

# Journal of the

# Native Orchid Society of South Australia Inc



Oligochaetochilus excelsus

# 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 of the management committee, no person may represent the Society on any matter. All native orchids are protected in the wild; their collection without written Government permit is illegal.

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Views or opinions expressed by authors of articles within this Journal do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the management committee. We condone the reprint of any articles if acknowledgment is given

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

#### OCTOBER 2005 VOL. 29 NO 9

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#### **NEXT MEETING 25 October 2004**

Tuesday, 25 October, 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 table.

Unfortunately the speaker for the meeting has not yet been decided upon in time for printing in the journal.

#### **DIARY DATES**

Tues 25<sup>th</sup> Oct Special General Meeting

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> October Gastodia sesamoides in Kuitpo Forest [but see p86]

Sun 30<sup>th</sup> October Sun orchids in Belair [but see p86]

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Oct – Tues 1<sup>st</sup> Nov Sat 5<sup>th</sup> or Sun 6<sup>th</sup> November Orchids of the Beechworth area (Victoria)

Lobethal sun orchids

**Tues 22 Nov** Annual Auction & Xmas Supper

4 December Annual BBQ

#### **NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wed, 2<sup>nd</sup> November** at the home of . Meeting commences at 7:30 p.m.

#### SEPTEMBER MEETING

#### **Epiphytes benched**

#### **Species**

Dendrobium aemulum (4 plants); Den. falcorostrum (4 plants); Den. kingianum (12 plants); Den. speciosum (7 plants); Den. tetragonum; Dockrillia beckler; Dock. fairfaxii; Dock. linguiformis; Sarcochilus aequalis (2 plants); Sarco. hartmannii (2 plants)

#### **Hybrids**

Den. Aussie Quest x Brinawa Charm; Den. Blushing Star; Den. Brinawa Charm; Den. x delicatum; Den. Elegant Heart; Den. Elegant Heart x kingianum; Den. Gillian Leaney; Den. Gilliston Vow; Den. Kath King x Wodonga; Den. Nugget x speciosum; Den. Sarah Jane; Den. speciosum x Star of Dawn; Den. Telekon x Zip; Dockrillia Dainty Cascade; Dock. Rosemary Jupp (2 plants); Sarcochilus ceciliae x Susan; Sarco. Heidi x Susan; Sarco. Lotus; Sarco. Melba; Sarco. Red Cascades; Sarco. Sunspot (2 plants)

#### Terrestrials benched

#### **Species**

Caladenia carnea; Caladenia latifolia; Caladenia leptochila; Caladenia tentaculata (2 plants); Chiloglottis trapeziformis; Cyrtostylis reniformis; Diuris micrantha; Diuris palustris; Diuris punctata; Diuris sulphurea (2 plants); Glossodia major; Leptoceros menziesii (3 plants); Microtis sp.; Pterostylis baptistii; Pterostylis pedunculata; Pterostylis arenicola; Disa bracteata

#### **Hybrids**

Chiloglottis x Pescottiana; Diuris Pioneer 'Big Ears'; Pterostylis Cutie 'Harolds Pride' x baptistii 'Gosford'; Pterostylis foliata x baptistii 'Janey'

#### **Judging results**

#### **Epiphyte species**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Dockrillia linguiformis grown by Noel Oliver
- 2<sup>nd</sup> *Dendrobium speciosum* grown by Les Burgess
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dendrobium speciosum grown by Brendan Killen

#### **Epiphyte Hybrid**

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Dendrobium* Brinawa Charm x Aussie Quest grown by Brendan Killen
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dendrobium Dainty Gem grown by Lesley & Robert Gunn
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dendrobium Nugget x speciosum grown by Graham & Sue Zerbe

#### **Terrestrial Species**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Diuris sulphurea grown by Steve Howard
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Hypoglottis trapeziformis grown by Les Nesbitt
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Caladenia tentaculata grown by Malcolm Guy

#### **Terrestrial Hybrids**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Chiloglottis x Pescottiana grown by Les Nesbitt
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Diuris Pioneer grown by Les Nesbitt
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Pterostylis Cutie grown by Malcolm Guy

#### Plant of the night

Diuris sulphurea grown by Steve Howard

#### Popular vote results

Epiphyte Hybrid (equal points to the following) Sarcochilus Sunspot grown by Noel Oliver

Dendrobium Kath King x Wodonga grown by Peter French

Epiphyte species Dockrillia linguiformis grown by Noel Oliver
Terrestrial Species Diuris sulphurea grown by Steve Howard
Terrestrial Hybrids Chiloglottis x Pescottiana grown by Les Nesbitt

Commentary on Terrestrials given by Les Nesbitt and on Epiphytes by Noel Oliver.

#### SEPTEMBER SPEAKER

Reg Shooter gave an interesting and informative slide show of plants awarded by ANOS Judges emphasising the fact that our plants are just as good as or better than those awarded but that our NOSSA Judges are not qualified to grant such high awards. However NOSSA Judges can award a Certificate of Cultural Commendation to the grower for an outstanding plant.

#### FOR YOUR INFORMATION - NOSSA NEWS

#### SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

A Special general meeting will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> October at St. Matthew's Hall, Bridge St, Kensington at 8:00p.m.

The meeting is called for the purpose of passing a new Constitution for the Society.

The Committee has spent many hours reviewing and updating the Constitution over the past year or so. A final draft is now ready and this can be perused prior to the general meeting.

#### **Giant Christmas Raffle - REMINDER**

Goods can be brought in to the October meeting; you will see the basket for the reception of goods alongside the raffle table at the meetins.

If bringing perishable goods please ensure the "use by" date has not expired [or will not expire] and the goods are intact.

This raffle will be drawn at the November meeting.

Gill Shooter

The November meeting is also the much anticipated Annual Auction which is followed by a Xmas Supper for the last meeting of 2005. Now is the time to start looking at those unwanted items that could be of value to another person and to begin putting them to one side. More details will be in the November Journal.

#### SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

In addition a Special General Meeting will be held on  $22^{nd}$  November at 8p.m. at St. Matthews Hall, Bridge St, Kensington, for the purpose of ratifying the subscription rate for 2006. (This is dependent upon the new Rules being passed at the meeting on  $25^{th}$  October.)

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

Since the March journal I have not acknowledged on behalf of the Committee and members of NOSSA the new members that have recently joined the Society. Welcome to Mr D Wheeler, Ms N Vogel, Mrs J Adams, R Davidson, Ms J Schwarz, Ms E Teesdale-Smith, Ms S Lengyel, Mr SJ Howard, Ms R Faast, Mrs RP Ferris, L Sladdin, Ms S Secomb, Dr R Allen, Mr D Grant, Mr A Sandbach, Mr T Hymers and Mr J Tyndall.

#### SPECIAL NOSSA SHOW SUPPLEMENT

A colour photographic record of all the award winning plants at the NOSSA 2005 Show is being produced. This hopefully will be ready and on display at the October meeting where orders can be taken for printed copies or CD. CD's will run in most DVD players not just on computer.

**Costs**: CD \$1.50 plus postage \$2.25 [includes \$1.25 for CD mailer box] alternatively – postage in flat CD mailer without case for \$1.40 [includes \$0.90 for flat CD mailer.

Costs for colour printout on double-sided photo-paper [90gsm] is expected to be \$3.00 unbound plus postage [in flat envelope] of \$1.00. Overseas postage may be higher.

#### **TUBER BANK - 2005-2006**

This is a reminder to Terrestrial growers to check your pots to see what tubers you can donate to the tuber bank.

Please remember to include locality data with the tubers. The tuber bank depends on growers supplying tubers for the younger or new growers and to ensure a good stock of plants is widely available.

Please advise Malcolm Guy - by 29th November

15 Naomi Tce, Pasadena, SA

Phone: 8276 7350

The list of tubers available is published in the December Journal

#### NOSSA FIELD TRIPS FOR OCTOBER

October 29/30<sup>th</sup> trips may be interchanged depending which day is best for sun orchids

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> October Gastodia sesamoides in Kuitpo Forest

Meet: 10am Kuitpo Forest Information Centre, Brookman Road Morning field trip

Sun 30<sup>th</sup> October Sun orchids in Belair

Meet: 10am Main entrance to Belair National Park Bring lunch

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> or Sun 6<sup>th</sup> November (depending on weather conditions)

Lobethal sun orchids

Meet: Lobethal Bushland Park on the left out of Lobethal on the road to Gumeracha

Please contact Thelma Bridle (8384 4174), e-mail: <a href="mailto:thelma.bridle@csiro.au">thelma.bridle@csiro.au</a> a day or two prior to scheduled sun orchid trips for final arrangements.

Sun 4<sup>th</sup> December Morning field trip to Kuitpo Forest for duck orchids (prior to

the BBQ lunch at Wally and Shirley's)

Meet: 10am in Kangarilla

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> December Afternoon field trip for *Orthoceras strictum* 

Meet: 2pm Main entrance to Belair National Park

#### **ORCHIDS OF AUSTRALIA: DESK DIARY 2006**

John J. Riley & UNSW Press

The artwork in this diary was first published by UNSW Press in 2002 in the 308–page collector's edition *Orchids of Australia*, co-written by David P. Banks and John J. Riley and masterfully illustrated by Riley. The *Orchids of Australia 2006 Desk Diary* includes all Australian public and school holidays, calendars for 2006 and 2007, as well as a 2007 yearly planner. RRP \$24.95

This is an excellent Desk Diary almost too good to write on. If you would like a copy then seek it out ASAP. The Museum Book Shop ordered 8 copies recently and all sold quickly [Ed].

How it is done Reg Shooter

What a show of flowers at the September meeting! It was like a second spring show. There were a total of 88 orchids in total.

The orchid that caught the judges and the popular vote was a magnificent pot of the difficult to flower terrestrial species *Diuris sulphurea* grown by one of our relatively new members, Steve Howard. The judges were so impressed they unanimously awarded it a Certificate of Cultural Commendation with a high score of 79pts. Congratulations Steve.

The 16 flower stems were grown in an oblong plastic trough 25cms x 15cms. Each 40cm stem carrying 3 to 5 brilliant yellow flowers with the distinctive brown blotches at the base of the dorsal sepal. It is a very wide spread species endemic to Australia ranging from the east coast in Queensland through the coastal areas of NSW, Vic, SA and into Tasmania.

In the epiphyte section the judges and the popular vote agreed yet again that the plant of the division was *Dockrillia linguiformis* grown by Noel Oliver. Noel exhibits this plant every year and it is always-in excellent condition. It is mounted on a piece of *Melaleuca* branch, the most satisfactory method to grow this species. It does not usually take kindly to being grown in a pot. If you ask Noel how he does it he will tell you it just hangs in the shade house with the minimum attention apart from the obvious watering and occasional drop of fertiliser keeping it a bit on the dry side during the cooler months. I think there is a lesson here. Perhaps if you are not getting good results it is because you are giving it too much attention.

*Dockrillia linguiformis* natural habitat is north-eastern Queensland to south-eastern NSW. It is probably the easiest of our native orchids to recognise when not if flower. The flat, ridged, fleshy, oblong leaves that give rise to its common name of Tongue or Thumbnail orchid are quite unique.

In the wild it grows on a variety of habitats ranging from rainforest trees to exposed rock faces in full sun. Under these conditions plants shrivel noticeably in the hotter months but quickly plump up after the first rains of the season.

Thank you to all the members that brought in plants for us to enjoy.

## **NOSSA Spring Show Report**

**Reg Shooter** 

The NOSSA Spring Show was again held in St Bernadette's Hall, South Rd, St Mary's. There was concern earlier during the year that because there were many other shows on at that same weekend exhibited plants would be down. In fact it was one of the best shows in recent years. There were a total of 11 displays in all showing many different genera & species.

The Grand Champion of the show was won by John & Bev Gay with a huge specimen plant of the natural hybrid *Dendrobium* x *gracillimum*. It also won Champion Epiphytic Hybrid. This plant was so big, it was in a 50cm pot, that it could not go on a bench but stood alone in magnificent splendour in the centre of the hall to display its 53 racemes of clear yellow flower all of which were open and in pristine condition. It was estimated there were some 2000 odd blooms on the specimen. Bev told me that they were worried it might not be fully

open by show time so they had brought it indoors in slightly warmer conditions, one can only imagine the perfume in the home. The judges were so impressed by the culture by John & Bev that they unanimously awarded it a NOSSA certificate of culture. This plant was nominated for the Ira Butler Trophy & the Reg Shooter Award.

Malcolm & Libby Guy with a magnificent pot of *Pterostylis baptistii* 'Gosford' won the Champion Terrestrial Species. This was a 30cm terra-cotta pot containing 41 blooms on 25-35cm stems of this very impressive species in excellent condition; again the judges were very impressed and unanimously awarded it a NOSSA Certificate of Culture. Malcolm elected to have this orchid nominated for the Bill Murdoch Trophy and the Les Nesbitt Award. Malcolm's display was the largest of the displays stretching right along one wall providing a wonderful array of a variety of several genera, both terrestrials and epiphytes. In addition to Champion Terrestrial Species he also picked up Champion Terrestrial Hybrid with a well-grown pot of *Diuris* Pioneer (*maculata x longifolia*) made by our own Les Nesbitt in 1981. Not content with that, went on to win Champion Epiphytic Species with a large plant of *Dendrobium speciosum*. A lovely deep yellow variety of this very variable species. Congratulations Malcolm & Libby.

This year the judges were able to award a Margaret Fuller Trophy for a Terrestrial Species to a novice grower. This is an award to a 1<sup>st</sup> time exhibitor at a show. Bodo Jensen received this with a nice plant of the terrestrial species *Leptocerus menziesii* syn *Caladenia menziesii* (NOSSA Society logo).

A tabletop display won Noel Oliver the Champion Display. This section of the show is judged by all the judges giving points for; variety of colour, Presentation, Design & Appearance, Quality of orchids & Finishing & ticketing. Noel scored well on all points to win but none of the exhibitors were far behind, it was a close run thing.

Floral Art was displayed on a small table, there were five entries and John Gay won Champion Floral Art with in the section for Vase of Native Orchids. This was a very attractive 15cm tall vase containing bright yellow flowers of *Den* .Sunsprite x *speciosum* complemented with some pieces of driftwood foliage.

It would be nice if a few more members entered in this section to show of to the public how these Aussie Natives can be used as floral arrangements.

Congratulations to all the exhibitors whether you won a prize or not, the fact that you participated is greatly appreciated.

We (the judges) had "instructions" from Bill Dear, the show Marshall, that we had to complete judging by 10am when the show was to be opened to the public. This we did, well within a couple minutes anyway, but long before that visitors were in the trading area buying up big. When I saw the number of plants on the trading tables I was not confident that they would all be sold, however people seem to come from far and wide buying like mad. One couple were from Canberra buying large plants of *Den. speciosum* in flower. They were travelling by car I wonder how they got on with a car full of speciosum perfume?

Several members took turns in manning the raffle desk strategically situated just inside the door. Visitors were greeted by being told there was "No entry fee" but "Would you like to buy a raffle ticket" very few refused. This seems to generate just as much income as if we did charge an entry fee and is well accepted by visitors.

All in all a very successful show, thank you to everyone who made it such a success.

#### **NOSSA Awards**

Three members have received Certificates of Cultural Commendation awards this year. The certificates will be presented at the November general meeting.

The successful members are; Malcolm & Libby Guy for their plant of *Pterostylis baptistii* var 'Gosford' exhibited at the spring show and John & Bev Gay for Dendrobium x gracillicaule also at the spring show. The third award was to Steve Howard for *Diuris sulphurea* shown at the October meeting. Congratulations to these members.

To be eligible to have a plant judged by the judging panel all you have to do is bring it to the attention of one of the judges at a meeting or show. To qualify to have a plant judged for a Cultural Certificate it should be in good condition with flowers and foliage clean with no dead leaves or pests present. The orchid must have been owned and grown by the applicant for a minimum of 2 years immediately prior to the judging. Why not give it a go next year?

## **ORCHID GRID – September 2005**

Les Nesbitt

The first flowers were seen in the grid at the end of August when *Pterostylis nana* and *Pterostylis pedunculata* both opened together. A few days later the leopard orchid *Diuris pardina* flowered and was pollinated by insects almost immediately. By mid September a single yellow flower of *Diuris lanceolata* was seen. This has not been pollinated and is still in good condition. Today the first flower of *Diuris orientis* was out as were the two blooms of *Pterostylis plumosa*. Spring comes with a rush when it finally arrives. The only other orchids in bud are sun orchids. It has been a wet winter-spring and flowering has been delayed compared with last year when the rain eased off in mid September.

## Kuitpo Karers Kolumn September 05

Les Nesbitt

At the NOSSA Spring Show there were not as many rescued plants as I had expected to see. There were however 10 species on display if you looked for them. They were: Acianthus caudatus, Caladenia tentaculata, Cyrtostylis reniformis, Diuris orientis, Glossodia major, Leptocerus menziesii, Linguella nana, Pterostylis foliata, Pterostylis pedunculata and Thelymitra bracteata. The single flowering plants of Leptoceras menziesii and Diuris orientis were both good forms of the species. Several community pots of Acianthus caudatus and Pterostylis foliata were well grown and flowered. Corybas flowers all dried up in the week before the show during the warm windy days.

My largest plant of *Thelymitra bracteata* (syn. *Thel. pauciflora*) had two half opened flowers on the 8<sup>th</sup> September. If the bottom flower had been fully open it would have been as big as a 50c coin. The flowers get progressively smaller up the stem.

The rust has spread to 4 pots of *Thelymitra pauciflora* so I have moved them to a quarantine area away from all my other pots in the shadehouse. One of these 4 pots also has been affected by another outbreak of black rot. So far my *Diuris orientis* leaves still look clean and healthy. Is this because I repotted the *Diuris* but not the *Thelymitra* which are still in the original sand as rescued?

More *Caladenia tentaculata* seedlings appear every week and there are now nearly 1000 seedlings in some 40 mother pots of rescued orchids. There are even seedlings in some empty pots where the mother plant failed to reappear this season. This is a fabulous result far beyond my dreams. I hope most of them make tubers large enough to survive the coming summer. Flower buds on this species and *Glossodia major* are well advanced and should be opening by the beginning of October.

#### Caroona Creek Conservation Park: NOSSA winter visit Bob Bates

With a forecast of heavy rain in Adelaide we arrived at the Park's eastern gate with the convoy of 4WD's raising dust and that's how it stayed for the weekend.

This 100 square km area of dry, rugged hills, rocky gorges, mallee and saltbush in the rain-shadow of Mount Bryan is NOSSA's survey park for 2005.

The Park rarely gets visitors so with the influx of NOSSA enthusiasts, Friends of Burra Parks and local rangers it was a regular hive of activity on this mid August weekend.

Our search on the first afternoon centred on Tooligie Gorge, with a timber shingle hut at the eastern end and the Heysen Trail winding through it is pleasant country and the orchids were numerous.

We used GPS systems and small flags to mark some of the thousands of *Oligochaetochilus* rosettes for checking on a subsequent visit as they are notoriously difficult to find in flower. There could be only two species or there could be as many as five, but in any case these dryland greenhoods are the dominant orchids in the Park occurring in all sections except the saltbush flats.

The only common orchid in flower during the survey was *Hymenochilus muticus*, 'mountain form', which was in shrubland throughout, with numerous small, chunky greenhood flowers on thick stems, mostly hiding under bushes.

Much rarer was the similar *H. cycnocephala* found in flower at the foot of a large rock sheet where it grew with a few poor leaves of the dryland spider orchid, *Caladenia toxochila...* but not a flower to be seen.

On cool rocky slopes throughout were colonies of hundreds of *Diplodium robustum*, dryland form, with most flowers aborted during the dry autumn-early winter period but some beautiful specimens were captured on digital camera by Joe Quarmby.

After an overnight camp by an old shearing shed, watching videos of orchids in Costa Rica and Florida we attempted on Sunday to survey the Caroona Creek Gorge or southern section of the Park where less orchids were seen and strong winds made it dangerous. After lunch we headed back to Tooligie to meet the Friends of Burra Parks and hopefully walk the whole gorge but howling winds meant the group broke up to do their own thing. Some repaired the old hut, others marked more *Oligochaetochilus* populations while yours truly headed into the rugged centre of the Park listing the numerous native plant species most in flower.

Members will continue the survey with unofficial visits in Sept-Oct., hopefully there will be enough rain to keep the orchids going.

We are hopeful of recording at least seven species of dryland orchid.

Dendrobium muellerianum Schltr. 1907.

Trachyrhizum agrostophyla (F.Muell.) Rauschert 1983

Common name the Buttercup Orchid

Named from the Latin agrosti(is) meaning grass and the Greek Phyll(on) a leaf. A reference to its grass like leaves.

J. Dallachy found the type plant, at Rockingham Bay near Townsville in 1873

Only found in the tropics between the Burdekin and Annon Rivers (Cooktown to Townsville) where it is a plant of the high altitude misty rain forests that is found above 800 metres, growing as an epiphyte favouring the *Casuarina* trees where it likes to grow high up on either the branches or the main trunk and here it can become very common. It can also be found as a lithophyte growing on exposed granite boulders in the accumulated litter, it can also extend to lower altitudes where it will follow the gorges down to as low as 500 metres altitudes and can then also extend into the open forests where there is a lot of humidity, here it can at times be found growing low down on smaller trees and rocks.

While it seldom forms large clumps, although I have seen it growing into quite large sized clumps on the Atherton Tablelands where when wandering around the more open rainforest it is a wonderful sight when confronted with the blaze of deep yellow of a large flowering plant standing out in the shade of the overhead canopy but prefers to form smaller slender clumps that grow into long lines of erect, rambling stems up to one metre high, but are usually much less when grown in cultivation.

An unusual plant with widely spaced pseudo bulbs that are about 600 mm tall and about 5 to 10 mm in diameter, which are swollen at the base; these are leafed for almost the entire length of the pseudo bulb. Leaves are from 25 to 100 mm long and 12mm wide, narrow and thinly textured but very tough. They can number up to twenty to each pseudo bulb. Stems can take two or three years to mature from the rhizome and will then flower for several years in succession.

Flowers are long lasting which can be up to three weeks, are sweetly perfumed and grow on short racemes on the upper section of the pseudo bulb, these number about 5 to 16 and are 15 to 25mm in diameter, cup shaped and while they are drooping are wide opening, very attractive and coloured a very waxy buttercup yellow with the labellum having brown marks. Flowering period is from August to October.

Cultivation. This plant resents being relocated and can take several years to reaclimatise and is rather difficult to cultivate in lowland areas in particular the more Northern areas but will once established happily grow in bushhouse conditions along the Victorian and N.S.W. seaboard as long as it has cool and high humidity conditions with ample air movement and good light. It can be grown either in pots or on a slab of suitable material but if grown in a pot it can present a problem with its rambling habit of erect stems growing in line but if grown this way it would be easier to maintain the moisture this plant needs to have throughout the year as, while slab culture seems to be the preferred way of growing this can also have problems trying to prevent the plant from drying out as it requires more moisture than most other native *Dendrobiums* particularly in the hot Summer months where regular misting is needed and even in Winter it still needs more watering than most other plants.

While not often used in hybridising this is an attractive and reasonably easy species to grow and should be seen more often in collections.



















