



# COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

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[www.coffsorchidsociety.org.au](http://www.coffsorchidsociety.org.au)

## COFFS ORCHID NEWS – MAY 2016

### GENERAL MEETING & ORCHID COMPETITION

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

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<u>EDITOR:</u>	ED PEARCE	6650 9578

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Tinonee Orchids carries a wide variety of orchids and orchid growing supplies – coconut, pots, etc. They provide quick delivery of orders. 6553 1012 or [www.tinoneeorchids.com](http://www.tinoneeorchids.com)

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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.

Thanks to the Xerox Shop for printing this newsletter

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### **1. CALENDAR**

22/24 April      Coffs Harbour Show  
30 Apr/1 May    Autumn Show  
5 May            General Meeting – Neville Anderson

### **2. MAY MEETING**

Our guest speaker will be Neville Anderson who was a member of the Coffs harbour Orchid Society in the early days of the Society. He is the son of Sandy and Ollie Anderson – Sandy is a life member and was president of the society in the 1990s.

Neville will share some memories of the early days of the society, and will talk about some of the orchids he is growing now.

### **3. AGENDA for MAY MEETING**

Judges - Bob Southwell, Brenda Mayled.

Welcome, Apologies, Visitors., New Members

Minutes of May meeting – as printed in newsletter

Business Arising

Committee Meeting – newsletter

Inwards Correspondence

1.

Outwards Correspondence

1.

Finance Report –

Sponsor's Spot. Coffs Coast Autos

Growing Competition. **REMEMBER to BRING YOUR PLANTS**

General business

1. April Show

Raffle, popular vote.



**Brian's lovely Catasetum on some driftwood in our display at the Coffs Harbour Show.**

### **4. MINUTES of APRIL MEETING**

Apologies: J Lock, G & D Small, R McKay, B Pittaway,

Minutes of Previous Meeting: as per Newsletter.

Moved: John 2<sup>nd</sup>: Sue

Correspondence: In: Bill for Bruce, Ballina OS Schedule, Port Macq OS Schedule.

Finances: Report in Newsletter. Moved: Bruce 2<sup>nd</sup>: Tom

Table Talk:

General Business:

- Growing Competition plants given out 36/40 distributed.
- Agricultural Show we need plants for display and volunteers for the roster. See Carole Davis.
- Autumn Show: **NEED PLANTS.** Everyone welcome for the display. Receiving tables outside to try and stop congestion. Posters available.
- Working Bee at shed in Botanic Garden. 9am tomorrow.

## Table Talk: Doug Binns

- Catasetum that grows well in this area. Brazil is the home. Keep them dry over winter.
- Eburnum unusual spur. Water and feed.
- Ornithoptera????? Very small flowers and interesting.

Popular Vote: Brian Newman

Raffle: Pam, Tom, Judith.



**A nice red Burrageara on display**

## **5. COFFS HARBOUR SHOW**

Did you see our display at the Coffs Harbour Show? Congratulations to Carole Davis who organised this for us. We had a terrific display which a lot of comments from the public.



**Part of our display at the Coffs Harbour Show.**

This year we had some foliage plants and some driftwood as part of our display and I thought it worked really well. Thanks to Brian Newman for his help with this.

And thanks to everyone who helped in any way – brought plants, supervised, etc.

## **6. DOUG BINNS TALK – ORCHIDS in BRAZIL**

Brazil is a mostly tropical country which has roughly the same area as Australia but it has the distinction of being the country with the highest number of plant species. In contrast to its Andean neighbours, it has low relief, generally below 1500 m elevation. Over 2500 orchid species are recorded from Brazil, but the true total is likely to be substantially greater than this as additional species are still being discovered.

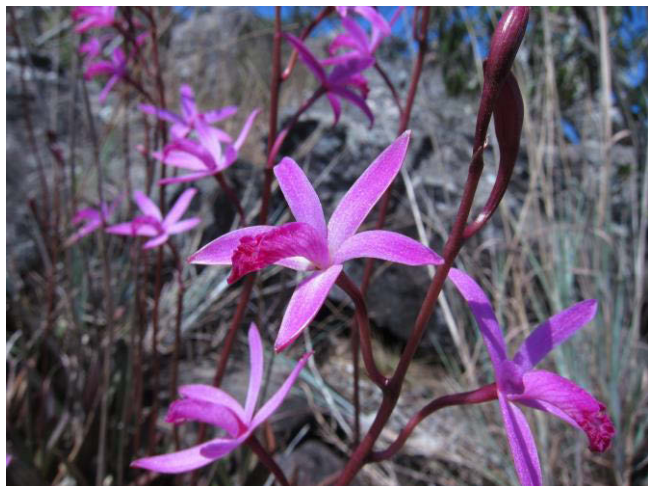


**A rocky outcrop with Laelias growing in a gap in the rocks.**

It has three major habitat areas for orchids, the Amazon rainforest, the Cerrado (dry low forest and woodland on the central plateau, mostly around 1000 m elevation) and the Atlantic rainforest.

Although the Amazon rainforest is the most well-recognised to outsiders, it is the Atlantic rainforest (a fairly narrow band along the east coast, unfortunately now mostly cleared) which has by far the most orchid species, about 1500 species compared to about 900 in the Amazon. About 700 species are recorded in the drier Cerrado, including campos rupestres (rocky fields) where orchids commonly grow with bromeliads and cacti on rock outcrops. Common orchid species on these outcrops are the small Laelias which have generally in the past been called rupicolous Laelias, but more recently (because they have evolved separately from the Mexican Laelias) have either been separated into their own genus (*Hoffmansegella*) or lumped in with *Cattleya*, depending on which authority you choose to follow.





**One of the *Laelias* growing here.**

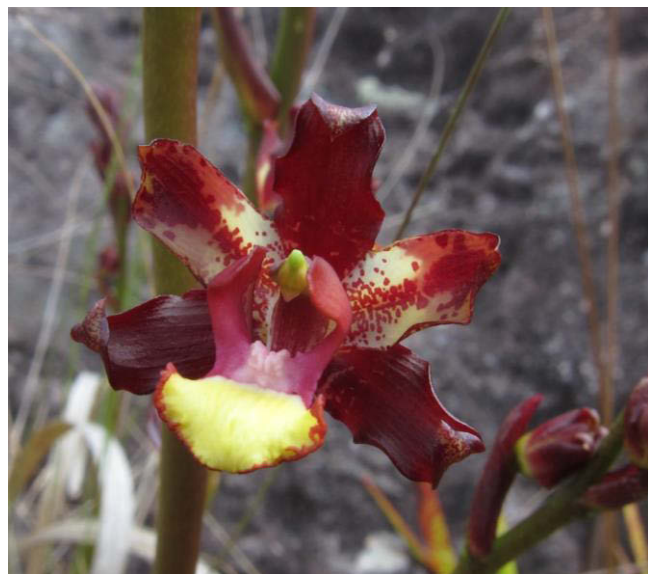
There are about 40 species of these rupicolous *Laelias*, most of which occur only in the Cerrado and they are a very characteristic feature of this habitat. In nature they often produce colourful massed displays of mauve or yellow flowers, but species can be hard to identify because many are quite variable and similar to other species. It is perhaps surprising that so many orchids grow in this habitat, because it is hot and dry for several months of the year and the plants usually grow in full sun or only slightly sheltered in light shade from sparse shrubs. The Cerrado is regularly burnt and growing on bare rock provides some protection from fire.



**Another *Laelia***

Although the more conspicuous orchids may be uncommon near towns due to past collecting, they are still common in more remote areas. Apart from *Laelia* (or *Hoffmansegella* or *Cattleya*, if you prefer), other prominent genera in the Cerrado are *Cyrtopodium*, large and very attractive plants which often grow amongst grass, and *Habenaria*, small but interesting deciduous terrestrials which are very common on the flats between rock outcrops and comprise numerous

different species. Species of *Encyclia* (or perhaps *Prosthechea*, I have trouble distinguishing these) and *Epidendrum* are also common, while species of *Oncidium* and *Zygopetalum* seem to be more common at higher elevations where there is often morning mist in the dry season.



***Habenaria***

There are also interesting bulbophyllums with very angular pseudobulbs and long scapes with down-curved inflorescences. Although a few orchid species are often common in particular areas, one of the features of the Brazilian orchid flora in general is the great variety, with a large number of different genera. Only a small proportion of this variety seems to have made its way into cultivation in Australia, even though many of the showier species are cultivated here and form the basis for many of the hybrids (especially in the *cattleya* and *Oncidium* alliances) that are commonly grown.



**One of the *Oncidiums* growing in this area.**

For me, wandering around in the Brazilian Cerrado looking for orchids (and other interesting plants) is an exciting and very rewarding experience and I hope to have further opportunities to do so and also to explore other habitats. I just need to vastly improve my Portuguese.



**Zygopetalum**

## **7. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE**

**Please note that the annual memberships are due. The fees are the same as for 2015, 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 2016). Please pay Bruce Hall as soon as possible.**

**In May we will be updating our membership list.**

## **8. COMMITTEE**

At our committee meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March the main discussion was about our April Show

## **9. GROWING COMPETITION**

We started our growing competition at the April meeting and all 40 plants have now been taken. Remember that the plan is to bring your plant to every meeting so we can see how they are progressing.

The plants will be judged at each meeting and results will be collected and there will be an award at the end of 12 months.

## **JUDGING THE GROWING COMPETITION PLANTS**

Plants will not be accepted for judging unless owners are present at the meeting.

When selecting the best and second best plant you could look for:

1. Overall healthy appearance of the plant
2. Signs of new growth
3. Lack of disease
4. Lack of insect damage
5. Healthy growth of any visible roots
6. Formation of flower spike
7. Flowering [in order to be considered as flowering a plant needs to have at least 50% of its total flower buds open. Judges decision will be final]

### **Points score:**

- Plant presented at monthly meeting = 1 point
- Best plant for the month = 2 extra points (total = 3 points)
- Second best plant for the month = 1 extra point (total = 2 points)

## **10. SOME GROWING TIPS for BRASSIDIUM**

The following is a basic growing guide for the plant *Brassidium Tigerlily 'Tinonee'*.

### **Repotting:**

These plants were repotted into the 80mm pots just before Christmas, 2015.

They may not require repotting until later in the year (Spring) depending on their rate of growth.

When you repot them please transfer the name tag and the blue numbered tag into the new pot.

They need a well-drained mix. Good quality bark (smaller grade) would be ideal for this purpose.



Some perlite and small-sized stones (or scoria, gravel, etc) could be added to the mix. The potting mix the plants are in contains coconut chips which will hold water. You could add fresh coconut chips to your new mix if you wish but too much may mean the mix will not dry out between each watering.

You may already have a fool-proof Oncidium/Brassia mix which you have found successful. Please continue to use that mix and perhaps pass on your success story to the rest of us.

#### Watering:

Water regularly but allow the pot to partly dry out between each watering. Don't let the plant stand in water. The plants need frequent watering when in active growth (twice a week).

The plants will require less water during the cooler months.

#### Air Movement:

Good air movement is important for proper growth. Don't put plants too close together.

#### Light:

Reasonably high light levels are needed (due to its Brassia parentage).

Dark green foliage indicates not enough light. Reddish or yellow/pale green foliage indicates too much light.

#### Humidity:

Mid to high humidity levels (50 to 70%) needed especially when temperature is high.

You can increase humidity by damping down the greenhouse floor, turning on the misters/foggers

or sit the plant over a tray of moist gravel (not in the water). You only have to use the misters for 3 to 5 minutes to increase the humidity by 40 - 50% and reduces the temperature by around 5 degrees.

#### Fertilising:

Best to use a complete fertiliser that promotes plant growth. This could be applied dry (slow release) or in

a liquid form. Using a weak strength liquid fertiliser every week or two would be ideal.

Most of you will already have a fertiliser program and will not need to make any changes.

If you are not certain which fertiliser to use, then one suggestion would be to mix up Focus Orchid Grow (higher nitrogen level) at 2mls per litre of water. Others are Campbells (Blue is the higher nitrogen version), Manutec Orchid Food, etc.

#### Pests and Diseases:

Keep an eye out for any problems and take the appropriate control/preventative method.

Good Growing!



**There are a lot of hard cane Dendrobiums in flower now.**

#### **11. DATES for 2016**

Our meeting and show dates for 2016 have been provided by the Botanic Gardens.

29, 30 Apr, 1 May.	Orchid Show
5 May	Neville Anderson
2 Jun	Sharing Meeting
9 or 10 Jul	Bus trip to Tinonee Open Day
14 Jul	Plant Auction
4 Aug	Dennis Sinclair - Sarcochilus
1 Sep	
9, 10, 11 Sept	Orchid Show
13 Oct	Bill Lennon – Soft cane Dens
3 Nov	
1 Dec	Christmas Dinner

April

Member Name	Laeliinae Exhibition Hybrid over 100mm	Laeliinae Intermediate Hybrid 60 to 100mm	Laeliinae Miniature Hybrid under 60mm	Laeliinae Novelty Hybrid spotted flower non exhibition	Laeliinae Species	Paph and Allied Species	Oncidiinae Hybrids under 25mm	Oncidiinae Hybrids between 25 to 65 mm	Oncidiinae Hybrids over 65mm	Oncidiinae & Allied Species	Vandaceous Hybrid under 60mm	Vandaceous Hybrid over 60mm
Class	4	5	6	8	9	12	13	14	15	17	18	19
BLAY					3							
HALL B										3	3	
KING P & P	2					3						
PEARCE B			3									
PEARCE E		3										
SIDEBOTTOM				3					3			
SOUTHWELL								5	2			3
WILLIAMS	3											
No Name							3					

Member Name	Phalaenopsis Hybrid Under 60 mm	Dendrobium AOV Hybrid Non Native	Australian Native Hybrid inc Dendrobium	Australian Native species inc Dendrobium	AOV Hybrid over 50mm	AOV species under 50mm	AOV species over 50mm
Class	20	24	26	27	31	32	33
BAKER			5	3			
HALL B		5				5	3
NEWMAN B					5		
C DAWL	3						

**COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY (CHOS)****TRADING STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD OF 6 April 2016 to 26 April 2016.****DATE OF THIS STATEMENT 26/4/2016.**

	Receipt	<u>INCOME</u>	Cheque	<u>EXPEND</u>	
00/1	M/Ships	\$ 30.00			Refer Receipt Book
00/2	Raffle	\$ 82.65			Monthly Meet, April.
06/1	S/ship	\$ 100.00			Geoff King Motors.
00/3	Hall Hire		381	\$ 35.00	Feb.
00/7	Newsletter		384	\$ 40.00	April N/Letter
03/2	Autumn show		380	\$ 242.00	Print Swing Tags Pepperprint.
03/2	Autumn show		382	\$ 50.00	S. Williams/ Food
03/2	Autumn show		383	\$ 890.00	Prizes
03/2	Autumn show		385	\$ 410.00	Floats/Judges exp.
05/1	Other Promotions	\$ 330.00			Grow Plant Comp.
	<b><u>TOTALS</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 542.65</u></b>		<b><u>\$ 1,667.00</u></b>	

**DEBIT/CREDIT TOTAL FOR THE PERIOD**                      -\$1,124.35**Bank Reconciliation for the above trading period.**

Opening Bank Balance 6/4/2016	<u>\$5,467.69</u>
Rec for above period	\$542.65
S/T	<u>\$6,010.34</u>

<b>DEDUCT</b> Exp for above period	<u>\$1,632.00</u>	
Pre. u/presented cheques	\$35.00	Chq.381.
S/T	<u>\$1,667.00</u>	
	\$4,343.34	

<b>Balance of income and expenditure</b>	<b><u>\$4,343.34</u></b>	Refer BCU Statement @ 26/04/2016.
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The following chqs have not been presented:        \$70, Chq 70.

**NOTE: The cost of signage for Autumn Show from Stickerman has not been presented.**

CHOS has a sum of \$10,000.00 invested as a FTD.

HALL. B.G.  
Hon. Treasurer  
26/4/2016.