

COFFS ORCHID NEWS – JULY, 2022

PUBLICATION OF THE COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

P.O. Box 801, Coffs Harbour. NSW 2450 Email: chorchidsociety@gmail.com Web: www.coffsorchidsociety.org.au

1. REVIEW OF COFFS HARBOUR AGRCULTURAL SHOW

13-15 MAY 2022

Firstly, thank you to everyone who participated by bringing plants and to the ten members who volunteered for the Roster. We put on a pretty good display with 48 orchids (thanks to Bob for counting them), plus a small vase of good old Crucifix for added colour and, as usual, we received lots of very positive comments about the display and the variety of plants on show. It always amazes me how many people *have* orchids but don't necessarily *grow* them – they have been inherited or received as gifts and, as we know, these plants have the ability to withstand some very ordinary care – or sometimes not!

The fact that the set-up time was on Friday the 13th may not have been a good omen but at least it wasn't raining, although Wellington boots were a good choice for ploughing through the mud. Our position at the back of the hall was certainly not ideal but having the banana display adjacent was a plus as people gravitated towards some *freebies*. The Exhibition Hall was supposed to close officially at 9pm but that was never going to be the case (according to the Hall Marshal) so our Roster up until 6pm worked well.

For the time and effort expended, I do think it is worthwhile to gain some additional exposure and also support this local Show, particularly as the roster volunteers received free entry to the Show with no hassle at all. I suspect that there may have been a few more visitors through the hall because the small animal farm for children was located nearby, plus the Snake Man, and the sheep dogs were showing their skills.

Again, thank you to everyone who participated in our display, and who visited and supported the Coffs Harbour Agricultural Show.

Carole Davis 17 May 2022 AGRICULTURAL SHOW PHOTOS PAGE 3



-	INDEX:		
to	1. Ag Show Review		
tty	2. Calendar		
s a re-	3. Ag. Show Photos		
ety	4. Joke Time		
ids red	5. July Meeting Agenda		
me	6. Monthly Meeting Plan		
n a ere	7. Committee Report		
ack ent	8. Tinonee Open Day		
ion to	9. Popular Vote		
om	10. Sponsors Spot - Coffs Produce		
me :he	11. What's Hap- pening in July?		
. I nall	12. Facebook Report		
he	13. Bark Supplies		
'no	14. Feature Article		
	15. Greenhouse Visits		
	16. Plant Profile		
1	17. Bits and Pieces		
200	18. Financial Rpt.		

19. June Meeting Minutes

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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. <u>www.shearwaterreastaurant.com.au</u> 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, 2022

- 18 June–Greenhouse Visits
- 9 July-Tinonee Visit-Car Pool
- 21 July—Hans Schiable— "Dendrochilums"
- 4 Aug— Malcolm Ide " Growing Cymbidiums"
- 1 Sept— Dick Cooper and Paige Sinclair
- 13 Oct—Plant Auction Bruce Hall, Auctioneer.
- 3 Nov— AGM and Elections— Guest Speaker TBA
- 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. PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE COFFS HARBOUR AGRICULTURAL SHOW ORCHID DISPLAY



Den. Lady Gem x Den. bigibbum 'Stella'



C. Chocolate Drop 'Kodama' x Blc Mount Sylvan 'David Littman'



Paph. insigne



Lc. Little Suzie



Den. Dal's Pixie x Den. (Dal's Queen x Autumn Splendour)



Paph. spicerianum



Den. Candy Stripe



Vanda Unknown



Coelogyne tomentosa



Coelogyne tomentosa flower



Robiquetia cerina



Open flowers of R. cerina



Coelogyne ovalis



Phalaenopsis Unknown



Vanda Somsri Glory 'Blue'



Bc. Little Mermaid 'Janet'

4. <u>JOKE TIME:</u>

THE PERFECT HUSBAND

Several men are in the locker room of a golf club. A cellular phone on a bench rings and a man engages the hands-free speaker function and begins to talk. Everyone else in the room stops to listen. MAN: "Hello"

WOMAN: "Hi Honey, it's me. Are you at the club?"

MAN: "Yes."

WOMAN: "I'm at the shops now and found this beautiful leather coat. It's

only \$2,000; is it OK if I buy it?"

MAN: "Sure, go ahead if you like it that much."

WOMAN: "I also stopped by the Lexus dealership and saw the new models.

I saw one I really liked."

MAN: "How much?"

WOMAN: "\$90,000.";

MAN: "OK, but for that price I want it with all the options."

WOMAN: "Great! Oh, and one more thing... I was just talking to Janie and

found out that the house I wanted last year is back on the market. They're asking \$980,000 for it."

MAN: "Well, then go ahead and make an offer of \$900,000. They'll probably

take it. If not, we can go the extra eighty-thousand if it's what you

really want."

WOMAN: "OK. I'll see you later! I love you so much!"

MAN: "Bye! I love you, too."

The man hangs up. The other men in the locker room are staring at him in astonishment, mouths wide open.

He turns and asks, "Anyone know who's phone this is."?

A man in Sydney walked into the produce section of his local supermarket and asked to buy half a head of lettuce. The boy working in the produce department told him that they only sold whole heads of lettuce.

The man was insistent that the boy ask the manager about the matter. Walking into the back room, the boy said to the manager, "Some old bastard outside wants to buy half a head of lettuce". As he finished his sentence, he turned around to find that the man had followed and was standing right behind him, so the boy quickly added, "and this gentleman kindly offered to buy the other half".

The manager approved the deal and the man went on his way.

Later, the manager said to the boy, "I was impressed with the way you got yourself out of that situation earlier, we like people who can think on their feet here, where are you from son?" "New Zealand, sir," the boy replied.

"Why did you leave New Zealand?" the manager asked.

The boy said, "Sir, there's nothing but prostitutes and rugby players there"

"Is that right?" replied the manager, "My wife is from New Zealand!"

"Really?" replied the boy, "Who did she play for?"

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I was just pulled over by the police and when the officer walked up to my window he said "papers". I called "scissors – I win" and drove off but I think he wants a rematch because he has been following me the last 20 km.

5. AGENDA FOR GENERAL MEETING , 21st JULY, 2022:

1. Welcome AND 2. Apologies 3. Minutes of June Monthly Meeting – as attached to the Newsletter 4. Correspondence - Annie Houston 5. Treasurer's Report – Paige Sinclair 6. Sponsor's Spot – Coffs Harbour Produce 7. Presentations to New Members 8. Table Talk 9. Popular Vote – Bruce Hall/ Judith Whiting 10. Results of the Growing Competition—July Judging 11. Raffle – Judith Whiting 12. General Business: - August Meeting—"Cymbidiums" - Member plant sales at August meeting - Spring Show—Set-up on Fri. 9th Sept, Show on 10th– 11th Sept - Other General Business 13 Supper Break – 15 minutes

14. Guest Speaker: Hans Schaible "Dendrochilums" (plus plant sales)

6. 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.



Monthly Judges:

MALCOLM IDE

BOB SOUTHWELL



7. COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Committee Meeting was conducted at the North Coast Regional Botanic Gardens, Coffs Harbour, on Tuesday 7th June, 2022.

- 1. The June meeting consisted of three member presentations. These speakers presented three excellent talks and demonstrations Thanks to Bruce, Dick and Paige. It has been decided that for future meetings one or two speakers will be sufficient on the night.
- 2. Report tabled from Carole Davis on the successful Agricultural Show display.
- 3. The designs were confirmed for future Orchid Show Ribbons.
- 4. Carole Davis reported that the Welcome Brochure design was nearly completed. Waiting on confirmation of the Society Logo before printing takes place.
- 5. Society Logo— Has always been a design based on *Dendrobium kingianum*. Waiting on completion of art work before designs are selected.
- 6. Bunning BBQ—no date from Bunnings. Decided CHOS only needed to take part in Bunnings fund raising if they had a specific project or program to fund. Consideration will be given to special projects (such as Plant Mounting Workshop) during 2023.
- 7. Consideration to be given to funding the full costs of a members Christmas Lunch.
- 8. New Orchiata Bark has been received. Available from Paige Sinclair.
- 9. Visit to members Greenhouses- Saturday 18th June from 1.30pm
- 10. Tinonee Visit—9th July—car pool. Judith Whiting is in charge of the organisation.
- 11. Spring Show Schedule tabled for approval (10-11th Sept). Prize money increased.

Next Committee Meeting will be held at Botanic Gardens on 26th July, 2022.

8. 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.





9. POPULAR VOTE AT THE JUNE MONTHLY MEETING

Congratulations to Paige Sinclair and to Malcolm Ide for sharing this months Popular Vote.

Paige's *Fdk.* Turning Point 'Green Goddess' x *Ctsm.* De Etta-Harris 'Emerald Green'

Malcolm's Den. spectabile



This hit home for me. Someone posted this in the Florida Orchid Growers group and I thought our members might find this useful! When a flashlight grows dim or quits working, do you just throw Vutritional it away? Of course not. You disability change the batteries. 🖌 When a ON LEAVES 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. 💕

10. <u>SPONSORS SPOT:</u> Coffs Harbour Produce.

Coffs Harbour Produce is at 26 June Street in Coffs Harbour. They carry a good range of fertilisers, insecticides and fungicides for orchids, as well as general garden needs. If you need orchid or other gardening advice then talk to the stores experts.

Phone 02 6652 2599.

11. WHATS HAPPENING IN JULY?

MONTHLY MEETING will not be held on the normal night on the first Thursday of July. Due to the Display Room at the Botanic Gardens being used for an exhibition, it is necessary to postpone the July meeting until after the NSW School Holidays. It will now be conducted on Thursday, 21st July, starting at 7.30pm. Hans Schaible from Dark Star Orchids will be the Guest Speaker and will give an illustrated talk on the Genus *Dendrochilum*. Hans will have plants from "Dark Star" for sale before the meeting and during the supper break. If you require something special then give Hans or Sue a call on 02 6564 4088 or check out their website at www.darkstarorchids.com.au.

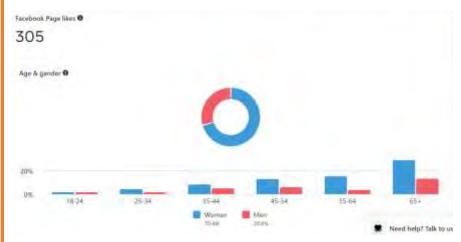
VISIT TO TINONEE ORCHIDS OPEN DAY: Saturday, 9th July, 2022

See the advert on Page 6 of this newsletter. If you are interested in going then contact Judith Whiting on 0438 187 028. Vehicles will depart from the Botanic Gardens car park from 7.45am. A confirmation of arrangements message will be sent prior to the event to those who have indicated they wish to attend.

GET READY FOR YOUR SPRING POTTING: We have had some cold nights in recent weeks but as we passed the Winter Solstice at the end of June (21st) the days will start to get longer and will warm up as we approach Spring. You need to prepare yourself for repotting at least half of your orchid collection. The plants will respond to the new mix and it will give you the opportunity to inspect each plant and attend to any problems you may encounter. You may also find you have extra plants that you no longer need so you can put these aside for the sales table or donate to the October Auction. You will need new Orchiata bark, perhaps new pots and new labels. See Paige for your bark supplies and Dark Star or Tinonee for your other hardware.

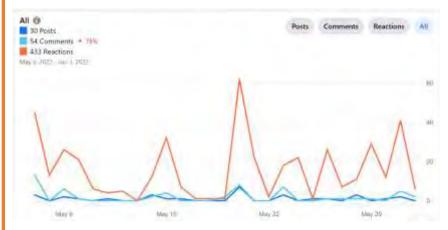
12. Coffs Harbour Orchid Society Facebook: By Paige Sinclair

June 2022 – Currently, the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society has 305 likes. This is up by 14 people from the last month. (No longer does Facebook show total followers) The image below shows the breakup by age and gender.



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. Some fresh supplies have arrived so get in early before the Spring rush.

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

Remember if you desire quality plants then always use quality potting mix.

We are expecting a price increase for future stock, so talk to Paige and get you supplies now.

Request from Paul Morris (email: mozzy@iinet.net.au) to purchase a plant of the hybrid *Calanthe* William Murray. If you have a plant for sale or can help Paul in any way then drop him an email.

WANT TO SELL OR BUY ORCHIDS? If you have orchids to sell then bring them to the August Monthly meeting. 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 <u>not</u> have to be tagged if sold to a member. IF YOU WISH TO BUY ORCHIDS THEN COME PREPARED WITH CASH.

14. TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR AN ORCHID GROWER (Ernest Hetherington)

This is an extract from the KOS Bulletin and is used with permission from Jim Brydie/KOS

Adapted from an article by Ernest Heatherington in NEWS 'N VIEWS, May 1993. Ernest was famous in orchid circles and made many ground breaking hybrids in both Cymbidium and Cattleya. He was associated first with Stewart Orchids and later Armacost and Royston, both very famous nurseries. He was a judge, and gave many talks to growers all around the world. He died in 2016 aged 99 after a distinguished career in orchids..

JB: I saw this great article recently repeated in a copy of the Atherton Tablelands OS bulletin, and having reached a point in my life when I can really attest to the truth in these commandments, I thought others might also benefit from a stop and think.

1. LEARN BASIC GOOD CULTURE

An average orchid, well grown, will give you better flowers than a fine variety poorly grown. When breeding is set for a particular plant, it cannot be changed. The full potential of that variety can only be developed through good culture. As simple as it may sound, learn how to water the various genera (they don't all have the same needs), learn how to feed and adjust light. Do not be continuously experimenting with new mixes, feeding procedures and all sorts of techniques until you have learned the basics. Develop a good relationship with growers whose opinions you respect, and who have demonstrated their skills. Listen to them. Wait until you have proven for yourself that you have mastered the basics of good culture before you start to revolutionise the orchid world.

2. PROVIDE GOOD GROWING FACILITIES

Don't try raising orchids under adverse conditions unless absolutely necessary. It is "getting the cart before the horse" if you spend money on orchid plants before you have proper facilities.

3. WATCH FOR "CREEPING OBSOLESCENCE"

An orchid collection is forever changing. Your interests do not remain the same. What you liked yesterday will not be your favourite tomorrow. As you build your collection, you will find you tastes become more refined and selective.

Realise that you have just so much space, time, energy, and money to spend. Get the most satisfaction and pleasure from your orchids. *If you have plants that you know are diseased or not doing well, get rid of them*.

Good orchid plants are no longer expensive. Make sure that every plant produces well and gives you blooms that you desire. Most of your plants should flower every season; otherwise you have a non-blooming boarder. Give it a fair trial under various conditions. If it still doesn't flower well for you, *get rid of it*. There are other plants waiting to take its place.

Do you have a plant that flowers well for you, but has inferior flowers? You have divided it. Now you have a dozen plants of the same variety? Give some away to someone starting in the hobby. Make room for better quality. Keep upgrading your collection and you will get more pleasure out of it.

4. LEARN ABOUT DISEASE IDENTIFICATION AND PEST CONTROL

Learn aseptic techniques. There are some good articles and books in your library on this subject. Orchids have certain diseases that can be easily spread. What a shame to have a beautiful and perhaps expensive variety become infected with virus merely because you did not learn virus prevention.

Learn basic pest control. Common orchid scale is so easily identified and eradicated with modern insecticides. Learn what a red spider looks like and be on alert for it. How often are beautiful blooms eaten by slugs and snails, and yet there are so many effective baits available. As for aseptic technique, do not cut your flowers until you have sterilised your cutting tools. There are good chemical sterilisers available.

5. BUY GOOD STOCK

Don't be "penny wise and pound foolish" by trying to fill your collection too quickly and too cheaply. You get what you pay for. Good orchids are no longer expensive. There are so many reputable growers who have seed-lings of excellent breeding as well as flowering size plants and small divisions that cost very little. A collection of fine varieties can be so much more rewarding.

6. LEARN ABOUT NAMES AND WATCH YOUR LABELING

You get so much more pleasure if you learn a little about orchid names. How are orchids named? How are they registered? Learn what makes an *L*. or a *Blc*. or a *Den*. Keep your plants well labelled. A plant without identity loses so much of its value.

7. BEWARE OF GIFT PLANTS

If you are just starting, beware of the plant that your neighbour gives you because he cannot flower it. Be sure the gift given to you is worthy of your attention. Most plants you win at your society's plant drawings are of excellent quality and from reputable growers. However, beware of plants donated by well-meaning amateurs that are not aware of disease or other conditions.

8. SPECIALISE

Orchidology is vast and varied. There are many fields of endeavour. The basic rule is grow what you like.

You may get the greatest pleasure in hybridising and growing your own seedlings to first flowering. You may wish to grow nothing but the finest selected or awarded varieties. You may decide to grow only cattleyas, or dendrobiums, or cymbidiums, or paphiopedilums, or only species.

9. BUILD A GOOD LIBRARY

You will get pleasure from your orchids in direct proportion to your knowledge of what you are doing. There are so many questions to be answered that a good library is advisable. You can go as far as you wish here, depending on how much of a biophile you might be. A few of the basic books might be all that is needed.

(JB: even though the internet has replaced books for many of you, you will find that when you really want to learn about Cattleyas, or Catasetums, or Coelias, or any narrower subject, specialist treatises on focussed topics like these still only come in books. Don't write off the need for a paper based library just yet.)

10. JOIN YOUR LOCAL ORCHID SOCIETY

When you join your local orchid society you will receive many benefits. If you attend the monthly meetings, there is always a lecture or commentary of general interest. The personal contacts you make are of great value too. By working with others who share your interest, you can multiply the benefits you get from your orchid collection.

15. VISITS TO TWO MEMBERS GREENHOUSES:

On Saturday 18th June, CHOS members visited the amazing greenhouses and orchid collections of Paige Sinclair and Helen Seiver. An informative afternoon was enjoyed by everyone.



Matt Connell talking orchids to Helen Seiver in her greenhouse



Kerrie, Paige, Frank and Bruce outside Paige's greenhouse



Right: Helen's display area



16. PLANT PROFILE—Psychopsis

Psychopsis (Pyp.) is an orchid genus containing four known species (*Pyp. Papilio, P. krameriana, P. sanderae and P. versteegii*). Recent literature suggests there are at least 17 registered hybrids. They are native to Central and the northern part of South America and to Trinidad. They are often called Butterfly Orchids as the flower shape resembles that insect. The *Psychopsis* genus is a member of the Oncidiinae alliance.

One of the remarkable features of this orchid is the ability of the flower stalk to continue to produce flowers over a four to five year span. A single flower usually lasts up to ten days and then a few days later is replaced by another growing from a bud behind the first flower. Flowering usually last many months and some plants have flowered for most of the year. Never cut the flower stalk until you are certain it is dead.



The plants have a temperature range of 15 to 32 degrees C but will tolerate temperatures outside this range for short periods. Good air movement is important. *Psychopsis* require medium light levels and flowers may be smaller and the colour less intense if light is too bright. Humidity should be high, around 80 to 85% RH. Plants like moist condi-

tions but should be allowed to nearly dry out between waterings.



Psychopsis papilio

Pyp. Papilio var. alba `Ruby'

Some growers prefer sphagnum moss as the potting medium but they seem to grow just as well in a bark mixture. They should be repotted each year as they respond to a fresh mix.

cies orchids (Pyp. Mendenhall 'Hildos', Pyp. Kalihi, and Pyp. Mariposa, etc.) Fully gown plants can be expensive but these make a wonderful addition to any orchid collection.

1 -10-0408 2390 SW 4th Ave, Ontario en things feel too overwhelming SINGLES AD The following ad appeared in remember: the Atlus in these SINGLE BLACK FEMALE seeks Structure BLAC IN TERMALE seems male companionship. Ethnicity bot important. I'm a very good looking girl who LOVES to play. I love long walks in the woods, riding in your pickup trock, hunting, camping and fialting trips, cozy winter nights lying, by the fire. Candlelight dianers will by the fire. Candlelight dianers will have me eating out of your hand. When you get home from work Pll be at the front door wearing only what nature gave mc. Call (404) 555-1212 and ask for Daisy. Over 1500 men found · One day at a time ted arapes themselves talking to the Atlanta Humane Society about One task at a time ine Tive got ine for dinne an S-week old black Labrador ·One thought at a time . One moment at a time retriever.

The Editor is always on the lookout for orchid photos, photos of plants in your greenhouse or on display in your home. Please email anytime to bssouthwell@bigpond.com or send attached to a text to 0417 695 834.

Please include a photo of the label or the name written as text. Thank you.

Other members will appreciate it.

17. BITS AND PIECES:

- Consider reducing the amount of water you are applying to your orchids during Winter. Temperatures are lower, the sun is less intense and plant growth is slower so a plants needs in relation to water and fertilizer are less than when it is actively growing. For plants from monsoonal areas, Winter is usually a dry period and they require little water during this time. Members of the Catasetinae group of orchids do not need any water over the non-growing period and should not be watered until active roots appear in Spring.
- Wet and damp conditions promote fungal growth especially if the growing media remains wet for long periods. Spraying the plants with Antirot with help control root rotting fungus in the potting mix. Also spraying Alginox on plants, benches and floors will help improve the overall hygiene in your greenhouse.
- Straight off the Orchid Press is the news that 14 orchid genera will be added to the current Coelogyne genus. Dendrochilum and Pholidota (Rattlesnake orchids) are two well known groups that will now become Coelogyne. There is some confusion with the final plant names but get ready because it has all been approved by the world orchid boffins.
- The CHOS will conduct a massive plant Auction at their October meeting. While you are repotting in early Spring you may be able to put aside some orchids for donation to the auction. This will assist new growers get hold of quality plants and help to improve the Society funds.
- Your Phalaenopsis would have been going through their chilling phase in the last month or so and they should soon be showing signs of new flower spikes. Don't forget to train these spikes by staking with bamboo stakes or using pliable wire. You should aim for a nice arching spike that will display the flowers properly and look attractive on the Show bench. Don't tie the spike above the bottom flower and don't tie on the flower ovary. You may need to use a spacer (plastic label with a notch in each end) to separate the swelling buds so your flower does not have a bunched appearance. Remember to take out the spacer before the plant goes on the Show bench.
- Use Trisodium Phosphate to sterilize your secateurs, scissors or any cutting implements. Sold at Bunnings as "Tricleanium". Very alkaline so take care with skin and eyes.



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.

As you get older. you'll realize that a \$300 watch and a \$300 watch both tell the same time.

A Michael Kors wallet and a Forever 21 wallet hold the same amount of money.

A \$300,000 house and a \$100,000 house host the same loneliness.

A Ford will also drive you as far as a Bentley.

True happiness is not found in materialistic things. It comes from the love and laughter found with each other.

Stay humble. the holes dug for un in the ground are all the same size.