



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

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EDITORIAL

AGM President's Report November 2023

Hallo – and, once again, well done everyone. As a Society I believe we travelled really well during the year, focussed on some positive outcomes, and for this a BIG thank you to all our Members for continuing to support our activities. Never forget that you are absolutely integral to our success.

With both our Autumn and Spring Shows we were able to revert to a real world existence and come up with the goods, proving that sensory perception and fragrance cannot be beaten. Our Shows are over for 2023 but I want to congratulate all Members who took part. If you won – excellent, if you came 2nd, well done, and perhaps next time, if you came a little further down the score sheet – well who knows? Perhaps enter a plant in a little utilised Class – it worked for me !! At any level let me say THANK YOU for participating. Another thank you goes to the MNC Judging Panel for their expertise, and having to make some hard decisions. At both Shows our Sales Table ran out of supplies very early which was a little embarrassing but we did offer a wide range of well-grown plants together with some great knowledgeable customer support.

Our Annual Growing Competition, Monthly Popular Vote, Table Talk, in-house Workshops and Presentations, plus our Auction continue to offer a sense of *connection* – together we learn and enjoy. It's exciting that we have attracted a large number of new members, many of whom **have** orchids but had not necessarily considered themselves to be growers. To assist them our Mentor/ Advisor program is available to answer questions and offer feedback, which is part of our commitment to providing an educational element to our meetings, at all levels, sharing knowledge and also giving the opportunity to show the diverse varieties which are grown within our Society. In addition, our *Return to Basics* program offered an insightful look at the HOW TO variations of successful growing. A really interesting excursion up to Dorrigo discovered a number of orchids, including some hidden on trees above an abandoned toilet block!! Expect the unexpected! Bunnings BBQ – well what can I say – a great fund-raiser, and a chance to speak to so many people who love orchids – don't grow them but have a high level of appreciation and who knows – may become addicted particularly through some Bunnings purchases which on occasions have become prize winners.

Our Facebook following continues with exposure overseas as well as locally, and I think our Newsletter speaks for itself – full of photos and information – so a **very** special thank you to our Editor who devotes so much time to its compilation, and to all those who have contributed many valuable articles.

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.

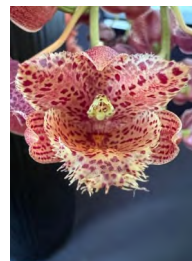
LUDO'S OLD WARES, ULMARRA

Deals with old wares and collectables — 0402 044 601

2. CALENDAR, 2023

- 26 Oct Visit to Rosella Orchids—Depart 8am
- 2 Nov – AGM/Display Judging Review—Paige Sinclair
- 2 Dec —Annual Presentation Luncheon at Green House Tavern—12 noon
- 1 Feb—Back To Basics - Part 3 Plant Nutrition
- 7 Mar— Growing Plant Competition Draw Plus Orchid Video

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

We have had some really interesting visits to Members' collections which offered a chance to investigate variations in growing strategies utilising whatever the natural environment and technology has to offer. Quite an eye-opener. Lots of good ideas.

We have some excellent growers in our midst and it was really exciting to have a first flowering of an Ed Pearce cross -*Coelogyne Memoria Edward Henry Pearce*. Ed would have been delighted.

Sponsors are really important to the Society – please do support them whenever you are able to do so.

Financially we are doing well, and in a position to assist our close associate - the Woolgoolga Orchid Society in their fund-raising to cover the costs for the 2025 Australian Orchid Society Conference. What a coup for them, and by extension I am sure we can also enjoy and benefit from the outcomes.

Finally, I want to sincerely thank the Committee members who have underpinned our endeavours over the last twelve months – things don't just happen without input from a diverse combination of viewpoints and historical experience. However, as I said at the beginning, it is the Members who are the heart of our Society and keep it beating. Thank you.

Carole Davis. President CHOS.

WOOLGOOLGA SPRING SHOW CHAMPIONS



**Grand Champion
benched by
Albert Irons**
*Phalaenopsis
Charming Crystal
Water*



**Reserve Champion
benched by
Malcolm Ide**
*Epidendrum
stamfordianum
'Galaxy'*

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT:

Report from the Committee Meeting held on 17th October 2023 at Jean Street Workshop.

1. The October General Meeting saw the conducting of a successful Plant Auction which raised \$730 for the Society. Thanks to Bruce Hall for his outstanding role as the Auctioneer.
2. Nominations for the 2024 CHOS Committee close with Kerrie Gosling at 7.30pm on Thursday 26th October. The AGM will take place before the November General Meeting on 2nd November 2023. The AGM Agenda was tabled and approved.
3. The final draft of the Catering Policy and Procedures document was tabled and approved.
4. The draft 2024 Guest Speaker and Activities Program was tabled and approved [but may be subject to change].
5. The Annual Awards Presentation Luncheon will be held at the Green House Tavern from 12 noon on Saturday 2nd December 2023. A Booking Sheet is now being circulated. The Society will subsidise part cost of the lunch for each member and their partner.
6. Membership Applications: Lindy and David Ingham were approved as new members. Welcome to Lindy and David.
7. Trip to Rosella Orchids at South Grafton has been organized for Thursday 26th October. [Details in this newsletter].
8. A variety of orchid and social activities have been suggested for CHOS members to participate in during 2024. Details TBC.
9. Discussion of new Plant Growing Competition for 2024. Consideration is being given to a new hybrid *Zygopetalum*. New competition to start in March 2024.

Next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 7th November 2023 from 10.30am at the **Jean Street Workshop**.

DUTY ROSTER 2ND NOV 2023
AGM AND MONTHLY MEETING

JUDGING: HELEN SEIVER AND
PHIL PAYNE

PACK-UP TEAM: SUE FLANDERS
AND BRUCE HALL

CLEAN-UP TEAM: PETER
GOUGH, FRANK PAP AND
RHONDA SMITH



**A very impressive
Bulbo grown by
Pete Funnell.**

**This outstanding
example of
*Bulbophyllum
medusae* had ten
flower spikes.**

**Congratulations
Bulbo Pete on an
outstanding plant.**

**Well
Done!**

POSITION VACANT

EDITOR OF COFFS ORCHID NEWS

Are you interested in working as
the Editor of this Newsletter or
part of a team to produce this
monthly publication.

Talk to President Carole Davis on
02 6658 1354

**Some of the first batch of
Edward Pearce's *Coelogyne*s
are starting to form
flowers. Let us know if
you have any as many
crosses are unnamed.**

Nominations for the 2024 CHOS Committee close with Kerrie Gosling on Thursday 26th October.

If you wish to nominate yourself or another member then please contact Kerrie on 0427 515 887.

The AGM will take place on Thursday 2nd November at the Botanic Gardens from 7.30pm.

WDOS ORCHID CONFERENCE, 2023

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

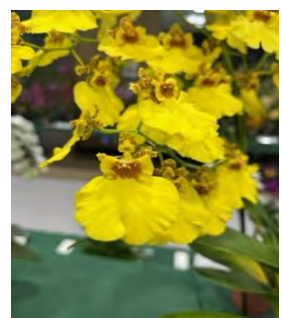
President's Choice at WDOS Spring Show

Dendrobium densiflorum owned by

Rhonda Smith

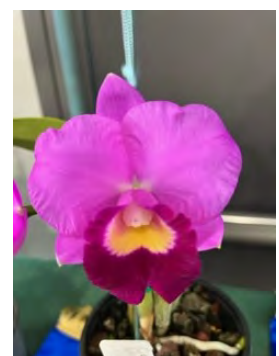


WOOLGOOLGA SPRING SHOW SECTION CHAMPIONS



**Champion Soft Cane—
owned by Rhonda Smith
*Den. Hanama Lake 'Dream'***

**Champion Oncidium—*Oncidium*
Sweet Sugar—Rhonda Smith**



**Champion Dendrobium: *Dendrobium*
Dorothy's Wings owned by Mal Ide**

**Champion Paph
benched by Mal Ide**

**Champion Laeliinae
Cattleya Dendi's
Perfection 'Kaye'
- Mal Ide**

POPULAR VOTE AT THE CHOS OCTOBER MEETING



Popular Vote at the CHOS October General Meeting was awarded to Peter Baker for his striking *Dendrobium jenkinsii* Congratulations!



CHOS VISIT TO ROSELLA ORCHID NURSERY, SOUTH GRAFTON

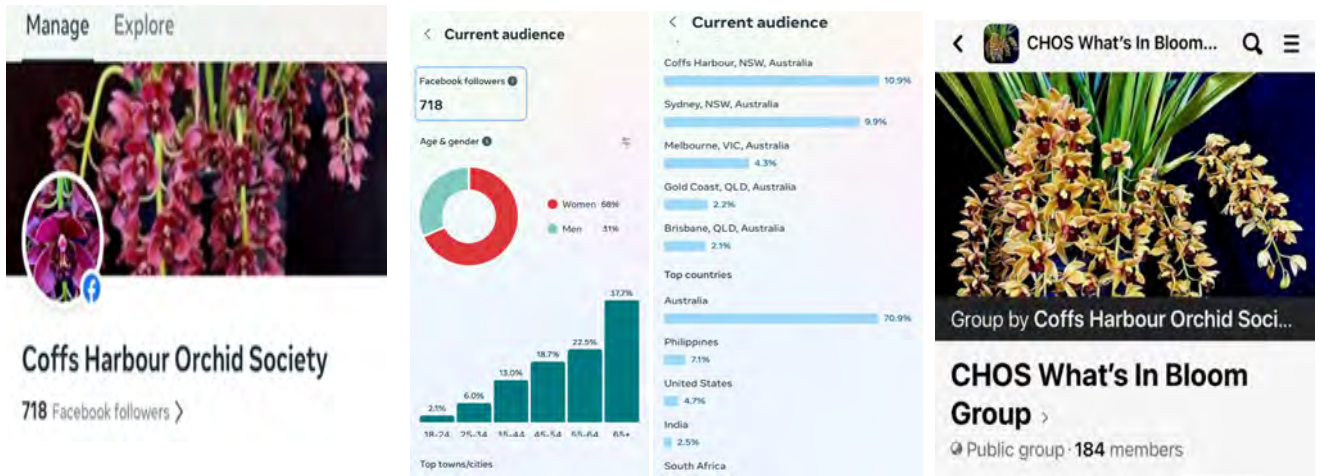
The Society has organised a visit to Rosella Orchids on Thursday 26th October. Members who are attending are asked to be at the car parking area of Coffs Harbour Botanic Gardens so they can depart at 8am . We are expected at Rosellas by 9.30am. If you wish to attend and you are yet to add your name to the list, then please ring Frank Pappalardo on 0448 802 146. Numbers are limited so you must ring Frank to book a place. Rosella have a great range of orchids plus a wide variety of hardware.



Coffs Harbour Orchid Society Facebook

By Paige Sinclair

October 2023 – Currently, the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society has 718 likes. This is up by 3 people from September 2023. For our 'What's on Bloom' page, is up by 3 people to 184 members.



SPONSORS' SPOT:

SHEARWATER RESTAURANT

'UNMATCHED WATERFRONT DESTINATION'

Welcome to Shearwater Restaurant, offering you cherished moments alongside friends and loved ones within our serene, tucked-away location on the water's edge of the scenic Coffs Creek. With mother nature's panorama serving as the backdrop to the marvellous food and beverage creations we serve, time spent at Shearwater is a community treasure, worth sharing. Atop our weather-proof balcony, for an experience well-remembered. Indulge in the fruitful creations of our virtuous chefs and bar staff after work, over the weekend, amidst the holidays, or during your lunch break. 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



SUPPORT THEM AS THEY SUPPORT US



POPULAR VOTE AT
WDOS 2023 SPRING
SHOW
Dendrobium Amphion
Veil
Grown by Helen Seiver
Congratulations!



MACLEAY VALLEY ORCHID SOCIETY SPRING SHOW, KEMPSEY—7th OCT 2023



Grand Champion
Dendrobium
 Larapinta 'Barbara'.
 Benched by
 Bill and Jenny Lennon.
 Congratulations.
 Champion Specimen
Den. lindleyi.
 Owned by Chris Price



Reserve Champion
Dendrobium virginalis.
 Benched by Chris Price.
 Congratulations
 Champion Phalaenopsis
 Phalaenopsis NoID
 Benched by
 Peter Latham



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 Orchiata 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).



The CHOS Annual Awards Presentation Luncheon will be held at the Green House Tavern from 12 noon on Saturday 2nd December 2023. A booking sheet is now being circulated. However, if you can't attend the November meeting but would like to attend the Presentation Luncheon then please ring, text or email Paige Sinclair on 0427 591 901 or paigesinclair@me.com

Luncheon cost will be \$25 per person. The Society will subsidise part cost of the lunch for each member and their partner plus each participant will be given an \$8 drink voucher. Members are asked to bring one flowering orchid for a Popular Vote competition. Please note that there will **not** be a General Meeting on Thursday 7th December. This will be replaced by the Saturday luncheon.

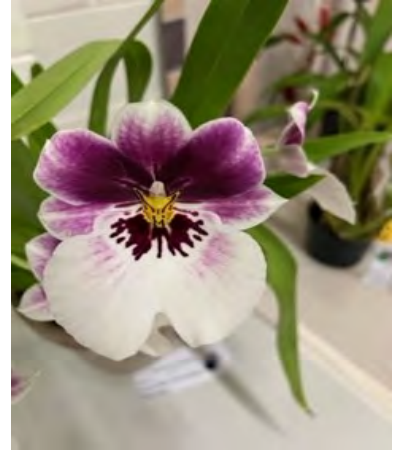
SOME BEAUTIES BENCHED AT THE CHOS OCTOBER MEETING



***Angraecum sesquipedale*
benched by Nev Anderson**



***Sarco Kulnura Fireball*
'Robyn' X *Kulnura Gryffin*
Special owned by
Helen Seiver**



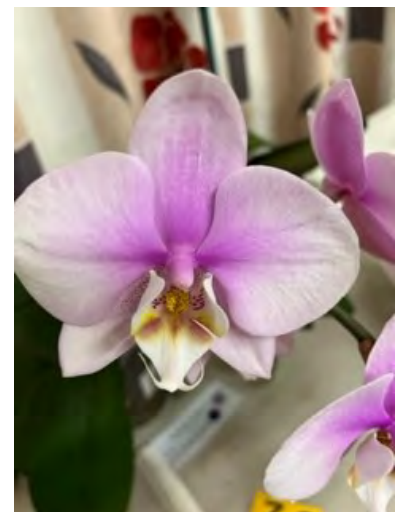
**Mtps. *Princess Diana*
'Maui Pride' benched
by Paige Sinclair**



**Paige Sinclair's
*Lycaste bradeorum***



***Cattleanthe Chief*
Berry benched by
Rhonda Smith**



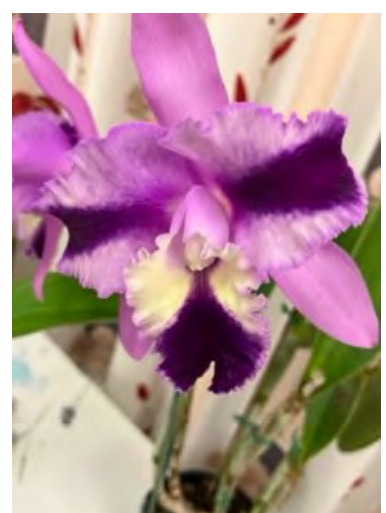
***Phalaenopsis* NoID
owned by Paige Sinclair**



***Lc. Puppy Love* x
*Cat. Ioddigesii***



***Phalaenopsis* Hybrid
benched by Bob Southwell**



***Lc. Suksan's Fancy*
owned by Rhonda Smith**

Feature Article:

FEED YOUR ORCHIDS WITH MOLASSES

Molasses is a form of syrup, made from a by-product produced in the process of refining sugar cane. Food grade molasses is often referred to as treacle. Non-food grade molasses is used extensively in the horticultural industry and also as an animal food supplement. It can be obtained cheaply from produce stores.

Why use Horticultural Molasses on your Orchids?

Molasses is a great source of carbohydrates that can be used to stimulate the growth of beneficial micro-organisms in soil and potting media. Carbohydrates is a fancy word for sugar and molasses is the best sugar to use for horticultural use. Molasses is a quick source of energy for the various microbes and soil life in a compost heap, soil or potting mix.

In addition to sugars, molasses contains significant amounts of potassium, sulphur and a variety of micronutrients or trace elements. Because it is derived from plants and because the manufacturing process is designed to remove mostly sugars, the majority of the mineral nutrients that were in the original sugar cane or sugar beet are still present in the molasses. This is what makes molasses so useful as a good supply of micronutrients is essential for beneficial microbes to survive and thrive. After “feeding” your orchid molasses, [or really feeding the microbes] the microbes multiply and thrive and produce chemical compounds such as enzymes which break down the essential nutrients in the potting mix which are converted into a soluble form which can be taken in by the orchid root system. **So you are feeding the microbes in potting mix which then feed the orchid.**

In addition to providing sugars to the microbes, molasses also has the benefit of reducing the insect population in your greenhouse. Sugar ants and bees are able to process simple sugars but most other insects cannot. It is thought that many insects have no way of expelling the gas that builds up from fermenting sugars in their intestines. Plus they have exoskeletons and cant get bloated so their internal organs are damaged by the gas pressure. Many sources suggest that ants are not attracted to the molasses and so its use does not cause an unwanted ant invasion.

It would be very interesting to hear from those orchid growers who already use molasses on a regular basis as to what benefits they have seen from spraying their plants with this mix.

Standard Mixing Rate:

The standard molasses/water mix is 1 teaspoon [5 mls] in one litre of warm water. Let it cool and spray all of your plant and the potting mix. It needs to be warm so the molasses mixes easily in the water. Spray this mix weekly for best results or if you don't have the time then fortnightly or monthly on a regular basis should show improved orchid health and increased growth.

ORCHID HINT: Many orchid fertilizer mixes do not contain large enough amounts of Calcium for proper plant growth. Orchids use the nutrient Calcium to build strong cell walls and so plants need a continuous supply of Calcium for normal growth. Plants that are not receiving enough Calcium will be stunted, distorted or stop growing altogether. A common source of additional Calcium can be obtained by using Calcium Nitrate. This needs to be dissolved in water at the rate of 2g/litre and watered on once per month. Do not mix with other fertilizers as the Calcium Nitrate reacts with other nutrients and forms compounds which fall out of solution and appear as a sludge on the bottom of the spray container.