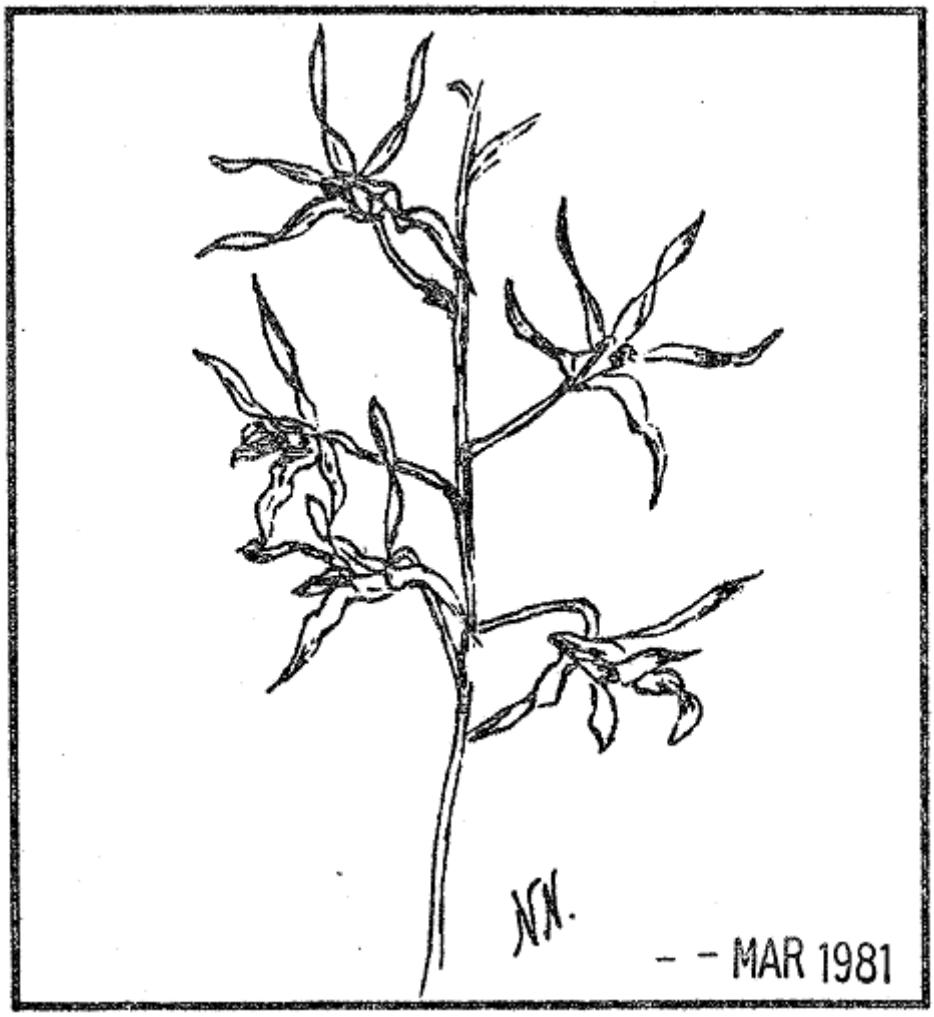
NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY of SOUTH AUSTRALIA

JOURNAL



NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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Volume 5, No. 2, March, 1981

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NEXT MEETING

WHEN: Tuesday 24th March, 1981, at• •8.00 p.m.

WHERE: St. Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington.

SUBJECT: The Annual General Meeting of the Society will commence at 8 p.m. It will be followed by the ordinary monthly meeting for March. This will consist of an audio-visual display of slides assembled by Ron Robjohns and Roy Hargreaves, these are excellent slides of a wide range of native orchid species.

There will also be a plant display with commentary, raffle, trading table and library together with the opportunity, at the end of the meeting, to talk with other growers about any orchid problems you may have.

FIELD TRIPS.
Our first field trip for the year will commence on the 25th Apr1, this is a trip to Hindmarsh Falls and Knott Hill (Peters Creek). Please meet in the oar park at Hindmarsh Falls at 1 p.m. Further details at our next meeting.

The provisional schedule for field trips for 1981 is as follows: -
(there may be alterations nearer the time.)

25th April	Saturday afternoon	Knott Hill / Hindmarsh Falls
25th July	Saturday afternoon	Horse Gully, Kersbrook.
22nd August	Saturday---all day,	Port Vincent.
12th September	Saturday afternoon	Mount Gawler.
26/27th September	Week-end	Alligator Gorge.
10th October	Saturday afternoon	Anstey's Hill.

FRONT COVER: *Dendrobium canaliculatum.*

LAST MEETING. Attendance 59.

Our last meeting was spent re-living the Grampians field trip accompanied by a number of excellent slides of our favourite subjects and some of our members peering excitedly at the latest finds. Some were observed to go to extra-ordinary lengths by standing almost knee deep in water, taking photographs, a worthwhile exercise judging by the results. (The President was later observed to be trying to walk on water, with predictable results, unfortunately it was not captured on film.)

We also saw some of the other diverse flora of the Grampians, which made us realise what a wonderful place it is to visit in search of botanical and scenic wonders.

Plant Display and Commentary.

Commentary: - Terrestrials – Les Nesbitt.

Although February is one of our quiet months as far as flowers we saw a reasonable display just the same.
Present were two good pots of *Cryptostylis leptochila* and two pots of late *Spiranthes sinensis*. The first Pterostylis also made an appearance in *P. decurva*, a mountain species from Victoria, and three what could be termed ever-green tropical terrestrials, *Spathoglottis plicata* with its bright purplish flowers, *Calanthe triplicata* with white flowers which turn black with age and *Malaxis latifolia*. The last one grown in a cold glass house, drops all of its leaves in winter-time in South Aust. and bursts forth from the pseudo-bulbs again in Spring. Les commented on ' the excellent display after such a hot Summer and told those present he has started some light watering and said that in 6 to 8 weeks time we should notice a marked difference in growth in the shade-house.

Epiphytes - Jim Simmons.

Jim did not have a lot to say this night since only four epiphytes were presented for display. *Dendrobium bigibbum* var *superbum* sub var *compactum*, this had one nice spike of well shaped flowers; one plant of *Dendrobium* Pauline grown in a cold glass house and two pots of *Sarcochilus ceciliae*.

Also on display were some colour photographs of Spring-flowering terrestrials and a water-colour painting of several terrestrials grouped together, painted by Kath Alcock. Last but not least were several flasks of mainly Pterostylis species, some with small tubers formed, sown by Mark Clements, giving us some idea of the advances being made in sterile culture propagation. Les Nesbitt brought a flask of *Glossodia major* protocorms which had not grown much since late 1980, it was suggested that this was due to a lack of the right symbiotic fungii.

POPULAR. VOTE. Epiphytes

D. bigibbum var *superbum* sub var *compactum*. P. Barnes
Terrestrials (Equal first)
Spiranthes sinensis R. Bates
Spathoglottis plicata, G. Nieuwenhoven

RAFFLE.
Den. ruppianum Mrs E. Wing
Den. gracilicaule Mr H. Carthew
Cryptosty1is subulata Mr A. Phillips

PRESIDENT'S REPORT, 1980. Peter Hornsby.

Our membership over the last twelve months has achieved a somewhat gentler increase, showing that we have probably reached a stable size, with a present membership standing at about 240. Fortunately this is big enough to provide the solid nucleus that is necessary to keep the Society going without becoming so large as to be impersonal. In keeping with this, one of the ventures we successfully tried for the first time this year was the Christmas Social, after the November meeting and we may well see this established as an annual event.

The social note as reiterated with an "Orchid festival" in September, when we issued an open invitation to our country members to join us while we entertained the Parrakie Group of the Society for Growing Australian Plants. In this respect we would like to have seen more of our country members - we certainly found the orchids to show them.

Flushed with the success of the 'Festival', we met the Victorian Group of the Australasian Native Orchid Society literally half-way, at Horsham, though admittedly within their State boundary. Undaunted by the wet weather we had a hilarious time, made many friends, and again found plenty of orchids. It showed the true value of establishing local contacts whenever we venture into other Societies' territories, a move we will be wise to continue to cultivate in the future.

The MOP Group did much to make such a success of these three "social" occasions, quite apart from their achievements during rescue trips to the Murray Mallee. Their co-ordinators, Don and Bubs Wells, also attained new heights in their conduct of the seed and tuber bank, the report of which appears elsewhere.

The year started on a volcanic note with the volcanologists at loggerheads over the trading table, culminating in the Society's first Special General Meeting. The purists won the day, and the main consequence has been a severe reduction in the contribution of the trading table. The year ended with the Committee agreeing we had learned a valuable lesson and so it is now up to the new Committee to infuse a fresh start into this valuable and necessary part of our operation.

The year has also seen two "literary" changes - new family commitments meant our original typiste, Chris Butler, had to resign. We were sorry to see her go. Chris' impact did much to ensure the initial success of the Journal, quite apart from her design becoming adopted as the Society's emblem. However the work has been kept in the Robjohns' family with the typing being taken over by Chris' sister, Pat Carman. Meanwhile the family patriarch continues to maintain a tight grip on the Society's finances, while at the same time he has worked hard to push through that other important part of the Society's rules - the By-laws. With luck, having masterfully accomplished these latter tasks, Ron can now look forward to a well deserved rest. We sincerely thank him and hope he will continue to keep us in such a healthy financial state.

The other change is the resignation of Les Nesbitt as Editor of the Journal - a position he has occupied "temporarily" since the Society began! The development of our Journal to its present standard is a credit to him; in future it will be in the capable hands of George Nieuwenhoven. This promises to be a family affair, with his wife, Nancy, supplying the cover illustrations. Meanwhile Les will he concentrating on establishing the standards for judging orchids for the various awards, such as the Cultural Certificate.

Our Secretary, Roy Hargreaves, has again played his part as one of the

President's report. (continued)

staunchest pillars of our Society. Not only does Roy carry out his secretarial tasks, but he also supervises the Journal production, houses the Journal "archives", mans the Society exhibit at the various shows, represents the Society at related meetings and still manages to turn up at every function we organise. For him NOSSA is not so much a pastime as a way of life! We can never repay our debt to him.

Meanwhile the Committee has played its cards so well that it has now reached the stage where we manage to go home on the day of the committee meeting instead of the early hours of the following one. Kevin Western has declared his intention not to stand for re-election this year. This will give him more time to concentrate on growing orchids from seed. Success in this area will be a tremendous step forward for the Society, so our hopes are with him. The departure of Kevin and I guarantees an infusion of new blood onto the Committee in the coming year.

In all other respects our Society has continued to maintain its high standards. The monthly meetings were always well attended, ensuring an enthusiastic audience for our speakers. The orchids benched at our meetings have always been a credit to us but new heights were attained in September when we put on what must undoubtedly have been the best display of native orchids ever seen in South Australia.

During the last two years so many members have done so much for the Society that for me, holding the helm as President, it has been that much easier. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all concerned and to wish the new President every success with the task.

TUBER BANK REPORT, 1980-81. Don Wells.

This year has been a busy year as a list of 27 different varieties of tubers was presented and 25 customers, from N.S.W., Vic., A.C.T., and of course S.A., applied requesting from 1 to 14 lots, with the total of 157 lots being processed by the bank.

Most customers were able to procure the order they placed. Several substitutes were sent replacing advertised tubers that were unavailable due to non multiplication in the growing season.

Several lots, the most sought after, were scarce but at least a start was possible for most growers.

Processing of the bank was made easier by the assistance of many members who, through the year, assisted with many essential functions. Master pots had to be grown on, all types of packaging was called for and great assistance was received. Donations from the "rescue" operations helped to swell the stocks. The response to the tuber donation request was fantastic. My personal thanks go to all who made the whole operation a pleasure to process.

To further improve the service I have arranged for a set of growing instructions to be distributed with the tubers in future, thereby giving the growers and the tubers every chance of growing successfully.

On behalf of all who participated, I have much pleasure in presenting the NOSSA club with $160.03 being the balance of the Tuber Bank operation for 1980-81.

LIBRARY:- Mr & Mrs Alf Smith of Glandore have kindly donated the book "Gems of the Bush" to the Society for inclusion in our library.

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Statement of Receipts and Payments for year ended 31st December, 1980.

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
Subscriptions. 1980 764			Projection screen		139.15
1981 63		827.00	Spot lights		14.56
Donations NEDOS 20			Cash box		9.98
Sundry 2		22.00	Library - Books	90.25	
Plant Sales and Commission		476.79	Slides	23.76	114.01
Raffle Proceeds		176.10	Postage		285.51
Badges		32.00	Stationery		620.67
Journal		38.80	Typing Journal - Honorarium		150.00
Publications		70.40	Publications		55.00
Tuber Bank		29.90	Plants and Flasks		185.17
Interest		55.11	Slide envelopes		26.23
		$1728.70	Rent of hail		100.00
Excess Payments over Receipts		94.18	Insurance		97.20
			Raffle permit		5.40
			Aust. Orchid Foundation		20.00
			Aust. Native Orchid Society		7.00
			Orchid Club of South Aust.		10.00
			Socy. for Growing Aust. Plants.		25.00
$1822.88		$1822.88			$1822.88

Cash Statement.

Cash at Bank 1.1.1980	% 700.79	
LESS Excess-Payments	94.18	R.T.ROBJOHNS
Cash at Bank 31.12.80	$606.61	Honorary-treasurer.

I have examined the books and records of the Native Orchid Society of South Australia and certify that the above Statement of Receipts and Payments is in accordance with the books and vouchers produced.

C.K YATES
January 1981. Honorary Auditor.

Assets Purchased. (at cost)

1977'	Roneo duplicator . (S/H)			80.00
1978	Badge Die			80.00
1978	Painted Emblem			12.00
1978	Projector Stand			12.98
1979	Projector			351.85
1979	Slide Magazine			14.00
1979	Pointer Torch			11.00
1980	Projection Screen			159.15
1980	Spot lights			14.56
1980	Cash Box			9.98
Library - Books and Slides				
1977/9	Books..	95.85		
1980	"	90.25	186.10	
1979	Slides	15.60		
1980	"	25.76	39.36	225.46
				$950.98

Occasional Notes. (Continued from last month) P. Hornsby.

Mark mentioned that there were six species of the *P. rufa* group in W.A., five of which are un-named. He also showed us *C. longiclavata* var *magniclavata*, and related the demonstration from Warren Stoutamire regarding the functioning of this species. The enormous clubs that characterise this species are the source of phero-hormones, the "perfume" that attracts the insects from a distance. Dr. Stoutamire demonstrated this by cutting off the clubs and tying them to some grass, causing the potential pollinating wasps to "home in" on the grass. This part of the flower functions to bring the wasp into close proximity with itself. Once the wasp is within this critical range, the flower depends upon its visual appearance to bring the insect in for the actual pollination. Thus both parts of the plant are necessary to induce the insect to "home in".

Well known to South Australians were *P. mutica*, and *C. latifolia*, just back from, the coast at Israelite Bay, while nearby was to be found *P. nana* - the one that used to be known as *P. pyamidalis* but what is now regarded as a form of *P. nana*.

From there Reg Shooter galvanised into life at the sight of *Vanda whiteana*, which he was assured was "worth growing'. We then descended, in more ways than one, to the diminutive and odd-looking *Prasophyllum gibbosum*, standing about 150 mm. high with a dense terminal flower spike - altogether a most uncharacteristic Prasophyllum-like species.
Mark also showed us his favorite orchid, *Caladenia lobata*, in this respect he follows in the footsteps of an esteemed predecessor: Fitzgerald' s view was that *C. lobata* "is the largest and in every way the finest of what are known as spider orchids". From there, a trip to the Kauri forests revealed what must be one of the largest Australian free-standing terrestrials, *Prasophyllum regium*, growing to over 2 metres tall.

As an after-thought, Mark mentioned that there were probably four un-named Corybas species in Western Australia, and that *C. despectans* also occurs in W.A.

Perhaps Mark's most striking revelation was not in the slides he showed (though those were, if anything, better than his usual excellent standard), but rather in his laboratory work in Canberra. He showed us flasks of terrestrials that had developed pea-sized tubers "ready for planting out". The real achievement will be when such flasks are available to us as interested members of native orchid societies. It is a far more satisfactory method of re-producing non-colony forming orchids than the present painstaking methods, quite apart from the problems of maintaining many of the more difficult species.

Our thoughts go with Mark as a moral encouragement for the continuation of his work, and our thanks go to both him and his parents for such a thrilling evening. We hope that one day we can corner him for a monthly meeting - his slides of orchids are magnificent and the shots of things underneath them are enough to cause your hair to stand on end.

CULTURAL NOTES.

If any member requires culture notes for terrestrial orchids, please see Roy Hargreaves, our hardworking Secretary, at any of our meetings, this particularly applies to any new members. You may also like to look through our back issues of the Journal; these contain a wealth of information on the subject and are available from the Librarian.

PLANT OP THE MONTH. G. Nieuwenhoven

PTEROSTYLIS DECURVA. (Common name:- Summer Greenhood.)

A truly graceful species, this pterostylis must be our earliest to flower in the year. As I sit here writing this article and looking at the flower one cannot help but wonder what a beautifully delicate specimen it is.

Like *P. obtusa* it has a prominent sinus and the reddish brown labellum pokes out nearly as far as the end of the green sinus. About the galea W.H. Nicholls states "Galea erect for about half of its length, then curving forward through a semi-circle and extended at the apex into a long filiform and usually much decurved point, sometimes 6 cm. around the complete curve."

While my plant conforms fairly accurately. with this description the point does not decurve but continues on almost horizontally. It is beautifully striated and appears to have three main darker green stripes with several less distinct ones. The apex is coloured a slight reddish brown, lateral sepals are quite long and erect and form a 'V' shape. The stem has up to six stem clasping bracts, starting off small and appressed near the base and gradually becoming slightly larger and quite pointed towards the top. There is no rosette at flowering time, this comes later on a separate shoot.

Pterostylis decurva.
(Summer greenhood.)

Pterostylis decurva is a montane species and hails from the mountains of N.S.W., Victoria and Tasmania and apparently is not an abundant species, in fact my specimen originally came from near Mt. Hotham in Victoria and was a solitary plant growing on the edge of a forest.

In cultivation it grows quite easily and multiplies well in straight hills soil as long as it is well drained. It comes up during the latter part of March, these plants do not flower of course, during late Spring they go dormant and I repot them about early December, the flowering tubers may then be separated from the others. These are usually larger than the rest and have a distinct growth bud on top. Plant them in a suitable container {plastic pot - clay dries out too quickly in Summer) and keep slightly damp They should flower towards the end of February, depend.-ing on where you live, in the hills they may bloom later. Non-flowering tubers can be potted up and kept dry until the Autumn rains break their dormancy.

Reference:- W.H. Nicholls - "Orchids of Australia".

OUR. RAREST ORCHIDS - No. 18. R. Bates.

Calochilus paludosus. R. Br. Narrow leaf bearded orchid.

This bearded orchid can easily be recognised from other South Australian calochilus by its small slender leaf, the absence of the "eye-like" glands at the base of the column and by the coppery colouring.

This species only just extends into South Australia in the lower South-East. Reports of C. paludosus from the Southern Lofty Ranges invariably are due to mis-identification of a coppery-coloured, narrow leafed form of *C. robertsonii* which occurs from Nangkita to Waitpinga.

In November 1980 I was pleased to see several hundred *C. paludosus* in the Woods and Forests reserves north-east of Nangwarry. These must represent the majority of the plants in this State.

C. paludosus occurs chiefly in deep sands in areas where ground water occurs near the surface. It is more common and widespread in Victoria, Tasmania and New South Wales and uncommon in South-east Queensland and New Zealand.

This species has not proved successful in cultivation. The S.A. form has flowers which are short-lived anyway.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE.

The following nominations have been received:-

President Jim Simmons

Vice President George Nieuwenhoven

Secretary Roy Hargreaves

Treasurer Ron Robjohns

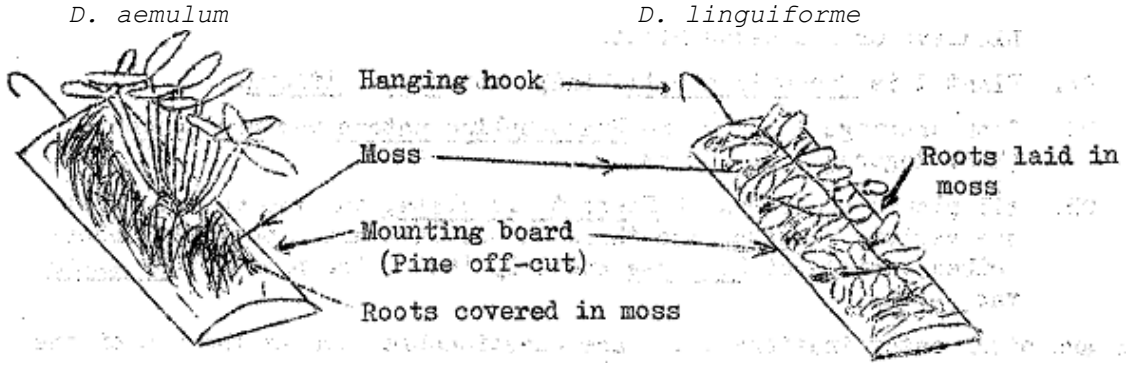
Committee (3) Audrey Howe
Peter Barnes
Bob Markwick

Although only the required number of nominations were received, a ballot will be held to decide who will take the balance of the term of G. Nieuwenhoven who had served one year of the normal two year period. As a result of the ballot, the two polling most votes will be elected for a two year term and the other for the one year term.

EPIPHYTE CULTURAL NOTES. P.K. McKay, Toowoomba.

Dendrobium aemulum.
Dendrobium gracilicaule.
Dendrobium linguiforme.

Temperature: 45° to 80°F.
Humidity: 38% to 50%.
Light: 50% shade. Will grow in more light but growth is restricted' . and plant will drop leaves.
Water: daily during hot weather and growing season - from Spring to Summer.
Fertilize: Moderate fertiliser every 7 days. Likes high Nitrogen during Spring growth time N.P.K. 30.4.8.) After Spring change to N.P.K. 10.15.10.
Pot mix: *D. gracilicaule*:- 1 part peanut shells, 2 parts pine bark (1/2 inch chips), 1 part charcoal, 1 part rotten core of tree (pulverised), or the plant can be mounted and treated as with *D. aemulum* and *D. linguiforme*.



Note:- Bind plant and moss on to board with nylon fishing line, this can be removed later when roots have adhered to the mounting board.

PHOTOGRAPHING NATIVE ORCHIDS. (No. 4 of a series.) R.J. Markwick

Extension Rings.

Last month we talked about the cheapest and in many respects the most easily handled equipment we could use for close-ups. This month we will discuss extension rings and some of the problems associated with their use.

A set of extension rings (sometimes called extension tubes) comprises three small tubes without any optics. Their sole purpose is to move the camera's lens further away from the focal plane in order to cause an increase in the size of the image projected onto the film. The three rings vary in size, and one or more of them may be used together. The greatest advantage of rings lies in the fact that the cameras lens in not degraded by the use of cheaper supplementary lenses, and they can be used with lenses of any focal length, even with bellows.

A disadvantage with some rings is the loss of the automatic diaphragm facility of the lens. Extension rings affect the exposure, and if through-the-lens light metering is not used exposure corrections will need to be made.
.... continued.

ROSA FIVEASH'S AUSTRALIAN ORCHIDS with text by Noel Lothian. Rigby 1974)

Corrections to names accompanying plates. R. Bates.
No attempt has been made to update the names for species which have undergone nomenclatural changes as this information is available elsewhere. Only the more obvious mistakes are corrected.

Plate 20. The plant on the left is not *Corybas unguiculatus* but probably *C. despectans*. Jones and Nash.

28. *Diuris Punctata* var *blackneyae* should read *P. punctata forma blackneyae*.
60. The third plant from the right is not *Caladenia patersonii* but *C. rigida* R.S. Rogers (*C. huegelii* var *rigida*).
61. The plant on the right is *Diuris palustris* not *D. palachila*.
64. The name of the *Pterostylis* should read *biseta* not bisecta.
74. The middle plant is *Caladenia rigida*...not *C. patersonii*.
82. The first plant on the left is *Diuris palustris* not *D. palachila*.
86. This plate is a direct copy of a drawing by Franz Bauer in Lindleys Orchidaceous Plants.
87. Plant 4 is *Microtis atrata* Lindl. not *M. parviflora*.
90. Both drawings 1 and 2 are *Prasophyllum patens* var *pruinosum* (R.S.Rogers) R.S.Rogers
95. All plants are forms of *Pterostylis alata*, the two on the right are variety *robusta*, the three on the left are a possibly undescribed variety of *P. alata* and only the centre plant is *P. alata* var *alata*.

There are other determinations which are questionable such as the use of the name *Caladenia angustata* for both plates 3 and 4 and the use of names long outdated at the time of publication in 1974.

Note:- The value of Rosa Fiveash's Australian Orchids is much increased if the correct labels can be applied to all plates.
A review of the book appeared in the 'Orchadian' Vol. 5 No. 2 P. 17.

(Continued)-
Photographing Native Orchids.

For example, I know of a photographer operating a camera with a clip-on light meter and a 55 mm standard lens, who uses 7 mm, 14 mm, and 28 mm wide rings and adds ½, 1 and 1½ stops respectively to the basic exposure. For the basic exposure, he takes a reading from a Grey Neutral Test Card. Some extension rings have exposure factors engraved on them.

Accurate focusing with extension rings requires that the camera be moved back - wards and forwards until the image is in sharp focus and, since they reduce the amount of light to the viewfinder, extra care must be taken when light conditions are poor. This is best done using a tripod and you will find that a set of focusing rails are an invaluable aid. Extension rings can be used to yield reproduction ratios up to l0X, but for larger magnifications it is preferable to use bellows.

Since they are relatively cheap and produce good results; extension rings are popular with many native orchid photographers.

Next month:- Bellows.