

# 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.*

PATRON: Mr T.R.N. Lothian

PRESIDENT:

Mr G. Carne  
Telephone: 332 7730

SECRETARY:

Mr R. Bates  
Telephone: 289 2836

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Mr R. Hargreaves

TREASURER:

Mr R. T. Robjohns

COMMITTEE:

Mr W. G. Dear  
Mr J. Peace  
Mr W. Walloscheck  
Mrs K. Possingham

LIFE MEMBERS:

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

REGISTRAR OF JUDGES:

Mr L. Nesbitt

EDITOR:

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

TUBERBANK CO-ORDINATOR:

Mr P. Matthews  
Telephone: 261 2359

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# NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC

AUGUST 1993 VOL. 17 NO. 7 JOURNAL

## AUGUST MEETING

Tuesday, 24th August 1993, 8.00 pm at St Matthews 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 Rosalie Moore who will speak on the cultivation of the Genus *Sarcochilus*. Rosalie is a well known and respected grower and breeder of Australian Native Epiphytic Orchids, specialising in the genus *Sarcochilus*. Many of our Members have obtained plants from Rosalie. Rosalie has many times exhibited her Sarcs and other epiphytes at general Meetings and at N.O.S.S.A.'s Spring Shows and most of us are very envious of her growing results.

## N.O.S.S.A. OPEN DAY

To be held at the home of Reg and Jill Shooter, 5 Diane Place, Grange, on Sunday, 29th August at 2 pm. All Members are invited to attend. For our 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 of growing our native orchids.

## COMMITTEE MEETING

To be held at the home of Judith and Gerry Came, 118 Hewitt Avenue, Toorak Gardens, on Friday August 27 at 7.00 pm.

## COMING FIELD TRIPS

September 18th (Sunday):- *Caladenia behrii*, *Caladenia gladiolata* & *Caladenia rigida* Management Outing.

Meet at the Almanda Silver Mine, Scott Creek Conservation Park, at 10 am.

September 26th (Sunday):- *Caladenia argocalla* Special. Meet at the Auburn Post Office at 10 am.

For Further Details see page 64

## DIARY DATES

September 4th: Testimonial Dinner for Gerald McCraith - Canterbury, Victoria

September 18th and 19th: Our Annual Spring Show. Less than one month to go!!

October 17th: Echunga Social - Picnic and Field Excursion.

November 23rd: Annual Auction and Christmas Breakup Supper

?November 28th: Christmas Barbecue

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Native Orchid Society of South Australia takes great pleasure in welcoming Don and Barbara James of Elizabeth Downs and Darren, Jasmine and Steven Williams of Klemzig as new Members. Welcome to N.O.S.S.A.

## JULY MEETING

Our meeting of Tuesday 27 July was a most exciting one and one which will be remembered for some time. Our attendance for the evening was possibly greater than it had ever been before (some ninety people in attendance) and there was so much going on!!

One of the reasons for the very large turnout was the official launching of a Limited Edition Print which depicts the understorey plants of Scott Creek Conservation Park. This very beautiful and detailed Print, created by very talented artist, conservationist, and N.O.S.S.A. Member, Catherine Hosking, features 10 orchid species and includes *Calochilus robertsonii*, *Caladenia carnea*, *Glossodia major*, *Diuris maculata* and the endangered *Caladenia behrii* and *Pterostylis* aff. *rufa*. N.O.S.S.A. was very privileged to have been chosen as the Venue for the launch.

The Print was partly sponsored by N.O.S.S.A.'s Conservation Group and Karen Possingham, our very busy and enthusiastic Conservation Officer, had sent out invitations for the launching to environmental representatives of the three major political parties, to the National Parks Foundation, to Friends of various Parks, to the several other orchid Societies and Clubs in the Adelaide area and to various other conservation bodies. Distinguished visitors included Ms Sandra Kanck, of the Australian Democrats Party, and Ms Barbara Hardy of the National Parks Foundation. There was a large turn out of Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park including Enid Robertson, Yvonne Steed and Les and Donella Peters. Ray Nash represented the Friends of Belair National Park; Birgitte Sorensen represented the Friends of Angove Scrub (as well as the Black Hill Flora Research Centre). Richard Fishlock, Registrar, represented the Orchid Club of South Australia. There were also representatives from the other Adelaide /Adelaide area Orchid societies and clubs including Northern and Eastern District Orchid Society, South Coast Orchid Club of S.A. and Gawler District Orchid Club. The Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP) was also represented. Mrs Margaret Fuller represented the Bird Care and Conservation Society.

The Print launch commenced at 7.45 pm. Karen Possingham said a few words about N.O.S.S.A.'s Conservation Group, its program and the direction that it is taking, and then officially introduced and welcomed Catherine Hosking. Catherine told of how she gained her interest in painting Australia's native orchid species some 15 years ago and how she later became interested in their cultivation as well. Catherine then talked about her decision to produce the Print and why she chose understorey plants as her subject. The original painting evolved over a four year period

The Print is the first in what Catherine hopes will be a series of Prints. Part proceeds from sales will be donated to various conservation groups who are committed to protecting the understorey and to individuals conducting research which will assist in protecting threatened and endangered understorey plants.

Visitors were then invited to introduce themselves and their affiliation and to make general comment on the Print and on Conservation issues in South Australia. This proved to be a most interesting session. Catherine was wished every success with her Print and many commented about how beautiful and detailed her work is. N.O.S.S.A. would like to take this opportunity to wish Catherine success with her sales and future endeavours and look forward to seeing her followup Print.

After the formal part of the launch was concluded, time was provided in order that guests might examine the original artwork for the Print and to purchase copies from Catherine, while enjoying Champagne, orange juice, pate and other nibblies. To add further to the pleasure of the evening, N.O.S.S.A. Members collectively provided an excellent display of native terrestrial and epiphyte orchids on the front bench (some 30 species of terrestrial orchids were present), and Roy Hargreaves set up a display of nearly 100

photographs of Western Australian orchid species. The photographs, taken by Ron Heberle of Western Australia, were exceptional in their detail and quality and were admired by all.

Also on display for the first time was the Wells (Bubs and Don Wells) Trophy which will be presented for the Champion Species Epiphytic Orchid at our future Spring Shows. Its a beautiful trophy which was hand crafted by Don (another one of our very talented members) from native timbers.

The general meeting convened at 8.30 pm. Visitors were invited to remain for the meeting. Our guest speaker for the evening was Birgitte Sorensen, a research Botanist working at the Black Hill Flora Centre, who spoke to us about her work last year. Birgitte has been researching rare and endangered plant species of South Australia through a World Wide Fund for Nature grant. One of these species is *Pterostylis arenicola*, the sandhill greenhood. Through the use of 35 mm slides, Birgitte was able to show us the full development of *Pterostylis arenicola*, from seed, through protocorm, to mature flowering plant. We were even shown a slide of the mycorrhiza fungus which is associated with the orchid. Although we are privileged to see a large representation of our native orchid species, and their hybrids, at our general meetings, we have not previously been shown the various stages in the growth development of an orchid. Birgitte talked about her research on the sandhill greenhood, her work in establishing mature flowering plants from seed and her plans for re-establishing, and generating, populations of this endangered species, in South Australia. Birgitte then brought us up to date on her research on four other endangered plant species in South Australia - *Acacia cretacea*, *Acacia pinguifolia*, *Pultenaea trichophylla* and *Dodonaea subglandulifera*. A most interesting and enjoyable talk on some very important conservation initiatives and a talk which proved very appropriate to accompany the unveiling of Catherine's Print.

Many thanks to all of our Members who contributed so significantly to the success of the meeting and in particular, a special thankyou to Catherine, Birgitte and Karen and to the Committee Members who worked so hard for and on the evening.

#### FIELD TRIP REPORT: WARREN CONSERVATION PARK

11 JUNE 1993  
by Gary Guide

This park of 350 hectares lies between Kersbrook and Williamstown, off Watts Gully Road. There are many rocky ridges with leached shallow soils and one creek which rarely flows. To the south and west there are rounded hills and valley's with fertile soils. These of course are totally cleared! To the north is Hale Conservation Park and to the east, Woods and Forest land largely planted to pines.

There is a walking track (The Heyson Trail) through the centre of the park and a loop track around the eastern boundary. Rather than follow this track where the orchids are already well known, we decided on the day of our survey to hike from the Watts Gully or south gate, due north, parallel to the park boundary into areas not previously looked at. This proved to be something of a mistake as the area was trackless and rugged.

Fortunately the day was the first fine day for a week and the 15 people were not the complaining type!

At first orchids were abundant, a huge colony of *Pterostylis robusta* in full bloom, only 50 metres from the gate. Hundreds of *Pterostylis sanguinea* of all sizes, thousands of *Acianthus pusillus*, most with aborted flowers reflecting the drought of March-June.

On a previous N.O.S.S.A. visit in early July, we had seen great numbers of *Pterostylis nana*, *Corybas dilatatus*, *Pterostylis alata* and *Pterostylis longifolia* in flower, as well as late *Leporella*. The drought had retarded flowering of the first four and the *Leporella* were totally absent so we were very disappointed. The only orchid seen of interest during the morning was *Orthoceras strictum* or at least the dead remains of last summer's flower. These were all in dry rocky places which shows a curious feature of this species, ie. the diversity of habitats it occurs in - swamps, grasslands, forest or rock outcrops!

We crossed the main creek which was completely dry, despite the week's rain and headed up a secluded gully to our lunch stop on a hill top with a splendid view of Reservoir, farmland and forest.

After lunch we walked back to the Heyson Trail across trackless bush. This was not much fun especially since there were so few orchids apart from hundreds of rosettes of *Pterostylis plumosa* previously thought to be rare in the park. There were certainly a few signs of relief when the Heyson Trail was reached especially since one of our members suffered an injured ankle.

In summary, although we added a hundred or so "distribution dots" to our species maps, the main thing we learned was not to bother with further surveys in the area we covered on this visit.

#### Orchids Seen:-

##### In Flower:

*Acianthus pusillus*  
*Genoplesium rufum*  
*Pterostylis robusta*  
*Pterostylis sanguinea*  
*Cyrtostylis robusta*

##### In Bud:

*Corybas dilatatus*  
*Cyrtostylis reniformis*  
*Pterostylis nana*  
  
*Pterostylis* aff. *longifolia*  
*Pterostylis nutans*  
*Pterostylis pedunculata*

##### In Seed:

*Eriochilus cucullatus*  
*Orthoceras strictum*  
*Genoplesium* sp.

##### Leaves:

*Caladenia behrii*  
*Caladenia tentaculata*  
*Leptoceras menziesii*  
*Microtis* sp.  
*Pterostylis biseta*  
*Pterostylis alata*  
*Glossodia major*  
*Thelymitra* spp.

#### COMING FIELD TRIP: *CALADENIA ARGOCALLA* SPECIES

18 and 26 SEPTEMBER 1993

by Bob Bates

This is one species we have never seen on a N.O.S.S.A. field trip. We intend to visit the two largest known colonies of this beautiful endangered species and do some hand pollinating. With luck we may also see an undescribed Spider orchid which last year was found in the same area, as well as crosses between *Caladenia tensa* and *Caladenia argocalla*. Meet at the Auburn Post Office at 10 am on Sunday 26 September 1993.

Bob Bates has applied for a grant from the Endangered Species Unit in Canberra to work on endangered orchids (*Caladenia behrii*, *Caladenia gladiolata* and *Caladenia rigida*) and work out management strategies to improve their conservation status. This will include fencing, hand pollination and raising of seedlings. Volunteers to assist in locating plants and hand pollinating these 3 South Australian endemics in Scott Creek Conservation Park are asked to meet at the Almanda Silver Mine carpark at 10 am on Sunday 18 September 1993.

#### N.O.S.S.A. Open Day Visit to Roger Herraman's

by G. Burford

I was looking forward to the visit to Roger's because of the quality of the plants that he has benched at our monthly meetings. No interest in Terrestrials in Roger's collection. His Epiphytes are housed in a shade cloth house with a walk through into a permapine structure on the end, covered in with fibre glass on both the walls and the roof, and a door that closes off the two areas. In addition Roger has a flowering area for his Epiphytes constructed of timber slat trellis on three sides with a fibre glass roof and open to the front. Nestled behind the garage and protected from wind this structure provides a light airy flowering area.

Roger admitted to having a problem common to many of us, ie. a growing area that gets good sunlight all the year round. A large umbrella tree robs the shade house of good winter sun but is not a problem in summer. Still he is considering taking it out. I noticed a great idea in the shade house. It was a simple free standing "A" frame made of timber covered on both sides with mesh. Many small plants hung on this frame with the added advantage of it being portable.

All pots were hung by supports that Roger makes in the garage with a variety of templates for the various pot sizes. Basically they consist of wire to form a circle (slightly smaller than the outside diameter of the pot), spot welded where the wire crosses over with the two tails left to form two hooks to hang on the mesh. The pot just sits in the circle just below the top of the pot.

At the front of a fern house facing north I noticed a huge specimen plant of *Dendrobium speciosum*. This plant in a half wine barrel was too large to shift and had up to one hundred spikes showing. Roger explained that he never ever had two good flowering years in succession with this plant, usually one "on" and one "off". This was obviously an "on" year.

Roger had a selection of plants for sale and those proved popular. New and old members alike have gleaned a wealth of ideas from these visits and over afternoon tea we discussed these and the other orchids that make up Roger's interest.

## SOCIETY HISTORY THE MOP GROUP!

by an 'Old Member'

Some newer members may have heard the name M.O.P. Group mentioned and wondered what it was referring to.

In July 1979 N.O.S.S.A. was invited by the Parakie S. G. A. P. group to be their guests for a weekend. N.O.S.S.A. members were guest speakers at their monthly meeting on Friday night, the subject being "Orchids of the Mt Lofty Ranges". The following two days were spent orchid hunting with them in their district. This visit found that much of the land had been cleared and more was to be cleared for farming with a resulting loss of native orchids. Members discussed this and an idea was born. A group of available members would get together during the week to rescue some of the orchids being lost and to also visit areas to collect information as it was all new to most members. The M.O.P. group was formed with Don Wells as organiser, the initials standing for Midweek, Observation and Pleasure. In those years the law was not so strict on the clearing of land and written permission from the farmer was all that was needed to collect orchids from his property.

Our aim was to get information from a land owner if he was clearing and move in to rescue what we could. We had very little experience or knowledge on how to "dig-up" and "grow-on" these orchids; a lot of trial and error, but much was learned in those early days. Sadly many orchids did not survive but many others are still in collections today. A wealth of knowledge on their growing habits had been obtained for use today. Many return visits were made to the mallee area with a different experience each time. Sometimes we would have sand to dig in, other times limestone country - this was very frustrating. Tubers would be broken off after having dug cm deep. At one area at Tintinara we were digging with the sound of the bulldozer in our ears. This dig was very rewarding for us and we were also instrumental in having the owner save an area containing a mallee fowl's nest and several species of orchids. Many weeks were spent returning to a property at Hartley, again extremely rewarding.

Not all outings were to the mallee area. We visited Avenue Range in the south east of the State. This was a weekend trip with members staying in the Kingston Caravan Park. A local quarry allowed us to go into their property to rescue the orchids on land which was to be quarried for sand. Not all activities were rescue digs. We helped to relocate orchids from an area to be built on into an adjoining reserve, arranged a weekend trip to Victoria, a visit for Parakie S.G.A.P. to an "Orchid Festival" weekend with N.O.S.S.A. and other interesting functions.

One very rewarding day was a visit by several members to the Upper Sturt School. After talking to the pupils about native orchids they took us on a tour of their natural scrub area to help find, identify and tag the orchids. The knowledge these children had and their care of orchids was amazing. It is wonderful to know the younger generation will continue with our interests.

The years this group was active were very enjoyable to those who participated. Fortunately our laws have changed and it is not so easy for anyone to destroy our native bushland but the friendships formed during those years is not forgotten. These rescues were the beginning of our Tuber Bank as it is today.

## MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY

By Bob Edge

Tim Newberry, in his talk on native orchid photography at our May meeting this year, gave the following advice regarding equipment:

1. The camera; a simple mechanical single lens is quite sufficient.
2. Extension tubes between lens and camera provide the best means of close up photography. A macro lens does a good job, but is expensive and not really necessary. Dioptre lenses can be added to the front of the camera lens, but they add glass to the lens system and reduce image sharpness; their only advantage is that exposure is not changed.
3. Lighting: A second hand standard flash is all that is needed; this would have a guide number of 14 to 20 for 100 ISO film. If back lighting is desired, a coupled flash for fill in lighting may be necessary. Or a piece of crumpled and then straightened aluminium foil can be used as a reflector to the flash. Lighting with two flash units can achieve very effective modelling of the subject. Ring flash is considered by some to be too flat; it can be quick to use and is satisfactory for purely technical photographs. Some modelling can be achieved by shading a part of the ring.
4. A tripod is an extremely useful accessory. It must be capable of suspending the camera between its legs. With it, you can set up the camera where you want it, and then view the resulting image at leisure, noting the effect of different apertures and considering the balance and composition of the picture. Once the camera is firmly set in place, your hands are free to hold reflectors, flash gear or whatever else is necessary.

When extension tubes are used between the lens and camera, the amount of light reaching the film is reduced, and the effective aperture is calculated according to the formula:-

$$\text{Eff Ap} = \text{Nominated Aperture} \times \frac{F + E}{F}$$

where: F = focal length of lens  
E = length of extension tube

eg. if our nominated aperture is f 16  
Focal length of lens is 55 mm  
Extension tube is 19 mm

$$\text{Eff Ap} = 16 \times \frac{55 + 19}{55} = 21.5 \quad \text{Use f 22}$$

Often, natural light will be insufficient to satisfactorily light the subject in close up photography and flash will be necessary. The formula used for calculating flash to subject distance is:-

$$\frac{\text{Flash Guide Number.}}{\text{Effective Aperture}}$$

The guide number for the flash gun can be obtained by making a simple calculation using information from the table on the flash gun itself. From the table you may find that, for example, with a film speed of 100 ISO (most orchid photographers seem to use this speed), at 2.5 metres you need an aperture of f8.

By multiplying 2.5 by 8, you will obtain, hopefully, 20. This will be the guide number of your flash gun for a film of 100 ISO rating.

In an earlier example, we calculated an aperture of f22 when we used a 55 mm lens with a 19 mm extension tube.



The flash distance will be

$$D \text{ (flash to subject distance)} = \frac{\text{Guide Number}}{\text{Effective Aperture}}$$

$$= \frac{20}{22} = .91 \text{ metres} = 91 \text{ cm}$$

Because of the absence of any reflecting surfaces around an orchid in the scrub, calculations such as the above can lead to under exposure. Flash guide numbers are designed for indoor photography where there are a lot of reflecting surfaces such as walls, ceilings, furniture etc. Bush and field settings offer very little in the way of reflecting surfaces and therefore the photographer should halve the calculated distance - ie in the above example, flash distance will be 46 cm and not 91 cm.

For your own comfort in the above, I would suggest taking a series of photographs with the flash:

- 1) at the actual calculated flash to subject distance
- 2) at the calculated distance divided by 1.4
- 3) at the calculated distance multiplied by 1.4

Photograph number 2 will give twice the exposure of photograph number 1 while photograph number 3 will give half the exposure of number 1.

You will find that you have to half the flash to subject distance, - that is use four times the calculated exposure.

In my photography, I use two flash units: the primary flash, guide number 20, provides front lighting and the secondary flash, guide number 14, is used for partial back lighting. Both flashes are placed at the same distance from the subject.

With flash photography of small subjects, dark backgrounds are produced. Photographic judges do not like black backgrounds. Some clearly identifiable background is essential, even if it is dark.

Depth of field is a major problem in close up photography. Judges are harsh on even slightly out of focus parts of an orchid plant. If you want really top class photographs, you must make sure that your orchid is wholly in focus. An out of focus, but visible background enhances the photograph.

A few comments about composition:

- 1) Get down to the level of the subject unless there is a good photographic reason for not doing so. Most pictures of low growing plants will be better for being taken at their level.
- 2) Fill the frame with what you want to show. In vertical format a 35 mm frame is 36 mm high; try to make your image about 33 mm high.
- 3) Avoid 'horizons' halfway up the frame; these are usually very distracting.
- 4) Gardening. A previewing facility on your camera allows you to see what your camera will see at the f-stop you have chosen. By using this facility, you will be able to see extraneous, undesirable twigs, leaves etc which will intrude into the picture. These can be removed so that they do not detract from the composition of your photograph. The preview facility will give you a very good idea of how sharp your subject will be and how your background will appear. Without such previewing, distractions are often not seen until you get your photograph back after processing.

A Method of Ensuring your 35 mm Frame is filled with your Subject

The size of the 35 mm frame is 36 mm x 24 mm. Most orchids will be photographed in vertical format and a good aim is to make the subject to take up about 33 mm of the frame. I tend to use a metal tape to measure

the height of the orchid or part of it that I want to include in my photograph.. Let us say the height of the orchid is 100 mm; if we want the image to be 33 mm in height on the film, the magnification will be:

$$M = \frac{\text{image size}}{\text{subject size}} = \frac{33}{100} = \frac{1}{3}$$

Another formula for calculating magnification is:

$$M = \frac{\text{length of extension tubes}}{\text{focal length of lens}}$$

$$\text{So we can say: } M = \frac{\text{Extension Tube (E)}}{\text{F.L. of Lens}} = \frac{\text{Image}}{\text{Subject}}$$

If we know the focal length of the camera's lens (say 55mm), the size of the image on film (33 mm) and the size of the subject (100 mm), we can calculate the length of extension which will be required:

$$\frac{E}{55} = \frac{33}{100} \quad E = \frac{55 \times 33}{100} = 18.2 \text{ (mm)}$$

Common Extension Tube lengths are 9, 19, and 28 mm. Select the 19 mm length. You can of course select the tube by trial and error but the above procedure should save you time.

#### N.O.S.S.A. 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 N.O.S.S.A. 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.

## N.O.S.S.A. SPRING SHOW 1993 - 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 18 September. The hall will be open from 4.00 pm on Friday 17 September to allow exhibitors to set up.

A label must be attached to each exhibit clearly showing the correct name of 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 10.00 am and 12 noon on Saturday 18 September. AOC judging standards will be used. N.O.S.S.A. bylaws will also apply. Applications for N.O.S.S.A. 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 infection.

All orchids will remain on display to the public on Saturday 18 September and Sunday 19 September. Plants are to be removed at 5.00 pm on Sunday 19 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
- ❖ The Wells Trophy for Champion Epiphytic Species
- ❖ Champion Epiphytic Hybrid
- ❖ The Ira Butler Award for the Best Hybrid

## CLASS DESCRIPTION (1st and 2nd Prizes In Each Class)

- 1 *Caladenia* or *Glossodia* Species
- 2 *Diuris* Species
- 3 *Pterostylis* Species
- 4 *Acianthus*, *Chiloglottis* or *Cyrtostylis* Species
- 5 Terrestrial Species Other Than In Classes 1-4
- 6 *Pterostylis* Hybrid
- 7 Terrestrial Hybrid Other Than In Class 6
- 8 Specimen Terrestrial - Species or Hybrid
- 9 Seedling Terrestrial
- 10 *Dendrobium kingianum*
- 11 *Dendrobium speciosum*
- 12 *Dendrobium* Species Other Than 10 or 11
- 13 Epiphytic Species Other Than a *Dendrobium*
- 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

### DEBCO TREATED BARK

Bill Dear has about 20 bags of 'Medium' Bark available from the original purchase of 80 bags. The cost for a 50 litre bag is \$15.00. Many thanks to Bill for all of his work and perseverance in organising the bark for us. Bill is thinking about ordering additional bark from Debco later in the year.

### THE UNDERSTOREY OF SCOTT CREEK CONSERVATION PARK

Copies of Catherine Hosking's beautiful Limited Edition Print will be available for purchase during the August and September General Meetings and at our Spring Show. For those unable to attend our meetings, copies may be ordered through the mail. Prints will be forwarded to you in a mailing tube. The cost of a print is \$50.00. Postage and handling will be an additional \$5.00. Mail orders should be sent to P.O. Box 476, Stirling SA 5152 and cheques should be payable to Catherine Hosking. Copies of the Print are also available through the Matilda Bookshop, in the Arcade at Aldgate, and from Blows Brothers Nursery, 150 Sturt Valley Road, Stirling.

### SCRATCHING THE SURFACE

On Sunday 8 August, Roy Hargreaves, Bill Dear, Joan and John Peace, Thelma O'Neil, and Gerry Carne visited the site on the Fleurieu Peninsula described in last month's Journal, to search for the Underground Orchid, *Rhizanthella* sp. The area is underlain by a very sandy soil which is covered by a layer of leaf litter, commonly very peaty, and moist at the time. Although several hours were spent on the sight, carefully removing leaf litter by hand (fingers) and then replacing it, no findings were made. Nevertheless, we enjoyed a beautiful day in a beautiful setting with abundant bird life (and even a kangaroo). Three orchids species were seen in flower - *Corybas diemenicus*, *Pterostylis nana* and *Cyrtostylis robusta*. Although we didn't find *Rhizanthella* this trip, we are not discouraged. we don't even know when the Underground Orchid flowers in South Australia. *Pterostylis pedunculata* is a very common species in South Australia but it is certain that if this species occupied a subterranean environment as does *Rhizanthella*, we wouldn't know of its existence and even if we did, locating new populations would be very time consuming. We will return to the site again in late September and then again towards the end of May.

Les McHugh, Cath Alcock and Kelvin Weise spent a few days looking for *Rhizanthella* sp north west of Bordertown. The areas that they investigated were of tall Eucalypts with a melaleuca middlestory and varied understory, areas very similar to those areas in Western Australia in which *Rhizanthella* has been found. As would be expected for a first reconnaissance of the area, *Rhizanthella* was not found. Les commented that the area was very dry and even normal orchid populations were scarce. The year in which a large number of specimens of *Rhizanthella gardneri* were found in Western Australia was a particularly wet year. We have a lot to learn and our search has just begun.

Letters have been sent out to various country newspapers asking them to bring *Rhizanthella* to the attention of their readers in the hopes of our receiving further reports of the sighting of the orchid. It appears that the Border Chronicle (Bordertown) will run a story for us, thanks largely to the efforts of Les, Kelvin and Cath. Cath Alcock has drawn a pen and ink portrait of *Rhizanthella* for inclusion in the writeup. Les was able to get some television coverage through Channel 8 in Mount Gambier, Channel 8 has a large viewing audience in the South East of the State and in Victoria.

### WELCOME TO MR. RON HEBERLE

N.O.S.S.A. is very pleased that Ron Heberle, an authority on Western Australian orchid species, could spend some time in South Australia. I understand that Ron was impressed with the R. S. Rogers Shadehouse for terrestrial orchids, now located at Black Hill. Ron was able to meet several of our members as well as catch up on older acquaintances during his Adelaide visit.

### NATIVE TERRESTRIALS CULTURE

By Les Burgess

This month the main thing is to keep a close check on pests; these can quickly turn a year's work of growing around and ruin the flowers. This year the season has been funny so some of us will have different results than we have had in previous years. All Orchids including *Pterostylis cucullata* and its hybrids will be well up and in spike. The *Diuris* will also be starting to flower, the late ones still to come. We should be seeing what will be ready for OUR SHOW but again I think most of the *Pterostylis* will be finished this year before the Show.

George Nieuwenhoven made comment on the lack of terrestrials benched this year. I hope the reason has been the season because if our Members stop growing them for other easier species, then our main aim is lost. If you are having growing problems, ask! Nobody knows everything and we all have a lot to learn.