

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 the 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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Price: 60 cents



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MAY 1992

VOL. 16, NO. 4

JOURNAL

MAY MEETING Tuesday 26th May, 1992, 8.00 P.M.; at St Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. Ms Brigitte Sorensen, from the Black Hill Flora Research Centre will talk about *Pterostylis arenicola* and other rare South Australian plants being researched at Black Hill Flora Centre.

NEW MEMBERS GROUP To be held at the home of Pauline and Geoff Edwards, 15 Bushland Drive, Bellevue Heights at 2 P.M., Sunday 31st May. Enquiries Jan and Graham Burford - Phone 45 3085. Please wear name tags. It is hoped that some of our not so new (our established) members might also come along.

COMMITTEE MEETING To be held at the home of John and Joan Peace, 43 Johnstone Street, Glengowrie, 294-3183, Friday 29th May at 7.30 P.M.

DIARY DATES

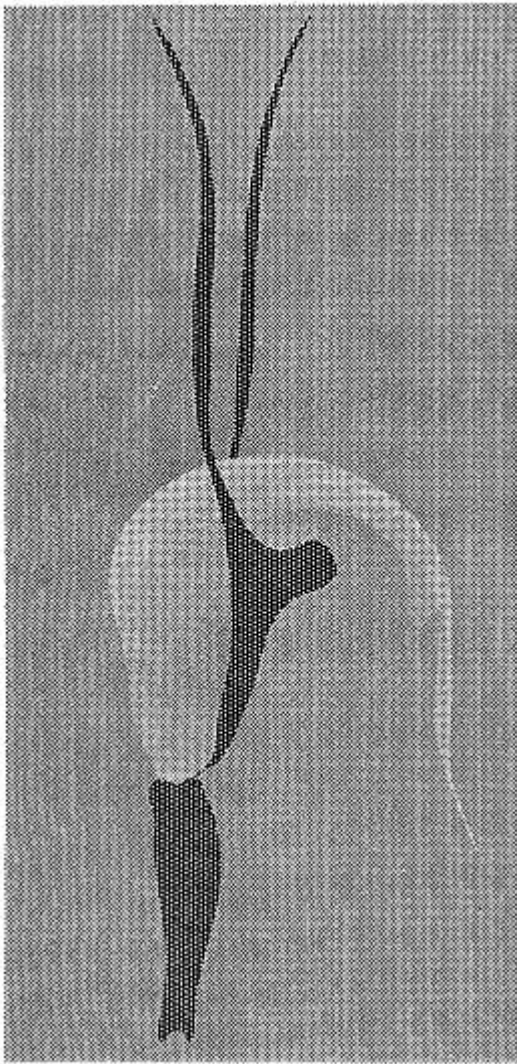
September 19th and 20th, 1992: Our annual Spring Show. Only FOUR months away.

August 26, 1992 (tentative) Bus trip to Bruce Mule's Orchid Nursery at Port Pirie. We will be asking for a show of interest at the May general meeting and if sufficient interest is shown, we will ask for a deposit at our June meeting. John Peace is organising the event (ph 294-3183).

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APRIL MEETING

PLANTS DISPLAYED AT APRIL MEETING



Terrestrials: *Eriochilus cucullatus*, *Eriochilus dilatatus*, *Acianthus exsertus*, *Pterostylis obtusa* (green labellum), *Pterostylis fischii*, *Pterostylis truncata* (Black Hill), *Pterostylis truncata* (large form, Victoria), *Pterostylis ophioglossa*, *Pterostylis x furcillata*, *Pterostylis revoluta* (Victoria form), *Pterostylis truncata x Pterostylis fischii*, *Pterostylis pulchella*, *Pterostylis* aff. *obtusata*, *Pterostylis vittata*, *Pterostylis longicurva*, *Pterostylis abrupta*, *Pterostylis x toveyana*, *Pterostylis rogersii x Pterostylis abrupta*.

Epiphytes: *Bulbophyllum weinthalii*, *Dendrobium bigibbum* var. *superbum*, *Pteroceras hirticalcar*, *Cadetia taylori*, *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon, *Dendrobium speciosum x Dendrobium tetragonum* var. *giganteum*, *Liparis reflexa*, *Sarcochilus hirticalcar*, *Dendrobium capituli florum*, *Dendrobium Theodore Takaiguchi x Affine x Muang Thai*.

Les Burgess provided the commentary for the terrestrials, George Nieuwenhoven provided the commentary for the epiphytes

Popular Vote: Terrestrial - *Pterostylis truncata* Grown by Malcolm and Faye Maxwell
Epiphyte - *Sarcochilus hirtocalcar* Grown by Russell Job

GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. David Cartwright, a Plant Pathologist with the Northfield Research Centre, presented a most interesting and enlightening (and actually quite frightening) talk on plant quarantine in Australia. A considerable number of very nasty plant, insect and other pest introductions have been made to Australia. Many have proven very detrimental and at times, fatal to our flora and fauna populations. Introductions have been made partly in ignorance, partly with outright deceit and partly by genuine accident. We may often knock some of the constraints imposed upon us by the Australian Quarantine Department and many of us have been angered by some of their spraying activities, but after Dr: Cartwright's presentation, they have our full support. We certainly give David a big round of applause for taking the time to point out both the potential dangers and our obligations, with a very well prepared and illustrated and excellently presented talk. Some of the nasties mentioned by Dr. Cartwright will be featured in future Journal articles.

IRA BUTLER TROPHY

Our Immediate Past President and current Secretary, Bob Bates, was presented the Ira Butler Trophy by Les Nesbitt, NOSSA's Registrar of Judges, at the April general meeting. The Trophy awarded to Bob is the National Trophy (there are also individual State trophies) awarded for the best Australian hybrid orchid in the Country for 1991. This is only the second time the award has been presented for a Terrestrial Hybrid, both times to Bob! Well done Bob.

SPRING SHOW

PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTEST

Bill Dear is organising a photographic competition (both 35 mm slides and prints) to coincide with and to be an integral part of our 1992 Annual Spring Show. Bill has found an ideal person (photographer, photographic judge, teacher of photography and orchid enthusiast) to judge the entries. Now is the time to consider which favourite photographs or slides (or both) members of NOSSA might wish to enter. We are hoping for a large participation. Awards will be presented by the Judge at our August meeting, a meeting at which all print entries will be on display and all slide entries shown. More details will be provided in the June Journal. Bill will be looking for a show of interest at the May general meeting and entries will be due by the July Meeting. It is hoped that all entries will be made available to the committee for the Spring Show in September. Enq. Bill Dear Ph 296 2111.

NEW MEMBERS' GROUP

G. Burford

About a dozen people met at the home of Helen and Kevin Western, and we were pleased to make welcome two of our members from the South East who were visiting in Adelaide. Again it was a very relaxed and informal visit with members seeking out their own plants of interest in the two shade houses. Growing conditions here again showed us how we must adapt to suit varying conditions. Kevin's shadehouses are subject to regular and strong gully winds which dry off his plants, and so with his automatic watering system he probably waters more heavily than most of us, and he can crowd his plants much closer together and still achieve adequate air movement around them.

Those interested in building a small glass house would have picked up some pointers from Kevin's "improvisation" with materials for his nearly completed house. The native garden was again worth seeing, supporting many people's idea that most people who grow orchids also have interesting gardens.

Helen served afternoon tea, and then Kevin took us in twos and threes into his minilab where the rows and rows of native seedlings in flasks were proof of the hours of labour that Kevin has spent here. He is obviously excited about some of the crossings that have been made, and certainly some very interesting plants will be available. The expertise required in germinating seeds in flasks successfully was of interest to all and we thank Helen and Kevin for sharing their home with the New Member's Group.

THE CHOOK YARD POTTING MIX.

W. Walloscheck

This really started on our trip to the Grampians in 1990. It was observed that most orchids were growing in very harsh well drained positions and were growing well. That was with the exception of the swamp growing varieties of course.

The types of 'growing' sites that were observed were as follows :

- in moss and lichen on top of boulders
- in gravel, no soil, small amount of humus
- on rock ledges with no more than 32 mm of soil
- in cracks in the rock formations
- in red soil which would have been more than 80% rock particles

Orchids that were growing in these sites were healthy and not marked by weather or exposure; all sites were exposed and open to weather. As I had problems with my orchids in the extremely wet winters this started me thinking that I was growing them too soft in the mix I was using so the next year I potted up in a much more open mix as follows:

- 1 part 6 mm aggregate
- 1 part gum sawdust or shavings

Then I took last year's mix and sieved it through fly wire and added all the coarse material which remained, to the aggregate and shavings, and mixed them together.

All of my orchids were potted up in this mix in which water passed straight through. It was when I benched some pots with white aggregate in them at a NOSSA meeting that Les Nesbitt, while giving the plant commentary, made the remark that it looked like a chook yard mix that the orchids were planted in (hence the Title). It was no Yolk, he thought the white particles may have been eggshell.

Plants grew well in this mix; they were much hardier in wet weather. *Diuris* and *Caladenias*, however, finished off too early. The mix dried out too quickly for them. This year I added a little sand to *Diuris* and *Caladenias* to hold a bit more moisture longer, but water still passed straight through the mix.

During the last April general meeting I was having a discussion with a member about how much growing information could be obtained from the Library. After the member took his seat at the meeting I got to thinking that there were a lot of good growers in the Society that had acquired knowledge through trial and error.

If these members were to write an article for the Journal about their growing knowledge, every member would share in that knowledge and would perhaps be able to adapt it to their own growing conditions.

It is our Society Journal so let us help its Editor keep up the good work by providing him with material; also it may help a grower who may be having a problem with a particular orchid. Remember spoken words can be lost in the wind, but written words remain to be studied again. Interstate members, it would be great to read an article from you.

CONSERVATION GROUP PRIORITIES SET

K. Possingham

The first meeting of the 1992 NOSSA Orchid Conservation Sub-Committee was held on Wednesday 15th April. The following priorities were set at the meeting:

- 1) Lobby politicians; resolution to write letters to the Minister of the Environment, to National Parks and Wildlife, Department of Environmental Planning, Woods and Forests and Leaders of the Opposition Parties, and request a meeting in July to discuss Orchid Conservation strategy.
- 2) Liaise with other Conservation groups such as the Conservation Council; join at first as an Association Member and find out about South Australia's conservation concerns and needs.
- 3) Monitor Hills Zone development; - liaise with Mt. Lofty Ranges Conservation Association.
- 4) Prioritise high risk sites that are not managed properly and in danger of clearance, habitat degradation etc.
- 5) In short term adopt a Reserve such as Belair National Park in order to monitor known Orchid populations, raise Society profile and provide assistance in weeding and other such requirements. This will provide conservation experience for members. There is easy access to Belair from Adelaide and the park and conservation activities should appeal to younger members as well as older members: we'll be doing something concrete!
- 6) Possibility to apply for funding from Endangered Species Program, World Wildlife Fund and Save the Bush, to work on endangered orchids.
- 7) Education: area at Warrawong to be fenced off from animals for native orchids to be established and protected.

Meetings are to be held bi-monthly: Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 10th June at 8 P.M. Anyone is welcome. Enquiries Karen Possingham, Conservation Officer, ph 364 0671.

Mt. Remarkable - Alligator Gorge - Mambray Creek National Parks.

N.P.&W. are negotiating to buy land which will see all three parks joined as one large park. The Mt. Remarkable park's system has been continually added to over the years, the most recent addition has seen it extended eastwards to the Melrose - Wilmington road to cover a large patch of the once endangered *Prasophyllum validum*. This should see the status of this orchid changed to rare. Yes another orchid out of danger.

It is proposed that NOSSA make this large park its focus for survey in 1994.

Tree Line: this conservation program in Victoria has been set up to revegetate old railway corridors: the plan - first plant trees, then shrubs and finally groundcovers and small plants including orchids. How about a Tree Line project for South Australia since 75% of our railway lines have been ripped up in the last 20 years and much of the land sold to farmers for grazing! These old railway corridors should become tree corridors.

SHADEHOUSE ROOFING FOR TERRESTRIALS

L. Nesbitt

The majority of terrestrial growers in Adelaide have traditionally used shadecloth roofing material on their orchid houses. In contrast, Victorian growers have fibreglass roofs on their orchid houses to check the winter rain and reduce leaf rot.

We used to believe that in Adelaide's dry climate a solid roof was not required. However the past 2 or 3 winters have been very wet with long periods of cold, dull, rainy weather. If leaf rot occurs under these conditions, it spreads rapidly from plant to plant. I have gradually extended the fibreglass cover at Kersbrook to reduce frost damage to susceptible plants such as *Acianthus* and *Cyrtostylis*. I have noticed that these plants, and especially *Diuris* and *Pterostylis* are much healthier when grown under a solid roof.

One disadvantage is that fibreglass darkens with age and must be replaced after 5 - 8 years. It pays to start with clear fibreglass, not coloured or opaque. The area under fibreglass will get too hot in summer, so if pots cannot be moved elsewhere, a shadecloth cover over the fibreglass will be necessary.

Hand watering is necessary throughout Winter under a solid roof. Other clear materials are available but are more expensive than fibreglass.

Start experimenting by covering one end of your shadehouse roof with fibreglass. Visit other growers to see what they do. Watering habits, soil mix, nearby trees and suburb all affect growing conditions.

The best way to arrest leaf mould rot is to move affected pots under cover and keep the leaves dry. Water by standing the pot in water until damp on the soil surface.

FLOWER PICKERS DESTROY ORCHIDS (from a South Australian newspaper - the Advertiser)

National Parks and Wildlife Service staff are concerned at the number of people picking native orchids in national parks. "This year is the worst case of it we've come across" Sturt region senior ranger Mr. Richard Combe, said. "We could put up a sign saying don't pick the flowers, but that could also bring attention to them. The answer is in educating the community.

A recent large - scale loss of orchids was detected by Friends of Belair National Park last weekend. They had found a patch where orchids were in bloom and had mapped out a route for a nature walk, but when they returned on Sunday, they were all gone. They are a protected plant and there are stiff penalties - up to \$7,500 for some species.

NOTES ON PHOTOGRAPHS IN ORCHIDS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA CON'T R. Bates



Photo 77 *Calochilus paludosus* a portrait using flash. Notice how when flash is used in close up the background which is unlit appears totally black. Some people like this 'black velvet' effect. Photo by Bob Markwick.

Photo 78 *Calochilus robertsonii* photographed at Scott Creek Conservation Park using a ring flash and sunlight as side lighting. This is the hills form, the near swamp form has redder flowers with broader sepals.



Photo 79 *Chiloglottis cornuta* photographed in the Grampians, Western Victoria using natural light. The wholly green and smaller flowered South Australian form may represent a separate, as yet undescribed species.

SECOND AUSTRALASIAN NATIVE ORCHID CONFERENCE AND SHOW

First Update

By now most Native Orchid Societies will be aware that the Native Orchid Society of Toowoomba Inc. has been granted the honour of hosting the Second Australasian Orchid Conference and Show to be held at the University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba, from Friday 17 - Sunday 19 September 1993.

The Conference will be held on the first weekend of the nationally acclaimed Carnival of Flowers and ample time has been allowed within the Conference timetable for delegates to view the Carnival of Flowers week. Tours will be available for those delegates wishing to view prize winning gardens or take in the sights of Toowoomba and its surrounding area following the Conference.

Preliminary reply forms have been distributed to Orchid Societies throughout Australasia to assess at an early time the likely number of delegates attending so that preliminary bookings for accommodation can be made. Accommodation is at a premium during Carnival of Flowers week and early bookings will be essential. It is anticipated that the second flyer will be distributed in mid 1992 and will include a detailed Conference programme, list of conference speakers, registration costs, etc. Show schedules and registration forms will be available soon after the release of the second flyer.

Conference lecturers have been secured from throughout Australia, Papua New Guinea and America and we are confident that the proposed lectures will present a well balanced programme of topics with something of interest to all enthusiasts. Lecture topics fall into two broad categories, one including cultivation, hybridising, scientific research, etc. whilst the second category will include discussion on success stories associated with conservation/recovery management issues associated with native orchids.

Total prize money of approximately \$7000 will be available for the Show and displays, with \$1000 sponsored by ANOS Council, being allocated for Grand Champion Orchid of the Show.

In addition to prizes being awarded for the various judging classes, there will be prizes awarded to the winners, second and third place - getters for Society and individual displays and tabletop displays. We extend an invitation to all Societies to stage either a combined display or displays by single individuals or groups of individuals. As there will be a limited number of sites available, those wishing to obtain further details regarding the staging of displays should contact NOSTInc, P.O. Box 2141 G.P.O., Toowoomba, 4350 as soon as possible. Sites will be available for commercial sales of orchids and other associated paraphernalia (books, pots, hangers, etc) and inquiries regarding these sites may also be made to the above address.

R.J. Kanowski
(Secretary - Organising Committee)

COMPETITION PLANTS

All those who have competition plant *Sarcochilus x Lois x hartmannii* obtained from Nossa in April 1990 are asked to bring them to the May general meeting, whatever their size or condition. Thirty plants were made available at the time. Lets see how they are all doing. Much can be learned by seeing the results of various ways of growing the plants.

IN APPRECIATION

We learn to appreciate the tremendous contributions to our Society of some of our members only after they vacate a position they have carried so long and so well. Our many thanks to Darrell and Chris Butler for their editing, typing and illustrating of the Journal for the past two years. They are to be commended for their hard work, persistence, dedication, diligence and patience and in particular for the very high standards that they set in producing the Journal for us each month.



Nancy Nieuwenhoven produced this magnificent drawing of *Pterostylis robusta* for inclusion in an earlier NOSSA Journal. Nancy's husband, George, has found great success in growing this species in wooden slat tubs.

The following has been extracted from the ANOS Victorian Group Bulletin -April 1992.

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHID HYBRID REGISTRATIONS

(New registrations from lists in The Orchid Review, April to August 1991. Due to present taxonomic uncertainty, hybrid registrations will be published as they appear in the Orchid Review.)

NAME	PARENTAGE	REGISTERED BY
<i>Dendrobium</i>		
Aileen	Nunkumbil x Susan	W. Skilliconi
Brellen	Ellen x Peach Glow	S. Batchelor
Brinawa Charm	Peewee x <i>kingianum</i>	J. Jarvis
Brinawa Jewel	Specio-kingianum x Kim	J. Jarvis
Buttermilk	Emma x <i>falcorostrum</i>	W. Upton
Coconut Ice	Aussie Bonanza x Hastings	R.E. Harris
Colonial Blush	Bardo Rose x Aussie Mist	P. Spence
Colonial Bullion	Eureka x Sunglow	P. Spence
Colonial Campio	Aussie Angel x Hilda Poxon	P. Spence
Colonial Desire	Aussie Angel x Peter	P. Spence
Colonial Fanfare	Hastings x Peter	P. Spence
Colonial Flirt	Aussie Angel x Star of Gold	P. Spence
Colonial Freedom	Emma x Aussie Mist	P. Spence
Colonial Gold	Emma x Star of Gold	P. Spence
Colonial Summit	Yondi x Aussie Ecu	P. Spence
Colonial Surge	Aussie Bonanza x Kim	P. Spence
Colonial Surprise Aussie	Angel x Aussie Ira	P. Spence
Colonial Torch	Jamie Upton x Warrambool	P. Spence
French Lace	<i>falcorostrum</i> Coljohn	W. Upton
Gillieston Glow	Stephen x <i>teretifolium</i>	W. Skillicorn
Gold Flow	Eureka x Aussie Majestic	W. Skillicorn
Mia Star	Graham Hewitt x Miara	N.E. Roper
Mini Gem	<i>bigibbum</i> x <i>carronii</i>	Univ. of Hawaii
Molly Dunne	Brinawa x Ellen	J. Jarvis
Pink Crystal	Jombock x John Upton	W. Upton
Pink Star	Peewee x <i>ruppianum</i>	N.E. Roper
Redhack	Kingrose x <i>speciosum</i>	N.E. Roper
River Royal	Star of Riverdene x Ellen	W. Skillicorn
Specibil	Nunkumbil x <i>speciosum</i>	W. Skillicorn
Star Kim	Star of Riverdene x Kim	W. Skillicorn
Superb-King	X <i>superbiens</i> x <i>speciosum</i>	Florafest's
<i>Parachilus</i>		
Tigersun	<i>Prels.</i> Tigress x <i>Sarco.</i> Fitzhart	Simpson Orch.
Tigress	<i>Sarco.</i> Fitzhart x <i>Psarco.</i> <i>spathulatus</i>	Simpson Orch.
<i>Pterostylis</i>		
Jack Warcup	<i>baptistii</i> x <i>furcata</i> to	G. Nieuwenhoven
<i>Sarcochilus</i>		
Peach Spots	<i>fitzgeraldii</i> x <i>weinthalii</i>	Simpson Orch.
Sun Spot	Fitzhart x <i>falcatus</i>	R.E. Harris