



COFFS ORCHID NEWS – JUNE, 2022

PUBLICATION OF THE COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

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1. EDITORIAL:

A very successful two day Autumn Show was conducted over the ANZAC long weekend. Due to Covid-19 it has been twelve months since CHOS has been able to hold an orchid show. This year's Show was an outstanding success with good attendance and a fabulous array of orchids. This edition of the newsletter features the highlights of the Autumn Show.

140 plants were benched by 19 growers and these provided a colourful display of a wide variety of orchids. Despite inclement weather over the weekend many people visited the Show (a door count of 686 visitors), with numerous positive comments being received.

The Grand Champion Ribbon and Trophy was awarded to Sue Flanders for her magnificent *Bulbophyllum* Elizabeth Anne 'Buckleberry'.

The Reserve Champion went to Malcolm Ide for his spectacular *Dendrobium* Aussie's Bewitched (Den. (alexandre x polysema) X Den. macrophyllum). This plant has been recommended by the Judges for an HCC Quality Award. It also received the Steve Clemesha Trophy for the best *Dendrobium* Hybrid Not Native exhibited by a member.

The Champion Specimen of the Show was awarded to Bill and Jenny Lennon for their miniature *Epidendrum peperomia* 'Jack'. This plant was also awarded the Species Section Ribbon and the Edward Pearce Memorial Shield. Popular Vote went to Helen Seiver for her blue Vanda.

Congratulations to these growers on their excellent orchids.

We thank the Judges for their expertise and commitment to carrying out this important task. Thank you also to the North Coast Regional Botanic Gardens for the use of their venue and for their cooperation in running this Show.

Congratulations to everyone who benched plants and we especially recognise members of the Society for their outstanding efforts in making this Show a success. The staging of each Show would not be possible without the significant hours of hard work which they contributed. Your input was greatly appreciated.

Thank you to everyone for their assistance, cooperation and enthusiasm. Well done!

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**THIS IS THE
BUMPER 2022
AUTUMN SHOW
EDITION
ENJOY!**

CHOS COMMITTEE 2022**CONTACT DETAILS**

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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.

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

"

13—15 May—Coffs Agricultural Show

2 June— Member Presentations

18 June—Greenhouse Visits

9 July—Tinonee Visit

21 July—Hans Schiable— "Dendrochilums"

4 Aug—Malcolm Ide— " Growing Cymbidiums"

1 Sept—Member Presentations

13 Oct—Plant Auction

3 Nov— AGM and Elections

3 Dec—Christmas Luncheon

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

CHOS BANK DETAILS

BSB No: 533-000

ACCOUNT No: 32817199



3. PRIZE WINNERS FROM THE CHOS AUTUMN SHOW:



Grand Champion Sue Flanders with *Bulbophyllum* Elizabeth Anne 'Buckleberry'



Reserve Champion Malcom Ide receiving the Steve Clemesha Trophy and ribbon for Champion Dendrobium presented by President Carole Davis



Bill (left) and Jenny Lennon (right) with the Edward Pearce Memorial Shield presented by Carole Davis and Dick Cooper



President Carole Davis presents Champion ribbons to:

Malcolm Ide— Cymbidium

Rhonda Smith—Oncidium

Dick Cooper—Native Dendrobium



Sue Flanders with her Grand Champion ribbons



Paul, Malcom and Frank talking orchids on the sales table

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CHAMPION PLANTS AT THE CHOS 2022 AUTUMN SHOW

Photography by Paige Sinclair



**Grand Champion—*Bulbophyllum Elizabeth Anne*
'Buckleberry'. Grower: Sue Flanders
Also Champion Any Other Variety Hybrid**



**Reserve Champion: *Dendrobium Aussie's Bewitched*
Grower: Malcolm Ide**



**Champion Specimen and
Champion Species
Epidendrum peperomia 'Jack'
Grower: Bill and Jenny Lennon**





**Champion
Cymbidium:
Cymbidium
Zig Zag Kiwi
Grower: Mal Ide**

**Champion
Laeliinae
*Cattleya caud-
bec X C. Waianae*
'Leopard'
Grower: Rhonda
Smith**



**Champion
Vandaceous
Vanda Adisak
Happiness
Grower:
Rhonda Smith**





Champion Paphiopedilum
Paph. Hsinying Citron 'CH#7' X
Paph. Macabre 'Ching Hua'
 Grower: Max Mackay



Champion Oncidium
 Arth. Sea Snake
 'Unforgettable'
 Grower: Rhonda Smith



Champion Australian Native
 Hybrid
Den. (affine x bigibbum)
 'Zenith'

SHOW RAFFLE WINNERS

1ST: Ticket # Black D98

Sue Williams

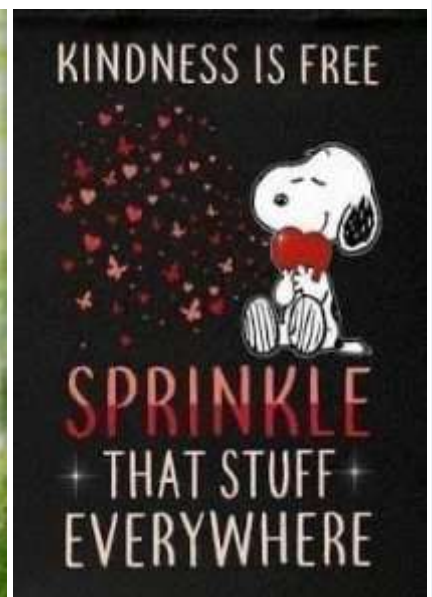
2ND: Ticket # Blue E20

Dennis

*Thanks to our raffle
 sponsors Bruce Hall and
 Paige Sinclair*



Sandy Healey and Phil Payne selling raffle tickets at the Autumn Show



4. AGENDA FOR GENERAL MEETING , 2nd JUNE, 2022:

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of May Monthly Meeting – as attached to the Newsletter
4. Correspondence - Annie Houston
5. Treasurer’s Report – Paige Sinclair
6. Sponsor’s Spot – Shearwater
7. Presentation to New Members
8. Table Talk
9. Popular Vote – Bruce Hall/ Judith Whiting
10. Results of the Growing Competition—June Judging
11. Raffle – Judith Whiting
12. General Business:

- Visits to Members ‘ Greenhouses—18th June. List of names requested
- Visit to Tinonee Orchids—9th July—Car Pool. List of names requested
- July Meeting : Hans Schaible “*Dendrochilums*” plus plant sales
- Other General Business

13 Supper Break – 15 minutes

14. Guest Speakers :
- (1) Bruce Hall—Potting Demonstration
 - (2) Dick Cooper— Staking Techniques
 - (3) Paige Sinclair—What’s in a Label?



Monthly Judges:
BOB SOUTHWELL
AND KERRIE GOSLING

5. MONTHLY MEETING PLAN:

It is suggested that you be aware of the following:

- Masks DO NOT have to be worn inside the room. However, if you feel more comfortable by wearing a mask then please do so. Hand sanitiser is available for your use.
- 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.



6. COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Committee Meeting was conducted at the North Coast Regional Botanic Gardens, Coffs Harbour, on Tuesday 12th April. Apology from Ann Deans.

- Coffs Harbour Agricultural Show—14—15th May. CHOS to conduct an orchid display. Orchids requested for the display. Set-up from 9am Friday, 13th May. Roster to be circulated.
- Full review of Autumn Show. Show Marshals' Report was tabled and consideration was given to each recommendation.
- Financial Report for Autumn Show tabled. Copy to be attached to June Newsletter.
- Eight new members approved.
- Visit to two members greenhouses will take place on Saturday, 18th June—Paige Sinclair and Helen Seiver. Details will be given in the June newsletter.
- The Society is organising a car pool to visit Tinonee Orchids on Saturday, 9th July for their final Open Day event. A list of interested members will be obtained at the June meeting.
- Discussions were held on proposed review of the Society Logo. Further discussion at June Committee meeting.
- Members will be able to put orchids up for sale at the June and the August meeting. Sale will be of a private nature between members. No commission to the Society.

7. The CHOS plans to visit Tinonee for their Open day on Saturday 9th July, 2022. The Committee asks members to take part in a car pool to assist other members to take part in the visit. The plan is to meet in the car park at Botanic Gardens and depart by 7.45pm and return by 6pm. Guest Speakers to include David Banks, Sam Cowie and Scott Barrie. Refreshments and lunch are available plus the ever popular raffle. Always a great day and highly recommended.

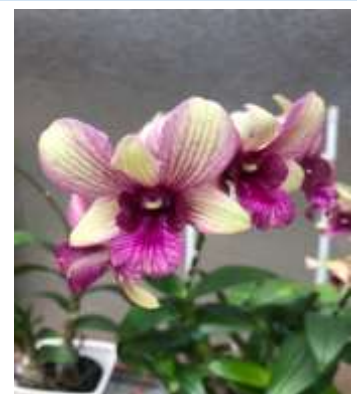


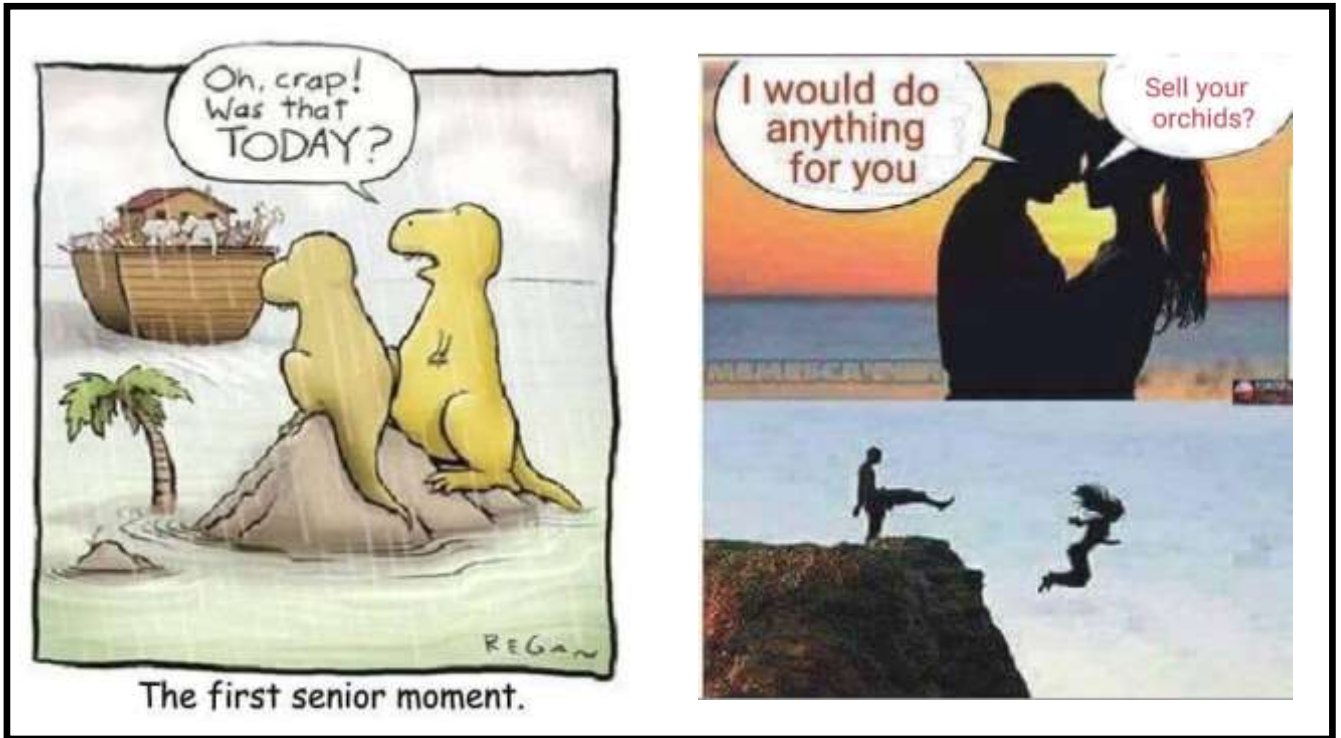
POPULAR VOTE AT THE MAY MONTHLY MEETING

Congratulations to Helen Seiver for a tied vote between her:

Left: *Bulbophyllum rothschildianum*
and

Right: *Dendrobium Burana Fancy*





9. SPONSORS SPOT: SHEARWATER RESTAURANT

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Brekkie and Modern Australian dishes in a light, upscale locale at The Promenade , Coffs Jetty, with outdoor tables and lovely views over Coffs Creek. 32 1 Harbour Drive, Coffs Harbour.

www.shearwaterrestaurant.com.au or Phone 6651 6053.

10. WHATS HAPPENING IN JUNE?

MONTHLY MEETING ON 2ND JUNE: We will see a different format for the June meeting—three speakers and three topics instead of the normal one.

1. Bruce Hall—Potting Demonstration
2. Dick Cooper—Correct Staking Techniques for your Show Plants
3. What's in a Label? Paige Sinclair

GREENHOUSE VISITS IN COFFS HARBOUR: 18TH JUNE, 2022.

CHOS members are invited to visit the orchid houses and gardens of two members on Saturday, 18th June. Afternoon tea will be provided.

Program:

1.30pm: Visit to Orchid House of Paige Sinclair at 4 Jean Street, Coffs Harbour. Tour and explanation.

2.30pm: Depart for Orchid House of Helen Seiver, 5 Zara Place, Coffs Harbour.

2.45pm: Tour of greenhouse, garden area (orchids in trees) and potting area.

4.0pm: Afternoon Tea in Helen's front patio area.

Limited numbers will apply so register at the June Monthly Meeting.

Judith Whiting, CHOS Activities Officer

11. Coffs Harbour Orchid Society Facebook

May 2022 – Currently, the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society has 291 likes and 327 followers on our Facebook page. This is up by 27 people from the last month.

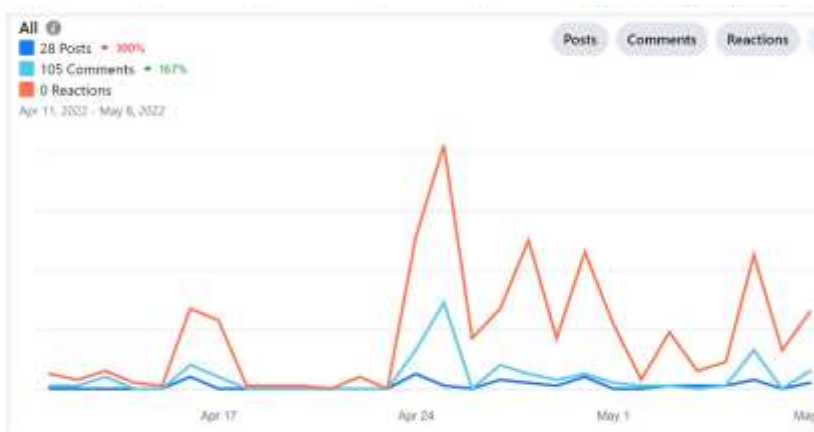
Facebook Ad Results for our Autumn Show

In total we spent \$50.00 for the results below.



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.

12. 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

WANT TO SELL OR BUY ORCHIDS? If you have orchids to sell then bring them to the June and August Monthly meetings. A table will be set aside for this purpose. These will be private sales between members and no commission will be charged by the Society. Attach a card to your plant with details and price. Native plants do not have to be tagged if sold to a member. IF YOU WISH TO BUY ORCHIDS THEN COME PREPARED WITH CASH.

13. BEGINNERS ADVICE: This Months Feature Article

By Ray Barkalon of "First Rays". Print from with permission from "First Rays".

This article on "Beginners Advice" is intended to answer "Can I grow orchids?" and "What kind?".

At one time, this was a questionnaire, but I found that a great many of the submissions led me to nearly identical responses, so I thought I'd simplify things a bit by posting the general recommendations.

To the first question, "Can I grow orchids," the answer is "Of course you can!", but as in the old psychologist jokes, "you have to want to." Most people kill orchids simply because they don't understand what the plant needs. That will be more understandable as we address the follow-up question, "What kind of orchids can I grow?"

One of the biggest problems novices get themselves into is that of buying plants they like the looks of and hoping they can grow them, rather than understanding the conditions they can readily provide, and then buying the plants that are well suited to those conditions. That sounds like it's asking a lot, but with some 20,000-30,000 natural species and countless hybrids, with very few exceptions, there are bound to be orchids that will grow under your conditions.

Another common problem is that of folks buying one or two of each a wide and disparate variety of plants before they become an experienced grower of one or two types. Orchids, being a very highly evolved group of plants, have become developed for very specific cultural niches, so conditions that are great for one may be totally wrong for another.

I typically recommend a conservative, multi-step process:

1. Read, read, and read some more. Start with the culture guides on our website, then hit the library to learn more details. The books "Orchids for Dummies", "Miracle-Gro Complete Guide to Orchids", and Better Homes & Gardens "Orchid Gardening" are all pretty good basic reference, and at about \$11-\$15, they're not too bad on the budget, either.

The key items to consider are the amount (intensity and duration) of available light, whether that's outdoors, through windows, or from artificial sources, the maximum and minimum temperatures in the growing area, and the humidity.

For most people growing in the home, the phalaenopsis, or "Moth Orchid" is a good choice, as they do not need a lot of direct light or high humidity, and prefer temperatures similar to those that people do.

2. Talk to local growers, both commercial and hobbyists. If you point your web browser to www.aos.org, the American Orchid Society website, you can look up local orchid societies and vendors. They're both great resources, as they'll know more about your local conditions than I. The Orchid Mall (www.orchidmall.com) is another great resource for identifying nearby vendors, and asking questions directly of me or of folks on the rec.gardens.orchids newsgroup is always available to you.

3. Then, and only then, go buy *one* plant. Home Depots and Lowes are good places, as even though the folks there tend to not know a thing about orchids, the prices are hard to beat!

One of the most important aspects of orchid growing – and the one that trips up beginners the most – is that of understanding the balance between watering and keeping good air flow to the roots of the plants.

Orchids, for the most part, are epiphytes that grow with their roots attached to the bark of trees, not submerged in soil. In the wild, they generally get watered frequently, but dry out quite quickly. As you're not likely to be transplanting a huge tree to your living room so you can attach orchids to

them, we have to find a way to simulate the conditions for the home. Most often, for growing plants in pots, we utilize pieces of fir bark, coconut husk or loose sphagnum moss – singly or in combination, and often with other additives – to provide a moist but airy environment for the roots. There are two aspects of the growing medium that you must pay attention to: the moisture-holding capacity and the degree of packing, which controls the air flow to the root system.

While you are researching your preferred orchids, pay attention to the recommended growing conditions and to the plant structure. If the plant has pseudobulbs, it can probably do fine if the medium is permitted to dry out between waterings, while those without pseudobulbs should be kept evenly moist, but not sopping. It seems that everything about orchid culture is a matter of degrees, not a concrete rule. For example, both cattleyas and oncidiums have pseudobulbs, but have different watering needs: a cattleya, with its thick rigid leaves can stand relatively long periods of “drought,” while an oncidium, having thin, strap-like leaves, will lose more water through transpiration, so requires more frequent watering.

When buying plants, and later in your ownership of them, check how densely the medium is packed. If it looks like it provides little room for airflow to the roots, avoid buying it, or repot.

4. Once you feel you’re doing OK with that plant, consider buying more of that type – probably with different coloured flowers – and get really comfortable with them, especially proven by your ability to have them bloom again.

5. After that, then you might consider other genera, and really expanding your collection. WATCH OUT! Orchid collecting can be wildly addictive!

As you do your research, you may find some seemingly conflicting information, such as “Grow Cool to Hot” or “Full Sun to Deep Shade”. So how are you supposed to interpret that?

If you are like me, we seek out a lot of our orchid culture information online (I always go to Jay Pfahl’s Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia (IOSPE) website first). In those online references, you’ll often see very broad ranges of cultural conditions mentioned, sort-of like my subtitle above. So what is that telling you?

Many interpret that type of cultural guidance to mean the plant can handle pretty much anything. However, there are more things to be considered when interpreting that information.

Knowing that orchids are very highly evolved, and that each has its own “niche”, we should consider that it may mean that the populations in nature may come from a wide variety of different conditions, not that an individual plant will tolerate all of the above. You may have one that grows hot, while another might prefer cold, depending upon its source.

Good references will tell you geographically where the plant originates, and at what altitude it can typically be found. The “where” part can give you some idea of the typical temperatures and humidity levels, as well as possible seasonality, but the “altitude” part may lend information about changing the conditions and adding day-night variations to the mix.

Let’s start with seasonality. Species native to equatorial regions may be exposed to pretty much the same temperatures and humidity levels all year. Both will tend to be higher than those seen in more temperate regions, but local conditions can still vary. A plant growing farther from the equator, on the other hand, will see seasonal variation (and likely lower levels) of both, and changes in light levels as well. We are aware that light intensity decreases as one moves from summer to winter, but plants growing in deciduous forests may actually see an increase in light in the winter.

Then there is diurnal range – that phalaenopsis species growing close to sea level near the equator will likely see similar daily highs and lows year round. whereas a Mexican laelia growing at high elevation might see highs in the 80°s and lows in the upper 30°s! The Baker’s orchidculture.com website

is a fantastic place to get such information on species.

OK, so how do we deal with such information?

First, learn before you buy! Don't acquire a plant that simply cannot tolerate your conditions. However, if you simply have got to have it, start somewhere in the middle, growing the plant in intermediate temperatures and partial shade for several weeks to a couple of months, and observe. Are the leaves getting darker? Consider increasing the light levels. If not, but is the new growth is elongating, getting "leggy"? It's probably too warm.

Keep heat dissipation in mind, as well. A plant grown brighter will absorb more solar energy, and will turn more of it into heat, so it may need to be grown cooler to compensate.

With patience, experimentation, and good powers of observation, you will likely find the "right" conditions for such wide-ranging plants, and can probably "push your limits" as you gain experience.

(Editors Note: Please be aware this is an American article and refers to USA stores and prices)



**Show Room photographs
from the Coffs Autumn Show.
Photos taken by Bill Lennon.**

