

*Native Orchid Society of  
South Australia Inc.*

*Journal*



# **NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.**

PO Box 565,  
UNLEY SA 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 1996 Vol. 20. No. 9 JOURNAL

### OCTOBER MEETING

Tuesday, 22nd October 8.00 pm: at St Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington A bit of everything including preparing your terrestrials for summer and a new growing season.

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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### DIARY DATES

Nov 8th Last day for Journal articles.

Oct 27th Millbrook Reservoir Excursion

Nov 17th Grange Golf Course with Birgitte Sorenson (10am by the Club House)

### COMMITTEE MEETING

To be held at 7.30 pm Friday October 25th at the home of Thelma O'Neill

## COMING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday 26 October Sandy Creek for *Pterostylis* aff. *biseta* and hopefully *Pt. pusilla*. Meet at Sandy Creek Shops (on Gawler to Lyndoch Road (Lyndoch-Barossa Valley Highway) at 11 am.

There seems to also be a field trip being organised to Millbrook Reservoir on 27 October. Perhaps the two excursions will be combined. Details at October General Meeting. If you wish to attend either, please contact Gerry Carne for final details

## CHRISTMAS BARBECUE

This year's Christmas Barbecue will be held on Sunday 1st December. We still have not finalised a venue. Details will be in the next Journal, but mark December first in your Diary. Its an annual event that every one who has previously attended looks forward to.

## ON THE BENCH - September Meeting

Terrestrials: *Caladenia cardiochila*, *C. cardiochila* hybrid, *C. carnea*, *C. colorata*, *C. formosa*, *C. minor*, *C. parva*, *C. reticulata*, *C. venusta*, *Cyrtostylis reniformis*, *Diuris corymbosa*, *D. laxiflora*, *D. behrii*, *D. pedunculata*, *Glossodia major* (several), *Pterostylis baptistii*, *P. biseta*, *P. arenaria*, *P. curta*, *Thelymitra x chasmogama*, *T. fragrantissima*, *T. rubra*.

Epiphytes: *Bulbophyllum bowkettiae*, *Dendrobium* Bardo Rose. Note that most epiphytes were already assembled for the show.

Bob Bates gave the commentary on the Terrestrials

There was no commentator for the Epiphytes due to the small number of plants.

Popular Vote & Commentators choice was not held.

Notes: Bob emphasised that (for a change) most of the species benched were of South Australian origin. A species seen on display for the first time was *Caladenia parva* from Lucindale. It was great to see the old species *Thelymitra fragrantissima* with flowers open on a freezing night! This species occurs amid large clumps of Epiphytes in nature.

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

Our main speaker was Jeff Reid the Vice President of S.G.A.P. who spoke on a variety of orchid and conservation issues. Other speakers included Ron Heberle on Western Australian *Caladenia*. Ron showed slides of an unexpected hybrid between *Caladenia radidis* and *Cyanicula deformis* (see Bob Bates article on *Cyanicula* hybrids in July 1993 NOSSA journal). Our final speaker was Ted Gregory who showed slides of his favourite epiphytes

An interesting feature of the meeting was the predominance of visitors: about half those present were from outside Adelaide.

#### FIELD TRIP TO YORKE PENINSULA, SEPTEMBER 1st

by BARB BAYLEY

On Sunday September 1st a small group of Members ventured to Yorke Peninsula for what turned out to be a most productive outing with a great selection of Orchids being found. Rain had been forecast so the wet weather gear had been packed and as we headed down the coast road we could see the front moving in.

We had set out to find *Prasophyllum erythroconcha* and this was recorded at our first stop along with the unusual sight of a group of *Prasophyllum murica* growing in a small patch of moss gathered in an indent on a rather large bolder.

With still plenty to find we moved on to our next stop. It was here that the camera enthusiasts were busy clicking away photographing *Caladenia brumalis*. There were just so many of them and they varied from white to cream and two were found that featured a red lip.

Further along the Minlaton road and it was time for lunch. The topic of course was Orchids and the hope that we would find *Caladenia bicalliata*. The sky was clouded over by this time and as we were finishing lunch light rain started to fall. This was no hardship as we had come prepared so we set off into the scrub finding more *Caladenia brumalis* as well as *Caladenia stricta*, *C. cardiochila* and finally *C. bicalliata*. The sunshine of that morning and the day before had played a part in this species being open as many were still in bud. In the area covered at this spot some 36 *Caladenia bicalliata* were found. This was most pleasing to us as guides, as over the past four years we have been visiting Yorke Peninsula looking for Orchids this is the most we have ever found at this spot. We were also delighted to find one *Prasophyllum elatum* well in bud with just one flower out enough for a snap shot.

Next stop was the turn off to Port Julia with the green form of *Cyrtostylis robusta* being found. There was another 24 *Caladenia bicalliata*, a pink *Thelymitra nuda* as well as other species found here.

Mulbara Park was our next destination to capture on film *Caladenia conferta* listed in "Orchids of S.A." as *Caladenia toxochila*. These were flowering in great numbers under the Allo-casuarinas amongst the needle litter. There were two unusual finds here one being a pure yellow *Diuris palustris* and pure white *Caladenia bicalliata*. From our second stop on, *Diuris palustris* was very prevalent even forming good size clumps at times. Although *Prasophyllum goldsackii* eluded us we all agreed it was a great day with a feast of Orchids being found and thanks to Thelma & Terry O'Neil we all gathered at Port Vincent for a chat over coffee before heading home late.

## ORCHIDS SEEN:

Stop 1. = Small scrub.  
 Stop 2. = Roadside scrub stop.  
 Stop 3. = 2nd Roadside stop.  
 Stop 4. = Pt Julia Corner.  
 Stop 5. = Mulbara Park.

IN FLOWER *C. bicalliata*, 3.4. *C. bicalliata* (White), 5. *C. brumalis* 2.3.4.5. *C. cardiochila* 3. *C. conferta* 5. *C. filamentosa* var. *tentaculata* 1.2.3. *C. stricta* 2. *Cyanicula deformis* 2.3.4.5. *Cyrtostylis robusta* (red) 1.4.5. *C. robusta* (green) 4. *Diuris palustris* 2.3.4.5. *D. palustris* (yellow) 5. *Pterostylis erythroconcha* 1. *P. longifolia* 1.2. *P. mutica* 1.2.3.5. *Prasophyllum elatum* 3. *The nuda* 5. *T. nuda* (pink) 4.

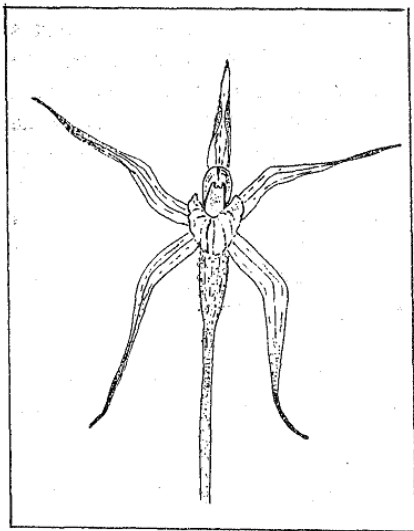
IN BUD: *T. antennifera* 5. *T. nuda* 3.4.5. *Pterostylis pusilla* 1.

IN SEED *Acianthus pusillus* 5. *Cyrtostylis robusta* 1.2.4. *Pterostylis sanguinea* 1.23.

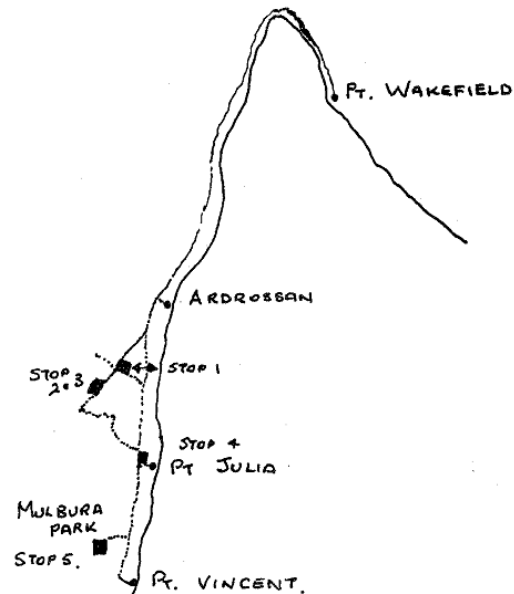
LEAVES of other species were found.



PTEROSTYLIS ERYTHROCONCHA



CALADENIA  
BICALLIATA



CALADENIA CONFERTA

We have been monitoring the population of the rare sandhill *Pterostylis*, *P. arenicola* at the Woods and Forest Pine Forest reserve near Wellington on the River Murray for about 15 years.

In that time the population has increased 10 fold. It is rare to be able to say this about any orchid population!

The reasons are thought to be:

1. Fencing the area to exclude vehicles (trail bikes still use the area however)
2. Control of rabbits by use of poison wheat, ripping and fumigating warrens
3. Hand pollination and some minor weeding
4. Some very dry summer - autumn periods which helps control perennial weeds.
5. Removal of sheep from areas outside the reserve which allows vegetation to recover and stops strong winds through the reserve.
6. Re-routing Highway 1 outside the reserve

*P. arenicola* population is now thought to be 5000 plants.

On a recent (July visit) it was realised that four members of the *P. alata* complex occur in the reserve ie *Pterostylis dolichochila*, *P. aff. dolichochila*, *P. robusta* and *P. erythroconcha*. In addition a colony of *P. nana* was found and this is a new record for the park.

#### AUSTRALIAN *DENDROBIUM* NO. 18

*Dendrobium monophyllum* (Muell)

*Extract from ANOS Newcastle Inc Group Bulletin April 1994 by Len Field with drawing from Dockrill's "Australian Indigenous Orchids"*

*Dendrobium monophyllum* (Muell): Common name - Lily of the Valley.

The name *monophyllum* comes from the Greek words Mono (single) and Phylon (leaf) and the species was named by F. Mueller in the year 1859 from a plant found at Moreton Bay Queensland by W. Hill, it was also named as *Dendrobium tortile* (Cunningham 1839), *Callista monophyllum* (Rev Kuntze 1891) and *Australorchis monophylla* (F. Muell) Brieger.

It is the largest of the species in the section *Monophyllaea* (the other two being *Dendrobium schneiderae* and *Dendrobium carii*) and though known as *monophyllum* (one leaf) two leaves are quite common on this plant. The common name of Lily of the Valley comes from the sweet smell of the flowers which all face the same direction.

Distribution: While ranging from NSW (approximately Grafton, although some reports place it much further south) up to N.E. Queensland (Minion River) in S.E. Cape York Peninsula. In tropical areas it is confined to above 600m altitude while in more southern areas it spreads to the coast. I have even found it on offshore islands in S.E. Queensland growing quite happily into large clumps on hoop pines (*Araucaria cunninghamii*). *D. monophyllum* is the largest of the three species in the *Monophyllaea* section of *Dendrobium*. In the southern part of its range it can form huge clumps growing on trees and rock faces while in its northern area tends to be smaller in its growth habits. In rainforests it tends to grow high up in the trees no doubt to get

more light while in more open habitat it grows lower down on trees and on rock faces and large boulders. I have seen it growing on hoop pines (*Araucaria cunninghamii*) swamp oaks (*Casuarina glauca*) and beech trees (*Nothofagus moorei*). Flowering can take place several times a year with early spring and to a lesser degree mid autumn the main flowering times, very seldom in winter. Flowers range in colour from dull to bright yellow, bell shaped and half nodding. It usually flowers once from each pseudobulb while the rhizome stands off from the host with the roots resembling rows of stilts and they do not bury themselves in the moss or litter as do most epiphytes. While this species is fairly easy to grow in the Newcastle area some care must be taken for while they can be grown in open bush houses they do not like the temperature to get down near zero, although some plants are more tolerant to the cold than others, no doubt due to where they originally came from. Good light is also essential with high humidity and plenty of air movement a must, for while they need a lot of watering in the hot months they must be allowed to dry out between waterings. Slab culture seems to be the best so long as they can be tied tightly to their host and hung up high. Slabs can consist of tree fern fibre, cork, hardwood etc, The main thing is that they do not retain moisture in the host. I have had good results growing it on gutter guard filled with coconut fibre. It also does well tied to live trees.

## FIELD TRIP REPORT

by M. & P. FOSTER

South Coast from Murray Bridge to Beachport July 27-28th. This trip was planned especially to study *Pterostylis* of the 'alata complex'.

Our first stop was at the overpass on the freeway at Murray Bridge. Granite rocks stick out of white sand and the whole area is covered with a mallee-broornbush association.

Instant luck! There were hundreds of *Pterostylis dolichochila* in flower and seed. Their leaf rosettes looked identical to the 'mallee nana' which grow in tight colonies amid them. After 20 minutes we moved on to the centre of Murray Bridge where a patch of limestone with native pines revealed colonies of *Pterostylis robusta* with chunky green flowers set right on the ground and mixed with colonies of *Cyrtostylis robusta*.

We continued on to Wellington and the Callitris reserve, near Carrawatha Native Plant Nursery. Believe it or not as we hopped the fence we landed in a colony of *Pterostylis erythroconcha* with its fat red flowers and thick tongue! Yet more was to come. On the red sand ridge amid rosettes of *Pterostylis arenicola* were two distinct forms of *Pterostylis dolichochila*. One of these was attracting mosquitoes which fluttered around inside the flowers. Suddenly the sky went dark and as a rain squall hit we wished we were small enough to shelter inside the warm dry flowers of the *P. aff. dolichochila*. After a quick morning tea under a huge Callitris tree we drove south to The Coorong National Park.

Our first stop near Salt Creek revealed large colonies of the helmet orchids *Corybas despectans* and *C. incurvus* with a few probable hybrids and nearby colonies of both 'Hills nana' and 'Mallee nana'. It is not unusual to see these two sister species growing together although *Pterostylis* 'Hills nana' is rare in our South-east! Not surprisingly here were more *Pterostylis dolichochila*! As dusk arrived the mosquitoes were almost as thick as the mosquito-orchids and we hurried on to Robe for the night.

The lawns were white with frost the next morning. We pictured helmet orchids with icicles and thought what a neat picture that would make but there were none available. By nine

o'clock we were in the Little Dip Conservation Park. There were millions of orchids - all of them the same: *Corybas despectans* the commonest helmet orchid in S.A. and a disgusting little plant it is too. Self pollinated flowers, as small as a rat turd. We hurried south to Nora Creina and Sunlands. We were back in luck. We had found not one but two '*Pterostylis alata* complex' species, neither of them the same as the ones we had previously seen. One was most attractive, slender with red and green stripes, It is illustrated in orchids of South Australia as a form of *P. alata*. The other was new to us. It had fat, green rounded flowers and grew among a large colony of *Pterostylis* aff. *longifolia* all with single flowers! This was difficult country to walk through with fallen trees forming a tangle of dead wood but we worked our way to the top of a dune and located amongst a colony of *Acianthus pusillus* the rare *Pterostylis* aff. *nana* 'Coastal', and some plants had variegated leaves!

We lunched at the Woakwine Cutting, a demonstration of man's endeavour as a deep channel has been cut through the Woakwine Range to allow the Woakwine swamp to be drained What a pity! We thought it would be more interesting if the swamp were still there. How many orchid species became extinct we wondered with the draining of this unique swamp and its conversion to short pasture with a loss of a million tonnes of biomass!

Someone was even more foolish planting *Pinus radiata* on the Woakwine Range on tumbled limestone. The pines hadn't taken and the bush was fighting back. There were huge colonies of the pretty helmet orchid *Corybas dilatatus* with a few *Corybas incurvus* amongst them. It was odd to see these at home on the limestone which is not a habitat I would expect to see them in. Of course there were more '*P. alata* complex' - this time the green 'subspecies' of *Pterostylis dolichochila* so common in the South-east. Growing with these were a few tall red *Pterostylis sanguinea* and an early flowered *Caladenia deformis*.

By now we were feeling satisfied but we were due to meet friends at Millicent so we headed across to Mt Burr to look at a colony of *Pterostylis alata* 'slender swamp' we knew of. This meant that in two days we had seen 8 or 9 different taxa of '*alata* complex' *Pterostylis*! It was enough for us.



### THIRD AUSTRALASIAN NATIVE ORCHID CONFERENCE AND SHOW

After nearly three years of planning and organising, the Third Australasian Native Orchid Conference and Show has happened. It is hard to believe that the past two years in particular have passed so quickly, and that the Big Event is now a piece of native orchid history rather than something to look forward to. For those who missed it, the orchid show was spectacular as promised. Exciting displays were brought to Adelaide from Sydney, Melbourne, Western Australia, from the Botanical Gardens of Papua New Guinea and from various parts of our own State.

The Western Australia collection of native orchids may have been the largest assembled from outside of that State in recent years and the collection of cut flowers from the Botanical Gardens of PNG supplemented by some incredible live plants grown by Phil Spence (including the Show Champion and several awarded plants), was certainly one of the most significant collections of PNG orchids ever assembled outside of our northern neighbour. Phil Spence's *Bulbophyllum fletcherianum* was the one orchid that I have always most wanted to see and I didn't think I would ever get a chance to see it. Was I surprised to see it at the Conference! The specimen at the Show was no doubt the largest in cultivation in the world (they don't grow much larger in the Jungles of Papua New Guinea) and if you didn't see it you may never have an opportunity to see it again! The perfume was marvellous.

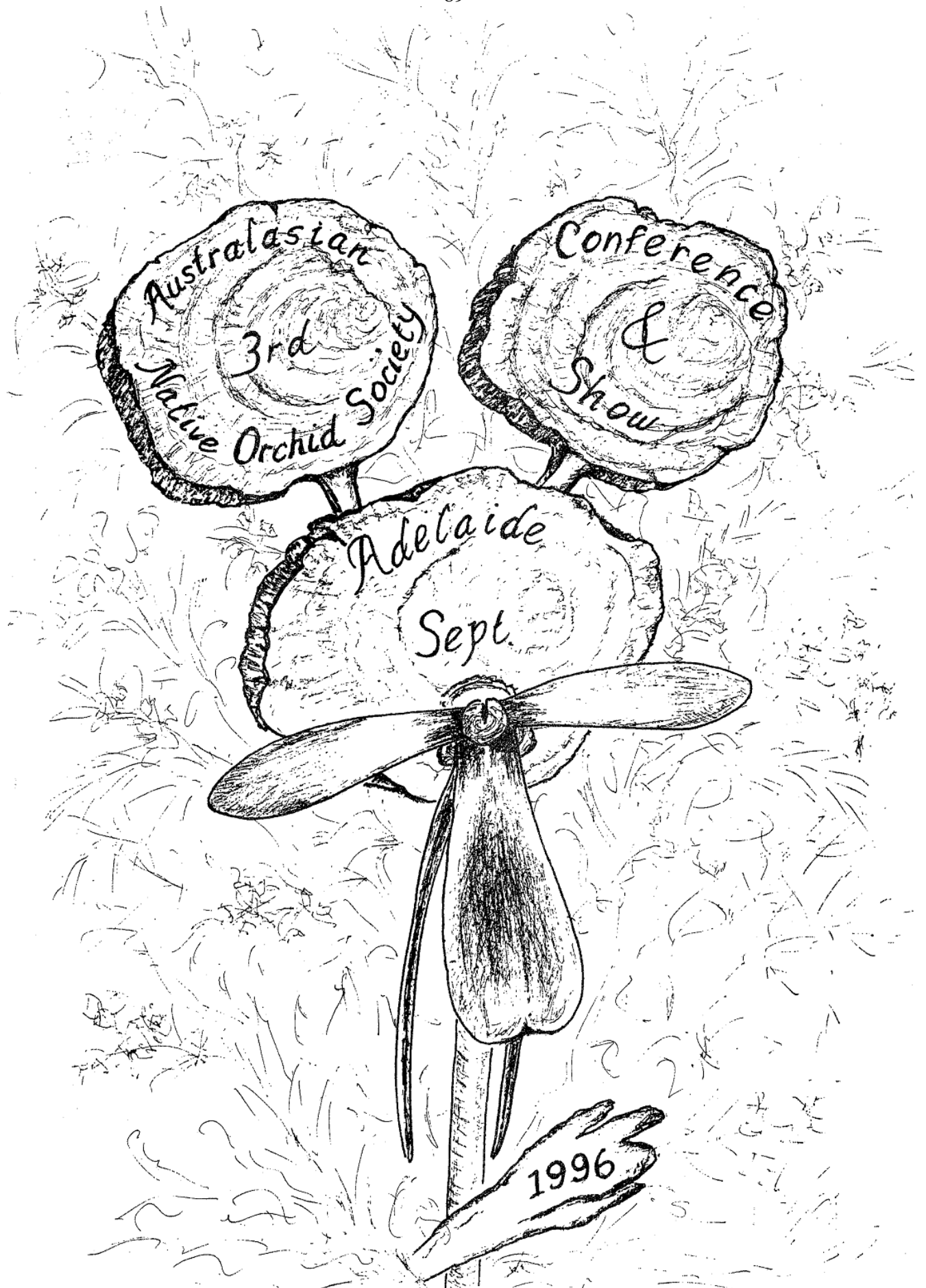
The cut-flower orchids brought to Adelaide from Western Australia were unbelievable and most of them presented themselves very well throughout the five days of the Conference. One or two went a bit floppy but after all, they had been picked the previous weekend. Caladenias and *Diuris* do make excellent cut-flowers. The Victorian's display was fantastic. They did not, however, want their orchids and display judged. They really know how to grow terrestrials in Victoria.

The Adelaide Botanical Gardens made a significant contribution to the Conference and one that was appreciated by many enthusiasts.

We didn't quite get the two hundred registrants that we anticipated but we came very close. In all more than 1600 individuals viewed the display of native orchids.

The Conference was excellent, and I think, up to if not beyond everyone's expectations. We received many compliments. There were a few places we didn't do as well as we might, but in general we did good. Thank you to all NOSSA Members for being so patient with our efforts over the past nearly three years and a special thanks to all those members who became involved and participated in the Conference. I plan to provide a final report on the Conference for the November Journal.

I want to include a drawing of the 'Totem' that was hand-crafted by Don Wells and that greeted all visitors to the Show Area. I believe Les Burgess played an important role in fitting the various bits together and making certain that the entire structure was structurally sound. The Totem, a couple of metres in height and made entirely from South Australian timber, (mainly Redgum) represents *Diuris corymbosa*. Don had to be very careful that the likes of Kevin Western didn't pollinate it before the Conference. I understand that flasks of Don's creation may be available next year. The drawing on the next page was prepared by Thelma O'Neill prior to Don and Bub setting up their award winning display.



## RON PARISH VIDEO OF THE ORCHID SHOW.

Ron Parish's video of the Orchid Show is now ready for distribution and it is fantastic. This is not an amateur video. Ron is a professional who uses state of the art digital recording and computer equipment. And the price is right at only \$25.00. Orders may be taken through any NOSSA Committee Member, or directly through Video Camera Service, P.O. Box 82, OAKLANDS PRK, SA 5046. (Add \$4.00 to cover postage if required).

## WHAT'S NEXT??

Now that the Conference is over, we must plan other activities for NOSSA. We will resume our search for *Rhizanthella gardnerii*, the underground orchid, next year. This year's rainfall records should prove ideal for the flowering *Rhizanthella*.

The Association of Native Orchid Societies (ACNOS) held its inaugural meeting at the Conference. Disappointingly, in particular for those from ANOS New South Wales, no group committed themselves to driving ACNOS for the next few years and ANOS New South Wales has had to continue in their previous leadership capacity. I believe that ACNOS is extremely important to maintain and nurture, vital in fact, and I would hope that South Australia would be in a position to offer our leadership for ACNOS in the next year or two, once we have recovered from the Conference. I would hope too that we would have strong competition from Queensland and Western Australia to do the same.

## CONFERENCE BADGES AND PROCEEDINGS VOLUMES

There are only a few Conference Badges (depicting our own *Caladenia ridgida*) and copies of the Proceedings volume left for sale. If you wish to purchase either, you had better see Ron Robjohns as soon as possible.

## FOURTH AUSTRALASIAN NATIVE ORCHID CONFERENCE AND SHOW.

The Fourth Australasian Native Orchid Conference and Show will be hosted by A.N.O.S. Victorian Inc and is currently scheduled to be held in Melbourne in October in the year 2000. I look forward to a strong contribution and participation from South Australia for this very important event. Our congratulations to the Victorians.

## 1997 Committee

Now is the time to begin giving some consideration to your becoming a NOSSA Committee Member. Committee meetings are held on the Friday following each general Committee Meeting at various members homes. No experience is required. Several positions will become vacant come the end of this year.