

COFFS ORCHID NEWS MAY 2024 PUBLICATION OF THE COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

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EDITORIAL:

Many of us are reluctant to accept change especially as we get older. Change for change sake is probably a debatable process. If it is not broken then it does not need fixing is often an expressed saying. However, by using modern technology the existing way of doing things can often be improved resulting in a better outcome.

Many older orchid growers are reluctant to embrace change as they are more familiar with the older methods. They understand how they work and have a fear that they will not be able to comprehend or operate the new technology.

In the April edition of this newsletter. Paige Sinclair, outlined a new method that the CHOS has adopted to register all orchids being benched at the upcoming Autumn Show. While this procedure is going to act as a trial for the 2025 AOC Australian Conference to be held at Woolgoolga, it will also mean that the plant registrations and processing of results for this Show can occur in a more efficient way. The new registration method requires that all entrants fill out a spreadsheet with each orchids name and which Class it will be benched under based on the Show Schedule. It is hoped that the majority of growers will then email this spreadsheet to Paige and she will then electronically add it to the Registration Program. The computer will then print a show label to go on each of the growers orchids and each orchid will be placed on the Receiving Table in the Show Room for placement in the correct position on the bench. The Show Marshal Team will check each orchid to ensure it is being benched in the correct Class and check that the flower size is measured correctly [if necessary]. There will be no need to write your name on the back of the label.

Some growers have expressed concern and even suggested that they won't enter in future shows as this method is too complex for them to understand and implement. The Society wishes to reassure all members that they will not be disadvantaged because of the introduction of this new method of registration. Every grower will be given assistance to make sure they can easily provide the information needed to enter their orchids in this Show.

If you can write and send an email or send a text message then you can easily complete the spreadsheet. However, if you are not confident in completing and sending the spreadsheet using your computer, then Paige will give you a printed spreadsheet and you can manually enter the plant details using a pen or pencil. This manual process is not that different from what was previously done when white cards were used as the registration labels. Alternatively, we can photograph your plant name tags and then manually transfer this information into the registration program.

The Society wants every member to feel comfortable in entering this year's Show. Please talk to Paige Sinclair or Bob Southwell [or any other official] about how we can help you with this year's entries.

We hope every member enjoys the Show and wish everyone great success with each of your entries.

CHOS COMMITTEE 2023-2024 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.shearwaterreastaurant.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, 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

- 2 May—Terete Oncidiinae Orchids - Bruce Hall
- 6 June—Creating Different Zones in a Greenhouse—Peter Gough Plus Members Plant Sales
- 4 July—African Orchid Species— Hans Schaible [plus plant sales from Dark Star Orchids]
- 1 Aug—Tricks and Tips plus Appreciation Orchid Judging

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 APRIL MONTHLY MEETING



Vanda miniata
[Ascocentrum miniatum]
benched by Peter Gough



Dendrobium bigibbum owned by Peter Gough



Rhonda Smith benched this amazing Blc. Sunstate Colorchart 'Southern Cross' X C. caudabec



Lc. Mona Pink 'Hiromi' owned by Rhonda Smith



Paph Clair de Lune 'Bess' benched by Peter Gough



Dendrobium Yaya 'Victoria' benched by Matt Connell



Vascostylis Pine Rivers 'Pink' owned by Pete Gough



Peter Gough's Vanda Brighton's 'Ruby Jewel'



Blc. Chief Pink 'Diana' HCC/AOS benched by Rhonda Smith

CHOS COMMITTEE REPORT

The following is a summary from the CHOS April Committee Meeting conducted on 9th April, 2024 at "The Workshop".

- All Committee members were present.
- ♦ The April General Meeting was considered successful . New room set-up appeared to work satisfactory and was well received by members.
- General Meeting Roster still to be finalised.
- Autumn Show organisation is progressing well. Paige is happy to assist any members who may need help in entering their plants in the Show.
- CHOS Logo T-Shirts—Members at the April General Meeting voted that the new t-shirts be the traditional Royal Blue colour. Orders to be made with Kerrie Gosling and will close at the end of May. [See page 12 of this newsletter for ordering details].
- New Bark supply has arrived and is available from Paige—price has increased to \$50 per bag.
- To show you have read this newsletter, text your name to Bob on 0417 695 834 and be placed in the draw to win a prize. Winner announced next month.
- Chinese Banquet set down for end of April has been cancelled. A new date will be announced shortly.
- It is proposed to visit an orchid nursery at Port Macquarie on 24th August. Details of the itinerary will be available in the near future.
- The Society is wishing to visit some members greenhouses. If you can help can you let Frank Pappalardo know ASAP.
- Next Committee Meeting will be held at 'The Workshop' on Tuesday 7th May, 2024.

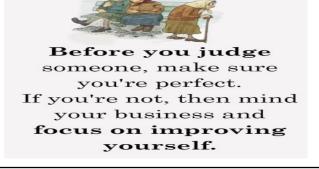
MY WIFE ASKED ME WHY I SPOKE SO SOFTLY IN THE HOUSE.
I SAID I WAS AFRAID MARK ZUCKERBERG WAS LISTENING!
SHE LAUGHED.
I LAUGHED.
ALEXA LAUGHED.
SIRI LAUGHED.

The Benefits of a Good Vocabulary

I recently called an old engineering buddy of mine and asked what he was working on these days.

He said it was treatment of ceramics, aluminium, and steel in a constrained environment.

It turned out that he was washing the dishes at home under his wife's supervision.



POPULAR VOTE AT THE CHOS APRIL 2024 GENERAL MEETING



Popular Vote at the CHOS
April Meeting was awarded to
Rhonda Smith for her amazing
Blc. Glenn Maidment 'Southern Cross'
Congratulations!



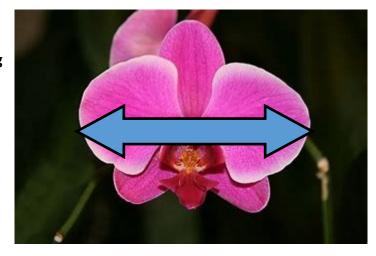
HOW TO MEASURE AN ORDHID FLOWER

When you are preparing your show entries and having to decide which Class the plant will be benched in, you may need to measure the width of a flower.

The standard method is to measure with a ruler or a calliper across the widest horizontal width of

the flower. It is important not to flatten the flower or manipulate it any way. For most flowers this would mean measuring from the outer edge of the left petal to the outer edge of the right petal and obtain a reading in millimetres.





The AOC Judging Manual states that the size of a flower is usually measured across its natural horizontal spread, without any manipulation.

Some flowers, such as members of the Brassia genus, have long sepals which are usually much wider than the petals. The size of these flowers is determined by measuring as in the left hand photograph.

If some flower segments are twisted or out of shape then don't straighten them. They need to be measured without any manipulation across the horizontal.

SENIOR TRYING TO RESET PASSWORD

WINDOWS: Please enter your new password

USER: cabbage

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must be more than 8 characters.

USER: boiled cabbage

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must contain 1 numerical character.

USER: 1 boiled cabbage

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot have blank spaces.

USER: 50damnboiledcabbages

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must contain at least one upper case character

USER: 50DAMNboiledcabbages

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot use more than one upper case character consecutively.

USER: 50damnBoiledCabbagesShovedUpYourAssIfYouDon'tGiveMeAccessNow!

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot contain punctuation.

IISER-

ReallyPissedOff50DamnBoiledCabbagesShovedUpYourAsslfYouDontGiveMeAccessNow

WINDOWS: Sorry, that password is already in use.



Life is the most difficult exam. Many people fail because they try to copy others, not realizing that everyone has a different question paper.



Most expensive vehicle to operate in 2023-2024



To the World you may be one person but to one person you may be the World.

Dr.Seuss

SPONSORS' SPOT:

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.

Check the website at www.officeworks.com.au.



SUPPORT THEM AS THEY SUPPORT US

CHOS MAY MONTHLY MEETING—Thursday 2nd May 2024 starting at 7.30pm.

Bruce Hall will present a photographic talk on 'The Terete-leaved Oncidiums'.

This group of orchids are now included in the Oncidium Alliance Genus *Trichocentrum* and have a unique structure and interesting history.

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 next judging.

Duty Persons for this meeting: Judges: Rhonda Smith and Silesa King

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

Coffs Harbour Orchid Society Facebook

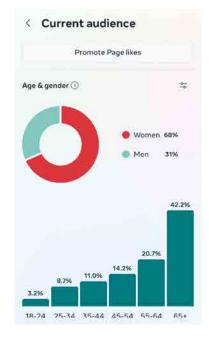
April 2024 – Currently, the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society has 1.9K likes. This has doubled since the last report in March 2024. Our 'What's on Bloom' page, is up by 59 people to 254 members, for the same period.



Coffs Harbour Orchid Society

1.9K likes · 1.9K followers







CHOS What's In Bloom Group >

Private group · 254 members

With the Autumn Orchid Show only a few weeks away, we have placed a paid advertisement on Facebook. Results to 7/04/2024 are:

We've reached 3,283 people through targeting. 127 people have responded to our advertisement. The advertisement will run 32 days in total which started 27 March, 2024, and We've spent \$24.62 of our \$70.00 budget.

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).

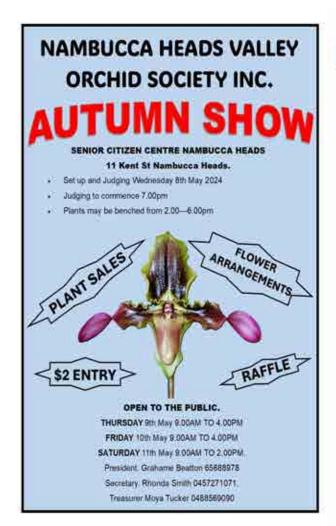
Supplies of 15mm charcoal (Orchid Char) are also available. These are in 19kg bags and sell at \$45 per bag.

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).









LOCAL AUTUMN ORCHID SHOW DATES:

Put these in you calendar for future reference. Being a member of CHOS you are eligible to enter each of these Autumn Shows. Or perhaps you may wish to just visit and see what other growers have produced.

27-28th April: Coffs Harbour, Botanic Gardens, Hardacre St, CH. See poster above.

9th—11th May: Nambucca Heads, Senior Citizens Centre. See poster above.

10th May: Grafton Orchid Society, Grafton Shopping World, 52-74 Fitzroy St, Grafton.

25th - 26th May: Macleay Valley Orchid Society, Masonic Hall, Tozer St, West Kempsey.

Opens from 10.30am on Saturday and 9am on Sunday.

29th—30th June: Mingara Orchid Fair and Show, Mingara Recreation Club, Tumbi Umbi.

STOP PRESS: Maclean Orchid Society are planning a coach trip to the Mingara Orchid Fair and Show, departing on Friday 28th June. . CHOS members are invited to book a seat plus accommodation to this fabulous event. The coach would pick up CHOS members on its way south. The plan is to stay for three nights and return home on the Monday. The trip will also include a visit to Royale Orchids at Peats Ridge. Please see the full invitation letter included with this newsletter.

FEATURE ARTICLE: Following the last Back to Basics talk at the April Meeting many members will be considering using Alginox for greenhouse hygiene or as a bacteriocide. Therefore it is appropriate that we reprint this article by Jim Brydie from the recent KOS Bulletin.

Alginox – yet again. Please read these explanations and notes if you intend to deploy Alginox.

Growers are still discovering the use of this product as a disinfectant but the frustrating aspect for me is that it is discovered as a lightbulb moment by each grower one at a time and some of the story gets lost along the way.

I think the first time I published the table of Alginox dilution rates for various purposes was back in 2007. It has also been published independently by other organisations and I know was published by North Shore Orchid Society before I published it in the Ku-ring-gai OS bulletin.

None of us in Sydney invented this product or proposed its use as a bactericide or sterilant in orchid growing.

The story that goes with the table is that it was originally put together by a clever nurseryman somewhere in the northern zone of NSW but I doubt we will ever know or be able to track down the initiator.

THIS IS A SWIMMING POOL CHEMICAL - NOT A GARDEN SUPPLIES PRODUCT

The product we have been adopting as an orchid growers aide was not made for our purposes. It is an algaecide designed for swimming pool treatment. The active ingredient in Alginox, is Benzalkonium Chloride and the

"Alginox" that we were using in 2007, was listed as having that active ingredient at the concentration of 150 g per litre. That is the Alginox for which the dilution rates chart was designed for orchid growers.

HOWEVER – time has marched on. There are many more pool algaecides available in the pool chemicals market and "Alginox" brand is getting harder to find. What is more, even when you can find a store that sells Alginox, it may now come in different concentrations. If you can only buy Alginox with a different concentration of the active ingredient, there is some mathematics to apply to adapt the dilution rate table to apply the different concentrations of Alginox. For example, Woolworths presently still has 2.5 litre containers of Alginox in some stores. I know Thornleigh store still has some. BUT their Alginox has Benzalkonium chloride at only 100 g/l concentration. To use that product with the table we publish you would have to multiply the suggested rates in the table by 150%.



Other Algaecide Brands and formulations

There are many different kinds of algae that grow in swimming pools. It therefore follows that commercial pool algaecides come in a variety of formulations and that they use multiple active ingredients. That product variety must be a real boom to pool owners trying to manage different kinds of outbreaks of algae or other problems in their backyard pools. However, it is a nuisance to we poor orchid growers wanting to sideline Alginox for our own special purpose.

Because we want to spray this product around and even on live orchids, WE DON'T WANT ANY PRODUCT CONTAINING OTHER ACTIVE INGREDIENTS – Especially the Copper compounds which seem to be prominent in some algaecides. WE WANT A POOL ALGAECIDE CONTAINING JUST BENZALKONIUM CHLORIDE, and preferably at just the right concentration.

That is not to say some other products or formulations might not be very good at doing what we want Alginox to do. It is just that I can not predict what they will do unless someone with better facilities does some extensive testing to determine toxicity and effectiveness. You and I know that just isn't going to happen.

So I can only say only buy Alginox 150g/I and with only Benzalkonium chloride as the ingredient.

At the last meeting I mentioned that Bunnings sell an alternate product called HY-CLOR and that HY-CLOR is available with only Benzalkonium Chloride and at 150g/l. But be aware they also sell 3 other formulations of HY-CLOR. If you go for this product, READ THE FINE PRINT and ONLY BUY THE RIGHT ONE.

REMEMBER, THESE ARE POOL MANAGEMENT PRODUCTS. When Autumn arrives and pools usage declines, supermarkets like Woolworths seem to stop stocking Pool Products. I guess that is understandable and I wouldn't be surprised if supply shrinks in all pool product outlets. For you as an orchid grower, this means you should buy your Alginox or equivalent in SUMMER. Please don't come to me in Winter and ask me where to buy Alginox – you probably can't - apply common sense. Now, having loaded you with all that, here is the article on using Alginox that perhaps new growers haven't found as yet.



ALGINOX as a Disinfectant – Jim Brydie

Alginox is a liquid sanitizer used for control of algae and bacteria in Swimming Pools. It has the same active ingredient as a once popular, but much more expensive, orchid/plant disease control product called Physan (ie dimethyl benzyl ammonium chlorides, and ethyl benzyl ammonium chlorides). As far as I know, the guidelines in the table below were put together by a nurseryman on the North Coast of NSW about 20 years ago. The rates recommended are believed to be quite safe for all orchids and in fact, the experience of a few local users suggests you might even want to slightly increase the suggested rates.

However! As with the use of any chemical, <u>you should proceed with caution</u>. Use gloves, don't drink it or get it in your eyes, keep it away from children, etc, etc, etc. You also never know if some plants may be more sensitive than others, or if effects in some circumstances may differ. <u>Usage is at your own risk</u>. Please read all directions on the Alginox container before using it, and test on samples in your own conditions before making any decision to use more widely.

If you think Alginox might be helpful to you and you would like to try it, it is currently available (April 2024) in some Woolworth's supermarkets, in the pool chlorine section and in some pool supply outlets. A 2.5 litre container at Woolworths costs about \$20 so it's cheap as chips. However, this Woolworths Alginox is only 100 g/l concentration. If you use this one, you will need to multiply the rates in the table below by 1.5

ALGINOX – SUGGESTED RATES AND APPLICATIONS

USAGE	RATE	APPLICATION
Dividing Plants	15 mls to 4 litres of water (ie 3.75mls per litre)	Remove old compost, soak plant for 5 minutes before dividing with sterilized cutters. Trim the division and its roots, soak again for 5 minutes before repotting.
Seedlings from flask. Protect from damp off.	7 mls to 4 litres of water (ie 1.75mls per litre)	Soak plants including agar, in Alginox solution for 5 mins. Remove agar, soak compost in Alginox solution. Afterwards, spray once per month or anytime disease is evident.
Adult plants	50 mls to 20 litres of water (ie 2.5ml per litre)	Spray once a month or anytime disease is evident. Soak compost when disease is evident.
Maintenance dosage. (Dendrobium cut flower growers spray)	20 mls to 20 litres of water (ie 1ml per litre)	For specific problems such as rots or Botrytis, use the recommended dosage until under control. Then resume this maintenance dosage & spray once a month.
Disinfectant - to kill virus, bacteria, fungus, algae on contact.	5 mls to 1 litre of water	Wipe plant sap from the cutting edge first. Submerge cutting tool in Alginox solution before using again.
Rots such as black rot, brown rot, Erwinia etc	15 mls to 4 litres of water (3.75ml per litre)	Remove compost, soak entire plant 10 minutes or more. Trim all rot from plant using sterilized cutter. Soak plant wounds 10 minutes or more. Repot using compost soaked with Alginox solution.
Brown rots in Vanda- ceous orchids	25 mls per 10 litres of water (ie 2.5ml per litre)	Spray weekly during rainy periods. Ensure the solution gets in and around the leaf bases. Do not omit spraying because it is raining.
Spraying walkways and under benches	15 mls to 4 litres of water (ie 3.75ml per litre)	Spray heavily under benches and on walkways.

BITS AND PIECES:

- The Committee are taking orders for a new Society T-Shirt in a Royal Blue colour plus the new CHOS Logo. Cost is \$28 per shirt and the Society will pay for the cost of having the logo embroided onto each shirt. Orders will close on 31st May, 2024. Contact the Secretary, Kerrie Gosling, to place a shirt order—phone 0427515887 or email: chorchidsociety@gmail.com or order one at the May General Meeting.
- If you have any spare plants then perhaps you may consider selling them at the CHOS Autumn Show. The Society will take 15% commission for each sale. Plants should be healthy and well established. They do not need to be in flower. See Paige for details, sales tags, etc. Other plants such as Broms and Ferns are acceptable.



- If one of more of your sale plants are NSW Native Orchids then you need a free licence tag to attach to the pot. See Bob to obtain the tags. This applies to both native species and hybrids.
- The Society is saddened to report of the passing of Hazel Earnshaw. Hazel has been an active member of the CHOS for a number of years before she moved to Toowoomba area with her family. She and her daughter Diane Evans were regulars at monthly meetings, happy to sell raffle tickets at the Show and organise the bread for the sausage sandwiches at Bunnings. Our condolences to Diane and her Family.
- ♦ Don't forget to bring you Growing Competition Plant for judging at the May meeting.
- Why not check out the orchid library at the May meeting. There are a wide range of titles to select from. See Carole if you wish to borrow books or magazines.
- When do your plants need to be benched at a monthly meeting?
 - All plants should be on the bench and labelled ready for judging by 7.15pm. Plants will not be accepted after that time. A good plan is to come early so you make sure your plant is benched in the correct place and ready for judging. This also allows you time to check out the other plants, buy raffle tickets and check out the library books. Judging of the Competition Growing Plants starts at 7.15pm and the monthly plants from 7.20pm.
- Melbourne Cup Day and Anzac Day are often used as marker dates for changes to your greenhouse management. You may pull extra shade cloth over your orchids at the start of the hot summer [so do it around the Cup Day] and then remove it before Winter [Anzac Day].
- You need to start and back off with the amount of watering you do as some plants enter their Winter dormancy stage. Some need less water while other should not be watered at all. If you don't have a solid roof on the orchid house then you will need to move these orchids into a rain-proof dry area.
- Soft Canes will soon need to be exposed to higher light levels to make sure you achieve a good Spring flowering. Some Growers hang them on their clothes line during June and July in full sun.
- Having a good clean-up before Winter is a good plan. Pick up all dead leaves, spray weeds and perhaps spray the plants, shelves and greenhouse floor with a disinfectant such as Alginox or Lime Water etc.

Good Growing and we wish you great success in the upcoming Autumn Show Season.