



## **COFFS ORCHID NEWS DEC 2023 PUBLICATION OF THE COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY**

**P.O. Box 801, Coffs Harbour. NSW 2450**

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**Web: [www.coffsorchidsociety.org.au](http://www.coffsorchidsociety.org.au)**

### **EDITORIAL**

*Let me introduce you to the new Management Committee for the 2024 Coffs Harbour Orchid Society. The Executive team is led by Carole Davis and backed up by Peter Gough as the new Vice President, Kerrie Gosling as Secretary and Paige Sinclair as the long serving Treasurer. The three Committee positions have been filled by Frank Pappalardo and Chris and Paul Hatton. A special welcome to Chris and Paul as new members of your management team. Please do not hesitate to contact any of these Committee members if you have any concerns about the Society or need information on any CHOS activities. Contact details are on page two of this newsletter.*

*We wish the new Committee all the best for a successful 2024 orchid year.*

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**2023 is rapidly coming to a close with the AGM concluded and the new Committee busily preparing for a host of orchid activities for 2024. This year will see the return and conclusion of the "Back To Basics" series of talks designed to assist new growers and perhaps help the more experienced growers re-evaluate what they do. The February meeting will start the year with Back To Basics dealing with Orchid Nutrition and then followed in April with "Pests and Diseases". It looks like the Committee will once again provide a jam-packed program for orchid growers during 2024.**

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*The 2023 Orchid Year will conclude with the Annual Awards and Presentation Luncheon which will be held at the Green House Tavern in Bray Street on Saturday 2nd December commencing at 12 noon. Register your intention of attending by contacting Paige Sinclair on 0427 591 901 or by email at [paigesinclair@me.com](mailto:paigesinclair@me.com). The two course meal will be subsidised for members and their partners and will include a drinks voucher. Cost per member/partner will be \$25 per head. Please bring a flowering orchid for the Popular Vote Competition.*

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**The CHOS will be taking a break during December and January [after the Presentation Luncheon on 2nd Dec] and will resume with the February Monthly Meeting in the Display Room at the Botanic Gardens. This is also the last Newsletter Edition for 2023. The next edition of Coffs Orchid News is planned for February 2024 and should be published towards the end of January.**

**We wish you and your families Best Wishes for the festive and holiday season.**

**We also wish you a Happy New Year and a very successful and healthy 2024.**

**CHOS COMMITTEE 2023-2024**

PRESIDENT:	CAROLE DAVIS	026658 1354	carolenlarry@bigpond.com
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	FRANK PAPPALARDO	0448 802 146	
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	BOB SOUTHWELL	0417 695 834	bssouthwell@bigpond.com

**CONTACT DETAILS****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](http://www.shearwaterrestaurant.com.au) or Phone 6651 6053.

**COFFS HARBOUR PRODUCE**

Coffs Harbour Produce Cis 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, Coelogyne and lots of other genera.

[www.darkstarorchids.com.au](http://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**

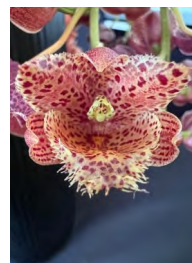
2 Dec —Annual Presentation Luncheon at Green House Tavern—12 noon

1 Feb—Back To Basics - Part 3 Plant Nutrition

7 Mar— Growing Plant Competition Draw Plus Orchid Video

4 April—Back To Basics—Part 4 Pests and Diseases

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

**CHOS BANK DETAILS**

**BSB No: 533-000**

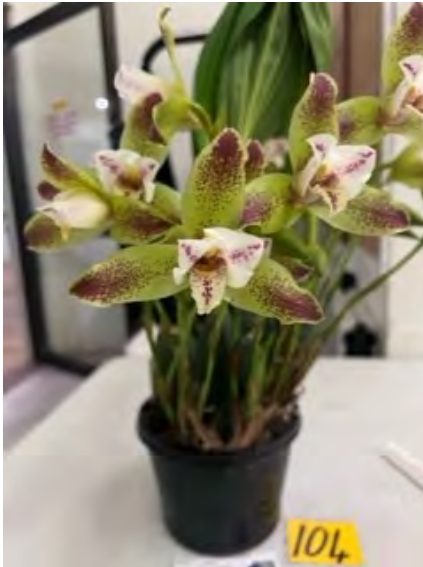
**ACCOUNT No: 32817199**

**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](http://www.rosellaorchids.com.au)

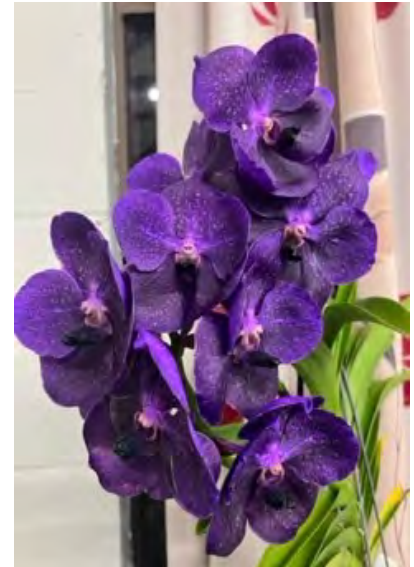
**A SELECTION OF ORCHIDS BENCHED AT THE CHOS NOVEMBER MEETING**



**Rhonda Smith's *Lycaste deppei*. Popular Vote winner**



***Dendrobium amabile* ?  
Benched by Rhonda Smith**



***Vanda* Mem. Katherine McCartney owned by Peter Gough**



**Phal. Sesame benched by Peter Gough**



**Bruce Hall's *Cattleya Peckaviensis***



***Cymbidium* Native Hybrid Owned by Dick Cooper**



***Cymbidium suave* is one of the three Australian Native *Cymbidium* orchids. This was found growing near the new Sports Centre at Woolgoolga and is very common in the native forests around the Coffs Coast. Difficult to grow in your greenhouse as it requires conditions provided by the rotted centre of a native tree and a pH of 4.5 to 5.0 [most other orchids prefer a pH around 6.5]. These orchids are protected and can't be collected out of the wild.**

**All photos on this page by Paige Sinclair**



## COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT:

Report from the Committee Meeting held on 7th November 2023 at the Jean Street Workshop.

- Welcome to new Committee for 2024.
- Apologies from Peter Gough and Frank Pappalardo.
- Special Duties allocated for Committee Members for 2024.
- Annual Awards Presentation Luncheon on 2nd Dec from noon at the Green House Tavern.
- Guest Speaker list has been finalized for 2024. Will soon be up-loaded to the CHOS website.
- The Growing Competition Plant for 2024 will probably be a mericlone from Rosella Orchids.
- New Members approved—Ethan and Anna Frame. Welcome!
- Additional activities for members during 2024 have been identified and a short list will be presented for approval at the next Committee meeting.
- Plans to reconfigure benches in the meeting room so that members can easily see and hear the Table Talk Presentation.
- The Agricultural Show will clash with the dates for the CHOS Autumn Show in 2024 so the Society will be unable to mount an orchid display at next years Agricultural Show.
- The CHOS will offer a financial loan of \$8000 to WDOS to assist with running costs for the 2025 AOC Conference.
- Committee to research alternate venues for the CHOS Autumn and Spring Shows.

Next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 23rd January 2024 from 10.30am at the **Jean Street Workshop**.

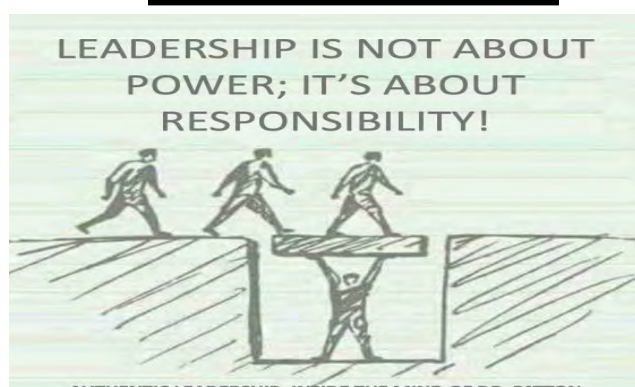


### POSITION VACANT

#### 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



## ROSELLA ORCHIDS

The Society recently conducted its annual visit to Rosella Orchids at South Grafton. A small group of enthusiastic growers appreciated being able to purchase some quality orchids and to stock up on essential hardware for the potting season.

Thanks to Frank Pappalardo for the organisation of the day and a special thanks to Dylan and Allan from Rosella Orchids for their continued support.



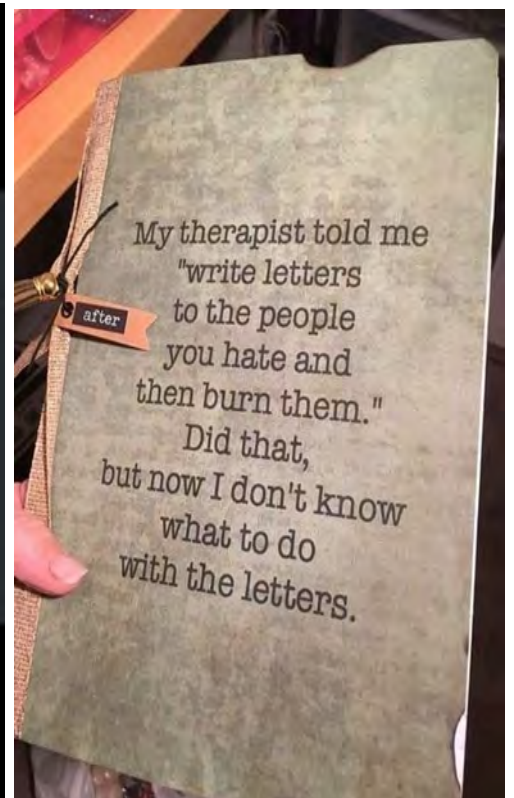
Frank and Matt fill their car boot with a precious cargo

Photos by Paige Sinclair



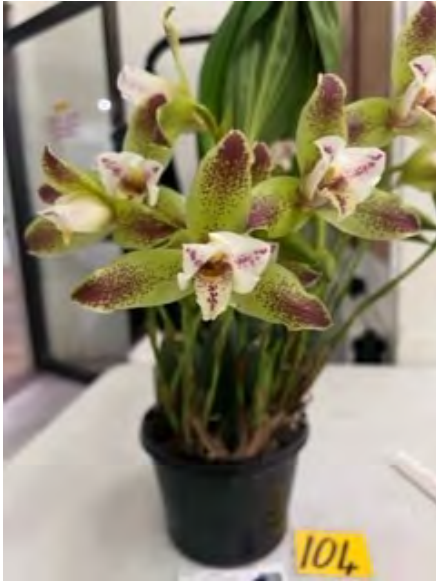
"OK, one more time: Go home and log on to our website from your computer, create an account and purchase your ticket with your credit or debit card, download the ticket to a smartphone, then come back at the allocated time... Just what part of 'easier and more convenient' don't you get?"

If you're sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"

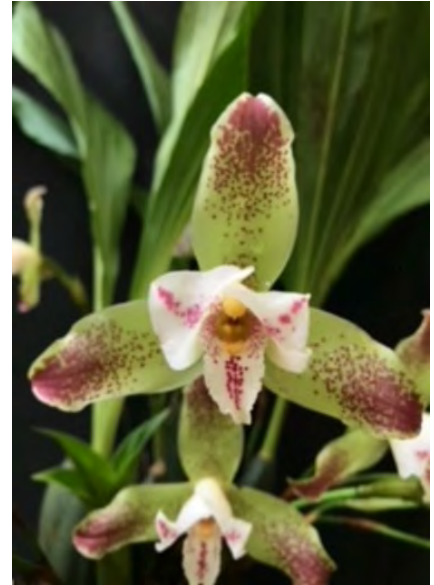




## POPULAR VOTE AT THE CHOS NOVEMBER MEETING



**Popular Vote at  
the CHOS  
November  
General Meeting  
was awarded to  
Rhonda Smith for  
her *Lycaste  
deppei*  
Congratulations!**



### JOKE TIME:

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Teacher: How old is your father?  
Kid: He is 6 years.  
Teacher: What? How is this possible?  
Kid: He became father only when I was born.  
(Logic!! Children are quick and always speak their minds.)

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TEACHER: Maria, go to the map and find North America.  
MARIA: Here it is.  
TEACHER: Correct. Now, Class, who discovered America?  
CLASS: Maria.

---

TEACHER: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile?'  
GLENN: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L'  
TEACHER: No, that's wrong  
GLENN: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell  
it.  
(I love this child.)

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TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?  
DONALD: H I J K L M N O.  
TEACHER: What are you talking about?  
DONALD: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

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TEACHER: Clyde, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly  
the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?  
CLYDE: No, sir; It's the same dog.  
(I want to adopt this kid!!!)

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TEACHER: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on  
talking when people are no longer interested?  
HAROLD: A teacher.

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**Airport Arrest** - A high school teacher was arrested today at Sydney's International airport as he attempted to board a flight while in possession of a ruler, a protractor, a compass, a slide-rule and a calculator.

At the press conference, the Attorney General said he believes the man is a member of the notorious extremist Al-Gebra movement. He did not identify the man, who has been charged by the police with carrying weapons of maths instruction.

'Al-Gebra is a problem for us', the Attorney General said. 'They derive solutions by means and extremes, and sometimes go off on tangents in search of absolute values. They use secret code names like "X" and "Y" and refer to themselves as "unknowns", but we have determined that they belong to a common denominator of an axis with coordinates in every country. As the Greek philosopher Isosceles used to say, "There are three sides to every triangle".'

When asked to comment on the arrest, the Federal Treasurer said, "If God had wanted us to have better weapons of maths instruction, he would have given us more fingers and toes". Fellow parliamentary colleagues told reporters they could not recall a more intelligent or profound statement by the Treasurer.

## **SPONSORS' SPOT:**

## **COFFS HARBOUR PRODUCE**

**At Coffs Harbour Produce, we're your local blokes who are committed to always providing outstanding customer service and competitive pricing on all rural supplies.**

**We're your one-stop shop for rural merchandise, garden supplies, animal supplies, fencing and much more. Whatever you need, you're guaranteed to find it at Coffs Harbour Produce.**

**We have been a locally owned and operated business since 1985, and offer free delivery to customers throughout the Coffs Harbour district.**

**They carry a good range of fertilisers, insecticides and fungicides for orchids, as well as general garden needs.**

**26 June Street, Coffs Harbour. Phone 02 6652 2599.**

**The New York Flight** - 400 passengers but only 200 meals were loaded onto a flight from Delhi to New York City. It was only discovered after take off, when the flight attendants started going through their preparations for the meals. So, the airline had bungled, and the crew was in a fix. However, one smart flight attendant had an idea.

A couple of hours into the flight she nervously announced, "Ladies and gentleman; we don't know how this happened, but we have over 400 people on board, but only 200 dinners. Anyone who is kind enough to give up their meal to someone else, will receive unlimited free liquor for the duration of the flight!"

Her next announcement came six hours later: "Ladies and gentlemen, if anyone wants to change their mind, we still have 180 dinners available."



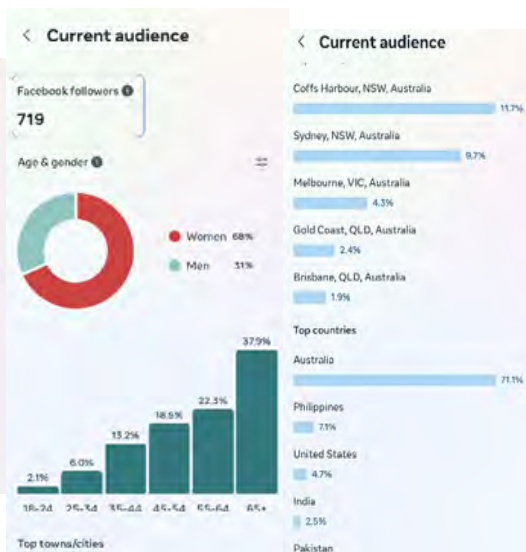
## Coffs Harbour Orchid Society Facebook

November 2023 – Currently, the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society has 719 likes. This is up by 1 person from October 2023. For our 'What's on Bloom' page, is down by 1 person to 183 members.



Coffs Harbour Orchid Society

719 Facebook followers >



CHOS What's In Bloom...



CHOS What's In Bloom Group >

Public group · 183 members

**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).



**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 did not 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.**



## FEATURE ARTICLE:

**Written by Jim Brydie and taken with permission from the KVO Bulletin.**

### **Best of the Evening Species – *Cattleya trianae* grown by Peter & Jane D'Olier**

This is one of the nicest *Cattleya* species of all. Not the showiest, not the fluffiest, not the biggest, but just delightful. The epitome of what a *Cattleya* is.

Unfortunately though, the pictures of Peter and Jane's orchid turned out to be unsuitable so I have decided to widen the scope of our general Best of the Evening series and just give you a wider treatise on *Cattleya trianae*. For keen *Cattleya* growers you could have a collection of just this one species and still fill your glass-house. It is one of the *Cattleya* species with a huge number of named cultivars and an enormous range of variations in combinations of colour and shape. Although many of those variations may be rather subtle.

There is a wonderful and very well written article on *trianae* available on the internet that I recommend to you and from which I will be drawing heavily during this brief summary. It was written by A.A. Chadwick of Chadwick Orchids Inc in the USA, and can be found at - <https://www.chadwickorchids.com/content/cattleya-trianaei> .

And first of all, I must explore the correct spelling of the name of this species. As perfectly explained by Mr. Chadwick, : - *"It wasn't until 1851 that C. trianaei finally made its debut when a Colombian botanist, José M. Triana, found large numbers of C. trianaei in the Eastern Cordillero. The plants were sent back to Linden and by 1855, Linden was offering them for sale in his orchid catalog for 150 francs per plant under the name "Cattleya Trianae." The species was dedicated, Linden said "to that erudite and modest author of Flora Columbiana, José M. Triana."*

*Of the many new orchids Linden introduced to the horticultural world in Europe in the 1800s, C. trianaei seemed to have been his favorite. Its plentiful supply and wide variety of color types made it a collector's dream, and Linden was happy and eager to promote it. He was the first to discover it and the first to have it commercially available. He pushed his friend, Reichenbach, to publish a description of it as a new species, and pictured 41 different clones on 28 full-color plates in his famous Lindenia, including a gorgeous double page spread of eight. He featured it at flower shows and even produced a special exhibition for it in 1870 at the Brussels Zoological Gardens where he displayed 240 different clones with more than 900 flowers.*

*Even Reichenbach acknowledged Linden's contribution to the plant by using Linden's name "Cattleya trianaei" in describing it and putting Linden's name next to his in the species description, "Cattleya Trianaei Lind. Rchb. f."*

*- - - - The name "trianaei" is pronounced "tri-an-ee," which is strange because it ends in an "i." Reichenbach in his original description spelled trianaei with an "i" at the end to reflect the male gender of José Triana. But almost everyone who followed Reichenbach for the next hundred years including Linden, Sanders, Veitch and even the Royal Horticultural Society, left the "i" off the name, spelling it "trianae." The spelling matched the way the name was universally pronounced, so the word itself was only changed back to Reichenbach's original spelling in 1960 after much soul searching. But we still pronounce it "tri-an-ee."*

What a wonderful story. But although I am sure Mr. Chadwick is correct about the original name and the ending in "i", for practical purposes I have decided to fall back to the presently Kew approved name of *trianae* without the "i".

And how about that reference to 240 different clones (more correctly called 'cultivars') even as far back as 1879. There are many more than that known today and while I can't show you more than just a sample, here are few to give you a feel for this lovely species. All the pictures below are *cattleya trianae*.



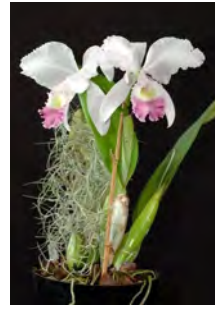
**AC Burrage**



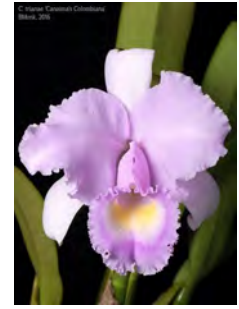
**AA Miller**



**Amoroso**



**Ave Maria**



**Cainama's  
Colombiana**



**Andrea**



**Cuencanita**



**Aranka Germaske**



**For the Livng**

And that is just a teeny introduction to the variety. What a lovely species.

Cattleya trianae comes only from Colombia in South America and is that county's national flower. It is found (mostly?) in the valleys of the Magdalena river which rises in the Andes and flows north to empty into the Caribbean sea. The Baker's description tells us that "Plants grow near rivers or streams on trees and rocks at 800-1500 m. They are found in a rather dry region where numerous cacti and succulent bromeliads also grow.

These areas are tropical forests not far north of the equator. Temperatures stay between 20 - 30°C all year round, day and night. Rainfall is modest but consistent all year but with two heavier rainfall periods in Autumn and Spring. For 8 months of the year average rainfall would be between 50 and 80 mm, in autumn (our April to June) averages jump to 110 to 180 mm, and in spring (our southern hemisphere Oct and Nov) to 110 - 160. An unusual seasonal pattern.

Unfortunately, although it was once common in the wild it is now rather rare because of excessive over-collection and habitat destruction. In Mr Chadwick's article he tells us : "*C. trianaei was found in such great numbers that literally hundreds of thousands of plants were imported into Europe and the United States after its discovery. Cattleya trianaei was so plentiful and inexpensive to import that it was rarely raised from seed, and the cut-flower growers of the 1930s and 1940s could actually import plants, grow and flower them for a year or two, throw them away, and still make a good profit on the cut flowers.*" Thankfully, man's ability and skills at making seedlings and mericlones has almost certainly turned this situation around. Let's hope that environmentalists are reintroducing some of these mistreated species to their original habitats in these more modern times.

And lastly, we reveal Cattleya trianae's secret popularity weapon. It flowers in the late autumn and early winter when there are few other Cattleya species in flower. Mr. Baker says : "Research tells us that trianae initiates buds in the sheath in early autumn when days become shorter. Buds then begin to grow inside the sheath from mid autumn provided temperature and other conditions are suitable. However, plants will not flower if grown under conditions where day length is kept artificially long."

As to culture, I usually like to offer some of my own experience because orchid culture is so dramatically affected by the conditions available in each growers circumstances, but in this case I am at a loss. I am not a Cattleya grower and if I have a Catt trianae in my collection I couldn't tell you where it is. Sad I know, but there it is.

As an alternative, I once again defer to Mr. Chadwick.



**"Growing Tips - AA Chadwick**

*Cattleya trianaei* is as easy to cultivate as most cattleya hybrids and it will grow well in any medium you use for them. If you start *C. trianaei* growing early in the spring, right after it finishes blooming, it will complete its first growth by early summer, and rush into a second growth that will be completed in late summer.

Be certain not to dry the plant off after the first growth is completed, however, or it may not start the second growth. Both growths should produce flowers in late December through February (JB: northern hemisphere seasons), after its autumn rest.

If you want to produce the best flowers, avoid repotting the plant as long as possible, and only repot when new roots emerge from the lead pseudobulb. Like other *Cattleya* species, *C. trianaei* should have lots of sun and air and the leaves should be a light green color. Do not let the leaves get warm to the touch, however, because this is too much sun and may burn the leaves. Always keep *C. trianaei* slightly dry during its rest period to avoid rotting the roots, and start the plant growing right after flowering with frequent light sprays of water on sunny days.

*Cattleya trianaei* usually produces only two or three flowers per stem, unlike most other major cattleya unifoliate species like *C. mossiae*, *C. labiata* and *C. dowiana*, which produce four or more per stem. Two growths in succession, of course, will give you a splashy five- or six-flower display, so the net effect is the same."

This is obviously a species worth seeking out and growing but as already explained there are lots of quite different trianaei varieties, and I am ashamed to say, there are orchids claiming to be trianaei that perhaps are not. Still that latter problem is an almost universal one for nearly all orchids among amateur collections. Even nurseries sell plants that are mislabeled, despite their rigorous attempts to ensure all is correct.

#### **BITS AND PIECES**

- ◆ **The CHOS Committee has evaluated this years Monthly Meetings Benching Competition and have reorganised the Points Score Categories. Only minor changes have been made such as removing the word Novelty and replacing it with the more acceptable term Non-Exhibition Shape, combining the *Tolumnia* with the other Oncidiinae Classes and reduction from 42 to 40 Categories. A copy of the new Points Score Categories [Dated Jan 2024, Version 6] is attached to this newsletter for your information. Please make a hard copy or save it so that you can access the document when you are organising your plants for each monthly meeting. This new organisation begins with the February 2024 Monthly Meeting and replaces the Version 5 used in 2023.**
- ◆ **The 2025 AOC Australian Conference is being hosted by Woolgoolga District Orchid Society and is set down for October, 2025 at the new Wiigulga Sports Complex at Woolgoolga. The WDOS has recently launched a very informative and attractive web site which provides all you will need to know about the event and includes application forms to register for the conference, take part as an orchid judge, etc. The site will be regularly updated as new information comes to hand. You can access the site at [www.aoc2025.org.au](http://www.aoc2025.org.au)**
- ◆ **Potting of your orchids [or half of your collection] should be in full swing or some of the more efficient growers may have already completed the task and are now sitting back relaxing. Most growers like to repot their orchids every two years and aim on doing fifty percent each year. It is amazing to see how orchids respond to new potting mix, regular fertilizing, etc. Of course there are exceptions to every rule and you may decide to not pot that *Cymbidium* or large *Cattleya* until the pot is full. Phalaenopsis growers often aim to repot every year after flowering. If you are not using clear pots for your Phals then it might be time to give it a go and monitor the results over the next year.**

YOU ARE INVITED TO A

# 2023

YEAR END PRESENTATION

SATURDAY,  
DECEMBER

2

12:00PM  
TO 3:00PM

## GREENHOUSE TAVERN

RSVP BEFORE NOVEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, TO PAIGE ON  
0429 59 1901 (PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE) OR REPLY TO  
THIS EMAIL, IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY PUT YOUR NAME  
ON THE LIST!

**-PLEASE BRING A FLOWERING ORCHID FOR  
POPULAR VOTE.**

**-COST IS \$25 PAYABLE ON THE DAY, VIA CREDIT  
CARD OR CASH**

**-\$25.00 INCLUDES A TWO COURSE LUNCH AND  
A GLASS OF EITHER WINE, BEER, OR SOFTDRINK**

