



COFFS ORCHID NEWS JULY 2025 PUBLICATION OF THE COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

7 Kotuku Street, Coffs Harbour. NSW 2450

Email: chorchidsociety@gmail.com

Web: www.coffsorchidsociety.org.au

EDITORIAL:

One of the aims of the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society is to provide educational opportunities for its members. As its basic aim is to promote the growing of orchids, then you would expect the Society to ensure that all members can learn about growing techniques and experience the enjoyment of successful orchid growing.

This Society has always maintained that it is essential to have guest speakers, who are experienced and successful growers, to promote education at each monthly meeting. In addition, an educational workshop to develop growers skills such as deflasking, mounting orchids, repotting, etc, is also informative to all growers. Visits to other grower's orchid houses or to professional nurseries always provides an opportunity to learn something new and see how others do it successfully.

Provision of a monthly newsletter which includes informative articles, updated news of the Society's activities, photos of recently benched orchids and other newsworthy items has always been important for CHOS. The aim of the newsletter is again one of education and communication between members and it is the hope of this Editor that we continue to achieve this aim and members continue to enjoy reading this publication.

In 2020, this Society decided it needed to go a step further along this educational pathway and provide direct advice and assistance to its newer members and to its more experienced growers if they felt they could benefit from any help. To achieve this, the Society put together a list of members who had experience with specific orchid genera. These mentors were given the title of Advisors and the first Advisors Group List was published during 2020. This means that any member can contact any of these Advisors if they need assistance.

In addition it was decided to allocate an Advisor to each new member (however, they could elect not to be allotted one). This program has operated successfully since 2020. If you don't have an allotted Advisor, but would like one, then contact Chris or Paul Hatton.

These allocated Advisors are there to assist new members (and older ones), and especially new growers, with any orchid growing problems they may have. Some members have needed advice on building a new greenhouse, how do I supply heat to my orchids during winter or cool them over the summer period and when do I repot an orchid and numerous other tasks. Many new members just need reassurance that they are doing well with their current orchid collection.

The next step in the educational process is to include in each monthly meeting agenda a new segment called "Seasonal Growing Tips". Two or three experienced members will talk briefly about what growers should be addressing in their orchid growing program for that specific time of the year.

The July meeting will see the introduction of this new segment. In addition some of the Advisors will give a short talk on their particular orchid group and outline what should be done to meet the needs of these orchids at this time of the year. It should be a very informative session.

CHOS COMMITTEE 2024-2025**CONTACT DETAILS**

PRESIDENT: PAIGE SINCLAIR 0427 591 901 paigesinclair@me.com
VICE PRES: PETER GOUGH 0409 045 645 hacc51@gmail.com
SECRETARY: KERRIE GOSLING 0427 515 887 Kerrie506@gmail.com
TREASURER: DAVID RUDGLEY 0401 499 952 davidrudgley64@gmail.com
COMMITTEE: CHRIS HATTON 0414 942 298 pchatton7@gmail.com
 PAUL HATTON 0426 978 923 pchatton7@gmail.com
 BOB SOUTHWELL 0417 695 834 bssouthwell@bigpond.com
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: BOB SOUTHWELL (See Above)

SPONSORS**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.
 Phone 02 6652 2599.

COFFS COAST MAZDA

For new Mazda vehicles, also second-hand vehicles and ALL your servicing needs. Ring for an appointment 02 6652 3122 or visit 211 Pacific Highway, Coffs Harbour You won't be disappointed .

DARK STAR ORCHIDS

Dark Star Orchids. 0416 195832 or (02) 65644088.

Hans and Sue run a small nursery west of Bowraville. They specialise in rare, unusual and hard to find species of many orchids particularly Bulbophyllums, Stanhopeas, Coelogynes and lots of other genera. Check out the website.
www.darkstarorchids.com.au
 email darkstarorchids@skymesh.com.au

BRUCE HALL

Bruce provides raffle prizes for Autumn and Spring Shows.

OFFICEWORKS

Officeworks carries an excellent range covering all stationery needs, computers/monitors/printers, and associated technology. They sell a wide range of smart phones and watches, plus furniture and workspace solutions. If you are looking for low prices on everyday essentials, it's all there at Home Base, Coffs Harbour. Phone 66 919100 or check out the full range at officeworks.com.au.

ROSELLA ORCHIDS

Spring and Autumn Show Sponsor: Located in South Grafton and can supply a wide range of orchids but specialises in Cattleya and Vanda genera. They also stock a large range of hardware and accessories for orchid growers. Nursery is closed to the general public except by appointment.

CALENDAR, 2025

3 July— Seasonal Growing Tips
 Plant sales from Dark Star Orchids

7 August—Deflasking
 - Paige Sinclair and Peter Gough

4 Sept—Tricks and Tips
 TBC

13—14 Sept—Spring Show

1-5 Oct AOC Conference
 Woolgoolga

16 Oct—Plant Auction
 Bruce Hall Auctioneer

30 Oct—Visit to Rosella
 Orchids, South Grafton

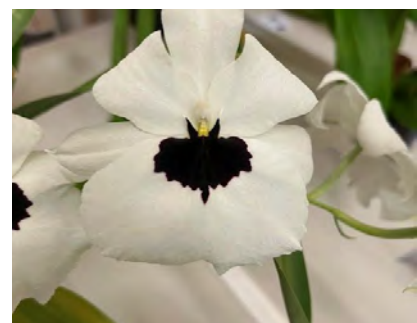
6 Nov—AGM/SOS My Orchid

6 Dec—Awards Presentation
 and Luncheon

5 Feb—NEUTROG as Guest
 Speaker

5 Mar TBA

Note: The Committee meets on Tuesday following the Monthly Meeting.

**CHOS BANK DETAILS**

BSB No: 533-000

ACCOUNT No: 32817199

CHOS COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

The following is a summary from the CHOS April Committee Meeting conducted on 2025 at "The Workshop".

- ◆ Meeting commenced at 10.20am.
- ◆ Apology from David Rudgley.
- ◆ Committee thought that the June General meeting was well attended and well received by members. Thanks to Neville Anderson and the two guest speakers, Peter and Bob.
- ◆ The Motion Sensor Light at the Gardens meeting room was not working and has been reported to Botanic Gardens Staff (Update : Has been repaired).
- ◆ Frank Pappalardo attended the Committee Meeting and spoke about a members dinner at "Stef and Co" at The Promenade (Italian Restaurant). Decided to seek member interest at the July General Meeting and if enough interested then hold a social dinner evening in mid August (Thursday night?).
- ◆ Frank also tabled a detailed itinerary for a suggested one day trip to Barrington Tops.
- ◆ A combined CHOS and WDOS Winter Show will be held at the Sports Centre at Woolgoolga over the long weekend in June 2026 (6-7th June).
- ◆ Display Team for the October AOC Conference held a meeting on 29th May and a list of design ideas were tabled. Next team meeting to be held in July.
- ◆ Bunnings BBQ will be held on Saturday 12th July. Duty roster is almost completed. It is hoped to finalise the roster at the July General Meeting.
- ◆ All Friends of the Gardens invoices have been located and fully paid.
- ◆ Show Ribbons— Kerrie presented extensive research on suppliers and types of show ribbons. Committee decided to purchase ribbons for the Spring Show from Marellen Show Ribbons.
- ◆ New Members: Anna Scott and Moya Tucker were approved as new CHOS members. Welcome Anna and Moya. CHOS currently has 85 financial members.
- ◆ Maclean Orchid Society will not be running a bus to Mingara Orchard Fair this year.
- ◆ Rosella Orchid Nursery visit has been booked for Thursday 30th October 2025.
- ◆ New Kiwi Bark supplies (especially Grade 3) have been ordered.
- ◆ 2026 Draft Calendar was presented and approved in principle. Bob and Paige to now lock in speakers and events.
- ◆ The Deflasking Workshop is set down for August General Meeting - decided to source a Soft Cane and an *Oncidium* Twinkle as possible seedlings.
- ◆ Advisors Program: A new segment will be introduced to the General Meeting Agenda—to be called "Seasonal Growing Tips". Advisors will be asked to speak briefly on relevant growing tips for specific orchid groups.
- ◆ The Final Spring Show Schedule was tabled and approved. The Show Task List was also approved.
- ◆ Next Committee Meeting will be held at 'The Workshop' on Tuesday 8th July 2025 at 10.30am.

Hans from Dark Star Orchids is a valued CHOS Sponsor and he will have plants for sale at the July General Meeting



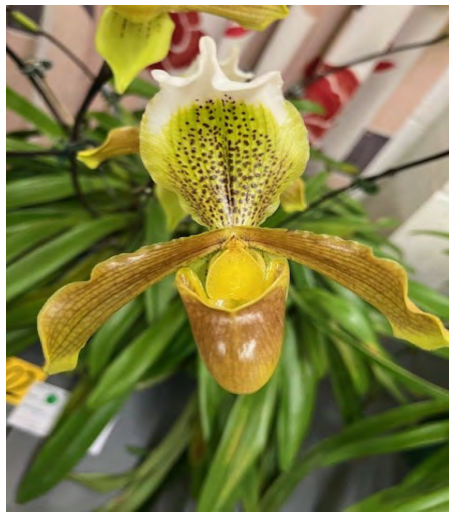
**Popular Vote at the CHOS
May Meeting was
awarded to Helen Seiver
for her *Dendrobium
Thongchai Gold*
Congratulations!**



ORCHIDS BENCHED AT THE CHOS JUNE MEETING



Rhonda Smith benched this amazing *Cynodes Taiwan Gold*



***Paph insigne* grown and benched by Helen Seiver**



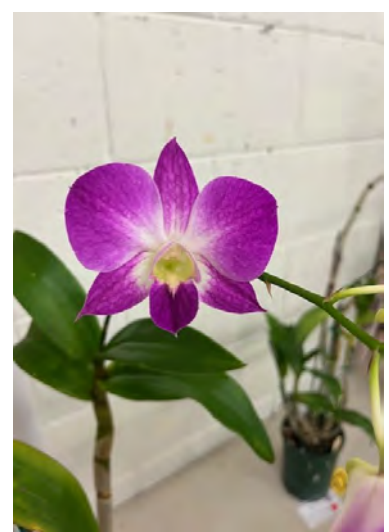
***Paph Yi Ying Morning Sun* benched by Rhonda Smith**



Another Rhonda Smith beauty—*Dendrobium Aridang Light Blue*



***Miltoniopsis Lillian Nakomoto* grown and benched by Jerod Pritchard**



***Dendrobium Hugh Fisher* owned by Dick Cooper**



Paphiopedilum insigne
benched by Kim Winders



Helen Seivers benched this Lc. Purple Cascade 'Fragrant Beauty'



Another Catt from Helen Seivers collection—Blc. Californian Girl



Rlc. Yen Corona 'Green Genie'
owned by Helen Seiver



A spectacular Catt from Phil Payne—Rlc. Dal's Dynamite x Rlc. Burdekin 'Springtime'



Pot. Shin Shiang Diamond X Slc. Kauai Starbright



Arthurara Sea Snake 'Unforgettable'
from the greenhouse of Rhonda S.



Rhonda Smith benched this awesome *Dendrobium spectabile*. Spectacular!



Dick Cooper receives his Reserve Champion Show Trophy from Paige Sinclair

BITS AND PIECES



- Kiwi Potting Bark is available from Paige Sinclair at \$50 per 50L bag. **New supplies have been ordered but not yet received. Contact Paige to secure your requirements.**
- CHOS **JULY Monthly Meeting** will be held on Thursday **3rd July** starting at 7.00pm. **Seasonal Growing Tips:** Selected Advisors will present cultural growing tips for a variety of orchid types.

Hans from **Dark Star Orchids** is a valued CHOS Sponsor and he will have plants for sale during the meeting.

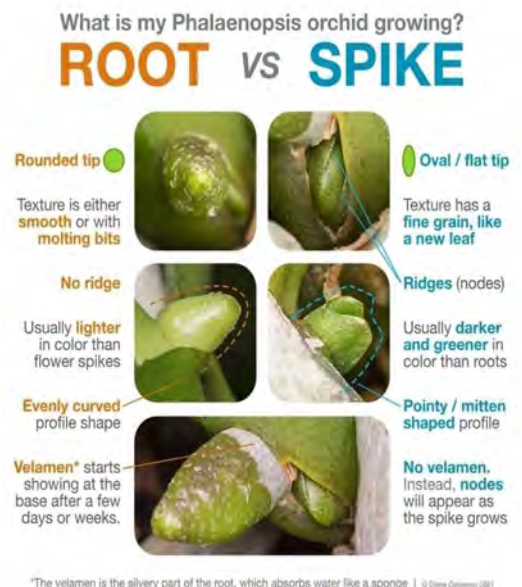
Bring your Tolumnia Hybrid for it's next judging in this years Growing Competition.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would bring a contribution for members supper.

Judges for this meeting: HELEN SEIVER MATT CONNELL

Assistance from members to clean up after the meeting would be greatly appreciated

- **AOC 2025 CONFERENCE HOSTED BY WDOS** will be held on 1st—5th October 2025. Full Show Schedule is now on the website plus Registration Forms. Check out www.aoc2005.org.au . [Early Bird registration closes at the end of June and the registration fee increases from the 1st July.](#) [Save some money and send your rego in today.](#) Registration for the Conference Dinner is now open.
- Dates to put on your calendar:
 - # **Mingara Orchid Show and Fair:** 28—29th June—opens 9am.
 - # **Nambucca Valley Orchid Society Spring Show**—4th—6th September. Benching on afternoon of Wed 3rd Sept (2pm to 6pm).
 - # **Coffs Harbour OS Spring Show**— 13th—14th September. (Set-up /Benching on 12th Sept).
 - # **Visit to Rosella Orchids at South Grafton**— Thursday 30th October—Car Pool.
- If you are interested in **adding heating to your orchid house** then Bruce Hall has suggested you check out the website of Sproutwell Greenhouses at www.sproutwellgreenhouses.com.au and check out their Accessories list. They specialise in fan heaters and lengths of tube heating. When you click on the product it will give you full details about its capacity and features.
- Do you have any expertise in **website design and maintenance**? If so the Society could use you expertise and advise on updating our own website. If you are prepared to assist then please contact Paige Sinclair.
- Hans Schaible from **Dark Star Orchids** at Bowraville, will be at the July General Meeting with a range of plants for sale. If you need anything special then contact Hans or Sue on 0416 195832 or (02) 65644088.
- If you grow any Phalaenopsis orchids then they should be starting to form flower spikes. Many members have asked how you tell the difference between a flower spike and a new root. This photo will help in identifying which is a root and which is a flower spike. You should start to stake the flower spike as soon as it reaches around the 8 to 10 cm length. The aim here is to guide the spike so it grows in an arc and presents a set of well spaced flowers.



JOKE TIME:

THESE ARE ACTUAL COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY "THOMAS COOK VACATIONS" FROM DISSATISFIED CUSTOMERS:

1. "They should not allow topless sunbathing on the beach. It was very distracting for my husband who just wanted to relax."
2. "On my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry."
3. "We went on holiday to Spain and had a problem with the taxi drivers as they were all Spanish."
4. "We booked an excursion to a water park but no-one told us we had to bring our own swimsuits and towels. We assumed it would be included in the price."
5. "The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room."
6. "It's lazy of the local shopkeepers in Puerto Vallartato close in the afternoons. I often needed to buy things during 'siesta' time -- this should be banned."
7. "No-one told us there would be fish in the water. The children were scared."
8. "Although the brochure said that there was a fully equipped kitchen, there was no egg-slicer in the drawers."
9. "I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local convenience store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams or ginger nuts."
10. "The roads were uneven and bumpy, so we could not read the local guide book during the bus ride to the resort. Because of this, we were unaware of many things that would have made our holiday more fun."
11. "It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home. This seems unfair."
12. "I compared the size of our one-bedroom suite to our friends' three-bedroom and ours was significantly smaller".



KEEPING MY BABIES WARM!

I grow my Phalaenopsis inside my house near north to north west facing windows where it is reasonably warm, moderate humidity and suitable light levels on a normal sunny day. Phallys like what we humans like in regard to the environment.

Put them out in the greenhouse and you would soon hear their groans of protest and disgust.

There is of course a solution to the problem—provide a better orchid house and/or artificial heating.

If you would like to grow more exotic orchids in Coffs Harbour, those suited to warm to hot climates, then you need to provide a warmer growing environment. Using a glasshouse, a plastic tunnel house or a greenhouse covered in Solar Weave or a similar product is the ideal solution. Your budget may determine which format you use. Electric heating can then be added to control the temperature of the enclosed space.

There are a variety of commercial space heaters that could be used but even a simple fan heater can improve the temperature around the plants. In a normal greenhouse covered in shade cloth or part shade cloth and part plastic sheet, the environment can be improved by the use of heating devices such as heat mats, heating beds, heater pipes or bars. These are placed under the orchids and provide a warmer temperature environment around the plant. A quick search of the internet will reveal a wide variety of heating devices that could be used to improve orchid culture. (Check out Sage Horticultural; Sproutwell Greenhouses; Dr. Greenthumbs)

These usually involve a connection to a 240 volt electrical supply and all growers must be safety conscious when planning on this addition to the orchid growing area. Remember that water and electricity do not mix well. By law you require a qualified electrician to do the power connection and he/she will ensure it is installed correctly and is water-proof. Use of a solar panel and a storage battery is another alternative source of electrical energy. However, you would need professional advice on how much solar collection area you would need to run your choice of heating appliance.

80W Heating Bar



**Heating Mat plus
Thermostat Control**



**Propagation unit with heating
system installed in base.**

It is also possible to use a number of passive heating techniques to make the greenhouse warmer for your orchids at night. These include:

1. Harnessing Passive Solar Heating

One of the most efficient ways to store and distribute warmth in a greenhouse is by using thermal mass materials that absorb heat during the day and release it at night. One method is to use Water Barrels for Heat Storage . Water has a high thermal mass, making it one of the best substances for heat retention. Large barrels filled with water can store heat when the sun is out, which is gradually released during cooler night time hours.

2. **Other Thermal Mass Materials:** In addition to water barrels, other materials like bricks, stones, and pebbles can act as effective heat retainers. Line the greenhouse floor with these materials to absorb daytime heat. Stones or bricks might work well as they retain warmth, especially when stacked as a wall, and then release that stored heat at night.

3. **DIY Insulation Techniques for Greenhouses**

Insulation is crucial to keeping heat within your greenhouse. Adding insulation materials can effectively minimize heat loss without investing in costly heaters.

(a) **Layered Plastic and Bubble Wrap:** Attaching plastic sheeting or bubble wrap to the greenhouse walls can create a layer of insulation, trapping warmth inside. Some gardeners [attach bubble wrap](#) directly to the interior walls, while others hang layers of plastic with space between them for added insulation. This simple, budget-friendly approach reduces drafts and prevents rapid heat loss.

(b) **Reflective Insulation on the South Side:** Less sunlight enters from the south [during winter](#), so using reflective materials like aluminum-backed foam insulation panels or reflective tarps can improve efficiency. These reflective surfaces bounce sunlight back into the greenhouse, preventing heat from escaping through the south wall. Svensson Company make a reflective mesh which is highly effective—check their website for details (also keeps the greenhouse cooler in summer).



4. **Solar Water Heating Pipes:** Another approach to providing low-cost heat is a closed-loop solar water heating system. This system circulates water through pipes exposed to sunlight and creates a gentle heat source. Though this method requires more setup, it can be highly useful.

(Note: Some greenhouses or glasshouses which have soil beds rather than benches will often place compost bins or layers of compost or animal manure on the soil beds. As this decomposes it releases heat—often getting to around 40 degrees C. However, the messy nature of this method does not lend itself to use in Australian Orchid Houses). Bob Southwell

2025 AOC AUSTRALIAN ORCHID CONFERENCE, SHOW AND FAIR

This will be a once in a lifetime opportunity for local orchid growers to attend an AOC Conference in their backyard. The Conference will run from 1st to 5th October and be conducted at the Wiigulga Sports Complex at Woolgoolga. The Conference program will feature International and Australian speakers, have 26 Vendors selling quality plants and accessories plus a wonderful Orchid Show that will be larger and feature more exotic orchids than has ever been seen locally before. Full details are listed on the brochure shown on the next page of this newsletter.

The Earlybird Registration Fee of \$220 per person will cease on the 30th June, so as that is only a short time away, if you wish to save money then you need to register for the Conference before the cut off date or be prepared to pay significantly more to attend. See the Conference website for registration forms.

Attached to this newsletter are the Plant Registration Entry Forms plus the Show Schedule. If you intend entering plants then please study these forms ASAP.

If you need any assistance then please do not hesitate to contact Show Marshal, Dick Cooper or Paige Sinclair—contact details are in the attached documents. Registrations are also being taken for the Conference Dinner.

FLOOR OR TABLE DISPLAY

Hundreds of magical orchids and flasks will be on sale by vendors from around Australia and the world to add to your orchid collection. This is a wonderful opportunity for your Society to stage a magnificent floor or table top display - contact woolgoolga.dist.orch@gmail.com



Register NOW using this QR Code



or click on this link <https://square.link/u/7QUWY0Y2> to payment page



CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE REGISTRATION

For early bird registration price paid before July 1, 2025 \$220pp - Spouse \$150pp

Full price \$300pp - Spouse \$200
Contact Annie Houston
woolgoolga.dist.orch@gmail.com



WOOLGOOLGA

- ONLY 2 hours drive from the Gold Coast Airport
- 6 Hours drive from Sydney
- 30 minutes drive north from Coffs Harbour Airport

Woolgoolga is a picturesque coastal town on the Coffs Coast of NSW. 2-hours drive south on the M1 from Queensland's Gold Coast airport and 30 minutes drive north from the Coffs Harbour international airport.

We have a mild sub-tropical climate which is ideal for growing 90% of cultivated genera in a simple shade-house with little or no artificial heat.

The district extends from the tablelands of the Great Dividing Range (over 900 metres from Dorrigo), down to the Pacific Ocean and Solitary Islands Marine Park.

As a consequence of the altitude variation, well over 250 Native Orchid species have been recorded growing naturally here.

These magnificent orchids have been captured in full bloom by none-other than our Orchid Society President, Nev Anderson. 200 of these superb orchids will be emblazoned across one wall of our magnificent venue for all to admire.

We are delighted this prestigious triennial event is being hosted in a regional centre.

Our Society looks forward to bringing the global orchid world together to participate; embrace competition; foster goodwill and camaraderie.

THE PROGRAM

- Wednesday 1:** Show Set-up - 9.00am to 4.00pm
- Thursday 2:** Judging - 9.00am to 5.00pm
- Fri. Sat. Sun:** Show open to public 9am - 2.40pm
- Fri. 3:** Conference - 10.00am - 3.40pm
- Sat. 4:** Conference - 10.00am - 2.40pm
- Saturday 4:** Conference Dinner - 6.00pm
- Sunday 5:** 2pm Awards; 3pm Close & pull down

Don't Miss Out! - Book Now!

For further information don't hesitate to ring or email President Nev Anderson on N. 0458 346 467 | E. nevillealanah@gmail.com

Orchids from the Mountains to the Sea

STOP PRESS

Reminder that the Early Bird cut off is 1st July 2025

Woolgoolga District Orchid Society



2025 AOC International Conference & Show

You're Invited to share the joys of the Orchid World in beautiful Woolgoolga
Wednesday, October 1 - Sunday, October 5, 2025



Woolgoolga Sports Complex
Solitary Islands Way, Woolgoolga
New South Wales, Australia

The AOC Conference and Show includes . . .

1. Orchid display exhibits
2. Individual Orchid entries
3. Educational exhibits - 2 special interactive displays:
An Indian Orchid Display celebrating Woolgoolga's strong Indian heritage . . . and
An indigenous display introducing some of the local bush tucker plants.
4. Exhibits and individual entries judged by Accredited Judges from throughout Australia
5. Scientific lecture program featuring content from the botanical, horticultural and conservation advances in the field of orchidology.

The Lecture Program . . .

An interesting and informative lecture program brings together those who are considering venturing into the wonderful world of orchid growing.

This triennial event is the celebration of orchid culture, science, recent practices and trends in orchid development, biotechnology, and conservation.

The two-day lecture program will be presented by 4 distinguished international Orchid experts and 5 Australia-wide world renowned experts.

Dr. Fred Clarke, an Accredited Judge in the South Pacific Judging region, a passionate orchid grower dedicated to developing orchid hybrids and producing select species for the orchid enthusiast. Fred, whose curiosity knows no bounds and whose knowledge is broad and varied, is renowned for his stimulating and entertaining presentations. His sustaining interest has been in developing *Cattleya* hybrids and is actively creating new *Paphiopedilum*, Australian *Dendrobium*, and *Zygopetalum* hybrids.

In fact, his pioneering work in *Catasetum* intergeneric hybrids led to the development of multi-award winning *Fredclarkeara* After Dark, 'the blackest flower ever seen'



WIN BIG PRIZES
Table Top Displays
Floor Displays

Here's an opportunity for you, or your Society to set up a wonderful display of your favourite orchids and perhaps win a 'big' prize.

Whether it's *Paphiopedilums* or other genera which lies in with our two international speakers, or other genus that takes your fancy.

Create a 4 metre x 4 metre, or 3 metre x 2 metre display, a tabletop or floor display, the choice is yours and is only limited by your imagination.

To help defray the cost of creating such a display, the Woolgoolga District Orchid Society is happy to compensate for some travel expenses.



The Lecture Program Cont'd . . .

We are so lucky to attract Wenqing Pernier, proficient in four languages, who has tirelessly dedicated her life to the conservation of Chinese orchid species. Wenqing is a respected grower, international lecturer, botanical tour guide and environmental educator. A passionate conservationist.

In 2005, Wenqing and her late husband, Dr. Holger Pernier, a world-renowned German botanist and orchid specialist, established Hengduan Mountain Biotechnology in Wenqing's homeland of Sichuan, China.

Furthermore, we have another international expert who will also be speaking about the uniquely showy slipper orchids - *Paphiopedilums*. Chi Xuan Cash of Vietnam specialises in growing and propagating this genus.

Another international speaker is Ximena Portillo of Ecuador. Through a life and career devoted to tourism and conservation, Ximena is well attuned to the beautiful landscapes, biodiversity, and culture of Ecuador. Including Ecuadorian orchids, their conservation through the efforts of EcuaGenera Cia. Ltda.

Ximena, having gained her Master's Degree in International Tourism Management while working as a University Professor, wrote an article 'Orchids as a Tourist Attraction in Ecuador' which was presented at the Cuban Congress of Local Development in 2019.

Additional speakers are Scott Barrie of Barrie Orchids specialising in breeding *Oncidium*, *Cymbidium*, and *Zygopetalum*. Scott has also achieved significant advancements in refining *Sarcocochilus*.

Chris Cobb of Northern Queensland's subject is Tropical *Dendrobium* and their hybrids, particularly in the Cape York region.

Dr. Ashley Field, University of Queensland, will be speaking exclusively on *Phalaenopsis ruessstromii*, its distribution and the climatic conditions of these wonderful plants growing in situ in the rainforests of northern Queensland.

David Banks a leading expert on native Australian orchids (especially Indian *Dendrobium*), and rare and unusual orchids. David, a world renowned author and traveller is an expert photographer, with a friendly personality and in-depth knowledge making him a favorite among orchidists everywhere.

Conference Dinner Speaker, Michael Colker, is a Principal with the Law firm Piper Alderman, President (OSCOV) Orchid Societies Council of Victoria; President North-East Melbourne Orchid Society; Associate to the Directors of the Australian Orchid Foundation and is an experienced speaker and passionate orchid grower.