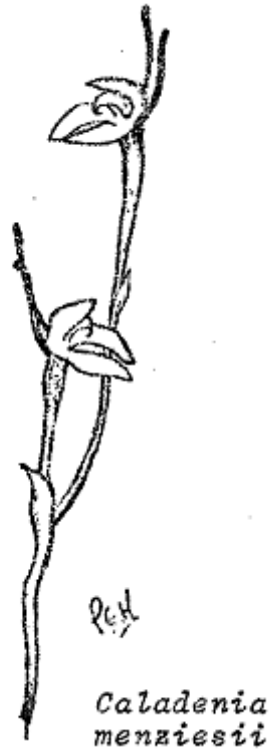
NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY

of

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Caladenia menziesii

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

JOURNAL

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Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year

NEXT MEETING

When: Tuesday, 27 February, 1978, at 8.00 p.m.

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

Full details of the next meeting will be published in the February Journal. This additional journal is a reward for your enthusiasm in 1978 and will see you through the summer dormant period of NOSSA.

LAST MEETING Attendance 49

It was a warm, humid and thundery night. Bob 8ates took us on a pictorial journey to the four corners of South Australia looking for orchids. It is very difficult to find orchids in the State's two northern corners, which are areas of low irregular rainfall, however, the rugged scenery in those remote places can be very impressive. The orchids of the wetter southern Parts were also impressive.

The designer of our Society emblem, Mrs Chris Butler, was presented with a pendant made from our badge in recognition of her efforts.

Plants of *Dendrobium monophyllum*, kindly sent from Queensland, arrived just in time to be available on the trading table.

Raffle prizes were *Dendrobium gracilicaule, Den. Falcorostrum, Acianthus Reniformis* and a group of bits and pieces mounted on a log.

A VISIT TO THE "LITTLE DESERT" Margaret and Harry Brune

We spent two nights in September camping in the Little Desert in Victoria, and found many orchids of various species.

We turned off the highway at Kiata, between Nhi11 and Dimboola, and travelled about 6 kilometres south to the picnic and camping areas. The Ranger from Kiata knew his orchids and told us what to look out for: particularly *Caladenia filamentosa* and *Pterostylis plumosa*.

Caladenia carnea were everywhere, from very deep to very pale pink. Around the picnic area were *C. clavigera, C. deformis* (12 stems of flowers in one tight clump), *Diuris maculata, Glossodia major, Thelymitra antennifera*, Thelymitra with blue buds, *Pterostylis longifolia* and dead flowers and large seedpods of *P. vittata*. A walk in the bush and we found some more different kinds. These were *Acianthus reniformis, A. exsertus, Pterostylis plumosa, P. nana* and *Caladenia filamentosa*.

The next day we drove down a track towards Salt Lake, only a few kilometres away in a different part of the park. This was more open country with scrub about four feet high and occasional mallees. P. plumosa, *C. filamentosa* and *C. carnea* were very numerous. Growing in an area of about one square yard were *C. carnea, C. filamentosa, Pterostylis nana, P. plumosa* and dead *P. vittata*. A natural native orchid garden.

C. filamentosa and *P. plumosa* were new to us and it was pleasing to see them in such numbers. *C. filamentosa*, the "daddy-long-legs spider" is well named with its long delicate "legs". *P. plumosa* is also very attractive with its rich green flowers, feathery tongue and strong upright stem.

OCCASIONAL NOTES Peter Hornsby

Finding out what others think of our activities can be a salutary experience. For instance, a local television personality who has known us for some years had this to say when she first heard of our interest in orchids: "That's just what I'd like to do - grow orchids - something completely obsessive, slightly absurd, and socially non-useful!"

POPULAR VOTE

Terrestrial

First	-	*Phaius australis*	grown by P.T. Barnes
Second	-	*Calanthe triplicata*	grown by N. and E. Auliciems

Epiphytes

Three plants tied for first place:

Dendrobium canaliculatum	grown by G. Ker
Dendrobium antennatum	grown by N. and E. Auliciems
Cymbidium suave	grown by L.T. and M.K. Nesbitt

FIELD TRIP TO BIRDW00D 8.10.78

Without doubt this turned out to be one of the most exciting and munificent trips we have accomplished so far. A clear sky and a maximum temperature round about 24C meant a good day for Thelymitras, and without doubt this is a vintage year for *T. antennifera*. We must have seen hundreds during the course of the day. The areas visited were carpeted with the yellow "bunny ears", and waxlips, *Glossodia major*. For all of them we saw in flower, there were dozens more of each, still in bud.

Our inspection of the little strip of wayside verge also revealed *Diuris longifolia* and *D. maculata;* the latter at the and of its flowering period, and many plants carried fat seedpods, as also did the *Pterostylis nana* we found, though again we were later to also find it in flower. Progressing further, we found *Caladenia carnea*, *C. dilatata* and *C. leptochila* in flower. The *C. leptochila* we found frequently had two flowers on each plant, and later we found one with three. We rounded it off with *Thelymitra rubra* and a beautiful big *T. aristata* still in bud, before we crossed the road to explore back on the other side.

There we found basal leaves of Corybas, one with the blackened remains of a flower. At this stage Don Wells declared he'd "stick to diemenicus". Later he was equally convinced in favour of *C. dilatata;* Thus together, both were recorded; the latter including a couple of examples with fat seedpods. We also saw other Thelymitra sp. in bud, and the stalks of Prasophyllum sp. On this side we found *Caladenia menziesii* in flower (though the percentage flowering was low) and one big pale specimen of *C. patersonii*. *Pterostylis pedunculata* rounded off the list before we turned aside and entered Cromer Conservation Park. This gave a total of twelve species in flower along a total of about 200 metres of roadside!

Cromer Park added little to our numbers total, but more than made up for it In quality, with *Diuris pedunculata* and *Microtis unifolia* in flower, together with patches of *Thelymitra rubra* as well as the blue and yellow "carpet" flowers – *Glossodia major* and *T. antennifera*. Returning to the cars for lunch, we found our first "scoop", with a patch of really beautiful *D. palachila*, the naturally occurring hybrid of *D. maculata* and *D. pedunculata*. The five plants showed subtle variations, with one favouring *D. maculata* in shape and size, ranging to a big one looking very like *D. pedunculata*, but with gentle brown colours in the centre of the flower, and the lateral sepals daintily flecked with little brown spots. We were lucky to find them, hidden as they were amongst an extensive collection of the yellow bulbine lilies

After lunch we moved on to a nearby part of the Mount Crawford Forest. There several members necessitated emergency treatment for ant-bites, while the keen ones deserted - in eagerness or self-preservation? The ensuing disruptions cost much time in reorganisation, and, possibly as a result, little new was discovered, except for frequent examples of a Prasophyllum - tantalisingly in bud, but insufficiently advanced to be identified. Nevertheless, we eventually dispersed, feeling very satisfied with our overall successes after a final look at the nearby rufa-type Pterostylis - just in case it had flowered during the afternoon.

The writer and his family were fortunate enough to be invited to join post-outing relaxation at a nearby spot, where we found dozens of *D. pedunculata* in various stages of development. We also discovered more *D. palachila*, but whereas our earlier find had been close to some *D. pedunculata* these were close to *D. maculata*. The common feature of these two patches of *D. palachila* was the way in which the specimens reflected the size and general plant

Field Trip to Birdwood (contd.)

Configuration of the ostensible parent near to which they were 1ocated. This may be quite a misleading finding because Mendelian laws predict that a certain percentage of the offspring will be identical to one or other of the parents and so there is of course the possibility that the nearby plant "identified" as a parent may in fact be another of the hybrid offspring.,

Assuming for the sake of argument that this is not the case, our supreme discovery was a patch of *D. longifolia* and a single guilty-looking *D. pedunculata* nearby, while between them was a specimen only too clearly a hybrid of the two! A true climax to a wonderful day.

Plants recorded:

In flower
Caladenia carnea
C. dilatata
C. leptochila
C. menziesii
C. patersonii
Pterostylis nana
P. pedunculata
Diuris longifolia
D. maculata
D. palachila
D. pedunculata
Thelymitra rubra
T. antennifera
Glossodia major
Microtis unifolia

In bud
Prasophyllum sp.
Thelymitra aristata
Thelymitra sp,

Basal leaves
Corybas dilatatus
C. diemenicus
Eriochilus cucullatus
Lyperanthus nigricans
Pterostylis sp.

MY EXPERIENCES WITH NATIVE CYMBIDIUMS R. Herraman

(continued from November Journal)

I have seen *C. canaliculatum* growing in profusion on the dry dusty central Queensland highlands on dead trees fully exposed to the sun and invariably on the southern side of trees. This region receives about 900 mm of rain between December and April and almost nothing for the other eight months of the year. *C. canaliculatum* forms massive clumps over a long period and it is a true delight to see in flower in the wild.

The variety "sparkesii" of this species is a little more difficult to obtain as its habitat is much more localised to a confined area of tropical Queensland. Growth habit and appearance are very similar to the common form although the leaves are a little shorter and wider and the bulbs grow quite a bit larger.

This variety is very desirable in any native collection for two reasons. Firstly, the colour of the flowers is a rich purplish maroon, which makes it a very attractive sight, and secondly its ease of cultivation. My plant grows out in the open shadehouse all year round (and subject to all weather conditions) in a clay pot with compost of fir bark and charcoal. It flowers around Christmas time every year and is very long lasting.

The third indigenous cymbidium species is *C. suave*: perhaps the most difficult of the three to firstly establish and then to grow on successfully. It is found over a large range of the east coast from southern New South Wales northward to north Queensland and has also been recorded in the Northern Territory. It grows on hardwood trees in open forest and has the unique habit of producing adventitious growths which sprout from knotholes and cracks in the tree.

My Experiences with Native Cymbidiums (contd.).

By far the most desirable method of growing this orchid is to obtain a piece already attached to its natural host, but seeing that most of these plants are obtained bare rooted then we have to start from scratch. I think a similar potting procedure as for *C. canaliculatum* is probably the safest way. It is inevitable that a few growths (this species has elongated stems rather than pseudobulbs) will be lost due to the change of environment, but if you start with a large enough clump then these losses will be less disheartening for you. Another method of potting used is to place the plant in a length of agricultural drainpipe filled with charcoal, leaf mould and gritty sand, thus encouraging the roots to travel downwards in a constricted situation as in nature.

I have noticed massive clumps of this species high up in mountain oaks straddling the Pacific Highway near Gympie in Queensland. They are a memorable sight in bloom although you will need a pair of binoculars to see their true beauty. *C. suave* flowers in Adelaide later than the other two species (usually January) with a pendulous spike of greenish-yellow highly-scented flowers.

Propagation of these species from backbulbs is usually very slow, with C. madidum perhaps the easiest and C. suave almost impossible. So remember for successful growth, try to start with clumps rather than small pieces, keep a little dryer in the winter and encourage roots to grow downwards as much as possible.

I wish you success with these sometimes difficult but always rewarding native Cymbidiums.

FIELD TRIP TO MYPONGA - 29.10.78 "JW"

For this trip we had a mild sunny day, with mainly clear blue skies. The sun was strong enough to leave some of us looking a little burned by the end of the day, but for the morning the Thelymitras insisted on taking temperatures into account and remained obstinately closed. The other main effect of the weather came from the recent bout of nearly a week of temperatures in the thirties, enough to remind such earlier species as *Acianthus caudatus* and *Glossodia major* that their stint was over.

We spent the morning at the Nixon Skinner Reserve, alongside Myponga Reservoir. There, one of the first orchids we saw was an addition to the field trip "list", namely *Calochilus robertsonii*. It is unusual in several respects. Firstly, when we find a list addition, we usually only find an odd specimen, whereas it must have been the commonest orchid we saw today, discovered virtually wherever we went. Secondly, the plant colouration seems markedly paler than those usually illustrated, for example in Nicholls (1969) and Cochrane et al (1968), both of whom illustrate Victorian specimens. In those we saw the stem and sepals are distinctly pale green, whereas the Victorian "beardies" have reddish-brown in the stem, and yellow in the sepals. Then the "beard" itself also has a yellowish stem, whereas the local ones have a uniform ruby beard, except for the fringe ends.

Most G. *major* encountered were in the process of closing, whereas most of *A. caudatus* (and we saw plenty of them), had well-developed seedpods, including two robust specimens, each with four pods. Other species in seed included *A. reniformis*, and what was most likely *Corybas unguiculates*, with a pod

Field Trip to Myponga (contd.)

mounted on a stem at least 15 cm high - a truly tremendous effort for such a small plant. Several Pterostylis were also in seed, including the ubiquitous *P. nana, P. nutans* (which we also saw in flower) and *P. vittata*. The last seems to have a low incidence of seeding, but produces particularly large pods when it does. We also found basal leaves of *P. pedunculata*.

Two other orchids we frequently encounter and that are shy of flowering are *Lyperanthus nigricans* and *Cal*adenia *menziesii*, though we found many of each. Much more disappointing was the discovery of a patch of big Prasophyllums, most probably *P. elatum*, not yet in flower.

Two other species beyond the end of flowering we saw were *Diuris longifolia* and Corybas sp. - the latter provoking learned discourse between our Corybas expert Don Wells, and our leader for the day, Ray Nash.

The morning visit was also punctuated by many Thelymitras that should have seen in flower, including several shades of *T. pauciflora, T. ixioides*, and *T. carnea* syn *rubra*. While the Thelymitras may have been disappointing, the Caladenias made up for them, and we found odd specimens of *C. leptochila;* big, really big, and handsome examples of *C. dilatata;* and various colour forms of *C. carnea*, including some deep pink ones.

The morning visit was also noteworthy from the point of view of other species that caught our eye, including the clean white "milkmaids", *Burchardia umbellata*, and the pretty little twining Fringe Lily, the creeper *Thysandtus patersonii*. The background was occasionally brightened by patches of the bright orange "pea", Dillwynia sp, while our English guests were shown the mechanism of the "Trigger" flowers from Stylidium sp. and encourages to sniff the tall pink lily *Arthropodium strictum*, to see why it is called the chocolate lily. Finally we could not overlook the striking metallic blue of the finger flower, *Cheiranthera linearis*, another species which, like the orchids, is totally protected in South Australia.

We lunched under the trees before moving up into the nearby hills to Myponga Conservation Park. Here we had a quick look at the roadside vegetation before fossicking through a patch of cleared land for some "pickings". Here again we found big specimens of *Caladenia dilatata*, and *C. leptochila*, a chopped off specimen of Prasophyllum, most probably *P. rufum*, and a couple of dried out specimens of *Pterostylis plumosa* were also found as well as a flowering example of *Diuris longifolia*. Ray Nash remarked that the next specimen we saw had distinct characteristics of *D. brevifolia*, although in the absence of examples of the latter species he was inclined to favour *D. longifolia*. However, his suspicions soon became resolved with the discovery of our second "new" species *D. brevifolia*, allowing us also to add *D. longifolia x brevifolia* to the list.

At this stage, we moved on down the track, pausing to draw the attention of our English visitors to the large Agamid lizard, *Amphibolurus barbatus*, the bearded dragon, at the wayside. When we arrived, he puffed up to give us an impressive display, but by the time we moved on he was doing his best to use his chameleon ability to merge with the landscape, and must have been wondering what he could possibly have done to have attracted so much attention in an otherwise extremely quiet part of the countryside.

After a moderately successful fossick, the majority of the party called it a day, leaving Ray Nash, my reluctant assistant, and myself to examine the main part of the Park. Firstly we found more D. brevifolia beside the track and what was almost certainly *Prasophyllum rufum*, though the top had dried out, before descending one of the many gullies. This faced south, and was

Field Trip to Myponga (contd.)
damp enough to accommodate masses of maidenhair fern. In it we found quantities of Corybas and Acianthus basal leaves, plus some deep purple-flowered *Glossodia major*. In more open patches, we found more big *Caladenia dilatata*, and in a secluded spot, a patch of *C. menziesii*, including several in flower, one of which was a particularly big plant with two flowers. We again found *Calochilus robertsonii*. While climbing the more open and north-facing slopes we located *Pterostylis plumosa*, now dried brown, and *C. leptochila* in flower. We also saw numerous Thelymitra, though none had flowers open, but we did find *Microtis unifolia* flowering. At this point our second Agamid lizard appeared when a brightly-coloured male "painted dragon", *A. decresii*, scampered off through the undergrowth.

Eventually we regained our cars, feeling the Park to be well worth a more extensive visit on some future occasion. It is certainly a good spot for orchids, though not easy to reach.

The climax to the day came as we retraced our way back to the road. At the side of the track was an obvious and man-made structure with a paper "flag" fluttering atop. It contained the cryptic message "Have a look at these", "on the right", was added as an afterthought though by this time we had got the message, for there on the verge is what I can only describe, for me, as one of the finest and most impressive-looking orchids we have. It really does look like an orchid - an archetype of what an orchid should be. The brown markings on the yellow-flowered *Thelymitra fusco-lutea* put it in a class of its own, and I offer the challenge to anyone to convince me of a finer Australian terrestrial. What a climax to the day, and as far as the journal is concerned, to the years' outings. I only hope our newcomers and guests enjoyed the day as much as I did.

References: Cochrane, G.R. et al. "Flowers and Plants of Victoria", Sydney; Reed, 1968. Nicholls., W.H., "Orchids of Australia", Melbourne: Nelson, 1969.

Plants Seen:

Nixon-Skinner Conservation Park

In flower	In seed	Basal leaves
Caladenia carnea	Acianthus caudatus	Corybas sp.
C. dilatata	A. reniformis	Caladenia menziesii
C. leptochila	Corybas unguiculates	Lyperanthus nigricans
Calochilus robertsonii	Corybas sp.	Pterostylis pedunculata
Glossodia major	Diuris longifolia (?)	Prasophyllum elatum (?)
Pterostylis nutans	Pterostylis nana	
Thelymitra ixioides*	P. nutans	
T. carnea syn rubra*	P. vittata	
T. pauciflora		

Myponga Conservation Park

In flower	D. longifolia	Basal leaves
Caladenia dilatata	Glossodia major	Acianthus reniformis
C. leptochila	Microtis unifolia	Corybas sp.
C. menziesii	Pterostylis nutans	Prasophyllum rufum (?)
Calochilus robertsonii	Thelymitra ixioides*	Pterostylis plumosa
Diuris brevifolia	T. carnea syn rubra*	
D. brevifolia x longi-folia	T. pauciflora*	
	T. fusco-lutea	

*These Thelymitras were obviously in flower but not open, probably because it was not warm enough.

FIELD TRIP - "SOUTHERN SWAMPS" 25/11/78 Peter Hornsby

This was billed as the "Southern Swamps' trip, but it turned out to be a whistle-stop tour of the Southern Mount Lofty Ranges. The trip started with raspberry and lemonade at the Meadows Hotel, and for us at least finished up with lemonade and cloves for my wife while we philosophised over a counter meal a the Royal Oak Hotel in Clarendon. Many of our regulars, perhaps with an eye on the weather forecast, elected to spend the day at home (where they languished in their swimming pools?) while the temperature climbed to 37.6C - just a whisker off the old Fahrenheit century. It is left to the imagination to guess what we endured, but it must have been the hottest field trip we've had to far.

Our first stop was amid pine trees and a ti-tree understorey. It was a delightful setting, so peaceful with the haunting notes of the grey thrush and the powerful voice of the golden whistler to greet us, but while it may not have been so hot beneath these trees, it more than made up for it with the humidity. The conditions are obviously conducive because it was very green underfoot, and we soon found our first orchids in flower, starting with what must be the last of this year's *Caladenia carnea*, and *Calochilus robertsonii* some of which were already carrying fat seedpods. We also found *Thelymitra pauciflora, T. antennifera* and *T. ixioides* with developing seedpods, while the last-named also sported one solitary and rather scruffy-looking flower.

These Thelymitras are most deceptive. Often on field trips we find them in bud, which leads to the speculation that we should visit the area later. However we even more frequently find them with developing seedpods, from which one is led to conclude that they have a relatively short flowering period - a feature born out by experience if you grow them - but it means that we only find them in flower if we are lucky enough to be in the right place at just the right time. Another orchid we frequently find, but rarely see in flower (and this trip was an exception) is *Lyperanthus nigricans*, though with this species we can expect more success if we visit likely areas that were burned out the previous year.

We also found two Pterostylis in seed – *P. pedunculata* and *P. nutans*, together with basal leaves of *Acianthus exsertus, Corybas dilatatus* and *Caladenia menziesii*. Flowering species also included still plenty of *C. dilatata*, *Microtis unifolia* and *Diuris sulphurea* var *brevifolia*; however the visit would not be complete without mention of the cornflower-blue "Pincushion" *Brunonia australis* and the pretty pink twining fringe-lily, *Thysandtus patersonii*, flowering in profusion.

From there we adjourned as it were "round the corner" to an area showing vestiges of swampy ground. There we found *Microtis atrata*, one of the smallest-flowered orchids in Australia, standing scarcely more than 10 cm high, while nearby we found the many-flowered *M. parviflora*. Here we also located one of our "finds" for the day, *Thelymitra mucida*, in flower, though a little persuasion had to be used to induce its already well-developed flowers to open on this occasion.

Having whetted our appetites, we then moved on to where Brian Warner permitted us to explore the swamp on his Yundi property. This was the first real swamp we have visited, and some members looked rather the worse for wear when they emerged - the only time today when the hot weather proved its worth as a drying out agent!

The swamp itself was the climax for the year, let alone the day - we started with copious examples of the Small Onion Orchid, *Microtis parviflora* in full flower, together with basal leaves only of *M. oblonga* - these will not be

Field Trip "Southern Swamps" (contd.)

fully in flower until later in the year. *Corybas fordhamii* are also found there, though this is the wrong time of the year to find them, and there was a marked reluctance for going on one's hands and knees in the hopes of locating basal leaves. Two other orchids we found that will not be blooming for a few weeks are the Veined Sun Orchid, *Thelymitra venosa* and the Leak Orchid *Prasophyllum australe*. On the other hand, we did find two rare species, including *P. hartii*, the Maroon Leak Orchid, in flower. The other was the un-orchidlike *Cryptostylis sublata*.

Dragging ourselves at last from the swamps we also found two species of Utricularia as we emerged: *U. dichotoma* and the diminutive *U. laterifolia* (?): both of which are carnivorous, feeding on tiny animalcules caught in the swampy waters by the bladders on their roots - from which get their generic name.

After copious draughts of cold drinks, moved on to our fourth stop at Dodds Road. Here was not long before a chorus of excited quacks by the leaders led us to a veritable carpet of *Caleana major*, with their glossy deep aubergine-coloured flowers: plus a nearby green example. The trees at this spot act as a veritable heat sink, and it was obvious that such conditions suit these "duck" orchids. At this juncture our photographic ace discovered flat batteries in his flash unit and, grumbling in the undergrowth, he made as much use as possible of the blazing sun - but there was no doubt that he was feeling like a fish out of water.

On the way back to the cars, we discovered just how many *C. major* we had overlooked on the way out. Then we zeroed in on the fallen tree where we found *Paracaleana minor* in solitary splendour. (Who triggered it off before I could photograph it?) The last laugh though was with Alwin Clements, who alone found another "untouched" specimen, which he managed to photograph fully open.

At this stage, our barefoot leader for the day, Bob Bates, was himself moved to emotion with the discovery of *Paracaleana sullivanii* nearby: as he explained, it is an apomictic form of *P. minor* - a truly rare find - no wonder my assistant chose that moment to fall off the log. The resulting uproar more than broke the spell. By this time, we were so mesmerised that we accepted the discovery of our first *Pterostylis biseta* in flower with scarcely a backward glance.

It was now necessary to replenish the cold drink lockers before proceeding further, so we made an unscheduled stop at Myponga before heading for our last venue at Spring Mount Conservation Park. Here we found Cinnamon Bells, *Gastrodia sesamoides*, bravely flowering their last, and considerably removed from the swampy areas where I had imagined they were only found. This orchid was No.6 of "Our Rarest Orchids" (see NOSSA Journal, October 1977, page 5 - B. Bates). Ramsbottom, in the "Orchid Review" (1922), concludes with the following "incontrovertible facts": "The roots of all orchids growing naturally have fungus mycelium in their cortical cells . . . The fungus present is always the same genus, i.e. *Rhizocontonia Bernard* . . . The only known case where a different genus is concerned is the Japanese species *Gastrodia eleta*, where the toadstool *Armillaria mellea* forms an association with the tuber..." Perhaps this could be a clue to the growing habit of *G. sesamoides* as well.

We found our last orchids for the day in *Thelymitra fusco-lutea*, several of them still in flower, even though the hour was well advanced, and at an altitude of over 400 m., it was decidedly cooler than the heat we had been experiencing.

Field Trip "Southern Swamps" (contd.)

Feeling more than satisfied, and quite satiated by our experiences, we called it a day and enjoyed some quiet recapitulations, as pairs of yellow-tailed black cockatoos called overhead, before going our various ways. Without doubt, the honours are due to Bob Bates for providing us with a quite remarkable tour. It is not often we find 17 species in flower in the one day; only the duration of time will bring out their full worth.

A couple of us called in on Brian Warner again on the way back, and took the opportunity to show him his own orchids in the swamps (some of us just cannot keep away from water); though I must say it was nice to have another look at his magnificent plants. Our especial thanks are due to him for permitting us to share his good fortune.

Orchids recorded:

In flower
Caladenia carnea
C. dilatata
Caleana major
Calochilus robertsonii
Cryptostylis subulata
Diuris sulphurea var
brevifolia
Gastrodia sesamoides
Microtis atrata
M. parviflora
M. unifolia
Paracaleana minor
P. sullivanii
Prasophyllum hartii
Pterostylis biseta
Thelymitra fusco-lutea
T. ixioides
T. mucida

Basal leaves
Acianthus exsertus
Caladenia menziesii
Corybas dilatatus
Lyperanthus nigricans

In bud
Microtis oblonga
Prasophyllum australe
Thelymitra venosa

In seed
Calochilus robertsonii
Pterostylis nutans
P. pedunculata
Thelymitra antennifera
T. ixioides
T. pauciflora
T. rubra

EPIPHYTES Les Nesbitt

Last month's article listed 7 species of which five flower regularly each year. These orchids are growing on an apricot tree in my backyard along with several exotic species and hybrid epiphytes. Epiphytic orchids will grow on fruit trees and just about any plant with permanent bark. In fact my plants grow better on living trees than on slabs. They do take a year or two to get established and they must be watered regularly in summer. Once established they can be very tough and hardy.

Three plants of Dendrobium speciosum have grown and flowered for many years on a Jacaranda tree in the Adelaide Botanic Garden. They are survivors of a group of orchids mounted by members of the Orchid Club of South Australia in the 1960s. They are still there, high up on the tree trunk although the lowest plant is almost enveloped by a neighbouring evergreen shrub. The jacaranda tree is growing on the North Terrace side of the lake opposite the kiosk, in what is now a dwarf palm and cycad garden.

POINT OF INTEREST

Our membership now stands at 150 with an average of approximately 55 at the monthly meetings this year.

SHOWTIME SPECIAL 1978 Peter-Hornsby

The SGAP Show - 14 - 15 October

This year for the first time the Society for Growing Australian Plants had available the whole of the Walter Duncan Hall at the Wayville Showgrounds. The extra space also meant more room for the NOSSA display. Normally, at this time of the year, our orchid season is past its peak, but this year everything is late, and so fortunately we were able to do more justice to the additional space.

We may not have had as many plants as at Marion Shopping Centre this year, but the corner site we were allocated meant they were much better displayed. The left flank of the area was reserved for the SGAP fern display, with some successfully incorporated into our own. Looking particularly effective was the *Phaius tancarvilliae* rising from among the fronds of a birds nest fern, *Asplendium nidus*. In fact they were a perfect complement, in spite of the unlikeliness of such a proximity in reality; the Phaiue growing among tall annual grasses and the fern high up in subtropical forest trees!

Near them was a selection Of Diuris species, ranging from tall yellow *D. sulphurea* and *D. aurea*, with the former, having the more pronounced brown markings. Only slightly less in stature was the delicate pale lilac-coloured *D. punctata* with its long elegant lateral sepals. Quite dwarfed alongside was the solitary specimen of *D. maculata*, while the genus , was rounded off with a mass of *D. longifolia*, all the evidence pointing to them being a well-nourished collection. In this respect they contrasted greatly with the *Caladenia dilatata*, which included tall specimens from the Mount Lofty Ranges, through to the diminutive mallee forms, one of which was a creamy green sport. Also on display were two of the white *C. rigida*, and *C. leptochila*, while the "non-spider" forms were represented by *C. menziesii*.

There were several pots of *Microtis unifolia*, and one of *Prasophyllum occidentale* from Eyre Peninsula, while from nearer home there were pots of *Pterostylis curta, P. pedunculata, and P. nutans* - though the last-named showed a better display of seed-pods than flowers. In addition there was an unnamed pot of Pterostylis, still in bud, from the Northern Flinders Ranges. One pot of *Chiloglottis trapeziformis* was on show, together with three of Thelymitras, including one *T. ixioides* and two *T. pauciflora*, one pink and one yellow.

The epiphytes were the ones to look most appropriate in the company of the ferns - which is probably why one of the smaller specimens of birds nest fern was placed in the middle of the display. The greatest versatility was shown in *Dendrobium kingianum*, with specimens ranging from deep pink through to pure white, plus a couple of variety silcockii (= var kingianum. Dockr.) having white flowers with faint pink markings. *D. delicatum* drew forth remarks about the perfume emanating from the display, while the epiphyte "bench" was rounded off with 2 *D. gracilicaule*, including an almost pure yellow example, with just the faintest red markings.

The backdrop supported the smaller epiphytes, including a number of *D. beckleri* and of *D. linguiforme*, plus a solitary *D. striolatum*, which looked very green and healthy, but shy of flowering. Finally there were a couple of Sarcochilus, including *S. hartmanii* and *S. falcatus*.

In all, the impression was that the Society exhibit more than complemented the overall SGAP display. It seems incongruous that the Society for 'Growing Australian Plants does not feature 'native orchids. The other orchid societies In Adelaide include native orchids in their shows, why not SGAP? Perhaps it is because not many people grow native orchids in their gardens. To bring

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home the point, none were on sale, but there were plenty of enquiries about where they could be bought - so next Year if you have too many *Pterostylis nutans* tubers, why not bag them up individually for sale? The SGAP price was 60c per plant, regardless of its size, which is an acceptable price for an individual orchid.

FIELD TRIP

Tooperang Swamp

Sunday, 14 January, 1979.

The meeting point is at the turn-off from the Ashbourne - Goolwa road, 10 km south, of Asbbourne; where the sign post (turn right) indicates Mt., Compass 13 km and Nangkita 6 km.

Meet at 2.00 p.m.

As it may be a bit swampy, make sure you have Appropriate footwear and watch out for the Snakes when you get there. We haven't met any On field trips so far, but there's always the first time!

NEW MEMBERS

Mr R.P. Cook, Largs North
Mr G. Bruce, New Plymouth, New Zealand
Mr T. French, New Plymouth, New Zealand
Mr G. Sylvester, Wellington, New Zealand

ADDENDUM.

Several Thelymitra pauciflora were found growing in the bark of an upturned tree in the Nixon skinner Conservation Park. They are now regarded as leaders in the contest for the Jim Simmons Prize: to be awarded to the finder of the first indigenous epiphytic orchid to be discovered in South Australia - one of the conditions being that it must have put itself there, thus precluding all those growing on the President's apricot tree.