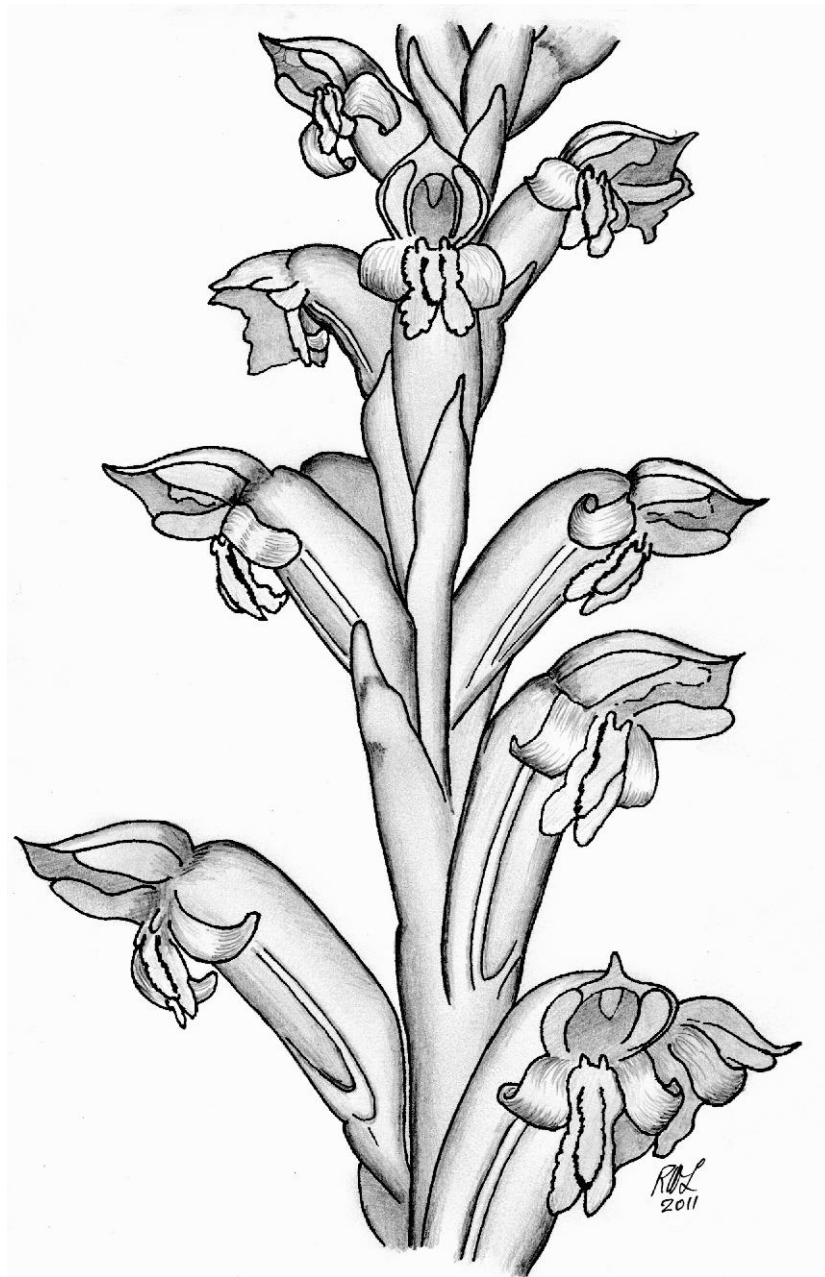




Journal
of the
Native Orchid Society
of
South Australia Inc



NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PO BOX 565 UNLEY SA 5061

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.

PRESIDENT

Bodo Jensen:
Telephone 8243 0251

SECRETARY

Robert Lawrence
ph: 8294 8014
Email: nossaorchids@hotmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Cathy Houston telephone 8356 7356; Email: cathyhn@tpg.com.au

COMMITTEE

Bob Bates
John Bartram

Jan Adams
Robert Lawrence

EDITOR

David Hirst
14 Beaverdale Avenue
Windsor Gardens SA 5087
Telephone 8261 7998
Email: david.hirst2@bigpond.com

TREASURER

Marj Sheppard
Telephone 8344 2124
0419 189 118

LIFE MEMBERS

Mr R. Hargreaves†
Mr H. Goldsack†
Mr R. Robjohns†
Mr J. Simmons†
Mr D. Wells†

Mr. L. Nesbitt
Mr G. Carne
Mr R Bates
Mr R Shooter
Mr W Dear

Conservation Officer: Thelma Bridle

Registrar of Judges: Les Nesbitt

Field Trips Coordinator: Bob Bates 82515251 or 0402 291 904 or bobbates63@hotmail.com

Trading Table: Judy Penney

Tuber bank Coordinator: Jane Higgs ph. 8558 6247; email: jhiggs@activ8.net.au

New Members Coordinator: Bill Dear ph: 82962111 mob.: 0413 659 506

PATRON Mr L. Nesbitt

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

Journal Cost \$2. per issue. Family or Single Membership with subscription \$20.00*

*Postal Mail full year \$20.00. Email full year \$15.00.

Pro-rata rates for third quarter \$10.00 and last quarter \$5.00

Students \$10.00 per year. Juniors \$5.00

Front cover from an original drawing of *Microtis arenaria* by Robert Lawrence. Used with his kind permission.



JOURNAL OF THE NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

FEBRUARY 2011 VOL. 35 NO 1

CONTENTS THIS JOURNAL

Title	Author	Page
Diary Dates 100		1
For Your Information – NOSSA News		2
More on Tuber Removal	Les Nesbitt	3
Field trip to Belair National Park.	Cathy Houston	3
Epiphytic Species No.6 <i>Sarcochilus ceciliae</i> (Fairy Bells)	Les Nesbitt	4
A Slow Learning Beginner at Knott Hill.	Leo Davis	4
N.O.S.S.A. Orchid walks 2010	Bodo Jensen	6
NOSSA <i>Dipodium</i> Special: Mylor - Carey Gully	Clive Chesson	7
New Orchids, rediscoveries and extensions of Range for orchids in SA in 2010	R. Bates	8
9		

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

NEXT MEETING 22 FEBRUARY 2011

Tuesday, 22 February, St Matthew's Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. Doors to the hall will be open from 7:15 p.m. to allow Members access to the Library and trading table.

The February meeting will be a Question and Answer night.

DIARY DATES

12-14 March	ABC Gardening Australia Expo
22 March	AGM
Friday 6 May	Annual dinner at the Buckingham Arms.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Tues, 1st March. Meeting commences at 7:30 p.m.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION - NOSSA NEWS

FIELD TRIPS

Dates for the 2011 orchid walks at Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens are as follows:

Monday 3 October (Public holiday)

Wednesday 12 October (Second week of school holidays)

Saturday 29 October (Last Saturday of the month)

JUDGES MEETING

“There will be no judges meeting in March this year due to other commitments.”

ANNUAL DINNER at the BUCKINGHAM ARMS Friday 6th May

COST: SENIORS \$26.90, FULL \$29.90

Field Trip Planning Meeting, Sunday 6th March, for all those interested in this years field planning. Details are yet to be arranged. Please contact Bob Bates or Cathy Houston for more information

2011 MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

Members who wish to pay 2011 Membership Fees electronically should e-mail NOSSA

Treasurer on nossatreasurer@hotmail.com

You will receive banking details so that you can complete your subscription.

Please remember to include in your e-mail any CHANGE OF ADDRESS details.

Marj Sheppard, Treasurer”

ARTICLES / ITEMS FOR NEXT JOURNAL

Articles / items for the March journal need to reach the Editor by Friday Mar. 4th.

N.O.S.S.A Tuber Bank Report for 2010/2011

Thank you to all members who supplied tubers for the Tuber Bank for the 2010/2011 season. Unfortunately there weren't a lot of tubers offered, mainly, I think due to the strange season we had - tubers either hadn't died down yet or hadn't reproduced. However, I managed to put a reasonable list together and we had more or less the same response this year as last year.

Thank you also to all members who ordered tubers. Postage went up again last year, but this was covered in the orders. I had 107 lots ordered at \$1 per lot and after a small amount deducted for expenses etc. (little envelopes) I was able to give \$99.65 back to the club. Even though NOSSA is not a fund raising organisation, every little bit helps and this means that there are 107 more lots of tubers out there multiplying (hopefully!).

Thanks again,

Jane Higgs, Tuber Bank Coordinator

At the September NOSSA meeting, which was a culture night, I tipped out of a pot of *Diuris behrii* and removed the new season's tubers. The tubers were placed back in the pot and so were the plants with the old tubers still attached. There were seven plants in the pot. Large plants of this species sometimes make 2 tubers but generally it is a slow multiplying species. The tuber removal method works beautifully with this species resulting in much larger increases in plant numbers than if nothing was done.

The day after Australia Day I knocked out the pot and counted the tubers. There were 7 large flowering size tubers, 10 medium sized tubers and 7 small tubers, the smallest just pinhead size. A total of 24 tubers gives an increase rate of 3.4. The process can be repeated year after year with similar results. In 4 years that one pot could grow to over 15 pots containing more than 100 tubers. The small tubers have to be grown on for a year or 2 before they reach flowering size but they can also have their tubers removed in spring without harm to give more small tubers and an even faster increase in numbers.

Make a note now in your diary for after the NOSSA Show to try tuber removal on your plant(s).

You reward will come when you repot in summer. Our orchids need all the help they can get.

Field trip to Belair National Park, 11 December 2010.

Cathy Houston

Twelve members met outside the new Information Centre entrance to Belair on a morning which threatened to produce some drizzle. The object of the morning was the horned orchid, *Orthoceras strictum*, one of our last non-swamp terrestrial orchids to flower. The species occurs throughout eastern Australia, New Zealand and New Caledonia.

As we set out, one member was particularly keen to gather all the *Disa bracteata* (our common weed orchid) he could find and to that end a large shopping bag was carried. Very soon others had joined in. This may have set the tone for what was to turn out later to be a time of learning about some of our environmental weeds.

We stopped at one of the last known, if not the last known, colony of *Oligochaetochilus (Pterostylis) bisetus* where the remains of a single flower and a rosette were just visible. Dry pods of *Diuris orientis* were seen. It was noted there had been a particularly good flowering of this species this season.

Further up the hill the first specimen of *Orthoceras* was found, an all green plant with yellow on the labellum. The challenge now was to find a dark purplish specimen or at least one with both colours, since Belair is noted for a predominance of all-green plants. The dark specimens should reveal a yellow crucifix-shaped mark on the labellum. Eventually four darker ones were located, this being just the tip of the iceberg as well over sixty green-flowering plants were seen. (Photographs are included in the electronic journal)

An interesting distraction from observing the *Orthoceras* was seeing the number of environmental weeds in the area. Bone seed was swiftly dealt with since the ground was moist making hand pulling easy. Of greater interest to some was observing Robert pulling *Sollya heterophylla*, an Australian native plant, but it does not belong in the Mount Lofty Ranges. It is endemic to Western Australia. Besides these two there was the occasional ubiquitous Olive still small enough to be dealt with.

A *Corunastylis* (*Genoplesium*) pod was found and this was a good opportunity to learn about this species at a different life stage.

A second site was visited briefly but all agreed it no longer represented suitable habitat. However, it did yield our only record of a *Calochilus* in still partly green capsule. It had been a fruitful morning, as the photographers were presented with plenty of prime condition flowers, ranging in size from three to seven flowered specimens.

P.S. The author surveyed yet a third site after lunch and found another twenty six plants in flower. This time they were short specimens, once again all green, with only two to four flowers each.

Epiphytic Species No. 6 *Sarcochilus ceciliae* (Fairy Bells) Les Nesbitt

Sarcochilus ceciliae is different to the usual *hartmannii* / *fitzgeraldii* type sarcs. For a start the leaves are reddish, spotted, narrow and channelled. The small cupped pink flowers open progressively on the upright spikes in summer. Peak flowering is Dec-Jan in Adelaide. The species has been found from central eastern NSW to NE Queensland where it grows on exposed rocks in rainforest areas.

Sarco. ceciliae needs special care in Adelaide if it is to thrive. Bright light yet shady, warm and humid and at the same time with good air movement are the conditions this species prefers. Also the roots must have perfect drainage. Good growers sit the plant on, not in, the compost as the roots like to be exposed to the air. Scale love to set up home on this orchid so watch out for this pest. Side shoots result in small specimen plants over time. Grows best if not divided.

Hybrids with other *Sarcochilus* produce pink hybrids with upright flower spikes although the small flowers come through in early hybrids. Primary hybrids often seen in SA are: Lois when crossed with *hartmannii* and Mavis with *fitzgeraldii*.

A SLOW LEARNING BEGINNER AT KNOTT HILL. Leo Davis

On November 13 I joined a party from the Willunga Trees For Life, led by Thelma Bridle; there was some confusion about the scheduled NOSSA outing. After inspecting *Gastrodia sesamoides* plants at Chookarloo we headed to another Kuitpo Forest site, at Knott Hill. There I was thrilled to be shown two species I'd not seen before, *Caleana major* (Large Flying Ducks) and *Diuris brevifolia*. (Late Donkey Orchid). The second I'd not even heard of. I marvelled that anybody could find the Large (!) Flying Duck Orchids, because the tallest plants stood just 11cm high with the largest flower 21 mm high, and were very cryptic, even against the bare sand.

I returned on December 5 to seek out these two new species and could not find *Caleana major* plants but some *Diuris brevifolia* were still healthily in flower.

A bonus was the discovery of another new species, for me, with a few open flowers, *Dipodium roseum* (Hyacinth Orchid), though most were still in bud, looking very much like asparagus.

I wanted to photograph plants in full, or fuller, flower, so I noted where the plants were and returned a week later (December 10) and was very upset to find the more advanced *Dipodiums* all neatly harvested, by “asparagus” loving kangaroos, I assume. Fortunately I was able to find other specimens in flower and take some snaps.

My disappointment was eased by discovering a patch of about a dozen flowering *Orthoceras strictum* (Horned or Crucifix Orchids) and shortly after finding two of the tiny *Caleana major* plants I’d been shown by Thelma. And I felt quite smug when I found another patch of them but I was disappointed that they all seemed to have snapped shut, shaken by the very gusty winds. Fortunately I photographed them. (see later!)

Next day I joined the very enjoyable NOSSA trip to Belair Recreation Park, led by Cathy Houston. I chanced to overhear a conversation in which somebody reported visiting the Knott Hill site where they had seen “only two” Large Duck Orchids. I was about to say, boastfully, “I saw many more than that” when the person went on; “But we found about 8 of the Small Duck Orchids on the other side of the fire track.” I bit my tongue, just in time.

As soon as I got home I examined my photos of the closed “Large Duck Orchids”. They were indeed closed, but were Small Duck Orchids (*Paracaleana* (*Caleana*) *minor*.) Embarrassing.

So off I went again, back to Knott Hill, found the patch and photographed OPEN flowers of *Paracaleana minor*. Plants were up to 12 cm high with flowers 10 mm high.

So the only duck orchids I had ever seen (Large or Small) were 12 cm high, or less, and grew out in the open, on bare sand, between little shrubs up to 30 cm high. So I was not prepared for my next encounter. I headed into the thick scrub to check the eating habits of my kangaroo mates and was pleased to spot a *Dipodium roseum* in good flowering. I was measuring it (46 cm) and I tried to untangle a pesky plant that had corkscrewed itself around the stem, and found that it was a 40 cm high *Caleana major* plant with two flowers, only one open. I thought I’d found something special, till I got home, and found they can be up to 50 cm high.

I returned on December 17, looking for better snaps of the smaller and Larger Ducks, and the Hyacinths, but was not fully happy, so, as the day was cool, I returned yet again, on Boxing Day. The Horned Orchids were still blooming, many more Hyacinths had opened, despite the efforts of the kangaroos, and as I rambled deep in the bush, I was astounded to find there were dozens of patches of the Large Ducks, sometimes single plants but with up to seven in a group, and less commonly, and generally in groups of just two or three, were easily spotted patches of the Smaller Duck Orchid.

I had a lovely November and December at Knott Hill.

Photographs of the following are included in the electronic journal:

A *Caleana major* plant beside the stem of the *Dipodium roseum* it had been wrapped around.

Flowers of *Paracaleana minor*.

After a series of very successful public Orchid walks in September 2009, Rosalie Lawrence volunteered to organise three walks for the 2010 Orchid season.

The dates for the walks were 29th Sept., 4th Oct. And 30th Oct., which were decided on early in the year, so there would be plenty of time for planning.

With a lot of help from her family, flyers were designed and printed and widely distributed. It was advertised in various local Newspapers and also in the Friends of the Botanic Garden Gazette to ensure wide publicity.

Before the first public walk, on the 23rd Sept at 10.00am, two members of the Society met in the lower car park of Mt Lofty Botanic Garden. It was cold, windy and it was raining. The mission was to find some orchids. After visiting many familiar Orchid spots the opinion of the expert, Bob Bates, was that the orchid season was several weeks behind. Only a few *Diuris pardina* were found in flower but lots of *Caladenia*'s, *Microtis* and *Thelymitra* were in flower-bud. The first public walk was only one week away and all we were hoping for was some warm weather to make those orchids buds open.

The first walk fell during the school holidays so we called it a family walk. Duration one hour. It was a sunny morning on the 29th of Sept. 17 visitors and five N.O.S.S.A. members turned up. Several children under 10 years of age came with their parents. One young chap equipped with camera and reference book asked many questions and we could see in him a future member of the society. We found many more *Diuris pardina*, two *Caladenia tentaculata* in flower and also a large spot of *Pterostylis pedunculata*. And in the mulch around some newly planted trees were hundreds of flowering *Microtis*. We all had a beautiful walk and enjoyed the views of the Mount Lofty Botanic Garden. We were also able to demonstrate the pollination of an orchid.

The second walk was only a few days later, on the 4th Oct. The Labour Day long weekend. On this nice, sunny, cool morning 15 visitors and three NOSSA members turned up. We had an easy and relaxing walk. *Diuris pardina* were much more plentiful. We also spotted some *D. Orientis* in flower and a few more *Caladenia tentaculata*. Also the *Microtis* were still in full flower. But no matter what we did and where we looked, we could not find the *Pterostylis* again.

But what we did see were lots of *Monadenia bracteata*.

Because the *Monadenia* are a pest we ripped them gently out of the ground and could explain why an orchid is called an orchid.

The third walk was on the 30th Oct. We were hoping for some warm weather and many more orchids.

To be continued.

For up to date changes to Field Trips or other additions check the website for these entries posted under the heading 'NEWS'.

NOSSA *Dipodium* Special: Mylor - Carey Gully: Sunday January 2, 2011

Clive Chesson

The fieldtrip was attended by 11 members, including the trip leader, who met at the Heathfield Primary School car park at 10AM. This year *Dipodium* specimens at Nurrutti Reserve were scarce for some reason but beautiful specimens of *D. roseum* were found along Stranks Road just before the turn into Kyle Rd and Nurrutti. In an effort to find the elusive *D. pardalinum* we continued on to Wotton Scrub in the Kenneth Stirling Conservation Park Group on Gum Flat Road Carey Gully, with a brief stop at Aldgate for refreshment. *Dipodium pardalinum* has been recorded in the Carey Gully region and specifically in Wotton Scrub. The three other Kenneth Stirling parks nearer to Carey Gully were not visited due to time constraints.

Orchids seen on the day were: *Dipodium roseum*, the Pink Hyacinth Orchid, *Gastrodia sesamoides* the Potato Orchid and an unidentified *Thelymitra* species. The *Dipodium* specimens were mostly in full flower but specimens of the other two species had seed 'pods' only.

Dipodium pardalinum, the Leopard Hyacinth Orchid, was not found.

A number of us also had a special interest in ferns: Eight species were found and identified in Wotton Scrub as we continued the search for evermore *Dipodium* specimens.

Photos, below, by Leo Davis taken on the day.



Dipodium roseum



Gastrodia sesamoides

Despite not finding specimens of *Dipodium pardalinum* the day was considered successful by all who attended.

Post-script: A few days later Nurrutti, Stirling Cemetery and two more of the Kenneth Stirling Conservation Parks (Fisell Hill and Whites Scrub), were searched for *D. pardalinum* by several of us without success. There's always next year.

New Orchids, rediscoveries and extensions of Range for orchids in SA in 2010

Rob Bates

With rainfall close to average during the 2010 orchid growing-season most species flowered in good numbers, although there had been few bushfires the previous summer to stimulate flowering of fire loving species.

Sun orchids did well, the main rediscovery being *Thelymitra aristata* located at two sites in the South-East in November. It was observed during our NOSSA spring survey of The Marshes Native Forest Reserve and discovered again a week later by NOSSA members in another native forest reserve. Interestingly, each site seemed to have a different subspecies. This species had not been seen for 30 years in SA and had been feared extinct.

Seven new SA sun orchids were published in the *Journal Adelaide Botanic Gardens*. Dec 2010. These are predominantly from the Southern Lofty Region and South-East and all are members of the small blue flowered *Thelymitra pauciflora* complex and validate tag named species illustrated in Orchids of South Australia DVD 2010 version.

The species are:

- 1: *Thelymitra crenulata* is a threatened new species restricted to the lower South-East and previously listed as *Thelymitra* sp. 'Black buds', or 'Dark buds'.
- 2: *Thelymitra hygrophila* is a critically endangered deep-blue flowered, clumping species from waterholes in grassy river red gum flats in the Southern Lofty (SL) and adjacent Murray (MU) region.
- 3: *Thelymitra latifolia* is a common flat-leaved blue to mauve species not previously recognised and grows in any higher rainfall districts of SA
- 4: *Thelymitra odora* is a species widespread in southern SA and recognised by its slaty buds, and many deep blue flowers which are surprisingly perfumed. One form of this species has a less attractive perfume and has been tag named as *Thelymitra* 'Horse manure'.
- 5: *Thelymitra orientalis* is the tiny flowered plum orchid which is rare and endangered, with less than fifty plants known in total from Kangaroo Island, SL and South-East (SE), now probably extinct in SL.
- 6: *Thelymitra pallidifructus* is an uncommon species from the SL and SE regions and easily recognised from its pale ovary.
- 7: *Thelymitra rubricaulis* is an endangered species with quite red stems and seed capsules and grows in the lower SE.

In addition, a newly recognised hybrid species *Thelymitra* sp 'Black tubed' was located in good numbers near Hahndorf in the Adelaide Hills and will be named in 2012.

Good greenhood finds include *Bunochilus melagrammus* relocated in the SL region after 20 odd years and also seen on Kangaroo Island after quite a break. Extension of its known flowering season was achieved with the location of plants in flower well into November on NOSSA's 2010 South-East surveys. *Diplodinium robustum* ssp. Gorges, with its delightful red flowers, was found in Warren CP after not having been seen for many years.

Another good find in 2010 was *Gastrodia procera* in the Meadows area, a new addition for SL. It was also seen at Piccaninnie Ponds i.e. it is now known for three sites in SA, not bad

for a species not known in SA in 2008.

NOSSA members found so many new populations of rare orchids in the South-East this year that there are too many to list. However, one interesting form of the *Stegostyla iridescens* complex was found at several sites. It had previously been listed as *Stegostyla* aff. *transitoria* but because of its iridescent flowers is now listed as *Stegostyla iridescens*.

Another species now being listed for SL region is *Petalochilus pygmaeus* which was once *Caladenia carnea* var. *pygmaea*. It has greenish buds and outside of sepals, unlike the similar *P. mentiens* which has red-brown buds and outside of sepals.

All of the above species are illustrated in the 2011 edition of Orchids of South Australia available on DVD.



Thelymitra latifolia flower above and leaf base, Knott Hill, SL –R Bates



Bright Ideas for
your Garden



New Stage Formats!
Larger Indoor Area!
Great Value!



Gardening expo

AUSTRALIA
Adelaide

March 12 – 14, 2011

Adelaide Event & Exhibition Centre,
Adelaide Showground, Wayville
Open 10am – 4.30pm daily



Meet ABC TV's Gardening
Australia presenters

Shop for hard to find
plants and flowers



Learn from the experts
with practical advice

See wonderful displays
that will inspire



Plus see
beautiful
Floral Art

Present
this coupon
at the ticket
box to receive a
FREE pair of
gardening gloves!



Organised by:
ee
EXPERTISE EVENTS
Events with a personal touch



www.abcgardeningexpo.com.au

Admission charges apply Tel: 02 9452 7575



Organised by: **ee**
EXPERTISE EVENTS
Events with a personal touch
*While stocks last



Orthoceras strictum

Cathy Houston



Orthoceras strictum

Cathy Houston



Flowers of *Paracaleana minor*

Leo Davis



A *Caleana major* plant beside the stem of the *Dipodium roseum* it had been wrapped around.

Leo Davis