



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

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EDITORIAL:

Why should I attend the AOC Conference to be held at Woolgoolga in October 2025?

This is a common question that I am being asked by members of various Orchid Societies who are considering paying the \$220 registration fee before July, but who are also wondering what are the benefits for them in attending this National Conference. The event will be hosted by the Woolgoolga District Orchid Society from 1st to 5th October 2025 and held at the Wiigulga Sports Complex and the Woolgoolga High School Auditorium. Further details of the conference program and an updated progress report can be found at the end of this newsletter.

To be able to attend an Australian Orchid Council National Show and Conference right in your own backyard is an experience not to be missed by any orchid enthusiast. To conduct such a Conference would be a daunting experience for any Society to contemplate. However, WDOS grabbed the challenge with both hands and the organisation of the Conference is proceeding with enthusiasm and efficiency. It is shaping up to be a highlight event for the Coffs Harbour region. It will certainly put Woolgoolga and the WDOS on the map.

So what can you expect for your \$220 (\$150 for spouses) registration fee?

Firstly, you will have access to the Thursday Welcome and Opening Session, and this will be followed by priority access to the judged Show and free entry into the sales area. These areas will not be open to the general public until Friday morning.

For the remainder of the conference weekend you will have free entry and unlimited access to both the Show and the sales area (a daily fee applies to the general public). You will also be able to attend all of the scheduled talks by renowned International and Australian Speakers who are experts in various aspects of orchid botany, culture and breeding. These talks will be held in the nearby High School and free bus transport will be provided or it is only a short drive or walk from the Wiigulga Sports Complex. You can only gain entry to the guest speaker sessions by payment of the registration fee.

A Conference Dinner will be held on the Saturday night at Pacific Bay Resort with Michael Cocker as the Guest Speaker. You will need to book separately for this dinner and the cost is not covered by the Conference Registration fee.

In my mind, the AOC Orchid Show will be a major highlight of the Orchid Year and a chance to see orchids of exceptional quality and many specimens that don't grow easily in our local area. It also provides the opportunity to hear the latest from many of the world's orchid specialists and leaders in specific aspects of orchid growing. International guest speakers will include Fred Clarke from the USA, Wenqing Perner from Sichuan China; Chu Xuan Canh from Vietnam; and Ximena Portillo from Ecuador. In addition there will be five well known and highly accredited Australian Speakers. This smorgasbord of speakers is not an event that happens often in the Coffs Harbour area and all enthusiastic orchid growers should take every opportunity to attend the entire Conference. You will benefit greatly from the experience and become a better grower as a result of your participation.

Plus think of all the new orchids and hardware you will be able to buy!

CHOS COMMITTEE 2024-2025**CONTACT DETAILS**

PRESIDENT: PAIGE SINCLAIR 0427 591 901 paigesinclair@me.com
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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 .

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.

Monthly Sponsor

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

25 April—Set-Up for CHOS Autumn Show—1pm.

26-27 April—CHOS Autumn Show

1 May— Terete Oncidiinae - Bruce Hall

5 June— Orchid Culture + Member Plant Sales

3 July—Bulbophyllums —Hans Schaible

7 August—Deflasking - Paige Sinclair and Peter Gough

4 Sept—Tricks and Tips True or False

13—14 Sept—Spring Show

1-5 Oct AOC Conference Woolgoolga

16 Oct—Plant Auction

6 Nov—AGM/SOS My Orchid

6 Dec—Awards Presentation

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

**CHOS BANK DETAILS**

BSB No: 533-000

ACCOUNT No: 32817199

CHOS COMMITTEE REPORT

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

- ◆ Meeting commenced at 10.30am. All Committee Members present.
- ◆ Review of April General Meeting was positive. Table Talk from Neville Anderson was excellent and very informative (based on origins of orchids). Talk from Paige and Bob was well received.
- ◆ Very few members have expressed interest in joining the Display Team for the 2025 AOC Woolgoolga October Show. This was a disappointing result. If any members are prepared to assist with the design and setting up of this display in October, then please contact Paige Sinclair ASAP. The first planning meeting will be held in the near future.
- ◆ Member Activities for 2025— a simple survey was conducted during the General Meeting and results outlined after the supper break. Members showed interest in the following activities for 2025:
 - (i) Members BBQ at Redrock
 - (ii) Italian-themed Dinner at a local restaurant.
 - (iii) Woolgoolga ExS Club Lunch and visit to Indian Temple/Museum.
 - (iv) Visit to Rosella Orchid Nursery, South Grafton , in Oct/Nov.
 - (v) Visits to members greenhouses (a list has been compiled for consideration).
 - (vi) Visit to Mingara Orchid Show (NSW Central Coast) - end of June. (To contact Maclean Orchid Society regarding sharing a bus to Mingara) .Activities and dates to be determined at May Committee Meeting.
- ◆ CHOS Autumn Show—25th to 27th April. All tasks completed or in-hand. Set-up at Botanic Gardens on 25th April from 1pm. Benching from 3 to 6pm on 25th and 6.30 to 7.30am on 26th April. Show opens to the public from 9am on Saturday 26th April.
- ◆ Botanic Gardens has supplied additional tables for CHOS monthly meetings and repaired the motion sensor light at the Display Room.
- ◆ Membership Report: Currently there are 82 financial members registered with CHOS. Members are asked to update any changes to their contact details.
- ◆ A request to be made to members to turn off their mobile phone or place in silent mode during each monthly meeting.
- ◆ New raffle and welcome plants to be ordered.
- ◆ Paige Sinclair to investigate purchase of Plantacote Top K 8M slow release fertilizer, Calcium Nitrate and some other chemicals for sale to CHOS members.
- ◆ Bark Supplies—only limited supplies available. The Society hopes to obtain additional bags soon.
- ◆ Bunnings BBQ—set down for Saturday 12th July 2025.
- ◆ A Representative from Neutrog Fertilizers has been booked to address the CHOS February 2025 General Meeting.
- ◆ The CHOS Advisors Program will be reviewed at the May Committee Meeting.
- ◆ Next Committee Meeting will be held at ‘The Workshop’ on Tuesday 6th May 2025 at 10.30am.



**Popular Vote at the CHOS
April Meeting was
awarded to Peter Gough
for his impressive
Dendrobium NoID

Congratulations!**



ORCHIDS BENCHED AT THE CHOS APRIL MEETING



Dick Cooper benched this excellent Rlc. George King 'Serendipity'



Rlc. Village Chief 'Green Genius' was grown by Rhonda Smith



This impressive *Brassia* Brown's Sunrise 'Mark' was benched by Bruce Hall



Helen Seiver owned this Rlc. ((Peach Cobbler x Waikiki Gold) x Caudebec) X *Cattlianthe* Topaz Saucy



***Dendrobium* Dal's Dazzler benched by Dick Cooper**



Bruce Hall benched this *Dendrobium bigibbum*

MORE ORCHIDS BENCHED AT THE CHOS APRIL MEETING



This outstanding *Fredclarkera* Raffy Pye was grown by Paige Sinclair



Another Paige Sinclair entry—*Catasetum* Kaue Fernandez



This striking *Dendrobium* Yaya was grown and benched by Peter Gough



At a couples counseling meeting the speaker mentioned that couples are so disconnected that 85% of husbands don't even know their wives favorite flower.

Mick turned to his wife and whispered:

"It's self rising, isn't it?"

👁️

My wife has just fainted on the luggage carousel at the airport! But I think she's OK - she's coming round slowly.

To All Hunters: This is from a San Francisco newspaper:

...orry about what the mean?

...e person very week and the X Christians ah, blah, e person e-planters

of the people that call in to this column.

To all you hunters who kill animals for food, shame on you; you ought to go to the store and buy the meat that was made there, where no animals were harmed.

I am calling in regard to the Speakout. I am an avid reader. I'm someone who

BITS AND PIECES

- Kiwi Potting Bark is available from Paige Sinclair at \$50 per 50L bag. Limited supplies available so get in contact with Paige if you need bark today —Grade 3 being the most popular type. No more supplies expected until October.
- CHOS **MAY Monthly Meeting** will be held on Thursday 1st May starting at 7.00pm. Speaker will be Bruce Hall who will discuss **Terete Oncidiinae**.



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: RHONDA SMITH and MARCIA LUSTED

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.
- If you have changed your postal address, phone number or email address, then please advise the Society so we can adjust our membership records. Message, phone or email Chris or Paul Hatton with your changed details—see page 2 of this newsletter for contact details.
- The Committee would appreciate it if members would either turn off their mobile phone or put them on silent when they attend each monthly meeting. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.
- Dates to put on your calendar : # **CHOS Shows** : Autumn— 25-27th April/ Spring— 12-14th Sept
Nambucca Valley OS Shows: Autumn— 8—10th May (benching on Wed. 7th May)
Spring— 4– 6th September (benching on 3rd Sept).
Mingara Orchid Show and Fair: 28—29th June—opens 9am.
- Do you need some help with any aspect of growing orchids? Please contact your allocated Advisor or talk to a Committee member who will point you in the right direction (See page 2 for contact details).
- Any suggestions from members on activities which the Society could organise would be greatly appreciated. Feedback is always welcome and useful even if it is negative in nature. The Committee is always open to ways of delivering a better service to CHOS members.
- Looks like the next Bunnings Fund Raising BBQ will be held on Saturday 12th July. CHOS will be looking for members to help on the day once the date is confirmed.
- Looking for an orchid bargain? Then don't forget to check out the Sales Table at the Autumn Show over the ANZAC day weekend at the end of April. If you have orchids to sell at the Show then please bring them in on the afternoon of 25th April or early on Saturday 26th April. Please contact Paige Sinclair for Sales Tags and Bob Southwell if you need NSW Native Orchid tags (see page 2 for contact details).
- Need a new greenhouse? Check out Sundowner Shade Houses at www.sundownershadehouses.com.au. Recommended by a number of members who are very happy with the product.



CHOS President, Paige Sinclair, presents Bob Southwell with a Life Membership Certificate

Orchid Propagation: A Step-by-Step Guide to Growing Orchids from a Leaf

- 1. Select a Healthy Leaf :** Cut a leaf from the base of a mature orchid, close to the root.
- 2. Prepare the Leaf:** Cut a small section from the leaf base. Dip the cut end in rooting hormone (optional).
- 3. Plant in Moss or Bark:** Place the cut leaf base in a small pot filled with sphagnum moss or small orchid bark.
- 4. Create Humidity:** Mist the medium regularly. Cover the pot with a plastic bag to maintain moisture.
- 5. Place in Indirect Light:** Position the pot in a warm spot with indirect sunlight.
- 6. Monitor for Growth:** Check for new growth, which may take weeks or months. Repot in fresh bark one root system has developed (minimum of three roots, each about 3cm long).



Don't forget to add a label so you remember what the plants correct name is. The top left picture is an example of a way to set up this procedure. Covering the set-up with a plastic bag provides a humid environment for the developing plant.

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 M. 0458 346 467 | E. nevillealanah@gmail.com

Orchids from the Mountains to the Sea



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 ties 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 Perner, 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 Perner, 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 Canh 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 Barrita Orchids specialising in breeding *Oncidium*, *Cymbidium*, and *Zygopetalum*. Scott has also achieved significant advancements in refining *Sarcocylus*.

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 rooseae*, 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 Coler, 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.



PROGRESS REPORT FOR CONFERENCE REGISTRANTS

To the Conference Registrants:

Thank you for registering for our “Big Event”. For those of you visiting Woolgoolga for the first time, you will find our village surrounded by golden beaches, turquoise waters and picturesque rock headlands jutting out into the Solitary Islands Marine Reserve where dolphins play in the surf and hump back whales migrate close by. Our climate ranges from sub-tropical along the coast to cool on the tablelands. Expect October nights to range from 18°C to 22°C and days, 28°C to 32°C.

A little hiccup with our website - early bird registrations is \$220 – SPOUSE IS \$150. If you paid \$220 for your spouse, please contact us so we can apologise and correct this oversight.

We are now taking bookings for our Saturday night dinner at the premier Pacific Bay Resort, at \$85 per person, which includes a 3-course meal, some drinks and an after-dinner speaker (Michael Coker, Orchid extraordinaire, Melbourne).

The Conference is to be held in the Woolgoolga High School Auditorium located 400 metres east of the Wiigulga Sports Complex, easily accessible by mini bus, private car or by foot.

Nine guest speakers have been secured for eleven presentations, four of whom are international, with 5 Australia-wide world-renowned experts, listed as follows –

Dr. Fred Clarke from California USA; Wenqing Perner, Sichuan China; Chu Xuan Canh, Vietnam; Ximena Portillo, Ecuador; Scott Barrie, Barrita Orchids; Chris Cobb, Northern Queensland; Dr. Ashley Field, University of Queensland; David Banks, Australian Orchid expert and Michael Coker, Melbourne, our After Dinner speaker.

To celebrate our rich Indian Culture and Heritage, there will be an Indian Orchid Display.

A Bush Tucker display will be featured to recognize our local Indigenous Clans.

25 Orchid Societies along with numerous individuals and commercial growers, have made a commitment to present displays.

The basketball courts area will feature an educational wall of 200 photographs of local orchids growing in our area. A pictorial booklet compiled of the 200 orchids will be launched.

Looking forward to welcoming you all in October.

Kind regards,

Nev, Jen and the Team

Remember, all members of CHOS can participate in any OSNSW or AOC Orchid Show as long as they are current financial members of CHOS (or any Orchid Society in NSW). You DON'T have to register for the Conference to enter orchids into the Show. Entering your orchids in the AOC Show at Woolgoolga will be a great opportunity to compete with the nations best orchid growers and it is expected that many local growers will perform well in this years Show. If you intend entering the Show then please log onto the Conference website and study the Show Schedule. This document outlines the various orchid classes and the rules and procedures that will govern the Show. It will really only be a larger version of our home-grown Show and you will find the entry procedures very familiar. However, if you are not confident at using a computer then you can receive assistance—just talk to Paige Sinclair, your Advisor or a Committee Member.

NAMBUCCA HEADS VALLEY ORCHID SOCIETY INC. AUTUMN SHOW

SENIOR CITIZEN CENTRE NAMBUCCA HEADS

11 Kent St Nambucca Heads.

- Set up and Judging Wednesday 7th May 2025
- Judging to commence 7.00pm
- Plants may be benched from 2.00—6.00pm



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

THURSDAY 8th May 9.00AM TO 4.00PM

FRIDAY 9th May 9.00AM TO 4.00PM

SATURDAY 10th May 9.00AM TO 2.00PM.

President. Grahame Beatton 65688978

Secretary. Rhonda Smith 0457271071.

Treasurer Moya Tucker 0488569090



Paige Sinclair presenting Rhonda Smith with six Awards for her outstanding orchids at recent shows and special judging events. Congratulations, Rhonda.

Dick Cooper has recently placed his Soft Canes outside the orchid house so they are exposed to full sun to encourage bud development. Dick will place them back into the shade house at the end of July to early August. In nature, they grow on deciduous trees so are exposed to full sun during the monsoonal dry period. Dick has added a large swivel (Size 4/0) to each pot so they can move around in the breeze.

