

Native Orchid Society of South Australia Inc.



Registered Australia Post
Publication No SBH 1344

AUGUST 1992
VOLUME. 16, No. 7

**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.

PATRON: Mr T.R.N. Lothian

PRESIDENT:

Mr G. Carne
Telephone: 332 7730

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Mr R. Edge

COMMITTEE:

Mr W. G. Dear
Mr J. Peace
Mr W. Walloscheck
Mrs K. Possingham
Mr R. Hargreaves
(Special Appointment)

EDITOR:

Mr G. Carne
118 Hewitt Avenue
Toorak Gardens S.A. 5065
Telephone 332 7730

SECRETARY:

Mr R. Bates
Telephone: 289 2836

TREASURER:

Mr R. T. Robjohns

LIFE MEMBERS:

Mr R. Hargreaves
Mr R. T. Robjohns
Mr L. Nesbitt
Mr D. Wells

REGISTRAR OF JUDGES:

Mr L. Nesbitt

TUBERBANK CO-ORDINATOR:

Mr P. Matthews
Telephone: 261 2359

Views and opinions expressed by the authors of articles within this Journal do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the NOSSA Management Committee.

COPYRIGHT: The NOSSA Management Committee condones the reprint of any article within this Journal, provided acknowledgement is given to the source and author.

Price: ONE DOLLAR



**NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF
SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC**

AUGUST 1992

VOL. 16, NO. 7

JOURNAL

AUGUST MEETING Tuesday 25th August, 1992, 8.00pm; at St Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. Mr. Tim Newbery AFIAF ARPS HON EFIAP HON FAPS, our Judge for the N.O.S.S.A. 1992 Photographic Competition will present and discuss submitted slides and prints and announce the winners of each category. It promises to be a most enjoyable and informative meeting. 1

OPEN DAY - NEW MEMBERS GROUP To be held at the home of Les and Marie Burgess, 17 Ramsay Avenue, Hillcrest at 2.00 pm on Sunday 30th August. Enquiries Jan and Graham Burford 345 30\$5.

COMMITTEE MEETING To be held at the home of Les Nesbitt, 18 Cambridge Street ,Vale Park , at 7.30 (prompt) Friday 28th August.

DIARY DATES September 19th and 20th: Our Annual Spring Show. Less than ONE month away. See Pages 69 and 70 for details

October 18th (Sunday) : N.O.S.S.A. Annual visit to Echunga Police Training Reserve. Details in the next Journal.

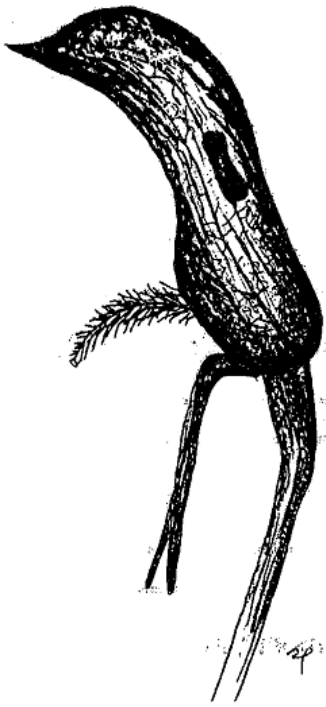
FIELD TRIP *Caladenia colorata*, *Caladenia rigens*, *Caladenia stellata* Special: Sunday September 6th. Meet at the Meningie turn - off from Highway 1, just south of Taillem Bend at 10.00 am. Day trip to Wellington, Langhorne Creek, Hartley, Murray Bridge. These three spider orchids are recently named and we should see hybrids between them.

PAGE	CONTENTS	AUTHOR
61	New Member	
62	July Meeting	
63	Thelymitra Kay Nesbitt	L. Nesbitt
63	Vale Kay Nesbitt	J. & R Shooter
64	New Members Group Visit To Bubs and Don Wells	G. Burford
64	Endangered Species Network	L. Peters
65	Botanists of the Orchids - 17 - Rodway	R. Bates
65	Hybridising with Australian Native Orchids	K. Western
69	N.O.S.S.A. Spring Show	
70	N.O.S.S.A. Spring Show Competitive Sections	L. Nesbitt

New Member The Committee and Members of the Native Orchid Society of South Australia take great pleasure in welcoming Mr. John Peterson as a new member.

JULY MEETING

PLANTS BENCHED AT JULY MEETING



Terrestrials: *Caladenia deformis*, *Chiloglottis truncata*, *Corybas diemenicus*, *Corybas dentatus*, *Corybas incurvus*, *Corybas incurvus pallidum*, *Cyrtostylis reniformis*, *Cyrtostylis robusta*, *Pterostylis barbata*, *Pterostylis concinna*, *Pterostylis concinna* x *Pterostylis grandiflora*, *Pterostylis* x *conoglossa*, *Pterostylis curta*, *Pterostylis curta* x *Pterostylis nutans*, *Pterostylis curta* x *Pterostylis pedunculata*. *Pterostylis* Cutie, *Pterostylis erythroconcha*, *Pterostylis grandiflora*, *Pterostylis* x *ingens*, *Pterostylis longifolia*, *Pterostylis mutica*, *Pterostylis nana* (hills and mallee forms), *Pterostylis* Nodding Grace, *Pterostylis nutans*, *Pterostylis nutans* (white), *Pterostylis russellii*, *Pterostylis scabra*; *Pterostylis stricta*.

Epiphytes: *Dendrobium* Aussie Zest, *Dendrobium* Bright Spark (*Dendrobium* John Upton x *Dendrobium tetragonum* var. *giganteum*, *Dendrobium* Ellen, *Dendrobium* Essie Banks, *Dendrobium* Eureka x Aussie Starlight, *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon, *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon Spotty Giant, *Dendrobium* Kathryn Banks, *Dendrobium* Star of Gold, *Sarcochilus* Southern Star (*Sarcochilus australis* x *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii*)

Plant commentary on the Epiphytes was given by Reg Shooter

Plant commentary on the Terrestrials was given by George Nieuwenhoven

POPULAR VOTE

Terrestrial: *Corybas diemenicus* grown by Jan Burford was voted the best terrestrial benched

Epiphyte: *Dendrobium* Star of Gold grown by Roger Herraman was voted the best epiphyte benched.

COMMENTATOR'S CHOICE

Terrestrial Species: *Pterostylis grandiflora* grown by Jan Burford

Terrestrial Hybrid: *Pterostylis* Nodding Grace grown by Don Wells

Epiphyte Species: No epiphyte species were benched

Epiphyte Hybrid: *Dendrobium* Star of Gold grown by Roger Herraman

SPEAKER FOR THE EVENING

Bob Bates, our Secretary and Past President, gave a most excellent presentation on N.O.S.S.A.'s recent survey of the orchids found in the Onkaparinga River Recreation Park and contiguous Conservation Parks. Approximately 1000 different plants including 50 species of orchids can be found in this extensive park. Using 35 mm slides, Bob took us on a traverse through the park, beginning on the northern end and finishing up on the coast. Although the presentation focussed on the orchids, we were shown the scenery and numerous habitats as well as some of the more common, the more beautiful and the unusual non - orchidaceous plants of the park. The majority of the Orchid Survey was conducted by Bob with a considerable contribution from Rosemary Taplin but in all, some 15 N.O.S.S.A. Members participated in the Survey. Thankyou Bob for a most enjoyable evening: We always look forward to seeing your slides and hearing your words.

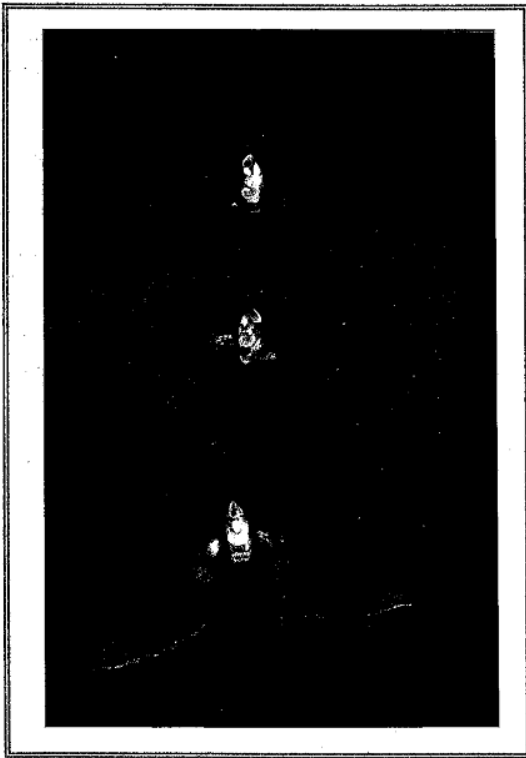
"Don't take your friends to an orchid show unless you can cope with their new hobby" from Orchid Wise by Roger Rankin

THELYMITRA KAY NESBITT (*Thelymitra antennifera* x *Thelymitra rubra*)

by Les Nesbitt

I made this hybrid in September 1984 and the first plants flowered in September 1989. They were nice sunset shades of pink and orange. Some years later I remade the cross using a very deep pink clone of *Thelymitra rubra*. The first plants from this pod flowered in Spring 1991 and they were stunningly beautiful. I resolved to name them after my wife but in my usual way put off the application until the 31st March 1992. The RHS methodically check each hybrid application and this process usually takes months but this time, bless their hearts, the approved name was returned in time for Kay to know that a very special orchid will bear her name. Kay passed away at dawn on the 7th July 1992.

Thelymitra Kay Nesbitt is a slender, single leaf plant growing to 400 mm in height. There are 2-4 flowers per plant, each about 20 mm across. Colours range from deep pink to orange and are very intense in the best clones. The yellow from *Thelymitra antennifera* and the pink from *Thelymitra rubra* both come through in the hybrid to produce the intensity of colour. As with all sun orchids, the flowers close at night and open on warm Spring days. The plants multiply.



These are dainty, shy plants which, when they are ready, open to reveal their innermost beauty to those who understand.

I can't think of a nicer tribute to a very special lady who touched so many lives during her too short stay amongst us.

VALE KAY NESBITT

by Reg and Jill Shooter

On July 7th 1992, the world in general and the orchid world in particular, became a poorer place. After a long and painful illness our friend Kay Nesbitt passed away.

All in the orchid fraternity will remember her for her smiling face, kindly words and bubbling personality, whether it was at the nursery she ran in partnership with husband Les, selling tickets for the raffle at N.O.S.S.A. meetings as she did for so many years, or making new members feel welcome at those meetings.

We have particularly fond memories of Kay, such as the time we attended the Sydney Orchid Conference and had dinner in the Centre Point revolving restaurant high above the city, seeing Kay's face as she excitedly pointed out the various landmarks far below, or eating out at a Thai restaurant in Wollongong in celebration of their winning the Champion's Blue Ribbon at the First Australian Native Orchid Conference, where we all ordered from the menu, which was in Thai/Australian and Kay ended up with just a bowl of rice amid much laughter.

Even during her long illness, no one ever heard her complain; she always behaved positively and on a number of occasions attended meetings, giving no indication of her pain.

Although the world has become poorer because of our loss, in a positive way it has also become richer because of the memories Kay leaves us with, a smile, a kind heart and a wonderful personality.

NEW MEMBERS GROUP VISIT TO HOME OF BUBS AND DON WELLS by Graham Burford
 The promise of the visit was a look at Don's orchids (weather permitting), supported by some selected 35 mm slides of orchids with the emphasis on the Australian Cymbidiums. First, a look outside, and so much to see. Good job Don has retired or he would never cope. His fertilising programme was different. Cow manure is soaked in a drum and a concentrated brew is diluted with water to the strength of weak tea and filtered and pumped to a large holding tank on the shed roof. From here it is gravity fed through a spray system to the orchids, both epiphytes and terrestrials.

The next thing of interest was the Woolies white plastic bags hanging about. Dons answer - striking orchids, and the method - take a handful of sphagnum moss and soak in tank water (not tap water). Squeeze out tightly the excess water and place the damp sphagnum moss into a plastic bag. Place the back bulbs, stems from some orchids, old canes etc onto the damp sphagnum moss, tie the top of the bag to keep in the moisture and hang the bag up. Success in striking cuttings and growing roots into the sphagnum this way is quite exceptional and many pieces will strike in the conditions of the humid bag that otherwise may not.

We spent quite some time in the shade house where in addition to admiring Don's countless plants, we discussed the requirements of the Australian Cymbidiums and noted Don's growing of *Cymbidium suave* in long, hollow logs. Don has had both success and failure with this *Cymbidium* and finds *Cymbidiurn madidum* and *Cymbidium canaliculatum* easier. Provision of a long root run and care with a very open medium seem essential for *Cymbidium suave*.

Inside for the slides and the lounge resembled a small theatrette. Don has put together an excellent collection of teaching slides for a beginners group. Unfortunately, the group consisted of only a few New Members and he found himself as it was, preaching to the converted. Nevertheless, I'm sure that everyone present picked up some very useful information. Don had some slides on the construction of a shade house using a water pipe frame, and slides of just what can happen in those white plastic bags with root growth. As one who has never had the pleasure of searching for epiphyte orchids up north, I found his slides of typical orchid country and different orchids found at different heights of the slopes of particular interest. The slides of the Cymbidiums growing in the trees were also outstanding, as were the *Dendrobium kingianum*s growing with often found lichens on the rocks and trees.

Bubs served afternoon tea and we discussed the possibility of changing the name of the group to "N.O.S.S.A. Open Day". Afterwards there was the offer of a number of "Shot" orchid bulbs (you guessed it - from the plastic bags!) and the offer was well received. Thanks to Bubs and Don for a very informative program and an excellent afternoon.

ENDANGERED SPECIES NETWORK by Les Peters

In June last year, an Endangered Species Network was launched by the Australian Parks and Wildlife Service. Many organisations were involved in the launch. Groups such as the Marsupial Society and the South Australian Ornithological Association had significant contributions.

The Network is to cover both species and habitats. The idea is to create action groups which support specific species or habitats. Some of these groups have already achieved notice in the Advertiser. Perhaps you may have seen John Hunwick's letter to the editor proposing the idea of an "Easter Bilby". It isn't an idea which appeals much to me, but it has given the species the publicity which it needed.

The goal of the Network is to generate "greater and more active community participation in the protection and preservation of threatened species and their habitats in South Australia." It is co-ordinated nationally by the World Wide Fund for Natives, the organisation which, you may recall, helps fund the research on *Pterostylis arenicola*.

Many action groups have now been formed. Some are supported by the Mammal Society, others by the "Friends" Groups. For instance, Friends of Onkaparinga nominated for the Platypus, which they hope to reintroduce back to the South Australian mainland. This brings me to the Native Orchid Society of South Australia and its orchids. ----

No action Group has been formed for plants, let alone orchids, in South Australia. I might have believed that plants lack the appeal that animals have, but you might be surprised that fish are well represented on the Network. I would have thought that plants would be more popular, but there you are.

Anyone interested in getting an action group going should join the N.O.S.S.A. Conservation Committee, and together we'll see what we can achieve. I'm sure that it will be far more than people expect.

BOTANISTS OF THE ORCHIDS -17 - RODWAY by Bob Bates

Leonard Rodway like many early Australian botanists was born in England (in 1853). He was intended for a Naval career and gained his Officer's certificate in 1870. He then trained as a surgeon before migrating to Tasmania in 1880 and practising as a dentist at Hobart General Hospital for 30 years. In 1884 he joined the Royal Society of Tasmania with a strong interest in botany. He was appointed Honorary Botanist to the Tasmania Government in 1896 and held the position for 36 years, producing numerous papers especially on alpine plants. His major work was the Flora of Tasmania (1903) which illustrated many of Tasmania's orchids. He lectured for 20 years in Botany at the University of Tasmania, was advisor to the Forestry Department, Chairman of the National Park Board and President of the Tasmania Field Naturalists. Orchids named by Rodway include *Thelymitra carnea* var *robusta*. Plants honouring his name include *Eucalyptus rodwayi*. He died in 1936 aged 83.

HYBRIDISING WITH AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHIDS by Kevin Western

To set the scene I must say that by virtue of relative numbers of stock on hand I would be seen as a *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium* and miscellaneous-orchids grower, including some Australian native terrestrial orchids.

Over the last 2.5 years I have had an increasingly strong inclination to breeding and maintaining Australian *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium* and *Sarcochilus* species and hybrids. Plants are housed in two modest shade houses. There is a glass house (still) under construction, and a black-bird proof *Disa* enclosure. I have a flasking laboratory for seed-sowing, replanting, cloning and colchicine treating functions. Orchid hybridising, laboratory work and other aspects of orchid tissue culture are conducted in a part-time venture with Gordon Brooks, trading as Brooks & Western Orchids.

For the newer growers I should define what is meant by the term 'hybrid'. A hybrid is produced whenever one crosses two different species or when a hybrid is crossed with a species or when two hybrids are crossed with each other. Before proceeding, some basic breeding concepts are essential.

Important Considerations for the Hybridist To maximise success in orchid breeding the hybridist needs:-

1. A routine breeding program or programs with clear and definite intentions.
(What type of plants or markets does the hybridist intend to produce or satisfy:- Showbench / pot-plant / cut- flower / hobbyist / international / other)
- 2 Long term breeding program. Ultimate goals may be reached only by several parallel, planned breeding programs over 2 or more generations to ultimately combine all the desired requirements.
3. To maintain, review & continuously upgrade the breeding plant collection by:-
 - * Selection of best progeny from own crosses.
 - * Remaking successful crosses with improved parent clones
 - * Purchase of superior plants
 - * Purchase of choice seedling crosses
 - * Arrangement to use or borrow superior pollen or plants.
4. Maintain an awareness of consumer requirements which are slowly but continuously changing.

5. Make the occasional 'try & see' or 'hunch' crosses, but be honest & admit the fact if selling unflowered seedlings
6. Be prepared to make 'developmental' crosses, i.e., potentially unsaleable crosses made solely to combine factors needed to accomplish breeding program aims.

To Optimise Hybridising Outcomes

When selecting plants for breeding with each other it is essential that certain of their fundamental attributes (see list below) are carefully considered if weaknesses are to be eliminated and strengths are to be enhanced.

FLOWERS

COLOUR
SHAPE
SIZE
APPEAL
KEEPING QUALITY

RACEME
FLOWER COUNT
HABIT

upright
arching
pendant

STRENGTH
APPEAL/DISPLAY

PLANTS

VIGOUR
SIZE
EASE OF CULTURE
FLOWERING RELIABILITY
FLOWERING TIME
FLOWERING FREQUENCY
AGE TO FLOWER
REPEAT SPIKING/SAME GROWTH
PAST BREEDING PERFORMANCE
ANCESTRY
CURRENT POPULARITY

Australia has a heritage of largely unique flora. The orchids are no exception. We have over 700 species in over 110 genera.

This discussion could cover hybrids involving *Thelymitra*, *Caladenia*, *Diuris*, *Sarcochilus* etc., but will to be limited to *Cymbidiums* and *Dendrobiums*. The first *Cymbidium* crossing, *Eburneo-lowianum* (not Australian natives) was registered by Veitch in the U.K. in 1889. Interestingly the first purely Australian *Dendrobium* hybrid, *Specio-kingianum* was registered by Lawrence in the U.K. in 1892.

To date more than 7530 *Cymbidium* hybrids have been registered by a world-wide band of active hybridists with just under 200 new registrations in 1991 alone. In Australia we have just three native *Cymbidium* species; *Cymbidium suave*, *Cymbidium madidum* and *Cymbidium canaliculatum* and so only 3 purely Australian hybrids can be made:-

madidum x *suave* = Kuranda
madidum x *canaliculatum* = Little Black Sambo
suave x *canaliculatum* = James Webeck

C. Kuranda is fairly easy to grow and clones are sometimes available. *C. Little Black Sambo* never was common & appears to be difficult to raise when deflasked. *C. James Webeck* was only recently registered and appears to be touchy when repotted as young seedlings. The future of Australian native *Cymbidium* hybrids can only lie in their combination with hybrids derived from foreign species.

Considering *Cymbidium madidum*.

34 first generation *C. madidum* hybrids have been registered since 1962. It has been almost equally used as pod-parent and pollen-parent. In most instances the 'other parent' has been of pre-70's breeding such as *C. Alexanderi*, (*C. madidum* x *C. Alexanderi* = *C. Nonna*) so more shape can be expected if today's shapely cultivars are bred to *C. madidum*.

Experience suggests there are some as yet unregistered *C. madidum* hybrids which we have yet to see. I have *C. madidum* x *C. Coraki* and *C. madidum* x *C. Yowie Flame* as nice fat pods at the moment. *Cymbidium madidum* hybrids to date tend to have long somewhat arching spikes with miniature to intermediate sized flowers in green to greenish yellows to rich creamy yellows with a recognisable *C. madidum* based shape e.g., Pat Ann, Brown Eyes & Fifi. Mad Magic (*C. madidum* x *C. Tethys* 'Black Magic') has shown more of what I think *C. madidum* is capable of with many very nice brown-greens through brown-oranges to orange-reds of good shape and size on appropriate sized plants & *C. Phar Lap* = (*C. Flame Hawk* x *C. madidum*) seems to be quite acceptable too.

Positive attributes of first generation *Cymbidium madidum* progeny:-

- easy to raise and grow
- late spring to early summer flowering
- reasonable flower count, size, shape and appeal - showy spikes

Negative attributes:-

- Many plants disproportionately large; significant reluctance to breed (2N)

Twelve second generation *C. madidum* hybrids have been registered since 1972: These range from *C. Pee Wee* x *C. devonianum* = *C. Gum Nut* registered in 1991 (and likely to be a small novelty) to *C. Len Southward* (*C. Fifi* x *C. devonianum*) & *C. Gladys Whitesell* (*C. Fifi* x *C. parishii*) and what a sight the awarded white miniature *C. Gladys Whitesell* 'The Charmer' is.

Now to consider *Cymbidium canaliculatum*.

To date there have been 15 first generation *C. canaliculatum* hybrids registered since 1961. In all but one it was the pollen parent in the cross. *Cymbidium* Lamorack 'Sunnybank' is common in Adelaide. It is widely mis-labelled as "Laverack". One second generation cross of *C. Canterbury* x *C. Carmeliard* = *C. Ambrosius* was registered in 1982. I know of more unregistered *Cymbidium canaliculatum* crosses. In the Brooks & Western collection there are 10 or 11 such crosses from flask to flowering size, some of which are quite appealing e.g., *C. Bedevere* x *C. canaliculatum*, and *C. Cricket* x *C. canaliculatum*. I have plants of *C. Lamorack* x *C. Babylon* so more unregistered second generation crosses probably exist too.

Now to consider *Cymbidium suave*. To date only 11 *Cymbidium suave* hybrids have been registered since the first in 1972. *C. Bunyip* (*C. Carisona* x *C. suave*) is sometimes seen on show-benches. It is a petite, not vigorous plant with a few large miniature to intermediate sized flowers. *C. Sweet Devon* (*C. suave* x *C. devonianum*) is often seen at November and December meetings and is often spectacular. *C. Picaninny* (*C. suave* x *C. Tethys*), is occasionally seen also. *C. Evonne* (*C. Esmerelda* x *C. suave*) is interesting in that this plant displays much of the *C. suave* plant shape & growth qualities and has quite large flowers. There are no second generation *C. suave* hybrids registered but I have about 3 in flask in my laboratory (from *C. Evonne*).

Summing up on the *Cymbidiums*:- *Cymbidiums canaliculatum* and *suave* generally prove difficult to maintain in collections. It has been Gordon's and my own experience that unless these species have a good root system they are most reluctant to carry a pod. This is another major obstacle to their wider use in hybridising programs. *C. madidum* is easy to grow and has been more widely used.

Useful attributes of Australian native *Cymbidiums*:-

<i>C. suave</i>	shortish, compact; upright leaves; pseudobulbs flower each year for many years, small but well filled & well shaped flowers, plants exceedingly floriferous, late flowering
<i>C. madidum</i>	vigorous and easy to grow, some exceptionally shapely clones, late flowering

C. canaliculatum night chill not needed for flowering,
spectacular dark red - maroon/black forms exist,
column & pollen caps can also be very dark red

NOTE:- the first *Cymbidium pumilum* miniatures were registered in 1942 and 1944 followed by a string of others from 1955 onwards. I can clearly remember when miniature and intermediate cymbidiums were regarded as a passing fad and given little chance of attaining significance. How wrong that was! Obviously now we have an established race of miniatures and intermediates based on *C. pumilum* and we do not require the Australian cymbidiums to make more. I believe however that, like the *C. pumilum* hybrids, in time the hybridists (and I hope to be one of them) will produce a string of charming and desirable hybrids from our native species which will earn them a place in the cymbidium world. To this end Gordon Brooks & I are making and remaking numerous primary and other hybrids to produce crosses such as Kuranda, Little Black Sambo, James Webeck, Pied Piper (*C. devonianum* x *C. canaliculatum*), Cricket, Mad Magic, Pee Wee, *C. pumilum* x *C. canaliculatum*, Mem. Goeff Laird (*C. madidum* x *C. lowianum*), Chiisana (Mimi x *C. canaliculatum*), Nonna x *C. lowianum*, and others.

At Brooks & Western we are routinely colchicine-treating a percentage of protocorms from optimal crosses to produce tetraploid progeny which are most likely to be fertile. It is my hope and belief that time, sensible breeding and some luck will produce some interesting and worthwhile results for the future.

Australian Native *Dendrobium* Hybrids

A basic Brooks & Western Orchids philosophy is to produce cool growing orchids and orchid hybrids. This does not mean that we do not want the best genes and attributes from warm growing Australian *Dendrobiums* but rather that we want to get those attributes in plants which will do as well in the southern cities and inhabited areas as those cold growing species and hybrids with which we have become familiar.

To the end of 1990, there were about 503 registrations purely involving native Australian *Dendrobiums*. Only 97 hybridists were involved. The somewhat legendary Walter Upton of 'Double U Orchids' has been responsible for 16.5% of the crosses registered, with 8 other hybridists together accounting for a further 37.5% : - in all, 54% of all registrations accounted for by just 9 hybridists. At first hybridising activity was very low, 1 in the 1890's, 1 in the 1920's, 5 in the 1930's, 4 in the 1940's, 16 in the 1950's, 33 in the 1960's, 30 in the 1970's and 410 in the 1980's & currently averaging 90 + per year. Until 1956 most of the hybrids involved *D. bigibbum* and most were made by overseas registrants using tropical species or hybrids.

The familiar cool growing hybrids were first registered in 1892 & 1928 but not again until 1960 with *D. speciosum* x *D. falcorostrum* = *D. Andrew Persson* & *D. falcorostrum* x *D. kingianum* = *D. Bardo Rose* in 1961. Since then, based on first and second generation breeding the most popular species, have been *D. kingianum*, *D. tetragonum*, *D. speciosum*, *D. falcorostrum*, *D. fleckeri* (largely as second generation crosses), *D. bigibbum*, *D. gracilicaule*, *D. ruppianum*, *D. discolour*, *D. canaliculatum*, *D. adae*, *D. dicuphum*, *D. monophyllum*, *D. aemulum*, and *D. agrostophyllum*. Note also that the first three species also are representative of the three distinct 'shape types' that we see with the cold hybrids.

Until 1978-79 a significant proportion of the crosses involved cooler growing species and their hybrids which are typified by such as:- Hastings, *delicatum*, *gracillimum*, Ellen, Bardo, Star of Riverdene, Hilda Poxon, Peach Glow, Eureka, Nunkumbil, Ella Victoria Leaney, Yondi, Golden Fleck, Sunglow, Aussie Ember, Aussie Zest, & Peter. In 1978 crossings involving the spectacular *D. bigibbum* with cool to cold growing species & hybrids started to appear; *D. Peewee* (*D. bigibbum* x *D. tetragonum*) in 1979, *D. Rosella* (*D. Peewee* x *D. tetragonum*) in 1983 & *D. Jombock* (Judy Leroy [a *dicuphum* hybrid] x Colin) in 1983.

Now we see a fourth basic shape arising from the *Dendrobium bigibbum* influence. *D. Peewee* and *D. Rosella* were unsuited to cold growing conditions as we know them but when coupled with *Dendrobium speciosum* by Wal Upton we were treated to *D. Elegant Heart*. With the subsequent addition of crosses such as *D. Brinawa* (*D. Hilda Poxon* x *D. bigibbum*), *D. Big Fleck* (*D. bigibbum* x *D. Heckert*), *D. Elanora Star* (*D. Peewee* x *D. Ira's Star*), & *D. Silver Eye*, we had reasonably cold tolerant *D. bigibbum* hybrids with real charm and which may lead to the possibility, for the first time, of cold growing cut flower Dendrobiums.

In an attempt to catch up with the eastern states growers, I have been purchasing selected flasks of *D. bigibbum* & *D. dicuphum* crosses mated with cool hybrids from leading hybridists, intending to raise them quickly to flowering size under glass house conditions for my own line-breeding series. From then a proportion of subsequent generation seedlings will be glasshouse-raised but the rest will be subjected to our extremes of hot and cold and dry and wet to select some nice toughies.

I am also researching species & hybrids with good flower keeping qualities and will soon be looking for the species or their hybrids required and breed these in parallel and in combination with the others.

What of the future? In light of recent progress and much increased hybridising activity I believe Dendrobiums are destined to become an integral part of the cut flower market as soon as the keeping aspect is satisfied. More and more often I see showy and compact plants which would be ideal as pot plants even for the local trade. Both local and overseas interest in the Dendrobiums continues to rise and more spectacular flowers are seen each year. I think our Australian hybrids are destined for a bright future.

NOSSA SPRING SHOW

This year's Show is all about PARTICIPATION. Lets not be apathetic!. We must contribute to the best of our ability even if it is only in a small way. Each and every plant will make OUR SHOW better, so even if you have just one plant, bring it.

The Spring Show is our major fund raiser. It is also a chance for our very talented growers to compete (on a friendly basis of course) with each other and to demonstrate how much better they are at growing orchids than their colleagues. But more important, the Spring Show is intended to generate (or rekindle) an interest in the general public of Australia's Native Orchids and the need to conserve them. Most visitors come to the Spring Show to enjoy the presence of our Native Orchids and to learn something about the orchids they have encountered or may encounter in the bush.

Be INNOVATIVE in your display! You have grown your orchids well, Take time and care in setting out and presenting your plants. Its the only way you will receive the applause you deserve. Ensure all plants are well labelled and pots are clean (on the outside), and free of all critters (including the slippery ones which like to hide underneath the pots). DON'T leave everything to the last minute! Make good use of the weekend before the Show.

Our Show is a major and esteemed event. We want to impress all who come to see what we have and what we are doing as a SOCIETY. Everyone should attend. Bring family and friends. Everyone should assist in marketing the Show and in assisting the Committee during the Show. Even an hour or two of your time would be greatly appreciated. If you can't attend the Show personally, arrange for a friend or Society Member to take your plant(s) to the Show. I have heard from a very good source that all native orchids in cultivation are looking forward to the NOSSA Spring Show.

Those wishing to submit plants (native orchids and native orchid hybrids) for the Trading Table, to be sold on a consignment basis should obtain necessary forms from John Peace or another Committee Member at the August General Meeting. It is better to fill the forms in at home than at the last minute at the Show itself.

Art Contributions.

The photograph of *Thelymitra* Kay Nesbitt was taken by Bob Bates. Print copies were prepared by Film Processors (Collingswood). The drawing of *Pterostylis plumosa* was provided by Les Peters.

NOSSA SPRING SHOW 1992 - COMPETITIVE SECTIONS

Plants may be staged on trestles in the hall, in floor displays or in table top displays. Table top displays will be allotted an area of about 1 square metre on a trestle. Table top displays suit small orchids or growers who have only a few plants. Foliage plants, logs, bark, etc can be used.

All plants must be benched by 10.00 am on Saturday 19th September. The hall will be open from 4.00 pm on Friday 18th September to allow exhibitors to set up.

A label must be attached to each exhibit clearly showing the correct name on the plant and the exhibitor's number. Plants must have been grown by the exhibitor for at least six months before the Show to be eligible for judging. Plants which are not for judging must be marked with a red ribbon which will be available from the registrar on set up days. Hybrids include natural hybrids.

A seedling is the entire clone flowering for the first time from seed. Exhibitors must mark seedlings with a blue ribbon.

The judging will take place between 10 am and 12 noon on Saturday 19th September. AOC judging standards will be used. NOSSA bylaws will also apply. Applications for NOSSA awards should be lodged with the Registrar. No prize money will be awarded, but class winners will be acknowledged in the Journal. Champions will receive a card.

The Society will accept no responsibility for any loss, damage or infection suffered by any plant exhibited at the Show. All possible precautions against these happenings will be taken. Stewards may remove any plants suspected of disease or pest infestation.

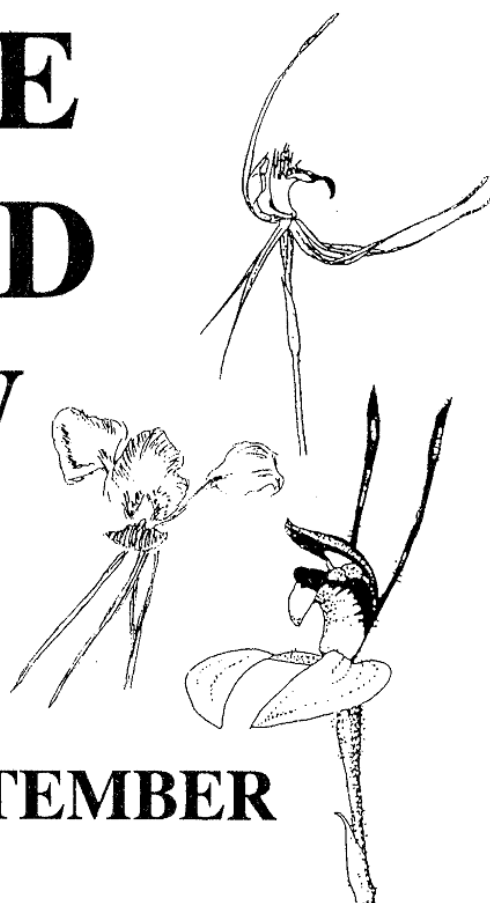
All orchids will remain on display to the public on Saturday 19th September and Sunday 20th September. Plants are to be removed at 5.00 pm on Sunday 20th September.

SCHEDULE

- Champion Native Orchid of the Show
- The Roy Hargreaves Trophy for the Champion Terrestrial Species
- The Kay Nesbitt Trophy for the Champion Terrestrial Hybrid
- Champion Epiphytic Species
- Champion Epiphytic Hybrid
- The Ira Butler Award for the Best Hybrid

CLASS	DESCRIPTION (1st and 2nd prizes in each class)
1	<i>Caladenia</i> or <i>Glossodia</i> species
2	<i>Diuris</i> species
3	<i>Pterostylis</i> Species
4	<i>Acianthus</i> , <i>Chiloglottis</i> or <i>Cyrtostylis</i> species
5	Terrestrial species other than in classes 1-4
6	<i>Pterostylis</i> hybrid
7	Terrestrial hybrid other than in class 6
8	Specimen terrestrial - species or hybrid
9	Seedling terrestrial
10	<i>Dendrobium kingianum</i>
11	<i>Dendrobium speciosum</i>
12	<i>Dendrobium</i> species other than 10 or 11
13	Epiphytic species other than a <i>Dendrobium</i>
14	Epiphytic hybrid - cream or yellow
15	Epiphytic hybrid - pink or red
16	Epiphytic hybrid - any other colour including white
17	Specimen epiphyte - species or hybrid
18	Seedling epiphyte
19	Best table top display
20	Best floor display

NATIVE ORCHID SHOW

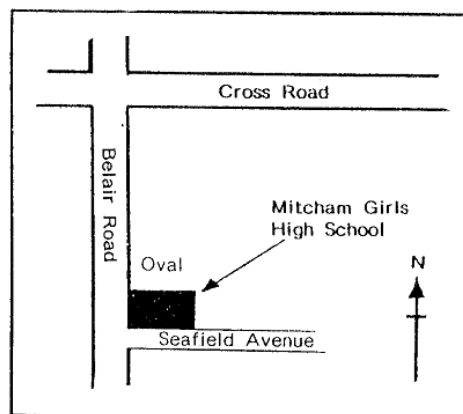


SATURDAY 19th SEPTEMBER
&
SUNDAY 20th SEPTEMBER

12 noon - 5 p.m.

Mitcham Girls High School
Seafeld Avenue
Kingswood

ENTRY \$1.50



NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC