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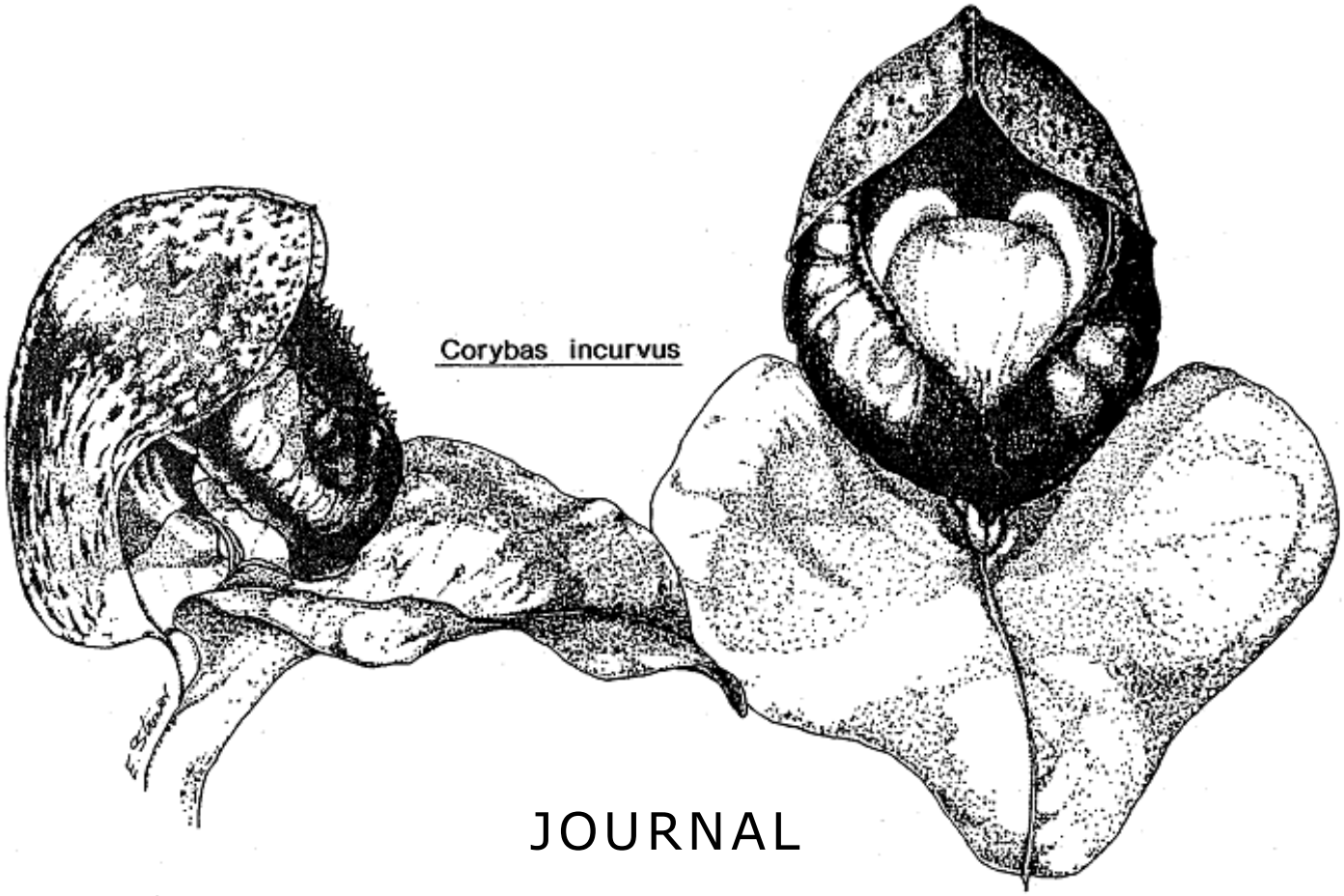

JOURNAL

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY

of

SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

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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NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

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CONTENTS

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Society will be in February. Notification of speakers will be published in the January/February Journal.

The President and Management Committee of NOSSA wish all members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

NOVEMBER MEETING

The traditional auction and break-up supper was held at the November meeting. Les Nesbitt once again officiated as the auctioneer and was instrumental in raising a sizeable amount for the Society. As in the past the evening was enjoyed by all those who attended. A thank you to those who provided the supper.

MICROTIS AS A WEED

Recently several members have reported examples of *Microtis* spp. coming up as weeds in gardens, hanging-baskets, flower pots, etc. We would like to have articles detailing member's experiences with orchids such as *Microtis* which have appeared as weeds in their gardens.

PLANTS BENCHED NOVEMBER MEETING

Terrestrials:

Dipodium ensifolium, *Diuris drummondii* "Buttery", *D. drummondii* "Yellow Duck", *D. venosa*.

Epiphytes:

Dendrobium tetragonum (x 2), *D. trilamellatum*, *Sarcochilus* Lois x *ceciliae* (x 2).

NEW MEMBERS GROUP

A relaxed and happy atmosphere among a very diverse and interesting collection of plants welcomed new members to their potting of terrestrial orchids at Graham and Jan Burford's home.

Graham introduced the afternoon with a very excellent summary of the growing conditions encountered during our recent field trip to Echunga. This set the scene for the reasons why the five mixes benched were all different and yet successful for their growers. Pots were planted and from now on monthly instructions will be in the Journal for their care.

The demonstration was made possible by members giving tubers, pots and mix for which we thank them and appreciate the backing and donations. Thank you Jan and Graham for the use of your home and facilities.

The members present were told to water the pots well when they got them home, set them in a cool, dry position (one suggestion was the south side of the house under the eaves). Make sure no sun gets on your pots (counter this with temporary shade cloth). A light sprinkle of water every two weeks will prevent dehydration of the tubers - too much water will bring the plants up in the wrong time of the year when thrip and red spider mite will attack them. Several pellets of snail bait on top of each pot will prevent slugs and snails getting the plants as they come up.

Our group will be in recess until February when we will meet again. Please watch your February Journal for details.

If you are in need of help before this please contact either Graham, Jan or Don.

The compliments of the season to all members:

Graham and Jan Burford
25 David Avenue
Findon SA 5023

Telephone 45 3085

Don Wells
86 Pitman Road
Windsor Gardens SA 5087

Telephone 261 6030

Dipodium punctatum

NEXT FIELD TRIP

Traditional Dipodium Special!

Meet at Piccadilly Shop

9.00 a. m. - Sunday, January 14.

Morning walk only.

JOURNAL 1990

Editing your Journal each month has proven to be both a challenging and rewarding task for me. Challenging, in maintaining the high standard set by previous editors, and rewarding in that a number of, new contributors have joined with our regular writers to provide new, interesting and often thought provoking articles for publication. I take this opportunity to thank the following contributors for their valued assistance during 1990 and trust that even more members will be joining their ranks in 1991.

Bob Bates
Garry Guide
Roy Hargreaves
Bob Markwick
Philip Matthews
Fay Maxwell
Malcolm Maxwell
Les Nesbitt
Mark Phillips
John Peace
Sandy Phillips
Enid Robertson
Ron Robjohns
Wally Walloscheck
Don Wells

Editor

ORCHID SEED REQUIRED

Heinrich Beyrle, a research, scientist from Europe is currently working at Waite Agricultural Institute on orchid mycorrhiza needs seeds of Australian orchids, particularly of the
g Heinrich, of 4
Acianthinae (*Acianthus, Chiloglottis, Caladenia*). Heinrich, of 4 Andley Court, Fullarton is carrying on the work of Jack Warcup and has been granted a three year extension of his grant to work in Adelaide. If you didn't collect seed this year Heinrich would be pleased if you could in 1991!

GRAMPIANS TRIP - PART 1

Eleven South Australians joined about 20 Victorians for a very enjoyable few days in the Grampians. Our thanks are due to the Victorians for arranging accommodation and organising the field trips. Kay and I arrived safely just after midnight Friday after some hair-raising experiences dodging the crowd heading for the Grand Prix in Adelaide. We were up early and, having failed to locate any of the party, we headed off on our own to the lookouts near Halls Gap. At Boroka Lookout the rising mist obscured the valley below but made a stunning spectacle. Just below the peak we found *Chiloglottis gunnii* in bud and in flower and the leaves of a *Pterostylis*.

The next stop was at Rad's Lookout where we walked the half a kilometre to the Balconies which reveal a magnificent view south-wards. Along the walking track we found *Caladenia gracillus*, *Chiloglottis gunnii*, *Pterostylis longifolia* and a beautiful *Calochilus* - all in flower. There were also leaves of *Corybas* in a moist shady glade.

Pterostylis longifolia

A quick dash down the hundreds of steps to the MacKenzie Falls revealed no orchids but some magnificent ferns. The Grampians are a popular camping spot for Victorians as they manage to somehow get a four-day weekend with Melbourne Cup day on the Tuesday. All accommodation was fully booked and there were people everywhere.

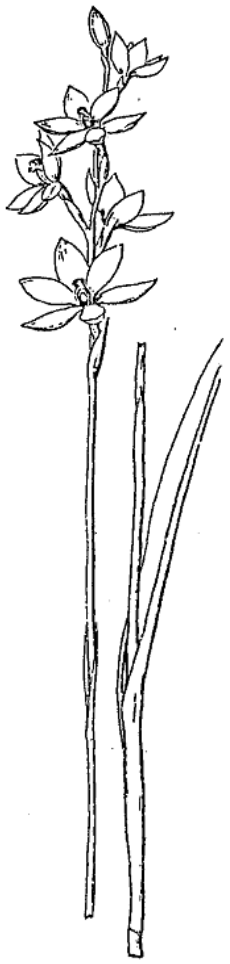
The first official trip was to Lake Fyans at 2 p.m. on Saturday, 3 November. After several false turns the party assembled on a flat area out of sight of the lake. The warm day was just right for the sun orchids which were fully open. Early arrivals had found blue white and pink forms of *Thelymitra nuda*. There were queues of photographers waiting at each plant - I have never seen so much camera gear in one place.

We started counting the plants of *Diuris punctata*, many of which were in flower - the count stopped at just under 100. There were lots of Caladenias in this area although most were past their best or finished. The surface soil was quite dry at this location. A pink form of *Prasophyllum odorutum* among the more plentiful white forms again had the cameras working overtime. Flowering plants of *Microtis unifolia* were also found at this spot.

The last location for the day was back near Halls Gap to see *Gastrodia sesamoides* in flower. Two colonies were found in rich

dark soil under trees. This habitat is very specialised as there were no plants across the road or nearby in more open or dense habitats. The majority of these saprophytic orchids were still in bud.

First stop on Sunday morning was at Jimmy Creek where we found few orchids among the 2 metre tall bracken under tall gum trees. However, there were enough leeches to go around. A quick exit and close examination of clothes and legs was the order of the day. These Victorians know how to provide a little excitement to wake everyone up!



Thelymitra aristata

We left the bitumen and headed eastwards along Serra Road to a flat, lightly timbered area that was heavily grazed by kangaroos a couple of roos were seen departing on our arrival. *Thelymitra* were again plentiful with *T. nuda, T. pauciflora* and *T. ixioides* in flower. *Caladenia carnea* was flowering while several extensive colonies of *Caladenia menziesii* had just a few seedpods in sheltered places. *Corybas* grew in the shade of trees along with *Pterostylis nana*. The fallen dead branches protected the orchids and flowering lilies from the grazing animals.

Further on we stopped at an extensive swamp to look for the very rare *Thelymitra holmesii*. A number of plants were found and photographed on the edge of the road. No one was game to venture too far into the dense sedges growing in the swamp for fear of snakes as we had seen one further back crossing the road. Tiny plants of the yellow *Microtis atrata* were blooming in shallow water on each side of the track. As the track rose out of the swampy valley floor we found several tall plants of *Thelymitra aristata* with a few flowers out at the top of each plant. It was a hot day so lunch was enjoyed at a shady picnic ground. A nearby swamp was explored when we had rested and this turned out to be a magical place with hundreds of *Pterostylis furcata* plants flowering along the edge of the swamp under dense shady trees. A few *Pterostylis x ingens* (the natural hybrid between *furcata* and *nutans*) were also flowering. Two plants of *Thelymitra aristata* nearly a metre tall could be seen from 100 metres away. Everyone took a photo of these. *Caladenia carnea* was in flower near the swamp.

Thelymitra ixioides

At this point we had to reluctantly leave the group and start for home and back to work on Monday. It had been a fantastic weekend spent with friends in nature's paradise.

On the way home from Halls Gap we stopped once or twice at likely spots where the soil and vegetation was different and explored along the runoffs graded away from the road. At one spot we found a lone plant of *Caladenia congesta* in flower and leaves of *Lyperanthus nigricans*. Past Zumsteins the bush was very dry. A few *Diuris, Thelymitra* and *Caladenia* pods were all that we could find.

Les Nesbitt

Caladenia carnea

DIURIS DRUMMONDII Lindley -
the Summer Swamp Doubletails
from Western Australia

At the December NOSSA meeting there were two pots of *Diuris drummondii* each with quite different flowers. One had the typical deep yellow and brown flowers of the *Diuris sulphurea* complex while the other had creamy yellow flowers without any brown.

Diuris drummondii has previously been confused with the much shorter stemmed *D. emarginata*. It grows among reeds on the margins of swamps and lakes. Each plant has 3-5 long grasslike leaves but these are not recognisable among the reeds. The tall stems of *D. drummondii* (to 1 metre high) place the flowers above the reeds. Flowering begins in late November and proceeds through until January in shady spots. Tubers are tadpole-shaped, similar to *D. brevifolia* and two are produced by each plant. This ensures a good increase in cultivation!

It was interesting to note that another pot of *Diuris* at the December meeting was of a hybrid - *D. sulphurea x D. brevifolia*.

All members of this complex are late flowering. Basically the species are: *D. sulphurea* (eastern states and South Australia's south-east); *D. brevifolia* (Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island endemic); *D. emarginata* (south-west in Western Australia); *D. drummondii* and *D. minor* (a rare swamp species from near Albany which flowers after fires).

M. Phillips

ORCHID SURVEY OF EYRE PENINSULAR (1990)

As part of an extended two month research expedition to Eyre Peninsula and Western Australia one week was spent in coastal parts of Eyre Peninsula in late September and another two days in early November. This complemented a week spent in central and northern Eyre Peninsula in 1989.

The survey turned up several undescribed species of orchid, extended the known range of many and allowed observation and collection of orchid pollinators. In some ways the results were disappointing as it had been considered that up to thirty undescribed orchids might have occurred on the Peninsula, in fact orchid diversity through much of the area, particularly in the large conservation parks, is very low.

The most exciting areas were:

1. Scrubby Peak to Mt Centre in the Gawler Ranges where a wide range of semi-arid orchid habitats revealed several undescribed species.

2. Wharminda Soak to Blue Range on the eastern coast of the Peninsula where a surprising variety of species occur.

3. Carappee Hill in central Eyre Peninsula has a super concentration of spider orchids.

4. Wanilla near Port Lincoln has a good selection of semi-swamp orchids.

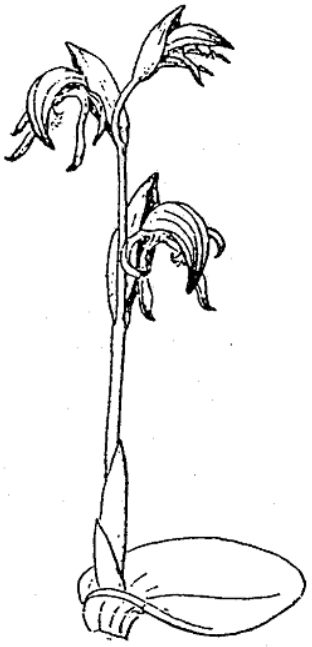
5. Venus Bay on the west coast revealed many species which had not been considered to occur so far west. Another 2-3 days needs to be spent in this area especially on the western side of the bay which is really accessible only by boat.

Summary of results:

Acianthus aff. *exsertus* - known distribution was extended by 100 kilometres to the Port Kenny-Streaky Bay area.

Cyrtostylis robusta - again this species was found near Port Kenny and Mt Wedge, much further west than any previous records.

Caladenia - pollinators were captured for six members of the *C. dilatata* complex. The pollinators of each of the six species (previously all thought to be forms of *C. dilatata*) were wasps of different genera! The known distribution of *Caladenia bicalliata* was extended west to Streaky Bay. Two different forms of *Caladenia minor* were found - really two different species.!



Lyperanthus nigricans

Diuris palustris and *D. pardina* were both found in the Streaky Bay area some 100 kilometres further west than previously recorded (the *D. pardina* found by the N.P.W.S. Ranger based in the area).

Eriochilus - previously thought to be rare on Eyre Peninsula was found to be common as far west as Mt Wedge.

Lyperanthus nigricans - near Streaky Bay was 100 kilometres further west than previously recorded.

Microtis - the number of species recognised for Eyre Peninsula was extended to six: *M. atrata* from a single location near Koppio; *M. orbicularis* found in large numbers at the old Wanilla Woods and Forest site; *M. frutetorum* the only common onion orchid on the Peninsula; *M. parviflora* from sites both coastal and inland; *M. unifolia* {small labellum) and *M.* aff. *unifolia* (thin labellum Wanilla Swamp).

Prasophyllum - three (perhaps four) undescribed species were collected, i.e. *P.* aff. *goldsackii* was common from Koppio to Venus Bay; *P.* aff. *odoratum* all around the coast in sand-hills; *P.* aff. *truncatum* "far west", a species from semi-arid coastal sandhills not previously collected. Plants which may be *Prasophyllum constrictum* or a new species were collected near Wharminda Soak in November - rather late for a dryland species. *P. elatum* was found near Venus Bay, an extension of range of 100 kilometres.

Pterostylis - several new rufa group *Pterostylis* were collected: a summer-flowered *P.* aff. *despectans* from Wharminda to Kimba; an early *P.* aff. -*boormanii* from Mt Wedge; *P.* aff. *excelsa* "long pedicels" from the western Gawler Ranges. There appear to be four dif-ferent *Pterostylis nana* on the Peninsula (perhaps five) these can be classified as A: "large flowered" (coastal dunes). *B*: "Hills nana" (Koppio). *C*: "mallee nana". *D*: "desert nana" from the Gawler Ranges to the Nullabor and edge of Great Victoria Desert. *E*: "swamp nana" (Wanilla Swamp).

Prasophyllum elatum

The known distribution of *P. plumosa* was extended west to Venus Bay.

Thelymitra - *T. carnea* was collected at Wharminda Soak, an extension of known range of 100 kilometres; the endangered *T. epipactoides* was found at a new location north of Mt Hope (50 kilometres further west than previous records). Both the common mallee form of *T. nuda* and the glaucous "hills" *T. nuda* were found, the former near Streaky Bay a considerable extension of known range.

In addition to the above, tubers were collected of possible new species of *Pterostylis* which were not in flower during the survey and undescribed taxa of other non-orchid plants were collected.

The large inland Conservation Parks on Eyre Peninsula, i.e. Hincks, Hambidge and Pinkawillinie comprise large areas of dry leached sand-dunes - a very poor orchid habitat and one hardly worth further survey effort except perhaps after bushfires.

Areas worthy of further survey include the extensive sheet limestone of Bascombe Well Conservation Park; the far western end of the Gawler Ranges from Mt Centre to the red sand dunes; Venus Bay; Wedge Island in Spencer Gulf and the top of Lincoln Conservation Park near Memory Cove. I would now estimate that no more than half a dozen orchid species await discovery on Eyre Peninsula.

Bob Bates - 10/11/90

THE ANOS VICTORIA AND NOSSA GRAMPIANS FIELD TRIP, PART 2

The first two days report of the combined group four day visit to the Grampians was written by Les Nesbitt, who reluctantly had to return to Adelaide to start work on the Monday. Three sites were visited on Monday which, incidentally, was an extremely hot day. They were Mt Zero, Hollow Mountain and Golton Gorge.

Mt Zero is a craggy mountain cone at the northern end of the Grampian Mountains. Considering the type of mountain terrain, to my way of thinking Mt Zero is botanically beautiful with an abundance of native flora as well as orchids, of which seven species were found in flower. These were *Pterostylis biseta, P. aciculiformis, Thelymitra pauciflora, T. nuda, T. megcalyptra, Caladenia cucullata* and *Microtis unifolia*.

Lunch break was taken at the picnic ground at the base of Flat Rock opposite Mt Zero. After lunch the next stop was Hollow Mountain. This area was much more barren than Mt Zero and only two species of orchid were found being *Pterostylis aciculiformis* and *Microtis unifolia*.

The group then moved to Golton Gorge, but because of the uncomfortably hot day quite a few people were very contented just to rest in the shade by the creek. Six species were discovered by the few who did venture to the top of the gorge and were reported as *Caladenia cucullata, Diuris sulphurea* and *Thelymitra pauciflora, T. nuda, T. juncifolia, T. ixioides*.

Tuesday's group was a little smaller as some members had to return home, but those remaining were still very enthusiastic. The three locations visited were all at the southern end of the Grampian mountains in the Dunkeld area. The first was near the Henhan Track and proved to be quite interesting. *Caladenia iridescens* and *C. tentaculata* were found there as well as *Thelymitra ixioides* and *T. benthamiana* (the latter being more abundant). *Calochilus campestris* was also found.

Further south. near Victoria Valley, *Diuris punctata* was seen - it was an excellent specimen equally as good as "Old Vic". Moving from this site the group headed towards Dunkeld and stopped a few kilometres from the town. This was the last scheduled stop for the day. Nine species were found in this area. They were listed as follows: *Thelymitra benthamiana, T. juncifolia, T. pauciflora, Caleana major, Caladenia tentaculata, C. carnea, Microtis unifolia.* In an area (which appeared to be a natural floodway through scrub) to the side of where these were found *Arthrochilus huntianus* and *Caleana minor* were discovered in bud.

Caleana major

After lunch the Victorian group farewelled the NOSSA group. Four NOSSA vehicles passed through Glenisla hoping to find *Thelymitra azurea* which had a siting reported a week earlier - but it had been withered by the hot weather and could not be found. Three other species were seen here - *Thelymitra benthamiana, Prasophyllum odoratum* and *Caladenia tentaculata*.

The way back to Halls Gap from this location via Billywing Track, Goat Track, Syphon Road and Serra Road was, to say the least, quite agricultural, but a good experience. In Syphon Road in a burnt out area, *Calochilus paludosis* and *Lyperanthus nigricans* were found in flower but they were upstaged by the magnificent display of flowering " grass trees". It was a view that will be etched into my mind forever.

Many thanks must go to the AMOS Victoria Group for showing us the pick of the orchid sites in the Grampians in four days - good company and good orchid hunting made it a very pleasurable time.

Thank you Victoria ANOS.
Wally Walloscheck

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3. *C. trapeziformis*
4. *C. truncata*
5. *Corybas incurvus*
6. *Cyrtostylis robusta*
7. *Diuris corymbosa* (S.A.)
8. *D. brevifolia* (Mylor)
9. *D. longifolia* (W.A.)
10. *D. palustris* (Wilmington)
11. *D.* Pioneer
12. *D. sulphurea*
13. *Glossodia major* (Lyndoch)
14. *Microtis avearia*
15. *M. brownii* (Esperance)
16. *M. parviflora* (Warrumbungles)
17. *M. unifolia*
18. *Pterostylis* Arthur x Martha
19. *P. baptistii* (Janney)
20. *P. baptistii x robusta*
21. *P. biseta* (Lyndoch)
22. *P. coccinea*
23. *P. cucullata* (Mylor)
24. *P. cucullata x nutans*
25. *P. curta*
26. *P. curta* (Warrumbungles)
27. *P. curta* (large leaf form)
28. *P. curta x pedunculata* (natural hybrid)
29. *P. fischii*
30. *P. nana*
31. *P. nana* (bush form)
32. *P.* Nodding Grace
33. *P. pedunculata*
34. *P. robusta*
35. *P. robusta* (Cherry Gardens)
36. *P. truncata*
37. *P. x ingens*
38. *P. x toveyana*
39. *Thelymitra* x *chasmogama* (Clare)
40. *T. longifolia* (NZ)

Please print name/address clearly as it will be used for return of tubers.