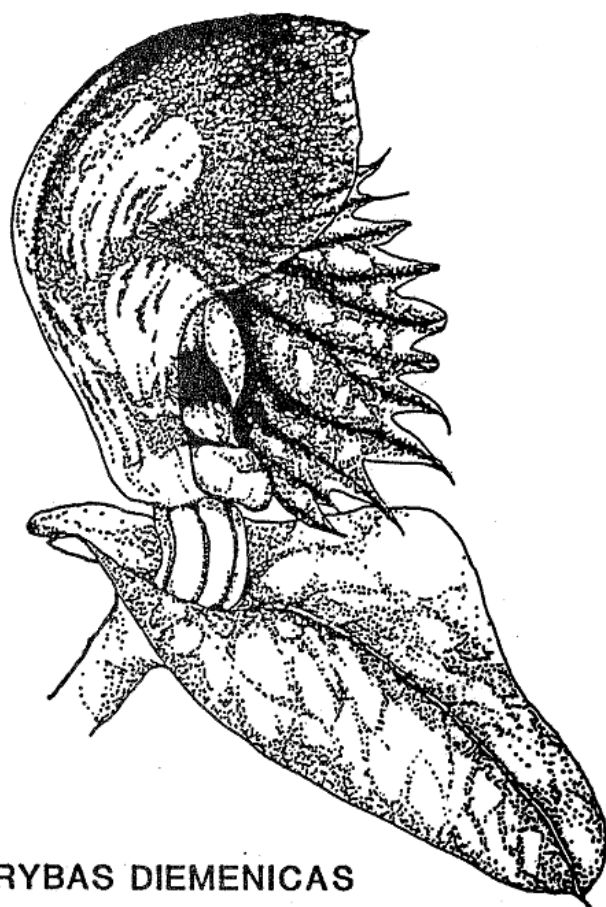
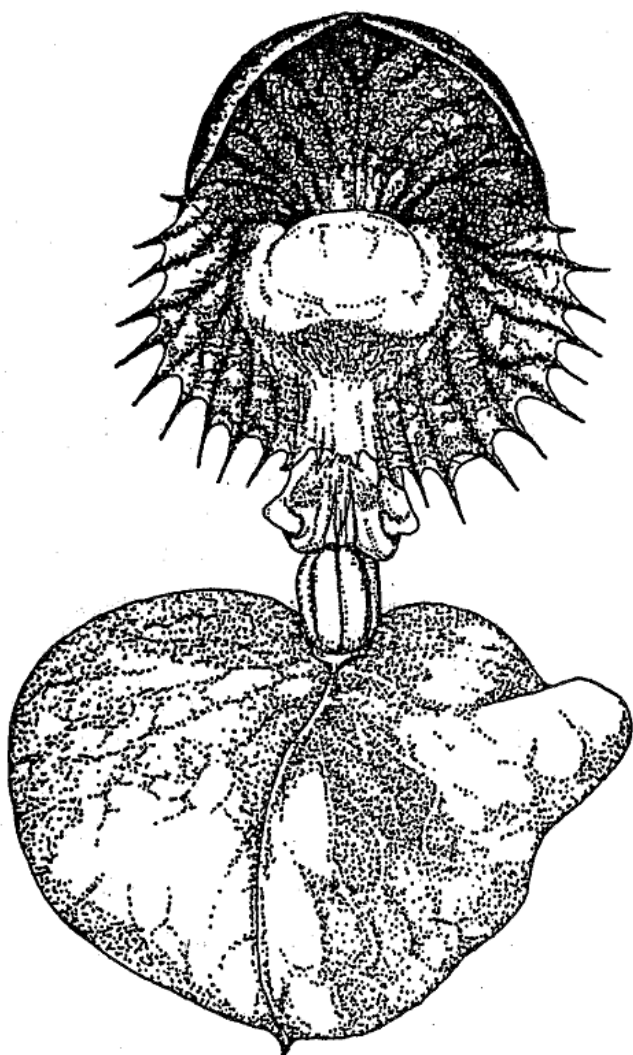


NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY
of
SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.
JOURNAL



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March 1989

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

THE NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA PROMOTES THE CONSERVATION OF NATIVE ORCHIDS THROUGH CULTIVATION OF NATIVE ORCHIDS, THROUGH PRESERVATION OF NATURALLY-OCCURRING ORCHID PLANTS AND NATURAL HABITAT.

EXCEPT WITH DOCUMENTED OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, NO PERSON IS AUTHORISED TO REPRESENT THE SOCIETY ON ANY MATTER.

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NEXT MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Tuesday, 28th March at 8.00 p.m. in St. Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington.

1989-90 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The following positions are vacant :

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
2 Committee Positions

If you are interested in being on the Committee please fill in a nomination form (available at the meeting) prior to 8.00 p.m. on March 28th.

NEXT FIELD TRIP - Sunday April 16th.

The first field trip of the season will be a survey of Scott Conservation Park. Meet at the Mt. Compass Shop at 10.00 a.m.

LAST MEETING

Dr Brian Morley, Director of the Adelaide Botanical Gardens, provided a most enlightening talk on Conservatories - not glasshouses as suggested in last month's Journal, and there is a big difference between the two as we soon found out. Dr Morley showed examples of the architectural sculpture forms of conservatories from around the world and provided a very informative discussion on their history, development and construction. Of course our own Bicentennial Conservatory which

will be open to the public in mid-November was the star of the show.

Dr Morley is an exceptional speaker - maybe its just enthusiasm - and we thank him very much for a most enjoyable evening.

PLANTS ON DISPLAY February Meeting

Terrestrials: *Calanthe triplicata*, *Arthrochilus irritabilis*, *Chiloglottis reflexa*, *Geodorum pictum*, *Spiranthes sinensis*, *Pterostylis abrupta*, *Prasophyllum* sp.

Epiphytes: *Sarcochilus ceciliae*, *Dendrobium speciosum*, *Sarcochilus hartmannii*, x *Pteroceras hirticalcar* = Riverdene, *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon, *Dendrobium* Ausie Ember.

Lewis Moore provided the plant commentary on the epiphytes. Don Wells provided the commentary on the terrestrials.

COMMENTATOR'S CHOICE

Epiphyte species: *Sarcochilus ceciliae* grown by Margaret Fuller.

hybrid: *Parachilus* Riverdene grown by Russell Job.

Terrestrial species: *Calanthe triplicata* grown by Wally Walloscheck

POPULAR VOTE

Epiphyte: *Sarcochilus ceciliae* grown by Margaret Fuller.

Terrestrial: *Chiloglottis reflexa* grown by Don Wells.

N.O.S.S.A. NOTICES

Journal articles are needed, so please put pen to paper. If you are holding onto articles which you have already written, please give them to your Editor. The Journal is becoming a bit of a one man show again, so please, let's all contribute, even if only a few lines of text or verse.

It would make it easier for those Committee Members who clean up after our Tuesday meetings, if members could put their chairs against the side wall of the hall at the end of the meeting. Your attention on this matter would be much appreciated.

The N.O.S.S.A. Library is missing the following issues of the ORCHADIAN:

Volume 6	Nos. 4, 7 and 8
Volume 7	Nos. 5, 10, 11 and 12
Volume 8	Nos. 1, 2, 3, 8, 9 and 10

If anyone has copies that they would be willing to part with, either as a donation (thank you very much) or for a price, please contact Ron Robjohns at the next meeting (or phone 271 7457).

The South Australian representative of the newly formed Orchid Badge Club is Mrs Nell George, 33 Welwyn Road, Manningham 5086.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT BY Ron Robjohns

It is with pleasure that I submit my report as your President for 1988. The year has been a most successful one, the meetings being well attended with a fine benching of plants and a good variety of speakers who have, I feel sure, contributed to our knowledge of our native plants and their culture. Membership this year was 267, marginally down on last year, but above average. Financially, we have progressed and the Committee have decided, in spite of rising costs, to recommend that subscriptions remain unaltered for the fourth year.

The displays in the Spring Show were of a very high standard with fine displays of terrestrials and epiphytes, however at the show, it was the year of the speciosum - they were magnificent and abundant. The Champion of the Show was *Caladenia rigida* grown by Bob Bates and the Ira Butler Award for the Best Hybrid went to Bruce Mules with his Aussie Utmost. Congratulations to these growers and thanks to all who exhibited and contributed to a fine show. Regrettably, inclement weather marred the attendance.

At the invitation of the Society for Growing Australian Plants we again put quite a creditable display in their Annual Show at Wayville.

Field trips under the guidance of Bob Bates have again attracted a small dedicated group of terrestrial enthusiasts. Thank you for your time and effort Bob. Again several members held an "Open House" with their plant houses enabling members to see the conditions, etc. under which other growers operated.

Our first Club Dinner was held in August at the Walkers Arms Hotel where those attending voted it a success and recommended that it be an annual event.

Another new venture was our Auction held at the November meeting which proved both popular with the members and profitable to the Club, with the members asking for a repeat performance next November. As usual the November meeting closed the year with a very enjoyable supper.

This report would not be complete without my acknowledgement and thanks to the Committee, raffle ticket sellers, those who opened their plant houses, the editor, those who helped in journal production and despatch together with all who have helped in the many other ways and without whose help and co-operation the Society would find it difficult to function, and in conclusion a special thanks to Gerry Carne who has most efficiently acted as both our editor and librarian for the past year, but who finds that the pressure of business precludes him from continuing in office.

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31.12.1988.

RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
Subscriptions 1988	1375.00	Library	194.50
Prepaid	225.50	Postage	839.57
Donations	24.00	Printing & Stationery	1219.10
Badges	48.00	Publications	619.35
Publications	604.90	Rent of Hall	200.00
Raffles	392.60	Public Liability Insurance	335.34
Tuber Bank	291.40	O.C.S.A. - Affiliation	10.00
Show Admission	316.00	A.O.F. - Donation	50.00
Auction	289.50	A.N.O.S. - Subscription	16.00
Bank Interest	740.55	Medallions	48.00
Hargreaves Trophy	50.00	Show Expenses	174.00
Trading	1619.78	Honorarium-1987 Journals	220.00
Sundries	29.80	Hargreaves Trophy -2 years	100.00
		Club Dinner	360.00
		Posters	45.00
		Computer Discs	24.90
		Refund amount over paid	23.00
		Govt. Licence & Fees	27.00
		Tax.-F.I.D. & B.A.D.	14.58
		Sundries	67.36
		Club Dinner	360.00
			4587.70
		Excess Receipts over Pymts.	1779.33
	\$ 6367.03		\$ 6367.03

CASH STATEMENT.

Cash at bank 31.12.87.	10105.07	
Add excess receipts over payments	1779.33	\$11884.40
Cash at Bank 31.12.88	11864.40	
Cash on Hand	20.00	\$11884.40

Honorary Treasurer.

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

16th. February 1989.

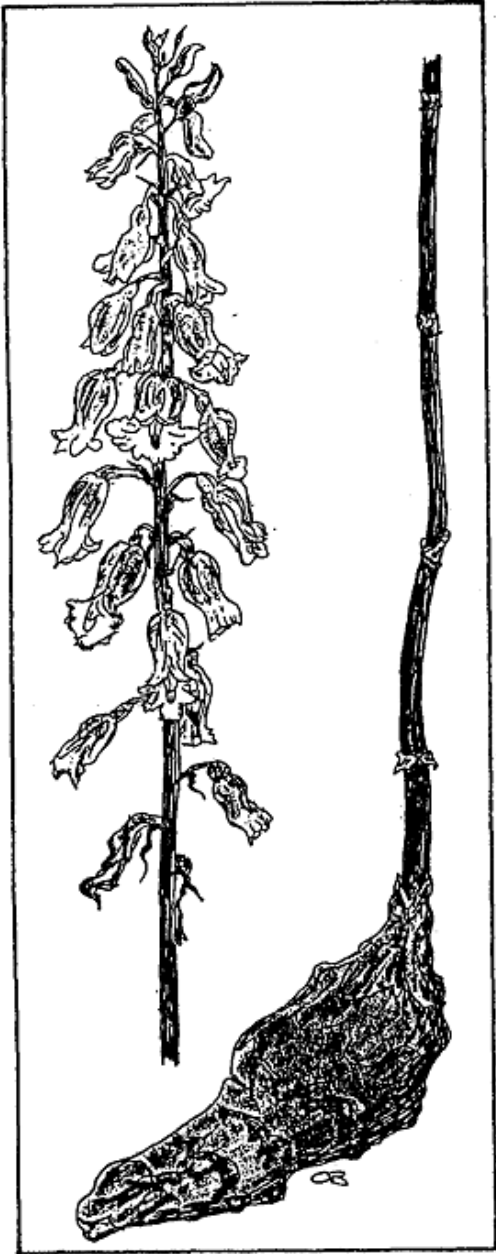
Honorary Auditor.

Until 1978, orchid enthusiasts in Adelaide used to travel the 60 km. or so to the Mount Compass area to see *Gastrodia*, the leafless a-chlorophyllous Cinnamon bells orchid. In 1978, N.O.S.S.A. members found *Gastrodia* only 30 km. from Adelaide at Scott Creek, then in 1986, a colony of Cinnamon bells was found less than 20 km. from the city, in a small conservation park off Gum Flat Road, Carey Gully. It was to this site that we intended to visit on November 12th last year.

Things did not go smoothly, as the trip leader had car trouble and arrived at the meeting point, an hour late to find all but one member had moved on. So it was that we became two groups. Fortunately both groups did find the *Gastrodia*. About fifty plants were located on a damp flat under tall gums and *Leptospermum* (ti-tree).

It was a hot humid day and we were lucky to see small bees working the *Gastrodia* spikes. The flowers do have a sweet spicy fragrance which attracts the bees. Various sun orchids were also seen in flower in damp spots. Of interest were several spikes of *Prasophyllum elatum* on the unburnt but bulldozed area under power lines and a large colony of *Prasophyllum australe* in bud. Like the *Gastrodia*, this species does not occur any further north in the state. In a quarry off the main road we found *Microtis unifolia* and *M. parviflora* in abundance in an area worked just 10 years earlier. We were surprised that such a large colony could build up in such a short time. The trip will be repeated in two years' time.

Orchids seen in flower (total - both groups): *Gastrodia sesamoides*, *Microtis parviflora*, *M. unifolia* (small labellum late-form), *Prasophyllum elatum*, *Thelymitra juncifolia* (previously *ixioides*), *T. parviflora* and *T. mucida*.



PARAWA/INMAN VALLEY FIELD TRIP REPORT - November 27, 1988 by Bob Bates

Fifteen people met at Yankalilla on the coast 60 km south of Adelaide and drove up into the hills which are the backbone of the Fleurieu Peninsula. We gathered at Richard and Leona Woolcock's property at Parawa near the higher point on the Peninsula. Leona is author of "Wildflowers of the Mt Lofty Ranges" and niece of Collin and Dorothy Woolcock, well known for their book "Australian Terrestrial Orchids". The Woolcock property overlooks an enormous valley and the view was magnificent: Just below the homestead is one of those fantastic "hanging swamps". Water oozes out of the hillside over an area of some 3 hectares and the soil never dries out. The fascinating diversity of plant and animal life in such a swamp contrasts dramatically with the dry cleared hills all around.

What we had come to see was the rare leek-orchid *Prasophyllum frenchii* (previously *P. hartii*). There were dozens of them in the swamp and what a variable lot they were. Some of the flower spikes had mating jewel beetles on them. Another leek orchid (*P. australe*) was just coming into flower. I was most intrigued by the variety of *Microtis* in this swamp - *M. parviflora* with crowded flowers in a conical spike, *M. rara* with yellow flowers, already the lower ones black and releasing seed, the small labellum form of *M. unifolia* and apparent hybrids, all in this one small area. In dry spots along the creek were the asparagus spears of the hyacinth orchid *Dipodium punctatum* in bud.

Lunch was had on a verandah overlooking the valley and from there we watched a wedgetail eagle being pestered by magpies, and yellow tailed black cockatoos. Other birds of interest included blue wrens and the inevitable Japanese snipe, flushed from the swamp thickets.

After lunch we proceeded to the property of John Compton, one of our country members, who lives nearby. Who could forget that exciting drive across the paddocks past ancient grass trees to a fenced grove of *Melaleuca* and *Leptospermum*. A different *Microtis* was seen here. This had yellow green flowers in a short crowded spike and pale bilobed labellum - in the strict sense *M. biloba* of Nicholls. For the bird lovers a highlight was observing an owlet-nightjar on its nest. John really knows the plants and animals on his property!

We were lucky enough to have local botanist, Denzel Murfett, with us. Denzel led us to the Ashby property at Mt. Alma. The name Ashby is well known to wildflower lovers in Adelaide. Alison Ashby, who died earlier this year, lived at Mt. Alma, and was well known for her botanical art. Her father Edwin collected the first *Glossadenias* and the family's Blackwood property is now a botanic gardens. Of interest also is the fact that the famed botanist Prof. Cleland was a friend of both the Ashby and Compton families and did much of his plant collecting in the swamps we visited this day.

We walked across a marshy meadow to see a pretty blue *Protea*, rediscovered this year after almost 100 years. The meadow was thick with *Microtis parviflora*, none of us have seen so many in one area before. Adjacent the swamp was a patch of sandy woodland said to contain the large duck orchid

Caleana major. We admired a locally collected specimen and then set off to find our own. Instead, we found many lesser duck orchids *Paracaleana minor* - the first record for the species in this area! All in all, a most interesting day.

Species seen in flower: *Caladenia tentaculata*, *Caleana major*, *Gastrodia sesamoides*, *Microtis atrata*, *Microtis biloba*, *Microtis parviflora*, *Microtis unifolia*, *Microtis unifolia* x *P. rara*, *Paracaleana minor*, *Prasophyllum australe*, *Prasophyllum frenchii*.

FIELD TRIP REPORT - *Dipodium* Special by Bob Bates

Several N.O.S.S.A. members met at Carey Gulley, 15 minutes from Adelaide, early on a beautiful crisp midsummer morning. And what did they see? *Dipodium*, *Dipodium* and more *Dipodium*. Hundreds of them during a pleasant 30 minute stroll. There were green stemmed plants with pale flowers, green stemmed plants with dark flowers, dark stemmed plants with dark flowers and dark stemmed plants with pale flowers, some with up to 30 flowers open at once and not a single flower pollinated anywhere. Many plants had ants on the stems, looking for or feeding from the nectar droplets at the base of each floral bract. From the number of very immature flower spikes it looked as if there would still be flowers to see right through February, March and into April. Good rains recently and cool weather had ensured this. A surprising number of wildflowers were seen including the beautiful Christmas Bush (*Bursaria spinosa*), the edible berry *Persoonia* with its yellow tubular flowers and Black-eyed Susan *Tetralathea*, as well as an un-named species of native daisy *Picris* sp. A pleasant walk, a pleasant talk and we were home by morning tea time. The concept of an early morning field trip worked so well it is sure to be repeated.

MONADENIA BRACTEATA - A WEED TO BE ERADICATED by Enid Robertson

In the November and December 1988 issue of the N.O.S.S.A. Journal, a number of occurrences of *Monadenia bracteata* were reported. I view with some alarm the comment that this orchid "seems to be spreading through the Adelaide Hills".

This South African import seeds prolifically, as I discovered recently when pulling up a few dead flower-heads of the Eden Hills population. By its rapid spread it is obviously well-suited to our hills area. In Western Australia it has spread widely from the Albany district where it was first discovered wild many years ago (Alex George pers. comm.).

Having observed numerous other South African plants, belonging to many different families, aggressively crowding out our own badly depleted indigenous flora, I would urge that this South African weed, *Monadenia bracteata*, be eradicated NOW! This is achievable, while the infestation is still relatively small. It will not, be difficult if all N.O.S.S.A. members make a concerted effort IMMEDIATELY, starting NOW in 1989, to dig up and destroy every plant of *Monadenia bracteata*. This must be done when the plants are first found in the Spring before any further seeding occurs.

Seed has already been dispersed as the various 1988 sightings show. How long will these seeds remain viable? Let us be sensible and act, immediately and not be sorry later.

References:

R. Bates - (1988) Report on field trip to Scott Creek Conservation Park on October 15 - Journal N.O.S.S.A. 12(9):97.

P. Reece (1988) Additional notes on *Monadenia bracteata* in the Adelaide Hills - Journal N.O.S.S.A. 12(10):107.

EARLY CULTIVATION OF AN AUSTRALIAN ORCHID

Seen at the "First Impressions" exhibition held at the State Museum in January this year (on loan from the British Museum): A painting of *Pterostylis rufa* by Ferdinand Bauer said to have been of a "plant cultivated from seed at Kew Gardens in 1806".

13TH WORLD ORCHID CONFERENCE - AUCKLAND N.Z. 1990

World orchid conferences are held every four years in various host countries around the world; participating in them is a great experience, not just for the opportunity to view the best orchids in the world but to renew or make new friendships, to engage in social functions or take in some sightseeing.

The most recent conferences have been held in parts of the world which made attending them rather expensive: Japan, U.S.A. and Africa.

The 13th World Conference to be held in September, 1990, in Auckland, N.Z. however, should be within the reach of most orchid lovers if they start planning now.

The N.Z. planning committee under the Chairmanship of Dr Dennis Bonham and Publicity Chairman Ray Dix have the early planning well under way. The first newsletters have been circularised and the registration booklet will be available in early 1989.

Reg Shooter has been appointed Conference Liaison Officer for South Australia, and will be pleased to answer any queries or have your name placed on the mailing list.

Reg can be contacted by phoning 356 2666 or by writing to 5 Diane Place, Grange, 5022.

The Kiwis can always be relied upon to patronize conferences wherever they are held in Australia; let us reciprocate by supporting them in 1990.

GROWING *CALADENIA RIGIDA*: My Experiences by Bob Bates.

I obtained my *Caladenia rigida* in 1976 and grew them in straight bush loam in a squat clay pot. They flowered well and seeds were sown in 1978. To my delight nearly 100 seedlings were produced. However, I couldn't help noticing that other growers were producing taller plants with larger flowers. At about that time Les Nesbitt, was awarded a N.O.S.S.A. cultural certificate for a perfect potful of this beautiful white spider orchid which occurs naturally only in the Adelaide Hills. Les grew his *Caladenias* in a soil mix so, hoping to emulate his success, I transferred my *Caladenia rigida* to plastic pots and grew them in the so called Melbourne mix of sand, soil and leaf litter and added blood and bone. Instantly there were problems. Although 2 or 3 of the plants in one pot grew enormously well, all the plants in another pot damped off one at a time and at the end of the year I had considerably less tubers than before. I repotted all tubers in a fresh mix but left out the blood and bone. The following year's growth was smaller and only 2 plants flowered. At repotting time, all tubers were dark brown and cracked, there had been a few seedlings that year but they had all damped off. This was no good. I decided to experiment. and divided my *C. rigida* tubers into 5 lots of 10 tubers and grew them in small plastic pots in different mixes:

- A. Melbourne mix
- B. Same mix but with the tubers placed in straight sand
- C. Same again but tubers placed in peat
- D. Same mix but bush leaf litter for top 2 cm
- E. Straight bush soil of gravelly loam - very dry.

Seed was sown in all pots but seedlings were produced only in the Pot E. There were only one or two plants flowering in each pot.

After two years all pots were tipped out; the tubers in E were large and healthy - fifteen of them. All other pots had decreased tuber number.

The decision was made. I would go back to my original method and so all tubers were grown in bush soil in clay pots. That year there were numerous seedlings and the plants were not repotted. The following year (1988) all the adult plants flowered and after the pot had been in bloom a full 4 weeks, it was placed on display at the Spring Show where it was awarded Champion Species of the Show.

I will not experiment again with this or any other *Caladenia* but will grow spider orchids only in bush loam. It works for me.

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE FOR 1989

The results of the 1988 Scott Creek Conservation Park Survey will be published in booklet form in April. This year, N.O.S.S.A. will survey Scott Conservation Park near Strathalbyn (not Mt Scott Conservation Park which is in the South-east). There will be two official N.O.S.S.A. visits.

The following field trips are planned for 1989 :

April 16th - Scott Conservation Park (survey)
 June 25th - *Corybas unguiculatus* special
 July 15th - Morialta Falls (morning only)
 Sept. 17th - Scott Conservation Park (survey) including Finniss railway line
 Sept. 23-25th Gawler Ranges Outback Trip
 Oct: ? - Survey of areas burnt out by bushfires in the Adelaide area
 this summer, i.e. Bridgewater, Scott Creek, One Tree Hill
 Nov. 11th - *Gastrodia* Special
 Dec. 9th - Duck Orchids at Knott Hill

We would be pleased to hear from anyone with ideas for additional field trips this year, particularly members who have bush properties and would be willing to guide a small group.

NEW MEMBERS

The Native Orchid Society of South Australia takes pleasure in Welcoming Mr. and Mrs. Nurse of Darlington and Mr. L. Davis of Flagstaff Hill. We hope to see you at our meetings so we can get to know you.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA SPRINGFIELD TRIP

ANOS Victorian Group are planning a trip to Western Australia for two weeks in early September. Members of the Western Australia Group are organising the trip and it is therefore going to be a fantastic one. ANOS Victoria would like N.O.S.S.A. Members to join them. If anyone is interested, please contact George Nieuwenhoven at the March Meeting or call him at 264-5825.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Laurence Chambers who won a years subscription to the Orchadian in the February Raffle.