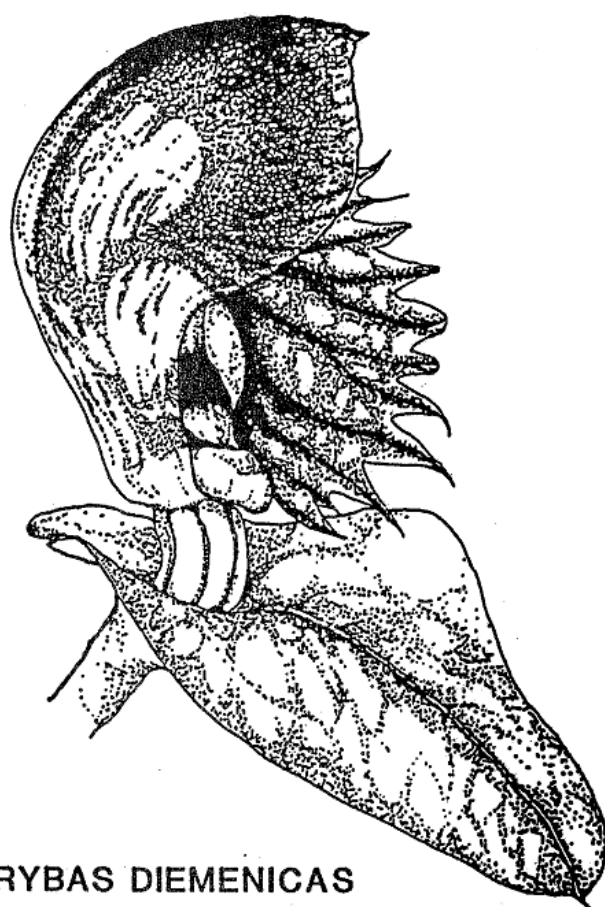
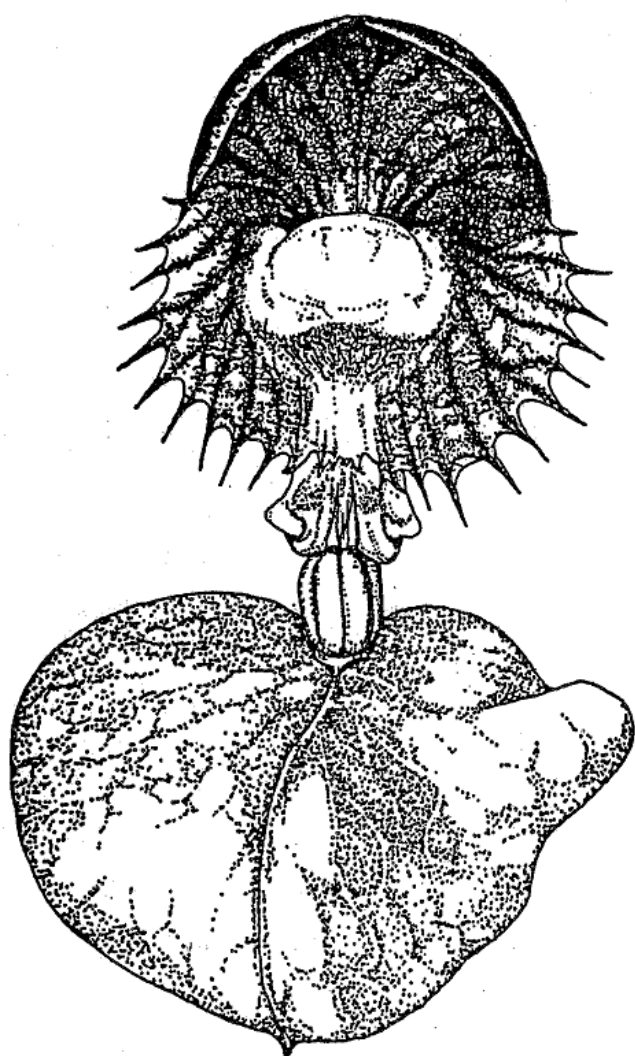


NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY
of
SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.
JOURNAL



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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.

All native orchids are protected plants in the wild. Their collection without written Government permit is illegal.

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NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 24 October, 1989, at 8.00 p.m.

St Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington.

Visitors always welcome.

The Topic for the October meeting will be a question and answer panel for members to obtain further cultural advice. Members are asked to come well supplied with questions with a view in mind to receiving as much guidance as possible from several growers representing the terrestrial and epiphytic genera.

OUR LAST TOPIC

The September meeting was set aside for a display of epiphyte mounting and terrestrial repotting. These cultural demonstrations were given by Ron Robjohns and Les Nesbitt and were well received by those in attendance.

VALE LEWIS MOORE

Members of the Society were saddened to hear of the passing of Lewis Moore on August 29, 1989.

Lewis joined the Society in September 1978 and regularly attended monthly meetings. For the last few years he and his wife have organised the Society's Trading Table and he will be sorely missed.

Our sympathy is extended to his wife Rosalie and to his family.

Darrell Butler

SEPTEMBER MEETING - DETAILS

PLANTS BENCHED

Terrestrials: *Caladenia menziesii*, *C. patersonii*, *Chiloglottis prescottiana*, (2), *Diuris longifolia*, *D. maculata* (selected), *D. Pioneer*, *D. Pioneer* "Big Ears ", *D. Pioneer* "Prince", *D. Pioneer* "Wild Ones", *D. punctata*, *D. tricolor*, *Pterostylis baptistii* "Janney", *P. curta* (2), *P. curta* x *P. cucullata* (2), *P. curta* x *P. pedunculata*, *P. hildae* (2), *P. foliata*, *P. nutans* (white), *Thelymitra antennifera* x *T. rubra*.

Epiphytes: *Dendrobium aemulum* (2), *D. atrovioleaceum*, *D. Bardo Rose* (4), *D. Blushing Rose*, *D. delicatum* (5), *D. falcorostrum* (3), *D. fleckeri* x *D. gracilicaule*, *D. gracilicaule*, *D. gracillimum*, *D. gracillimum* (white), *D. Jamie Upton*, *D. kingianum* (2), *D. kingianum* x *D. tetragonum*, *D. linguiforme*, *D. Michael Jupp*, *D. Numkumbil* x *D. suffusum*, *D. prenticei*, *D. Peter* x *D. Pee Wee*, *D. Rutherford Surprise*, *D. speciosum* x *D. kingianum* "Corrigan's Red", *D. suffusum*, *D. Susan*, *D. Telekon*, *D. teretifolium*, *D. tetragonum* (4), *D. Wonga*, *Plectorrhiza tridentata*, *Sarcochilus falcatus*.

COMMENTARY AND JUDGING

Terrestrials: Mr Les Nesbitt

Epiphytes: Mr Gordon Brooks

RESULTS OF POPULAR VOTE

Terrestrials: *Caladenia patersonii*, grown by Mr Geoff Edwards.

Epiphytes: *Dendrobium falcorostrum*, grown by Mr L. Chambers.

RESULTS OF JUDGING

Terrestrial Species: *Chiloglottis prescottiana*, grown by Ms Katherine Hosking.

Terrestrial Hybrid: *Diuris Pioneer*, grown by Mr Les Nesbitt.

Epiphyte Species: *Dendrobium aemulum*, grown by Mr Ron Robjohns.

Epiphyte Hybrid: *Dendrobium Wonga*, grown by Mr L. Chambers.

HELP TABLE

Mr Les Burgess tabled a single flowered plant labelled *Pterostylis curta* x *P. cucullata*, for verification of the name. Les Nesbitt examined the plant and compared it with a similar specimen and concluded that it was most probably *Pterostylis curta* x *P. baptistii* (now called *P. Cutie*).

September Meeting - Details (contd.)

CULTURAL COMMENTS

Mr Geoff Edwards gave members present an alternative approach to the growing of terrestrial orchids. Geoff advised that consideration should be given to the prevailing conditions in which these plants will be nurtured. Due to his residence being in the foothills with a southerly aspect, Geoff provides 50% shade during summer months and removes the side shading on his shadehouse during winter. His preferred potting medium consists of equal parts of loam, potting mix (proprietary line from Woolies) and fine pine bark. This provides a light, well-drained mix which works well for his growing conditions. Geoff's main tip is to try for yourself and develop a system that works for your conditions.

Mr Reg Shooter covered the epiphytes and indicated that as most will now be in their flowering period there was little that can be done culturally. Reg suggested that now is the time to commence preparation for the next growing season and members could start getting their preferred potting mixes ready for a start in about 5/6 months. Shadecloth repairs would be attended to now and don't forget to look out for slugs and snails. Reg, along with other speakers, recommends the best pesticide is still a torch and a heavy boot.

NEW MEMBERS

William Dunn	David and Rosemary Hurst
Patricia and Grantley Smith	Stan and Veronica Stefanowicz
Heather and Wayne Welsh	Paul and Heather Whelan
Helen and Peter Wickens	Eve Shahinger

TUBER BANK 1989

The December Journal will have printed in it a list and details of tubers available this year.

To enable this list to be complete and accurate, all members who are prepared to donate tubers are asked to give accurate information regarding the names of native species and/or hybrid terrestrial orchids by November 28.

All species and hybrids are required. Any donation of tubers will be greatly appreciated. No quantity is too small.

Only information is required at present. Collection will be arranged in December.

Contact: Philip Matthews
9 Southern Terrace
HOLDEN HILL SA 5088

Telephone: 261 2359

NOSSA SPRING SHOW 1989 - PRIZE LIST

CHAMPION NATIVE ORCHID OF THE SHOW

Dendrobium kingianum "Corrigans Red", grown by B. Mules.

THE ROY HARGREAVES TROPHY (Best Terrestrial Species or Hybrid)

Caladenia caesarea, grown by R. Bates.

IRA BUTLER AWARD (Best Hybrid)

Dendrobium Sunglow x self, grown by B. Mules.

CHAMPION TERRESTRIAL SPECIES (from Classes 1-5, 8)

Caladenia caesarea, grown by R. Bates.

CHAMPION TERRESTRIAL HYBRID (from Classes 6-8)

Pterostylis curta x *P. pedunculata*, grown by R. Bates

CHAMPION EPIPHYTIC SPECIES (from Classes 9-12, 16)

Dendrobium kingianum "Corrigans Red", grown by B. Mules.

CHAMPION EPIPHYTIC HYBRID (from Classes 13-16)

Dendrobium Sunglow x self, grown by B. Mules.

Class

1	<i>Caladenia</i> or <i>Glossodia</i> Species	
	1st <i>Caladenia caesarea</i>	R. Bates
	2nd <i>Caladenia patersonii</i>	R. Bates
2	<i>Diuris</i> Species	
	1st <i>Diuris alba</i>	D. Wells
	2nd <i>Diuris palustris</i>	R. Hargreaves
3	<i>Pterostylis</i> Species	
	1st <i>Pterostylis pedunculata</i>	F.G. Edwards
	2nd <i>Pterostylis curta</i>	Black Hill Flora Centre
4	<i>Acianthus</i> or <i>Chiloglottis</i> Species	
	1st <i>Chiloglottis truncata</i>	R. Bates
	2nd <i>Cyrtostylis reniformis</i>	G. Nieuwenhoven
5	Terrestrial Species Other Than Classes 1-4	
	1st <i>Lyperanthus suaveolens</i>	D. Wells
	2nd <i>Thelymitra epipactoides</i>	G. Nieuwenhoven
6	<i>Pterostylis</i> Hybrid	
	1st <i>Pterostylis curta</i> x <i>P. pedunculata</i>	R. Bates
	2nd <i>Pterostylis curta</i> x <i>P. pedunculata</i>	R. Bates
7	Terrestrial Hybrid Other Than Class 6	
	1st <i>Caladenia</i> Harlequin	R. Bates
	2nd <i>Caladenia dilatata</i> x <i>C. patersonii</i>	D. Wells

NOSSA Spring Show 1989 - Prize List (contd.)

8	Specimen Terrestrial - Species or Hybrid 1st <i>Pterostylis curta</i> x <i>P. pedunculata</i> 2nd <i>Pterostylis curta</i>	R. Bates M. Fuller
9	<i>Dendrobium kingianum</i> 1st <i>Dendrobium kingianum</i> "Corrigans Red" 2nd <i>Dendrobium kingianum</i> "Corrigans Red"	B. Mules G. Nieuwenhoven
10	<i>Dendrobium speciosum</i> 1st <i>Dendrobium speciosum</i> "Yaramalong" 2nd <i>Dendrobium speciosum</i> "yellow"	B. Mules P. Barnes
11	<i>Dendrobium</i> Species Other Than Classes 9 or 10 1st <i>Dendrobium aemulum</i> 2nd <i>Dendrobium teretifolium</i>	D. Murley M. Goldsack
12	Epiphytic Species Other Than <i>Dendrobium</i> 1st <i>Sarcochilus falcatus</i> "Mt Larcom" 2nd <i>Sarcochilus falcatus</i>	D. Murley D. Murley
13	Epiphytic Hybrid - Cream or Yellow 1st <i>Dendrobium</i> Sunglow x self 2nd <i>Dendrobium</i> Star One	B. Mules M. Fuller
14	Epiphytic Hybrid - Pink or Red 1st <i>Dendrobium</i> Ellen "Majestic" 2nd <i>Dendrobium</i> Kathryn Banks	B. Mules D. Wells
15	Epiphytic Hybrid - Any Other Colour Including White 1st <i>Dendrobium</i> Aussie Bonanza x <i>D. Peter</i> 2nd <i>Dendrobium</i> Telekon	B. Mules B. Mules
16	Specimen Epiphyte - Species or Hybrid 1st <i>Dendrobium kingianum</i> "Corrigans Red" 2nd <i>Dendrobium aemulum</i>	B. Mules D. Murley

BICENTENNIAL CONSERVATORY VISIT

The Directors of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide have most generously extended an invitation to members of NOSSA to have a sneak preview of the Bicentennial Conservatory, one evening prior to the official opening on 18 November, 1989.

This opportunity is open to members and should not be missed as there will be an entrance fee once the conservatory is officially opened. Those wishing to take advantage of this wonderful offer should meet at:

the Botanic Park Entrance Gate, 5.15 p.m., Sunday, 5 November, 1989.

(This is a tentative date only - to be confirmed at the October meeting.)

The visit will commence at 5.30 p.m. and members are advised that they will not be permitted entrance after 5.30 p.m. - so be early!

SHADEHOUSE AND GLASSHOUSE VISIT - AUGUST 1989

Once again it was that time of the year when generous members allowed us to see how they grew their native orchids and other plants, and once again we were not disappointed.

Our first port of call was the Western's home at Coromandel Valley, where Kevin showed us over his unheated plastic "igloo" and then his shadehouse. He and Gordon Brooks are partners in a commercial enterprise - hybridising, cloning and growing-on both native species and hybrids, and, in general concept Kevin does the mericlone and plating, and Gordon the growing-on.

Kevin had produced a number of *Cymbidium* crosses using *suave* and *maddidum* "sparkesii", but unfortunately it was too early to see them in flower, which also applied to most other species and hybrids. However, we saw some bright young plants of *Dendrobium* Ellen in flower, and two eye-catching yellow and red splash coloured specimens of *D. Aussie Ira* x *D. Peter*. *D. speciosum*, *D. kingianum*, *D. teretifolium*, *D. striolatum*, *D. gracilicaule*, etc., and hybrids, were all there by the score. Kevin told us that soon he hoped to have hybrids and mericlones of some outstanding natives he and Gordon had acquired on their trip to the east coast. Worthy of note was his use of bark under his benches to help build up humidity, and his processing, using a garden mulcher, of pine bark into three grades for potting on their orchids.

We all took the opportunity to wander around the garden where Australian natives grow extremely well, but Helen Western (Kevin assured us that she does the garden) must have a "green fingers" touch with exotics as well, because we saw *Proteas* in flower, also *Ericas* and some outstanding *Camellias*. Not to be forgotten is a fine specimen of a *Ginko* (the maidenhair tree). Particularly noticeable amongst the Australian native shrubs were the *Banksias*, such as red *ericifolia* and *prostrata* (we think), both flowering well.

We had our lunch in a very attractive enclosed area, filled with flourishing pot plants, and Kevin apologetically pointed to his collection of terrestrials at the edge of the verandah. He explained that between problems at work and his hybridising, he just hadn't given them the attention he should have, and was very late in getting them out from under cover. Nevertheless, *Diuris maculata* and several *Pterostylis* were in flower.

After lunch we had a quick look at Kevin's small but very well fitted up laboratory, and the rows of flasks and jars were ample evidence of the time he puts into hybridising and cloning. I doubt if any of us have ever seen every inch of space in a laboratory used so productively.

Our thanks are due to the Westerns - Kevin for the time he spent in showing us around and answering our questions so very knowledgeably, and Helen, who, in spite of a very heavy cold, provided us with tea and coffee.

Roy Hargreaves, the organiser of this outing, eventually managed to get us moving out of the hills and down to Thorl and Harry Tormet's home at Edwardstown, where Thorl met us at the front gate and ushered us round through the garage to the back, where we stood and just gazed in admiration. The wide open back verandah (closed at both ends) was massed with flowering *Cymbidium* orchids of many different colours - a path through the centre led to an area of relaxation with table and chairs, ferns in pots and hanging baskets, and *Zygocactus* in brilliant colour. Although we knew that Thorl and Harry were top class exhibitors in the orchid scene, we had not pictured the hygienic layout and orderliness basic to their success.

Shadehouse and Glasshouse Visit - August 1989 (contd.)

A heated glasshouse was located on the house (southern) side of the yard, and the remainder was covered in shadecloth probably ten to twelve feet high.

Approximately 75% of the benches were devoted to Cymbidiums and the remainder to natives, and a wide range of other interests. Humidity was maintained by the growth of N.Z. moss under the benches. In the glasshouse there were some lovely *Phalaenopsis* in flower, *Paphiopedilums*, *Cattleyas*, hard-cane *Dendrobiums* and fine samples of *D. bigibbum*. The native orchid area comprised vertical trellising and horizontal benching. Again, although the plants were covered in spikes, only a beautiful pink *D. Ellen* was in full flower. We have no doubt that many viewers will admire this specimen at the Show.

Thoral spoke of the difficulty of obtaining suitable and long lasting mounts for use on vertical trellising, but although there was quite a bit of discussion, no one had a solution to the problem. Perhaps other members may be able to help?

A wander around the rest of the garden revealed a row of pots of glossy-leaved variegated *Aspidistras* (all of which had flowers just above the soil) and a number of the more uncommon plants such as a velvety black lily, a new blue rose, *Sprekelias*, etc. The main theme that came through to us was that everything grown was of exhibition quality, and no self-respecting weed or bug would dare rear its ugly head in the place - and we are very envious!

The third home on our tour was at Somerton Park, where Grace and Cliff Prosser live. As Grace is a floral artist of some renown, and has been for many years, you could guess rightly that she has collected over that period a great variety of flowering and foliage plants to use in her demonstrations.

We entered through an enclosed carport/garage, where we later enjoyed a welcome cuppa, and where Grace had a number of Cymbidiums in flower, plus quite a range of ferns, fuschias, etc. Then through we went to the back garden, where there were several small shadehouses and glasshouses filled almost to overflowing with an amazing number of different plants. Grace's native epiphytic orchids were in different places in the garden: on trees, and in a cool glasshouse, and all seemed to be doing well, as were the Bromeliads and various bulbs flowering under the big shade trees. We enjoyed our cup of tea or coffee at the end of our "inspection", also the conversation that accompanied it, and so "Thank you very much, Grace and Cliff, for your hospitality".

This article cannot conclude without congratulating and thanking Roy on his selection of homes for us to visit, because three more different type of settings would be difficult to find:

- (1) Westerns, with a garden of mainly Australian and South African natives and Kevin's enterprise (with Gordon Brooks) of hybridising and propagating native and exotic orchids.
- (2) Tormets - a shadehouse garden with plants of exhibition standard, and
- (3) Prossers - a floral artist's fantastic collection of everything that can grow.

All this, allied to perfect weather, and what more could you want?

Fay and Malcolm Maxwell

ANOTHER CASE OF WRONG LABELLING?

At the September meeting I was approached to give the terrestrial culture segment because I was "a good grower". I declined for two important reasons. Firstly, I cannot talk in front of an audience without first preparing my talk and then reading it out and secondly, the label "good grower" is, in my opinion, incorrect - "lucky grower" is perhaps nearer the mark! With these thoughts in mind I have decided to put pen to paper and attempt to have my thoughts on my culture printed in the Journal for every member to read and THINK about.

There are a number of factors which result in a good growing season. I can only relate to what I have observed in my own growing area. These factors are:

- weather (summer and winter),
- potting mix, topping,
- shadehouse location,
- storage of dormant tubers (potted).

The weather is the major factor if one depends on natural rain, light and drying breezes. I will comment on the past season as it was not good for me. Flowering times are a full six weeks late and there were a lot of rot problems. Early autumn rains were light and presented no difficulty, however, later winter rains were very heavy and lots of pots were very severely washed out with drops from the sarlon roof. It was noticed that after these heavy rains there were no drying winds, and, more often than not, the clouds were down to ground level, thus keeping everything wet. This pattern is not the norm.

Later in June when the frosts (and/or hailstorms) come, it was noticed that on frosty mornings, which are normally good light days, the weather closed in after a couple of hours, so my shadehouse missed out on the light as it does not receive any in the morning. Days with hail at this time of the year are usually interspersed with periods of bright sunshine. Once again this year it was not so, it was a really dark, damp winter.

It can be summarised from these few observations that location of the growing house is important - maximum winter light and an ability to catch drying breezes are essential to a good flowering spring.

Potting mix is a matter of experimenting to find a suitable mix for your area as each is environmentally different. I use a commercial potting mix which has been through a 6 mm sieve. The coarse materials left behind are saved for potting *Dendrobium* seedlings. The finer sievings are then mixed with coarse plasterer's sand (1/3 potting mix, 2/3 sand). Usually, once the tubers have been potted, and prior to topping, I get some hills soil (secondary layer of humus found under trees in the hills area), and shake a light layer onto the pot with a sieve. The hills soil is NEVER taken from near wattle trees.

Topping is a matter of choice. It can be:

- pine needles,
- 6mm gravel,
- chopped bracken fern,
- chopped casuarina needles,
- small gumnuts (stringybark type).

In the past I have tried all of these and have had the best results from gumnuts. I have noted that once the growing season begins, mycorrhizal fungi becomes active and adheres to the gumnuts, anchoring them so that they are

Another Case of Wrong Labelling? (contd.)

not washed out of place by heavy drops of water from the sarlon. All the other toppings get dislodged and washouts occur.

Shadehouse location is important but it is not always possible to be well positioned. However, plenty of winter light and air movement is desirable.

Storage of dormant tubers potted in summer is important. I firmly believe it is necessary to keep the pots as cool as possible, particularly the cauline variety of *Pterostylis*, as it helps to prevent dehydration of the tubers and promotes a healthy start to the growing season. Extra shade is put over the pots until autumn and on hot days a light spray of water over the top of the covered pots morning and night helps wonderfully. Do not over water as this brings on early growth which is of no benefit later on. Insect attack is a problem on early growth. Water only enough to cool the pots and surrounding area.

I hope these notes on terrestrial culture can be of assistance to novice growers but remember, I live in the wettest area in the Adelaide Hills where it is reputed to rain for 9 months of the year - the other three months it only drops off the trees!

I wish everyone good growing for the coming seasons.

W. Walloscheck

PHOTOGRAPHING NATIVE ORCHIDS

Continuing the series of articles first published in the NOSSA Journal during 1980 and 1981.

Practical Aspects (Techniques), Part II

Hand-held Shots

If the camera is hand-held you are bound to lose a few photographs due to focus shifts and/or blurring caused by camera movement. Because they both "aim and shoot" photographers can learn a lesson from competitive rifle-shooters. Your "firing" position should be the natural holding position - muscles should not be unduly tensioned. Shift your body position if this is not so. Breathe normally, focus carefully, and suspend breathing (lungs relaxed) during the final second or two when the shutter is released. Don't jerk the camera when you trigger the shutter - squeeze off your "shot". When lying prone (as orchid photographers must often do), make your body into a tripod - camera to eye, elbows and stomach on the ground. I have successfully used shutter speeds as low as 1/8 sec. in this position, but generally use 1/30 sec. Best of all, use a tripod.

Tripods

A good tripod should be heavy to minimise vibration. The legs should be capable of being opened to different angles and extended to different lengths. The pan-head and centre-column should be capable of being inverted, and it is useful if the centre-column can be shortened. A currently available tripod fulfilling these criteria is the VENBON Model AEF-3.

Photographing Native Orchids (contd.)

Focusing Rails

One of the most useful accessories is a set of focusing rails which permit the whole camera to move backwards and forwards on the tripod, allowing much easier and faster setting up. It adds a very handy dimension to tripod movements.

Shutter Release Cable

To minimise vibration, a shutter release cable should be used whenever a tripod is used. A cable one metre long will be found to be most useful. To further minimise vibration, if your SLR camera has a mirror-lock, use it.

Focusing/Viewing Aids

There are a number of specialised aids available including Eyesight Correction Lenses, Eye-piece magnifiers which magnify the central portion of the image field for critical focusing at the more extreme magnifications, and Right-angle Viewing Attachments which allow right-angled viewing of the entire focusing screen (useful if your subject is at ground level).

COMMITTEE BRIEF

The Management Committee meeting was held at the President's residence on Friday, 29 September, 1989. All members except Mr R. Bates and Mr G. Nieuwenhoven were present. A number of issues were discussed, including:

1. The success of the NOSSA Show held on 16/17 September, 1989 both from a display and financial point of view. The lateness of the flowering season this year did affect floral displays but members exhibiting plants did a wonderful job.
2. Tentative dates for the 1990 NOSSA Show have been set for the weekend of 15/16 September, 1990.
3. The South Australian Botanic Gardens' generous offer to provide members of NOSSA with a sneak preview of the Bicentennial Conservatory prior to its official opening.

D.R. Butler

HAVING TROUBLE WITH SNAILS?

Pellets, such as Baysol, scattered about keep down the population of the large common snail but are not so effective with the small bush snails (about 3mm diameter) or the middle-sized snail (about 1cm diameter). These are great climbers and like to live in plants' pots. Methaldehyde dust will kill them, but it is better applied as a spray.

Try this on a few of your plants: 2 tablespoons of methaldehyde, 2 tablespoons of Scrubbs Ammonia (found in stores among detergents), mixed with 4 litres of water, and sprayed thoroughly over all plants.

The mixture will penetrate deep into the compost and leave a fine deposit of methaldehyde. Dead snails will be found for weeks though you were not aware that they were there at all.

(Article reproduced from the ANOS - Far North Coast Group Journal, May/June '89.)