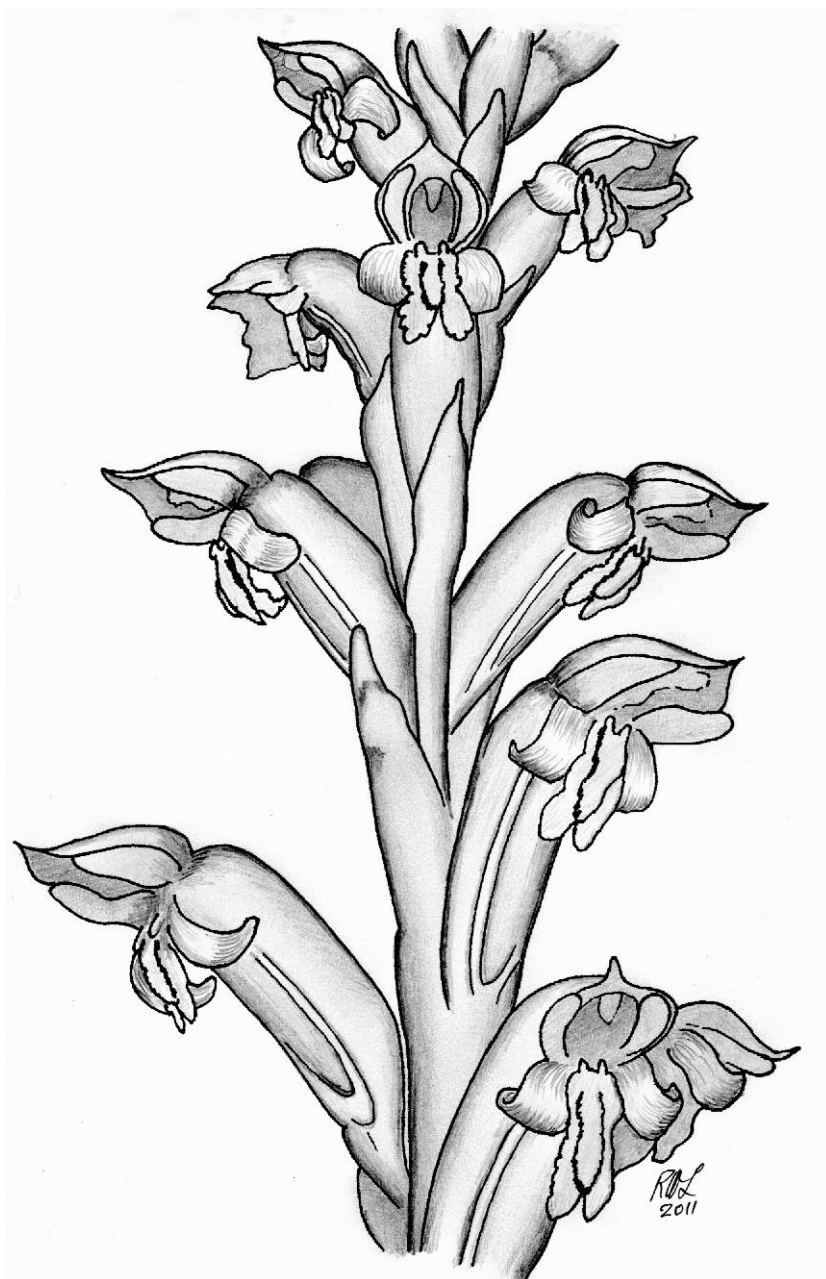




Journal
of the
Native Orchid Society
of
South Australia Inc



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.

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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.

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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.

APRIL 2011 VOL. 35 NO 3

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

NEXT MEETING 26 APRIL 2011

Tuesday, 26 April, 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.

Jane Higgs will be the speaker at the April Meeting and she will be talking about terrestrial orchids.

DIARY DATES

Friday 6 May	Annual dinner at the Buckingham Arms.
Saturday 7 May	Knott Hill & Scott CP – Leporella, Eriochilus, Midge orchids
Saturday 7 May	Belair National Park Weeding Activity
Saturday 21st May	Working Bee, Yorke Peninsula
June, Sunday 5th	Mt. Billy CP – <i>Diplodium</i> , <i>Pterostylis</i> , <i>Acianthus</i> , <i>Linguella</i> .

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Tues, 3rd May. Meeting commences at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Robert and Rosalie Lawrence, Camden Park.

MARCH MEETING

Judging results

Apology

Photos of plants benched for March appear in the electronic journal only. Judging results will be published in the May journal,

FOR YOUR INFORMATION - NOSSA NEWS

FIELD TRIPS

The next NOSSA trip is **Saturday May 7th** for helmet orchids, little pelicans, fringed hares and bunny orchids. Meet at Mt Compass shops at 10AM for Scott CP and bring picnic lunch. After lunch at Knott Hill

Proposed Field Trips 2011

May, Saturday 7 th	Knott Hill & Scott Conservation Park – <i>Leporella</i> , <i>Eriochilus</i> , Midge orchids
June, Sunday 5 th	Mt. Billy Conservation Park – <i>Diplodium bryophilum</i> , <i>Pterostylis nutans</i> , <i>Acianthus pusillus</i> , <i>Linguella nana</i>
July, Saturday 23 rd	Myponga, private property & Nixon Skinner Conservation Park – <i>Corybas</i> & <i>Bunochilus</i> .
August, Sunday 14 th	Cromer CP, Jenkins Scrub, Centennial Dve – <i>Corysanthes</i> , <i>Bunochilus</i> , <i>Diplodium</i>
August, Saturday 27 th	Yorke Peninsula (Muloowurtie Reserve, Ramsay Way CP) – <i>Arachnorchis</i> endemic to YP, <i>Pheladenia</i> , <i>Diuris palustris</i>
September, Sat. 24 th	Whites Scrub (Carey Gully) – <i>Diuris</i>
October, Sat. 15 th (or Sunday 16 th if more suitable for Sun orchids)	Scott CP – <i>Thelymitra</i>
October, Saturday 22 nd (or Sunday 23 rd if more suitable for Sun orchids)	Meadows Flats & Kuitpo – <i>Thelymitra</i> & <i>Gastrodia</i>
November, Sunday 20 th	Scott CP & Cox Scrub CP – <i>Orthoceras</i> & <i>Diuris brevifolia</i>
January, Saturday 7 th	Hender/Woorabinda Reserve, Stirling – <i>Dipodium</i> .

NB: Dates are only proposals at this time & may be changed without notice. Please check the NOSSA website for any changes. www.nossa.org.au

WEEDING ACTIVITY

Saturday 7 May Belair National Park – Long Gully. Meet 9:30am at the Information Centre of Belair N.P. Please bring gloves, secateurs etc for weeding activities. We will be working on improving habitat for the nationally threatened species *Pterostylis cucullata*. Site restoration has been going on for many years & the rewards are very encouraging. Come along & be a part of improving the environment for all the orchids in the area. By this time there are several species likely to be in flower if you want to survey some areas following a good mornings work.
Enquiries to Cathy Houston.

Working bee on Yorke Peninsula

Saturday 21st May Brentwood Cemetery. A working bee will be held at Brentwood Cemetery to improve the habitat around the nationally threatened orchid *Arachnorchis intuta*, the Ghost Spider orchid. We will be combining with the Friends of Brentwood Cemetery. The likely species to be targeted are Bridal creeper, boxthorn & Freesias. Please bring gloves, secateurs, hat, lunch to share, & anything you require for your own personal needs. Times to be advertised are 10am – 3:30pm. Any time you can give to this effort would be appreciated. Brentwood is located south west of Minlaton, toward Hardwicke Bay. For actual directions for the Cemetery please contact Cathy Houston, 83567356.

THIS JOURNAL WILL BE YOUR LAST UNLESS YOU HAVE PAID YOUR SUBSCRIPTION FEES.

Members who wish to pay 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”

ANNUAL DINNER at the BUCKINGHAM ARMS Friday 6th May

COST: SENIORS \$26.90, FULL \$29.90

A show of hands may be called for at the April meeting or contact the Treasurer to indicate your interest

Congratulations to Kris Kopichi –a daughter during March; Eloise Clementine.

***NOSSA Education Subcommittee Report and Proposals.* Geoff Borg**

The Education Subcommittee has the objective of developing educational materials to support NOSSA activities. NOSSA’s Education Subcommittee (John Bartram, Libby Bartram, Robert Lawrence, Rosalie Lawrence and Geoff Borg) have identified several proposals intended to motivate and excite the whole of the NOSSA Community. At first this task felt, to the Subcommittee, like a mind blowing task given the range of different media and public forums available to us today where we can obtain, communicate, and share information on orchids. However we were not afraid and quickly distilled our ideas to several proposals that are;

1. uniquely South Australia;
2. achievable by NOSSA members in 2011; and
3. in development, will actively engage and/or entertain the whole of the NOSSA community.

While these proposals will require some level of financial investment by NOSSA before they reach their full potential the initial outlay is purely time and energy from the Education Subcommittee and lots of energy and enthusiasm from the NOSSA community.

The Education Subcommittee Proposals

1. **Colour Brochure (pocket size) describing the 20 most common South Australian native orchids** that visitors to the South Australian bush are likely to see (and when). This brochure will be made using information from The Orchids of South Australia DVD and the final output would be both printed brochures and an electronic version to be available from the NOSSA website.

The brochure will be clearly labelled as a NOSSA product and the intent will be to make it available free wherever SA National Park Service brochures for National and Conservation Parks are available.

2. **Special Photo Competition for NOSSA Members** to submit their photos of the 20 most common South Australian native orchids. The prize will be publication of the winning photos in the colour brochure.

3. **Monthly Member Photo Display and Popular Vote Competition** at General Meetings. There are many, many NOSSA members who love taking photos of orchids. The NOSSA Education Subcommittee is proposing this monthly event as an outlet for all that orchid loving creativity. It will not be a formal technical photographic competition. There will be no restrictions on the nature of the photos displayed as long as they contain orchids. The orchids don't have to be South Australian, in South Australia, or even in Australia. The only limitation is that the creator of the image is a NOSSA member. Images would be displayed either as prints or as part of an electronic slideshow. Along with the popular vote for displayed orchid plants there will also be a popular vote for the images displayed.

Depending on the success of this competition, NOSSA could consider the purchase of a dedicated electronic display (electronic photo frame, computer monitor or flat screen TV) to be used for displaying the slideshow at each General Meeting AND for displaying images and other NOSSA information at NOSSA stalls at public events.

The NOSSA Education Subcommittee presents these proposals to the NOSSA Committee and Membership for support and feedback. We are ready to get working on them now and welcome any ideas to improve these proposals, new ideas, or offers of assistance to make this happen. There will be a brief presentation and discussion of these proposals at the next NOSSA General Meeting on 26th April.

ARTICLES / ITEMS FOR NEXT JOURNAL

Articles / items for the May journal need to reach the Editor by Friday May 6th.

Field trip report: April 3rd 2011 to Mt George

By R. Bates and Gillian

On a cold clear morning seventeen members and friends met by the creek at Mt George Picnic Ground and walked to the Mt George summit and lookout which certainly warmed us. Fresh green seed capsules of *Dipodium* the hyacinth orchids were abundant throughout one with flowers open but chewed by insects.

There were fresh greenhood rosettes and dried sun orchid pods along the track until Jane Higgs found the first bunny orchid *Eriochilus* sp. 'Hills' in flower and there were lots more at the Lookout in flower and bud with twenty spikes of midge orchids *Corunastylis* sp. aff *tasmanica* also in good flower.

We compared the bunny orchids with an image of another Hills bunny orchid *Eriochilus* 'Grassy woodland' which has much more colourful flowers.

The views toward Mt Lofty included politicians homes and vineyards and autumn leaved trees reminding us how lucky we are to have our beautiful Adelaide Hills just 20 minutes from the City. It was quite a scramble downhill to the cars along a very winding track and after a walk over a rustic bridge and a pair of labradors swimming along the creek we headed to two local pubs for lunch: Bridgewater and Crafers hotels are both highly recommended for Sunday lunch. Coming excursions include Scott CP and a few days in the lower South-East... stay tuned

A Quick Trip to Victoria

Les Nesbitt

On the 4th & 5th March I flew to Melbourne for a weekend of *Caladenia* culture discussions. I was well looked after by Dick Thomson and Helen Richards from the moment I got off the plane. Dick's detailed planning meant the arrangements went like clockwork and there were many interactions between interested parties.

First stop was the Herbarium in The Royal Botanic Gardens (RBG). If you think all Herbaria are just stores of dried specimens then think again. Here I was shown a drying cabinet and the dried seed, including orchids, stored in sealed foil sachets as part of the millennium seed project. They have an orchid team including 3 volunteers growing seed of rare orchid species using modern methods & equipment such as laminar flow and controlled growth cabinets. The resulting seedlings are destined for replanting projects with some grown on in the RBG's magnificent dedicated terrestrial house.

A *Caladenia* grower's seminar was held in the afternoon. Attendees came from ANOS-Vic, RBG Orchid team, RBG Cranbourne, DSE Horsham, DSE Bendigo and Werribee Zoo. The work these groups are doing to propagate and reintroduce rare species is amazing.

Come along to the July meeting of NOSSA to hear Dick Thomson describe some of this work. Dick also runs an ANOS-Vic seed propagation group at his home once a month and has done for years. As a result there is now a group of dedicated growers with all the skills to grow orchids from seed to flowering including using fungal cultures. I attended on the Saturday. I would go every month if I could.

Then to the ANOS-Vic meeting which had an attendance more than double NOSSA's. The plants on display were more than double ours. They have a snack break in the middle of the meeting and supper afterwards. There is lots of time to chat. No judging but stewards nominate outstanding plants for cultural awards. With so much to get through, the President keeps a tight rein on proceedings. It's well worth a visit if in Melbourne on the 1st Friday of the month.

In Victoria terrestrials are grown in very open mixes in 6" pots under a solid roof. It is not possible to use the cake slice method for dividing mother pots that I demonstrated because the mix falls apart when tipped out of the pot. The Victorians were amazed by my pictures of *Caladenia* pots full of seedlings. But then Adelaide and Melbourne are different climatically. I was amazed at how green the countryside was with grass growing strongly after all the summer rain and dams full. Many of their orchids were already in leaf and *Diplodinium*'s were in flower. Back in Adelaide the paddocks were dry and yellow and my orchid pots were still bare. I have a long list of things to try out thanks to the helpful growers of Victoria.

Talk to any *Sarcochilus* grower and they will tell you that *Sarcochilus australis* has a reputation for being perfectly healthy one day, and dead the next. Not being one to shy away from a challenge, I set out to see if they could be grown outdoors in Adelaide. My initial attempts at growing this species certainly gave credibility to this reputation.

The first problem in growing these beauties is to actually obtain them. They're not commonly sold in flasks, and even less common as mature plants. My first plants were bought in flask, a northern Tasmanian form from memory. They were purchased in November, which was quite warm that year, unlike our recent summer season. This was my first mistake, for reasons that will become apparent. The plants were mounted on cork, with a small amount of moss, and grown under a veranda with regular water, 2-3 times per day. Initially they grew extremely well. New roots attached to the cork in next to no time. Shortly after their first heatwave, the plants all developed crown rot and slowly died. This definitely wasn't a coincidence. So what was going on here? Were the plants unable to adapt to our much hotter climate? Were they unable to adapt to low humidity? Was the combination of watering extensively in hot weather a factor? Were the deflasked plants too vulnerable to desiccation under my conditions?

Unable to find any more plants to experiment with from flask, I managed to locate some mature plants. This turned out to be a smart move, as it helped answer some of my questions. This time the plants were bought in early spring, and again mounted on cork, under the same conditions as the previous batch. Now you might be thinking, why would I do this, given that I failed previously. The trick is to only change one thing at a time. If you change too many things, it becomes very difficult to work out which of your changes is having positive or negative affects. So in this instance, I started with flasked plants, and was now using mature plants. Again, the plants grew well, attaching to their mount. Right on cue, once the hot weather kicked in, the plants died. So it turns out mature plants were just as vulnerable as flasked plants.

Determined not to give in, I obtained a couple more mature plants. My theory at this stage was that the plants were unable to cope with harsh conditions without a full-developed root system. To put this to the test, I was going to have to get the plants through a full year to develop a decent root system. The plants had already proven robust under cool conditions, so it was just the heat affecting them. I decided to try placing them in a hot house over summer. The temperature would be just as hot as outside, only the humidity would be much higher. At the end of summer, one of the plants had perished, and one had survived. This was a particularly vicious summer, so I wasn't too concerned about losing one. I was however ecstatic that I had one left. With the onset of cooler weather, the root system really took off. By the following summer, the root system was quite extensive. The true test would be surviving summer in the shade house. To my amazement, the plant was totally unaffected by temperatures in the mid 40's, and survived an entire summer under nothing but 50%/70% shade cloth, with an easterly aspect.

Last year I was fortunate enough to obtain a dozen more mature plants by accident. I ordered what I thought was *Sarcochilus spathulatus* in spike, however they all turned out to be *Sarcochilus australis*. The plants had a detour in the post, and took over a week to be

delivered. Not surprisingly, most plants were showing signs of distress. Some were quite dehydrated, with wrinkled leaves and dead roots. The most dehydrated plants looked quite bad, so I thought it was highly unlikely they would survive. Imagine my surprise many weeks later when I see new roots forming at the base of the plants. They recovered so well in fact, that flower spikes are now visible on the plants this year.

This is quite an interesting turn of events, as it shows that *Sarcochilus australis* is not only able to tolerate being grown out doors in Adelaide, but actually thrive. It's true that you need to take some precautions until the plant becomes established, but once they are, they are amazingly tough. There seems to be no noticeable difference in plants from northern NSW or plants from Tasmania.

So now on to the bit that you're really interested in, how I grow them. I treat flaked plants and bare root plants exactly the same. Dip only the leaves in a solution of Envy and place the plants on damp paper towel until the leaves are dry. Envy is a product to prevent plants from losing excessive moisture through the leaves. When it dries, it leaves a coating on the leaves, blocking some of the stomata (pores) that allow moisture to escape. The plants can then be mounted. Cork works very well, as does *Callistemon* and *Melaleuca*. I have also used *Coprosma quadrifida* (Prickly Currant), one of the preferred host plants in Victoria and Tasmania, but they don't seem to do as well as twig epiphytes as they dry out too fast.

Once mounted, I place my plants straight out into the shade house. They seem to prefer a shadier position, as plants that I've had in bright light (50%) tend to develop a red tinge to the leaves, a response to too much light. Bright light for a few hours is tolerated quite well, such as morning sun. Plants are placed fairly low in the shade house.

I water and fertilise often, as I do for all my orchids. I use 10% strength most days, alternating between Manutec orchid food and a mixture of Seasol and Powerfeed. Watering is done as often as is needed. As a guide, once every second day in cold weather (< 16°C), once a day in mild weather (< 22°C), twice a day in warm weather (< 30°C), and three times a day in hot weather. This regime is not suitable for plants grown under cover, as the frequency of watering will likely cause fungal problems.

So there you have it, the secret to growing *Sarcochilus australis* outdoors in Adelaide. Enjoy.

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

Some rules of thumb, developed in my first year of orchid searches.

Leo Davis

Rule 1. If you find yourself in a Conservation, National, or similar, Park, you will be on one or more of, sandy, rocky, steep, nutrient deficient or arid ground. Nobody could use it.

Rule 2. If you want to find another orchid, especially of a different genus, look within a metre or two of the orchid you have just found.

Oh, yes, and Rule 3. Snakes are at least as wary of you as you are of them.

I had all three of my rules reinforced during walks in late March.

In the “Off season”, I have been searching for seed pods. These, where they can be found, indicate locations at which orchids grew, sites to return to, and are the basis of trivial research I am beginning.

A walk, for a few hours, in the Warren Conservation Park, reinforced Rule of thumb 1. But the total lack of any sign of orchids meant Rule 2 went untested. Rule 3, at great risk to my heart, was proven reliable, twice.

On to Watts Gully Native Forest Reserve, where the results were the same, except that a test of Rule 3, to my relief, was only carried out once.

I searched the Watts Gully site, without reward, and crossed to its boundary with Nugget Road, the other side of which is gently rolling cleared pastoral land. While I cannot be sure, I hypothesise that the pasture is on better soils; somebody could use it. I had the impression that the soil type began to change, for the better, just a few metres from the edge of the Native Forest Reserve, just before Nugget Road. I stepped out of the Reserve, into the remnant road side vegetation, and immediately found between 3 and 5, or more, species of orchids, in a patch of area of about 15 square metres. Rule 2!

Plants bearing seed pods, of what are most likely *Thelymitra* species, seemed to be of two types. One group had fresh shoots up to 10 cm high, arising from the same hole as the 2010 plant. Others, nearby, showed no signs of new growth. A pair of what could be a Spider (*Arachnorchis*? *Jonesiopsis*?) or some other genus, with two seed pods (note the long pedicel; flower stalklet) and what could be a *Calochilus* species, were observed. A patch of 2011 rosettes of what must have once been known as a *Pterostylis*, and could still be, but are unlikely to be, was thriving, tucked under a struggling *Hakea* sp. bush.

A couple of days later, a search for Midge Orchids (*Corunastylis* sp.), in Mark Oliphant Conservation Park, was not going well, apart from further verification of Rule 1, when, just after Rule 3 had again stood the test, I stumbled upon a busy patch of Parson's Bands (*Eriochilus* aff. *cucullatus* ‘Hills woodland’) accompanied, as Rule 2 predicts, by a cluster of dead 2010 *Thelymitra* sp.(?) plants with seed pods (none with new plants) and, more interestingly, a 2010 plant, with 3 large seed pods (to 12 mm x 6 mm), and a new 2011 plant, of what could be *Bunochilos* or *Urochilos* species.

A little later, at Scott Creek Conservation Park, the patch of Parson's Bands I found, obeying Rule 2, had 2010 *Thelymitra* plants with seed pods, with new 2011 plants, to 12 cm high, at their bases, scattered between them. An interesting find was what I thought, at first, to be yet another species/genus, but perhaps it was just an early leaf of *E. aff. cucullatus* ‘Hills woodland’. Perhaps a flower had been bitten off and that triggered the premature growth of a leaf?

Oh, I nearly forgot. Eventually I did find a single patch of Midge Orchids (*Corunastylis* sp.), at Mark Oliphant Conservation Park, the tallest 25 cm high, and they let me, and Rule 2, down. They were all alone!!

[Photographs connected with this article are in the electronic journal. Editor.]


NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>EXCESS RECEIPTS</u>	<u>EXCESS PAYMENTS</u>
<u>Memberships</u>				
Including raffles, trading tables, annual auction	2644.74			
Less Printing, postage, PO Box Hire, Editor, Auditor, Secretary, Xmas BBQ and preparation of 3 year plan		2203.98	440.76	
<u>Assets (at cost)</u>				
Computer, software, speaker system no new purchases 2010				
<u>Products</u>				
CDs (South and West Australia), Posters less expenses and badges	637.20	302.05	335.15	
<u>Special Items</u>				
Insurance, donation, web site registration		1030.98		1030.98
Purchases library		106.50		106.50
Memberships by NOSSA		25.00		25.00
<u>Shows/Sales</u>				
NOSSA Show/Australian Plant Soc. Shows	7158.90	6077.92	1080.98	
Donation - return from ANOS + entry award(\$150)	1150.00		1150.00	
Tuber bank	158.75		158.75	
<u>Special Project - Grants</u>				
Including Nangwarry, Foul Bay, South East - The Marshes, Environmental Biodiversity Services, Northern Yorke - Seven Hills Weeding Project	3849.00	12745.25		*8896.25
<u>Sundries</u>				
Interest on cash at Banks (includes Cheque Account, and Term Deposits)	1051.25		1051.25	
	16649.84	219542.20	4216.89	10058.73
EXCESS OF PAYMENTS OVER RECEIPTS FOR 2010				\$5841.84

- Note: Grant funds were received during 2009, but not dispersed until 2010. All fund received during 2009 and 2010 have now been dispersed, as the work has been completed.

Audited with Books, Vouchers,
BANK STATEMENTS provided &
I believe these to be a TRUE
FINANCIAL POSITION of The Club
as at 31/12/2010


MURRAY PAGE
HON. AUDITOR
16/1/2011.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2010

SOCIETY CHEQUE ACCOUNT 6444.21

*(see note)

TERM DEPOSIT BANK SA (1) 20000.00

TERM DEPOSIT BANK SA (2) 8500.00

COMPUTER (AT COST) 728.95

SPEAKER SYSTEM (AT COST) 1534.00

*(agrees with balance as per NOSSA accounts after reconciliation of unpaid cheques)



Genoplesium rufum



Dendrobium lithocola



Pterostylis orphioglossus



Dendrobium schneiderae



Dockrillia cucumerina



Dendrobium



Cymbidium



Sarcophilus Chocolate Velvet

NOSSA APRIL MEETING PLANTS BENCHED

Photos: D. Hirst



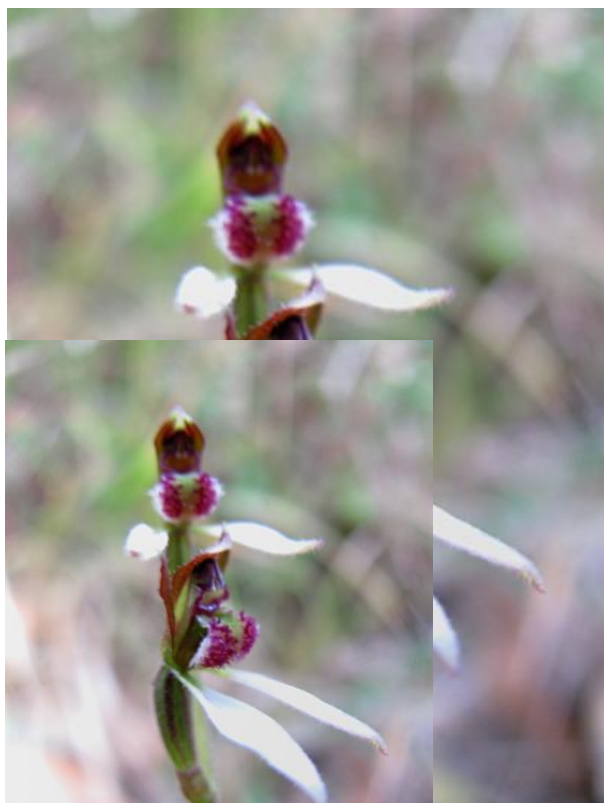
Mt George Field Trip

Photos: Leo Davis



Mt George Field Trip *Eriochilus*

Photos: Leo Davis



Above: Left; Photo: R. Bates

Right; Leaf
Mt George Field Trip

Photo: Leo Davis



Mark Oliphant CP 2011/iii/27

Photos: Leo Davis



Sarcochilus australis

Photo: Kris Kopicki