



COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

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COFFS ORCHID NEWS – NOV 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 519908
<u>VICE PRESIDENT</u>	CAROLE DAVIS	6658 1354
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<u>TREASURER:</u>	BRUCE HALL	6658 9891
<u>EDITOR:</u>	ED PEARCE	6650 9578

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1. CALENDAR

5 November AGM. Dept of Fair Trading
3 December Awards Meeting, Dinner
4 February First meeting for 2016

2. NOVEMBER MEETING

Our guest speaker will be Robert Hoiles from the Department of Fair Trading who will be talking with us about some of the scams that we should watch out for.

The photos in this newsletter are mostly slipper orchids – Paphiopedilums – which Max spoke about at our last meeting. There are a selection of photos taken at our shows.



3. AGENDA for 2015 AGM

WELCOME to members and visitors

MINUTES of 2014 AGM – as printed in this newsletter

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – as printed in this newsletter

FINANCIAL REPORT – distributed at meeting

1. Moved that annual subscription remain the same in 2015 as for this year, i.e. \$10, and \$15 for couples.

ELECTION of OFFICE BEARERS – Returning Officer Ron Cowling takes the chair.

President

Vice Presidents

Secretary

Treasurer

Committee – 3 members.

Meeting close

4. MINUTES of 2014 AGM

Welcome. President welcomed everyone to the 2014 AGM and in particular the 6 visitors and new members.

Apologies: Sue Williams, Carole Davis, Bob Griffin, Jennifer Lock, Gary Suter, Betty Pittaway, Dianne Blay, Anne Dew, Bronwen Fox.

Reports:

1. President's Report: Given by Ed Pearce. Printed in Newsletter. Gave a brief summary of the highlights of 2014. In his comments he highlighted the numbers attending various activities of the society, the sadness of the funeral of past president Don Turner, the support of members for our shows and the visit to our Spring Show by the Ipswich Orchid Society.
2. Treasurer's Report: As printed in the Newsletter. Healthy state of the finances. Mentioned that costs for postage, hall hire, etc are increasing. Annual Subscriptions to remain the same for 2015, i.e. \$10 and \$15 for couples Mvd Ed, Scd Barb.

Move to election of the office bearers. Ron Cowling returning Officer

President: Ed Pearce

Vice President: Steve Clemesha, Carole Davis

Secretary: Bronwen Fox

Treasurer: Bruce Hall

Committee: Sue Williams, Bob Southwell, Barb Pearce.

Ed thanked members for their support. Carole Axford has retired from the committee and Ed thanked her for her contribution.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT for 2015 AGM

I think the society can look back on a successful year of meetings, shows, a bus trip and several new members.

Our shows have increased in the number and quality of the plants on display and we were again blessed with lovely weather. Thanks to those who organised and ran our shows and to everyone who helped in any way.

I'd like to thank the committee for their efforts in organising and running the activities of our society. I'd also like to thank those who do things like set up and pack up for our meetings and help with suppers. We are fortunate to have people who are ready to do what needs to be done.

We've had speakers on a variety of topics and I thank them for their participation.

6. AGENDA for NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Judges – John Sidebottom, Helen Seiver

Welcome, Apologies, Visitors, New members?

Minutes of October meeting – as printed in newsletter

Inwards Correspondence

1. BCU Statements

Outwards Correspondence

- 1.

Finance Report – printed in newsletter

Sponsors Spot – Coffs Harbour Produce in June Street

Table talk. –

General business

1. Christmas Dinner at Mangrove Jacks

Raffle, popular vote.



7. MINUTES of OCTOBER MEETING

Apologies: Ed Pearce, Bronwen Fox, Gloria and David Small, Pam and Graham Baillie.

Visitors: Jeff Johnson, Greg Tompkin, Chris Harrison, Eleanor and Neil McDonald.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: as per Newsletter.
Mvd Sue, Scd Jennifer

Committee Meeting: as per Newsletter

Correspondence:

Finances: In Newsletter. Mvd: Sue Scd Bob

Sponsors Spot: Coffs Coast Motors

General Business:

- Christmas dinner at Mangrove Jacks
- Invitation to Woolgoolga meeting on 24th October

Popular Vote: Ron and Judy with Dendrobium Mousmee, Peter with Phalaenopsis Elegance

Raffle: Judy, Bruce, Di, Laurie, Helen, Kathy



8. OCTOBER COMMITTEE MEETING

Our monthly committee meeting was held on 13th October at Mangrove Jacks. We discussed

- Success of our Spring Show
- Arrangements for Christmas dinner
- Checking and updating our membership list
- Future of BCU sponsorship
- Possibility of direct debits for membership, etc
- Will continue with judging roster for monthly meetings next year
- AGM

9. END of YEAR DINNER

Earlier this year we asked members for their ideas about our Christmas function and we have decided to have a dinner at Mangrove Jacks at the Promenade in Harbour Drive.

We will hold our regular December awards meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday 3rd December at Mangrove Jacks at the Promenade on Harbour Drive (Have you been there before? The site was the Coffs Harbour butter factory before it closed in the 1950s). We will have our annual awards and presentations with prize money for our monthly displays.

We will also have an orchid display and members are encouraged to bring along a plant – limit of one per member – and there will be a popular vote, but no judging.

At the end of this meeting those who are not staying for dinner may leave and then we will have dinner.

We will order dinner from Mangrove Jacks dinner menu, and the society will contribute \$10 towards the cost of each meal for members.

We will need people to sign up for the dinner to help with catering, and this can be done at the November meeting, or by contacting Bronwen or by e-mail. We

have a few people who have signed up but we need more to make the evening a success.



10. MAX MacKAY'S TALK on SLIPPER ORCHIDS

Max has been growing orchids for a long time – his first slipper in 1963. His new orchid house has slippers at the south end under an 8' roof with two thicknesses of 70% shade cloth, plus milky plastic/solar wool on top. In the 1980s he had African Violets and although they were too much trouble he found they grew roots well into the sandy floor of his glasshouse. The orchids also loved it so he mixed sharp sand with bark in square pots. Sand from Wyora Gravel Pit near Missibotti. Others growers dismissed the use of sand but he persevered and continues to use a mix of 3 parts small grade bark, 2 parts sand and 1 part Perlite with excellent results. Uses coarser bark in the base of the pot to hold the mix in place.

He believes people lose slippers mainly because of over-watering. Once every 2-3 weeks early morning in winter (soil only). Increase water in spring/summer as temperatures increase (possibly every two days when really hot) but again early morning. Make sure you keep the flowers dry.

Osmocote is good for speedy feeding but uses Campbells – a very weak solution straight into the pot – once a month in spring and weekly in summer.



Starts his plants in 3" tubes – the smaller the better and the crown should always be under the mix. When repotting, retain as many roots as possible and you can freshen the old mix with handful of new sand but always try and keep the roots hanging loose, place in the pot and firm the mix around them – again with the crown covered. Remember to put the label back into the pot (preferably marked with a 4B or 6B pencil) !! If the mix is OK only need to repot every two years, but they do seem to like being repotted but preferably **not** when in flower. Max prefers the taller, thinner pots for this style of plants and root formation.

Divide by pulling apart rather than cutting. Fungus can be a problem but the plants need to be kept cool.

11. A LITTLE BIT of HISTORY

This is an article written by Brian Milligan for the North East Melbourne Orchid Society

One of the most prestigious nurseries of the 19th century was that of James Veitch & Sons, which was first established by James Veitch in Exeter (Devon) in 1832. Orchids were introduced into the business in 1840, when he sent William Lobb to Brazil to collect plants, including orchids.

Veitch was the first nurseryman to send collectors abroad, rather than to commission agents in foreign ports to supply plants. He and other nurserymen soon found that it paid dividends to employ collectors who had some idea of the types of plants that were suitable for cultivation under European conditions.

William Lobb first collected in the Organ Mountains near Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) before moving on to Chile and Peru. He introduced four orchids to cultivation on this trip, the most well known being *Phragmipedium caudatum*. Three years later Veitch sent Thomas Lobb (William's brother) to Asia, where he collected in Java, India, Burma, Borneo and the Philippines. His most important introductions were *Vanda coerulea*, *Paphiopedilum villosum*, *P. javanicum*, *Aerides fieldingii*, *Bulbophyllum lobbii* and *Phalaenopsis amabilis*

In 1853 the nursery was moved to Chelsea, a suburb of London. At this time the head grower, John Dominy, was carrying out his pioneering experiments with man-made orchid hybrids. The first to flower, in 1856, was *Calanthe Dominii*, followed soon after by a cattleya. Dominy made about 25 hybrids before he retired but his successor, John Seden, subsequently made hundreds more hybrids before he, in turn, retired near the end of the century.



A sketch of *Calanthe Dominii*, the first man made hybrid

I wonder whether either Dominy or Seden ever imagined that a further 100,000 orchid hybrids would be made during the next hundred years!

Veitch & Sons continued to send collectors to all parts of the globe, as well as commissioning others to collect for them. Colonel Benson sent them many orchids from Burma, among them *Dendrobium bensonii*. James grandson, John Gould Veitch, collected *Dendrobium gouldii*, *D. canaliculatum* and *D. johannis*, *Paphiopedilum philippinensis* and *Cymbidium canaliculatum* during an extended trip to “the South Seas”, which included Australia!

Other collectors for Veitch included Henry Hutton, Carl Kramer and Gottlieb Zahn, who drowned in Costa Rica.

One of Veitch’s most successful collectors in the period 1870-1878 was J.H. Chesterton, valet to a gentleman who travelled extensively in foreign countries. Chesterton had the idea of bringing some orchids back to England and wrote to Veitch for advice on how best to pack orchids for travel. When Chesterton eventually returned from abroad, he brought with him a batch of beautifully packed orchids in perfect condition, perhaps because of

experience gained from continually packing his master’s clothes! Veitch was so impressed that he sent Chesterton to find and collect *Miltoniopsis vexillaria* from Colombia. Others had collected plants of this species previously but none of the plants had ever reached England alive. Chesterton succeeded, and created considerable demand for future shipments of this highly desirable species. He also found and sent home shipments of *Masdevallia coccinea* var. *Harryana*, *Odontoglossum crispum* (now *Oncidium alexandrae*) and (presumably) *Dracula chesteronii*.

George Downton, A.R. Endres, Gustave Wallis, Peter Veitch, Guillermo Kalbreyer and David Burke were other Veitch collectors. The orchids collected by Curtis included *Paphiopedilum curtisii* (now *P. superbiens*), *P. tonsum* and *Coelogyne dayana*.

Sir Harry Veitch retired in 1913 and sold his business to Messrs. Black and Flory. However his nursery will never be forgotten because of its legacy in the form of Veitch’s *Manual of Orchidaceous Plants*, originally published in ten parts between 1894 and 1897, and subsequently issued in two bound volumes. It still remains the definitive work on orchid species discovered and imported into Britain during the 19th century.

October 2015

Member Name	Miniature Cymbidium Hybrid Under 60mm	Laeliinae Intermediate Hybrid 60 to 100mm	Laeliinae Miniature Hybrid under 60mm	Laeliinae Cluster Hybrid (min 5 flowers)	Laeliinae Novelty Hybrid spotted flower non exhibition	Laeliinae Species	Oncidiinae Hybrids between 25 to 65 mm	Oncidiinae Hybrids over 65mm	Tolumnia (equitant Oncidiums)	Vandaceous Hybrid under 60mm
Class	3	5	6	7	8	9	14	15	16	18
BAKER									5	
D COOPER		2	2	5			2	3		
P & P KING	3									
B PEARCE		3			2					
S-R-KING						3				
SIDEBOTTOM			3		3					
SOUTHWELL							3	2		
WILLIAMS										3
Barb F										2

Member Name	Phalaenopsis Hybrid Under 60 mm	Phalaenopsis Hybrid over 60 mm	Dendrobium Nobile (softcane) Hybrid	Dendrobium AOV Hybrid Non Native	Australian Native species inc Dendrobium	Australian Native monopodial Hybrid	Australian Native monopodial species	AOV species under 50mm	AOV species over 50mm	AOV Hybrid over 50mm
Class	20	21	22	24	27	28	29	32	33	31
BAKER	2	2			3	3	3			
BLAY								5		
D COOPER						2				
R & J COWLING				3						
P & P KING			5							
S-R-KING	3									
B PEARCE										3
SOUTHWELL		3							3	