



Native Orchid Society of South Australia Inc. Journal



Diuris calcicola

One of new orchid species named in 2015

Photo: R. Bates

**May 2016
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Native Orchid Society of South Australia

May 2016 Vol. 40 No. 4



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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
May 24th Tues	General Meeting - Speaker: Helen Vonow – Adelaide Herbarium
May 31st Tues	Last day for NOSSA Silent Auction
May 31st Tues	Committee Meeting at Rosalie and Robert Lawrence's place – Anyone welcome.
Jun 3rd Fri	Final day for June Journal articles
Jun 4th Sat	Field Trip – winter orchids
Jun 4th Sat	Weeding at Belair

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

- Ros Miller of O'Halloran Hill

NEXT MEETING 2016 – MAY 24

Speaker: Helen Vonow – Adelaide Herbarium.

FIELD TRIP

4th June - *winter orchids*

Remember bookings are essential contact Michael Clark field trip co-ordinator through nossa.fieldtrips@gmail.com

NOSSA Silent Auction

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

2016 WEEDING DATES – volunteers needed

- Sat 4th June 9.30 am **Belair NP**
Pterostylis cucullata weeding in Long Gully.
- Sat 25th June 10 am **Brentwood Cemetery**
Caladenia intuta If attending or wish to know further details contact Erica Rees: ericar@treesforlife.org.au OR ph. 4088 12677
- 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 contact Tim Jury 127 4166

ARTICLES FOR NEXT JOURNAL

Articles need to reach the Editor no later than Friday 3rd June 2016. Thank you

EXCEPTIONAL HERITAGE BUSH PROPERTY

Rare opportunity to become custodian of remnant Pink/Cup Gum bushland one hour SE of Adelaide (between Strathalbyn and Goolwa). The property of 55 ha includes approximately 43 ha heritage bush (over 200 species, including 30 orchids) and 12 ha of open paddock with extensive revegetation/regeneration (over 50 species). The small 8 year- old eco-house, with spacious living area, is well insulated (including double-glazing) and has independent electricity (solar) and rainwater (over 90,000L). The large shed includes an insulated store/studio. The rabbit/roo-proof vegetable garden and small orchard also serve as a native grass seed bank. It is a unique property. Expressions of interest welcome.

For more information contact Sally Richards sallyr440@gmail.com or 0428 441 978.

DIARY DATES FOR 2016

*** VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ***

- NOSSA Spring Show – September 17th & 18th
 - APS Spring Show – October 8th & 9th
- No prior experience necessary*

11th FJC Rogers Seminar APS of Vic

"Native Terrestrial and Epiphytic Orchids"

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

From the Vice President

Robert Lawrence

President position still vacant

A couple of members have expressed their concerns about NOSSA not having a President. This is the first year that we have been without a President since its origin in 1977. The situation has arisen due in part, to the two-year limit to the term of President in the Rules of Association. Beyond that, these Rules provide no guidance or prohibition of the situation. It seems to be part of the current landscape for it to be difficult to fill the role. Other societies have been in a similar situation. We are in the process of revising the Rules and hopefully this will enable our society to adapt to the current situation



Silent auction

Please remember to put in a bid if you are interested in obtaining one of the framed pictures. The deadline is 31 May 2016.

APS Autumn Plant Sale

Members, including those who helped for the first time at an Australian Plant Society (APS) plant sale, were greatly appreciated. A good proportion of the plants and seed kits were purchased and everyone enjoyed the event.

NOSSA Seed Kits 2016

The seed kits have been popular and about 70 have been sold so far. Hopefully most of these have been started. This is an important trial and Les is keen to learn from the experiences of those who try to use these kits. *Please Les know what happens to your pot or pots.*

Visibility at ForestrySA sites

I have spoken with staff at ForestrySA about the risks of horse-riding both to the orchids and orchid enthusiasts. Horse-riding is obviously hard to police. For our part, we need to ensure that we are visible at all times both to riders and vehicle users. I trust that our members are considerate to landholders.

Wild Orchid Watch

We have been in contact with the New England Wild Flower Society (NEWFS) to make progress on the

database. Elizabeth Farnsworth of the NEWFS has produced a PowerPoint presentation showing how the website could look. I plan to show this at the upcoming general meeting. It uses photographs of our orchids and I hope everyone finds it impressive. We hope to launch the pilot version before the RFC Rogers Seminar on 8 October 2016.

Membership Survey

Over the last two years we have asked new and renewing members to complete a survey of their

interests. This has proved to be an effective way of getting information on the interests of our members with 79 responses, being about half of the number of memberships. Below is an overall summary of the results ranked according to the number of responses:

Area of interest Responses Percentage

General Orchid Knowledge 53 67%

Field Trips 48 61%

Photography 47 59%

Conservation 46 58%

Growing Terrestrials 35 44%

Surveys 30 38%

Growing Epiphytes 28 35%

Citizen Science 20 26%

The greatest number expressed an interest in general knowledge and we hope that through the Journal and Website people are suitably informed.

Next was field trips, where numbers have been low in the last few years. If you have any ideas on how to make field trips more attractive to members, please let us know. Only 11 of those who expressed an interest in field trips were not interested in photograph and vice versa 10 were interested in photography but not in field trips.

I hope people feel encouraged to share their best and most interesting photographs. We would like to see more in the monthly picture competition. Some will be valuable for the field guide and our interactive on-line orchid identification key.

A First Field Trip

Rob Soergel, Assistant editor.

Eriochilus cucullatus



Pyrorchis nigricans leaves



Leporella fimbriata



Photos: John Badger

On Saturday the 9th of April, I and nine others met Rosalie and Robert Lawrence in Mount Compass prior to the convoy moving on to Mount Magnificent. Upon arrival we quickly sterilized our shoes prior to moving off to look for orchids.

It took only a few minutes before the first orchid was spotted; the African Weed Orchid, *Disa bracteata*, identified by the unfortunately empty seed pods. A quick dig around this plant soon had it out of the ground. Rosalie told us about terrestrials using it as an example before it was promptly crushed. Now, as a grower and loving everything orchids, I was shocked by this until I got home and did some research on the plant. Finding that the first sighting growing wild was in the 1940's in WA through to the recent discovery of this plant now being found in Tasmania. Its seeds use a wide variety of fungi for germination and they travel great distances. I now understand Rosalie's treatment of the plant.

Going off the track and venturing into the scrub a little we started finding *Thelymitra* leaves coming out of the ground. The Milkmaid Lily (*Burchardia*) was also sending up its leaves making for regular calls to Robert for identification. I think he must have walked twice as far as anyone else with everyone calling for him to check plants spotted. As the soil became almost pure sand *Pyrorchis nigricans* (Fire Orchid) leaves were almost everywhere to be seen. It really felt like they were under our every footstep.

We came across another trail and after crossing it found the first orchid flowers, *Leporella fimbriata* (Fringed Hare Orchid). Being a really uncommon

specimen with three flowers it became the most photographed plant of the day. This was in a small colony of around five plants and it wasn't the last time we encountered this species on the walk.

Crossing back over the track more Milkmaid and *Thelymitra* leaves were found. It should also be noted that there had been a controlled burn off between the tracks where we walked and the cars were parked but not many *Pyrorchis* leaves were found compared to the unburnt side. We found more Hare Orchids and I learnt the importance of careful walking as I inadvertently uprooted an orchid with my movement. It was promptly replanted.

Robert called out to us yet again as he had found a solitary leaf of a Mosquito orchid (*Acianthus* or *Nemacianthus* species) hidden under a grass tree. More hunting and more hare flowers were found including a large colony of them with flowers and leaves totalling well over 20 plants. A tiny Phasmid, or stick insect, was hopping around the leaf litter giving those in the right place and with good eyes the opportunity to observe this rare insect.

As we followed the track back to the road and our cars, for lunch we spotted more Fire Orchid leaves now on the side of the burn off. Walking along the road a call of "I found some *Eriochilus*" was heard and so we all promptly headed off in the direction of the voice. A small colony of little white flowers was by a tree. A few steps away was a single specimen in flower with a male Wolf Spider taking up residence

next to it. Robert looked at the mounds and Margie Paech was looking around the Stringy Bark for the

Midge Orchid but these were proving elusive as their season was nearing the end.

As we had lunch a couple of guests arrived from Kangaroo Island and whilst the main group went home a couple of us stayed on to have a second look at the orchids and try and spot other species and more plants.

What surprised me most was that we only ventured around 350 meters from our cars as the crow flies and there were at least six different species of orchid (including the *Disa*) growing in this tiny corner of the national park and also that our orchids are so tiny. Until we saw the first *Leporella* I was looking at

knee height for the orchids and I now wonder how many flowers I walked past looking too high. On a personal note I had an absolutely fabulous day out and am looking forward to the next outing.

Thank You again for the invitation Rosalie and Robert

Editor's Comment:

Thanks Rob for your review of this, your first field trip. I am sure you will be a regular at future field trips and a frequent contributor to the journal.

Request for Images for the NOSSA Field Guide.

Book Committee

A good field guide is dependent upon photographs hence the Book Committee requires many photos. As the orchid season is starting, we are asking members to consider taking photographs that would be suitable for the NOSSA Field Guide. The more images that we have to choose from, the better the quality the book will be.

Photos illustrating features that assist classification of the orchid into a specific group are needed. These may not always be the prettiest photograph.

Images can be sent to

- nossa.enquiries@gmail.com with "NOSSA Orchid Field Guide" in the subject heading or
- posted to PO Box 565, Unley, SA, 5061 addressed to the Book Committee

When sending images to the Book Committee we would appreciate photos that:

- have minimal editing
- are not cropped
- are not stitched (photo stacking is OK)
- are print quality i.e. send largest possible file size

Please remember to include the photographer's name, the species name, where the photograph was taken and when it was taken.

Written permission to use images will be requested later. In the meantime any images sent to the above addresses will not be used by NOSSA for any other purpose without specific permission.

Editor requires images for journal articles

As I am unavailable for NOSSA events this year I am reliant on other folks' photos. So if you attend a NOSSA event could you take as many photos as possible and forward them to me at nossa.editor@gmail.com. I find that photos from mobile phones are not always as good as those from a digital camera, and at times need to be rejected. I look forward to an influx of photos.



Letter to the Editor:

"Thanks 'editor' for the journal. Lots of very interesting articles. I'm off to Vic Park (Moonta) tomorrow to see if the *Eriochilus* have emerged. No sign of them a couple of weeks ago." Lib B.

*Thanks Liz for your encouragement. Victoria Park on the southern outskirts of Moonta is one of our favourite places for looking for orchids. Did you find the *Eriochilus*?*

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.

New Orchid Species for South Australia in 2016

Rob Bates May 2016

Already in 2016 at least seven new species have been published for South Australia. These include *Arachnorchis conferta* ssp *occidentalis*, *A diversiflora*, *A viriosa*, *Eriochilus collinus*, *E paludosus*, *Plumatichilos gracilens* and *Thelymitra acuta*. These have been named in Australian Orchid Review issues available at newsagents.

The last of these, *Thelymitra acuta* RJ Bates has been known and photographed in swamps south of Adelaide and near Mount Gambier since the 1970's but no good collections existed until November 2015 when NOSSA members, June Niejalke and Sheryl Holliday collected a specimen from a population of about forty plants north of Mount Gambier.

The species is recognised by its few tiny blue flowers, irregular spots and an odd column with a dark blue post anther lobe and its red, abruptly cut off apex as per image.

If 7 new species so far seems amazing consider that we expect at least thirty, maybe fifty in the next 12 months. These need to have a published name for NOSSA's upcoming native orchid handbook.

We continue to search for new species in 2016 and despite a dry start to many orchid regions in SA the good rains in early May were perfectly timed to set up a great season. NOSSA's 2016 surveys in lower South-east forestry reserves may turn up something new.



Photos: R Bates: *Thelymitra acuta* - Glen Shera.

Plant Recall May 2016

Les Nesbitt

The objective of this exercise is to make available native orchid species seedlings to members. Apart from *Den. speciosum* and *kingianum*, native species are not often available in Adelaide so this is also a conservation project. We can learn from each other about each species requirements as we all have different growing ideas. The exercise for 2016 will be the fungus dependent orchid seed kits. Please bring your plants to the May meeting so we can see the

results. No flowering plants have been seen yet which just demonstrates that growing native orchids from seed is not a fast process. The plants are:

1. *Dendrobium teretifolium* from 2012
2. *Dendrobium linguiforme* from 2013
3. *Dendrobium comptonii* from 2014
4. *Sarcochilus hartmannii* 2015
5. *Ptst sanguinea* & *P. nana* (seed kit) 2016

NOSSA Seed Kits May 2016

Les Nesbitt

The volunteer day on April 2 was a success and seven volunteers had a great day; although they talked more than worked as most of the heavy lifting had already been done. 30 kits of *Pterostylis nana* and 39 kits of *Pterostylis sanguinea* were produced.

The kits have been in demand with 61 sold by the end of the APS Plant Sale. Some native plant growers wanted to sow the seed and fungus in their gardens. A further 11 kits were made in early May using the spare seed thus taking the number of sanguinea kits to 50.

Kits not sold after the May NOSSA meeting will be potted up. Any resulting pots of seedlings will be sold at the NOSSA Spring Show.

The NOSSA seed kits use a compost of 50% washed sand and 50% sieved Debco native compost. I have under trial, in addition to the 4 mixes mentioned last month, a fifth drier potting mix for *Pterostylis sanguinea* as this species prefers well drained, sunny locations. The dry mix contains 50% coarse sand, 25% fine isolite and 25% sieved native compost.

The good news is that the seed viability tests are positive with protocorms forming in the flasks of both *Pterostylis nana* and *Pterostylis sanguinea*. Laboratory tests to check whether the fungus can germinate seed of both species at Kildare are also

positive. We just need seedling leaves to appear in pots by springtime and the kits will be a success.

The bad news is that there have been a couple of reports of a grey bread mould growing on the she-oak needles. I had 2 pots in my glasshouse in sealed plastic bags to keep out the fungus gnats but there was too much moisture inside the bags and no air movement so a grey mould took over.

The pterostylis fungus is white. The treatment was to throw the bags away, and move the pots to the shadehouse to let the needles dry out. Pots in the shadehouse and not in bags have no mould. Trev Garrard's experience was that a white fungus went rampant in three days and covered the she-oak needles. Pterostylis fungus is known to be fast growing but this high rate of growth was unexpected.

Grown in his shed, the pots were perhaps too damp with not enough air movement. We are learning a lot about fungus. One grower reported that some seed remained in the seed vial stuck to the wall of the plastic vial by electrostatic charge. The suggested remedy was to wash out seed with water.

Remember: May meeting is last chance to get a seed kit.



April 2016 Orchid Picture Competition

Rosalie Lawrence



Muelleria; the Royal Botanic Gardens of Victoria research journal

Since the early days confusion, which persists into this millennium, has occurred. In 1871 Reichenbach recognised 3 species one being *T benthamiana* but Bentham after whom the orchid was named disagreed and consider it but a synonym of *T. fuscolutea*. There were many twists and turns in the names. For over a hundred years, most authors followed Bentham's taxonomy rather than Reichenbach's, until 1989 when Mark Clements, after studying the drawings, literature and orchid type material, came to the same conclusion as Reichenbach that *T. benthamiana* was a distinct species from *T. fuscolutea*. Since then, authors have followed Reichenbach/Clements taxonomy.

Over the decades, the number of species in this complex varied considerably. By 1938 three separate species were recognised but between then and 1989 it fluctuated between recognizing one, three and four species and in 1998 the orchidologist were considering a possible seven species. These were all confirmed and named in Jeans' 2006 paper. Today, according to Orchids of Western Australia, there is potentially an eighth member in this group.

Jeanes highlights some of the issues involved in determining which species is which. Issues such as a lack of accurate/detailed information including location, terrain type, habitat, surrounding plants, date of collection, etc. Dried specimens alone are inadequate as important features may be lost in the drying process.

This complex is an example of a widespread problem across many of our orchids indicating not only the need for careful observations in the field but meticulous record keeping that others can access.

Thanks to Juergen Kellermann, (senior botanist for the State Herbarium) for critiquing this article

Five entries were received again spanning the country from east to west. John Badger entered a *Chiloglottis reflexa* recently photographed in Tasmania, Pauline Meyers an unidentified Western Australian Spider orchid, Judy Sara had two entries from the latest field trip, *Eriochilus collinus* (previously phrase named Adelaide Hills) and *Leporella fimbriata* and Claire Chesson's *Thelymitra benthamiana*.

T. benthamiana, the winning picture, is a beautiful sun orchid found across southern Australia from Western Australia through South Australia to Victoria and Flinders Island. More common in the west than elsewhere it is the only one of the seven species in *T. fuscolutea* complex found in the east.

This complex has been problematic as indicated by Jeanes' (2006) in his article *Resolution of the Thelymitra fuscolutea (Orchidaceae) complex of southern Australia* in an article published in

References

- Jeans J.A. (2006). *Resolution of the Thelymitra fuscolutea R.Br. (Orchidaceae) complex of southern Australia*. *Muelleria* 24, 3–24..)
- Brown A, et al, (2013) *Field Guide to the Orchids of Western Australia*,



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

April Meeting Review

“Managing Private Reserves for Biodiversity”

Rob Soergel, Assistant editor.

Our guest speaker this month, Greg Johnson, spoke about reclaiming pastoral leases in the Gawler Ranges and allowing them to recover from being grazed. This included shooting introduced animals (goats) and controlling native grazers (kangaroos) but also controlling predatory animals like foxes and feral cats. This enabled endemic flora to recover and native wild life populations to increase, including the yellow footed rock wallaby. Bilbies have been reintroduced following the removal of the feral animals.

The talk showed how much man had altered the environment to suit his needs and how delicate the ecosystem really is. It was also surprising to see that the Gawler Ranges Short-tailed Grass wren was dependant on fire because it requires Spinifex Grass patches of a particular size. Parts of the leases were burnt to allow the grasses to regrow giving the bird it's unique requirements. The talk concluded with Greg showing us some pictures of native orchids growing in the Gawler Ranges. Bob Bates helped with their identification.

Robert Lawrence presented Les Nesbitt with Bill Murdoch Trophy Silver certificate for 2015 Australian Native Orchid Species.



Robert presented Jane Higgs with a Certificate for presenting the Ira Butler Trophy 2015 Trophy 2015 Certificate for Australian Native Orchid Hybrid.

April 2016 Benched Orchids

Epiphytes: Open Division

Species:

1st *Dendrobium biggibum* 'Rebecca'
2nd *Sarcochilus hirticalcar*
3rd Nil

Steve Howard
Kris Kopicki

Hybrid

1st *Dendrobium* Colonial Kim
2nd Nil
3rd Nil

Jane Higgs

Epiphytes: Second Division

Species:

1st Nil
2nd Nil
3rd Nil

Hybrid

1st *Sarc* Burgundy on Ice X Velvet
2nd Nil
3rd Nil

Peter Lukeman

Terrestrials: Open Division

Species:

1st *Pterostylis coccina*
2nd *Eriochilus cucullatus*
3rd *Pterostylis coccina*

Jane Higgs
Les Nesbitt
Kris Kopicki

Hybrid

1st *Pterostylis* X *furcillata*
2nd Nil
3rd Nil

Les Nesbitt

Terrestrials: Second Division

Popular Vote:

OPEN DIVISION Epiphytes:

Species 1st *Den. biggibum* 'Rebecca'

Steve Howard

Hybrid 1st *Den.* Colonial Kim

Jane Higgs

2nd DIVISION Epiphytes

Hybrid 1st *Sarc* Burgundy on Ice X Velvet

Peter Lukeman

OPEN DIVISION Terrestrials

Species 1st *Pterostylis coccina*

Jane Higgs

Hybrid 1st *Pterostylis* X *furcillata*

Les Nesbitt

Best Orchid for Night

Dendrobium biggibum 'Rebecca'

Steve Howard

Photos courtesy of David Hirst



April 2016 Benched Orchids

Photos Courtesy of Da Sarc Burgundy on Ice x Velvet vid Hirst

Burgundy on Ice x Velvet



Dendrobium Jonathon's Glory 'Dark Joy'



Sarcochilus hirticalca



Den Bigibbum 'Rebecca'



Pterostylis coccinea 'Red'



Eriochilus cucullatus



Pterostylis x furcillata

