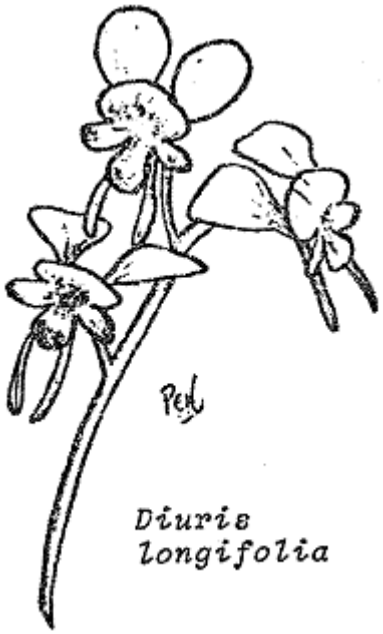
NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Diuris longifolia

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

JOURNAL

Volume 2, No. 8 September, 1978

Registered for posting as a publication Category B. Price 40c

NEXT MEETING
When: Tuesday, 26 September, 1978, at 8.00 p.m.

Where. Goodwood Boys High School, Hardy Street, Goodwood.

Guest Speaker this month is Mr John S. Womersley, B.Sc., formerly the Assistant Director (Botany) of the Department of Forests Papua New Guinea, who will present a pictorial introduction to the native orchids of New Guinea.

We hope to see a selection of the spring-flowering orchids on display this month. There should be more epiphytes in flower.

Trading Table , Library, Popular Vote, Raffle.

LAST MEETING Attendance 62
Nicky Zurcher delighted us with a series of slides showing the magnificent mountain scenery of Switzerland and the plants that grow in these alpine conditions. In the higher altitudes the ground is free of snow for only-a few months each year yet a wealth of flowering plants, including orchids, thrive there.

Ray Nash explained how to make a simple wooden press and absorbent paper holders for pressing orchid flowers. The resultant dried specimens will keep for a long time if stored carefully. Some of Ray's examples were over 30 years old.

VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for volunteers to man the display during the week to answer questions about NOSSA and our Orchids,;

SHOWS

NOSSA display at South Coast Orchid Club of S.A. Inc Spring Show to be held at the Marion Shopping Centre, Our display will be set up on Saturday, 30 September, from 2.00 p.m. Please try to get your plants to Marion by 3.00 p.m. The displays will be taken out on Saturday, 7 October, from 11.30 a.m. after the shops close.

The prize schedule was published in the August journal. A prize of $25 will go to the Champion Native Orchid.

Judging Rules - N05SA exhibit at Marion, 1978

1. Each plant or container of plants for judging must be nominated by bearing a green name tag containing the plant name, class and the exhibitor's number. Tags will be supplied by NOSSA.

2. No separate nominations are required for class 12 (Best Specimen), which will be selected from all the nominated plants on display in classes 1 to 11.

3. The Grand Champion Australian Native Orchid will be selected from the winners of classes 1 to 12.

4. Plants for judging must have been grown by NOSSA members for at least 3 months before the show.

5. Prize cards will be awarded for class winners and Grand Champion Only the card for Grand Champion will be displayed at the Marion Show since too many cards detract from the display. A list of prize winners will be displayed at Marion and winning plants will be marked with a small coloured label.

6. The judges decision is final.

S.G.A.P. SHOW - Wayville Showgrounds, 14 and 15 October

NOSSA is setting up a native orchid display at the Society for Growing Australian Plants Show in the Walter Duncan Hall. Our display will be set up on Saturday, 14 October, from 9.00 a.m. The show opens to the public at 1.00 p.m. on Saturday. Our display will be taken out after 5.00 p.m. on Sunday, 15 October. We need your plants for this show so please assist if you can. Thousands of visitors attend the S.G.A.P. Show so we should make the effort to provide a worthwhile exhibit.

HISTORICAL. EXHIBITION

There is currently an historical exhibition of books. on orchids at the University of Adelaide Barr Smith Library, Level 4 (near the southern entrance). The exhibition is open each day until 5.00 p.m. and continues to the end of October.

DONATION TO LIBRARY

Mrs Matiukas of Everard Park has kindly donated to the NOSSA Library a copy of "An Introduction to the Study of South Australian Orchids", by R.S. Rogers, M.A., M.D.(Edin), published in 1911.

PLANTS ON DISPLAY –August 22, 1978

The evening's benching comprised a light but spectacular showing of epiphytes and a large, impressive showing of terrestrials, with Pterostylis and Caladenia predominant. In all, the epiphytes were represented by 3 genera, represented by 5 genera comprised of 30 species, hybrids or forms.

Terrestrials
An extremely entertaining and informative commentary was given on the terrestrials , by Mr Harold Goldsack, who was impressed by the quantity, quality and variety of plants benched.

Pterostylis vittata: a 1ate flowering plant, its flowers on the wane.

Pt. curta: a range of forms was benched, from the typical luxuriant local form with its characteristic twisted labellum to the Queensland forms which are very similar to *Pt. baptistii*.

Pt. cycnocephala: commonly known as the "Swan-head Greenhood"; mature plants can be recognised from the very similar *Pt. mutica,* by the presence of a touch-sensitive trigger mechanism which is turned forward in *cycnocephala* and backward in *mutica*.

Pt. baptistii; several pots of this species were benched, including some fine specimens of Mr Goldsack's which had arisen from seeds in a pot of cymbidium cultivars grown in a typical u.c. mix.

Pt. cucullata; a luxuriant plant with extremely beautiful flowers; occurs locally but is becoming rare.

Pt. pedunculata: several pots, an easy greenhood to grow and propagate and none-the-less attractive.

Pt. longifolia: I believe this particular plant has been seen at least twice previously; flowers long lasting but near the end by now.

Pt. alpina: another spectacular greenhood when in flower. Plants carry only one rich large shiny green and white flower.

Pt. nutans: both the local and Qld. forms were shown, the local form being typically more luxuriant and robust than the Qld. form.
P. "acuminata var. ingens": some extremely impressive specimens on display.

Pt. boormanii x Pt. rufa: another in the slowly increasing number of hybrids we have seen.

Caladenia reticulata: once common in Eden Hills area.

C. latifolia: a very white form - unusual

C. latifolia: typical pink form; often used to be found in extremely coastal situation.

C. gladiolata.
C. deformis.
C. rigida: a very large and showy potful was most impressive.

C. filamentosa.

C. alba.
C. patersonii and *C. dilatata* var. *concinna*: mixed pot.

C. carnea, C. deformis and *C. dilatata* var. *concinna*: mixed pot.

C. patersonii x C. dilatata: hybrid

Diuris palustris: fragrantly scented; likes situations with swampy conditions during winter and hot and dry conditions during summer.

D. maculata: several pots were seen with-some of exceptional quality

D. longifolia
D. maculata x D. longifolia: Diuris hybrid; large mature specimens of this crossing produce some most spectacular flowers - we should see more of this cross in future.

Glossodia major.

Thelymitra aristata: a robust. plant; almost out in flower

Plants on Display 22.8.78, (contd.)

Epiphytes
Commentary was given by Les Nesbitt.

Dendrobium teretifolium: this species has thick fleshy roots and thick fleshy leaves which are circular in cross-section.. In this way the plant stores water and nutrient to withstand periods of dryness;-flowers are numerous and carried on racemes as compared with most rat-tail dendrobiums. This plant fares extremely well under shadehouse conditions in Adelaide.

D. kingianum: a very variable species; the flowers of the plant seen had a. dark red labellum with pink-flushed petals. The specimen seen had been maintained in a hanging basket.

D. x delicatum: two plants were seen; one in which the flower was almost pure white; grows well cold.

D. fleckeri x D. gracilicaule var. *howeanum*: Dendrobium hybrid; attractive yellow flowers.

D. suffusum.

Sarcochilus ceciliae ("Fairy Bells") a handsome flowering display. was seen on a potted plant which had been maintained under glasshouse conditions. The plant in itself was quite substantial.
S. falcatus ("Orange-blossom Orchid"): we saw some large blooms on a small plant; this plant needs humidity, especially in summer when it is prone to drying.

S. hartmannii: a hardy plant; grows well in hanging basket situation; tends to be very floriferous under suitable conditions.

Papillibalium beckleri: a plant with extremely small flowers; currently in bud; first flowering for the specimen on display.

POPULAR VOTE

Terrestrials

First place went to a 25 cm (10") plantainer of *Caladenia rigida* grown by, Les Nesbitt. There were 21 white spiderlike flowers on 13 plants. One plant bore 3 flowers on a stem 45 cms tall. A number of seedlings were also noticed in this pot.

The second place went to Brian Lehmann's 15 cm (6”) pot of the white form of *Caladenia latifolia*. The 18 flowers were pure white except for a red tip to the labellum. There were about 30 plants in the clay pot but only 9 were in flower. This is a very good percentage of flowering plants for this generally shy-flowering colony-type species.

Epiphytes

Tony Jansen's *Dendrobium kingianum*, growing in a 22.5 cm (9") square slatted wooden basket, was first. This plant bore 15 spikes with the well displayed open flowers held erect. Each pale flower was large for the species and had pink petal tips and a very dark pink labellum. The overall effect was very attractive.

In second place was *Sarcochilus ceciliae* grown by N. and E. Auliciems. This plant, which carried 10 spikes of pink flowers each 1 cm across, was growing in a 15 cm (6") squat plastic pot. It is kept in a glasshouse.

For coming Field Trips --- see page 12.

FIELD TRIP TO WARREN CONSERVATION PARK - 26.8.78.

A select group convened at the President, Les Nesbitt's, nursery in Kersbrook on a warm sunny late-winter morning. Unfortunately Terry Dennis was called away at the last moment and was unable to lead us.
Several of the Committee members who came on the field trip looked rather jaded after their previous evening's efforts (you would be surprised how long a moderate agenda takes to be resolved!). Anyway, meeting at Kersbrook was a successful ploy in that, having travelled so far, the President elected to join us for the remainder of the visit.

It is perhaps fitting that, with *Corybas dilatatus* and *C. diemenicus* as the August journal cover illustration, the first orchids to be found in flower were a mixed group of these two. The former proved so plentiful that the Treasurer, Ron Robjohns, was moved to remark that every other blackboy (the Yacca (*Xanthorrhoea semiplana*), harboured a colony of *Corybas dilatatus*. The latter, *C. diemenicus*, was apparently nothing like as plentiful, but their relative incidence is hard to assess in the absence of flowers, the basal leaves of the two species being very similar.
Our next pleasing find was a few specimens of *Caladenia deformis*, with their blue flowers adding a touch of colour to the otherwise drab surroundings. Shortly before we had come across some examples of the diminutive *Pterostylis nana*, a species that is widely distributed throughout the parts of Warren Conservation Park we visited. It was the first of three Pterostylis we found in flower, the other two being a few hangers-on of P. scabra var robusta, now at the end of their flowering season, and *P. vittata. P. vittata* is another widely scattered in the Park. We never found more than a few plants in each spot, but during the day we must have seen hundreds of them. They varied from juvenile plants, many with one, or occasionally two, flowers. At the other end of the scale, we found beautiful stately examples with upwards of dozen flowers.

In the pre-lunch session we found one other Pterostylis: *P. plumosa*, many with the bud already well-formed, but the plants still had a long way to go before they would flower, being then only about 10-15 cm high. Much farther advanced were the *Caladenia patersonii* we found in bud. It wants but a few more warm sunny days, and they will be out. We cannot have it all ways; had it been warm enough for the Caladenias, we would probably have been too late for the Corybas. Other Caladenias, including *C. menziesii*, were still at the stage where their flower spikes were only just appearing, as also were the *Glossodia major*.

We found plenty of Microtis stalks, and Thelymitra at various stages of development, including some with well advanced buds. We also spotted some Calochilus sp. with the flower stems well in evidence.

Acianthus exsertus were much in evidence, although they had finished flowering and some had developing seedpods. We found one solitary example of the early form of *A. reniformis* flowering, and a tantalising quantity of the late form in bud, but none in flower.

Some *Diuris maculata* were discovered with the buds sufficiently well advanced for the brown and yellow colours to be visible. At this stage, some of the more adventurous went hill-climbing, and it was not long before examples of *D. maculata* were found in flower, the most advanced having four flowers out.

At that stage we adjourned for lunch. The secretary, Roy Hargreaves, was sitting ruminating in his car, and visually searching the nearby trees in the hopes of a stray epiphyte when one of the dead branches moved slightly. At first he put it down to the effects of the previous night's Committee Meeting, but in the end he became convinced his eyes were not deceiving him. It was

Field Trip to Warren Conservation Park (contd.)

thus we abandoned orchid-fossicking and recorded our first pair of tawny frogmouths (*Podargus strigoides*). They were resting together in their typical cryptic, upright attitude on a branch, close to the trunk of an *Acacia pycnantha,* about 5m from the ground. They were photographed more than the orchids on this trip. For many of us it was the first time we had seen them in the wild.

After lunch, we moved further into the Park, and were rewarded by one patch where there were dozens of *C. deformis*, giving a blue carpet to the embankment. Up to this, point, Les Nesbitt had been conscientiously pollinating them, but after that he got quite blasé about it. Our next-diversion was to show our overseas visitor one of our reptiles. A young and rather thin looking shingleback (*Tiliqua ruqosa*) was spotted taking advantage of the early. warm weather to search for a little sustenance.

Later, in the damper lower reaches, we found some *Pterostylis pedunculata* very nearly in flower. This was the last "new" orchid we were to find on this trip. The dearth of "new" orchids caused other genera to catch the eye, including the occasional deep pink flowers of *Tetratheca pilosa*. One plant it was impossible to overlook was the Flame Heath, *Astroloma conostephioides*, so plentiful as to be the dominant plant in much of the area we visited; at times we searched through what was literally Astroloma scrub.

Our final "discovery" was of the nest of what was probably a New Holland Honeyeater, Phylidonyris novaehollandiae, containing two nestlings, in one of the Yaccas, about 60 cm above the ground – ending a very satisfying and more versatile than usual trip. We look forward to revisiting the area, somewhat later in the season, in October next year.

As a footnote: ,Our numbers were somewhat depleted on this trip, presumably because of the school holidays. At least two members were absent through travelling interstate for this reason. Maybe we ought to consider advising interstate societies of our field trips, so that any visitors in South Australia can accompany us if they wish.

Orchids seen:

in flower

Acianthus reniformis (early form)
Caladenia deformis
Corybas diemenicus
C. dilatatus
Diuris maculata

Pterostylis nana

P. scabra var robusta

P. vittata

past flowering

Acianthus exsertus

in bud

Acianthus reniformis (late form)

Caladenia patersonii
Pterostylis pedunculata
Thelymitra sp.

basal leaves

Caladenia menziesii

Caladenia sp.

Calochilus sp.

Glossodia major
Microtis sp.
Pterostylis plumose
Thelymitra sp.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr R. Cook, Wauchope, New South Wales.
Mr and Mrs-H.W. Ellis, Williston.
Miss H.R. Ellis, Parafield Gardens.
Mrs N. O'Hara, Nightcliff, Northern Territory.
Mr and Mrs T. Daly, Camden Park.

Mr H. Lodge, Thornlie, West Australia.

Mr and Mrs M. Strout, Fullarton.

POLLENATION OF ORCHIDS - Part 9 R Bates

Self Pollination

Self pollinating orchids are termed cleistogamous or autogamous. Most of us associate with the orchids all kinds of elaborate processes whereby they attract and use insects to ensure cross-pollination, but surprisingly some 25% of South Australian orchids are self-pollinating.

The following S.A. species are designed completely for self-pollination, any crossing with other species or other plants of the same species will be rare - *Thelymitra carnea* (both var. carnea and var. rubra), *luteocilium, decora, flexuosa, matthewsii, venosa, pauciflora* (including var. holmesii)and *mucida*. *Prasophyllum goldsackii* and *beaugleholei, Orthoceras, Microtis* (most species) and *Calochilus robertsonii, paludosus, imberbis* and S.A. forms of *campestris.*

The following have self-pollinated varieties as well as the usual insect-pollinated forms: i.e. *Caladenia carnea* (varieties *attenuata* and *pygmaea*), *filamentosa* (var. *bicalliata*) and some forms of *latifolia, Gastrodia* (partly so in S.A.), *Paracaleana minor, Prasophyllum fuscum, fitzgeraldii* and *pallidum, Pterostylis parviflora* (*aphylla* form) and *foliata, Spiranthes, Thelymitra, ixioides* and *fuscolutea* and *Corybas despectans*.

It is obvious that a wholly cleistogamous species need not even open its flowers and this is the case with *Thelymitra pauciflora* and other Thelymitras which will only open under special conditions of heat, sunshine or humidity. Even if the right conditions do not occur and the flowers never open they still set seed. *Prasophyllum goldsackii* rarely opens at all and some forms of *Caladenia filamentosa* var. *bicalliata* open for one day at the most. I have had *Corybas despectans* which aborted their flowers, the buds becoming shrivelled and black yet still producing a seed capsule.

Cleistogamous species usually have smaller, less colourful, less elaborate flowers than insect pollinated species and because they open for such a short time, if at all, none of them are useful in cultivation and growers tend to avoid them. In fact, there is a general rule that the more completely dependent a flower is on insects for pollination, the showier or more fragrant it will be. For this reason Diuris, Pterostylis and Caladenia are the most popular genera with growers, being predominantly insect-pollinated.

There are several methods whereby orchids ensure self-pollination. Their pollinia may be granular and friable and the column wings enclose both the anther and the stigma below it - gravity or wind movement shaking the pollen grains onto the stigma. In other species there may be physical movement or dehiscence whereby the pollinia, by a series of contractions, are actually pressed onto the stigma. In others the opening and closing of the labellum into the column may smear pollen onto the stigma as in Paracaleana. In many cross-pollinated species, after a period of time, if pollination is not affected the pollinia collapse onto the stigma or dry and crumble onto it so that if the insects fail, seed will still be set.
It is an unfortunate fact that as most of our native insects are replaced by introduced species the orchids they pollinate die out. While the showy species disappear the duller autogamous species will live on, a fact made clear by the rapid demise of *Caladenia patersonii, Diuris pedunculata* and *Thelymitra longifolia* in the Adelaide Hills and their replacement by the S.P. *Th. pauciflora* and Microtis species.

Whereas insect pollinated species are in the process of rapid evolution, with numerous hybrids, the cleistogamous orchids are at a slowing down stage. Many of these autogamous species would have looked much the same ten thousand

Pollination of Orchids (contd.)

years ago and often represent relict or "fossil" species, i.e. *Orthoceras*. Insect-pollinated species can change in just a few generations, as species such as *Caladenia patersonii* hybridise with other species about them and possessing more dominant features they overrun these "lesser" species and replace them but are "changed" themselves into new races and forms.

One often finds that a basically insect-pollinated species has at least one self-pollinated variety, i.e. *Caladenia carnea* has its cleistogamous variety attenuata, *Prasophyllum fuscum* has self-pollinated forms such as *gracile* Rogers. *Thelymitra pauciflora* is the autogamous version of *Thelymitra nuda*, *megcalyptra*, etc. The form "*aphylla*" is a self-pollinated version of *Pterostylis parviflora* and so it goes.

One reason for the large number of cleistogamous orchids in S.A. may be our paucity of insect species when compared with New South Wales or Queensland.

THIS MONTH'S COVER

The orchid featured on the cover of this month's journal is *Diuris longifolia*, one of the commonest "donkey" orchids to be found in the Mount Lofty Ranges. It is one that can almost be guaranteed to be seen in bloom on field trips this month.

The generic name, dating from 1798, comes from the two Greek words: "dis" (meaning two) and "oura" (meaning tails) - literally "two tails", referring to the characteristic elongation of the two lateral sepals. The prefix should not be confused with the Latin "dis" (meaning many) as, for example, in *Dendrobium discolor*, where the species epithet refers to the flower, and means "many colours".

Diuris longifolia is another of the plants to be first named by Robert Brown (as also are two other Diuris found in South Australia: namely *D. pedunculata* and *D. sulphurea*). Brown collected the specimens during the Flinders Expedition of 1801-1805. Being one of the earliest to be named its species epithet comes from the Latin for "long leaves" - a feature not restricted to this Diuris, as anyone who has tried to distinguish immature plants from *D. maculata* can verify! The species name for the latter comes from the Latin word for "spotted" - a reference to the blotched appearance of the flower, which is probably also the source of one of its common names, the "leopard" orchid.

The two other Diuris that are found in South Australia, and which have a similar flowering time are *D. palustris*, where the name refers to the Latin "paluster" (meaning growing in marshes) a reference to its swampy habitat; and *D. palachila*. In this instance the name comes from a combination of the Latin "pala" (meaning a spade or shovel) and the Greek "chilarium" (meaning lip)- that is, the orchid labellum - hence: "having a spade-shaped labellum",

Other Diuris to be found in South Australia are *D. pedunculata*, where the name comes from the Latin for a peduncle - the stem or stalk that supports the flowers or fruit - a reference to its long, slender stem; and *D. brevifolia*, another species to be named after one of its characteristics from the Latin meaning "short-leaved" - on the basis of their relative shortness when compared with the flower stem. The other two Diuris to be found here are both named after features of their flowers: namely *D. sulphurea*, from the Latin for "sulphur-coloured"; and *D. punctata*, from the Latin meaning "marked with dots" - an epithet which Black says is misleading, because the heliotrope flowers are not spotted!

SHOW TIME 1978 Peter Hornsby.

NEDOS.(Northern and Eastern Districts Orchid Society) Show - September 7-9.

On this particular occasion, I was somewhat pressed for time, so I apologise in advance if any exhibits have been overlooked, or some of the exhibitors feel that justice was not done to their displays. One reason for this is that, as far as Australian native, orchids were concerned, there were so many to be seen!

The first feature to catch the attention was the difference between the orchids displayed by NOSSA exhibitors (this was the third opportunity we have had to exhibit, for which we must thank NEDOS, and the first occasion for 1978): NOSSA emphasises terrestrials, in fact only one epiphyte was to be seen; whereas in the main NEDOS show few terrestrials were displayed compared with the wealth of epiphytes.

Once more the NOSSA display was a result of a stalwart few making the effort, and even so problems arose through competition with the Royal Show taking place at the same time. Nevertheless, the corner site allocated to NOSSA was an ideal position to show the relatively smaller native blooms at their best. against a dark background - without doubt, our native terrestrials are at their best when they have their backs to the wall!

Centre piece for the NOSSA display went to the sulphur-flowered *Diuris pedunculata*, looking quite striking when displayed en masse. Quite the most numerous in terms of the number of pots was another Diuris, *D. maculata,* though in spite of their numbers, they were unable to match the centrepiece. Two pots of *D. longifolia* were also on show; this is rather early for them to be flowering, and both plants and flowers were correspondingly small. Both these shortcomings were eliminated in the pot of the D. maculata x longifolia, with the flowers resembling more the latter parent, but the plants being considerably more robust than either progenitor.

There were two mass exhibits of *Pterostylis pedunculata*, one of the easier terrestrials to grow. Once again the plants themselves were commendable, but for some reason they fail to reach the size they can achieve in the wild. As well as these there were three pots of "Hargreaves' Favourites" - the wash-trough specials, *P. curta*, and a solitary example of its close relative *P. cucullata* - surely one of the most rewarding Pterostylis to grow, with an. acceptable size like the former, but much more attractive colour which may be one of the reasons why they are now so scarce in the wild in the Adelaide region. A little past their best were the two other Pterostylis to be seen; *P. nutans* and *P. longifolia*, though two still in their prime were the pots of *P. baptistii*, and also large *P. x ingens*, the naturally occurring hybrid of *P. falcata x P. nutans*.

Another well-represented genus was Caladenia, with the right flank of the display highlighted by a massed display of *C. deformis*. This is one of the few species where a massed pot precisely emulates clumps found in nature, and in either instance, the splash of blue is equally eye-catching. Contrasting with these, but just as evocative were the virginal *C. rigida* - Australia's answer to the European snowdrop when seen as they were against a backdrop of pine-needles. *C. filamentosa* nearby looked quite drab by comparison - needing a much paler ground to show off the magenta tips of their elongated petals and sepals. Last of the spiders was one of the first of this years *C. dilatata* - these seen much greener than in previous years - a beautiful pale apple-green that does much to enhance their appearance.

Alongside these were two "non-spider" Caladenias, *C. carnea*, which again had a nice rich strong burgundy rather than the usual pale pink colour, and by contrast, a mass of pale pink *C. latifolia*. These show better if looked down on, in preference to the elevated position they were afforded at the show.

Showtime 1978 (contd.)

Unitory examples of their genera were the exhibits of *Glossodia major*, *Thelymitra rubra* (good specimens, but obstinately closed during my visit) and *Prasophyllum pallidum*, with their frosted white blooms reminding one of choir boys at the cathedral.

The far right of the display was assigned to three Victorian and Eastern states species: *Chiloglottis trapeziformis* and *C. formicifera*, both with waxy-looking labellums. They faintly resemble *Acianthus reniformis*, but their neatness rather reduces the latter to a clown status!

Last of the terrestrials in this group and the one to strike me as the out-standing specimen on display in terms of its natural beauty, was *Lyperanthus suaveolens*. Of our native orchids, surely this is the one with everything; sweetly-scented, and such pastel colours, gently blending from the delicate green ovary, through pale yellow to the dark purple of the ends of the petals and sepals.

The last exhibit to be mentioned is the solitary epiphyte on display, *Dendrobium speciosum*. It was by far the smallest at the show a fortunate circumstance for it would otherwise have overwhelmed the remainder of the. display.

Without doubt *D. speciosum* was the largest and most spectacular native orchid in the NEDOS display, with two specimens in full bloom, and one just starting to flower. It is also one of the parents of the hybrid *D. x gracillimum*, two of which were shown: the other parent is *D. gracilicaule*. This hybrid flowers favouring the shape of the latter parent, but retaining the pure yellow colour of *D. speciosum*. Its canes and leaves resemble more *D. gracilicaule*, but the canes are much fatter -- one means of distinguishing the hybrid from the Lord Howe Island variant of *D. gracilicaule*, one of which was on display.

There were five *D. gracilicaule* plants on show including one particularly attractive specimen with a much darker than usual red spotted band on the dorsal sepal. Its general popularity reflects its ease of growth, and its utility is also apparent in the way it featured in both hybrids to be seen at the show, the second being a cross with *D. falcorostrum* = D. Susan, again retaining a pure yellow colour, but the appearance favouring more *D. kingianum* than either parent!

Another popular plant on show was *D. kingianum* – a species of great variability, with one attractive specimen covered with pale pink flowers, while another looked very healthy but with few flowers to be seen. Equally favoured was *D. teretifolium*, with two big specimens, but the best floral display was reserved for the smaller specimen in the Educational Exhibit on the stage. Another Dendrobium shy of flowering was *D. linguiforme*, two of which were to be seen. Much smaller, but comparatively well flowered was the solitary *D. aemulum*. Lastly were two more colourful Dendrobiums, *D. tetragonum*, quite unobtrusive by comparison with the example of *D. canaliculatum*, exploding with flower spikes, but only just beginning to open.

The other two epiphytic genera to be seen were a small specimen of *Sarcochilus falcatus*, and a diminutive flowered exhibit of *Plectorrhiza tridentata*.

The four terrestrials in the NEDOS display included two examples of each of *Pterostylis curta* and *Diuris maculata*, three exhibits of *P. pedunculata*, and one of *P. nutans*.

Overall, the show was a particularly pleasing and unostentatious display, maintaining the NEDOS tradition - worth much more than the modest 50c admission fee.

REPORT ON SYDNEY TRIP Les Nesbitt

My action-packed visit was a delight from the moment my plane touched down at Sydney Airport until I departed three days later. Joe and Heather Betts collected me at the airport and on the drive through Sydney on Friday morning explained the itinerary which had been arranged in advance to the last detail even though they were fully occupied organising the Annual General Meeting of the Australasian Native Orchid Society Council. After lunch there was time for a quick look inside Joe's heated glasshouse where range of native orchids flourish alongside exotic species and hybrids. A nice specimen of a compact form of *Dendrobium speciosum* was resisting all efforts to make it open in time for the ANOS Show the following weekend. Several pretty pink clones of *Den. Ellen* caught my eye. This cross between *D. kingianum* and *D. tetragonum* is very popular in Sydney and we will see more of these plants in the future.

I was then whisked off to visit Wally Upton's collection and nursery. Wally recently retired and now runs his nursery full time. He is building up a good stock of seedlings in 2" pots with community pots and flasks coming on. I was very taken with large plants of *Dendrobium speciosum, kingianum,* and *delicatum* growing in garden beds. We saw a huge specimen plant of Roger Bedford's cross of *Den. kingianum x monophyllum* which has never been flowered by anyone. The twin leaves are tubular and a flower spike would have great difficulty in emerging. I couldn't help noticing the fresh egg shells placed here and there on the benches and was told they repel aphis. Another trick to impress visiting croweaters was the use of contraceptive pills to improve the growth of sphagnum moss in community pots of seedlings. The sun was low in the sky when we reluctantly left and drove through the National Park to West Head to admire the view across Broken Bay to Lion Islands. Several quick inspections of the roadside scrub in the fading light revealed a number of plants of *Glossodia minor*, a dwarf orchid with a single beautiful purple flower.

After tea we visited the Kuringai Orchid Society Show where I met Phil Collin who dabbles successfully in flasking of seed. The number of exhibits at this show was disappointing although there were some excellent epiphytic specimens. Champion native was a white *Dendrobium delicatum* about 75 cms (30") across which was covered in a mass of flowers. It was growing in a shallow clay saucer. Terrestrials were represented by two Pots of *Pterostylis curta* which were rather poor quality to my eyes.

On Saturday morning, I attended, along with about 30 other members, the A.G.M. of the ANOS Council. Jim Walker was elected President and Keith Edwards Secretary. After the conclusion of the A.G.M. I spoke to the gathering on NOSSA and S.A. native orchids. The slides of our terrestrials impressed the locals especially Roy Hargreaves' wash-trough full of *P. curta* in full bloom. A picnic barbecue lunch was held at Muogamurra nature reserve and while searching for orchids I was able to meet a number of ANOS members including Bill Murdoch who journeyed down from Newcastle, and Peter Western, Sydney's terrestrial enthusiast. We found some nice specimens of tall blue spotted sun orchids, *Thelymitra ixioides*, and a number of other species.

After talking nearly all night it was up early for a trip to Keith Edward's collection and then lunch and exploration in the Blue Mountains National Park. It is still possible to see epiphytes growing on rocks in this park. I was impressed by the masses of *Diuris maculata* in flower in this area. We also found scattered plants of the purple donkey *Diuris punctata* in flower at another location away from the park.

This short account does not do justice to the hospitality of the Sydney ANOS members who looked after me so well. I hope we get the chance to repay them when they visit Adelaide.

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, 24 September --Coromandel Valley
Revisiting the property of Mr. Lean, Acklands Hill Road, Coromandel Valley.

Meet at 1.00 p.m. at the Blackwood Uniting Church on the corner of Coromandel Valley Road and Coromandel Parade, Blackwood.

Sunday, 8 October, Birdwood.
Meet at Les Richard's Land Agency -- corner of Cromer Road and Shannon Street, Birdwood (that is, the junction of the main roads from Gumeracha, Birdwood and Mount Torrens -- Birdwood) at 10.00 a.m.

From there we will proceed to an area on the Cromer Road, just beyond Lucky Hit Road. After lunch, we will move on to an area hear Mount Crawford. An easy walking day again, and don't forget to bring lunch.

OCCASIONAL NOTES. Peter Hornsby

Following my earlier note on orchids in the North Flinders (NOSSA Journal, Vol. 2, No. 6, July 1978), we visited the area again at the end of August. Once more we were unsuccessful in our search for orchids near Terrapinna waterhole. I am now of the conviction that none is to be found there - not so much because of our lack of success, but because the area is lacking in the appropriate south-facing slopes that are needed to provide the necessary protection for the plants from the fierce summer heat in these inner parts. of South Australia.

Just south at Arkaroola, the area has changed dramatically as a result of the winter rains that fell just, after our previous visit. Hence orchids were not so easy to spot, but it is pleasing to note that some of the Pterostylis we found there have progressed to a point where they are now some 10 cm tall, but it is still too early to say conclusively what they are.

Apropos the note by Bob and Sharon Bates in the previous issue of the Journal; the possibility of visiting Spring Gully had been mooted previously, all that was needed was their extra little nudge. Anyway, a trip has been included in the draft field trip schedule for 1979, and on the strength of that, we dropped in at the park for a hasty lunch en route back to Adelaide. On this, the first day of spring, we found masses of *Caladenia deformis* in flower, plus a few early *Diuris maculata*, and many others with buds already swelling.

We ate our lunch sitting on a bank adorned with *D. palustris* (?). At least we were able to sketch out the arrangements in more detail for next year.

I had thought of suggesting an afternoon visit, to enable those that wished to do so to avail themselves the opportunity to visit the wineries in the morning. However, it was pointed out that the winery offerings were just a little too conducive to finding orchids and several new species were likely to be found. Hence, orchids first, then the wineries for any who would like it.