

GARDENING



Show Marshal Lesley Beare

Spring orchid show

The Noosa District Orchid & Foliage Society's Spring show at the Cooroy Memorial Hall from 15-16 September was a brilliant success with hundreds of visitors enjoying the displays and finding out more about orchids before heading home full of enthusiasm with a new plant.

Life member and show marshal Lesley Beare explained the task judges face as they evaluate overall shape and colour for 66 points with the remaining points for aspects including substance (the thickness of the flower) and the number of flowers. Each category has specific criteria – for example cattleya blooms are judged on roundness of shape, the dorsal petal and having no gaps between petals.

"It's important to choose the location and conditions for any orchid to get the best



flowering – consider shade, humidity and temperature. Overwatering for some varieties is the most common problem but some local native orchids like a swampy environment. Others do better on the coast as they don't like the cold nights in the hinterland," said Lesley.

Orchid society member Fay Knight explained how she developed a love for orchids. "I inherited some from my late mother-in-law and others from a friend who was downsizing. The orchids came up from Sydney a few years ago, have settled in and are flowering."

To learn more about orchids and foliage plants sign-up for their newsletter and come to the monthly meeting at Tinbeerwah Hall. Visit: noosaorchidsociety.com.au.

Ruth Hickey



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