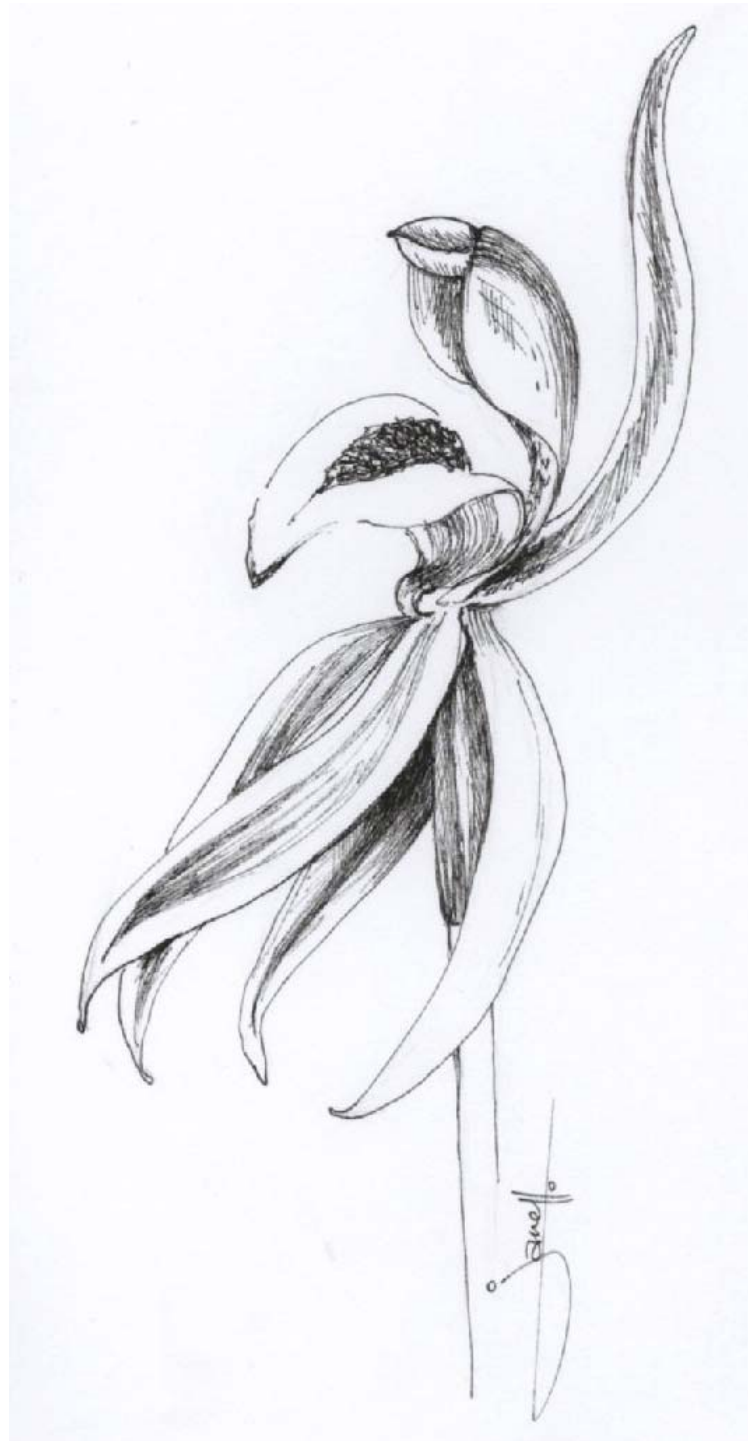




Journal  
of the  
**Native Orchid Society**  
of  
**South Australia Inc**



*Arachnorchis cardiochila*

**NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**  
**POST OFFICE BOX 565 UNLEY SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5061**

[www.nossa.org.au](http://www.nossa.org.au).

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

**JUNE 2007      VOL. 31 NO 5**

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**The Native Orchid Society of South Australia meets every  
4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the months February -November**

**NEXT MEETING 26 JUNE 2007**

**Tuesday, 26 June**, 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, trading table and to set up plants for show on the benches.  
The speaker for June is Graham Zerbe on 'The AOC Conference at Port Macquarie in 2006'

**DIARY DATES**

<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Warren and Hale Conservation Parks for <i>Diplodium</i> .
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July</b>	South East Field Trip
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	Scott Creek
<b>22-23 September</b>	ANNUAL SHOW
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	Xmas BBQ

**Next NOSSA Judges Meeting Date - Saturday June 30th**

**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wed, 4<sup>th</sup> July** at the home of Bodo Jensen. Meeting commences at 7:30 p.m.

## MAY MEETING

### Plants Benched

#### Epiphyte species

*Dendrobium bigibbum*; *Den. lithocola*; *Liparis reflexa*.

#### Epiphyte hybrids

*Dendrobium* Annes Rainbow Surprise x *speciosum*; *Den. Hilda Poxon*, *Den. Jesmond Dazzler*; *Den. White Gem*.

#### Terrestrial species

*Acianthus pusillus* 'Kuitpo' (2 plants); *Diplodium abruptum*; *D. laxum*; *D. obtusum*; *reflexum*; *D. robustum*; *Urochilus sanguineus*.

#### Terrestrial hybrids

*Pterostylis* x *furcillata* [=X *Taurodium furcillatum*] *Pt. Rogoff*; *Pt. Toveyana* [=X *Taurodium toveyanum*]; *Pt. Trunkfish*.

### Judging results

#### Epiphyte species

1st *Dendrobium bigibbum* grown by Steve Howard

2nd *Dendrobium lithocola* grown by Bodo Jensen

3rd *Liparis reflexa* grown by Malcolm Tiggerman

#### Epiphyte hybrids

1st *Dendrobium* Annes Rainbow Surprise x *speciosum* grown by Malcolm Guy

2nd *Dendrobium* White Gem grown by Bodo Jensen

3rd *Dendrobium* Jesmond Dazzler grown by Malcolm Guy

#### Terrestrial species

1st *Diplodium obtusum* grown by Malcolm Guy

2nd *Urochilus sanguineus* grown by Les Nesbitt

3rd *Acianthus pusillus* grown by Les Nesbitt

#### Terrestrial hybrids

1st *Pterostylis* Toveyana grown by Malcolm Guy

2nd *Pterostylis* x *furcillata* grown by Malcolm Guy

3rd *Pterostylis* Rogoff grown by Les Nesbitt

### Popular vote results

#### Terrestrial species

*Diplodium obtusum* grown by Malcolm Guy

#### Terrestrial hybrid

*Pterostylis* Toveyana grown by Malcolm Guy

#### Epiphyte species

*Dendrobium bigibbum* grown by Steve Howard

#### Epiphyte hybrid

*Dendrobium* Annes Rainbow Surprise x *speciosum* grown by Malcolm Guy

#### Orchid of the Night

*Dendrobium bigibbum* grown by Steve Howard

Commentary provided by Reg Shooter (Epiphytes) and Les Nesbitt (Terrestrials)

## May Speaker

Paul Harvey spoke on a very topical issue “Will the Murray dry up?” and explained with the aid of a powerpoint presentation how the river is regulated and where the water is used. Some photos from early days demonstrated that the river did not then always provide safe passage for boats. Judging by the questions following the talk it was well received by those present.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION - NOSSA NEWS

### Opportunities to improve the environment for threatened orchids.

- Mon 16<sup>th</sup> July**                      **Halbury.** Weeding at Halbury, 6km out from Balaklava, for *Pterostylis* ‘Halbury’
- Sat/Sun 28, 29<sup>th</sup> July**        **Yacka, Mt. Bryan etc.** Surveying for threatened orchid *Pterostylis despectans*; more eyes mean more orchids found.
- Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Aug**                      **Hindmarsh Falls.** Weeding for *Pterostylis bryophila*.

If members are interested in assisting these projects which are through our support for the Lofty Block Threatened Orchid Project, please contact Cathy Houston on 8356 7356 for details, or Joe Quarmby on 8222 9423.

### Field Trips for July

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July** (first weekend of the school holidays). Meet in time to head off by 10am. We will be looking for Diplodiums. This is a full day, so pack your picnic lunch and thermos. We are going to explore Hale and Warren Conservation Parks near Williamstown. Meet opposite the Williamstown Oval where the left road leads to Springton and the right road leads to Birdwood. Hale has a well camouflaged entrance further along the Birdwood Road. Walking is reasonably steep in places, but there are some wonderful views as well as orchids. It is possible to spend 3 to 4 hours walking here so we'll have to make decisions on which sections we cover. Warren Conservation Park is on Watts Gully Road, off the Williamstown to Kersbrook Road. It is renowned for its birds and flowers. While there are some steep sections, most of the walk is on moderate gradients. It can be wet underfoot in the valley.

**South East Field Trip.** Meet at the SW corner of Bangham C. Park on **Saturday 7th July** (for members wishing to attend please contact Bob Bates 8251 5251 for timing or email [bobbates63@hotmail.com](mailto:bobbates63@hotmail.com)). Later in the day we proceed to Joanna and overnight at Robe. Sunday is Nora Creina & Woakwine, with the Coorong being visited on the way home. Members intending to be present need to notify B. Bates or the Secretary.

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July** (the last weekend of the school holidays). We will be looking for Diplodiums and Greenhoods. This day is at Scott Creek Conservation Park via Coromandel Valley and there are few if any directional signs. Meet at the corner of Dorsett Vale and Cherry Gardens Roads with a picnic packed ready for another full day. As usual, the early birds get to have their coffee before we head off by 10am. The park is steep in parts with deep gullies, gurgling creeks, rare black cockatoos, abundant wild flowers and bushland views.

(details of the parks lifted from 40 Real bushwalks around Adelaide by George Driscoll)

Ring Susan Secomb 85246248 or 0409091030 with any queries.

## NOSSA SARCANTHINAE SHOW - OCTOBER MEETING 2007

This is an advance notice so you can start preparing your plants for the October Meeting. There will be 19 classes for *Sarcochilus* and allied genera, species and hybrids. It will be a trial for a possible separate annual Sarcanthinae show in the future.

**NOSSA has a new Treasurer Marj Sheppard.** Many thanks to Marj for accepting this position.

### ***Dendrobium lithocola* D.Jones et M.Clements 1989**

**Len Field**

Previous named *Dendrobium bigibbum* Subvariety *compactum* but now named *lithocola* meaning (Growing on rocks) is apparently confined to the Macalister Range between the Barron and Mossman Rivers, and grows on rocks quite often exposed to the sun. It differs from the others in its short robust stems. All varieties are usually autumn bloomers.

When *Dendrobium bigibbum* was made the floral emblem of Queensland in 1964 it caused a great controversy as coming from one localised area many thought it did not truly represent the state also it almost led to its extinction in the wild due to extensive collecting. I can always remember the only time I went looking for *Dendrobium bigibbum*, for having been told where I could find sub variety *compactum* I decided to make a solo expedition to find it and after walking for kms across reasonably flat country covered in Ti tree where I found one very small plant on a rock face overlooking a gully but while trying to get a closer look I made the mistake of climbing a small tree and was immediately covered in green ants which was not a very pleasant experience. After that I lost most of my enthusiasm for looking for this species.

Flowering can take place from January through to November but is usually in the autumn months. Flowers can range in colour from white (rare) through to deep purple with 3 to 15 on peduncles 15-20 cm long and can vary greatly in size but usually about 3 to 5 cm in diameter. Many beautiful hybrids both natural and man made using this species as one of the parents have been made with one *Dendrobium x. superbiens* being made from *Dendrobium bigibbum x Dendrobium discolor* coming to mind as one of the better known natural crosses. Cultivation Some warmth may be needed in the colder areas but I have found that Sub variety *compactum* does seem to be more cold tolerant, this no doubt is due to there lithophytic nature. Years ago it was unusual to find anyone growing any of these species in pots, usually it was tied to a tree fern slab or a piece of hardwood etc, but now the better grown plants seem to be found growing in pots with a well drained compost. This can be partly due to the fact that many of these plants have Sub variety *compactum* in there ancestry and being lithophytic adapt better to this environment. Watering is also very important while they need a good supply in our summer months, a good way to ruin a plant is to water in the winter, remember they come from a tropical area where the winters are very dry.

Vale Don Wells. An electronic hitch has prevented the intended obituary to mark the sad passing of one of most honoured members. It will appear in the July Journal. Editor.

## HOW IT IS DONE

Reg Shooter

There were two nice specimens of *Dendrobium bigibbum* on the bench for us to enjoy this month, two quite different plants. Both were labelled as *Dendrobium lithocola* (previously known as *Dendrobium bigibbum* var *compactum*). One had pseudobulbs 15cms long with a few leaves at the top of the bulb whilst the other had bulbs approximately 40cms long with leaves all the way up the bulb. The species *bigibbum* has many varieties & sub varieties and much has been written about them since they were first flowered in Kew, London in 1842. *Den. bigibbum* belongs to the small section *Phalaenantha* of which, only one other; *Den. affine* grows in Australia. The other is *Den. williamsianum* from Papua New Guinea.

Many hundreds of hybrids have been made over the years using species & hybrids from within this section and other similar sections, to produce beautiful, large, floriferous *bigibbum* like flowers where they are produced in their thousands and sold as florists cut flowers. Many of which have been mislabelled as *Den. bigibbum* & *lithocola* either by mistake or by unscrupulous nurserymen particularly from Taiwan, Thailand & other Asian countries. Hobby growers purchase these in good faith then exhibit them as Australian natives when in fact they could possibly have exotic species and/or hybrids in their background.

Often when the provenance of a plant exhibited as *Den. lithocola* is questioned we are told that they are 'Line bred'. Line breeding means taking the best of a species and crossing it with another very good species from within that species. Then, through many generations some really good results from this process can be produced however the material available governs it.

No species of *Den. lithocola* in the wild has pseudobulbs 25 to 40cms tall covered from the base to the apex with leaves or produces many racemes 40cm long carrying 80mm wide flowers. The botanical description states; *Den. lithocola* differs from *Den. bigibbum* in that it has short, stout pseudobulbs 5 to 25cms tall but averaging 10 to 12cms. Racemes usually carry 3 to 10 flowers quite similar to *Den. bigibbum* var *bigibbum* except petals tend to droop downwards slightly with fewer flowers on the raceme.

I don't pretend to know how we can resolve this dilemma, short of DNA testing which is horrendously expensive and time consuming, but it does seem unfair that these undoubtedly and undeniable beautiful dendrobiums should compete with bone-fide acceptable Australian species for judging on the bench.

## Orchid Grid May 07

Les Nesbitt

Those who have been following this saga will know that the orchid grid on my Adelaide Hills property is a patch of bushland 12m x 6m that is divided into 1m squares. I have achieved my aim of introducing into the grid 30 species of Adelaide Hills orchids. Has it been successful? The answer is yes and no.

No *Dipodium roseum* flowered in the grid last summer possibly as a result of the drought. Two plants of *Eriochilus cucullatus* flowered in April. *Dipodium robustum* rosettes are spreading but there will be no flowers this year.

There was 144mm of rain in April to break the dry and a further 70mm to May 26 with more rain forecast. Orchid leaves are popping up everywhere. *Thelymitra grandiflora* has sent up

two strong leaves and the several seedling leaves are bigger than last year. This orchid is special because it is large, rare, fungus dependent and beautiful when the blue flowers are open in spring.

Hopefully last year's seed will germinate in the grid if this season is kind. Other fungus dependent orchids to reappear are *Caladenia tentaculata*, *Calda. carnea* and *Glossodia major*. Seed of all three was scattered by hand over the grid in late March.

The most numerous species is *Pterostylis pedunculata* that continues to spread out from the original few plants in 2002. There must be more than 100 rosettes now. In contrast *Ptst. curta* and *Ptst. nutans* are struggling to maintain numbers and produce flowers. *Ptst. nana* is self seeding and thriving as there are plenty of pollinators on site for this species. There are 3 rosettes of *Ptst plumosa* this year, jammed together as a result of vegetative multiplication.

### ***Dendrobium falcorostrum***

**Les Nesbitt**

This Dendrobium is known as the beech orchid because it grows on Antarctic beech trees at the top of the Great Dividing Range in NSW. Much loved by enthusiasts for its masses of beautiful clean white flowers in spring, its strong perfume is not liked by everyone. *Den. falcorostrum* is a difficult orchid to grow in Adelaide during the summer. The leaves die back and the bulbs shrivel. It does best in a pot and soon dies here if mounted on a slab. I have four plants bought as seedlings at the first ANOS Conference in Wollongong in 1990.

Last year I shifted one to my shadehouse at 550m elevation in the hills. It has thrived with fat bulbs and healthy leaves. So last month I moved the other unhappy plants to the hills. In the cool rain the bulbs have filled out again already. This orchid needs a cold winter to set the flower buds. In nature it gets covered in snow some years.

To reliably set seed you need 3 plants. Take pollen from 2 plants and place both pollinia on one flower of the third plant. A pod sets every time. I have tried to flask the seed but very weak slow growing seedlings resulted so I gave up.

How to best grow it on the plains? Find a cool shady humid place in summer. Leave it in the shadehouse over winter in the sun, wind and rain. Move it under cover when the flowers are about to open. My plants are potted in a bark mix.

## **RECENT ORCHID CONSERVATION ISSUES**

**Thelma Bridle (Conservation Officer)**

NOSSA regularly responds to orchid conservation issues, usually locally but interstate if necessary in the interest of maintaining orchid populations under threat.

Early in 2007 NOSSA learnt of the intention to extend ruby mining on the Barrington Top Plateau in NSW. Some of the areas for mining were in sub-alpine wetlands and orchid-rich sites. As NOSSA has a general concern for all orchid areas, letters were written to mining and environment ministers and local councils. Further mining leases have not been granted by relevant councils and current financial difficulties of the ruby mine may see an end to current mine operations. The issue is now to have the whole area declared a National Park to protect the endangered sub-alpine wetlands from any future mining.



In South Australia, following submissions from various organisations, the Minister for Environment and Conservation has prepared draft amendments to the Native Vegetation Act to prevent native vegetation clearance in cemeteries. Extensions and clearings will have to be approved in accordance with guidelines prepared by the Native Vegetation Council.

NOSSA recently learnt the Coorong Council have approved the re-zoning of a 100m strip of the Tintinara Parklands to commercial industry. Two years ago NOSSA opposed a fertiliser distribution site on this small orchid-rich link between Ngarkat and Messent Conservation Parks. NOSSA also commented last year on conservation aspects of a draft management plan for the Tintinara Parklands. Letters opposing the re-zoning of part of the area have again been forwarded to the relevant authorities.

NOSSA continues to comment on Draft Management Plans for SA Conservation Parks. In the last 6 months comments have been forwarded for:

Mowantjie Willauwar & Poonthie Ruwi-Riverdale Conservation Park  
Stipiturus Conservation Park  
Conservation Parks of the Lower Eyre Peninsula

NOSSA members also work closely with DEH and TPAG on the Lofty Block Threatened Orchid Recovery Project, participating in surveys of orchid populations, searching for new populations, monitoring, weeding and caging of orchids. Some of these trips are on weekdays or weekends, others overnight with accommodation provided. Some transport can be arranged. Please contact the Secretary if you would be interested in assisting and check regarding dates and other details closer to the date.

M-monitoring, C-caging, W-weeding, S-survey

<i>P cucullata</i>	Belair	MCWS	Sat 16/6; Sat 1/9; Fri-Sat 12-12/10
<i>P bryophila</i>	Mt Billy CP	MW	Fri-Sat 22-23/6; Fri-Sat 13-14/7; Wed 8/9; Mon 17/9
<i>P 'Halbury'</i>	Halbury	WM	Mon 16/7; Wed 15/8; Wed-Th 26-27/9; Wed-Fri 17-19/10
<i>P despectans</i>	Mid North	SM	Sat-Sun 28-29/7; Sat-Sun 27-28/10; Mon-Tues 12-13/11; Mon-Tues 10-11/12
<i>C argocalla</i>	Clare & other sites	WCM	Mon-Tues 13-14/8; Wed 19/9; Th-Sat 4-6/10; Tues-Wed 9-10/10
<i>C behrii</i>	Adelaide Hills	WCSM	Thurs-Fri 23-24/8; Tues 4/9; Wed-Sat 12-15/9; Tues 18/9; Tues 25/9
<i>C macroclavia</i>	Yorke Pen.	SM	Tues-Fri 28/31/8; Fri-Sun 21-23/9; Wed-Fri 17-19/10
<i>A intuta</i>			
<i>C gladiolata</i>	Mt Remarkable	SM	Thurs-Sun 6-9/9
<i>C woolcockiorum</i>			
<i>C rigida</i>	Adelaide Hills	S	Tues 18/9

## ARTICLES/ITEMS FOR THE JOURNAL

Closing date is Friday 6th July for the July Journal

Three intrepid members met at Yarroona, having driven through showers most of the way to the meeting point. A field trip to the Knott Hill area of Kuitpo Forest was designed to look at autumn flowering orchids. Two preceding days of rain and a forecast for further showers, heavier about the hills, prompted the comment “Last year we were cancelling field trips because of the dry, this year we could be cancelling because of the wet”.

Everything augured well as we turned into Peters Creek Road. On an overhead pole, in the rain, sat four Magpies, each with their beaks stretched skywards and warbling to the world. We felt just as jubilant about the rain.

At our destination rubber boots and waterproofs were donned as the rain continued to fall. Light levels were very low so looking for small to tiny orchids which did not have colours which advertised their presence, was difficult. A *Corunastylis* (*Genoplesium*) in pod, on a stem which had lengthened considerably, was the first sighting. This was the March flowering species, so widespread throughout the Adelaide Hills, *Corunastylis* aff. *tasmanica*. We have been accustomed to referring to this species as *C. aff. rufa*, but since ours is a predominantly green and red flower and *C. aff. rufa* is a fully red plant from the wider Sydney area this affinity seems inappropriate. Several more were seen in pod, by which time the author had to admit that in these dull conditions she was not seeing them at all.

*Leporella fimbriata*, however, was a different matter. Flowering was well underway with many intricate green and pinkish-brown flowers scattered through the slashed vegetation. Drought ignored, most plants were sporting double headed flowers, several plants even having three. Leaves were starting to appear, even to the extent of a few “doubles” usually seen later in the season. The brilliant red bells of *Correa reflexa* brightened the adjacent vegetation; they simply gleamed in the dull conditions.

Some more *Corunastylis* were encountered; this time they were flowering and deep purple-red in colour. Our “guide” concluded that maybe there is another species here, a later flowered one which we may still refer to as *C. aff. rufa*. “It may be many years yet before we get our *Corunastylis* sorted out” was the comment. The thick leaves of *Pyrorchis nigricans* were curling through the sand at various stages but not yet showing the reddish spots and edging which makes them so attractive. Further investigation of the sandy areas also revealed small reddish leaves of *Caleana major* just coming through.

Further up the hill a single flower of *Eriochilus cucullatus* was seen bashfully hiding its face towards the thicker vegetation. Another area of native bushland was searched in the afternoon and this showed that a large percentage of the *Eriochilus* were already pollinated and in capsule which may mean that plants in the original site were similar.

For a short while the rain eased and light levels lifted. Passing by the area of forest which was planted two years ago it was pleasing to note how many natives were growing among them, viz. *Acacias*, *Leptospermums*, *Kennedia prostrata*, *Lomandras* and *Gahnia*s to name just some. It was fascinating to see *Lomandra micrantha* ssp. *tuberculata* in bud, one plant with green buds and stems, the other with red buds and stems much finer in overall appearance.

By the time this member left the second site 1.5m “rivers” were rushing down the tracks and spilling into the furrows ploughed between the rows ready for pine planting, the paddocks were awash with water lying in them and ducks were dabbling in the wet. Seventeen millimeters of rain had fallen at Kuitpo during the day. A good day for all.

	Site 1	Site 2
<i>Caleana major</i>		1
<i>Corunastylis</i> ( <i>Genoplesium</i> ) aff. <i>rufo</i>	f	
<i>C. aff. tasmanica</i>	p	
<i>Eriochilus cucullatus</i>	f	p, f
<i>Leporella fimbriata</i>	f, b	
<i>Pyrorchis nigricans</i>	1	
<i>Thelymitra</i> spp.		1
b = bud, f = flower, 1 = leaf, p = pod		

*Dendrobium* Annes Rainbow Surprise x *speciosum*



*Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon



*Dendrobium* Jesmond Dazzler



**MAY 2007 MEETING**

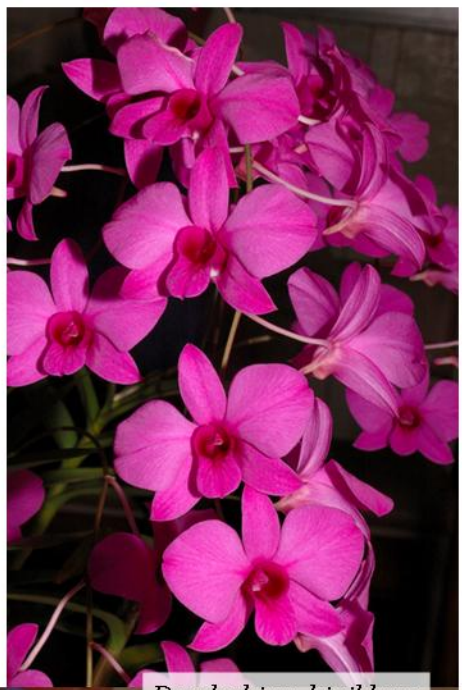
**1**

**EPIPHYTES BENCHED**





*Liparis reflexa*



*Dendrobium bigibbum*



*Dendrobium lithocola*



*Dendrobium* White Gem



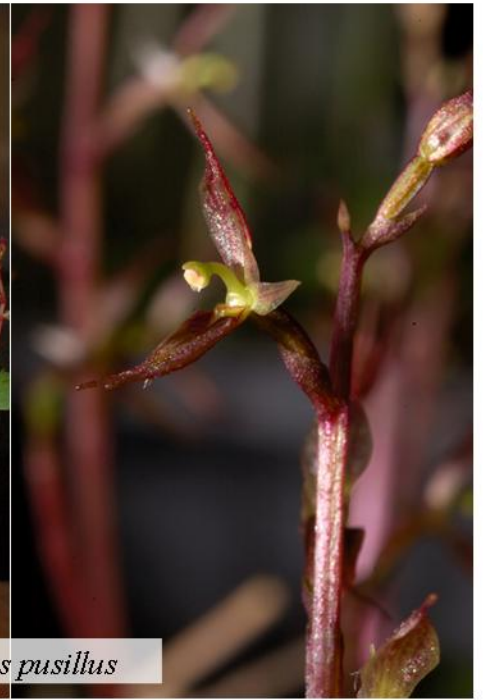




*Urochilus sanguineus*



*Acianthus pusillus*



*Diplodinium reflexum*



*Pterostylis Rogoff*



*Diplodinium abruptum*



*Pterostylis x furcillata*

**MAY 2007 MEETING**

**3**

**TERRESTRIALS BENCHED**



*Pterostylis Trunkfish*