

Calochilus
robertsonii

NATIVE
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of
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INC.

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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
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NEXT MEETING

When: Tuesday, 28 May, 1991, 8.00 p.m.
 Where: St Matthews Hall, Bridge Street; Kensington.
 Why: The speaker, Nick Marinos from Aldgate, will present
 "The Australian Alps" with wildflowers, scenery and
 orchids. Visitors are always welcome.

Conservation News

During the last few years several new Conservation Parks have been declared but not well advertised. These include Carcuma, Corrobinnie Hill, Darke Range, Middle Camp Hills, Manyaroo, Nuyts Archipelago, Rudall, Sheoak Hill, Venus Bar, Wharminda and Yumbarra on Eyre Peninsula.

Totalled together the area of these greatly exceeds the whole of the Adelaide Hills and all of them are rich in orchids. Of great importance is the potential for adding to these parks - this year for example over 1000 hectares is to be added to Manyaroo, south of Whyalla.

Reference: Nature Conservation Reserves in Australia (1988), Edited by C.H. Mobbs, (Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service).
 [This is available free from the A.N.P.W.S., GPO Box 636, CANBERRA.]

Plants Benched April Meeting

Terrestrials

*Eriochilus cucullatus**E. dilatatus* (x 2)*E. uniflora**Pterostylis coccinea* (x 2)*P. fischii* (x 2)*P. obtusa**P. ophioglossa**P. revoluta**P. "Sentinel"**P. truncata* (x 2)*P. truncata* x *fischii**P. x toveyana**Pterostylis*
coccinea

Epiphytes

Dendrobium Hilda Poxon (x 5)*D. tetragonum* x Debbie McFarlane

RESULTS OF JUDGING

Terrestrial Species -

Eriochilus dilatatus,
grown by George Nieuwenhoven.

Terrestrial Hybrid -

Pterostylis "Sentinel",
grown by Les Burgess.

Epiphytes -

Dendrobium tetragonum x
"Debbie McFarlane",
grown by Helen Edwards.

POPULAR VOTE

Terrestrials - *Pterostylis coccinea*,
grown by Kevin Western.Epiphytes - *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon,
grown by Les Nesbitt.

drawing by Helene Vila.)

(From ANOS Victoria Group Inc. Journal,
March 1991, Vol. 23, Issue 8 - from a
drawing by Helene Wild.)

FOR SALE

A copy of *Orchids of Australia*, by W.H. Nicholls, is being
offered for sale at \$350, o.n.o.

Telephone (087) 252427 or A/H (087) 250083 if interested.

NEW MEMBER

Mr R.W. Jones, Windsor Gardens.

ORCHID OF THE MONTH

Sarcochilus falcatus Robt Brown 1810

(The Orange Blossom Orchid)

R.T. Robjohns

The most common and widely distributed of the *Sarcochilus* species, the range of *Sarcochilus falcatus* extends throughout eastern Australia, from eastern Victoria and as far north as the Bloomfield River in northern Queensland. In the southern end of its range it is found from the lowlands to the mountains above 1100 metres, but in its northern range it is only found in the tablelands above 800 metres.

It is a plant of moist habitats, such as along watercourses and all the way up to the crest of ridges which are frequently bathed in cloud, mist and misty rain.

Sarcochilus falcatus is not exclusive in its hosts and is often found on Coachwood trees and Antarctic Beech, preferring the trunks and major branches of the host.

Also it is occasionally found on rocks. Generally it grows in areas of subdued light levels but with plenty of air movement.

The stems are up to 10 cm long and clothed in the persistent bases of old leaves. There are three to eight rather thick, pale green, curved or sickle-shaped (that is, falcate) leaves - hence the name "falcatus". The leaves are quite durable and should persist for several years.

The racemes appear from the axils of the old leaf bases and are usually somewhat pendulous and bearing three to twelve glistening white flowers of up to 3.5 cm diameter, the labellum being variously marked with red, purple, yellow or orange. The flowering period is between August and October.

Sarcochilus falcatus has a strong perfume reminiscent of orange blossom from which it has gained its common name of "Orange Blossom Orchid".



Sarcochilus falcatus

Orchid of the Month (contd.)

The plant is epiphytic and lacks pseudobulbs and the roots are exposed almost entirely, hence they should not be left dry for very long throughout the year. The leaves are never really glossy but dehydration is quickly apparent due to shrivelling of the leaf substance.

The best time to transplant or remount is in March/April when the plants send out new root growth - this will lessen any set-back. Trim off any dead roots and soak the plant in "Formula 20" for about fifteen minutes. This will help to give it a good start.

I prefer mounts to pot culture for this plant. Weathered hardwood, ti-tree or cork bark (not compressed cork) make suitable mounts. Split hardwood gives a better surface for the roots than sawn boards. When tying the plant to the mount place some moss around the roots to help it become established.

If you do use pot culture then use a very open mix in saucers or well crocked squat pots.

The main pests are scale and mealy bug for which you must watch and deal with accordingly. Slugs and snails love to chew on the thick velamin covering of the roots, but, as the mounts are hung to get the air movement, they are of little concern.

Fertilise *Sarcochilus falcatus* little and often using a weak solution of any of the brands having trace elements, and preferably a high nitrogen compound, with a little magnesium sulphate during the peak growth period. While humidity is required, high humidity and no air movement is fatal. Both humidity and air movement are essential - together with 80-90% shade.

Sarcochilus falcatus has not been used much in hybridising at present, only about four crossings having been registered.

NEW ORCHID HYBRIDS

Name	Parentage	Registered by
<i>Pterostylis</i> Dunkie	Cutie x <i>pedunculata</i>	L. and M. Nesbitt
<i>P.</i> Iron Baron	<i>baptistii</i> x <i>rogersii</i>	L. and M. Nesbitt
<i>P.</i> Talhood	Hoodwink x <i>cucullata</i>	L. and M. Nesbitt
<i>Dendrobium</i> Hilary	Graham Hewitt x Hilda Poxon	N.E. Roper
<i>D.</i> Dream Girl	<i>kingianum</i> x Peter Hewitt	R. and D. Sheen
<i>D.</i> Gold Vista	<i>falcorostrum</i> x Ku-ring-gai	R. and D. Sheen
<i>D.</i> Red River	Ellen x Tweed	N.E. Roper
<i>D.</i> Wykar	Wyuna x Karloo	N.E. Roper
<i>D.</i> Yondi Pioneer	Aussie Bonanza x Star of Gold	S. Batchelor
<i>Sarcochilus</i> Zillie	Lois x Heidi	N.E. Roper

FOLLOWUP

Dendrobium pugioniforme

"Orchid of the Month" April

Our thanks go to L. Field from New South Wales for this additional information sent as a follow up to the article on *Dendrobium pugioniforme* printed in the April NOSSA Journal. Editor.

"I would like to add further to the excellent article on *Dendrobium pugioniforme* ... Mr Robjohns mentions two naturally occurring hybrids *D. pugioniforme* x *D. tenuissimum* (Dainty Cascades) and *D. pugioniforme* x *D. beckleri* (Aussie Cascades), however another hybrid occurs naturally, namely *D. pugioniforme* x *D. striolatum*.

About 25 years ago I found huge cliff faces of this hybrid growing in the Wattagon Mountain Ranges which form the backdrop to the city of Newcastle, N.S.W. and in subsequent years I have often come across large clones of this hybrid growing in a large area of these mountains. In fact, wherever I have found *D. pugioniforme* and *D. striolatum* growing in profusion in the same area you can almost bet you will find a natural hybrid of these two nearby.

In the December 1983 issue of The Orchadian, Volume 7, No. 10, there is an excellent drawing of this hybrid on the cover drawn by Mr Neil Finch of Down Under Native Orchids from a piece of a large clone he found growing naturally in these same Wattagon Mountains. Mr Finch, on pages 232 and 233 of this issue goes on to describe this orchid and his observations were very similar to my own. Since Mr Finch's article reports of multiple finds in at least two other areas have been reported, some from the south coast of New South Wales near Nowra and another from Blackheath in the Blue Mountains, west of Sydney.

Mr W.E. Skillicorn of Maitland, New South Wales, registered this cross in 1984 as *Dendrobium Duffy*."

L. Field

NEW MEMBERS GROUP

- NEXT VISIT

At the next meeting members are asked to bring their terrestrials that were potted last December meeting for a comparison on progress in the various mixes used, and any other plants (terrestrial or epiphyte) that they are having any problems with for discussion.

Where - the residence of Joan and John Peace,
43 Johnsone Street, Glengowrie.

When - Sunday, June 2.

Time - 2.00 p.m.

Wear name tags. Enquiries to Graham and Jan Burford (telephone 45 3084) or Don Wells (telephone 261 6030).

NEW MEMBERS GROUP
- APRIL VISIT

Members who missed the visit to Kevin Weston's on April 7 missed a real learning experience. The lovely native garden was worth the visit alone.

The garden responsibilities are clear cut at the Weston's. The orchids are Kevin's and the rest is Helen's and so a small group toured the garden with Helen, while the main group with Kevin discussed his orchid growing conditions and mixes that he has found to suit his area. The health and vigour of Kevin's plants pay tribute to his culture.

During the breaking up of a clump of *Sarcochilus* and the repotting of a *Dendrobium* the members gleaned a wealth of hints. Afternoon tea and a chat and then to seed flasking and germination in Kevin's laboratory was of real interest to all.

One member's comment was "This sure beats learning about growing orchids from reading books", and reflects the feelings of all the new members about these visits.

Our thanks to Helen and Kevin for a most informative afternoon.

BOTANISTS OF THE ORCHIDS No 15.

J. S. ROE

John Septimus Roe was born in England in 1797. In 1813 he joined the Royal Navy. His interest in exotic plants developed when he was stationed in the far east. In 1820 he came to Australia and joined Philip Parker King on his many journeys surveying the Australian coast.

In 1824 it was Roe who took possession of the whole of northern Australia for the Crown. In 1827 he took active service in the Burmese War. In 1830 he was appointed Surveyor General of the Swan River Colony and he made sixteen journeys of exploration in Western Australia always adding to his plant collections which he sent to Hooker at Kew.

He was a fellow of the Linnean Society of London and his zoological and mineral collections formed the basis of the Perth museum. He later became a member of the Legislative Council.

Places in Western Australia named after him include Roebourne, Roe Plains and Roebuck Bay. He collected numerous orchids and the clown spider orchid, *Caladenia roei* commemorates this interest.

S. Phillips

FIELD TRIP REPORT

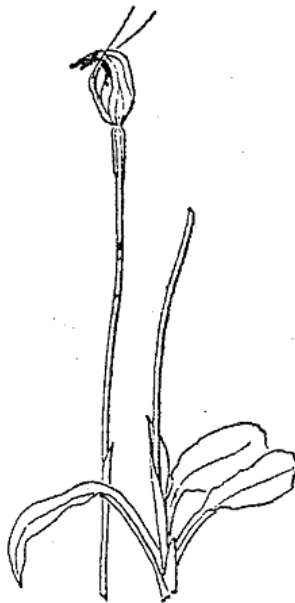
LEPORELLA SPECIAL - April 21

On a cold sunny day we met at Kuitpo Woods and Forests headquarters and early arrivers managed to spot a large mob of black-faced kangaroos.

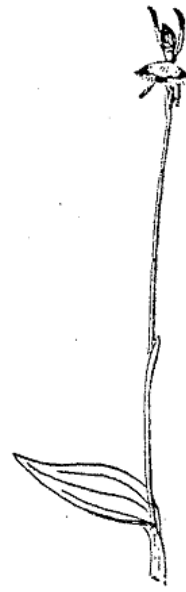
We drove to the Onkeeta Picnic Grounds in the pine forest - a burly woman sporting a hard hat warned us of clear felling in the area. Within 10 metres of the car park we spotted an *Eriochilus*, in flower (in mature pine plantation). This specimen had the bristly leaf and hairy stem typical of the Adelaide Hills woodland subspecies of *Eriochilus cucullatus*. (The only other *Eriochilus* native to the Adelaide Hills is the little glabrous swamp subspecies which flowers February/March.) Also spotted were leaves of *Pterostylis pedunculata* and old skeletons of *Thelymitra*.



Eriochilus
cucullatus



Pterostylis
pedunculata



Leporella
fimbriatum

After five minutes walk we entered some sandscrub, recently mowed along the track. Dozens of *Genoplesium rufum* in full bloom from blood red to rich green were inter-spersed with the object of our visit - *Leporella* - the "little hare orchid". A large colony was soon located with very colourful flowers, often double headed, many dug up by the *Antechinus flavidus* (marsupial mice) so common locally.

After a pleasant stroll we were back at the cars and admiring two pots of Western Australian *Eriochilus*, the multiple flowered *E. dilatatus* and a little nodding single flowered swamp dweller not yet named and not even mentioned in David Jones' Australian Orchids,

For one hours walk we had done very well.

Gary Guide

BOOK REVIEW

ORCHIDS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA,
by R.J. Bates and J.Z. Weber.

This long awaited book on the South Australian Orchids updates the orchid chapter in Blacks Flora. It is a magnificent book. Although very tired I stayed up into the small hours to read it all at the first sitting. It concisely represents the current knowledge of South Australian orchids, which are all terrestrials, in one complete volume.

The book is very useful for identifying South Australian orchids. there is a colour photo, line drawing and a description of each species as well as a key for separating species within a genus. Location maps for each orchid (not too detailed with conservation in mind) show at a glance just how widespread is each orchid. Rare plants have only one or two dots to show that they are clinging to life precariously.

I found the written descriptions easy to read. There are habitat descriptions and cultivation notes for those species where cultivation has been tried. Some have not succeeded in cultivation while others thrive in pots. This type of information is vital for those working in the conservation arena especially if they live in other states or overseas.

There are explanations of the orchid's annual life cycles and the mycorrhizal associations between orchids and fungi. Pollination by insects is also covered in some detail. These fascinating topics are all part of the orchid story.

A chapter on conservation status is depressing. Have our orchids got a long term future? This book will help their survival through education. It is the culmination of the work of the authors and many other people this century. It is up to South Australians to carry on the work. No one else will do it for us.

Name changes are the orchid lovers nightmare at present as Australia's orchids are sorted out and reclassified by workers in Canberra. Some new names are foreshadowed in the appendix. To keep sane, I tell myself that the orchids know what and who they are. It is only humans that give them names and then haggle over which name applies to which plant. This book uses pictures and words to describe each orchid. These will not change and neither will the orchids.

To sum up, this is a book for everyone who loves our orchids. The beautiful pictures make it an invaluable field guide. The book has a pink cover with a white and a blue sun orchid and Purple waxlips on the cover. The title "ORCHIDS" stands out but "of South Australia" are very hard to read.

Orchids of South Australia is available from most bookshops, the Adelaide Botanical Garden and the S.A. Government Printer. The normal price is \$29.95 (members price through NOSSA is \$24.00). I think it is worth every penny.

Les Nesbitt

ORCHIDS of South Australia

PART 1

* There was, little room for long captions in the book. It is reasonable to assume that the more that is-known about the photographs the more value they will be.

PHOTO 1. Those of you familiar with the Flinders Ranges would probably recognise this view of the north west well of Wilpena Pound, taken from the sandhills adjacent the Leigh Creek Road. The hills, by Edeowie Gorge look particularly dark as they are in the shadow of a bank of cumulus cloud. The area of drift sand varies with the seasons but seems to be increasing in the long term due to sheep grazing.

PHOTO 2. Looking over a dense thicket of mallee we see the road to Pondelowie Bay snaking across part of Innes Conservation Park which was cleared 50 years ago but is now reverting to natural bushland. In the distance the headland drops steeply into Backstairs Passage. Some 30 species of orchid can be found in the area shown including the South Australian endemics: *Pterostylis erythroconcha*, *Prasophyllum goldsackii* and *Corybas* aff. *despectans*.

PHOTO 3. This group of *Cryptostylis* was photographed in January behind the farmhouse at Glen Shera lower swamp between Myponga and Mt. Compass. This swamp is the largest in the Mt. Lofty Ranges. Note the greenness of swamp vegetation compared with the grey-green of all the other habitats shown.

PHOTO 4. Looking across Milbrook Reservoir from the old Chain of Ponds town site.

PHOTO 5. The mallee! The extremely low diversity of plants is accentuated by the fact that only two plant species can be seen. This patch of mallee was photographed near Billiat Conservation Park. Only two orchids were found in the area shown - *Pterostylis mutica* and *Genoplesium nigricans*.

Notes on the Photographs in Orchids of South Australia (contd.)

PHOTO 6. Jip Jip rocks. Note the greyiness of the native vegetation compared to the bright green wheat fields in the background. Over 20 orchids occur in the area shown including - *Prasophyllum occultans*, *Pterostylis aciculiformis* and *Corybas despectans*.

PHOTO 7. The *Genoplesium* shown was photographed in a swamp at Nangkita. Although referred to as *G. archeri* the species is perhaps better referred to as *G. aff. archeri*. Only a dozen plants are known to remain of this taxon and there are less each year as cows walk through the middle of the colony and and the swamp dries out due to changes in the water table brought about by local water use for irrigation.

PHOTO 8. The wasp shown here on the *Prasophyllum* is an undescribed species of *Ichneumen*. It was photographed using a macro lens and extension rings with a single hand held flash. It is generally quite easy to photograph wasps on *Prasophyllum* flowers especially on warm sunny days. The wasps take little notice of a camera.

PHOTO 9. This bee was photographed on *Thelymitra cyanea* (*T. venosa* in the broad sense) in a swamp at Mt. Compass. I have not before or since seen a bee on this species!

QUOTES FOR THE MONTH

"Some may travel the world to find beauty; orchid growers fill their lives with it without leaving home."

"God, give me orchids to grow and the strength to lift the pots."

With orchids, you've got to love the awardable, hate the throw-outable and be wise enough to know the difference."

from Orchid Wise, by Roger Rankin.