



COFFS ORCHID NEWS MARCH, 2023

PUBLICATION OF THE COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

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1. EDITORIAL:

The Society conducted a very successful February General Meeting to commence the 2023 orchid year. The meeting was well attended and many new growers were present. The overall aim of the talk, given by Paige and Bob, was to make suggestions on selecting a plant suitable for Coffs Harbour; choosing a plant pot, making up a suitable potting mix and methods of potting various orchids. A brief summary of the talk is featured in this edition of Orchid News. A lot of positive feedback has been received following the meeting and the Society is keen to continue a series of talks that cover the basics of orchid culture.

In March, Bruce Hall will present a talk on growing and repotting *Stanhopea* orchids. Also known as Upside Down Orchids because many produce flowers from the bottom of the basket they are growing in. Many of our members have *Stanhopea's* in their collections so this session on the 2nd March will be useful for all growers.

In April, Paige and Bob will present the second part of "Back to Basics" where they will address the major cultural needs of orchids and how you can provide these for the plants in your orchid collection. Again, we recommend that new growers will benefit from attending this meeting.

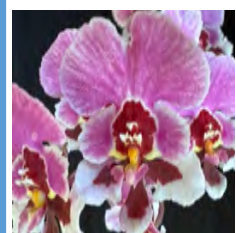
During February two of the Society's committee members tendered their resignation due to ongoing health issues. Annie Houston and Judith Whiting have resigned from their Committee positions but intend to still take an active role in the CHOS activities. Thank you to both Annie and Judith for their service and dedication to the Society. They have both worked hard to make the Society more productive and meaningful for all the members. We wish Annie and Judith all the best for the future.

The Committee has reallocated the duties performed by Annie and Judith and have commenced the process of finding two new Committee members.

Activities Organiser, Frank Pappalardo, has analysed the results of the member surveys conducted at the February meeting and will put forward a number of proposals for involvement of members in some short term and longer term activities. Frank is enthusiastically planning activities which will provide member social interaction and orchid education. He has identified four projects for this year—a member's BBQ and get together; bush walking in Dorrigo National Park; visit to Rosella Orchids and a four day coach trip to Toowoomba and the Gold Coast. More details, in the near future.

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SPONSORS**SHEARWATER RESTAURANT**

Brekkie and Modern Australian dishes in a bright, upscale location 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 .

DARK STAR ORCHIDS

Dark Star Orchids. 0416 195832 or (02) 65644088.

Hans and Sue run a small nursery west of Bowraville. They specialise in rare, unusual and hard to find species of many orchids particularly Bulbophyllums, Dendrochilums, Stanhopeas, Coelogynes and lots of other genera

www.darkstarorchids.com.au

email darkstarorchids@skymesh.com.au

BRUCE HALL

Bruce provides raffle prizes for Autumn and Spring Shows.

OFFICE WORKS

Officeworks carries an excellent range covering all stationery needs, computers/monitors/printers, and associated technology. They sell a wide range of smart phones and watches, plus furniture and workspace solutions. If you are looking for low prices on everyday essentials, it's all there at Home Base, Coffs Harbour. Phone 66 919100 or check out the full range at officeworks.com.au.

LUDO'S OLD WARES, ULMARRA (See Page 8)

Deals with old wares and collectables — 0402 044 601

CALENDAR, 2023

2 Mar 2023—March Meeting—
Bruce Hall—"Repotting Stanhopeas"

6 April 2023— "Back To Basics—
Plant Needs, etc"

22-23 Apr 2023—Autumn Show

4 May 2023—Paige Sinclair
"Plant Labels"

1 June 2023— Dick Cooper—
"Using OrchidWiz"

20 July 2023—Hans Schaible—
New Bulbophyllums

3 Aug 2023— Member
Presentations

9-10 Sept 2023—Spring Show

5 Oct—Plant Auction

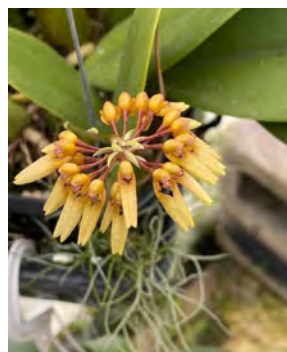
2 Nov – AGM

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

CHOS BANK DETAILS

BSB No: 533-000

ACCOUNT No: 32817199



3. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT:

Report from the Committee Meeting held on 7th Feb, 2023 at NCRB Gardens.

1. Approval given to payment of insurance costs to OSNSW to cover CHOS members participating in Society activities during 2023.
2. New supplies of bark to be ordered in cooperation with WDOS. Due to rising costs and difficulties with supply of Orchiata bark it has been necessary to change brands and purchase Kiwi Bark which is sold in 50 Litre bags. Like Orchiata bark, this is a very high quality bark and all growers will see benefits from its use.
3. Committee resignation letters were received from Annie Houston and Judith Whiting. The resignations were accepted with regret. Annie and Judith were thanked for their outstanding service to CHOS and wished a quick recovery from their health issues.
4. The Committee to investigate possible candidates to fill the two Committee positions. The tasks performed by Annie and Judith were reallocated to existing Committee members as a temporary measure.
5. Membership fees are now overdue and expected to be paid by March. Members who have not paid by March will not receive an April Newsletter.
6. New Members Approved—Dean Bonvente and Lyn Hales.
7. Sponsors—Ludo’s Old Wares at Ulmarra has rejoined as a CHOS Sponsor. Welcome back!
8. Report from Frank Pappalardo on the analysis of the member’s survey from the February meeting.
9. Library, Suppliers, Website and Sponsor Policies were reviewed and updated. Changes were approved.
10. Bunnings BBQ - training session on 28th Feb. Paige and Frank to attend.
11. Autumn Orchid Show Schedule and Duties tabled for approval at the March meeting.
12. Coffs Harbour Agricultural Show—change of date to 13th —15th October, 2023.
13. Next Committee meeting on 7th March at 10.30am at NCRBG.

**JUDGES FOR 2nd MAR
MONTHLY MEETING**

PETER GOUGH

LEONIE EVERITT



**I said I was good at
making decisions. I didn't
say the decisions I made
were good.**

4. JOKES: (from Frank Pappalardo)

An antique art dealer was on holidays and noticed a big black cat drinking milk from a saucer that he recognised as a valuable antique. Since the cat was outside a barber's shop, he asked the barber if it was his, and he said it was.

So he said to the barber, "I like that cat and will pay you \$10 for it". The barber said " No way mate, my children love that cat and will be disappointed if I sell it".

So the dealer offered him \$20.

The barber said "Look, my wife loves that cat too, and if I sell it she will divorce me".

So the dealer offered him \$30.

The barber said "all my customers love that cat and I will lose business if I sell it".

This went on until the barber agreed to sell the cat for \$100.

The dealer handed over the \$100, then lifted the cat up with his left hand and bent down to pick up the saucer with his right hand.

The barber was looking, so the dealer said " you don't mind if I take that old saucer home with me so that the cat will feel at home drinking from it?".

The barber replied "not on your life, that saucer is my lucky omen. Since I have had it I have sold fifty cats".

oooOOOooo

When the Pope visited Mexico, he noticed a little boy who had no shoes. He asked him what size he was so that he could send him a pair from Rome. The little boy said "15".

The Pope asked "How old are you?" The boy said "7 years".

The Pope said "Why would you need size 15 if you are only 7 years old?".

The boy replied " Because by the time you send them, I will need a size 15".

**New seatbelt design:
45% less car accidents!!**



**HERE, YOU DROPPED
THIS. IT'S YOUR**

**SENSE OF
HUMOR**

**YOU LOST IT WHEN YOU
PICKED UP THAT GIANT
BAG OF HOW IMPORTANT
YOUR OPINION IS**

DON'T FORGET YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW OVERDUE AND MUST BE PAID BY MARCH, 2023. PAY BY DIRECT DEPOSIT THIS WEEK. SEE PAGE 2 FOR BANK DETAILS. IF YOU VALUE YOUR MEMBERSHIP THEN PLEASE PAY ASAP.

5. ORCHID FAIRS AND CONFERENCES, 2023

The Qld International Orchid Fair is an amazing orchid fair staged at the end of February each year. Formally at Beenleigh in Qld and now re-located to a better venue at Belmont, Qld. Many of Australia's top orchid vendors will be present. It's on the last weekend this month and well worth the trip. →

Free Admission

Woolgoolga District Orchid Society Inc.

2 Day

Orchid Conference/Workshop

Sat. November 18 & Sun. 19

Sat. 9.00am to 3.00pm Sun. 9.00am to 3.30pm

At the NEW **WIIGULGA SPORTS COMPLEX**
Solitary Islands Way, Woolgoolga

- 8 World-renowned Speakers
- Cultural Advice
- Potting Demonstrations
- Participants invited to bring 2 Flowering Orchids for Popular Vote Judging
- Coffee Shop onsite

Nurserymen's Orchids on Sale Prizes to be Won!

For more information contact - woolgoolgaorchidsociety@gmail.com

News from Woolgoolga District Orchid Society— This year their Spring Show will be held over two days on the first weekend in October and will be staged in the newly opened Wiigulga Sports Complex.

As you can see from the flyer on the left, this year's Orchid Conference will be also held over two days with eight amazing speakers. Congratulations to WDOS on this initiative. All CHOS members should note these dates in their diary as these are events well worth attending. Hope to see you there.

OTHER DATES TO NOTE:

Mingara Orchid Show and Fair— Mingara Recreation Club, Tumbi Umbi. 24th to 25th June, 2023

Tweed Heads Show and Fair—4—5 November (TBC)

6. PAPH'S FROM RHONDA SMITH'S COLLECTION:



Paph. callosum



- Whole plant plus close-up



Paph. Iantha Stage

7. POPULAR VOTE AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING

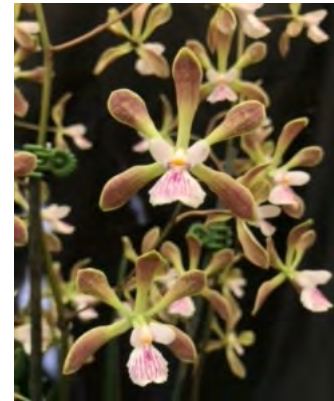
Triple tie for Popular Vote



Judith Whiting's
Vanda Somsri Glory
'Blue'



Helen Seiver's
Lc. Miss Wonderful
'Bright Spark'



Rhonda Smith's
Encyclia alata 'Dark'

8. OTHER BEAUTIES FROM THE FEBRUARY BENCHING:



Renanthera Teo Choo Hong
owned by Rhonda Smith



Oncidium stacyi
owned by Bruce Hall



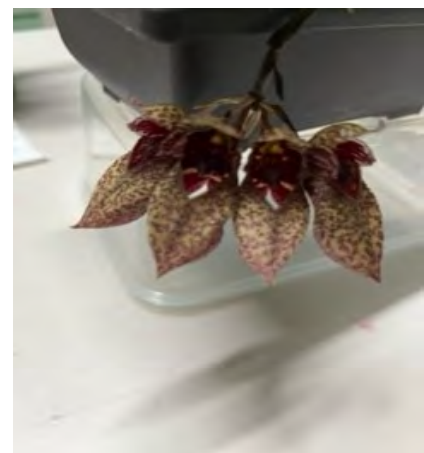
Encyclia alata —
whole plant



Oncidium Sweet Sugar
owned by Rhonda Smith



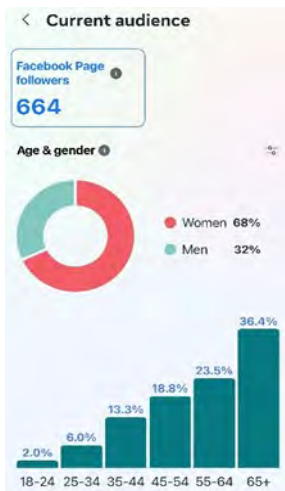
Dendrobium Hibiki
- Rhonda Smith



Bulbophyllum NoID
(*Bulb. frostii* cross?)
Owned by Bruce Hall

9. Coffs Harbour Orchid Society Facebook: By Paige Sinclair

February 2023 – Currently, the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society has 664 likes. This is up by 71 people from January 2023. The images below show a range of insights.



Group by Coffs Harbour Orchid Society

CHOS What's In Bloom Group >

Public group · 162 members

Joined

Invite

Photos

Files

Reels

10. SPONSORS SPOT: LUDO'S OLD WARES, ULMARRA

Ludo has returned!

Ludo Old Wares at Ulmarra has been a long time Society sponsor. He planned on relocating to Queensland and so moved a lot of stock from the Ulmarra shop. However, circumstances changed for Ludo and he has decided to stay in Ulmarra and continue to operate his business.

The good news for CHOS is that Ludo wants to be reinstated as a sponsor of the Society which the Committee has gladly accepted and thanks Ludo for his generosity. Ludo tells us that he now needs to rebuild the stock in his Ulmarra shop and so he is in the mood to "Buy, Buy and Buy" old wares, treasures and collectables and he is available to deal with Deceased Estates.

Ludo visits the Coffs Harbour area on a regular basis so if you have any items you wish to sell then ring Ludo on 0402 044 601 to organise an appraisal.

You may prefer to email him at ludogayko@gmail.com.

If you are interested in checking out Ludo's current stock then he is at the same location.

The address is 21C Big River Way (Old Pacific Highway), Ulmarra.

We welcome Ludo back as a sponsor and thank him for his continued support.



SUPPORT THEM AS THEY SUPPORT US

11. BITS AND PIECES:

1. The CHOS March meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd March and commence at 7.30pm. It will be the first judging of the new growing Competition plant, *Vanda falcata*. Don't forget to repot your plant and bring it along to the meeting. If you would like some suggestions on method of potting up the *Vanda falcata* then see the article at the end of this newsletter. If you were absent from the February meeting and you haven't yet received your new competition plant then you can pick it up at the March meeting or contact Bob Southwell (on 0417 695 834) and arrange a pick up time.
2. Bruce Hall will address the task of repotting *Stanhopea's* at the March meeting. Most members have at least one of these Central to South American plants in their greenhouse or in their garden and should benefit from Bruce's talk.



Far Left:
Stan. tigrina
(owned by Neil McDonald)

Centre and Right:
Stan. jenischiana
(Owned by Bruce Hall)

3. If you haven't paid your 2023 CHOS membership fees then it has become an urgent matter that needs your immediate attention . Fees were due for payment on the 2nd November and the deadline was set at 2nd February, 2023. The Committee now requests that all fees should be paid by mid March. You can pay Paige Sinclair cash or direct deposit into the Society bank account (details on page 2 of this newsletter). Single membership is \$10 and family is \$15.
4. The CHOS Monthly Program is attached to this newsletter and will provide all members with an insight into the proposed program for 2023. Of course, the program is subject to change as some events may be altered and new ones added. It is suggested that you print the program off and use as a future reference. An updated version always appears on page two of each edition of the newsletter.
5. The Monthly Meeting Judging Roster is also attached for members information. Thank you to all those you have agreed to take part in this activity throughout the year.
6. The CHOS Autumn Show is set down for Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd April, 2023. Judging is to take place on Saturday at 8am and the Show will open to the public at 10am. The presentation of prizes is to take place from 3pm on the Sunday. Assistance will be needed from members to set up the Display Room at the Botanic Gardens from 1pm on Friday 21st April. Benching to occur between 3pm and 6pm on the Friday and on the Saturday between 6.30am and 7.30am. Help is required during the weekend to make sure the Show is successful. Let Bob Southwell know if you can assist.

12. ACTIVITIES ORGANISERS REPORT ON RECENT MEMBERS SURVEY

Activity Organiser, Frank Pappalardo, has gone through the recent members survey and presents the following results and replies to members questions and comments.

So far 21 surveys have been received. We are still happy to receive your survey if you haven't yet handed it in.

The most popular activities were:

1. Grafton—1 day	13	6. BBQ	10
2. Dorrigo Bush Walking—1 day	12	7. Casino—1 day	8
3. Port Macquarie—1 day	11	8. Hunter Valley—2 days	7
4. Glen Innes—1 day	11	9. Tamworth—2 days	7
5. Armidale—1 day	10	10. Bus Trip—2 days	8
11. (a) Mount Tambourine—4 days	9		
(b) Toowoomba—4 days	6		
© Toowoomba—2 days	12		
(d) Stanthorpe	6		

All of (11) could be incorporated into a four day coach tour to the Festival Of Flowers at Toowoomba (probably 15-18th Sept) and could include Stanthorpe Winery, Girraween National Park (native orchids), Two Orchid Shows in Toowoomba, Garden Displays in Toowoomba, Mount Tambourine (Orchid Nursery, Bush walking, Wild Flowers), Burringbar Forest Reserve (wildflowers, orchids) and Murwillumbah.

A number of questions were asked and comments were made in response to the Survey.

Frank has made the following comments in relation to these:

1. You “can” get a motel room for \$120 so this would be \$60 on a twin shared basis.
2. You “can” do Port Macquarie in one day.
3. Bushwalking may not be orchid orientated but it was the second most popular response.
4. Completing a Survey is not compulsory.
5. Rather than join activities of other Clubs, why don't we ask them to join us?
6. With all activities we would endeavour to see orchids where possible. For example visiting the Mingara Orchid Fair on the Central Coast as part of a trip to the Hunter Valley.

Thank you to all who filled out the surveys.

Your answers and your efforts were appreciated by the CHOS Committee.

Stop Press: Frank will soon release details of a possible Toowoomba trip in September, a local BBQ, Bushwalking trip to Dorrigo and a Visit to Rosella Orchids at South Grafton (November).

13. BACK TO BASICS WITH ORCHID CULTURE

The basis of this article is drawn from a talk given by Paige Sinclair and Bob Southwell to the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society in February, 2023. Below is a summary of the workshop address.

My First Orchid:

If you are like me, a relatively new orchid enthusiast – my first orchid was a Phalaenopsis, I could not even say the name, let alone spell it. But as you can see on the benches around the room, there are plenty of orchids that grow very well in our conditions here on the Mid North Coast, many that don't require shade/hot houses or special equipment.

Some of the more common Orchids are:

- Cymbidiums
- Cattleya (Laeliinae Alliance)
- Phalaenopsis
- Vanda (Vandaceous Alliance)
- Paphiopedilum Alliance
- Dendrobium
- Oncidium
- Australian Native
- Plus, over 30,000 different species!



Each one of these orchid groups requires different care! Where can you find this information?

- ◆ Our Advisors Program will match new members with growers who have experience in growing many different genera that a new member might be interested in, so ask your Advisor or fellow member.
- ◆ The society has a library with lots of helpful books that can be borrowed for a full month.
- ◆ The Internet is almost unlimited with information on care and culture of many of the more popular genera.
- ◆ YouTube – is filled with people who have channels dedicated to the care and culture of many specific orchids.
- ◆ And finally, but not exhaustive, the people and nurseries you buy your orchids from, can give you some general growing advice.

So where can you acquire new orchids?

In our area we have two local Orchid Nurseries, Dark Star Orchids at Bowraville (who specialize in exotic species) and Rosella Orchids at South Grafton (who specialize in Cattleya's, Vanda's and other popular genera). Both are good orchid nursery choices as they have similar weather conditions to us, both are online and offer good quality plants. To visit either of them you will need to make an appointment.

There are plenty of online nurseries who will ship express post, usually on a Monday or Tuesday, so the plants are not sitting in boxes over the weekend.

The society has a number of meetings, shows and an auction where you can purchase plants from members.

Plant fairs, markets, eBay, and 'Marketplace' on Facebook also offer opportunities to purchase or-

chids, but with these vendors, practice 'Buyer Beware', as you don't always get a plant that is high quality. That is not to say the plant isn't of good quality, it's just not guaranteed like a commercial nursery.

So, what do we mean by good quality?

- ◆ The plant should be pest, disease and virus free.
- ◆ The plant has evidence of healthy roots, plump pseudobulbs, canes/leaves (whichever is the Genera's water storage device).
- ◆ The flowers are a good shape, clean and bright colour, and have a substantial texture.
- ◆ The leaves are complete, no browning of the tips, no evidence of sun burn, signs of dehydration or other damage.
- ◆ And over all the plant looks healthy and ideally has a botanical name on a tag in or attached to the plant.

Re-potting your orchid.

1. Selection of a suitable pot
2. Potting Mixes
3. Repotting Demonstration



1. Selection of a suitable pot.

- ◆ In general terms small plants require small pots while large plants need large pots.
- ◆ Overpotting (small plant in a large pot) results in too much moisture in the potting mix and leads to root rot and plant death.

Retailers who can supply a variety of pots include:

1. PORT POTS (Available on-site or online ordering)
2. ROSELLA ORCHIDS, SOUTH GRAFTON (Available on-site or online)
3. ORCHIDACEOUS SUPPLIES,QLD. (Online only or at Orchid Fairs)
4. ORCHID DEN, GOLD COAST. (On-site or online)

2. Potting Mixes.

- ◆ There are many recipes but most include mixtures of pine bark, perlite and charcoal.
- ◆ Some growers also add coconut chip for additional water holding capacity (Eg: Cymbidiums).
- ◆ Our suggestion is to try the basic bark mix and experiment once you have had success with the basic recipe.

Type of Bark Available: (The first three are high quality bark products)

- ORCHIATA – NZ manufactured– Produced in 35L bags and in 5 grades. Contains Dolomite so don't wash before use.
- AUSTRALIAN FUR BARK – South Australian manufactured – 50L bags. Three grades—wash before use.
- 3. KIWI BARK –Produced in 50L bags. Four Grades.
- 4. OTHERS—Various cheaper products made by Searles, Scotts Osmocote, etc.

Some sold by Bunnings. Poor Quality and not recommended.

Precautions When Potting:

1. Good idea to wear a mask and safety glasses when using Perlite as fine dust should not be inhaled.
2. Damp down the potting mix so that dust does not escape into the air.
3. Have multiple pairs of sterilized secateurs so you don't spread disease or pests between plants. Soak in Trisodium Phosphate solution (take care as highly alkaline) or wash in the dishwasher.
4. Use new or sterilized pots (soak in Bleach solution).

Basic Potting Recipe:

1. 70% Bark.
 2. 20% Course Perlite.
 3. 10% Fine Charcoal
- (Perlite helps with aeration of the mix and holds water. Cheaper than quality bark. Charcoal opens up the mix and holds some nutrients. Also cheaper than quality bark.)



Steps in repotting:

Crock your pot. Rocks, Scoria, 18-25mm bark added to the base of the pot or if the plant is large you can turn a smaller pot upside down in the bigger pot. This crocking keeps the roots from sitting in water. In the case of rocks or scoria – blowing over or being top heavy when laden with flowers. Also saves using expensive bark.

Examine the roots. Remove dead, squishy or dried up roots.

Split, divide, and remove Keiki's. Now is the time to separate basal keiki's in the case of monopodial plants such as Phalaenopsis and Vandas. And in the Oncidium/Cattleya and other sympodial orchids, it is the time to split or divide your plants.

Seal cuts. It is good practice to seal your open cuts with either a dusting of Sri Lankan Cinnamon Powder, Mancozeb paste, Sulphur or Steri-prune spray or paste.

Repotting your *Vanda falcata*:

There are four common methods used for this plant -

1. Pot in Bark Mix
2. Mount on cork, tree fern slab, etc, with added Sphagnum Moss
3. Pot in Sphagnum Moss
4. Place on a mound of Sphagnum Moss in a suitable pot or saucer



1.



2.



3.



4.