

Journal  
of the  
Native Orchid Society  
of  
South Australia Inc



*Caladenia eminens*

# **NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**Post office box 565 Unley 5061**

The Native Orchid Society of South Australia promotes the conservation of orchids through the preservation of natural habitat and through cultivation.

Except with the documented official representation from the Management Committee 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.

## **PRESIDENT:**

Mr Bill Dear  
Telephone: 82962111

## **SECRETARY:**

Cathy Houston  
Telephone: 8356 7356

## **VICE-PRESIDENT (and New members Coordinator)**

Mr David Pettifor                      Tel. 014095457

## **COMMITTEE**

Mr David Hirst  
Mr Roy Hargreaves

Mrs Thelma Bridle  
Mr Malcolm Guy

## **EDITORS:**

Bob & Kerry Bates  
38 Portmarnock Street  
Tel: 8251 2443

## **TREASURER**

Iris Freeman

Fairview Park 5126  
E-mail *bobbates63@hotmail.com*

## **LIFE MEMBERS**

Mr R. Hargreaves  
Mr D. Wells  
Mr G. Carne

Mr R. Bates

Mr L. Nesbitt  
Mr R. Robjohns  
Mr R Shooter

Registrar of Judges:  
Trips & Conservation:  
Tuber Bank Coordinator:

George Nieuwenhoven  
Ms Thelma Bridle Tel. 83844174  
Malcolm Guy Tel. 82767350

Trading Table: Judy Penney

## **PATRON: Mr T.R.N. Lothian**

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# NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC MAY 1999 Vol. 23 No. 4 JOURNAL

## MAY MEETING

Tuesday May 25 at 8.00 pm: Saint Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. Speaker Geoff Edwards will speak on Orchid Adventures in Qld.

Doors open at 7.15 to allow trading table to set up and library to proceed.

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## DIARY DATES

June 5	Parks Festival	Belair
June 20	Cons Gp at Wellington	Tailem Bend
June 22	Bob Markwick Grampians photography	Kensington
July 18	Wongalere Working bee for <i>C. behrii</i>	Williamstown
Sept 3-5	Yorke Peninsula Springtime Spectacular	Curramulka
Sept 19-20	NOSSA Spring Show	St Peters
Oct 17	Annual Echunga Picnic	Echunga
January 2000	Three <i>Dipodium</i> species	Naracoorte
April 3-4 2000	SE Genoplesiums, <i>Pterostylis parviflora</i>	Mt Monster
Oct 8-15 2000	Aust Orch Conference	Burnie

## NEXT FIELD TRIP

MAY 30 *PTEROSTYLIS BRYOPHILA* . Meet at Victor Harbour turn-off 2km north of Myponga at 10am. Lunch at Victor Harbour's best Coffee Shop.

## NEXT WORKING BEE

Wellington Reserve weeding trip. Met 10am at the Meningie turn-off from the Dukes Highway just out of Tailem Bend. Includes an orchid walk.

Next Committee Meeting: At Thelma and Phil Bridle's of 47 David Tce Morphett Vale on Wednesday June 2 at 7:30.

## ON THE BENCH

### Epiphytes

*Dendrobium bigibbum*, *D. lithacola*, *D. rigidum*, *D. Colonial Campio*, *D. Bardo Rose*, *D. Aussie Child*, *D. torressae*,

### Terrestrials

*Acianthus pusillus*, *Eriochilus* sp, *Genoplesium nigricans*, *Leporella fimbriata* (Lucindale), *Pterostylis bryophila*, *P. ophioglossa*, *P. truncata*, *P. x furcillata*, *P. Trunkfish*, *P. Sentinel*, *Spiranthes sinensis*.

A plant of a North American *Spiranthes* with large white flowers was also displayed,

The pot of *Leporella* which has been in cultivation for several years had not been treated and was not the same pot which was displayed last year.

PLANT COMMENTARIES G. Eakins and G. Nieuwenhoven

## JUDGING

### Terrestrial species :

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Pterostylis ophioglossa* grown by Les Nesbitt
- 2<sup>nd</sup> *Leporella fimbriata* grown by Les Nesbitt
- 3<sup>rd</sup> *Pterostylis bryophila* grown by David Pettifor

### Terrestrial hybrids :

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Pterostylis x furcillata* grown by Les Nesbitt
- 2<sup>nd</sup> *Pterostylis* Trunkfish grown by Les Burgess

### Epiphytic species :

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Dendrobium lithacola* grown by G. Nieuwenhoven
- 2<sup>nd</sup> *D. rigidum* grown by G. Nieuwenhoven

### Epiphytic hybrids

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Dendrobium* Colonial Campio grown by Bill Dear

### Plant of the Night

*Pterostylis ophioglossa*

## POPULAR VOTE

Best Terrestrial *P. ophioglossa*

Best Epiphyte : *Dendrobium* Colonial Campio

## LAST MONTHS SPEAKER:

At the April meeting we were treated to a discussion on Australian Terrestrial Orchid hybrids by founding president Les Nesbitt who has been growing, hybridising and showing native orchids since the 1960's.

Three South Australian growers began hybridising South Australian terrestrial orchids by 1975 ..... Les, Ray Nash and Bob Bates, with George Nieuwenhoven soon joining in. By 1997 some 38 man made Australian terrestrial hybrids had been registered, 37 of them made and registered in South Australia by South Australians. In the last two years Heinrich Beyrle has registered 13 from Germany using mostly South Australian plants.

What are growers from the other states doing? The eastern states enthusiasts find conditions suit growing epiphytes so it's epiphyte hybrids we see from there. ANOS Perth are now showing a keen interest in growing and hybridising terrestrials. Les makes hybrids for several reasons .....

- 1: Curiosity!
- 2: The challenge!
- 3: Hybrids grow faster, larger and multiply at a greater rate!
- 4: Availability of easy to grow hybrids takes the pressure off wild collecting!
- 5: To get plants into more categories at shows!
- 6: His competitive nature.

Les showed some fascinating hybrids including a three way rufa group *Pterostylis* ... *P. biseta* x *P. ovata* x *P. woolsii* and many tall *Diuris* as well as *Caladenia* Fairy Floss x *C. reptans*. There was much interest in the shot of Les' newly registered *Thelymitra* Gemfire. (*T. antennifera* x *T. epipactoides*). There may soon be two hybrids named after our Society if *Calassodia* NOSSA is registered.

## VALE Ern Iverson and Mavis Goldsack

During April NOSSA lost two long time members.

Ern Iverson who regularly attended meetings right up until March this year was often seen on Field Trips. Ern was known for his eclectic interests and could converse knowledgeably on a myriad of subjects.

Mavis Goldsack was less well known. She was the wife of a previous life member, orchid author Harold Goldsack. Mavis continued to look after Harold's orchids and allowed them to be exhibited at shows for many years after his death. She was honoured for work in the community.

Both Ern and Mavis were in their eighties ..... they will be missed. Our condolences to their families.

## CONSERVATION NEWS.

Report on the *Caladenia behrii* Project

by Doug Bickerton

*Caladenia behrii* (pink-lipped spider orchid) is arguably one of South Australia's most attractive orchids. Closely related to *C. patersonii*, it is a nationally endangered species found only in two areas in the Mount Lofty Ranges. Like many of our orchid species, its habitat has been reduced considerably in the last century as land has been cleared for farming and development of suburbs. Two years ago the Threatened Plant Action Group (TPAG) applied for funding to reduce the threats to *C. behrii* and improve its conservation status. In December 1997, after funding was approved, I was invited to be project officer.

It was thought that two important threats to the species were (a) flowers being eaten by kangaroos, rabbits and caterpillars, and (b) lack of pollinators caused by loss of habitat. Consequently a survey was organised in 1998, not only to explore these two concerns, but also to monitor the size of known populations and search for new locations. In all, 23 people volunteered time, either to collect data, or to help search for new populations, and another 6 people willingly gave advice and information.

During the course of the survey, four new populations of *C. behrii* were found. We now know of 19 populations, mostly in the Kersbrook / Williamstown region, but also around Belair / Ironbank. However, ten of these locations had fewer than 20 *C. behrii* flowers, and only four populations had more than 100 flowers. It is likely that the majority of populations will not survive without direct intervention. Of particular concern are the populations in the Belair / Ironbank region - even though a new population was found in this area, the other five locations each had less than ten flowers.

The proportion of herbivory was alarmingly high at some sites. A total of 1228 *C. behrii* flowers were re-visited during the season, and 36% were eaten. It appears that kangaroos are responsible for much of this damage, particularly since they were frequently seen near the two sites which lost the most flowers (60% and 52%).

The volunteers also recorded the number of flowers which were pollinated in each population, to see if there was a lack of pollinators at any of the sites. However the results appear to show little difference in pollination rates between sites. Most populations had a pollination rate between 11% and 23%, and the average across all populations was 14%. The only population with a noticeably low pollination rate (4%) also had a very high herbivory rate which suggests that the flowers were probably eaten before they could be pollinated. (It should be noted that some of this pollination was likely to have been effected by NOSSA members...Eds.)

The volunteers who helped with the survey included a Park Ranger, National Trust staff and Forestry SA staff, and these people are now better equipped to make management decisions which will benefit the *C. behrii* and other orchids on their land. NOSSA was one of the community groups contributing to the 1998 survey, as was Friends of Para Wirra Rec. Park, Friends of Scott Creek CP., TPAG, SA Girl Guides and Scouts Assoc.

Some of the activities planned for this year include weeding days, kangaroo fencing and hand pollination.

Footnote: I am grateful to the editor for mentioning this project in the February '99 journal. However I would like to correct a couple of statements mentioned in that article.

Firstly, there are presently no plans to re-introduce *C. behrii* into any locations, old or new. We have our work cut out just maintaining what's there now.

Secondly, *C. rigida* has not been officially removed from the endangered species list, although it could be argued that it no longer meets the criteria.

## CONSERVATION GROUP REPORT - 2/5/99

Thank you to the NOSSA and TPAG members who participated in the weeding of the area where *Pterostylis cucullata* grows in Belair National Park. National park management has organised for spraying of blackberries in the valley, so we were able to spend over 14 person hours hand-weeding mainly *Genista* sp. (broom) and bridal creeper from the hillside. Many *Pterostylis* species were already forming rosettes, including *P. curta*, *P. pedunculata*, *P. nutans* and hybrids of *P. curta*. It was still a little early for *P. cucullata* leaves to be up and therefore an excellent time to weed.

Weeding of orchid sites does not have to be strenuous and the time spent weeding does not need to be long, especially if as many members as possible are willing to participate. These events are quite social and usually involve a look around the area for other orchid species. Your help would be welcomed even if you can only work for a short period of time, so please consider coming along and remember, the orchids we see today will only be seen in the future if people are prepared to care for them now.



Ten NOSSA members took part in a weeding and information day at Spring Gully CP on May 8<sup>th</sup>. This was attended by members of the Friends Group and TPAG and the emphasis was on the endangered orchid *Caladenia argocalla* (Large white spider orchid). The largest known populations of this species occur in Spring Gully! Perhaps the most important aspect of the day was meeting several people who may have this species on their private heritage areas.

PARKS OPEN DAY: June 5<sup>th</sup> all day! Free Entry!

NOSSA is putting in a display including our new display stands! If you can help please ring Thelma.

Welcome to new members

NOSSA management welcomes Cathy and Sue Warcup of Kingswood!

YOUR JOURNAL /5 NOW PRINTED A T

PRESCOTT PRIMARY SCHOOL!

Many thanks to Parish Press who have printed the Journal for the past eight years.

Also many thanks to Roy Hargreaves, Basil Shields, Ron Robjohns, Sylvie Creed and Thelma O'Neill for collating the journals for many years.



## Autumn Trip to Yorke Peninsula: TRIP REPORT

by Kerry a Bob

A discussion with orchid friends revealed that none of us knew of anyone who had ever gone looking for orchids on Yorke Peninsula in Autumn! As we had been invited by SGAP to attend a working bee at the newly declared Muloowurtie Nature Reserve near Pine Point in April we decided to combine work with fun. We stayed Friday night in the Ardrossan Hotel and that was an interesting experience in itself!

Next morning bright and early we pulled and dug bridle creeper as we walked around the Muloowurtie reserve which was set up to protect the best known population of the rare *Acacia rhetinocarpa*.

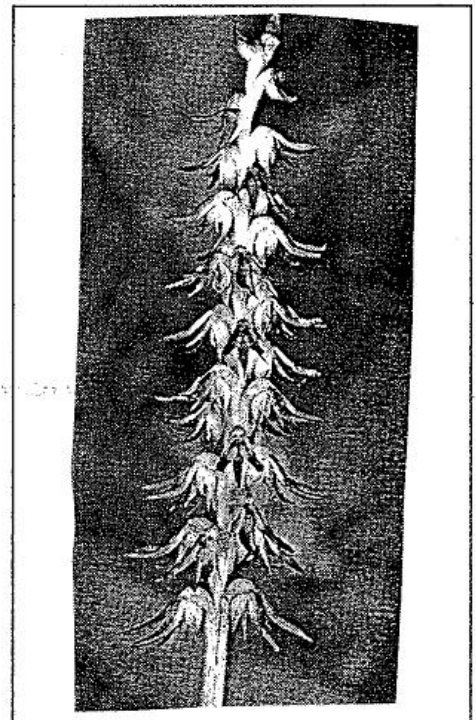
There must have been a thousand plants of *Genoplesium nigricans* (*fuscoviride* if you prefer!) some over 30cm tall and with 40 flowers. Neatly hidden among them was the cryptic species *Genoplesium 'linearis'*. This limestone lover is usually found as scattered plants among the more common 'mallee midge-orchids'.

Much rarer here was a group of the ribbed, hairy-leaved *Eriochilus* sp. so common in South Australia. This species was another addition to the reserve's official plant list.

Local identity Rod Hawke was so pleased to see the *Eriochilus* that he invited us back to look for springtime orchids in the nearby Curramulka Scrub, the largest patch of native vegetation on the leg of the Peninsula and despite some heavy grazing at times, still in good condition.

NOSSA may well take up his offer during our Society Visit on the weekend of Sept 4-5<sup>th</sup> and begin the process of having the scrub here declared a reserve also! Our quick visit today revealed many thousands of the 'mallee midges' mixed with many *Eriochilus* sp. 'smooth leaf' which is confined to limestone country in SA.

We can't guarantee that there would be such a profusion of orchids every April, as over 50mm of rain had fallen in the month before our visit!





Our final stop was at Ways Scrub at Port Vincent. This patch of Mallee-broom-bush is in good condition despite 100 years of mostly light grazing, and again there were large numbers of mallee midge-orchids and *Eriochilus* 'smooth leaf'. But here at Ways Scrub we found small numbers of a third species of midge ... *Genoplesium* aff. *rufum*, probably the same as the common one in the Adelaide Hills. We made collections of all species as there are very few collections of Autumn orchids from anywhere in SA!

With all the discussion on South Australian *Genoplesium* we have had in the Journal lately we were not surprised to return to Adelaide and be shown photos of two new *Genoplesium* species discovered by the Houstons at Bangham and Mount Monster in the South-east.

Looks like we will have even more exciting orchids to look for on our Easter South-east trip next year!

#### INTERNET ORCHID SITES

Papua/New Guinea Orchids ....60 colour pictures at [www.bandish.com/PNGorchid/](http://www.bandish.com/PNGorchid/)

Adelaide Orchids at [www.adelaideorchids.com](http://www.adelaideorchids.com)

Florafest Orchids at [www2.eis.net.au/~ff](http://www2.eis.net.au/~ff)

Orchid World at [www.collectorscorner.com.au](http://www.collectorscorner.com.au)

Keiths Nursery at [www.ultra.net.au/~keithsnursery](http://www.ultra.net.au/~keithsnursery)

Australian Orchid Council at [www.infoweb.corn.au/orchids](http://www.infoweb.corn.au/orchids)

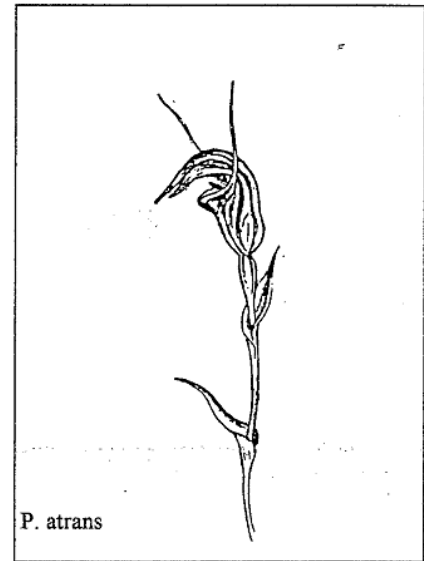
16th World Orchid Conference at [www.hedgerows.com/WOC/index.htm](http://www.hedgerows.com/WOC/index.htm)

Gerald McCraith: 90 years last February!

*Pterostylis atrans* DL Jones

With all the discussion on *Pterostylis bryophila* endemic to the Mt Lofty Ranges it may be interesting to talk about other members of the *Pterostylis obtusa* complex. One of the commonest is *P. atrans* named by David Jones in 1994. This species can be seen best in late December/ January in the mountains of southern NSW, western Victoria and Tasmania.

The flowers are much smaller than true *P. obtusa* and much shorter in all segments than our *P. bryophila*. The tips of the petals and sepals are brownish unlike the wholly green *P. bryophila* and the flowering time is quite different as our SA species flowers in May-June!



P. atrans

## New Australian Native Orchid Hybrid Registrations

New registrations from the Royal Horticultural Society (from The Orchid Review ) August - October 1998 registrations. The following species appear for the first time as parents in registration; *Caladenia reptans* and *Thelymitra epipactoides*.

NAME	PARENTAGE	REGISTERED BY
Caladenia		
Fairy Children	<i>latifolia</i> x <i>reptans</i>	Nesbitts
Dendrobium		
Border Sunrise	Gulginni x <i>falcorostrum</i>	S. Penman
Border Surprise	Gulginni x Graham Hewitt	S. Penman
Duno Burgundy	Gem Burgundy Cream x Jesmond Gem	Down Under Native Orchids
Duno Burgundy	Sheen Burgundy Cream x Red River	Down Under Native Orchids
Duno Charminite	Brinawa Charm x <i>kingianum</i>	Down Under Native Orchids
Duno Eleerose	Elegant Heart x Bardo Rose	Down Under Native Orchids
Duno Luckys Zip	Brinawa Charm x Zip	Down Under Native Orchids
Duno Superlocks	Brinawa Sunset x Aussie Victory	Down Under Native Orchids
Duno Vivspot	Rutherford Sunspot x Vivid	Down Under Native Orchids
Frances Mary	Sarah Jane x <i>speciosum</i>	G& K. Jackson
Kathleen Eugenie	Lorikeet x <i>tetragonum</i>	His & Hers
Puketutu	Bicentennial Rose x Yondi Brolga	G. Leafberg
Sandra Elaine	Tania's Pride x <i>falcorostrum</i>	His & Hers
Southern Victory	Yondi Sunshine x Ellen	K. Roberts
Thelymitra		
Gemfire	<i>antennifera</i> x <i>epipactoides</i>	Nesbitts

AMENDED EXCURSIONS AND EVENTS PROGRAM FOR 1999  
FROM THELMA BRIDLE

SATURDAY		SUNDAY
May 22/23		<i>Millbrook (weeding) with TPAG</i>
29/30		Hindmarsh Valley and <i>Pterostylis bryophila</i> .
June 5	Belair (Parks Day)	
12/13		
19/20		Weeding at Tailem Bend
26/27		Warren Conservation Park
July 3/4		
10/11	<i>Halbury Scrub (weeding)</i>	
17/18	Wongalere weeding on the 18 <sup>th</sup>	Norton Summit midwinter mountaintop special
24/25		
31/1		
August 7/8		
14/15		Jenkins Scrub <i>Corybas</i> in thousands
21/22		Scott Creek Con. Park and <i>Pterostylis melagramma</i> !
28/29	Quorn weekend (NOSSA Survey 1999) ...	individuals organise own accommodation.
Sept 3/5	Yorke Peninsula weekend	Whole weekend
11/12	Para Wirra	Tailem Bend, Ferries McDonald mallee festival.
18/19	SPRING SHOW	<i>Belair (weeding....am) with TPAG</i>
25/26	Family Day Belair	Hardy's Scrub
Oct 2/3	South East 5 day Weekend Spectacular with ANOS VIC	
9/10	Spring Gully	
	SGAP show at Wayville	
16/17		Echunga Family Picnic at Police Barracks
23/24		Kaiserstuhl
30/31		<i>Grange weeding with Karan Smith and TPAG</i>
Nov 6/7	Pengelly's / Sandy Creek (Rufa's)	Cox's Scrub.... Duck orchids.
13/14		Scott Con. Park
20/21		<i>Kuitpo weeding</i>
27/28		NOSSA end of year barbecue
Dec 4/5		
12/13		
20/21		
Jan 8/9	Naracoorte weekend to see all three South Australian dipodids!	

Please contact Thelma if you have any ideas for additional trips or if you need details for any weekend trips.  
Events in italics are Conservation Group working bees!

Thank you Thelma for this schedule! !

#### NOSSA RAFFLES

Correction: the special "Big Basket of Donated Goodies" mentioned in the last journal will be in November!

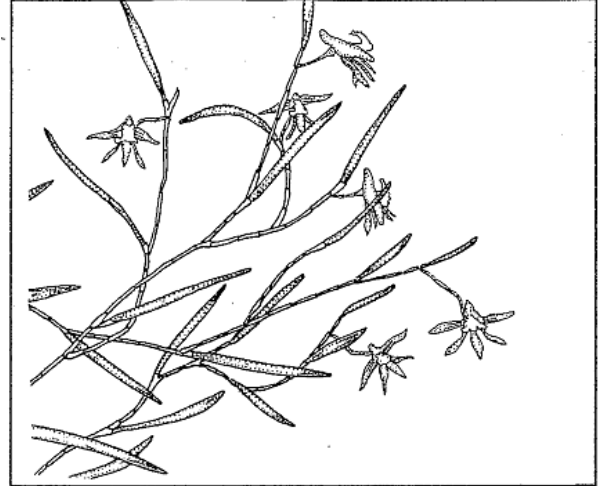
## AUSTRALIAN NATIVE DENDROBIUMS 28

*Dockrillia schoeninum*

Previously known as *Dendrobium schoeninum* Lindley and commonly called the pencil orchid. The name *schoeninum* means 'rush-like' as in the common Australian rush genus *Schoenus*! This is perhaps a reference to the cylindrical leaves.

This large and attractive much-branched epiphyte or lithophyte forms tangled semi-erect clumps to 1m across. The racemes are about 3cm long and have 1-4 flowers up to 30mm in diameter. These are usually a pale green with mauve tints with some darker stripes and markings. From the front the segments spread widely.

*D. schoeninum* grows along the coast from Newcastle north to the Ayr district in central Qld and is common in rainforest margins along creeks and swamp edges particularly on River oak *Casuarina cunninghamii* and swamp oak *C. glauca*. Young plants are erect but as they grow the stems droop under their own weight.



This is a distinctive species which is easily grown in a bush house. Usually grown mounted. In the eastern states can be attached to garden trees but Adelaide's summers are too hot and dry.

## FOURTH AUSTRALASIAN....NATIVE ORCHID CONFERENCE

MELBOURNE: 5<sup>TH</sup> -8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2000

Theme: "Native Orchids - Our Natural Heritage"

The Conference will start with a cocktail party held in the Display Hall and from then on it is continuous action and excitement. The venue, Karralyka Centre, 1km east of Ringwood has eleven acres of sweeping lawns and native gardens.

Public transport from Melbourne City is regular and reliable as the Centre is close to a major highway. There is parking room for 400 cars. The Conference room is tiered and seats 430. The show and display rooms are adjacent.



In two days some thirty of Australia's best orchid speakers will present a great range of papers! This is a great chance for you to meet old friends, famous growers and scientists and make many new friends. The show will have over 450 square metres covered with orchids from all over Australasia. Thousands of dollars worth of prizes will be given to winners in 100+ categories! A central display will be contributed to by SGAP, The Royal Zoological and Botanical Gardens and ANOS Victoria. There are photographic competitions and displays as well as an art and craft show. Plant sales are an integral part of the show and will open to Conference registrants first.

Social events include the conference dinner, field trips and shopping. Accommodation is organised to cater for all tastes and budgets. Qantas is offering discounts to registrants! More info from the registrar PO box 2152 Templestowe Heights 3107. Email and Web <http://www.ozemail.com.au/~graemebr/conference/anos-con.html>