



COFFS ORCHID NEWS FEBRUARY 2025 PUBLICATION OF THE COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

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EDITORIAL:

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2025.

Our hope is that all our members have a healthy and productive 2025. This Editor is not one to make New Year resolutions, as experience has shown that they are rarely kept! But my wish is to lift my orchid-growing skills during this year. It would be nice, if I could repot every orchid and find the discipline required to meticulously carry out a spraying and fertilizing program that should result in better orchids. This will provide me with a sense of satisfaction and perhaps give more success on the show bench.

I am certain that many other members have similar plans for the New Year in relation to their orchid growing. If so, then I wish you every success during 2025. Remember, if you need help with any aspect of orchid growing then contact your Advisor or one of the Committee members for assistance. The Society has already planned a detailed Guest Speaker and Activities Program for 2025. This will provide members with lots of educational and hands-on opportunities to gain knowledge and new skills. Check out the Annual Calendar which is included with this newsletter.

Congratulations to Rhonda Smith who was being awarded the Glad Fleming Trophy for Champion Monthly Exhibitor for 2024. Rhonda was presented with the annual trophy and her prize money by newly elected CHOS President, Paige Sinclair, at the Annual Award's Luncheon held at the Pacific Palace Chinese Restaurant in early December, 2024. Congratulations to all other winners. Full details of the Awards are listed at the end of this newsletter. The 2025 Monthly Competition commences with the February monthly meeting and it is hoped to see lots of growers participating in what should be a highly competitive competition.



Paige (left) and Rhonda

During 2024 some members of CHOS have been experimenting with a different approach to insect control in their orchids. They have been spraying their orchids with a mix of chemical compounds which slows down the insects ability to progress to the next stage of their growth cycle or stops them reaching the reproductive stage. This results in an eventual reduction in insect numbers and the potential elimination of the insect population in the orchid house. Results to date have been very positive with a noticeable reduction in insect fecundity and has reduced the levels of insect populations in the spraying areas.

**Happy New Year
2025**

CHOS COMMITTEE 2024-2025**CONTACT DETAILS**

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR: BOB SOUTHWELL (See Above)

SPONSORS**COFFS HARBOUR PRODUCE**

Coffs Harbour Produce is 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, Stanhopeas, Coelogynes and lots of other genera. Check out the website.

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.

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.

CALENDAR, 2025

6 Feb'25—Endemic Orchids in Our Backyard—Neville Anderson + Member Plant Sales

6 March—My Orchid Journey—Ray Clement, Tinonee Orchids

3 April—Preparing Orchids for Show Benching—Bob Southwell

26-27 April—CHOS Autumn Show

1 May— Terete Oncidiinae - Bruce Hall

5 June— Orchid Culture + Member Plant Sales

3 July—Bulbophyllums —Hans Schaible

7 August—Deflasking - Paige Sinclair and Peter Gough

4 Sept—Tricks and Tips True or False

13—14 Sept—Spring Show

1-5 Oct AOC Conference Woolgoolga

16 Oct—Plant Auction

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

**CHOS BANK DETAILS**

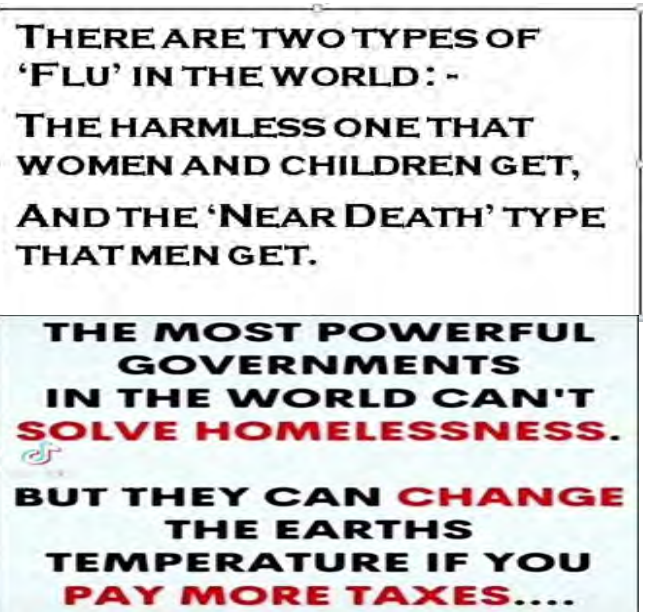
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CHOS COMMITTEE REPORT

The following is a summary from the CHOS November Committee Meeting conducted on 21st Jan 2025 at “The Workshop”.

- ◆ Apologies from Chris and Paul Hatton.
- ◆ Good feedback regarding the end of year Awards Presentation held at the Pacific Palace Chinese Restaurant. Some minor reconfiguration of tables has been suggested so members are all together.
- ◆ Plant Growing Competition— *Tolumnia* hybrid selected at cost of \$10 per plant. Draw will take place at the CHOS March meeting. Members to pay money to Treasurer ASAP.
- ◆ Combined CHOS/WDOS Winter Show is proposed for 2026 and not 2025.
- ◆ All updated Policies and Procedures for CHOS to be placed on memory sticks for each Committee Member.
- ◆ Neville Anderson is confirmed to be the Guest Speaker at the February Meeting. His photographic talk is titled “Endemic Orchids in your Backyard”. Meeting commences at 7pm.
- ◆ Members Plants Sales are set down for the Feb meeting.
- ◆ Dick Cooper has completed the Final Annual Audit for 2024. The Annual Financial Report will be presented at the February Meeting. Dick to address the Committee at its February Meeting to outline a new method of account keeping for CHOS.
- ◆ Membership fees are OVERDUE.
- ◆ Monthly Meeting Judging Roster for 2025 was tabled and approved.
- ◆ Autumn Show organisation has commenced. A list of various tasks was drawn up and tabled at the meeting. Show Schedule will be presented for approval at the February Committee Meeting. Request has been submitted for Judges at our Autumn and Spring Shows.
- ◆ Back issues have been received of the AOC Orchid Magazine. These are available for borrowing by members.
- ◆ Next Committee Meeting will be held at ‘The Workshop’ on Tuesday 11th Feb 2025 at 2pm.





Popular Vote at the CHOS Awards Luncheon was won by Rhonda Smith with her

Rhynchostylis retusa

Congratulations!

STOP PRESS

Rhonda has been awarded an ACE Cultural Award and an AM Quality Award for her plant. Excellent work!



FURTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE AWARDS LUNCHEON, DECEMBER 2024



Paige Sinclair's *Thunia alba* var. *bracteata*



Paul Hatton (left) and Matt Connell with Paige Sinclair and their Popular Vote entries



Paige Sinclair (left) and Rhonda Smith with Rhonda's winning *Rhynchostylis*

**"Knowledge isn't free.
You have to pay
attention."**



Word of the day:
HURKLE-DURKLE
*A 200 year-old Scottish term
meaning to lounge in bed long after
it's time to get up.*
Happiness is
HURKLE-DURKLING.

Laziness kills ambition
Anger kills wisdom
Fear kills dreams
Ego kills growth
Jealousy kills peace
Doubt kills confidence
Now read that right to left.

www.facebook.com/EnglishLiterature1

BITS AND PIECES



- ◆ Bark and charcoal supplies can be obtained from Paige Sinclair from 4 Jean Street, Coffs Harbour or phone 0427 591 901. 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 and sell at \$50 per bag.. Supplies of 15mm charcoal (Orchid Char) are also available. These are in 19kg bags and sell at \$45 per bag.
- CHOS **February Monthly Meeting** will be held on Thursday 6th Feb starting at 7.00pm. Guest Speaker is Neville Anderson who will talk on ‘Endemic Orchids in Our Backyard’ It would be greatly appreciated if you would bring a contribution for members supper. Don’t forget to bring your Competition Plant, *Cattleya* Beautiful Sunset for it’s next judging.

Judges for this meeting: DICK COOPER AND CAROLE DAVIS

- The February Meeting will also feature a **Member Plant Sales Table**. Please bring your orchids for sale and cash to make that New Year purchase. The plant sales are between members and no commission will be charged.
- The Society is now taking orders for this years **Growing Competition Plant**. The plant draw will take place at the March meeting and the first judging from the April meeting. This year the Committee plan to test CHOS members growing skills by selecting a hybrid *Tolumnia* as the Growing Competition Plant. Many growers find this group of orchids very difficult to grow but others have had outstanding success. Each plant will cost \$10 and only one plant will be allowed for each CHOS member. Please pay Treasurer David Rudgley at the February Monthly meeting or direct deposit the money into the CHOS bank account— banking details are given on page 2 of this newsletter. Please put Growing Plant as the Reference. Only 40 plants have been ordered, so pay your money early. A Growing Guide will be issued with each plant. **BREAKING NEWS:** This years *growing* competition plant will be the hybrid *Tolumnia* Ky-Elles Dream X *Tolumnia pulchella*. These plants will be supplied mounted and so this will offer an additional challenge to members. The colour of the hybrid from this cross varies so members can expect to see a variety of colour combinations across the forty purchased plants. The order of the draw for these plants at the March meeting will be based on the order of payment as recorded by the CHOS Treasurer.
- Any **suggestions** of excursions, visits, workshops, guest speakers or other activities that you would like to see occur in 2025? Let a Committee member know your thoughts and ideas.
- The CHOS Autumn Show will be held over the ANZAC weekend. Set up will be on 25th April and the Show on the 26th and 27th April. Will you help with the show organisation? Let Bob Southwell know so he can allocate you a task on the **show roster**.
- The **Monthly Meeting Judging Roster** is almost completed. If you have agreed to take part as a monthly Judge then you will receive a copy of the complete roster in the near future. Thank you for agreeing to take part. There is always a need for new judges so if you are interested in learning the process and taking part in one meeting a year then please let Bob Southwell know you would like to be involved.



Tolumnia pulchella X T. Ky-Elles Dream

CHOS MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE FOR 2025

The annual membership fees are due for payment from the 7th November, 2024 and must be paid by the start of February if you wish to remain a financial member of CHOS for 2025.

Being a financial member entitles you to attend monthly meetings, take part in workshops and orchid excursions and receive a copy of the monthly newsletter. It also provides you with access to an Advisor and to other orchid specialists who can help you with any cultural problems you may have. It means you are affiliated with the OSNSW/AOC and entitled to exhibit in any Australian Orchid Show.

Membership fees are set at a very reasonable \$10 per member or \$15 for family membership.

Please pay Treasurer David at the February meeting or Direct Deposit into the CHOS account (see P.2)

SPECIAL NOTE: IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT MEMBERSHIP FEES BE PAID BY 6TH FEBRUARY IF YOU WISH TO MAINTAIN YOUR 2025 SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP PAY AT THE FEB MEETING OR BY DIRECT DEPOSIT.



Wouldn't you love to have this plant in your collection. An awesome example of *Bulbophyllum medusae*. This plant is certainly a credit to the grower.

However, even a small plant can be very impressive and it is one of the Bulbo's that everyone should aim to have in their collection.

Add it to you wish list today and check supplies online or at an orchid fair

It grows well in a shallow pot or on a mount.



AOC 2025 CONFERENCE

HOSTED BY WDOS

1st–5th October 2025

Full Show Schedule is now on the website plus Registration Forms.

www.aoc2005.org.au

If you are a member of WDOS (\$10/year) then the Conference Registration Fee is only \$100– a great saving

Lemon Fruit Picker

"Lemon Pickers Needed" – read the ad in the Shepparton Times Newspaper. Ms. Sally Mulligan read it and decided to apply for one of the jobs that most Victorians are not willing to do. She submitted her application for a job as a Lemon Fruit Picker but seemed far too qualified for the job.

She has a Arts Degree and a Masters from Melbourne University. For a number of years, she had worked as a social worker and also as a school teacher.

The farm owner studied her application, frowned, and said, "I see that you are well educated and have an impressive resume. However, I have to ask you, have you had any actual experience in picking lemons?"

"Well, as a matter of fact, I have," she said... "I've been divorced three times, owned two Fords, voted twice for Daniel Andrews and once for Anthony Albanese."

She started work yesterday.....



It's called **reading**.
It's how people install new software into their brains.

An issue with White Phalaenopsis species

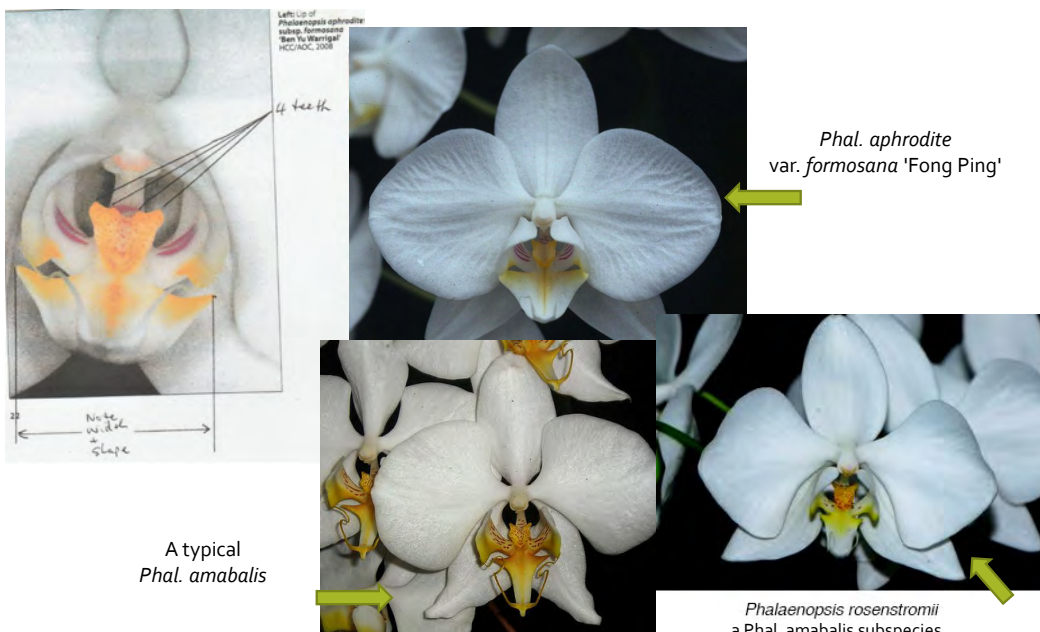
Phalaenopsis amabilis and *Phalaenopsis aphrodite* are often confused because plants are wrongly labelled. Although at first glance, the flowers appear similar they do differ and hybrids derived from each inherit different traits.

Because of their similarity, some so called line-bred *Phalaenopsis amabilis* result from hybrids between the 2 species. In addition, in the past some plants of *Phalaenopsis aphrodite* were awarded either under the name 'amabilis' or as '*Phalaenopsis amabilis* var. *formosana*' (which is not a valid name even though often used by Taiwanese growers). In Australia, the last 3 *Phalaenopsis aphrodite* plants that were mistakenly awarded as *Phal. amabilis* were given the clonal names 'Ben Yu', Warrigal 4N' and 'Warrigal'. The awards were given in 2008 and following an article by Gary Yong Gee, in the March 2011 issue of the Australian Orchid Review, the awards were corrected.

Despite correction to the names of the awarded orchids, mericlones of these 3 clones continue to be sold as *Phalaenopsis amabilis*, as for example *Phalaenopsis amabilis* 'Ben Yu' AM/AOC.

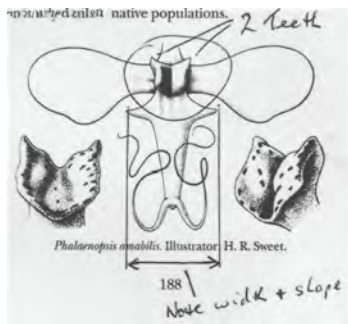
As a result, often at Mid-North Coast orchid shows (and elsewhere), *Phal. aphrodite* is benched as *Phal. amabilis*. Although the name makes no difference to the benching class, it is wise to ensure that the plant is not a hybrid and that the name is correct.

The easiest way to distinguish the 2 species is to examine the labellum. *Phal. aphrodite* has a wide triangular mid-lobe and 4 teeth are evident on the shield-shaped callus at the junction of the side lobes and the mid-lobe. *Phal. amabilis* has a variable mid-lobe (never as broad as *aphrodite*) and the callus shield has only 2 teeth.

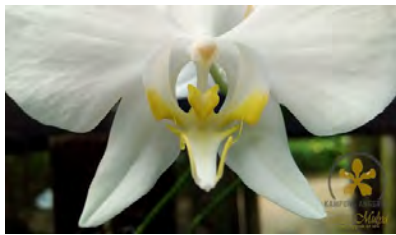
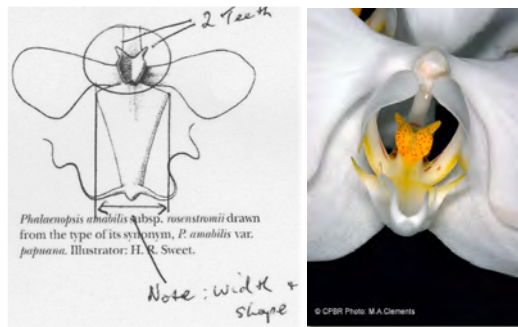


Phal. amabilis – some examples of variable labellum shape

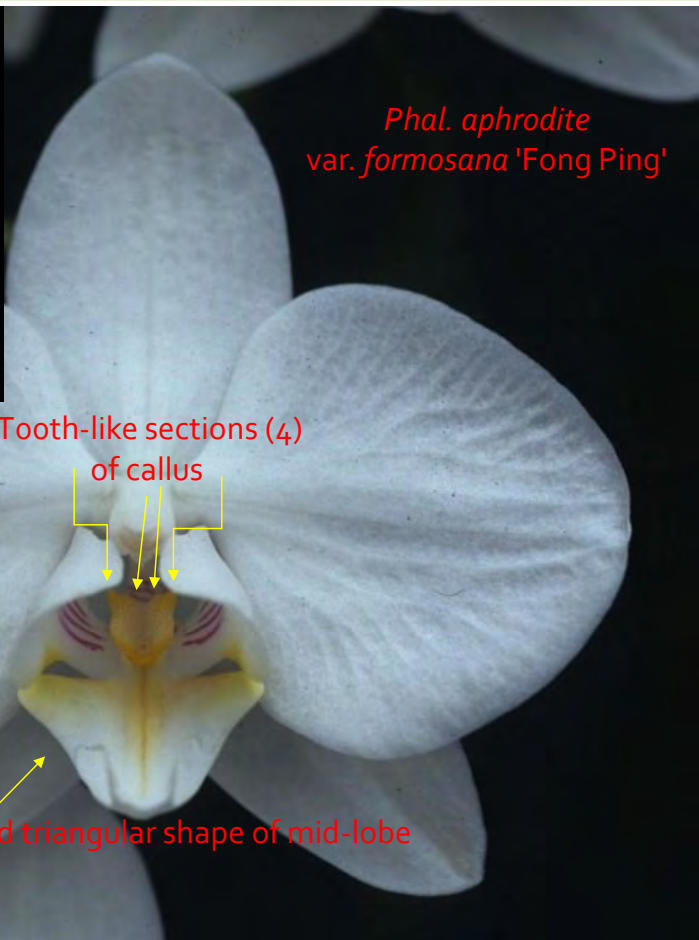
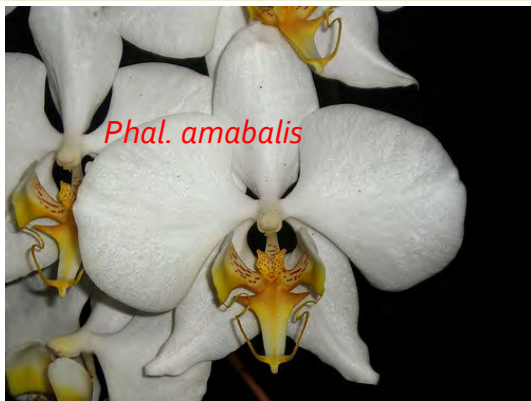
Phal. amabilis subsp. *amabilis*



Phal. amabilis subsp. *rosenstromii*



Phal. amabilis subsp. *aurea*



CHOS PRESENTATION AND AWARDS LUNCHEON 7TH DECEMBER 2024

RESULTS OF 2024 MONTHLY BENCHING COMPETITION:

CLASS 1:	Cymbidium Over 90mm	NIL [Minimum of 6 pts to qualify]
CLASS 2:	Cymbidium 60 – 90mm	NIL [Minimum of 6 pts to qualify]
CLASS 3:	Cymbidium Under 60mm	MALCOLM IDE
CLASS 4:	Cymbidium Species	NIL [Minimum of 6 pts to qualify]
CLASS 5:	Laeliinae Over 100mm	RHONDA SMITH AND PHILLIP PAYNE
CLASS 6:	Laeliinae 60 – 100mm	RHONDA SMITH
CLASS 7:	Laeliinae Under 60mm	RHONDA SMITH
CLASS 8:	Laeliinae Cluster	RHONDA SMITH
CLASS 9:	Laeliinae Non-Exhibition	RHONDA SMITH
CLASS 10:	Laeliinae Species	RHONDA SMITH
CLASS 11:	Paph. Exhibition	PETER GOUGH
CLASS 12:	Paph. Non-Exhibition	PETER GOUGH
CLASS 13:	Paph. Species	RHONDA SMITH
CLASS 14:	Oncidiinae Over 65mm	RHONDA SMITH
CLASS 15:	Oncidiinae 25 – 65mm	RHONDA SMITH
CLASS 16:	Oncidiinae Under 25mm	RHONDA SMITH
CLASS 17:	Oncidiinae Species	NIL [Minimum of 6 pts to qualify]
CLASS 18:	Vandaceous Over 60mm	PETER GOUGH
CLASS 19:	Vandaceous 60mm and Under	PETER GOUGH
CLASS 20:	Vandaceous Species	PETER GOUGH
CLASS 21:	Phalaenopsis Over 75mm	RHONDA SMITH
CLASS 22:	Phalaenopsis 50 – 75mm	RHONDA SMITH
CLASS 23:	Phalaenopsis Under 50mm	NIL [Minimum of 6 pts to qualify]
CLASS 24:	Phalaenopsis Species	NIL [Minimum of 6 pts to qualify]
CLASS 25:	Dendrobium Soft Cane	DICK COOPER
CLASS 26:	Den. Phalaenanthe (Non-Native)	DICK COOPER
CLASS 27:	Den. Spatulata (Non-Native)	PETER GOUGH
CLASS 28:	Den. Intermediate (Non-Native)	RHONDA SMITH
CLASS 29:	Den. AOV Species (Non-Native)	RHONDA SMITH
CLASS 30:	Aust. Native Hybrid incl. Den.	DICK COOPER
CLASS 31:	Aust. Native Species incl. Den.	HELEN SEIVER
CLASS 32:	Aust. Native Hybrid incl. Sarco.	NIL [Minimum of 6 pts to qualify]
CLASS 33:	Aust. Native Species incl. Sarco.	NIL [Minimum of 6 pts to qualify]
CLASS 34:	AOV Hybrid Over 50mm	RHONDA SMITH
CLASS 35:	AOV Hybrid 50mm and Under	RHONDA SMITH
CLASS 36:	AOV Species Over 50mm	RHONDA SMITH
CLASS 37:	AOV Species 50mm and Under	RHONDA SMITH

OVERALL RESULTS: FOURTH PLACE [65 points] – DICK COOPER

THIRD PLACE [67 points] – HELEN SEIVER

SECOND PLACE [139 points] – PETER GOUGH

FIRST PLACE [273 points] – RHONDA SMITH AWARDED “THE GLAD FLEMING TROPHY” FOR 2024