Native Orchid Society Of South Australia Inc. Journal



Thelymitra grandiflora ssp. exposa Photo: R. Bates

> September 2015 Volume 39 No. 8

Native Orchid Society of South Australia



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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 promotes the conservation of orchids through the preservation of natural habitat and through cultivation.

Life Members

Mr R Hargreaves†	Mr G Carne	Mrs T Bridle
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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 - photo Robert Bates, Sept 2014 A newly named subspecies.

Thelymitra grandiflora ssp. exposa R.J. Bates.

This new subspecies of Australia's largest sun orchid (restricted to South Australia) is limited to high, rocky exposed parts of the Flinders Ranges which begin more than one hundred km north of Adelaide. This rare taxon extends for 250 km from near Laura in the south of the Range almost to Arkaroola in the north and is conserved both in national parks and native forest reserves.

Bates, R (2014) A New Subspecies of the "Giant Sun Orchid" Thelymitra grandiflora ..." Australian Orchid Review Vol 79 No 6 p. 52

Sep 2015



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
Sep 12, Sat	Field Trip: Bassnet Rd, Humbug Scrub – Spring orchids
Sep 19, Sat	Spring Show St Bernadette's Church Hall South Rd., St Marys
Sept 20, Sun	Spring Show St Bernadette's Church Hall South Rd., St Marys
Sep 22, Tues	General Meeting –'Growers Session' -
Sep 26, Sat	Field Trip: Sandy Creek area – Spring orchids
Sep 29, Tues	Committee Meeting at Les Nesbitt's
Sep 30, Wed	Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens Public Guided Tour - meet 11 am lower carpark
Oct 5, Sat	As above

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

- Judy Morris of BELAIR
- Christine Robertson of STRATHALBYN
- Craig Humfrey of WILLYAROO

FIELD TRIPS

Bookings Essential: Contact Rob or Jenny Pauley nossa.fieldtrips@gmail.com OR phone: (J) 0402 281 781 (R) 0419 843 845

- Sep 12, Sat Bassnet Rd., Humbug Scrub
- Sep 26, Sat Sandy Creek area Spring Orchids
- Oct 24, Sat Belair Rec. Park Spring Orchids

Meeting location and other information will be provided following registration.

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING 2015

Tues Sep 25 **Growers' Session** - Advice on Growing Native Orchids

ARTICLES FOR NEXT JOURNAL

Due to reach editor (nossa.editor@gmail.com) **no later than Friday Oct 2.** *NOTE: Articles can be sent any time prior to that date.*

SPRING SHOW

St Bernadette's Church Hall South Rd., St Marys

- Saturday 19th September 10 am 4 pm
- Sunday 20th September 10 am 4 pm

Helpers are urgently needed

2015 WEEDING DATES - BELAIR NP

Weeding in *Pterostylis cucullata* sites.

October 10, Saturday

Please contact *Thelma Bridle* - Ph: 8384 4174 if wishing to attend and for further information.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BBQ

- December 5, Saturday Higgs' property near Myponga.
- Further information in Oct & Nov journals

NOTE: This event is open to ALL members of NOSSA.

FOR THE 2016 DIARY

The 11th F J Rogers Seminar

'Native Terrestrial and Epiphytic Orchids'

Hamilton Victoria

Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th October

Program:

Saturday – Full day conference Formal dinner

Sunday – Bus tours

Registration of interest:

Contact Mr Kevin Sparrow

Post: 35 Swann St, Warrnambool Vic 3280

Email: ksparrow93@gmail.com



From the President

Robert Lawrence

Propagation of orchids for conservation

At the recent Management Committee meeting there was an interesting and friendly discussion about possible further funding of orchid propagation for conservation. Two members stressed the high risk of failure. In the past there have been those orchids propagated from seed and replanted but due to poor matching with habitat within ten to twenty years none remained. Two other members were in favour of at least some plants being conserved under cultivation (ex situ).

Orchid propagation is expensive. The estimated financial cost of propagating each threatened orchid species is \$7,000 in comparison to a \$1,000 for other species. Then there is the cost of seed lost by the removal of seed which might otherwise have contributed to natural populations.

Whilst there is no guarantee of success I presume that lessons have been learnt from past efforts. The discipline of recognition of suitable habitat and understanding of the numbers of seedlings required for a viable propagation have developed considerably over the years and these contribute to the cost. However, the risk of failure may still be high.

Others stressed that ex-situ conservation could be just as important as re-introducing native orchids to in-situ or natural settings. Plants grown in cultivation can continue to be used as a source of seed.

There was the objection that threatened plants are not flourishing in cultivation, but then examples were cited where they have done so. The Vale Park Our Patch sites provide evidence that orchids can multiply after translocation.

During the discussion it was pointed out that under the National Parks and Wildlife Act (1972) it is an offence for a person to *possess* a native plant that has been taken or acquired illegally and that the



onus lies on the defendant to prove otherwise. The

burden of proof is unusual in Australian law, but this enables authorities to prosecute when they have strong grounds to suspect that plants have been obtained illegally. Thus rigorous record keeping would protect growers, particularly for orchids that are not normally found in cultivation.

Obviously there is considerable interest in the community in the propagation of orchids for conservation. We are regularly

contacted, both by those who want threatened orchids to be re-introduced onto their land and by those who want to learn how to propagate orchids for conservation. Funding has been made available from the public through crowd funding and from government grants.

I suspect that there may be a place for propagation of the more common native orchids that would be easier to establish. Developing a seed bank for these will be a challenge with funding rightly going to the rarest and most threatened species.

General meetings

We have received feedback from a couple of members that some of the activities in the general meeting are unnecessary. One of the committee informed us that ANOS Victoria have changed their constitution so that their monthly meetings are informal as opposed to always being general meetings requiring agendas and minutes. Another possibility to consider would be to have the speaker at the start and then the talks about the benched plants and pictures afterwards.

Any thoughts about this are more than welcome. You may like to contact myself or any committee member or send in a letter to the Editor.

NOSSA Field Trip – Manning Reserve & Hardy Scrub CP

Doug Castle

On Saturday 22nd August 16 members met at Manning Reserve on Kays Rd McLaren Vale about 4 km NW of McLaren Flat. This Heritage Agreement area of approximately 49 hectares, owned by the Field Naturalists Society of SA, is dominated by Pink Gum and Silver Banksia with an understorey of Bracken.

After signing in and satisfying all legal requirements Lorraine Badger led the walk up a sandy track to a low ridge that runs through the park. The numbers of orchids increased as we neared the top of the ridge.

The first sign of orchids was the large number of *Pyrorchis nigricans* leaves. No flower buds were found on this western side of the ridge but a flower bud was found in the middle of the track on the eastern slope of the ridge. This will probably become kangaroo fodder as it is very exposed.

Near the top of the ridge a few *Diuris palustris* (Little donkey orchid or Cinnamon donkey orchid) plants were found. Easily recognised by its small size and its tuft of narrow, twisted leaves this orchid is no longer common in the Adelaide Hills area. These reasonably rare survivors are one justification for keeping this patch of bushland.

Pheladenia deformis (Blue Beard or Blue Fairy-orchid) was an easy orchid to spot but is confined to the top of the sandy ridge. While some flowers were past their best there were still plenty of good specimens.

Colonies of *Acianthus pusillus* (Mosquito orchid) were found with flowering finished and some seed capsules present. These were recognised by their heart shape leaves which are red underneath. No

examples of its relative, *Nemacianthus caudatus*, were seen at this site.

A small group of *Caladenia latifolia* (Pink Fairies) was spotted growing in a crowded weedy spot. The number in the colony was probably small because of the competition from other plants.

A few examples of *Urochilus sanguineus* (Maroon banded greenhood) were found but were past their best. Examples of the sterile rosettes were pointed out to the group. This is the advantage of field trips since your knowledge of the orchids will be extended.

Sharp eyes spotted a few examples of *Linguella* sp. Hills nana (White haired little greenhood) in amongst the dense vegetation. This is often seen in large colonies but the competition has restricted numbers in this location.

On the walk back from the ridge to the car more discoveries were made despite having already covered the area. A lone Corunastylis sp. with seed capsules was found mid track. An interesting group of orchids in bud was found at the base of a Eucalypt tree. Quite a few plants of Thelymitra antennifera (Rabbit ears or Lemon sun orchid) were in full bud. Although the flowers had not opened the colours of the bud were enough to make a confident identification. Not so easy was a lone specimen growing among the T antennifera. It had small purple-grey flower buds with a distorted flower stem. It was suggested that it may be Thelymitra juncifolia (Slender blue spotted sun orchid). As this is recorded as hybridising with T antennifera the resultant flower and identification would be interesting. Only one way to find out - another visit in the next few days!

Diuris palustris



Pheladenia deformis



Caladenia latifolia



The group travelled the few kilometres to Hardy's Scrub (Gate 16). After a well-earned snack to refresh it was on with the orchid hunt. We were well rewarded with some good specimens.

The first change noticed in this new location was the abundance of *Nemacianthus caudatus* (Mayfly orchid) and a few *Acianthus*. The plants were flowering well with splendid examples to photograph.

The main aim of this location was to see *Bunochilus viriosus* (Adelaide Hills banded greenhood). A small colony was found growing under native cherry trees. The flowers were past their best but some good examples were found. A lone specimen was found on the main quarry track. The upright sterile plants were pointed out and they are quite a contrast to the sterile rosettes of *U. sanguineus*

Many examples of *Urochilus sanguineus* were found and these were more prolific and of better quality than the few specimens seen in Manning Reserve.

The differences in plants only a short distance apart is amazing.

Portion of Hardy's scrub suffered a bushfire a few years ago and the orchids are in low numbers in this previously burnt area. Hopefully this will change with time.

Two specimens of *Pterostylis pedunculata* (Maroon hoods) were found and they were quite distinct with their dark brown colouration on the front and top of flowers.

Following the track deeper into the scrub large colonies of *Pyrorchis nigricans* (Fire orchids) were found, which is not unusual, but there is a spot that had four plants with developing flower heads. This will be worth revisiting in October to check if the flowers escape predation. This is a spectacular flower and always a joy to see.

Thank you to Lorraine Badger for leading a most enjoyable and productive walk.



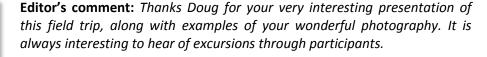
Nemacianthus caudatus



Bunochilus viriosus

Urochilus sanguineus







Addendum: Doug returned to Manning Reserve on the following Monday and reported that the sun orchid in bud thought to be *T. juncifolia* was then open and he believed it to be *Thelymitra luteocilium*. The other group of orchids with it were *T. antennifera*.

NOSSA Field Trip – Ardrossan - Private Property

Saturday 5th Sept 1915

Pauline Meyers

It was just a beautiful sunny day when close to 25 members and friends of NOSSA met on the road adjacent to the BP service station outside Ardrossan. One of our members, Chris Davey along with family members who had previously owned the property was there to greet us and share a little about where we were going. Of great interest was his beautiful photographic book in which he has recorded his sightings of orchids found in the scrub section of the property. I was impressed that a farmer had enough initiative to keep aside an area for native vegetation as a heritage for future generations.

Shortly after the introductions a huge convoy of cars could be seen driving out to the farm where we were able to park a short walk away from the entrance. After meeting the current owner the group eagerly headed off through the gate and up a slight hill. In no time at all we came across the first group of plants. As Bob explained they were two different, unnamed forms of Hymenochilus. Almost immediately after photographs were numerous other orchids were spotted. There were, in fact, so many plants to look at the group soon scattered across the hillside with folk calling out to one another telling of their finds. The scrub sheltered large colonies of Diurus palustris (Little

donkey or cinnamon donkey orchid), Arachnorchis brumalis (winter spider orchid), Pheladenia deformis (Bluebeard or blue fairies orchid), Caladenia latifolia (pink fairies) including one white coloured colony and also one section with six petals. Some found the odd Crytoslis robusta flower in addition to the many leaves. There were also numerous microtis leaves and a few orchids in bud: possibly T. alcockiae(coastal sun orchid) and Arachnorchis stricta (Stiff spider orchid) amongst others.

The highlight of the day for me was the *Caladenia latifolia* X *Arachnorchis brumalis* hybrid for which everyone lined up to photograph. It is quite a spectacular hybrid which Chris has found only once before. After a wonderful morning we headed back down the hill to the parked cars where most of us had lunch before going our separate ways to either look for more orchids or to return home. It was a great time to catch up with long-time members as well as some very new members.

Many thanks go to Chris for sharing this very special heritage area surrounded by paddocks of lush green grain.

Editor's Note: Thank you Pauline for sharing your thoughts on this special field trip.



Arachnorchis brumalis

Hybrid: Caladenia latifolia X Arachnorchis brumalis





Caladenia latifolia (white form)

Orchids in Schools

Kildare College Aug 2015

Les Nesbitt

The flowering season is in full swing with the orchid group preparing flowering plants for entry into the school's section at the Royal Show. This is the first year of competition for Kildare's Orchid Club. They have entries in the cymbidium and native orchid classes. Several students have been invited to demonstrate dividing an orchid on stage in the Goyder Pavilion during the show.

Since the last report Richard Thompson has sent over from Victoria some petri dishes containing orchid seedlings growing with fungi cultures. The girls have tried to culture the fungi in other flasks but got caught out using metholated spirits as a steriliser in the laminar flow cabinet. A thin grey bacteria lives in metho and this contaminated the flasks. As I do not use metho I was not aware of the problem either. It is killed by adding a little White King to the metho. A logical next step was to isolate their own fungi. Fungal peletons were teased out of

a section of *pterostylis* root using a needle and a microscope. A camera attachment projected the images onto a screen for all to see. (The peletons look like balls of string inside the orchid cells.)

After a practice session in the classroom the work was later done in the laminar flow cabinet under sterile conditions. A pod is developing naturally on *Pterostylis nutans* in the shadehouse. This seed will be used to attempt symbiotic germination of *pterostylis* in due course. One older student's SACE project will compare the growth rates of terrestrial orchid seedlings grown by symbiotic (with fungii) and asymbiotic (without fungi) methods.

The shadehouse is at full capacity thanks to a growing collection of epiphytic and terrestrial orchids. It will soon be time to start culling excess plants to make room for deflasking the bigger seedlings now under lights in the science lab.

Diuris behrii Project 2015.4

Les Nesbitt

Winter in the Adelaide Hills has been cold, cloudy and wet. Most of my rainwater tanks are full which is always a relief as I have no other water source in summer.

The growing season is coming to its climax with those plants that will flower this year developing flower spikes in the centre of the leaf cluster. All plants have recovered from the rat attack in May although the blunt ends of the leaves remain as evidence.

A count in early August gave a total of 609 plants comprised of 75 plants in mother pots, 158 daughters, 348 small plants and 28 seedlings. One daughter tuber had rotted and a number of very small tubers did not survive the summer dormancy.

There are 21 seedlings from 2013 germinations. The two strongest have 3 leaves while 3 seedlings have 2 leaves and the others one leaf. They will need a few more years to get to flowering size at this rate. Rats do not help.

From 2014 germinations only 7 seedlings have reappeared. All have a single leaf. No new seedling leaves are visible this year yet. I do not expect to see them until October. Let us hope the rain continues normally into late spring this year. The lack of rain last spring was a disaster for seedling germination.

By mid-September there should be flowers out and it will be time to start tuber removal as the new tubers will be fully developed by then. This year we will work on all the daughter plants, some of the mother plants and the largest of the small plants.

The seedlings and any pots with 2015 seedlings will be left undisturbed. I hope to produce an extra 250 tubers by December.

The largest rufa *pterostylis* did not reappear this year. We do have 2 small daughter plants. There are 8 swan orchids including 5 small daughter plants. The *microtis* are looking good as they usually do without much care needed.

•

August Winning Photo

Rosalie Lawrence

Of the five entries this month three were spider orchids and the winner was from this group. It was Rob Pauley's *Arachnorchis cardiochila*, Heart Lip Spider Orchid which can be found across South Australia and into western Victoria. At one time a specimen was found on Flinders Island, Tasmania but as it was collected in 1947 it is considered extinct in that region. This lovely flower is quite variable in colour and form.

The heart shape labellum is a distinctive feature of this spider orchid, so it is not surprising that it is reflected in the name: cardio meaning heart and chila, lip.

What probably is surprising is that the traditional heart shape symbol has come full circle. It had a botanical origin. According to

cardiologist Professor Armin Dietz the symbol was originally a stylized vine/ivy leaf as evidenced from paintings on goblets from the 3rd millennium. In the Middle Ages, doctors and anatomists used the shape to represent the heart. As at that time Latin and Greek were both the international languages of scholars, including doctors, the word associated with the symbol was the Greek word kardia (ie cardio) meaning heart. Consequently, by the time Ralph Tate named this species in 1887, the shape had become intrinsically linked with the heart and so it



must have appeared to him as an obvious descriptive name.

There are several field guides which give a detailed description of the species including South Australia's Native Orchids DVD-ROM which is available for sale from NOSSA.

The other entries: Jenny Pauley: Arachnorchis stricta (2nd); Pauline Meyers: Caladenia macrostylis (3rd); Lorraine Badger: Diuris palustris (4th) and Rosalie Lawrence: Nemacianthus caudatus;

References:

http://www.heartsymbol.com/english/index.html accessed 28th August 2015

http://data.rbg.vic.gov.au/vicflora/flora/taxon/bca2495d-3325-4c1b-b2c3-782566fb6bce accessed 28 Aug 2015 http://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/Documents/Caladenia-cardiochila-listing-statement.pdf accessed 28th August 2015



Arachnorchis macrostylis



Arachnorchis stricta



Diuris palustris

August Meeting Report

Lorraine Badger

Despite the absence of those regular members who have sought out warmer climes the meeting was once again well attended. The large trading table with its vast array of orchids was popular. With the slightly warmer weather the benched orchids are increasing in number and even the library attracted a number of folk with its great selection of orchid books to borrow.

The guest speaker for the night was NOSSA member, John Eaton, who spoke about his work on the walking trails of the Adelaide Hills and beyond. John started his powerpoint presentation with inviting photographs of the orchid filled bush along the Coastal Cliffs Trail, which immediately had my attention but he quickly moved to his topic and his work with developing walking trails in SA. Initially I was disappointed that we had moved away from the orchid aspect to the practical aspects of walking trails.

However, John very ably described a wealth of aspects on this topic from planning a trail, to location suitability, trail clientele and their usage (e.g. walking, horses, bikes, off road vehicles etc.) through to establishment, fire fighters' accessability, maintenance challenges and managing the

negatives. Just the statistics on numbers of walkers along some of the hundreds of walking trails in South Australia was amazing and thought provoking.

Through his discussion John raised issues that one tends to take for granted in all facets of an amazingly complex area. Thank you John for your discussion and for raising aspects that we have never considered. You have certainly increased our knowledge in this huge topic.

John's talk which related to bushwalking was timely since a few weeks earlier 4 stamps were issued to celebrate this increasingly popular past time.

http://www.walkingsa.org.au/news/category/trails/

Listed below are just a few websites that might arouse one's interest:

http://www.southaustraliantrails.com/pdf/40GreatShortWalks.pdf

http://www.southaustraliantrails.com/trail_experiences.asp?type=walking

https://www.marion.sa.gov.au/coastal-walking-trail

https://www.marion.sa.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/Coastal_Brochure_Map.pdf



Letter to the Editor:



Can you help?

On the recent field trip to Manning Reserve I photographed this orchid without having a proper look at it. It was amongst the first group of Pheladenia that we came across. Could it be a Glossodia although it is unusual in that it was early and Glossodia does not have bracts.

Regards, RL

Editor: Is there a kindly knowledgeable person out there who can identify this plant from the photo supplied?

NOSSA Annual Spring Show

Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th September 10 am - 4 pm St Bernadette's Church Hall South Rd., St Marys

Entry fee: - gold coin donation

Especially for our newer members NOSSA this to event is held annually over third weekend the September. The show provides an opportunity for folk to view a wide variety of Australian orchids, both epiphytic and terrestrial ranging from the common to uncommon and even the occasional endangered species



A great outing for family and friends

This is NOSSA's primary fund raising event for each year. This is a great outing for family and friends. Children are often fascinated by these amazing flowers.

Car parking at the door

Parking is not a problem at this site as there is plenty of room in the school grounds.

The show also presents a wonderful opportunity for growers to showcase their best specimens for judging by professional judges. The massed display of this spectacular collection of Australian orchids provides a kaleidoscope of colour whilst the scent of some fills the air.

The 2014 Show winner went onto win the Bill Murdoch Trophy for Champion Australian Native Orchid Species of the Year.



It is not often that a South Australian wins this prestigious award but Kris Kopicki has become the latest recipient for his winning entry, of Caladenia discoidea (Bee Orchid or Dancing Orchid) as shown in the adjacent photograph.

Orchid Sales – The show is a wonderful place to purchase an orchid or two from the extensive selection of orchids from seedling to specimen size plants which will be on sale to the public at very reasonable prices. Many of the orchids for sale cannot be purchased elsewhere. In addition to plants the South Australian Orchid CD will be available, amongst other items, for sale.

Helpers required

If you have any spare time there are always things that can be done to assist, from the setting up on Friday evening to packing up after closing time on Sunday afternoon. If you can spare some time it would be much appreciated.

Contact Robert Lawrence or Les Nesbitt to find out how you can help. **Robert** - Ph: 8294 8014 or

Email: nossa.membership@gmail.com

Les Nesbitt - lesn@adam.com.au



August Benched Orchids 2015

Epiphytes: Open Division

Species:		Hybria	
1 st Dendrobium aemulum	Kris Kopicki	1 st <i>Den.</i> Elegant Heart	Bodo Jensen
3 rd Dendrobium gracilicaule	Kris Kopicki	2 nd <i>Den.</i> Awesome	Bodo Jensen
3rd Nil		3 rd Den. Angelene X Ellen X Kuringai	Bodo Jensen

Epiphytes: Second Division

Species:		Hybrid		
	1 st Dendrobium linguiforme	Peter Lukeman	1 st <i>Den.</i> Star of Riverdene	Janet Adams
	2 nd Denrobium kingianum	Peter Lukeman	2 nd <i>Den.</i> X delicatum	Janet Adams
	3 rd Sarco. Falcatus	Peter Lukeman	3 rd Den. Speciosum X Gai Ellen	Janet Adams

Terrestrials: Open Division

species:		пургіа
1 st Diplodium robustum	Les Nesbitt	1 st Nil
2 nd Caladenia discoides	Kris Kopicki	2 nd Nil
3 rd Corybas dilata	Les Nesbitt	3 rd Nil

Terrestrials: Second Division

	Hybrid
Peter Lukeman	1 st Nil
	2 nd Nil
	3 rd Nil
	Peter Lukeman



Popular Vote:

OPEN DIVISION *Epiphytes:*

Species	Kris Kopicki	
(tied)	Dendrobium gracilicaule	Kris Kopicki
Hybrid:	Den. Angelene X Ellen X Kuringai	Bodo Jensen

2nd **DIVISION** *Epiphytes*

Species: Dendrobium linguiformePeter LukemanHybrid: Den. Star of RiverdeneJanet Adams

OPEN DIVISION *Terrestrials*

Species: Caladenia discoides Kris Kopick

Hybrid:. Nil

2nd **DIVISION** *Terrestrials*

Species: Chiloglottis trapeziformis Peter Lukeman

Hybrid: Nil

Photos: Courtesy of David Hirst

Best Orchid for Night

Dendrobium linguiforme Peter Lukeman



Benched Orchids September 2015







Chiloglottis trapeziformis

Corybas dilatus

Chiloglottis trapeziformis



Dendrobium 'Star of Riverdene'



Diplodium robusta



Caladenia discoidea



Dendrobium Elegant Heart-



Dendrobium x delicatum



Den kingianum (The Strand x Clara)



Den Angelene x Ellen x Kuring Gai



Dendrobium Awesome



Dendrobium linguiformis



Den kingianum (The Strand x Clara)-



Dendrobium x delicatum-