

Calochilus
robertsonii

NATIVE
ORCHID
SOCIETY
of
SOUTH
AUSTRALIA
INC.

JOURNAL

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1991

Volume 15, No. 1.

Registered by Australia Post
Publication No SBH 1344

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.

Postal Address: N.O.S.S.A. INC.,
P.O Box 565,
UNLEY S.A 5061

PATRON: Mr T.R.N Lothian

PRESIDENT:
Mr R Bates

SECRETARY:
Mr R Edge
Telephone 278 2237

VICE-PRESIDENT:
Mr W Walloscheck

TREASURER:
Mr R Robjohns

COMMITTEE:
Mr R Hargreaves
Mr G Carne
Mrs L Woodcock
Mr J Peace

LIFE MEMBERS:
Mr R Hargreaves
Mr R Robjohns
Mr L Nesbitt
Mr D Wells

REGISTRAR OF JUDGES
Mr L Nesbitt

EDITOR:
Mr D.R Butler
44 Thorngate Drive
BELAIR SA 5052
Telephone: 278 7165

TUBER BANK CO-ORDINATOR
Mr P. Matthews
Telephone: 261 2359

Views and opinions expressed by the authors of articles within this Journal do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the N.O.S.S.A Management Committee

COPYRIGHT: The N.O.S.S.A Management Committee condones the reprint of any article within this Journal, provided acknowledgement is given to the source and to its author.

Price 60¢.

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

JOURNAL

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1991

Vol. 15, No. 1.

CONTENTS

page

1. Next Meeting
1. Management Committee Vacancies
2. "Orchids of South Australia"
2. New Member
2. New Year Honours
2. New Members' Group
2. Front Cover Design
3. Orchid of the Month - *Cym. canaliculatum* R.T. Robjohns
4. New Book
4. Tuberbank Report
5. Field Trip Report - Onkaparinga Spring Visit G. Guide
7. The Society's Loss
8. Field Trip Report - *Dipodium* Special G. Guide
9. Library Services

NEXT MEETING

When: Tuesday, 26 February, 1991, 8.00 p.m.

Where: St Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington.

Why: Les Nesbitt and Reg Shooter will take members present on a visit to the 1st Australasian Native Orchid Conference which was held during the last four days in September, 1990. The Conference venue was the University of Wollongong set among the beautiful surroundings of the New South Wales Leisure Coast.

Visitors always welcome.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE VACANCIES

A number of Committee vacancies, including those of President, Secretary and Treasurer, will become available at the next Annual General Meeting. Now is your chance to do something for your Society. Nominate for one of these positions and take an active part in the management of the Society. The work is not burdensome and can be very rewarding. If you cannot help - why not nominate a friend?

Editor

"ORCHIDS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA"

We congratulate the authors - Bob Bates and Joe Weber - for their new book, Orchids of South Australia recently published by the Flora and Fauna Handbooks Committee.

Members wishing to purchase a copy should contact Roy Hargreaves who has arranged for purchases through the Society for Growing Australian Plants. Cost \$24.00 - a saving of almost \$5.00.

NEW MEMBERS.

Mr P.D. Harvey, Kingswood, S.A.

NEW YEAR'S HONOURS

The Society's sincere congratulations are extended to Mr Geoff Edwards who was awarded the Australian Police Medal (APM) in the 1991 New Years Honours list.

NEW MEMBERS' GROUP

Our first meeting for 1991 is a visit to Reg and Jill Shooter's glasshouses where we will be treated to a feast of knowledge about epiphytic orchids.

When - Sunday, 3 March, 1991
Where - Reg and Jill Shooter's residence.
Address - 5 Diane Place, Grange.
Time - 2.00 p.m.

Please wear name tags.

TERRESTRIAL NOTES - Orchids potted at the December meeting should be kept cool and dry, protected from the sun - watering by spraying occasionally. At the beginning of March pots can be placed into growing positions and increase the watering. When the plants emerge the pots must be kept moist only. Watch out for snails and slugs.

Enquiries - Don Wells (telephone 261 6030)
Graham and Jan Burford (telephone 45 3085)

FRONT COVER DESIGN

The front cover for 1991 features *Calochilus robertsonii*. Our thanks go to Nancy Nieuwenhoven for her beautiful drawing.

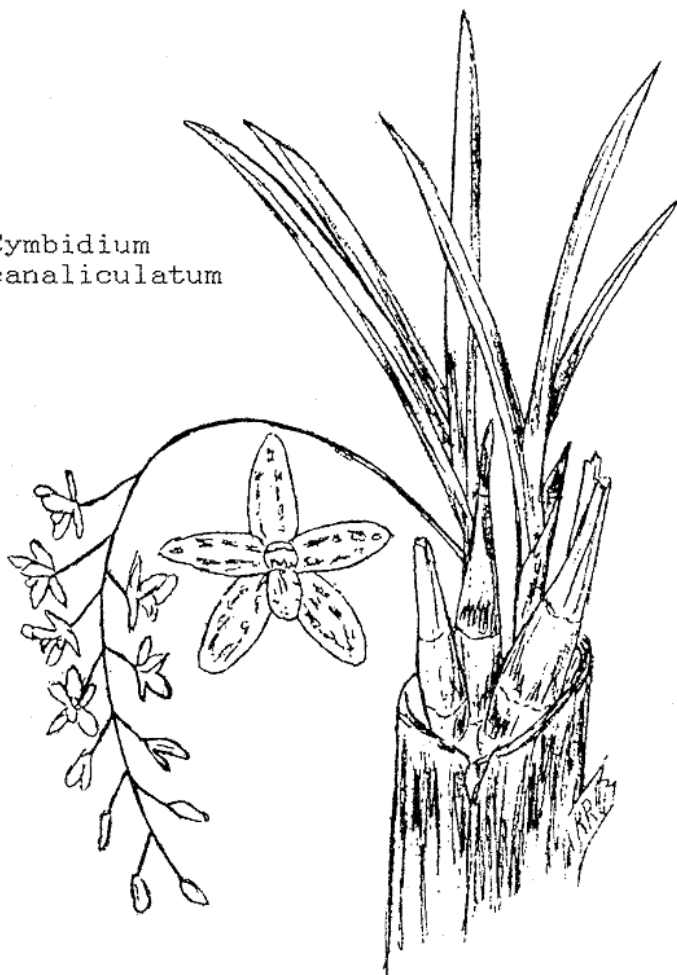
ORCHID OF THE MONTH

Cymbidium canaliculatum Robt. Brown

R.T. Robjohns

A most interesting orchid, *Cymbidium canaliculatum* is also one of the few epiphytes to grow in Western Australia. It is credited with a southern limit of near Forbes in New South Wales, extending northwards to Cape Yorke Peninsula in northern Queensland and westwards across the Northern Territory to the northern areas of Western Australia.

*Cymbidium
canaliculatum*



Although *C. canaliculatum* is sometimes found in the near coastal areas of the eastern states it is primarily a plant of the open forests of the drier inland areas. In some of its habitats there is less than 55 cm rainfall, summer temperatures of over 38 degrees centigrade with very low humidity and winter temperatures dropping to below freezing. While not exclusively, it is usually found growing in hollow branches or trunks of trees where its roots penetrate the decomposed wood and often grow to considerable length. No doubt the fact that the roots are protected from the heat enables it to survive and even thrive under such harsh conditions.

It frequently grows to form large clumps of crowded pseudobulbs having two to six leaves which are thick, rigid and channelled and are from 10-50 cm long and 2-4 cm wide. The racemes are up to 50 cm long and can be erect or pendulous with up to 60 extremely variable flowers about 2-3 cm across.

The colours range from green, brown, purple, dull red or a combination of those colours and may be either with or without spotting. The labellum, however, is usually white with red markings.

Orchid of the Month (contd.)

I find that *C. canaliculatum* responds reasonably well to cultivation and have grown and flowered it in plastic planters filled with a mix of charcoal, pine bark and rotted hardwood, also in hollow logs filled with the same mixture. Propagation from backbulbs has been with limited success and it looks like about a six year project from planting to flowering.

An established plant can take full sun and will withstand our winter frosts without detriment. Fertilising has been with the occasional dose of liquid fertiliser. When purchasing from a nursery I would suggest medium to small plants as although large clumps may look attractive they usually have had the root system almost completely removed - an operation to which they do not take kindly.

NEW BOOK

Plants of the Adelaide Hills and Plains, illustrated by Gilbert Dashorst and text by John Jessop (both from the Adelaide Botanic Gardens).

The dustjacket of this book features many of the orchids of the Adelaide Hills and reminds us how popular wild orchids are with the general public. The illustrations are excellent and allow for quick identification of plants, varying from fungi and mosses through to the orchids. The technique of using line drawings partly coloured with several related plants on each plate is a good one. The text is brief but useful.

I recommend this book both as a handy guide and a collector's item. Cost \$39 retail, available in most Adelaide bookshops.

TUBERBANK REPORT

A total of 41 individual orders for NOSSA tubers were received in response to the December Journal Tuberbank listing. A special thanks to Roy Hargreaves and Bob Bates for their generous tuber donations.

To be successful your Tuberbank must have a replaceable supply of tubers each year. When you are repotting your plants and have excess tubers why not pop them into another pot marked

FOR THE TUBERBANK".

We would be most grateful.

Philip Matthews
Tuberbank Co-ordinator

FIELD TRIP REPORT

ONKAPARINGA GORGE SPRING VISIT
September 22, 1990

Some 15 kilometres south-east of Adelaide is the rugged Onkaparinga Gorge. The River Onkaparinga rises near Mt Torrens and meanders through rich (cleared) farmland until it reaches Mylor, where it enters poor scrubby and rocky country for some 10 kilometres (this is largely uncleared land around the Mt Bold Reservoir). Just below the Clarendon Weir the river valley narrows and becomes, in places, gorge-like. Three kilometres below Clarendon it enters the Onkaparinga Recreation Park. At Noarlunga the gorge ends and the estuary is reached. For 90% of its length the river runs through cleared land: much of the habitat before settlement was unique and no longer exists in a natural state anywhere in the Adelaide Hills. Examples include the black soil flats near Oakbank and the limestone cliffs near Noarlunga - any orchids endemic to such habitats will never be known.

Our excursion was of four parts.

We began in the relatively undisturbed north-west corner of the park with pink gum and peppermint, yacca and golden wattle.



Thelymitra
antennifera



Caladenia
tenta-
culata

Orchids were numerous but variety low. Huge numbers of *Glossodia*, big patches of *Thelymitra antennifera* and *Diuris*. Small colonies of very tall *Pterostylis foliata* and odd *Caladenia tentaculata*, mostly lost among the carpet of vernal lilies *Hypoxis*, *Bulbine*, *Vaesia*, *Wurumbea* and *Dichopogon*. Several orchids were very rare, i.e. a single plant of *Diuris palustris*, three plants of *Caladenia leptochila* and a small colony of *Pterostylis curta*. Dense thickets of *Acacia paradoxa* impeded our progress and the steep terrain slowed us further.

After lunch at Old Noarlunga we drove to Manning Field Nature Reserve. There was more variety here: big colonies of *Caladenia latifolia*, lots of *Caladenia reticulata* and almost spent *C. deformis* as well as a colony of an unnamed

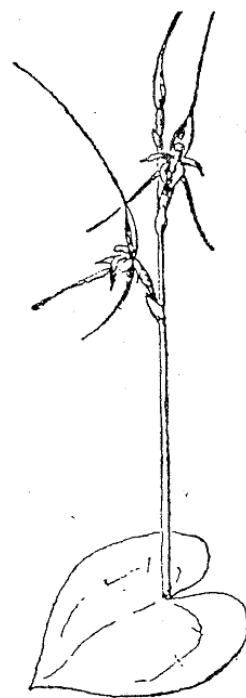


Diuris
palustris

species previously confused with *C. minor*. A single plant of *C. ? patersonii* was located. The orchids were well advanced here and sun orchids *T. luteocilium*, *T. rubra* and *T. antennifera* were in abundance.

Our third stop was made at the quarry off Chapel Hill Road in Hardy's Scrub. *Cyrtostylis reniformis* and *Acianthus caudatus* were common here in lateritic gravel and sand. *Microtis frutetorum* was just beginning to push its flower spikes out of huge cylindrical "onion leaves" in dense colonies under pink gums.

Our final stop was the silky tea tree swamps just behind Blewitt Springs C.F.S. station. This swamp was on sand and it was a pity it was so disturbed and weed infested as sandy tea tree swamp is a very rare habitat! The only orchids seen were *Pterostylis pedunculata* and unusual leathery *Thelymitra* leaves.



Acianthus
caudatus

The four areas mentioned are four separate reserves and all are to be included in our NOSSA Onkaparinga River Recreation Park Survey 1990.

ORCHIDS SEEN

- (1) Onkaparinga Gorge
- (2) Manning Field Nature Reserve
- (3) Hardy's Scrub
- (4) Blewitt Springs town reserve

In flower:	1 2 3	<i>P. nutans</i>
	1	<i>P. curta</i>
1 2 3		<i>P. plumosa</i>
1 2 3	1 2 3 4	<i>P. pedunculata</i>
2	1 2 3	<i>Thelymitra antennifera</i>
2 3	1 2 3	<i>T. luteocilium</i>
2	2	<i>T. rubra</i>
1 2 3	2	<i>T. pauciflora</i> complex
2		
1 2 3	In bud or leaf	
1 2 3		<i>Microtis frutetorum</i>
2 3		<i>Microtis</i> sp.
1		<i>Thelymitra nuda</i> , <i>grandiflora</i> , <i>flexuosa</i> , species?
2		
1 2 3	3	<i>Calochilus</i>
1 2 3		<i>Corybas</i> sp.



THE SOCIETY'S LOSS

NOSSA has suffered an enormous loss! We were saddened to learn that one of our most valuable members, SOMEONE ELSE, has left us recently.

SOMEONE'S leaving has created a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. SOMEONE has been with NOSSA since its early days in the 1970's and he/she did more than should be expected from any one person. Whenever there was a job to be done, a journal to publish, a library to manage, a show to be staged, funds to be raised, a committee vacancy to be filled, etc., one name was on almost everyone's mind and almost everyone's lips.

How often have you, a member of NOSSA said or heard it said "LET SOMEONE ELSE DO IT?"

It is common knowledge that SOMEONE ELSE was among the largest contributors of time and effort to NOSSA. Whenever a volunteer was needed almost everyone assumed SOMEONE ELSE would do it. A wonderful person!!

Let's face it - the truth is that most of us have expected TOO MUCH of SOMEONE ELSE. As a matter of fact we have worn him/her down and this has contributed to his/her leaving.

Now SOMEONE ELSE has gone. What are we going to do?

We have been left with a fine example but who is going to do all the things SOMEONE ELSE did? If we are to take NOSSA through this decade in a healthy and spirited state, we must ALL contribute in at least some small manner and continually remind ourselves that we have seen the last of SOMEONE ELSE. We have, haven't we!!!

A LITTLE FROM EACH OF US
IS ALL THAT IS REQUIRED.

Editor

FIELD TRIP REPORT

DIPODIUM SPECIAL - January 14

After meeting near the Piccadilly shop we walked to a local bush garden with large stringy barks, *Eucalyptus obliqua* - the owner had spread redgum chips between the trees and allowed regeneration of native shrubs and grasses among which were now flowering magnificent specimens of *Dipodium punctatum*, the hyacinth orchid. We were fortunate in seeing a native bee transferring pollinia - the little black fellow had two sets of tiny golden orbs of waxy pollen on its head.

We drove to the Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens, about two minutes away, after morning tea of home-made ginger beer and bush biscuits. We walked through the tree fern garden with its plants of *Dendrobium kingianum* planted on logs being pleasantly dampened by the automatic sprinklers which came on suddenly.



Dipodium
punctatum



Orthoceras
strictum

Above the tree fern garden were numerous small specimens of *Dipodium* including one with pure white flowers which made the photographers happy. A lucky find was a tall, wholly green flower spike of *Orthoceras strictum* in full bloom on very bare ground amid the rattling pods of *Thelymitra pauciflora* in clumps. Despite the hot, humid conditions no-one present was able to detect any perfume from the flowers - it seems that only coloured forms of *Orthoceras strictum* are fragrant.

Finally, a quick search of gravelly sand under backen nearby failed to find any duck orchids, *Caleana*, which were once reported from the area.

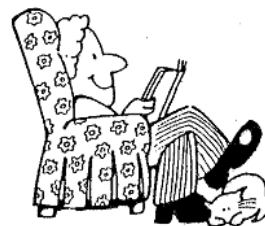
Our thanks to the Kingsley-Smiths for their hospitality.

Garry Guide

My apologies to those who arrived at the meeting place at the correct time as listed in the Journal and therefore missed us. Apparently a good time was had by this group as well, having seen plenty of *Dipodium* at Deviation Road.

LIBRARY SERVICES

We continue to publish the complete Reference and Lending library titles available through the NOSSA library. This list follows on from November, 1990.



REFERENCE LIBRARY

Flora of Malaya, Vol. 1, Orchids, R.E. Holttum
 Flower Biology in New Zealand, E.J. Godley
 Foliar Fertilisers, BASF
 Gems of the Bush, Charles Barrett
 Landscape, Vol. 2, No. 2, W.A. Department of Conservation
 Kangaroo Island Orchids, I. Jackson
 Mycorrhizal Relationships of Australian Orchids, J.H. Warcup
 Native Orchids in Melbourne, ANOS Victoria
 NOSSA Journals, Vol. 1-2, 1977-78, NOSSA
 NOSSA Journals, Vol. 3-4, 1979-80, NOSSA
 NOSSA Journals, Vol. 5-6, 1981-82, NOSSA
 NOSSA Journals, Vol. 7-8, 1983-84, NOSSA
 NOSSA Journals, Vol. 9-10, 1985-86, NOSSA
 NOSSA Journals, Vol. 11-12, 1987-88, NOSSA
 Notes on Australian Orchids 1918, R.S. Rogers
 Notes on Certain Species of *Pterostylis*, R.S. Rogers
 Orchidaceae of Papua New Guinea, N.H.S. Howcroft
 Orchids for All, Syd Monkhouse
 Orchid Literature in Private Hands, A.O.F.
 Orchids of Australia, W.H. Nicholls
 Orchids of the Carron Valley Area, Queensland National Parks
 Orchids of Solomon Islands and Bougainville, Thorne and Cribb
 Orchids of Victoria (photocopy), E. Pescott
 Orchids of Western Australia, Herb Foote
 Orchid Species of N.W. Tasmania and Hunter Island, Peter Tonally
 Photogeography of S.A. Orchidaceae, Markwick and Bates
 Photostat of Johannes Tepper Family Records
 Pollination of *Caladenia barbarossae*, Oswald Sargent
 Preliminary Checklist of Australian Orchidaceae, M.A. Clements
 Report on *Dendrobium* Australia and Adjacent Islands, A.O.F. - P.J. Cribb
Rhizanthella gardneri, (photocopy)
Rhizanthella gardneri - its association with *Melaleuca uncinata*,
 J.H. Warcup
 S.A. Orchid Workshop, 1980, A.O.F.
 South Australian Orchids 1911 (2nd Edition)
 Swans Wildlife Journal, Vol. 13, No. 1, State Wildlife Authority, W.A.
 The Ecology and Biology of *Caladenia rigida*, R. Bates
 The Genus *Microtis* "A Taxonomic Revision", R. Bates
 The Jungle Country of East Victoria, Reeves and Nicholls
 The Orchidaceae of German New Guinea, R. Schlechter
 Victorian Native Orchids, C.E. Gray
 Victorian Native Orchids, Vol. 2, C.E. Gray
 Victorian Orchid Workshop, 1979, A.O.F.
 Victorian Orchids, (1929), H.P. Dickins
 Western Roads, Main Road Department of W.A.

LENDING LIBRARY

Australian Orchids , B. Mullins and M. Martin
 Australian Orchid Review, 1973.
 Australian Orchid Review, Vol, 39, No, 1-4
 Australian Orchid Review, Vol. 40
 Australian Orchid Review, 1976.
 Australian Orchid Review, 1977.
 Australian Orchid Review, 1978.
 Australian Orchid Review, 1979.
 Australian Orchid Review, 1980.
 Australasian Sarcanthinae, Dockrill
 Australian Plants, Vol. 5, 1969-70, S.G.A.P.
 Australian Plants, Vol. 6, S.G.A.P.
 Australian Plants, Vol. 7, nos 53-60, S.G.A.P,
 Australian Plants, Vol. 8, nos 61-67, S.G.A.P.
 Australian Terrestrial Orchids, C. and D. Woolcock
 Australia's Native Orchids, W. Watson-Sharp
 Botany of the Living Plant, F.O. Bower
 Brunonia, Vol. 1, Nos. 1,2,3,
 Brunonia, Vol. 2, Nos. 1,2.
 Brunonia, Vol. 3, Nos. 1,2.
 Brunonia, Vol. 4, Nos. 1,2.
 Brunonia, Vol. 5, Nos. 1,2.
 Brunonia, Vol. 6, Nos. 1,2.
 Brunonia, Vol. 7, Nos. 1,2.
 Brunonia, Vol. 8, Nos. 1,2.
 Brunonia, Vol. 10, No. 1.
 Checklist of Australian Terrestrial Orchid Hybrids, Bates
 Checklist of Australian Terrestrial Hybrids, NOSSA
 Checklist of Orchids of North Queensland, A. Dockrill
 Cultivation of Australian Native Orchids, A.N.O.S.
 Darwin Orchid Society Bulletin
Dendrobium Orchids of Australia, W. Upton
 Fertilisation of Orchids, Charles Darwin, 1904
 Field Guide to Orchids of North America, Williams and Williams
 Flora of New Zealand, Moore and Edgar
 Flora of South Australia, Part 1, Black and Rogers
 Flora of South Australia, Part 1, 3rd Edition, Black
 Flora of South Australian Orchids, Part 1, J.M. Black
 Flora of South Australia, Part 2, J.M. Black
 Flora of South Australia, Part 3, J.M. Black
 Flora of South Australia, Part 4, J.M. Black
 Grampians Flora, Roger Elliott
 Growing orchids, Book Four (The Australasian Families), J.N. Rentoul
 Guide to the orchids of new South Wales, H. Rupp, 1930
 Handbook to Plants in Victoria, J.H. Willis
 Hawaii Orchid Journal, Vol. 2.
 Horticultural Guide to Australian Plants, No. 1, S.G.A.P.
 Horticultural Guide to Australian Plants, No. 2, S.G.A.P.
 International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, 1956
 It's Blue With Five Petals, Ann Prescott

(to be continued)