

Native Orchid Society  
of  
South Australia Inc.



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**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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**JULY 1993 VOL. 17 NO. 6 JOURNAL**

**JULY MEETING**

Tuesday, 27th July 1993, 8.15 pm; at St Matthew's Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. Doors to the Hall will be open at 7.00 pm for those wishing to borrow from the Library or purchase from/sell through the Trading Table. Our guest Speaker will be Birgitte Sorensen, a Research Botanist, currently working at the Black Hill Flora Centre where she is studying several of South Australia's endangered plant species. Birgitte will be speaking on "The Life Cycle of *Pterostylis arenicola*", one of our endangered Rufa Group greenhoods. Through her WWF funded research projects, Birgitte will be able to establish the best methods of saving the species.

Please note that our normal general meeting will not commence until about 8.15 or 8.30pm. At 7.45pm, Catherine Hosking, a very gifted artist and a Member of N.O.S.S.A., will launch her limited edition poster which depicts the understorey plants (her beautiful orchids stand out) of Scott Creek Conservation Park (see page 60 for details). There will be invited guests from Friends of various Conservation Parks, hopefully Government Departments, Parks and Wildlife, and other Societies. There will also be some 'bubbly' and some nibbles, just to set the mood. All N.O.S.S.A. Members are invited to attend and in fact we would like to have an extra large turnout of N.O.S.S.A. Members for what we consider to be a very important event.

The Trading Table and Library will close at 7.30pm for the July meeting only.

**N.O.S.S.A. OPEN DAY**

To be held at Adelaide Orchids Nursery, Lot 16, Pine Road, Woodcroft (off Pimpala Road), at 2 pm on Sunday, 1st August. All Members are invited to attend. For those new Members, these monthly outings are a great way to meet and get to know other Members and to learn both the basics and the finer points on growing our native orchids.

**COMMITTEE MEETING**

To be held at the home of Joan and John Peace, 43 Johnstone Street, Glengowrie, at 7.30 pm on Friday 30th July (294 3183).

**DIARY DATES**

September 4: Testimonial Dinner Mr. Gerald McCraith - Canterbury, Victoria.

September 18th & 19th: Our Annual Spring Show - Only two months to go!!

October 17th: Echunga Social - Picnic and Field Excursion

November 30: Annual Auction and Christmas Break up Supper

?November 28 Christmas Barbecue

**NEW MEMBERS**

The Native Orchid Society of South Australia take great pleasure in welcoming Mt J. Tiggeman of Willunga, J. C. McArthur of Blackwood and J. C. Roe of Banksia Park as new Members. Welcome to N.O.S.S.A.!

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## JUNE MEETING

## PLANTS BENCHED

Terrestrials: *Pterostylis alata*, *Pterostylis angusta* (Western Australia), *Pterostylis dolicochilum*, *Pterostylis grandiflora*, *Pterostylis procera* (ex *Pterostylis baptistii* from Atherton Tablelands), *Pterostylis robusta*, *Pterostylis sanguinea*, *Pterostylis taurus* (ex *Pterostylis ophioglossa* ssp. *fusca* Clemesha), *Acianthus pusillus*, *Diuris corymbosa* (Roy's 'glass plate' specimen: Leaves are starting to form)

Epiphytes: *Dendrobium falcorostrum* x *Dendrobium fleckeri*, *Dendrobium Peter*, *Dendrobium* Golden Fleck Marion, *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon, *Dendrobium* Lorieket x *D. Aussie Glow*, *Dendrobium speciosum* x *Dendrobium tetragonum*

Kevin Western provided the Plant Commentary for the Epiphytes.

Les Nesbitt provided the Plant Commentary for the Terrestrials.

## POPULAR VOTE

Terrestrial: *Pterostylis taurus* grown by Les Nesbitt was voted the most popular Terrestrial Orchid benched.

Epiphyte: *Dendrobium* Lorieket x *Dend. Aussie Gold* grown by Kevin Western was voted the most popular Epiphyte benched.

## COMMENTATOR'S CHOICE

Terrestrial Species: *Acianthus pusillus* grown in the Roger's Shade House and brought in by Roy Hargreaves

Terrestrial Hybrid: No Terrestrial Hybrids were benched.

Epiphyte Species: No Epiphyte Species were benched.

Epiphyte Hybrid: *Dendrobium Peter* grown by Roger Herraman, and *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon grown by Margaret Fuller.

We have invited a large number of guests for the launching of Catherine Hosking's Limited Edition Poster, and Members are therefore encouraged to bring in as many Native Orchid plants as possible. There is nothing wrong with repetition. Yes, we are out to impress but more important, myself and I think most if not all other Members come to our meetings expecting to see native orchids in flower. Lets fill the front tables!

## GUEST SPEAKER JUNE MEETING

Mr. Bob Bates, N.O.S.S.A.'s Secretary and Immediate Past President and Author of Orchids of South Australia, spoke on rare, endangered, threatened and extinct orchids of South Australia. Bob illustrated his talk with a large number of superb slides. Some aspects of his discussion are included in this Journal in an article prepared by Bob. Thankyou Bob for a first class presentation.

## MYSTERY GLASS HOUSE / SHADE HOUSE TOUR

by Graham Burford

From the meeting point at a major intersection, we got away to a bad start. With the rain and a bad break with traffic moving away from the traffic lights, a few cars in our motorcade missed the first turn off and it took a search party to round them up.

This meeting was not one for the Native Orchid purist, but then most of us have a varied interest in other orchids as well and I believe there was plenty to be learnt in other areas. Iain, our host, is fortunate in being a "competent" handyman when it comes to building and has produced quality structures from recycled and second hand materials. I noticed some tubing from Hills Hoists with the small eyelets which take the clothesline wire. These made ideal points to hang plants from. He obviously plans things very carefully before building, (a lesson we should all learn) because mistakes are costly.

During a heavy shower I was with a group in the glasshouse. This house is heated by an electric oil filled coil heater. The side walls are glass, double glazed and the roof from the ridge to the top of the walls is lined with clear plastic sheeting. Both of these points helps to prevent heat loss. Two oscillating fans, one at low level and one at high bench level control air movement. Paphiopedilums are benched on the low bench level with lower light intensity and Cattleyas, Oncidiums and Odontoglossums at the higher level.

Iain has used arcweld galvanised mesh extensively and the edges can be turned up to make very good benches where the pots cannot be knocked off. To own a welder and be able to weld is also a plus and water pipe frame work welded together and arcweld mesh made ideal three tiered benches. There was a very large fibreglass flowering house, closed in on three sides in which many cool growing orchids grew and flowered. Provision was made to pull shade cloth over the top during the summer. This type of structure may suit some people who want something between their shadehouse and a true glasshouse and would prove useful for some of our native Epiphytes that need to be kept drier in winter.

We enjoyed afternoon tea in the warmth of the house, and as we left, Iain pruned a large protea bush and presented each of us with a large bloom.

RECENT CHANGES TO NAMES OF SOME SOUTH AUSTRALIAN *CALADENIA* by Bob Bates

In 1991 David Jones in Australian Orchid Research Vol 2 named many new South Australian Caladenias. It took quite a bit to learn all these names, but I'm afraid we will have to unlearn some of them. The reason:

A month or so before David Jones published his new species, Geoff Carr in Victoria, described several of the same species. It has taken longer for these names to filter through, but the fact is they do have priority.

So here we go.

*Caladenia floribunda* - the beautiful white spider of the South East and Victoria is now *Caladenia venusta*: G W Carr.

*Caladenia aereochila* - the tiny multicoloured spider also of the South East and Victoria is now *Caladenia versicolor*: G W Carr.

*Caladenia rigens* - the mallee comb spider which we saw lots of at Tailern Bend last year is now *Caladenia verrucosa*: G W Carr.

*Caladenia haemantha* - the blood red spider orchid is now *Caladenia formosa*: G W Carr.

In addition we have two or three new names in the *Caladenia dilatata* complex.

The little early comb spider of the South East is *Caladenia parva*: G W Carr.

The straight sepalled dry land form of the comb spider is *Caladenia tensa*: G W Carr. This could easily be confused with *Caladenia tentaculata* and their pollinators are very similar too.

*Caladenia xanthochila* C & D Beardsall, the yellow lip spider orchid has been collected a few times in the Wolsely Bordertown area where it is now apparently extinct. It is one of what is likely to be a large number of South Australian species named after they have become extinct.

## EXTINCT ORCHIDS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

by Bob Bates

Before settlement there were probably over 200 species of orchid in South Australia. The greatest number of species were likely to have been found in fertile soils in higher rainfall districts, where the scene was parklike and there was a wide variation in habitats, particularly in areas where the rainfall isohyets are close together. Such areas were of course the first to be farmed, the first to be grazed, the first to be ploughed: the Adelaide Plains and foothills, the Mount Barker to Victor Harbour eastern foothills of the Mt Lofty Ranges, the Mid North and along the main stock routes from Victoria through Bordertown and Mount Gambier. Thus the greatest period of extinction for our native orchids was probably the first 50 years of settlement: a time when almost no collections were made.

It is my estimate that 50 orchid species became extinct without ever being collected! By taking a sample area where some collecting was done, the picture might be made clearer. I have chosen for this exercise the Bordertown-Wolsely area; only a small district, but it was certainly parklike and had several habitats no longer in existence. ie.

- Black clay flats covered with native grasses and herbs and dotted with sheoaks.
- Orange sandy rises with mallee box and mixed shrubs.
- Loamy drainage lines covered with river red gum woodland, with waterholes, swamps and lagoons.

None of these habitats remain anywhere in South Australia in a condition that is suitable for orchid survival.

It so happens that the Bordertown-Wolsley area did have an orchid collector or two in the early days, in fact Dr R. S. Rogers visited at the turn of the century, Dr Wehl 30 years before that and Kath Alcock (nee Ridgeway) 30 years after Rogers.

Dr Wehl collected *Diuris punctata*, *Caladenia audasii* and perhaps *Cyanicula caerulea*.

Dr Rogers collected *Caladenia audasii*, *Caladenia* aff. *audasii* and *Caladenia* aff. *reticulata*.

Kath Ridgeway collected *Caladenia xanthochila*, *Prasophyllum* aff. *constrictum* and *Pterostylis maxima*.

All of these species are now extinct in South Australia! Half of them before they were even named.

Wehl was only in the area one day, Rogers for a week and Kath Ridgeway was just a child at the time she lived there; in any case most of the environment had already been ruined before 1900!

All these species are very obvious and are spring flowered. How many other species flowering at other times, or were less distinctive have become extinct without being collected. If eight were collected before becoming extinct, surely at least that many became extinct without being collected!

Consider these other habitats from the Mt Lofty Ranges:

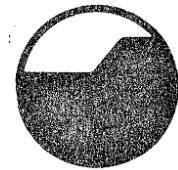
- The Dicksorda tree farm gullies near Picadilly.
- The 1000's of km<sup>2</sup> of Kangaroo grass (Themeda) grasslands.
- The 100's of km<sup>2</sup> of Danthoia and Stipa grasslands,
- The 100's of km<sup>2</sup> of Iron grass (Lomandra) woodland on at least six different soil types.
- Black morasses (permanently damp areas of rich loam).
- Fertile alluvial river flats (100's of km<sup>2</sup> ie. Oakbank).
- Frost hollows in mountain grassland (ie Mt Bryan, Mt Cone, Mt Barker).
- Bay of Biscay soils on the Adelaide plains.
- Clay banks near Lake Alexandrina,
- Lagoons near Robertstown with orange clay reedy flats.
- The Adelaide Reed-bed on alluvial soils.
- Red sand dunes in the Mid North ie. at Lochiel.
- Shores of small freshwater lakes such as Porters Lagoon near Black Springs (now a salt lake).
- Limestone Gorges.
- Peppermint gum woodland (1000's of km<sup>2</sup>).
- Coolibah flats (ie. near Halbury, Terowie).

I feel sure all these environments and others had orchids restricted to them. We will never know what those orchids were.

A LETTER TO N.O.S.S.A. FROM ANDREW BROWN

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN THREATENED  
SPECIES & COMMUNITIES UNIT  
W.A. Wildlife Research Centre  
Ocean Reef Road, Woodvale



I read with interest in the April and June Journals NOSSA's plan to conduct searches for the two underground orchids. I realise that time is marching on and by the time this letter reaches you it will possibly be getting too late to conduct surveys (for this year). However, as the bracts surrounding the inflorescence of *Rhizanthella gardneri* are quite persistent and it is possible, in Western Australia at least, to recognise the species as late as September - October (even the next year on occasions), I thought I would add my two penny worth to the discussion in the chance that it might be of some help.

As was stated in the two articles, *Rhizanthella gardneri* grows in two areas in Western Australia (Corrigin - Babakin and Munglinup - Oldfield). It also appears to grow only in association with the broom bush, *Melaleuca uncinata*. You may, however, be interested to learn that there are possibly two geographic races of *Rhizanthella gardneri* a northern race which reaches its peak of flowering in mid May and a southern race which peaks in late June. The northern race also tends on average to have larger capitulum with more flowers (up to 100+) and more numerous surrounding bracts. If there is an underground orchid in South Australia it will have been geographically isolated from western populations for a considerable amount of time. It may well be morphologically distinct from western populations and may flower at a different time of the year (earlier or later).

In hindsight, the use of satellite imagery turned out to be near to useless for the W.A. surveys. *Melaleuca uncinata* is a very common species in the Western Australian wheatbelt, forming thickets in many areas of remnant bushland. We did not need satellite imagery to tell us where it occurred, and all the Western Australian Native Orchid and Conservation Group (WANOSCG) had to do to find *Rhizanthella gardneri* was search remnant bushland in the known range of the orchid. ie. where it had previously been found in the

Corrigin - Babakin and Munglinup areas. Searches outside these areas proved fruitless. It may of course be quite a different story in South Australia.

During these surveys small rakes were used to remove the layer of leaf litter found under *Melaleuca uncinata*. This was done to expose the bracts of *Rhizanthella gardneri*. (Note: In the plants natural state these bracts almost completely enclose the flowers, with just a small opening at the top to allow entry for pollinators. The tips of the bracts barely emerge through the soil and remain below the leaf litter. However, once the litter is removed and the bract tips are exposed they quickly open to show the flowers in the way you see them in most published photos). The use of rakes was later discontinued as several plants were damaged by over enthusiastic searchers. The simple use of fingers proved to be just as effective and nowhere near as damaging. The leaf litter should also be carefully placed back under the *Melaleuca* when finished. A word of warning though, I have noticed that even when leaf litter has been carefully placed back the underlying soil in subsequent years becomes quite dry and compact in comparison to that found under undisturbed shrubs. This undesirable effect may well harm *Rhizanthella gardneri* and any other orchids that occur in these areas. Not to mention other plants and micro-organisms.

To dispel a fallacy, *Rhizanthella gardneri* does not always grow up against the trunk of the associated *Melaleuca uncinata* and in fact plants have on occasions been found up to one metre away from the pseudo host.

*Rhizanthella gardneri* does not flower every year and the number of flowering plants in any given area depends largely on unknown seasonal factors. Some years it flowers in profusion while in others very few are found in flower. The most recent site in which *Rhizanthella gardneri* has been found was searched several times over a period of some four or five years before the orchid was discovered. I guess what I am getting at is that just because an area has been searched without success it does not mean that *Rhizanthella gardneri* does not occur there.

I have included a few pamphlets and photocopies of articles that may be of use to you. Please note, however, that some of these are now quite dated.

I hope this info is of some use to you and helps your group in its search for the W.A. underground orchid in South Australia.

Kind regards

Andrew Brown Botanist WATSCU

#### ?*RHIZANTHELLA gardneri* REPORTED FROM A SITE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA by Gerry Came

I offer the following article without providing either the names of the people concerned or specific details of the location involved. It is important at this time that we do not encourage an invasion, in any sense of that word, into the normal lives of the former or the undisturbed presence of the latter. It is a story that I take great pride in relating. It is but an early chapter in our search for the mysterious Underground Orchid - *Rhizanthella gardneri*, but after the past two weeks events, I am confident that *Rhizanthella* sp. is indeed present in South Australia.

I received a telephone call from Mr. P. Crompton, one of our valued Members from the Victor Harbour Area (and also Mayor, I understand). He told me of a land holder in the Fleurieu Peninsula area who quite possibly excavated a specimen of the Underground Orchid, during the War Years of the early 1940s. The land holder, Mr. L., who is now deceased, presented the specimen to his wife. Mrs L. was so taken by the beauty and uniqueness of the specimen that she took pen to paper and proceeded to describe it. Mrs. L. and her husband were convinced from the moment they saw the specimen that it was an orchid, but its underground habitat puzzled them both at first. Mr. Crompton, who is well known in the Fleurieu area, particularly by those who are interested in nature and the environment, became aware of the finding and Mrs. L.'s description, and put me in contact with Mrs. L.

The Orchid appears to have been found while digging charcoal pits. Only one specimen was sighted. Mrs L. told me that it was her husband's wish that the collection site be preserved so to protect the unique orchid species. The land remains much as it was 50 years ago, uncleared and undisturbed and importantly, Mrs. L.'s husband had, some twenty years ago, shown one of their sons the 'spot' where the Orchid was found.

A telephone call to the son, resulted in an invitation to visit the site and on Saturday, 3 July 1993, Committee Members met with the wife and son of the finder. While enjoying a cup of coffee (can't beat country hospitality) we were given a copy of a description written in a Family Book and taken from the original description made many years ago. The description itself was worth the trip to the Peninsula and I am very privileged to be able to reproduce it in this article. We were then taken to the original collection site where we spent about an hour in the small hope of actually finding *Rhizanthella gardneri*. Soil samples were collected and these will be examined by Dr. Heinrich Beryle to determine if the necessary fungus might be present. Although we didn't find a specimen of *Rhizanthella* during the hour we spent looking, we did manage to identify 16 other species of orchid in flower, in bud and in leaf.

Mrs. L. believed the excavated plant was an orchid from the moment that she first saw it and she knew it was rare, but it was not until 1982 when the Women's Weekly carried an article on *Rhizanthella gardneri*, that she knew what she had described - The Underground Orchid in South Australia!

Do I think the plant found a half a century ago was the Underground Orchid? Yes, I do and it is for that reason that I reproduce the following description made by Mrs L.:

#### BURIED TREASURE

"The earth is a treasure chest for mankind but Nature cunningly keeps concealed within it, some of her most precious gems. Now and then, when it is a generous mood, one or more may be revealed to privileged persons. I was one of the lucky ones, for on a memorable day, my husband placed in my hands, one of these priceless, living jewels, reposing on a cushion of green velvet moss. Undoubtedly it was an orchid of some sort, about one inch across and borne on a two inch stem. Its wax-like petals were an opalescent white containing a mere breath of palest pink and it glowed like a pearl, so perfect and fragile, that I was over-awed by its beauty. "Where....O WHERE did you find it?" I asked. "Up in the Big Timber.... several inches under the ground" Later, we wished we had made some inquiries about it but there were no telephones in the valley and there was a war on. The naming of an innocent, small flower that bloomed for itself in the darkness of the soil, seemed relatively unimportant. Yet in Australia there ARE orchids that flower underground and their discovery is understandably rare. But I would probably have forgotten its name by now, whereas the sight of that exquisite, flawless gem, resting on its mossy cushion, has never been displaced.

I.L.

FOOTNOTE: In October 1982 the Australian Woman's Weekly printed an article about this orchid- *Rhizanthella gardneri*. It is the only flowering plant to live its life underground. About 250 specimens have been discovered - all in the South-West of Western Australia. The World Wildlife Fund spent \$29 000 on a successful search by enthusiastic members of the W.A. Native Orchid Study Group who found 109 specimens in one weekend."

## LETTER FROM PETER PENNEY re HONANS NATURAL WOODLAND RESERVE

"Although I am not a member of your Society, I have a keen interest in our native orchids, with a personal project to photograph all the species found in my area. I guess one would label me something of an ornithologist first and foremost, but also with a keen interest in the rest of our native fauna and flora. An interest in the flora of a region is a natural extension of bird watching as a means of wanting to know more about the various habitats and the plant species which make them up. Photography is also a natural progression as a means of recording whatever one sees, and close-up photography is a virtual necessity. I have found, as I am sure you have also, that orchid photography is particularly challenging. It can also be very frustrating ; as it usually means having to be in just the right place at the right time to catch the flowers at their best, and choosing the plant and view to give the maximum information for identification, not to mention contending with the vagaries in the weather. Have you ever noticed how the wind seems to really blow up just as you are about to release the shutter? I have a theoretical formula for photographing orchids which seems to work every time .... the intensity of the wind is directly proportional to the rarity of the orchid and the magnification of the lens in use!

For a number of years I have noted that many of the orchids from our area were somehow "different" from those illustrated and described in the various reference books, but I had accepted that they were probably just minor differences in geographical races, just as one finds in the animal world, with small variations in plumage/fur colouring and size, etc. From an amateur's viewpoint I don't know if all the recent changes in nomenclature, revisions, naming of new species, not to mention the publication of new reference books which already seem to be outdated even by the time they are printed, are not just a conspiracy to confuse us.

I guess that the experts know what they are doing but I would like to know the difference between the different terms, species, sub-species, forms which apparently don't fit into the sub-species category, or why the many hybrids remain un-named, even though there must surely be identifiable differences in them, depending on their respective parentage. Through one of your members, and also a very close friend of mine, Geof Aslin of Millicent, I have managed to keep fairly well up to date with most of the latest news and developments.

I had purchased the latest "Flora of South Australia", David Jones' "Native Orchids of Australia", your own (Bob Bate's) "Orchids of South Australia", and both volumes of "Australian Orchid Research". The latter I had only learnt of through your Society's journal. I guess I would have to admit that I am now really confused ... and we haven't even got to the revisions of the *Pterostylis* genus or the *Thelymitras* which must surely follow suit. It is primarily for this reason that I am seeking your assistance to confirm some of my identifications. One of the areas I most frequent is Honans Natural Woodland Reserve, owned by the Woods and Forests Dept. and also an area with which I know you are obviously very familiar. The W&F are in the process of writing a management plan for Honans, to which I intend making a submission. Barrie Grigg from the local W&F office has kindly given me a draft copy of the plant list for the area, and I note that some of the species records have come from yourself as well as the Society.

Prompted by the recent revisions, plus the directions in which further work seems to be headed, I spent quite a bit of time in Honans in 1992, photographing orchids which I have personally found "difficult". '92 was also an outstanding year for orchids there, particularly the sun-orchids, and I was successful in getting some reasonable portraits of a few which I find particularly troublesome. I am sure you will find the Naked beard-orchids of particular interest, as well as the hybrid sun-orchids. There is only one hybrid sun-orchid in the draft plant list. I don't know if all of the hybrids I have photographed can be named, their significance, if any, or their status as relative to Honans, if not the S-E region. I am urgently seeking a response from yourself in respect to these. Also, if my identification of *Thelymitra nuda* is correct, it apparently has not been recorded by anyone else as it is not on the list.

As the W&F already have some photos on record of some of the orchids found in Honans, part of my submission will include photographs they don't have so as to give them as complete a reference collection as possible. Consequently some of the photos I have only enclosed because they are intended to be part of that submission, and perhaps will also give you a better idea of my own field techniques.

I am not intending to submit much in the way of suggested conservation strategies for any of the species, as I believe your Society, through its members' vast experience in propagation, would be far better qualified to do

this. However one aspect with which I do have some great concern, involves the present proposed split up of the W&F, with some parts virtually becoming part of a private enterprise, while others are to become part of the Department of Primary Industries. If the present State Government is bent on cutting the losses presently being made by the W&F, I am concerned that native vegetation reserves currently under its control may somehow be relinquished. Obviously, if these areas are to go, then one can only hope that they will be transferred to the Department of Conservation and Land Management (NP&WS), rather than sold off to private companies for logging purposes or perhaps even clearing to establish other hardwood forests eg. *Eucalyptus globulus* - which has already undergone trial planting in the area - for use in the KCA pulp mill at Tantanoola. I do believe that the fire-suppression practices currently employed by the W&F, such as fuel-reduction burning, slashing and mowing, as well as a limited amount of fire-break ploughing, has generally been beneficial to our orchids. I am certain this would no longer be the case if the areas were transferred to the NP&WS - they simply don't have either the resources or the manpower unless there is to be a corresponding revamp of that department also. What do you think? I do know that the NP&WS do have fire-suppression plans as part of their prescribed management plans for many of the parks and reserves under their control down here, but in practice and to the very best of my knowledge they only involve a token fire-break around perimeters, particularly where they adjoin private property. I know nothing of any fuel-reduction burning as part of those plans, although there is a certain amount of pressure being brought to bear to change that.

In relation to other aspects of the future conservation of some orchid species which are deemed rare or vulnerable, I would suggest a closer liaison between those who know their whereabouts and the present or future owners, to ensure those localities where they occur are given priority for an active management program to ensure the best chance of the species' survival, or to at least prevent the inadvertent destruction of future generations by slashing or mowing at an inopportune time such as during flowering (and seeding).

I do hope that you will have time to peruse my comments and photographs and reply. As the draft of the management plan has not as yet been released, there is no immediate urgency for you to do so.

#### TERRESTRIAL ORCHID CULTIVATION - JULY

by Les Burgess

By now you should be seeing the results of patient waiting as most of the Spring flowering orchids will be showing flower spikes now. *Diuris* species will be showing a little later but the hybrids should have spikes showing.

This year has been a very unusual year for all terrestrial orchids because of the cold nights and the lack of rain earlier in the season.

All you can do this month is to keep your eyes open for pests and remove weeds while they are small, because the smaller the weeds the less disturbance they make to the soil when they are removed.

If using snail bait keep an eye on it because I have found that fungus which grows when the pellets are wet and deteriorating is detrimental to the tubers.

After weeding, replace the pot in exactly the same spot it was removed from and facing in the same position - the growing spikes follow the light and you do not want bent spikes.

#### N.O.S.S.A. SPRING SHOW - Professional Growers

If you wish to sell plants at our Spring Show, we expect you to also put in a display. A discrete advertisement sign may accompany the display.

#### N.O.S.S.A. SPRING SHOW - Photographers

Don't forget too bring in your 35 mm slides and photographic prints to the July Meeting. Refer back to the June Journal for details.

## WELL DONE OCSA

The Orchid Club of South Australia is to be congratulated on their recent publication *Orchid Culture* some Sound Advice. Reg Shooter, a member of both OCSA and N.O.S.S.A. was Publications Director/Editor in Chief. There are also contributions (13 in all) from nine other OCSA Members who are also N.O.S.S.A. Members, including Les Nesbitt (native terrestrials), Kevin Western (flasking) and Bruce Mules (native epiphytes). Many experienced growers from OCSA have produced excellent articles on a large number of Orchid genera. There is a lot of advice on growing of orchids (mainly exotics but some good sections on Australian Natives) . The soft but glossy coloured volume is some 80 pages in length, includes more than 100 colour photos and is available for an almost unbelievable price of \$10.00 (plus postage if required). Again, well done ! !

## NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

It is with considerable pleasure that the Committee welcomes Thelma O'Neil as a Committee Member. Our agenda this year is such that we needed an extra Committee person.

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LAUNCHING OF THE N.O.S.S.A. CONSERVATION GROUP SPONSORED POSTER, 27th July, 1993, 7.45, Understorey #1, Scott Creek

The poster size print depicts in clear detail, many of the plants found in the understorey. Not only orchids, but many of our other wild flowers are shown and named. Two severely endangered species are included. The print is the first in a series.

The aim of the release of the print is to draw attention to the diversity and fragile beauty of the understorey vegetation, and to raise money for work on understorey preservation and regeneration. The print will also provide lasting enjoyment to those who love our vanishing scrub.

The edition is limited to 500, each individually signed and numbered by the artist. The prints measure 490 mm x 690 mm, or 20 x 27 inches and are highly suitable for framing.

The artist, Catherine Hosking, has been painting wild flowers since she was fifteen. This is her first published work.

