



# COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

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

## COFFS ORCHID NEWS – APRIL 2021

### GENERAL MEETING & ORCHID COMPETITION

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

**THE APRIL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE DISPLAY ROOM, BOTANIC GARDENS**

<u>PRESIDENT:</u>	CAROLE DAVIS	026658 1354	
<u>VICE PRESIDENT</u>	BOB SOUTHWELL	0417 695834	
<u>SECRETARY:</u>	PAIGE SINCLAIR	0427 591901	paigesinclair@me.com
<u>TREASURER:</u>	BRUCE HALL	0447 742030	
<u>COMMITTEE:</u>	LEONIE EVERITT	0427 146149	
	NEIL McDONALD	0414 342978	
	JUDITH WHITING	0438 187028	
<u>NEWSLETTER EDITOR:</u>	BOB SOUTHWELL	0417 695834	bssouthwell@bigpond.com

### SPONSORS

#### SHEARWATER RESTAURANT

Brekkie and Modern Australian dishes in a light, upscale locale with outdoor tables and lovely views over Coffs Creek. 321 Harbour Drive. [www.shearwaterrestaurant.com.au](http://www.shearwaterrestaurant.com.au) or 6651 6053.

#### LUDO'S OLD WARES

Buying and selling antiques, old wares and collectibles. Deceased estates. Ulmarra. 0402 044601  
**(More details in April Sponsors Spot)**

#### 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. Ring for an appointment 6652 3122, or visit 211 Pacific Highway, Coffs Harbour. You won't be disappointed.

#### 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.

#### BRUCE HALL

Bruce provides the raffle items which are a major fundraiser at our shows.



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**2021 MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE  
NOW DUE. PLEASE PAY BRUCE  
HALL AT THE NEXT MEETING OR  
POST OR DIRECT DEPOSIT**

### 1. CALENDAR, 2021

- 1 Apr - Monthly Meeting. Dick Cooper "Hardcanes"  
24-25 Apr – Autumn Show  
30 April – 2 May – Coffs Agriculture Show Display  
6 May – Monthly Meeting. Bruce Hall  
"Some considerations in designing and  
building a Greenhouse"  
3 June – Monthly Meeting. Ray Clement, Tinonee  
4 July – Final Open Day, Tinonee Orchids. Visit  
15 July – Monthly Meeting. Hans Schiabe -  
"Dendrochilums"  
5 Aug – Monthly Meeting. Doug Binns –  
"Orchids and Broms of Mexico"  
2 Sept – Monthly Meeting. Guest Speaker TBC  
7 Oct – Monthly Meeting. Plant Auction  
16 Oct – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon at Opal Cove  
4 Nov – AGM/Monthly Meeting. Elections.  
Dick Cooper "Birds"  
14 Nov - WDOS Workshop. TBC  
2 Dec – Christmas Awards & Presentation.



### (2) MONTHLY MEETINGS:

The March Meeting saw a good attendance and we had the privilege of listening to four of our talented members talk on topics from Ground Orchids, Catasetum's and Tolumnia's, to how to prepare your plants for the up-coming show. Thanks to Bill, Rhonda, Peter and Bruce for giving us four inspiring talks. It goes to show that the CHOS has a lot of talent as far as orchid knowledge and expertise is concerned.

Two of our qualified judges, Dick Cooper and Bruce Hall, judged the Orchid of the Night and awarded certificates to Malcolm Ide and Rhonda Smith. Congratulations on presenting two great orchids.

At the April meeting (1<sup>st</sup> April) we will have the pleasure of listening to Dick Cooper give a talk and photo presentation of growing Hard Cane Dendrobiums.

Dick is a highly qualified and experienced Orchid Judge and has been growing Hard Canes for many years. He is also the Leader of the Mid North Coast Judging Panel.

This is a not-to-be missed meeting as Dick will answer all your questions about the types, care and culture of this major and popular orchid group. Covid-19 restrictions have been eased so there is no need for members to pre-register before the meeting.



Rhonda Smith – Slc. Lana Coryell 'Ellen'



Malcolm Ide – *Miltonia spectabilis* – plant plus flower details

Once again at the April meeting we will NOT have the usual monthly flowering orchid competition as there is not enough space to erect tables within the room and still maintain social distancing. Instead, we request that each member bring ONE flowering orchid for 'Orchid of the Night' display. These will be placed on tables in the breezeway between the two security gates. These orchids will be judged by two qualified judges to determine the best orchid. Orchids should be benched by 7.15pm and judging will commence at 7.20pm. It is hoped to return to full orchid competition as soon as restrictions are eased.

**Members are also asked to bring their Sarcophilus Growing Competition plant to the April meeting for initial judging. You will recall you purchased these plants twelve months ago but due to the Covid-19 Pandemic we have not been able to commence the monthly judging. A table will be provided in the breezeway area and the plants will be judged on the night. Remember you gain one point by bringing your plant, the best on the night receives an extra two points and second best gains one extra point. We will continue judging your Sarco plants each month and try to finalise this competition in September this year. We plan to commence a new Growing Competition in Spring this year. More details in future newsletters.**

Once again there are a number of Covid-19 rules that we all need to follow so we comply with Government Regulations. These Covid-19 rules are:

- Members to enter through the metal security gates. Do not use the side door. Maintain Social Distancing if there are other members present.
- Use the Hand Sanitiser supplied.
- Each member to sign in with name and contact phone number.
- If you have bought an orchid then place it on the tables provided in the breezeway area.
- Name tags will not be used and library books will not be available for borrowing.



- Seats will be positioned 1.5 metres apart. Family members may sit closer together but all others are to maintain the 1.5m distance. Members are asked not to stand around taking but to stay seated wherever possible.
- You will be able to purchase raffle tickets in the breezeway area.
- No supper will be available at this meeting. If you will require a drink or food then please supply your own.
- We ask that you wipe over your seat at the end of the meeting. Antiseptic wipes will be provided for this purpose.
- Masks are not compulsory but if you feel more comfortable wearing a mask then please do so.
- **If you have any Covid-19 symptoms please do not attend the meeting.**

**CHOS Membership Fees for 2021 are now due. They will continue to be \$10 per member and \$15 for family membership. The Treasurer will be happy to receive your membership payment at the 1<sup>st</sup> April meeting. It would be appreciated if you would place the exact money (\$10 or \$15) into an envelope, write your name on the envelope and hand to Bruce Hall when you arrive at the meeting. Bruce will give you a receipt at a future meeting. Envelopes will be available if you don't have one.**

**You can post a cheque or money order to CHOS, PO Box 801, Coffs Harbour and include your details. Alternatively, you can Direct Deposit the money into the Society's BCU bank account.**

**Details are:**

**BSB – 533-000, Account Number: 32817199. Account name is Coffs Harbour Orchid Society. Inc. Please include your name and the word Membership in the Reference Section. **Please note that this is a NEW account number.****

**Membership fees must be paid by May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**



Rhonda Smith – C. Mark Jones 'Lance'  
X C. Exotic's Plum Leopard 'SVO'



Ctsm. Portagee Star 'Brian Lawson  
Sunrise' x Ctsm. kleberianum 'SVO'



Rhonda Smith - Dendrochilum uncatum

### **3 AGENDA FOR APRIL MEETING:**

- (1) Welcome / Covid-19 procedures
- (2) Apologies
- (3) Minutes of March, 2021, Meeting – as printed in newsletter
- (4) Correspondence - Paige
- (5) Finance Report - Bruce
- (6) Membership Fees due by 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2021
- (7) Sponsors Spot – Ludo
- (8) Orchid of the Night / Recommence judging of Sarco Comp Plant
- (9) Presentation of prizes for the Mounted Growing Competition - Bob
- (10) Presentation of prizes for the Facebook Sarcochilus Competition - Paige
- (11) Raffle - Judith
- (12) General Business
  - (a) Autumn Show – Bob
  - (b) Other Business
- (13) Guest Speaker – Dick Cooper – “Hardcane Dendrobiums”
- (14) Please clean your seat with wipes provided

### **4. MINUTES OF MARCH GENERAL MEETING AT NCR BOTANIC GARDENS – 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2021:**

1. **Welcome:** Bob Southwell opened the meeting at 7:31pm and welcomed everyone. He commented on the COVID-19 restrictions and meeting requirements.
2. **Apologies:** Carole Davis, Di Blay, Leonie Everitt, Helen Seiver, Tim Deans, and Helena Axelsson
3. **Minutes of February 2021 meeting:** Moved by John Sidebottom, seconded by Dick Cooper that the Minutes are a true and accurate record of the proceedings. Carried.
4. **Correspondence:** Paige Sinclair tabled the following documents for member’s perusal; she moved that all the correspondence be accepted as presented, seconded Judith Whiting. Carried.
  - (i) BCU Bank Statement
  - (ii) 2AirFM Newsletter
5. **Finance:** Bruce addressed the members present summarising the Society’s recent financial position from 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 to 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2021.

He reported that income for the period was as follows: Membership \$275.00, Raffle Sales \$98.00, Bark \$54.00 and Donations \$100.00, which totalled \$527.00. There were no outgoings.

Current balance in the Society’s account is \$6,960.04 Moved Bruce Hall, seconded Ann Deans, Carried.
6. **Membership Fees:** Bob Southwell reminded members that membership fees were now due, and members could leave their money in an envelope with their names on the envelope and receipts would be forthcoming. Members who had not paid in full by the May 2021 meeting would be considered non-financial and no longer members.
  - 6.1.1. **New Members:** Bob Southwell welcomed two new members and presented them with a welcome orchid. Philip Payne and Diane Evans
7. **Sponsors Spot: Coffs Produce.** Bob Southwell informed the members that Coffs Produce on June Street carries a range of products that will assist members in growing their orchids.
8. **Orchid of the Night:** Dick Cooper and Bruce Hall judged the plants on the table and awarded Rhonda Smith with a Cattleya and Malcolm Ide for a *Miltona spectabilis* as joint winners.
9. **Raffle plants** – the winners are Bruce Hall, Silesa King, Sandy Healy, Bob Southwell, and Frank Pappalardo
10. **Mounted Dendrobium Competition** – only one plant was tabled. Ann Deans collects the three

points. Reminder to bring your *Sarcochilus* for tabling at the 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021 Members Meeting.

## **11. General Business:**

- 11.1.1. The Autumn Show will take place on the Anzac Weekend. Benching will be from 3-6pm on Friday April 23<sup>rd</sup> and again at 6:30 – 7:30 am on Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Be mindful of presenting your plant within the rules outlined on the conditions of entry.
- 11.1.2. During the Autumn Orchid Show, members will be allowed to sell their plants, being mindful to ensure they clearly write their name and price on the tags in both places. Reminder that the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society will collect 15% of the sales as a commission. Additionally, if you are selling any Native Australian plants the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society has a licence which will allow the sales of these plants.
- 11.1.3. Bob Southwell showed the members the Autumn Show Poster and asked members to put a copy in their car window.
- 11.1.4. Roster for the Autumn Orchid Show – people are needed to help with a number of different activities, selling raffle tickets, staffing the sales table, others to greet and meet visitors and to monitor Covid-19 rules.
- 11.1.5. Bob Southwell thanked Sue Williams for her efforts over the years for catering to member's after the meetings. He introduced Ann Deans, the newly appointed Catering Manager.

## **12. Members Presentations:**

- 12.1.1. Bill Bright gave members an insight into growing *Pterostylis*, a native Australian Orchid that grows in clusters. He demonstrated the importance of using the correct potting mix at the right depth to insure the best results for the tuberous plants. He used the needles from the She Oak tree on top of the potting mix to deter pests. Noting, that initially a good watering was necessary, but not to water again until the plants break through the potting mix, then to regularly water and weakly fertilise.
- 12.1.2. Rhonda Smith presented us with a PowerPoint on growing *Catasetinae*; mentioning the five major different genera and her experience in growing the *Catasetum* genus. She explained the cultural needs of these deciduous plants outlining their distinctive growing and dormant stages in their growing cycle. Reminding us how important it is not to continue to water once they drop their leaves, but if they show signs of desiccation in their bulbs to give them a little water. These plants are heavy feeders but only to fertilise in the active growing cycle.
- 12.1.3. Peter Baker gave the members a talk on *Tolumnia*'s describing their growing habits and where they naturally grew. Noting that they were interesting little plants and that they were a little on the fussy side. Particularly when it came to watering, because they came from the Caribbean, they preferred watering frequently, even a couple of times a day but they must be allowed to dry out before watering again.
- 12.1.4. Bruce Hall talked about getting your plants ready for the show bench, and reminded members to read and understand the Show Schedule and the Conditions of Entry printed on that schedule. Some of his main points were;
  - Plants should be staked properly/minimally.
  - On spikes that branch, the last tie should not be above the top branch.
  - Ties must not touch the ovary of the flower.,
  - All items that were used to manipulate the plant must be removed prior to benching but could be used in transport.
  - The plant should be labelled correctly.
  - Exhibitors should refrain from watering on the day of benching.
  - The white tags used for identification, should be placed on the pot in the position the exhibitor wants the plant to face.

- The Show Marshal will remove any plant that appears to have any pests or signs of disease.
- All results will be the decision of the judges and these decisions are final.

## **5. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT:**

The March Committee Meeting was held on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.

Topics discussed included:

- Discussion of CHOS Fiftieth Anniversary Luncheon to be conducted at Opal Cove on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2021. (See more detailed report in this newsletter).
- Update of Green Orchid Information Pamphlet almost complete.
- Sponsorship – Six Sponsors have agreed to support the Society in 2021. These Sponsors appear on Page One of this newsletter.
- Ann Deans has been appointed as the new Catering Manager for 2021. Welcome Ann! Special mention was made of the long period of service and dedication given to the Society by Sue Williams who has now retired from this position. Thank you, Sue. Your efforts were much appreciated.
- Discussion of Autumn Show organisations and duties. We need assistance from members over the Show period and lots of orchids. More details elsewhere in this newsletter. All members will receive a copy of the Show Schedule during April.
- Next Committee Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2021.

## **6. FACEBOOK REPORT:** (Paige Sinclair)

### **Coffs Harbour Orchid Society Facebook**

March 2021 – Currently, the society has 90 likes or followers on our Facebook page. This is up by 3 new likes on last month. The 'What's in Bloom' group saw a significant drop in the number of posts for the month of February. Finally, the Sarcochilus Growing competition only had posts from four members.

### **What's in Bloom Facebook Page**

February 2021 saw only 16 posts of Orchid blooms pictured, and the winner of the raffle was Noelene Jackson. Starting next month, the name drawn from the list of people who posted on the 'What's in Bloom' Facebook page will receive five tickets to the monthly raffle, now that we are back having face-to-face meetings. The only catch is, to get the tickets you must be at the meeting.

Please if you have something pretty to share, then please share it. Contact myself, Paige, or Bob ,if you don't have a Facebook account and we will post the photos for you.

### **Sarcochilus Growing Comp – Facebook**

This is the last month we will run the fun competition on Facebook. Starting nex month, April, the Sarcochilus plants will be benched and points will be awarded for having a plant on the table. In March only four plants were posted to the page - Plants No. 5, 24, 26, and 40. Plant No. 26 is in the lead with 33 points, clclosely followed by plant number 5, with 31 points , then plant number 40 with 26 points.

First Place – plant No. 26   Second Place – plant No. 5   Third Place – plant No. 40

Plant No#	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Total
5	2	2	2	3	2	4	2	4	2	2	2	4	31
7	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
23	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	17
24	2	2	4	2	2	2	2	0	2	2	2	2	24
25	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	8
26	4	4	2	3	2	2	2	2	4	4	2	2	33
27	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	14
30	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	2	0	0	0	7
37	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
38	0	2	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
39	0	0	0	3	4	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	13
40	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	26
	14	18	20	23	20	22	20	12	14	10	10	10	193

## 7. SPONSORS SPOT: Ludo's Oldwares, Ulmarra.

Ludo's Oldwares is your go to place for all antiques and collectables. It is located in Ulmarra on the Big River Way (was the old Pacific Highway). They are open from 9am to 4pm each Wed through to Sunday. They buy and sell everything from old wares and collectables to clothing, boots and vinyl records. Ludo tells me he is still active in buying from the Coffs Harbour area and is currently looking for old rusty treasures, railroad memorabilia, petrol station signs, old oil bottles, farmyard items such as axes and other tools, military medals, badges, knives, uniforms and any old Aussie silver coins. If you think you may have an item that may interest Ludo then give him a call on 02 6644 4080 or his mobile 0402 044 601 or email him on [ludogayko@gmail.com](mailto:ludogayko@gmail.com).

If you are driving through Ulmarra then call into the shop at 21C Big River Way and tell him you are a member of CHOS.

Support Ludo as he supports us.



## 8. BARK SALES:

The Society stocks 40 litre bags of NZ Orchidata Bark selling at \$27 each and 35 litre bags selling at \$26 each. There are four sizes – 6 to 9mm; 9 to 12mm; 12 to 18mm and 18 to 25mm. Contact Bob Southwell on 0417 695 834 or email [bssouthwell@bigpond.com](mailto:bssouthwell@bigpond.com). Remember if you desire quality plants then always use quality potting mix. New stock just arrived. Get in early and finish your potting before the cooler weather sets in. Remember, in general terms, most orchids should be repotted every two years but some, such as Phalaenopsis, respond well to repotting every year. Bob can often deliver to your house. Give him a call this week.



## **9. AUTUMN SHOW**

The show will be conducted over two days in the Display Room at the North Coast Regional Botanic Gardens, Coffs Harbour - Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> April and Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 (Anzac Day).

Judging will take place early Saturday morning (8am to 10am) 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, 23rd April. The Roster for the Show weekend will be published in early April. If you can provide additional assistance (especially at the set-up and pull-down times), then please ring Bob on 0417 695 834 or just turn up on the day.

Benching of plants for the Autumn Show will be from 3pm to 6pm on Friday and 6.30am 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. Remember use Hand Sanitiser or Gloves and maintain Social Distancing at all times.

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. Please do not place your own plants onto the show benches unless the Show Marshals direct you to do so.

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. If you are selling NSW Native Species or Hybrids then you will require a tagging form and sticky tags. You can obtain these from Bob Southwell.

Please enter as many plants as you can as we once again want to fill the Show Room with colour and perfume and to make this a Show to remember.

**DISTRICT SHOW DATES FOR AUTUMN, 2021**  
Coffs Harbour OS - 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> April. Opens 10am Sat.  
Hastings OS, Wauchope – 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Wauchope RSL  
Maclean & District OS – 30<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May. Bowling Club  
Nambucca Valley OS – 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May. NH Seniors Hall  
Woodburn/Evans Head OS – 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May – Mem. Hall  
Port Macquarie OS – 8<sup>th</sup>– 9<sup>th</sup> May – Community Centre  
Mingara Orchid Fair & Show – 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> June –  
Mingara Recreation Club, Tumby Umbi.  
*For more information Google the Orchid Society name*

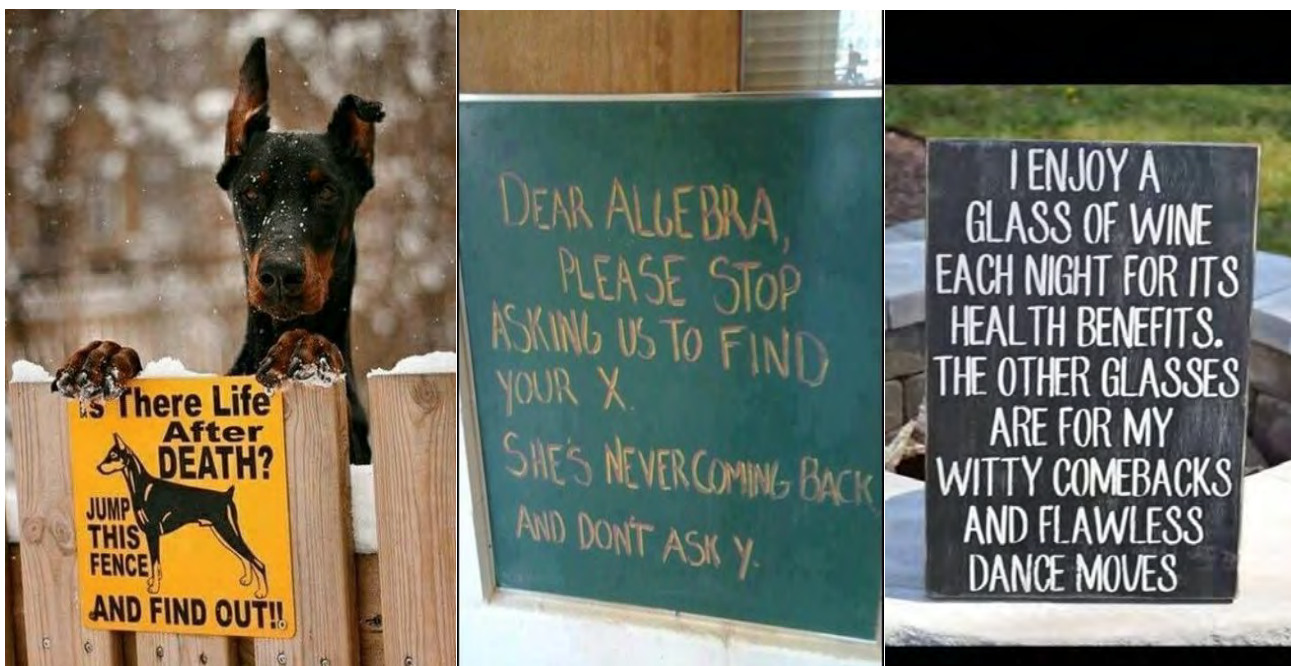
**THE CHOS 2021 AUTUMN SHOW IS SET DOWN FOR 24<sup>TH</sup> TO 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL. YES, IT WILL OPERATE UNDER COVID-19 RULES WITH A LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF VISITORS IN THE DISPLAY ROOM AT ANY ONE TIME, SOCIAL DISTANCING, ETC, BUT IT WILL BE HELD AFTER A 12 MONTH GAP. START AND PREPARE YOUR ORCHIDS NOW FOR THIS MAJOR EVENT.**



#### 10. JOKE TIME:

- In 1972, I visited The Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City, which at the time was the largest Museum of Anthropology in the world.  
At one stage the guide pointed to a particular vase and said "That vase is exactly 2009 years old".  
I asked how she knew it was 'exactly' 2009 years old.  
She replied, "Easy, I have been working here for exactly 9 years and when I came here they said it was "exactly" 2000 years old.
- One afternoon, an armed thief entered a house and found two people there.  
He tied up the woman and ordered the man at gun point to hand over the family's jewellery and other valuables.  
The frightened man started sobbing and said "You can take everything you want, and even beat me, but please untie the rope and free her"  
"You must really love your wife"  
"Not particularly, but she'll be home soon".





## 11. GROWING AUSTRALIAN TERRESTRIAL ORCHIDS:

Following Bill Bright's informative talk and potting demonstration of growing *Pterostylis curta* at last months members meeting, many members have asked for details on where to purchase plants and tubers of Australian Terrestrial Orchids.

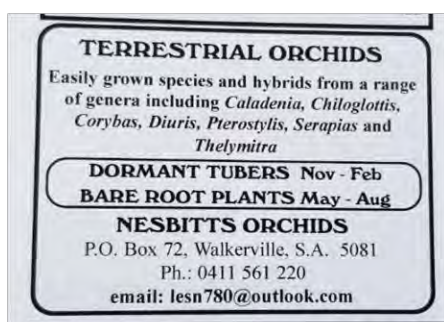
Bruce Hall has provided address details of Nesbitt's Orchids, who are one of the largest suppliers of Deciduous Terrestrial Orchids in Australia. Email, write or phone for a Catalogue. They provide dormant tubers, bare rooted plants and flasks. All of these orchids are deciduous and die down completely in summer. Plants grow again each autumn from underground tubers. They are drought tolerant and their water requirements are very low. If you are just starting out with growing terrestrials then *Pterostylis curta* (Blunt Greenhood) is an ideal plant to begin with. (or *Pterostylis robusta* - the Sharp Leaf Greenhood). Most greenhoods require 50- 70% shade so they are ideal for most greenhouses.

Terrestrial orchids from Nesbitt's are available by post from late November to the end of February as dormant tubers and from 1<sup>st</sup> May to the end of August as bare root plants. So, if you want tubers, then make a note on your calendar to order later this year. In the meantime make contact with Nesbitt's for their catalogue by using one of the following:

Postal Address: Nesbitt's Orchids, PO Box 72, Walkerville. SA 5081

Mobile: 0411 561 220

Email: lesn780@outlook.com

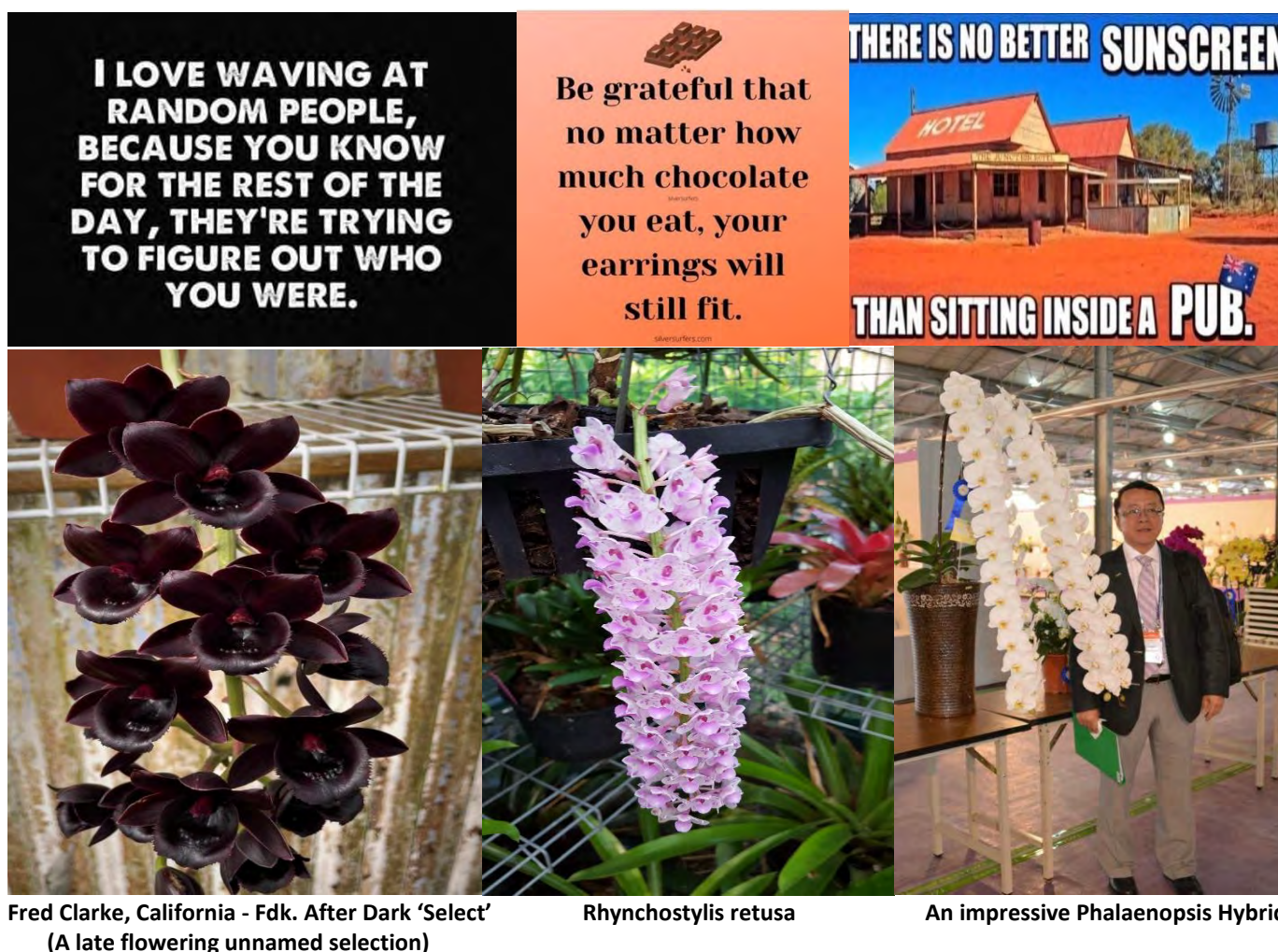


*Pterostylis curta*

## 12. SELLING NATIVE ORCHIDS

The Society holds a licence for selling NSW native orchids to the public.

As a member of CHOS you are able to sell orchids at our Show Sales Table under the protection of that licence. There is a simple form you need to complete and you need to attach a Licence Tag to every NSW native orchid that you plan to sell. Bob Southwell has supplies of the forms and will issue you the licence tags. These tags have a sticky back and easily attach to the pot. Both NSW native species and Hybrids, where at least one of the parents is a NSW native orchid, must be tagged. NSW native orchid which are not tagged will not be offered for sale to the public. Start and prepare your NSW Natives for sale at this year's Autumn Show at the end of April.



Fred Clarke, California - Fdk. After Dark 'Select'  
(A late flowering unnamed selection)

*Rhynchostylis retusa*

An impressive *Phalaenopsis* Hybrid

## 13. THE MILTONIOPSIS:

by Jim Brydie

(Courtesy The Monthly Bulletin of the Ku-Ring-Gai Orchid Society)

Until 1976 these wonderful 'pansy' orchids were included in the genus *Miltonia* even though as far back as 1889 (when the name *Miltoniopsis* was proposed) taxonomists could see that these Colombian *Miltonias* were quite different to the Brazilian *Miltonias* upon which the name *Miltonia* was based. Still for various reasons the new name was resisted and not finally accepted until the late 1970's.

There are only 6 species in the genus *Miltoniopsis*, and they come from Costa Rica, Panama, Columbia, Ecuador and Peru. The hybrids produced from among these are truly unbelievable and have become hugely popular.



The following culture notes come from Allan Kerruish, a very experienced grower who used to give talks on these lovelies. “Their habitats range from hot humid lowlands to cool humid cloud forests but in all cases the operative word is humid. They are generally found growing in tree tops at 200-2000m”. “The key to successfully growing this genus is high humidity, especially those from the wet Andean cloud forests. They also prefer to stay a bit wetter than many other orchids. Miltoniopsis, have a habit of “accordioning” their slender leaves into crinkled waves when humidity is too low or there is insufficient water. Once accordioned the leaves will not flatten but new foliage will straighten once watering and humidity is corrected”.

“Plants need good light levels to flower well. Not as high as for Cattleya’s, but around the same as for mottled leaved Paphiopedilums, (or African Violets). When the light level is correct the plants will have light green slightly greyish foliage, dark green foliage is an indication of insufficient light. A slightly pinkish tinge on the leaves also indicates correct light levels. The sepals and petals of some Miltoniopsis tend to recurve (curl) when light is too high”. “Like many other orchids, they resent being overpotted and seem to grow best when tightly packed in the pot. They have a fine and very extensive root system that will rapidly fill a pot under good conditions. Because of this, they like a well-drained growing medium. I use a mix of fine to medium grade bark with gravel and shell-grit” .

“I make sure that the mixture is moist when I repot, then do not water the repotted plant till the next day so that any cuts or damaged areas have a chance to heal. Plastic pots are usually preferred as they retain more moisture, but because of the constant moisture the compost will often be spent after 12 months and will need to be replaced”.

**Editors Note: Pansy Orchids sometimes struggle in Coffs Harbour or seem to decline after two or three years. They must have high humidity and don’t like hot, dry conditions. I grow them a little lower down in the greenhouse where conditions are slightly cooler but then you need to get the balance right between cooler temperatures and their high light requirements. The hybrids seem to be more heat tolerant and survive better in Coffs Harbour.**



**These are example of locally grown Miltoniopsis. With the right conditions these plants put on a wonderful show**

## 14. ORCHID SPECIES PLUS, VICTORIA

Many members would be familiar with Orchid Species Plus run by Bill and Jan Miles from Kingston, Victoria (near Ballarat). Bill and Jan are regular vendors at the major Orchid Fairs held along the east coast of Australia. They also have an online ordering service or you can telephone and they will dispatch orchids to your postal address. They carry a large range of exotic species and it is well worth logging onto their website and browsing through their catalogue. One of our members, Michelle Pearce (eldest daughter of our past late President, Edward Pearce), recently visited Orchid Species Plus nursery and has sent some photos which show the extensive layout of this orchid nursery.

Website: [orchidspeciesplus.com.au](http://orchidspeciesplus.com.au) Email: [jan@orchidspeciesplus.com.au](mailto:jan@orchidspeciesplus.com.au) Phone: 03 53456387



Main Growing Room

Bulbophyllum Room

Seedling Nursery Area

## 15. CHOS 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

*This year marks fifty years since the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society separated from the Coffs Horticultural Society in 1971 and became a stand-alone organisation.*

*We plan to mark this event with a luncheon at Opal Cove Resort on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2021. Please mark this not-to-be missed event on your calendar. Tickets for the event (at a very reasonable \$25 per head) will go on sale in the near future. Seats will be limited so you need to obtain your ticket early. More details of the celebration program will be published in future newsletters.*

*Highly qualified orchid judge and experienced grower, Jody Cutajar, has agreed to be the guest speaker at the luncheon event.*

*More details will be provided in future editions of the newsletter and on our website.*





I have previously mentioned that orchid breeders don't immediately rush out to register the names of every new seedling they produce. Registration costs money so the growers usually wait until they see results (flowers) before deciding whether to register a new name. An attractive Laeliinae appeared on the "What's in Bloom" site in January: it was labelled as C. Mark Jones 'Lance' x Slc. Jungle Elf 'Cheryl Lynn'. According to OrchidWiz it was bred by Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids who made the original cross at least 6 years ago and registered its new name in 2018. It is now called Cattleya Sarah Elizabeth. This plant was also benched at the February meeting where it was chosen as the best hybrid. Presumably, the frog found a new home before the meeting. The spots come from both C. Penny Kuroda and C. Fascelis.

Some other orchids that caught my attention on the Facebook site are:-



Noelene Jackson's Zygopabista Dragon Kitten 'Purr' was another orchid that appealed to me. It certainly presents a striking colour combination. Judging by the flower images of this hybrid on OrchidWiz Noelene's is one of the better Dragon Kittens: the segments of most are green overlaid with brown blotches or they have much paler labellums.

One of its parents was Z. Artur Elle. I had an Artur Elle 'Essendon' AM/AOC which I bought as a small plant in about 1994 from Gerald McCraith OAM. It won quite a few champion sashes for me until it decided to retire (c. 2012). In colour it was very similar to this plant. Several other dark Z. Artur Elle plants also received awards so it may be that the apparent influence of this parent in Noelene's plant offers it the same potential.



This is Paige Sinclair's Oncostele Hot Pants 'Hot to Trot'. I thought the colour was more vibrant than I expected so I compared it to other flowers shown on OrchidWiz. I also checked with Dr. Google. I found plants ranging from orange-brown through dark red to pink. None appeared scarlet like this flower. To me this enables the petals & sepals on Paige's plant to contrast better with the colours of the labellum.

*Oncostele* hybrids are derived by crossbreeding *Oncidium*s with *Rhyncostele* (*Rhyco. bicktoniensis* in this instance). But until about 2010 the parents of such plants were hybrids or species of *Odontoglossum* and *Cochlioda* and the resulting plants were known as *Odontioda*. There were more than 150 species in the *Odontoglossum* genus and 4 species in the *Cochlioda* genus. However, after years of study a taxonomist working at the RHS concluded that all were either *Oncidium*s (most ended up in this genus) or *Cyrtorchilum* or *Miltoniopsis*. Without *Odontoglossum* and *Cochlioda*, the genus name *Odontioda* could no longer exist and was replaced by *Oncostele*.

Brassidium Golden Gamine 'White Knight' appeared twice on the "What's in Bloom" site.

One was owned by Kerrie Gosling, the other by Bob Southwell and I noticed that they differed in shape and markings. I have mentioned previously that individual plants do vary - these plants are examples.



The segments of Kerrie's plant present the flower as being better balanced than Bob's plant. Each of the petals and each of the lower sepals mirror each other (occurring at the same angle). The flower on Bob's plant does not do this well and it is not zygomorphic. For a starry flower, Kerrie's plant appears more circular. So, from a shape perspective, Kerrie's is the better plant.



The markings on the segments are similar on Kerrie's plant whereas on Bob's plant the markings differ, albeit only slightly. On the other hand, Bob's has a better labellum in terms of its shape, colour and consistency of pattern and all the segments on his flower are broader.

If you can inspect flowers when buying and have a choice, look carefully before you choose the one to buy. If you can't see the flowers and can afford to buy multiple plants, do so. Then pick the best when they flower and sell the rest.

