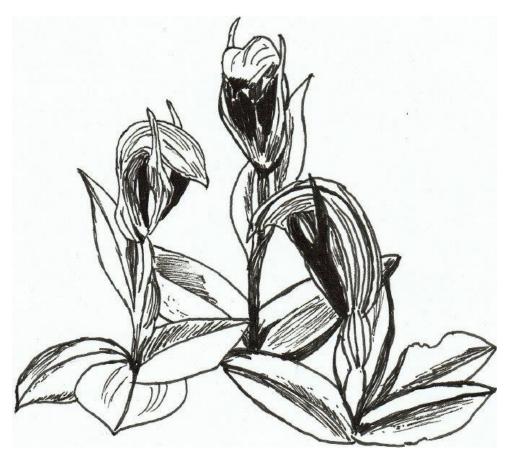


Native Orchid Society Of

South Australia Inc.

Journal



September 2014 Volume 38 No. 8

Native Orchid Society of South Australia

PO Box 565 Unley SA 5061 Website: www.nossa.org.au Ph: 8294 8014 September 2014 Vol. 38 No. 8



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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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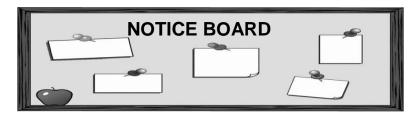
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The Native Orchid Society of South Australia, while taking all due care, takes no responsibility for loss or damage to any plants whether at shows, meetings or exhibits.

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.

Front cover from an original drawing of *Pterostylis cucullata* ssp. *cucullata* by Thelma Bridle. Used with her kind permission. *Pterostylis cucullata* ssp. *cucullata* is a rare, short-statured species of Leafy Greenhood which grows only in coastal regions. Thought to be extinct in SA, a NOSSA member discovered a large population in 2013, growing in the lower South East close to the Victorian border.



The Native Orchid Society of South Australia meets every fourth Tuesday of the months February to November at St Matthew's Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. Doors to the hall open from 7:15 pm to allow Members access to the Library, Trading Table and Grower's Forum.

| Date | Event | |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Sept 20 th Sat | Annual Spring Show - St Bernadette's Hall, South Road, St Marys. | |
| Sept 21 st Sun | Annual Spring Show - St Bernadette's Hall, South Road, St Marys. | |
| Sept 23 rd Tues | General meeting - Speaker Steve Howard | |
| Sept 27 th Sat | SE Survey begins - contact Thelma Bridle 8384 4174 | |
| Sept 30 th Tues | Committee meeting - at Les Nesbitt's | |
| Oct 1 st Wed | Mt Lofty Gardens Public Walk - Meet 11 am Lower Carpark | |
| Oct 3rd Fri | Articles for Journal to reach the editor by this date. nossa.editor@gmail.com | |
| Oct 4 th Sat | Field trip to Scott Creek Bookings essential | |
| Oct 6 th Mon | Mt Lofty Gardens Public Walk - Meet 11 am Lower Carpark | |
| Oct 21 st Tues | General Meeting – Speakers: Clive and Claire Chesson | |
| Oct 28 th Tues | Committee Meeting | |
| Nov 1 st Sat | Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens Public Walk – Meet 11 am Lower Carpark | |
| Nov 8 th Sat | Field Trip to Cox Scrub - Caleana, Orthoceras, Bookings essential | |

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Ms Sarah Ryder of Plympton
Ms Dharshini Devasagayam of Edwardstown
Mrs Judy Sara of Parkholme
Mrs Margaret Wilson of Hawthorn

FIELD TRIPS:

Bookings: nossa.membership@gmail.com OR

phone: 8294 8014

- Saturday 4th Oct <u>Scott Creek CP</u> -Thelymitra, Arachnorchis, Plumatochilus
- Saturday 8th Nov <u>Cox Scrub</u> Caleana, Orthoceras

MT LOFTY GARDENS PUBLIC WALKS

- Wednesday 1 Oct Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens
- Monday 6th Oct Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens
- Saturday 1st Nov Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens

ANNUAL NOSSA SPRING SHOW

Saturday Sept 20 & Sunday Sept 21 Come along and support NOSSA

S.E. SURVEYS

Two surveys commencing with A. richardsorium at Beachport Saturday 23rd September

Contact Thelma Bridle for further details

Phone 8384 4174

APS NATIVE FLOWER DISPLAY AND PLANT SALE

Saturday Oct 11th, & Sunday Oct 12th Wayville Showgrounds

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

 Tuesday 30th Sept 7:30 at Les Nesbitt's 18 Cambridge Street, Vale Park

FUTURE DATES:

Next Judges Meeting Sat 6th December

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Robert Lawrence



It has been another eventful month and here I list some noteworthy items:

Kuitpo field trip

It was great to have Jenny Woodley, a relatively new member, lead us through Kuitpo Forest to see her

favourite orchid sites. I think all who went are hoping to return to see more orchids in flower in the coming months when we find time to visit.

BioBlitz events

Rosalie and I represented NOSSA at two BioBlitz events run by the Barbara Hardy Institute of the University of South Australia as part of National Science Week. This is the same organisation that has run Operation Possum, the Great Koala count and a number of other citizen science projects over recent years. The first BioBlitz was at Harry Bowey Reserve, Salisbury Park and was followed a week later by one at Oaklands Wetlands, Oaklands Park, BioBlitz is both a public education and citizen science project in which teams of scientists work with the public, discovering and recording the fascinating wildlife that we share our city with and the aim of discovering as many living things as possible. There were no orchids at these sites, but people enjoyed seeing the orchid model display and many photographed it. We received one new

membership and also sold some material on orchid identification.

Talk at the Butterfly Conservation South Australia

At a meeting of Butterfly Conservation, South Australia. I spoke about orchids and lilies of the Adelaide Hills. At this meeting a new poster on spiders and their allies of the Adelaide region was launched. David Hirst was present and took the opportunity to promote both spiders and orchids. Between the two attractions for the night over 50 people attended. We sold all of the books and DVDs on orchids that we took and two new memberships resulted.

Orchid Poster

Thelma Bridle, Rosalie and I have continued to work with Jason Tyndall on the local orchids poster. This will soon be ready for trial with two groups of students. We are certainly looking forward to seeing the finished product.

Judy Penny and Bev Gay

Our best wishes go to Judy Penny and Bev Gay with their recent health problems and we hope they both will be able to join us in NOSSA activities again soon. Both are quiet achievers who have continued to help NOSSA meetings function. Get well soon!

BioBlitz in Focus







KNOTT HILL FIELD TRIP REPORT

Saturday 16th August 2014

Winter Orchids

Jenny Woodley

I was asked the other day what I was doing on Saturday 16th August. I replied that I was going to the forest to look for Mosquitoes, Mayflies,



Ducks Gnats and may even see some Helmets and Green hoods! Well, the person thought I was mad until I explained that all these things were plants. I guess if I had used Botanical names we would not have such had ioke about all this but

certainly gave an opening for a productive conversation. For me, as a novice in identifying flowers in the forest, it was a very rewarding experience to join NOSSA members for the day at Knott Hill. I have ridden (on horseback) and walked the trails throughout the Kuitpo forest for many, many years and it was a privilege to be able to share (and to learn even more about) special forest places with others. As well as orchids I am very enthusiastic about all the flowers in the forest and it was rewarding to see such flowers as Blue Boronia, Lavender Grevillea, Billy Baxter, Correa, Running Postman, Bush Peas, Black Eyed Susan, Sundews. Heaths and Guinea flowers.

Saturday the 16th August was very kind to us weather wise. It was cold, but with no rain and not a lot of wind. We had access by car to all of Knott Hill as we had a key to the gates and a "reccie" had been done a few days before to check out where the flowering orchids were. Being able to drive throughout the forest allowed us to visit many places on the day. Seventeen of us met at the Peter Creek Road car park and we arranged car-pooling so that it was easier for us to travel around on the forest roads.

Our first stop was to see the leaves of the Flying Duck orchid (*Caleana major*) and the Baby Duck orchid (*Paracaleana minor*). The red leaves of both were clearly visible against the white sand between clumps of native shrubs. Knowing that the leaves are now up, provides up with an opportunity to photograph the stages of growth of both these spectacular orchids. It was at this first stop that I noticed the "eagle eyes" moving out and about and looking for signs of other orchids at this time of the year. Throughout the day we heard cries of "oh look, come and see..." and it was this commitment to sharing and spotting that added value to the day's trip.

At the top of the road we stopped to see Fire Orchid (*Pyrorchis nigricans*) leaves and also five of these orchids beginning to flower. One of the orchids was standing quite tall and had three flowers out already! Once again photographs can be taken of these orchids as they grow, even to the time when the flowers are quite black. It was interesting to note that there had not been a fire in this area for as long as we could remember! The group then spread out again to see Helmet Orchids (*Corysanthes diemenica*) and the leaves of many other orchids due to flower in the weeks to come.

The call "all aboard" could be heard again and we all climbed into our cars and drove to the next stop, close to the old Battunga Golf course. (When the members first met at the Forest headquarters on Brookman Road they each took a map of the Kuitpo Forest and at each



stop they were shown how to access the spot by foot from a road close by if practicable.) At each of our stops, it was great to have members share their knowledge with others and at this place we mainly looked at leaves that would bring many orchids to flower later on. Here in the past many Rabbit Orchids (*Eriochilus*), Spider orchids (*Arachnorchis*) and Purple Cockatoo orchids (*Glossodia major*) have been seen and on the open space on the other side of the road a variety of Sun orchids (*Thelymitra*). I came across a Horned orchid (*Orthoceros strictum*) here for the first time years ago.

The next stop took us through the forest travelling north and we passed a large section of forest that had been logged recently. A large eagle was seen being harassed by what we think was a magpie. Throughout the day we also saw (and heard) many other birds including the vellow tail black cockatoo. We wound our way up to the top of Mount Panorama, past the weather station. From this vantage point we could see the landscape of the McLaren Vale District to the West and South West. This stop was also our "cuppa" stop which was well earned. We all went hunting again and it was here that the loudest excited call was heard when a very large crop of Gnat Orchids (Cyrtostylis) was found under trees and close to Yakka bushes. We were told that this high position was most unusual for this species.

We were in the cars again and drove down the road to the Iron Barks picnic table....ready for lunch. It is in this small patch of native scrub that many orchids and other flowers are on display from August until the end of November. There were so many Green hoods (*Pterostylis*) near the table that we had to be careful where we



stood! Here we saw Mosauito **Orchids** (Acianthus pusillus), Mayfly Orchids (Nemachianthus caudatus) and Noddina Greenhoods (Pterostylis nutans). Later on, Spider orchids (Arachnorchis), Bulldogs (Diuris orientis) and other spring flowers will show themselves. Three horse riders went by us while we there and one horse had to be encouraged to walk past the cars as there were not normally cars there on a Saturday! Members of the group spread out again here and many different plants were seen and noted.

Our last stop was further towards the next set of picnic tables at Iron Barks, close to Stagecoach Lane (formerly Old Coach Road.) This particular walk is quite easy as it is flat walking and through the Ironbark plantation and other pines. It also makes a great place for a picnic! Along the track many Mosquito orchids were spotted, many in the late stages of flowering. At the base of a pine we were directed to leaves that were growing strongly amongst the fallen bark It was realized that these leaves were of the Slender Greenhood Orchid (*Pterostylis foliata*).

At the corner of the track we looked for Helmet orchids and green hoods and were rewarded with some very good specimens. even saw Mayfly orchids growing close to two Greenhoods!



along the track Walking back towards Stagecoach Lane large patches of Nodding greenhoods (Pterostylis nutans) were seen and we marvelled at the numbers that were growing there. These orchids have been flowering for quite a long time. We also noted that further down the track Hyacinth Orchids (Dipodium) can be seen in December and early January. To get back to our starting point we travelled again through the forest, partly by a different route where some members commented that they were seeing parts of the forest for the first time. All in all I am sure that the day's excursion was enjoyable successful for most and

LOCAL ORCHID EXTINCTIONS IN KNOTT HILL FORESTRY RESERVES SINCE 1970

Bob Bates

Driving through this area on the NOSSA excursion in August this year I had cause to reflect on orchids lost since the last time I had driven through. In the 1960's there were large areas of winter wet sand heath, as well as river red gum and manna gum flats with waterholes and seepages.

Unfortunately the 1960's and 70s were a time when native vegetation in South Australia was cleared to make way for soft wood plantations. (Not much has changed in practice).

The following orchids have disappeared:

- 1. Thelymitra matthewsii (ploughed up and planted to pines), current status in the Mount Lofty Ranges: presumed extinct, nationally vulnerable.
- Hydrorchis orbicularis (water orchid, type location in the Mt Lofty Ranges, water holes destroyed by forestry practices and habitat gone under gorse and pines). Current status in the Mount Lofty Ranges: presumed extinct.
- 3. Microtidium atratum the tiny yellow onion orchid which grew with the Hydrorchis disappeared for the same reasons as above. It is endangered elsewhere in the Mount Lofty Ranges

now.

4. Thelymitra
exigua grew
under red
gums and
manna gums
and was last
seen here
about 2002,
possibly now



extinct in the Mount Lofty Ranges.

- 5. *Microtis rara* once common along Peters Creek went under pines about 2000; current status endangered in South Australia.
- Caladenia species Tiny white disappeared under gorse and pines about 1990, endangered in the SL region where its last strongholds ironically are in native Forest reserves around Kuitpo.

7. Cryptostylis subulata the swamp tongue orchid occurred in the gum swampy red flats but disappeared under pines in the 1980's. The last plant district the disappeared from the adjacent Battunga golf course when it was sold and became a farm a few vears ago. Current status:



endangered in South Australia.

Other endangered species just hanging on here include *Thelymitra hygrophil*, down to the last handful of plants, *Paracaleana minor* (most disappeared under a horse riding trail in the 1990's). *Thelymitra cyanapicata* a little blue sun orchid first named from plants collected nearby in the 1980's is now restricted to tiny openings in the pines and is critically endangered; traded it seems for a few cubic metres of timber.

Of several other rare sun orchids *Thelymitra holmesii* has all but gone from Knott Hill while in good contrast *T. inflata* has a thriving population in the Mount Panorama section of native forest here. Another rare species which had its SL stronghold here in the 1970's was *Anzybas*

unguiculatus the little pelicans which mostly disappeared when mature pine plantation (originally planted on bushland), was harvested in 2004, the block then ploughed up



and replanted to pines. The species may still be hanging on nearby.

Photos from Bob's CD "Orchids of SA" Available through NOSSA

ORCHIDS IN SCHOOLS KILDARE COLLEGE - AUG 2014

Les Nesbitt

There are now seven native orchids establishing in the native garden at Kildare after the girls planted a single plant of *Cyrtostylis robusta*. As this plant was in flower, the nectar running down the lip could be pointed out to the girls. This is their first species to flower this year. Paul brought up enlarged pictures from the internet on the overhead projector so that everyone could see the flower features. They did not have facilities like this when I went to school.

The next session was spent getting hands-on experience staking and tying Cymbidium spikes in preparation for showing or sale. Developing spikes are brittle and easily broken but the girls handled this task perfectly. This skill will be useful next year when the six months ownership period has expired and there are plants ready for exhibiting at the Royal Show or elsewhere. NOSSA is sharing sponsorship of the Kildare group with The Orchid Club of SA.

Paul has secured some sponsorship from Bunnings in the form of shadehouse materials.

Shadehouse construction has commenced with



six columns up already. A flask of cymbidium seedlings has been planted out and another is sitting in the lab awaiting warmer weather.

Planting out in September is a scheduled activity. A donated crucifix orchid, won in a raffle, is a suitable flowering size orchid to start a catholic school orchid collection. The school is also propagating other rare native plants in a project with the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. These pots are on the ground at present awaiting the completion of the shadehouse.

NOSSA AT BUSH BUDDIES NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

Jill Taylor and Rosalie Lawrence

NOSSA was invited to be a part of the Sturt Upper Reach Landcare Group (SURLG) as part of National Science Week Bush Buddies education program to Adelaide Hills primary schools, from 18th August to 20th August. Though we were not able to be at all the sessions, NOSSA was represented by Jill Taylor and Rosalie Lawrence.

Located at Upper Sturt Memorial Hall, photographs of plants and animals found in the local bush lined the walls. They included bandicoots, snakes, lizards, birds, mushrooms, wild flowers and of course ORCHIDS. NOSSA's model orchid display was at the back end of the hall, along with many items from the bush – feathers, snake skin, animal skulls and eggs, plus some fungi artwork created by the Junior Field Naturalists.

At the morning session children were introduced to the importance of natural habitat and how things in the bush interact with each other (bandicoot, SURLG logo, bees, Stringybark, fungi and hyacinth orchid were used to demonstrate this) The children were then divided into groups with one group going on a treasure hunt in the local Bushcare site whilst others listened to a talk on native bees before participating in various related activities. In between their activities children came and looked at the NOSSA display. They were curious and full of questions. The close up photographs of different terrestrial orchids fascinated the children. The shapes were different to any other flowers that they knew and they enjoyed trying to guess the common names – most of them guessed them correctly. The models also generated lots of comments and questions. A great success!

The other sessions were similar, although children from an inner city school were more interested in being outside. It was a privilege to attend these sessions and to see the efforts being made to help connect the children with nature. Who knows; perhaps as a result of this, one of these young people will become an orchidologist.

Thank you to Jane Blakeney, Co-ordinator Bush Buddies, SURLG, for inviting NOSSA to this event.

AUGUST WINNING PHOTO

Rosalie Lawrence

There were six photographs this month, with Pauline Meyer's Thelymitra antennifera x macrophylla; Marg Paech's, Caladenia latifolia; Fran Lucas and Helen Lawrence both entered a Pterostylis nutans and David Hirst's Diplodium robustum; but this month's winner was Claire Chesson's Arachnorchis valida (common name Robust Spider Orchid).

The name Arachnorchis valida was not validated until 2002; syn. Caladenia valida. Previously it had been included under Caladenia huegelii (a Western Australian species and Caladenia reticulata.

It grows in sandy or sand over red clay soil, in sheltered clearings within heath woodland or mallee but within a very restricted and disjunct distribution on Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island in S.A. and Otway Plain, Victoria. Rated endangered in S.A. It is not listed nationally.

Although *A. valida* shares some similar features with *A. reticulata* (i.e. 1 to 2 flowers, clubbed sepals, calli on the labellum) it also has quite distinctive features (see chart below). They can sometimes be found growing together.



Comparison of A. valida and A. reticulata

| Features | A. valida | A. reticulata |
|------------------|---|---|
| Pollinating wasp | Phymatothynnus pygidialis | Phymatothynnus victor |
| Leaf | Felted Leaf – dense, short hairs Semi erect | Very long silky hairs; purplish at the base Erect |
| Flower Stem | Taller – 40cm, hairy | 30cm, green & purplish red with long silky hairs |
| Flower Size | Though variable, larger – 7 cm | 5cm |
| Flower | Greenish when first opened fading to white or cream as the flower matures | Red-brown |
| Perianth | Stiffly spreading – broad based sepals; backswept petals | Dorsal sepal erect; perianth spreading downward |
| | No stripes | Red stripes |
| Labellum | Can be red but without veining | Red with veining |

References:

http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/dbpages/dev/vicflora/index.php/viclist/name/4677 accessed 4th September 2014

International Plant Name Index - http://www.ipni.org/

South Australia's Native Orchids DVD 2011 Bates Threatened Species Profile Fact Sheet *Caladenia* valida Department for Environment and Heritage, South Australia

Personal communications with Claire Chesson

NB: November Picture Competition Theme – *Orchids and Insects* - refer to 2014 April Journal for hints on photographing orchid pollinators.

FROM THE PAST – TO THE FUTURE

Helen Lawrence

Earlier this year I had the opportunity of participating in a tour of the State Herbarium of South Australia as part of "Open House Adelaide 2014".



The herbarium houses over 1.2 million specimens from species collected within Australia as well as those currently on loan from other Australian herbariums and overseas. Duplicate specimens from overseas are also housed, in case they are lost in their country of origin. These specimens are mounted on paper and stored in boxes within the vaults.





A major function of a herbarium is the naming of new species. In the collection there are type specimens which are original specimens used for naming a species which has all the distinctive features of that species. Another aspect of the herbarium are the specimens collected from over 200 years ago. In a display cabinet, were specimens collected by Robert Brown who accompanied Matthew Flinders in 1802. These specimens were transported back to England before finally making their way back home. As herbariums back in the 1800's did not exist as we know them it is incredible that these specimens still exist. Amazingly they don't look very old either.



A perennial problem faced by herbariums is a beetle which seems to thrive on the dead plant specimens. Whilst the spread of this beetle is reduced by strict quarantine processes transporting plants between herbariums is still a risk. The recent establishment of a database,

'Australia's Virtual Herbarium' with high resolution images of the type specimens, which anyone can view, now reduces the risks.

Whilst on the tour I asked to see the orchids which are kept in alcohol. I was taken to a small room full of tiny little bottles with orchids. They had lost their colouring but it was possible to see the 3D structure of the flowers –



something that is lost in a pressed specimen.

This article was adapted, with permission, from Helen's Orchidnotes Website where she has additional links http://orchidnotes.wordpress.com/2014/05/09/from-the-past-to-the-future/

Benched orchids for August 2014

Epiphytes: Open Division

Species: Hybrid

1st Den. teretifolia Les Nesbitt 1st Den. Anne's Rainbow Surprise J & B Gay 2nd Den. gracillicaule Kris Kopicki 2nd Den. Jonathon's Glory "Dark Joy" J & B Gay

3rd Den. teretifolia Bodo Jensen 3rd Nil

Epiphytes: Second Division

Species: Hybrid

1st Nil1st Den. Tyabb X CobberJan Adams2nd Nil2nd Den. Peewee X KatherineJan Adams3rd Nil3rd Den. Zeppelin X Aussie CharmJan Adams

Terrestrials: open division

Species: Hybrid

1st Pterostylis concinna "Yellow" Les Nesbitt 1st Diuris orientis X behrii Les Nesbitt 2nd Pterostylis nutans var. Les Nesbitt 2nd Perostylis Wedding Grace Les Nesbitt

3rd Pterostylis curta Les Nesbitt 3rd Pterostylis Joseph Arthur

Terrestrials: Second division

Species:Hybrid1st Cyrtostylis robustaJan Adams1st Nil2nd Nil2nd Nil2nd Nil

3rd Nil 3rd Nil

POPULAR VOTE:

OPEN DIVISION Epiphytes:

Species: *Den. Teretifolia* Bodo Jensen **Hybrid:** *Den. Anne's Rainbow Surprise* J & B Gay

2nd DIVISION Epiphytes

Species: Nil

Hybrid: Den Tyabb x CobberJan Adams

OPEN DIVISION Terrestrials

Species: *Pterostylis nutans var heaves* Les Nesbitt **Hybrid:** *Diuris orientis x behrii* Les Nesbitt

2nd DIVISION Terrestrials

Hybrid: Nil



BEST ORCHID FOR NIGHT

Den. teretifolia Less Nesbitt



Benched Orchids August 2014









Dendrobium gracilicaule

Dendrobium Bardo Rose







Dendrobium Zeppelin x Aussie Charm

Dendrobium gracilicaule

Dendrobium Tyabb x Cobber



Dendrobium aemulum

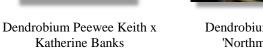


Dendrobium aemulum





Dendrobium terretifolia







Dendrobium Ellen Dendrobium Ellen 'Northmead' 'Northmead'

Dendrobium Anne's Rainbow Surprise







Cyrtostylis robusta



Cyrtostylis robusta



Diuris orientis x behrii



Pterostylis Nodding Grace



Diuris orientis x behrii



Pterostylis Nodding Grace



Pterostylis curta



Pterostylis Joseph Arthur



Pterostylis Nodding Grace



Pterostylis Talhood

Urgent Request

Helpers needed for

NOSSA SPRING FAIR

Contact: Robert Lawrence phone: 8294 8014

Entrance by gold coin donation

NATIVE ORCHID SHOW

ST. BERNADETTE'S
CHURCH HALL
SOUTH RD
ST.MARYS
(corner of South Rd & Walsh Ave)

Saturday 20th September, 10am to 4pm Sunday 21st September, 10am to 4pm

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.



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