



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

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EDITORIAL:

“Uncle Sam Wants You” was a popular and successful advertising campaign in the USA during World War 1. It was developed to get American citizens to enlist in the military service and help the USA during the war period. It was produced at a time when Americans were reluctant to enlist or volunteer their time to help the war effort.



While we are not at war, the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society is in a similar predicament where it is finding it difficult to enlist help from its members to assist with the day-to-day running of the Society activities. Perhaps our advertising campaign should read “CHOS Needs You!”.

Incidentally, Orchid Societies in the local area have folded in recent years due mainly to lack of member participation and finding individuals prepared to take on administration roles or even be involved with easy short-term activities. There are no longer Societies in Grafton, Bellingen or Port Macquarie. While we are not suggesting that the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society has an uncertain future, there are times when the Committee members are frustrated by what appears to be a lack of support from many members. The organisation of CHOS is under the control of a management committee of seven members all of whom work hard to make this Society a useful and educational experience for all club members. Of course, the Committee members have other interests, family and other volunteer tasks and can't always be expected to do everything required for the CHOS to function efficiently. As the Uncle Sam slogan says, the Committee needs your assistance to achieve its goals and outcomes. The Society has over 90 financial members and while a small number do live in other parts of Australia, the majority are in the Coffs Harbour area.

Attending monthly meetings and participating in Society activities is an important contribution. The head-count is usually 30 to 40 members at each monthly meeting and while the Committee would like to see this increase, it has been at this level for many years. For members who do attend monthly meetings, the simple request is that you assist where you can with setting up for the meeting and cleaning up at the end.

This is always appreciated by members of the Committee.



**CHOS
NEEDS YOU**

It has become difficult to encourage members to volunteer to be included in rosters such as the recent Bunning BBQ fund raiser or the upcoming Spring Show or the monthly meeting judging roster. My plea to members is if you can see your way to volunteer for at least two events each year then that will go a long way to relieve the burden from the Committee and other members who always seem to put their hands up to help.

As well as the Committee, there is a group of dedicated members who always turn up to help and are always happy to fill in a spot on a roster. Thank you to this dedicated group for your enthusiasm and continued support.

You are the backbone of CHOS and without you the Society would not exist and be as successful as it is.

Again, remember our new slogan— “CHOS Needs You”. If you don't regularly help, please assist with at least two Society activities each year. Thank you!

CHOS COMMITTEE 2024-2025

CONTACT DETAILS

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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 .

Monthly
Sponsor

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, 202

7 August—Deflasking
- Paige Sinclair and Peter Gough

4 Sept—Tricks and Tips
Bruce and Bob
True or False—Carole

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

2 Apr TBA

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



CHOS BANK DETAILS

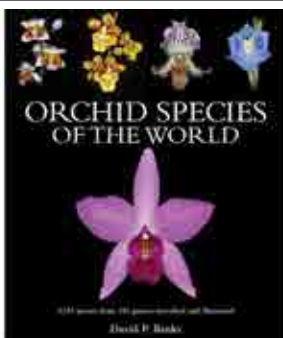
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CHOS COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

The following is a summary from the CHOS July Committee Meeting conducted on 8th July 2025 at “The Workshop”.

- ◆ Meeting commenced at 10.30am.
- ◆ All Committee members were present.
- ◆ July meeting went very well. Good feedback from members regarding the new “Seasonal Growing Tips” segment.
- ◆ Mid-Year gift of Richgro Bug Killa insecticide was much appreciated by those members present at the July meeting.
- ◆ AOS Orchid Display Team met on 5th July. Construction of the display is taking shape. Thanks to those on the team for their assistance.
- ◆ Bunnings BBQ—Saturday 12th July—thank you to those who have volunteered to help. Always a great money earner.
- ◆ New Show Ribbons have been ordered and received. Great job, Kerrie.
- ◆ 2026 Meeting/Show and Activities Program—almost completed.
- ◆ New bark supplies have been received—see Paige for bags of the popular grades. Thanks to David Rudgley and Jarod Pritchard for organising pick-up and delivery from Woolgoolga.
- ◆ Flasks for Deflasking at the August General Meeting to be purchased from Paul Smith.
- ◆ Spring Show—Committee tasks allocated. Roster being drawn up. The Café at the Gardens has been leased. This means we need to find a new site for the plant sales and the raffle table. Gardens to provide two gazebos for this purpose plus CHOS to purchase two additional gazebos to house the overflow of sales plants. Plant sales will be located just past the Café seating area within the Gardens.
- ◆ New Member: Welcome to Lolita Vacques.
- ◆ Dinner evening at Stef and Co (Italian Restaurant at the Promenade) to be organised for late August. Names to be taken at August meeting. Dinner will be at members cost—no subsidy.
- ◆ Concern expressed about the reluctance of some CHOS members to volunteer to assist with Society activities. Committee to encourage more member participation in the future.
- ◆ CHOS to sponsor (\$150) three Classes in the *Dendrobium* Section at the October AOC Show at Woolgoolga.
- ◆ New orchid book to be purchased for the CHOS Library - “*Latouria Dendrobiums*” by Phil Spence.
- ◆ Next Committee Meeting will be held at ‘The Workshop’ on Tuesday 12th August 2025 at 10.30am.



**“Orchid Species of the World”
3,333 species from 343 genera described and
illustrated.**

**A new book by David Banks.
The book will be launched at the AOC Conference at
Woolgoolga in October.**



Popular Vote at the CHOS July Meeting was awarded to Rhonda Smith with two plants being declared winners

Oncidium Chian-Tzy Chiou-Pin 'Chian-Tzy Yangtze' and *Angrcm. Crestwood 'Tomorrow Star'*

Congratulations!



ORCHIDS BENCHED AT THE CHOS JULY MEETING



A nice Paph benched by Peter Gough. Great work, Pete.



An impressive *Rhyncholaelia digbyana* benched by Paige Sinclair (the national flower of Honduras)



Rhonda Smith's *Oncidium Sweet Sugar*. Always performs well.



Phil Payne benched this nice *Rlc.* Pretty Honami 'Burdikin'



Another Phil Payne special—C. Delight 'Ivan's Snow White'?



Cattleya Bonanza Queen 'Rudak' grown by Phil Payne

MORE ORCHIDS BENCHED AT THE CHOS JULY MEETING



Rhonda Smith benched this first flowering of *Phalaenopsis sanderiana*



***Cymbidium* Sarah Jean 'Christine' grown and benched by Rhonda**



Dick Cooper benched this colourful *Dendrobium* Hugh Fisher



A well grown and spectacular *Medicalcar decoratum* from New Guinea. Grown to perfection by Rhonda Smith



The Society recently ran a very successful Fund Raising BBQ at Bunnings and raised \$1623.37. Thanks to all who helped make this such a great success. Thanks to Bunnings for allowing us the opportunity to raise funds and thanks to the Coffs Fish Coop for their donation of ice. Much appreciated. Moya and David cook up a storm.



BITS AND PIECES



- Kiwi Potting Bark is available from Paige Sinclair at \$50 per 50L bag. **New supplies have now been received.** Potting time is about to commence. Contact Paige to secure your requirements.

- CHOS **Monthly Meeting** will be held on Thursday **7th August** starting at 7.00pm. **Deflasking Workshop with Paige Sinclair and Peter Gough .** Each person at the meeting will take home two plants to grow at your place.

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: DI BLAY SANDY HEALEY

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 . Registration for the Conference Dinner is now open.

- Dates to put on your calendar:

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).

AOC Conference and Show at Woolgoolga—1—5 October 2025

Visit to Rosella Orchids at South Grafton— Thursday 30th October—Car Pool.

- Why not put together some plants to sell at the CHOS Spring Show in early September. Each plant needs a sales ticket and if it is a NSW Native Orchid then it needs a Native Orchids Tag. You set the price and the Society processes the sale and charges you a 15% commission for the transaction. You will then have the proceeds from the sale (minus the 15% commission) deposited into your bank account with in a few days of the show. It also is an opportunity for members and the public to purchase quality orchids—and remember you can never have enough orchids (all you need is space).

- Members who attended the July General Meeting received a mid-year gift of a 250g container of RichGro Bug Killa. RichGro Bug Killa provides a minimum of 2 months extended protection against a wide range of sucking insects on all your orchids. Richgro Bug Killa is a systemic insecticide that is taken up by the plants roots to control pests. It also contains Iron and Zeolite which are beneficial to plant health, helping your plants grow taller and stronger, and making fertilisers more efficient. Watering after application increases penetration and allows faster take-up by the plant's root system. This product can kill bees so best used within the confines of your enclosed orchid house where there should be little bee activity. Lightly sprinkle across the top of the orchid mix and water in. Don't over water or leaching of the insecticide will occur before it can be absorbed by the plant roots.



- Why not join other CHOS members for dinner at Stef and Co at the Promenade at the Jetty? Stef and Co are a restaurant specialising in Italian Cuisine and located where the Shearwater Restaurant used to be, overlooking the picturesque Coffs Creek. This is proposed for mid to late August, probably on a Thursday night. Details of the date and start times, plus a booking sheet, will be available at the August General Meeting. Members will be able to order from the extensive menu of Italian delights. Hope to see a great roll-up for this Winter social event. Thanks to Frank Pappalardo for his research and for organising the night.

JOKE TIME:

Mr Ponsonby-Smythe got a phone call from his wife, who was in a state of panic. "George!" she sobbed. "There's a gorilla in the apple tree in the front garden!" "A gorilla?" Mr Ponsonby-Smythe echoed. "Nonsense, woman. Have you been at the gin again?" "No, George," she replied. "It's a real gorilla - it must have escaped from the zoo or a circus or something. It's sitting in the apple tree growling at everyone who walks past. It's just thrown an apple at Mrs Bell from No. 23!" "Did it hit her?" Mr Ponsonby-Smythe asked, then said, "No, never mind that. I'll come home straight away." He drove home and, sure enough, as he pulled into the driveway he saw a huge, fierce looking gorilla in the apple tree. It spotted him and growled, then threw an apple at him - he only just ducked in time. He went into the house, where his wife was nervously looking out the window from behind the net curtain. "George, what are we going to do?" she asked. Mr Ponsonby-Smythe picked up the Yellow Pages. "It's simple, Miriam - there are bound to be professional people who can deal with this sort of thing." He looked up 'Gorilla Catchers' but there was only one firm listed. He dialled the number and after a few rings the phone was answered. "Bloggs and Wilson, Gorilla Catchers. Bloggs speaking!" "Good afternoon - my name is Ponsonby-Smythe. There is a gorilla in the apple tree in my garden, and I need you to come and catch it!" "I'm very sorry, sir," replied Bloggs. "I'm afraid Wilson is off sick at the moment, so we're unable to take on any jobs." "But this is urgent!" said Mr Ponsonby-Smythe. "It's in the tree, causing a scene - I'm sure the property values are reducing even as we speak! There must be something you can do!" "Well..." said Bloggs. "Catching a gorilla is a two-man job, but if you're willing to fill Wilson's role then we should be able to pull it off." - "I'll do whatever it takes," promised Mr Ponsonby-Smythe, and gave Bloggs his address. Twenty minutes later a battered Transit van bearing the sign "BLOGGS AND WILSON - GORILLA CATCHERS" pulled up outside. The driver got out and went round to the back of the van, opened the doors, and brought out a large rifle, a set of manacles, and a vicious-looking Rottweiler dog which barked and snarled. The man came up to the front door and rang the bell. "Good afternoon, sir. I'm Bloggs," said the man when Mr Ponsonby-Smythe answered. "I can see the gorilla in your tree - he's a big 'un, isn't he? We'd best get started right away." "That's fine," said Mr Ponsonby-Smythe. "What do I have to do?" "Well," replied Bloggs. "You stand there with the manacles while I climb the tree. I will wrestle with the gorilla and push him out of the tree. The instant he hits the ground, the dog is trained to leap forward and bite the gorilla's, um, ah, private parts. This is designed to distract him long enough for you to put the manacles on him. Then I can load him into the back of the van and take him away." "I understand," said Mr Ponsonby-Smythe. "But what is the rifle for?" "That is actually the most important part of the whole operation," replied Bloggs. "If by any chance the gorilla should happen to push me out of the tree, you must instantly shoot the dog!"

oooOOooo

A man in the Scottish Highlands sees a hillwalker kneeling by the side of a burn scooping up water in his hand to quench his thirst. "Haw, min!" he shouts. "Dinna' drink oot o' there, it's fu' o' coos' keech!" (cow manure) "I don't understand a word you're saying," replies the hillwalker. "Why on Earth can't you Scottish people learn to talk proper English?" He then turned his back on the local and bent down to get another drink. The local man says, "sorry, pardon me, I was just saying, use both of your hands to scoop up the water - you'll get more!"



DEFLASKING SEASON

We are about to enter late Winter and Spring where the temperature is warming up and conditions become ideal for removing orchids from a flask and growing them to maturity. The overall process is an easy one and we now go through the common methods and steps involved in removing orchids from a flask and transplanting it into a medium which will enable it to grow into a larger plant. When you purchase a flask it will have a full label outlining what the plants are. Put this aside so you can record the full details on labels for each deflasked plant. The plants in the flask have been grown in a nutrient rich substrate and in sterile conditions. This is an easy method of obtaining quality plants and if you follow the simple instructions you should achieve a high success rate.

STEPS IN DEFLASKING ORCHIDS

1. Open flask. Empty contents into a tray of warm water (not hot). Add some fungicide (Mancozeb) to the water. You may need to break the glass bottle at the base. You may need a wire hook, etc, to remove seedlings. Take care not to damage seedlings. Retain label.
2. Wash all Agar off the plants.
3. Soak seedlings in a tray of root hormone for 5 minutes [Plant Starter].
4. Dry all seedlings on paper towel or absorbent towel.



Potting-up Using Sphagnum Moss:

1. Prepare pots/trays for planting: (Pots should be new or sterilised)
2. Community Pots (Compots)

Place sphagnum moss (or small sized potting bark mix) in the pot. Plant similar seedlings in the pot. Allow enough room to grow and produce roots. Add a label to each community pot. (Plant name, date, etc).

3. Single Tubes:

- Place plant roots between two sphagnum wafers.
- Place in tube.
- Add a label to each pot. (Plant name, date, your initials, etc).
- Place tube with plant in the seedling tray.



- Place tray in water bath and allow time for sphagnum to expand.
- Remove from water once all sphagnum wafers have expanded.
- You may need to readjust the position of the seedling in the tube.



Potting-up Using Peat/Coir Plugs:

- Place seedling into the split in the plug. Top of seedling roots should be level with top of plug. Don't bury the pseudobulb or leaves. Gently close the plug.
- Carefully place plug/seedling into plug tray. Place label between plug and plug pot.
- Water seedlings with spray bottle.



Treatment for deflasked seedlings:

- Spray seedlings with Calcium Nitrate solution. This provides a nutrient boost. (Also spray the seedling once a month with Ca (NO₃)₂).
- Spray or dip the seedlings with an Anti-transpirant (Eg: Envy). As the seedlings have not yet developed a protective cuticle on the top of the leaf, the layer of anti-transpirant will help reduce water loss for a few days. Do not spray onto or dip the roots with Envy.
- Spraying regularly with a fungicide (Mancozeb or Trifend) will help keep the plants healthy.
- Wash your hands at the conclusion of the exercise.
- On the back of the label place your Initials and the deflasking date.



Ordering Deflasking Supplies: Orchidaceous Supplies (QLD) for Sphagnum moss blocks and wafers. Proptec (Aust) for plugs and trays, Google for websites.

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 Woolgoolla. The Conference program will feature Internation 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.

Attached to last months newsletter (July) were the Plant Registration Entry Forms plus the Show Schedule. If you intend entering plants then please study these forms ASAP. A new and final edition (V9) of the schedule will be placed on the AOC Conference web site in the near future.

If you need any assistance then please do not hesitate to contact Show Marshal, Dick Cooper or Paige Sinclair.

Registrations are also being taken for the Conference Dinner.

CULTURAL CALENDAR FOR COFFS HARBOUR AUG– SEPT

ORCHID GROUP	WATER REQUIREMENTS	FERTILIZER REQUIREMENTS	DISEASE AND PEST CONTROL	OTHER COMMENTS
AUSTRALIAN NATIVES	Reduce waterings to once every 10 to 14 days. Keep pots just moist. Increase watering to once a week as weather warms up from late August	Water with Potassium Nitrate (2mg/L) Magnesium Sulfate (3g/L). Calcium Nitrate (1g/L) once per month in August. Fertilize weekly with Campbells Yellow	Look out for chewing insects	As spikes appear, start staking to ensure good flower presentation. Face pots towards the northern sun
HARD CANES	Water once every two weeks. More often as conditions warm up. Reduce watering for Cooktown orchids	Fertilize using a low nitrogen product. Stop fertilizing Cooktown varieties.	Check for pests, etc. Spray as required	Maintain plants in a warm environment. Clean up the greenhouse to maintain hygiene
PAPHIOPE-DILUMS	Water once each week	Half strength fertilizer each week	Few problems expected but check plants often	
PHALAEENOP-SIS	Water every 7 to 10 days. Mist inbetween if required. Once each week as weather warms up	Fertilize half strength when watering. Use low nitrogen fertilizer	Few problems expected but check plants often	Spikes now forming. Stake as required. Use spacers to position flower buds
GENERAL COMMENTS	Many orchids can be repotted during late August/ Sept. Many orchids will benefit from a thorough watering to leach out any salt build-up over winter. Add slow release Pantacote Top K 8M at repotting	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p>More orchid groups to feature in future editions. Hope you find this useful.</p> <p>Comments are always welcome</p> </div>		

PREPARATION FOR THE SPRING SHOW

Clean up plants ready for benching. Remove dried flower stalks, clean leaves , etc. Stake plants as early as possible. Train plant into the shape you want. Use spacers to best position buds on each spike so the flowers do not overlap each other. Continue to water and fertilize as required for the type of orchid.
Rewrite labels if necessary.

Water the evening before benching or early on the morning of show day.