



Journal  
of the  
Native Orchid Society  
of  
South Australia Inc



*Leptoceras menziesii*

# NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PO BOX 565 UNLEY SA 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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*The Native Orchid Society of South Australia, while taking all due care, take no responsibility for loss 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 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.

**APRIL 2009      VOL. 33 NO 3**

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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 28 APRIL 2009**

**Tuesday, 28 April**, St Matthew's Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. Meeting starts at 8:00 pm. Doors to the hall will be open from 7:15 p.m. to allow Members access to the Library and the trading table.  
The speaker for the meeting is Graham Zerbe on 'Orchids benched at NOSSA in 2008'.

### **DIARY DATES**

|                                                   |                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April</b>             | Belair National Park, weeding <i>Pterostylis cucullata</i> |
| <b>Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup></b>             | <i>Eriochilus</i> special: meet Mt Compass                 |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>    | Australian Native Plant Sale                               |
| <b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May</b>                  | Annual Dinner at Buckingham Arms                           |
| <b>19<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> September</b> | Spring Show                                                |

### **NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tues, 5<sup>th</sup> May** at the home of Bodo Jensen. Meeting commences at 7:30 p.m.

## MARCH MEETING

### Plants Benched

**Epiphyte Species:** *Dendrobium lithocola* (2 plants); *Dockrillia bowmannii*; *Dockrillia lichenastrum*.

**Epiphyte Hybrids:** *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon; *Dockrillia* Limestone.

**Terrestrial Species:** *Genoplesium rufa*

**Terrestrial Hybrids:** *Pterostylis torquata*; *Pterostylis* Trunkfish.

### Judging Results

#### Open division species

1<sup>st</sup> *Dendrobium lithocola*

2<sup>nd</sup> *Dendrobium lithocola*

3<sup>rd</sup> *Dockrillia lichenastrum*

#### Grower

Bodo Jensen

Bodo Jensen

Malcolm Guy

#### Open division hybrids

1<sup>st</sup> *Dockrillia* Limestone

2<sup>nd</sup> *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon

No 3<sup>rd</sup>

Malcolm Guy

Malcolm Tiggerman

#### Open division Terrestrial species

1<sup>st</sup> *Pterostylis torquata*

2<sup>nd</sup> *Genoplesium rufa*

No 3<sup>rd</sup>

Les Burgess

Les Nesbitt

#### Open division Hybrid

*Pterostylis* Trunkfish

No 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>

Les Burgess

#### Second division Epiphyte species

1<sup>st</sup> *Dockrillia bowmannii*

No 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>

No hybrids or terrestrials in 2<sup>nd</sup> div

Kris Kopicki

### Popular vote results

#### Open division Epiphyte species

*Dockrillia lichanastrum*

Wally Walloscheck

#### Second division Epiphyte species

*Dockrillia bowmannii*

Kris Kopicki

#### Open division hybrid

(equal 1<sup>st</sup>) *Dockrillia* Limestone

(equal 1<sup>st</sup>) *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon

Malcolm Guy

Malcolm Tiggerman

#### Plant of the night

*Dendrobium lithocola*

Bodo Jensen

Plant commentary on terrestrials given by Les Burgess & on epiphytes by Reg Shooter

### ARTICLES/ITEMS FOR THE NEXT JOURNAL

Closing date is Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION - NOSSA NEWS

### N.O.S.S.A. FIELD TRIPS

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April.** Belair National Park. Meet at the information centre 9:30a.m. for a morning of weeding for threatened species, *Pterostylis cucullata*.

Enquiries: Contact Cathy Houston

**Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>** *Eriochilus* special: meet Mt Compass shops at 10am for Tugwell Rd.

Enquiries: Contact Bob Bates

### New Members

Colin & Mischa Rowan of Kurunjang Vic., Michelle Denny of Prospect SA. and Wally Southwell of Couridjah NSW are warmly welcomed by Committee and members.

Well done to NOSSA member June Niejalke whose image of the endangered *Thelymitra matthewsii* was the cover picture for the latest (March) issue of the Orchadian.

The article reference is as follows:

*Thelymitra matthewsii* Cheeseman in two separate regions of South Australia in 2007 and 2008. R. Bates, K. and B. Bayley, C. Houston and J. Niejalke: 106

### JUDGES PLEASE NOTE

Next judges meeting date has been changed to **Saturday 9th May** at 18 Cambridge St at 9.30am.

### Australian Native Plant Sale

Adelaide Showgrounds

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 10am -5pm and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 10am -4pm

### Annual Dinner at the Buckingham Arms

8<sup>th</sup> May 2009

6.30 for 7.00

Cost: \$27.50 full

\$24.50 concession

**CONFIRMATION REQUIRED BY 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2009**

It gives me great pleasure to present this Presidents Report for a very busy 2008. We started the year off in the West with Margaret Petridis` magnificent photos of the late flowering spring orchids of that state. Showing us the different habitats and some of the slight variations of very similar orchids. Continuing our journey east Darrell Kraehenbuehl gave us an insight into the vegetation of the Adelaide Plains before we covered them with houses and roads. Peter McCauley followed on with a presentation of endangered orchids in S.A. with some of them probably quite plentiful in the days Darrell spoke about. Peter also talked about newly discovered and named species which possibly meant some of the ones Darrell mentioned never received a name before becoming extinct. Bob Bates continued the trip north to Northern N.S.W. and Qld. Then Paulo Castro whisked us off to Brazil to show us his fantastic tropical orchids. We ended the year in Gympie Qld. When Justin Priddy spoke about and showed photos of the epiphytic orchids of his local area. These pictures showed us the difference in the magnificence of orchids in their natural habitat compared to what they look like when we grow them in the southern states. Noel Oliver showed us what was happening with hybridizing and line breeding of native *Dendrobiums* and *Sarcs.* with photos of the amazing new colours being bred into them. Finally we journeyed [via Power Point] through Les Nesbitt`s 6 year project to improve the methods of propagating the fungus dependent *Caladenias* etc. The photos indicate he is having fantastic results with his methods.

The Society had displays at the Australian Plant Society sales and in the A.B.C. Gardening Australia Expo. The latter being a huge success, especially the display of artificial terrestrial orchids superbly made by Thelma O`Neill. We need to be on the lookout for new members all the time and these shows and our spring show are ways of promoting NOSSA and our activities to the public. Unfortunately due to the season and the reduced number of growers our Spring Show was smaller than usual in numbers but not in quality. I think we need to look into ways to increase the types of displays we have. Perhaps a photo competition or display or arts and crafts depicting orchids etc. This is our biggest income earner for the year and we need to encourage the public and our own members to participate more.

NOSSA has been very busy with field trips and conservation projects ranging from weeding at Belair to help in the recovery of *Pterostylis cucullata* to week long surveys in the S.E. forests at Nangwarry to surveys on the Yorke Peninsula to see the recovery rate of the orchids after the terrible bushfires. We were lucky enough to receive some Govt. grants to help with some of the costs of these projects.

This year saw the introduction of a novice class for judging to encourage newer growers to bring their plants to meetings and not feel overwhelmed by the more experienced growers. This seems to have worked quite well with a number of new growers bringing their plants to meetings. We have continued to update our equipment with the purchase of a new laptop for our projector and a new sound system.

Finally I would like to thank the committee and all the members for their help in the successful running of NOSSA for another year.

## NOSSA Field Trips 2009

### **April 25<sup>th</sup>**

*Eriochilus* special: meet Mt Compass shops at 10am for Tugwell Rd etc

### **May 30<sup>th</sup>**

*Dipodium bryophilum* annual visit: meet Mt Billy centre gate at 10 am

### **June 27<sup>th</sup>**

Winter orchids: meet Myponga shops at 10am for *Anzybas*, *Acianthus*, *Diplodium* etc

### **July 15<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday**

Morialta and Waterfall Gully: meet at Morialta at 10am

### **August 24<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>**

Victorian and SA combined visit to Yorke Peninsula etc

### starting **September 1<sup>st</sup>**

Wirrabara Survey for Forestry SA:

### from **September 19<sup>th</sup>**

Ngarkat adventure and western Vic

### **September 27<sup>th</sup>**

*Oligochaetochilus exallus* and *arenicola* special near Strathalbyn

### **October 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>**

South-east adventure for *Oligochaetochilus* and *Prasophyllum* spp

### **October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

*Oligochaetochilus* Rock ledges special meet Loftia Park gate at 10am

### **October 31<sup>st</sup>**

Hills Sun-orchid and *Gastrodia* special meet Lobethal at 9am

### **November 8<sup>th</sup>**

Duck Orchid special (three species) at Cox Scrub

### **December 5-6<sup>th</sup>**

*Gastrodia* special in the South-East for *G. procera* *G. vescula*

### **January 2010**

*Dipodium* special Deviation Rd and Mt Lofty looking for pure white specimens

### **February 2010**

*Spiranthes* special and midge orchids at Knott Hill in March

All members and friends are welcome to attend any trip.

\*None of these trips will be working bees but NOSSA are invited on any TPAG working bees which will also appear in the journal from time to time

All trips these days are subject to the need for rain and any could be cancelled for the lack of it!

Thank you to all members who attended the field trip planning meeting and barbecue.

R. Bates

## **Three new rufous-hoods (*Oligochaetochilus*) species for South Australia and a note on *Stegostyla*!**

**R. Bates**

David Jones in the March *Orchadian* described and named *Oligochaetochilus exallus*, *O. ferrugineus* and *O. lepidus* for South Australia.

The endangered *O. lepidus* was formerly known as *Pterostylis* species 'Halbury' and is almost restricted to the Northern Lofty region with 99% of the plants found around Halbury. It is a small, neat species flowering from late July into October and NOSSA members have put in a lot of volunteer work weeding, fencing and surveying for it. There is a working bee planned to continue this work soon.

*Oligochaetochilus ferrugineus* the rusty rufous hood is a well known species from the South-East and Western Victoria. It once extended to our Barossa Valley but is extinct there now. It has been previously included in *O. squamatus* and was tagged as *Pterostylis* sp 'Sand Plains' in the last Census. It is a pretty reddish flowered species with large rosettes and flowers in October-November.

*O. exallus* is less well understood; the Type location is a red sandhill near Belvidere out of Strathalbyn but similar plants grow on limestone around the coast from there to Southern Yorke Peninsula. The species is close to *O. boormanii* and may be regarded as a coastal version of it. Flowering is in September and October.

We can expect several more South Australian *Oligochaetochilus* to be named later this year.

Recently we added *Stegostyla moschata* to South Australia but David Jones in his recent *Orchids of the ACT* clearly states that it does not occur in South Australia and the photo of it in his book supports this. Yet he also says that *S. gracilis* does not occur in SA so once again we are left in limbo as to the name of the South Australian and Western Victorian plants.

### ***Dendrobium prenticei* (F. Muell.) Nicholls 1938**

**Len Field**

Named after Dr. Charles Prentice.

First described as *Bulbophyllum prenticei* in 1881 by F. Mueller but this was changed to *Dendrobium prenticei* by Nicholls in 1938 but Dockrill in 1956 renamed it *Dendrobium lichenastrum* var *prenticei* where it was known by this name until very recent times. It has a wider distribution than *Dendrobium lichenastrum* extending from the Burdekin River to more further north and is slightly more common in its area where it is sometimes found in the lowlands as well as the tablelands. The leaves are round or terete shaped from 1 to 4cm long with flowers similar to *Dendrobium lichenastrum* but more variable. Flowering can take place any time of the year with some plants flowering continuous. Cultivation. The same as for *Dendrobium lichenastrum* and I feel sure anyone who has any of these plants should have little difficulty growing them.



Named from the Latin *gracilis* meaning slender

A natural hybrid between *Dendrobium gracilicaule* and *Dendrobium tarberi*.

Other names *Dendrobium speciosum* (Smith) var. *gracilicaule* Rupp 1929

*Dendrobium x gracilosum* Clemesha Orchadian 1981

*Tropilus gracillima* (Rupp) Butzin 1982

*Tropilus gracillima* (Rupp) Rauschert 1983

Found in an area from the Hawkesbury River in N.S.W. to S.E. Queensland. It can be found wherever *Dendrobium tarberi* and *Dendrobium gracilicaule* grow together. This places the main growing area from the Hunter Valley to the Queensland border but its true limit would be unknown. Although one of its main parents would be *Dendrobium tarberi* it has been known to have *Dendrobium rex* and *Dendrobium curvicaule* as a parent.

Although found in a wide range it is a rare plant but can become locally common in some areas. It prefers rainforest trees but can become lithophytic, but this is very rare. Its favourite host trees are the Myrtle and the giant Stinging tree, (*Dendrocnoides excelsa*) growing at a reasonably low altitude of 150 metres to 500 metres where it grows in a strong light.

In its growth habits and appearances it more resembles *Dendrobium gracilicaule* with its tall slender canes. Where I have seen it in nature I have at times found it difficult to distinguish between the two without close examination *Dendrobium x gracillimum* has much more fleshier leaves than *Dendrobium gracilicaule* and usually a more robust appearance with the hardier characteristics of *Dendrobium tarberi* but at a distance does look like a robust *Dendrobium gracilicaule*.

The pseudo bulbs are midway between the both parents with stems up to 80 cm long but are usually much shorter. The leaves are fleshy and dark green about 3 to 5 in number and the plant can grow into large clumps but not to the same extent as *Dendrobium tarberi*.

**Flowers.** Flowering takes place from September to October but at times can be as early as August with the flowers on long racemes that are crowded with smallish flowers that do not open widely and are prized for their floral display. These flowers spikes are similar to *Dendrobium tarberi* and can become very crowded depending on the length of the spike. They are coloured mostly yellow but at times can be white and at other times can be speckled due to the *Dendrobium gracilicaule* influence. These flowers can be very variable with the *Dendrobium rex* natural cross far superior to the *Dendrobium tarberi* cross. Many man made crosses using *Dendrobium speciosum* and selected *Dendrobium rex* as parents are still more superior but are not true *Dendrobium gracillimum*.

**Culture.** This is a very easy plant to grow and is best grown in a pot with very coarse open mix and should be watered well but will damp off and rot very quickly if it gets wet footed. It will respond to a good fertiliser during its growing cycle that is September to April. Light is important, as it prefers a strong filtered light and will even withstand full sunlight during the day but not in the hot summer afternoons, it does prefer cool humid conditions.

**Potting.** If potted correctly the rhizome will be on top of the bark mix and not buried in it and a well cared for plant will quickly grow into a large specimen plant that can make two growths in one growing season. It is important not to cut off old canes as this is what the plant produces flowers from. These old canes will produce flowers for many years. The plant will not produce flowers from new canes. Temperature is not a big problem but try not to allow the minimum temperature to fall below about 2° Celsius.

# NORTHERN AND EASTERN DISTRICTS ORCHID SOCIETY

## OFFER OF

### Badge and Spoon Collections

Our Society has recently been bequeathed collections of badges and spoons from the estate of the late Nell George, one of the Society's founding members as well as one of our earliest Presidents. The badges (approx. 200 in total) are from various Orchid Clubs and Societies from around the world and were accumulated by Nell due to her great interest in them over many years. Several of the spoons (35 in number with 1 fork) carry the names of several Orchid Clubs whilst others bear the names of a variety of orchids from Adelaide Orchids.

In determining the most appropriate thing to do with the collections, it was decided after some thought, to make them available to interested parties on a Statewide basis. It is not intended to divide either collection and sell off the individual items separately. The view has prevailed that due to the intrinsic nature of the collections, there may be *bonafide* spoon and/or badge collectors holding memberships at other Orchid Clubs/Societies within the State who may care to add these collections to their own.

Accordingly the Society would like to make the opportunity available to any member of your Club who might be interested in acquiring either or both of these collections, to make an offer for either or both collections. Those who may be interested are invited to submit an appropriate offer to the Society by no later than the **end of April**. Any such offer would need to *clearly* incorporate the following:

- The printed name of the person making the offer.
- An address to which a response could be made.
- Which collection is the subject of their offer.
- The amount offered.
- The offer to be duly signed and dated.

Any offers will need to be addressed to the Society at its Greenacres address. It may be that someone who is not a member of any Orchid Club could be interested in the items as well and those people are also being welcomed to make an offer for them.

All offers will be considered but of course no offer will be necessarily accepted. Our management Committee would determine the successful bidder.

The spoon collection is housed in an attractive small wooden box with front opening glass framed doors whilst the badges are kept together in a larger wooden box having a single glass door.

The collections will be made available for anyone wishing to view them at the Society's April meeting on Thursday, the 16th.

J Fawcett  
SECRETARY  
Ph: 8331 8956  
E-mail: [tonyj@senet.com.au](mailto:tonyj@senet.com.au)

ANOS Inc-Newcastle Group is hosting the 6th ANOS Conference & Show in Aug. 2010. To raise funds ANOS Inc-Newcastle will be holding an auction of iconic native orchids on the 6th June 2009.

Fund raising event - Auction of iconic native orchids. This will be a golden opportunity for your members to purchase some of Australia's top native orchids by some of the best growers in the land.

An auction list will shortly be posted on the ANOS website under page headed Conference. (<http://www.anos.org.au/conference>) This list will be periodically updated, please note this is only a list and orchids may not be auctioned in this order.

We would greatly appreciate it if you could please circulate this information amongst your members. If your members require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on ([hochquertel@bigpond.com](mailto:hochquertel@bigpond.com)) or our secretary Peter Denning on ([peterden52@bigpond.com](mailto:peterden52@bigpond.com))

Kind regards  
Elvire Hochguertel  
Treasurer 6th ANOS Conference & Show  
presenting an

## **AUCTION of SPECTACULAR AUSTRALASIAN NATIVE ORCHIDS**

A rare opportunity to purchase icons such as **D. speciosum 'Daylight Moon'**,  
**'Lemon Ice'**, **'Charlie'**, **'Glennins'**, **'Palmerston'** and many of Ted  
Walmsleys superb line bred speciosums eg,  
**'Palmerston' x 'Windermere'**  
**Sarcophilus hartmannii B.S.** (original division), and many more  
magnificent species and hybrids of the highest quality

**VENUE: LAKE MACQUARIE PERFORMING ARTS  
CENTRE LAKE ST.  
WARNERS BAY**

**SATURDAY 6<sup>th</sup> JUNE,  
VIEWING from 9.30am, auction starts  
11.00am**

**INQUIRIES: Greg Hannah 0411340570 (Chairman)**

Detailed list from Peter Denning  
(Secretary) [Peterden52@bigpond.com](mailto:Peterden52@bigpond.com)

Welcome all native orchid lovers for a great social day and a once in a lifetime chance to purchase superb native orchids.

PO Box 4021 Rathmines NSW 2283 Australia +02 4975 3729





*Dendrobium Gracillimum* Champion Epiphyte Hybrid Bub Wells



*Dendrobium kingianum* 'Corrigan's Red' Champion Novice Epiphyte Species Eric Nesbitt



*Pterostylis* Goblin Champion Terrestrial Hybrid & Grand Champion. L & M Burgess

Not being at the last meeting to photograph benched plants I am instead showing the  
**MAJOR PRIZE WINNERS 2008 NOSSA SHOW—1** PHOTOS: David Hirst

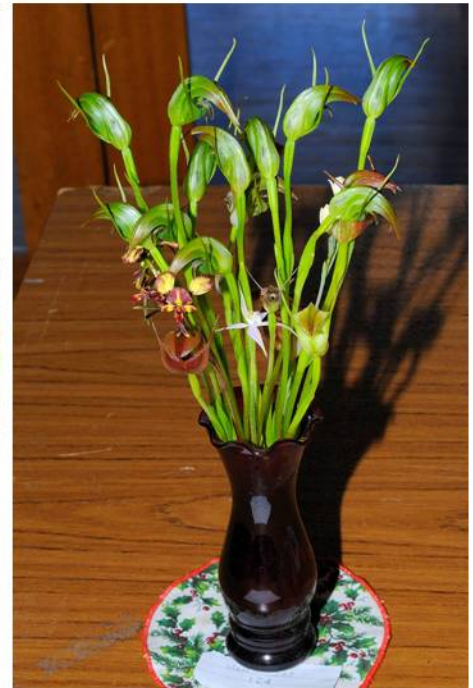




*Diuris behrii* Champion Novice Terrestrial Species K Ninnes



*Diuris orientis* Champion Terrestrial Species Bodo Jensen



Champion Floral Art Les Nesbitt



Best Floor display J Higgs & L Gunn



Best Tabletop display Bub Wells

MAJOR PRIZE WINNERS 2008 NOSSA SHOW—2

PHOTOS: David Hirst