



Journal  
of the  
**Native Orchid Society**  
of  
**South Australia Inc**



*Caladenia latifolia*

*Caladenia latifolia*

# **NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**POST OFFICE BOX 565 UNLEY SOUTH AUSTRALIA 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:**

Bill Dear  
Telephone: 82962111

## **SECRETARY:**

Cathy Houston  
Telephone: 8356 7356

## **VICE-PRESIDENT**

David Pettifor Tel. 014095457

## **COMMITTEE**

David Hirst  
Bob Bates

Thelma Bridle  
Malcolm Guy

## **EDITOR:**

Gerry Carne  
118 Hewitt Avenue  
Toorak Gardens SA 5061  
Telephone/Fax 8332 7730  
E-mail [gjcarne@cobweb.com.au](mailto:gjcarne@cobweb.com.au)

## **TREASURER**

Iris Freeman

## **LIFE MEMBERS**

Mr R. Hargreaves  
Mr L. Nesbitt  
Mr R. Robjohns  
Mr D. Wells

Mr G. Carne  
Mr R. Bates  
Mr R. Shooter

Registrar of Judges:

Reg Shooter

Trading Table:

Judy Penney

Field Trips & Conservation:

Thelma Bridle Tel. 83844174

Tuber Bank Coordinator:

Malcolm Guy Tel. 82767350

New Members Coordinator

David Pettifor Tel. 0416 095 095

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

The Native Orchid Society of South Australia Inc. while taking all due care, take no responsibility for the loss, destruction or damage to any plants whether at shows, meetings or exhibits.

Views or opinions expressed by authors of articles within this Journal do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Management. We condones the reprint of any articles if acknowledgement is given.

**Journal cost \$2 per issue. Family or Single Membership with subscription \$15.**



**JOURNAL OF THE  
NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY  
OF  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.  
FEBRUARY 2002                      Vol. 26 No. 1**

1977-2002 celebrating 25 years

**CONTENTS THIS JOURNAL**

Title	Author	Page
Diary Dates		1
For Your Information - NOSSA News		2
Coming Field Trip Information	Thelma Bridle	2
March Field Trip <i>Pterostylis ulginosa</i>	Thelma Bridle	2
Kangaroo Island Field Trip	Thelma Bridle	2
ANOS South-western Western Australia Field Trip	Thelma Bridle	3
Field Trip to Mt Bryan	Thelma Bridle	3
Orchids of Mt Kinabalu	Edda Viscic and Russell Job	3
Orchid Conference Planning Update		5
Field trip report Belair National Park 8-12-01	Thelma Bridle	6
South Australian Women Orchidologists and Painters: (Kath Alcock)	R. Bates	6
<i>Dockrillia striolata</i> Reichb 1857 Rauschert	Len Field	7
Events Leading to the Formation of N.O.S.S.A.	Roy Hargreaves	8
South Coast Orchid Club of S.A. Species Club		10

**NEXT MEETING 26 FEBRUARY 2002**

Tuesday, 26 February, St Matthew's Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m.  
Doors to the hall will be open from 7:15 p.m. to allow Members access to the Library and Trading  
This will be a cultural evening with demonstrations on potting terrestrial orchid tubers and mounting epiphytes. Bring lots of orchids to populate the display table.

**DIARY DATES**

February 26, 2002: First NOSSA General Meeting for 2002  
10 March Field Trip *Pterostylis ulginosa*  
26 March, 2002: Annual General Meeting - N.O.S.S.A.s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!!  
23-28 September Kangaroo Island Field Trip  
23 Sept - 5 October ANOS South-western Western Australia Field Trip  
18-21 Sept 2003 16TH Australian Orchid Council Conference Adelaide, hosted by O.C.S.A.

**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday 6 March at the home of David Hirst. Meeting commences at 7:30 p.m.

**EDITORS CLOSING COMMENT:** Dare I say it! - We are a Society, and not really a club and we must not forget this.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION - NOSSA NEWS

## NEW EDITOR:- DAVID HIRST

Yes, The Native Orchid Society of South Australia has a new Editor. David Hirst, a long time Member of the Society and a dedicated Committee Member, has offered to be your new Editor. David has a strong interest in all things natural, but in particular orchids and as most members know, spiders of the creepy crawly kind. On behalf of the Members of the Society, your Committee (and current Editor) heartily thank David for volunteering to take on the task of preparing the journal for the next term. David will take on the role beginning with the March Journal  
email [www.hirst.david@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:www.hirst.david@saugov.sa.gov.au)

## 25 YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG!

The March meeting will be the AGM and the 25th Anniversary of the Society. Members are asked to start thinking really really hard now about bringing items of memorabilia such as slides, photographs, etc to that meeting. As 25 years is the silver anniversary, emphasis will be placed on white flowers (or silver ones!!). More information will be forthcoming throughout the year. If any members have any ideas how to help celebrate this important milestone please speak to one of the committee.

## TUBER BANK REPORT 2001/2002-02-09

Malcom Guy

The Tuber bank completed 19 orders, comprising 260 lots. There were over 70 species offered. Three Members supplied over 85 percent of the tubers. Many thanks to Paul Lloyd and Peter Branwhite froth Victoria for their generous donations and to the local members who donated tubers. \$253.00 was raised for the Society from the sale of tubers.

KEVIN JOHNSON. NOSSA members were saddened to learn of the death of Kevin. A member for many years, Kevin had done many beautiful and realistic watercolours of terrestrial orchids, whilst living in the South East. Having moved to Hahndorf he was able to join us for the Yorke and Eyre Peninsular s trip last year, and his sense of humour and friendliness was much appreciated by all. We were looking forward to his company on many more field trips. He is and will continue to be sadly missed.

Thelma Bridle

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Thelma Bridle

## FIELD TRIP FOR MARCH

There will be a field trip on Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> to southern swamps to look specifically for *Pterostylis uliginosa*, which has not been seen in South Australia for several years. Meet Pages Flat Road just off main Victor Harbour Road at loam. Please contact Thelma Bridle (8384 4174) for further details.

23rd

KANGAROO ISLAND FIELD TRIP Mon Sept - Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Sept 2002

This trip is being arranged by Barb and Ken Bayley. Ken will hire and drive a bus for the trip to keep costs down. Numbers are limited, so booking will be on a first come, first served basis. Bus costs, ferry costs and accommodation will be approx. \$250 per person, based on 5 adults sharing a cabin, ranging to approx. \$625 per couple for a cabin for 2. All linen is provided at the cabins and participants are asked to restrict luggage, due to space constraints on the bus.

The trip will be self-catering. Food is readily available at Kingscote supermarkets and shops. Parks entry fees will best be covered by the purchase of a Parks Pass (\$30). which also includes the cost of some tours, eg. seals, caves and lighthouses. Secure car parking can be obtained at Cape Jervis.

Accommodation booking must be made as soon as possible, so please indicate your interest immediately. A deposit of \$50 per person will be required once your seat is confirmed and further details of the trip will be provided.

Phone Thelma Bridle 8384 4174 or e-mail [thelma.bridle@csiro.au](mailto:thelma.bridle@csiro.au)

#### ANOS (VIC) TOUR OF SOUTH WEST WESTERN AUSTRALIA Mon Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> - Sat Oct 5<sup>th</sup>

This 12 day tour of the southwest of WA is at the peak wildflower and orchid flowering season. The cost will range between \$2,530 and \$2,640 depending on the number of participants. The cost includes a guided bus tour with an orchid specialist, motel accommodation and all meals throughout the trip, including morning and afternoon teas, and all entrance fees as required. It does not include pre and post tour accommodation and travel.

Please indicate your interest to Andrew Dilley as soon as possible. The tour will only go ahead if sufficient people are interested.

[adilley@primus.com.au](mailto:adilley@primus.com.au)

23, Heath Road, Belgrave South, Victoria 3160.

#### FIELD TRIP TO MOUNT BRYAN - *Pterostylis* aff. *Despectans*

Thelma Bridle

In late December, Phil and I revisited the sites in the Mount Bryan area where we have been following the flowering and seeding of *P. aff. despectans*. All flowering was complete at this time but seedpods had not yet dehisced. The table below summarises the results for 2001. The intention is to repeat the exercise of marking staked plants for several years to determine:

- a) whether flowering plants come up again (and flower) in subsequent years.
- b) number of naturally pollinate (and seeded) plants
- c) increase or change in plant numbers.

Site	No. plants staked in July	No. flowering plants recorded	%	No. plants producing seedpods	%
A	186	86	46	6	7
B	not counted	61	c50	3	5
C	20	12	60	4*	33

\*3 plants with multiple seedpods.

#### ORCHIDS OF MOUNT KINABALU

Prologue to Borneo.

First Published in Orchids Australia Oct. 99

Part 1 of 2 Written by Edda Viskic and Russell Job.

More than twenty million years ago, (in the Miocene Period) Australasia was approaching the enlarged Sunda Sea. Its approach had buckled and uplifted the sea floor. Borneo and many other archipelago islands had been formed.

Asia was a thousand kilometres away and for 40 million years this southern island continent had been isolated from India, Madagascar and Antarctica and subduction of the coastal shelf was

producing the first volcanic islands of what would become Indonesia and also the north of New Guinea. Warm, moist climates of the earlier Tertiary Period had kept inland Australia well vegetated but increasing circulation of the Southern Ocean currents and weather patterns began to cool the south and dry zones started to stress some inhabitants. In the north west, there were mountains that have now been subducted. The new volcanoes to the west of these, provided nesting sites for Australian birds (Corvids) and bats from Asia travelling east. Insects, birds and winds carried seeds and spores to the uplifted and folded emergent sea floors and diversification and colonisation of new habitats began. Many temperate and warmer plants now associated with southern Australasia were to commence their journey into Asia. More than 50 genera of these itinerant plants plus associated pollinators can still be found on just one of these transit refugia. Some plants, also of Gondwanan origin have come here via India and Asia. For example, we found so many orchid species of *Phaius*, *Vanilla*, *Bulbophyllum*, *Eulophia* and *Calanthe* in Madagascar, as well as so many different leafless saprophytic and epiphytic orchids *Chiloschista*, *Taeniophyllum*, *Microcoelia* and others that a southern orchid phylogeny has a more solid data base than some of the modern commentators have realised.

At 17 million years before the present era, part of the descending NW margin of the Australasian tectonic plate reached a depth of about 8km and liquified. Changed into granite by heat and pressure, the density of this rock became lower than that of the island that was above. Gravity broke off this piece of Australia. It slowly turned edge on and began its rise as an active PLUTON. Above, the mountains of proto-Borneo were being eroded away. Regeneration of the emerging mountain continued from below, maintaining cold climatic zones within a few degrees latitude of the equator for all this extended geological time. The granite became extruded through the surface of the mountainous ridge about 2 million years ago. Through many minor and approximately 10 major planetary ice ages, glaciers have carved several kilometers off the top of this 20 km. long range. The plants and animals have been able to move up and down hills and gorges to suit their special needs. This altitude shift was often approximately one and a half thousand metres.

#### ORCHIDS & HABITATS OF MOUNT KINABALU

Mt. Kinabalu began rising through the softer sedimentary crust several million years ago. Erosion by glaciers and heavy rainfall have sculpted, polished and streamlined, craggy peaked nunataks, (outcrops bypassed by glaciation). The mountain is still rising at an estimated 5mm per year. The sheer granitic magnificence of the crested summits are often shrouded in clouds. In fact at 4101m, it is so high that it creates its own weather patterns. A swirling, low pressure vortex of clouds surrounds the 3000m level and covers the plants with regular, refreshing moisture. Rain was seen blowing up gullies. At latitude 5 degrees nth. it is called the "Land beneath the wind", because of freedom from hurricanes. Our expedition was led by Dr. Ben Wallace and comprised Friends of the Aust. Museum.

Sir Hugh Low made the first recorded ascent of this north west Borneo summit in 1851. The highest peak and the deepest gully 912m. bear his name as do the orchids *Paphiopedilum lowii*, *Cymbidium lowii* and the tropical pitcher plant, *Nepenthes lowii*. The montane oak forest with 40 species of oaks recorded so far surrounds Park Headquarters, a facility which enables scientists and visitors access to the Park: The 1524m to 3952m altitude range of the plants here allows for vegetation to grow in tropical, lowland forest to alpine summit zone where plants become rare. With a yearly rainfall of 305cm and a daily temperature range from 13 to 22 degrees Celsius at park H.Q., many genera are represented in the park's 754 square kilometres. Accessible by road from the coastal city of Kota Kinabalu (formerly Jesselton in Nth. Borneo), the Park's focal attraction is the highest peak in Sabah and South East Asia (west of Irian). At 1700m, the accommodation available is in cabins, hostel rooms or hotel at the Park Head Quarters.

The local Kadazan people regard the mountain as the sacred resting place of dead spirits. Today they practise shifting agriculture on the steep slopes encroaching the park and work as porters within. There are daily, guided walks through and around the forest clad trails nearby. A suspended walkway at Poring Hot Springs across a gully gives a fantastic view of the canopy communities. The bus ride from

Kota Kinabalu was through rubber tree groves and farmland eating away the foothills and encroaching into the higher slopes.

Climbing pandanus crawls up tall trees in a habitat where over half the species growing above 912m are endemic. The high mountains of New Zealand, New Guinea and Australasia have some Gondwanaland relic plants which have many relatives on Mt. Kinabalu. Ancient plant migrations between Eurasia and Australasia are evident. The *Tristania elliptica* tree with orange and white bark, *Leptospermum recurvum*, *Dacrydium gibbsiae* are some examples and the terrestrial orchids *Corybas*, *Habenaria*, *Spiranthes*, *Spathoglottis*, *Eulophia*, *Corymborkis*, *Gastrodia*, *Geodorum*, *Liparis*, *Malaxis*, *Oeceoclades*, *Luisia*, and *Cryptostylis* are others.

Above the 2700m level are 50 genera of Australasian plants and associated insects. At species level they are mainly endemic, but are so similar in appearance to Tasmanian congeneric relatives. Podocarps are a good example along with the Tea-trees and Celery Top "pines". This mountain is a floral island and animal refuge surrounded by hot, lowland forest that extends from Thailand to Sulawesi where huge, buttressed *Dipterocarps*, *Shorea* (meranti) spp. dominate from 912m to 1200m. The montane forests of smaller trees like *Tristaniaopsis*, a small leafed myrtle and denser ground cover are hosts to an extraordinary array of epiphytic orchids and mosses. Many of these have transgressed the so-called "Wallace" line with at least 38 orchid species shared with Sulawesi and 48 with New Guinea. Between 1200m to 3000m the montane forests of laurels, chestnuts, oaks and myrtles form the high canopy with several layers of foliage competing for the intense solar energy of the tropics.

On the mountain, at least 686 species in 121 Genera of orchids inhabit terrestrial, swampy, rocky or lithophytic and tree or epiphytic locations. *Bulbophyllum* 83 sp. *Eria* 57 sp. and *Liparis* 25 sp. are most common at all levels of exposure and forest type. *Dendrochilum* 34 sp. *Coelogyne* 36 sp. and *Dendrobium* 46 sp. are also abundant in diversity and endemism. *Arundina graminifolia* grows in sunny, exposed places and mimics grasses. Many were flowering by the roadside. The ancient relic Trigoak tree, *Trigonobalanus verticillatus* grows at 1500m and is a Beechoak making suckers and acorns.. A derivative oak, *Lithocarpus havillandii* is a tree that sometimes hosts the huge orchid *Grammatophyllum kinabaluensis*. Its other species are widespread through South East Asia.

Orchids that have been mounted in the Park H.Q. garden and shade house for closer study and conservation include the genera *Vanda*, *Aerides*, *Trichoglottis*, *Polystachya*, *Renanthera*, *Arachnis*, and *Paphiopedilum*. Also, *Nepenthes* (pitcher plants) and *Rafflesia* (the world's largest flower), a parasite on a genus of grapes are conserved. Botanists, researchers, gardeners and visitors enjoy and investigate the collection here in compact quarters.

Mt. Kinabalu's 4500 species of flowering plants are being inventoried by Kew and other Botanic Gardens. *Cymbidium elongatum*, one of 8 *Cymbidium* species here grows as a terrestrial or epiphyte at 1200m to 1800m and makes continuous stems.... something like a *Vanda*!!!! Only discovered in 1988 this *Cym.* shows how remarkable evolution can be in such a dynamic and contiguous range of overlapping habitats. The 12 spp. of *Trichotosia* are clump forming and there are 7 species of *Vanilla* which have a vine habit forming long ropes in the trees (related to the Australian *Pseudovanilla foliata*). The Jewel Leaf orchid *Anoctochilus lowii* has golden veining in the leaves and are hard to find in the leaf litter. *Paraphalaeonopsis labukensis* is a rat-tail leafed, pendulous epiphyte and *Taeniophyllum* sp. include leafless forms that flower from root tufts covering the branches. *Eria* & *Robiquetia* spp. grow with mosses and lichens on branches and twigs. Some of these were identified on a guided walk along some streams near the hostel.

#### ORCHID CONFERENCE PLANNING UPDATE.

The Planning Committee include:

Richard Fishlock Conference Chair person

Co ordinate mailing list and email updates to Orchid Bulletin Editors.

Don Gallagher Budget Estimates, Bus Tours, Travel Arrangements for Overseas and Interstate Registrants ( Travel & Accommodation.)  
 Reg Shooter Guest Speakers & Commercial Sales.  
 David Harmer Show Judging and Minute Secretary.  
 Reg Faulkner Sponsorships & Registrants materials.

Now is the time for any interested persons to nominate as a Coordinator, for the following vacancies:

\* Secretary, \* Treasurer, \* Show Marshal, \* Publicity,  
 \* Reception Function, \* Social Functions \* Publications

Early in 2003, need people to express an interest in giving their time to assist in a large range of functions. They will be rostered to assist with: making Centennial Hall ready for the Show, Bus Tours, Reception Duties, Collection of entry fees, Supervision of exhibits in Centennial Hall, Guest Speakers / Registrants refreshments, Prize cards for winners, and Cleaning up Hall as required.

If you can assist with any of the Coordinator's duties please advise Richard Fishlock : 9 Allen Ave GLYNDE 5070 by the end of March 2002.

#### FIELD TRIP REPORT - BELAIR NATIONAL PARK 8/12/01

Thelma Bridle

Ten members met on a pleasant afternoon to look for *Orthoceras strictum* in Belair. The first orchid to be found was the South African species *Disa (Monadenia) bracteata* - yes, they even change the names of the introduced species! This rampant weed had spread rapidly through an area cleared of pines over the last few years. There were many *Microtis frutetorum*, both in seed and a number still in full flower. A single flower remained on a *Pterostylis biseta* found as part of a small track-side colony and this was duly photographed. As we proceeded to the first survey site, a number of green-flowered *O. strictum* were located, which we then found to be quite frequent in the locality with a few scattered further along the track edges.

*O. strictum* grows in open areas of winter-wet heath and is an uncommon although widespread orchid and always self-pollinated. The reason for the common name of horned orchid was quite apparent from observing the flowers, but the other name - crucifix orchid was more elusive as none of the flowers seen had more than a yellow blotch on the labellum.

We drove to Jubilee Drive to look for the maroon-flowered version of *O. strictum*. This could not be located where found in the mid 90's only the green-flowered variety was found, but luckily both Jocelyn and Jenny knew of a nearby site where they have been seen recently. The population consisted of about 15 plants and these were exclusively of the maroon-flowering type. These tend to flower later than the green, but there were enough flowers open to satisfy the photographers. Also found during the afternoon were many seedpods of *Thelymitra* species, *Calochilus robertsonii* seedpods, *Prasophyllum* sp. and some *Caladenia* sp. seedpods.

South Australian Women Orchidologists and Orchid Painters  
 Number 7: Kath Alcock

Bob Bates Nov: 2001

Kath Alcock of Naracoorte is the best known of our contemporary South Australian female orchid artists. She was born Kath Ridgeway at Bordertown South Australia in 1925 and attended the tiny Pine Hill school until grade seven. Kath remembers her parent's interest in the bush and its native orchids. Kath writes of these early days " In between jobs on the farm I explored the district north of Wolsely on horseback from which position I had the advantage of taking in a fair area at a single glance."



Kath painted her first orchid, a green comb spider orchid while still at school. Some of the orchids she collected at the time are now housed at the State Herbarium, still in the school exercise book they were pressed in. After more schooling in Adelaide she returned to the farm. About 1940 she corresponded with South Australian orchidologist and NOSSA life member Harold Goldsack, sending him various orchids of the Wolsely area

Kath spent some time in the 'Women's Land Army during WW2. She married soon after the war and raised three children on a farm near the tiny pine forest settlement of Comaum only a few km from the Victorian border and thousands of hectares of bush so much wilder than Wolsely. This rekindled her interest in wildflowers and she began to paint more seriously by 1958, experimenting with water-colours using very fine paint brushes, some trimmed to just a 'few hairs. Kath also took a particular interest in the way orchids moved into mature pine plantations.

It was not until her children were old enough to look after themselves that Kath was able to paint more seriously and began to correspond again with botanists in Adelaide and Melbourne, sending many specimens that were to prove new records for South Australia or entirely new species. She also developed friendships with local native plant enthusiasts such as Marion Beek, who wrote for the SGAP journals of the time and encouraged young naturalists such as Kevin Johnson of Nangwarry to look far and wide for orchids. Between them they made some twenty new records of orchids in South Australia including the first *Chiloglottis*, both *C. trapeziformis* and *C. cornuta* as well as *Pterostylis concinna*. It was Kath who first recognized *Dipodium campanulatum* and *D. pardalinum* as new species. Today there are several of Kath's discoveries yet to be named.

I first met Kath in the early 1970's and she was my guide in finding some wonderful orchid locations as well as offering hospitality when my family and I needed somewhere to stay on trips to the South-east.

Some of Kath's new species have been named in her honour, including *Triglochin alcockii*. I remember her asking me to go out into the water of a muddy lagoon and dig up plants of this species so she could show me how its tubers were very different from the common *T. procera*. My interest in plants owes much to this true field naturalist with a wonderful general knowledge. Kath is still infecting local naturalists with her enthusiasm and her more recent students such as Peter Penny and Les McHugh are still turning up new orchids almost every year.

Many of Kath's friends look forward to her Christmas cards, wondering what wildflower Kath will have painted for them. Kath has now painted over a hundred South-eastern orchid species and it would be wonderful to see these published.

Sources: 1: K. Alcock personal communication Oct 2001.  
2: State Herbarium Adelaide

#### Two 2001 Stella Awards

January 2000: Kathleen Robertson of Austin Texas was awarded \$780,000 by a jury of her peers after breaking her ankle tripping over a toddler who was running amuck inside a furniture store. The owners of the store were understandably surprised at the verdict, considering the misbehaving little \*@%# was Ms. Robertson's son.

May 2000: A Philadelphia restaurant was ordered to pay Amber Carson of Lancaster, Pennsylvania \$113,500 after she slipped on soft drink and broke her coccyx. The beverage was on the floor because Ms. Carson threw it at her boyfriend 30 seconds earlier during an argument

Common name Streaked rock orchid.

Named from the Latin word *Stria*, meaning marked by longitude lines and channels.

Synonyms. *Dendrobium teretifolium* Lindley 1810

*Dendrobium schroeninum* Lindley 1852

*Dendrobium milliganii* Muell 1859

*Callista striolata* (Reichb.) Kuntze 1891

This would be one of the smaller of the terete leafed Dockrillias and is found from the Southern side of the Hunter River in N.S.W. down through N.S.W. and Victoria across the Bass Strait Isles into North Eastern Tasmania where it is the only *Dockrillia* found on the Island. In Tasmania it tends to grow near the sea on granite boulders with plants stronger than the mainland form with flowers larger and more golden yellow. In Victoria it is very common and grows on granite and porphyry rock surfaces while in N.S.W. it also is very common growing on sandstone rock. It reaches its most prolific growing in the Southern N.S.W. Illawarra area and finishes at the Southern side of the Hunter valley that is a barrier for many of the orchid species.

While it can be found at sea level it prefers the ranges up to around 1000 metres altitude and can follow these ranges inland for some distance. This orchid can be found with ease by taking a short trip up to the Watagan Ranges. It is a definite lithophyte (growing on rocks) although there have been reports of it growing on Eucalyptus trees. It can become very locally plentiful in its growing area with its creeping rhizomes and branching wiry stems which when laying horizontal freely produce roots which penetrate crevices and hollows where litter collects and go on to form huge masses hanging over the rock faces. It will grow in very exposed positions and can withstand bright light and hot days but does need some shade against the afternoon sun. Leaves are numerous terete shaped, slightly curved and faintly ribbed, coloured light green to dark purple and if in an exposed position take on a reddish hue.

Flowering takes place from September to December with flowers either single or in pairs about two centimetres in diameter, coloured greenish yellow to golden yellow with brown striations and a white labellum. They become very fragrant in warm weather.

Culture. An easy orchid to grow and likes a temperate to cool climate well watered in the Summer and kept only slightly moist in the Winter while not being allowed to completely dry out. It can withstand really cold temperatures that it does in some of its growing areas. Can be grown on slabs (cork, hardwood etc.) or in a pot with good drainage and hung up high to allow for its pendulous habit. If grown properly it can also look very nice in a hanging basket even when not in flower. A weak feeding during its growing period would be beneficial.

It is found as a natural cross with *Dendrobium pugioniforme*.

#### EVENTS LEADING TO THE FORMATION OF THE NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA ROY HARGREAVES

Probably one of the earliest memories of those born in the country is that of picking native terrestrial orchids (in most circumstances illegal today). Such was the experience of the two who were primarily responsible for the promotion and foundation of the Native Orchid Society of South Australia.

About six months after the Western Australia Native Orchid Study Group was formed, a paragraph was published in the Australian Orchid review (vol 39, No 4, page 173-174) advising readers of this.

It was then that Les Nesbitt and I joined that group.

In July 1976, while visiting Perth (A.O.R vol 41; No 3, page 153) and being at the home of Nell and Herb Foote (President of the Western Australian Group), the phone rang and a member advised that an area was to be subdivided for housing and could he do something about rescuing the native orchids? The thought struck me: who would be contacted if the same happened in South Australia?

In August 1976, Les Nesbitt prepared a slide programme and displayed pots of fine flowering native terrestrial orchids at the Society for Growing Australian Plants (S.G.A.P.) meeting following which the President, John Scarvelis, approached him about forming a native Orchid Study group within S.G.A.P. Les and I, however, did not consider the time allotted at each meeting (probably 10-15 minutes) would be sufficient. This then posed the question: why can't we do something about a Native Orchid Society in South Australia? After discussing this with Les, as I did throughout the promotion, I rang Collin Jennings (President of the Orchid Club of South Australia) concerning the probability of starting a native Orchid Society. He later rang back requesting that the proposal be put in writing with the recommendation that it be a study group of 15 or so members within O.C.S.A.

I then wrote to the Australian Native Orchid Society (A.N.O.S.) Committee in Sydney advising them of the intention of forming a Group or Society in South Australia. It then transpired that they had recently written to both Jim Simmons and Tony Lower to see if either would be able to form an A.N.O.S. Group in South Australia. They did, however, send a list of A.N.O.S. members in South Australia.

About this time, not being too sure to what extent O.C.S.A. would be behind the proposal, and hearing expressed opinion that as a native orchid society had not so long before ceased to function, it was most unlikely for another to succeed. I approached John Scarvelis of the Horticultural Branch of Woods and Forests department who was President of S.G.A.P. and had native orchids flowering, for his advice and support in forming a Society and he was most helpful. My personal feeling was that if people wanted this to happen, they would join.

Harry Lambert (Editor of the O.C.S.A. Bulletin wrote the following in the December 1976 issue:

"Australian Native Study Group

A group of club members is trying to organise a study group on Australian Native Orchids. Any member interested in becoming a member of such group is invited to give particulars of his/her name in a book which will be tabled next to the visitors book at the next meeting. Any member who cannot attend the meeting may write the Secretary of O.C.S.A. advising of his/her interest."

Being Librarian at O.C.S.A., a request to display an invitation for interested members to join was granted.

In the O.C.S.A. Bulletin, February, 1977, the following appeared:

"40 persons (actually it was 14) have already indicated an interest in this group and accordingly, if anyone else is interested would they please contact Roy Hargreaves.... or Les Nesbitt....both will be present at the next meeting."

Altogether 35 signed as interested.

Colin Jennings (President O.C.S.A.) accepted an invitation to chair a meeting at the home of Les Nesbitt on February 22, 1977, to discuss the formation of the Society. Present were Bruce Anderson (S.G.A.P.), Roy Hargreaves (O.C.S.A. and S.C.O.C), Peter Hornsby (S.G.A.P. and N.E.D.O.S.) Colin Jennings (O.C.S.A.), Les Nesbitt (O.C.S.A. and N.E.D.O.S.) and Warwick Pybus (S.G.A.P.).

The S.G.A.P. Members urged that we become part of S.G.A.P., but as the response of O.C.S.A. members to the invitation had been good (35), the recommendation of Les and I to form a separate Society was accepted - the inaugural meeting to be held at the Goodwood Boys High School on 22 March, 1977. Colin Jennings was to be Chairman, and all local orchid societies and S.G.A.P. to be advised in writing.

The Editor, Harry Lambert, wrote in O.C.S.A. Bulletin March 1977:

"Native Orchid Society of S.A.

This newly formed Society will hold its meeting in the Assembly Hall, Goodwood Boys High School, Hardy Street, Goodwood, on the fourth Tuesday each month, starting at 8 p.m. Plant displays and commentaries will be conducted at each meeting; field days will be arranged from time to time. Interested persons are invited to contact Les Nesbitt ...or Roy Hargreaves ...for further information. There will be a trading table at these meetings."

Inaugural Meeting 22 March 1977

Colin Jennings was the Chairman. 48 persons were present of whom 44 became Foundation Members. John Leader moved that the name be Native Orchid Society of South Australia, which was carried.

Officers elected: President Les Nesbitt

Vice President Peter Hornsby

Secretary Roy Hargreaves

Treasurer Ron Robjohns

Committee: Audrey Howe, Mary Earle, Kevin Western

Auditor: Keith Yates (who had strongly supported the formation of N.O.S.S.A.)

Newsletters were to be sent out to all local orchid societies. Colin Jennings reported to O.C.S.A. Committee who requested that representatives of N.O.S.S.A. meet them in three months time re N.O.S.S.A. progress but when Colin was reminded that this was not necessary as N.O.S.S.A. was going very well. General practical assistance was received in the form of donations from S.C.O.C. AND N.E.D.O.S. to help put the new Society on a sound footing. Invitations to N.E.D.O.S., S.C.O.C. AND S.G.A.P. to exhibit at their shows were accepted. A request to O.C.S.A. to exhibit at their Spring show was rejected until we were affiliated which was not possible until we had a Constitution (March 1979).

List of Foundation Members:

Mr and Mrs N. Auliciems Mr E. Roy Hargreaves Mr, G. J. Nieuwenhoven

Mrs Betty Barclay Mr and Mrs C. R. Hocking Mr and Mrs R. G. Nunn

Mrs. Barbara Bennett Mr and Mrs P. E. Hornsby Mr. Brian Osborne

Mr and Mrs G. P. Bumiston Mrs A. M. Howe Mr Ron T. Robjohns

Mr and Mrs R. Chisholm Mr and Mrs R. Hutchinson Mr and Mrs R. Shooter

Mrs M. L. Earle Mr and Mrs A.J. Jansen Mr J. T. Simmons

Miss M. Furness Mr Brian Lehmann Miss Helen Walker

Mr and Mrs K. Furness Mr and Mrs C. C. Lindsay Mr and Mrs D. H. Wells

Miss C. Furze Mrs Shirley Little Mr Kevin W. Western

Mrs Jean Gardner Miss A. M. Marks

Mrs F. S. Gready Mr and Mrs L. T. Nesbitt

#### THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC - SPECIES CLUB

The South coast Orchid Club of S.A. is pleased to announce that it is going to run the group for a trial period of one year. The inaugural meeting to set up the structure, meeting times etc is to be held on Sunday 17 February at the home of Ron Parish. The group needs at least ten members to make it viable. The group will meet once a month with at least two combined meetings a year with the main Club. The other nine meetings will be held at the South Brighton Community Hall. Meeting dates are to be determined. Subscription rates will be \$22.00 for