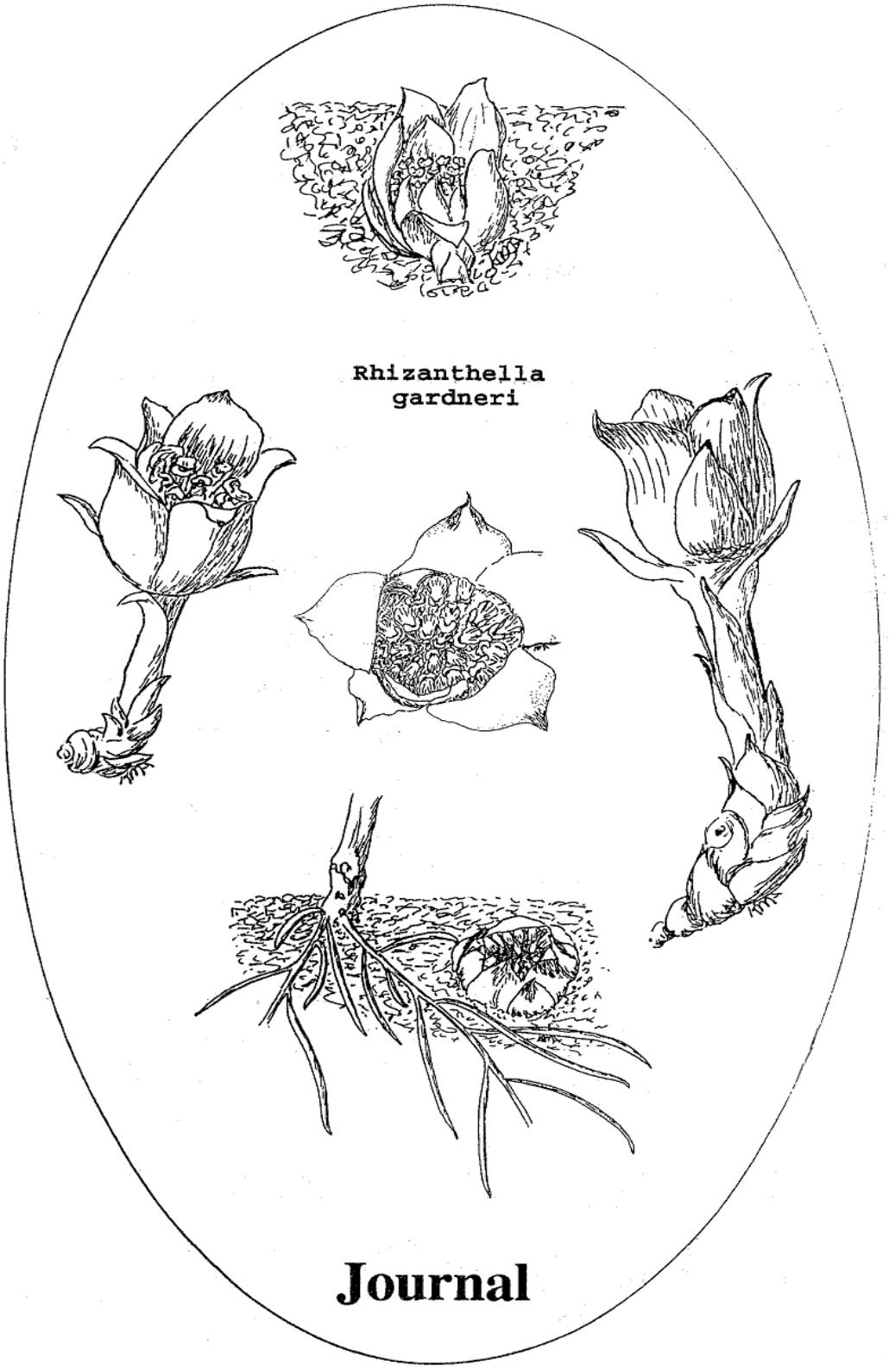
Native Orchid Society of South Australia Inc.



Journal

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VOLUME 18 NO. 9

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

OCTOBER 1994 VOL. 18. NO. 9 JOURNAL

OCTOBER MEETING

Tuesday, 25 October, 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. Our speaker for the evening will be Bruce Mules of Port Pirie who will speak on Cultivation of Australian Epiphytic Orchid Hybrids.

DIARY DATES

Oct 23 Echunga Open Day Picnic.
Nov 18 Field Trip to Carey Gully
Nov 22 Christmas Breakup and Auction.
Nov 27 Christmas BBQ at Wally Walloscheck's.
Dec 5 Duck Orchid Field Trip.
Jan 15 Dipodium Special Field Trip.

COMMITTEE MEETING

To be held at 7.30 pm Friday 28th October at Gerry Carne's.

NEXT FIELD TRIP
Coming Field Trips:
Annual Echunga open Day Picnic: October 23rd. Meet at 10am by the Jupiter Creek Gold Digging's sign. (Corner of Shepherds Road and Berrys Road about 1 km SW of the Echunga Golf Course Bring Barbecues, picnic food, drinks and sun screen.

Potato Orchid Special: November 18th. Meet at Carey Gully store 10 am. Morning walk only.

ON THE BENCH

Terrestrials: *Caladenia carnea, C. flava, C. fuscata, C. denticulata, C. longicauda* ssp. *clivicola, C.* Harlequin, *C. latifolia, Chiloglottis trapeziformis, Chiloglottis X pescottiana, Cyrtostylis oblonga, Diuris aurea, D. conspicillata, D. punctata, D. X palachila, D. micrantha, Lyperanthus suaveolens* 'green flowers', *Glossodia major, Microtis* aff. *unifolia* `desert', *Prasophyllum lindleyanum, Pterostylis baptistii, P. boormanii, P. arenicola, P.* Jack Warcup, *P.* Cutie, *Thelymitra flexuosa, T. nuda, T. grandiflora* X *T. antennifera, Thelymitra* Kay Nesbitt.

Epiphytes: *Cymbidium madidum, Dendrobium kingianum* (5), *D. lichenastrum, D. fleckeri, D. monophyllum, D. tetragonum, D. X delicatum, D X suffusum, D. striolatum, D.* Bardo Rose, *D.* Rosella, *D.* Ingleside, *D.* Golden Chimes, *D.* Rutherfords Surprise, *D.* Bardo Rose X *D.* Aussiemist, *D. tetragonum* X *D.* Jombock, *D.* Yondi Brolga, *Sarcochilus falcatus, S.* Pinkhart, *S.* Pinkhart `Riverdene', *S. cecilae.*

Bob Bates gave the commentary on the Terrestrials

Roger Herraman spoke on the Epiphytes.

Discussion: Terrestrials: With ten genera represented and a dozen different colours there was certainly variety on the terrestrial bench. Some species benched, like *D. sulphurea*, are common, others such as the recently named *Diuris micrantha* from Western Australia were said to occur in only one site in the reference books but our commentator said he had seen it at several sites during a visit to Western Australia.

An orchid not seen before was *Cyrtostylis oblonga* from New Zealand. This tiny plant was typical of the New Zealand species which are often small and hide in the moss beds of the rain forest. *Thelymitra grandiflora* X *T. antennifera* had attractive peach coloured flowers. George Nieuwenhoven who had made the cross was hoping for a plant as tall as *T. grandiflora* with lots of flowers, instead all plants took after the smaller *T. antennifera* basically only the flower colour being changed, although the hybrid is at least easier to grow than either parent species. Isn't this always the case. No wonder more people are growing hybrids than species.

Epiphytes: Roger pointed out the fantastic variety of colours in *Dendrobium kingianum* from deep reds and purples to pure white and multicolours and emphasised the potential for making very different hybrids from the same species. Roger noted that hybrids like *D.* Ingleside have as many as five species in their lineage.

POPULAR VOTE:

Terrestrials: *Caladenia* X 'Harlequin' (*C. flava* spp. *sylvestrins* X *C. latifolia*) from the R.S. Roger's House.

Epiphytes: *Dendrobium* 'no name' grown by Judy Penny.

GUEST SPEAKER

Past President George Nieuwenhoven told how he put his first orchids into an aviary (after the birds were removed of course). These first orchids were *Cymbidium* (not the native kind). However after getting his first *Dendrobium kingianum* he decided to give the Cymbidiums the boot (just as he had done to the parrots before them) and concentrate on Native Orchids) After a time he specialised in Terrestrials, these gave way to Carnivorous (insectivorous) plants and George still has one of the best Carnivorous plant collections in Adelaide. George then built a fancy heated glass house (at about the same time as most other people were getting rid of them). George grows Epiphytes, Terrestrials including European and African. In addition to these and the carnivorous plants he also grows Bromeliads. What a variety!

ORCHID WISE by ROGER RANKIN

A confirmed orchid fanatic said he only kept making new crossings because he was too old to try something new.

Cultivate only the orchids you are prepared to have master you.

In reading, we learn all the answers; in growing, we discover all the questions.
If at first you don't get an orchid to flower, try again, and again, and again ....

It's foolish to laugh at your friend's aphids if you have to display next to him.

The winner lets his orchids do the talking; the loser has to speak for his.

NOSSA SPRING SHOW 1994 - PRIZE LIST

CLASS	ORCHID	GROWER
	Caladenia or Glossodia species	
1	1st Caladenia patersonii.	L & W McHugh
	2nd Glossodia major	L & W McHugh
	Diuris species	
2	1st Diuris corymbosa	M & F Maxwell
	2nd Diuris aurea	Mr & Mrs D Williams
	Pterostylis species	
3	1st Pterostylis curta	Mr & Mrs O Fuller
	2nd Pterostylis curta	M Tiggerman
	Acianthus or Chiloglottis species, Cyrtostylis	
4	1st Cyrtostylis reniformis &	L & W McHugh
	2nd Cyrtostylis reniformis	Black Hill Flora Centre
	Terrestrial species other than classes 1 - 4	
5	1st Microtis unifolia.	R.S. Rogers House
	2nd Thelymitra pauciflora	M Tiggerman
	Pterostylis hybrid	
6	1st Pterostylis X ingens	R.S. Rogers House
	2nd Pterostylis X ingens	R.S. Rogers House
	Terrestrial hybrid other than class 6	
7	1st Caladenia flava X latifolia	R.S. Rogers House
	2nd Caladenia flava X latifolia	R.S. Rogers House
	Specimen Terrestrial - species or hybrid	
8	1st Glossodia major	L & W McHugh
	2nd Pterostylis curta	Mr & Mrs O Fuller
	Seedling Terrestrial	
9	1st	No entries
	2nd	
	Dendrobium kingianum	
10	1st Dendrobium kingianum Winston Hills X Inferno	B Mules
	2nd Dendrobium kingianum 'Kingston'	B Mules
	Dendrobium speciosum	
11	1st Dendrobium speciosum var. grandiflorum	P T Barnes
	2nd Dendrobium speciosum var. speciosum	P T Barnes
	Dendrobium species other than classes 10 or 11	
12	1st Dendrobium striolatum	Brooks & Western
	2nd Dendrobium falcorostrum	Nesbitts Orchids
	Epiphytic species other than Dendrobium	
13	1st Sarcochilus falcatus	Brooks & Western
	2nd Sarcochilus falcatus	D Wells
	Epiphytic hybrid - cream or yellow	
14	1st Dendrobium Emma 'Roslyn'	B Mules
	2nd Dendrobium `Lemon Glow'	B Mules
	Epiphytic hybrid - pink or red	
15	1st Dendrobium Val Peck	B Mules
	2nd Dendrobium Yondi 'Brolga'	C Makin
	Epiphytic hybrid other than colour include white	
16	1st Dendrobium Elegant Lace	B Mules
	2nd Dendrobium Rosella	B Mules

NOSSA Spring Show Prize List cont.

CLASS	ORCHID	GROWER
	Specimen Epiphyte - species or hybrid	
17	1st Dendrobium kingianum	B Mules
	2nd Dendrobium kingianum	B Mules
	Seedling Epiphyte	
18	1st Dendrobium Val Peck	B Mules
	2nd Dendrobium Yondi 'Brolga'	C Makin

AWARDS & TROPHIES

AWARD	GROWER
Champion Native Orchid of the Show Dendrobium Emma 'Roslyn'	B Mules
Champion Terrestrial Species (from classes 1-5,8,9) The Roy Hargreaves Award Caladenia patersonii.	L & W McHugh
Champion Terrestrial Hybrid (from classes 6-9) The Kay Nesbitt Trophy Caladenia flava X C. latifolia	RS Rogers House
Champion Epiphytic Species (from classes 10-13,17,18) The Wells Trophy Dendrobium speciosum var. grandiflorum	P T Barnes
Champion Epiphytic Hybrid (from classes 14-18) Dendrobium Emma 'Roslyn'	B Mules
The Bill Murdoch Trophy (Best Species) Dendrobium speciosum var. grandiflorum	P T Barnes
The Ira Butler Trophy (Best Hybrid) Dendrobium Emma 'Roslyn'	B Mules
The Best Table Top Display	Colette Makin
The Best Floor Display	Wells Family

OPEN DAYS by Colette Makin

Roger Herraman visit: Despite the miserable weather several people enjoyed seeing Roger's exciting collection, including the biggest Dendrobium speciosum in Adelaide!

Roger's new greenhouse was of lattice-like material. This is ideal as it provides plenty of air movement and makes it easy to hang baskets. Roger's labelling is all computerised! Never had we seen such a neat system.

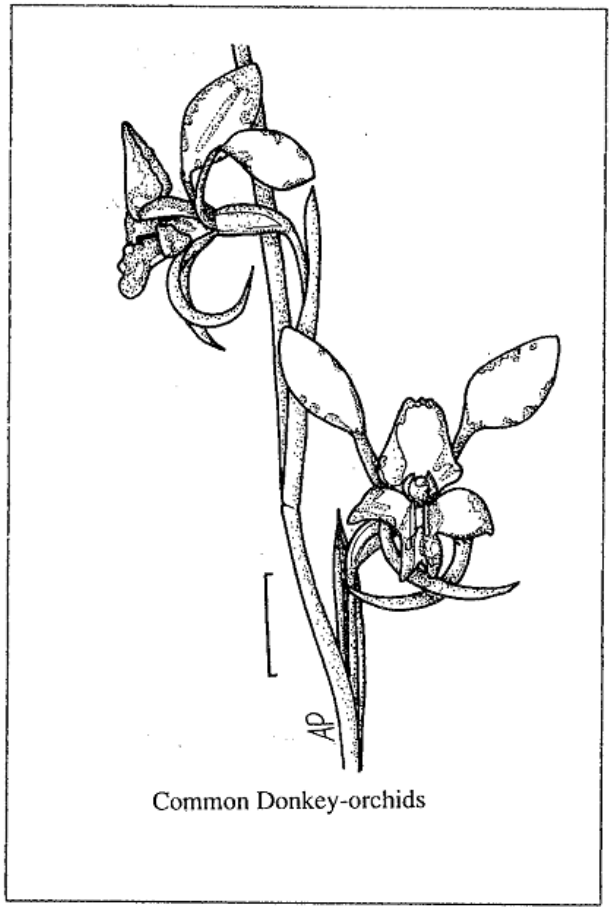
Both he and Kevin Western, who we visited last month, provide a range of growing conditions in their greenhouses so that the maximum variety of plants are catered for. Kevin and Roger use sphagnum for establishing difficult plants. I'm sure I would not have lost so many keikis, cuttings etc if I had put them in sphagnum moss until they were properly rooted.

Kevin Western visit: Kevin's laboratory (one can easily see his pharmacy background) proved a real drawcard for those keen on hybridising.

Our thanks to Kevin and Roger for their time and interest and special thanks to their wives for providing splendid afternoon teas.

ADOPT AN ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM UNDERWAY by R. Bates

A number of members (and non members) of NOSSA have joined the scheme. To give an idea of how the scheme works I'll use an actual case.



Common Donkey-orchids

On Saturday 20th September Pat and Peter Clark of Tea Tree Gully were walking around Millbrook Reservoir when they found a huge patch of *Diuris behrii* mixed with *D. X palachila* and *D. pardina*. They rang me that week and I confirmed the importance of their find. Although not endangered both *D. behrii* and *D. X palachila* are rare species and discovery of a large population of either was significant. I went out with them a few days later and we met the Environmental Officer for E&WS on the site. We soon confirmed that this was the largest population of D. behrii left in the Mt Lofty Ranges. We identified threats (ie invasion by Gorse-bush and rabbits) and arranged for long term management. The area is no longer grazed as it is close to the reservoir. It is quality *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* woodland covering about 10 hectares. Half of the area is covered with dense regrowth of *Acacia pycnantha* after the Ash Wednesday bushfires. There are no *Diuris* in this habitat but as the wattles mature and thin out *D. behrii* could be expected to establish. There is the potential for the present *D. behrii* population to triple in size to cover the full 10 hectares and beyond. Some 50 flowers were hand pollinated and weeds removed during our visit.

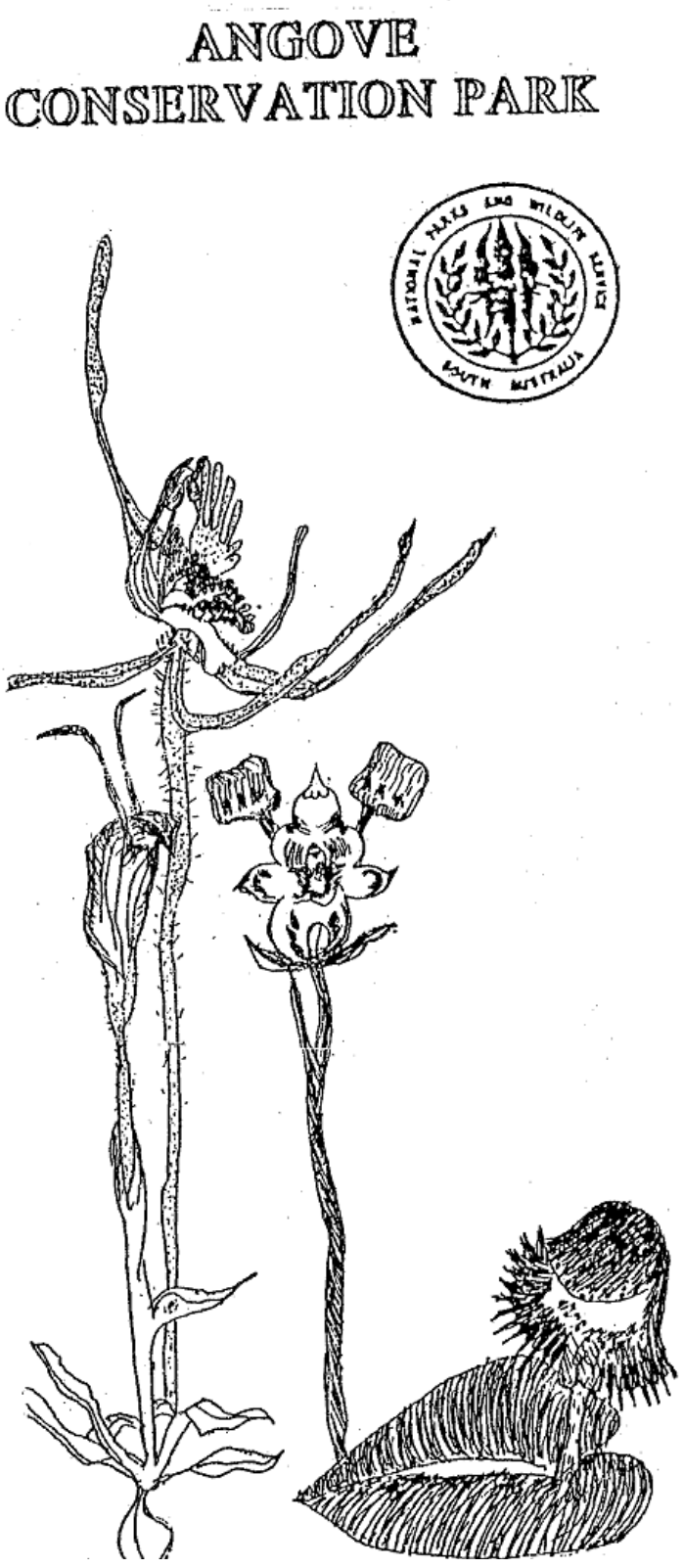
The Clarks have agreed to become the 'adoptive guardians' of the site and have promised to assist in returning the whole area to pristine fertile open woodland with help from their friends and E&WS management.

We need people to:

A locate populations of rare orchids
B contact the land holder
C contact your editor or appropriate person
D take a continuing interest in the population

For example we need someone prepared to adopt the *Caladenia behrii* population at Roachdale National Trust Reserve. Twenty years ago there were hundreds of *C. behrii* here and a few *C. rigida*. Now there are only a dozen or so *C. behrii* and no *C. rigida*. Seed was sown there this year and hand pollination done but we need someone who will:

1. hand pollinate each year
2. discuss management problems with the National Trust such as the present excessively large population of kangaroos eating out the understory,
3. sow seed annually
4. record numbers of flowering plants annually



CONSERVATION NEWS.

ANGOVE CONSERVATION PARK
On September 24th we attended the dedication ceremony for Angove Conservation Park.

Speakers included President of The Friends of Angove, Neil Thelning; the Minister for Environment; local member Dorothy Kotz; Jasmine Rose who organised the fight to have the area saved from the developers bulldozers and Mr David Angove former owner of the land. Groups of visitors were then shown around the park to admire the wildflowers including the orchids *Caladenia tentaculata* and *Diuris pardina*. The area will require a lot of active management as it has become heavily invaded by weeds particularly veldt grass which seems to have wiped out several orchid species. NOSSA members are invited to assist with weed removal and later reintroduce orchids which were once common there such as Glossodia major.

National Parks in the Flinders Ranges by Sandy Philips

The National parks and Wild Life Service has acquired the Nelshaby - Napperby Gorge section of the Flinders Ranges and is working to acquire all the land from here to Telowie Gorge, some of it belonging to Woods and Forest (Primary Industries) and E&WS and the rest to a private owner who is considering selling. In addition the area north of the Telowie Gorge to Port Germein Gorge is likely to be added to Telowie Gorge Conservation Park. This will mean a huge park some 40 km long saving some of the most pristine sections of the Southern Flinders with about 50 orchid species present.

Earth Sanctuaries by Sandy Philips

This private conservation consortium now has four sanctuaries in South Australia: Warrawong near Mylor with its platypus, bettongs and potoroos; Yookamurra near Blanchetown with wombats, emus, numbats and stick-nest rats, Buckalinga Gorge near Quorn with Australia's largest yellow footed rock wallaby colony and now Cape Elizabeth on Yorke Peninsula for sea birds, bilbys and stick-nest rats.

NOSSA has been invited to survey all these areas for orchids.

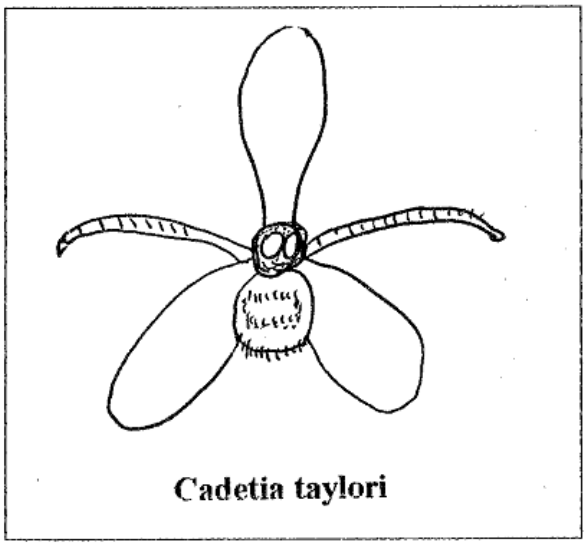
THE GENUS *CADETIA* by Mark Philips

Believe it or not the name *Cadetia* honours 18th century chemist Charles Cadet de Gassicourt.

There are about 60 species found mainly in New Guinea and Indonesia but extending as far as India and into the Pacific islands. There are four Australasian species, all of them being small epiphytes which clump or creep along the branches of forest trees or on rocks. They are not commonly grown in Adelaide as they require a heated glass house and have few, small flowers. One I have seen in Adelaide ie *Cadetia taylori* (said to be easy to grow). *Cadetia taylori* extends from New Guinea to Queensland. The white flowers are only 1 cm across but do have the advantage of lasting up to 8 weeks. For this reason the species has been used in hybridising. It is pollinated by native bees which use the hanging labellum to help push into the flowers.

The very similar *Cadetia maideniana* has thinner stems and a less pendulous labellum. It is endemic to NE Queensland and seems to be self pollinated as the flowers last only a couple of days (consequently it is rarely cultivated).

Cadetia wariana (named after the Wariana mountains in New Guinea) is rare in north Queensland (ie the Mcllwraith Range) where it forms mats on rocks by water courses. The flowers are white with orange tips. Whereas the previous species do well in pots *C. wariana* requires mounting. One plant I saw



Cadetia taylori

in an Adelaide collection looked like a snake twisting around a metre long piece of apricot branch.

The recently named *Cadetia collinsii* named after the Rev. Ronald Collins is the smallest of the Australian species and the flowers are only 0.5 cm across, last only a day or two and hide under the leaves. Not one I would grow but I have heard it is easy to multiply; a friend actually had seedlings coming up all over his orchid house in hundreds but as it is an inoffensive little weed he left them. *Cadetia collinsii* is strongly self pollinated. It is endemic to NE Queensland on coastal ranges where it is principally epiphytic.

Cadetia is closely related to *Dendrobium* but is easily recognised when not in flower by its single leaves.

DOES YOUR SOCIETY HAVE A TUBER ~~BANK~~? BANQUET!

It is a funny thing, you know, how a simple, harmless conversation in a roadside cafe can turn a group of young orchidologists into a group that could only be seen by those that have succumbed to the orchid bug as a group hell bent on cannibalism and sacrifice.

Discussion concerning the preparation and research for the desired reports turned to the subject of tuber replacement, and whether the removal of flower spikes of *Pterostylis curta* would increase still further its already notoriously high tuberoid replacement rate. A young, long-haired member of the group happened to be eating the cooked tubers of *Solanum tuberosum* at the time, when the talking made a sudden dive straight at the topic of salep.

For those that are unfamiliar with the term, this is a concoction composed in large part of the tubers of terrestrial orchids. It is known to have been a large proportion of the diet of aborigines (the small 'yams' they would collect and eat), and as a tonic in the Mediterranean it is a legendary enhancer of the male - well, certain parts of the male! After all, that is what ορχηισ (ie. orchis) means!

What if afore said Australian terrestrial species could be produced in large quantities? One tuber begets five, so shouldn't one ton beget five tons? Is this the solution to the world's food problems? Should we suddenly start exporting commercially produced, copious quantities of what must be one of the commonest terrestrial orchids in cultivation?

The talk turned again - 101 culinary uses for orchids!

Can we use other species to the same advantage? Could we, for instance, cook and eat the leaves of *Dendrobium speciosum* ssp. *hillii*? Of course, having the vascular bundles in parallel strands, are these same bundles able to be used for dental floss, after all the tissue is removed?

By now you must think the author quite insane. Certainly, the other patrons of said cafe could not seem to escape fast enough from these three strange young men who spoke in coarse, meaningless words, and filled the hall with raucous laughter. But orchids have been widely used, especially those with large storage organs full of carbohydrates.

Could the subtle flavours of the tubers be used to enhance salads? Talking earlier of deep fried tubers, the concept of orchids being treated the same way also sprung to mind. What does a deep fried *Pterostylis tuber* share with a *pomme noisette*? Will it develop a crunchy exterior when deep fried?

These and other questions raced through their minds!

What of the foliage? Can the leaves of *Chiloglottis* species be used as small green 'vegetables'? In my collection these tend to replace leaves lost. Would the same happen on a large scale? Would, after all that deliberation, the leaves be edible at all?

The plot thickens!

What about flavour enhancers? *Galeola* (oops, sorry, *Erythrorchis*) is a relative of the widely used and favoured *Vanilla*. Would the fermented pods of the Australian species develop the same desirable flavouring - or a different one equally desired? But then, of course, in this case sufficient numbers become a problem.

And this could be what the whole problem is. Getting sufficient numbers to do something on this scale. Let alone, getting permission of the relevant authorities! Imagine, going to an NPWS office and asking for a licence, not to sell or collect native orchids - but to harvest and consume them! I'm not sure that would go down very well - pardon the pun.

Anyway, it leaves you with something to consider. Just what nutritious foodstuffs are we cultivating? Is there some thought in these comments, or are they just mad ravings of a lunatic fringe?

I'll let history decide.

Reprint from 'The Orchidophile'. April 1994. Written by Greg Steenbeeke.

AUSTRALIAN *DENDROBIUM* NO. 5 by D. Molloy

Dendrobium bigibbum Lindley. `*Bigibbum*' means two humps referring to the two halves of the spur.

This is certainly Australia's best known orchid. It is the floral emblem of Queensland, has appeared on Australian stamps at least twice and has a suburb named after it. *D. bigibbum* is often called the Cooktown orchid after the town closest to its centre of distribution.

It is very common throughout its range growing from coastal scrubs which are sea splashed to dry thickets well inland. In very exposed sites the plants lose their leaves in the dry season. The species also extends to New Guinea via the Torres Strait Islands.

It has been used as a parent in over 100 orchid hybrids (mostly involving non-Australian species). To grow well in Adelaide plants require a heated glasshouse, doing best in small pots of coarse mix, kept dry in winter and humid in summer.

There are numerous forms including the named variety *compactum* with small compact habit and *phaleonopsis* with large deep purple and while flowers. In nature *D. bigibbum* forms hybrids with *D. discolor* ie *D. X superbiens* and *D. X unicolor*.