



## **COFFS ORCHID NEWS FEBRUARY 2024 PUBLICATION OF THE COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY**

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### **EDITORIAL:**

### **Happy New Year!**

Welcome to 2024! The Covid Years were not our best, and while 2023 was better for all of us, 2024 is shaping up to be a much improved year. As we closed the door on 2023 and walk with fresh hope through the gates of the New Year into 2024, we should be filled with hope for a new start, fresh beginnings and carry a positive outlook for a year filled with so much potential.

It is hoped that 2024 is the Year Of The Orchid for all of us. No doubt many will dream of a year where we show orchid discipline and regularly repot, fertilize and water our prize beauties so that they maximise their show room potential. Others know that the reality is that we will often forget to fertilize, etc, but hope that we do enough to get them to bloom and gladden our lives with their beauty. I wish you all the best in your orchid endeavours in the coming year. Happy New Orchid Year!

*With a revitalised Society Committee, this year's CHOS Program is shaping up to be an educational and entertaining one. The 2024 annual program has been released and contains a variety of activities for experienced, intermediate and new growers. The Society returns to a format it started in 2023 with providing guidance for new growers [and hopefully renewed inspiration for more experienced members] with two monthly meeting sessions entitled Back to Basics 3 and 4. These will look at the nutritional requirements of an orchid and the steps required to limit disease and pests in your orchid house. Bruce Hall will address unusual terete leaved Oncidium orchids for South America and Hans Schaible will introduce members to a wide variety of orchids which have their origins in Africa. A number of workshop activities are planned and we will hear a variety of orchid growing hints and techniques from many of our experienced growers. The very popular and successful plant auction will again take place in October. Check out the program attached to this newsletter to see what other highlights await you in 2024.*

The monthly benching competition has been slightly rejigged for 2024. The new list was included in last month's newsletter along with a set of the new competition labels. Copies of these are also on the CHOS website. It's always a time saver if you fill out the labels before you arrive at the meeting and don't forget to put your name on the back of the competition label. If we don't know who you are then we can't award you any points. Please bring any pots or stands that you might need to support and better display your orchids. Orchids should be staked and tied according to the AOC rules which are exactly the same standard as expected at one of our shows. Remember that for most orchids [exceptions include multi-branched inflorescences and Den. Soft Canes] they should not be tied above the bottom flower and no ties should be on a flower's ovary. Plants should be benched as early as possible and at the latest by 7.15pm. Judging commences at 7.20pm. It will help the Committee greatly if you can place your plants in the correct categories on the show bench and if you are uncertain as to where it should be placed then please seek assistance from one of the officials.

*Good luck to everyone for this year's monthly competition.*

**CHOS COMMITTEE 2023-2024**

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**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](mailto: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](http://officeworks.com.au).

**LUDO'S OLD WARES, ULMARRA**

Deals with old wares and collectables — 0402 044 601

**CALENDAR, 2024**

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)

## 2023 AWARDS PRESENTATION LUNCHEON



The Glad Fleming Trophy for the highest annual points score in the 2023 CHOS Monthly Competition was presented by President Carole Davis [on right] to Rhonda Smith. Rhonda scored 210 points in the competition which ran for ten months during 2023. Second place went to Malcolm Ide [154 points], third place to Paige Sinclair [115 points] and fourth place to Helen Seiver [99 points].

Congratulations to the overall winners and to those who won each category.

Full results are published elsewhere in this newsletter.



Woolgoolga District Orchid Society members during a refreshment break at the very successful two-day Orchid Conference held during November, 2023.

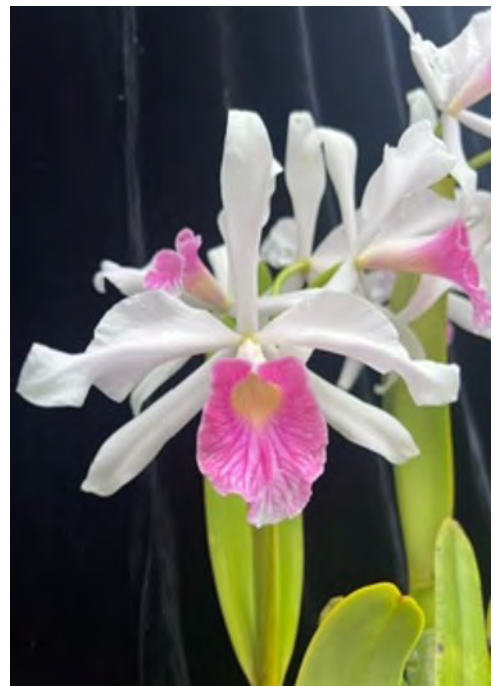
**Happy  
New Year**

## **BITS AND PIECES:**

- The 2024 Growing Plant Competition will commence in March this year with the plant allocation draw at the March meeting. Plants cost \$10 each and yours can be secured by getting your name on the application list and then paying \$10 to Paige [Cash or by Direct Deposit]. The plant selected for 2024 is still to be confirmed but will probably be a Mini Cattleya . If you would like to add this plant to your collection but not take part in the Growing Competition then that is acceptable but we would encourage you to see if you are up to meeting the challenge of growing this years plant. The final judging for the 2023 competition plant [*Vanda falcata*] will take place at the March meeting and trophies will be presented to the winners at the April or May meetings. Don't forget to bring along your *Vanda falcata* to both the February and the March meetings to gain valuable last points.
- The CHOS Annual Program has been published and a copy is attached with this newsletter. If you don't receive your newsletter by email then if you ask at the next meeting you will be able to receive a printed copy for your use. Please be aware that the program is flexible and could change without notice. It is usually updated each month on page 2 of the newsletter.
- This year there will again be opportunities for members to sell any excess plants they may have. The Autumn and Spring Shows are the major sales times and the CHOS charges members a 15% commission for these sales transactions. If you are selling NSW Native Orchids to the public then you require a CHOS Licence Tag. These are available from Show Officials. Two meetings have been set aside for sales by members to other members and no commission is charged for these sales. You don't require a Licence Tag if you are selling NSW native orchids to other CHOS members. Members sales will take place this year during the February and June meetings so bring your sale plants and your money for the February meeting. There is a good chance you may score a bargain.

### **VALE BEN PRON**

Members will be saddened to hear of the passing of CHOS member Ben Pron. Ben passed away on 1st December, 2023 and will be sadly missed by many. We pass on our condolences to Ben's family.



A beautiful *Cattleya purpurata* var. *carnea* [was *Laelia*] grown by Paige Sinclair

# PHOTOS FROM THE 2023 PRESENTATION LUNCHEON



Dick Cooper being presented by President Carole with his 2023 Competition Awards



Peter Gough being presented by President Carole with his 2023 Competition Awards



Paige Sinclair [Centre] presenting Val and Harold Magor with their ten year Service Certificates



Bill Bright showing off his 20 year Service Certificate. Presented to him by Paige Sinclair



Jean and Lina Altaweel receiving their 10 year Service Certificates from Paige Sinclair



Carole Davis receives her 15 year Service Certificate from Paige



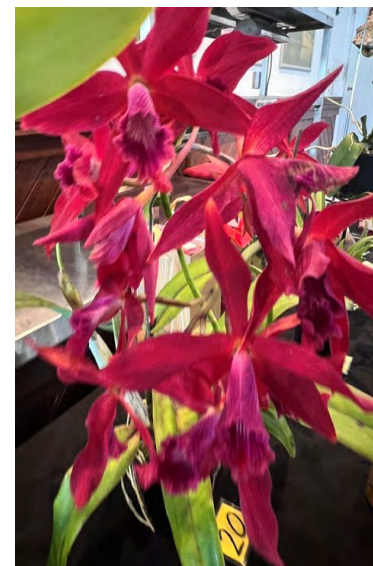
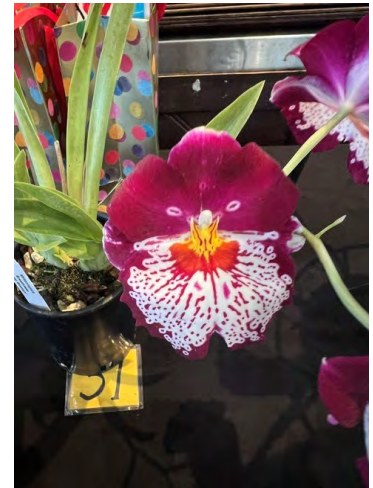
**POPULAR VOTE AT THE CHOS DECEMBER LUNCHEON**

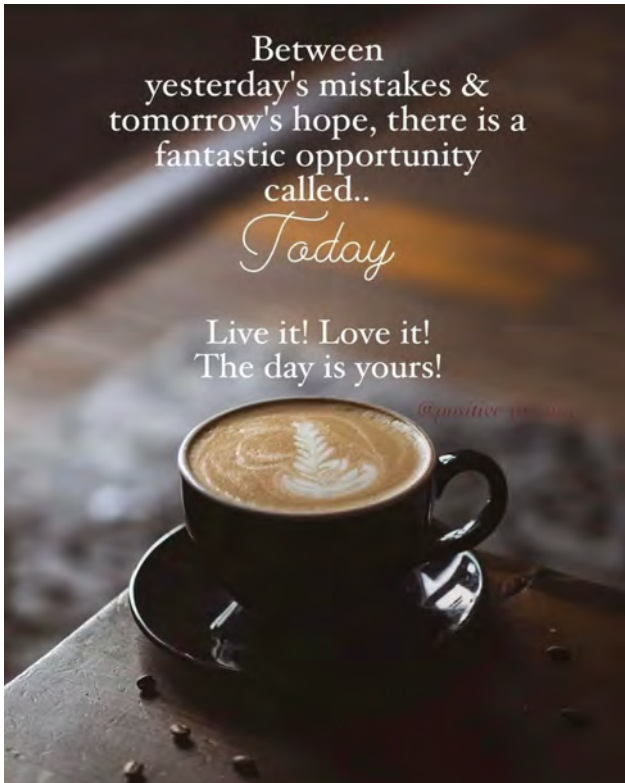


**Popular Vote at  
the CHOS  
December  
Luncheon was  
awarded to  
Helen Seiver  
for her *Cattleya  
digbyana*  
Congratulations!**



**ORCHIDS ON DISPLAY AT THE CHOS 2023 AWARDS LUNCHEON**

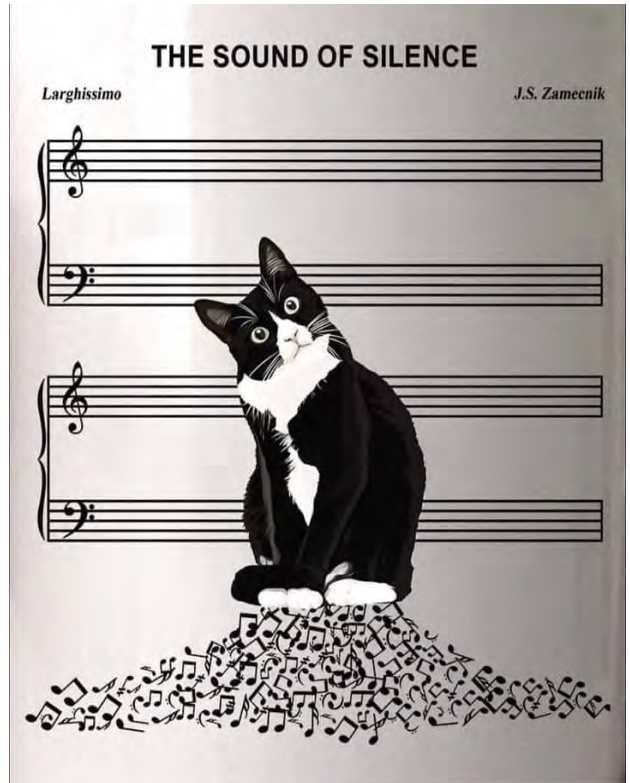




Between  
yesterday's mistakes &  
tomorrow's hope, there is a  
fantastic opportunity  
called..

*Today*

Live it! Love it!  
The day is yours!



**THE SOUND OF SILENCE**

*Larghissimo*

*J.S. Zamecnik*

**SPONSORS' SPOT:**

**COFFS COAST MAZDA**

Coffs Coast Mazda is proud to be a part of the Geoff King Motors Group who have been a part of the Coffs Harbour and Coffs Coast community since 1985. We have a dedicated team of people working hard to provide great service for the people of the Coffs Harbour and Coffs Coast areas and will do our best to ensure when you visit us you receive professional service and will want to come back to us for all of your automotive needs.

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We enhance your buying experience by providing expert after-sales service with courtesy pick-up and drop-off convenience. You will have the knowledge that your car is being treated with the care and professionalism you would expect from our service team in our modern workshop service area.

With access to a panel of worldwide lenders, we are guaranteed to tailor a finance package to suit your needs. We also offer a range of warranty and insurance products that will ensure total peace of mind.

Ring for an appointment 02 6652 3122 or visit 211 Pacific Highway, Coffs Hbr.  
You won't be disappointed .



**CHOS FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING—Thursday, 1st Feb starting at 7.30pm.**

The guest speakers are Paige and Bob and they will present Back to Basics 3—Orchid Nutrition.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would bring a contribution for members supper.

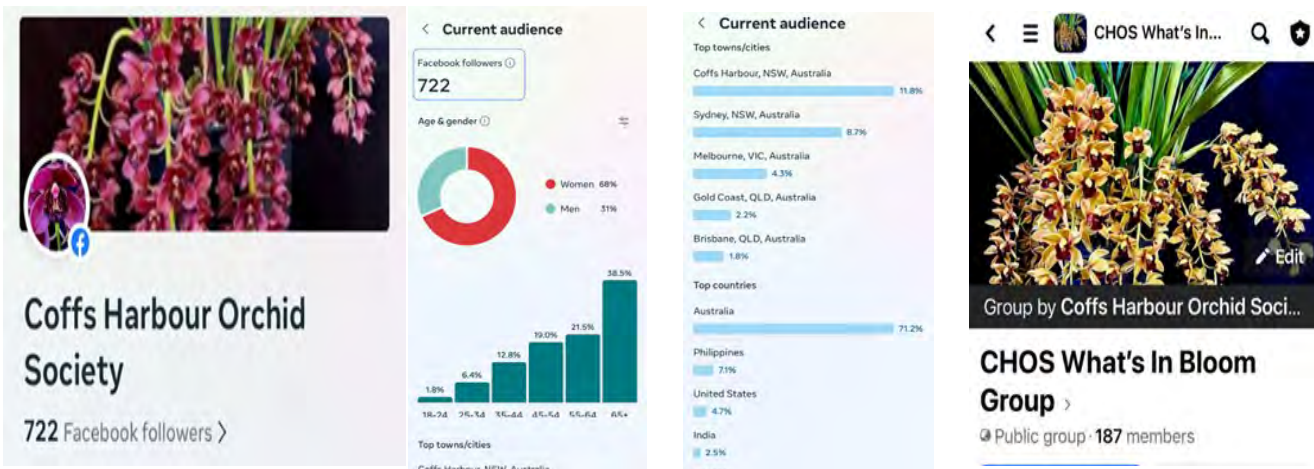
If you have plants for sales then bring them along to this meeting—no sales commission will be charged. This is to be a private sale between Seller and Buyer.

**Duty Persons for this meeting:**      **Judges:** Dick Cooper and Carmen Pearce

**Packing Up:** Pete Gough and Malcolm Ide.      **Cleaning Up:** Silesa King, Frank Pap and Phil Payne

## Coffs Harbour Orchid Society Facebook

January 2024 – Currently, the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society has 722 likes. This is up by 3 people from November 2023. Our 'What's on Bloom' page, is up by 4 people to 187 members, for the same period.



**CHOS SUPPLIES OF ORCHID BARK:** The CHOS now has a supply of Kiwi Bark and Charcoal. Kiwi Orchid Bark is a hard, clean, uniformly graded *Pinus radiata* bark suitable for growing orchids. 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).



### NEW REGISTERED SOFT CANE DENDROBIUMS

Bill and Jenny Lennon have been busy over the past few years crossing some of their outstanding Softcane Dens. They have been selling these at recent shows. The exciting news is that they have now registered three of these with the RHS. The registered names are listed below and if you were lucky enough to purchase some of these plants then it is suggested you write out new labels to reflect these changes.

*Dendrobium* Gladeview Sunset x *Dendrobium* Buderim Moonlight is registered as  
***Dendrobium* Eureka Gold**

*Dendrobium* Hamana Lake x *Dendrobium* Buderim Moonlight is registered as  
***Dendrobium* Moonlight Dream**

*Dendrobium* Red Emperor x *Dendrobium* Buderim Moonlight

and/or *Dendrobium* Buderim Moonlight x *Dendrobium* Red Emperor are both registered as  
***Dendrobium* First Time Lucky**

[Note: When the Pod Parent and the Pollen Parent are reversed the off-spring still retains the same name]



## CREATING DIFFERENT CLIMATIC ZONES IN YOUR ORCHID HOUSE

Three interesting tables taken [with permission] from a recent talk given at the WDOS November Conference. Most orchid growers have a variety of orchid genera in their orchid houses and have the problem of providing different microclimates within the one structure to allow a variety of orchids to grow happily. These tables will help you to know which plants to place together and what conditions you need to provide for their growth.

### MICROCLIMATE - How to create specific environments for different orchid genera

Phalaenopsis	indirect light	humid	Almost dry out between waterings	Warm
Paphiopedilums	75% shade	humid	Well drained, but never dry out	Warm
Bulbophyllums	Moderate light	85% humidity	Moist, well drained	Warm
Catasetum	Good light	Good air movement	Deciduous. Winter dry, Summer plenty of water and fertiliser	Winter, keep under cover
Cattleyas	Good light	Good air movement, some humidity	Good drainage, almost dry out between waterings	Warm
Dendrobium – hardcane (bigibbum /Cooktown types)	Good light	Good air movement to avoid fungal infections, Humid in growing season	Dryish in Winter, fertilise heavily when growing in Spring/ summer but almost dry out between waterings.	Winter, keep under cover
Dendrobium – soft canes, Indian Dens (aphyllum, primulinum, superbum, loddigesii and their hybrids)	Good light	Good air movement	Deciduous. Winter – dryish, Summer – plenty of water and fertiliser	Winter, keep under cover
Oncidium Alliance	good light	good air movement	Moist but not wet	
Phragmipediums	good light		Summer- roots always moist . Stand in a shallow saucer of water	Winter, no saucer of water
Tolumnia	Good light	Good air movement, mature plants don't need humidity	Daily water, dry out quickly	
Cymbidium	Good/strong light	Good air movement	Moist, fertilise heavily while in growing phase	Most need cool nights in summer to flower in winter
Vanda types	Strong light	High humidity	Daily water	Warm

# Ideal Light Levels

	<u>Foot Candles</u>	<u>Shade factor</u>
- Phalaenopsis	1000-1200	85%
- Paphiopedilum	1200-1500	75%
- Bulbophyllum	1500-2000	75%
- Catasetinae	2500-4000	65%
- Cattleya	2500-3500	65%
- Dendrobium	2500-3500	65%
- Oncidium	2500-3500	65%
- Zygopetalum	2500-3500	65%
- Cymbidium	3500-5000	55%
- Vanda	4000-5500	55%

[Editors Note: Low to Medium Light Levels - 1,000 to 1,500 Foot Candles [FC] or 10,000 to 16,000 Lux [Indistinct border on shadow]  
 Medium Light Levels— 1,500 to 3,000 FC or 17,000 to 30,000 Lux [Soft border on hand shadow].  
 Medium to High Light Levels—3,000 to 4,500 FC or 32,000 to 50,000 Lux [ Distinct border on hand shadow].]

## What orchids grow good together?

<u>Genus</u>	<u>Foot Candles</u>	<u>Temperatures</u>	
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
Phalaenopsis	1000-1200	24 - 30	20 - 72
Paphiopedilum	1200-1500	24 - 26	16 - 20
Bulbophyllum	1500-2000	24 - 26	16 - 20
Catasetinae	2500-4000	24 - 30	13 - 18
Cattleya	2500-3500	24 - 30	12 - 18
Dendrobium	2500-3500	24 - 30	10 - 18
Oncidium	2500-3500	24 - 30	12 - 18
Zygopetalum	2500-3500	21 - 26	7 - 12
Cymbidiums	3500-5000	21 - 26	4 - 10
Vanda	4000-5000	28 - 34	22 - 75

Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids, 2022

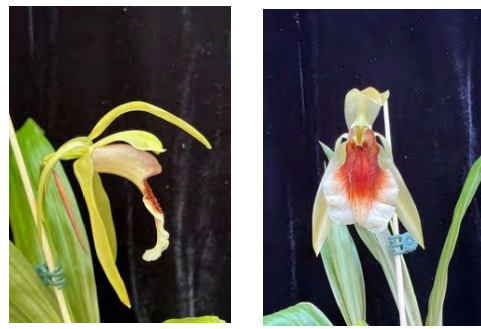
## EDWARD PEARCE COELOGYNE BREEDING PROGRAM

Paige Sinclair has managed to flower two more of the Coelogyne crosses performed by Ed Pearce before he passed away. The CHOS has now registered these with RHS in the UK and the names have been accepted. We have made the selection of these names based on Ed's family connections—one named after his eldest daughter, Michelle, and the other after his father, well know Victorian orchid grower and breeder, the late Ron Pearce.

If you happen to have any of these crosses then you should now change your label to the newly approved name. It is good to see Edward Pearce's legacy living on.



***Coel. Kirribilli Joyce X Coel. candoonensis* is now registered as *Coelogyne Michelle Pearce***



***Coel. Kirribilli Joyce X Coel. lawrenceana* is now registered as *Coelogyne Memoria Ronald Pearce***

## WHEN TWO POTS ARE OFTEN BETTER THAN ONE

- ◆ Many Coffs Harbour orchid growers have often wished they could grow and successfully flower a genus of orchid that is better adapted to cool to cold climatic conditions. Genera such as *Masdevallia*, *Dracula* and *Disa* come to mind. Some of these groups contain some types which are more heat tolerant than others and they are the ones which could be selected for growing in the Coffs Harbour area. If you reside in a slightly cooler area like Nana Glen, Ulong or Dorrigo then you will probably have success with more cold-loving varieties. For those who live on the coastal plain there is a trick which often helps to keep the root zone cooler and keeps these cooler growing plants happier. That trick is to double or triple pot the plant. This means you plant the orchid in a pot appropriate for its size and then place that pot into a slightly larger, empty pot. The air between the two pots acts as an insulator and keeps the inner pot cooler. In addition some growers place sphagnum or potting bark between the inner and outer pots. This will hold moisture and further cool the inner pot. Other growers use a third pot as further insulation. Well worth a trial if you are trying to grow cool tolerant orchids. Placing the orchid in a cooler region of your green house [even under a bench] will greatly assist in climate control.
- ◆ Need to plant a large orchid and perhaps add some ballast so the pot wont fall over but then you don't want to use large amounts of expensive potting mix? A few larger rocks in the base of the pot will stabilise it. Then invert an empty smaller pot on top of the rocks. Now fill the main pot with potting mix and pot the plant as you normally would. Due to the inner empty pot you will use less potting mix. Even with out any rocks in the pot you could still save potting mix in a deep pot by using an inverted smaller pot in the base.

## **RESULTS OF 2023 CHOS MONTHLY BENCHING COMPETITION**

### **[Highest points score in each Class]**

<b>CLASS 1:</b>	<b>Cym. Over 90mm</b>	<b>NIL [Minimum of 6 pts to qualify]</b>
<b>CLASS 2:</b>	<b>Cym. 60 – 90mm</b>	<b>MALCOLM IDE</b>
<b>CLASS 3:</b>	<b>Cym. Under 60mm</b>	<b>MALCOLM IDE</b>
<b>CLASS 4:</b>	<b>Cym. Species</b>	<b>NIL</b>
<b>CLASS 5:</b>	<b>Laeliinae Over 100mm</b>	<b>MALCOLM IDE</b>
<b>CLASS 6:</b>	<b>Laeliinae 60 – 100mm</b>	<b>PAIGE SINCLAIR</b>
<b>CLASS 7:</b>	<b>Laeliinae Under 60mm</b>	<b>RHONDA SMITH</b>
<b>CLASS 8:</b>	<b>Laeliinae Cluster</b>	<b>RHONDA SMITH</b>
<b>CLASS 9:</b>	<b>Laeliinae Non-Exhibition</b>	<b>RHONDA SMITH</b>
<b>CLASS 10:</b>	<b>Laeliinae Species</b>	<b>RHONDA SMITH</b>
<b>CLASS 11:</b>	<b>Paph. Exhibition</b>	<b>NIL</b>
<b>CLASS 12:</b>	<b>Paph. Non-Exhibition</b>	<b>PETER GOUGH</b>
<b>CLASS 13:</b>	<b>Paph. Species</b>	<b>PETER GOUGH</b>
<b>CLASS 14:</b>	<b>Oncidiinae Over 65mm</b>	<b>RHONDA SMITH</b>
<b>CLASS 15:</b>	<b>Oncidiinae 25 – 65mm</b>	<b>RHONDA SMITH</b>
<b>CLASS 16:</b>	<b>Oncidiinae Under 25mm</b>	<b>RHONDA SMITH</b>
<b>CLASS 17:</b>	<b>Tolumnia</b>	<b>RHONDA SMITH</b>
<b>CLASS 18:</b>	<b>Oncidiinae Species</b>	<b>RHONDA SMITH</b>
<b>CLASS 19:</b>	<b>Vandaceous Over 60mm</b>	<b>PETER GOUGH</b>
<b>CLASS 20:</b>	<b>Vandaceous Under 60mm</b>	<b>RHONDA SMITH</b>
<b>CLASS 21:</b>	<b>Vandaceous Species</b>	<b>RHONDA SMITH</b>
<b>CLASS 22:</b>	<b>Phalaenopsis Over 75mm</b>	<b>PETER GOUGH</b>
<b>CLASS 23:</b>	<b>Phalaenopsis 50 – 75mm</b>	<b>NIL</b>
<b>CLASS 24:</b>	<b>Phalaenopsis Under 50mm</b>	<b>NIL</b>
<b>CLASS 25:</b>	<b>Phalaenopsis Species</b>	<b>NIL</b>
<b>CLASS 26:</b>	<b>Dendrobium Soft Cane</b>	<b>DICK COOPER</b>
<b>CLASS 27:</b>	<b>Den. Hard Cane</b>	<b>DICK COOPER</b>
<b>CLASS 28:</b>	<b>Den. AOV Hybrid</b>	<b>MALCOLM IDE</b>
<b>CLASS 29:</b>	<b>Den. AOV Species Non-Native</b>	<b>RHONDA SMITH</b>
<b>CLASS 30:</b>	<b>Aust. Native Hybrid incl. Den.</b>	<b>DICK COOPER</b>
<b>CLASS 31:</b>	<b>Aust. Native Species incl. Den.</b>	<b>DICK COOPER</b>
<b>CLASS 32:</b>	<b>Sarcochilus Hybrid</b>	<b>PAIGE SINCLAIR</b>
<b>CLASS 33:</b>	<b>Sarcochilus Species</b>	<b>NIL</b>
<b>CLASS 34:</b>	<b>AOV Hybrid Under 50mm</b>	<b>PAIGE SINCLAIR</b>
<b>CLASS 35:</b>	<b>AOV Hybrid Over 50mm</b>	<b>PAIGE SINCLAIR</b>
<b>CLASS 36:</b>	<b>AOV Species Over 50mm</b>	<b>PAIGE SINCLAIR</b>
<b>CLASS 37:</b>	<b>AOV Species Under 50mm</b>	<b>MALCOLM IDE</b>