



# COFFS ORCHID NEWS – MAY, 2022

## PUBLICATION OF THE COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

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### **1. EDITORIAL:**

The Society recently celebrated 50 + 1 years as a stand alone organisation. We attempted to hold the event in 2021 but, like so many other functions, Covid-19 intervened and so it was rescheduled for April, 2022. The celebration took place as a luncheon at Opal Cove Resort on 2nd April. The event was well attended and enjoyed by dedicated members and sponsors. Jody Cutajar, from the NSW Central Coast, was the Guest Speaker. He gave a very entertaining and informative address on the Orchids of Brazil.

We thank Opal Cove Resort, the hard working Society Committee, Jody Cutajar and our members for making this such a resounding success.

President Carole delivered a speech on the History of the Society and the progress it has made over the years and continues to make in recent times. Her full speech is presented as the feature article in this edition of the newsletter.

We all look forward to continued success for the CHOS.

\* \* \*

Our focus now centres on the upcoming Autumn Orchid Show at the end of April and then closely followed by the Orchid Society display at the Coffs Harbour Agricultural Show in mid May.

The Autumn Show will be held at the Coffs Botanic Gardens from 10am on Saturday 23rd April and the presentation of trophies will occur at 3pm on Sunday, 24th April. Setting up for the Show will commence from 1pm on Friday, 22nd April. Any additional assistance on the Friday would be very welcome. Benching of plants will take place between 3 and 6pm on Friday and again between 6.30 and 7.30am on Saturday. Judging will occur from 8am and the Showroom will open to the public from 10am. Full details are available on the Show Poster reproduced later in this newsletter. The Show will only function if we have members willing to assist over the weekend (please check the roster), lots of public participation and lots of flowering plants benched for the competition.

The orchid display at the Agricultural Show (13-15 May) is our chance to support the Coffs Harbour community and advertise the joy of growing orchids. This is a joint venture between Coffs and Woolgoolga Societies so we are looking forward to lots of volunteers to assist and many orchids being presented for display. The display will be set up on Friday 13th May and continue on Saturday and Sunday. Carole Davis is coordinating the event so if you can help or require more details then contact Carole on 026658 1354 or [carolen-larry@bigpond.com](mailto:carolen-larry@bigpond.com). If you are at the Coffs Show then don't forget to check out the orchid display.

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**CHOS COMMITTEE 2022****CONTACT DETAILS**

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<u>NEWSLETTER EDITOR:</u>	BOB SOUTHWELL	0417 695 834	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, Coffs Harbour.

[www.shearwaterrestaurant.com.au](http://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 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](http://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**

22 Apr—Show Set-up from 1pm

23-24 Apr—Autumn Show

5 May— Helena Axelsson—  
"Growing Orchids in Small Spaces"

13-15 May— Coffs Harbour Agricultural Show Orchid Display

2 June— Member Presentations

18 June—Orchid Greenhouse Visits

9 July—Tinonee Open Day

21 July— Hans Schiabe—  
"Dendrochilums"

4 Aug—Malcolm Ide— " Growing Cymbidiums"

1 Sept—Member Presentations

13 Oct— Plant Auction

3 Nov—AGM / Elections

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

**CHOS BANK DETAILS**

**BSB No: 533-000**

**ACCOUNT No: 32817199**



### **3. 2022 AOF Essay Prize**

The Australian Orchid Foundation (AOF) Essay Prize is an annual writing competition, established with a generous endowment by the Slade family.

There will be three prizes –

<b>1st</b>	<b>Prize</b>	<b>\$350.00</b>
<b>2nd</b>	<b>Prize</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>
<b>3rd</b>	<b>Prize</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>

The Foundation invites all Australian orchid growers to consider the topic for 2022 and submit an entry. We would like to hear about your ideas and experiences and benefit from them.

#### **ESSAY TOPIC FOR 2022:**

#### ***Too many orchids: Managing space and addiction***

Everybody who commences growing orchids and is smitten by the “Orchid Bug” eventually has to address the issue of “space and addiction”. How have you dealt with this complex issue to satisfy both sides of the equation? The deadline for receipt of all entries is June 30th 2022

Send your entry: electronically to [aof@australianorchidfoundation.org.au](mailto:aof@australianorchidfoundation.org.au)  
or mail to AOF Essay Prize P.O. Box 440, Yarra Glen Vic. 3775

Please include name, address and phone contact.

Entry Rules:

This competition is open to Australian residents only.

The essay will be an original article, not previously published.

The essay must be no more than 4,000 words, short essays are most welcome.

The essay is to be in English and typewritten.

Entries may include artwork or images.

The authors of the essays will remain undisclosed to the judges, whose decision will be final. If in the opinion of the judges, no worthy essays are received, there will be no award that year.

Non-winning entries will be returned to the sender if requested. These entries may be submitted to the editors of Australian orchid periodicals for publication, with permission from the author.

The winning essay will be announced at the AGM of the Foundation in October 2021.

The winning entries will be placed on the AOF web site and maybe published in Australian orchid periodicals.



*Coffs Harbour*  
*Orchid Society Inc.*  
 presents the

# **Autumn Orchid Show**

**Saturday 23 April  
10am to 5pm**  
**Sunday 24 April 2022  
9am to 3pm**

at the  
**Coffs Harbour  
Botanic Gardens**  
**Hardacre Street**  
*Gold Coin Donation Requested*

SPONSORS  
 LUDOS OLD WARES  
 COFFS HARBOUR PRODUCE  
 COFFS COAST MOTORS  
 TINONEE ORCHIDS  
 BRUCE HALL  
 SHEARWATER RESTAURANT

#### 4. CHOS AUTUMN SHOW:

**Dates:** Saturday 23rd April and Sunday 24th April. **Venue:** Coffs Harbour Botanic Gardens

**Benching of Entries:** Friday 22nd April - 3pm to 6pm. Saturday 23rd - 6.30am to 7.30am

**Judging:** 8am to 10am Saturday 23rd. Show Opens to public from 10am.

**Presentation Of Prizes:** Sunday, 3pm. **Show Set-up:** Friday from 1pm.

Raffle tickets and plants will be available for sale.

Show Schedules and Duty Roster are now available on the website.

#### 5. MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2022:

2022 Membership Fees for CHOS are now due and must be paid by the 30th April.

Single membership is set at \$10 and family membership at \$15.

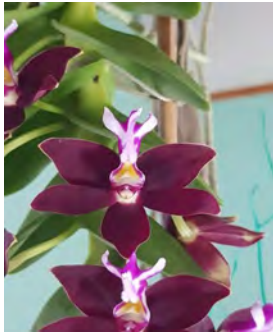
You can pay Paige Sinclair, Treasurer, with cash or cheque at the April Monthly Meeting (place in an envelope with your name on the front). You can also use a credit card at the meeting or pay by Direct Deposit into the Society BCU Account (include your Name and Membership in the reference). Bank details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

**IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF FEES COULD BE PAID ASAP**

## 6. DID YOU NOTICE THE ERROR?

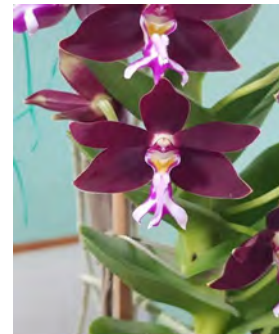
Did you notice the error in last months newsletter. Dick Cooper did and drew our attention to it. Well done, Dick!

On page 7 there was a photo of Bruce Halls *Trichoglottis* as one of the joint winners of the March Popular Vote. The error was that the photo was upside down. The same photo featured on the front page of the February newsletter and it was presented correctly orientated.



Left as it appeared  
on page 7 last  
month

Right as how it  
should  
have appeared.



## 7. DATES TO NOTE:

**Nambucca Valley Orchid Society Autumn Show: 5-6th May, 2022. Entries—4 May**

**Tinonee Orchid Nursery Open Day (probably the final one) : 9 and 10 July, 2022. The Society usually visits Tinonee on the Saturday. Guest Speakers and lots of orchid bargains. More details as we get closer to the event but a good one to mark on your calendar.**

**Mingara Orchid Fair and Show: 25—26 June, 2022. Mingara Recreation Club, Tumbi Umbi, Central Coast NSW. Always an excellent orchid fair.**

**St. Ives Orchid Fair—19-21 August, 2022. St. Ives Showground, Mona Vale Road, St. Ives. Considered to be one of the best Orchid Fairs in NSW.**

**Nambucca Valley Orchid Society Spring Show: 1-3 Sept, 2022. Entries—31 Aug.**

**AOC Australian Orchid Conference and Show : 31st August to 4th September. Logan Metro Sports and Events Centre, Crestmead Qld. Quality speakers and orchid show.**

**CHOS Spring Show: Botanic Gardens, Coffs Harbour. 10-11th Sept, 2022.**

**Woolgoolga District Orchid Society Annual Show: 1st October, 2022. Entries—30 Sept**

## 8. AGENDA FOR GENERAL MEETING , 5th MAY, 2022:

1. Welcome (Judges: RHONDA SMITH and NEIL McDONALD)
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of April Monthly Meeting – as attached to the Newsletter
4. Correspondence - Annie Houston
5. Treasurer’s Report – Paige Sinclair
6. Sponsor’s Spot – Tinonee Orchids
7. Presentation to New Members
8. Table Talk—Paige Sinclair (Catasetums)
9. Popular Vote – Bruce Hall/ Judith Whiting
10. Results of the Growing Competition—May Judging
11. Raffle – Judith Whiting
12. General Business:
  - Agricultural Show Display—13th May, 2022
  - June Meeting
  - Other General Business
- 13 Supper Break – 15 minutes
14. Guest Speaker : Helena Axelsson—“Growing Orchids in Small Spaces”



## 9. **CHANGES TO THE CHOS COVID-19 MONTHLY MEETING PLAN:**

Finally most Covid-19 rules have been relaxed or completely lifted or remain as optional.

It is suggested that you be aware of the following:

- Use the Hand Sanitiser supplied if you wish.
- Each member to sign the CHOS Meeting Register. You do not have to use the QR Code or sign a Covid -19 Register.
- The 2 square metre rule per person has been lifted.
- Masks DO NOT have to be worn inside the room. However, if you feel more comfortable by wearing a mask then please do so.
- Members are asked to bring flowering orchids for the monthly competition.
- Please bring something suitable for a shared supper. CHOS will provide tea and coffee.
- Once again we will provide members with name tags for wearing during the meeting.

**If you have any Covid-19 symptoms or are positive from a RAT or PCR Test then please do not attend.**

## 10. COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Committee Meeting was conducted at Shearwater Restaurant, Coffs Harbour, on Tuesday 12th April.

- The Committee was very pleased with the 50th Anniversary Celebrations held on 2nd April. Thank you to all the members who took part in the Opal Cove luncheon.
- The March meeting was also successful with a great Table Talk from Neville Anderson and a very informative session from Bruce Hall on how to present your plants for the upcoming Autumn Show.
- The new Orchid Information pamphlet has been finished and copies will be available at the Autumn Show.
- Autumn Show—23rd and 24th April at Botanic Gardens. Show Schedule and Show Roster has been circulated and also available on the CHOS website. Plants are requested for the Sales Table. Those selling NSW Native Orchids will be required to complete the Native Licence Form held by the Society. Setting up of the Show Room will occur on Friday 22nd April from 1pm.
- Coffs Harbour Agricultural Show—13—15th May. CHOS and WDOS to conduct an orchid display. Carole Davis is in charge of the organisation. Duty Roster being compiled. Display plants are requested for Friday 13th May from 9am.
- Two new members approved—Michael McFarlane and Nida Eather.

Next Committee Meeting will be held on 10th May, 2022.



I had a problem with my computer yesterday, so I called Eric, the 11 year old kid next door.

Eric clicked a couple of buttons and solved the problem.

As he was walking away, I called after him, "So, what was wrong?"

He replied, "It was an ID ten T error."

I didn't want to appear stupid, but nonetheless asked, "An, ID ten T error? What's that?"

Eric grinned... "Haven't you ever heard of an ID ten T error before?"

"No," I replied.

"Write it down," he said, "and I think you'll figure it out."

So I wrote down: "ID10T"

And I used to like Eric, the little bastard.



### POPULAR VOTE AT THE APRIL MONTHLY MEETING:

Congratulations to Malcolm Ide for gaining this month's Popular Vote with his *Bulbophyllum* Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry'.

This is a spectacular hybrid between *Bulb. longissimum* and *Bulb. rothschildianum*.

**ORCHIDS OF THE DAY AT THE CHOS 50TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON:**



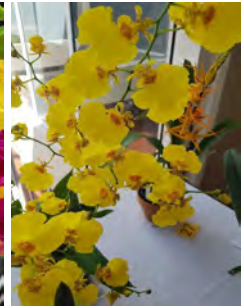
1st place—Helen Seiver—Cluster Cat



2nd : Paige Sinclair Rlc.  
Taiwan Golden Peacock

3rd—Helen Seiver Blue  
Vanda—See page 1

4th: Sue Flanders  
Oncidium NoID



**11. SPONSORS SPOT: Tinonee Orchids      They support us, so please support them**

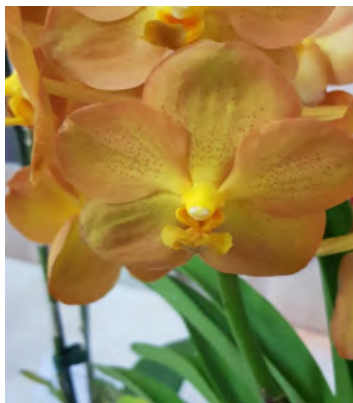
Tinonee Orchids carries a wide variety of orchids and orchid growing supplies—coconut fibre, pots, etc. They provide quick delivery of orders. 02 6553 1012. [www.tinoneeorchids.com](http://www.tinoneeorchids.com)

The Final Open Day will be held over the weekend 9th and 10th July, 2022. There will be Guest Speakers on the Saturday and there are certain to be lots of closing-down specials. CHOS plans on organising a car pool for the Saturday 9th July. More details shortly.

**PLANTS BENCHED AT THE APRIL MEETING:**



*Vanda Somsri Glory 'Blue'*



*Vanda Yarnisa 'Gold'*



*Paph. In Charm Silver Bell X Paph. Hsinjing*



*Dendrobium bigibbum*



*Oncidium Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'*



*Den. Hybrid*



## 12. Coffs Harbour Orchid Society Facebook

April 2022 – Currently, the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society has 268 likes and 300 followers on our Facebook page. This is up by 10 people for the last month.

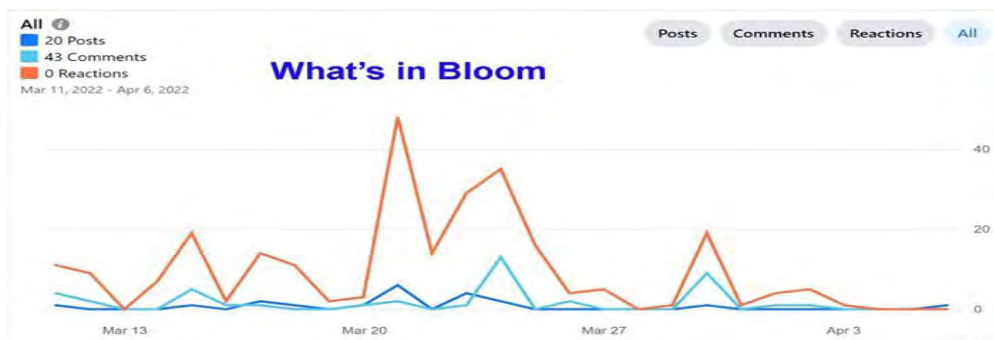
Three weeks prior to the Autumn Orchid Show we placed an ad on Facebook to let locals know of our upcoming show.

These are the results on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2022 which is at day 10 of the ad.



## 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.

## 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**

#### 14. NEW PLANT AWARDS IN 2021:

Two new AOC Awards were presented to two of our members in recent months.

Congratulations to Malcom Ide for receiving an AM for his *Stanhopea ruckeri* 'DOSKY' and to Han Schaible (Dark Star Orchids) for receiving a HCC for his *Paph. Saint Swithin* 'Dark Star'.

Details and photos are given below. (Permission obtained from OSNSW Mid North Coast Judging Panel)

PLANT NAME : *Stanhopea ruckeri* 'DOSKY'

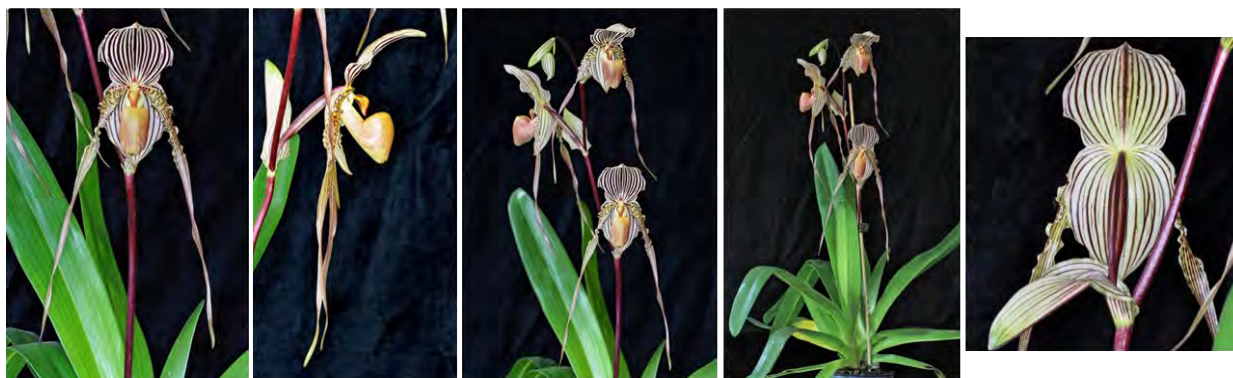
No.	Date	Plant Name. Clonal Name. Owner	Award	Shape	Colour	Size	Sub/Text	Stem	Habit	Size/Flor.	Floriferousness	TOTAL	Flower Length	Flower Width	Petals	Dorsal Sepal	Ventral Sepal	Labelum
84	14/1/2020	<i>Stanhopea ruckeri</i> 'DOSKY' - Malcom Ide	AM									80.6	85	127	67L 46W	61L 34W	27L 23W	56L 38W



**Colour. Number of flowers. Stem size. Other features** A pale colour form well presented floriferous display  
**Petals / Dorsal Sepal** - Yellow / Green 150D with slight flush of Yellow / Orange 14B on inner edge of petals, **Ventral Sepal** - Yellow / Green 150C with slight flush of Yellow / Orange 14B on inner edges of ventrals, **Labelum** - Hypochile of yellow/orange 15A, balance of lip including horns White 155C, Column mainly green 139D and column wings white 155C.

PLANT NAME : *Paphiopedilum Saint Swithin* 'Dark Star'

No.	Date	Plant Name. Clonal Name. Owner	Award	Shape	Colour	Size	Sub/Text	Stem	Habit	Size/Flor.	Floriferousness	TOTAL	Flower Length	Flower Width	Petals	Dorsal Sepal	Ventral Sepal	Labelum
83	18/11/2021	<i>Paphiopedilum Saint Swithin</i> 'Dark Star' - Dark Star Orchids	HCC									78.4	250	130	197L 13.3W	67L 25.4W	58L 55W	54L 21W



**Colour. Number of flowers. Stem size. Other features**  
 Dorsal Colours are Background of white 155D overlaid with Stripes of 177A, Petals / Dorsal / Ventral Background of Yellow Green 153B overlaid with stripes of 177A,  
 Labelum Greyed Yellow 162B with veining of Greyed—red 181B

## **15. PRESIDENTS SPEECH AT THE CHOS 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON:      Saturday 2 April 2022**

Hallo my name is Carole Davis – President of the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society, and I would like to welcome everyone to our 50<sup>th</sup>+1 Anniversary Luncheon - members, guests, friends and some of our Sponsors - Bruce Hall, Ray and Lorraine Clements from Tinonee Orchids, and Jane and Tim from Coffs Harbour Produce. A special welcome to Jody Cutajar our celebrity speaker who I will introduce properly later in the afternoon if that is OK. Our ex-Presidents are a bit light on the ground but we do have one here today – Peter Gough (whose term was at the turn of the century although he is not comfortable with that phrase !), but apologies from Ron Alexander another ex-President and Committee member for many years.

Some other apologies – Michelle Pearce, Dick and Barbara Cooper, Neville Anderson, Bill and Jenny Lennon, Malcolm Ide, Helena Axelsson, Paul Morris, Graham and Lorraine Armstrong, Steven and Felice Fripp, and Ludo Gayko. David Banks (a well-known grower and author) was the Speaker at our 40<sup>th</sup> and sends greetings. When I spoke to him last month he mentioned he lived in Carole Street (don't know how that came into the conversation) and he also had a Coelogyne Edward Pearce in flower. Ed Pearce was of course our past-President, and renowned Coelogyne tragic.

So why are we here today ? The original intention was to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> last year but COVID intervened so this is really 50+1. Some research and anecdotal history indicates that we are actually older but the official Minutes give our inception as 7 April 1971 so we will stick with the written authority – and it was indeed handwritten ! To be honest trawling through the history is a bit like starting on a PhD or finding the source of the Mekong Delta – you do a lot of swimming upstream but it is really interesting.

A bit of background, and some of you may recognise these names. A Mr W Bamfield was a large scale grower of orchids in North Boambee and instrumental in the formation of the Horticultural Society in 1950 (which became the Garden Club in 1979) and, together with Mr R Smith from Sawtell, who had been a founding member of the Sydney Orchid Club, they encouraged other locals to take up orchid culture and Coffs gained a reputation for growing more orchids than any other north coast town. Well done us.

As a result there were often more orchid growers than other members of the Horticultural Society at the meetings, and they would form what we might now refer to as a break out group to discuss orchid business, so that in 1964 there was a name change to Horticultural and Orchid Society.

As mentioned earlier, the first Minutes which indicated that our Society became a separate entity were dated 7 April 1971, with a bank balance of \$244 and the President had a casting vote – or tossed a coin ! Much more democratic today but things probably take a lot longer to resolve. A Newsletter was started in this year (a roneo-ed version on a gestetner) which this has continued to this day being well served by the Editors who have done much to keep members informed about the Society, and is a mine of information on all aspects of orchid growing. I have a 1982 copy which refers to P Baker – is that you Peter when you won an award ? Yes, indeed it is so that is a living part of our history. Now here we have the April 2022 version of our Newsletter. In colour and a bit flashy keeping up with technology.

In 1974 we supported the establishment of the Botanic Gardens and I have here a newspaper clipping of Peter Gough at the opening of the glasshouses which contained orchids, bromeliads, hoyas and similar.

Now jump to 1992 when the Coffs Harbour Orchid Conference was organised in conjunction with the Orchid Society of NSW. This was three years in the planning and coordinated by Sandy Anderson - one of our Life Members. Records indicate 7000 people attended and it was the largest orchid conference of its kind in Australia that year. We had international speakers and judges, and guess who spoke on Native Orchids – Ray Clements ! We were also supported by Societies from across Australia and there was a total of \$10,000 in prizes which was not a bad deal back then – so it was not just a little shin-dig.

Full of enthusiasm, in 1993 we started planning for another event, this time in conjunction with Woolgoolga Orchid Society, and in 1995 held an Orchid Festival, again one of the biggest outside of a capital city. Ten Societies participated in another very successful venture and we have a video with some excellent footage of the individual displays. However, the background music does leave a bit to be desired.

Our modern history has nothing quite as spectacular as a Conference or Festival, but there have been a lot of peaks, and in 2010 we launched our website which continues as an entry point for people interested in the Society and/or visitors hoping to catch up on a local orchid meeting, which is often the case. It works well because our Newsletters are uploaded so there is a lot of information and reference material always available.

Workshops were originally initiated by Gordon Clarke and Brian Newman in 2011 for new growers and gained a significant following as they were so hands-on, and I think this has underpinned our own philosophy – keep it simple, seeing is believing, plus provide Fact Sheets.

One thing we have done very well recently has been showing how resilient we are to change, even though subjected to pandemic restrictions which have impacted on our excursions, Workshops, and Shows. Despite the interruptions to our meetings when so many members were unable to show off their plants, we have had great support from those speakers who have been available. The 2021 Autumn Show did actually go ahead and we introduced a *Popular Choice* which proved to be very popular. From memory, the result was quite different to the official judging, but I suspect this is often the case, for example the Archibald Prize. The Spring Show last year was a no-go, and this was really disappointing since we had been running Shows since 1975, but the *Virtual* variation was a great success although the fragrance and impulse to ignore the *Please Do Not Touch* signs were obviously missing.

Our FaceBook presence, through the *What's In Bloom* monthly competition, has enabled members to share their magnificent plants not only within our organisation but to the outside world and that has been a bit of an eye-opener. The *Advisors Program* was ostensibly for new Members but has certainly been embraced by others looking to further their knowledge of some unfamiliar genera. Why not ?

Probably best to forget the ZOOM Committee meetings where a priority was to make sure the camera was *not* looking up your nose

We have continued with our Growing Competitions, Plant Auctions, plus the go-to Bunnings Sausage Sizzles, and we also conducted a Survey last year which indicated we are travelling in the right direction. In conjunction with Woolgoolga, we participate in the Coffs Agricultural Show and we put on a pretty good display with more freedom for artistic design than the usual judged Show - different plants and enhancements with rocks and the like. It's open to your own interpretation on the day.

Now we have some bragging rights with recent Awards to members.

Bill and Jenny Lennon have received numerous awards over the years, one of the latest being in 2018 with an Award of Merit and Australian Cultural Certificate for their *Dendrochillum tenellum* – a stunning plant. The highest cultural award given to Australian orchid growers.

Last year, Malcolm Ide's *Dendrobium Calico Twist* Mandy Lea (FCC/AOC NSW) and he also gained an AM for *Stanhopea ruckeri* 'Dosky'. At about the same time Hans Schiable received an HCC for *Paph Saint Swithin* 'Dark Star'. Congratulations – these are great achievements and I apologise if I have missed others.

A slightly different twist was when Helena Axelsson won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in a national competition run by the Australian Orchid Foundation for her essay on *Growing Orchids in a Small Space or on a Balcony*. It portrayed an excellent use of vertical space. Well done Helena.

Integral to our history, of course, are all the members (and I emphasise this) who have supported us and contributed in so many ways over the years, indeed some longer than others, including those here today - Peter Baker (38), Betty Pittaway (29), Barbara Pearce (23), and Ron and Judy Cowling (23). To Ron and Judy I apologise it has taken two years to get these Certificates laminated ! Blame it on COVID.

Bruce Hall is a Life Member and I have previously mentioned another Life Member Ed Pearce who established a *Coelogyne* breeding program which we currently manage with some success.

A BIG thank you to all our Sponsors who have continued to support us despite recent pandemic difficulties. Ludo's Old Wares (2011) was originally in Coffs then moved to Ulmarra but now he is taking his vast collection to Queensland (I cannot imagine how many truck loads – he has got a **lot** of stuff), Coffs Motors (previously Fitzroy 2011), Coffs Harbour Produce officially since 2012 but mentioned from 1990, Tinonee (2016) and they have also been around for a long time as previously noted. Shearwater Restaurant and Bruce Hall more recently added their support, so again, thank you to everyone.

In finishing, I have to offer my sincere thanks to all the Members of the Committee past and present who have worked so hard over the years, giving time and effort underpinning our Society. Some remain less visible but they all fulfil a vital role within our organisation. Certainly a lot more visible are the table decorations which have been arranged by Ann Deans who organises our Catering needs - thank you Ann, they are beautiful.

Well that is a brief resume of our history and I hope I have mentioned the salient points which will direct us for the next 50 years. I have a box full of material with heaps of snippets of information

– but that is for another time – another person. Thank you again to everyone for joining us today for our 50<sup>th</sup>+1 – I hope it has been enjoyable, informative and given you a little bit of insight into the history of our Society.

A special thank you to Jody for giving us the opportunity to travel his Brazilian Orchid Road. Finally and this is really important I need to make you aware of a new virus – **Buyantherorchiditis** -it causes poverty and the need to practice austerity with the daily purchases of food and other necessities, but the choice is yours!



Carole Davis (left), Jody Cutajar centre) and Jody, Jennifer Lock, Peter Gough and Ray Clement talking orchids at Opal Cove.



Neville Anderson displayed this *Acampe longifolia* (Syn: *Acampe rigida*) at our April meeting. As you can see from the right hand photo it is a tall plant and therefore difficult to transport. It is a warm growing native of tropical Asia.