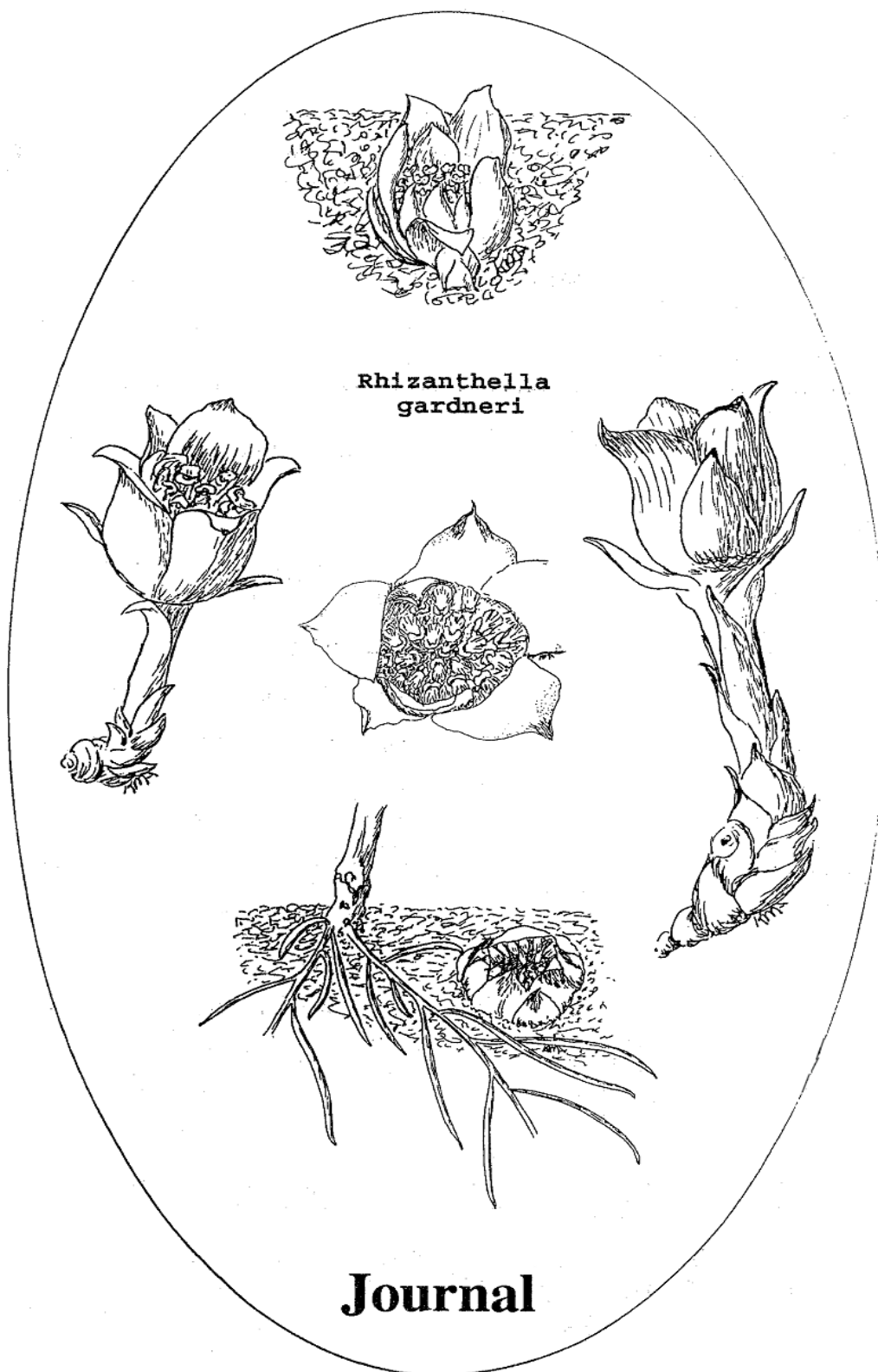


# Native Orchid Society of South Australia Inc.



# NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

P.O Box 565,  
UNLEY S.A 5061

The Native Orchid Society of South Australia promotes the conservation of native orchids through cultivation of native orchids, through preservation of naturally-occurring orchid plants and natural habitat.

Except with the documented official representation from the Management Committee of the native orchid society of South Australia, no person is authorised to represent the society on any matter.

All native orchids are protected plants in the wild. Their collection without written Government permit is illegal.

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# NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC APRIL 1994 VOL. 18. NO. 3 JOURNAL

## APRIL MEETING

Tuesday, 26 April, 1994, 8.00 pm: at St Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. Doors to the hall will open at 7.15 pm for those wishing to borrow from the library or purchase/sell through the Trading Table. Les Peters will speak on endangered animals and plants under the title 'Going, Going, Gone!'

## NOSSA OPEN DAY

To be held at the home of Don & Babs Wells, 86 Pitman Road, Windsor Gardens on Sunday, May 1st, 1994 at 2 pm. All members (and guests) are invited to attend. These meetings are a great way to get to know other members on social basis and to learn both the basics and finer points of growing orchids. Long established as well as new members are encouraged to attend.

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## COMMITTEE MEETING

To be held at the home of John & Joan Peace, 43 Johnstone St., Glengowrie, at 7.30 pm Friday 30th April.

## DIARY DATES

April 26 Next Meeting.  
 April 24 Conservation Group Meeting.  
 May 6 (Friday) Annual Dinner at Walkers Arms Hotel.  
 May 29 Open Day at Echunga.  
 July 16 Field Trip to Morialta Falls.  
 July 30 Weeding at Scott Creek.  
 Sept 18-19 NOSSA Spring Show.

## NEW MEMBERS:

The Native Orchid Society takes great pleasure in welcoming Gwen and Don Nesbitt of Henley Beach as new members.

## NEW ORCHID HYBRID REGISTRATIONS:

(From the Australian Orchid Review)

## NAME PARENTAGE REGISTRANT

*Dendrobiurn*

Brown King	<i>undulatum X speciosum</i>	Florafest
Chablis	<i>gracilicaule X bigibbum</i>	W. T. Upton
Gillieston Pearl	Rutherford Surprise X Gulginni	Florafest
Jonathons Glory	Aussie Angel X Kingrose	I. Klien
Zeppelin	Zip X Ellen	J. Purvis

*Sarcochilus*

Powder Puff	<i>cecilae X Fitzhart</i>	Florafest
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## 1994 APPOINTMENTS

Registrar of Judges:	Les Nesbitt
Librarian:	Wally Walloscheck
Trading Table:	John & Joan Peace
Artist in residence:	Thelma O'Neill
Society Photographer:	Roger Biddell
Show Marshall:	Bill Dear

## MARCH MEETING

Last meeting: Past president, Kevin Western, spoke on the cultivation of cool growing *Dendrobium*. Kevin will provide an article for a later journal.

Cultural certificates were awarded to Jan Burford for her pot of *Leptoceras menziesii*, Champion Plant at the last Spring Show (this is the first time the award has gone to our club emblem), and Noel Oliver for his *Dendrobium linguiforme*, top epiphyte at the show. By coincidence a visitor at the meeting was foundation member Roy Haese who earned the first cultural certificate over a decade ago.

## ON THE BENCH

Epiphytes: *Dendrobium tetragonum*, *D. cucumerinum*, *D. Sunflow* (2), *Liparis reflexa*, *Sarcochilus ceciliae*.

Terrestrials: *Calanthe triplicata*, *Eriochilus cucullatus*, *Liparis habenarina*, *Pterostylis abrupta*, *P. procera*, *P. revoluta* (3), *P. truncata*, *P. Trunkfish* (*P. fischii* X *P. truncata*), *P. Sentinel* (*P. abrupta* X *rogersii*).

\*It was noted that the metre tall *Calanthe* (flowering out of season) showed typical features of plants which grow naturally in low light situations, ie white flowers and large deep green leaves.

\*The pot of *Pterostylis procera* bore a label reading *Pterostylis baptistii* but that is a spring flowered species from NSW or Victoria whereas the *Pterostylis procera* is an Autumn flowering plant from the tropics.

Kevin Western gave the commentary on Epiphytes.

Bob Bates gave the commentary on Terrestrials.

Commentators Choice: Terrestrial Species: *Liparis habenarina* grown by Don Wells

Terrestrial Hybrid: *Pterostylis* Trunkfish grown by Les Nesbitt

Epiphyte Species: *Dendrobium tetragonum*

Epiphyte Hybrid: *Dendrobium* Sunflow grown by Kevin Western

Popular Vote:

Terrestrial: *Liparis habenarina* grown by Don Wells.

*Pterostylis revoluta* grown by Les Nesbitt.

Epiphyte: *Dendrobium* Sunglow grown by Kevin Western.

## TERRESTRIAL CULTURE TIPS

Les Nesbitt

### Solid Roof Terrestrial Orchid Houses

The Victorians have had them for years. I have experimented for some six or seven years and now am convinced of the benefits. The last few years have produced rain up until Christmas and beyond. Summers seem to have slipped back a month or two.

I have corrugated fibreglass on part of the roof of my terrestrial houses. It was installed more for people comfort than any other reason but has many benefits. Plants are protected from frost and heavy winter rain. They do have to be watered by hand. Plants are clean and can be brought to meetings without leaving a muddy puddle behind on the display table if it rains on the meeting day.

I now have no repotting hold ups due to rain because I can move enough pots for a weeks repotting under the solid roof. Those under shade cloth usually dry out again after a week in summer. The sides of a terrestrial house should allow the breeze to move through so that leaves dry off in a few hours after watering. Shade cloth walls work well. A fibreglass roof allows in too much heat in summer. Either move the pots out in summer or cover the fibreglass with shade cloth during the daylight saving period.

Fibreglass sheets from hardware stores are cheaper than some of the longer lasting clear sheeting that is available. Fibreglass gradually darkens and breaks down with age. It will need to be replaced after 6 to 9 years.

It is worth considering a solid roof for part of your plant house next time you extend.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

by Garry Guide

### Southern Swamps February & March 1994

On February 13 several NOSSA members attended the S.A. Field Naturalists - Botany Group excursion to Tooperang. This excursion on a perfect 25°C day was led by Rosemary Taplin and Denzel Murfet.

We met by the waterhole in Cox's Scrub C.P. and drove on to Tooperang where we traversed the Pitt property. Crossing the creek on a rickety bridge saw us in a swampy paddock full of cows. In several damp patches were beautiful specimens of *Spiranthes sinensis* and occasional seed pods of *Microtis* and *Prasophyllum* species.

After lunch we drove up Swampy Crescent to the Emu Wren Swamp. The owner regularly burns small patches so there were areas of vegetation at various stages of regrowth. A huge variety of rushes and sedges, *Lycopodium*, *Utricularia*, *Drosera*

*binata* and orchids - lots of them. Hundreds of pink *Spiranthes* on which we observed several different species of native bee at work. The *Spiranthes* flowers were sweetly scented and in full sun and some members managed good photographs but the best I could do was a shot of a large praying mantis on a clump of three deep pink *Spiranthes*. In the middle section of the swamp we were excited to find the rarer, late-flowering, tall, white, self-pollinated race of *Spiranthes*. These looked quite different in habit, colour and flower shape from the other *Spiranthes* and were duly sent to David Jones in Canberra who suggests they are a new species.

Also here was a large patch of *Cryptostylis*, many with fat seed pods but still plenty of flowers.

In a neighbouring property a patch of *Dipodium roseum* were flowering in white sand under *Eucalyptus baxteri*.

Our final stop after lunch was at the Nangkita Stone reserve where we found the tiny *Genoplesium archeri* (some suggest it is actually *Genoplesium ciliatum* but since I do not know what are the characteristics of the latter we'll leave it as *Genoplesium archeri*). This is one of the most endangered orchids of the Mt Lofty Ranges, known from this one tiny patch. The flowers were being pollinated by tiny *Chironomid* flies with pale bodies and red eyes.

.....

One month later saw us meeting with the Botany Chapter of the S.A. Field Naturalists at Mt Compass on a perfect autumn day (March 13th). Denzel and Rosemary this time led us to Higgs Swamp just off the main Willunga-Myponga road. Neither the leaders nor myself had previously visited this swamp in March so we did not know what to expect. After visiting the Higgs' beautiful cottage garden (with orchid house adjacent) we crossed a sunken bog which had once contained peat but had caught on fire and burned for months and was now just a hole in the ground. Across a much overgrazed paddock was the swamp proper, bisected by a fast flowing stream. Instantly we spotted dozens of the summer flowered swamp *Eriochilus* (aff. *cucullatus*). Denzel even found a *Microtis parviflora* in flower, almost a record for late flowering by *Microtis*.

Across the creek Denzel made an exciting discovery. A greenhood in flower. *Pterostylis* aff. *aphylla* with its dull green self-pollinated flowers which only last a couple of days. This was an important find because this unnamed species is almost extinct in S.A. Fourteen plants were found. Growing with them were white flowered *Spiranthes* and more *Eriochilus* as well as seed pods of various *Microtis* and *Thelymitra holmesii* and leaves of *Cryptostylis*. This swamp, already known for its populations of several endangered S.A. plants, although small was clearly one of the most important botanical sites in the state.

After a picnic lunch.. in the garden surrounded by blue wrens we moved on to Glen Shera Swamp which had been recently burned. This swamp proved disappointing orchid-wise but we did see *Thelymitra cyanea* in seed as well as hundreds of *Cryptostylis* leaves pushing through the scorched earth. Of interest was the sight of a black snake stalking and catching a frog.

On the way home we stopped at the Amaroo Water Gardens and marvelled at the variety of aquatic plants from all over the world. A quick stop at Jupiter Creek revealed hundreds of *Genoplesium rufum* in flower.

Our field trip co-ordinator has already promised to repeat these excursions in 1995 as many NOSSA members have expressed disappointment that the trips were not advertised. Fear not they will be in the NOSSA journal next year!

Orchids seen: -In Flower

*Dipodium roseum* B

*Cryptostylis subulata* B,C

*Eriochilus* aff. *cucullatus* D,E

*Genoplesium archeri* C

*Genoplesium rufum* F

*Microtis parviflora* D

*Pterostylis* aff. *aphylla* D

*Spiranthes sinensis* (pink) A, B

*Spiranthes sinensis* (white) D

*Spiranthes* aff. *sinensis* (white) B

-In Seed

*Microtis* sp. A,B,C,D,E

*Thelymitra cyanea* E

*Thelymitra holmesii* C,D

*Prasophyllum* sp. A

Code:	A Pitts (Tooperang)	D - Higgs (Myponga)
	B - Swampy Crescent	E - Glen Shera
	C - Nangkita (Myponga)	F - Jupiter Creek

## WORK OF THE CONSERVATION GROUP

By R. Bates



*Caladenia gladiolata*

The NOSSA Conservation group led by Karen Possingham has done a marvellous job since its formation and emphasises that conservation is one of the major thrusts of the Native Orchid Society of South Australia.

At least 40 South Australian orchid species are threatened with extinction and perhaps as many have already become extinct. We will not let what we have left be lost without a fight. *Caladenia gladiolata*

### Activities of the group:

1. Lobbying to save remnant native vegetation. NOSSA has links with other conservation organisations such as the Native Conservation Society of SA, the Conservation Council, Friends of the Parks groups and the Threatened Species Network. We have written letters to assist with various campaigns to save remnant native bush and met with the heads of various departments involved with land management. So far we have saved an area of bushland from being subdivided, had areas added to the reserve network and prevented a new highway from being built through an endangered habitat.
2. Orchid surveys and park management. The group recognises the importance of 'hands on' conservation and has adopted sites in at least two conservation parks to weed and monitor orchid populations. The primary object of this work is to follow the response of orchid populations to the removal of weeds such as Boneseed Daisy, *Chrysanthemoides monilifera*.



3. Threatened species. The group is involved in a recovery program to save the endangered Spider orchids *Caladenia behrii*, *Caladenia gladiolata* and *Caladenia rigida* all endemic to South Australia. Weeding, fencing, hand pollination, flasking of seed, re-introduction of the species into areas from which they have been lost, public education and future management strategies are all part of the work which is being funded by a government grant through the Endangered Species Unit in Canberra.
4. R. S. Rogers Orchid House. Our members help out with management of this project at the Black Hill Flora Research Station (part of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens). Over 200 species of native Australian terrestrial orchid are being grown here including threatened species such as *Pterostylis arenicola* which is being managed and grown from seed by a team led by Manfred Jusaitis and Birgita Sorenson.
5. Education. An information pack on native orchids with slides has been produced and is specifically designed for schools. We need to further educate the public to see the value of conservation and its role in preserving orchids in their natural habitat. The Conservation Group sets up a display at NOSSA shows to emphasise this work.
6. Surveys. Each year since 1987 the group has surveyed a different conservation park, mapping the populations of all orchid species, recording all plant species in these parks and publishing results in booklet form. These booklets are known to have the most comprehensive plant lists for any conservation parks in S.A.

The Native Orchid Society is extremely proud of the work being done by its conservation group.

#### AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY: (ANOS)

NOSSA is a state-wide society, ANOS is an Australia-wide society, many NOSSA members are also ANOS members. If you would like to join ANOS and receive their glossy journal 'The Orchadian' write to

ANOS membership officer  
GPO Box 978  
Sydney NSW 2001

Subscriptions are \$26 per annum.

Some members of the ANOS committee will be attending our May meeting.

**\*NEXT MEETING\***

A copy of Australian Orchid Research, Volume 2, will be auctioned at the April meeting.

Available at the next meeting competition plants of *Dendrobium* Telecom X Zip.

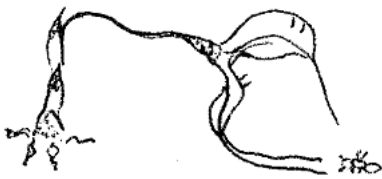
Raffle prizes: donations of plants, artwork etc will be welcomed as raffle prizes at meetings. Thank you to members who have made donations.

\*Next Conservation Group meeting will be held on April 24th. Meet 10 am at Belair Recreation Park.

ON THE REDISCOVERY OF *PTEROSTYLIS*  
*DESPECTANS* IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

By R. Bates

This bizarre greenhood which places its flowers on the ground was known in South Australia only from a single plant growing by the old shepherd's hut on the northern slopes of Mt Bryan, the highest peak in the Northern Mt Lofty Ranges. The plant died in the 1970's and despite extensive searching in the 1980's no specimens were located (the area has been heavily grazed for 150 years).



In September last year (1993) I was delighted to find a group of six *Pterostylis* rosettes on bare ground only a few hundred metres from the original find.

*P.aff. despectans*

As *Pterostylis despectans* is a summer flowered species and these plants were still in very early bud I was excited. Each plant was carefully marked as it was known that the rosettes dry up and shrivel away before flowering, making plants extremely difficult to find again.

I returned in October and the leaves had already shrivelled. All except two plants had had their buds chewed off. The remaining two had no sign of flowers. It seemed like I might be disappointed. There is a vehicle track to the summit so on this particular day I drove to the top. There is a superb view over thousands of square kilometres of the mid north. I walked amongst the rocks south of the summit and was surprised at the ancient twisted forest of gum trees found there. They looked like Tasmanian Blue Gums but that species is of course not endemic to South Australia. Growing under these ancient trees was a white daisy. I took some of both to the State Herbarium.

The gum tree turned out to be *Eucalyptus bicostata*, a close relative of the Tasmanian Blue Gum and a species previously known only from high mountains of Victoria and NSW and the daisy was *Helipterum* (Rhodanthe) *anthemoides* a species thought to have been extinct for one hundred years in S.A. No less than 20 threatened plant species were eventually located in that forest on Mt Bryan on a subsequent visit.

Two visits were made in November and on the second the *P. despectans* were in flower! Another incredible feature of the plant emerged: the rosettes sit up on this mountain through the ice-cold winter (snow falls most winters) and these rosettes die in mid spring. The flower stalk grows very slowly; even at about two weeks before flowering it is nothing more than a 1 cm high green knob with no sign of flowers. In the last two weeks a thin curved pedicel 2 cm long arches out of this

knob and places a tiny grey-brown flower onto the ground. From a distance this flower is almost invisible as it is the same colour as the parched earth.

One of the flowers was hand pollinated and protection placed around it as sheep were grazing in this paddock. The other flower was sent to David Jones who believes it to be distinct from *Pterostylis despectans* and a probable new species.

We spoke to the owner about the importance of saving the endangered species and he agreed to fence off the area or to exclude stock in the growing season.

## FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

A book on the Orchids of Victoria by Jeff Jeanes. This will have coloured photographs of all Victorian species, named and unnamed. The book is currently with the publisher and is due out later this year.

### AUSTRALIAN DENDROBIUM SPECIES No. 1

*Dendrobium adae* Bailey

By Sandy Philips

This species is a cool growing, tall-stemmed epiphyte or lithophyte with white to apricot coloured flowers (the latter form is now frequently used in creating hybrids) from North Eastern QLD especially in high parts of the coast range between Townsville and Cooktown.

I have seen this species growing on rocks by the 1000 metre high Wallaman Falls west of Ingham. The plants were in full sun but spray from the falls often drifted over the plants which were sometimes covered by water during summer floods. It is however more common on trees on the edge of rainforests, particularly inland from Cairns.

A short cane form from high on Mt Bartle Frere is probably worthy of sub-specific status and as it has larger flowers and is more cold tolerant it would be ideal for growing in the Adelaide Hills.

There are from 1 to 6 flowers held on very upright spikes. Some forms are sweetly perfumed. Flowers are distinguished by the short hairs on the labellum. Blooming occurs in September - October in Adelaide.

Very easily grown in a shadehouse or cool glasshouse either mounted or in a small pot.

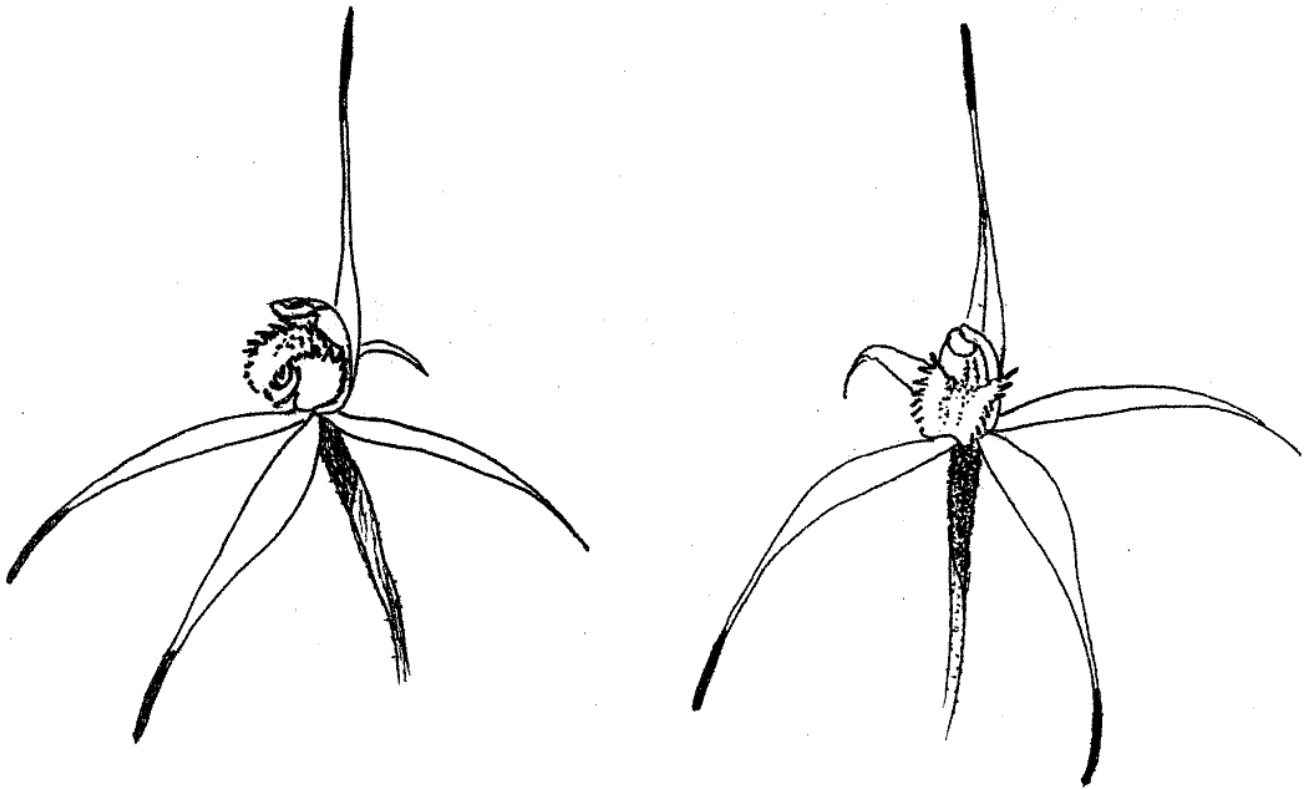
The specific name honours Mrs Ada Stuart, wife of the original collector.

### BOTANISTS OF THE ORCHIDS #23 J.B. CLELAND

By M. Philips

John Burton Cleland (1878 - 1971) was born in Adelaide. His father, William, was a surgeon and a keen botanist and young John followed in his father's footsteps studying at Adelaide University and later becoming Professor of Pathology.

He was adept in ornithology and was an expert aboriginal anthropologist. He is best remembered for his work on conservation and the formation of our early national parks. He was an avid botanical collector working pretty well the whole state. He was the first botanist to make a detailed collection of Kangaroo Island plants and he kept a sense of adventure throughout his long life. Although totally blind in later years he spent his 80th birthday climbing Mt Woodroffe the highest peak in SA. He is commemorated today by Cleland Conservation Park overlooking Adelaide. He wrote numerous botanical articles including two volumes on SA fungi and the Geography and Botany of the Adelaide Plains. The 100 or so orchid collections he made are however a small part of his total collections and I suspect that he had little interest in them, preferring to leave them to the 'other doctor' R.S. Rogers! He named no orchids and none are named after him but he was the collector of the Types of several taxa.



**Endangered Species *Caladenia rigida***