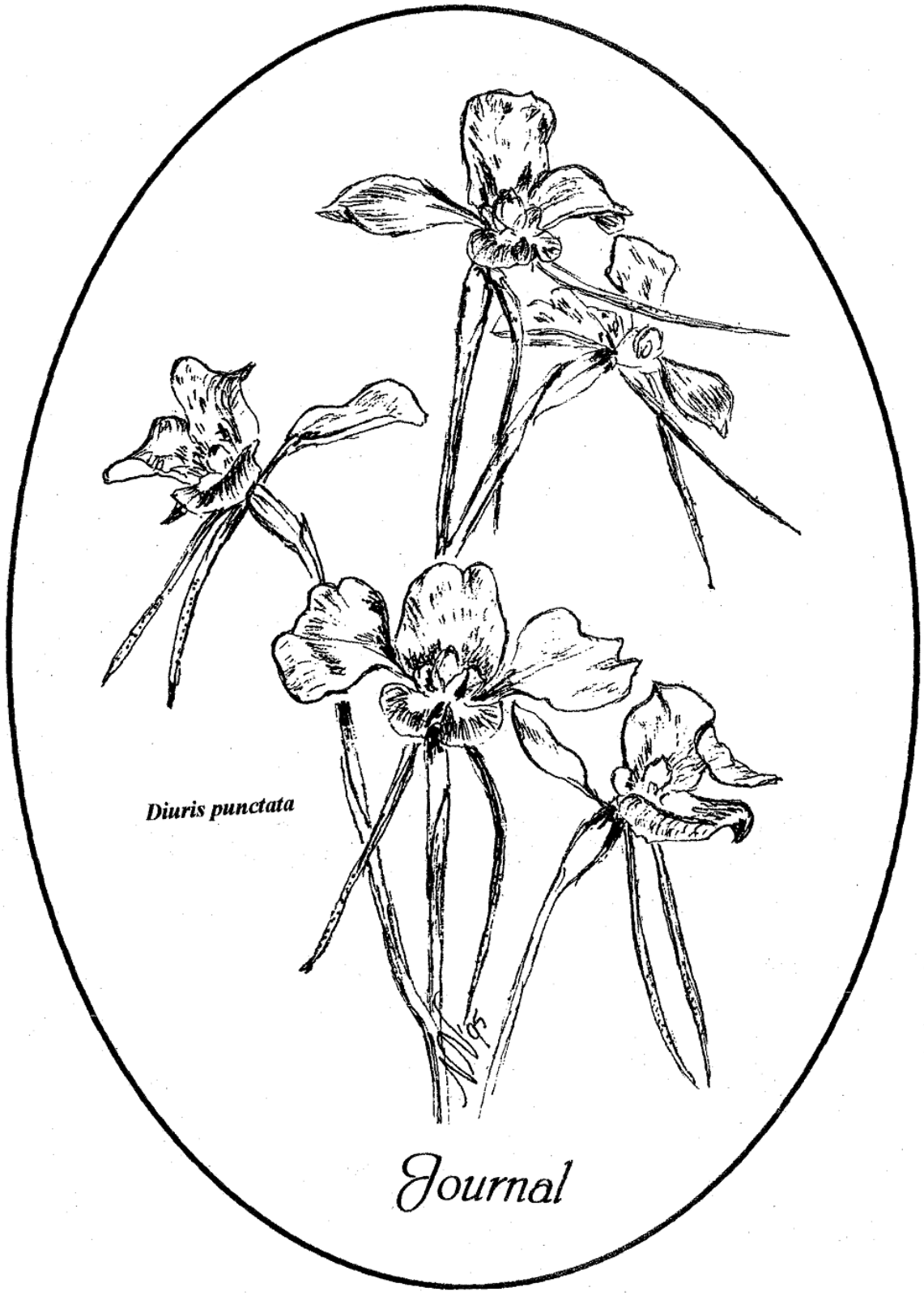
Native Orchid Society of South Australia Inc.



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VOLUME 19 NO. 3
APRIL 1995

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.

Price: ONE DOLLAR

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY

OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC

APRIL 1995 VOL. 19. NO. 3 JOURNAL

APRIL MEETING

Tuesday, 25th April 8.00 pm: at St Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. The speaker will be Neil Nicholson from the S.A. Museum who will tell us all about the Mysterious World of Spiders (*Arachnida*). His talk is titled "A Volunteer amongst the Spiders (and related creatures)" Doors to the hall will be open at 7.15 pm for those wishing to borrow books from the library or take in items for the trading table.

DIARY DATES

Apr 30 Open Day, Magill
May 5 Annual Dinner at the Walkers Arms Hotel.
May 21 Belair Conservation Park monitoring & weeding
May 28 Hardys Scrub Excursion
Jun 25 *Corybas unguiculatus* special
Aug 20 Sandy Creek outing.
Nov 5 Kuitpo Field Trip, *Monadenia* threat

COMMITTEE MEETING
To be held at 7.30 pm Friday May 1st at the home of, Ron Robjohns, Edmund Terrace, Unley.

NEW MEMBERS:
NOSSA welcomes -
Stewart, Lewis of Peterborough Gerry Kempson of Hampton (Vic)

VALE
CREED Ron, husband of Sylvie, passed away suddenly on March 13th.

COMING FIELD TRIPS

Sunday May 28th Hardy's and Manning Scrubs.
Meet lpm at Blewitt Springs Hall.
Orchids to look for include *Leporella* and *Pterostylis sanguinea*.

Sunday June 25th *Corybas unguiculatus* Special.

ANNUAL DINNER

This will be held on Friday May 5th, 7pm.
Meet at the Walkers Arms Hotel from 7 - 7,30pm.
Please pay deposits to treasurer (Ron Robjohns) at next meeting to confirm your booking.
Join us at this traditional social event!

1995 PHOTO COMPETITION

Open to all members, any slides or prints showing native orchids. The theme is "Working Toward the `96 Conference Photo Competition".

Please hand entries to Roger Bidell or Bill Dear before the July meeting.

WANTED - Articles and art work for your journal. Give our regular contributors a break! '"Write about your personal experiences (in the orchid world that is). Draw something amusing (or serious) with an orchid theme.

WANTED -Field Trip Leaders: especially in Springtime. Your regular leader (alias Gary Guide) is not available in spring (the best time for orchids). All you need to do is to pick a favourite orchid location or two and put a note in the journal. Short walks or adventures; picnics or barbecues. All volunteers accepted.

ON THE BENCH

Terrestrials: *Chiloglottis sylvestris, Genoplesium* aff. *rufum, Pterostylis aestiva, Pterostylis bicornis, Pterostylis revoluta* (coastal), *Pterostylis revoluta* (inland).

Epiphytes: *Dendrobium bigibbum, Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon, *Dendrobium cucumerinum*

Bob Bates gave the commentary on the Terrestrials

Roger Herraman spoke on the Epiphytes.

Comments: Both speakers pointed out that this is the off season for orchid flowers. The *Pterostylis aestiva* was a species few of us had seen before. The name `aestiva' means summer flowered. The species occurs in fertile woodland in the high mountains of NSW and Victoria. Our commentator pointed out that the *Genoplesium* on display is generally referred to as *G. rufum* which is actually a high rainfall, NSW coastal species and the South Australian forms are probably two or three un-named species including some aridland plants which have been seen flowering in the mallee after six months without rains!

POPULAR VOTE:

Terrestrials: *Pterostylis aestiva* grown by Les Nesbitt.

Epiphytes: *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon grown by Margaret Fuller.

COMMENTATORS CHOICE:

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

Terrestrial Hybrid:

Epiphyte Species: *Dendrobium cucumerinum* grown by Graham Burford.

Epiphyte Hybrid: *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon grown by Margaret Fuller.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Last month's meeting included the AGM. The following office bearers were elected unopposed.
President Bill Dear
Vice President Roy Hargreaves
Secretary Bev Hawkins
Treasurer Ron Robjohns
Committee David Hunter Thelma O'Neill

Appointments for 1995 include:

Librarian Wally Walloscheck
Registrar of Judges Les Nesbitt
Australian Orchid
Conference Convenor Gerry Carne
Tuber bank Convenors Thelma & Terry O'Neill
Electronic Equipment Manager John Peace
Public Relations Roy Hargreaves
Trading Table
Convenors Thelma O'Neill & Sylvia Creed
Conservation Officer, Karen Possingham
Editors Bob Bates & Vanessa Maloney
Club Photographer Roger Biddell
Open Days Convenor Colette Makin
Journal Printing Basil Shields

Many thanks to Philip Matthews who has retired as Tuber Bank convenor due to pressures of career and family. (You may have heard Philip several times recently speaking on talk-back gardening shows and the like.)

OPEN DAY REPORT by Colette Makin

Despite the heat fifteen members spent a pleasant afternoon with George Nieuwenhoven. George grows epiphytes, terrestrial orchids and carnivorous plants. George has successfully established many epiphytes on trees and flowered them. He has several *Dendrobium speciosum* planted in the garden, growing well in a mix of stones, bark and leaf litter but not flowering as well as potted specimens.

George has many warm-growing species in his glass-houses mixed with a fascinating collection of Pitcher plants (*Nepenthes* etc) and Sundews (*Drosera*). No matter how long most of us have been growing orchids we always find something to learn. A special thankyou to George and Nancy for their hospitality which included cool drinks and afternoon tea!

Next Open Day: Sunday April 30th, 2pm. At the home of Steve & Betty Meszaros 16 Blanche Avenue, Magill.

LAST MONTHS SPEAKER

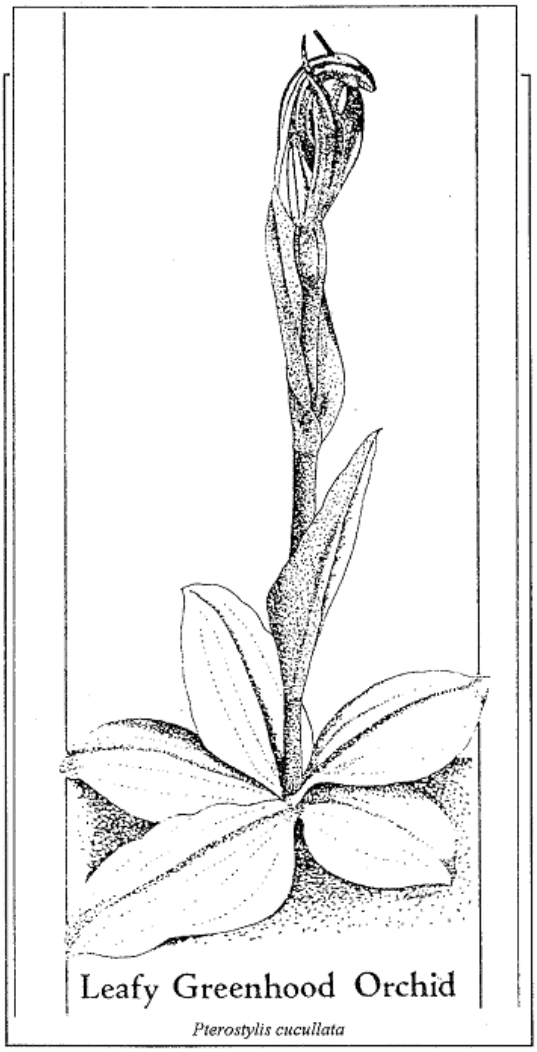
Our speaker was Rick Davies, botanist at DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources), committee member of the NCS (Native Conservation Society) and author of several works on threatened plant species. Rick spoke about Threatened Plants to the theme of Which? Where? Why? What? ie Which species are threatened? Where were they found and where if anywhere do they still occur? Why have they become threatened? What can we do to save these species? Rick explained the categories commonly used ie

- X - extinct or at least not seen for 50 years or so
- E - endangered, meaning likely to become extinct in the next 20 years if not managed.

- V - vulnerable, meaning that any further decline in their population would make them endangered.
- R - mot threatened but few remaining colonies or plants.
- K - thought to belong to one of the above categories but more research required.

Rick then used slides to illustrate some 30 case studies which included orchids, extinct species, plants thought to be extinct then rediscovered, plants threatened nationally and plants threatened in SA only. Threats include clearing for agriculture, subdivision for housing, loss of pollinators, salination, drainage, weeds, desertification, flooding, lack of fire, inappropriate fire regimes, loss of native mammals, grazing, fertilisers, opal mining, collectors and two of the biggest ones: feral goats and rabbits. Rick suggests that outside of land clearance and introduced plants and animals, the control of annual flooding of the River Murray Flats through the building of locks was perhaps the biggest cause of plant extinction in SA. Rick congratulated NOSSA for its work in conservation of native orchids.

Did you know there is a Threatened Species network in South Australia. If you would like to join ring 223 5155 for details.



Its Blue with Five Petals: Kangaroo Island Plant Guide by Anne Prescott.
Anne was present at the last meeting with signed copies of her latest book which is available at selected book shops for $20. (A review will appear in the next issue of this journal)

LATE SUMMER SWAMP ORCHIDS: FIELD TRIP REPORT by GARY GUIDE

Thirty people met on Willunga Hill on March 11th on a perfect 25°C, clear-sky day. We proceeded south to the property of Jane and Don Higgs. (Jane had been advised that perhaps 6 to 10 people would be present so your guide was very apologetic about the crowd). Jane showed us around her garden which included a shady bower under a 100 year old pear tree, colourful cottage-garden and orchid houses.

We then headed across very bare paddocks (the area was in its 15th successive month of below average rainfall) into a swampy area bisected by a permanent stream. Due to the bareness of the paddocks the cattle had been into the swamps and to use the words of Rosemary Taplin they "looked like bomb craters". I wondered if the combination of drought and cattle would mean no orchids but we were fortunate, almost immediately finding the summer swamp *Eriochilus* which differs from the common Hills woodland species in the following ways:

1. swamp habitat
2. earlier flowering
3. tiny hairless leaves
4. dense soft hairs on the stems
5. different column structure and pallid flowers

These grew on mounds held together by the roots of sedges and ti-tree set in degraded black ooze which trapped the unwary. There was no sign of earlier flowering orchids these having been eaten off by the cows.

We crossed the blackberry infested creek and walked uphill to a hanging bog whose edges were dry and cracked. Only the centre was still damp although closely cropped by the cattle. It was almost with amazement that we found our quarry, an undescribed greenhood previously confused with *Pterostylis aphylla* growing at the base of a half chewed ti-tree on an eroded mound of moss and sedges.

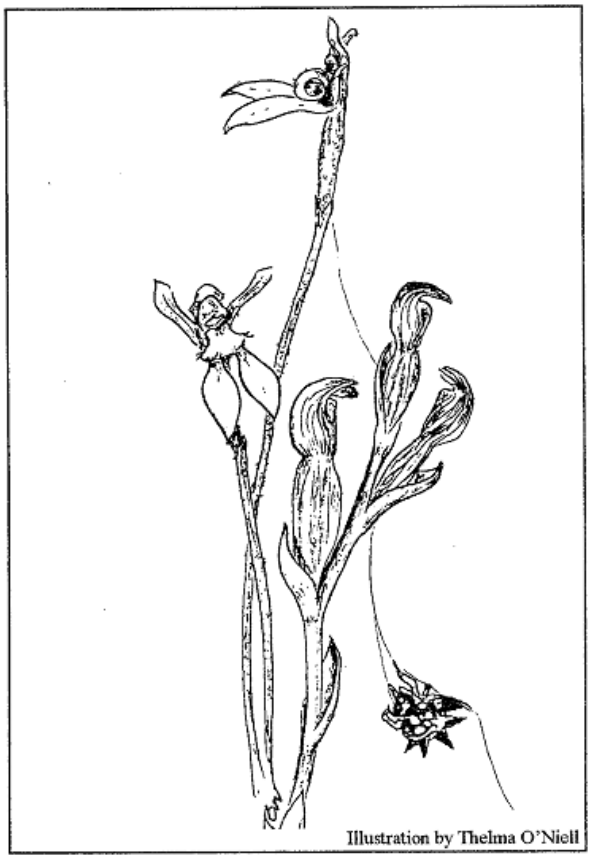


Illustration by Thelma O'Neill

This species differs from the brown and white *P. aphylla* in the following ways:
1. later flowering season
2. wholly green flowers
3. self pollinated nature
4. narrower flowers, larger seed pods etc

Every other orchid in the swamps had been chewed off but we could see leaves of *Cryptostylis, Spiranthes* and *Microtis*. What chance do our swamp orchids have of avoiding extinction? Very little it seems as if these swamps are fenced they soon become dense thickets. Management involves either hand-mowing, burning small sections or allowing stock on for short periods, or a combination of all three depending on observed needs; basically managers need to live on site!

From Higgs swamp we drove to the nearby Begonia Farm for lunch observing that the last natural billabong in the area was in the process of being drained. The destruction of wildlife and native vegetation in the Mt Lofty Ranges is appalling. It was pointed out by one of our members that millions of dollars will be spent on re-establishing `The Washpool' wetland at Aldinga just 15 minutes drive away yet wetlands here are still being drained!

After lunch we headed back toward Adelaide with our last stop at Jupiter Creek. Here we walked amongst the old Gold Diggings. There were numerous *Genoplesium*, a species of the *G. rufum* complex, in flower, seed and bud. Some were being pollinated by tiny `fruit flies'. At one point some members descended into a mine-shaft, looking no doubt for Underground orchids! We also saw a patch of spectacular `Easter Lilies' their fleshy flower spikes bursting out of hard, dry ground long before the leaves. There was interesting comparison made between these and the Genoplesiums. The bare ground around the old mines provided the perfect environment for both but in 100 years time it was likely both would be gone.

ORCHIDS SEEN H=Higgs Swamp J=Jupiter Creek

In Flower: *Eriochilus* aff. *cucullatus* (H); *Genoplesium* aff. *rufum* (2 species) (J); *Pterostylis* aff. *aphylla* (H).

In Seed, Dried Pods or Leaves: *Caladenia* species (J); *Crvptostylis* leaves (H); *Dipodium roseum* (J); *Genoplesium* spp. (J) plus one in a pot; *Microtis* (H,J); *Spiranthes* leaves (H); *Thelymitra* various species (J).

A special thankyou to Jane and Don Higgs, especially to Jane for showing us around their property.

LEPTOCERAS MENZIESII by LES NESBITT

Following last month's notes I can update the story. The original banana went very mouldy and by 19th March had produced several spoonfuls of yellow liquid in the bottom of the plastic bag. It's just as well the orchid tubers were in a separate dish or they would have got wet and mouldy also.

I removed the dish of tubers and put it in a new plastic bag with a fresh banana skin and sealed the bag. At the March Meeting on 27th the tubers were taken out of the bag and potted up. I recommend using a banana skin rather than a full banana. It works just as well and there is no liquid produced. I will try to remember to bring both the treated pot and untreated pot to each meeting in future to show their developmental stages. The treated plants usually have very large leaves and should flower in September.

ANNUAL REPOTTING SAVES TERRESTRIALS by LES NESBITT

Over the past three summers I have been unable to repot all of my private collection of terrestrials, in fact some have not been repotted for four years. Although I am not happy with this situation, it has been a valuable lesson in what happens to the collections of overworked growers and why terrestrials have a reputation for being hard to grow.

A few orchids have thrived on neglect but the majority have grown poorly from the second year and some have died out completely. Most greenhood species and hybrids continue to grow and multiply but the leaves go yellow from lack of nitrogen in the second year and the tubers become smaller with each passing year. Any leaf rot which starts, gets worse in the second year and all the plants in the pot are liable to die out if the disease is not treated. Greenhoods which are repotted annually, even back into the same soil which has had a little blood and bone fertiliser added, grow larger leaves and tubers.

Thelymitra, Corybas, Acianthus, Chiloglottis and *Microtis* behave in the same way as greenhoods, resulting in lots of tiny tubers clustered around the outside of the pot and few flowers.

Diuris, if not repotted annually, die back more than greenhoods and after two or three years only very tiny tubers remain. *Diuris* are more susceptible to leaf diseases than other genera so are more likely to die out completely. Caladenias on the other hand shrink in size after the first year but seem to survive OK and can produce occasional large flowering plants. Tuber rot in heavy mixes occurs more often in wet spring seasons.

Some species seed prolifically into undisturbed pots and increase in numbers. Examples at my place are *Microtis, Eriochilus cucullatus, Thelymitra pauciflora, Pterostylis nana* and *P. nutans*. These are all unwanted seedlings except for the *Erioichilus* which I hand pollinate to encourage seedlings.

WANTED ARTICLES FOR THE ORCHADIAN

The Orchadian is the official publication of the Australasian Native Orchid Society (ANOS) to which NOSSA is affiliated. Your editor is also an Associate Editor of the Orchadian and part of my responsibility is to elicit articles; letters etc from local native orchid enthusiasts for publication in The Orchadian. In this I have not been very successful. South Australian writers have contributed less than 5% of the Orchadian content in the last 5 years. Let's have those articles, letters, slides etc. They can be sent to me or handed in at meetings or sent direct to the Chief editor of the Orchadian - Walter T. Upton, PO Box 215, West Gosford, NSW 2280.

BOOK REVIEW - THE ORCHIDS OF VICTORIA by R. BATES

by Gary Backhouse & Jeffrey Jeanes (Melbourne University Press)

This most attractive book of almost 400 pages, deals with all 270 known species of Victorian native orchids, on glossy paper in a quality hardbound 30 X 20cm format.

The first 30 pages deals concisely with aspects of orchid biology, ecology, habitat, distribution and conservation with a foreword by eminent botanist Jim Willis. The main section is `user friendly', presenting the orchids one species per page, each represented by a top-quality colour print, easy to follow description and distribution map with readable text on habitat, flowering times, conservation status and comparisons with similar species. This is definitely the best way to set out an orchid book as it avoids the need to flip backwards and forwards. For each genus there is a description of pollination strategy, etymology, fire effect, morphology, habitat etc.

At least 30 species are illustrated in colour for the first time in a readily available publication including: *Caladenia aestiva, C. amoena, C. australis, C. cleistantha, C. flavovirens, C. formosa, C. fuscata, C. insularis, C. lindleyana, C. lowanensis, C. parva, C, phaeoclavia, C. robinsonii, C. thysanochila, C. versicolor, C. xanthochila, Corybas* aff. *dilatatus, Diuris dendrobioides, D. ochrorna, Genoplesium ciliatum, G.* aff. *nudiscapum, Prasophyllum correctum, P.* aff. *fitzgeraldii, P. spicatum, P. suaveolens, P. subbisectum, Pterostylis alpina, P. alveata, P. atrans, P. basaltica, P. cheraphila, P. chlorogramma, P. monticola, P. planulata, P. tasmanica, P. smaragdina, Thelymitra malvina* and *T.* aff. *pulchella*.

Looking at these species it is fairly obvious that some such as *Caladenia australis, C. cleistogama, C. phaeoclavia, Genoplesium ciliatum, Pterostylis planulata, P. tasmanica* and *P. smaragdina* are identical to South Australian material and that these species might soon be added to the SA list

The book is remarkably free of errors but some of the plates need to be checked ie the plate of *Caladenia toxochila* on page 107 is most likely *C. conferta* (in *C. toxochila* the lower petals and sepals are depressed against the stem (see plate in Orchids of South Australia). It is likely that all Victorian material previously identified as *C. toxochila* is probably *C. corferta* or *C. anoera*.

The plate of *Diuris* X *fastidiosa* has flowers which do not appear to show any influence of *D. palustris* and they may be just a form of *Diuris lanceolata* although the authors point out that the flowers shown were found near the Type location of *D.* X *fastidiosa* and certainly looked different from *D. lanceolata*. The plates of *Prasophyllum* fitzgeral*d*ii and *P. odoratum* are not very representative of either of these species in the strict sense, the latter would appear to be much closer to *P. patens*, the former , as the authors suggest may be an entirely new taxon. The taxonomy used is both up to date yet conservative. Some readers might wonder why some of the taxonomy differs from that used in South Australia ie *Caleana minor* rather than *Paracaleana minor* (either name is equally correct) and *Lyperanthus nigricans* rather than *Burnettia nigricans* as well as *Caladenia deformis* not *Cyanicula deformis*. In these last two examples the South Australian botanists may have jumped in too early in using *Burnettia nigricans* and *Cyanicula* because neither name has been validated scientifically to my knowledge.

Overall The Orchids of Victoria is easily the best book on Victorian orchids ever produced and the book is a must for anyone at all interested in the orchids of that state. The authors have shown such a talent for understanding the orchids in Victoria that I suggest they do not stop here but attempt a book (or papers) dealing comprehensively with such aspects as conservation of endangered orchids, pollination studies backed up with photos of pollinators at work, hybridisation (there are no plates in the book of the numerous hybrids without names) and general ecology as well as continue their work in finding new species of orchid.

The Orchids of Victoria will be available in June and details for ordering through NOSSA will be published in the next journal.

SLUG AND SNAIL BAIT
(source unknown)
Mr F Griggs has a cheap, effective method of dealing with this ever-present problem. "At last I have discovered a very simple method of eliminating slugs and snails. With this bait, they are brought into the open, and a visit night and morning is necessary to collect and dispatch them. I have killed many of all sizes with this method, including large and small slugs, and many small snails. All that is needed is to slice up a raw potato or two into pieces about 3 cm square and 5 mm thick and place the pieces at the front of the benching. Slugs seem to prefer raw potato above all other food and can be easily removed and despatched. During the daytime I found the slugs take shelter in the bottoms of the pots, so I now move the pots so they can easily emerge at night for their midnight feast. Incidentally, the pieces of potato should be changed every two or three days as the are not so appetising when dried out, It's a cheap and effective method of eradication, and any squeamishness one may have is quickly counteracted by the thought of the damage they do to new root tips."

Bushcare
Bushcare, a program developed by Andrew Allanson of Trees For Life, is now being piloted at 29 sites in six council districts. Under the program, volunteers who might be a family, a youth organisation, service club or school undertake to repair and restore a patch of bush on roadsides, parks or on private land.
Trees For Life then provides the technical assistance, including help with a management plan, training in pest plant and animal control and in plant re-establishment techniques, and with equipment to do the job. Regular visits to each site by TFL staff ensure that the work proceeds effectively and the volunteers' expectations are being met.
Funding for the pilot comes from the six councils, Save The Bush and Native Vegetation Council. Given extra funding, TFL hopes to extend Bushcare in 1995 to 20 more councils and 120 more sites.
Phone Trees For Life on (08) 207 8787 for details on Bushcare and how to get involved.

John and Dot Deaves, of Port Wakefield, 'bushcaring' on a local road.

DIURIS DRAGONFLY by GEORGE NIEUWENHOVEN

(This recently registered (2nd March 1995) cross, between the tall, yellow-flowered, Western Australian *Diuris drummondii* and the deep purple eastern states species *Diuris punctata* was made and flowered by George Nieuwenhoven and continues the domination of Australian terrestrial orchid hybridising by NOSSA members.) Editor.

This cross was actually made in the early 1980's along with many other *Diuris* hybrids. Many of these were not very exciting and have since died out.

Diuris Dragonfly was an attempt to create a *Diuris punctata*-like flower on plants which produced multiple tubers each season. The former succeeded quite well, as the flowers have taken much of the shape of *Diuris punctata* with several flowers per spike, 4 - 5 cm across. The colour is perhaps not quite as appealing; containing some yellow as well as the lilac or mauve colour of *Diuris punctata*. Flower stems are intermediate in length taking some characteristics of each parent. Tubers are an elongated tadpole shape, unfortunately only one new tuber is produced each season, but the tuber removal method does work. Plants are grown in a sandy mix and flower each season. At this stage not enough plants are available for distribution.

SALTY WATER AND YOUR ORCHIDS by TREVOR JACOB
Extracted-from SA Orchidaceous Society journal

"The following article is adapted from a presentation by Jon Lamb, a prominent local horticulturalist, in the Advertiser recently. It explains why some of our orchids are not thriving as we would hope, and makes a case for every orchid grower to have a supply of rainwater to assist our plants over the summer months.

Have you had a drink of water from the mains supply tap lately? It may have a distinctly salty flavour, due to the presence of high levels of dissolved salts in it. Many garden plants like fuchsias, ferns, beans, roses and orchids may be developing distinctive brown markings at the edges of the leaves. Mr Lamb suggests that if gardeners are not careful, serious damage will occur.

Normally metropolitan area water has a salt content of 500 EC units (electrical conductivity) which is satisfactory for most plants. This year, because of poor rainfall, 90% of water being supplied at present is coming from the River Murray. This water has a high salt content, and the E&WS reports that salinity levels have reached over 1000 EC units. This level of salinity will begin to show leaf damage at the edges, and leaf drop. As the salt level reaches and exceeds 1500 EC units many more plants will be affected, plant growth will be retarded and salt sensitive plants may die.

Mr Lamb suggests that overhead sprinklers should not be used on salt sensitive plants, but that watering should be done through the plants' root system via drippers, low-level sprinklers, or furrow or flood irrigation. Avoid, if possible, watering the plant foliage, as salt is absorbed through the leaves (remember fertilising your orchids with foliar fertiliser?) Leaf absorption can be potentially damaging due to high salt concentration build-up in very hot or windy weather as the water evaporates.

This suggests we should be very careful if we spray around our plants to increase the humidity.

The chemistry works like this - salt is absorbed during the day via the leaves, but at high concentration, can be lethal to the plant cells. The plant reacts by pushing the salts into the older leaves and to the leaf margins. From our chemistry, we know that through osmosis, water flows from a weaker to a more concentrated solution. Normally, the concentration of salts is higher in the plant's roots than in the water in the garden soil, and this allows moisture to travel freely from the soil into the plant. If however, the salt content in the soil becomes higher, the flow to the plant roots is reduced, and the plants' leaves will wilt, even if the soil around the plant is moist. In the garden, heavier soils are likely to be worse affected - lighter soils will more quickly allow the salts to be leached away. Thus heavier watering is indicated to leach away the build up of salts in the soil, or on the bark surface of orchid potting media - remember the white build-up we see if we let the pots dry out or the white salt build-up around the drainage holes? In the garden situation, mulching is recommended to reduce the surface evaporation and hance the salt build-up, and as well helps in keeping the plants' roots cool.

With particular relevance for orchids in pots, Mr Lamb advocates particular care. Adding small amounts of water to pots will cause problems as the plant uses the moisture or as it evaporates, leaving the salts to build-up in the pot. WHEN WATERING POTS, USE PLENTY, WHICH WILL WASH EXCESS SALTS AWAY.

The later summer may be particularly difficult for orchids, as thy like good water with low salt content. If you can water them with rainwater, this will go a long way to maintain them in a healthy state. A rainwater tank looks more and more like a good investment for orchid growers."

AUSTRALIAN DENDROBIUMS NO. 10 by MARK PHILIPS

D. falcorostrum Fitz

Named by Australian botanist and artist R.D. Fitzgerald.

The name falcorostrum means `shaped like a falcon's beak; a reference to the distinctive labellum.

D. falcorostrum is an attractive epiphyte which forms compact, large dense clumps to Imetre across often in the forks of large trees (usually Antarctic Beech - *Nothofagus moorei*). The name Beech Orchid reflects the specie's choice of host!

The large swollen pseudobulbs and neat leaves, the short, dense sprays of large, 4 cm wide, snow-white flowers and the exquisite fragrance serve to make this one of the most sought after native species. This has caused a most unfortunate decline in the number of wild plants as it is easy to reach plants on the short-trunked Beech trees. A few years ago it was common-place to see wild collected plants for sale in nurseries. Something which should not happen as Beech Forests are not logged and most are in conservation areas!

Restricted to south-eastern Queensland and north-eastern N.S.W. above 800m. I have seen older *Nothofagus* absolutely festooned with flowering plants in higher parts of the McPherson Range in early October.

D. falcorostrum is an ideal species for cultivation in temperate areas and is best grown in pots in a coarse mix under 75% shade cloth. It is commonly grown in Adelaide and does particularly well in the Adelaide Hills where it usually flowers too late for our Spring Show. It has been extensively used for hybridising and produces large chunky flowered progeny which sadly do not retain the powerful perfume. The hybrids do have the features of longer lived flowers, disease resistance and may flower earlier so can be displayed at shows.