

Native Orchid Society of South Australia Inc. Journal



Diuris calcicola

One of new orchid species named in 2015

Photo: R. Bates

April 2016 Volume 40 No. 3

Native Orchid Society of South Australia

April 2016 Vol. 40 No.3



President

Vacant

Vice President

Robert Lawrence

Email: nossa.membership@gmail.com

Secretary

Rosalie Lawrence

Email:nossaorchids@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Christine Robertson

Email: nossa.treasurer@gmail.com

Editor

Lorraine Badger

Assistant Editor - Rob Soergel Email: nossa.editor@gmail.com

Committee

Michael Clark Bob Bates Kris Kopicki

Other Positions

Membership Liaison Officer

Robert Lawrence Ph: 8294 8014

Email:nossa.membership@gmail.com

Botanical Advisor

Bob Bates

Conservation Officer

Thelma Bridle Ph: 8384 4174

Field Trips Coordinator

Michael Clark

nossa.fieldtrips@gmail.com

Librarian

Pauline Meyers

Registrar of Judges

Les Nesbitt

Show Marshall

Vacant

Trading Table

Vacant

Tuber Bank Coordinator

Jane Higgs Ph: 8558 6247

Email: jhiggs@activ8.net.au

Website Manager

Rosalie Lawrence

Email:nossa.enquiries@gmail.com

The Native Orchid Society of South Australia promotes the conservation of orchids through preservation of natural habitat and 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 - photo Robert Bates, Dec. 2015 A newly named species.

Diuris calcicola (R.J. Bates)

This new species was named in the October issue of the Orchid Review 2015 and reported in NOSSA's December journal. "It is a mallee species, growing across the limestone plains and rises from Victorian border as far as western Eyre Peninsula, often locally common. This bright yellow donkey orchid was previously included under *D. pardina*, a species restricted to the mountains from near Jamestown south to the Adelaide Hills. It was previously included under *Diuris* sp. Short Tails (NOSSA Journal Vol 39:11 p 128)

Bulletin Board

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.

March	Event
April 9 Sat	1st FIELD TRIP FOR 2016
April 26 th Tues	General Meeting Speaker: Greg Johnstone (Nature Foundation SA)
May 3 rd Tues	Committee Meeting at Rosalie and Robert Lawrence's place – Anyone welcome.
May 6 th Fri	Last day for May Journal articles
May 9 th	Field Trip – location TBA
May 24 th Tues	General Meeting - Speaker: Helen Vonow – Adelaide Herbarium

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

• Garth Wimbush & Liz Milner of Rostrevor, SA 5073

NEXT MEETING 2016 – APRIL 26

Speaker: Greg Johnstone (Nature Foundation SA).

NEW FIELD TRIP CO-ORDINATOR

Thanks to Michael Clark we now have a new field trip co-ordinator. He can be contacted by email nossa.fieldtrips@gmail.com

If you have any urgent queries contact Rosalie Lawrence: Ph: 8294 8014 until he settles into role.

9th April - 1st FIELD TRIP FOR 2016 Leporella fimbriata. Remember bookings are essential:

Orchid Shadehouse, Glasshouse etc for sale

Ann Clark, daughter of Margaret Fuller, is selling her parents orchid shadehouses (x2) and glasshouse (x1). If anyone is interested, contact the secretary for further details. Email:nossaorchids@hotmail.com

NOSSA Silent Auction

A number of orchid prints have been donated to NOSSA. Please refer to attached/accompanying flyer. Closing date for bids: **31**st **May 2016** For further information please contact Secretary - Rosalie Lawrence - Email:nossaorchids@hotmail.com

STATE HERBARIUM OPEN WEEKEND

Sat 7th and Sun 8th May Further information at -http://know.ourplants.org/events/state-herbarium-open-days-2016/

2016 WEEDING

- Sat April 9th **Belair National Park**NOSSA helps Threatened Plant Action Group (TPAG) with weeding the *Pterostylis cucullatus* sites.
- Sat June 25th *Brentwood Cemetery*For further details contact Erica Rees:
 ericar@treesforlife.org.au OR ph. 4088 12677

NOTE: For other weeding dates please refer to article on p. 29

DIARY DATES FOR 2016

- APS Autumn Show April 30th & May 1st
 - *** VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ***
- NOSSA Spring Show September 17th & 18th
- APS Spring Show October 8th & 9th

11th FJC Rogers Seminar APS of Vic

"Native Terrestrial and Epiphytic Orchids"

• Sat 8th & Sun 9th Oct 2016 Hamilton Victoria

AOF ESSAY PRIZE 2016

Closing Date – June 30th 2016
For further information refer to NOSSA's March
Journal. Entry Rules can be viewed at:
http://www.australianorchidfoundation.org.au/AOF
%20Essay%20Prize.htm

ARTICLES FOR NEXT JOURNAL

Articles need to reach the Editor no later than Friday 6th May 2016. Thank you

From the Vice President

Robert Lawrence

2016 NOSSA Committee

Following the AGM on 22 March we have a new committee. David Hirst decided not to continue and his contribution to the committee over many years is appreciated. Kris Kopicki stepped down from his role as Vice President having filled this role since 2012. This enabled me to take on Vice President for this year since I was ineligible to continue as President, even though no one else was available. (The Rules of Association limit the term of

the President to 2 years.) We warmly welcome Christine Robertson to the role of Treasurer as Gordon Ninnes takes the role of an ordinary committee member. We also welcome Rob Soergel as assistant journal Editor. Rosalie Lawrence continues as Secretary (but would be delighted if somebody else could learn this role). Bob Bates and Michael Clarke continue as ordinary committee members.

NOSSA Seed Kits 2016

Les Nesbitt has initiated an exciting project involving producing seed kits of terrestrial orchids. Two fungidependent greenhoods have been chosen for an initial trial. These species are *Pterostylis nana* and *P. sanguinea*. (or *Linguella* sp. Hills nana and *Urochilus sanguineus* respectively). Each pack will have a plastic pot, growing medium, a vial with seeds inoculated with the appropriate fungi and wrapped in foil to keep it dark and another vial with seed mixed in fine sand and needles of Allocasuarina for mulch. 10 kits were sold at the March meeting and another 40 should be prepared by the time this Journal is distributed. Rosalie and I have sown our



seed and are up to the step, "Wait patiently for seedling leaves to appear."

Review of the constitution

Gordon Ninnes and I have met to discuss a revised constitution, formally known as the Rules of Association. We have worked on Part 1, the Preliminary section from the suggestions of Sandra Penny Dimri having revised both the Mission Statement and expanded the Objects (objectives) to better

reflect the full range of activities of the Society. We are yet to work on Part 2 Membership and Part 3 Society Management.

At our recent committee meeting possible changes to the Rules for the next version were discussed We would like to make a distinction between General Meetings, at which there is a motion or resolution to pass, and Monthly meetings for which minutes are not taken. As has been the case in the history of NOSSA, there will be no formal recognition of an executive: NOSSA is to be managed by the management committee and it is important that there we have effective communication with all on the committee.

Another possible change, positively viewed by the committee, is to have single year terms for all ordinary committee placements thus providing more flexibility with numbers. (When replacing half each year there needs to be an even number). We believe this would in no way affect continuity within the management committee. If anyone has any concerns, please let us know.

NOTE:

The Seed Bank will need NOSSA volunteers later in the year, for "looking after young plants in the shade house and possibly for more seed collecting. So we would really appreciate any help from members during spring and beyond." from Jenny Guerin and Dan Duval. Thelma Bridle will be the contact person for anyone interested in seed collecting.

March AGM Meeting Review

Robert Lawrence

Following the AGM as mentioned above, Renate Faast gave a well-directed presentation on the findings of her recent work on orchid response to fire. She illustrated this with results from a site at Millbrook Reservoir that had been burnt at a controlled burn. After this the control site was burnt as part of the Sampson Flat bushfire, but the controlled burn site was not burnt again. She studied *Caladenia tentaculata* as a species with a specialised pollination strategy and Glossodia major with a wider range of pollinators.

Contrary to common perceptions, summer fire did not cause increased flowering of these two orchids

species. However they were much more obvious both for pollinators and for the White-winged Chuffs and Grey Currawongs that ate almost all of the flowers. Controlled burns in autumn resulted in less flowers and a significant proportion appeared to have died, not being recorded in the subsequent three years.

Renate stressed the importance of good years for orchids producing seed. These may only occur once a decade, so it is important that controlled burns not be conducted immediately after these events which are crucial for reproduction of orchids.

Conservation Diary Dates for 2016

Thelma Bridle

NOSSA helps various groups with weeding sites that have endangered orchid species.

Sat 9th April 9.30 am Belair NP Pterostylis cucullata weeding in Long Gully.

Sat 7th May 9.30 am Belair NP Pterostylis cucullata weeding in Long Gully.

Sat 4th June 9.30 am Belair NP Pterostylis cucullata weeding in Long Gully.

Sat 25th June 10 am Brentwood Caladenia intuta weeding at Brentwood cemetery.

Wed 14th Sept 9.30am Grange Golf Club Pterostylis arenicola weeding & monitoring

Sat 8th Oct 9.30am Belair NP Pterostylis cucullata

weeding in Long Gully.

For further details about weeding at :

Belair or Grange Please contact Tim Jury 127 4166

Brentwood Please contact Erica Rees 8406 0500

All helpers are gratefully received.



Caladenia/Arachnorchis intuta Photo: Lorraine Badger

WHAT ORCHID IS THIS? HOW PHOTOS CAN HELP!

Rosalie Lawrence

Orchids are beautiful plants and many of us like to capture that beauty through photographs. And there are many beautiful pictures around. Many times NOSSA, the Herbarium and other specialist groups receive images requesting identification but vital information is missing

When photographing for identification, it is necessary to take more than one image, particularly. if you are unable to easily return to the site for more images. When in doubt, take several shots from many different angles highlighting different features of the plant and its habitat. It is also important to remember to photograph the orchid that is most representative of a group when there are several of the same plant, and not the atypical or unusual plant.



Fig. 1 There are several green comb spider orchids.

Which one is this? Clubs are lacking



Fig. 2 6 Good photo for identification of C robusta showing leaf and flower

General Guide

As a general guide, there needs to be a photograph of the

- whole plant
- individual flower both from the front and the side.
- flower head
- leaf or leaves
- habitat i

Other helpful things to consider photographing are:

- capsules of the finished flower sometimes it can yield useful information.
- for some genera, the stem can also be a helpful feature as between some species there can be a difference in the hairiness of the stem.
- It is also worth including in a photograph an indication of whether the plants are growing in colonies with others or as scattered individual plants.

Importance of Size

It is also good to give an idea of size. This can be as simple as using a thumb or hand, a coin (show the reverse not the head) or any item that had an easily recognized size. It is important to have the object next to the feature being photographed. For example, a coin on the ground **next** to a leaf or a hand **immediately** behind the flower gives a clear indication of size. Remember to take another photo without the hand or coin.

Some Specific Identifying Features

Some species are distinctive and easily recognised, e.g. the Flying Duck Orchid, but others are not, so it is helpful to know what part of the plant to photograph as different genera will have different identifying features.

- Spider orchids the tips of the segments and details of the labellum
- Sun orchids the column and the number of bracts on the stems; the ovary
- Pink fingers leaf length in comparison to the length of the flower stalk; also back of the flower
- Gnat orchid the leaf is the best identifying feature, but also the bud can be helpful
- Hyacinth orchid (of the Adelaide Hills) labellum
- Mosquito, Mayfly and Helmet orchids when not in flower both sides of the leaf
- Gastrodia the flower spike
- Rufoushoods side view of flower and close up of labellum as the hairs on or surrounding the labellum are important features.
- Leek Orchids the labellum is very important, as well as part if not all of the flower spike as the distance between the individual flowers aids identification
- Greenhoods if present, the non-flowering rosettes

NOTE: *The Australian Virtual Herbarium* has some good tips for photographing flowers to aid identification: http://www.cpbr.gov.au/photo/photography-techniques/index.html



Fig 5 Cyrtostylis robusta leaf too blurry



Fig 6 C robusta - atypical leaf



Fig 7 Three leaves of C reniformis



Fig 8 Cyrtostylis robusta leaf too blurry

Diuris behrii Project 2016

Les Nesbitt

The 2016 growing season got under way on 15th April when the first set of leaves appeared above ground. This was 2-5 weeks earlier than previous years due to the heavy rain at the end of January and regular follow up rain in Feb & March. Hand watering will be necessary if there is



no rain in April-May. Rat and snail baits have been laid in the shadehouse to prevent the damage from these pests that happened last year. Seed was sprinkled on all the pots at Easter. And so begins the fifth growing season.

NOSSA Seed Kits

Les Nesbitt

As expected there was strong demand for kits at the March meeting with all 10 available kits sold. Unless sold out beforehand, the next 40 kits will be available at the April and May NOSSA meetings and at the APS plant sale on 30 April/1 May. The kit contains everything needed to raise a pot of seedlings. The kits are best activated in April and May to get protocorms before the depths of winter and to maximise the growing season. *Pterostylis* (*Urochilus*) *sanguinea* has not been available for sale before. This is a major step for NOSSA and a sign of things to come.

The good news is that the seed viability tests are positive with protocorms forming in the flasks of both *Pterostylis nana* and *sanguinea*. The nana protocorms were obvious in less than 20 days while the *P. sanguinea* took a week longer. Laboratory tests to check whether the fungus can germinate seed of the 2 species are underway at Kildare.

The inaugural NOSSA seed kits use a compost of 50% washed sand and 50% sieved Debco native compost. I have under trial three other mixes. One is 50% Van Shalks Black Magic native compost (sieved) and 50% isolite. The Van Shalks mix contains more long splinters

of wood than the Debco product. This gives a very light and friable mix. The second mix is similar but with 75% native mix and 25% isolite. This is also a light friable mix that retains more moisture. The third trial uses my normal terrestrial mix containing 50% washed sand, 20% soil and the remainder is palm peat, native mix, mini orchid bark, pulverised gum leaves and a little blood & bone. Several pots of each have been inoculated with fungus impregnated millet and sown with the same seed as used in the kits. The mixes and she-oak needles used were pasteurised as in the kits. It will be interesting to see the differences in results using the 4 mixes. A decision on the best mix for future kits for Adelaide conditions can wait until the findings are in.

Were the kit planting instructions clear? Did you want more information? If so what needs to be added? Would you like to use your own compost and pots? Sieving, mixing, pasteurising and bagging the compost is a very time consuming activity. The kits can always be improved but to do so we need your feedback.





Easter Sunday - Bunny Hunt

Lorraine Badger

It was Easter Sunday and we had been in Tasmania for a little over three weeks. In that time we had managed to drag the caravan around the many twists and turns ascending the mountains before descending into deep valleys; besides fast flowing rivers of the north coast, around the west coast and across to Huonville south of Hobart.

Along the way we were drawn to the 'cathedral like' cool temperate rain forests dominated by majestic trees which included, in addition to Eucalypts (Blue Gum, Stringy-Bark, Swamp Gum, White Gum) and Wattles (Blackwood, Silver), Leatherwood, Sassafras, Native Laurel, the deciduous Myrtle Beech and of course the pines (Huon, Pencil, King Billy and the odd Celery-Top with what appear to be leaves but are actually flattened stems). We loved the damp and silent world and followed dappled, walking tracks through cool and dark forest caverns where not only fallen trees were covered with velvety carpets of mosses, liverworts and lichens, but anything they could find including the huge tree ferns and trees, some of which are said to be more than 500 years old and up to 50 m. in height. Adding to the scene were brightly coloured fungi.

This was all wonderful but where were the orchids? All I had seen was a group of rosettes of some greenhood or other when travelling, at a walking pace, on the amazing West Coast Wilderness Railway going from Strahan to Queenstown. On mentioning my sighting to John, our carriage host explained, "Yes we have small greenhoods growing in the area." But that was all — no flowers.

In a newsletter I shared our disappointment of the

elusive orchids and Rosalie promptly responded with an email suggesting I "Look up Australian Native Orchids on Facebook ... It's worth joining the closed group - there is a lot flowering in the eastern states particularly Tassie. Also check out the Tasmanian Native Orchid ... " Not being all that fussed with Facebook and the like my initial reaction was to ignore it but then curiosity



got the better of me and I had a quick look. I eventually put up a request for some GPS locations. To my surprise I received a response from a Peter Fehre who offered to take us to the Peter Murrell Reserve near Hobart. I was both excited and nervous having seen the quality of Peter's beautiful photos on the web. Never-the-less it was arranged that we meet at the reserve after lunch on Easter Sunday.

Easter morning was a glorious sunrise and after celebrating the true meaning of Easter at a nearby Church we headed off with our lunch to spend time looking for "Easter Bunnies," A few years ago I had heard another NOSSA member describe them as such and I immediately took a liking to the name. I thought that it suited these gorgeous little orchids much more than the common name of Parsons Bands, and even more so its botanical name of *Eriochilus cucullatus*. What better day to find them than on Easter Sunday?

With our GPS we soon found the park although it took a few tries to find the well concealed entrance. We were excited to find that the area reminded us of Kuitpo and were sure that flying ducks could be found there in season. After finally meeting Peter we were informed that flying ducks were indeed found there later in the year ... over a hundred last year! However, Peter had found, that very morning, other orchids which he wanted to show us.

I had seen photos of pink Eriochilus from Tasmania and this was what I really wanted to see, since SA's are white. In no time we found a few including one double. They were not really a bright pink in this location but they still had touches of pink,

particularly when in shade!

We also found quite a few *Corunastylis*, somewhat similarly sized to SA's *Corunastylis sp* Adelaide Hills. However, Peter was keen to check them out thoroughly as he was not entirely sure whether they were the earlier flowering form of *C. tasmanica* or the later *C. nuda* which

were just emerging.

Whilst Peter showed us various plants he, being the natural teacher he is, shared interesting snippets about the orchids. *C. tasmanica* for instance typically tends to have more flowers than *C. nuda* and has large glands on the end of the sepals. He also demonstrated the fact that these *Corunastylis* grew taller as they were setting seed.

Our next surprise for the day was the finding, by Peter, of course, a *Chiloglottis reflexa* or bird orchid. Not necessarily the prettiest and to us they were certainly unusual but of most significance was the fact that they were our very first sighting in the wild. Seeing them growing in a pot did not arouse our excitement at all. Whilst I am not sure that we will ever find one again on our own, or at least for a while, I have read there are some flowering in a

reserve near Devonport where we are due to return next week. Let's hope we have some success. After relocating to another area in the park which had undergone a cold burn about eighteen months before we were shown several little groups of *Pterostylis parviflorum* which has no visible leaves.

All too quickly our time came to an end. It had certainly been an amazing experience. The finding of these orchids was special but just as special was the gentleman who, with a passion for orchids, was not only willing to spend his time he was prepared to share his knowledge of orchids and their locations along with clever photographic tips. Through such sharing the knowledge bank of terrestrial orchids can only be extended. By keeping information to ourselves it is lost when we depart this life and is of no further use to anyone. Thank you Peter Fehre.









Eriochilus cucullatus

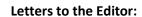
Corunastylis tasmanica

Chiloglottis reflexa

Pterostylis parviflorum

References:

- Australian Native Orchid Facebook
 https://www.facebook.com/groups/561617280589781/.
- Tasmanian Native Orchid https://www.facebook.com/groups/447398148693222/
- Flowering times of Tasmanian Orchid a practical guide http://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/documents/flowering-times-of-tasmanian-orchids.pdf



"Excellent journal. Full of colour. Excellent calendar of events and articles." Rob B.

"Gordon liked the page with the dates in the March Journal, and the committee agreed."

Thanks Rob and Gordon for your encouragement.

Remember anyone is welcome to make comments either positive, share a complaint, an error or ideas for improvement. Articles are always very welcome and a great way to learn more about orchids. Editor

March journal Corrections

The stem of the duck orchid, mentioned in March's article on photograph of month should read as 50 cms (20 inches) not 5 cm (2 inches) as was published.

March 2016 Orchid Picture Competition

Rosalie Lawrence

We frequently receive entries from Western Australia but this month our entries were from both the west and the east. Allen Jennings entered Calanthe triplicate, a Christmas Orchid from New South Wales. Pauline Meyer's was Paracaleana nigrita, Flying Duck Orchid, from Western Australia The other entries were South Australian, Jenny Pauley's recently photographed Leporella fimbriata (Fringed Hare Orchid), Greg Sara's Thelymitra rubra (Common Pink Sun Orchid) and Judy Sara's Plumatochilos sp (Bearded Orchid) and Arachnorchis sp (Spider Orchid).

The winning photograph was Judy's Spider Orchid. Obviously it was one of the Green Comb Spider Orchids - A. dilatata complex. Of this group there are about a dozen possibilities. Knowing the location, Mt Boothby, helped to narrow the options with the most likely candidate being Arachnorchis stricta but it wasn't convincing. It would appear that the tips of the sepals may have been chewed off when in bud.

A distinguishing feature of this species is that there are no clubs or osmophores on the sepals. Other species of this complex have clubs. Another feature is that the dorsal sepal is bent over the column unlike many other green combs which have an erect dorsal sepal. The features that caused doubt were lateral sepals looking droopy instead of being characteristically stiffly held out but dry conditions could cause this. The other was that the labellum did not strictly fit the description of A. stricta but then again it is a variable species. The conclusion was a



possible hybrid but there is no information on the likely parents or whether it is an atypical *A. stricta* that may have been damaged in bud.

This is an example of the difficulties that can occur when attempting to identify a plant from one photograph.

References:

Personal communications Thelma Bridle, April 2016
Personal communications Bob Bates, April 2016
Bates, R. J., ed. (2011). South Australian Native Orchids. Electronic version, 2011. NOSSA

Rules of entry:

The subject matter must have something to do with Australian orchids. Any format is acceptable including Photo shopped images, artwork, etc

How to enter:

- Email nossa.enquiries@gmail.com jpg as large as you are able to send, preferably A4 ratio for printing
- OR Post: PO Box 565, Unley, 5061
- · OR Bring in to the meeting

March 2016 Benched Orchids

Epiphytes: Open Division Epiphytes: Second Division

Species:		Hybrid	
1 st <i>Dendrobium biggibum</i> superbum 2 nd <i>Dendrobium scheiderae</i>	Bodo Jensen Bodo Jensen	1 st Den. Anthedon X pugioniforme 2 nd Nil	Janet Adams
3 rd <i>Den. lithicola</i> 'Mauve Showers	Steve Howard	3 rd Nil	

Terrestrials: Open Division

Species:		Hybrid
1 st Diplodium laxum	Leo Davis*	1 st Nil
2 nd Eriochilus cucullatum	Les Nesbitt	2 nd Nil
3 rd Diplodium truncatum	Leo Davis*	3 rd Nil

Terrestrials: Second Division

Popular Vote: Best Orchid for Night

OPEN DIVISION Epiphytes:

1 st <i>Dendrobium biggibum</i> superbum	Bodo Jensen
1 st Dendrobium scheiderae	Bodo Jensen

2nd DIVISION Epiphytes

Hybrid: Den. Anthedon X pugioniforme Janet Adams

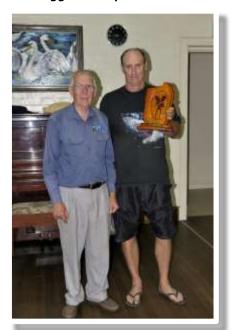
OPEN DIVISION *Terrestrials*

1st Diplodium laxum Leo Davis*



Bodo Jensen

Dendrobium biggibum superbum



Steve Howard presented with 2015 Judges Trophy

Each meeting the judges point up the flower of the night and the votes go in a sealed envelope. At the end of the year the votes are counted and the orchid with the highest average points wins the Judges Trophy.

^{*} Congratulations to Leo Davis who entered his first orchids at last month's meeting. Unaware of the owner his plants were not only mistakenly judged in the Open section, they took out first and third prize, and also winning the popular vote for that section. A splendid result Leo.

March 2016 Benched Orchids

Photos Courtesy of David Hirst

