



Native Orchid Society of South Australia Inc. Journal



Diuris calcicola One of new orchid species named in 2015

Photo: R. Bates

**October 2016
Volume 40 No. 9**

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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.

Contents

Title	Author	Page
Bulletin Board		99
Vice President's Report	Robert Lawrence	100
Sept Meeting Review	Robert Lawrence	100
YP Field Trip Report	Geoff Fisher	101
2016 The Year of the Leopards	Les Nesbitt	102
Murray Bridge Field Trip Report	Ros & Tony Miller	103
Spring Show Results	Les Nesbitt	105
Letters to the editor		105
Sep Orchid Picture Competition	Rosalie Lawrence	106
Sep Benched Orchids Results	Les Nesbitt	107
Sep Benched Orchid Photos	David Hirst	108

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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.

Date	Event
Oct 12th Wed	Mt Lofty Gardens Public Walk
Oct 15th Sat	Field Trip –Neagles Rock
Oct 22nd Sat	Mt Lofty Gardens Public Walk
Oct 25th Tues	General Meeting – Sarcophilus Show
Oct 29th Sat	Field Trip –Scott Creek
Nov 1st Tues	Committee Meeting – at Lawrence's home – observers welcome
Nov 4th Fri	Journal articles due
Nov 12th Sat	Field Trip TBA
Dec 3rd Sat	Christmas break up and Field Trip

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

- Phil & Ann Steer of Flagstaff Hill
- Nick & Caroline Dowling of Gulfview Heights
- Sue Bradstreet of Macclesfield

NEXT MEETING – OCT 25TH

Sarcophilus Show – Come and see the spectacular!

FIELD TRIPS: Michael Clark field trip coordinator

Remember bookings are essential

- **October 15** – Neagles Rock *T. glaucophylla*
- **October 29** – Scott Creek – *T. benthamiana*
- **November 12** – TBA
- **December 3** – Swamp Orchids & Christmas BBQ at Don and Jane Higgs

– contact: nossa.fieldtrips@gmail.com

ARTICLES FOR NEXT JOURNAL

Articles need to reach the Editor no later than **Friday 4th Nov 2016**. Thank you.

Remember: There is no guarantee that articles received after this date will go into the journal.

CHANGED PHONE NUMBER

Please note that our Conservation Officer, Thelma Bridle, has changed her phone number to Ph: 8557 6553.

NOSSA WEBSITE

<https://nossa.org.au/>

DIARY DATES FOR 2016



- Christmas BBQ - Dec 3 at Don and Jane Higgs
further information in next month's journal

MT LOFTY BOTANIC GARDENS PUBLIC WALKS

- October 12 Wednesday
- October 22 Saturday

FUTURE MEETINGS 2016

November 22: Members' Talks/ Christmas breakup

NOSSA 40TH ANNIVERSARY 2017

All ideas for celebrations are welcome.

MONTHLY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Rules of entry:

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

How to enter:

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

From the Vice President

Robert Lawrence

Spring Show 2016

On behalf of the Society I want to thank all of the people who contributed to the running of another successful Spring Show this year. Several people contributed with the setting up, checking of plants for sale, staffing the sales desk and even security. The growers put a lot into their shows and the preparation of plants for sale. It was reported that there was a good display of orchids and the judging went well.



South Lofty Block Threatened Orchid monitoring

Monitoring of threatened orchid populations has been underway since the last Journal. This has been rewarding for those involved. It has been a privilege for those involved to see and count some of our most threatened orchids.

September Meeting Review

Robert Lawrence

A relatively small gathering of 20 people turned up on a stormy evening for the general meeting at which Les Nesbitt spoke about the seed kit project which were based on kits sold in Perth.

He explained that the project was now possible due to the skills applied by the *Orchids in Schools program* at Kildare College where the students have learnt how to isolate fungi from the collars of orchid plants and to grow these in laboratory conditions. Only the fungus in *Pterostylis sanguinea* was available and it was not known if this would assist with germination of *Pterostylis nana*. However, these were the first to germinate, of the small number that did produce a leaf. A review is planned for October or November and the plan is to try growing *Caladenia tentaculata* next year.

In his description of the process of preparing the kits, Les told us about the time-consuming task of pasteurising the growing

media. This issue generated some interesting discussion. Kris Kopicki suggested that it would be better to use boiling water and to sow as soon as the media had cooled. Kevin Western added that since pasteurising makes nutrients available immediately it is too much to keep the fungus under control. Les explained that some of the earliest seedlings had perished. Russel Hodder pointed out the tendency of growing media to become acid and that it was necessary to monitor pH and to use limestone for control.

Les has experimented with different potting mixes. There was a discussion about watering

because it was the drier, more freely-draining mixes which were successful. This was attributed to having pots exposed to rainfall. Having a cover avoids overwatering, but means that pots do need watering during the winter. Kevin said that it was a common misconception that orchids need to be kept wet.



NOSSA York Peninsula Field Trip Report

3rd September 2016

Geoff Fisher

In spite of the ominous weather forecast, seventeen NOSSA members braved the elements for the September Yorke Peninsula Field Trip. Even before the tour began, there were happy discoveries: meeting at Ardrossan Cemetery, eagle-eyed enthusiasts spotted *Hymenochilus pisinnus* just metres from the highway and, a little further in, several *Diplodium* sp. After a brief downpour, we were off to our first official site.

The threatening rain held off as Chris Davey led us on a tour through eight hectares of remnant vegetation on his childhood property on northern Yorke Peninsula. His boy-hood experiences of exploring and bird watching with his brothers and father in this patch have led to a life-long passion for the natural environment; orchids in particular.

Today, Chris shares his enthusiasm via his Facebook page, "*The Hidden Wonderland of YP Scrubs*".

No fewer than twenty orchid species have been recorded at this site. The north-easterly aspect and rocky limestone ridge with its over storey of scattered mallee provide an ideal habitat, and NOSSA members were treated to swathes of

Caladenia latifolia (including albinos and a mutant patch with an extra petal) along with *Arachnorchis brumalis*, plus a number of striking hybrids growing together with the parent types. Also in flower were: *Hymenochilus calcicola*, *Acianthus pusillus*, *Cyrtostylis reniformis*, *Pheladenia deformis*, *Diuris palustris*, *Jonesiopsis*

capillata, and *Pterostylis flavovirens*. Many other species were in bud or leaf. Gusty wind made photography challenging for the shutterbugs.

From there, we travelled on to Muloowurtie Conservation Park.



Caladenia latifolia



Arachnorchis intuta



Arachnorchis sp



After a brief lunch break we set out to search for a single *Arachnorchis macroclavia* reported to be in bloom somewhere in the park. Amazingly, it wasn't long before a member spotted this proverbial needle in the haystack, while others found a handsome patch of *Pterostylis erythroconchum*, as well as scattered *Jonesiopsis capillata* in flower.

A member of the public joined us: she had been visiting the site for decades(!) to admire the orchids, intuitively appreciating just how special they were. It made one wonder just how many other treasures are well known to locals, but off the radar to anyone else! At this site there were also swathes of *Caladenia latifolia*, growing with weedy freesias. Members tiptoed around the site, while photographers cursed the steadily-increasing wind.

The hour was late; a few members elected to visit one last Conservation Park on the way home, while the rest of us decided to beat the rain. A big thank you to Michael, Rosalie, Robert and our host Chris Davey for a Most Excellent Excursion. The day was growing late but there was just time to visit one more site. Brentwood Cemetery, on the western side of the Peninsula, had a truly spectacular display of *Arachnorchis intuta*, according to reports, the best in years, most likely due to the excellent winter rainfall this season.

Orchid species from Yorke Peninsula trip:

	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4
<i>Acianthus pusillus</i>		L	L	L
<i>Arachnorchis brumalis</i>		F		
<i>Arachnorchis intuta</i>				F
<i>Arachnorchis macroclavia</i>			F	
<i>Arachnorchis stricta</i>		B		
<i>Arachnorchis tensa</i>			F	
<i>Caladenia latifolia</i>		F		F
<i>Caladenia x idiastes</i>		F		
<i>Corunastylis sp</i>			C	
<i>Cyrtostylis robusta</i>	L	L, C	L, F, C	L, C
<i>Diplodium erythroconchum</i>	F, SR		F	
<i>Diuris palustris</i>	F	F		F
<i>Eriochilus cucullatus</i>		L		
<i>Hymenochilus cynophelus</i>		F	F	
<i>Hymenochilus pisinnus</i>	F			
<i>Jonesiopsis bicallata</i>			F	F
<i>Microtis sp</i>	F, B1	L	L	
<i>Microtis arenaria</i>				F*
<i>Oligochaetochilus pusillus</i>			1F, 1R	
<i>Thelymitra sp.</i> - *channelled + red base no bud			*	
<i>Urochilus sanguineus</i>			FF, C	

Key:

F = flowers UoF = unopened flowers FF finished flowers

B = buds L = leaves SR = sterilized rosettes C = capsules
R = Rosette

Site 1 - Ardrossan cemetery Site 2 - Private nr Ardrossan

Site 3 - Muloowurtie Conservation Reserve

Site 4 - Bentwood Cemetery

2016 The Year of the Leopards

Les Nesbitt

Every 5 years or so the leopard orchids, *Diuris pardina*, produce super-sized flowering plants and lots of them. This year is such a super year. I have more than 100 flowering plants on or near my house site which gets slashed every summer. Most years there are only a few flowering plants. The orchid may be responding to the higher than normal rainfall. Pollinators usually remove the pollen as soon as the flowers open. However, this year has been so cold and wet that few pollinators are out and about so I have done the job for them.



photo: L Badger *Diuris pardina*

Plants that carry more than one pod shrink back to two small leaves and do not flower the following year. The flowers vary in shape and colour on different plants. Some are almost black, others have elongated petals while I prefer those with round petals like table tennis bats. Seed pods will be harvested as they ripen, probably in October-November this year. Some of the seed will be sprinkled on my mother pots as this species is fungus dependent. Some will be scattered over the house site and on other parts of my bush block where there are few orchid leaves.

NOSSA Murray Bridge Field Trip Report

24th September 2016

Ros and Tony Miller

The October Field Trip was brought forward to the 24th September to take advantage of optimal flowering times. Three sites were visited:

1. *Murray Park Flora and Fauna Reserve* on the outskirts of Murray Bridge,
2. A short stretch of *Bullers Road*, about 24 km E of Murray Bridge;
3. The NW section of the newly declared *Kinchina Conservation Park*

There was a good turnout of about 23 people, despite the cold and threatening weather. In the end, the weather was kind to us with the rain holding off while we explored for orchids at the three sites; indeed with a few sunny patches appearing as the day progressed.

At Murray Park we were guided by Glenn Dean, the Environment Officer for the Murray Bridge council, and his wife Sarah Lance, the District Manager of Ranges to River: Natural Resource SA Murray-Darling Basin. We were amazed by the variety of orchids we saw in such close proximity: *Arachnorchis*, *Diuris*, *Hymenochilus*, *Prasophyllum* and *Thelymitra*. The *Oligochaetochilus pusillus* (Rusty hood) was a novelty for us even though it was only in bud.

Around late morning, and with rain threatening, we moved in convoy to the Bullers Road site. During this transfer there was a heavy downpour, which meant that we had to keep an eye on the other vehicles of the group. This wasn't the easiest in the rain with the need to stop at traffic lights and the presence of non-NOSSA vehicles, which periodically joined and left the traffic stream. There were a few times when I thought that we were lost

and were heading to Melbourne! However, in the end no one was lost.



Photos thanks to Leo Davis

Along Bullers Road, those in conventional vehicles transferred to 4WD vehicles as the last stretch of road was rather rough, but at least, the rain had stopped. Hurray!

The site was a 200m stretch of road, with a small 30m band of bush on either side between two cultivated fields.

Glenn explained how he had come across this site, quite by accident. Driving through he had seen what looked like an orchid so he stopped to investigate further. Once out of his vehicle, he saw not just one, but many orchids, with more and more as he walked further.



Before we all went off to investigate this wonderland site ourselves, Leo Davis gave us all a very down-to-earth talk on the morphology of orchids, using some leaves as props so that we could better distinguish the various types at the site.

Glenn was right – there were so many orchids flowering that it was hard not to step on some. The pale pink *Arachnorchis verrucosa* and *Plumatichilos* sp. Mallee were great finds..

*Arachnorchis verrucosa*

Photo: Leo Davis

*Arachnorchis leptochila*

Photo: Leo Davis

After about an hour or so we all assembled together again and Sarah told us about some new Conservation Parks and protected bushland areas that had just been declared in the Murray Bridge district. One of these was the Kinchina Conservation Park in the Murray Bridge and



Monarto District Area. It was decided that whilst we were in the area it would be good to pay a brief visit to Kinchina to see whether there might be some orchid species present. According to Sarah and Glenn an orchid audit of Kinchina had

not been carried out. So, after lunch, a small group of us visited the NW section of Kinchina, near the quarry at Rocky Gully. The variety of *Arachnorchis* seen at this site was exciting. There were so many variants. There were even pink *Arachnorchis tensa* (above) which had all cameras snapping away merrily.

Orchid species from the Murray Bridge trip:

	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3
<i>Arachnorchis stricta</i>	F	F	F
<i>Arachnorchis tensa</i>		F	F
<i>Arachnorchis verrucosa</i>		F	F
<i>Cyrtostylis robusta</i>		L, C	
<i>Diuris palustris</i>		F	
<i>Diuris pardina</i>	F	F	
<i>Hymenochilus cynophelus</i>	F	F	F
<i>Hymenochilus muticus</i>	F	F	
<i>Hymenochilus</i> sp.	Ended		F
<i>Jonesiopsis capillata</i>		F	
<i>Microtis</i> sp.	L	L, B	L, B
<i>Oligochaetochilus excels</i>			L
<i>Oligochaetochilus pusillus</i>	B		
<i>Oligochaetochilus</i> sp.			L
<i>Plumatichilos plumosum</i>		F	
<i>Plumatichilos</i> Sp. Mallee		F	
<i>Prasophyllum constrictum</i>		F	
<i>Prasophyllum odoratum</i>	F & B	F	
<i>Thelymitra antennifera</i>		UoF	
<i>Thelymitra alcockiae</i>	UoF		
<i>Thelymitra megalyptra</i> *		UoF	

**Thelymitra megalyptra* at Bullers Reserve - 1 F as there was a broken stem

Key:

F = flowers UoF = unopened flowers FF finished flowers

B = buds L = leaves SR = sterilized rosettes C = capsules
R = Rosette

Site 1 – Murray Park Reserve Site 2 - Bullers Road

Site 3 - Kinchina

2016 SPRING SHOW RESULTS

Les Nesbitt

The Grand Champion of the 2016 Show (NOSSA Trophy) was *Dendrobium tetragonum* by Kris Kopicki

2016 NOSSA Spring Show Trophies

- ❖ **Roy Hargreaves Trophy** for Champion Terrestrial Species
Acianthus reniformis 'Tas' **Les Nesbitt**
- ❖ **Kay Nesbitt Trophy** for Champion Terrestrial Hybrid
Diuris Earwig **L. Burgess**
- ❖ **The Wells Trophy** for Champion Epiphyte Species
Dendrobium tetragonum **Kris Kopicki**
- ❖ **AOC Trophy** for Champion Epiphytic Hybrid
Dendrobium Tom Jupp **John Gay**
- ❖ **Champion AUSTRALASIAN Orchid** No award

2016 NOSSA Nominations for other awards

- Reg Shooter nomination for *Australian Native Orchid Hybrid*:
John Gay's *Dendrobium* Tom Jupp
- Bill Murdoch Trophy nomination for *Champion Australian Native Orchid Species of the Year*
Kris Kopicki's *Dendrobium Tetragonum*
- Les Nesbitt Award nomination For Australian Native Orchid Species grown by South Australians
Kris Kopicki's *Dendrobium Tetragonum*
- Herb Slade Trophy nomination – no award



Other prize winners

- Champion Floral Art - Restaurant centre piece – *Shoe Vase of Native Orchids* Rosalie Lawrence
- Novice Epiphyte (Margaret Fuller Trophy) no award
- Novice Terrestrial (Margaret Fuller Trophy) no award

More details, along with photos of this great event, will appear in the November journal

Letter to the Editor



Thank you Mrs. Editor!! It is always a must-read when I see it has come through. Your way of writing is very warm, not cold and formal – a real plus for the journal.

This really is a great time of year. So many orchids about and some lovely warm sunshine to encourage us. I met another NOSSA member by chance when I was looking for orchids in a faraway place. Once he realised I was a NOSSA member he showed me all

his secret places – special orchids he keeps check on. Some weeks later we went together again in the same area to see how far they had progressed.

Lovely how membership of NOSSA can promote friendship with a complete stranger in a common field of interest. I know I am much the richer for having met him and shared those hours seeking out orchids. Four eyes find many more than one pair!
MP

Editor: *Thanks for the encouragement and yes it is lovely being able to share with like-minded folk, an act that will bring warm memories for years to come whilst increasing knowledge.*

September 2016 -Winning Orchid Picture

Rosalie Lawrence

Spring is here and it was reflected in the variety and large number of entries. Lorraine Badger and Ros Miller entered WA species – *Caladenia x ericksoniae* (Prisoner Orchid) and *Paracaelana nigrita* (Flying Duck Orchid) respectively. The other six entries were all from South Australia; *Diploidium robustum* (Common Green Shell Orchid), *Caleana major* (Flying Duck Orchid) both



from Jane Higgs, Greg Sara's *Oligochaetochilus* sp (Rufoushood), Judy Sara's *Arachnorchis leptochila* (Queen Spider Orchid), Clive Chesson's *Diuris behrii* (Cowslip Orchid or Golden Moths) and the outstanding winning picture *Pterostylis cucullata* by Bevin Scholz.

In many ways, Bevin's picture of *P. cucullata* (Leafy Greenhood) is a special picture because it represents some of the conservation work with which NOSSA is involved. For many years NOSSA has worked with the Threatened Plant Action Group (TPAG) to weed the areas in Belair where this species is located and to see such a good show of plants is encouraging. It is a tribute to all who have contributed with their time and labour.

P. cucullata is rated Vulnerable both in South Australia and Victoria, and Endangered in Tasmania. It is also rated Vulnerable under the EPBC Act (Federal). Nationally it is known from about 110 sites with most of these sites being in Victoria and only a few in South Australia with Belair National Park

having the largest and most important population for the state.

Historically this species covered an area of 2107 km² in the Lofty Block region but that has now contracted by 82% to only 366 km² with only a few locations. With such a reduced range, recovery plans were developed, both at

state and federal level. The plans examined the risks and threats to the survival of the different populations.

One of the threats to this orchid is fire, including prescribed burns. Unlike some species such as *Pyrorchis nigricans*, *Leptoceras menziesii* or *Prasophyllum elatum* which flower well after fire, *P. cucullata* is fire sensitive and populations decline substantially. There does not seem to be a safe time to burn for this species. Should a population survive a burn, it would take it many years to recover.

Fire also leaves the population vulnerable to another threat, that of weed invasion. Unfortunately, it is weedy where this species survives but over the years, a consistent, targeted weeding program has resulted in a declining weed population. NOSSA and TPAG have appreciated the work and effort of volunteers and gladly welcome anyone else who would like to join. And one of the rewards? A beautiful, sunlit display of flowers as seen in Bevin's picture.

Refer to Bulletin Board on page 99 for rules and how to enter

References:

Duncan, M. (2010). *National Recovery Plan for the Leafy Greenhood Pterostylis cucullata*. Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria <https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/14e1ae30-5cf7-4be6-8a35-2c752886c14f/files/pterostylis-cucullata.pdf>

Nature Conservation Society of South Australia (2009) DRAFT RESPONSE ON THE BELAIR NATIONAL PARK TRAILS MASTERPLAN: PRELIMINARY ISSUE January 2009 http://www.ncssa.asn.au/images/stories/ncssasubmission_belairnptrails_masterplan_jan09_final.pdf

Quarmby, J.P. (2010) Recovery Plan for Twelve Threatened Orchids in the Lofty Block Region of South Australia 2010. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, South Australia <https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/e362cfd2-a37b-443a-b007-db3a2b7b64dd/files/lofty-block-orchids-recovery-plan.pdf>

September 2016 Benched Orchids

Photos Courtesy of David Hirst

Epiphytes: Open Division

Species:

1 st <i>Sarchochilus falcatus</i>	Kevin Western
2 nd <i>Dendrobium tetragonum</i>	Kris Kopicki
3 rd <i>Sarchochilus falcatus</i>	Kris Kopicki

Hybrid

1 st <i>Dendrobium</i> Oliver Jack	Steve Howard
2 nd <i>Den</i> Hamilton Vicky X King Wong	Len Nesbitt
3 rd Nil	

Epiphytes: Second Division

Species

1 st <i>Dendrobium kingianum</i> 'Lipstick'	Peter Lukeman
2 nd <i>Den kingianum</i> 'Candy Ice'	Peter Lukeman
3 rd <i>Den kingianum</i> 'S'	Peter Lukeman

Hybrids

1 st <i>Dendrobium</i> Angus	Peter Lukeman
2 nd Nil	
3 rd Nil	

Terrestrials: Open Division

Species:

1 st <i>Diuris orientis</i>	Les Nesbitt
2 nd <i>Caladenia latifolia</i>	Les Nesbitt
3 rd <i>Diuris pardina</i>	Les Nesbitt

Hybrid

1 st <i>Pterostylis</i> cutie	Les Nesbitt
2 nd <i>Caladenia</i> Fairy Floss	Les Nesbitt
3 rd <i>Ptst cutie</i> X <i>baptistii</i>	Les Nesbitt

Terrestrials: Second Division

Species

1 st <i>Caladenia tentaculata</i>	Alan Braggs
2 nd <i>Pterostylis pedunculata</i>	Alan Braggs
3 rd Nil	

Hybrid

1 st Nil
2 nd Nil
3 rd Nil

POPULAR VOTE

OPEN DIVISION Epiphytes:

Species: <i>Sarco falcatus</i>	Kevin Western
Hybrids: <i>Den</i> Oliver Jack	Steve Howard

2nd DIVISION Epiphytes

Species: <i>Den kingianum</i>	Peter Lukeman
Hybrids: <i>Den</i> Angus	Peter Lukeman

OPEN DIVISION Terrestrials

Species: <i>Diuris orientis</i>	Les Nesbitt
Hybrids: <i>Pterostylis</i> hoodwink	Les Nesbitt

2nd DIVISION Terrestrials

Species: <i>Caladenia tentaculata</i>	Alan Braggs
Hybrids:	
Nil	



Plant of the night

Dendrobium Oliver Jack

Steve Howard



September 2016 Benched Orchids

Photos Courtesy of David Hirst



Dedrobiumn Hamilton 'Vicki' x King Wong 'Wow'-



Diuris orientis



Caladenia spiderman



Diuris aurea



Caladenia fairy floss













Pterostylis nutans variagated



Dendrobium kingianum x self

September 2016 Benched Orchids – pt 2

Photos Courtesy of David Hirst

			
<i>Dendrobium kingianum Candy Ice x Cassara</i>	<i>Dendrobium Angus</i>	<i>Dendrobium kingianum 'The Strand x Clara'</i>	
			
<i>Pterostylis Cutie 'Harold's Pride'</i>	<i>Pterostylis Cutie x baptistii</i>	<i>Pterostylis Hoodwink</i>	<i>Pterostylis Tallhood-</i>
			
<i>Sarcochilus falcatus</i>	<i>Pterostylis Ruckman</i>	<i>Sarcochilus aequalis</i>	