



**COFFS ORCHID NEWS JUNE 2024**  
**PUBLICATION OF THE COFFS HARBOUR**  
**ORCHID SOCIETY**

7 Kotuku Street, Coffs Harbour. NSW 2450

Email: [chorchidsociety@gmail.com](mailto:chorchidsociety@gmail.com)

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

**EDITORIAL:**

**“What an amazing event! Glorious orchids!  
Beautiful plants everywhere we look.”**

**These were just some of the comments from members of the public during the CHOS Autumn Orchid Show. The Show was held at the Coffs Harbour Botanic Gardens over the weekend following ANZAC Day.**

**This year's Show saw a wide variety of orchids benched and despite an occasional shower or two there was good attendance from the public. This edition of the newsletter features the highlights of the Autumn Show.**

**195 plants [122 in 2023] were benched by 17 growers and these provided a colourful display of a wide variety of orchids.**

**The Grand Champion Ribbon and Trophy was again sponsored this year by Rosella Orchids from South Grafton. This was awarded to Rhonda Smith's outstanding *Dendrobium* Mary Poppins.**

**The Reserve Champion Ribbon and Trophy went to Sue Flanders for her magnificent *Bulbophyllum* Elizabeth Ann Buckleberry.**

**The Champion Specimen of the Show was awarded to Rhonda Smith for her *Bulbophyllum* Vindobona.**

**Popular Vote was won by Peter Gough with his *Vanda* Robert's Delight 'Blue'.**

**Congratulations to these growers on their excellent orchids.**

**We thank the Judges for their expertise and commitment to carrying out this important task. Thank you also to the North Coast Regional Botanic Gardens for the use of their venue and for their cooperation in running this Show.**

**Congratulations to everyone who benched plants and we especially recognise members of the Society for their outstanding efforts in making this Show a success. The staging of each Show would not be possible without the significant hours of hard work which they contributed. Thank you to everyone for their assistance, cooperation and enthusiasm. Well done!**

**BREAKING NEWS**

**ALL FUTURE CHOS  
MONTHLY MEETINGS  
WILL START AT 7PM**

## CHOS COMMITTEE 2023-2024

## CONTACT DETAILS

PRESIDENT:	CAROLE DAVIS	026658 1354	carolenlarry@bigpond.com
VICE PRESIDENT:	PETER GOUGH	0409 045 645	hacc51@gmail.com
SECRETARY:	KERRIE GOSLING	0427 515 887	kerrie506@gmail.com
TREASURER:	PAIGE SINCLAIR	0427 591 901	paigesinclair@me.com
COMMITTEE:	CHRIS HATTON	0414 942 298	pchatton@bigpond.com
	PAUL HATTON	0426 978 923	pchatton@bigpond.com
	FRANK PAPPALARDO	0448 802 146	
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	BOB SOUTHWELL	0417 695 834	bssouthwell@bigpond.com

## 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, Coelogynes 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).

## CALENDAR, 2024

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

PHOTOS FROM THE CHOS 2024 AUTUMN SHOW

GRAND CHAMPION:



*Dendrobium* Mary Poppins grown and benched by Rhonda Smith. Also awarded Champion Dendrobium.

RESERVE CHAMPION:



*Bulbophyllum* Elizabeth Ann Buckleberry grown by Sue Flanders. Also awarded Champion AOV

**CHOS AUTUMN SHOW CONTINUED:**



**Champion Laeliinae**  
**Rlc. Donna Kimura**  
**Owned and benched**  
**by Bill and Jenny**  
**Lennon**



**Champion**  
**Vandaceous**  
***Vanda Trevor***  
**Rathbone x Ascada.**  
**Yip Sum Wah**  
**Grown by Peter**  
**Gough**



**Champion Paph**  
***Paph. Hsinying Carlos***  
**x *Paph. charles-***  
***worthii.***  
**Benched by**  
**Malcolm Ide**



**Photographs by Paige Sinclair**

**CHOS AUTUMN SHOW CONTINUED:**



**Champion  
Oncidiinae  
*Ryg. Mary  
Eliza*  
Owned by  
Rhonda  
Smith**



**Champion  
Australian Native  
*Dendrobium Sweet  
Bernadette*  
Owned by Malcom  
Ide.  
  
This was also  
awarded the Steve  
Clemesha trophy**



**Champion  
Species  
*Paph.  
gratixianum*  
benched by Peter  
Gough.  
  
This plant was  
also awarded the  
Edward Pearce  
Trophy**



## CHOS COMMITTEE REPORT

The following is a summary from the CHOS May Committee Meeting conducted on 7th May, 2024 at “The Workshop”.

- ◆ Apologies from Chris and Paul Hatton and Frank Pappalardo.
- ◆ Autumn Show was a great success and well attended by the community. Thank you to all who contributed to make it a fantastic show.
- ◆ The computerised labelling system worked well. Some changes will be made to the entry cards for the Spring Show including a reduction in size.
- ◆ Orders for new CHOS shirts have been trickling in. Orders close on 30th June, 2024.
- ◆ Members greenhouse visits—Frank still to finalise this program.
- ◆ Larger venue for future shows— Committee is still researching possible venues.
- ◆ General Monthly Meetings of the CHOS are to commence at 7.00pm [rather than 7.30pm] from the next meeting on 6th June. Benching to commence at 6.30pm and judging from 6.45pm.
- ◆ Monthly Meeting Members Duty Roster— Frank still to complete this document.
- ◆ Membership— membership currently stands at 85 members.

The following new members have been approved : Peter Gosling [Advisor—Peter Gough], Adam Cronshaw [Peter Gough], Denise Boucher [Carole Davis] and Dianne Hendry [Carole Davis].

- ◆ Sponsors—all sponsors have paid for 2024. Carole to have discussions with Watsons Caravans about possible future sponsorship.
- ◆ Port Macquarie Orchid Nursery visit— new date is 17th August so it does not clash with WDOS Monthly Meeting.
- ◆ Discussion of some ATO changes regarding tax. Dick Cooper provided information that CHOS could avoid taxation by becoming a Charitable Organisation. CHOS is going to register with the ACNC to become a Charitable Organisation.
- ◆ CHOS to purchase Virus brochures for issue to members who attend monthly meetings.
- ◆ 2025 Booking Schedule for the NCR Botanic Gardens was finalised.
- ◆ Bunnings has offered CHOS a fund raising event for 14th July, 2024. Declined due to worker unavailability on that date.
- ◆ Discussions to continue on holding a “Mini Show”.
- ◆ Next Committee Meeting will be held at ‘The Workshop’ on Tuesday 11th June, 2024.

### VALE ELINOR McDONALD:

It is with sadness that we report to you the passing of Society Member, Elinor McDonald.

Elinor is the much-loved wife of Neil. She passed peacefully at home on Anzac Day after a long illness.

Elinor, along with her husband Neil, was an enthusiastic orchid grower and a staunch member of the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society.

A Celebration of Elinor’s Life was held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024, in the Chapel of Hogbin Drive Crematorium and Memorial Gardens, Stadium Drive, Coffs Harbour and attended by members of the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society.

Elinor will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Our prayers and thoughts are with Neil and his family at this sad time.

**POPULAR VOTE AT THE CHOS MAY 2024 GENERAL MEETING**



**Popular Vote at  
the CHOS  
May Meeting was  
awarded to  
Bob Southwell  
for his *Coelogyne  
multiflora*  
  
Congratulations!**



**PHOTOS FROM THE CHOS MAY GENERAL MEETING**



***Dendrobium Jay McKay*  
benched by Dick Cooper**



***Prosthechea cochleata*  
benched by Carole Davis**



***Bulbophyllum mastersianum*  
grown by Sue Flanders**



**Carole Davis benched this  
*Brassia NOLD***



***Dendrobium James Dick x Den. Kristen Ann.*  
Benched by Dick Cooper**



***Coelogyne multiflora* benched  
by Bob Southwell**

Phalaenopsis or Moth Orchids develop flower spikes following a period of cooler night temperatures.

Night temperatures need to be from 5 to 8 degrees C cooler than day time temperatures.

This temperature drop needs to occur each night for a period of 10 to 14 nights.

In Coffs Harbour this usually occurs in April/ May and flowering will occur around twelve weeks later.

What is my Phalaenopsis orchid growing?

## ROOT VS SPIKE

**Rounded tip**



Texture is either **smooth** or with **molting bits**

**No ridge**



Usually **lighter** in color than flower spikes

**Evenly curved** profile shape

**Velamen\*** starts showing at the base after a few days or weeks.



**Oval / flat tip**



Texture has a **fine grain**, like a new leaf

**Ridges (nodes)**

Usually **darker and greener** in color than roots

**Pointy / mitten shaped** profile

**No velamen.** Instead, **nodes** will appear as the spike grows

\*The velamen is the silvery part of the root, which absorbs water like a sponge | ©Dawn O'Connell 2011

### SPONSORS' SPOT: 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.



**SUPPORT THEM AS THEY SUPPORT US**

**CHOS MAY MONTHLY MEETING—Thursday 6th June 2024 starting at 7.00pm.**

Peter Gough will present a talk on "Creating different zones in a greenhouse".

Members plant sales table will operate [no commission] - bring your plants for sale or come early so you can find a plant bargain.

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 its next judging.

**Duty Persons for this meeting:**

**Judges:** Annie Houston and Ann Deans

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



## Coffs Harbour Orchid Society Facebook

May 2024 – Currently, the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society has 2.4K likes. This is up by just over 25% since April 2024. Our 'What's on Bloom' page, is up by 53 people to 307 members, for the same period.



### Coffs Harbour Orchid Society

2.4K likes · 2.5K followers



### CHOS What's In Bloom Group

Private group · 307 members



The results of advertisement on Facebook for the Autumn Show are:

We've reached 6,164 people through targeting,  
230 people have responded to our advertisement,

The advertisement ran for 32 days in total which started 27 March, 2024, and We spent \$70 in total

## CHOS SUPPLIES OF ORCHID BARK: NEW SUPPLIES—FRESH BARK JUST ARRIVED

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 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).



Proudly Hosted by...

Woolgoolga District Orchid Society  
Inc.



International Conference & Show

Orchids  
from the  
Mountains  
to the Sea

23rd Australian Orchid Council  
International Conference & Show 2025

Wednesday, October 1 to Sunday, October 5

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

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 265 557  
woolgoolga.dist.orch@gmail.com

FLOOR OR TABLE DISPLAY

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

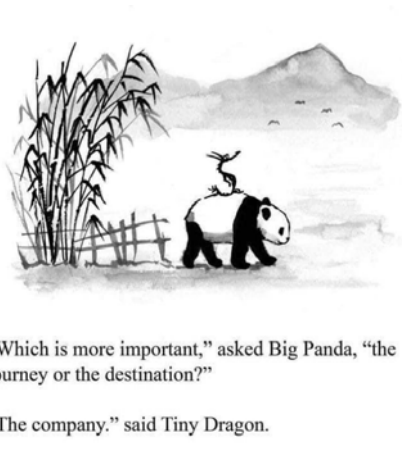
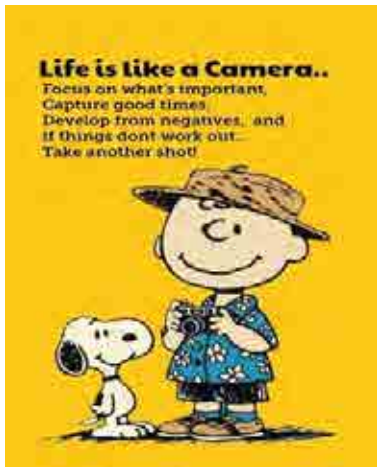
8 International and  
Australia-wide  
Guest Speakers

See our Website for more information - [www.aoc2025.org.au](http://www.aoc2025.org.au)



Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside in a cloud of smoke, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming, "Wow! What a ride!"

- Hunter S. Thompson



**LOCAL 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.

**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. Full details in last months newsletter.

**29th—31st August:** Nambucca Valley Orchid Society Spring Show. Benching on 28th August.

**30th—31st August:** Grafton District Orchid Society Spring Show. Benching on 29th August.

**7th—8th September:** Coffs Harbour Orchid Society Spring Show. Benching on 6th Sept. 3—6pm.

**5th—6th October:** Woolgoolga District Orchid Society Spring Show and Conference.

**NEW CHOS T-SHIRTS WITH NEW LOGO—ORDERS CLOSING SOON**

**Get with the new fashion—order a new blue CHOS T-shirt and show that you are proud to belong to our Society.**

**The following is a guide to determine the correct size to fit you.**

**Shirts \$28 each – CHOS will pay for the embroidery logo  
1/2 chest measurement (Under arm to middle of the chest)**

**LADIES**

SIZE	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	
2306	KEIRA	42.5	45	47.5	50	52.5	55	57.5	60	64.5	69.5	74.5



**MENS**

SIZE	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	5XL
1306	KEIRA	53	55.5	58	60.5	63	73

**CLOSING DATE EXTENDED—ORDERS CLOSE ON 9TH JUNE 24**

Phone: Kerrie Gosling 0427515887 or

email: [chorchidsociety@gmail.com](mailto:chorchidsociety@gmail.com) or place your order at the 6th June meeting

**BITS AND PIECES:**

- ◆ **Raffle Prizes at the Autumn Show: 1st Prize went to Jorgette and 2nd Prize went to Norma Daley. Thanks to our raffle sponsor, Bruce Hall, for his continued support.**
- ◆ **The May Newsletter Lucky Prize Draw went to Malcolm Ide. Well done, Mal.**
- ◆ **Some members have mentioned that they didn't read the article in the May Newsletter on Alginox because they already knew about the product. The important news from the article was that the usual rates table was based on Alginox with a concentration of 150g/L of Benzalkonium Chloride whereas the Alginox sold locally has a concentration of 100g/L. So members need to adjust the mix if they are using Alginox with a concentration of 100g/L.**

**Feature Article: Stanhopea Culture** – by Sebastian Torrissi

A hanging Stanhopea specimen with many racemes and bearing numerous and sometimes fragrant flowers attracted my attention many years ago. Encouraged, I decided to give them a try. Back then, more orchid growers were beginning to dispel the misleading tale that these magnificent flowers only lasted a couple of days. It's true that individual flowers don't last all that long but a good strong flowering specimen like this one will be in flower for quite a while. The health and strength of a plant affects flower life and in addition a big plant produces many, many spikes, and not all at the same time.



Well, year after year with effort and attention I benched my plants and I am happy with the results. Barring an accident in transit they are real show pieces but they can be a little difficult to transport without accident.

I find that my plants need to become specimen plants and not divided until the plant in a larger basket looks like it can become two large plants. This should ensure that both will continue to grow new growths and will normally, in the flowering season, produce more than one flower flush.



Plants should be repotted when new growths start to emerge below the top rung of the wire basket. This basket should be lined with sheets of 'tea tree' bark (Melaleuca species, also commonly known as paperbark trees), or alternately lined with coco-peat liners. If using the latter, check that the liners aren't the types that have a plastic sheet between the coco peat layers. If they do, I remove the plastic and I am just left with just the coco-peat matting. Coco liners should be soaked and rinsed with fresh water to remove any residue from the manufacturing process.

Ordinary bark is used as the medium to fill the new basket. I do not tease the root system, I just gradually stabilise the plant as I fill the bark, to make sure the new plant doesn't wobble.

After potting, I secure the plant with light pot holding chain in large olive trees but of course any open foliage tree will do. I hang the plant in location using a specialised hooked wire piece made into an "S" shape. I then use a Seasol drench. In addition I hang a sock (or stocking) from the hanger and load it with about a tea cup of dynamic lifter pellets, hanging so that the sock is hanging over the centre of the plant (see circled in picture). This becomes a drip type soluble fertiliser and should be replenished annually. Watering should be done when needed. Plants in baskets in wind or breeze dry out faster than most other pots so keep your eye on the plant to judge when water is needed.



The benefit of the sock system is that when you are applying soluble fertiliser (perhaps for your other orchids), you can bypass the sock and apply your usual fertiliser normally. If it rains, nature takes care of a little fertiliser for you.



This picture and the ones above may give you an idea of the light and location that provide good flowering and green leaf vigour in my circumstances but this is not an exact science. As most orchid growers know, at times we need to move our orchids around to get them to flower at their potential. Whilst they must have sun to photosynthesise, too much exposure, particularly in temperatures above 30 C will cause leaf burn.

Keep misting them on these hot days. Stanhopeas are large leafed plants and normally grow in mottled shaded areas.

When you find a source, the paper-like bark from suitable Melaleuca species is easily peeled from the outer layers of the trunk. In fact it will eventually peel away by itself to some extent as the trunk inside it grows and expands. However, if you wish to harvest bark please do so sensibly and sustainably. DO NOT strip too much bark off a single tree or try to take the bark too deep, nearer to the woody inner trunk (xylem). There is a vital live tree cell layer (phloem) between the outer bark and the xylem, that you may damage if you cut it.



2 young *M. quinquenervia* trees + leaves

A mature *M. styphelioides* + leaves

**(Note Re. Paperbark).** Not all species of Melaleuca have the required broad sheeted papy bark. The larger, tree type Melaleucas are the most common you will find with what you want. In NSW, suitable species are Melaleuca quinquenervia (broad leaves with 5 longitudinal nerves) and *M. styphelioides* 'the Prickly leaf paperbark'. These are common in nature on the east coast, mostly in wet or swampy areas. They are sometimes also grown as backyard trees or in street scaping but both are large trees so beware if you are considering it.

Finally, if you are eying off a tree in private property, **it is not yours to touch without permission.** Don't do it. Make some new friends first and ask, or buy liners at the nursery.

[This article printed with permission from the author and the KOS April, 2024 Bulletin]

## PRODUCT REVIEW

Bruce Hall recently recommended this product to me as he thought it would be easier to mist a large number of orchids with less effort.

The product is a Nylex brand Rechargeable Battery Sprayer which continues to spray a liquid when the button is depressed and the user not having to pump the unit. The unit can be set on continuous spray. It comes in a 2 litre and 1.2 litre size. When the 2L unit is full it is fairly heavy so many growers may find the 1.2L unit suits them better as it is lighter to use. The unit is supplied with its own charger.

I bought my 2L unit from Bunnings at just under \$40 and found it ideal to spray my indoor orchids in-between proper waterings. The 1.2L unit sells at just under \$30.



Bob Southwell