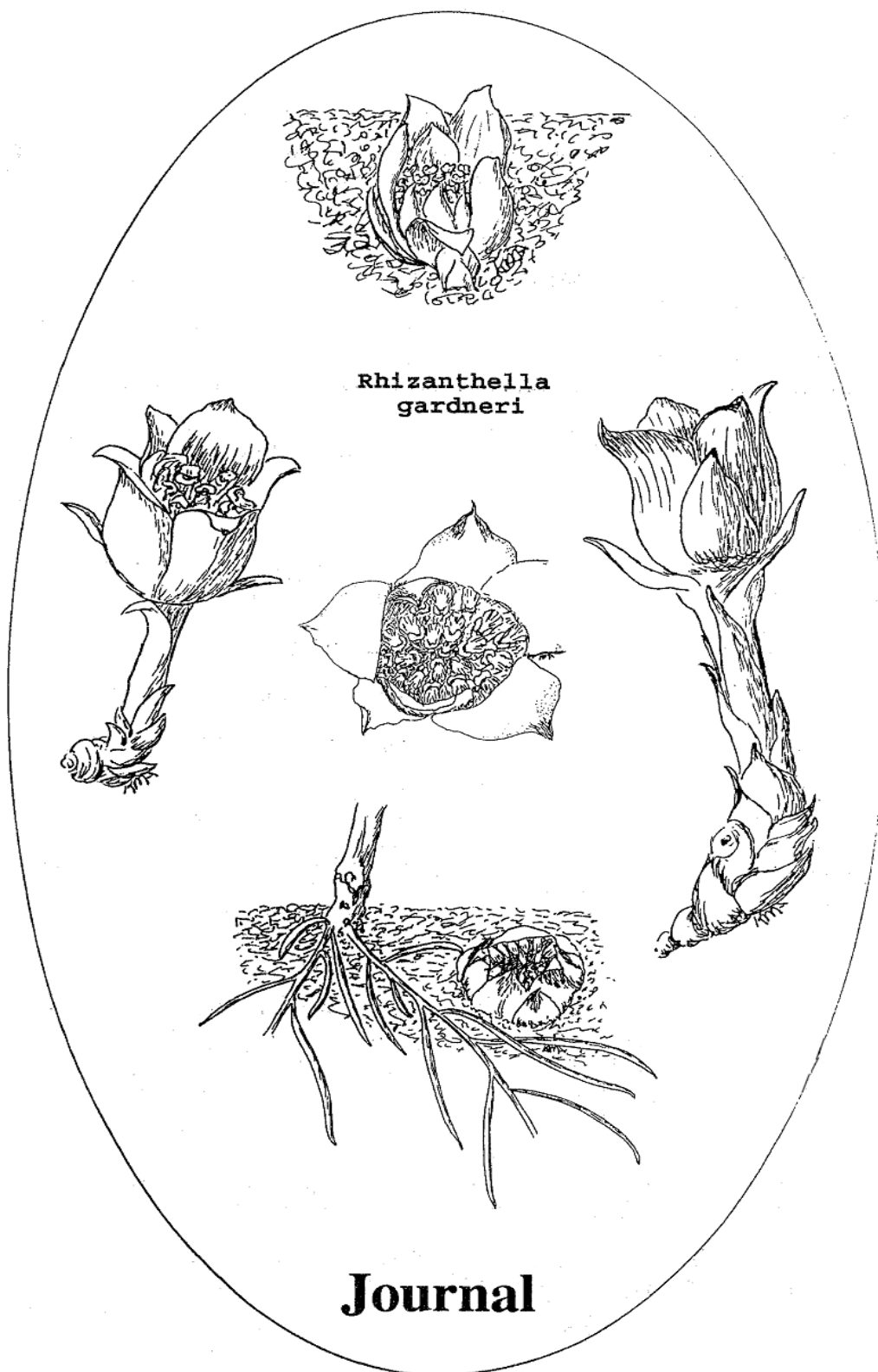


# Native Orchid Society of South Australia Inc.



# 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  
JULY 1994 VOL. 18. NO. 6 JOURNAL**

**JULY MEETING**

Tuesday, 26 July, 1994, 8.00 pm: at St Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. Doors to the hall will be open at 7.15 pm for those wishing to borrow from the library or purchase/sell through the trading table. Past President Reg Shooter, will speak on preparing orchid plants for shows.

**NOSSA OPEN DAY**

To be held on Sunday July 31st 2 pm, at 42 Dashwood Road, Beaumont. All members welcome.

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# BUS TRIP \*\*\*\*\* September 24th \*\*\*\*\*

- Bruce Mules' Orchid Nursery (Port Pirie).

Seats are still available. Ring Bill Dear or see him at the next meeting.

## DIARY DATES

July 31 Open Day at Roger Herriman's.

Aug 21 Excursion to Aldinga Conservation Park.

Aug 28 Open Day at Kevin Western's.

Sept 17-18 NOSSA Spring Show.

Sept 18 Hand Pollinating *Caladenia rigida*, *C. behrii*, *C. gladiolata* at Scott Creek.

Sept 24 Bus Trip to Bruce Mules'.

Oct 8 - 9 SGAP Show.

Oct 23 Echunga Open Day Picnic.

## COMMITTEE MEETING

To be held at 7.30 pm Friday 29th July.

## NEXT FIELD TRIP

Morialta Falls, Saturday 16th July. Meet at the kiosk at 2pm.

## NEW MEMBERS:

We welcome Kenneth and Barbara Bayley of Balaklava and Karen Lane of Belair

PLANT POTS (Black plastic): Bill Dear will be taking orders at the next meeting or phone 296 2111.

300 mm	\$2.50	150 mm	\$0.40	80 mm	\$0.15
200 mm	\$1.50	125 mm	\$0.20	50 mm	\$0.08
200 mm tall	\$1.00	100 mm	\$0.20		

## ON THE BENCH

Terrestrials: *Acianthus exsertus*, *A. fornicatus*, *A. pusillus*, *A. pusillus* (green), *Cyrtostylis robusta*, *Corybas dilatatus*, *Microtis unifolia*, *Pterostylis aspera* (W.A.), *P. alata* (Vic), *P. concinna*, *P. dolichochila*, *P. nutans* (2), *P. pedunculata*, *P. procera*, *P. pulchella*, *P. robusta* (3), *P. taurus*, *P. Rogoff*, *P. Sentinel*.

There was some discussion on the *Acianthus* benched. It was noted that the flowers of *A. exsertus* (NSW) were very similar to the S.A. *A. pusillus* but larger and earlier to flower. There were pots of both the more typical red flowered forms of *A. pusillus* and the semi albino green flowered form. To further confuse things the pot of *A. fornicatus* was also labelled *A. exsertus*. *A. fornicatus* has flowers with a broad hood and even larger again. Neither *A. fornicatus* nor *A. exsertus* occur naturally in South Australia.

The *Corybas dilatatus* listed was actually a 'plastic' specimen. Several pots of these artificial flowers were on sale on the Trading Table with their little painted on faces they were both beautiful and amusing.

Epiphytes: *D. Maron* X *bigibbum* var. *superbum* 'Alba', *D. Maron* X *bigibbum* var. *bigibbum*, *D. Virginia Jupp* X *Racemosum*, *D. Zeppelin*, *D. Aissie Treat*, *D. Red River* 'Blush' X *Zip*, *D. Aussie Bonanza* X *Peter*, *D. Golden Glory*, *D. Hilda Poxon*, *D. Graeme Banks*, *Sarcochilus Emily*.

All the epiphytes benched were hybrids.

Les Burgess gave the commentary on the Terrestrials.  
Neil Oliver spoke on the Epiphytes.

## COMMENTATORS CHOICE:

Terrestrial Species: *Pterostylis taurus* grown by Les Nesbitt.

Terrestrial Hybrid *Pterostylis Sentinel* grown by Les Nesbitt.

Epiphyte Hybrid: *Dendrobium Maron* X *D. bigibbum* grown by Reg Shooter.

## POPULAR VOTE:

Terrestrials: *Pterostylis taurus* grown by Les Nesbitt

Epiphytes: *Dendrobium Graeme Banks* grown by Betty and Steve Meszaros

## PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Wanted! More entries; slides or prints in the following categories:

- I Corybas
- II Leporella
- III Thelymitra
- IV Rufa Group Pterostylis

Post or hand entries to Roger Biddell at the July meeting.

Limit of five entries per class.

RESCUE DIG: at the Range via Willunga, (House block being cleared). Meet Sunday 24th July at 9.30, corner of McMurtrie and Old Victor Harbour Road, Willunga.

LOST: the book *Sarcophilus of Australia* by Walter Upton has disappeared from the NOSSA Library. Can anyone help us find this book?

WANTED: people to display their prints of orchids at meetings!

SUBSCRIPTIONS: these were due in May. Unfinancial members will not receive any journals after the July issue!

## CONSERVATION NEWS:

From The Messenger June 29th 1994.

The rare *Pterostylis arenicola* is one of the last orchids left in suburban Adelaide and the colony on Grange Golf Course has been fenced so that golfers will not trample plants.

Angove Scrub - one of the last remaining areas of Adelaide plains vegetation - has finally been proclaimed a conservation park (June 29th 1994).

Last month, Environment and Natural Resources Minister David Wotton elevated the scrub's status to Angove Conservation Park.

Since 1992, the Friends group has had an 'uphill struggle' to protect the 5.2 ha land from developers and vandals.

Signs will now go up. Department of Environment and Natural Resources will develop a management plan for the area and revegetate degraded areas.

The scrub features kangaroo grass, native pines, orchids and rare fragile understorey plants.

It is home to native wildlife such as reptiles, rosellas, kookaburras, owls and echidnas.

The Friends group was set up in early 1993, after residents learnt of plans by winemaking company Angoves Pty Ltd to sell the scrub to developers.

The group lobbied the Federal and State governments to buy the site and keep it as scrub. The Construction, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) stepped in and put bans on the site to keep out bulldozers. Federal and State governments agreed to buy the scrub for about \$2 million. In May the Leader Messenger reported the scrub was being destroyed by people walking off trails and onto plants. Anyone interested in joining the Friends group should write to Friends of Angove Scrub, c/- PO Box 264, St Agnes 5097.

## OPEN DAYS

by Collette Makin

We had our biggest ever gathering recently when we visited Bub and Don Wells, and spent a very interesting and informative afternoon. Don showed us samples of the various types of media he uses to grow his terrestrials and a lively discussion on all aspects of native orchid growing followed. The large fernery and pool area provided a lovely shady area for the various other genera that Don grows and we were most interested to see his use of sphagnum moss.

Some people brought along the plants given us by Bruce Mules on our visit two years ago to compare the progress made. All doing well, but no flowers as yet - maybe next year!

The sun shone upon us again on the day we visited Helen and Charlie Edwards who have a very interesting controlled glasshouse where they grow a number of different genera. A large shaded area is home to Charlie's collection of Australian natives with the larger ones hanging from the rafters.

Charlie told us of his introduction to orchid growing some years ago in Darwin and we all know what happens once you've been bitten by the orchid bug!

Our thanks go out to our hostesses for the super afternoon teas provided. It is always good to be able to discuss our orchids in an informal and friendly atmosphere and it is a great way to get to know each other better.

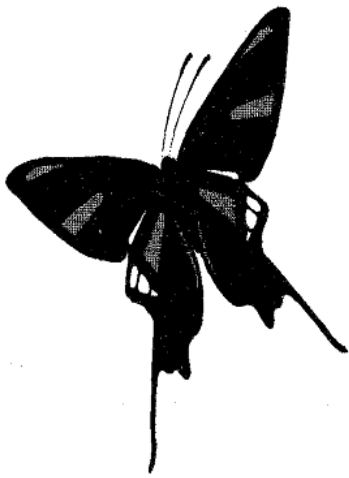
## CONSERVATION THROUGH EDUCATION

by Birgitte Sorensen, Black Hill Flora Centre

As part of World Environment week in early June, I visited Stradbroke Primary School in Rostrevor to talk to the children about the importance of conserving Australian native plants, especially threatened plant species and small understorey plants (grasses, orchids, mosses). I spoke to about 80 children from 4 classes, who were between the ages of 5 and 7 years of age. The children participated in the discussion by answering questions such as: "why are plants important?", "Why is it important to save

endangered plants?" and "What can people do to help conserve endangered plants?". The students responded well with many different answers showing the growing awareness of conservation amongst young students.

I donated a few endangered plants for the students to plant in the school grounds, seeds of *Acacia pinguifolia* for the students to germinate and seedlings of *Helichrysum* sp. to prick out and pot up. Each class received a flowering plant of the States floral emblem, Sturt's Desert Pea (*Swainsona formosa*), and the front office also received a plant. Both staff and students were very impressed with Sturt's Desert Pea as most had never seen one before. Roy Hargreaves donated a poster of 'Orchids of South Australia' to the school on behalf of Black Hill Flora Centre and NOSSA.



#### WISHBONE PEOPLE

They hope for, they long for,  
They wish for and sigh;  
They want things to be done  
But aren't willing to try.

#### FUNNYBONE PEOPLE

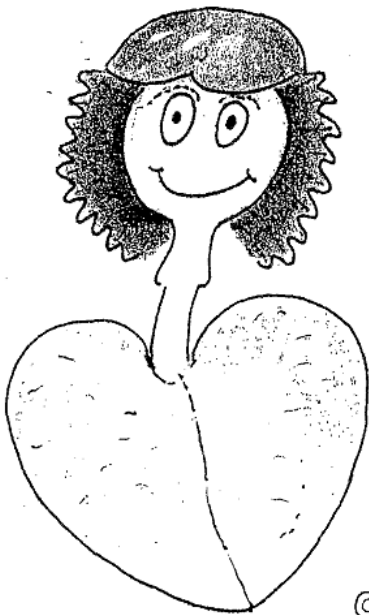
They laugh, grin and giggle,  
And twinkle the eye;  
If work were a joke,  
They would give it a try.

#### JAWBONE PEOPLE

They scold, jaw and splutter,  
They froth, rave and cry;  
They're long on the talk  
But short on the try.

#### BACKBONE PEOPLE

They strike from the shoulder,  
They never say die;  
They're the winners in life,  
Since they're willing to try.



With the Spring show on the horizon its backbone people  
that we need!.

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## CYMBIDIUM MOSAIC VIRUS IN PTEROSTYLIS

by Mark Philips

Our terrestrial orchids are not so different genetically from epiphytes in fact they can contract the same viruses. The National Botanic Gardens in Canberra last year isolated CMV in their *Pterostylis* collection and destroyed many pots.

Many Adelaide collections include pots of *Pterostylis* with leaves mottled yellow and green-brown. I asked Heinrich Beyrle of Waite in 1992 what he thought might be causing it and he suggested at that time it was possibly C.M.V.

I have noticed that *Pterostylis* do have the ability to 'throw off' the virus as in 1989 my only pot of *Pterostylis X ingens* was badly affected and only a few small tubers were produced and these were hard and cracked at repotting time. I discarded most of these, keeping only four better looking tubers, from the edge of the pot. Surprisingly after potting in fresh mix in a small pot the leaves in 1990 were free of the disease and the plants increased to forty healthy specimens in 1993.

## ORCHIDS OF THE KIMBERLEYS

by Sandy Philips

The famed Kimberley area of NW Australia is a rugged barely accessible area about ten times the size of our Mt Lofty Ranges. Ancient sandstone cliffs tower over rivers which cascade in giant steps to the sea. There are pockets of rainforest in otherwise semi arid scrub. In the orchid season or summer wet season flooding cuts tracks so very few people ever get there at orchid flowering time. Nevertheless it is estimated that some thirty orchid species occur there even if less than half have ever been collected.

The common orchids of the Kimberleys also occur right across the north of Australia but rarer ones are thought to be endemic. Most do not occur elsewhere in W.A.

Kingsley Dixon of Kings Park has organised a project 'Orchids of the Kimberleys' which has been going since 1992. This project involves both botanists and local people.

An example of the discoveries made include the occurrence of three bearded orchids *Calochilus*. None were known in 1980 now two ie *C. caeruleus* and *C. holtzei* are known to be common. *C. holtzei* grows to 100 cm high and has large colourful flowers of green and purple; *C. caeruleus* is smaller with dull flowers, the new species has a silver-green labellum and occurs only on the Carson River.

There are two *Dipodium* in the Kimberleys. *D. stenochilus* is leafless like our own *D. roseum* of the Adelaide Hills, the other species has purple flowers and is yet to be named (just as we have an un-named S.A. species still!).

There are at least three *Habenaria* in the Kimberleys the most common of which is yet to be named, surprisingly it also occurs in the Kakadu area in N.T. The most beautiful *Habenaria* is *H. triplonema* with its twenty long lasting white blooms. Also here is the duller *H. ochroleuca* and a rare species restricted to river banks in inaccessible areas.

Only two epiphytes have been found ie the common *Dendrobium canaliculatum* which occurs in hollow trees in open areas and *D. affine* from protected rainforest sites. However it is thought that other species will be found in the inaccessible gorges of the western escarpment.

Other orchids include: *Didymoplexis pallens*, *Eulophia bicallosa* (which flowers before the wet season), *Geodorum* aff. *pictum* and *Nervilia holochila*.

What a thrill it would be to travel by helicopter to the western Kimberleys and find orchids new to science.

## VALE - MRS AULICIEMS

by Les Nesbitt

Mrs Auliciems, a foundation member of NOSSA, passed away recently. She was one of the best orchid growers in Adelaide. She had two green thumbs and with only the most basic growing houses, made from old window frames and bits of plastic and shade cloth, she consistently produced magnificently flowering orchids. Her specimen pot of *Sarcochilus ceciliae* was the best I have seen. Each year it got bigger and better. Those lucky enough to be invited to see her garden will attest that every plant in the yard was grown to perfection and there were hundreds of trees, shrubs and ornamentals.

Mrs Auliciems was one of those rare people who understood plants and provided their every need. She was a happy bright person, who although too shy to address a meeting, was always willing to help other growers. She was a very keen exhibitor who set a very high standard for us ordinary growers to aspire to.

## BOOK REVIEW

by R.Bates

EDEN IN A BOG (A Mt Lofty Ranges Swamp) by Leona Woolcock (1993)

Adelaide author Leona and her husband own a property at Parawa in the Mt Lofty Ranges and on the property is one of those marvellous hanging bogs, full of strange and special wildlife. A NOSSA field trip in 1985 included a visit to this hanging bog which is the focus of this charming and highly original 'coffee table' book.

The book is set out so that each page of text which is full of intimate details written in a chatty style faces a collage of bits and pieces of swamp life illustrated through photograph and dried plants. This is a most effective medium which enables the reader

by the time the last page is read to feel that he/she has actually visited Leona's swamp with her as a guide!

Several orchids are illustrated including an undescribed *Spiranthes* and an un-named *Microtis*. This book is a must for anyone who is interested in Adelaide Hills wildlife especially people (like myself) who are fascinated by the swamps which are an enigma in our desert state.

Eden in a Bog published by Wakefield Press: Kent Town is available in selected Adelaide bookshops for about \$20.

## PRINT SALES AID HILLS FLORA CONSERVATION

Reprinted from The Bush Chronicle, November 1993.

Catherine Hosking painted her first native orchid at the age of 15, for want of a subject to fill some art paper she had been given.

The simple exercise sparked the beginning of a growing love and fascination for Adelaide Hills wildflowers, and a personal dedication to their conservation.

Today Catherine is using her considerable talent to capture their delicate colours and forms on paper and to raise funds for projects which aim to preserve the often overlooked understorey plants that make up such a valuable part of our native flora. The money is coming from the sale of her first commercially available work, a limited edition print of a watercolour painting which took four springs to complete. Inspired by the idyllic setting in which she lives, it depicts (in life-size and great detail) more than 20 of the understorey species found in the 8 ha of bush she and her husband own at Scott Creek.

They bought the land eight years ago because of its remnant vegetation, relative isolation and the number of native orchids Catherine found there to paint. She has since discovered it harbours close to 150 recorded plant species, including several endangered ones.

"When we bid for this place, we were bidding against people who were discussing how many goats they could put on it, and that fired me up," she said.

"It's an area which has been logged. It hasn't been cultivated but I think it was probably very lightly grazed for many years by horses. We don't have the density of scrub like Loftia Park (nearby), so in that way it is probably fairly unusual in this rainfall area. But it lets the light in and the understorey loves it."

Catherine and her husband are anxious to protect the existing bush and encourage regeneration. Two years ago they bought an adjoining section which they are also working to conserve.

The fruits of their labours were the focus last month of a wildflower bush ramble organised through Greening Australia, which is one of the organisations profiting from the sale of the prints. Funds will also go to the Australian Conservation Foundation, Landcare and the National Parks Foundation. The 500 limited prints, signed by the artist and numbered, represent four years work for Catherine who hopes to create a series featuring wildflowers from various regions as well as her own area.

"Normally I finish the paintings off and put them behind the wardrobe, and then start on the next one," she said.

"I'm not willing to sell them because people don't appreciate how much work goes into them. I could ask over \$1,000 and that still only pays me a couple of dollars an hour, and if you are proud enough of a work to sell it, you want to keep it because there is a bit of heart and soul in it. But I thought the prints were a good way of raising funds for my private conservation work as well as the more public conservation groups, and letting me have the satisfaction of not parting with the original. It took so long to do the first one because I have been working full time up to now, so it's just been annual leave and taking time when I can get it. But I think I have reached the stage of proficiency now where it wouldn't take so long to do the next one, and certainly if it would pay it's way I'd like to do it full time."

Apart from raising funds for work aimed at conserving understorey plants, Catherine hopes the prints will also make more people aware of the need to preserve them and their staggering diversity and beauty.

"I think a lot of kids who grew up in the Hills have a bit of a fascination for native orchids because they stand out so much from the rest of the vegetation," she added.

"The variations from soft green to iridescent purple, and the flamboyance of the Spiders - they are just flowers that really capture the imagination. But I guess that after being here a couple seasons and seeing the diversity (of plants) I realised concentrating on orchids was like people who concentrate on trees."

Catherine is often appalled by the lack of awareness shown by people who have been known to camp at the front of her property, pick flowers and even use a spade to dig up whole plants. "I would like to think we can help educate people to leave them there so they will be here in five, 10, 15 years time," she said. "The other threats are weeds like broom, bone seed and orchid weed (*Monadenia*). The larger weeds are a real headache here and it takes a lot of effort to get rid of them."

Catherine hopes people will consider the print as a Christmas present, an ideal gift for people overseas or as a keepsake for those with fond memories of the Hills.

The prints measure 48 cm by 61 cm. Copies are available for \$50 from Matilda Bookshop at Aldgate; Blows Bros Nursery, 150 Sturt Valley Road, Stirling; or by mail order from Catherine PO box 476, Stirling, 5152. Postal orders should be accompanied by payment, including an extra \$5 to cover postage costs.