COFFS ORCHID NEWS MAY 2026

PUBLICATION OF THE COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

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EDITORIAL:

The Show season is about to start. We are busy preparing our orchids and making sure we comply with the complex set of rules associated with each Show. We do our best in presenting our plants in the best way possible and then we bench our plants. We are now in the hands of the Judges!

Do we trust these Judges? Will they be unbiased? Do they know what they are doing? Can we be confident that they will select the best orchids as the champions? Would it be better to ask the public to vote on what they consider to be the best orchids and lets do away with the judging system where we have highly trained persons who operate under a set of universal rules.

Orchid judges need to be qualified because they are responsible for upholding strict, evolving standards of quality, identifying superior plants, and providing expertise that influences the value and breeding trends of orchids.
The qualification process—which often involves years of training—ensures judges can accurately evaluate thousands of species and hybrids while maintaining objective, consistent standards across shows and award ceremonies.

Here is why qualified judges are essential:

- **Establishing Industry Standards: Judges determine if a plant is outstanding enough for top accolades like the FCC (First Class Certificate) or AM (Award of Merit). These awards provide a benchmark for quality throughout the orchid world.**
- **Deep Technical Knowledge: Qualified judges must know the current standards for hundreds of genera, including desirable new features, and be knowledgeable about pests, diseases, and hybridization trends.**
- **Objectivity and Consistency: They are trained to be objective and to ignore personal preference or prejudice when assessing plants, ensuring fairness for exhibitors.**
- **Evaluation of Plant Quality: They evaluate flowers based on specific criteria like shape, colour, size, texture, and substance, rather than just choosing the "prettiest" flower.**
- **Distinguishing Superiority: Because thousands of new orchid hybrids are introduced annually, judges must be skilled at identifying which plants are truly unique and superior.**
- **Cultural Excellence Recognition: Judges also evaluate how well a plant is grown (cultural awards), requiring them to distinguish between a naturally superior plant and one that is simply well-staked**

The process to become an accredited judge is rigorous to ensure expertise. The Australian Orchid Council (AOC) and the Orchid Society of New South Wales require a training period of roughly four years. Trainees spend several years as Associate Judges, learning from senior judges before achieving full accreditation. Judges need to undergo a process of continuing education and must keep up with new breeding trends and maintain high levels of competence over a broad range of genera.

Each judging panel at a Show usually has a minimum of three, and up to as many as six, fully qualified Judges. The results from this Panel are based on a consensus of opinions from the complete Judging Panel and not just on that of a single Judge. Each Judging Panel has an experienced Judge appointed as the Panel Leader who has a casting vote, if that is required. If you as a grower, exhibitor or member of the public have questions about the judging or need further information, then the Panel Leader will be able to provide detailed answers.
Enjoy this year's Shows and appreciate the expertise shown by each Judging Panel.

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR: BOB SOUTHWELL (See Above)

SPONSORS

Monthly Sponsor

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

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

25-26 Apr CHOS Autumn Show

7 May— Tips and Tricks
Paige Sinclair & Malcolm Ide

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

2 July— Growing Orchids My Way = Moya Tucker, Phil Payne & Silesa King

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 Beatton

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

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

CHOS BANK DETAILS

BSB No: 533-000

ACCOUNT No: 32817199

Popular Vote at the CHOS April Meeting was awarded to Rhonda Smith for her spectacular *Fredclarkeara* After Dark 'Black Pearl'

Congratulations!

ORCHIDS BENCHED AT THE CHOS APRIL 2026 MEETING

Sue Flanders benched this colourful *Cattleya* Toshi Aoki

This *Rlc* Deception 'Kokoda'was grown and benched by Helen Seiver

Brassavola perrinii 'Rueben 25' *X B. perrinii* 'SVO 15' was benched by Rhonda *Smith*

Rhonda Smith benched this fabulous Fred Clarke hybrid *Ctsm.* Francisco Berrios Gines

This *Cattleya purpurata* fma. *roxo-violeta X C. violacea* fma. *alba was benched by David Rudgley*

Dendrobium Makapuu Ann Hick 'Deb' was grown and benched by Helen Seiver

MORE ORCHIDS BENCHED AT THE CHOS APRIL 2026 MEETING

Blc. **Little Toshie was grown and benched by Rhonda Smith**

Another Rhonda Smith beauty, *Slc.* Lana Coryell 'Ellen'

Cattleya **Portia 'Cannizaro' benched by Sue Flanders**

Blc. **Big Red was grown by Annie West**

Maclellanara **Yellow Star 'Golden Gambol' was benched by Rhonda Smith**

Rhonda Smith benched this *Dendrobium* White Pearl

Phalaenopsis NoID was grown and benched by Kerrie Gosling

Bruce Hall benched this very nice Bulbophyllum hybrid

CHOS COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

The following is a summary from the CHOS April Committee Meeting conducted on 7th April 2026 at "The Workshop", Jean Street, Coffs Harbour.

- **Meeting commenced at 10.26am. All Committee Members were present.**
- **The April meeting was considered to be a success with 26 members in attendance. Rhonda Smith gave an excellent talk on the Genus Bulbophyllum.**
- **Discussion by Committee members of revamping the Table Talk segment—perhaps using a variety of growers during a session or discussion of specified Genera during the talk.**
- **The Seasonal Growing Tips segment still seems to be popular with the members.**
- **New Society Shirt order has been placed and it is hoped they arrive prior to the Autumn Show.**
- **Website upgrade is still pending.**
- **CHOS/WDOS Combined Winter Show—6th to 7th June—Wilgulga Sports Complex, Woolgoolga. The Winter Show Sub-committee has met to plan the show organisation. Venue has been booked. There will be eight benching sections—details to be released in the CHOS June Newsletter (published in mid May). Champions will be decided by popular vote and cash prizes awarded. A plant sales table will operate.**
- **CHOS Autumn Show— ANZAC weekend—all organisation in hand.**
- **'Welcome' and 'Information" pamphlets are being updated. Paige to complete the process in the near future.**
- **The cull of the CHOS Library continues.**
- **The condition of the Botanic Gardens meeting room was much improved for the April meeting. Thanks to "Friends of the Gardens" for their cooperation.**
- **Membership: Unfinancial members have been removed from the Membership Register. There are currently 84 financial members. No new members were nominated this month.**
- **Activities: Paige's new greenhouse is nearing completion. The opening ceremony and members inspection will be held in the near future.**
- **"Flashback" Event: Members are asked to bring any/all of their previous Growing Competition plants (they do not have to be in flower) for display at the May meeting. Prizes will be awarded for 1st and 2nd best plant on the night. (See elsewhere in this newsletter for full details, including a list of previous plants).**
- **Mid-year Give Away: A growing pack will be presented to each member in attendance at the CHOS July meeting.**
- **New benching fabric to be purchased for the CHOS Spring Show (to replace the hessian).**
- **Brief discussion of future show venues (Show Ground/Guide Hall). No action taken.**
- **Next Committee Meeting will be held at 'The Workshop' on Tuesday 12th May 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 7th May starting at 7.00pm. Guest Speakers will be Paige Sinclair and Malcolm Ide. Paige and Malcolm will present some Tips and Tricks which can be used to make growing orchids easier and more effectiive.**

  Bring your Growing Competition Plant (*Phalaenopsis* Splash Gordon) for judging at the May meeting. Plus any previous Growing Competition Plants you find for the new "Flashback" segment (see details on page 7 of this newsletter).

  Judges for this meeting: HELEN SEIVER AND JOY GRIFFITHS

  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 appreciated.

- **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

- **The CHOS Autumn Orchid Show is fast approaching. Set-up will be on Friday 24th April with benching from 3pm to 6pm on the Friday and again from 6.30am to 7.30am on Saturday 25th April. Please contact Paige Sinclair if you have any entry issues. We want every grower to enter plants so please don't be put off by the computer entry system. If you find it difficult in any way then please contact Paige (see page two of this newsletter for contact information). During the benching times there will be tables set up outside the Show room which will provide space to set up your plants for benching. Please remove all travelling stakes , etc, so the plants are presented in the best possible way. Please ask the Show Marshal if you are concerned about staking or any other presentation issue. Place your plants on the inside receiving table so the officials can bench them in the correct positions. It would be best to water the plants the day before benching so there are no wet patches on the benches.**

- **Presentation of Show trophies and drawing of the raffle will take place from 3pm on Sunday 26th April.**

- **The Sales Table will be located in the Music Shell area at the Botanic Gardens. Plants will be stored overnight under the benches in the Show Room. Please attach a sales tag with all the details provided. If the sales plant is a NSW Native Orchid then it will require a CHOS Licence Tag to be placed onto the pot. Please see Bob Southwell to obtain these tags. Heavy fines may apply if the native plants are not tagged.**

- **The Gardens Café will be open for morning and afternoon teas plus lunch during the three days of the show.**

- **If you have volunteered to assist over the Show weekend then please check the Show Roster so you arrive in time for you allocated duty session. Thanks to all those members who have offered to help. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.**

"FLASHBACK" SEGMENT: A new segment entitled "Flashback" will be introduced at the CHOS May meeting . All members are invited to bring in one or all (or as many as they can find) of their previous growing competition plants. Thet do not need to be in flower. Please use a standard monthly benching slip for the plant name plus you name on the back of the slip. Prizes will be awarded for 1st and 2nd best plant on the night. Plants will be judged by the monthly duty judges. Growers must be present at the meeting and plants benched by 6.45pm.
A list of previous plants is given below:

CHOS – PLANT GROWING COMPETITIONS – from 2016

2016 - *Brasssidium* Tigerlily 'Tinonee'

2017 – *Zygopetalum* Debbie De Mellow 'Honolulu Bay'

2018 – *Cattleya walkeriana* X *Brassanthe* Maikai

2019 – *Dendrobium* Rutherford Starburst 'Tinonee'

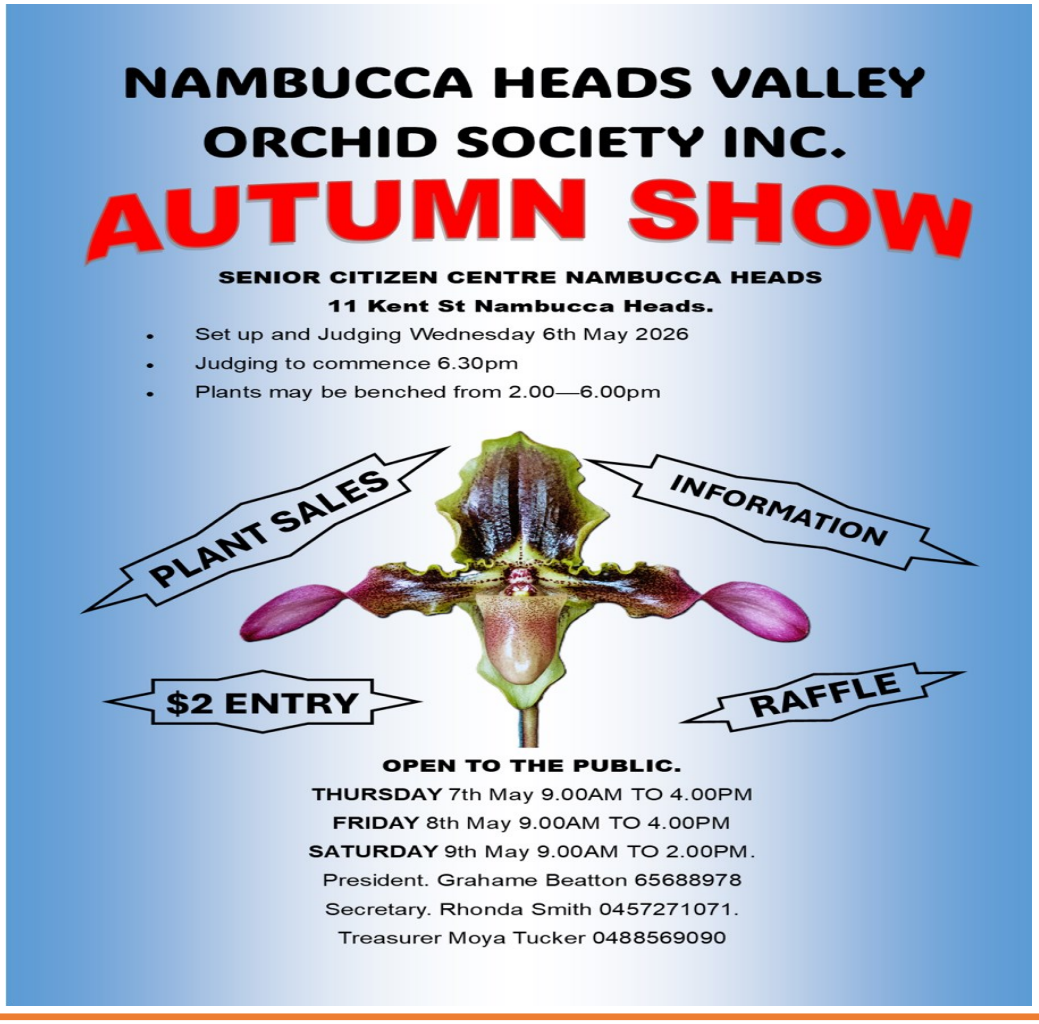
2020 – *Sarcochilus* Kulnura Dazzel 'Multi Purple' X *Sarco.* Kulnura Dazzel 'Deep Velvet'

2022 – *Epidendrum* Princess Valley 'Blushing'

2023 – *Vanda falcata* 'Elegant' X *V. falcata* 'Bart's Giant'

2024 – *Cattleya* Beautiful Sunset

2025— *Tolumnia* Ky-Elle's Dream X *Tolumnia putchella*



FEATURE ARTICLE : Do you know about "ploidy" in Orchids? - Jim Brydie

(with lots borrowed from more knowledgeable writers)

At the risk of turning you off before you even start to read, 'ploidy' is all about the number of sets of chromosomes in plants. It is about genetics, but only a very specific aspect of genetics.

In orchids, Cymbidiums were the first genus in which this issue came to the attention of growers and Cymbidiums are the orchids where man has most experimented and worked to understand what we were seeing.

When manmade hybrids began to be made and we gradually worked out how to raise baby orchids from seed, orchid hybridists noticed the occasional individual plant among seedling populations that appeared to be different, and in fact superior, and it was suspected that these individuals were genetic freaks in some way.

One of the first to come to attention was an individual from the cross Cymbidium Alexanderi (eburneo-lowinanum x insigne) which was made in 1911.

Cym. Alexanderi 'Purity' 2N

Cym. Alexanderi 'Westonbirt' 4N

One seedling from the cross was quite superior and was given the name 'Westonbirt'. The reason for its superiority wasn't understood at the time but we now know that Westonbirt was a **tetraploid (4N)** with four complete single sets of the normal number of chromosomes in its cells.

Pictures from 1911 are rather hard to come by but I present two examples of Alexanderi above to illustrate the superior size, texture, and form that would likely have been what was displayed to growers of the time.

In more modern times man worked out the science of genetics in much greater detail. We are now able to measure ploidy and we can now even chemically (artificially) create orchids with multiple ploidies - also called polyploidy. We know now that the vast majority of Cymbidium species (and their hybrids) have a diploid chromosome number of 2N which equals 40 chromosomes made up of 20 pairs in each cell as the standard. The Chromosomes are the mechanisms that contain all the DNA and Genes each living organism uses to tells its body how to do whatever that body does.

The clevelandclinic.org give a useful metaphor to explain the relation of DNA, chromosomes and genes. It says :

> "***All your DNA together is called your genome***. Your ***genome*** is organized into:
>
> ***Chromosomes*** : These are threadlike structures that separate your DNA into manageable chunks, like individual books of instructions in your DNA library.
>
> ***Genes*** : These are individual sections of your chromosomes that give instructions for specific traits. Think of these like chapters in a book."

So, in review, getting back to Cymbidiums, for the vast majority, 40 chromosomes is the standard number, and this is called **"diploid"** or **2N** because the 40 chromosomes come packaged in matching pairs, with one side of each pair supplied by each of the parents. The 2N refers to the number of full sets of chromosomes.

Cymbidiums with double the usual number of chromosomes are called **Tetraploids or 4N** (eg **80 chromosomes or 2 paired sets of 20 – the second full set of 20 is usually an identical duplication of the first set**) . In tetraploid plants each plant cell is much larger than a diploid (to fit in the additional content) and that tends to make their plant tissues (like leaves, stems, and flowers) larger and more heavily textured, making them physically superior, and for the flowers to last longer.

As a result of many experiments carried out, **tetraploids crossed readily with diploids**, but the seedlings produced had 3 sets of chromosomes – one paired set and one non-paired set. These are **Triploids (3N)** which had better flowering and growing characteristics than diploids but proved to be sterile when used as parents. When a triploid plant tries to make a breeding cell (sperm or egg) which should have just one single set of chromosomes (haploid 1N), the process fails. The basic process usually unpairs the paired sets and puts one set in each breeding cell.

It has subsequently been shown that this is true for all odd number polyploid Cymbidiums. The odd set number of chromosome sets leads to a problem during sexual reproduction. So, Triploids are very useful as commercial plants for growers or for cut flowers but other than a few oddball exceptions they can't be used as parents.

If all this just applied only to the odd chance tetraploid and the way it has been used in hybridising with diploids or other chance tetraploids, there would not be much of an issue. However, clever mankind has figured out how to chemically double the number of chromosomes in any orchid. We can make tetraploids from diploids, and I assume we can make octoploids from tetraploids. There are several ways to do it but the most common method is to interfere with the plants normal cell multiplication process. The way a plant grows is to make more cells by a process called Mitosis. There are several phases to this but essentially, the cell first duplicates the chromosomes in its cell, sends one set to each side of the cell and then grows a cell wall down the middle.

For many years we have known how mericlones are produced by multiplication of meristematic cells in a test tube and then dividing the undifferentiated cell mass, growing more cells and then dividing again, and so on, before finally allowing the cell masses to differentiate into plants.

Well, if we apply chemicals like colchicine or oryzaline during the cell multiplication process it can stop the new cell wall forming and results in at least a proportion of tetraploid cells. Treatments like this are not perfect and generally result in only a percentage of the cells being converted. The percentage can be anywhere between 10% and up to 80% so some plantlets remain diploid or whatever the doner cell was in the first place. But whatever the %, man is now deliberately producing polyploid plants.

Which leads me to reveal why I decided to write about ploidy this month. On our the Paph bench last month there were two Paph. Saint Swithins benched side by side. One was mine; the other was Dora Law's beauty. There was a rather stark difference between them despite the fact that Dora is growing her's far better than I am growing mine.

It doesn't show nearly so much in Jane's fantastic pictures below but side by side at the meeting it was obvious that my Paph had far skinnier and thinner textured flowers and leaves. Mine, while not growing particularly well anyway, had longer, skinnier and thinner leaves (measured later the leaves were 48 cm long x 4.4 cm wide). Dora's Paph had amazing leaves - twice the thickness, and from memory around 30 cm long x 5.5 cm wide (so shorter fatter wider).

Looking at the two side by side, I was convinced that Dora's Paph may be a tetraploid even though I

have never seen Tetraploid Paphs discussed before. Which brings me to ask the obvious question.

Does ploidy work the same in Paphs and other orchids as it does in Cymbidiums?

Well the answer is I don't know.

I have read that polyploidy in many orchids doesn't work as simply as it does in Cymbidiums, and I also understand that polyploidy certainly does not work like that in animals. You cannot simply improve the characteristics of animals (including humans) by creating tetraploid versions.

However, it is also easy to see that polyploidism is being used to create new daylilies and many other plants. I also came across the fact that the wheat used to make our bread in 6N and that several other crop plants are polyploid.

Jim's Paph

Dora's Paph

Are we about to see all the orchids we grow swing toward artificially created tetraploids? We accepted the practice in Cymbidiums readily enough, and there are many other one-off examples like Miltonia moreliana, but if that concept were now to be extended to all orchids, it would mean that superior polyploid versions will be the only ones growers want to grow. After all, orchid growing is most definitely a competitive venture.

Diploid versions would completely die out of fashion among home growers as they would be seen to be inferior. One positive would be that it would reduce demand for wild orchids and help preserve them. After all, they would be so inferior so who would want them?

But is this where orchid growing should go? Should a manmade tetraploid be regarded as a hybrid? Or perhaps some third category such as genetically altered? Gene splicing is also being experimented with to produce things like a blue Phalaenopsis? Again "genetically altered" -- Thoughts to consider.

PROTECTION OF YOUR ORCHIDS AFTER YOU HAVE PRUNED THEM

You are repotting your orchids or you have topped a *Vanda* or a *Phalaenopsis* and in doing so you have trimmed the stem or the root system or cut the *Cattleya* pseudobulbs up into smaller units. What can you do to protect the cut surfaces from invasion by pathogens which will result in infections which may lead to the death of the plant or at the least will result in slower growth and reduced flower production?

The usual suggestions from most growers include painting or dipping the cut surface in sulfer, Lysterine and Malathion mix or Cinnamon. These certainly work as they have anti –fungal and anti-bacterial properties. Experienced growers will tell you that these certainly work and will continue to recommend their use.

One negative in using these products is that are easily washed off the cut surface and need to dry before they come in contact with water. This means you can't water your repotted plant for about 24 hours.

However, if you use a product called Steriprune you overcome this problem and you can water your plants immediately after repotting. The Steriprune covers the cut with a waterproof seal which stop pathogens entering the cut. It comes either as a liquid that you paint onto the cut or the more effective spray can version.(Available from Bunnings)

ORCHID CULTURAL NOTES FOR MONTHLY CALENDAR FOR COFFS HARBOUR

Orchid Group: Oncidiinae Alliance—Full Year

MONTHS	WATER REQUIREMENTS	FERTILIZER REQUIREMENTS	DISEASE AND PEST CONTROL	OTHER COMMENTS
FEB/MAR	Water every few days in warmer/dry weather. depending on rainfall and temperature. Let mix almost dry out before next watering	Fertilize weekly using low Nitrogen fertilizer at half strength. Or use Plantacote slow release High K/8M	Check for pests and diseases. Spray monthly with Mancozeb fungicide.	Watch for flower spikes and stake to first flower or last branch of a branched inflorescence
APRIL/MAY	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. Top up using slow release High K/8 M as required	Check for pests and diseases. Spray monthly with Mancozeb fungicide.	Watch for flower spikes and stake to first flower or last branch of a branched inflorescence
JUNE/JULY	Reduce watering frequency but don't allow pseudobulbs to shrivel.	No fertilizer as plants not in growing phase.	Check for pests and diseases. Spray monthly with Mancozeb fungicide. Scale can be a problem. Check in leaf sheaths surrounding pseudobulbs.	Some Genera require some warmth if possible. Research specific needs of each plant based on their origins. Some more cold tolerant than others.
AUG/SEPT	Water each week. Let mix almost dry out before next watering.	Half strength low Nitrogen fertilizer each week.	Check for pests, etc. Spray as required.	Mounted plants will need watering more frequently.
OCT/NOV	Water every few days in warmer/dry weather. Let mix almost dry out before next watering	Half strength low Nitrogen fertilizer each week	Check for pests. Spray monthly with Mancozeb fungicide	Repot when new growths are well developed and starting to get new roots. Do not overpot.
DEC/JAN	Water every few days in warmer/dry weather. 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	Repot when new growths are well developed and starting to get new roots. Do not overpot.

RS/BS 2026

ORCHID CULTURAL CALENDAR FOR APRIL-MAY FOR COFFS HARBOUR

ORCHID GROUP	WATER REQUIRE-MENTS	FERTILIZER REQUIRE-MENTS	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.