONE NUMBER AND/OR EMAIL ADDRESS (PLUS TYPE OF ORCHIDS FOR SALE EG: AUST. NATIVES, CATTS, SOFTCANES, MIXED, ETC) AND THE SOCIETY WILL PUBLISH A LIST SO OTHER MEMBERS CAN CONTACT YOU IF THEY ARE INTERESTED IN BUYING YOUR PLANTS.

THIS IS A FREE MEMBER SERVICE AND WE ARE NOT ASKING FOR ANY SALES COMMISSION.

PAIGE @ 0427 591 901 OR PAIGESINCLAIR@ME.COM

BOB @ 0417 695 834 OR BSSOUTHWELL@BIGPOND.COM

DON'T FORGET THE MONSTER PLANT AUCTION SET DOWN FOR 7TH OCTOBER (COVID GODS WILLING) - COME TO THE MEETING—DONATE PLANTS—BUY UP BIG.

13. ORCHID HINT:

I recently read an article in the AOC Orchids Australia magazine written by the AOC Registrar General, John Rees, that dealt with the problem of properly fertilizing mounted plants.

While some nutrients are almost instantly absorbed into the plant, other remain in the potting mix and are slowly taken in over time. As mounted plants may have little material around their roots to hold nutrients, they may not absorb as many nutrients as a potted plant. Use of fertilizer baskets (or even sewn pockets made from shade cloth) and slow release fertilizer (Eg: Plantacote top K or Osmocote Orchid) is a solution suggested by John Rees. The small plastic baskets (come in two sizes) can be filled with slow release fertilizer and attached to the mount above the plant (use the basket spike to push it into the mount). The fertilizer will be slowly released during watering or when it rains.



(Rozella Orchids at South Grafton stock these at 10 for \$5)