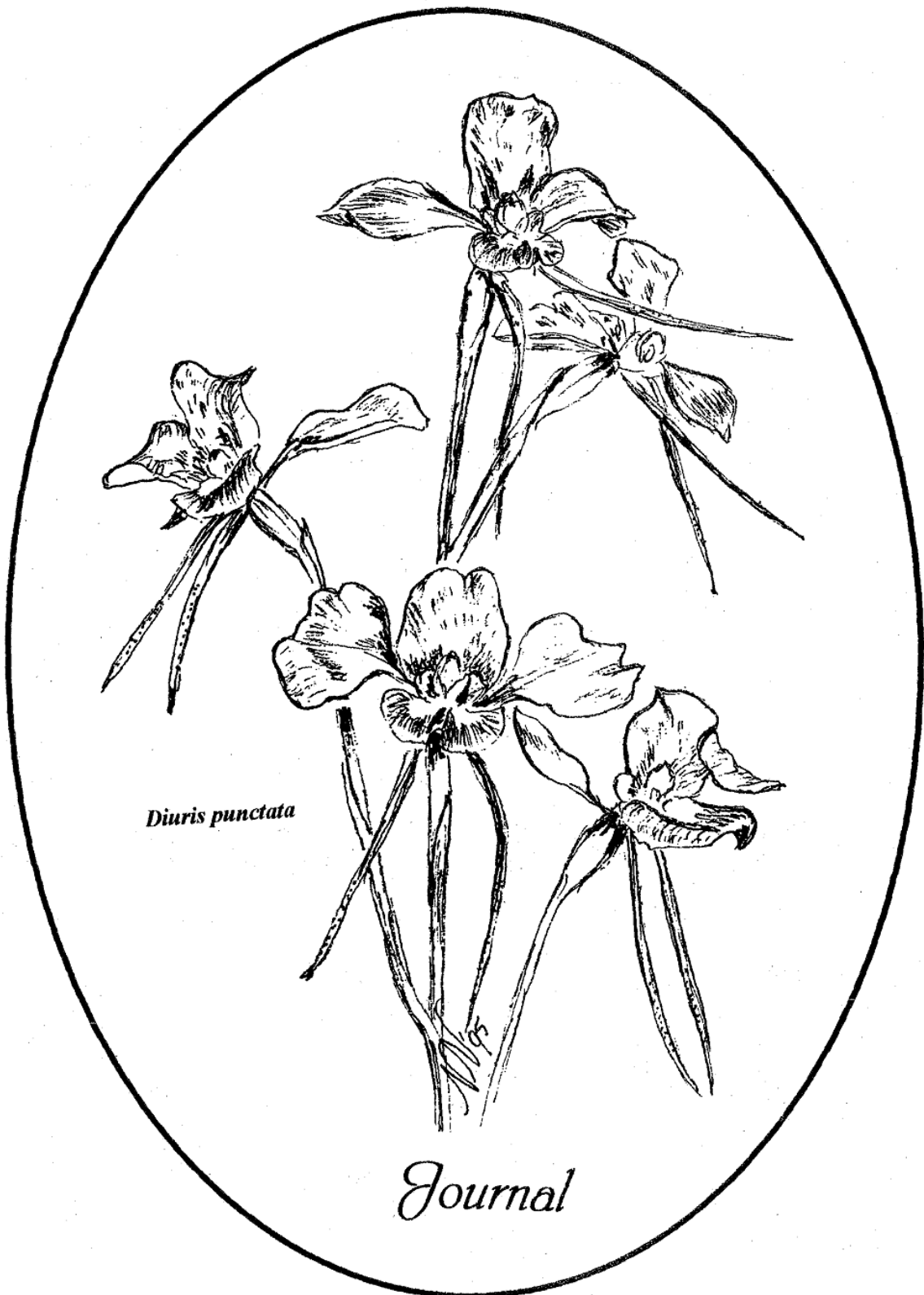


Native Orchid Society
of
South Australia Inc.



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JULY 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.

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NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY

OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC

JULY 1995 VOL. 19. NO. 6 JOURNAL

JUNE MEETING

Tuesday, 25th July, 8.00 pm: at St Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. Members of the Conservation Group will talk about the work of this group, both past and present.

If you have slides of any of the early rescue digs or stories to tell please bring them along. It will be fun to see some of the old faces and interesting to see what NOSSA is doing to save our orchids these days.

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.

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COMMITTEE MEETING

To be held at 7.30 pm Friday 28th July
at the home of Joan & John Peace
43 Johnstone St Glengowrie

N.B. If you have an orange sticker on your journal wrapper you are unfinancial!!

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday August 20th - Sandy Creek (morning) & Barossa Goldfields (afternoon).

Meet at Cockatoo Valley Service Station and Store at 10am. We will see various *Corybas* species and hybrids as well as *Cyanicula*, *Pterostylis* (several species) and *Cyrtostylis robusta*.

Bring picnic lunch if staying all day.

NOSSA OPEN DAY

Sunday August 27th Gary Brooks - 7 acre block & Nurragi Reserve.

Meet at Strathalbyn Post Office at 10am.

We will visit Gary Brooks, Andrew Black and Nurragi Conservation Park in what should be an exciting day.

DIARY DATES

Jul 23 Belair Trip 10am.

Aug 1 Ian St George visiting Adelaide

Aug 20 Barossa Gold fields, Sandy Creek outing.

Aug 27 Open Day visit to Gary Brooks' & Nurragi Conservation Park

Sept 17 Mt Gawler Spider Orchid Special

Sept 2-3 Conservation Group - Messent CP/Potters Scrub visit

Sept 23-24 Spring Show

Oct 7 -8 South East Adventure

Oct 15 Loftia Park bushfire orchids and Kate Hoskins

Oct 22 Kyeema excursion

Oct 29 Belair Conservation Group Meeting

Nov 5 Kuitpo Field Trip, *Monadenia* threat

Nov 26 Christmas Barbecue

CONSERVATION GROUP

Saturday/Sunday September 2nd - 3rd -Potters Scrub Visit

On Saturday we plan to visit Messent Conservation Park and look for orchids, then continue to Potters cottage for the night.

On Sunday we will do survey work in Potters Scrub with Birgitte from Black Hill.

For details contact Karen Possingham 364 0671.

NEW CONSERVATION OFFICER

The Society has appointed Greg Moss as its new Conservation Officer.

If you wish to know anything about the work of this group, have any conservation concerns or would like to assist the Conservation Group please see Greg at meetings or he can be contacted on 276 9872.

ROY HARGREAVES has donated terrestrial orchids to SGAP (Victor harbour) to be grown in the native plant gardens opposite Urimburra.

NOSSA Survey Sept 15th - 22nd.

Gum Lagoon Conservation Park and surrounds Please help us search for rare orchids and save this area! If you want to help in this week (or before or after) contact:

Nature Conservation Society of SA (223 6301 office) or

Hugh Possingham on 364 0671 at home.

Write a letter to Mr Wotton - Minister for Environment, protesting the drains through Messent Conservation Park and Gum Lagoon Conservation Park.

SPRING SHOW

WANTED Ferns and native plants to complement displays, bags of gum leaves etc.

PLANTS FOR SALE Any growers who have plants for sale at the Spring Show should contact Thelma O'Neill as soon as possible!

1995 PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION



This year's photographic competition is wide open with all entries gratefully accepted. We are looking for the very best that you have and your better entries from previous years competitions may be resubmitted. We are looking for photographic prints and slides of Australasian Native Orchids that will be acceptable for the National Photographic Competition that will be held in conjunction with the 1996 Australasian Native Orchid Conference and Show.

We are hoping for an overwhelming international response to the 1996 Photographic Competition and encourage all who photograph our native orchids to participate. Your entry (ies) will be a very meaningful and significant contribution to what promises to be an outstanding Conference.

Submissions for this year's competition should be made to Roger Biddell or Gerry Carne no later than the July (1995) general meeting. If you enjoy taking photographs but do not believe you have any award winning pictures, enter anyway. You may be pleasantly surprised with the outcome. It is almost certain that you will be the harshest critic of your own work - that's human nature. Just remember to participate - Be in It!

1996 AUSTRALASIAN NATIVE ORCHID CONFERENCE SHOW NATIVE ORCHID JUDGING CLASSES

by LES NESBITT

I am seeking expressions of interest from anyone who would like to take part in the judging of the 3rd Australasian Native Orchid Conference Show in Adelaide in September 1996. Only accredited ANOS judges will be permitted to judge the show. An examination for ANOS accreditation to judge native orchids will be held on the night before the conference show. It is expected that both South Australian and Western Australian candidates will take this examination.

Reg Shooter and I will conduct a series of judging classes, probably on Saturdays, starting in August this year at my home. The classes will cover epiphytes and terrestrials. Anyone can join the course. If you have had no previous judging experience you will have to work a bit harder. There are approximately 5 sessions planned, including the judging of the NOSSA Spring Show at St Peters at 8am on Saturday 23rd September 1995. If you are interested - Please see me at a meeting, phone 261 1550 evenings or write to me at P.O. Box 72, Walkerville SA 5081 and I will send you further details.

ON THE BENCH

Terrestrials: *Acianthus pusillus*, *A. pusillus* (green), *Leptoceras menziesii* (leaf), *Pterostylis angusta*, *P. concinna*, *P. erythroconcha*, *P. grandiflora*, *P. hamiltonii*, *P. nana* (2), *P. procera* (2), *P. pyramidalis*, *P. rogersii*, *P. Sentinel*, *P. Nodding Grace*, *P. Rogoff*, *P. Trunkfish*.

Epiphytes: *Dendrobium Aussie Victory*, *D. Aussie Victory x Red River*, *D. Hilda Poxon* (4), *D. Kestevenii x tetragonum*, *D. Star of Gold*, *D. Star Imp x Robin Regal Affair*.

The *Pterostylis grandiflora* was certainly spectacular, one plant was 50cm high! Plants were growing in sphagnum moss and kept relatively dry. The grower noted that flowering only occurs if plants are not repotted annually! An orchid seen on display for the first time was *Pterostylis hamiltonii*.

Les Nesbitt gave the commentary on the Terrestrials

Les Burgess spoke on the Epiphytes.

POPULAR VOTE:

Terrestrials: *Pterostylis grandiflora* grown by Don Wells.

Epiphytes: *Dendrobium Kim Heinz* grown by Alan Jennings.

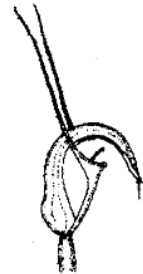
COMMENTATORS CHOICE:

Terrestrial Species: *Pterostylis grandiflora* grown by Don Wells.

Terrestrial Hybrid: *Pterostylis Nodding Grace* grown by Darren Williams.

Epiphyte Species: None

Epiphyte Hybrid: *Dendrobium Kim Heinz* grown by Alan Jennings. *Pterostylis grandiflora*



Pterostylis grandiflora

????? MISSING FROM THE LIBRARY ??????

Orchids of South-Western Australia by Hoffman & Brown (1990).

If you have this book or know where it is could you please return it to the Librarian.

NOTE: only members wearing name badges will be permitted to borrow from the Society Library.

RAFFLE OF BOUND COPY OF W. H. NICHOLLS ORIGINAL THREE VOLUMES OF 'ORCHIDS OF AUSTRALIA'

As a fund raiser for the Third Australasian Native Orchid Conference and Show, the Native Orchid Society of South Australia, host of the Conference, is raffling an exquisitely bound volume of the original four parts of W. H. Nicholls 'Orchids of Australia,' published by Georgian House between 1951 and 1958. Second prize is a beautifully framed hand water-coloured print of *Pterostylis woollsii* and *Pterostylis rufa* which was extracted from R. D. Fitzgerald's original edition of 'Australian Orchids.'

About Nicholls 'Orchids of Australia'

It was originally intended that Nicholl's beautiful watercolour plates and accompanying manuscripts should be issued in groups of 24 over a period of ten years or so with the inclusion by Nicholls of missing and newly described species.

With the death of Nicholls in 1951, before Part 1 was published, and subsequent cost problems, the series ceased with the four Parts (Parts 1 through IV) we have had bound together for the raffle prize. It seemed that the full project

would never be completed, until Thomas Nelson arranged with Georgian House and the Nicholls family to have the complete works of W. H. Nicholls published in 1969.

The following has been extracted from an article written by Graham Pizzey about the Nelson Edition of Nicholls 'Orchids of Australia,' at the time of the publication's release. It will provide some idea about what the raffle prize offers:

'Orchids of Australia', is the posthumous outcome of the spare time endeavours of a remarkable man whose sole qualifications when he began in 1923 were a total commitment to the work in hand, sufficient self discipline to teach himself the exacting art of botanical painting, and the tenacity to keep at the job, at times through financial stringency, until his death in 1951,'

'Nicholl's guiding motive in his lifetime commitment was a resolve that "my hobby should prepare the way for an authoritative monograph on Australian Orchids". His degree of success in achieving that goal is reflected in the foreword by Nicholl's friend, the present assistant Victorian Government botanist, Mr. J. H. Willis, which states quite simply..."it will take its place among the greatest regional floristic monographs of all time" '.

The four parts being raffled contain 100 colour plates. The detail is very clear. There is a foreword by C. T. White, Government Botanist in Brisbane, a preface by W. H. Nicholls himself, an introduction, list of important literature, systematic arrangement of orchid genera and a key to orchid genera.

This publication is one of the great historical works relating to Australian orchids. Any one interested in growing native orchids would love to own a copy of this rare work. Only 1030 sets were printed in the limited edition of which 1000 were for sale. The set being raffled is one of several found in a Melbourne warehouse in the early 1980s.

Raffle tickets will be available at NOSSA General meetings and from Gerry Carne (332 7730)

LAST MONTHS SPEAKER

Professor Hugh Possingham, head of the Adelaide University's environmental science department and President of the Nature Conservation Society spoke to us on Biodiversity, the new word for Nature Conservation. Professor Possingham called for the need to conserve maximum diversity of wildlife, the widest possible gene pool and largest biomass. Hugh's main push at present is for better management of our upper South-East. See extracts below.

THE BATTLE OF THE DRAINS

Extracted from The Advertiser, Saturday 1st July, 1995

A 450km network of drains will be cut through the Upper South-East as part of a controversial \$24 million project to reduce salinity. Early next year excavation work will begin on a major channel through Messent Conservation Park. Professor Hugh Possingham, of the University of Adelaide's environmental science department, said the drain would place several endangered plant and animal species at risk and encourage weed growth in conservation areas. He said large vegetation clearance would be needed in the Messent Conservation Park to accommodate 9km of drain about 20m wide. Professor Possingham said revegetation was the best long-term answer and that putting in drains was only "treating the symptoms, not curing the disease". He said the impact of dramatically lowering the water table could be the disintegration of many of the area's wetlands, which provide refuge to species such as the endangered freckled duck.

OUTRAGE AS 1900 NATIVE TREES TO GO

extracted from the Advertiser, Monday 25th June 1995

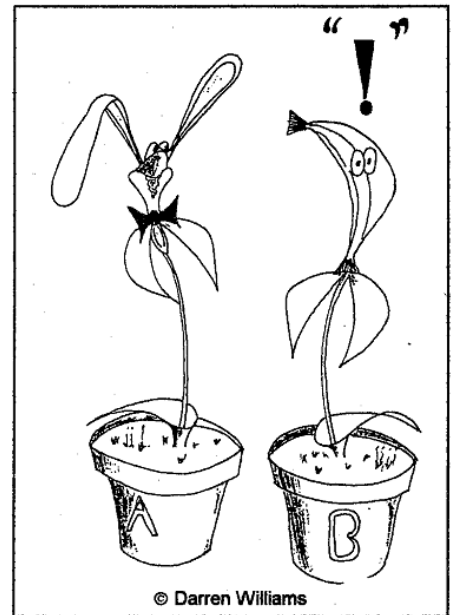
(In regard to the felling of native trees to plant pines near Reedy Creek)

The Nature Conservation Society president, Professor Hugh Possingham, said the approval to cut down hundreds of mature stringybarks and manna gums proved that the Native Vegetation Act was inadequate. "Ninety per cent of native vegetation has already been cleared in the South-East," he said. "Trees large enough to provide nesting hollows cannot be grown in our life time. "This type of approval should be illegal under the Act - it is certainly not within the spirit of that legislation."

The Conservation Council of SA's president, Ms Jasmin Rose, said PISA Forestry was setting a dangerous precedent by clearing native vegetation to plant pines. She said South-East landholders, who were refused permission to clear native vegetation from nearby properties, had accused the State Government of "inter-government deals".

LEPTOCERAS UPDATE by LES NESBITT

Even the best laid plans go wrong sometimes. The banana treatment must have been too severe because no plants came up in the treatment pot. The plants were treated for five weeks to suit NOSSA meetings which is much longer than necessary. Usually two weeks is enough. The excess moisture probably caused the tubers to rot although they felt firm when they were potted up. A banana skin for two weeks is sufficient treatment to promote flowering. There are nine leaves in the control pot. I still have some plants left to treat this coming summer for the 1996 Conference Show.



CONSERVATION NEWS

The latest Federal Budget dedicated \$30 million toward conservation, including 5 million to recovery of endangered species. Recent applications by South Australian workers for endangered species funding include the orchids *Caladenia argocalla* and *C. woolcockiorum*. Lets hope the applications are successful!

ORCHID PHOTOGRAPHY: A SAFE HOBBY? OR HOW NOT TO RELIEVE STRESS.

by DARREN WILLIAMS.

In 1990 my doctor told me that I should take up a hobby that 'relieved stress'. On his advice I purchased a twin-string kite. Consequently, I broke my hand trying to fly the thing. I needed to try and find a pastime that would be even less strenuous.

I met my partner Jasmine in 1992. We found that we had a common interest in plants. As my job began to take me past Hardy's Scrub every week I would often stop there for lunch.

Soon after our marriage in February 1993, Jasmine, our son Steven and I began to make weekend trips back to the scrub. We soon familiarised ourselves with the various orchids that can be found there and also two particular types of fauna; Rodger Biddell and Bob Edge.

We joined the Native Orchid Society and under the guidance of Bob and Rodger, I quickly learnt the art of orchid photography. I had now found a new and safer hobby - so I thought.

On a family trip to Douglas Scrub, looking for the endemic *Leporella fimbriata*, the nightmare began. We were walking in single file along a sandy track with Jasmine in the lead followed by Steven. Suddenly Steven stopped. In between him and Jasmine was what I now believe to have been a copper-head snake. Jasmine had somehow walked straight over the top of the thing without being bitten. The snake was very active, and it quickly took off into the scrub.

In winter 1994 I was leading a group of walkers through Morialta looking for *Corybas*. During a lunch rest, I grabbed my camera and began climbing a small cliff leading straight up from the creek. I had noticed some leaves on a rock ledge. As I was climbing, a huge piece of cliff I was grasping suddenly gave way, my camera gear, the piece of cliff and myself all landed with a big splash in the creek. After rescuing my camera, I found that the piece of cliff had landed on my shoulder. I don't seem to remember much between the creek and the hospital. However I'm told that a very wet, aching and angry Darren, managed to walk out of the park under his own steam. I suffered no permanent damage from the fall, only a hand-full of pride was lost.

Another 'slimy' event occurred Spring-time the same year. It was an unusually warm day and Jasmine and I were up in the top of Scott Creek Conservation Park photographing *Glossodia major* - they seem to grow huge up there. This time, I was walking in the lead, at a very fast pace down a track. Suddenly, and without warning, the biggest, fattest, angriest looking brown snake I'd ever seen, was flying upwards towards me with frightening speed. With all my might, I threw my-self backwards and some how managed to avoid its strike. Jasmine scared the thing away and then led me back up the hill. There was so much adrenalin pumping through my veins that my legs only just managed to carry me. Beware, *Glossodia major* is not the only thing that grows 'huge' at Scott Creek.

Despite these adventures, I have always enjoyed my new hobby. I hope that the lessons I have learned from these events are obvious, and that people will learn never to take the environment for granted. You never know what might be lurking under the next rock.

NB: People often ask me where I get my ideas for the characterisations that I draw of native orchids. In reply to them, and others who may be interested, I can only say that next time you view native orchids, get down and take a closer look.

AUSTRALIAN DENDROBIUMS NO 12 - *DENDROBIUM FELLOWSII*

by SANDY PHILIPS

Named in 1874 by Baron Ferdinand von Mueller. The name honours a fellow by the name of Fellows who made the type collection.

This warm-growing long cane Dendrobium occurs only in northern Queensland from Townsville to the Bloomfield River in high mountains, usually on low trees in open forest. Although the flowers are most attractively shaped and marked in reds and greens, they are few, about 2 cm across and not always displaying themselves well, often half hidden under the leaves.

Also known as *D. bairdianum*. Not known in cultivation in Adelaide but occasionally grown in the eastern states.

HELPFUL FUNGI

by LES NESBITT

Dr Adrian Harris of the CSIRO at Urrbrae is heading a team testing helpful fungi which will suppress the growth of damping-off fungi which are a serious problem for nurseries raising seeds and cuttings. The team tested samples of potting soil from a number of nurseries and isolated 5 000 different fungal organisms. Our pots are teeming with life too small to see. Two fungi have been selected for extensive trials before they can be released for commercial use. (I supplied *Pterostylis curta* plants last month for use in the trials.)

JAPANESE TOURISTS & SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORCHID ADVENTURES

For years we have read of tourists from all over the world paying large amounts to be shown the orchids of Thailand, Venezuela and even New Guinea. Last year Perth entrepreneurs organised a Western Australian Orchid Adventure for Japanese tourists. (Five days travelling throughout WA mostly looking at orchids.)

Similar orchid adventures could be organised in South Australia. Really one could set this up easily with the visitors staying in Adelaide and doing day trips into the Mount Lofty Ranges! Much cheaper and just as many orchids to see.

EXCURSION REPORT: *CORYBAS UNGUICULATUS* SPECIAL JUNE 17

by GARY GUIDE

Twenty people met at Kangarilla on a typical winters day - cold and with the threat of showeres. We proceeded to Kuitpo Forest via Peter Creek Road and stopped at the Onkeeta Picnic Site. We located our quarry just 20 metres from the car park in a mature *Pinus radiata* plantation. Most plants were still in bud but during 60 minutes searching some 500 plants were located, mostly growing in white sand in stunted

Eucalyptus obliqua woodland invaded by pines. Buds were found at 18 sites, flowers at two. We had expected the flowers to be more advanced but it seems that the records for flowers in May were in years of heavy March rainfall! We were actually surprised to find fully open flowers of *Corybas dilatatus* which normally begin flowering 2 to 4 weeks after the *C. unguiculatus*.



Corybas unguiculatus

It seems that mature pine plantations provide ideal habitat for many native orchids. The population of *Corybas unguiculatus* here was said to have increased in the last few years and there were large colonies of many other orchids, in fact we found species from over 15 different orchid genera at this one location and only 5 had not entered the *Pinus radiata*! On the fire breaks were large patches of *Leporella* the flowers little changed from when they opened two & a half months earlier. Not one single seed pod was located so flowering for 1995 was a failure. Though the flowers looked fresh enough, closer examination revealed that the pollinia had gone hard and were unlikely to be viable. It seems that pollination only occurs in years with good February - March rainfall and at that time this year the drought was at its worst!

If the orchids were varied and thick (we estimated 1 million plants per hectare!) the fungi were better. Some 50 different kinds were noted, ranging from the fairy tale,

hallucinogenic (introduced) Fly Agaric, (red with white spots) to the strange basket fungi (white lace spheres emerging from balls of foul, greenish slime), Coral fungi, Raggedy Annes and orange bracket fungi as well as the phosphorescent *Epeldia*. But no mushrooms! The abundance of fungi reminded us that the *Corybas unguiculatus* are fungus mimics, attracting fungus flies which enter the flowers seeking suitable egg-laying sites.

Most of the photographers vowed to return in 2 weeks when the rare *C. unguiculatus* would be more fully developed and perhaps capture shots of pollinators at work or the extremely rare all white 'ghost flowered' form reputed to occur here (We did see many white buds but they were all thought to be aborted flowers).

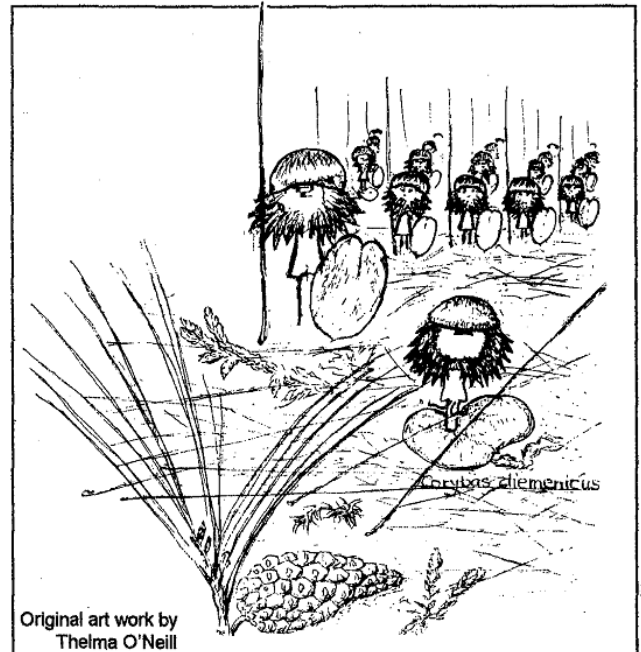
Orchids seen:

L = leaves, B = buds, F = flowers, S = seed pod

Acianthus caudatus B(common); *A. pusillus* F,S;

Caladenia sp. L, *Calochilus* sp. L; *Corybas dilatatus*

B,F; *Corybas unguiculatus* B,F; *Cyrtostylis reniformis* L; *Caleana* L; *Chiloglottis* L; *Diuris* sp. L; *Dipodium roseum* (old stems); *Eriochilus* L,S (common); *Genoplesium rufum* F,S; *Glossodia* L; *Lyperanthus* L; *Leporella* F; *Leptoceras* L; *Microtis* sp. L; *Paracaleana* L, *Prasophyllum* sp. L, *Pterostylis longifolia* B; *P. nutans* B; *P. pedunculata* L (common); *Thelymitra* spp. various L (common).



Original art work by
Theima O'Neill

BOTANISTS OF THE ORCHIDS NO. 27 JIM WILLIS

by MARK PHILIPS

James Hamlyn Willis was born at Oakleigh (Melbourne), on January 28th 1910 and educated at the Victorian School of Forestry, Creswick and the University of Melbourne gaining his Diploma of Forestry and Doctorate of Science (as well as later gaining several honorary degrees). He was officer at the Forests Commission from 1928-1937 before joining the staff of the Melbourne Herbarium where, despite "retiring" in 1972 he still works (this is almost 60 years). Jim has been Chief Botanist, Deputy Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Acting Director.

His chief publications include: *A Handbook to Plants of Victoria* (1962) - for many years the 'Bible' of Victorian plants and *Botanical Pioneers of Victoria* (1949). Doctor Willis has written some 300 papers and scientific articles. To the Australian Encyclopaedia he contributed no less than 452 sections and has assisted with some fifty books on Victorian plants. The latest book on Victorian orchids published this month has a foreword by Jim.

Doctor Willis has collected throughout Australia especially Victoria (there are many of his orchid collections at MEL) and was chief botanist with the Grimwade expedition to WA (*Prasophyllum grimwadeanum* was one of the orchids collected on that expedition) and the Australian Geographical Society's (1950) expedition.

He is a life member of some 5 botanical societies - from the Society for Growing Australian Plants to the Royal Society of Victoria. Jim has numerous awards including the Australian Natural History Medallion (1960) and the Order of Australia (AO).

In his foreword to *Orchids of Victoria* (1995) Doctor Willis writes " the infinite variations in form, the mimicries (real and imagined), and the often quite bizarre pollination mechanisms continue to fascinate a growing number of people!" (orchid lovers!)

Although not strictly an orchid lover himself Jim has certainly influenced many others to develop their orchid interests!

HOW MANY LEGS DOES A SPIDER ORCHID HAVE?

by STEVE MEREDITH

This was the perplexing question I put to Roy Hargreaves recently in the hope he could help me reply to a fax query I had just received from a school student. Having tickled Roy's curiosity (yet not got a reply to my question), he suggested Native Orchid Society members might like to know a little more about the role of education and the school education service I manage in the Adelaide Botanic Garden.

As we all know botanic gardens are beautiful, but don't let that fool you. There is much more to them especially in an education context. Botanic gardens are really a type of living museum. They have plants collected from around the world based on a variety of scientific, conservation, horticultural, educational and cultural criteria. The good fortune is we are able to create an aesthetically pleasing, landscaped surroundings in which to display these collections. The different criteria used to develop collections make the garden a valuable education resource. Themes like rainforest, mallee, classification, early settlers, and even dinosaurs can be studied. Within the collections, individual plants, with their myriad of features, encourage interactive learning by stimulating the senses, encouraging observation, provoking questions, generating opinions and telling interesting stories.

The Adelaide Botanic Garden Education Service has as its primary role, the development of high quality learning programs for schools and teachers. While our programs have particular relevance to studies in science, society and environment, nearly every area of school curriculum can be supported.

Some of the different learning experiences students can access during their visit include finding out how the river red gum was like a supermarket to local Kaurna Aboriginal people prior to Europeans arriving. Students can also travel the world. They can be in a desert one moment surrounded by the unique architecture of the Cactaceae collection, then only five minutes away, experience lush tropical rainforest in the Bicentennial Conservatory. Contrasting the two types of plant architecture from very different geographical regions of the world in such a short space of time provides a powerful springboard for understanding the concept of plant adaptation. Even foreign language skills can be practised on a special Indonesian cultural and language walk using the theme 'Kehidupan Shari-hari' or translated, 'living in harmony with others and the natural environment'.

Students of all ages are catered for. At a simple level, younger children use their observation skills to match and sort plant and leaf shapes. Older students, after paying due homage to Linnaeus at his bust in the Classground, learn to use scientific names and botanical keys. There are over thirty different trails available for students. The breadth of learning opportunities is extensive. The Education Service is currently staffed by an Education Officer seconded from the Education Department. Working with the close support of garden staff, programs are organized and developed for over 20000 visiting students per year. Where possible, Education Officer assisted lessons are provided. However, the high demand for services means many groups use self guiding booklets especially designed with information for teachers and activities for students.

Briefly, some of the other services offered include:

- An interactive audio tour - eg for school students in the Bicentennial Conservatory.
- A hands on fruits and seeds loan kit- for groups visiting the Museum of Economic Botany.
- Special events - eg for programs like the youth arts festival, "Come Out".

- Teacher Inservice - providing teachers with the skills to run their own programs.
- Behind the scenes visits - eg how does the Conservatory work?
- Answering individual queries from both teachers and students.
- Phone/radio link lessons for isolated and country schools.
- Programs for students with special needs - eg students with disabilities, talented and gifted students.

The question at the beginning of this article shows us how a child's perspective of the world may be different from an adults. It also highlights how children have a natural curiosity about their environment. This curiosity, if nurtured through an enjoyable, stimulating early contact with living things, can provide them with a lifelong interest in the natural world around them. Botanic gardens are ideally placed to encourage such contact. they are valuable sites for environmental education programs which focus not just on names, facts and figures, but also on developing knowledgeable, caring attitudes and values towards the environment.

By the way, "How many legs does a spider orchid have?"

DRUGGED OATS TO RID HILLS OF FERAL GOATS

Extracted from The Advertiser, June 14th 1995

Food laced with a strong sedative is being used in a bid to rid the Adelaide Hills of feral goats. Feeding stations have been set up in the Warren Conservation Park, near Williamstown, to drug about 70 goats which are roaming the area, destroying native vegetation. The goats are first allowed to feed on oats which have not been treated with the sedative. Once they have become used to the oats, officers from the Animal and Plant Control Commission lace the feed with a sedative. The sedative either puts the goats to sleep or slows them down so they can be caught and destroyed. A senior APCC research officer, Mr Rob Henzell, said yesterday the sedative technique was first used to clear a group of about 30 goats out of the Onkaparinga Gorge. "The goats were escapees from an abattoirs and had bred in the gorge," he said. "The area is very steep and it wasn't possible to go in there and shoot them, so we used the drugged food.

SUPERVISION. "They can do a lot of damage to native vegetation and in local areas will eat everything up to a height of about 1.8m." The drugged food technique will be used on other feral goats in the Hills. "A lot of them are either domestic goats which have escaped or ones which have been dumped by people who have had them as pets and got sick of them," Mr Henzell said. In the event of an exotic disease outbreak goats could cause major trouble." The goats in the Warren and Hale Conservation Park have been feeding on undrugged food for the past four months. Mr Henzell said the drugging took place under veterinary supervision and other animals which ate the food were affected but recovered. "We know kangaroos eat the food and sleep for awhile, but we keep an eye on them so they are not attacked by any predators," he said.

RULES/CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY - SUGGESTED INDEMNITY CLAUSE

In view of the litigation and law suits against office bearers of clubs and associations in recent times it is the recommendation of the Management Committee to incorporate an indemnity clause in our rules. The following clause, prepared by a solicitor, is suggested by the Australian Orchid Council Inc. for adoption by clubs and societies.

INDEMNITY.

The Management Committee and all individual members thereof and all persons acting for and on behalf of the Society as appointed by the members of the Management Committee (all such individual persons hereinafter called a "society representative") shall be indemnified and saved harmless by the Society from and against all or any claims and charges for damages or otherwise made against the Society or any society representative and any expenses and costs that may be incurred by any such representative acting for or on behalf of the Society negligently or otherwise in any matter or thing. Provided that such society representative in any such matter or thing at all times acted honestly in good faith and in the interests of the society and within the scope of the express and/or implied ambit of such society representative's authority to act for and on behalf of the society.

A Special General Meeting will be held on the 22nd August at 8pm immediately preceding the usual general meeting to consider and if approved, adopt this addition to the rules of the Society.