

Calochilus  
robertsonii

NATIVE  
ORCHID  
SOCIETY  
of  
SOUTH  
AUSTRALIA  
INC.

JOURNAL

MARCH 1991

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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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# NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

## JOURNAL

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### NEXT MEETING

When: Tuesday, 26 March, 1991, 8.00 p.m.  
 Where: St Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington.  
 Why: Bob Bates and Joe Webber will discuss the genus *Thelymitra*  
 - the Sun Orchids. Visitors are always welcome.

### PORT PIRIE VISIT

The New Members Group is arranging a bus trip to Bruce Mules Australian Native Orchid collection at Port Pirie and on the return journey will be stopping at Crystal Brook where we will visit Bob Worden and have a look at his many other genera.

The whole NOSSA club is invited to join in with the new members. A luxury bus has been booked for Sunday, 25 August (other details later).

Depending on the number going the cost will be no more than \$14 a seat for the return trip. Names of those interested and a deposit of \$10 is required at the next meeting to enable an advance payment to be made for the bus. A list will be passed around to collect names and deposits will be collected after the meeting. (Other members wishing to participate should contact Don Wells.) It is essential to book early as numbers are limited to one bus.

## PLANTS BENCHED FEBRUARY MEETING

## Terrestrials

*Microtis parviflora*  
*spiranthes*  
*Calanthe triplicata* (x 2 )  
*Geodorum pictum*

## Epiphytes

*Dendrobium cucumerinum*  
*D. bigibbum* var *superbum* sub.  
     var. *compactum*  
*Sarcochilus ceciliae* (x 2)



Dendrobium  
cucumerinum

## PLANT COMMENTARY

Terrestrials - Mr B. Bates

Epiphytes - Mr G. Nieuwenhoven

## NOSSA TRADING TABLE

Members are encouraged to utilise the trading table at meetings to sell surplus plants and accessories. Because many buyers of these plants are not experienced growers, and because the Society's good name is to some extent affected by the quality and condition of plants offered for sale, it is essential that all concerned observe the Society's By-Laws in regard to the sale of plants.

All plants offered for sale must be clean, healthy and free from disease and insect infestation. If sold in pots or mounted they should be well established and rooted. Although this is the preferred condition, plants may be offered for sale newly potted or mounted provided they are clearly labelled to this effect. Plants may also be sold bare-rooted.

The sale of very young and small plants to other than experienced growers is not encouraged. Although no clear-cut rules can be made in this regard the intention should be clear enough - avoid making a sale where it seems likely that the plant will not survive.

The old adage "let the buyer beware" has no place in our Society.

Editor

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The last twelve months have not been ones of great change for NOSSA but we have seen some important developments and projects come to fruition.

1990 saw the establishment of a New Members' Group instigated by Don Wells and under the guidance of Don together with Graham and Jan Burford. Too often in years past new members have felt that they were not catered for and, after attending one or two meetings, lost interest. Now there are special events just for new members and we expect that they will become the future strength of the Society.

The new style of Field Trip organisation has begun well. In the past, organisation of field trips was left to a single person who was also the host and guide and as a consequence, excursions became too predictable. We now encourage all members to have a go at organising trips and 1990 saw the return of the joint South Australian/Victorian field trip with 11 South Aussies and 20 Victorians together on a Grampians adventure. Our thanks to George Nieuwenhoven for organising the NOSSA end of that excursion. Thanks also to Geoff Edwards for organising the Echunga Police Barracks barbecue and orchid hunt.

A long term project which begun as an album of prints of South Australian orchids put together by NOSSA in 1983 has resulted, at long last, in the publication of Orchids of South Australia, a book which features colour plates of all South Australian orchids (at least those named at the time of printing). We have already begun working on the second edition which should overcome problems experienced in the first edition.

There are dozens of people behind the scenes who keep the Society running smoothly. Take the Journal for example - a very high standard was achieved by the Editor, Darrell Butler in 1990, but we need to consider the 1990 cover design was by Erika Stoner, the 1991 design by Nancy Nieuwenhoven and the typing each month by Chris Butler. The Journals are collated and put together by Harold and Noleen Carthew, Ron Robjohns and Roy Hargreaves and are bound in wrappers printed by Jim Jacobs. Some 15 to 20 different people contribute articles each year and attractive illustrations are appearing more and more frequently. Similar listings could be given to other aspects of the Society such as the Annual Spring Show.

There were some problems in 1990. Over the years it has become increasingly difficult to fill management positions and at the end of the 1990 Annual General Meeting, we had, for the first time, the situation where not all positions were filled. Similarly, the number of Spring Show exhibitors has dropped and the number of visitors in attendance has decreased. As the Spring Show is our main fund-raising activity we need to do better in 1991.

Other Society projects are running well. The R.S. Rogers Orchid House has 300 species of terrestrial orchids in pots which were covered over during summer for the first time using a shade cloth

President's Report (contd.)

blanket provided through the Roy Hargreaves trophy. Two other annual events which were very popular in 1990 were the NOSSA dinner and the Christmas auction.

NOSSA's continued thrust for conservation saw letters written to several bodies and, at last, a likely end to land clearance in South Australia during 1991. In the field of cultivation we saw only one cultural certificate awarded in 1990. I hope we see more than that in 1991 as there have been several advances in cultivation - more and more people flasking orchid seed, more South Australians registering hybrids and a program to select plants more suited to Adelaide conditions. Philip Matthews has continued to run our Tuber Bank but he is disappointed with the number of people who provided tubers in 1990/91. Let's aim to double the variety of tubers available in 1991/92!

I would like to mention all of those people I have been privileged to work with in 1990 as well as the many workers behind the scenes. I'm sure you all get great satisfaction from what you do but I take this opportunity to express my thanks for a job well done and I hope you continue to keep NOSSA a great Society.

R. Bates  
President

PRELIMINARY LISTING OF PROPOSED  
NOSSA FIELD TRIPS FOR 1991.

Major Survey:

Due to the difficulty in covering the whole of the nrlkaparinga Recreation Park in 1990 the survey will be completed in 1991. A visit in early October is planned.

Other trips:

Leptoceras Special, Knott Hill - April.  
Morialta Conservation Park, top end - June.  
Late winter orchids of the Mallee, Hartley are - August.  
Rawnsley Bluff/Wilpena Pound campout - late September.  
Roachdale - mid-October.  
Gum Flat Road, Carey Gully - mid-November.  
Duck Orchid Special, Kuitpo - early December.

LEADERS WANTED for each of the above excursions - don't  
leave it to Somebody Else.

## NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED.

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.1990.

## RECEIPTS.

Subscriptions -1990	1344.00
-Prepaid	248.00
Donations	40.00
Badges	175.50
Publications	512.00
Tuber Bank	412.50
Raffles	338.80
Show - Admission	317.00
- Trading	903.50
Trading table	91.40
Auction	297.30
Roy Hargreaves Trophy	50.00
Interest	711.06
Plant Competition	190.00
Club Dinner	537.00
Sundries	2.85

## PAYMENTS.

Journal - Postage	847.28
- Print & Type	1547.24
Postage & Phone	152.30
Stationery	223.56
Publications	383.00
Hall Rent	200.00
Public Liability Insur.	212.00
O.C.S.A. - Affiliation	10.00
A.O.F. - Donation	50.00
Ira Butler Comm,-Donation	50.00
Show Expenses	323.75
Roy Hargreaves Trophy	50.00
Social Expenses	13.20
Plant Competition	126.67
Club Dinner	537.00
Lottery Licence	5.00
Sundries	23.28
Library Books	58.95
Cupboard material	42.36
File cabinet	27.95
Tax - B.A.D. & F.I.D.	18.75

4902.29

Excess Receipts over

Payments 1268.62

\$ 6170.91

\$ 6170.91

## CASH STATEMENT.

Cash at Bank 31.12.89	9204.47	
Add excess Receipts over Payments	1268.62	\$10473.09
Cash at Bank 31.12.90		
Cheque Accounts	690.71	
Deposit Account	9757.38	
Cash on hand	25.00	\$10473.09

R.T. Robjohns

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.

N. Christoph

Honorary Auditor

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

Margaret Fuller

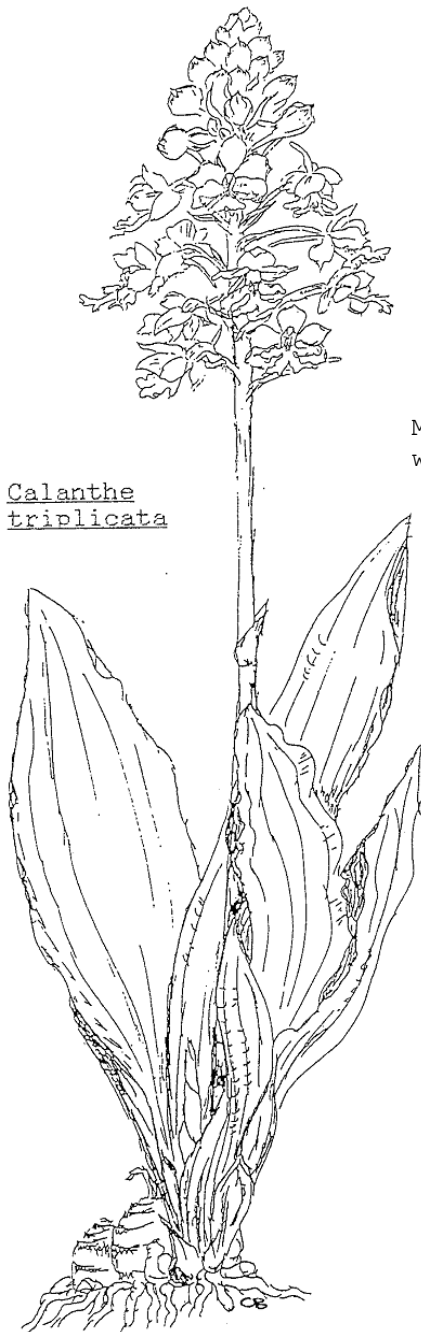
*CALANTHE TRIPLICATA*

Unlike most native terrestrial orchids *Calanthe triplicata* from New South Wales and Queensland, the only member of the genus to occur in Australia) is an ever-green perennial with pseudobulbs on the surface of the soil and a similar growth habit to the familiar *Cymbidium*.

I consider this species a most rewarding orchid to grow. It flowers progressively over several weeks at a time when few other orchids are in flower, hence its common name - Christmas Orchid. When not in flower the plant itself is attractive with its large pleated leaves.

My first plant was acquired some years ago when my only "shadehouse" was a silky oak tree (*Grevillea robusta*). It was planted in a ceramic pot in fine cymbidium mix and was placed under the tree in a corner bordered by a brush fence and a shed, giving a north-west aspect. It grew slowly with much black edging of the leaves and when I acquired a glasshouse I moved it under cover for the winter. This it did not appreciate at all so I repotted it in fresh mix and moved it back to its original position where it still remains, flowering at Christmas every year.

I found the plants benched at the February meeting some three years ago at Harrys Garden Centre. They were open-rooted, wilted and bruised, but the pseudobulbs were sound and I bought several plants. I then consulted the reference books to find how they grew in the wild and made up a very coarse mix with large bark, polystyrene foam, scoria and very old hard cow manure - plus, of course, the detritus from my bird cages! They were placed facing south under shade cloth on three sides and top and open on the south side among the *Camellia* bushes. They receive copious water in the summer with



Calanthe  
triplicata



Plant of the Month (contd.)

high humidity at ground level. They are-also exposed to very strong south-east gully winds and winter rain. The aspect seems to suit the plants and I no longer have trouble with the black rot on the leaves, caused, I'm sure, by a heavy mix.

Research showed they grow in the leaf litter (not in the ground) so an open mix with plenty of fertiliser seems to suit them. Unfortunately they attract many pests (scale, green caterpillars, etc.) so a keen watch should be kept for signs of damage.

With a little trial and error all members could find a suitable location in the garden for this very desirable orchid.

Margaret Fuller

#### NEW MEMBERS' GROUP

Terrestrial Notes - Change of season means pots should be in growing positions under shade cloth. Water more frequently until plants appear, then keep plants moist as drying off aborts the plant, also moist conditions deter red spider mite from attacking the young plants. It is important to keep the plants moving. No fertilisers with the exception of a very light weak foliar feed. A lettuce leaf or a scooped out orange peel will attract snails and slugs - it's just a matter of collecting them each morning.

The Group will visit Kevin Weston's collection where we will have the added bonus of seeing how seed flasking and germination is carried out.

When - Sunday, 7 April.

Where - Kevin Weston's, 6 Goldsack Avenue, Coromandel Valley.

Meet - at Coromandel Valley Shopping Centre.

Time - 1.45 p.m.

Report on Visit to Reg and Jill Shooter - A beautiful autumn day set the scene for a very educational visit - Reg certainly has worked on creating the conditions for growing *Dendrobium* and many other genera. The new members' group is fortunate to have Reg pass on his knowledge for our benefit. We very much appreciate the opportunity. Afternoon tea gave us the chance to chat and finish off a memorable visit. Thankyou Reg and Jill - we appreciated it very much.

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

BOTANISTS OF THE ORCHIDS No. 13

;  
C. K. Ingram, 1912-?

Cyril Ingram was born at Macleay River, New South Wales. He was a teacher with the Education Department from 1935-1973, retiring as Inspector and for a time lecturing in Biology at Armidale College.

He spent his holidays studying the orchids of central-western New South Wales and published several papers, including "Orchid Flora of the Central West" in the *Orchadian* (1973) and "A Checklist of Warrumbungle Plants" (1970). He corresponded with H.M.R. Rupp and W.H. Nicholls and enthused many local collectors of the Type of *Caladenia carnea* var. *attenuata* near Bathurst in 1964 but has, as yet, no orchid named in his honour.

#### ORIGINAL LITHOGRAPHS

A small number of R.D. Fitzgerald "Australian Orchids" Original Lithographs (coloured and black and white) are available for sale at reduced prices. NOSSA will receive a commission on all sales.

For further information contact Margaret Fuller - phone 379 4416.

#### NOSSA ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner for NOSSA will be held on Wednesday, 8 May, 1991, at the Walkers Arms Hotel, at 7.00 p.m. The cost will be \$18 per head (a deposit of \$10 is required by the April meeting).

#### "ORCHIDS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA"

As mentioned in last month's Journal, copies of the book *Orchids of South Australia* by Bob Bates and Joe Weber can be purchased through the Society by contacting Roy Hargreaves. There are a few copies still available - the cost is \$24.00 (a saving of almost \$5.00!).

#### ORCHID EXHIBITION

The 12th Australian Orchid Conference will be held in September 1991 in Perth - full details in the next NOSSA Journal.

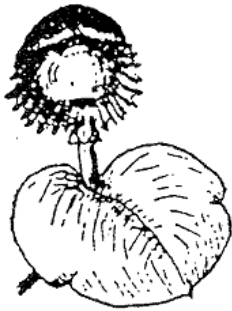
## PINE PLANTATIONS AND NATIVE ORCHIDS

Visit the plantations of pine trees (*Pinus radiata*) and Stone pines (*Pinus pinasta*) in the Adelaide Hills and you will quickly discover that native orchids thrive in this artificial habitat:

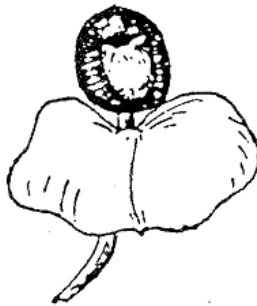
Pine plantations are sometimes referred to as "biological deserts" and they can be - especially when the trees are immature and planted in areas devoid of native plants.

An immature pine plantation is usually so dense that very little light reaches the ground, the pine needles have not yet decayed and no understorey plants are present. After the first thinning at about ten years more light reaches the ground and by now the bottom layer of pine needles have begun to decay. Orchid seeds blowing into the forest have a chance of germinating and the only species to survive will be those which like deep shade, high humidity and deep leaf litter.

The prime candidates are the helmet orchids *Corybas*.



Corybas  
dilatatus



Corybas  
diemenicus

Once *Corybas diemenicus* enters the pine forest colonies quickly form through vegetative increase and, because the whole forest floor is a uniform and ideal habitat, these colonies have the potential to reach a huge size. The fungus gnats which pollinate the helmet orchids are common in the forest because of the frequency of fungi and so seed is set and the orchids could take over.

However, native and introduced animals find very little food in the pine forest so once possums, rabbits, snails and some birds discover the orchids they are quickly eaten.

As the forest matures further thinnings occur and other plants "invade", the humus layer becomes thicker, the variety of soil micro-organisms increase, the cover of now decayed needles thins, more sunlight reaches the ground and conditions are now suitable for a greater variety of orchids.

After *Corybas* come the greenhoods (*Pterostylis*), also pollinated by fungus gnats and lovers of shade, i.e. *P. pedunculata*, *P. nutans* and *P. nana*.

Next come the self-pollinated species such as *Thelymitra pauciflora*, *Microtis* sp. and *Caladenia* aff. *minor*. These species are not dependent on insects.

## Pine Plantations and Native Orchids (contd.)

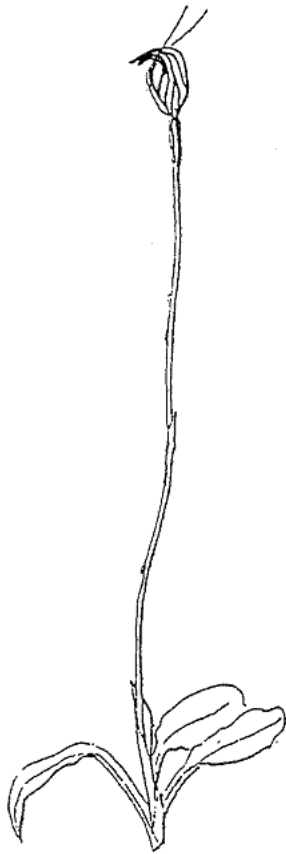
Finally come insect-pollinated species which increase vegetatively, i.e. *Leptoceras menziesii*.

Some species never enter the pine forest - these are the ones dependent on sun-loving insects for pollination and which do not increase vegetatively to form colonies.

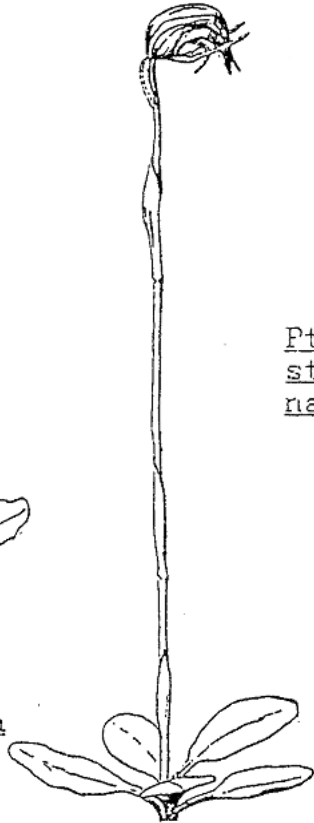
Pine plantations situated well away from any native forest may not be invaded at all. An example of this is the Woods and Forest Jamestown block. The only orchids within 20 kilometres of Jamestown are *Thelymitra nuda* and

*Pterostylis biseta*. Neither of these can survive in a pine forest. If orchids such as *Microtis frutetorum* were deliberately introduced they would quickly spread but there is little value in doing this.

Pine forests are also ideal places for introduction of eastern states' species such as *Chiloglottis* but this is hardly a wise move!



Pterostylis  
pedunculata



Pterostylis nutans

Ptero-  
stylis  
nana



*Monadenia*, too, may invade pine forests along woodsides but fortunately this has not happened although *Chiloglottis trapeziformis* now occurs at Kuitpo and in pine forests of our South East.

A similar situation exists interstate.

Mark Phillips

## 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?

OPEN DAYS

STATE HERBARIUM  
ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDEN

SAT. 23 & SUN. 24 MARCH  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ADMISSION FREE

GUIDED TOURS

EXHIBITS INCLUDE:  
COLLECTING AND DRYING BOTANICAL SPECIMENS,  
RESEARCH ON THE FLORA,  
SPECIMENS COLLECTED ON FLINDERS' AND COOK'S  
EXPEDITIONS,  
BOTANICAL ART

EVERYONE WELCOME

SPONSORED BY FOUNDATION S.A.

## BOOK REVIEW

## ORCHIDS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

by

Bates, R.J. & Weber, J.Z. (Flora and Fauna of South Australian Handbooks Committee)  
\$29.95

This is the latest in the series of South Australian handbooks which started in 1922 with the first volume of Black's Flora.

All the 130 taxa recognised by the authors are illustrated in the colour photographs and their general distribution in the State shown on a map.

Introductory chapters, by several authors deal briefly with ecology and phytogeography, cultivation, morphology, pollination, mycorrhizas and other relevant topics, including a biography of R.S. Rogers, the South Australian orchidologist.

The main part of the text provides the genera and species with short flora-type descriptions, but is stronger than is usual in Floras in biology, ecology, variation, hybridisation and cultivation. The keys are illustrated, something like Blackall and Grieve's, by Erika Stonor whose knowledge as an orchid enthusiast helped her in interpreting the wishes of the authors.

The authors had some difficulty with the large number of taxonomic and nomenclatural changes published or expected while the book was in production. Some alternative names and recent synonyms were incorporated in the text and others recorded in an appendix.

This book should provide a very convenient and practical introduction to the genus in South Australia for some time, even when further changes will doubtless render the taxonomy and nomenclature partly out of date.

24 December, 1990.

John P. Jessop