



COFFS ORCHID NEWS SEPT 2023 PUBLICATION OF THE COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

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1. EDITORIAL: "Demise of the Orchid Society in Australia"

In a recent edition of the AOC magazine "Orchids Australia", AOC President, Marion Davey, was lamenting that Orchid Societies were declining in popularity across much of Australia. She reported there was an increase in the average age of society members and a lack of new blood is the major reason why many societies have had to close. Sometimes a lack of energy and enthusiasm comes with getting old and many find it difficult to carry out what were once simple physical tasks. The running of a society is often left to a few enthusiasts and then due to over work they "burn themselves out".

However, despite the gloomy picture she has painted, Marion Davey then goes on to state that Woolgoolga District Orchid Society are a glowing example of an active and enthusiastic group of people who love growing and learning about orchids. So much so, that they offered and have been granted the privilege of hosting the 2025 AOC Australian Orchid Conference.

Congratulations to WDOS!

I agree totally with Marion on her perception of the Woolgoolga Orchid Society. Their brave step to agree to host the 2025 Conference is an example of how confident WDOS is in the enthusiasm and the skills of their membership. Coffs Harbour Orchid society is totally behind the WDOS endeavour and will support them in what ever way is required.

When we look at the Orchid Societies in the Coffs Coast area we see only success stories. Woolgoolga has over 100 members, Coffs Harbour has 95 and Nambucca Valley Orchid Society has a membership of around 50. All of these Societies display an active and enthusiastic membership.

I have often pondered why this is so, when some Orchid Societies in other parts of Australia seem to be on the decline. There may be other reasons but I believe the following are major contributors to the success of our local Societies.

- 1. Some younger and middle age growers have become caught up with the lure of growing orchids. We thank them for their energy and their positive attitudes and especially as they may be the future leaders in our Societies.**
- 2. Living in a sub-tropical climate it is relatively easy to grow a variety of orchids and achieve reasonable success whether you grow them for display at home or for a place on the show bench.**
- 3. The Committees which guide these local Societies are made up of enthusiastic orchid growers who also have a wide variety of skills which can be used to conduct a successful Society.**
- 4. There are regular meetings, orchid shows, plant competitions, guest speakers who are experts in their fields and a variety of practical activities such as visits to nurseries, other growers orchid houses and practical workshops. The main aim of each society is to educate its membership about orchids and how to become a more successful grower.**

CHOS COMMITTEE 2022-23**CONTACT DETAILS**

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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 MAZDA

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.

OFFICEWORKS

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

Deals with old wares and collectables — 0402 044 601

2. CALENDAR, 2023

7 Sept 2023— Helen Seiver

Paige Sinclair

9-10 Sept 2023—Spring Show

5 Oct—Plant Auction

19 or 26 Oct Visit to Rosella Orchids

2 Nov – AGM/ Age Care Talk

2 Dec [TBC]—Annual Presentation Luncheon at Green House Tavern

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

**CHOS BANK DETAILS**

BSB No: 533-000

ACCOUNT No: 32817199

ROSELLA ORCHIDS**Spring and Autumn Show Sponsor**

Located in South Grafton and can supply a wide range of orchids but specialises in Cattleya and Vanda genera. They also stock a large range of hardware and accessories for orchid growers. Nursery is closed to the general public except by appointment.

www.rosellaorchids.com.au

5. The Committee of each Society listen to their members' opinions and act accordingly. Sometimes little is said and it has worried me that members are complacent and have lost interest but it probably means that the Society is going well and meeting the current needs of their members. However, I think that a little feedback, positive and negative, would be helpful.

The AOC President also suggested in her article that the lack of competition was a recent development in some Orchid Societies. That is not my experience in relation to our local Societies. They hold regular competitions at their monthly meetings as well as amazing shows and the number of orchids being benched seems to be on the increase. In fact we occasionally run out of bench space and larger orchids end up displayed on the floor.

As the CHOS Committee looks to next year's calendar, we again ponder on what are the needs of our membership. That is often difficult to determine so we end up offering a variety of topics on different orchid groups as well as some sessions on cultural techniques. Some of these cultural sessions will be presenting the basic techniques used in orchid growing so that our newer members gain essential knowledge to help them improve. We ask that the more experienced growers bear with us as we bring the newer growers up to speed. I am sure that your valuable input will always be appreciated by all those who attend the meetings.

In my view, the three local Societies are going well. It appears we may even be trend-setters in the orchid world. In the not too distant future the Coffs Coast, and especially WDOS, will be exposed to the glare of Australian and International orchid growers. I am certain they will shine and achieve great things in 2025.

SOME BEAUTIES FROM THE AUGUST MEETING



TL— Bulb.tigridum
- Sue Flanders
TR— Lc. Stephen
Oliver Fouraker X
Blc. Pretty Nicole—
Owned by Paige
Sinclair
BR— Onc. Twinkles
BL— Onc. Tsiku
Maguerit 'Chian-
Tzy Glory' - Owned
by Rhonda Smith



COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT:

Report from the Committee Meeting held on 8th August, 2023 at NCRB Gardens.

1. Discussion on organisation for the 2023 Spring Show to be held on 9th and 10th September. All tasks have either been completed or under way. Roster completed and sent to all members. Society Members and participating Judges have been sent a copy of the Show Schedule. Show set up from 1pm on Friday 8th September. A coffee cart will be in operation at this years Spring Show.
2. Lighting at the Botanic Gardens Car Park has been repaired and is now fully functioning.
3. Kerrie Gosling has been appointed as the new Public Officer to liaise with the Dept of Fair Trading. Thanks to Annie Houston for her previous dedication to this role.
4. CHOS has been asked to construct an 8 metre x 4 metre Orchid Display at the 2025 AOC Conference and to be based on the conference theme "From the Mountains to the Sea". Paige Sinclair to address the September General Meeting on how we should plan for this event.
5. The Annual Awards Presentation Luncheon will be held in early December at The Green House Tavern. Suggested date is Saturday 2nd December. Full details will be provided as soon as they are available.
6. Entry to this years Spring Show is free to all CHOS members and children under 16. The General Public will be charged an entry fee of \$2 per person.
7. Coffs Harbour Agricultural Show has been cancelled for 2023.
8. Nominations are now open for the 2023-2024 CHOS Committee.

Next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 12th September, 2023 from 10.30am at NCRBG.

DUTY ROSTER 7TH SEPT
MONTHLY MEETING

JUDGING: DI BLAY AND
SILESA KING

PACK-UP TEAM: DICK COOPER
AND SUE FLANDERS

CLEAN-UP TEAM: MAL IDE,
RHONDA SMITH AND
BOB SOUTHWELL



POSITION VACANT EDITOR OF COFFS ORCHID NEWS

Interested in working as this Newsletter Editor or part of a team to produce this monthly publication.

Talk to President Carole Davis on
02 6658 1354

SPRING SHOW PLANT SALES:

One of the features of the Spring Show is the ever popular Plant Sales Table. If you are looking for quality plants or that special bargain then it is worth visiting the sales table. If you have excess plants at home then you might like to make some extra cash and bring them into the show on either Friday afternoon or Saturday morning. The plants don't have to be in flower but a photo is always a great idea so the buyer gets an idea of what the flower looks like. Plants should be free from pests and diseases. Paige Sinclair will provide you with the sales tags and a sheet on which you list your plants. The Society receives 15% commission from each sale. CHOS is happy to accept plants other than orchids. NSW Native Orchids require a CHOS Natives Tag - see Bob Southwell.

WDOS ORCHID SHOWS AND CONFERENCES, 2023



2 Day Orchid Show & Garden Expo

Saturday, September 30 & Sunday October 1, 2023
 Saturday 9.00am - 3.00pm Sunday 9.00am - 2.30pm

- Orchids and Other Plants on Sale
- Orchid Judging
- Magnificent Exotic Plant Displays
- Extraordinary Raffles to be Won
- Experts on Hand to Provide Friendly Advice
- Coffee Shop Onsite

Please Support
 Our Major Sponsor



FREE ADMISSION

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

PROCEDURE FOR REGISTERING AND BENCHING YOUR PLANTS AT CHOS SPRING SHOW—9TH AND 10TH SEPT

Benching on Friday 8th Sept from 3pm to 6pm and Saturday 9th Sept from 6.30am to 7.30am. Show open to the public from 10am Saturday and 9am Sunday.

- ◆ Water the plant the day before benching or early in the morning if benching late in the day. The plant needs to survive without water for three days but it is important to avoid pools of water on the show bench from freshly watered pots. Avoid wetting the flower petals as this may cause spots, etc.
- ◆ Tables will be provided outside the Show Room so you can unpack and label your plants before benching. Removing all the travelling ties, hanging hooks, etc, gives the orchid a cleaner look and abides by the AOC staking rules.
- ◆ Do not tie or clip any part of the ovary of the flower. Make sure that stakes are cut short so they don't cause eye damage, etc.
- ◆ The Show Registrar will record your details and the number of plants you are benching.
- ◆ Once you register your plants with the Show Registrar you will be given a white card and a number for each plant. Write your name on the back of the card. Place the numbered dot on the front of the card in the right-hand corner above the line. Write the name of the plant on the front of the card below the line. Use the double-sided tape dispenser to stick the card onto the side of the pot you want facing the Judges.
- ◆ When ready, place your plants on the inside Receiving Table or hand to an official at that table. The official will then place the plant in the correct place on the bench. Please do not bench the plant yourself. If you have a large specimen plant then please talk to the Show Marshal who may then direct you as to where to place it to avoid double handling.
- ◆ Only Society Officials and Show Stewards are permitted to be in the body of the Show Room during the registration period.
- ◆ Sales Plants—we welcome any plants for the show plant sales table at this time.

Office use only

Plant Name - Please print



POPULAR VOTE AT THE AUGUST MEETING



Popular Vote at the August General Meeting was awarded to Sue Flanders for her amazing *Bulbophyllum tigridum*. Congratulations Sue!



Even if you end up between a rock and a hard place, you can still make yourself into something beautiful



BATTLE OF THE SLIPPERS:



Experienced orchid growers, Peter Gough (below left) and Bill Bright, made two presentations at the CHOS August monthly meeting which covered the Asian Paphs (Peter) and the South American Phrags (Bill).

Both gave very informative and entertaining talks along with potting demonstrations and a slide show of a variety of species.

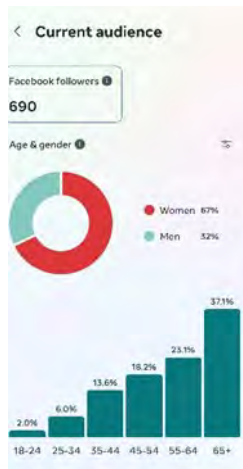
Thanks , Peter and Bill. Your efforts were much appreciated.



Coffs Harbour Orchid Society Facebook

By Paige Sinclair

August 2023 – Currently, the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society has 690 likes. This is up by six people from July 2023. For our 'What's on Bloom' page, we have one new member now 179 members.



SPONSORS' SPOT: Rosella Orchids

Spring and Autumn Show Sponsor

Located in South Grafton and can supply a wide range of orchids but specialises in Cattleya and Vanda genera. They also stock a large range of hardware and accessories for orchid growers. Nursery is closed to the general public except by appointment [Thurs and Fridays are best days].

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SUPPORT THEM AS THEY SUPPORT US



When my wife caught me standing on the bathroom scales, sucking in my stomach, she laughed,
“Ha! That’s not going to help!”
“Sure it does,” I said. “It’s the only way I can see the numbers.”

Coffs Harbour
Orchid Society Inc.
presents the

Spring Orchid Show

Saturday 9 September
10am to 5pm

Sunday 10 September 2023
9am to 3pm

at the
Coffs Harbour Botanic Gardens
Hardacre Street

\$2 Entry Fee (Children U16 Free)

SPONSORS
ROSELLA ORCHIDS • BRUCE HALL
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NAMBUCCA VALLEY ORCHID SOCIETY

SPRING ORCHID SHOW

NAMBUCCA SENIOR CENTRE
(11 Kent Street)

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

THURSDAY	31st August	9.00am - 4.00am
FRIDAY	1st September	9.00am - 4.00am
SATURDAY	2nd September	9.00am - 2.00am

ADVICE RAFFLE ORCHID WARES FLOWER ARRANGMENTS
PLANT SALES Entry—\$2

**BENCHING AT NAMBUCCA SHOW ON WED.
30TH AUGUST FROM 3PM TO 6PM**

CHOS SUPPLIES OF ORCHID BARK: The CHOS now has a large supply of Kiwi Bark and Charcoal. Kiwi Orchid Bark is a hard, clean, uniformly graded *Pinus radiata* bark suitable for growing orchids. Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids, California, rates it as the best orchid bark he has ever used. The Society sells 50 litre bags for \$45 each.

Kiwi bark comes in four sizes— No.2: **3 to 8mm**; No.3: **8 to 20mm**; No.4: **20 to 25mm**; No. 5: **25 to 50mm**. (The 8 to 20mm size would be equal to mixing 9 to 12 and 12 to 18mm grades of Orchid bark and would be the ideal size for general potting purposes).

Supplies of 15mm charcoal (Orchid Char) are also available. These are in 19kg bags and sell at \$45 per bag.

Supplies are available from Paige Sinclair— Mobile: 0427 591 901

You can pick up the bark from 4 Jean Street, Coffs Harbour or make suitable arrangements with Paige regarding delivery. Payment can be via cash or Direct Deposit (Bank details Page 2).

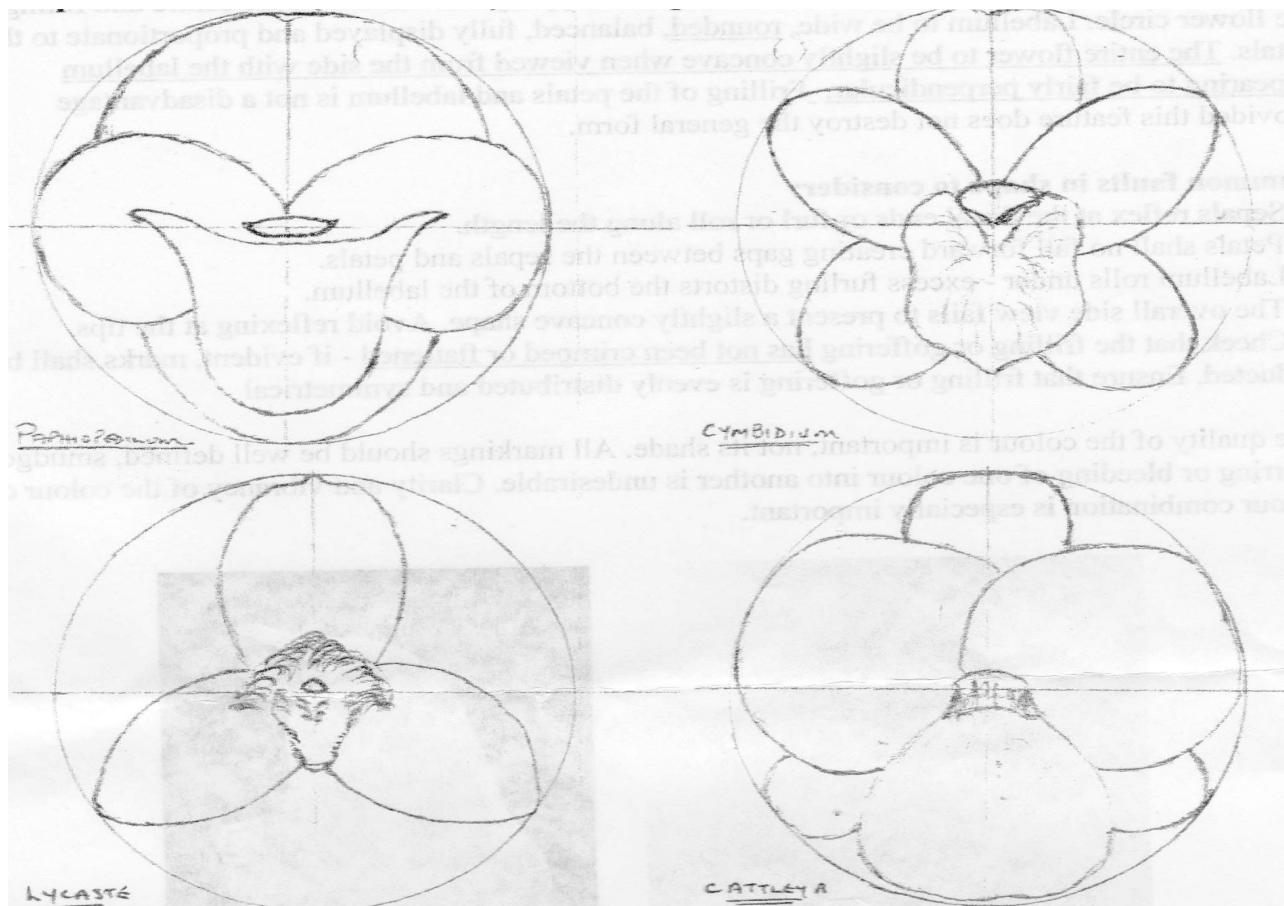


SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING GUEST SPEAKERS

Helen Seiver will demonstrate some repotting techniques with Cattleya orchids. It will provide members with an opportunity to ask Helen about her growing methods and how she achieves such success on the show bench. Paige Sinclair will present the first in a series of presentations dealing with designing and constructing an Orchid Display for the 2025 AOC Conference to be held at Woolgoolga. CHOS has been allocated a 8m x 4m space for a display based on the theme "From the Mountains to the Sea". We will be looking for volunteers to help with this project.

The key to Orchid Judging is that regardless of the genus, Judges should be looking for round filled-in flowers which are flat or slightly concave, have superior shape, high visibility and well presented and balanced flowers that are displayed consistently and orderly along the judged raceme.

Examples of Standard Orchid Shapes



Principal Criteria:

Shape (30/100): The flower should be laterally symmetrical in form. The segments should be broad for the type (species or hybrid), and free from furling, reflexing and other distortions, unless this is the nature of the kind.

Colour & Attractiveness (30/100): Should be clear, glistening and well defined, with regard to what can be reasonably expected for the kind.

Size (10/100): Should be of good size for the species or within the range of what could be reasonably expected from the hybrid's parents. Measurement: The size of the flower is to be measured across the horizontal natural spread of the flower, without any manipulation.

Substance & Texture (10/100): The flowers should be of good substance, firm and fresh. The texture should be lustrous and without blemish.

Stem Habit and Arrangement (10/100): Flowers should be well displayed on an adequate, self-supporting inflorescence according to habit of the genus.

Floriferousness (10/111): The number of flowers carried on the inflorescence(s) and their pattern of opening shall be commensurate with the breeding lines of the plant, and the minimum number should be commensurate with that of the parents and comply with the required flower count.

Flower Selection: If the plant has more than one flower – then a flower with the best general appearance shall be selected for measurement of size and for determining the shape, colour, texture and substance provided that the other flowers are of a relatively even and comparable standard. The stem on which this flower occurs shall be judged for habit and arrangement of the inflorescence.

Judging Shape and Colour

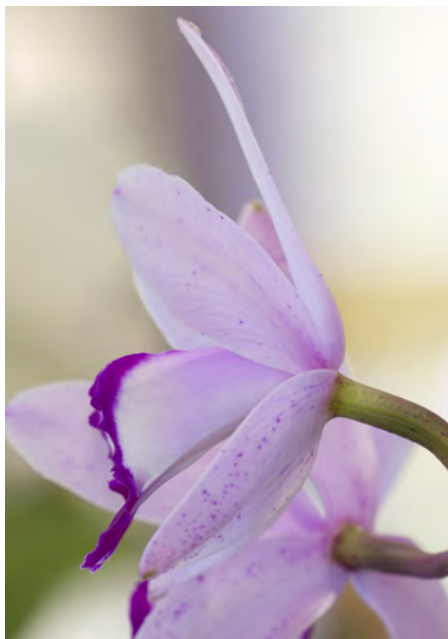
There are several components that must be considered when judging orchids. The key components are -

(1) **SHAPE** (work on 1/3rd out of 100): flowers overall to be symmetrical in form and circular in outline. All sepals are even, wide, slightly concave, rounded at the ends and fit evenly between the other segments to give a full rounded and balanced form. This means that petals need to be broad for the type, evenly balanced, overlap one another in the centre and filling in the flower circle. Labellum should be wide, **rounded**, balanced, fully displayed and proportionate to the petals. **The entire flower should be slightly concave when viewed side-on with the labellum appearing to be fairly perpendicular** (see below). Frilling of the petals and labellum is not a disadvantage provided the feature doesn't destroy the general form.

Common faults in shape to consider:

- Sepals reflex at the distal ends or furl or roll along the length.
- Petals shall not fall forward creating gaps between the sepals and petals.
- Labellum rolls under - excess furling distorts the bottom of the labellum.
- The overall side view fails to present a slightly concave shape. Avoid reflexing at the tips.
- Check that the frilling or goffering **has not been crimped or flattened** - if evident, marks shall be deducted. Ensure that frilling or goffering is evenly distributed and symmetrical

(2) **COLOUR** (work on 1/3 out of 100): The **quality of the colour is important, not its shade**. All markings should be well defined, smudges, blurring or bleeding of one colour into another is undesirable. Clarity and vibrancy of the colour or colour combination is especially important.



The remaining third (out of 100) is for Size, Substance & Texture, Habit & Arrangement and Floriferousness.

The points for some flower types vary, e.g. the points for different-sized Laeliinae are -

Standard Cattleyas (over 100 mm):

Shape	35	
Colour & Attractiveness	25	
Size	15	Max. 180 MM= 15 pts
Substance & Texture	15	
Habit and Arrangement	6	
Floriferousness	4	Max. 4 flowers = 4 pts 1 Flower = 1 pt

Mid and Mini Catts (under 100 mm):

Shape	35
Colour & Attractiveness	35
Size	5
Substance & Texture	10
Habit and Arrangement	10
Floriferousness	5 Max. 4 flowers = 5 pts 1 flower = 1 pt.