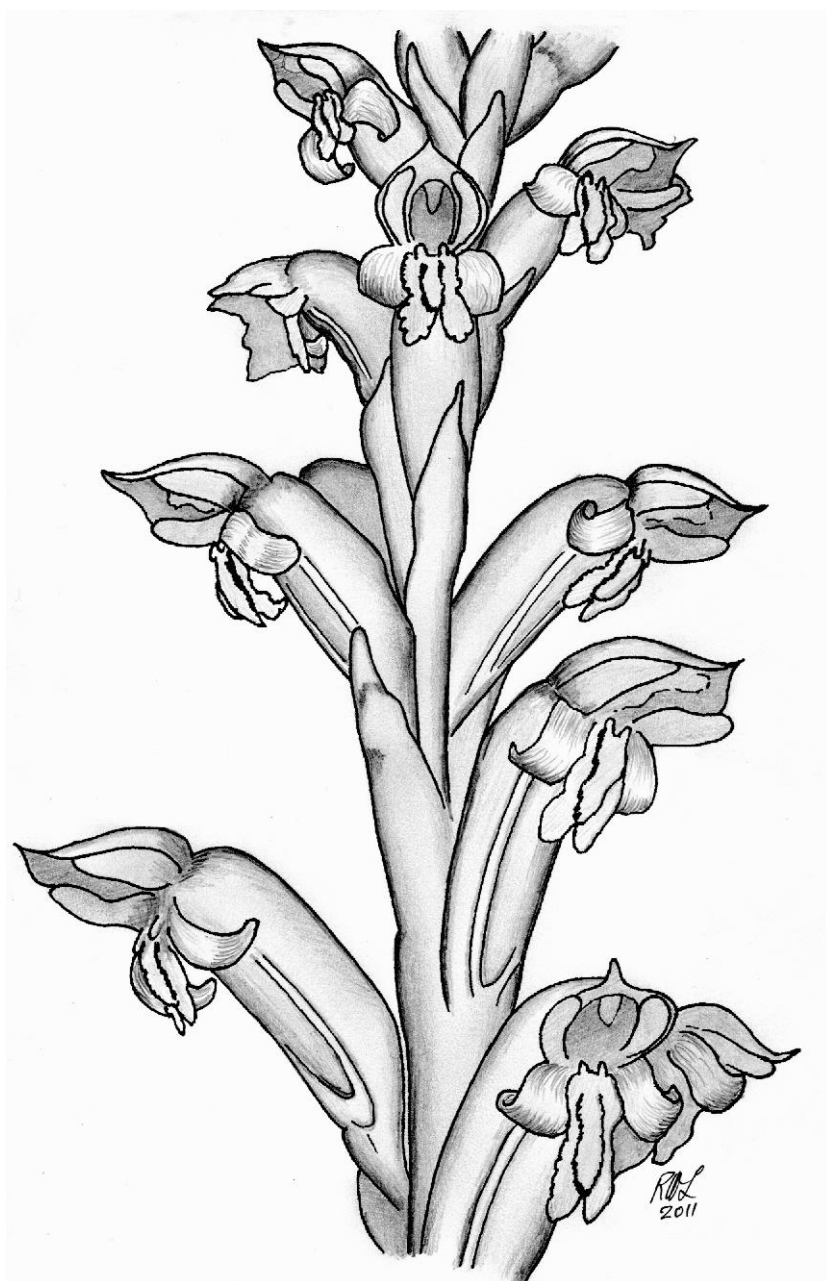




Journal  
of the  
Native Orchid Society  
of  
South Australia Inc



# NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PO BOX 565 UNLEY SA 5061

[www.nossa.org.au](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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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.

**MAY 2011      VOL. 35 NO 4**

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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 24 MAY 2011**

**Tuesday, 24 May**, 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.

**Ms Pamela Rajkowski will be the speaker at the May Meeting and she will be speaking on Afghan Cameleers in South Australia.**

### **DIARY DATES**

**June, Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>** Mt. Billy CP – *Diplodium*, *Pterostylis*, *Acianthus*, *Linguella*.

**June, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>**. Working bee at Belair National Park to protect habitat for *Pterostylis cucullata* ssp. *sylvicola* (Leafy Greenhood).

**June, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>**. Morialta

### **NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tues, 31<sup>st</sup> May. Meeting commences at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Robert and Rosalie Lawrence, Camden Park.**

## **APRIL MEETING**

### **Judging results**

Photos of plants benched for April appear in the electronic journal only. Judging results will be published when they become available.

#### **April Speaker**

Jane Higgs gave a power-point presentation she uses for her Environmental talks. Jane demonstrated the diversity of orchids particularly in the Myponga area and the habitat they grew in as well as some potted plants. The talk was well organized and captivating. Well done.

## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION - NOSSA NEWS**

### **FIELD TRIPS**

**June, Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>.** Mt Billy greenhoods. Meet at top gate of Mt Billy CP at 10.30am with warm clothing and strong shoes.

**June, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>.** Morialta walk: Meet at top car-park 10am for winter orchid mid day walk.

Enquiries to Bob Bates.

### **WEEDING ACTIVITY**

**Saturday 11 June** - 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* at Long Gully. Apologies for the conflict of dates in May. These dates are set up in conjunction with other organisations so sometimes clash with our own field trips. Come along & be a part of improving the environment for all the orchids in the area. 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.

**NB:** Please check the NOSSA website for any changes to field trip schedules. [www.nossa.org.au](http://www.nossa.org.au)

### **NEXT JUDGES MEETING**

June Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> at Les Nesbitt's, 18 Cambridge St Vale Park commencing at 9:30.

## **“NOSSA HELPERS URGENTLY NEEDED”**

Bob Bates has given NOSSA approval to put the DVD of SA Native Orchids data into a consistent readable format for showcasing South Australia’s native orchids.

The sub-editing committee has identified key tasks required to meet our objective.

The task is large because there are over 360 species in SA BUT this is achievable, if several people do a small amount each.

The first task is to transfer the data into a uniform format which consists of copying and pasting the information into a template.

We are aiming to complete this first task by the end of June BUT we need volunteers who can use a computer at a basic level.

Computer requirements:

- Any operating system e.g. Windows 7, Vista, XP, Mac OS, etc...
- Necessary – Microsoft Word 2007, or later.

Rosalie Lawrence will oversee the work, providing instructions and advice.

Contact: Rosalie Lawrence

Email: [rosalie\\_a\\_lawrence@hotmail.com](mailto:rosalie_a_lawrence@hotmail.com)

Phone: (08) 8294 8014”

## **2011 SAROC Orchid Fair**

The South Australian Regional Orchid Council (SAROC) would like us to promote the 2011 SAROC Orchid Fair. The fair is being held over the June long weekend (11 & 12 June) at the Pulteney Grammar School at 190 South Terrace, Adelaide. Times are:

Saturday 11th: noon to 5 pm

Sunday 12th: 10 am to 4 pm

Wyatt Hall

Pulteney Grammar School

190 South Terrace, Adelaide

Orchid plants, display competitions, orchid raffles etc

Admission \$2, includes a complementary cup of tea or coffee.

Orchid Club members are asked to wear their club badge.

My second Year as President went just as fast as the first one.  
But looking back it was a very busy one.

The first few Months of the New Year were very unsettled, so much so that the newly elected secretary resigned. I'd like to thank him for trying so hard. A big thank you to Robert who then took on the difficult task of Secretary. I have always believed in the importance of enhancing NOSSA's profile in the Community. I think we have achieved that goal with our activities this year. NOSSA was involved in many public events.

We had an information booth at the A.B.C. garden show, attended the Spring & Autumn Show of the Australian Plant Society, and participated in the "Water Wise at Wittunga Botanic Garden day" organised by the friends of the Botanic Garden. The three Orchid walks in the Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens were so well attended by the public that the next walks for 2011 have been organised already. To all the members who took the time and volunteered to help at these activities, a big thank you.

The biggest fund-raiser of the year is our Spring Show in September. I thought we were a bit "light on" in the judging displays, but we were still able to have a respectable show. The sales area was full of plants and we almost sold the lot, and a good profit was made. Thank you to the judges and the members who gave their time to make the spring show the high-light of the year. The field trip and conservation groups were also busy promoting NOSSA with their respective activities.

The last meeting in November is always well attended, and there were lots of bits and pieces to be auctioned. NOSSA did make some good money. The supper and fellowship after the close of that meeting was excellent. Thank you to the members who supplied the supper. Only a few members attended our annual dinner at the Buckingham Arms Hotel but we still had a good time. The Xmas BBQ for the first time in many years was not held at Wally's and Shirley's place, but at Jane and Don's place in Myponga. For most of us it was a long way to travel but it was well attended. After a huge meal most of us went into the "swamps". Jane was able to locate a *Cryptostylus subulata* ("moose Orchid") in flower! Thank you Jane and Don. To all the members who brought all that nice food for all of us to enjoy. A big thank you!

The committee tried very hard to make our monthly meetings as interesting as possible by organizing guest speakers on conservation & cultivation of orchids. We also had a "hands-on" evening of de-flasking /dividing and repotting of orchids.

Now a special thanks to John Bartram who drafted a discussion plan on the goals N.O.S.S.A. should achieve over the next 3 years in order to remain an interesting and inspiring society. I'd also like to thank all the members who volunteered on the trading tables, sold raffle tickets, mailed the journals, set up the sound system, set up the library and removed the books after the meetings, and to the members who set up the hall, and the same handful of the members who month after month clean up the hall! Also a special thanks to the editor who produces a quality journal every month.

And to all the members who do so many small tasks without a murmur. Last but not least to the members who bring plants for all of us to enjoy and for the judges to exercise their skills. Without you the society could not function. Thank you!

## Monthly Photographic Competition.

Robert Lawrence & Geoff Borg

One of the proposed actions of the Education Subcommittee is to run a monthly Native Orchid Picture Competition at the NOSSA general meetings. Judging will be by Popular Vote and will be run during the popular vote for plants benched at the meeting. To get things going, our family selected some photographs for the April meeting to show the kind of variety that we envisage. These seemed to be well received by members.

The competition is not just for photos.  
Pictures in **ANY** media are invited!!!

The only conditions are that the pictures have Australian Native Orchids as the main subject and that the person who generated the image is a NOSSA Member.

Our daughter Helen compiled an image by using computer software to combine different orchids. Due to the questions which were asked she has written a separate article in this Journal about how she produced this image.

Among the images I printed was one of *Diuris orientis* which is one of my favourites because of the way the sun has caught the flower and has brought out the rich colours of this very photogenic species.

One thing I have learnt in this process is that it is not straight forward getting an image that looks great on a screen to look just as good when printed. We are considering having a screen for displaying photographs at the meetings. Entries can be e-mailed to the NOSSA Secretary up to the Friday before each General Meeting or, if in print or other non-electronic (traditional) artistic media can be brought along on the night. Hard copies will be needed for placing votes, however. These could be postcard or A4 size.

We want to make it clear that there are no restrictions on photographs other than they should be based on Australian native orchids. We are certainly not bound by rules for judging orchids involving strict formats such as black backgrounds. We aimed to illustrate this freedom with the images we displayed. We may introduce different categories of photographs if there is a demand for this.

The aim is for the competition to be fun and to encourage the artists and photographic enthusiasts amongst us to display their works so that we can all enjoy seeing them. **We plan to have competitions commence at the next general meeting on Tuesday 24 May.**

Any comments or suggestions about how this display and competition of orchid pictures can be improved will be more than welcome.

Remember, the aim of this competition is fun and participation. As with any art beauty is in the eye of the beholder. The story the picture tells is often more important than the quality of the image!

Entries can be e-mailed to the NOSSA Secretary up to the Friday before each General Meeting or, if in print or other non-electronic (traditional) artistic media can be brought along on the night.

We expect winning photographs will be published in the Journal with a card awarded at a future meeting.

## PHOTO COMPETITION

### NOSSA 'Common Orchids of South Australia' Brochure

All NOSSA members are invited and encouraged to submit their photos of the 20 Common Native Orchids of South Australia. As presented in the April NOSSA Journal and at the last General Meeting the Education Subcommittee is developing a brochure intended for bushwalkers providing information on the 20 most common native orchids in South Australia. For this we need photos of these orchids from **YOU...**

**...and the prize for the winners will be...**

#### **THE HONOUR AND PRESTIGE OF THEIR PHOTOS BEING USED IN THE BROCHURE**

#### Conditions of Entry

There are a few conditions entrants must consider:

1. By submitting your photos you are giving NOSSA permission to publish them (with due recognition of the photographer)
2. Photos must:
  - Clearly show the orchid such that anyone in the bush could readily use it to identify a real specimen;
  - Have an image quality suitable for printing; and
  - Be in a common electronic format and file size that can be read by any image processing software and easily e-mailed.
  - Entries must be submitted by e-mail to the NOSSA Secretary ([nossaorchids@hotmail.com](mailto:nossaorchids@hotmail.com)).
3. Even if you are unsure of the identity of the orchids in your photos but you think it may be one of the 20 species listed, send your entry in anyway and we will get it identified.
4. All entries or enquiries must be by post or e-mail and subject heading: **Brochure Photo Competition**.
5. All entries must include the name and contact details of the person who created the image.
6. Judging will be by the Education Subcommittee and the Judges' decision will be final.

#### When to Enter

You have until the **5:00 PM** (Adelaide time) **5<sup>th</sup> July 2011** to submit your entries.

#### Where to Get More Information

Email NOSSA Secretary **OR** see either Robert Lawrence or Geoff Borg at one of the NOSSA General Meetings.

#### When Will You Know

Winners will be announced at NOSSA's August General Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> August. All entries will be on display at NOSSA's Spring Show and printed in the September Journal.

#### 20 Common Orchids of South Australia

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <i>Acianthus pusillus</i> (Mosquito Orchid)            | 11. <i>Eriochilus</i> aff. <i>cucullatus</i> 'Hills' (Parson's Bands) |
| 2. <i>Arachnorchis tentaculata</i> (King Spider-orchid)   | 12. <i>Glossodia major</i> (Purple Cockatoo)                          |
| 3. <i>Caladenia carnea</i> (Pink Fingers)                 | 13. <i>Linguella</i> sp. 'Hills nana' (Dwarf Greenhood)               |
| 4. <i>Caladenia latifolia</i> (Pink Fairies)              | 14. <i>Microtis arenaria</i> (Notched Onion-orchid)                   |
| 5. <i>Calochilus platyichilus</i> (Woodland Beard-orchid) | 15. <i>Pheladenia deformis</i> (Bluebeard Orchid)                     |
| 6. <i>Corysanthes diemenica</i> (Veined Helmet-orchid)    | 16. <i>Pterostylis pedunculata</i> (Maroon-hood)                      |
| 7. <i>Cyrtostylis reniformis</i> (Small Gnat-orchid)      | 17. <i>Pyrorchis nigricans</i> (Black Fire-orchid)                    |
| 8. <i>Diuris orientis</i> (Wallflower Donkey-orchid)      | 18. <i>Thelymitra antennifera</i> (Lemon Sun-orchid)                  |
| 9. <i>Diuris pardina</i> (Spotted Donkey-orchid)          | 19. <i>Thelymitra rubra</i> (Salmon Sun-orchid)                       |
| 10. <i>Dipodium roseum</i> (Pink Hyacinth Orchid)         | 20. <i>Urochilus sanguineus</i> (Blood Greenhood)                     |



## A Special Year for *Diplodium*'s

Les Nesbitt

In most years *Diplodium* species from the eastern states do not flower in Adelaide. The few flowering plants that are produced often abort the buds on hot days in late summer. Watering should commence from the end of January for this group. Flowers can be out as early as March. There were a number of species in flower in Melbourne at the ANOS-Vic meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> March. Our local species, such as *Diplodium robustum*, are easier to manage. They produce a low percentage of flowering plants and they flower later in May/June. If the largest tubers are potted together a good display can be achieved most years.

This year we had a cool summer with no prolonged heat waves. We also had good rains in February and March. Just the conditions this group likes as many come from mountainous regions near the East Coast. I have not seen flowers on my plants of *Diplodium abruptum* for many years and this year I have a 125mm potful. Other species flowering well are *Diplodium truncatum*, *laxum*, *revolutum* and *obtusum*.

So how can these ideal conditions be achieved in normal years in Adelaide? I suggest very heavy shade in summer, even a roof that lets in no sunlight until plants appear. Placing pots under the benches near the floor, or up the southern side of the house out of direct sun should help. Early watering from January on will keep the shoots developing. As soon as plants appear they can be brought out into more light or they will not stand up unaided. The pots still need to be kept as cool as possible on very hot days. Bring the pots inside the house when the temperature exceeds 33°C. After the flowers open they will flop over from the weight of rain drops on the flowers. This can be avoided if the pots are put under cover and watered around the base at flowering time. While more work than other terrestrials, this group can be very rewarding at a time when few other orchids are flowering.

### ARTICLES / ITEMS FOR NEXT JOURNAL

Articles / items for the June journal need to reach the Editor by Friday June 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Ponderings on Parson's Bands

Leo Davis

At Easter, in both 1960 and 1961, I joined three fellow Adelaide Teachers' College students (Tony Ackland, Barry Warren & Don Beames), in walking and camping our way, along a different path, each year, from somewhere near Goolwa, back to Blackwood Railway Station, to then take a train home to Adelaide.

On busy Easter Thursday night, we caught the regular, scheduled, Adelaide to Victor Harbor train, at Adelaide Railway Station. Just a few of you will be old enough to remember the excitement of that bustling venue; people buying "Platform tickets" to see friends off; neon signs flashing; surges of people as trains arrived; we didn't need a Casino for thrills in those days. A structure reminiscent of the Adelaide Oval Scoreboard, with its 11 vertical panels of "Departures", sported the invitation, "Ask the Man in Blue" and he sat, immediately above it, in the middle of the panels; answering questions and announcing, sometimes inaudibly over the echoing din, Arrivals and Departures.



We were among the first to alight from the train, because we got off at some tiny siding, something like Finnis, before the train reached Goolwa. We headed off, very green at interpreting our Army Survey Map, purchased just that day, arguing over it under dim torches, and finally pitched our first camp, after about an hour of walking through darkness. Both years we woke before dawn, on Good Friday, surprised to find we'd chosen a spot a few feet (metres were still about 5 years away) from a farmhouse or a dairy.

In 1961 we camped, on Saturday evening, what must have been illegally (did we know?), within feet (again) of the water's edge, of Mt Bold Reservoir. At dawn, Barry headed into the mist, roll of paper in hand, only to return, very excited, to gather us and his camera. He'd chanced upon a single, one flowered, Parson's Bands plant. This (then) young, sentimental, chap thought that quite apt, on Easter Sunday. Barry had a very simple camera, with B&W film, and his photo (in those "film" days we took just one photo) started a long project, moving into colour of course, photographing orchids. In retrospect it occurs to me that if one were to start photographing orchids, in B&W, that Parson's Bands would stand up better to the medium than most other species.

A few years later I chanced upon, and purchased, my first orchid book; "An Introduction to the Study Of South Australian Orchids"; R. S. Rogers, 1911. Some of you will know that it was directed at Primary School children, beginning life as three articles in the Education Department publication, "The Childrens' Hour", round 1909 & 10. That was a magazine I looked forward to, was it three times a year, in the early 1950s. Surely some of you did so too.

In Rogers work (page 11), Parson's Bands is labelled *Eriochilus autumnalis*, which, in the mid 60s, from my one Easter experience, seemed apt. This name does not appear in any of the Synonyms listed in the current "Orchids of SA".

In a desultory way, I had an eye out for my second Parson's Bands, ever after, but was not diligent enough. So I was shown my second, and a few more, by Bob Bates, on my first NOSSA walk, at Deanery Bush (a suitably clerical name), on April 18, last year. My very dodgy memory consistently plays tricks with me, at the best of times, but this encounter with the Parson's Bands, 50 years on, disappointed me at first, because the thrill of the first encounter had burned a larger image into my brain; but see a comment, from Bob, below.

It reflects the state of flux of the taxonomy, of the genus, that I labelled my photos, taken that day, as "*Eriochilus* sp. Undescribed taxon". (See our Journal, May 2010; Vol 34, No. 4, p33 where Bob wrote; "We noted that these have quite hairy stems and small but colourful flowers. They are thought to be an undescribed taxon." I label this year's finds as *Eriochilus* aff. *cucullatus* 'Hills woodland', which, I guess, probably represents the same taxon.

This year has presented a Parson's crescendo, for me. On March 27 I found a small patch, with only one flower open, in Mark Oliphant Conservation Park. Later that day I found a few open at Scott Creek C.P. On March 31, I went in search for a "good *Eriochilus* spot" pointed out by Clive Chesson, when he led a search for *Dipodium* sp, at Wotton Scrub, last December. I took a wrong turn, got lost, I often do, found *Eriochilus* at one spot along a track I did not know, found myself again, I usually do, then Clive's track and a few *Eriochilus*. As the season progressed there were, progressively, a few more, at Cromer C.P. (April 8), Cleland C.P. (various dates), a quarry above Macclesfield (April 17) but jackpot, at Mt Panorama Native Forest Reserve, where, by the time I'd arrived (April 19), they were scattered about, irregularly and thinly, with many already advanced to mature ovaries (singles and doubles). I stopped counting, at 50 plants, on one exciting 3 sq. m., or less, crescent shaped patch around a *Xanthorrhoea semiplana* plant. Any of you familiar with my "Rule 2" will understand that I was not surprised to find a patch of *Acianthus pusillus*, in flower, a few metres away.

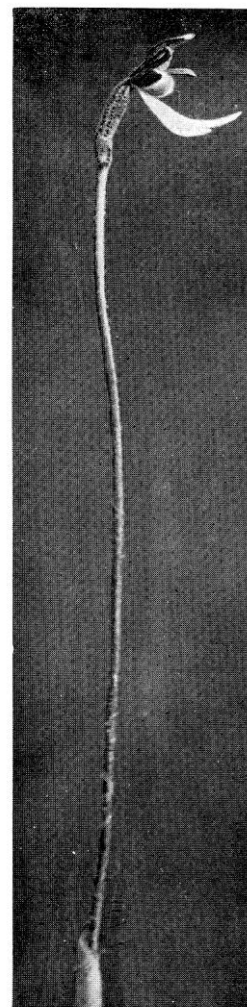
Back to Rogers, whose "Concluding Remarks. Collecting and Preserving Specimens", directed, you remember, at children, includes.....

"Remember that the orchid is an interesting and beautiful flower which may be easily exterminated. Therefore, children should never dig up the tubers. The leaves and the rest of the plant may be taken. Never pluck a single specimen more than is necessary. In most cases two specimens should be sufficient." (Rogers; page 39).

We had to start somewhere.

[Other photos connected with this article can be found in the electronic journal. Ed.]

FIG. 5.



*ERIOCHILUS AUTUMNALIS*.  
(Natural size.)  
("Parson's Bands.")  
Blooms in April.

# Going Inside

with Helen Lawrence



**W**e all like being told a secret. And I'm going to let you in on a few little secrets which I use when editing pictures.

At the general meeting of NOSSA (26<sup>th</sup> April 2011) several of you were intrigued how I managed to place some *Diuris orientis* (Wall Flower Donkey Orchid) 'inside' the picture of a *Pterostylis nutans* (Nodding Greenhood).

The process is relatively simple, that is if you have a computer and *Adobe Photoshop Elements*. For producing the picture I used the sixth edition.

Taking the picture of the Donkey Orchid, I made it so that the picture faded out into transparency (as seen in the central picture). This new image I placed as a layer into the final picture of the greenhood. To fill up the whole 'hood' I duplicated the Donkey Orchid picture.



So that the inserted picture had the appearance of being 'inside' I made the layer have a transparency of 50%. This allows some of the lines of the Greenhood to be seen through the Donkey Orchids, creating the feeling of them being 'inside' the Greenhood.

For the finishing touches, I used a filter which kept the centre of the picture colour while the edges faded to black and white. This helped draw the eye to the centre of the image. The frame placed around the picture in this presentation was completed using *Microsoft Word*.

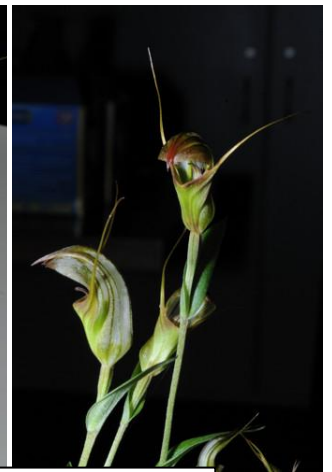
My advice to anyone who wished to edit their picture is feel free to play around with different ideas. Some of my inspiration in gained from discovering new effects or techniques. Experiment is the key to editing, and not being afraid to attempt something new, radical, different or unusual.







*Taurantha ophioglossa*



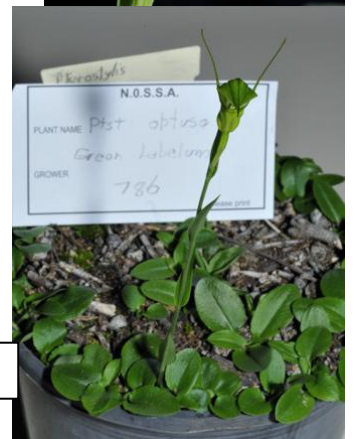
*Taurodium x Furcillatum*



*Diplodium laxum*



*Diplodium abruptum*

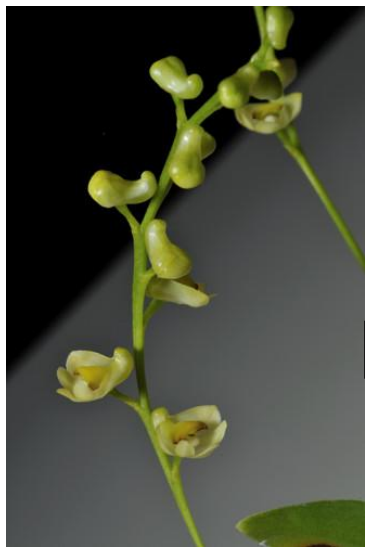


*Diplodium obtusum*

*Pterostylis orphioglossus*



*Eriochilus cucullata*



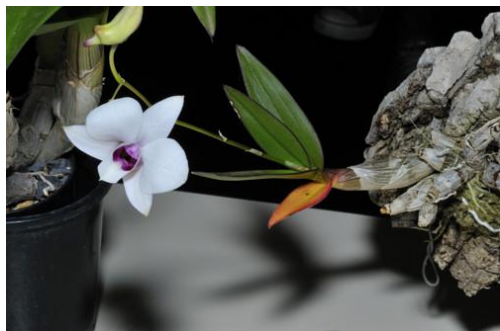
*Dendrobium schneiderae*



*Dockrillia bowmanii*



*Dendrobium lithocola*



*Dendrobium Annes Rainbow Surprise*







Mt Panorama N.F.R. April 19. *Eriochilus* aff. *cucullatus* 'Hills woodland'.



*Eriochilus* aff. *cucullatus* 'Hills woodland' One flower is finished and its ovary is swelling. The plant twined around the flower stem is most likely The Twining Fringe Lily, *Thysanotus patersonii*.



Mt Panorama N.F.R. April 19. *Eriochilus* aff. *cucullatus* 'Hills woodland' Two flowers are finished with ovaries swelling.



Mt Panorama N.F.R. April 19. *Acianthus pusillus*.