



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

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EDITORIAL:

Congratulations to Peter Gough for being awarded an ACM (Award of Cultural Merit) for his *Dendrobium canaliculatum* 'Teina' which was benched at last year WDOS October Show. Panel Leader of the Mid North Coast Judging Panel, Dick Cooper, recently presented Peter with his award. Well done, Peter!

A flyer recently came across my desk which outlined the proposal to hold a new orchid show over summer at the end of this year. This proposal has come from the Orchid Society of NSW (OSNSW) and is to be called the "Summer Orchid Festival". It is to be held over the weekend of 13th and 14th December 2025 at the Central Sydney location of the Ermington Community Centre, River Road, Ermington.

The thinking behind this new show is to provide an opportunity to showcase orchids which are not normally benched in the standard Autumn or Spring shows. This will be of great interest to Society members and the general public. There will also be opportunities to purchase orchids that flower over the summer period.

The OSNSW is seeking interest from affiliated Societies wishing to participate in the 2025 Summer Orchid Festival as described above. This show will provide the opportunity for Societies to join together and offer their 'very best' summer flowering orchid plants in competition for the benefit of the visiting public and for orchid growers generally. This contribution and involvement will be relatively easy for Sydney based Societies but not so easy for those in regional areas. If you, as an individual, wish to participate in the Ermington Summer Orchid Festival by assisting with the organisation, or by benching plants, then please contact Veronica Clowes, President of OSNSW at president@orchidsocietynsw.com.au or call her on 0424 070 757 during business hours.

Some local orchid Societies hold only one main orchid show each year but most conduct an Autumn and Spring show. Macleay Valley Orchid Society (Kempsey) holds three successful shows each year with the final show in late Spring to early Summer. Meanwhile, the Camden Haven Orchid Society, based in Laurieton, have held a spectacular Summer Show in early January every year (as well as Spring and Autumn shows). This Summer Show always has orchids which we do not normally see in the other shows, especially summer flowering *Cattleya*'s and their relatives and the spectacular *Stanhopea* (Upside-down orchid).

For many years I have been suggesting that there should be more local shows which showcase summer species and hybrids but so far the work load of local Societies prevents this from taking place. Alternatively, a show during the winter months (June/July) would provide a chance to bench winter flowering plants that miss the normal Autumn and Spring Show. Coffs Harbour and Woolgoolga District Orchid Societies plan to hold a Winter Display in the middle of 2026. At the present time this is seen as a display only and not a competitive show but it is likely to be the forerunner of bigger things to come in future winters & summers.



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.

Monthly Sponsor
 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, 202

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

6 Nov—AGM/SOS My Orchid

6 Dec—Awards Presentation

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

**CHOS BANK DETAILS**

BSB No: 533-000

ACCOUNT No: 32817199

CHOS COMMITTEE REPORT

The following is a summary from the CHOS February Committee Meeting conducted on 11th Feb 2025 at “The Workshop”. Meeting commenced at 2pm.

- ◆ All Committee Members present plus Dick Cooper (Auditor).
- ◆ Dick Cooper discussed his Auditor Report on the audit of CHOS finances for 2024. The audited accounts were presented and accepted at the Monthly Meeting held on 6th February 2025. Dick outlined his suggestions to simplify the Treasurer’s duties in keeping the future accounts. The Committee gratefully accepted and will adopt his recommendations. Thank you Dick for all your hard work.
- ◆ Dick Cooper, in his role as Leader of the Mid North Coast Judging Panel, presented Peter Gough with an ACM (Award of Cultural Merit) for his *Dendrobium canaliculatum* which was benched at last year WDOS October Show. Congratulations, Pete.
- ◆ Committee was very happy with the well attended (40 members) February meeting—great talk and photo show from Neville Anderson, Thank you, Neville.
- ◆ It was decided to trial a rearrangement of the Executive table prior to the serving of supper in an effort to improve people movement and safety around the supper table at future meetings.
- ◆ Plant Growing Competition orders—low numbers to date so members to be contacted regarding purchasing a plant. Paige to organise emails. Plant draw will take place at the March meeting.
- ◆ Winners of the various sections of the 2024 Plant Growing Competition have been decided and will be presented with their prizes at the March meeting.
- ◆ Show organisation is proceeding smoothly. Show Schedule approved. Show Roster almost completed. Joy Griffiths has agreed to assist with catering at the Autumn Show. Poster completed and will be distributed shortly. Advertising signs have been updated. Inclusion of First Flowering Seedling in the Show Schedule was questioned as it is often difficult to prove that a particular plant is a true seedling. A review will take place for future shows.
- ◆ Membership is overdue. Individual letters to be sent to members who are unfinancial.
- ◆ All Sponsors have rejoined. Thank you for your continued support of CHOS.
- ◆ Bark supplies are low . It is hoped to place a new order in the near future.
- ◆ Next Committee Meeting will be held at ‘The Workshop’ on Tuesday 11th March 2025 at 10.30am.

**DON'T TELL SECRETS
IN THE GARDEN.
THE POTATOES HAVE
EYES, THE CORN
HAS EARS, AND THE
BEANSTALK**

Be Sure to Always
have a teenager
in your house
that way there's
always someone
there who knows
everything. 😂

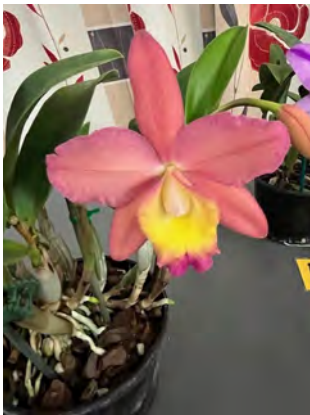
After fixing my computer, I overheard my grandson chatting with one of his friends saying it was just an ID ten T error. They both laughed. Not wanting to appear dumb, I walked away and wrote down the phrase: ID10T. He never was my favorite grandkid anyway.



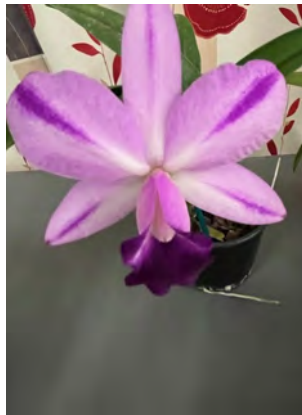
**Popular Vote at the CHOS
February Meeting was
awarded to
Helen Seiver
for her
Prosthechea cochleata
Congratulations!**



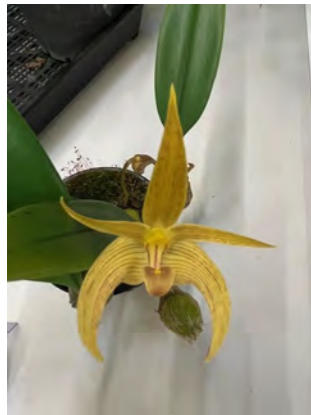
ORCHIDS BENCHED AT THE CHOS FEBRUARY MEETING



**Slc. Lana Coryell 'Ellen'
benched by Rhonda Smith**



**Lc. Mona Pink 'Hiromi'
grown by Rhonda Smith**



**Bulb. Wilmar Galaxy Star
X Bulb. siamense**



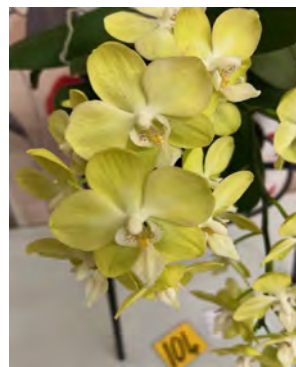
**Den. bigibbum var. alba
benched by Rhonda Smith**



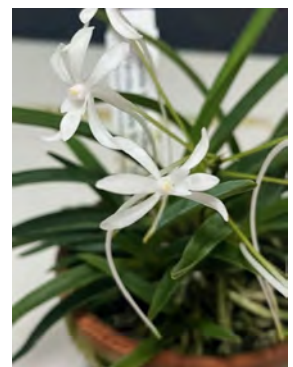
**Pete Gough benched this
V. Brighton's Ruby Jewel**



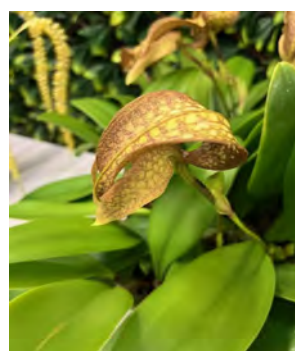
**Dendrobium densiflorum
benched by Matt Connell**



**Phalaenopsis NoID.
Owned by Rhonda Smith**



**Rhonda Smith's Vanda
falcata**



**Bulb. grandiflorum X
Bulb. cominsii was
benched by Rhonda
Smith**

BITS AND PIECES



- Kiwi Potting Bark is available from Paige Sinclair at \$50 per 50L bag. Limited supplies available so get in contact with Paige if you need bark today or place an order for when new supplies arrive in the near future. Available in four grades—Grade 3 being the most popular type.
- **CHOS MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE OVERDUE.** The Committee has extended the deadline date to 6th March. Failure to pay this years fees will result in your name being removed from the membership register and you will no longer receive a Newsletter. Mmembership fees are \$10 for an individual and \$15 for Family Membership. You can pay Paul or Chris Hatton or Direct Deposit into the CHOS Bank Account (details on page 2 of this newsletter).
- 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.



Tolumnia pulchella X T. Ky-Elles Dream

Many growers find this group of orchids very difficult to grow but others have had outstanding success. This years *growing* competition plant will be the hybrid *Tolumnia* Ky-Elles Dream X *Tolumnia pulchella*. Each plant will cost \$10 and only one plant will be allowed for each CHOS member. Please pay Treasurer David Rudgley at the March 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. A Growing Guide will be issued with each plant. These plants will be supplied mounted but members may wish to add to the mount (Eg: place on a tree fern slab) or repot in a suitable media.

- **CHOS MARCH Monthly Meeting** will be held on Thursday 6th March starting at 7.00pm. Guest Speaker will be Ray Clement from Tinonee Orchids. Ray's talk is titled "My Orchid Journey". Ray will have plants and some accessories for sale to our members at reasonable prices. (Please note that Tinonee Orchids is permanently closed so this will be one of the few chances available to tap into Ray's plants).

The draw for this years Growing Plant Competition will take place during the meeting.

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

Judges for this meeting: BRUCE HALL AND WALTER KRAINIK

Assistance from members to clean up after the meeting would be greatly appreciated

- **AOC 2025 CONFERENCE HOSTED BY WDOS** will be held on 1st—5th October 2025. Full Show Schedule is now on the website plus Registration Forms. Check out www.aoc2005.org.au If you are a member of WDOS (\$10/year) then the Conference Registration Fee is only \$100— a great saving. Registration for the Conference Dinner is now open.
- Are you interested in being involved in designing and constructing an **Orchid Display** for the Woolgoolga AOC Conference in October? CHOS has been allocated an area 4 x 4 metres for our display. Paige Sinclair plans to hold the first team meeting during May so planning can proceed for this display. If you are prepared to join the Display Team or need further information then please contact Paige Sinclair on 0427 591 901 or at chorchidsociety@gmail.com.

IS YOUR ORCHID CORRECTLY NAMED?

Many orchid growers take pride in being up to date and having the correct name on their plant label. Others are not concerned if they use an older name as they work on the premise that the older name is more well known and an acceptable synonym in the orchid world.

The increasing use of DNA analysis and other scientific techniques has revealed much about the relationships between different orchid genera. New studies have resulted in many orchids being reassigned to another genus while some are so closely related according to the DNA analysis that they are now classed as varieties or sub species. Some genera names have been removed from the taxonomy altogether.

To make a change in an orchid name requires a lot of research and evidence to be provided and must be approved by a committee of experts before the new name is accepted by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS). This is often a slow process which requires lengthy discussion and consultation among world experts. Once the name change is approved, it is then listed by the RHS as the acceptable name.

Some orchid growers refrain from changing their labels as they believe the new name will be changed back within a few years. However, as the name changes are mainly based on DNA analysis, it is unlikely the new name will change. The general advise to growers is that the new proclaimed names are here to stay. So change your labels and move on.

During the past twelve months it has been noticeable that many orchids benched at shows, monthly meetings and posted on social media, such as Facebook, are using labels carrying the old names. Many of them also display spelling errors.

You can check which are the acceptable orchid names and check on the correct spelling by logging onto <https://powo.science.kew.org>—Plants Of The World Online or www.ipni.org—International Plants Name Index. The orchid data base “OrchidWiz” is also very useful for identification purposes.

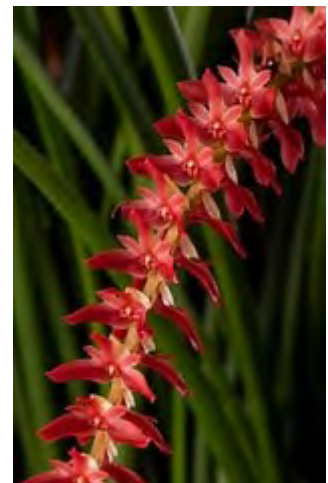
If you wish to find out if a plant cross has been given a registered name or what the parents were used for a particular registered orchid then log on to the International Orchid Register at the RHS site <https://apps.rhs.org.uk>.

Here are some of the orchids which have new names and you may wish to use this information to check, and if necessary, alter your labels.

1. *Dendrochilum* and *Pholidota* (plus another 12 minor genera) - these are now all listed under the genus *Coelogyne*.



**All *Denrochilums*
are now called
Coelogyne.**
**So *Dendrochilum*
wenselli becomes
*Coelogyne wenzelii***



The Australian native rattlesnake orchid was called *Pholidota imbricata*. It now correctly known as *Coelogyne imbricata*. (Note that the Species name always starts with a lower case letter).

2. *Encyclia cochleata*, often called the Clamshell Orchid, the Cockleshell Orchid or the Octopus Orchid, has undergone a name change in recent years.

It is now called *Prosthechea cochleata*

(Previously this plant was known as an Epidendrum)

Why don't you write out a new label today?



3. The Upside-Down Orchid, *Stanhopea*, is a popular and common orchid well suited to the Mid North Coast climate. The two most common species grown locally are *Stanhopea tigrina* and *Stanhopea nigroviolacea*. Research has shown that these two species are so closely related that they are now classed as varieties.

The correct names for your labels are:

Stanhopea tigrina var. *tigrina*

and

Stanhopea tigrina var. *nigroviolacea*



4. *Bulbophyllum rothschildianum* is a common orchid in local members collection. This is still the RHS acceptable name for this species. However, it is often confused with the hybrid *Bulbophyllum* Vindobona (*Bulb. Rothschildianum* X *Bulb. Ornatissimum*) and in recent times a number of plants have been benched under the incorrect names. Both the species and the hybrid flower during April—May and are common specimens at local Autumn Shows. There are a number of things to look for to separate these two plants once they are in full flower.

Bulbophyllum rothschildianum

(Species)

Lateral sepals: Broader segments plus coarse texture (like sandpaper) and lighter colour.

Small Lateral Petals: No stripes on base of petals but may have spots.

Underside of Lateral Sepals: No markings.

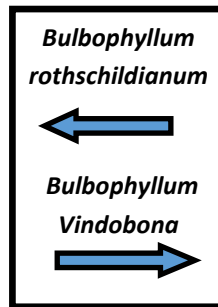
***Bulbophyllum* Vindobona**

(Hybrid)

Lateral Sepals: Narrower segments and smooth touch. Darker colour.

Small Lateral Petals: Bases of petals are striped in red.

Underside of Lateral Sepals: There are a number of markings.



5. Australian Swamp Orchids are a group of orchids that grow well in gardens in this region. Some growers do have these in pots and they occasionally turn up on the show bench but most of the local types flower outside the show period. *Phaius australis* was considered to be the only native *Phaius* in NSW and other were considered introduced. Studies with DNA have suggested that there are now three varieties considered to be Australian Natives and now classified as varieties of *Phaius tankervilleae*.

The three varieties are *Phaius tankervilleae* var. *tankervilleae*, *Phaius tankervilleae* var. *australis* and *Phaius tankervilleae* var. *bernaysii*



However, my own research is suggesting that this may not be the current accepted position for this group of orchids. There is even some suggestion that the *Phaius* genus has been moved into the genus *Calanthe*. This was suggested some years ago but rejected due to the lack of DNA evidence.

So, don't change your labels just yet if you own these plants. Hopefully, we will be able to add to this discussion in future newsletters.

6. To conclude this article, I would like to provide an update on the registration of the Edward Pearce Coelogyne Breeding Program seedlings. As many would be aware Edward Pearce was a long serving and much admired President for the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society. Ed's passion was breeding Coelogyne hybrids and had almost twenty crosses to his credit when he passed away a few years ago. The CHOS continued to collect the seed capsules from Ed's crosses after his death and sent these seed capsules to laboratories to be germinated and the seedlings flaked. Many of these seedlings were given to local members (which was Edward's wish) to grow out. Once these orchids reach the flowering stage then it may be possible to register them with the Royal Horticultural Society. Of course other growers may have also carried out similar crosses and the offspring may already carry a registered name.

To date, three of Ed's crosses have flowered and have been registered by CHOS with the RHS. There are still at least ten crosses yet to flower so please let the Society know if any of your seedlings flower for the first time. If you are the first in the world to flower that particular cross, and draw it to the attention of the RHS, then you are entitled to select a registered name. Check your seedling labels and if you have any of the following then you can write out a new label with the registered name (I also put the parental cross on the back of the label as a reference).

1. *Coelogyne Kirribilli Joyce X Coel. Kirribilli Norm* was registered on 7th June 2023 as ***Coelogyne Memoria Edward Henry Pearce***.
2. *Coel. Kirribilli Joyce X Coel. candoonensis* was registered on 4th December 2023 as ***Coelogyne Michelle Pearce*** (Michelle is Ed's daughter and CHOS member).
3. *Coel. Kirribilli Joyce X Coel. lawrenceana* was registered on 4th December 2023 as ***Coelogyne Memoria Ronald Pearce*** (Ron was Ed's father and a well known Victorian orchid breeder).

Bob Southwell