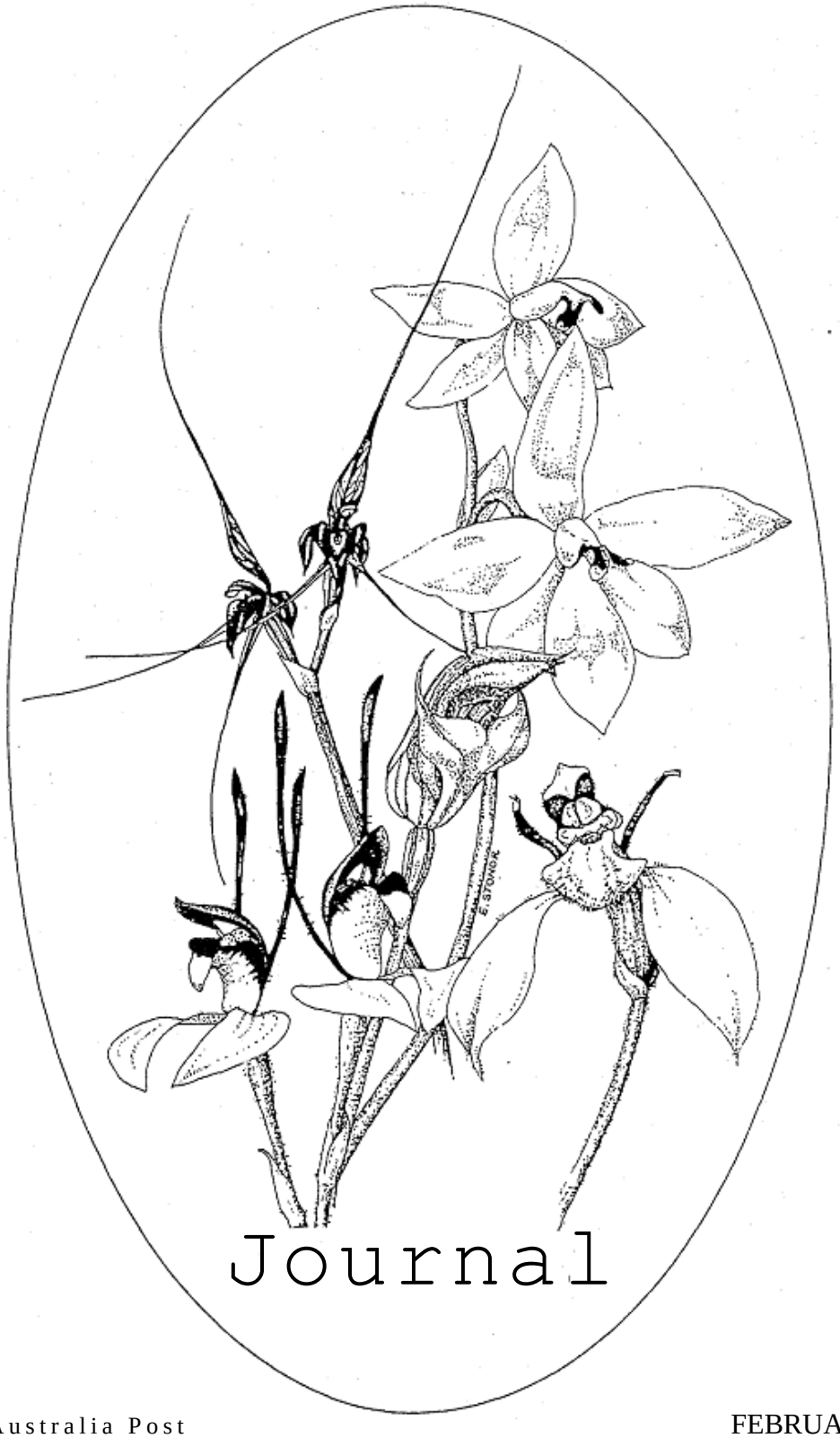
Native Orchid Society of South Australia Inc.



Journal

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Vol. 17 NO. 1

N A T I V E O R C H I D S O C I E T Y
O F S O U T H A U S T R A L I A I N C .

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.

Price: ONE DOLLAR

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC

FEBRUARY 1993 VOL. 17 NO. 1 JOURNAL

FEBRUARY MEETING

Tuesday, 23 February, 1993, 8.00 pm; at St Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. Mr. Don Wells , a Life Member of N.O.S.S.A. , will talk on Australian Native Orchids in the bush. The talk will be well illustrated with 35 mm slides. Knowing Don, we can expect to gain considerable insight and knowledge from what will prove to be a well presented and humorous (Don's own brand of humour) talk. Don will concentrate on epiphytes in the northern New South Wales area and we will also see some terrestrials.

COMMITTEE MEETING

To be held at the home of Les Nesbitt, 18 Cambridge St, Vale Park at 7.30 pm, Friday 26 February.

OPEN DAY GROUP

To be held at Bill Fisher's Orchid Nursery, 57 The Strand, Reynella, at 2 pm Sunday February 28th.

DIARY DATES

March 23: 8.00 pm Annual General Meeting
May 4: Annual Dinner at Walkers Arms Hotel
September 18 & 19: N.O.S.S.A. Annual Spring Show

NEW MEMBERS

The Committee and Members of the Native Orchid Society of South Australia take great pleasure in welcoming Ann and Brian Tindall of North Kew Victoria and J. M. Drewitt of Armidale N.S.W. as new and most valued Members.

ORCHID RESEARCH ON KANGAROO ISLAND IN 1992 by R. Bates

On an ill - fated holiday on Kangaroo Island in October last year, I had the good fortune to meet a local orchid enthusiast, Ronnie Cox of Gosse. After my vehicle ended up in a flooded creek and I was left stranded, Ronnie took me into his home. Only about 100 people live in the Gosse area so I was lucky one of them was a local orchid expert (or are there that many orchid enthusiasts out there!).

Ronnie has been interested in orchids for only two years but in that time has photographed most of the Kangaroo Island species and even made up an orchid booklet of colour photos which he sells to locals and tourists.

It was actually Ron who found *Corybas unguiculatus* on the island for the first time in 1992, not just in one place but in several widely scattered areas and locally common even in conservation parks! Among Ron's photos was one of an undescribed *Corybas* which occurs at Billygoat Falls in the Western River Conservation Park so in fact Ron has added not one but two new *Corybas* to the Kangaroo Island flora in one year!

Ron and I spent some time looking in burnt areas of Flinders Chase only to discover that there were almost no orchids in these areas - perhaps it was because the burn occurred in late October and was not a summer burn or more likely there are just very few orchids in most parts of the Chase.

The day before my car ended up in the creek, I had visited D'Estrees Bay and despite the torrential rain I found lots of *Prasophyllum calcicola* along the foreshore. This was a new recording for the Island. The same afternoon on a burnt sandplain I found several *Caladenia* similar to *Caladenia* x *variabilis* but as *Caladenia patersonni* (one of the parents of *Caladenia variabilis*) does not occur on the Island and nor does *Caladenia tesselata* (the other parent) and its close relative *Caladenia cardiochila* was not in the area, it could only have been a new species or perhaps a stabilised hybrid between *Caladenia ovata* and *Caladenia affreticulata*.

As Ron had not photographed *Caladenia minor* or *Caladenia prolata*, we made a special effort to find them. The first was on Ron's own property in an area which he keeps open and fences rare species against Wallaby attack. Ron has large numbers of the brilliant red flowered *Caladenia filamentosa* and the magnificent *Caladenia valida* under Sugar Gums near his main creek. *Caladenia prolata* was more difficult to find as it has only been collected once on Kangaroo Island. We ran this species to ground on the Ravine de Casoans!

Ron also wanted to find *Calochilus campestris* and *Calochilus paludosus* as well as *Paracaleana* sp., all of which I had collected on a previous trip to Kangaroo Island but the places where they had been before were now densely overgrown - clearly these are species that would need a fire to get flowering again.

On the way back to catch the Ferry at Penneshaw (minus car!), Ron showed me a patch of *Genoplesium* seed which almost certainly were *Genoplesium nigricans*, a species not recorded for the Island. We will have to wait until next month to verify. Then at a swampy creek crossing we found a tall, thin *Caladenia* with tiny flowers which do not open at all.

These may be *Caladenia cleistogama*, a species not even recorded for South Australia. In any case they are not a known South Australia species.

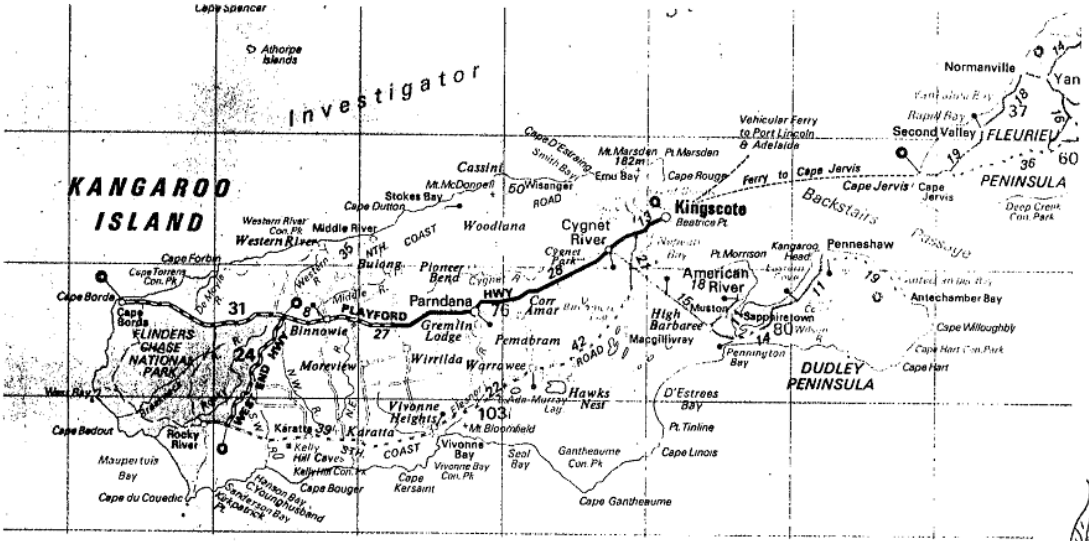
When I returned to the Island in December to collect my car, Ron and I made the long walk into Larrikin Lagoon across burnt scrub - again there was almost no sign of orchids having flowered except for *Thelymitra matthewsii*, still recognisable by its spiral leaf and a single flower. This was exciting as *Thelymitra matthewsii* is an endangered species, only seen once on Kangaroo Island before!

The lagoon itself was full of water 30 - 100 cm deep and thousands upon thousands of *Microtis orbicularis*. This was the largest population of this rare species I had ever seen. Most had flower spikes above water but some were 'flowering' below the surface. Even more remarkable were several patches of *Microtis atrata* 'flowering' on the bottom of the lagoon - often we could just see them in the depths of the sepia coloured water. Another aquatic orchid here was *Thelymitra mucida*, the Type SSP. Some of these may have been *Thelymitra holmesii*, a species not recorded for Kangaroo Island but one which Ron believes he has located.

Ron has found two undescribed *Microtis* on the Island. One *Microtis* aff. *rara* was just coming into flower on December 21st. I was sure we would find *Microtis parviflora* which has not been collected on the Island but once again, if it occurs there, it eluded me.

We spent a day looking in burnt swamp but by now I was learning to not expect too much of these and unfortunately (maybe we looked in the wrong places) there was nothing new (just the usual *Diuris brevifolia* and *Prasophyllum australe* with occasional *Thelymitra mucida* and *Thelymitra benthamiana*.

Another orchid collected on Kangaroo Island for the first time was *Glossodia major*, once by Graham and Raeleen Churchett on their property near American River and once by Ron Cox near D'Estrees Bay. In each case only a single plant was noted. I doubt that these were the only two *Glossodia* plants on the Island but it would seem that it is not established but occasional seed blows across from the mainland.



Named orchids collected on Kangaroo Island for the first time: *Corybas unguiculatus, Glossodia major, Prasophyllum calicola.*

Named orchids seen but not confirmed: *Genoplesium nigricans. Caladenia cleistogama, Thelymitra holmesii*.

Unnamed Species: *Corybas* (1), *Caladenia* (1), *Microtis* (2), *Thelymitra* (1), *Pterostylis* (2).

Endangered Species Located: *Thelymitra matthewsii*

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA SURVEY REPORT: SPRING GULLY CONSERVATION PARK

by Bob Bates

During 1992, this 2000 hectare reserve in the hills near Clare was visited four times and as many orchid populations as possible were located and mapped. About 5000 plant species were identified, several of them not previously recorded for the Northern Mount Lofty region. One species of grass, *Festuca benthamiana*, was thought to have been extinct for 50 years but is well represented in the Park. Another plant, a species of rush *Luzula* sp. appears to be a new record for the State.

One of the most exciting orchid finds was a good sized population of the endangered *Caladenia argocalla*, not previously located in viable numbers in any Conservation Park! This magnificent white spider orchid was growing with the red lip spider orchid *Caladenia tensa* and for the first time hybrids between the two were found. A *Thelymitra* which was not seen before was located: this was an insect pollinated plant similar to *Thelymitra holmesii*.

Although this was not one of the best seasons on record, we were a little disappointed not to find several species which were previously known from the Park, ie *Prasophyllum occidentale*, *Pterostylis* aff. *nana* and *Pterostylis* aff. *longifolia*.

Because it was such a wet year, we actually managed to find two species of *Microtis* (both unnamed) in flower during our late December visit. One of these is likely to be named *Microtis postremus* which means 'late flowered'.

We surveyed nearby roadsides and were excited by the discovery of a new species of spider orchid; elegant white flowers with long slender calli on the labellum. This is probably a relict population of a species which may have been plentiful in natural grassland, creekside sites 150 years ago but loss of habitat except for this tiny roadside verge has nearly eradicated the species. An effort will be made to introduce it into the Conservation Park which has one such site regenerating after overgrazing 20 years ago.

A detailed Survey Report will be published separately.

1993 ORCHID SURVEY

R. Bates

This year NOSSA will study in detail Warren Conservation Park. The Park is located 30 km NE of Adelaide. We plan mid Winter, mid Spring and late Spring NOSSA visits. Meanwhile, we would like volunteers to regularly visit the park's more accessible areas to locate orchid populations.

LETTER FROM ANDREW BROWN

Just a short note from Western Australia to thank NOSSA and in particular Bob Bates for the recent review of ORCHIDS OF SOUTH-WEST AUSTRALIA (NOSSA Bulletin, December 1992. Vol. 16 No. 11). Its always good to have someone at a distance look at what you have written as, when editing your own manuscripts, you often find that you are so close to the subject that you fail to pick up minor mistakes and omissions. Bob's review came at just the right time, and I hope to include some of his corrections into the first reprint.

Bob is quite right in pointing out that the photos of *Eriochilus scaber* and *E. tenuis* do not agree well with the text. Unfortunately, we had only one photo of *E. tenuis* and it was a particularly dark pink form. In reflection it may have been better to have alluded to the darker coloured labellum of *E. scaber* rather than the flower as a whole.

In the case of *Pterostylis roensis* and *P. leptochila*, the photos must have been switched while at the printers. I would like to thank Bob for pointing this out as I had not noticed it until his review. As a matter of interest, while talking about the rufa group of *Pterostylis*, I admit that I am still unsure of the complete picture in W.A. All the named taxa contain distinct geographic and habitat specific forms, many of which may be worthy of naming, and there are also a large number of undescribed taxa which do not fit neatly into any of the named species. I am sure we will all have a better idea of just what is going on a few years down the track.

Most of the new names and combinations used in the book will be authenticated in a major paper titled New and Reinstated Genera, Species, Subspecies and Hybrids of Western Australian Orchidaceae which we hope to publish in a forthcoming edition of Australian Orchid Research. Mention of this is made in the introduction to the book.

Due to a very tight budget we were, unfortunately, not able to include illustrations of the *Caladenia* hybrids that Steve and I intend naming. These will, however, be illustrated in our taxonomic revision. It may be worth mentioning here that Steve and I have taken a fairly broad view when it comes to parentage of these taxa. eg. *C.* x *exoleta* is regarded as a cross between *C. roei* and any of the *C. filamentosa* complex and *C. x ericksoniae* is a cross between *C. cairnsiana* or *C. pachychila* and members of the *C. filamentosa* complex.

It was interesting to read that the species you are calling *Diuris corymbosa* in South Australia does not match the Western Australia plants. The type was of course collected by James Drummond from "Swan River" W. A. in 1839 and appears to match plants found on the coastal plain near Perth. As a matter of interest I spent a week in Victoria during September 1992 and noticed that none of their "*Diuris corymbosa*" sens lat quite matched the type form either. It may be that species currently referred to as *D. corymbosa* in eastern Australia are undescribed taxa.

The distribution maps are meant as a guide only and I am sure that now the book is out, many taxa will be found outside their current known range. Where the text and maps do not agree the text is probably the most accurate of the two. We were continually revising it right up until the publication date and, unfortunately, some of the maps may have missed being modified.

Thanks again to Bob and NOSSA for the review.

Kind regards

Andrew Brown
WATSCU

Editor's Comments:

• I have had a good look at Orchids of South West Australia - Second Edition, by Noel Hoffman and Andrew Brown. The authors must be congratulated on the tremendous contribution they have made to the orchid world. I highly recommend all enthusiasts obtaining a copy of this book for their libraries. It is well presented and very well illustrated. Karen Possingham can obtain copies of the book for N. O. S. S. A. Members at a price considerably below the recommended publisher's cost. Details will be provided at the February Meeting.

• I also read with interest Bob Bate's comments on *Diuris corymbosa* and Andrew Brown's return comments on this species (above). I bring attention to the "Orchadian" Volume 10, Number 10 Summer 1992/93. The back outside cover presents a photograph of *Diuris corymbosa* (yellow form) from Victoria. The group of flowers shown appear to be much more angular than the South Australian form . Perhaps there will be two new species of *Diuris* in eastern Australia!

WHY ARE ORCHIDS SO DIFFERENT by Helene Wild and Tony Slater

Dr. Rod Peakall is an internationally known orchid biologist who has been working on terrestrial orchids for eight years at the University of Western Australia and at Macquarie University, New South Wales. He has completed studies on the pollination of *Drakea*, *Leporella* and *Microtis* and is currently working on pseudocopulation of Australian orchids. However, Rod's interest in orchids goes back to his high school days when he became interested in orchid photography.

Orchids display a wide diversity of form - just look at Australia's terrestrial orchids and compare, say, a *Thelymitra*, a *Caladenia* and a *Pterostylis* ...and you can also look at something vastly different - *Rhizanthella gardneri*, the underground orchid of Western Australia. These plants may look vastly different, but they do share a set of common characteristics: They all have three sepals (the outer floral segments) and three petals (the inner floral segments), one of which may be modified to form a labellum. A feature which sets orchids apart from other flowers is the fusion of the male and female organs into a column. The male part of the flower, the anther, is found at the top of the column and contains pollen grains which are generally found in bundles and are attached to a small sticky button called the viscid disc. Immediately below this is a larger sticky plate called the stigma (a female part of the plant). When pollen is deposited on the stigma, numerous pollen grains germinate and the pollen tubes grow down through the style and fertilise the ovules. As the seeds develop the ovary increases in size and the flower withers. When mature the dry ovary splits, the seeds are released, and hundreds (or thousands) of very fine dust-like seeds are dispersed by the wind.

Pollination is like sex in animals, but in plants it must involve an agent to transfer the pollen between flowers .. but how do plants attract pollinators?

The great majority of plants attract pollinators by offering a food reward and some Australian terrestrial orchids conform to this pattern - *Cyrtostylis, Microtis* and *Prasophyllum* produce nectar as a reward to attract pollinators and are pollinated by a variety of insects including flies, bees, ants and beetles. However, many orchids do not produce a reward, so how do they attract pollinators?

Diuris are not perfumed, nor do they offer nectar BUT the central parts of *Diuris* look remarkably similar to the pea flowers which bloom at the same time of year and do offer a food reward. Bees visiting pea flowers for their nectar sometimes explore *Diuris* flowers and, in the process, either remove or deposit pollen. Orchids are masters of deceit and this is an example of floral mimicry!

The relatively simple flowers *Thelymitra* differ from most orchids by not having a distinctive labellum - all petals being similar in size and shape. The column, however, is highly modified and is often adorned with prominent wings or glands (false or pseudoanthers) and are obviously intended to attract pollinating insects which confuse these (usually) yellow appendages with the yellow anthers of lilies. *Epiblema* and *Elythranthera* (both endemic to Western Australia) have structures which resemble lilies with brown anthers. Clear cases of deception based on falsely advertising pollen!

The Spider Caladenias do not offer nectar; nor do they mimic other flowers - but they have developed some bizarre techniques to attract insects! Most have a fringed or toothed labellum carrying rows of calli down the centre. In some species the tips of the sepals (and sometimes the petals) thicken into clubs and, although scentless to humans, attract male Thynnid wasps. Flowers with clubs containing osmophores usually have pale or dull petals and sepals with strong colour on the labellum.

The dragon Caladenias (such as *Caladenia barbarossa*) are easily recognised by their insect- like labellum which is designed to attract male Thynnid wasps which attempt to mate with the flowers.

At first glance *Drakea* (the hammer orchids) appear to be all labellum! Not only do they emit a scent similar to that of a female Thynnid wasp, but the labellum looks remarkably like a wingless female at the top of a grass stem. This attracts the male wasp which grasps the labellum and, in an attempt to take "the female" on a nuptial flight, crashes in to the column.

All Australian *Cryptostylis* are pollinated by male *Ichneumon* wasps while they attempt to mate with the flowers. They are extremely persistent insects and, on warm days, several wasps may be seen in close proximity to a flower.

Chiloglottis have small, dull-coloured flowers; but the labellum is large and has shiny calli which, in many species, are grouped in a distinctly insectiform arrangement. They are wasp pollinated while the wasp attempts to copulate with the labellum.

Some flowers of *Pterostylis* also resort to false sexual advertising and are pollinated by the males of small gnats which are attracted to the flower by pseudosexual perfume - and many of these greenhoods have a labellum appendage which looks remarkably like a hairy insect.

So *Caladenia, Drakea, Cryptostylis, Chiloglottis* and *Pterostylis* use sexual deception. But most times the insects are not deceived as only one in around ten visits is successful!

Pollination of *Leporella fimbriata* is by male flying ants which land sideways on the very wide labellum - one of only two confirmed cases where ants have been shown to act as pollen vectors. It is known that ants have antibiotics on their bodies which will kill pollen. Leporella and Microtis can be pollinated by ants as the pollen is held away from the ant's "lethal" body by the viscid disc.

What does a Pollination Biologist do? Rod told us that, at various times, he has plotted distribution of orchids in the field, extracted fragrances from flowers, studied pollinator behaviour, estimated how far pollinators are moving (they are too small to be "tagged" like birds and animals), injected pollen with different colour dyes then looked at all the other flowers in the area to see if they received the dyed pollen, and carried out experiments to see which parts of the flower attracts pollinators.

Orchids have developed many devious strategies in order to perpetuate their particular species. Thanks to Pollination Biologists like Rod, we now know why many orchids are "pollinator specific," and look forward to hearing more of Rod's discoveries as he attempts to decipher clues more cunningly disguised than anything out of Sherlock Holmes or Agatha Christie!

From Australasian Native Orchid Society Victorian Group Inc. Bulletin December 1992, Volume 25 Issue 6

NEW ADDRESS FOR R. S. ROGERS HOUSE

With considerable planning, initiative and organisation by foundation and Life Member Roy Hargreaves, the collection of Australian Native Terrestrial Orchids which has been housed in the R. S. Rogers Shadehouse at the Adelaide Botanical Gardens has been moved along with the Shadehouse itself to the Blackhill Flora Research Centre. Dormant tubers from the 300 pots of orchids which constituted the Roger's collection were removed at the Botanical Gardens on January 16 and repotted and reinstalled in the newly located Rogers House at Blackhill on January 31. In all 314 pots were prepared and benched in the shadehouse forming a very important collection. N.O.S.S.A. hopes to expand this collection to one of considerable significance over the next few years. The Society thanks Roy, Ron Robjohns, Bill Dear, John Peace, Heinrick Beryl and Gerry Carne for removing and repotting the tubers. N.O.S.S.A. does continue to function as a Society, even during the Christmas break!

LIBRARIAN NEEDED

Our Librarian, Mr. Wally Walloscheck is recovering at home from some complex and most impressive back surgery and will accordingly not be able to look after the Library for at least the initial part of the oncoming year. Should anyone (or two or three!) be willing to look after the Library, please see Bill Dear or another Committee Member at the February general meeting. Wally has been one of our very dedicated Members for many years now. We wish him a most successful recovery. We know its going to be slow.

TUBER BANK

Our thanks again to Philip Matthews, our Tuber Bank Co-ordinator, for a job well done. Not all of us received each plant we asked for but tubers of many species were in very short supply. Philip did a great job in making sure tubers were fairly distributed. There will be a detailed report on this year's Tuber Bank in the March Journal. Now is the time to begin thinking about tubers that might be available for next year's distribution. Remember that the most valuable tubers are those with locality data (general). The position of Tuber Bank Coordinator does not merely involve the obtaining and distribution of tubers each year (very taxing tasks in their own right) - it also involves the on growing of tubers of species which are uncommon or for which for some reason tubers are in short supply.

IRA BUTLER TROPHY 1992

The Champion Australian Native Orchid Hybrid of 1992, Ira Butler Gold Trophy was awarded to *Sarcochilus* Jewell ' Dungog' , grown by Sid Batchelor and displayed at the A.N.O.S

Sydney Group's Sarcanthinae Show. "It was a very fine plant with flowers beautifully round in shape, very even and symmetrical with the labellum nicely centered in the flower. The colour was exceptional and very striking. They were of good substance and very well displayed."

There were 26 nominations for the Ira Butler Trophy in 1992. The Ira Butler Trophy Committee has commented that the standard of both plants and photography (plants from across Australia are judged by a central committee on the basis of submitted photographs) has improved markedly.

An Ira Butler Silver Trophy was awarded to N.O.S.S.A. Member Bruce Mules for his spectacular first flowering of *Dendrobium* Elegant Lace. Well done Bruce and congratulations to Sid Batchelor.

RHIZANTHELLA SP. IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Is it possible that *Rhizanthella*, which grows and flowers underground, may actually exist in South Australia? There are more than a few who believe so. There will be some considerable discussion of this most intriguing orchid genus at our Annual General Meeting in March. Les Nesbitt will provide some food for thought and insight and maybe some plans to try and track this illusive plant down.

1993 SPRING SHOW PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

In order to further promote photography of native orchids, and to preserve on film those species which are or may become threatened, endangered, or extinct, even in cultivation, a Photographic Competition will again be held to coincide with our 1993 Spring Show. It has not been put to the Committee yet but perhaps entries should be limited to only those slides and prints taken since our last competition. Perhaps there should be a special division for Novice (say less than 2 years experience) photographers and one for best slide/print of a rare, endangered or threatened species. How about one for the most significant photograph? Any other ideas? Hopefully the final details of the competition will be published in the Journal which immediately follows the election of the 1993 Committee (ie April Journal).

CYMBIDIUM MADDIDUM SEEDLINGS

Twenty *Cymbidium* Maddidum seedlings (and very nice they are too) will be available at the trading table at the February General Meeting at a cost of $4.00 each.

NEWS ON ORCHID LOCATIONS

It appears that the orchid populations at Yundi Swamp in the Mount Compass area will survive the excavation works of 1992. It may be a little early to know for sure but things are looking good!

There is word that *Monadenia bracteata*, the orchid weed, was seen growing in abundance amongst the *Caleana major* population at Kuitpo last season. N.O.S.S.A. Committee members will be there when the *Caleana* (and *Monadenia*) next flower to do some very good weeding. The *Caleana* population appears to be getting smaller in size as the years go by. This may be partially due to mowing along the track where they are found and partially due to a non-replentishing of nutrients in the sandy soil in which they grow. The soils are probably being flushed of nutrients with each rainfall.

A pair of bushwalkers and orchid enthusiasts (although not N.O.S.S.A. Members) have pointed out that two of their favourite Orchid locations in Belair National Park did not present

any orchids last year. The couple noticed that there was extensive spraying of blackberry bushes in the immediate areas and think the poisons used may have affected the orchids.

COMMITTEE POSITIONS AVAILABLE A . G . M. MARCH 23

The Annual General Meeting of the Native Orchid Society of South Australia will be held on 23 March 1993. All Committee Offices (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary) will be declared vacant as will all but two Committee positions.

Any Member who would like to be a part of the N.O.S.S.A. Committee "Team", or who would like to nominate another Member for a Committee position, should seriously consider taking the appropriate steps. Nomination forms will be available through Ron Robjohns at the February General Meeting (or if you can't attend in February, contact a Committee Member). The only prerequisites are enthusiasm and the desire to see N.O.S.S.A. PROGRESS IN A POSITIVE DIRECTION.

Should you not wish to be on the Committee, perhaps you would like to become more involved in N.O.S.S.A. in another capacity such as the Conservation Group, Spring Show Committee, Education Group, Journal Committee etc. Our Society takes great pride in the large portion of Members who contribute to the Society and we hope that 1993 will prove to be a very dynamic and especially exciting year for N.O.S.S.A.

SECOND AUSTRALASIAN NATIVE ORCHID CONFERENCE AND SHOW

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 Native 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 parade on Saturday. In addition, two other orchid displays will be staged in Toowoomba during 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.

Conference lecturers have been secured from throughout Australia, Papua New Guinea and America and the Conference Organising Committee is confident that the proposed lectures will present a well balanced program 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.

Further information regarding the conference can be obtained from your Editor.

ANNUAL LAMB ON A SPIT BARBECUE

Many thanks to Helen and Kevin Western for providing the venue (and a lot of hard work and preparation) for our second Annual End-Of -The-Year Barbecue on December 8 1992. Also thanks to those others who assisted. I'm not certain just how many Members attended but it was over 75, and did we all have a great time! ! Those in attendance were able to see first hand some of Kevin and Helen's very extensive and diverse collections of Orchids and other native plants. Many were given a tour of Kevin's laboratory and flasking room. Kevin was very generous in auctioning three flasks at the end of the day, the proceeds going to N.O.S.S.A. and many keen growers gained from growing tips passed on by Kevin during the course of the day and from some of Kevin's innovations used in growing native orchid species. The food was delicious.