



COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

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www.coffsorchidsociety.org.au

COFFS ORCHID NEWS – MAR 2013

GENERAL MEETING & ORCHID COMPETITION

1st THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7.00 for 7.30 PM, UNLESS OTHERWISE ANNOUNCED, at NORTH COAST REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS, HARDACRE STREET, COFFS HARBOUR.

<u>PRESIDENT:</u>	ED PEARCE	6650 9578, 0418 519908
<u>SECRETARY:</u>	BRONWEN FOX	6652 4330
<u>TREASURER:</u>	BRUCE HALL	6658 9891
<u>EDITOR:</u>	ED PEARCE	6650 9578

SPONSORS

BCU – BANANACOAST COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION.

Serving local communities. For all your financial needs – Home and business loans, credit cards, personal loans, savings accounts, term deposits, insurance, internet and phone banking, and loyalty rebates. 69 Park Beach Road. 6651 4404. www.bcu.com.au

MANGROVE JACKS on the Promenade

Breakfast and lunch 7 days, and dinner Tues to Sat. A lovely, peaceful setting by Coffs Creek for coffee or a meal. 6652 5517. www.mangrovejacksafe.com.au

LUDO'S OLD WARES

Buying and selling antiques, old wares and collectibles. Deceased estates. 2/26 Industrial Drive, Coffs Harbour South. 6651 5514.

EASY ORCHIDS

Easy Orchids carries a wide variety of orchids and flasks, and orchid growing supplies – coconut, pots, etc. They provide quick delivery of orders. 6682 2635 or www.easyorchids.com

FITZROY MOTORS

For Mazda and Honda vehicles, also second hand vehicles, and ALL your servicing needs. Do your shopping while your car is serviced. 6652 3122, 41 Grafton St., Coffs Harbour.

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. 6652 2599.

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1. CALENDAR

7 Mar	Railways talk
10 Mar	Workshop
11 Apr	?
27, 28 Apr	Autumn Show

2. MARCH MEETING

Our guest at the March meeting will be Brian Stokes from Railcorp here in Coffs Harbour who will be explaining how to take advantage of the services available for travel and for holidays.

We will of course have our usual display and table talk.

3. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Our annual subscriptions are due. The subscriptions are \$15 for couples, and \$10 for singles. Please see our treasurer Bruce Hall to pay these fees asap.



4. COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee met at Mangrove Jacks minus Bronwen and Carole Davis.

Two new members were approved and will be welcomed formally at the next meeting. The last meeting was discussed and felt it was a great success especially the guest Ray Clement and the new labels.

It was felt that we need to source plants for the raffle each month from another source. It was also decided not to renew our membership to *Orchids Australia*.

Also talked about whether we should improve our name tags.

As we missed General Business at the last meeting there are a couple of items discussed by the Committee that will need to be given a full discussion at the next monthly meeting.

5. WORKSHOP

The next orchid workshop is on 10 March at Gordon Clarke's, 26 Pullen Street, Woolgoolga. Gordon's phone number is 6654 2553. We normally start with tea/coffee at about 9.30 and the workshop starts at 10.

Gordon and Brian will be looking at how our orchids have been growing, and how to prepare them for the winter.

All are welcome.

6. AUTUMN SHOW.

It is not too early to be thinking about our Autumn Show. What plants might you have in flower? What do you need to do to them to present them at their best?

We will be seeking volunteers for the roster at our meeting. It takes a lot of work to put on a successful show, but if people are prepared to help then it is easier on everyone.

Remember too that we have broadened the range of orchid plants that we can sell at the sales table. We are not restricted just to flowering plants, but can also sell mature, well established plants. The sales table coordinator will be authorised to reject plants that don't meet this standard.

7. WEBSITE

Our website has been updated and modernised. The new version is available now. Bronwen, Sue and I have had a training session with Paul Wicker who set it up for us and we will be able to keep it up to date in future.

8. SUPPER.

Thanks to everyone who brought along some supper for our February meeting.

9. ORCHID SOCIETY SHIRTS

Some members have been asking about the shirts with Coffs Harbour Orchid Society embroidered on them. The pale blue polo shirts can be purchased from Lowes. A word of caution – their sizes are rather large. E.g. I normally take a large size, but the large from Lowes is really too big for me.

10. AUSTRALIAN ORCHID COUNCIL LETTER

Did you know that we are affiliated with the Australian Orchid Council? This organisation is the peak body for orchid societies in Australia. The following is a letter from the president which he has asked us to print in our newsletters.

To all members and orchid clubs, I hope that you enjoyed Christmas and New Year and that all that is going well.

In my travels around, I find that one of the most often asked questions is "What does the AOC do for us?" Remember that the AOC is owned by the membership of orchid growers, but here are some things that the AOC does for all growers and clubs.

The AOC is the national forum for the coordination of orchid growing across Australia and for the resolution of issues brought to it by the personal members or societies, often through the Area Representative Organisations (AROs).

The AOC publishes the magazine 'Orchids Australia' which provides a wealth of information on aspects of orchid growing, historical articles, awards, and what is happening at club level. The publication committee welcomes relevant contributions from personal members – for example on culture, show reports and any other articles of interest to orchid growers not only in Australia but overseas as well. May I encourage people to become personal members of the AOC by subscribing to 'Orchids Australia.'

The AOC provides a comprehensive program library for AOC-affiliated clubs free of charge except for return postage. The complete catalogue may be downloaded from the AOC website which is another service to orchid growers in general. The current AOC Secretary can also email it to you as she is also the Program Librarian.

We also provide a unified national judging system, granting awards of excellence to growers. Over many years the system has been developed, headed by the Registrar General in conjunction with the Registrar from each State who train judges to a high standard so that they are able to judge at orchid shows wherever they may be required.

During my tenure as President I encourage personal members and clubs to share ideas that they have had success with, either at a personal level or at club level. For example, you may have a successful way of attracting new members to your club, or a member may have done something different that resulted in growing his/her orchids better. You can email or post your suggestions to me which I will share in future newsletters. (Please let me know whether you want your name/club mentioned.) I don't care if I am overwhelmed with emails! If you have any articles that could be printed in 'Orchids Australia' I would also be pleased to receive them.



Dendrobium Avril's Gold "Ray". The editor has a plant of this orchid.

As many of you are aware, there have been horrific fires and floods in Australia in the last month or so, and I would assume that there are orchid growers who have been affected by these disasters. I believe, that as orchid growers, we need to support such people. I suggest that if clubs in the affected areas could let me know, we may be able to put out an appeal for growers who have surplus plants to donate them to those affected so that they may be able to continue their interest in the hobby that we all enjoy so much.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the clubs and personal members for the support and encouraging comments that I have received whilst making contact by email, phone or personally. As a result of these contacts we are now able to be in touch with most clubs via the internet which will help immensely to cut the operating costs of the Council.

Until the next newsletter, goodbye for now.

Jim Shaughnessy, AOC President

11. RAY CLEMENT'S TALK.

This was a very interesting and informative talk about native orchids and problems and preventions.



A large specimen of *Dendrobium speciosum*

He also gave a practical demonstration of potting and he also went into detail about different growing media. Thanks Ray.

12. LIBRARY

Carole Davis is our librarian and she looks after the society's books and magazines. Carole will have a range of books on display at our meetings, and members are welcome to look through our library to see if there is anything there which interests them.



This starry shape often comes from hybrids with *Dendrobium tetragonum* in their parentage.

13. STANHOPEAS.

Do you have any Stanhopeas? These rather strange orchids flower from the bottom of the plant and produce fragrant flowers which unfortunately only last for a few days. Don Tuner is one of our members who grows these plants well.

Stanhopeas and related genera have large, pleated leaves and bear incredible flowers with intricate, complex structures and mechanisms for pollination, ranging from channeled walkways for insects to buckets of a watery solution. Most have inflorescences that grow downward, so the plants must be potted in hanging baskets or similar containers. Flowers are often spicily fragrant, and although the flowers are short-lived, each plant may produce many inflorescences throughout the year. Related genera *Paphinia* and *Peristeria* grow warmer than others in this group, and may produce upright inflorescences.

Light should be bright, with direct sunlight diffused so as not to burn the leaves. Most growers suspend these orchids due to their pendulous inflorescences. This also brings the plants closer to the light. Light levels approximating those for cattleyas, around 3,000 foot-candles, are best.

Temperatures should be moderate: 52° to 60° F at night, with day temperatures 68° to 75° F in the winter. Plants can stand short spells of higher temperatures, but air movement, humidity and shading must all be increased. Many species flower in the summer, and putting them outside in the summer may be beneficial. Move into higher light slowly to avoid burn.

Water in ample quantities is important to produce strong pseudobulbs and prevent foliar spotting. Stanhopeas and their relatives can be sensitive to salt accumulation in the medium, so should never be allowed to dry out entirely, even during the winter months when growth may slow or stop. Poor watering habits are also conducive to root loss in these types, and some may be very slow to re-establish once they have lost their roots.

Fertilize at regular intervals. Most growers fertilize with a diluted concentration every week to two weeks. For plants in bark, use a 30-10-10 high-nitrogen formulation, alternating with a 20-20-20 balanced formulation; in the blooming season, which is mainly summer, use a 10-30-20 blossom-booster formulation. Plants grown in osmunda need fertilization only infrequently.

Potting is done best right after summer flowering, as most plants seem to grow year round. Plants that rest in the winter can be repotted in the spring. The best flowerings come from large clumps of plants, so large baskets are usually used. An airy, yet moist medium seems to work best, such as medium-grade fir bark (often mixed with sphagnum peat) or osmunda fiber. Vigorous plants may need repotting every three years or so.



This photo clearly shows the flower coming out of the bottom of the plant.



This hybrid - Dendrobium Flinders "Clown Face" – shows some of the colour in modern hybrids.

14. AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY MEETING

Welcome, Apologies, Visitors, new members.

Minutes of Feb meeting – as printed in newsletter

Business Arising

Committee Report – refer to report.

Inwards Correspondence

1. *AOC President's letter
2. *New regional judging registrar
3. * OSNSW Newsletter
4. *Botanic Gardens re dates
5. *G. Bailey – Australian Cymbidium Scene.
6. *ANOS Conference in August

Outwards Correspondence

Finance Report – as included

Sponsors Spot – Easy Orchids

Table talk

General business

1. Arrangements for Shows. Should we only have 2 days?
2. Bunnings sausage sizzle. Are there enough people who can help to make this worthwhile?
3. Workshop on 10th in Woolgoolga.

Raffle, popular vote.

15. MINUTES for FEBRUARY MEETING.

We had about 35 members and visitors at our first meeting for 2013.

Apologies: C. Davis, G & P Baillie, P & P King, D. Turner, R. Standing, D. Blay.

Visitors: Val and Harold, Mal, Derek, Elaine and Brian.

Minutes of the previous meeting: Moved: Sue Seconded: Betty That minutes as printed in newsletter be approved

Committee report – as printed in newsletter

Correspondence:

- 3x *Orchid Australia*
- 2x *AirFM* Newsletters
- Thankyou Ivy and Family and Kay and Family.
- Queensland Orchid Fair flyer
- Nambucca OS show dates
- Bellingen OS show dates
- *Geebung Gazette*
- Hunter Gardens Festival of Flowers.

Moved: Betty, Seconded: Barb That correspondence be received.

Finance: As per Newsletter. Moved: Brenda, Seconded: Carol That report as printed be approved

Table Talk: Ray Clements and Bruce did a great job informing members and showing plants. Thanks to all who brought in some really beautiful and unusual plants. Ray nominated Sue William's plant as the plant of the night.

Popular vote winner: Eric

Meeting closed: 8:30

The meeting was followed by a bumper supper. Thanks to all members who contributed to this feast.



Dendrobium Hilda Poxon.

CHOS Financial Statement. 29 Jan to 25 Feb

Receipt		Income	Cheque	Expend	Notes
00/2	Raffle	\$ 66.00			
00/1	M/ships	\$ 250.00			Renewals
00/1	M/ships	\$ 15.00			New members
00/7			Newsletter	913	\$ 19.60 Xerox
00/9	Sundry	\$ 60.00			Donation for labels
06/1	Sponsorship	\$ 150.00			Easy Orchids
	TOTAL	\$ 541.00		\$ 19.60	
Credit for period		\$ 521.40			

Reconciliation

Opening balance	\$ 4,649.31
Income	\$ 541.00
	\$ 5,190.31
Expenses	\$ 19.60
Balance	\$ 5,170.71

B. Hall - Treasurer. 25 Feb 2013

