



COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

PO BOX 801, COFFS HARBOUR, NSW, 2450. E-mail coffsos@gmail.com

www.coffsorchidsociety.org.au

COFFS ORCHID NEWS – MAR 2015

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 51908 |
| <u>VICE PRESIDENT</u> | CAROLE DAVIS | 6658 1354 |
| | STEVE CLEMESHA | 6656 1937 |
| <u>SECRETARY:</u> | BRONWEN FOX | 0488 583030 |
| <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.mangrovejackscafe.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.

INDEX

1. Calendar
2. March Meeting
3. Agenda for March general meeting
4. Minutes of February meeting
5. Ray Clements Talk
6. Committee Report
7. Annual Subscription due
8. Monthly display judges
9. Dates for 2015
10. April Show
11. Judging Monthly display
12. Orchid Culture

1. CALENDAR

5 Mar Brian Newman – staking orchids.
2 Apr Apr meeting
24, 25, 26 Apr Show (set up on 24th)

2. MARCH MEETING

Our guest speaker for March will be Brian Newman. Brian is well known to those members who have attended beginners workshops in Woolgoolga where Brian and Gordon Clarke share their knowledge about how to grow orchids better.



Here is Brian talking at one of the workshops.

Brian will be talking about how we can stake and tie up our flowers to display them to their best advantage. If you have an orchid with a spike on it you might like to bring it along and ask Brian about it.

3. AGENDA for FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

Judges – Steve Clemesha and Tom Denison

Welcome, Apologies, Visitors, New members

Minutes of February meeting – as printed in newsletter

Committee Report – refer to newsletter

Inwards Correspondence

1. Botanic Gardens newsletter
2. Orchid Review magazine
3. BCU statement
4. Notice of orchid fair in Sydney
5. 2AIR FM radio newsletter

Outwards Correspondence

1. Thanks to Ray Clements

Finance Report –

Table talk.

General business

Raffle, popular vote.



A Dendrobium shown at our Autumn Show

4. MINUTES of FEBRUARY MEETING

Apologies: Pam & Grahame Baillie, G Suter,

Visitors: James, Christine, David.

New Member: Welcomed and given plant Julie Midavaine.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: as per Newsletter.

Moved: John 2nd: Betty

Committee Meeting: Moved: Sue 2nd: Helen

Correspondence: Northland travel brochure. Bills.

Finances: Report in Newsletter. Moved: Bruce 2nd:Bron

Sponsors Spot: On front of Newsletter

Table Talk: Ray looked at the table display and gave an interesting talk about several of them

General Business:

1. Survey re Christmas Function handed out and discussed.
2. Judging the plants at monthly meeting. Members asked to volunteer.

Popular Vote: Bill Bright

Raffle: John, James, Christine, Cathy

Guest Speaker: Ray Clements



5. RAY'S TALK

- Website has all the details re what is available. Posted copies available
- Queensland Orchid Fair. Large orchid shopping centre. Growers from all over the country. Beenleigh 6- 8 March.
- 21st Open Day 4-5 July: Saturday speakers day. Entertaining and knowledgeable speakers from all over.
- Off to Thailand to investigate labs and "the culture".
- Spoke about the structure of the plants. Importance of the roots..."the mouth of the plant". Healthy roots = Healthy plant.
- Many orchids grow on rocks or trees - roots open and airy with humidity.
- Need to be grown so they don't stay wet in the pot.... must be well drained.
- Pots must have a good drainage system, Iron bark or use tree fern bits.
- Potting mix must let water run through, have space for air and hold some moisture.
- Best media should last for at least 2 years to hold plant up.
- Orchids generally don't like to be in pots that are too big. They like to be cramped.
- Like to be under a tree or under shade. Need light in varying degrees. They need shade. Shade cloth is not as good as a tree as it doesn't absorb the heat. Try to mirror natural conditions.
- Experiment with locations for plants.
- Orchids need food, which goes in through a healthy root system. Doesn't really matter what fertilizer to use. N+= leaves N- higher phosphorous and potassium levels = flowers. Fertilizer for flowering and fruit will work for orchids. Look at the recommendation for dosage and halve it at least. **Small amount of fertilizer regularly.**



Phalaenopsis at Autumn Show

- Watering. Check the mix. If it feels damp leave it to dry a bit then give it a good soak and let it dry out again. Rainwater is fantastic for all plants don't worry about fertilizer during rain times.
- Questions and discussion.
- Ed's plant has fungus. Fungicide. BE CAREFUL. Can use soluble lime.
- Barb's cymbidium is terminal with a virus.
- Condyl's crystals can be used as a potassium additive. Ron don't mix so much!!
- Air movement essential in our humid climate

Thanks Ray for a most entertaining and informative talk.

Meeting closed: 9:05



There are some nice Laeliinae in flower now.

6. REPORT of FEB COMMITTEE MEETING

The committee met on 10th February and main item of discussion was planning for our Autumn Show. Things are progressing well and we are looking forward to the show.

We also looked at the results of the survey about our Christmas celebrations and there was a clear preference for organising a dinner somewhere to replace the special supper we've been having in our meeting room for a few years.

7. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Please note that the annual memberships are due at the February meeting. The fees are the same as for 2014, i.e. \$10 for a single membership and \$15 for a couple (New members who paid towards the end of last year don't need to pay for 2015). Please pay Bruce Hall as soon as possible.

8. JUDGES for MONTHLY DISPLAY

Each month members bring along flowering plants so we can see what is in flower and perhaps ask questions about how to grow these orchids.

We have a couple of people judge the best flowers in each section. This is not technical judging, but just "appreciation", ie what do you like best. To do this we try to pair a more experienced grower with a newer grower where we can. At our February meeting we asked members if they would be interested in having a roster so people know who is going to be judging each month. Thanks to those who volunteered to be on the roster in 2015.

We ask that all plants be benched by 7.15 so that judging can commence no later than 7.20.

Roster for 2015

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| February | Dianne Blay, Bob Southwell |
| March | Steve Clemesha, Tom Denison |
| April | Bill Bright, Ben Pron |
| May | Dick Cooper, Rose McKay |
| June | Barbara Pearce, Jennifer Lock |
| July | Betty Pittaway, Barb Forsyth |
| August | Peter Baker, Pat King |
| September | Brian Newman, Kathy Cowling |
| October | Peter King, Brenda Mayled |
| November | John Sidebottom, Helen Seiver |
| December | Carole Davis, Judith Whiting |
| Reserves | Bob Southwell, Carole Davis |



Another showy Laeliinae orchid, often referred to as a Cattleya

9. DATES for 2015

Please note the dates for our meetings in 2015. Meetings are usually the first Thursday of the month, except during school holidays when we meet the first Thursday after the holidays.

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| 5 February | Thursday, General Meeting, |
| 5 March | Thursday, General Meeting, |
| 16 April | Thursday, General Meeting, |
| 24/25/26 April | Fri/Sat/Sun, Autumn Show, |
| 7 May | Thursday, General Meeting, |
| 4 June | Thursday, General Meeting, |
| 16 July | Thursday, General Meeting, |
| 6 August | Thursday, General Meeting, |
| 3 September | Thursday, General Meeting, |
| 11/12/12 Sept | Fri/Sat/Sun, Spring Show, |
| 8 October | Thursday, General Meeting, |
| 5 November | Thursday, AGM/General Meeting |
| 3 December | Thursday, Awards Meeting, |

10. APRIL SHOW.

How are your orchids going? What plants might you have in flower for our April Show? What do you need to do to them to present them at their best? We encourage everyone to enter the plants they have in flower so that we can put on a good display for the public. Brian Newman will be talking at our March meeting about presenting your flowers to their best advantage.

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.



Laelia anceps that are in bud now

10 ORCHID FAIRS

Have you ever been to an orchid fair, or a show, where there are lots of orchid sellers with lots and plants and orchid growing supplies for sale? You might be interested in visiting one of these, even though they involve a bit of travel.

Queensland International Orchid Fair – Beenleigh Show Ground, James Street, Beenleigh on 6th to 8th March (Brisbane).

Castle Hill International Orchid Fair – Harvey Lowe Pavillion at Castle Hill Showground (Sydney).

Tinonee Orchids – Open day and Workshop. 768 Tinonee Road, Tinonee. 4th and 5th July

Australian Orchid Council Annual Conference and Show. McKay (Queensland). 18th to 21st September.

11 ORCHID CULTURE

Here are a few notes from Alan Merriman, a Sydney Orchid dealer. These notes are aimed more at medium to advanced growers than to beginners.

Well I hope all of you managed to get around to cleaning up your orchid growing areas, pulled a few weeds etc. This month I have decided to put a few things together to get you back in the mood. Way back in 2008 I was doing some trials using some of the available controlled release fertilisers. After three years I found the BASACOTE +6m with a N-P- K of 16 + 3.5 + 9.9 + TE gave us tremendous results on cymbidiums, Cattleyas and other mixed genera. As I wrote in a previous newsletter it was applied at repotting and every six months. The trial ended in 2013, the trial material was donated by Garden City Plastics. This material is usually available from us at Miriam Ann Orchids. So those of you who missed the results here it is!



Nutrients: Over the last few years we have been inundated with a myriad of new fertilisers. These have come as organic, foliar, complete etc. The old saying used to be, it will make a dead stick grow roots! A word of warning! Before using any new fertiliser that you know nothing about, trial a few plants with the new fertiliser over a one to two year period, to check growth over flowering. You may use tomatoes for quicker results. Remember, there is now such thing as a magic fertiliser for use on orchids! Cymbidiums need around 2.0 – 25% nitrogen, Phalaenopsis around 1.5 - 2.5%, Paphs 1.3-2.0% while Cattleyas need 1.3 – 1.7% of nitrogen. So you can see from these figures, orchids need around the same amount of nitrogen except cymbidiums! Potassium levels are nearly the same as the nitrogen levels. Phosphorus is a different matter. Usually around 8 – 12%. Calcium is critical for quality of blooms and strength of leaves and racemes. Cymbidium calcium levels are around 1.0%, Phalaenopsis 3.0 – 5.0%, Paphs 1.6%. These levels are what your plants require for good growth. Well how long does it take to be absorbed into the plant? Plants can obtain the essential nutrients they require from a wide range of sources such as organic such as rain and hidden nutrients in the potting media. Water and nutrients can be taken up by plant roots or leaves. However, nutrient uptake

through leaves will only ever supply a small amount of the plants total requirements. This is due to the leaves sensitivity to application of large concentrations of foliar nutrients. The risk of damage to plants is reduced when nutrients are applied in smaller concentration. Remember the nutrients that are applied to the plants leaves can only be absorbed through the stomata (under the leaves) and through microscopic openings in the cuticle. To ensure optimal uptake of nutrients, foliar fertilization should be carried out when relative humidity is high such as early in the morning or late in the afternoon. This is why many growers water their plants some hours before fertilising.

How long does it take for our plants to absorb the nutrients that you apply?

| | | |
|------------|---|---------------------|
| Nitrogen | - | 1-6 hours |
| Phosphorus | - | 1-5 days |
| Potassium | - | 1 – 4 days |
| Manganese | - | 1 – 2 days |
| Zinc | - | 1 day |
| Magnesium | - | 20% within the hour |
| Iron | - | 8% within 24 hours |

This is the time it takes for the plants to absorb 50%

Over this summer period here in NSW we have had periods of extreme hot weather and cold wet weather. Excellent for all sorts of fungi growth. If you are a cymbidium grower now is the time to check out the two spotted mite situation. Look for silvery markings under the leaves. If you do not have a very large collection you can spray with ECO – OIL mixed with your favourite acaricide or insecticide. ECO – NEEM® mixed with ECO-OIL® or MAVRIK®. During the summer a spray with a protective fungicide such as MANCOZEB®. Watch for root rot, if present drench with ANTI ROT®. During February I usually start to do my potting on. The plants have time to settle in before flowering

February

| Member Name | Laelinae Intermediate Hybrid 60 to 100mm | Laelinae Miniature Hybrid under 60mm | Laelinae Cluster Hybrid (min 5 flowers) | Laelinae Novelty Hybrid spotted flower non exhibition | Laelinae Species | Oncidiinae Hybrids under 25mm | Oncidiinae Hybrids between 25 to 65 mm | Oncidiinae Hybrids over 65mm | Oncidiinae & Allied Species | Vandaceous Hybrid under 60mm |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|------------------|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Class | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 17 | 18 |
| BLAY | | | | | | | 3 | | | |
| BRIGHT | | | | | | | | 2 | | |
| K Cowling | | | | | | 3 | | | | |
| B HALL | | | | 3 | | | | 3 | | |
| P & P KING | | | | 3 | 3 | | | | | |
| B PEARCE | | 3 | 3 | | | | | | | |
| E PEARCE | | | | | | | | | 3 | |
| B PITTAWAY | 5 | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| SOUTHWELL | | | | | | | 2 | | | |
| WILLIAMS | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| No Name | | | 2 | | | | | | | |

| Member Name | Phalaenopsis Hybrid Under 60 mm | Phalaenopsis Hybrid over 60 mm | Dendrobium Hardcane Hybrid Non Native | Dendrobium AOV Hybrid Non Native | Australian Native Hybrid inc Dendrobium | Australian Native species inc Dendrobium | AOV Hybrid under 50mm | AOV Hybrid over 50mm | AOV species under 50mm | AOV species over 50mm |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Class | 20 | 21 | 23 | 24 | 26 | 27 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 |
| BAKER | | | | | 3 | | | | 3 | |
| BRIGHT | | | | | | | 2 | | | |
| D COOPER | | 3 | 2 | | 2 | | | | | |
| B HALL | | | | 3 | | | | | | |
| P & P KING | | | | | | | | 3 | | |
| B NEWMAN | | | 3 | | | 3 | | | | |
| B PITTAWAY | 5 | | | | | | | | | |
| SIDEBOTTOM | | | | 2 | | | | | | |
| SOUTHWELL | | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| No Name | | | | | | | 3 | | | |

COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY (CHOS)

TRADING STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD OF 19 January 2015 to 23 February 2015

DATE OF THIS STATEMENT 23/2/2015.

| | Receipt | <u>INCOME</u> | Cheque | <u>EXPENDITURE</u> | |
|--|---------|--|-----------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 00/1 | M/Ships | \$ 255.00 | | Refer Receipt Book |
| | 00/2 | Raffle | \$ 105.00 | | Monthly Meet, Feb. |
| | 00/3 | Hall Hire | 331 | \$70.00 | Nov, Dec, 2014. |
| | 00/7 | Newsletter | 332,334 | \$110.00 | Xerox, Feb. issue/stamps. |
| | | <u>TOTALS</u> | | <u>\$180.00</u> | |
| | | DEBIT/CREDIT TOTAL FOR THE PERIOD | \$180.00 | | |

Bank Reconciliation for the above trading period.

| | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Opening Bank Balance 23/2/2015 | \$6,759.34 | |
| Rec for above period | \$360.00 | |
| | S/T | \$7,119.34 |
| DEDUCT Exp for above period | <u>\$180.00</u> | |
| Pre. u/presented cheques | \$9.00 | |
| | S/T | <u>\$189.00</u> |
| | \$6,930.34 | |
| Balance of income and expenditure | <u>\$6,930.34</u> | Refer BCU Statement @ 23/02/2014. |

The following chqs have not been presented: Nil

The following Accts to be paid: Nil at this time

The following monies on hand to be banked: \$10.00 for M/Ship.

NOTES:

CHOS has a sum of \$10,000.00 invested as a FTD with all interest earned rolled into the daily account and is shown in the appropriate trading statements.

HALL. B.G.
Hon. Treasurer
23/2/1015