

Calochilus  
robertsonii

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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# NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

## JOURNAL

October 1991

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### NEXT MEETING

When: Tuesday, 22 September, 1991, 8.00 p.m.  
 Where: St Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington.  
 Why: NOSSA will present a panel of expert growers to help members with any cultural questions they may have. The panel will comprise Bob Bates, Les Nesbitt, George Nieuwenhoven, Ron Robjohns and Reg Shooter. Visitors always welcome.

### NOSSA SPRING SHOW

The Management Committee takes this opportunity to thank all members who assisted with the 1991 Annual Spring Show. Without your efforts the show would not have been a success.

Raffle Results: 1st (*D. kingianum*) ticket A41 pink - John Peace.  
 2nd (*P. Joseph Arthur*) ticket A43 yellow - David Murley. 3rd  
 (Orchids of W.A.) ticket A5 yellow - Michael Wheale.

### CHRISTMAS BARBECUE

SUNDAY, 1 DECEMBER, 1991. Arrangements are under way for the whole NOSSA club to join together in this event at the end of the year. The venue will be Mr and Mrs Wally Walloscheck's property at Cherry Gardens. It is hoped we will have a "lamb on a spit", but more details will be available when arrangements are completed. Put this date in your diary.

## PLANTS BENCHED SEPTEMBER MEETING

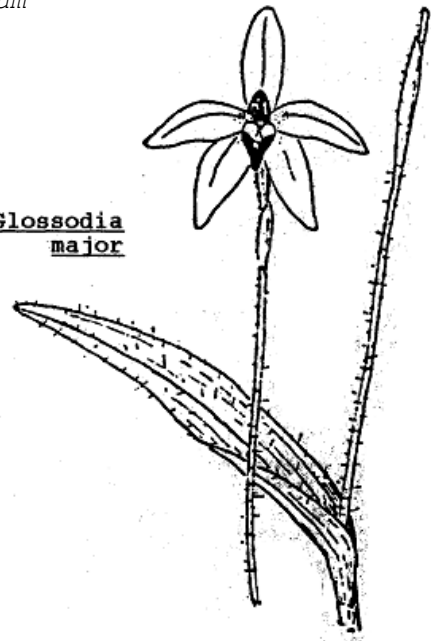
## TERRESTRIALS

*Caladenia alba*  
*C. argocalla*  
*C. coactilis*  
*C. menziesii*  
*C. picta*  
*C. tentaculata*  
*Chiloglottis formicifera*  
*Diuris corymbosa*  
*D. carinata*  
*D. maculata*  
*D. palachila* "Warrior"  
*D. picta*  
*D. Pioneer*  
*D. punctata* "Old Vic"  
*Drosera whittakeri*  
*Elythranthera* (x intermedia)  
*Glossodia major*  
*Lyperanthus suaveolens*  
*Prasophyllum* un-named  
*Pterostylis bicolor*  
*P. excelsa*  
*P. furcata* x *ingens*  
*D. Mary Eleanor*  
*P. ovata*  
*P. rufa* (x 2)  
*P. unknown aff. rufa*  
*Thelymitra flexuosa*  
*Orchis longicornia* (Sicily)

## EPIPHYTES

*Dendrobium Aussie Shandy*  
*D. Bardo Rose*  
*D. Dainty Cascades*  
*D. Ellen*  
*D. falcorostrum*  
*D. fleckeri* x *gracilicaule*  
*P. delicatum*  
*D. kingianum* "Wayside x  
 Inferno  
*D. suffusum* (x 2)  
*D. tetragonum*  
*Sarcochilus*  
*falcatus*  
 (x 2)

**Glossodia**  
**major**



## COMMENTARY AND JUDGING:

Terrestrials: George Nieuwenhoven  
 Epiphytes: Reg Shooter

## RESULTS OF JUDGING

Terrestrial Species: *Chiloglottis formicifera* grown by S. Hosking  
 Terrestrial Hybrid: *Pterostylis furcata* x *P. ingens*, grown by L. Nesbitt.  
 Epiphyte Species: *Sarcochilus falcatus* grown by K. Western.  
 Epiphyte Hybrid: *Dendrobium suffusum* grown by G. Nieuwenhoven

## POPULAR VOTE

Terrestrials: *Chiloglottis formicifera*, grown by S. Hosking.  
 Epiphytes: *Dendrobium Dainty Cascades*, grown by K. Western.

 AUSTRALIAN NATIVE HYBRID  
 GUIDE - 3rd EDITION

Roy Hargreaves will be taking the names of members interested in obtaining a copy of this edition through the Society at a cost of \$12.50 ea.

"BEAUTIFUL ONE DAY - PERFECT  
THE NEXT!"

In June, Reg and I decided to visit Queensland and as it coincided with the 26th Tropical Queensland Orchid Conference we registered, along with some 250 others from all parts of Australia and overseas. The Conference was held at Ingham which is a small sugar-growing town between Townsville and Innisfail.

All the local motels were booked out, so we had the pleasure of staying at Forrest Beach, some 15 km east of Ingham. The Conference was only for three days but it was really well run with plenty to do and lots of bush houses to visit. Most of the orchid growers that we visited were also tropical fruit growers, so there was plenty to taste as well as see.

We were also shown the infamous dendrobium beetle - it is pleasing to note that we don't get these in S.A.

On the day after the Conference Len Law - lor from Atherton asked us if we would like to go on a trip to Kirrama Range (which is behind Kennedy between Cardwell and Tully) to see how many native orchids we could find. So two 4-wheel-drive vehicles set off - four avid Australian native orchid hunters in each.

Before we actually made the journey into the Ranges we stopped on the coast at Cardwell where we found *Dendrobium canaliculatum*. Next stop was a roadhouse for milk as we had the billy with us. The Roadhouse was next to a Boomerang Factory from which, Len said, boomerangs were exported all over the world.

Now we started to climb the Range. The views were magnificent. No slide or photograph would do it justice. Distances are gauged by the number of bridges you cross rather than sign posts, and our aim was to get to bridge number 10 to start

the walk. We walked about 6 km at a fairly leisurely pace, during which time we saw a number of orchids.

In the loose soil on both sides of the old logging track we saw Jewel orchids (*Anoetochilus yatesiae* and *Zeuxine oblonga*). On the small twigs and branches overhanging the track we saw *Bulbophyllum macphersonii*, *B. gadgarrense*, *B. bowkettiae*, *B. johnsonii*, *B. schillerianum* (syn. *aurantiaceum*). *Plectorhiza tridentata* (Tangle Orchid) were hanging precariously by one or two roots. On the moist rock faces was *Liparis nugentiae* and in thin

layers of soil on the rock ledges was the terrestrial orchid *Malaxis latifolia*.

High up in the canopy (too high to be fully appreciated from the ground) was *Dendrobium jonesii*. However, an orchid that could be appreciated by climbing a small tree was a tiny *Oberonia* in full flower which Len seems to think is an undescribed species. The highlight of the walk was to be faced by one of the fallen forest giants when rounding a bend in

the track. It was literally covered with an orchid not often seen in collections *Eria eriaeoides*. We estimated that we could have filled two trailer loads of the plant - and that was after the wallabies had had their feed. There were also lots of orchids in the canopy - too high to be identified.

We wended our way slowly back to bridge 10 via the creek where we saw many types of ferns but no orchids as this creek regularly floods during the wet season. Some of our friends got back before us and put the billy on filled with water from the creek so we were able to thoroughly refresh ourselves. Dusk was falling as we made our way down the ranges. A good day was had by all.

G. F. Shooter

NOSSA SPRING SHOW 1991  
PRIZE LIST

CLASS	GROWER
1. <i>Caladenia</i> or <i>Glossodia</i> species	
1st <i>Caladenia argocala</i>	R. Bates
2nd <i>Caladenia caesarea</i>	R. Bates
2. <i>Diuris</i> species	
1st <i>Diuris corymbosa</i>	R.T. Robjohns
2nd <i>Diuris alba</i> "Charmhaven"	W. Walloscheck
3. <i>Pterostylis</i> species	
1st <i>Pterostylis pedunculata</i>	D. and B. Wells
2nd <i>Pterostylis baptistii</i>	D. and B. Wells
4. <i>Acianthus</i> or <i>Chiloglottis</i> species	
1st <i>Chiloglottis trapeziformis</i>	R. Bates
2nd <i>Chiloglottis trapeziformis</i>	J. Peace
5. Terrestrial species other than classes 1-4	
1st <i>Elythranthera emarginata</i>	R. Bates
2nd <i>Lyperanthus suaveolens</i> "green"	R. Bates
6. <i>Pterostylis</i> hybrid	
1st <i>Pterostylis</i> Cutie "Harolds Pride"	J. Attenborough
2nd <i>Pterostylis</i> Cutie "Harolds Pride"	R. Bates
7. Terrestrial hybrid other than class 6	
1st <i>Caladenia latifolia</i> x <i>flava</i> "Harlequin"	R. Bates
2nd <i>Chiloglottis</i> x <i>pescottiana</i>	W. Walloscheck
8. Specimen terrestrial - species or hybrid	
1st <i>Pterostylis pedunculata</i>	D. and B. Wells
2nd <i>Pterostylis baptistii</i>	D. and B. Wells
9. <i>Dendrobium kingianum</i>	
1st <i>Dendrobium kingianum</i> "Albert West" x "Krakatoa"	G. and B. Hawkins
2nd <i>Dendrobium kingianum</i>	M. Goldsack
10. <i>Dendrobium speciosum</i>	
1st <i>Dendrobium speciosum</i>	P. Barnes
2nd <i>Dendrobium speciosum</i> var. <i>speciosum</i>	P. Barnes
11. <i>Dendrobium</i> species other than classes 9 or 10	
1st <i>Dendrobium falcorostrum</i>	G. and B. Hawkins
2nd <i>Dendrobium atrobiolaceum</i>	R. and G. Shooter
12. Epiphytic species other than <i>Dendrobium</i>	
1st <i>Sarcochilus falcatus</i>	K. Western
2nd <i>Sarcochilus hartmannii</i>	R.T. Robjohns

## NOSSA Spring Show 1991- Prize List (contd.)

- |     |   |                   |
|-----|---|-------------------|
| 13. | Epiphytic hybrid - cream or yellow                |                   |
|     | 1st <i>Dendrobium</i> x <i>gracillimum</i>        | J. Lewis          |
|     | 2nd <i>Dendrobium</i> Numkumbil x <i>suffusum</i> | R. and G. Shooter |
| 14. | Epiphytic hybrid - pink or red                    |                   |
|     | 1st <i>Dendrobium</i> x <i>delicatum</i> "Wally"  | P. Barnes         |
|     | 2nd <i>Dendrobium</i> Bardo Rose                  | L. Burgess        |
| 15. | Epiphytic hybrid - any other colour inc. white    |                   |
|     | 1st <i>Dendrobium</i> Dainty Cascades             | K. Western        |
|     | 2nd <i>Dendrobium</i> x <i>delicatum</i>          | P. Barnes         |
| 16. | Specimen Epiphyte - species or hybrid             |                   |
|     | 1st <i>Dendrobium kingianum</i>                   | M. Goldsack       |
|     | 2nd <i>Dendrobium falcorostrum</i>                | R.T. Robjohns     |
| 17. | Table Top Display                                 |                   |
|     | 1st   | D. and B. Wells   |
|     | 2nd   | -                 |

CHAMPION NATIVE ORCHID OF THE SHOW  
*Caladenia latifolia* x *flava* "Harlequin"  
 R. Bates

THE ROY HARGREAVES TROPHY  
 (Best Terrestrial Species or Hybrid)  
*Caladenia latifolia* x *flava* "Harlequin"  
 R. Bates

IRA BUTLER AWARD  
 (Best Hybrid)  
*Caladenia latifolia* x *flava* "Harlequin"  
 R. Bates

CHAMPION TERRESTRIAL SPECIES  
 (from Classes 1-5,8)  
*Diuris corymbosa*  
 R.T. Robjohns

CHAMPION TERRESTRIAL HYBRID  
 (from Classes 6-8)  
*Caladenia latifolia* x *flava* "Harlequin"  
 R. Bates

CHAMPION EPIPHYTIC SPECIES  
 (from Classes 9-12,16)  
*Dendrobium speciosum*  
 P. Barnes

CHAMPION EPIPHYTIC HYBRID  
 (from Classes 13-16)  
*Dendrobium* Dainty Cascades  
 K. Western

WINNERS OF 1991 NOSSA  
 SPRING SHOW 35 mm SLIDE  
 COMPETITION

JUDGE - Dora J. Evans, AFIAP, AAPS, ESAPS.

CATEGORY 1 - Macro/closeup single flower

First	Roger Biddell	<i>Orthoceras strictum</i>
Second	Bob Markwick	<i>Caladenia cardiochila</i>
Merit	Paul Reece	<i>Thelymitra azurea</i>
Merit	Paul Reece	<i>Calochilus robertsonii</i>
Merit	Bob Markwick	<i>Thelymitra x truncata</i>
Merit	Bob Markwick	<i>Epiblema</i>

CATEGORY 2 - Wild orchid in situ

First	Roger Biddell	<i>Thelymitra ixioides</i>
Second	Roger Biddell	<i>Caladenia fitzgeraldii</i>
Merit	Roger Biddell	<i>Caladenia deformis</i>
Merit	Bob Markwick	<i>Thelymitra rubra</i>
Merit	Bob Edge	<i>Lyperanthus nigricans</i>

CATEGORY 3 - Orchids in cultivation

First	Bob Bates	<i>Caladenia patersonii</i> var. <i>longicauda</i>
Second	Bob Bates	<i>Caladenia patersonii</i>

BEST SLIDE (all categories included)

Roger Biddell *Orthoceras strictum*

AUSTRALIAN ORCHID REVIEW

If you are thinking about becoming a new subscriber to this excellent publication, why not help NOSSA at the same time? The publishers have announced that for every NEW one-year or two-year subscription obtained through the Society a bonus will be paid.

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Remember, this offer is only valid for new subscriptions; renewals do not qualify. If you are interested, contact Ron Robjohns.



## NOSSA SPRING SHOW -

## UNUSUAL TERRESTRIALS

The 1991 show was notable for the small number of terrestrial orchids on display! Nevertheless there were several plants not exhibited before.

Les Nesbitt's display was unusual as it was made up largely of terrestrial hybrids including six hybrid *Pterostylis*, a hybrid *Caladenia* and a *Diuris* hybrid, all of which Les had made himself!

There was *Pterostylis* x Jack Warcup (*P. x ingens* x *P. falcata*) with very large flowers on sturdy stems, as well as *Caladenia* x Fairy Floss of a delicate pink (this is a cross between the endemic South Australian *C. rigida* and the local form of *C. latifolia*). A very similar hybrid was *C. brumalis* x *C. latifolia* with pink and white flowers.

The most spectacular hybrid of all was a cross made between a pink and white form of *C. latifolia* from near Meningie and the tall forest form of *C. flava* (ssp. "sylvestris"). This had tricoloured blooms (up to 4 per stem) of pink, yellow and white - each up to 5 cm across. Little wonder it was Champion of the Show. Fortunately it increases readily and should be available to keen growers soon!

A *Diuris* not seen previously was *Diuris picta* from inland Western Australia. This had large nodding flowers of creamy-yellow and purple-brown. It was named 150 years ago but has only recently been recognised!

The recently named *Caladenia argocala* is a beautiful white spider orchid endemic to central South Australia and very rare. Also present was a man-made hybrid between *C. argocala* and *C. tentaculata*.

As a contrast to these Australian species there were two pots of European terrestrials - the most spectacular being *Serapias neglecta* with pink flowers lasting 6 weeks, each plant producing 5 tubers a year. If only our Aussie species did as well!

A very pretty plant was *Elythranthera x intermedia* from Western Australia. We have occasionally seen

*E. brunonis* or. *E. emarginata* at our shows but these do not do well in cultivation. Their natural hybrid may do a little better.

A plant not seen before was an unnamed Western Australian *Prasophyllum* - a black species with a short thick stem and crowded dark flowers.

Yes, it is worth going along every year to our shows just to see what new surprises will pop up amongst the Terrestrials.

Sandy Phillips

## TUBERBANK - 1991

A list and details of available tubers will be printed in the December Journal.

To enable this listing to be complete and accurate, all members who are able to donate tubers are asked to provide accurate information concerning the names of native species and/or hybrid terrestrial orchid tubers by November 30.

All species and hybrid tubers are needed. Any donation of tubers will be greatly appreciated. No quantity is too small!

Only information is required at present, collection of tubers will be arranged in December.

In addition, any members able to donate photographic slide boxes or other similar small boxes suitable for the packaging and distribution of tubers are asked to contact either Roy Hargreaves or the Tuberbank co-ordinator, Philip Matthews.

Your Society will appreciate any assistance you can give to ensure a successful 1991 Tuberbank.

CONTACT: Philip Matthews  
9 Southern Terrace  
HOLDEN HILL SA 5088

Telephone: 261 2359

Earlier this year I was a guest speaker at the Victorian Orchid Club in Melbourne. I donated a couple of community pots to the club to help promote terrestrials among this group of mainly exotic orchid growers. One of the pots contained the Mentone greenhood *Pterostylis x toveyana*, a natural hybrid between *P. concinna* and *P. alata*. I had obtained a few tubers from the ANOS-Vic Group tuber bank way back in the mid 1970s and they grew and multiplied prolifically. I had read that this orchid came from Mentone, now an inner suburb of Melbourne. One of the Victorian members, Peter Bonato, became quite excited when he saw the Mentone Greenhood and got the President's permission to donate it to a local conservation group in Mentone so that the plants could be reintroduced to the wild.

I later received a letter from David Bainbridge which said in part:

"I am writing to inform you that the pot of Mentone Greenhood - *Pterostylis x toveyana* that you presented to Peter Bonato on behalf of the Victorian Orchid Club has found its right home.

"Peter Bonato donated it to the Friends of Bradshaw Park at our last weekend meeting four weeks ago. This group of a few dedicated

individuals in the Mordialloc community helps look after Bradshaw Park, a 2-hectare remnant of the once widespread tea-tree scrub and heathland in the municipality.



Peter Bonato handing Mentone Greenhood to David Bainbridge, August, 1991

"At that same meeting in the park the orchids were planted in a suitable area under coast tea-tree.

"It was quite exciting being able to put back an original indigenous orchid in the area from which it has been extinct for 35 years. Peter told me he remembered seeing many colonies of it and Trim Greenhood (*Pterostylis concinna*) both inside and outside the park on the Railway Reserve in 1957."

Accompanying the letter was a list of all the native plants in four reserves in the Mordialloc area. Only three *Pterostylis* are listed: *Pterostylis concinna*, *P. curta* and *P. nutans*.

David Bainbridge asked if I knew the exact area the original tubers came from but I cannot be specific.

This episode drives home the point that all the orchids which have been collected on NOSSA rescue digs over the years must be labelled with the locality. Once this information is lost, it is lost forever, even if the orchids survive.

#### NEW MEMBERS

Mr Bruce Grivell, Crafers.  
Ms Letizia Harper, Fulham Gdns.  
Mr Peter Hender, Langhorne Ck.  
Miss Alison Manock, Millswood.  
Mr H. and Mrs K. Possingham,  
Beulah Park.  
Mr T. O'Neill, Flinders Park.  
Mr Warren and Mrs Beryl Young,  
Redwood Park.  
Mr Allan Jennings, Belair.  
Mrs Jan Kane, Maslin Beach.  
Mr Ron and Mrs Bev Masters,  
Morphettville.

Field Trip Report -  
Nuriootpa Scrubs

A small group of NOSSA members met at the Nuriootpa Post Office on the cool sunny morning of September 13 and headed north. Most of the Barossa Valley has been cleared but there are small pockets of native vegetation throughout, especially on back roads, although our first stop was on the main highway to the Riverland (about 3 km out of town). This peppermint box woodland on a clay flat has been grazed for 140 years but there were still orchids and these were surprises - *Pterostylis mutica* (fertile soil form), lots of *P. biseta* rosettes, *Thelymitra luteocilium* and *Diuris palustris* with a single plant of *Caladenia rigens* (the recently named mallee spider orchid with pale clubs).

Our next stop was the Nuriootpa golf course sandscrubs. There were lots of leaves of the usual sandscrub orchids *Lyperanthus* and *Leporella* but few orchids in flower. A most exciting find was a clump of several *Caladenia colorata* the recently named "mallee princess" with little multi-coloured flowers on the edge of the fairway and nearby a single *Diuris behrii* x *D. pardina* (*D. x palachila* in the strict sense). On the roadside under regenerating native pines a colony of *Prasophyllum fecundum*. For our interstate visitors these were all "new". There was a red wasp on the latter species and neatly positioned on its head were a pair of pollinia!

We headed north on the Kapunda road and stopped at a patch of native pines. Cattle had been



Caladenia  
deformis

area but is now apparently extinct.



Caladenia  
cardiochila

grazing and the rosettes of *Pterostylis excelsa* were chopped about but there were odd plants of *Caladenia deformis* in flower and a single *C. cardiochila* and a broken plant of a cross between this and an undescribed spider orchid which used to grow in this

This shiny red *C. aft. reticulata* was last collected in the area in 1974 so the little hybrid plant we found may have been the last surviving progeny. We walked along the road for a while noting the leaves of *Thelymitra megacalyptra* and *Microtis frutetorum*, then in the ditch plants of *Prasophyllum occidentale* in flower.



Caladenia  
reticulata

We lunched in a triangle of scrub with various of the

orchids seen previously but here the *Microtis* were in flower. The fragrance of thousands of Freesias wafted over us but somehow we would have rather it was the perfume of orchids!

After lunch we drove up the Burton gap road toward Greenock and walked up behind a vineyard to a grove of Sheoaks overlooking the pass. In addition to the buds of *Caladenia tentaculata* there were buds of a tall *C. patersonii* type spider orchid and then a real thrill - a double headed one with the lower flower open: a huge creamy flower of thick texture with heavy drooping segments. This was our main objective - the "White Beauty" or *Caladenia argocalla* - now almost extinct.

Other orchids seen near here included *C. latifolia*, *Pterostylis robusta*, *T. antennifera*, *T. luteocilium* and under the fence right next to a cow track a single flowered hybrid between them. The only orchid in profusion was *Glossodia*.

The most noticeable aspects of the whole field trip were the paucity of flowering plants of each species, the high proportion of almost extinct species (or at least almost extinct in this area) and the general lack of reserves which means they have no chance of long term survival.

M. Philips

*PTEROSTYLIS NANA:*  
SPECIES OR SUBGENUS?

Only ten years ago the name *Pterostylis nana* was applied to every one of the little greenhoods which have an inflexed tooth in the sinus of their conjoined lateral sepals. Since then we have gradually seen species being split off. *P. dilatata* was described as a species from Western Australia with corline leaves not rosette leaves like most of the others. *P. pyramidalis* was recognised as a W.A. species from swampy ground with leaves up the stem - broad at the base, narrow above. Nevertheless it was easily demonstrated that there were still as many different forms as there were habitats. *P. nana* occurred in swamps, coastal sandhills, forest, heath, mountains and desert rock outcrops in rich soil or poor. Some flowered as early as April, some as late as December. Could they all be the same species?

About 1985 I decided to investigate the group in more detail. We had long known that *P. nana* in the mallee looked different from *P. nana* in the Adelaide Hills. It didn't take long to find places where both occurred together and, as expected, they did not interbreed. What's more, they actually attracted different pollinators and just as importantly the little round bodied flies which pollinated both were only distantly related to the long-bodied fungus gnats which visited most other greenhoods!

Research in South Australia soon showed that as many as three different *P. aff. nana* actually occurred in the same area and that these were habitat specific. It was soon clear that at least four totally different species occurred commonly in S.A., i.e. "Hills nana" (with white hairs on the scape); "Mallee nana" (with tiny laterally compressed flowers and round leaves on long petioles; "Coastal nana" (with crenulate leaves and large, brown tipped flowers) and "Veined nana" (with blue green sagittate leaves distinguished by their prominent veins - the flowers being reticulate veined and turning red with age). Each is pollinated by a different fly!

Further research showed that each of these could be divided into races or subspecies. "Hills nana" has a

lookalike cousin found in the semi-desert areas, the differences are not as obvious as between the four species and work on their pollinators hasn't given clear-cut results but biologically the two require different habitats and the desert ones don't last long in cultivation!

In 1986 when the first "Veined nana" were collected at Hale Conservation Park in the Adelaide Hills they were thought to be a relict species. This year, however, on a trip to central Eyre Peninsula in July, it was discovered that "Veined nanas" were common in that area but there were differences (for a start they did not have the rigid leaves or short stemmed flowers of the Hale specimens). Again we were probably looking at two subspecies.

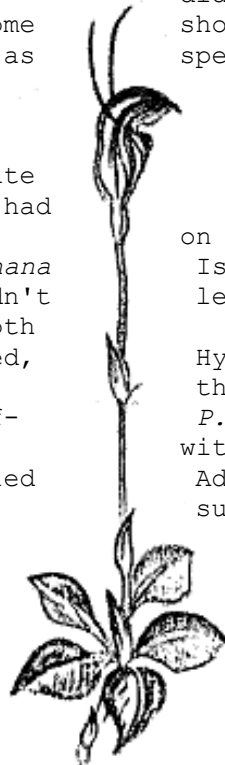
Then a third race or subspecies of "Hills nana" was found on rock outcrops overlooking the sea on Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island. These had fleshy narrow leaves and pinched flowers.

Hybrids are common between most of the *Pterostylis* sp. but none of the *P. nana* complex are known to cross with species of any other complex. Add this to the quite different suite of pollinators; the constant nature of several morphological features and the remarkable diversity of species to suit different habitats and you will see that what was once regarded as a single species, then a species complex, might now be regarded as a subgenus!

In Western Australia in 1990 I found no less than 20 different kinds of "*P. nana*". Many of them highly localised, i.e. one grew only in the Porongurups, another only around Lake Muir, so *P. nana* is not even a small subgenus.

I have no doubt that there is enough work to be done yet to last many years as we try to unravel the relationships between the different taxa - which are true species, which are only races? How specific are the pollinators?

R. Bates



STOP PRESS

## TUBER REMOVAL

Les Nesbitt

The New Members Group has requested a list of species which can be propagated by the "tuber removal" method.

The following list contains the more commonly grown species which multiply poorly if left undisturbed. The number of plants can be at least doubled each year if tubers are removed at the correct time.

There is a window of opportunity from the end of September until 6 weeks before dormancy to do the deed. Early October is the ideal time for most species.

The rufa group *Pterostylis* should have tubers removed first because their leaves go dormant by mid-October if left alone.

Plants will stay green longer if the new season's tuber is twisted off and the plant, with old tuber attached, is potted up again and kept moist. Bury the removed tuber in the pot also. Repot again after Christmas. You should find at least two tubers.

Every terrestrial grower must learn to master this technique. The survival of Australia's native orchids depends upon it.

*Eriochilus cucullatus*  
*E. dilatatus*

*Diuris aurea*  
*D. lanceolata*  
*D. maculata*  
*D. punctata*  
*D. venosa*

*Pterostylis rufa* (entire group)  
*P. biseta* (entire group)  
*P. excelsor* (entire group)  
*P. hammata* (entire group)  
*P. ovata* (entire group)  
*P. cyncephala*  
*P. mutica*  
*P. vittata*  
*P. plumosa*

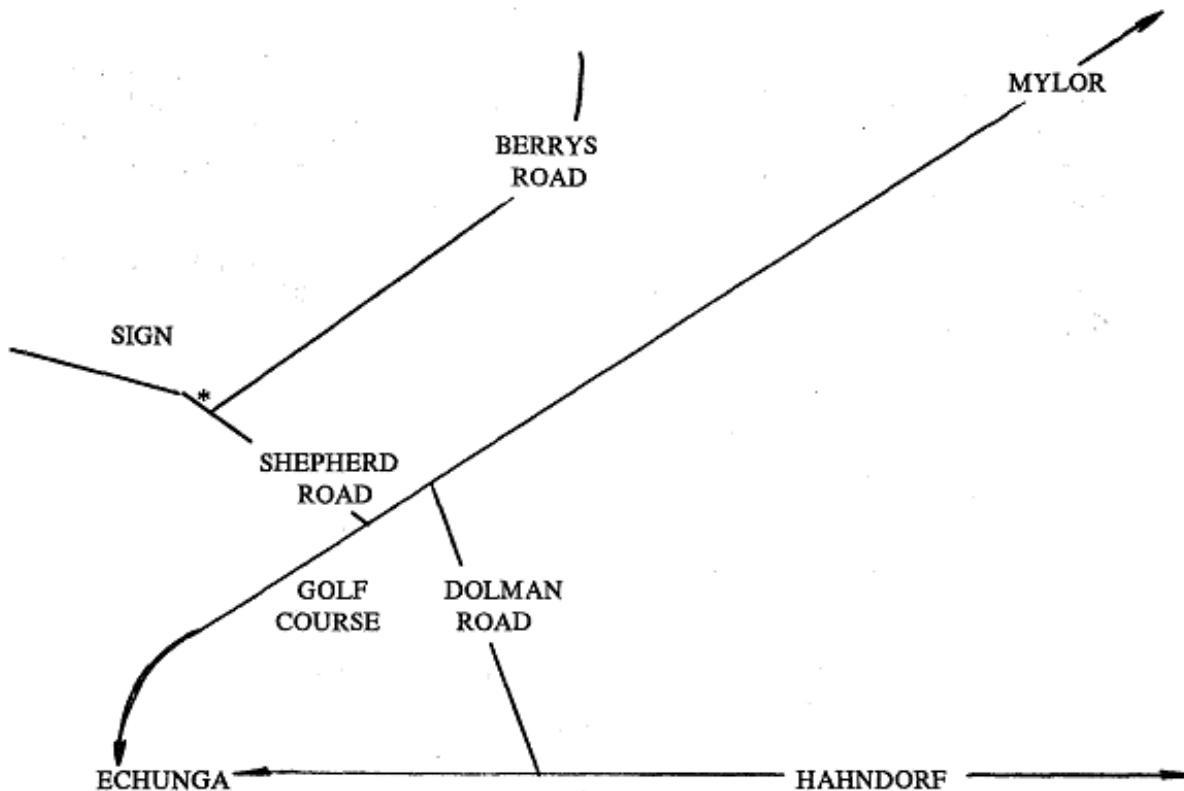
## FIELD TRIP

# SUNDAY, 27TH OCTOBER

### ECHUNGA POLICE TRAINING RESERVE

MEET AT 10.00 A.M., AT JUPITER CREEK GOLD DIGGINGS SIGN, CORNER SHEPHERD ROAD AND BERRYS ROAD, ECHUNGA. SHEPHERD ROAD IS ON THE MYLOR SIDE OF THE ECHUNGA TOWNSHIP, OFF THE STRATHALBYN ROAD.

BRING AND SHARE A B.Y.O. PICNIC LUNCH ON THESE 'HARD TO GET ON TO GROUNDS'. SEARCH FOR ORCHIDS THAT PROBABLY HAVE NEVER BEEN SOUGHT FOR BEFORE, OR, JUST ENJOY THE ENVIRONMENT. NOTE: THAT ACCESS IS CONTROLLED AND SPECIAL PERMISSION HAS BEEN OBTAINED TO HAVE THIS TRIP.



GEOFF EDWARDS