

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
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NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Society will be held in February, 1992.
The January/February NOSSA Journal will contain details of the
speaker. Visitors always welcome.

When: Tuesday, 25 February, 1992, 8.00 p.m.

Where: St Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington.

*Best Wishes for Christmas
and the New year*

The President and Management Committee of NOSSA extend to all
members and their families Christmas Greetings and Best Wishes
for the New Year.

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

"Travel can broaden the mind; especially if you can stop off at a
few orchid nurseries."

"A wise woman knows her husband's favourite orchid, and the
nursery that has it." (Who put this one here? ... Ed's wife)

"My orchid problems start with reconciling my gross desires with
my net income."

from Orchidwise by Roger Rankin.

PLANTS BENCHED NOVEMBER MEETING

Terrestrials - *Diuris brevifolia*, *Diuris drummondii* (x 2)
 Epiphytes - *Cymbidium canaliculatum* (x 2)

PLANT COMMENTARY

Terrestrials: Mr Les Nesbitt. Epiphytes: Mr George Nieuwenhoven

NEW MEMBERS

Mr N. Nicholson, Belair.
 Mr and Mrs R. Dyer, O'Sullivan Beach.

AUCTION RESULTS

Results of the Christmas Break-up Auction Sale - \$322.50. Thanks to all who donated plants and participated in an enjoyable evening.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Please take note of the following advance notice ... mark it in your diary - it's well worth setting aside the time.

SUNDAY, 11 OCTOBER, 1992
 ECHUNGA POLICE TRAINING RESERVE

We are going to meet at 10 a.m. at the Jupiter Creek Gold Diggings sign, corner Shepherd Road and Berry's Road, Echunga. Look forward to a b.y.o. picnic lunch on these "hard-to-get-on-to-grounds" and search for orchids that may never have been sought for before. Note: access to this area is controlled and permission has been obtained to have this trip.

More details closer to the event.

Geoff Edwards

ANOS MACKAY AND DISTRICT GROUP
 - BADGE

The Secretary of the ANOS Mackay and District Group has written to NOSSA to offer its Society badge to our members. It depicts *Dendrobium bowmannii* (formerly *D. mortii*) and is available at \$6 per badge. Anyone interested can contact The Secretary at 98 Bedford Road, Andergrove, Qld. 4740.

Cymbidium madidum (Lindley)

Cymbidium madidum is the largest plant of our three native *Cymbidiums* and is often found growing in clumps of epiphytic ferns (such as stags or elks) or on trees having a thick fibrous bark, however usually grows in the hollows of trees.

Its range is from the Clarence River in New South Wales to Cape Yorke peninsula in Queensland. Typically a plant of the moister regions it is found in a variety of situations - from rather dense shade to fully exposed - in or near rainforest.

The pseudobulbs of *C. madidum* are stout and larger than those of most exotic *Cymbidiums*. They have four to eight strap-like leaves about 60 cm long and about 3½ cm across. The racemes are pendulous and up to 70 cm long and bear twenty to seventy well-spaced, fragrant flowers about 2½ cm across. The flowers are thick and rigid, brownish on the outside and olive green or yellow on the inside. In South Australia they flower during November to January but in Queensland their flowering season is during August to October.

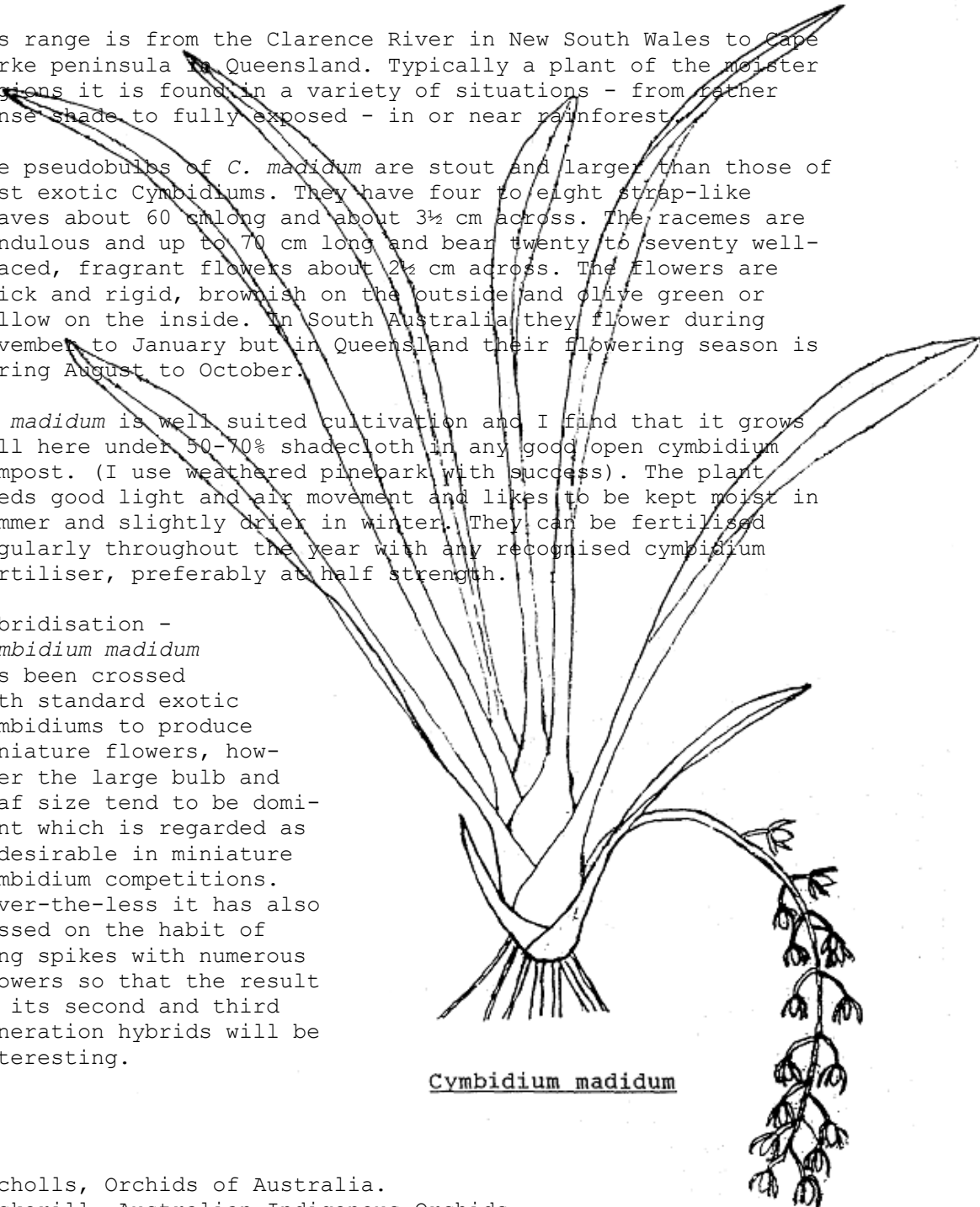
C. madidum is well suited cultivation and I find that it grows well here under 50-70% shadecloth in any good open cymbidium compost. (I use weathered pinebark with success). The plant needs good light and air movement and likes to be kept moist in summer and slightly drier in winter. They can be fertilised regularly throughout the year with any recognised cymbidium fertiliser, preferably at half strength.

Hybridisation -

Cymbidium madidum has been crossed with standard exotic cymbidiums to produce miniature flowers, however the large bulb and leaf size tend to be dominant which is regarded as undesirable in miniature cymbidium competitions. Never-the-less it has also passed on the habit of long spikes with numerous flowers so that the result in its second and third generation hybrids will be interesting.

Cymbidium madidum

Nicholls, Orchids of Australia.
Dockerill, Australian Indigenous Orchids.
Jones, Native Orchids of Australia.



A PIECE OF HISTORY

The following extract is from The Advertiser, Adelaide, 29/3/42. This article was published following the death of prominent South Australian, Dr R.S. Rogers - well known for his involvement with native orchids.

DEATH OF DR. R.S. ROGERS

High Degrees in Three Faculties

Dr. Richard Sanders Rogers, whose death was reported yesterday, was a South Australian who gained high degrees in three different faculties during a remarkable career in which he remained in the forefront of public life for more than 30 years.

Dr. Rogers, who was 80, won world renown as an authority on Australian orchids. His work and research in this direction served as a basis for the award of his degree of doctor of science, made at the Adelaide University in 1936, when he was 74, and his thesis on orchids was acclaimed by authorities in England.

A fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Dr. Rogers was a consulting physician to the Adelaide Hospital and Lecturer in Forensic Medicine at the Adelaide University. For some time he was deputy chairman of the Adelaide Hospital Board. He was a past president of the board of governors of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery of South Australia, a fellow and past president of the Royal Society of South Australia, and a past president of the Justices Association. He served in the South African war, and, as a lieutenant-colonel, commanded the Keswick Base Hospital from 1914 to 1919.

At the time of his death Dr. Rogers was the senior graduate in South Australia of the University of Adelaide. Born in Adelaide in 1862, he graduated as Bachelor of Arts in 1883. He went to England on a scholarship after obtaining his first degree, and in 1884 was senior medallist of the year in zoology at the Edinburgh University. In 1887

he took the degree of Bachelor of Medicine and Master of Surgery at Edinburgh, and in 1896 he became a Doctor of Medicine at Adelaide.

When the Enfield Receiving House was opened, Dr Rogers was appointed superintendent, and, in 1929, he was appointed visiting superintendent of the Northfield Mental Hospital. He held both positions until he retired about two years ago.

For the greatest part of his life Dr. Rogers made botany his hobby. Orchids were his particular interest, and he contributed more than 50 botanical articles to the Royal Societies in the Australian States. He was the author of the Australian orchids section in the Encyclopaedia Britannica, as well as the section on orchids in Black's "Flora of Australasia" and was a Fellow of the Linnean Society, London.

Dr. Rogers has left a widow and one son.

The president of the Medical Board (Dr. A.M. Cudmore) said yesterday that Dr. Rogers was president of the board when he joined. His knowledge of forensic medicine had been of great value to the board. The most interesting fact about Dr. Rogers was that he had received his Doctor of Science degree at the Adelaide University nearly 50 years after he had received his first degree there. Dr. Rogers had been a great student and his interests had been wide. After he had received his MD in Edinburgh, and had practised in South Australia, he had attended lectures at the University under Sir Joseph Verco.

R.S. ROGERS, ORCHID HOUSE

REPORT

(This orchid house is named in honour of Dr. R.S. Rogers - see article opposite.)

This NOSSA terrestrial orchid shadehouse currently situated at the Adelaide Botanic Gardens is soon to be relocated to the Black Hill Flora Centre at Athelstone!

There are currently 260 species of orchid in the collection but this is expected to increase to 300 next year. Flowers of several new species have been sent to D.L. Jones in Canberra for illustration prior to being named. Heinrich Behrle of Waite has crossed several species to get hybrid seed which he is growing by the symbiotic method in flask. With luck there should be some exciting hybrids available to members.

ONKAPARINGA RIVER RECREATION
PARK SURVEY 1990/91

SUMMARY

It was fortunate that an extra year was allowed to complete this survey as over 100 plant species were added to the park list in 1991 - including 10 orchids.

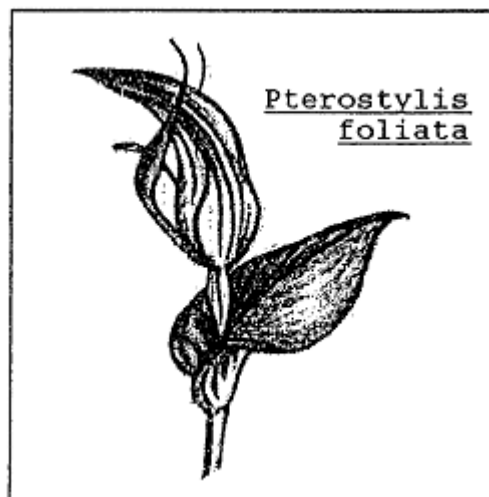
The survey actually covered five separate areas - each of very different habitat!

1. Our main focus was the Onkaparinga Gorge - a very rugged area of cliffs, waterfalls and caves: total area 1000 + hectares and comprising 100 hectares natural woodland, rough scrub and the rest grazed land.

It was impossible for us to visit some areas of rock ledge as it was just too dangerous.

Valuable plant finds included *Drosera praefolia*, *Acacia dodonaefolia* and *A. ligulata*.

Important orchid discoveries included a large patch of the vulnerable *Prasophyllum pallidum* with a few of its close relative *P. fitzgeraldii*. The rare *Pterostylis foliata* is well conserved in this area. Two unnamed orchids were found - a *Microtis* aff. *unifolia* and a *Pterostylis* aff. *excelsa*, both unfortunately in very small numbers.



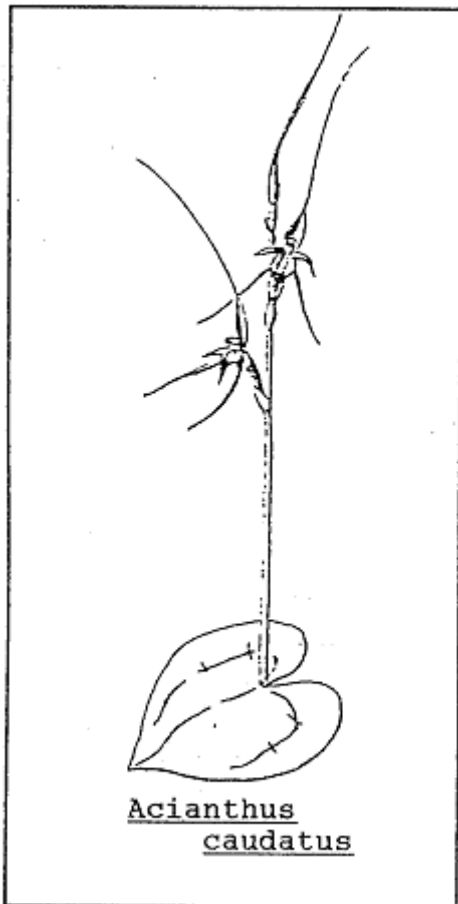
As the area is regenerating it is ideal for the reintroduction of woodland and grassland species such as *Diuris behrii* and *Caladenia argocala*. (It is almost certain that these species would have been among an estimated 20 orchids which have become extinct in the area due to grazing.)

2. The second area is the Onkaparinga Estuary, separated from the first by the town of Noarlunga.

This is an area of (starting at the sea):

- (1) coastal sandhills,
- (2) tidal estuary,
- (3) river flood plain, (including saline and nonsaline areas) and
- (4) dry rises of limestone and clay.

The area has been so badly disturbed that no orchids occur there today. Interesting plants found included two species of *Frankenia*, four species of salt-bush and three of blue-bush - all dryland plants, which, to some, might seem out of place in Adelaide's southern suburbs.



3. The third area (which was added to the reserves system during the time of our survey) is Hardy's Scrub at Blewitt Springs - a 75 hectare area of sandscrub and woodland dissected by clay creek lines.

At one point this scrub adjoins the Onkaparinga River Recreation Park. It is rich in orchids. There are large numbers of *Acianthus caudatus* and - *Pterostylis foliata*. An orchid added to the list in 1991 was *Corybas despectans*.

4. Area number four is Manning Field Nature Reserve - a 35 hectare patch of sandscrub and heath.

This has been well surveyed past but we did add two orchids to the list provided by Tony Spooner of

Onkaparinga River Rec. Park Survey 90/91 (contd.)

the Field Naturalists, i.e. *Pterostylis* "mallee nana" and *Microtis* aff. *parviflora*. A sad result of our survey here was the indication that several species listed for Manning no longer occur there - notably *Caladenia behrii*.

5. The fifth area (across the road from Hardy's Scrub) is Blewitt Springs Town Reserve.

This is largely a sandy Tea Tree swamp and about 10% of species there do not occur in the other four areas. Unusual finds included two species of native *Pelargonium*, *Agrostis gigantea* and *Leucopogon* aff. *australis*. The *Corybas* occurring there has not been identified - it may be *Corybas dentatus*. An unusual *Caladenia* here in the swamp is a dwarf form of *C. prolata* which is worth further study.

Total orchid species found:

Total plant species found was an incredible 530.

(Our estimate is for 100 plants to be added - perhaps 30 native, 30 introduced, 30 cultivated or planted.)

Bob Bates

DENDROBIUM CUTHBERTSONII

The Australian Orchid Foundation has written offering pots of *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* to NOSSA members at \$15 per pot.

The Foundation has a limited number of seedlings ready for distribution. They are the result of selfing an excellent red variety that gained a Cultural Certificate only a few years ago.

These plants thrive well in sphagnum moss in a good shaded position (temperature from 8°C to 28°C) and should not be allowed to dry out at any time. *D. cuthbertsonii* is alpine and grows in its native habitat above 7500 ft altitude. The flowering season is between November to May and the individual flowers may last 12-16 weeks. These plants will thrive well in conditions that are favourable for *Masdevallias* and *Odontoglossums*, etc.

The seedlings offered are a small clump with a minimum of three growths in a 2" pot. It is strongly recommended that these small clumps remain and growers should resist the temptation of separation. Each clump has strong root development. A few pots may have two strong growths.

Any interested person should contact the NOSSA Secretary as sales will only be made to the combined order from our Society and not to individual members.

NEW MEMBERS GROUP -
REPORT ON LAST FUNCTION

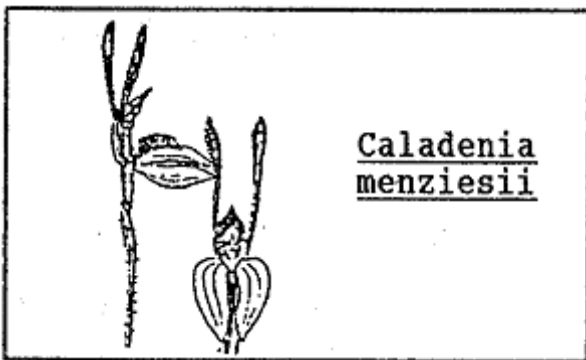
Echunga Police Training Reserve Field Trip - 27 October, 1991.

A cavalcade of some twenty vehicles, led by Geoff Edwards, wound its way into the Police Training Camp at Echunga, past the administration area and onto the firing range. Here the State was denied a bonanza in traffic violation revenue as the cavalcade was directed past a stop sign (at which none of us stopped), past a "No Vehicles Permitted Beyond This Point" sign and onto the firing range itself.

Here Geoff spoke briefly to our group of approx. fifty about the firing range, its design and use, and the boundaries of the Police property where we were welcome to search for orchids. We agreed to meet for lunch at 12.00 noon.

With daylight saving in force the morning was quite cool with some members wishing they had warmer clothing, but by late morning it was quite warm. The group broke itself into smaller groups of eight to ten and, not being regular field trip people, Jan and I latched onto a group that included some experienced people in recognising terrestrials.

From the outset it was obvious that we were not going to see as many orchids as last year's visit. We were later this year, it was much drier and because there had been less rainfall it meant that many orchids had been and gone, especially the *Diuris*. However some orchids seen by our group in the morning included:



Caladenia
menziesii

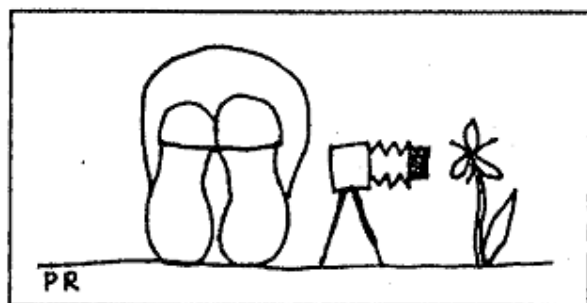
Glossodia major (blue and white)
Calochilus robertsonii
Thelymitra aristata (some thought
grandiflora)
T. pauciflora
Caladenia tentaculata
Corybas
Caladenia menziesii
C. reticulata
Lyperanthus nigricans
Cyrtostylis reniformis

After lunch our group explored an area where a bushfire had been last year. The eucalypts with blackened trunks were green with the new regrowth of leaves and the whole area here was thick with *Glossodia major*. Large clumps of up to fifty *Acianthus exsertus* were found on the lower side of the slopes under the blackboys. The area was dotted with excavations and mine shafts from days gone by and needed to be explored with care. Even though Roy Hargreaves was not coming out after lunch, guess who was out with our group in the p.m.

Those shutterbugs with cameras were seen in positions that only dedicated orchid photographers can be seen in.

Some orchids seen by our group after lunch included:

Acianthus pusillas
Thelymitra ixioides
Caladenia reticulata
C. carnea,
one large colony of *C. menziesii*
Thelymitra antennifera



our thanks go to Geoff Edwards for arranging the day, for permission to enter the camp and for the helpful Journal map and notice.

Graham Burford

PART 5

Bob Bates

Continued from NOSSA Journal, November, 1991, page 106.

PLATE 34 *Caladenia* "concolor" - a portrait shot using twin flashes and grey backboard. The plant is perhaps the recently named *C. haemantha*.

PLATE 35 The slide used for this plate actually has a green (natural) background. It has lost clarity during printing. Photographed on a firebreak in Marsh's swamp using natural light.

PLATE 36 This natural pair of *C. cucullata* plants near Bangham has one plant in sun and one in shade but the blend of colours is not unpleasant.

PLATE 37 *Caladenia deformis* - a test print taken from this slide turned out beautifully but the printing for the book failed miserably in colour and exposure. The background on the slide is green!

PLATE 38 *Caladenia rigens*, photographed on a NOSSA field trip to Tailem Bend in dappled sunlight under native pines.

PLATE 39 An unusual "front on" shot of *Caladenia septuosa* at Koppio. The flower is highlighted by flash, hence the dark background. *C. septuosa* is the "common spider orchid" of Eyre Peninsula.

PLATE 40 *C. "aff. dilatata"* (*C. clavula* probably) - photographed in the mist on a ridge above Telowie Gorge in poor natural light.

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

PLATE 41 A sunshine shot of *C. macroclavia* clearly showing the large flattened osmophores typical of this rare species.

PLATE 42 *Caladenia flaccida* - note the two-toned flowers of red and white and the very long drooping sepals of this species from fertile, often rocky soils. Photographed at Telowie Gorge.

PLATE 43 *Caladenia filamentosa* var. *tentaculata* - there are two "races" of this - a smooth leafed coastal form with long segments and this dry woodland form with short stiff segments - note that the flowers are not albino - they are cream with a red stripe outside! Photographed at Melrose.

PLATE 44 *Caladenia stellata* - a sunshine shot. Note the flat labellum which lacks the labellum side lobes and veins of *C. reticulata*. (*C. stellata* grows in fertile soils, *C. reticulata* in poor soils.)

PLATE 45 *C. fragrantissima* with strong backlighting from the sun so that the creamy-green flowers appear whiter than they actually are.

PLATE 46 A beautiful shot of *C. gladiolata* taken by Paul Reece near Alligator Gorge where the flowers are often larger than usual.

PLATE 47 This shot of *C. gracilis* was taken only a few kilometres from the South Australian border in western Victoria. It was chosen for its brilliant colouring brought out by the bright sunshine.

(to be continued)

1991/92 TUBER BANK ORDER FORM

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. <i>Acianthus exsertus</i> | Circle those lot numbers |
| 2. <i>A. fornicatus</i> | you wish to order. |
| 3. <i>Caladenia carnea</i> | |
| 4. <i>C. dilatata</i> | Mark [subst.] against those |
| 5. <i>C. menziesii</i> | lots you would like if your |
| 6. <i>C. patersonii</i> | first choice is not avail- |
| 7. <i>C. pauciflora</i> | able. |
| 8. <i>Chiloglottis formicifera</i> | |
| 9. <i>C. reflexa</i> | Lots will have from 1 to 10 |
| 10. <i>C. trapeziformis</i> | tubers, depending on supply |
| 11. <i>Corybas diemenicus</i> | and demand. |
| 12. <i>C. fimbriatus</i> | |
| 13. <i>C. incurvus</i> | Tubers that are in short |
| 14. <i>Cyrtostylis reniformis</i> ? | supply will be issued on a |
| (Lucindale) | first-come, first-served |
| 15. <i>C. robusta</i> | basis. |
| 16. <i>Diuris alba</i> | |
| 17. <i>D. maculata</i> | Price: \$1.00 per lot. |
| 18. <i>D. pulchella</i> | |
| 19. <i>D. sulphurea</i> | Cheque/Money Order (made |
| 20. <i>Glossodia major</i> | payable to NOSSA) is en- |
| 21. <i>Leporella fimbriata</i> | closed for: |
| (Lucindale) | |
| 22. <i>Lyperanthus nigricans</i> | \$ for lots. |
| (Lucindale) | |
| 23. <i>Microtis frutetorum</i> | |
| 24. <i>Pterostylis curta</i> | Tubers posted 20.1.92. |
| 25. <i>P. curta</i> (large leaf form) | |
| 26. <i>P. cycnocephala</i> | [] I will be on holidays, |
| 27. <i>P. dolichochila</i> (Lucindale) | and wish posting to be |
| 28. <i>P. fischii</i> | delayed. Please post |
| 29. <i>P. nana</i> | after: |
| 30. <i>P. nana</i> (Lucindale) | (date). |
| 31. <i>P. pedunculata</i> | |
| 32. <i>P. revoluta</i> | |
| 33. <i>P. robusta</i> | Closing date for orders |
| 34. <i>P. robusta</i> (Lucindale) | last mail on 17.1.92. |
| 35. <i>P. sanguinea</i> (Lucindale) | |
| 36. <i>P. truncata</i> | |
| 37. <i>P. x pedunculata</i> | Post to: |
| 38. <i>P. Cutie</i> | |
| 39. <i>P. furcata x cucullata</i> | |
| 40. <i>P. x ingens</i> | Mr Philip Matthews |
| 41. <i>P. Nodding Grace</i> | 9 Southern Terrace |
| 42. <i>Thelymitra benthamiana</i> ? | HOLDEN HILL SA 5088 |
| (Lucindale) | |
| 43. <i>T. x chasmogama</i> | |
| 44. <i>T. nuda</i> | Please print name/address |
| 45. <i>T. pauciflora</i> | clearly as it will be used |
| 46. <i>T. rubra</i> | for the return of tubers. |

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ P/Code _____