

COFFS ORCHID NEWS – FEBRUARY,2022 PUBLICATION OF THE COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

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1. EDITORIAL:

Happy New Year!

On looking back at what was written at the start of 2021 in the February Newsletter, we were celebrating a "victory" over Covid-19 by restarting orchid meetings back at the Botanic Gardens. We all thought that 2021 would be a much better year than what we experienced of 2020. We were all looking forward to a Covid-free and a bright 2021.

As I write this article in January, 2022, it seems to me to be a case of déjà vu. We are back at the Gardens for the first time since the April 2021 Show and Covid-19 restrictions are still in place. However, as the quote from the English Poet Alexander Pope states, "Hope springs eternal ..." and we all look forward to a great 2022.

Your Committee continues to work hard to provide you with a full orchid program for the coming year. We have already locked in a number of great guest speakers who will address a variety of orchid topics. We will again have the popular plant auction in October and it is planned to hold a deflasking workshop at the March meeting. In addition, our Activities Coordinator, Judith Whiting, is planning a number of visits to member's orchid houses and to local orchid nurseries during the year. This will give us all the opportunity to see how others successfully grow their orchids.

We plan on commencing the year with a meeting on the 3rd February at the Coffs Harbour Botanic Gardens when Ray Clement from Tinonee Orchids will give his usual high standard talk. He will also have plants and orchid hardware for sale on the night.

It is planned to continue to hold a full orchid competition at each monthly meeting. Prepare and bring along as many orchids as you can so the year starts off with a "colourful bang". The February meeting is also the first judging for the Epidendrum Growing Competition so don't forget to bring your plant along on the night.

At this stage the Covid-19 rules allow us to use the Botanic Gardens meeting room but if there is any change to these rules then we may need to seek a change of venue. We will keep members informed of any changes to our plans.

INDEX:

- 1. Editorial
- 2. Calendar
- 3. Growing Hint—Why Use Perlite?
- 4. Membership Fees for 2022
- 5. Joke Time
- 6. Agenda for 3rd Feb. Meeting
- 7. Covid-19 Meeting Plan
- 8. 2022 Plant Growing Competition
- 9. Facebook Report
- 10. Sponsor's Spot -Ludo's Old Wares
- 11. Bits and Pieces
- 12. Feature Article by Dick Cooper
- 13. Bark Supplies
- 14. Financial Report
- 15. Minutes from November.

CHOS COMMITTEE 2022 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.shearwaterreastaurant.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 new Mazda 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.

SUPPORT THEM BECAUSE THEY SUPPORT US

CALENDAR, 2021-22

- 25 Jan—Committee Meeting. 10.30am—Shearwater
- 3 Feb, 2022 Ray Clement— Coffs Botanic Gardens. 7.30pm
- "Australian Native Orchids"
- 3 Mar, 2022 Member's Workshop—Deflasking for Everyone
- 2 Apr, 2022—50th Anniversary Luncheon at Opal Cove Guest Speaker – Jody Cutajar.
- 7 Apr , 2022— Bruce Hall "Preparing Plants for the Autumn Show"
- 22 Apr—Show Set-up from 1pm
- 23-24 Apr-Autumn Show
- 5 May— Helena Axelsson— "Growing Orchids in Small Spaces"

Note: The Committee meets on Tuesday following the Monthly Meeting.

CHOS BANK DETAILS BSB No: 533-000

ACCOUNT No: 32817199



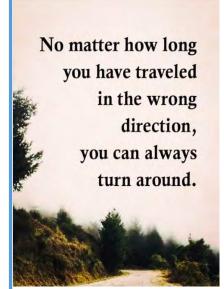
The much anticipated 50th Anniversary celebration luncheon, which was set down for October last year and was postponed due to Covid-19, has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 2nd and will be held at Opal Cove. More details in this newsletter. It is hoped to see the majority of CHOS members in attendance. Details of the proposed calendar for 2022 are outlined on page 2 of this newsletter and as you can see it will be a full year of orchid activity.

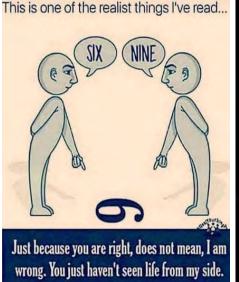
Dick Cooper has written a very informative article on why you should know the names of your orchids and what conditions they require to grow successfully. Part one appears in this newsletter and we look forward to further instalments.

We all need to approach 2022 in a positive state-of-mind and one filled with the excitement of new adventures in the world of orchids. Unfortunately, we will still need to practise Covid hygiene, social distancing, QR codes and wearing a mask while indoors or in close contact with others.

Best wishes to everyone for 2022 and welcome back to what we all hope is a fantastic year.

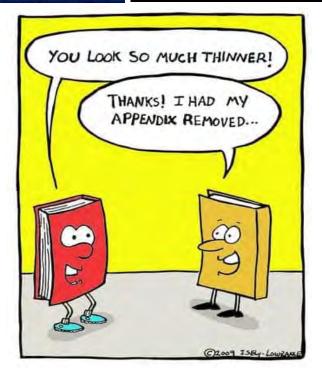
Bob Southwell





NO I CAN'T DO SNAPCHAT
OR TIKTOK BUT I CAN WRITE
IN CURSIVE, DO MATH
WITHOUT A CALCULATOR
AND TELL TIME ON A
CLOCK WITH HANDS.





ORCHID GROWING HINT: Why use Perlite in your potting mix?

Perlite is a common component of orchid potting mixes. Perlite is made from mined volcanic glass of the same name. As a raw material it contains water, trapped by the rapid cooling of lava. The moisture vaporises explosively when heated. The result is an expanded mineral "popcorn" which is white in colour. It retains water on the mineral surface as well as retaining air in the spaces between.

After heating, Perlite is separated into four different grades based on the particle size: Super Coarse, Coarse, Medium or Fine Grade (sometime Jumbo is used for the larger sizes). In general terms if you are using a small bark size then you use a similar sized perlite grade.

Some growers never use Perlite in their mix but it a very useful component that should not be dismissed without first trying it when you next repot.

Advantages of using perlite in your orchid potting mix:

- Perlite aerates and loosens the potting mix and allows air to reach even the finest plant roots.
- Perlite holds air and moisture in the potting mix. Nutrients are dissolved in this water and slowly available to the plant roots.
- Perlite is made from a naturally occurring volcanic rock and will not rot or dissolve (does not break down like pine bark will over time).
- Perlite is neutral in pH, is sterile and disease and weed free.
- Perlite has insulation properties (due to air bubbles) which minimise temperature fluctuations in the potting mix.



Ideal potting mix—70% Bark, 20% Perlite and 10% Charcoal

Perlite will give you superior growth rates so it worth adding to your potting mix. If you only wish to purchase one grade of perlite then Coarse Perlite is a good choice (34% water holding capacity and ideal for orchids and succulents).

A word of warning— dust from the Perlite can create respiratory problems and eye irritation. When working with Perlite take precautions such as wearing goggles and a mask. Damping down the Perlite initially will help to settle the dust and reduce the risks.

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2022:

2022 Membership Fees for CHOS are now due and must be paid by Thursday 5th May. Single membership is set at \$10 and family membership at \$15.

You can pay Paige Sinclair, Treasurer, with cash or cheque at a Monthly Meeting (place in an envelope with your name on the front). You can also use a credit card at the meeting or pay by Direct Deposit into the Society BCU Account (include your Name and Membership in the reference). Bank details are on page 2 of this newsletter. You can also post the membership fee to CHOS, PO Box 801, Coffs Harbour 2450.

JOKE TIME:

A 54 year old woman had a heart attack and was taken to the hospital.

While on the operating table she had a near death experience.

Seeing God, she asked, "Is my time up"?

God answered, "No, you have another 43 years, 2 months, 8 days, to live".

Upon recovery the woman decided to stay in the hospital to get liposuction, breast implants, and a tummy tuck. She even had someone come in and change her hair colour and brighten her teeth.

After the last operation she was released from hospital.

While crossing the street she was killed by an ambulance.

Arriving in front of God she demanded, "I thought you said I had 43-plus years to live. Why didn't you pull me out of the path of the ambulance"?

God replied, "Oh, sh*t, I didn't recognize you...."

 A bookseller conducting a market survey asked a woman – "Which book has helped you most in your life?"

The woman replied, "My husband's cheque book!"

• A prospective husband in a book store "Do you have a book called, 'Husband – the Master of the House?'"

Sales girl: "Sir, fiction and comics are on the 1st floor!"

• Someone asked an old man: "Even after 80 years, you still call your wife – darling, honey, luv. What's the secret?"

Old man: "I forgot her name and I'm scared to ask her."

Wife: I wish I was a newspaper - so I'd be in your hands all day.

Husband: I too wish that you were a newspaper. So I could have a new one every day!









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Out in my greenhouse during December-January:

A. Bulbophyllum Wilmar Galaxy Star x B. siamense B. Bulbophyllum sikkimensis

C. Coelogyne Burfordiense D. Vanda Kru Chom ' Dark Knight' (Bob Southwell)

AGENDA FOR GENERAL MEETING, 3RD FEBRUARY, 2022:

- 1. Welcome (Judges: Dick Cooper and Peter Gough)
- 2. Apologies
- 3. Minutes of November Monthly Meeting as printed in Newsletter
- 4. Correspondence Annie Houston
- 5. Treasurer's Report Paige Sinclair
- 6. Sponsor's Spot Ludo's Old Wares
- 7. Table Talk—Ray Clement
- 8. Popular Vote Bruce Hall/ Judith Whiting
- 9. Results of the new Growing Competition Judging
- 10. Presentation for 2021 Sarc Growing Competition Bob Southwell
- 11. Presentation of Service Certificate—by Carole Davis
- 12. Raffle Judith Whiting
- 13. General Business Membership Fees now due (\$10/\$15)
 - Tickets for 50th Anniversary Luncheon—2nd April, 2022
 - Deflasking Workshop during March Meeting
 - CHOS Autumn Show— 23 to 24 April, 2022
 - Other General Business
- 14. Supper Break 15 minutes
- 15. Guest Speaker: Ray Clement, Tinonee Orchids—"Development of Australian Native Orchids"

CHOS COVID-19 MONTHLY MEETING PLAN:"

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.
- 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 to stay seated wherever possible.
- Masks MUST be worn inside the meeting room.
- 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 or are positive from a Rapid or PCR Test then please do not attend

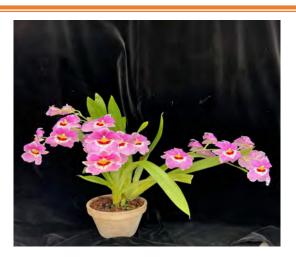
This hit home for me.

When a flashlight grows dim or quits working, do you just throw it away? Of course not. You change the batteries. 🎺. When a person messes up or finds themselves in a dark place, do you cast them aside? Of course not! You help them change their batteries. Some need AA...attention and affection; some need AAA...attention, affection, and acceptance; some need C....compassion; some need D...direction. And if they still don't seem to shine...simply sit with them quietly and share your light.

You only need two tools in life.....WD-40 and duct tape.
If it doesn't move and should, use
WD-40... if it moves and shouldn't, use duct tape.

EitchenPunWithMyBflons.aem





Paige Sinclairs- Miltoniopsis Woody Carlson 'Enduring Arder'

8. 2022 GROWING PLANT COMPETITION:

The new Growing Plant is *Epidendrum* Princess Valley 'Blushing'.

35 plants have been sold and the draw for allocation to members

took place at the November Monthly meeting. The first judging for the 2022 competition will take place at the February meeting. There are five (5) plants still available (Sorry, only one per member) at \$10 each. Why not purchase a plant for your collection. You don't have to go into the Competition if you don't wish to. Message or ring Bob Southwell to buy a plant (0417 695 834).

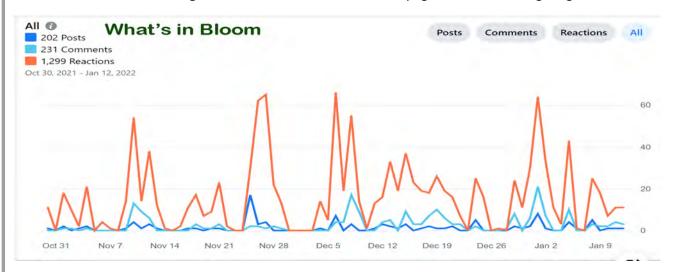
Once the competition begins plants will no longer be for sale.



9. FACEBOOK REPORT: (From Paige Sinclair

January 2022 – Currently, the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society has 245 likes and 272 followers on our Facebook page. This is up by 26 people for the December/January 2021-22 period.

What's in Bloom Facebook Page: The 'What's in Bloom' Facebook page had the following insights.



Please continue to post images of your flowering orchids for everyone to enjoy.

The photographs below are from recent postings on Facebook:



10. SPONSORS SPOT: Ludo's Old Wares

Located at 21C Old Pacific Highway, Ulmarra.

Buying and selling antiques, old wares and collectables. Open daily 9am to 4.30pm but phone just to be sure—02 6644 4080.

Handling a deceased estate? - then ring Ludo for assistance. Have unwanted items to sell? - your Trash may be someone's Treasure. Ring or visit Ludo's.

They support us so please support them



11. BITS AND PIECES:

- Guest Speaker at the February CHOS Meeting will be Ray Clement from Tinonee Orchids. Ray will speak on "Developments in Australian Native Orchids". Ray will have some plants and orchid hardware for sale at the Feb meeting. However, if you wish to place an order with Ray to stock up your orchid supplies then phone him on 02 6553 1012 before the meeting. Ray will bring your order on the 3rd Feb and you will save on freight charges. Contributions for supper would be appreciated.
- The CHOS 50th Anniversary Luncheon was postponed from October, 2021 dur to Covid-19 restrictions. This has now been rescheduled for Saturday, 2nd April from 12 noon at Opal Cove, Coffs Harbour. Jody Cutajar will be the Guest Speaker. Tickets are available from Paige at the subsidised price of \$25 each (plus bring your spouse or partner). Make your reservation by purchasing a ticket at the February meeting.
- ♦ CHOS Membership Fees are now due—\$10 for an individual or \$15 for family membership. Pay Paige at the Feb meeting or Direct deposit to the Society bank account (see page 2 for details).
- Growing Competition, 2022: Don't forget to bring your Epidendrum along to the first judging at the February meeting. Remember to include the numbered tag in the pot. The Feb meeting will be the last chance to buy a competition plant for \$10.
- Need help with an orchid problem? Contact one the listed advisors for assistance or ring Carole, Paige or Bob and they will point you in the right direction.
- ♦ Monthly raffle—got any extra garden plants or produce? Or excess orchids? Bring them along to add to the monthly raffle prizes.
- Ever wondered how growers produce new plants? One way is to purchase plants grown from seed in a flask and then transplant these into a suitable growing media. This can be a tricky process and 100% success rate is not always achieved. The more times you try the process, the better is your success rate. The CHOS plans to hold a deflasking workshop at the March meeting using a number of different orchid types. This will be a free workshop and participants can expect to take home a few examples of deflasked seedlings for their own collections. Come along and learn the techniques involved in this process.
- ◆ The Queensland International Orchid Fair is usually held at Beenleigh on the Gold Coast early in the year. This time it will take place from Friday 25th Feb to Saturday 26th Feb but will be at it's new venue at the Belmont Shooting Complex (closer to Brisbane). Later in the year (end of June) the Mingara Orchid Show and Fair is always worth attending plus the Tweeds Heads Fair at the start of November is always a winner. Firm dates will be given once available.





My favorite part of attending a marathon is watching the reaction of runners who grab my plastic cup of vodka.

You can tell a lot about a woman by her hands. For instance, if they're around your throat she's probably slightly upset.

12. Why Worry About the Names of the Orchids I Grow? By Dick Cooper

This might seem like a funny question but I know several people who don't bother about orchid names, they just like to grow orchids. To me, there are potential problems with this approach because I believe that being aware of the names of different orchids is important to reap the full benefits of growing these plants.

Here are three quality orchids which if grown under identical conditions, could not all perform equally well because they require different growing conditions.







Dend. Pink Doll 'Elegance' FCC/AOC

Cattleya intermedia 'Aranbeem'

Dend. Dal's Dazzler 'Barbara Kae' HCC/AOC

Names offer growers fundamental information about the ways by which they can grow orchids well. Names can also tell you what orchids can easily be grown together, what orchids best suit your growing environment best, what is the correct section in which to you bench at a monthly meeting or in a show, and if you want to specialise in one (or more) orchid group(s), which are best for you; how do you know which sale plants are good, etc.

The cultivation needs of your orchids are important. If you know what kind of orchids you have (regardless of whether they are species or hybrids), then you can find out when they are likely to actively grow; when they will flower; when they need a rest; how much shade they need; how much water they need; how, when and what to fertilize them with; etc., etc. Different orchid genera (types) may need different fertilisers at different times of the year and some may not need any fertilizer during specific periods. Watering requirements are similar. Some of the stunning plants that we see at society meetings are not simply the result of good luck.

The following are some very basic examples of how to understand the basic needs of the genera you are growing.

Softcane Dendrobiums need good light (preferably less than 50% shade), lots of water and humidity during their growing season (late Spring and Summer) and much less water (keep lightly moist) between mid-Autumn until Spring. Use only a low nitrogen fertilizer (from mid-November) and stop fertilizing in early April (some recommend mid-March). If you want plenty of flowers, ignore this regime at your peril. To do so will likely produce more keikis and fewer flowers.

Most **Cymbidiums** appreciate shadier conditions (more than 50% shade), periods of high nitrogen fertiliser (for their growing season) and periods of low nitrogen fertiliser (for their flowering season) - though some people would argue, with sound reasons, that the reverse is a better feeding regime. Cymbidiums require water all year around with a lower amount through winter. However, plants left too dry for too long will likely not flower well for 1 or 2 years thereafter; and, if kept too wet, you may end up needing to replace that plant entirely.

Sarcochilus require even more shade (70%) than Cymbidiums between April through to the end of September then as the weather warms more shade is desirable. Because Sarcochilus grow throughout the year, they need water all year (though a little less during winter) and a low nitrogen fertilizer

(as do all Australian Natives). This is especially so through Autumn when they are actively growing. Afterwards a short period of cooler weather is required to initiate flowering. Like Phalaenopsis, these plants lack pseudobulbs so they do not cope well without water but high humidity can help during short dry periods.

In the wild, many orchid species only occur in a small number of habitats. These serve as a guide to their growth needs. However, this is not the case with the **Oncidiinae** because this group consists of a really large and diverse number of different genera and they utilise habitats ranging from tropical areas near sea level to quite cool area above 6,000 metres (in the Andes). There are about 70 Oncidiinae genera, over 1,000 species and around 17,000 named hybrids (as well as almost 19,000 other aliases) so there is great variation in culture. Despite this, here are some general comments about culture (but do remember that these really are "generalisations").

Shade/Light needs vary from bright to nearly full sun depending on the genus and, sometimes, the particular species. Temperature is often important as well. Most prefer to grow within the range 12° C. to 30° C. but can cope with short periods of higher temperatures if humidity and air movement are increased. The Psychopsis-type and Equitant Oncidiums favour higher light.

Watering needs vary according to the prevailing weather, pot size and type, the species/ hybrid involved, and the potting medium. Accordion-pleating on leaves is generally a symptom of insufficient water or humidity. Large fleshy leaves and roots may be watered less often than thin-leaved or thin-rooted plants but generally allow for watering every 2-3 days in summer and up to 10 days during winter. Plants not actively growing should also be watered less; often species need winter rest periods.

Regularly fertilize the Oncidiinae when plants are in active growth. Some growers use a high nitrogen fertiliser, others a 20-20-20 formulation, though I lean towards one that is high in phosphorus - the K in NPK. Some fertiliser manufacturers refer to these as Blossom Boosters. The NPK of Campbell's Yellow is 11:13:16. A High K is suppose to increase flower count and make flowers firmer/stronger. Psychopsis-type and Equitant Oncidiums need moist conditions, good air movement, quite high humidity, regular fertilising and watering well. Onciidinae intergeneric hybrids have become widely available in recent years (see examples below) though, following significant change in the taxonomy of the Oncidiinae, 24 of these names are no longer valid.



These include <u>Alexanderara (Alxra.)</u>, <u>Bakerara (Bak.)</u>, <u>Beallara (Bllra.)</u>, <u>Brachtia (Bra.)</u>, <u>Brassada (Brsa.)</u>, <u>Burrageara (Burr.)</u>, <u>Carpenterara (Cptra.)</u>, <u>Colmanara (Colm.)</u>, <u>Degarmoara</u>

(Dgmra.), Goodaleara (Gdlra.), Helcia (Hlc.), Howeara (Hwra.), Maclellanara (Mclna.), Mesospinidium (Mppm.), Miltadium (Mtadm.), Miltassia (Mtssa.), Miltonidium (Mtdm.), Odontocidium (Odcdm.), Oncidioda (Oncda.), Sanderara (Sand.), Scelochilus (Scel.), Ticoglossum (Ticogl.), Wilsonara (Wils.) and Withnerara - that I know of. Plants bearing these hybrid genus names have all been transferred to other Oncidiinae genera - to check on the new name(s) a handy place to start is the CHOS Orchidwiz program; alternately use the RHS orchid hybrid register on Google.

Back on cultivation needs, the Oncidinae intergenerics are tolerant of higher temperatures (35+° C.), brighter light and benefit from higher humidity and increased air movement. They do need to be kept moist all the time so don't let them dry out or, conversely, become waterlogged. An appropriate fertilising regime depends on the plant's parentage applied more regularly when they are actively growing (usually summer) and less often in the cooler months.

So, just knowing which group/genus your plants belong to means that you can now arrange similar plants together in your growing area to maximise their growing environment. You should place those that need the highest light in the best light situation and so on until the shade-preferring orchids are in lower light. You may even need to add more shade in part of your growing area for the benefit of some plants.

Then, by placing similar plants together it will be easier to fertilise and water that group in the same manner.

In my own case, I have all my Softcane Dendrobiums along the north-facing section of my shadehouse (to always receive maximum light), most of my Hardcane Dendrobiums are in my warm glasshouse (with added shading and extra air movement to offset the higher temperatures), most of my Australian Natives are under 50+% shade and Intermediate Dends (these are Hardcanes too) are the lowest light section of my shadehouse. Other orchids are placed in the remaining best available sites.

This article really only addressed one aspect of why understanding orchid names can enhance the pleasure in growing orchids. With Bob Southwell's agreement, I hope to write about other aspects next issue. Meantime, you can find more detailed information on improving your cultural practices. Google provides plenty of sources, including the CHOS website (good local information), so to does the Orchid Society of NSW. Overseas societies can help too - St Augustines Orchid Society (US) has great information.

Do check out the link below for a helpful article by Sue Bottom -

https://staugorchidsociety.org/PDF/TopTenSignsThatYourOrchidsAreHappybySueBottom.pdf.

Dick Cooper, Jan, 2022.

13. BARK SUPPLIES FROM CHOS FOR THE CURRENT POTTING SEASON:

The Society stocks 40 litre bags of NZ Orchiata Bark selling at \$27 each and 35 litre bags also selling at \$27 each (Sorry, but there has been a slight price rise). There are four sizes — 6 to 9mm; 9 to 12mm; 12 to 18mm and 18 to 25mm.

Contact Paige Sinclair on 0427 591 901 or paigesinclair@me.com.

Remember if you desire quality plants then always use quality potting mix. We now have new stock on hand and now available from Paige.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PAIGE IS NOW HANDLING ALL CHOS BARK SALES