

# COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

PO BOX 801, COFFS HARBOUR, NSW, 2450. E-mail [coffsos@gmail.com](mailto:coffsos@gmail.com)

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

## COFFS ORCHID NEWS – DEC 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.

<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	0448 583030
<u>TREASURER:</u>	BRUCE HALL	6658 9891
<u>EDITOR:</u>	ED PEARCE	6650 9578

### SPONSORS

#### **CENTURY 21 FORESHORE 2 FARMS**

Quality service for all your real estate needs. Sales, Property Management, Holiday Management. 9 First Avenue, Sawtell 6653 1463 [www.century21.com.au/sawtell](http://www.century21.com.au/sawtell)

#### **MANGROVE JACKS on the Promenade**

Breakfast and lunch 7 days, and dinner Thu to Sat. A lovely, peaceful setting by Coffs Creek for coffee or a meal. 6652 5517. [www.mangrovejackscafe.com.au](http://www.mangrovejackscafe.com.au)

#### **LUDO'S OLD WARES**

Buying and selling antiques, old wares and collectibles. Deceased estates. Ulmarra. 0402 044601

#### **TINONEE ORCHIDS**

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)

#### **COFFS COAST 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.

Thanks to the Xerox Shop for printing this newsletter

## INDEX

1. Calendar
2. Dec Meeting
3. Agenda for Dec general meeting
4. Minutes of November general meeting
5. Minutes of 2016 AGM
6. Committee Report
7. Indian Dendrobiums

### **1. CALENDAR**

1 Dec	Christmas Dinner
24 Jan	Committee Meeting
2 Feb	First Meeting of 2017
2 Mar	March meeting
6 Apr	April meeting
29/30 Apr	April Show

### **2. DECEMBER MEETING**

Our Christmas meeting this year will again be a dinner meeting at Mangrove Jacks on the Promenade in Harbour Drive.

We will start at 6 p.m. with a brief general meeting followed by some presentations. Meals will be ordered from their dinner menu.

We won't be having the usual plant display, but members are encouraged to bring ONE plant along, and there will be an award for the most popular plant.

If there's anyone who would like to attend who hasn't signed up please contact Bronwen or Ed.

**REMEMBER THAT WE START AT 6 PM, and WE WONT HAVE THE GROWING COMPETITION – NEXT SHOWING IS FEBRUARY MEETING**

### **3. AGENDA for DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING**

Welcome, Apologies, Visitors

Minutes of Nov meeting – as printed in newsletter

Committee Meeting – newsletter

Inwards Correspondence

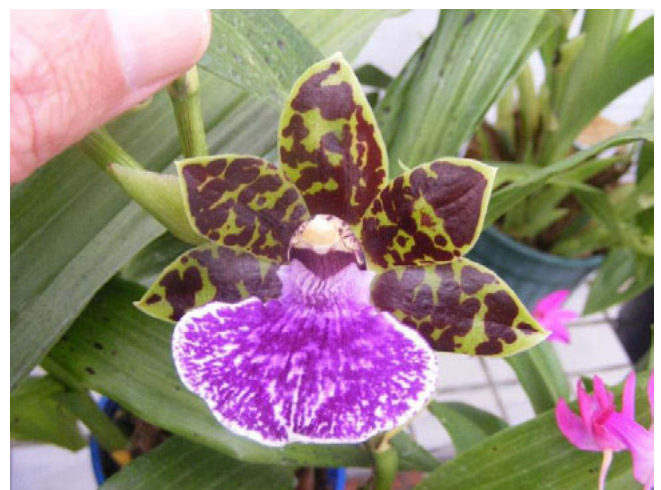
Outwards Correspondence

Active Service Awards. – this is given to members who have been members for 10, 15, 20 or more years. Sometimes our records are incorrect – please let me know if you think there is a mistake.

Awards for Monthly display – based on plants brought along each month to our meetings.

Glad Fleming Perpetual Trophy – awarded to the member who has the most points overall for 2016

Raffle, popular vote.



**One of my Zygopetalums which has just finished flowering**

### **4. MINUTES of NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING**

Apologies: B Pittaway, P King, J Wong, J Kinnear

Welcome to visitor Helen

Minutes of Previous Meeting: in Newsletter. Moved: Dick 2<sup>nd</sup>: Sue

Correspond IN: BCU Statements

OUT: Nothing from Bunnings re BBQ

Finances: as per Newsletter Moved: Sue 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter

Sponsor's spot: Mangrove Jack's

Popular Vote: B Forsythe

Growing Competition: 1<sup>st</sup> Clem 2<sup>nd</sup> Trevor

Raffle: Lina, Neil, Carole

General Business:

- Christmas Dinner at MJs. Will be order from Menu and pay as you leave. Ordinary Meeting to be very brief with Awards. Bring along just one plant for a popular vote.
- Bob has ordered bark from Tinonee and can do again in the new year.
- If you haven't paid for Charcoal please do so asap to Dick Cooper.

Guest Speaker: Our Guest speaker Hans from Dark Star was unable to be with us so Ed filled in. Auctioned some plants and had a general discussion and questions. Thanks, Ed for filling in.

## 5. MINUTES of 2016 AGM

Apologies: B. Pittaway, P King, J Wong, J Kinnear

Minutes of Previous AGMeeting: in Newsletter.

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

President's Report: In Newsletter. Moved: Ed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Judy

Finances: Tabled by treasurer. Moved: Bruce 2<sup>nd</sup> Steve

All positions declared vacant then handed meeting over to R Cowling our Returning Officer

### **Positions for 2017**

President: E Pearce

Vice President: C Davis, S Clemesha

Secretary: B Fox

Treasurer: B Hall

Committee: S Williams, B Pearce, B Southwell

## 6. COMMITTEE REPORT

This was the first meeting of the committee following the AGM and there was a lot to discuss.

- Review of the September Show with a few suggestions for improvement
- Organising for the Christmas dinner at Mangrove Jacks

- Reminder about "who's doing what" for 2017
- Suggestions for speakers, etc. for 2017 program
- Adding a couple of sections for monthly display.

## 7. "INDIAN" DENDROBIUMS

These orchids are correctly called Callista type Dendrobiums and there are several of these beautiful orchids in flower now. They make a spectacular display with lots of flowers in an arching spray. Some of these are



**Dendrobium thrysiflorum**



**Dendrobium densiflorum**



**Dendrobium farmeri**



**Dendrobium chrysotoxum**

These orchids are found in the Himalayas across Asia into Indo-china. They can be hard to find for purchase – we might have a couple of plants available for a plant auction next year.

An attractive hybrid in this group is Dendrobium Mousmee, a cross between Den thyrsoflorum and Den furcatum which was registered in 1941.



**Dendrobium Mousmee**

I've copied an article from the American Orchid Society about these orchids.

THE *Callista-type* dendrobiums are orchids whose popularity and availability have probably declined as a result of the difficulty of importing wild-collected plants. There was a day, well into the 1970s, where no spring orchid show would be without magnificent flowering plants of *Dendrobium chrysotoxum*, *Dendrobium densiflorum*, *Dendrobium farmeri*, *Dendrobium lindleyi* (formerly *Dendrobium aggregatum*), *Dendrobium jenkinsii* or occasionally the winter-flowering *Dendrobium thyrsoflorum*. The sales

marts would always have plants of these species available, either bare-root, or recently established.



Above left: *Dendrobium lindleyi* (syn. *aggregatum*) 'Kiyooko', CCM/AOS, grown by Kiyooko Sproat.  
Above right: *Dendrobium farmeri* 'Jo Ann Lapointe', AM/AOS, grown by Jo Ann Lapointe.  
Above below: *Dendrobium densiflorum* 'Meredith Ann', CCM/AOS, grown by Spencers' Greenhouse.

Unfortunately, Indian nurseries, which are the major suppliers of these species, have not found these to be of sufficient appeal to have raised populations from seed, nor have domestic nurseries seen fit to propagate these on any significant scale. Now we see them all too rarely.

It is unfortunate, too, that as a result few newer orchid growers have been exposed to just how lovely well-flowered examples of these species can be. And lovely they are, with their cascading inflorescences of cream or golden flowers emerging from the upper nodes of

the upright canes. The exception to the rule is *Den. farmeri*, which is lilac with a contrasting yellow lip.

This group is also known for producing large specimen plants fairly easily, which are all the more spectacular when in their spring-blooming season. If this group of dendrobiums has a drawback, it is that the flowers are not particularly long-lasting, giving an unmatched display for only two weeks before fading.

### How to Grow the Plants

There are those growers who claim that these plants flower for them with no special treatment. This assertion is backed by wonderful spiking and a beautiful display. There are other growers who have learned, in most cases the hard way, that this group will not perform for them no matter what special treatment they give the plants. Most of us will find ourselves somewhere in between. We find the extra notice needed by these beauties to be worth the effort.

In any genus the size of *Dendrobium*, with more than 1,000 species, there is bound to be a variety of cultural regimes to which the plants will respond. This group, known as Section *Callista*, generally comes from the middle elevations of the Himalayas, where monsoonal conditions — seasonally hot and wet alternating with cool and dry — prevail.

**Watering:** During the season of active growth, the plants require copious amounts of water and fertilizer, as well as bright light. After the plants have made up their pseudo bulbs for the year, they require an almost complete withdrawal of water, and a cessation of nitrogen-based fertilizer. This is similar to what would be happening to them in their native locales. Most writers will temper this advice by a statement like “water only enough to prevent shrivelling.” Good, though imprecise. The occasional watering, or rainfall, will not interrupt the rest period of this type enough to prevent their blooming. However, be careful not to give the plants any appreciable nitrogen.

**Fertilizing:** As noted above, feed heavily with a balanced fertilizer during active growth, usually September through March, tapering off the nitrogen in late summer to allow the pseudo bulbs to “finish” and mature. Excess nitrogen will result in fewer or no flowers.

**Light:** This type of dendrobium is best grown under light conditions prescribed for cattleyas — bright light with some protection from hottest noon-day sun. In more-tropical areas with humidity, these will take almost full sun, as with Vandas. Owing to their high light requirements and somewhat tall — 15 to 18

inches or more — stature, these are not the best for under lights. If they can be summered outdoors, they may succeed if they can be grown within a few inches of the lights.

**Temperature:** In their native habitat, temperatures are uniformly warm during the growing season, often in the high 20s, with not much of a drop in the evenings, unless the monsoonal rains are protracted, in which case the temperatures may drop into the teens. Cool nights, around 10, are the rule in the dry season, with days up into the 20s as a result of the high light conditions that prevail in the often deciduous forests of the region.

**Potting:** The best plants of this group seem to be grown in a porous mix in slatted baskets. These conditions allow the frequent watering necessary, while also permitting the quick drainage demanded by this group. The grower needs to mimic the high summer rainfall to which the plants are accustomed in their natural habitat. As autumn approaches, and the growths begin to mature, a gradual reduction in water and fertilizer is indicated. The maturity of the growth is shown by the appearance of the terminal leaf on the pseudobulbar. *Callista-type* dendrobiums are often sold mounted on wood or tree fern, though basket culture seems to be the mode of choice for growers of larger and more-floriferous plants.

**Insect and Disease Problems:** There seem to be no particular insect or disease problems unique to this group. As with all orchids, maintaining a clean growing area and inspecting plants once a week will curtail problems.

November

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 under 25mm	Oncidiinae Hybrids between 25 to 65 mm	Oncidiinae Hybrids over 65mm	Vandaceous Hybrid under 60mm	Phalaenopsis Hybrid Under 60 mm
Class	3	5	6	7	8	9	13	14	15	18	20
CLEMESHA								2			
COOPER D		2					2				5
HALL B		3	3	3	3	3		3		5	
SOUTHWELL	3				2				5		
Mc DONALD							3				

Member Name	Phalaenopsis Hybrid over 60 mm	Dendrobium Nobile (softcane) Hybrid	Dendrobium Hardcane Hybrid Non Native	A.O.V Species Non Native	Australian Native Hybrid inc Dendrobium	Australian Native species inc Dendrobium	Australian Native monopodial Hybrid	AOV Hybrid over 50mm	AOV species under 50mm	AOV species over 50mm
Class	21	22	23	25	26	27	28	31	32	33
CLEMESHA									3	
COOPER D			3							
FORSYTH B	3									
FOX B							5			
HALL B						5		3	2	3
PEARCE B		3		3						
PEARCE E	2	2						2		
SEIVER H					3					