



COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

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

www.coffsorchidsociety.org.au

COFFS ORCHID NEWS – APRIL 2017

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
	STEVE CLEMESHA	6656 1937
<u>SECRETARY:</u>	BRONWEN FOX	0448 583030
<u>TREASURER:</u>	BRUCE HALL	6658 9891
<u>EDITOR:</u>	SUE WILLIAMS	6652 7726, 0417 784338

SPONSORS

YELLOW BRICK ROAD – WEALTH MANAGEMENT

YBR offers a range of services such as home loans, financial advice, insurance, superannuation, cash and investments. Please contact Tim Klingbiel for advice. Shop 82 in City Square, Coffs Harbour Or call on 6653 7407, or tim.klingbiel@ybr.com.au

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.mangrovejacksafe.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

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. April Meeting
3. Agenda for April meeting
4. Minutes of March general meeting
5. Autumn Show
6. Show Marshall's advice
7. Dick Cooper's talk.
8. Visit to Harbour Hybrids
9. Annual subscriptions
10. Committee Report
11. Plant growing competition 2016/7
12. Plant growing competition 2017/8
13. Guide to Growing Zygopetalums
14. Workshops

1. CALENDAR

6 Apr	Ron Alexander – growing Cooktown orchids
29/30 Apr	April Show
4 May	Neville Anderson
10/12 May	Grafton OS Show
11/13 May	Nambucca OS Show
12/14 May	Coffs Harbour Agricultural Show
28 May	Botanica at gardens?
1 Jun	Eve Colley – The steamy sex life of orchids
8 Jul	Bus trip to Tinonee
13 Jul	Growing Cymbidiums on the coast.
3 Aug	Members forum and auction



Lovely specimen plant of *Dendrobium bigibbum* style plant.

19 Aug Bellingen OS Show

1/3 Sep	Nambucca Show
2/3 Sep	Kempsey Speciosum Show
7 Sep	Paul Sloane & Barry Taylor – culture and breeding of Lycastes
9/10 Sep	Show
27 Aug	Workshop
7 Oct	Woolgoolga OS Show
12 Oct	Hans Schaible – Bulbophyllums
29 Oct	Workshop
2 Nov	Bromeliads
7 Dec	Christmas dinner at Mangrove Jacks
1 Feb	General Meeting

2. APRIL MEETING

Ron and Craig Alexander run Harbour Hybrids Orchid Nursery located at West Korora. They are well known as growers and breeders of the Australian Cooktown Orchids or *Dendrobium bigibbum*.

Ron will speak at our April Meeting on the topic 'Cooktown Orchids'. He will outline the essential cultural techniques to successfully grow Cooktown Orchids in the Coffs Harbour region. He will also outline their breeding programs and what is new in this orchid group.

Plants will be available for sale at the meeting.

3. AGENDA for APRIL GENERAL MEETING

Judges for Monthly display. Steve Clemesha and Gary Suter

Welcome, Apologies, Visitors

Minutes of March meeting – as printed in newsletter

Committee Meeting – newsletter

Inwards Correspondence

1. BCU Statements
2. Lismore OS Show schedule

Outwards Correspondence

Awards?

Finance – report in newsletter

Plant Growing Competitions

Sponsors Spot – Ludo's Old Wares

General Business

1. April Show
- 2.

Raffle, popular vote.

Guest Speaker – Ron Alexander.

4. MINUTES of MARCH MEETING

Apologies: D & G Small, Pat King, S Flanders, H Seiver, B Bright, K Cowling, B Hall, B Southwell, D Blay, J Farr.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: as per Newsletter.
Moved: John 2nd: Jennifer

Finances: Report in Newsletter. Bruce away Moved: Betty 2nd: Sue

Committee Report: In Newsletter

Awards: Clem Murray 20 years, John Sidebottom Class 5, D Cooper Class 24

Sponsor's Spot: Yellow Brick Road

Historic Orchid Prints: Auctioned \$35, \$20.

General Business:

- Trip to Harbour Hybrids 18th March. Meet in Botanic Garden Carpark at 1:30.
- Growing Competition very successful. Decided to run it again this year. Winners this month 1st Ed, 2nd Trevor. Bronwen taking money for next one.

Raffle: Laurie, Gary and Carole

Guest Speaker: Dick Cooper

Meeting closed: 9pm

5. AUTUMN SHOW

The show will be conducted over two days in the Display Room at the North Coast Regional Botanic Gardens, Coffs Harbour - Saturday, 29th April and Sunday, 30th April.

Judging will take place early Saturday morning and the Show will be open to members and the public from 10am. Presentation of prizes will take place on Sunday from 3pm.

Setting up for the Show will take place from 1pm on Friday, 28th April. Members are asked to consult the roster which is attached to this newsletter. Special thanks to Ron Cowling for compiling the roster. If you

can provide additional assistance, then please ring Ron on 0432 142 651.

Benching of plants for the Autumn Show will be from 3pm to 6pm on Friday and 7am to 7.30am on Saturday. Tables will be provided at the side door so you can organise your plants during the registration process. White plant cards will be available at the April meeting if you wish to fill out details of your entries prior to the Show.

A Show Marshals Receiving table will be set up inside the room and we ask that you place your plants on this table after registration. The Show marshals and their assistants will then place these entries into the correct Sections on the benches.

We also welcome plants for the Sales Table. Sale Plant tags will be available at the April meeting. Plants do not have to be in flower but should be healthy and well established.

6. SHOW MARSHALL'S ADVICE re PREPARING PLANTS for SHOW BENCH.

- Plants must be owned by the member for a minimum of six months prior to the show.
- Exhibitors must be members of a local Orchid Society and affiliated with the Orchid Society of NSW. Please ensure that you have paid your 2017 membership fees prior to the show.
- Plants should be staked and tied if required. The methods used should follow the rules and not detract from the overall presentation of the plant.
- Remove any additional travelling ties so the orchid presents well. Sometimes removal of hanging hooks gives the orchid a neater look.
- Prior to the Show clean up the plant. Remove old flower stalks, dead leaves, etc. Cleaning the leaves (metho, etc.) may help in presenting a better looking plant.
- Remove any signs of disease and pests. For example, a small amount of scale can be removed with a cotton bud dipped in metho. Please don't bring diseased plants to the Show. The Show Marshal will remove them as they may endanger plants of other growers.
- Each pot or mount needs proper support. Don't expect the Show Marshal to do it for you. Plants that are not self-supporting may be removed from the exhibition in case they fall over and damage other entries. Use a larger pot, pot feet, etc., to make sure the plant is stable. Proper stands or upside down pots may help to elevate the plants.

- Clearly notated labels for each plant are desirable. If the name is not known, then say Unknown on the label (E.g.: Dendrobium Unknown). It sometimes helps to look up the orchids name to check that it is spelt correctly. A correct label assists in deciding if the orchid is a species or a hybrid. 4B, 5B and 6B pencils can be used to make a long-lasting label. A permanent marker also does the job.
- Water the plant the day before benching or early in the morning if benching late in the day. The plant needs to survive without water for three days but it is important to avoid pools of water on the show bench from freshly watered pots. Avoid wetting the flower petals as this may cause spots, etc.
- Once you register your plant with the Show Officials you will be given a white card, a number for each plant plus a small piece of blu tac. Write your name on the back of the card. Place the numbered dot on the front of the card in the right-hand corner above the line. Write the name of the plant on the front of the card below the line. Use the blu tac to stick the card onto the side of the pot you want facing the Judges.
- Place your plant on the receiving table and the Show Marshals will place it in the correct Section for judging.
- It is also important that you read the "Notes" on the back page of the Autumn Show Schedule, 2017. This outlines the rules and conditions under which our Show is conducted.

7. DICK'S TALK - PREPARING ORCHIDS FOR THE SHOW BENCH.

- Well displayed flowers on a self-supporting inflorescence reflecting the habit of the particular genus.
- There are many manipulation techniques e.g. ironing
- Habit of inflorescence should reflect the natural way are presented i.e. are they erect or arching.
- Common faults of all orchids:
 - Even arrangement
 - Cupped flowers
 - Overlapping flowers
 - Spacing
 - Upside down not vertical
 - Not clear of foliage
- Flower should be symmetrical down the middle
- Multiple/Clusters should be similar in size and shape and not cluttered
- Ironing can lead to creases in the flower and is not acceptable to judges

- Plants should be prepared weeks before the show. Insects, staking etc.
- Follow OSNSW staking and tying rules.
- Should be no diseases or pests.
- All implements should be sterilized every time you use them to stop the transfer of viruses
- Plants affected by viruses should be chopped up and thrown out or burned.

8. VISIT to HARBOUR HYBRIDS

Unfortunately, our visit to Harbour Hybrids had to be postponed due to the weather. We are now planning on a visit to harbour Hybrids in Old Coast Road on 22nd April.

There will be more information on this at our April meeting.



Another Dendrobium bigibbum style orchid.

9. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS are DUE

Please note that the annual memberships are due from the February meeting. The fees are \$10 for a single membership and \$15 for a couple. Please pay Bruce Hall as soon as possible.

Members may wish to pay their subscriptions directly into our account, or by netbank. The BSB for our account is 533000, account number 60050. This is a BCU account in the name of Coffs Harbour Orchid society.

10. COMMITTEE REPORT

We held our committee meeting at Mangrove Jacks on 7th March and discussed a number of matters –

- Upcoming show
- Trip to Harbour Hybrids
- 2017/8 Growing competition
- Ag Show – sharing with Woolgoolga
- Purchasing bigger raffle plants

- Botanica at gardens on 28th May?

Matters still to be discussed

- Criteria for life membership
- Required amendments to constitution

11. PLANT GROWING COMPETITION for 2016/7

Don't forget to bring your 2016 *Brassidium* along for the last judging at the April meeting.

This Growing Competition ends at the April meeting and the winners will be announced and prizes presented at the May meeting. Prizes presented for the grower with the most points accumulated during the year and the grower to be the first to achieve flowering status.

12. PLANT GROWING COMPETITION for 2017/8

This new competition will commence in April, 2017 and conclude in April, 2018.

This year's growing competition plant is a *Zygopetalum Hybrid (Zygopetalum Debbie De Mellow 'Honolulu Bay')* and plants will be allocated during the April meeting. Cost is \$10 per plant.



The plant draw will be based on the order of payment and each person will draw out a numbered ticket and this will be the number of the plant you will receive.

Please pay Bruce Hall your \$10 before the start of the meeting. If you won't be at the meeting and would like a plant, then please ring Ed (0418 519 908) or Bob (0417 695 8340) before the meeting.

13. GUIDE for GROWING ZYGOPETALUMS.

The following is a basic growing guide for the hybrid plant *Zygopetalum Debbie De Mellow 'Honolulu Bay'*

This is a warm growing hybrid which should grow very well here on the coast. It is fragrant and flowers throughout the year.

Repotting: These plants are currently in 80mm pots. They may not require repotting until later in the year depending on their rate of growth. They need an open, well drained mix. Good quality bark (small grade) would be ideal for this purpose. They seem to thrive in fresh mix so benefit from re-potting. Some perlite and small-sized stones (or scoria, gravel, etc.) could be added to the mix. You could add coconut chips if you wish but too much may mean the mix holds too much water.

Watering: *Zygopetalums* like lots of water and don't like to dry out. On hot days, they will benefit from wetting the shade house floor to increase humidity and slightly lower the temperature. During winter the *Zygos* need less water but do not allow to dry out completely.

Light: *Zygopetalums* require bright light (50% shade cloth) but not strong sunshine. Can benefit from more shade in summer and less in winter.

Fertilizing: They require regular fertilizing. Apply a weak solution of liquid orchid fertilizer each week or fortnight.

Air Movement: They grow best where there is plenty of air movement. Don't put plants too close together. Use of a fan will aid in ventilation.

Diseases and Pests: Prone to leaf spotting. Good air movement and keeping drier over winter may reduce this spotting. Use of a fungicide such as Mancozeb could reduce the problem. Keep an eye out for any other pests, such as mealy bug, or diseases and apply the proper control methods as required.

14. WORKSHOPS

We are planning to conduct two half day members workshops this year. The aim is to have a hands-on approach where ever possible. Possible exercises would be deflasking and potting this plant and mounting a small plant on a suitable medium. The workshops would be held in the Display Room at the Coffs Botanic Gardens.

Workshop Dates:

- Sunday, 27th August – 2pm to 4.30pm.
- Sunday, 29th October – 2pm to 4.30pm.

Please mark the dates on your calendar. More details in the near future.