



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



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

NEXT MEETING 25 JUNE 2013

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 25 June at 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 speaker at the June meeting is John Crocker Environmental Advisor, Hillgrove Resources Ltd. John will be speaking on The Kanmantoo Copper Mines: Operations, Rehabilitation and Plant Rescue.

DIARY DATES

Saturday 22 June	Hale CP	<i>Diplodium, Acianthus, and Urochilus</i>
Wednesday 3 July	Morialta CP	various orchids

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

**Tuesday July 2nd at the home of Les Nesbitt 18 Cambridge St, Vale Park
At 7.00 pm (Note earlier start time)**

Judging results for May Meeting

Epiphytes benched

Species: *Dendrobium bigibbum* (5 plants); *Liparis reflexa*.

Hybrids: *Dendrobium* Angelene x (Ellen x kurin-Gai) (in open section), *Dendrobium* Edda x *speciosum* (in second division).

Terrestrials benched

Species: *Diplodium laxum* 'Bungonia' NSW; *Pterostylis sanguinea*.

Judging results

Epiphyte species

1st *Dendrobium bigibbum*

2nd *Dendrobium bigibbum*

3rd *Dendrobium bigibbum*

Epiphyte hybrids

1st *Dendrobium* Angelene x (Ellen x kurin-Gai)

No 2nd or 3rd

Epiphyte hybrid Second Division

1st *Dendrobium* Edda x *speciosum* [=Wasy]

Terrestrials 1st

1st *Diplodium laxum*

2nd *Pterostylis sanguinea*

Grower

Steve Howard

Bodo Jensen

Bodo Jensen

Bodo Jensen

Janet Adams

Les Nesbitt

Les Nesbitt

Popular vote

Epiphyte species A tie between 2 plants of *Dendrobium bigibbum* both grown by Bodo Jensen

Epiphyte hybrids *Dendrobium* Angelene x (Ellen x kurin-Gai) Bodo Jensen

Epiphyte hybrids 2nd Div *Dendrobium* Wasy Janet Adams

Terrestrial s *Diplodium laxum* Les Nesbitt

Plant of the night: *Dendrobium bigibbum* Steve Howard

Plant commentary on terrestrials given by Les Nesbitt & on epiphytes by Bodo Jensen.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION - NOSSA NEWS

Upcoming Field Trips

All field trips commence at 10:00 AM

Field Trip Co-ordinator, Wendy Hudson can be contacted on 8251 2762 or 0434 863 969.

Date	Site	Orchids	Meeting Place
Saturday 22 June	Hale CP	<i>Diplodium</i> spp. <i>Acianthus</i> <i>Urochilus</i>	Meet at Victoria Creek Reserve, cnr. South Para Road & Mt Crawford Road. * Please note this may be cancelled if the drought continues into May.
Wednesday 3 July		Morialta CP	<i>Bunochilus</i> , <i>Diplodium</i> , <i>Urochilus</i> , <i>Cyrtostylis</i> , <i>Corysanthes</i>
Sunday 18 August		Belair NP	<i>Pterostylis nutans</i>
Saturday 31 August or Sunday 1 September		Private property, Victor Harbor	
Friday 6 & Saturday 7 September		Camp: Halbury	<i>Oligochaetochilus lepidus</i>
Saturday 14 September		Mambray Creek	<i>Oligochaetochilus</i> <i>Arachnorchis</i> <i>Prasophyllum</i>
Sunday 20 October		Scott CP - Kuitpo	Sun orchids
Sunday 16 November		Kuitpo	Duck orchids

Leaders required: If you are able and would like to lead any of the above field-trips, please email wendyhudson2@bigpond.com or telephone 8251 2762. Thank you.

May speaker

James McGregor Vegetation Consultant at Greening Australia and NOSSA member, presented a well-received talk on Orchids in Belair NP and why mapping plants and understanding their distribution is important to their conservation.

James told of the work he was doing documenting the distribution of a large range of plants, including orchids, at Belair Conservation Park. He explained the range of observations that can be made and why this information is important to protect rare species and for the allocation of resources to protect threatened species of plants. He introduced the concept of 'Citizen Science' and the importance of sharing the information that members obtained from their observation of orchids. In particular he recommended the Atlas of Living Australia and Project Noah, the latter using photographs to confirm their identification.

NEXT JUDGES MEETING

Next judges meeting will be at Les Nesbitt's place at Vale Park, Saturday 6th July at 9.30am.

Brentwood Cemetery, weeding.

Again this year NOSSA members are invited to attend the clean up session with the Friends of Brentwood Cemetery, at the Cemetery which is on Cutline Road, opposite Hardwick Bay, on Yorke Peninsula. Deb Furbank says for participants to please bring gloves, secateurs, and a digging implement. (Screwdriver or similar ideal, kneepads if desired).

Please meet at the Cemetery at 9.30 am. Saturday June 29. The Friends will supply a picnic lunch. Please let me know if you are planning to attend to assist catering. I can provide further directions to the cemetery if required. Thelma Bridle, Conservation Officer ph 8384 4174 or t.p.bridle@bigpond.com

The following note is from the ANOS National Registrar:

"ANOS Council requests that all groups and affiliates cease using the misleading and incorrect terms 'Dendrobium teretifolium var. 'Black Pam' and Dendrobium teretifolium 'Fiery Glow' in their show schedules and to use the correct names *Dendrobium fuliginosum* and *Dendrobium convoluta*.

On taxonomy it was resolved to refer to the fleshy leaved *Dendrobium*'s as *Dendrobium* section *Rhizobium* species and hybrids rather than as *Dockrillia* species and hybrids".

Any growers of these plants should alter their labels.

Diuris behrii Project 2013.2

Les Nesbitt

At the end of May the strongest plants had clusters of leaves over 100mm long. However about a third of the clone pots had no leaves showing. This is a bit of a worry although there is still time for leaves to appear and not affect tuber development this year. A few of the very small tubers in 125mm pots have made leaves, usually only one or two. There are 3 trays, each containing 19 healthy daughter plants, ready for reintroduction, 2 trays of weaker plants and 1.5 trays that are not up yet or just breaking the surface. The spread of emergence times among pots adjacent to each other in the same shade-house is interesting. It happened last year too but I put it down to slug damage then. Some late emergers seem to form leaves below the surface, and then have difficulty pushing through the surface crust. The pots require regular weeding as it is best to pull out weeds while they are still small to minimise disturbance of the orchids. One *Pterostylis* rosette has emerged stronger than last year while the other *Pterostylis* clone is just visible. I am keeping one pot of *Microtis* plants as a parent clone. Hopefully one plant will flower this year so that the species can be identified.

Seed from several of last year's pods was mixed together with fine sand and sprinkled on all the *Diuris behrii* pots in April. I am hoping to see some seedlings appear in spring. I have also flaked some *Diuris behrii* seed.

The weather system that developed on May 31 and continued until June 2 dumped 80mm of rain on my orchids. Apart from saturating everything it activated the slugs and snails. One *Diuris* plant was eaten off before a large bush snail succumbed to a bait. More baits were scattered around on pots and on the shadehouse floor to control any other slimy creatures living there.

The new role of Membership Liaison Officer

Robert Lawrence

A number of things stood out to Rosalie and me during my time as Secretary of NOSSA. We were aware of a number of members who were collecting observations about orchids, but there was no means for their information to be used or made available to others. Similarly, we were aware of a number of people who were photographing orchids, but their photographs were not available to other members to see. We have found that members want to know if there are other members in their vicinity who are interested in observing orchids together.

In the past NOSSA has had a New Members Officer with the role of helping new members to get involved in the society. However, we have gained the impression that many existing members want to know how they can be involved. Hence, this new role is for all members.

We have been developing a network over recent years that has included researchers, staff involved in databases biological information, educators and other orchid enthusiasts. We see the potential for bringing their interests to the membership; hence the new role includes the key function of liaison.

I am interested in finding meaningful ways for orchids to be monitored to observe changes over extended period. I hope to expand on this idea in the future.

I am considering the possibility of a study of *Thelymitra* species involving setting up artificial conditions to get the sun orchids to open. It should be possible to develop a procedure for making comprehensive observations that are useful for taxidermy. It might be possible to get something organised ahead of this coming spring.

Other possibilities for membership involvement include:

- Assisting with the management of the collection in the Adelaide Herbarium
- Development of resources to support the school curriculum
- Orchid propagation in secondary schools
- Local study groups to observe orchids in a local area
- Internet-based sharing of photographs

Please contact me if you are interested in any of these possibilities. If you have other suggestions, please let me know. You can send an email to nossa.membership@gmail.com or nossaorchids@hotmail.com. Alternatively you can write via the Post Office Box.

NOSSA visit to Newland Head Conservation Park. Sunday, May 19, 2013.

Leo Davis

Well, we didn't find any rare, or even moderately uncommon orchids, but did we have fun doing it.

Just 8 of us turned up but, as is often the case, the small group worked better than a larger one. Conversation was limited and only extended over birds at Goolwa, motor cycle accidents of adult offspring, grasshoppers, lizards, farming life, driving at a little over the speed limit, confused orchid taxonomy, what we didn't tell our Dad we had done as teenagers, where best to cast a line on a surf beach. The usual stuff.

Most thought we were going to find the undescribed *Diplodium* sp. 'Newland Head' (C. Houston 73). Our well prepared leaders, Barb and Ken Bayley, who must know the site better than anybody else, had checked where this species had been found in the past and could only find a few rosettes and no flowers, even though flowers have been found in late April in previous years; because of the dry autumn, perhaps. Instead of taking us to that site they chose to lead us on searches of other sites. That really made the day, with everybody actively involved and interested in searching.

We found five species in flower and at least five in leaf, some of those in bud. See Table 1.

We were so busy and involved that we did not hear the rumbles of Fred's very punctual tummy till well past our usual lunch stop. After lunch Ken and Barb took us to the headland between Waitpinga and Parsons Beaches, partly because they knew we'd love the view over Waitpinga Beach and the surfing activity so easily viewed, and partly to point out trails worth taking, in the spring, to find orchids such as *Arachnorchis stricta*, an orchid some of us had no idea occurred beyond the Mallee. Back along the road into Parson's Beach Ken and Barb showed us two sites where the *Diplodium* sp. 'Newland Head', and another, might be found flowering, and where *Corybas despectans*, and others, are likely to be found, later this year, or in future years. Thank you, Barb and Ken, for a great outing. And your Crows did OK.



A tired specimen of *Leporella fimbriata*

Table 1	
In flower (some rather tired).	In leaf.
<i>Acianthus pusillus</i>	<i>Linguella tenuis</i>
<i>Cyrtostylis</i> sp. (most in fruit; a couple with a flower or 2 still open)	<i>Linguella longiseta</i>
<i>Eriochilus</i> sp. (a few scattered flowers).	<i>Pterostylis</i> (perhaps <i>pedunculata</i>)
<i>Leporella fimbriata</i> ; (thousands in leaf only, but many with flowers).	<i>Pyrorchis nigricans</i>
<i>Urochilus sanguineus</i> .	<i>Glossodia major</i> .

A naughty aside, about taxonomy. We kept switching back and forth, today, between the names most of us favour, which are eloquently argued for, in this Journal, by Bob Bates, and ones that are currently “accepted” by the likes of the Australian Plant Names Index, Australian Plant Census and Janes, et al. In Table 2 I have listed some of today’s Greenhoods with alternative classifications, as I interpret the references.

Table 2	
What some of us are happier with.	What is probably currently “accepted”.
<i>Diplodium</i> sp. <i>Newland Head</i> .	<i>Pterostylis</i> (sub group <i>Pterostylis</i> ; section <i>Foliosae</i>) undescribed species.
<i>Linguella tenuis</i> and <i>L. longisetta</i> .	Both: <i>Pterostylis</i> (sub group <i>Pterostylis</i> ; section <i>Foliosae</i>) <i>nana</i> .
<i>Urochilus sanguineus</i> .	<i>Pterostylis</i> (sub group <i>Oligochaetochilus</i> ; section <i>Urochilus</i>) <i>sanguinea</i> .

So there!

References:

Australian Plant Census. (APC, <http://www.chah.gov.au/apc/about-APC.html>.)

Australian Plant Name Index. (APN. <http://www.anbg.gov.au/cgi-bin/apni>.)

Bates RJ. (2011) Orchids of South Australia. DVD.

Janes JK, Duretto MF (2010) A new classification for the subtribe Pterostylidinae (Orchidaceae), reaffirming Pterostylis in the broad sense. Australian Systematic Botany, **23**, 260-269.

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Conservation news for June and two more sun orchids recently published for South Australia

Bob Bates

Below right: Semi arid habitat of northern Flinders similar to that found in all the above reserves, RB

Thelymitra alcockiae Jeanes and *T. glaucophylla* Jeanes ex Bates are two fragrant outcrossing sun orchids mostly confined to SA. Both belong to the *Thelymitra nuda* complex. We have used these names for several names as these are the names on the many collections of both at the state herbarium Adelaide (AD) but they were really just manuscript names. In the latest edition of Muelleria Jeans has formally named and described both. *T. alcockiae* honours botanical artist Kath Alcock of SA and the name *glaucophylla* refers to the glaucous bloom on leaves and stems of the species. *T. alcockiae* is thought to be different forms is grows from coastal areas and islands, though woodland to the semi arid pastoral areas. *T. glaucophylla* (and the name was first used by R Bates is also quite variable but in view of its restricted habitat and distribution (ie Mt Lofty and southern Flinders Ranges) is likely to be all one subspecies,



a complex of several taxa perhaps subspecies, in its restricted habitat and distribution (ie Mt Lofty and southern Flinders Ranges) is likely to be all one subspecies,



T. glaucophylla RB



T. alcockiae by JN

New conservation reserves for SA Hiltaba Nature Reserve

This time it's all good news: the Nature Foundation of SA has bought the Hiltaba sheep station in the western Gawler ranges, with the help of donations and government money and declared it a reserve. This area of granite rocks, small gorges, semi-arid woodland and ephemeral creeks supports up to a dozen species of native dry-land orchid. The new nature reserve of several hundred square kilometres has had a complete scientific survey according to official reports although I don't recall NOSSA being asked to help with orchid knowledge. Obviously the cute yellow footed rock

wallabies rate much higher than orchids. Beside having a couple of unnamed greenhoods the area is home to several rare species including the recently named *Arachnorchis interanea* the Granites spider orchid first identified as a new species from Hiltaba. The whole area needs a wet winter to bring on all the rare orchids and perhaps NOSSA could find a few more new orchid species there in a wet year once goats are eliminated from the Gawler ranges. Hiltaba is just one of five new reserves declared in the last two years.

More:

I recently saw signs along our dusty northern Flinders tracks declaring the following: '*Nanta Warrina* indigenous protection area' near Iga Warta with at least one unnamed *Oligochaetochilus*. And not far from that *Italawi* conservation reserve adjacent the much larger *Vulkathunha National Park* of many square km and with at least five orchids.

Sad to see the Oodlawirra Hills the next day, a hundred square km of once orchid rich bush now supports many thousands of feral goats and a few deer in addition to sheep.



Oligochaetochilus ovata from Gawler Ranges, image by Ken Bayley

Thelymitra exigua or *megcalyptra*?

Rosalie Lawrence

In March, Pauline Myer entered a photograph with the identification of *Thelymitra exigua* – *I think*. As this was photographed in Victoria, we asked Gary Backhouse to help with the identification. His reply was as follow:

“I think it is just *T. megcalyptra*, which is the common large bluish sun-orchid throughout much of the Grampians. *T. exigua* is generally short with small flowers, usually growing in grassland habitats. Many of the *pauciflora/nuda* complex are awfully difficult to tell apart.”

It is difficult to tell the difference between many of the *Thelymitra* and this blue group, seems to be notorious and confusing for many of us to learn.

Pauline’s photograph shows the whole plant (although the leaves have been eaten) which is always helpful in aiding identification. The flowers, with their columns, are clear, but details of habitat, scale, time of the year are missing as well as other details that would help with identification. While features of the column are important in identifying *Thelymitra* they need to be considered in conjunction with the other plant features.

So to try and learn something I’ve put together a chart of the similarities and differences between the two based mainly on information from *South Australia’s Native Orchids* DVD but also *Wild Orchids of Victoria* (Jeanes & Backhouse) and *Orchids of Australasia* (Jones and Clements).



Pauline Meyer’s picture (left) of *T. megcalyptra* and *T. exigua*, above (supplied by Gary Backhouse)

In reading the literature, it became clear that *T. megcalyptra* is a very variable species but also a very common species whereas *T. exigua* whilst occurs less frequently – a check on the maps on Atlas of Living Australia (www.ala.org.au) highlights this point – and is less variable and fairly uniform in appearance.

Gary has pointed out that “there should be little trouble in separating *megcalyptra* from *exigua*, readily distinguished by size alone. The problem arises when trying to separate *exigua* from the other small *pauciflora* type orchids.” So though these two are easier to distinguish than others, it does show the need to become so thoroughly familiar with the common that the uncommon becomes obvious when encountered.

Comparison Chart

Feature	<i>T megalyptra</i> Dryland or Scented Sun Orchid	<i>T exigua</i> Red Gum Sun Orchid
Size	Large plant and flowers – sepals to 25 mm long	Short plant and small flowers – (hence <i>exigua</i>) sepals 8-11mm
Frequency in the Grampians	Common throughout the Grampians	Unknown
Fragrant	Yes	No
Flower	Several to many Flowers open all at once Overlapping segments which bend right back on hot days	One to eight Open only on hot humid days
Column	Mauve post-anther lobe curved inflated hood, yellow or brown with a dark collar at the level of column arms	Pale pink, post-anther lobe dark brown, tubular and slightly inflated, apex slight 'v' notched and yellow
End of the column arms	Large elongated dense cottony trichome tufts	Toothbrush like arrangement of white hairs
Flowering time	Late August to October	October to early November
Habitat	Dry woodland, mallee and mallee-broombush, grassland, shrubland, rocky outcrops	Damp grassland and grassy woodland
Leaf	About three quarters length of flower stem (30cm) Fleshy ribbed	Short leaf – but nearly as long as the flower stem Fleshy and ribbed
Distinctive Feature	Red base at the leaf (never glaucous) Flower stem often red tinted with several sheathing bracts Large elongated cottony trichome tufts Drought tolerant	Short Clumping habit One or two sterile bracts

I would like to thank Gary Backhouse for his help in preparing this article.

Winners May 2013 Picture Competition

Rosalie Lawrence

This month there were ten entries from eight members. I realized that though I have started to put in thumbnails of the entries, I have only been mentioning the name of the winner. So I would like to thank Gary Backhouse, Doug Castle, Claire Chesson (winner for this month), Helen Lawrence, Robert Lawrence, Marg Paech and Errol Shepherd for their entries.



The winning picture is of a *Pheladenia deformis*, common name Blue Beard or Blue Fairy-orchid. A common but beautiful plant, flowering from July to October, it has a very widespread range, including interstate, but does become less common in the colder damper regions of the state.

The plants are often grow in clumps and with its distinctive flowers are easy to identify. Though the leaves are likely to be present, they may not be as easy to find as being bright green, slender, lanceolate (javelin-shaped) and of a similar size, they blend in with the surrounding grasses.

Thumbnail of the other entries



More information about our orchids can be found in *South Australia's Native Orchids* DVD-ROM, (available from NOSSA) and *Spider-orchids, the genus Caladenia and its Relatives in Australia* CD by Gary Backhouse

Remember entries can be posted to the NOSSA mail box or emailed to nossaorchids@hotmail.com or nossa.enquiries@gmail.com



Dendrobium bigibbum





Dendrobium Angelene x (Ellen x kurin-Gai)



Dendrobium (Edda x speciosum =) Wasy



Leporella fimbriata (see also page 48)