

# COFFS ORCHID NEWS APRIL 2024 PUBLICATION OF THE COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

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# EDITORIAL:

In 1735, Swedish Botanist, Carl Linnaeus, developed the current system we use for naming all living [and non-living] organisms. Every organism has it's own unique name comprising of a minimum of two parts, a Genus and a Specific Name — known as Binomial Nomenclature. All orchids are named using this binomial nomenclature and have a two-part name such as *Dendrobium bigibbum*. There are specific rules for how this naming system operates but this is not the place to expand on that method. Over the years orchids have been divided into groups based on similar characteristics. Often, after detailed study, a botanist will propose a name change or a regrouping of specific orchids. Some botanists propose that a number of orchids should be placed together in a group [called Lumpers] or they may propose that a specific group of orchids be divided into two or more new groups [called Splitters].

Sometimes this happens at a regular rate and if you trace the history of many orchids you will see they have had many name changes over the years. Each of these names [called a Synonym] is acceptable as the proper identification of a specific orchid but the educated grower is the one who knows and uses the currently acceptable name. In order to coordinate the naming of organisms, organisations have been set up to administer and record these acceptable name changes. For orchids, the current authority is the Royal Horticultural Society [RHS] based in the UK.

In the early 1950's , James Watson and Francis Crick proposed a double helix model for the DNA molecule and put forward a possible molecular sequence which provided a genetic code for all organisms. This explained how one gene was different from another.

Since the 1950's the science of Genetics has expanded enormously and now it is easy to examine the DNA of any orchid and then compare this DNA pattern with the DNA pattern of other orchids. It is this DNA analysis that has allowed botanists to confirm the relationship between one orchid and another. In many cases it has resulted in a re-classification of that orchid and so a change in name.

There is little to argue about once the DNA defines where a certain orchid fits in the overall classification system. Once there is overwhelming DNA evidence, then the Royal Horticultural Society may agree to a name change and it will then become official as the acceptable name for that orchid.

Some growers will not change their plant labels, they will not learn the new name and refuse to use it in conversations. They say "it will change again next week so why change the label". That was the old system but DNA analysis means that genetic relationships are now clearly established and only minor changes will occur in the future.

The message is clear :

Bite the bullet! Change your label. Learn the new name. Learn to live with it and move on.

## CHOS COMMITTEE 2023-2024

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Brekkie and Modern Australian dishes in a bright, upscale location with outdoor tables and lovely views over Coffs Creek. 321 Harbour Drive, Coffs Harbour. <u>www.shearwaterreastaurant.com.au</u> 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.

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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.

#### CALENDAR, 2024

4 April—Back To Basics—Part 4 Pests and Diseases - Paige and Bob

2 May—Terete Oncidiinae Orchids - Bruce Hall

6 June—Creating Different Zones in a Greenhouse—Peter Gough

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

## PHOTOS FROM THE CHOS MARCH MONTHLY MEETING



Vanda Brightons 'Ruby Jewel' benched by Peter Gough



Bratonia [Miltassia] Aztec 'Toni' benched by Paige Sinclair



Rsc. Dream Trader owned by Rhonda Smith



Rhonda Smith benched this Ctna. Whynot Roundabout X Self



Vanda Trevor Rathbone X A. Yip Sun Wah benched by Peter Gough



Cattleya Jungle Eyes owned by Helen Seiver



Dendrobium bigibbum compactum benched by Silesa King



Paph. lantha Stage owned by Rhonda Smith



Coelogyne macranthum benched by Silesa King

Photos by Paige Sinclair

# **CHOS COMMITTEE REPORT**

The following is a summary from the CHOS March Committee Meeting conducted on 12th March, 2024 at "The Workshop".

- The meeting room set up at the Botanic Gardens worked well for the March meeting. Some minor adjustments will be made for the April meeting.
- Little response received from members for completion of the Monthly Meeting Roster.
- The draw was made for the 2024 Plant Growing Competition. Plants were allocated and Growing Guides are to be emailed to each member.
- Prizes for the 2023 Growing Competition to be awarded at a future meeting.
- Post Office Box for the CHOS has been cancelled.
- Society Shirts—samples to be available at the April Meeting.
- Members Chinese Banquet set down for 20th April has been postponed.
- The Committee is still investigation a suitable larger venue for future shows.
- Membership Many members are still to renew their CHOS membership for 2024. If not paid by the end of March then those members names will be removed from the membership list.
- There has been an increase in the cost of bark supplies. Regrettably, the Committee will have to increase the price per bag to \$50.
- All CHOS Sponsors have paid their sponsorship for 2024. The Committee thanks each of them for their continued support.
- All Show organisation is on track.
- Next Committee Meeting will be held at "The Workshop" on 9th April, 2024 at 10.30am.

By replacing your morning coffee with green tea, you can lose up to 87% of what little joy you still have left in your life.

impa

You never really know the true impact you have on those around you. You never know how much someone needed that smile you gave them. You never know how much your kindness turned someone's entire life around. You never know how much someone needed that long hug or deep talk. So don't wait to be kind. Don't wait for someone else to be kind first. Don't wait for better circumstances or for someone to change. Just be kind, because you never know how much someone needs it. - Nikkt Banas

#### **POPULAR VOTE AT THE CHOS MARCH 2024 GENERAL MEETING**



Popular Vote at the CHOS March Meeting was awarded to Rhonda Smith for her awesome

*Catasetum* Maria Mercado 'Dylan'

HCC/AOC Congratulations!



PHOTOS OF THE MAJOIR WINNERS AT THE WORLD ORCHID CONFERFENCE HELD IN TAIWAN, FEBRURAY 2024.



GRAND CHAMPION
[Rhynchostylis]



CHAMPION DENDROBIUM



**CHAMPION PHALAENOPSIS** 



CHAMPION PAPH



#### CHAMPIONS TABLE

**Photos courtesy of Paige Sinclair** 



**CHAMPION** 

BULBOPHYLLUM

# TIPS IN PREPARING PLANTS FOR THE SHOW BENCH

- Early staking is important to ensure that flowers develop with correct orientation and present well to the Judges. You can use clips in the early stages but it may be better to replace these with ties prior to the show. Often an arching inflorescence presents better than an upright one.
- Follow the basic staking rules including how to tie a branching inflorescence. 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.
- Remove any additional travelling ties so the orchid presents well. Sometimes removal of hanging hooks gives the orchid a cleaner look.
- Prior to the Show clean up the plant. Remove old flower stalks, dead leaves, etc. Cleaning the leaves (metho, etc) may help in presenting a nice-looking plant.
- Remove any signs of disease and pests. For example, a small amount of scale can be removed with a cotton bud dipped in metho. Please don't bring diseased plants to the Show. The Show Marshal will remove them as they may endanger plants of other growers.
- Each pot or mount needs proper support. Don't expect the Show Marshal to do it for you. Plants that are not self-supporting may be removed from the exhibition as they can fall over and damage other entries. Use a larger pot, pot feet, etc, to make sure the plant is stable. Proper stands or upside-down pots may help to elevate the plants.
- Tables will be provided outside the Show Room so you can unpack and label your plants before benching. 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 save double handling.

## 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. www.rosellaorchids.com.au

# SUPPORT THEM AS THEY SUPPORT US



CHOS APRIL MONTHLY MEETING—Thursday 4th April starting at 7.30pm.

Paige and Bob will present Back To Basics Part 4 on "Orchid Diseases and Pests".

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

Don't forget to bring your new Competition Plant, Cattleya Beautiful Sunset for it's first judging.

**Duty Persons for this meeting:** Judges: Malcolm Ide and Marcia Lusted

Packing Up: Volunteers on the night Cleaning Up: Volunteers on the night

# **Coffs Harbour Orchid Society Facebook**

March 2024 – Currently, the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society has 866 likes. This is up by 143 people from February 2024. Our 'What's on Bloom' page, is up by 7 people to 195 members, for the same period.



794 likes · 866 followers



CHOS What's In Bloom

Private group · 195 members

Group >

Top countries @

548 63%
53 6%
52 6%
<b>21</b> 2%
10 1%
8 1%

35-44

55-64

45-54

Bangladesh	6 1%
Italy	6 1%
Malaysia	6 1%
Vietnam	5 1%
Top towns/cities 0	
Coffs Harbour, NSW, Australia	<b>91</b> 10%
Sydney, NSW, Australia	65 7%
Melbourne, VIC, Australia	39 4%
Brisbane, QLD, Australia	18 2%
Gold Coast, QLD, Australia	15 2%
Wollongong, NSW, Australia	9 1%
Boambee East, NSW, Australia	8 1%
Perth, WA, Australia	8 1%
Toormina, NSW, Australia	8 1%
Woolgoolga, NSW, Australia	8 1%

# **CHOS SUPPLIES OF ORCHID BARK:**

The CHOS now has a NEW supply of Kiwi Bark and Charcoal. Kiwi Orchid Bark is a hard, clean, uniformly graded *Pinus radiata* bark suitable for growing orchids. Due to price rises The Society has had to increase to price of 50 litre bags and these now sell for **\$50 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).



23rd Australian Orchid Council International Conference & Show 2025 Wednesday, October 1 to Sunday, October 5

Wiigulga Sports Complex Solitary Islands Way, Woolgoolga New South Wales, Australia

Proudly Hosted by

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE REGISTRATION For early bird registration price paid before July 1- \$220 per person Full price - \$300 per person Contact Annie Houston on 0410 628 662 or email Annie woolgoolga.dist.orch@gmail.com VENDOR REGISTRATION Table space for vendors will be limited. Early registration recommended. COST: 4 Tables \$575 Frontage - 7.2 metres wide Contact Ann Deans on 0466 265 357 woolgoolga.dist.orch@gmail.com

# FLOOR OR TABLE DISPLAY

Woolgoolga District Orchid Society

International Conference & Show

**Drchids** 

from the

Mountains

to the Sea

2025 ROC

Brisbane

Hundreds of magical orchids and flasks will be on sale by vendors from around Australia and the world to add to your orchid collection This is a wonderful opportunity for your Society to stage a magnificent floor or table top display - contact woolgoolga.dist.orch@gmail.com

8 International and Australia-wide Guest Speakers

See our Website for more information - www.aoc2025.org.au



# Benching plants for our Orchid Shows

# **By Paige Sinclair**

#### Overview

In October 2025 Woolgoolga District Orchid Society will be hosting the 2025 Australian Orchid Show. This show will attract over 600 plants that will need a legible name tag, with a unique number and other information to assist stewards in placing these plants in their proper place. Some of these plants will be in displays and will need to be judged in their rightful section. To streamline this process, and to make it easier for growers, I have developed a system that I need to trial prior to the national event. Coffs Harbour and Woolgoolga societies will be the selected organisations to test my system.

No longer will growers need to hand write the benching tags and place a number on that tag when you delivery your plants. Instead, growers will complete an Excel Spreadsheet with the details of the plants likely to be benched and e-mail it by 12:00 on the day benching opens. Late entries and scratched plants can be dealt with on the day. It's better to list this plant in the spreadsheet and then not bring it on the day, rather than to be hopeful and scramble to get a computer-generated tag/number.

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# FEATURE ARTICLE:

# The following is an article written by Jim Brydie and featured in the KOS February, 2024 Bulletin and reproduced with permission.

# Phal violacea and Phal bellina

This is a complicated group of Phally species that have had a few names over the years but whatever you call them it doesn't take a taxonomist to see they are at the very least very closely relat-

ed. There were two benched last meeting. One benched by Jean Fulcher labelled Phal. bellina (the one on the right) but for the other we didn't record the name. I am tempted to say it is an albino form of Phal violacea because I have seen many others of this type but it could just as easily be an albino bellina or even a hybrid.



{Jean Fulcher later told me both were hers and the green one was Phal Joy Pink Princess (Phal violacea x Tsay's Evergreen) and it came from Kevin Hipkins.}

In the Feb 2015 bulletin I wrote a little about this group of Phallies but they haven't come up much more recently and I think they are worthy of bit of information. So, here is the 2015 write up again.

Phal. violacea comes from Borneo, Sumatra, and Malaya, usually growing on shady trees near lowland rivers. This is a warm, humid grower. The leaves are uniquely glossy and while they are usually about 25 to 30cm long, they can get up to 60cm on a well grown plant. Plants not in flower have sometimes been mistaken for the other big phally (Phal gigantea). The fleshy, waxy flowers, at 5 to 7 cm, are relatively large for one of these fewer flowered types, but they sit up close to the crown and present themselves beautifully. There can be up to 5 flowers sequentially, but usually just 2 or 3.

The colour is variable. Plants from the Malayan peninsular are usually a fairly uniform rose magenta. On others, the tips of the sepals and petals are usually green while the centre of the flower is magenta to varying extents. Those from Borneo are slightly different again, with the sepals and petals having a white base with a greenish suffusion, the outer third apple green, and there are varying amounts of magenta in the inner portion. There is a pleasing 'opalescent' look about the greener forms and they are very popular.

There are about 50 species in the genus Phalaenopsis and many, many, varieties. Like many larger genera, some groups of species are more closely related to each other than to the rest of the genus. These are grouped in "Sections", and Phal violacea belongs to Phalaenopsis Section Zebrinae. Its 'cousins' in Section Zebrinae are Phal corningiana, inscriptiosinensis, speciosa, sumatrana, tetrapsis, and zebrina.

The colour in Sect Zebrinae species occurs in concentric rings of dashes and bars. In some of the full coloured forms of violacea, the patterns overlap to the point where they are invisible or barely

visible, and the flower looks full coloured, but in others, like the picture at the right, you can clearly see the pattern. The other pattern extreme is demonstrated in the species tetrapsis where the colour is usually limited to barely a spot or two on the sepals and petals, and occasionally even these don't show.



↓ various colour Forms of Phal. violacea





**2two forms of variety Bellina 2** 







variety Sumatra





variety Malaya 🛛



**<sup></sup>** Itwo forms of variety Coerulea

**References** – Orchidwiz database, internet pictures, and "The Genus Phalaenopsis" by Herrman Sweet.

#### **BITS AND PIECES:**

- Growers who intend selling plants on the Sales Table at the Autumn Show will need to obtain a
  reconciliation form from Paige Sinclair and record the plants they wish to sell. Paige also has the official
  sales tags which need to be filled out and attached to the sales plant. Growers should use their own
  numbering system to identify each of their plants. For example John Citizen may use the code JC1, JC2,
  etc. As usual the CHOS will charge 15% commission on all plant sales.
- If members wish to sell NSW Native Orchids [Species and Hybrids] at the Autumn Show then they need to complete a simple registration form and obtain a CHOS Licence Tag. Attach the tag to the pot. Forms can be obtained from Bob Southwell. There is no charge for this tagging service.
- Please check out the Show Schedule attached with this newsletter. All members entering plants into the Show should be aware of the rules listed in the schedule. Benching will occur on Friday between 3pm and 6pm and again on Saturday between 6.30am and 7.30am. Check out the new registration procedures outlined on pages 10 and 11 of this newsletter.

# **GROWING GUIDE FOR THE 2024 GROWING PLANT COMPETITION**

# The following is a basic growing guide for the hybrid plant *Cattleya* Beautiful Sunset

This Is a hybrid of *Cattleya* Orppetii *X Cattleya sincorana*. It is a mini Cattleya with fragrant flowers. It was first crossed by J. Miura in 1990. It has since been registered with the RHS as *Cattleya* Beautiful Sunset. <u>Repotting:</u> These plants are currently in 70mm pots. It would be best to repot this plant now into a potting mix suitable for your cultural methods. Repotting can be stressful to the plant so only repot when neces-



sary. They need an open, well drained mix. Good quality bark (Grade 2 Kiwi Bark) would be ideal for this purpose. Some perlite and small-sized stones (or scoria, gravel, etc.) could be added to the mix. You could add coconut chips if you wish but too much may mean the mix holds too much water. Limit pot size to suit root volume and don't over pot. The pot should not be too deep so squat pots are ideal.

<u>Watering:</u> Cattleyas like lots of water but let them dry out between watering's. On hot days, they will benefit from wetting the shade house floor to increase humidity and slightly lower the temperature. Try not to get water into the developing flower sheaths as this may cause immature flowers to rot.

<u>Light:</u> Cattleya Alliance orchids require bright light (50% to 70% shade cloth is suitable) but not strong sunshine. They will not flower without plenty of light. In the right conditions the leaves will be apple green. Darker leaves indicate too little light while yellow leaves indicate too much light.

<u>Fertilizing:</u> They require regular fertilizing. Apply a weak solution of liquid orchid fertilizer each week or fortnight. Use a lower nitrogen and higher phosphorus/potassium fertilizer when plants are approaching flowering. Some growers add Slow Release Fertilizer such as Plantacote High K [8 months] at repotting. <u>Air Movement:</u> They grow best where there is plenty of air movement. Don't put plants too close together. Use of a fan will aid in ventilation.

<u>Diseases and Pests</u>: Keep an eye out for any pests and diseases and apply the proper control methods as required. Applying a general-purpose fungicide (Mancozeb) could be beneficial. Mealy bug and scale can be a problem and these may hide among the leaf bases and flower sheaths.

