

Native Orchid Society
of
South Australia Inc.



**NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.**

P.O Box 565,
UNLEY S.A 5061

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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JOURNAL

March 1992

Vol. 16, No. 2.

MARCH MEETING

When: Tuesday, 24 March, 1992, at 8.00 p.m.

Where: St Matthews Hall, Bridge Street; Kensington.

Why: The Annual General Meeting of the Society plus a presentation by Reg Shooter entitled "Some Lesser Known Australian Epiphytic Orchids".

FIELD TRIPS - 1992

The following trips are planned:

Caladenia stellata, *C. colorata*, *C. rigens*, *C. clavula*
Special - Hartley area - end of August (four recently described species to see in one day!).

Echunga Police Barracks - Jupiter Creek - mid-October.

NOSSA survey park 1992 is Spring Gully Conservation Park near Clare (to include Halbury, Clare and Mintaro commons).

(The Survey Report of Onkaparinga Gorge Recreation Park is currently being printed and will be available for \$2 at the next meeting.)

NEW MEMBER'S GROUP

When: Sunday, 29 March, 1992.

When: 2.00 p.m.

Where: Helen and Kevin Western's home -
6 Goldsack Avenue, Coromandel Valley.

Enquiries: Jan and Graham Burford (telephone 45 3085)

**SPECIAL -
NOSSA COMMEMORATIVE GLASSES**

The Society has obtained some delightful wine glasses and carafes with the official NOSSA emblem in gold etching. These are available from the Treasurer, Mr Ron Robjohns, at the following prices:

Glasses - \$3.50 each; Carafes - \$5.00 each

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PLANTS BENCHED
FEBRUARY MEETING

EPIPHYTES

Dendrobium "Chieno"
Dendrobium "Gloucester Sands"
Sarcochilus ceciliae (x 2)

TERRESTRIALS

Calanthe triplicata
Pterostylis revoluta

PLANT COMMENTARIES

Terrestrials:
 Mrs Margaret Fuller
 Epiphytes:
 Mr Reg Shooter

POPULAR VOTE

Terrestrials:
Calanthe triplicata,
 grown by Mrs M. Fuller.
 Epiphytes:
Dendrobium "Gloucester
 Sands", grown by Mr D.
 Wells.

Due to the number of plants
 benched at the meeting there
 was no official plant judging.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The last 12 months have been ones of consolidation for NOSSA. The New Members Group has gone from strength to strength. The new style of field trip has been very popular. The Spring Show was an improvement on the previous years. The high standard of journal articles has continued. The annual dinner is attended by more and more people each year.

There have been some innovations, including:

- what is likely to become an annual Christmas Barbecue! (This was a most successful social event.)
- the introduction of engraved glasses as gifts to speakers at meetings.

Other "pluses" for the Society include:

- NOSSA members appearing as guests several times on television and radio shows. This is good advertising for the Society.
- publicity through the book "Orchids of South Australia" has seen an increased interest in the conservation of orchids and a better understanding by the public of the law as regards picking of native orchids.
- NOSSA has been approached several times by landowners seeking to have the orchids on their property identified.

There has been greater diversity in the style of field trips:

- there was the annual Echunga barbecue outing.
- a bus trip to Port Pirie and Crystal Brook.
- a series of "specials" to enable members to see rare or recently-named species.
- continuing visits to member's homes and scientific institutions such as Black Hill.

NOSSA members have continued to be involved in collecting material of undescribed wild orchids which are sent to Canberra. This has culminated in the naming of thirty new orchids for this state in 1991 and the likelihood of several new ones being named in 1992!

Although we were unable to join in the SGAP show in 1991, the way seems clear for us to participate in the future in this important public relations and fund raising event.

The NOSSA sponsored Tropical Conservatory at the Adelaide Botanic Gardens is ready to receive its first orchids although, sadly, the R.S. Rogers Terrestrial Orchid House is to be transferred to Black Hill.

contd.

President's Report (contd.)

In the field of cultivation we have seen some great improvements in flasking technique. Dr H. Behrle at Waite has succeeded in transferring *Caladenia* seedlings raised in symbiotic flask culture to soil inoculated with suitable soil fungi and as much as it upsets some people a flurry of progress in hybridising *Caladenia*.

The Grand Champion orchid at the NOSSA Spring Show, *Caladenia* "Harlequin" was awarded the Ira Butler trophy as Best Australian Native Orchid Hybrid in competition with the best from all states.

I have, this year, refrained from mentioning names in this report but I would like to sincerely thank all those people - committee, members, speakers, behind-the-scene workers, growers, conservationists, educators, journal contributors, show exhibitors, field trip - barbecue - auction - annual dinner - trading table (and the like) organisers for their assistance in 1992. My job as President has been made a pleasure through your co-operation.

R. Bates

FOR SALE

The Society still has the following orchid books available:

- D. Jones, Australian Orchid Research, Vol. 2. (\$24.50)
- R. Bates and J. Weber, Orchids of South Australia. (\$24)
- Australian Native Hybrid Guide. (\$12.50)

NEW MEMBERS

D. and J. Bloomfield, Rostrevor.

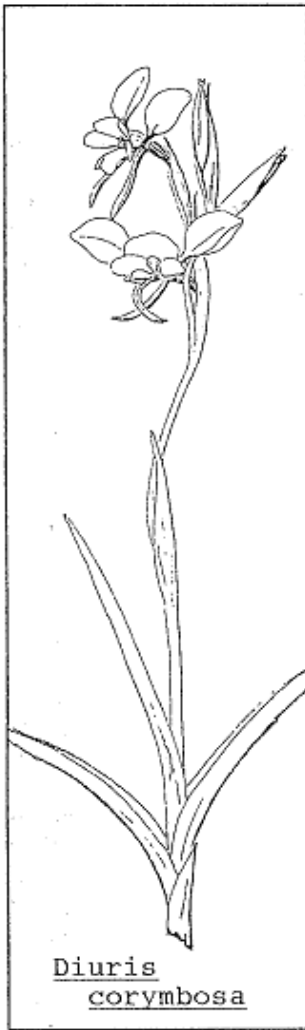
QUOTES FOR THE MONTH

"The greatest gift an orchid grower can have is the gift of growing an orchid to its true worth."

"Give a man an orchid and you please him for a month; teach him how to grow them and you will thrill him for a lifetime. "

from Orchidwise by Roger Rankin.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



"I wish to alert NOSSA members to the fact that substantial numbers of native orchids are being removed from their natural habitats in parts of the Adelaide Hills.

"During September I found that a roadside stretch of remnant vegetation in the Kersbrook district had been stripped of its winter and early-spring-flowering orchids.

"Over 70 holes had been dug along this 400 metre strip of land in spots where I had in previous years found *Diuris maculata*, *D. corymbosa* (formerly *D. longifolia*) and *D. behrii* (formerly *D. lanceolata*, *D. pedunculata*). Nor was I able to relocate any individuals of the *Pterostylis* species that I knew from there (*P. nana*, *P. nutans* and *P. pedunculata*). Many holes bore clearly visible spade marks, and there were indications that attempts at concealing the disturbance had been made.

"Both the quantity of plants involved and the time and effort that must have been spent suggests that this was a commercial enterprise. Apart from the fact that such activities are illegal, the local populations of several of the species that were removed have been significantly reduced.

"If there is to be any hope of maintaining wild populations of any but the most common orchid species incidents such as this must cease.

"I would ask NOSSA members to be vigilant and to ascertain the legitimacy of any plants they see offered for sale. Furthermore, if NOSSA members could report any similar findings to the Wildlife Protection branch of the N.P.W.S. (National Parks and Wildlife Service) some measure of the extent of the problem could be gained.

"Unless the activities of illegal collects are not curtailed through orchid enthusiasts adopting public education and policing roles it is probable that quite a few orchid species will disappear from the wild in our lifetime.

Graeme Hastwell

.rm78

(The Society fully endorses the comments of Mr Hastwell and would point out that it is not necessary to remove plants from their natural environment as tubers are available from the Society's Tuberbank, from various native orchid nurseries and from members. Editor)

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/12/91

RECEIPTS

Subscriptions - 1991	1565.30
- prepaid	200.50
Donations	61.00
Badges	92.00
Publications	3450.50
Tubercbank	387.90
Raffles	399.80
Show admission	515.00
Show trading	2069.40
less to vendors	1377.75
Trading table	253.70
Auction	322.50
Roy Hargreaves Trophy	50.00
Club dinner	693.00
Recoup postage on publns	41.15
Interest - cheque accounts	46.24
- deposit account	557.26

PAYMENTS

Journal - postage	1053.73
- print and type	1695.28
Postage and phone	142.27
Stationery	91.96
Publications	2854.59
Hall rent	250.00
Public liability insurance	212.00
A.O.F. - donation	50.00
Ira Butler Comm - donation	50.00
Roy Hargreaves Trophy	50.00
Show expenses	215.00
Club dinner	693.00
Social expenses	122.22
Cash box	25.10
Library index box	19.95
O.C.S.A. - affiliation	25.00
A.N.O.S. - donation	24.00
Raffle expenses	48.00
Lottery licence	5.00
Repairs to projector	45.00
Book binding	90.00
Life member badges	54.00
Freight on publications	20.00
Sundries	15.57
Tax (BAD and FID)	30.26
Trading table purchases	288.16

8170.09

Excess receipts over payments 1157.41

\$9327.50

\$9327.50

CASH STATEMENT

Cash at bank 31.12.90	10473.09	
Add excess receipts over payments	1157.41	11630.50
Cash at bank 31.12.91		
Cheque accounts	1317.54	
Deposit account	10312.96	11630.50

(signed) 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.

(signed) Honorary Auditor

GROWING EPIPHYTIC ORCHIDS
IN AUSTRALIA

R.T. Robjohns

Dendrobium monophyllum F. Mueller
(Lily of the Valley Orchid)

The range of *Dendrobium monophyllum* extends from north-east New South Wales to the south-east of Cape York Peninsula. This species grows on rocks, trees, on cliff faces and in open forests on high branches of rain forest trees. Its ideal situation is where it can get plenty of light and air movement.

The creeping rhizome is thick and branching, with the branches frequently overlapping and forming several layers. Numerous erect, narrow, conical, light-green pseudobulbs, 3-10 cm long and prominently ribbed, occur at well spaced intervals along the rhizome. (Trees are often seen with their branches matted with this species.)

As the name ("monophyllum") implies the leaf is solitary, although occasionally there are two leaves at the top of the pseudo-bulb. The leaves are bright green, oblong and thin textured - 5-10 cm in length.

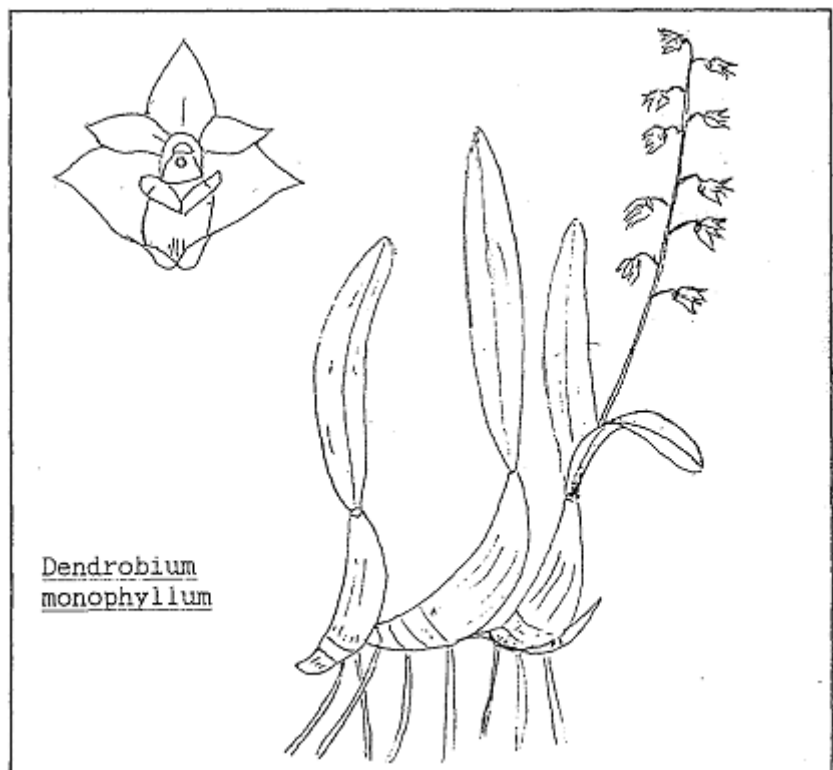
D. monophyllum has a raceme from 5-15 cm long with up to 20 small, dull to bright yellow waxy, fragrant flowers about 8-10 mm in diameter. The rather cupped and nodding flowers have a passing resemblance to Lily of the Valley flowers - hence the common name. The flowering period is irregular but mainly from August to October.

This orchid has a reputation of being slow to establish, however once established it will grow and flower well. It requires bright light, humidity and plenty of air movement. *D. monophyllum* should be mounted and does best on slabs of weathered hardboard or cork bark. When mounting place a pad of sphagnum moss between the mount and the plant and tie firmly in place.

Fertilise with liquid fertiliser at half recommended strength.

Hybridisation - to date only five hybrids have been registered. In these the shape of *D. monophyllum* has been reasonably dominant but more importantly is the lasting quality of the flowers - this will no doubt mean that we will see many more of these hybrids in the near future.

References:
Rupp, Orchids of New South Wales;
Upton, *Dendrobium* Orchids of Australia.



FAVOURITE ORCHID LOCATIONS -
MT COBBERAS

Our visit to Mt Cobberas in north-east Victoria took place in early January (Spring in this high altitude area). Mt Cobberas is in what was once the Cobberas-Tingaray National Park but is now part of the huge Alpine National Park, extending for hundreds of square kilometres over two states to be one of the largest national parks in the world.

Mt Cobberas (there are actually two peaks called simply Cobberas 1 and Cobberas 2) can be reached from the Benambra-Black Mountain Road via the short but rough Playgrounds Track.

There are beautiful campsites on the Cobberas Creek below The Playgrounds and we camped here on a starlit night lulled to sleep by the babbling brook, to be woken once by the wild mountain ponies cavorting down the steep slopes and to see a curious wombat at breakfast (of mountain trout caught the evening before).

The Playgrounds is a swampy plain between the two mounts Cobberas and is a real orchid garden. Over 15 species were seen: notably *Prasophyllum alpinum*, *P. rogersii*, *morganii* and aff. *alpinum*; *Chiloglottis valida* and *C. cornuta*; *Pterostylis alpina*, *P. aff. cycnocephala*, *P. dubia*; *Microtis rara*; *Diuris lanceolata*; *Thelymitra pulchella*, *T. cyanea* and *T. circumsepta*; *Spiranthes*; *Gastrodia* and *Caladenia lyallii*. The wildflowers were great, the sphagnum bogs like green sheep resting and everywhere water seeping out of the ground - so unlike the dry Adelaide we left two days before.

After lunch we climbed Cobberas 1 along a steep and rocky track. There were few orchids here as the soil is poor and stony and the ground dries quickly. There was a chill wind too, but we did find a clump of the little pink alpine *Eriochilus*, a species yet to be named! and the mountain *Gastrodia*.



On our second day we followed the Cobberas track to the source of the Murray - somewhere I'd long wanted to visit. The track is definitely 4WD. About 4 kilometres north of Cobberas the snowgum forest opens out into a grassy meadow with a sphagnum bog at its head. Several springs add to the flow and within a few hundred metres the water is really rushing already baby trout are poking their noses out from under the banks. The Murray River - a crystal clear and sweet tasting stream with *Thelymitra cyanea* and *Pterostylis furcata* along its banks!

This is a beautiful area for walking in - open forest, hundreds of streams, a fascinating variety of wildflowers and from the top of any hill a view across to Mt. Kosciusko - Australia's highest point.

R. Bates

NOTES ON THE PHOTOGRAPHS IN
ORCHIDS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA,

PART 7

Bob Bates

Continued from NOSSA Journal, January/February, 1992, pg 10.

PLATE 66 Using natural bright sunshine the *Caladenia toxochila* were "captured" in the northern Flinders Ranges where the species is common.

PLATE 67 Although recently excellent shots of x *Calassodia tutelata* have been taken in South Australia the photo used is of a plant found near Anglesea in Victoria as the plates for the book were organised several years ago.

PLATE 68 These *C. x* variables were probably the result of crossing *C. cardiochila* with *C. brunolis*. They were photographed at a place known as Cold and Wet using flash and blue card background.

PLATE 69 The recently named *C. richardsiorum* in Little Dip Conservation Park. Note the creamy-green flowers with brown calli and labellum fringe. The species is localised in about 50 km of coastal dunes. Photographed using natural light with white sand as background. Note the choice of 2 flowers facing different directions. This technique is used often in this book and allows the photo to give twice as much information as a picture of a single flower!

PLATE 70 *Caleana major*. This natural light shot of a whole plant in its natural environment clearly shows the white sand and bracken which are indications of duck orchid country. The photographer has cleverly put the flowers in front of a sky background.

PLATE 71 This photo says little more than the previous one but does emphasise the strange winged ovary, the glossy (reflective) labellum and bizarre appearance of the duck orchid flowers.

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

PLATE 72 This natural light shot gives two views of the flowers and shows how the column changes colour as it ages in *Paracaleana*. It also highlights a feature of South Australian populations, i.e. the large ovary inducing the self-pollinated character of the flower.

PLATE 74 *Calochilus campestris*. A single flower was chosen for this portrait using a ring flash. This flower has lost a little colour in the printing. There are several races of *C. campestris* in South Australia. This is the swamp form with reduced leaf, and the photographed plant was actually the first one found on Kangaroo Island (Church Road Swamps). There is also a desert sandhill race, one with hardly opening flowers, and the very pretty long leaf McLaren Vale race (*C. cupreus*). All are very rare indeed in South Australia.

PLATE 75 *Calochilus robertsonii* (peloric form) photographed with a single flash. Known as *C. imbarbis*, plants are only ever found with normal *C. robertsonii* nearby.

PLATE 76 *C. paludosus* - this "in situ" shot has the plant highlighted by flash otherwise it would be difficult to discern from the surrounding vegetation.

(to be continued)

FINAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

As this is the last Journal I will have the pleasure of presenting as your Editor, I would like to pass on my thanks to all members who have contributed to the production of the Journal during 1991/92. Without your assistance and unstinting effort there would not have been a Journal. Special thanks must go to my wife, Chris, who has had to put up with me and at the same time produce a high standard of word processing and illustration for each Journal. Finally, I wish the new Editor every success and invite members, especially those from interstate and country areas, to support the Journal with articles on native orchids.

Thank you all, Darrell Butler (Editor).