



Journal
of the
Native Orchid Society
of
South Australia Inc



Leptoceras menziesii

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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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.

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NEXT MEETING 22 JULY 2003

Tuesday, 22 July, 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. Bring your plants for the display table. Our speaker will be Kevin Western on Flasking/ Deflasking Orchids, a relatively new technique for most of us.

DIARY DATES

26-27 July *Oligochaetochilus despectans* monitoring
 2 Aug. Totness/Mt Barker
 23-24 Aug. Yorke Peninsula weekend
 13-14 Sept Coorong Weekend
 16-21 Sept. 16th Australian Orchid Council Conference Adelaide.
 3-6 October South-East long weekend (see June journal)
 1-4 November ANOS Vic. trip to Tasmania (see June journal)
 7 December Annual BBQ

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wed, 30th July at the home of David & Rosemary Hirst. Meeting commences at 7:30 p.m.

JUNE MEETING

PLANTS BENCHED

Terrestrial species: *Acianthus pusillus* (2 plants - one green form); *Corybas* [= *Corysanthes*?] *fimbriatus*; *Corybas* [= *Corysanthes*?] *pruinus*; *Pterostylis collina*; *Pterostylis* [= *Taurantha*] *concinna*; (2 plants - one Tas. small form): *Pterostylis* [= *Linguella*] *nana* big bush; *Pterostylis robusta* [= *Diplodium robustum*], (2 plants - one red form); *Pterostylis hispidula*; *Pterostylis nutans*; *Pterostylis procera*;
 Terrestrial Hybrids: *Pterostylis* Ruckman; *Pterostylis* [= *Taurantha*] x *conoglossa* (2 plants).

Epiphyte species: *Dendrobium tetragonum* (2 plants)

Epiphyte hybrids: *Dendrobium* Aussie Parade x Jesmond Sparkler; *Den.* Avrils Gold (2 plants); *Den.* Edda x *speciosum*; *Den.* (Gillian Leaney x Aussie Ira) x Hamilton; *Den.* Gilliston; *Den.* Gilliston Gem x Dot Sheen; *Den.* Intense x Aussie Quest; *Den.* Jesmond Glitter; *Den.* Jesmond Treasure; *Den.* Jesmond Dazzler (2 plants); *Den.* Jesmond Treasure x Sunglow; *Den.* Northmead x Zip; *Den.* Pauline Rankin x *D. Rex* (syn. *speciosum* var. *Rex*).

Judging results

Epiphyte species

1st *Dendrobium tetragonum* grown by Brendan Killen

2nd *Dendrobium tetragonum* grown by Brendan Killen

No Third

Epiphyte Hybrid

1st *Dendrobium* Jesmond Treasure grown by Brendan Killen

2nd *Dendrobium* Pauline Rankin x Rex grown by Bill Dear

3rd *Dendrobium* Gilliston grown by Russell Job & Edda Viskic

Terrestrial Species

1st *Pterostylis robusta* grown by David Pettifor

2nd *Pterostylis nana* grown by Malcolm Guy

3rd *Corybas fimbriatus* grown by Malcolm Guy

Terrestrial Hybrids

1st *Pterostylis* x *conoglossa* grown by David Pettifor

2nd *Pterostylis* Ruckman grown by Les Nesbitt

3rd *Pterostylis* x *conoglossa* grown by Malcolm Guy

Orchid of the Night

Pterostylis robusta grown by David Pettifor

Popular Vote

Epiphyte Hybrid

Den. Jesmond Treasure x Sunglow grown by Brendan Killen

Epiphyte Species

Dendrobium tetragonum grown by Brendan Killen

Terrestrial Species

Pterostylis robusta grown by David Pettifor

Terrestrial Hybrid

Pterostylis x *conoglossa* grown by David Pettifor

Commentary on Epiphytes given by Noel Oliver, on Terrestrials by Les Nesbitt

JUNE SPEAKER

Brian Tindall gave a talk and slide show on Australian Alpine Orchids. The slides were of high quality and nearly all were of orchids that I have not encountered so they were extremely interesting, so much so that I would have liked more time to spend looking at them.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION - NOSSA NEWS

DIARY DATES FOR FIELD TRIPS/CONSERVATION

FIELD TRIPS FOR AUGUST

July 30th Blows weeding has been cancelled for 2003

Leighton Road, Clare weeding cancelled on 18/6 is hoped to be re-scheduled shortly. Please let Cathy know if you would be interested in helping weed lavender at this site.

Sat Aug 2nd Totness/Mt Barker visit. Meet 10am on Paechtown Road. Take the Hahndorf exit off the freeway and after crossing under the freeway, Paechtown Road is first left.

Sun Aug 17th Morning field trip. Meet 10am at Chapel Hill Winery.

Afternoon Orchid Study Group meeting at 47 David Terrace, Morphett Vale at 2pm. Please bring photos/slides of *Oligochaetochilus* and *Diplodium* genera. Afternoon tea will be provided.

Aug 23/24 Yorke Peninsula weekend for monitoring of *A. macroclavia* together with a short orchid field trip. Meet Sat at 10am at the playground in Bute on the Kadina Road. Please make your own arrangements for an overnight stay in Port Vincent. Port Vincent Caravan Park has self-contained cabins and powered sites. Phone (08) 8853 7073.

Sept 13/14 Coorong weekend. Meet 10am Keith. Turn off the highway, following signs to Naracoorte. Meet by the service station at the turnoff. Please make your own arrangements for Sat night accommodation. Suggested is Gemini Downs with chalet accommodation and powered sites (08) 8575 7013.

Please contact Thelma Bridle 8384 4174 if you are interested in any of the above.

CORRECTION

Noel Lothian has informed me that the name of the stringybark referred to as "*Eucalyptus odorata*" in last month's article on the Mount Lofty Botanical Gardens is actually *Eucalyptus obliqua*. *Euc. obliqua* is the principal tree for the higher reaches of the Mt Lofty Ranges while *Euc. odorata* is native to lower rainfall regions eg Blackwood.

As an aside to the main function of the A.O.C. Conference & Show it has befallen to me the pleasant duty of organizing a perfume and foliage plant section.

The perfumed section needs no explanation but the foliage section can mean such plants as *Cymbidiums*, *Ludisia*, *Lycaste*, *Cattleya* together with mottled and plain leafed *Paphiopedilums* and many other genera.

The plants for this section should be in show condition and no cropping of leaves is allowed.

Each section shall carry a \$50.00 prize, Sash and Conference Medal for the winner.

The Conference Planning Committee and I seek your support in these sections and will welcome all your plants to make this a great Conference.

I am endeavouring to have the Royal Society for the Blind participants to judge the perfumed section and the Deaf Society to judge the foliage section therefore endeavouring to make it a unique display.

More information can be obtained from co-ordinator, Peter Galpin

SHARING YOUR PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORIES :

How are your orchid photographs going? Or are you still waiting for that prize orchid to flower?

If you would like fellow growers and the Public to see these orchid photographic memories, then why not exhibit some in the photographic competition at this years conference.

The photographic presentation, not the quality of the flower, will be judged.

Entry is free and is open to all photographers, amateur and professional, young and old, whether or not they are conference registrants. There will be two categories, Junior and Senior, and in each, there will be a class for prints (film or digitally enhanced) and also for 35 mm slides.

For each class the winner will receive \$50 and the runner up, \$20.

Further information can be obtained from the competition organizer, Iain Kilpatrick (08) 8263 0235.

HOSTING -16TH AUSTRALIAN ORCHID .CONFERENCE & SHOW

The Committee organising the Conference is looking for offers from orchid-lovers to do some hosting of overseas/Interstate visitors on the evening of Thursday 18th September. This does not mean offering visitors a bed. So what does it mean? Hosts are expected to pick up their guests/visitors from their accommodation (hotel etc.), take them home (or a place of the host's choice) for the evening meal, entertain them during the evening and return them to their accommodation at the end of the night. Hosts nominate how many people they will have on Thursday evening. It could be the start of some wonderful friendships. Please consider being hosts for this evening because the Committee still has a lot of visitors who need a welcome to this city and this Conference. Contact Pat Harmer on 8250 0718 or at deepee@smartchat.net.au if you can help, or would like more information. Alternatively you can speak to Cathy Houston for more details.

PLASTIC BAGS. Start saving these to pass onto Malcolm Guy for the plant sale.

Vale Roy Hargreaves. AOM

Edward Roy Hargreaves AOM Co-founder and life member of the Native Orchid Society of South Australia, Life member of the Orchid Club of South Australia and member of the Australian Orchid Foundation passed away early on July 1st 2003.

Roy was born Edward Roy Hargreaves at Middleton, South Australia on 20th October 1911. He was educated at Middleton Primary School; Victor Harbor Higher Primary School; Strathalbyn High School and the South Australian Trade School, Adelaide.

Married in 1937 to Ada Emily Scott they have three surviving children Felecia, Jillian and Frank.

Roy had early recollections of picking native terrestrial orchids as a boy. This love of orchids stayed with him throughout his life but it was not until he retired in the 1970's that he really became involved. It was whilst visiting orchid friends in Western Australia that the idea of forming a native orchid society in South Australia came to him. Not one for letting the grass grow under his feet, on returning to Adelaide, he set about organising the Native Orchid Society of South Australia in association with Les Nesbitt. Subsequently the inaugural meeting was held at the Goodwood Boys High School on March 22nd 1977.

Roy was elected Secretary at that meeting, a position he held for six years, later serving in various capacities on the committee for a total in excess of twenty years including a period as Vice President.

Members of NOSSA fondly knew him as "Mr Curta". For many years he grew this particular species of *Pterostylis* in an old laundry wash trough harvesting literally hundreds of tubers each year. These he would take to primary and secondary schools to give to the students.

Some of the other projects he was either involved in or ran on his own was the R.S Rogers shade house that was originally erected in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. Until fairly recently when poor health prevented him he was involved in rescue digs of terrestrial orchids around the State. He was instrumental in organising and running the first NOSSA orchid show held at Marion Shopping Centre in association with the South Coast Orchid Club in September 1979, and involved with every subsequent show.

Perhaps his proudest moment was being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia on Australia Day, January 26th 1997. "For service to conservation of Australian Native Orchids and to the Native Orchid Society of South Australia."

Rest in peace Roy you will be sadly missed. Reg Shooter.

As with all dirt farming there are successes and failures. If it were easy, orchids would be growing in the cracks in the footpath. This report is at mid June 2003.

The two flowers of *Eriochilus cucullatus* were cross-pollinated by hand and one fat seedpod was obtained. The pod is nearly ready to release seed. Last spring I planted a pot of seedlings deflasked the year before and eight *Eriochilus* leaves have fully developed. Pots of *Ptst. curta*, *pedunculata* and *nutans* planted out last year all came up in increased numbers as did the *Ptst. pedunculata* that were already there. Something ate most of the curta leaves and only 3 plants are now in evidence. I suspect birds as the remaining leaves have chunks torn off. It does not look like snail damage. *Ptst. nutans* has not been damaged while *Ptst. pedunculata* leaves have been chewed by some grub or snail but not enough to prevent flowering.

I have emptied 300mm of rain from my rain gauge this year and the bush is saturated although there has been no runoff so far. The bush plants are looking great with such a good start to the season. Tiny deflasked seedling leaves of *Thelymitra antennifera* are still alive. Vigorous *Cyrtostylis robusta* leaves show that planting dormant tubers in a row like bean seeds can be successful. One problem encountered is scratching birds wherever there is loose leaf litter on the surface. This is just the spot *Corybas* prefer so I planted *incurvus* and *diemenicus* from pots into a litter filled hollow last spring. To protect the orchids I have placed fallen gum twigs over the leaf litter to discourage birds and it works. The sticks stand up off the surface by some 50 to 100 mm and make it difficult for small birds to walk around. No *Corybas* were showing in mid June. The two *Corybas* species are separated by a patch of *Leptoceras menziesii* which were just making an appearance.

Small dormant *Thelymitra* tubers planted in summer are up but in reduced numbers. Those showing are *Thel. luteocilium* and *Thel. rubra*. The naturally occurring *Thel. pauciflora* are growing strongly. A seedling of *Thel. grandiflora* relocated some 3 or 4 years ago has increased to 3 plants in a clump with the largest looking robust enough to flower for the first time in November.

On the downside, there is no trace of any of the *Caladenia tentaculata*, *leptochila* or *rigida* seedlings transplanted direct from flask to soil last spring. They may be more successful this year if it stays wet. I scattered seed of *Cal. tentaculata* in the same spot in May so will keep my fingers crossed for seedlings by October. At present there are no mother plants of *Caladenia* in the grid but there are some nearby.

In some grids the native grasses are getting too thick and tall for orchids. It would help the orchids to burn this patch in summer but the fire ban season makes that strategy illegal. I wouldn't risk setting alight to the bush anyway. The next best strategy is to slash in December after all seed has ripened.

A clump of *Ptst. robusta*, protected by a plastic tree guard, was doing well with five plants in flower surrounded by 10 rosettes. These are from a 5" pot of 10 planted last spring whilst a similar pot of 10 *Ptst. nana* that is not guarded has resulted in only 3 plants. The *nana* are near the *curta* so it could be the same predator.

Greenhoods of the genus *Diplodium* can be recognised from the following characters:

1: Colony forming 2: Single flower 3: Flowering plants with cauline leaves (ie leaves on the stem) 4. Non-flowering plants with rosette leaves usually outnumber flowering plants. 5: lateral sepal tips erect but often floppy near their tips.

There are about a dozen species in South Australia and although there is at least one species flowering in any month of the year most of the species flower in the colder months.

Species can be found in most common habitats and include-

1: *Diplodium tenuissimum* which grows in alkaline ti-tree swamps of the South-East and flowers Oct- April.

2: *Diplodium* aff. *alatum* grows in acid peat bogs near Mt Burr, flowering in April May.

3: *Diplodium bryophilum* grows in mossy woodlands on Fleurieu Peninsula and flowers April-June.

4: *Diplodium dolichochilum* (long narrow labellum) flowers in mallee broombush on calcareous soils in June-July throughout the southern half of the state.

5: *Diplodium erythroconchum* (large reddish labellum) flowers on limestone from July-Sept. Widespread from Eyre Peninsula to the Vic border.

6: *Diplodium striatum* (black tipped dorsal sepal and sinus) grows in sandy woodland with a heathy understorey in the South-East and flowers in winter.

8: *Diplodium* aff. *striatum* 'coastal' (red tipped dorsal sepal and sinus) grows on the inland side of coastal sandhills usually under soap mallee from May-July. Mostly in the Nora Creina area.

9: *Diplodium* aff. *alatum* Adelaide Hills' (with pale stripy flowers and short dorsal sepal) grows in rocky, steep places and is endemic to the Adelaide Hills. It Flowers May-July.

10: *Dip/odium* aff. *alatum* 'coastal' grows on or near coastal headlands and adjacent mallee from Kangaroo Island, to Goolwa and along the Coorong and flowers in winter.

11: *Diplodium* aff. *dolichochilum* grows in native pine forests on white sands from Eyre Peninsula to Victoria and flowers in winter.

12: And finally our commonest and most widespread species which occurs throughout the State wherever other orchids grow is *Diplodium robustum* (chunky green flowers with a very short labellum). This is a species which appears to

consist of several habitat specific subspecies. ie the semi desert taxon which grows from Northern Eyre Peninsula, to the Flinders Ranges as far north as Blinman and east almost to Broken Hill; the common large flowered Mt Lofty taxon with raspy leaves and the mallee taxon which often comes in brown tinted forms. Only about half these *Diplodium* taxa are illustrated in Orchids SA.

One might suspect that there are other rarer species in highly specialised habitats. So field orchidologists please take the challenge and once you have found the dozen species treated here see what others you can find. Some may be cryptic and first recognised from odd flowering times. For example when NOSSA ventured to Eyre Peninsula in September 2001 we found a common species in the sugar gum forests north of Port Lincoln which looked like *D. dolichochilum* but flowered later and had a thick labellum. Perhaps some of our members at Port Lincoln could check these out in detail.

BOOK REVIEW: French Orchids near Paris

Edda Viskic

Les Orchidees Sauvages d'Ile de France by Francois Dusak and Pascal Pernot was gifted to the Native Orchid Society of South Australia recently by Mr. Pernot.

It is a detailed and informative study of the wild orchids found in the area of France bordering the Seine River and its tributaries. Distribution maps and accurate in situ photographs complement the conservation information and scientific data. Plant tables for comparison of forest, savannah and sandy, wet or dry sites are included; The text is written in French and include the names of the protected species, *Spiranthes spiralis*, *Anacamptis palustris* and *Ophrys araneola*.

Many are found on the roadside verge and a yearly flowering calendar is presented. Fine line drawings are included with identification keys, excellent photos of the following Genera: *Epipactus*, *Listera*, *Li,oar*, *Hammarbya*, *Platanthera*, *Neottia*, *Ophrys*, *Orchis*, *Herminium*, *Cephalanthera*, *Goodyera*, *Spiranthes*, *Limodorum*, *Gymnadenia* and *Dactylorhiza*.

Hybridization techniques are explained and photographed in sequence. The cladograms obtained by detailed genome analysis of the 13 species of the European Orchidinae with work carried out by both Kew and Naples Botanic Gardens have been included.

The importance of mycorrhizal association is discussed and the history of pollination is covered from Darwin in 1862 to the 1999 studies of Johnson. The high quality photos both close up and habitat shots are well worth a look even if your French language skills are rusty or non existent.

Members of NOSSA can borrow this lustrous work and recall some families seen in the David Pettifor presentations on the Orchids of England, especially the ones that like chalky plankton soils and marshy spots.

Written by Edda Viskic. 6/6/03

The next NOSSA Judges meeting, is Saturday 2nd August.

Calanthe triplicata Willemet 1907
 From Latin Triplex meaning threefold
 Common name. Christmas orchid.

Len Field

Calanthe is a genus of about 120 species widely distributed through tropical regions with only one species *Calanthe triplicata* extending to Australia. This is one of the links between the flora of Australia and those of more northern latitudes. This orchid can also be found up through New Guinea, Sri Lanka, India and China.

Originally named *Orchis triplicata* by Willemet in 1796, but this name was changed to *Calanthe veritifolia* in 1823 by Robert Brown a noted Botanist of that time. In the year 1907 Oakes Ames a prominent American Orchidologist reinstated the original name of *Calanthe triplicata* which is now the proper name for this orchid although it continued to be referred to as *Calanthe veritifolia* in Australia until 1964.

Habitat. The Australian member of this genus extends along the East Coast from the Bloomfield River in North Queensland to the Illawarra district of S.E. N.S.W. where it has become quite rare in some areas. It can still be found quite easily in an area north of Sydney either in large colonies or single scattered plants where it is usually found in very shaded moist gullies and can become very abundant. Not being a true terrestrial *Calanthe triplicata* root growth does not penetrate deeply into the soil but stays near the surface in leaf mould and other forest debris that has collected on rocks, rotting logs etc or in humus on the forest floor where there is plenty of shade and cool moist conditions where the roots can collect nutrients with their large spread.

Description. It is a large species with hardly noticeable pseudo bulbs with 3 or 4 large pleated leaves up to 90 cm tall and 18 cm wide being very similar to *Phaius tankervilleae* in both looks and growth habits and unlike the northern members of the *Calanthe* genus does not lose its leaves.

The inflorescence can be over a metre high with numerous 3 cm white flowers densely packed at the top of the spike with a labellum resembling a Lorraine cross. The flowers are very delicate and will mark badly if handled, this is caused by the leaves containing a chemical named Indican, which is the same as contained in the dye substance known as Woad. Flowering period is from late November to the end of January, this is the reason for the common name of Christmas orchid.

Cultivation. This is one of the easier orchids to grow where it can be grown in the garden in a very shaded and well drained area that can be kept moist in the drier times, but the easiest way to grow this plant is in a pot large enough to give its extensive root system plenty of room to expand. I find it grows quite well in an open *Cymbidium* type mix with a little humus added in the form of well-decayed leaf mould. It is also very fond of old cow manure added to the compost, but if the compost is made too rich it will encourage too much leaf growth at the expense of the flowers. Remember grow these plants in a well-shaded area and handle as little as possible while giving plenty of moisture both to the roots and the atmosphere except in cold weather where some protection from frost is needed, good air movement is also necessary.

CORKS

Just a few facts on the Guides Association SA cork collection.

We started collecting corks in August 1992, that year 272 kg was collected, last year 17,330 kg was collected. A full shopping bag holds around 2 kg.

Over the eleven year period we have collected 144,000 kg that's 144 ton. 3.5 ton fit into a 20 ft container. So you can see that is a large amount of landfill that has been saved. It takes 1.6 years to breakdown a cork. Corks are freighted (free of charge) to Melbourne to Comcork and are recycled into floor tiles, place mats, gaskets and the inside of cricket, golf and hockey balls.

The Guides Association gets about \$1.00 per kg and funds I raise go towards the Associations Camping, Training and Environmental Education Centre Douglas Scrub at McLaren Flat, in particular to provide activity and leader training equipment. I also have a box at Baily & Baily on Goodwood Road and some neighbours drop little bundles of cork on my front doorstep! I usually raise around \$250 each year (that's a lot of cork). All cork has to be sorted to pull out any rubbish (babies dummy, coins, egg cups, silver pourer, spoon, pocket knife, bus tickets to name a few), wire from champagne corks and plastic corks. The plastic corks are also recycled but we don't get any money for them!

We have a group of volunteers that travel all around the city and suburbs picking up corks, they currently go to 360 venues including Government and Parliament House. If you know of a venue that might like to collect corks for us please let me know and I will pass on the information. Local units also collect cork at different venues around the state.

So, thanks for your corks, they are greatly appreciated.

Jan Forrest OAM
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Corks can be given to the Editor who will pass them on to Jan Forrest.

Quotes: forwarded by Noleen Ridley.

"Botany is the art of insulting flowers in Latin and Greek."
French author and journalist, Alphonse Karr - 1808-1890.

"Today's generation of Botanists try to justify their existence by correcting the mistakes of the previous generation."
Author unknown.