



COFFS ORCHID NEWS APRIL 2026

PUBLICATION OF THE COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

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EDITORIAL:

At each monthly meeting the Society conducts a benching competition at which points are awarded and these points accumulate until the end of each calendar year. The plants are judged by two members of the Society, usually an experienced grower, and a newer grower. Points are given, and based on the accumulation of these points, prizes are awarded at the December Presentation and Awards Luncheon.

The competition started at the February meeting for 2026. Both February and March meetings have seen large numbers of quality plants benched and the competition is truly alive and there is great participation from members.

We are using this Editorial to outline the way the competition is conducted and what is expected from each member who benches plants each month.

Plants need to be benched at each monthly meeting by 6.45pm. Judging will commence at 6.50pm. Judging will occur across the 40 listed orchid categories. A list of these categories was attached to a newsletter earlier this year. First, Second and Third place will be awarded to plants in each category. **First Place** = 3 points, **Second Place** = 2 Point, **Third Place** = 1 Point. Each plant awarded first place will be distinguished by placement of a blue dot on the competition label. Second place will be marked with a red dot. Third place will be marked by green dot.

Only members of CHOS who are present at the meeting can bench plants for judging in the monthly competition. Plants must have been owned by the member for a minimum of six (6) months before they can be benched for judging.

Members shall record the name of the orchid plus the category number on the Competition Label. Members to write their name on the back of the competition label. Failure to record their name will result in no allocation of competition points for that entry. If the plant is labelled as *Unknown* or *NoID* then it must be judged as a hybrid plant. Copies of the Competition Labels can be downloaded from the CHOS website.

All plants will be identified with a yellow number prior to judging (for determining Popular Vote).

Members present at the meeting will be asked to vote for the numbered plant they consider to be the best plant on display. The votes will be counted just prior to the start of the meeting and the highest score awarded the Popular Vote. A certificate will be presented to the plant owner and a photograph taken of the plant (for the newsletter).

Three (3) points will be awarded for the winner of the Monthly Popular Vote. If there is a tie, etc, then these plants will be counted as both winners of the Popular Vote. Three (3) points will be allocated to each plant. If the same member owns two or more plants which are awarded equal Popular Vote then they will receive a certificate for each plant plus three (3) points per plant. Points allocated each month will be totalled and used to determine the Competition Winner at the end of each year, with the competition year to be from February to November. The Winner will be the member with the highest total point score, and will be presented with *The Glad Fleming* Perpetual Trophy.

Cash prizes will be given to those who gain the highest number of points in each of the plant competition categories. minimum of six (6) points is needed for consideration as the winner of a specific category. Popular Vote will not be considered as a cash prize category but will be included in the total points accumulated over the competition year.

Every member is encouraged to attend each monthly meeting, bring along their plants currently in flower, and bench these in their correct categories. The Show Marshals realise that not everyone knows exactly where each orchid should be placed so please ask and they will help you bench them correctly. Good Luck!

CHOS COMMITTEE 2026

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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

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

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

Monthly Sponsor

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.

www.rosellaorchids.com.au

CALENDAR, 2026

2 Apr Bulbophyllums
- Rhonda Smith

25-26 Apr CHOS Autumn Show

7 May— Tips and Tricks

4 June— Growing Vandaceous Orchids—Bruce Hall
Members Plant Sales

2 July— Growing Orchids My Way

6 Aug—Flask Production—
Paul Smith

3 Sept—Deflasking Workshop

11-13 Sept—CHOS Spring Show

15 Oct— Plant Auction

5 Nov—AGM/Repotting an Aust. Native—Grahame Beaton

5 Dec—CHOS Awards and Presentation Luncheon
- Coffs Surf Club

Note: The Committee meets on Tuesday following the Monthly

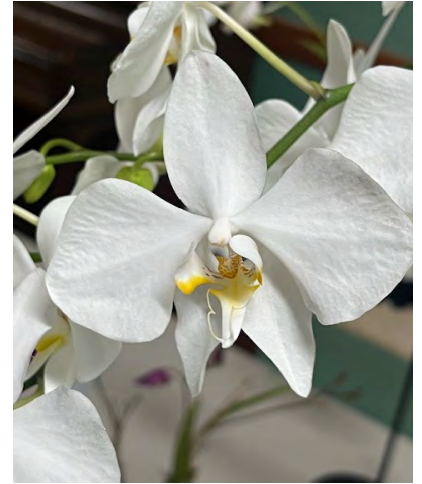
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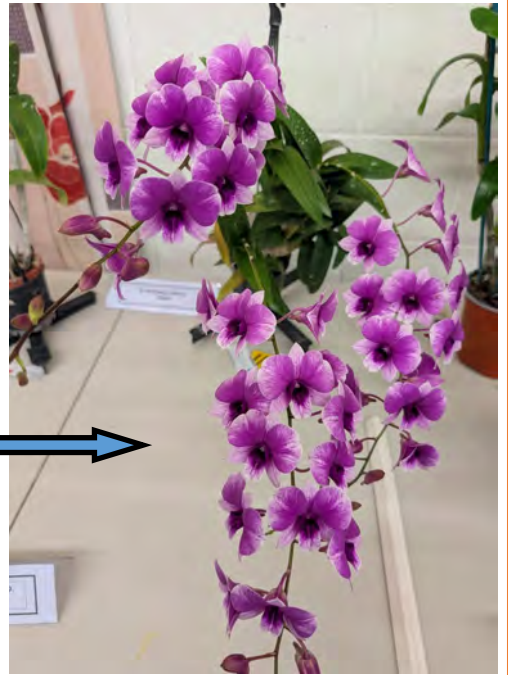
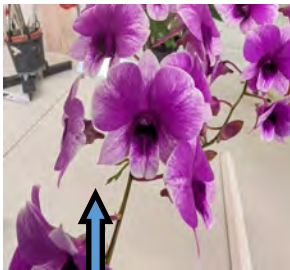
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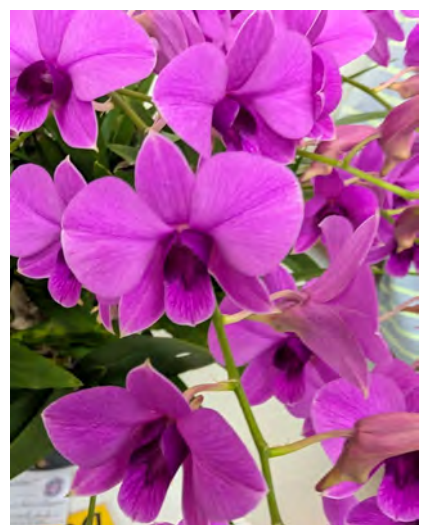
Popular Vote at the CHOS March Meeting was awarded to Moya Tucker for her magnificent *Phalaenopsis amabilis* subsp. *rosenstromii* Congratulations!



ORCHIDS BENCHED AT THE CHOS MARCH 2026 MEETING



Peter Gough benched this spectacular *Dendrobium* Yaya Victoria.
Vandanopsis Irene Dobkin
 (Syn: *Asconopsis Irene Dobkin*) benched by Rhonda Smith



A wonderful *Rhynchostylis retusa* was presented by Sue Flanders

Another Sue Flanders special! *Oncidium* Sweet Sugar 'Super'

***Dendrobium bigibbum* was benched by Dick Cooper**

Photographs by Gordon Griffiths

MORE ORCHIDS BENCHED AT THE CHOS MARCH 2026 MEETING



Dendrobium Glory White grown and benched by Peter Gough



Brassocattleya Little Mermaid was benched without full label details and the growers name—please ID yourself if you want the points



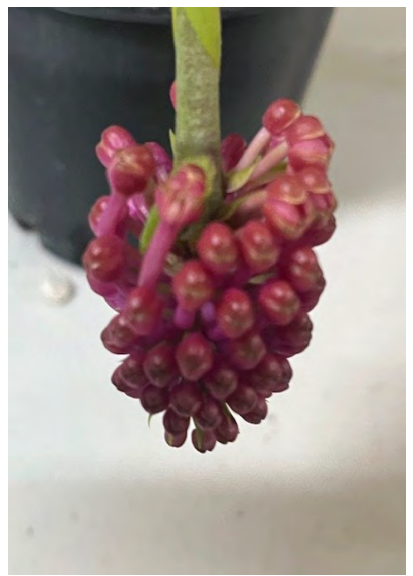
Helen Seiver benched this Rlc. (Rich Cobber x Waikiki Gold x *caudebec*) X Ctt. Topaz Saucy



Peter Gough grew and benched this spectacular *Vanda* Somsri Glory 'Blue'



This very nice *Cattleya* Shin Fong 'Golden Gem' was benched without any growers name—no points awarded unless you can ID yourself



Robiquetia *cerina* 'Red' is a striking epiphyte from New Guinea and the Philippines and was grown and benched by Bruce Hall



This spectacular specimen of *Coelogyne* *pangasinanensis* was benched by Malcolm Ide
Kerrie Gosling grew and benched this mounted specimen of Fred Clarke's cross using *Brassavola* *perrinii* 'Ruben 25' X *Brassavola* *perrinii* 'SVO 15'



Photographs by Gordon Griffiths

CHOS COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

The following is a summary from the CHOS March Committee Meeting conducted on 10th March 2026 at "The Workshop", Jean Street, Coffs Harbour.

- ◆ Meeting commenced at 10.20am. All Committee Members were present.
- ◆ Review of February meeting: 42 members in attendance plus Guest Speaker Tony Blewitt. Excellent meeting and a well illustrated and informative talk from Tony Blewitt on *Sarcochilus* orchids.
- ◆ Dick Cooper was presented with a Life Membership Certificate. Congratulations, Dick.
- ◆ Coffs Harbour Surf Club has been booked for the Annual Awards Presentation Luncheon to be held on Saturday 5th December 2026.
- ◆ New Growing Plant Draw took place– 40 plants. *Phalaenopsis* Splash Gordon. Excellent plants from Lyttle Orchid Clones in South Australia.
- ◆ 2025 Growing Plant Competition winners were announced and awarded with plants as prizes. Equal first place went to Chris Hatton and David Rudgley and third place went to Helen Seiver. Peter Gough received the prize for the first plant to flower during the competition.
- ◆ \$8,000 was placed in twelve months fixed deposit with BCU.
- ◆ Website upgrade has been approved and should happen in the near future.
- ◆ New CHOS Shirt order has been placed. Also an order placed for logo sew-on badges as a result of member requests.
- ◆ Combined CHOS and WDOS Winter Show— long weekend in June—working committee to meet in the near future.
- ◆ CHOS Autumn Show—organising is progressing well. Posters printed and available for distribution. Duty Roster completed and will be available in the near future. Show schedules will be distributed in early April. Thanks to all who volunteered to assist. Society to order another sign advertising location of Sales Table.
- ◆ Information Pamphlet and Welcome Brochure are being revised.
- ◆ Frances Faraone was approved as a new member of CHOS. Welcome Frances!
- ◆ Individual letters to be sent to those members who have not renewed for 2026 to act as a reminder that membership fees are overdue.
- ◆ Sponsors have been contacted to renew their support for 2026.
- ◆ Paige's new orchid house is nearing completion and the official opening will take place in the near future.
- ◆ Discussion took place about the condition of the meeting room at the Botanic Gardens with equipment, etc, making it difficult to operate properly. Society to approach the Friends of the Gardens regarding this matter.
- ◆ Proposed to have a "Flashback" segment at future meetings where previous competition plants are put on display. Details at April meeting.
- ◆ Next Committee Meeting will be held at 'The Workshop' on Tuesday 7th April 2026 at 10.30am.

BITS AND PIECES



- Kiwi Potting Bark is available from Paige Sinclair at \$50 per 50L bag. New supplies have now been received. The climate in Coffs Harbour means you can get away with repotting at most times of the year. Best done in Spring but you can usually get away with it any time except during the depths of winter. Contact Paige to secure your requirements.
- CHOS **Monthly Meeting** will be held on Thursday **2nd April** starting at 7.00pm. **Guest Speaker will be Rhonda Smith.** Rhonda is a very experienced orchid grower and she will talk about how she grows Bulbophyllums. This will be a very informative talk and a chance for you to understand what you need to do to successfully grow a variety of Bulbophyllums.

The first judging of the new Growing Competition Plant (*Phalaenopsis* Splash Gordon) will take place at the April meeting

Judges for this meeting: MALCOLM IDE and PETE FUNNELL

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

Assistance from members to clean up after the meeting would also be appreciate

- Dates to put on your calendar:
 - # **CHOS Autumn Show** - ANZAC weekend—25 –26th April. Set up on Friday 24th April.
 - # **Nambucca Valley Orchid Society Autumn Show** — 7th to 9th May 2026
 - # **Macleay Valley Orchid Society Show**— 23-24th May 26—Masonic Hall, 24 Tozer Street, West Kempsey
 - # **CHOS/WDOS Combined Winter Show**—Kings Birthday weekend— 6th to 7th June 2026—Woolgoolga
 - # **Mingara Orchid Fair and Show**—27th to 28th June 2026
- Growing Plant Competition rules:
 1. Members are asked to bring their competition plant to each monthly meeting for judging. Plants to be left on the table near the rear door. Plants must be benched for judging 15 minutes before the meeting starts—that is currently 6.45pm and judging will take place from that time.
 2. Judges will be the two rostered members for that meeting.
 3. **Members must be present at the meeting. Points will not be awarded if the member is absent.**
 4. Points Score: 1 point for each plant brought to the meeting. 2 extra points for the plant judged the best for that month. 1 extra point for the plant judged as second best. Results will be kept and collated by the Committee.
 5. Each plant will be allocated a numbered tag (no members names). If the plant is repotted/mounted then the new pot/mount must include the numbered tag.
 6. Members to pick up their plant after the meeting.
 7. Prizes will be awarded at the end of the competition for: (i) Plants with highest and second highest points scores (ii) Plant which flowers first (60% of buds open).
- Judging the Growing Competition Plants: When selecting the best and second-best plant, you could look for:
 1. Overall healthy appearance of the plant
 2. Signs of new growth
 3. Lack of Disease
 4. Lack of Insect Damage
 5. Healthy Growth of any Visible Roots
 6. Formation of Flower Spike
 7. Flowering— at least 60% of buds fully open
 8. Judges decisions will be Final

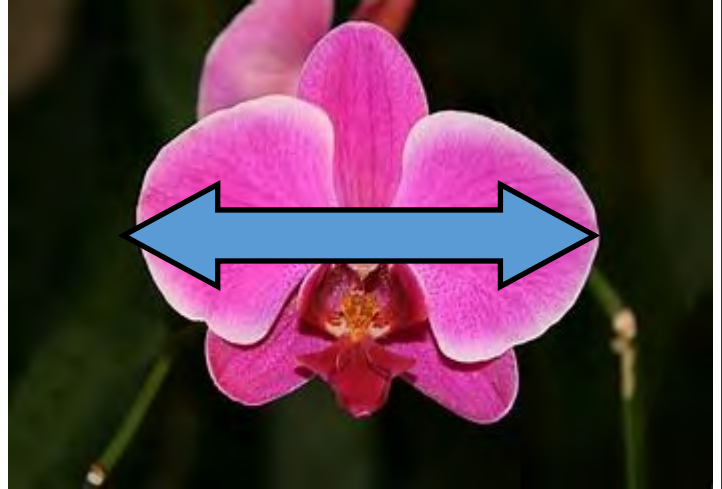


Phalaenopsis Splash Gordon

HOW TO MEASURE AN ORCHID FLOWER

When you are preparing your show entries and having to decide which Class the plant will be benched in, you may need to measure the width of a flower.

The standard method is to measure with a ruler or a calliper across the widest horizontal width of the flower. It is important not to flatten the flower or manipulate it in any way. For most flowers this would mean measuring from the outer edge of the left petal to the outer edge of the right petal and obtain a reading in millimetres.



The AOC Judging Manual states that the size of a flower is usually measured across its natural horizontal spread, without any manipulation.

Some flowers, such as members of the Brassia genus, have long sepals which are usually much wider than the petals. The size of these flowers is determined by measuring as in the left hand photograph.

If some flower segments are twisted or out of shape then don't straighten them. They need to be measured without any manipulation across the horizontal.



President Paige Sinclair presented Dick Cooper with a CHOS Life Membership award for his many years of service to orchid growing and the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society. Congratulations Dick. The award was well deserved.



CATASETINAE CULTURAL GUIDE –By Paige Sinclair

Key Autumn Care Steps (Autumn to Early Winter)

- **Watch the Signals:** The shift to dormancy is triggered by the natural maturation of the bulbs, cooler nights, and shorter day lengths. The primary signal is the yellowing and browning of the leaves.
- **Stop Fertilising (April 15th):** A general rule is to stop all fertiliser application by mid-April to help the plant harden off its bulbs. Some plants will be earlier; watch the leaves closely.
- **Reduce Watering (April 15th):** When leaves begin to yellow, reduce watering to roughly half your normal frequency.
- **Cease Watering (June 1st):** Once most or all leaves have dropped, stop watering entirely. If the plant still has green leaves, stop watering by June 15th, regardless.
- **Manage Shrivelling:** While resting, the pseudobulbs will likely develop slight creases or shrivelling. This is normal. Only give a very light, localised sip of water if they become severely, deeply wrinkled.

Temperature & Light: Maintain warm, bright conditions (around 10°C+ at night) until they are fully dormant.

Special Considerations

- **Dormant Flowering:** Some, like *Clowesia* and *Catasetum* hybrids, may bloom while leafless. Do not restart watering just because of a bloom spike; keep them dry.
- **Repotting:** Do not repot until early spring when new growth appears, and then center the new growth in the middle of the new pot.
 - **Pests:** Even though leaves are falling, check for spider mites on the underside of foliage in early autumn, as they can still damage the plant.

Summary Schedule:

- **Late April/May:** Leaves turn yellow. Reduce watering to 50%.
- **Mid-June:** Stop all fertiliser. Further reduce water.



STOP PRESS: Nambucca Valley Orchid Society conduct their monthly meetings at the Nambucca Senior Citizens Centre , 11 Kent Street, Nambucca Head, on the first Monday of each month. CHOS members are welcome to attend as a visitor. Meetings commence at 7pm and the next meeting will be held on Easter Monday 6th April. Bruce Hall will be speaking, and demonstrating, on how to “top” a Vanda orchid. NVOS conduct a monthly benching competition, a growing plant competition plus an amazing raffle at each meeting. Well worth a visit.

FEATURE ARTICLE: How do you know your orchids are receiving the best nutrition?

From a talk given by Dick Cooper at the CHOS meeting March 2026

Orchids are mostly water — roughly 85–90% — with the remaining 10–15% made up of dry matter. About 1% are the essential nutrients. Because that 1% is so small, plant nutrition should focus on managing those nutrients well so orchids can thrive.

Orchids (most that we grow are epiphytic hybrids) evolved to get nutrients from rain and live in airy media, i.e. they prefer lower nutrient levels than many other plants we might grow, e.g. you can't treat orchids like tomatoes (which need heavy feeding and dense soil), or blueberries (prefer pH below 6) or Oleanders and Lilacs being strongly alkaline. That means match watering, pH and fertilizer strength to the orchids' needs.

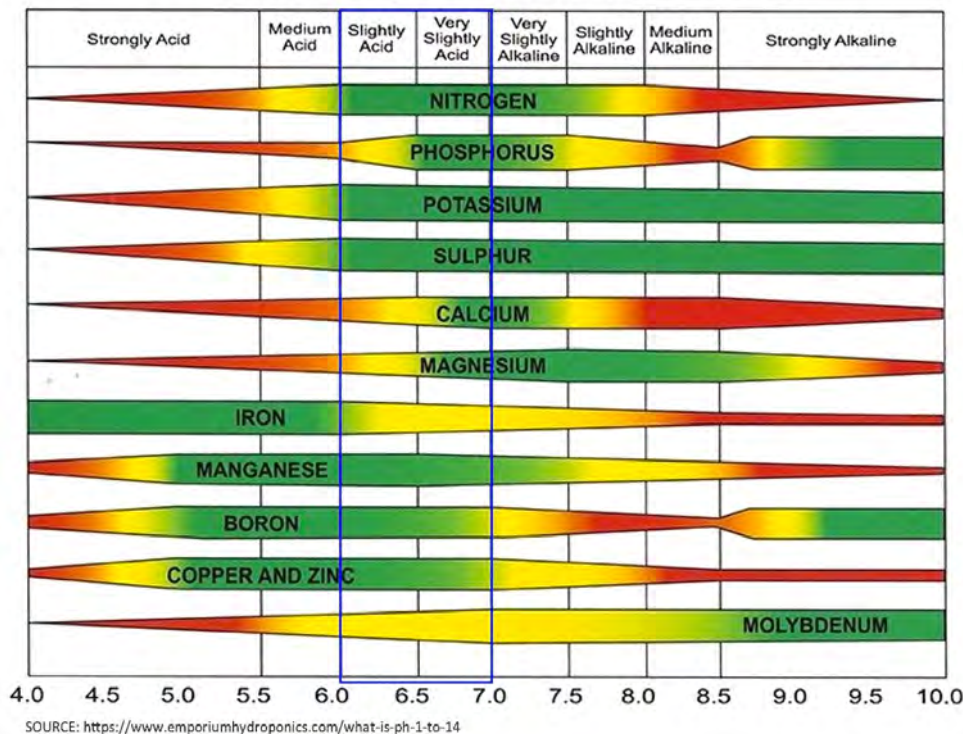
The key considerations are Water temperature, pH and Total Dissolved Solids (TDS).

Water temperature: Cold or hot water slows growth: correct temperature helps uptake. Remember 'Goldilocks' and make it 'just right'.

pH is a scale devised to indicate the amount of acidity or alkalinity of any object holding moisture. When the pH is less than 7 it is termed acidic; pH greater than 7 is termed alkaline. A pH of 0 (zero) is equivalent to battery acid while Caustic Soda lies at the other extreme with a pH of 14. A pH value of 7 is considered neutral. As a general rule, if the pH is too high or too low, the solubility of fertilizers, insecticides and fungicides is less effective and you may be wasting fertiliser or the efficacy of any insecticides or fungicides you apply.

The Chart below shows

How soil pH affects availability of plant nutrients.



A pH of 6.5 is ideal for orchids: that is where they can access the maximum amount of each required nutrient. Within the blue box is acceptable.

TDS is a measure of all the solids (usually mineral salts) when fertiliser is dissolved in water. The TDS measurement is recorded in 'parts per million'. There is already a varying amount of TDS in Coffs Coast water: the average is ~88.82 ppm.

The ideal range for orchids is from 60 ppm to 175 ppm - below 100 ppm mimics natural rainwater - though most orchids will tolerate higher levels provided the level is below 525 ppm. I mostly grow Dendrobiums and Cattleyas and, for these, I aim for a TDS of less than 360 ppm.

Key points:

- pH: Orchids do best around pH 6.5 and generally tolerate 6.0–7.0. Outside this range nutrient solubility and pesticide/fungicide effectiveness falls off,
- Water quality: Coffs Water water varies, in terms of pH and TDS.
- Coffs pH varies by suburb: average pH ~7.25, Safety Beach ~8.2 (alkaline), Toormina ~6.5 (near ideal). Roof-collected rain can also vary in quality.
- Coffs TDS also varies, the average being ~88.82 ppm.
- If possible, test your water. CHOS has a pH meter you can borrow (see Bob Southwell).
- Nutrient strength (TDS): Measured in ppm. Ideal for orchids: ~60–175 ppm (below 100 ppm mimics rainwater) though most tolerate high levels. Do not exceed ~525 ppm.
- Monitoring: Use an EC/TDS meter (e.g. a Bluelab Truncheon) to determine the preferred fertilizer concentration. EC relates to TDS ($\approx 1.0 \text{ EC} \approx 500 \text{ ppm}$). Temperature affects EC readings slightly. Dick's TDS target is achieved at 0.6 EC (= 300 ppm).
- Practical fixes: To lower high pH, add a small amount of a phosphate-based acidifier such as potassium phosphite (Dick Cooper's example: 37.5 ml Phosgard 620 per 9 L lowers pH of 8.2 to 6.5). Alternately use citric acid or rainwater.

Bottom line: To get the best growth orchid nutrition is about delivering the right amount of fertiliser consistently and predictably, using the ideal pH. Test your water (remember Coffs Water's variability), then tune pH and TDS for reliable results.

The Christmas Orchid (*Calanthe triplicata*) - Jim Brydie (From the KOS Jan 2026 Bulletin)

Many Australian growers consider this lovely and easy to grow orchid an endemic Australian orchid but that is not so. It does grow here and can be found along the East coast from the Iron Range near the top of Cape York, all the way down to the Illawarra south of Sydney in NSW, BUT it is really an Oceania species that can be found from the islands off the coast of Africa, through Asia and the Pacific islands as well as Australia.



Calanthe triplicata is a terrestrial orchid that grows in clumps with crowded above ground pseudobulbs, large dark green corrugated leaves, and a tall inflorescence with up to forty white flowers. The flower head opens from the bottom upwards but most of the flowers are open at the same time.

In Australia they generally flower from around late December through January, which explains the local common name of Christmas Orchid although in other locations such as China its flowering season can be April.

It's habit is usually near creeks or water sources so that it is rarely dry and it thrives in humus and nutrient rich soils in deep shade. Its massive broad leaves offer the clue to its requirement for plenty of moisture, shade and no sun.

The genus *Calanthe* includes some very attractive orchids but as they occur from a very wide range of habitat zones in different latitudes, some require rather tropical conditions, some come from more northerly zones with much colder winters making them nearly deciduous. Others again, like *triplicata*, are much more tolerant of variable climates.

There is also one more very curious aspect to *Calanthe* in that there are two very distinct sections within the genus and the plants from each section are very different to one another. Section Preptanthe is the section which has very different looking deciduous pseudobulbs. These *Calanthe* flower in Autumn after the bulbs drop their leaves. The much larger section, Section Eu-*Calanthe* is the one to which *Calanthe triplicata* and over 100 others belong. These flower in summer as the new seasons growth matures. *Triplicata* is a rather large orchid and well worth growing. Keep an eye out at orchid fairs and society auctions

Phalaenopsis Splash Gordon - Growing Tips

This Phalaenopsis is in a 120mm pot. It can produce up to 9 cm blooms, and there is an 80% chance it will produce 2 spikes! All with the proper care.

☑ **Water Needs** - Prefers the medium to dry out between waterings and should be watered regularly. Leaf misting between waterings may be useful on hot days.

☑ **Sunlight Needs** – Bright but filtered light, lack of light will cause the leaves to turn yellow and drop off. Too much light and the leaves will burn. Place the plant indoors, near a window but away from drafts, such as air conditioners. The basic rule is that if you are comfortable, your Phal will be comfortable too.

☑ **Humidity** – around 50 to 60% is ideal. Leaves like to have moist air around them. If the humidity exceeds 80%, then the air needs to be moving (use a fan). Some growers place their potted plants on a tray of gravel and add water to the gravel. This keeps the air around the leaves humid.

Dry air around the leaves encourages pests such as Red Spider Mites. Also, spraying with a light mist improves the humidity. Dry air will also cause unopened flower buds to drop off.

☑ **Media:** A well-draining bark mix with perlite should do the trick! The plant needs to be repotted after it doubles in size, or once a year (usually after flowering). Don't overpot. Using a clear pot helps you determine root health and moisture levels (silver-coloured roots indicate they need watering).

☑ **Fertiliser** – A balanced orchid fertiliser will work well. Use a quality orchid fertiliser at half-strength every week or fortnight (less often in cooler months). Plus add slow-release fertiliser such as Plantacote TopK 8M (replace every 8 months).



Happy Growing

CHOS Autumn Show—ANZAC WEEKEND –25th to 26th April—See the Poster attached to this newsletter. The show schedule has been completed and approved and will be emailed to members during early April. The show duty roster will be available shortly. Thank you to all those dedicated members who have offered their services over the three days of the show. Without member support as helpers, officials, competitors and attendees, the show would not be able to go ahead. Thank you!

ORCHID CULTURAL CALENDAR FOR APRIL–MAY FOR COFFS HARBOUR

ORCHID GROUP	WATER REQUIREMENTS	FERTILIZER REQUIREMENTS	DISEASE AND PEST CONTROL	OTHER COMMENTS
AUSTRALIAN NATIVES	Extra shading may be needed during hot weather. Keep moist. Water every second day. Evening mist on hot days. Avoid water in axils of new growths.	Fertilize weekly using low Nitrogen fertilizer at half strength.	Monitor pests and diseases. Regular spraying may be required. Especially check for Dendrobium Beetles and Boisduval Scale.	Seedlings may need more frequent waterings.
BULBOPHYLLUMS	Keep evenly moist	Fertilize every two weeks using low nitrogen fertilizer	Spray with a fungicide such as Mancozeb every four weeks	Be aware of the formation of Autumn flowers. Lift, stake or rotate as required
CATASETUMS	Reduce watering when leaves start to turn yellow (Mid April). Stop watering completely from the end of May.	Stop fertilizing from Mid April . This encourages bulbs to harden.	Even though plants are losing leaves you should watch for mites and scale.	If flower spikes are formed do not water. Keep plants dry.
CYMBIDIUMS	Water every 3 to 4 days. Water less as weather cools.	Fertilize with low nitrogen fertilizer every week	Watch out for scale and mites. Include preventative fungicide in spray program.	Keep an eye out for flower spikes. Stake carefully during warmth of the day.
HARD CANES	Water every two days during Feb then reduce to 1-2 times per week. (depending on rainfall—keep plants moist)	Fertilize every five (5) days using low Nitrogen fertilizer at half strength. As spikes appear reduce fertilizing to once every 7—10 days	Monitor pests and diseases. Regular spraying may be required. Especially check for Dendrobium Beetles and Boisduval Scale.	New growths should be progressing well. Stake flower spikes as required
ONCIDIUM ALLIANCE	Water at least once per week depending on rainfall and temperature. Let mix almost dry out before next watering	Fertilize weekly using low Nitrogen fertilizer at half strength.	Check for pests and diseases. Spray monthly with Mancozeb fungicide.	Top up using slow release High K/8 M as required. Watch for flower spikes and stake to first flower or last branch of a branched inflorescence.
PAPHIOPEDILUMS	Water twice weekly	Fertilize weekly using low Nitrogen fertilizer at half strength. Use slow release High K/8 M	Check for pests and diseases. Spray monthly with Mancozeb fungicide.	Seedlings may need more frequent waterings depending on rainfall.
PHALAENOPSIS	Water once weekly as required. Mist plants if days are hot. Don't let water accumulate in the crown of the plant.	Fertilize weekly using low Nitrogen fertilizer at half strength.	Make regular checks for pests and disease. Spray as required. Keep air humid around leaves to prevent attack by Spider Mites.	Repot those plants with spent flowers. Most hybrids have stopped flowering. Add slow release High K/8 M if required.
VANDACEOUS	Water every two to three days, mist exposed roots.	Weekly with low nitrogen/ high PK fert. @ ½ strength.	Check for chewing insects and other pests. Check for fungus and rots and treat as required.	Maintain high humidity and provide good air circulation.