



Native Orchid Society of South Australia Inc. Journal



Diuris calcicola One of new orchid species named in 2015

Photo: R. Bates

**November 2016
Volume 40 No. 10**



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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.

Date	Event
Nov 12 th Sat	Field Trip TBA
Nov 22 nd Tue	General Meeting Members' Talks/ Christmas breakup
Nov 26 th Sat	Christmas BBQ Responses due nossa.membership@gmail.com OR phone 8294 8014
Nov 29 th Tue	Committee Meeting – at Badger's home – observers welcome
Dec 2 nd Fri	Journal articles due
Dec 3 rd Sat	Christmas BBQ – Higgs Rd, Myponga

FINAL MEETING 2016– NOV 22nd

Christmas Supper and Raffle Night

Members sharing night in Lieu of the Auction

– come and share your orchid stories in under 10 minutes, or simply listen to the tales of others. Want to share some photos? Pop them on a USB stick as the projector will be available.

Please bring a plate and something for the raffle

ARTICLES FOR NEXT JOURNAL

Articles need to reach the Editor no later than **Friday 2nd Dec 2016**. Thank you.

FIELD TRIP: Michael Clark field trip coordinator

Remember bookings are essential

- **December 3** – Swamp Orchids & Christmas BBQ at Don and Jane Higgs details below



CHRISTMAS BBQ LUNCH-

Dec 3 – Myponga

Don and Jane Higgs, Higgs Rd., Myponga (Ph: 8558 6247)



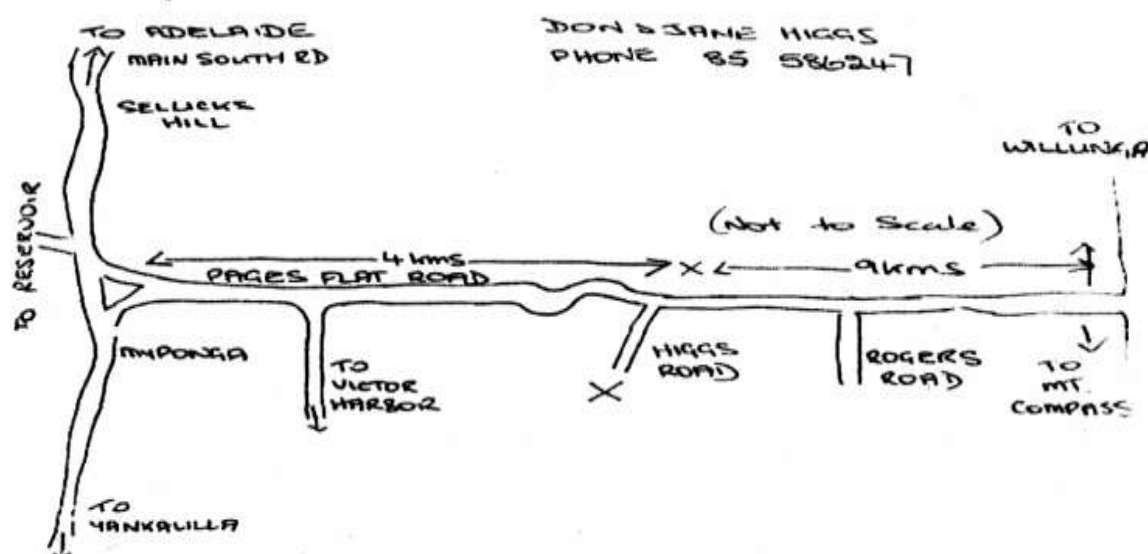
RSVP by 26th Nov nossa.secretary@gmail.com

The BBQ is open to one and all, young and old, even if you have never attended any events! This is a great opportunity to get away from the hustle and bustle and get to know others in an informal and relaxed location in the country. After lunch feel free to join the search for swamp orchids!

NOSSA provides the meat.

HOSTS PROVIDE tea, coffee, milk, sugar, chairs and tables

Please bring: a salad or dessert to share and \$2 donation per person ALSO cups, plates, utensils and drinks other than tea-bags. Hats, gumboots, water bottles for the hike across the paddock.



From the Vice President

Robert Lawrence

Wild Orchid Watch

As many members will be aware, we have been developing an orchid identification website. Part of the development process involves getting feedback from potential users. To achieve this the IT team have created an online survey which was launched this month and members are encouraged to participate. There is plenty of scope for saying how you think things should be done. Members with an email address should have already received this information. Please contact the Secretary if you have any questions.

FJC Rogers seminar in Hamilton

The 11th bi-annual *Fred Rogers Seminar*, organised by the Australian Plant Society of Victoria, was held in Hamilton on 8 October 2016. Initially, the focus was to be on both Australian terrestrial and epiphytic orchids, but in the end it was mainly on terrestrial orchids. It turned out to be a treat to orchid enthusiasts as well as those new to orchids.

There was an interesting group of speakers with David Pitts opening the discussion with an overview of orchids of SW Victoria. I shared how to *Start with the Leaves* (2011). Mitch Smith and Rudie Kuiter co-presented new perspectives on pollinators. Richard Thompson discussed the propagation of orchids, offering practical tips on how to manage revegetation sites involving orchids. Noushka Reiter talked about propagation for reintroducing threatened orchids, sharing that hand-pollinating spider orchids did not affect the survival of tubers or even their likelihood of flowering the following year.

Well known author and orchid expert, Gary Backhouse, gave the keynote address *Orchids*,



the Big Picture. He managed to cover this huge topic providing a better idea of where orchids occur and their most diverse regions.

Flagship Orchids; creating orchid-enhanced habitats

NOSSA members helped organised a one day orchid revegetation workshop organised

by the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators with speakers from NOSSA and Doug Bickerton from the Department for the Environment, Water and Natural Resources. It was held at Walkerville Bowling Club on Tuesday 18 October 2016. It highlighted the work done at the Vale Park Our Patch to establish habitats suitable for terrestrial orchids, issues involved with propagation and site preparation, and included a visit to two revegetation sites. We hope this is the first of many that will lift the standard of bush regeneration projects to include a functioning understorey.



NOSSA Stand helpers at APS Sale Les Nesbitt

Thanks are due to Ros who alone manned the stand on Saturday, Les and Bodo on Sunday and to Craig who helped setup and takeout the stand and return the gear to storage. Without members like these NOSSA wouldn't have a presence at these important educational events. Questions from the public were fielded throughout the weekend while orchid plants were sold to raise funds for the Society.

October Meeting Review

Robin Soergel

This month NOSSA had both the regular benching and annual *Sarcochilus* show. In the regular benching second division kept the judges busy with no plants on display whilst the Open division had 9 terrestrial's and 1 epiphyte. The *Sarcochilus* show was the clear winner with 88 plants on display and this kept the judges running on well into the meeting with Robert attempting to keep things flowing while the judging finished.

Our guest speaker this month was Les Nesbit demonstrating how he divides *Dendrobium speciosum*.



It was interesting watching the "Dr." and his nurse (Robert) at work as he delicately ripped and hacked the plant apart. The orchid ended up in about 5 divisions and Les potted 1 at the meeting and the remainder were potted later.

The meeting went longer than usual but this was purely because of the large amount of plants on display in the Sarc show.

NOSSA TUBER BANK

Jane Higgs

South Australia has numerous native terrestrial orchid species and the aim of the tuber bank is to preserve them and keep them from extinction. One way this is done is with anyone who has excess tubers donating them to the tuber bank. The tubers are then offered for sale at \$1 per lot for members of NOSSA around Australia to purchase and grow. Hopefully, this low price encourages members to buy lots, grow them on and when they multiply, donate them back to the tuber bank and so on. This method is especially good with endangered species because it ensures that they are kept in existence, or at least gives them a chance they wouldn't otherwise have.

Another way to help preserve these orchids is with rescue digs in areas where road works or clearing for housing etc. is about to occur. For example, a few years ago, at Kuitpo Forest, they were about to spray, plough and re-plant one of the areas where the pines had been cut down. This area was full of native terrestrial orchids, many of which would have been lost. NOSSA was given a license to carry out rescue digs in this area over a set period of time, so

members went with spades, pots, boxes etc. to dig up and collect tubers. Loads of these tubers were later donated to the tuber bank and distributed to other members and thereby given a chance of survival.

With the ever-increasing clearing of native scrub, rescue digs and the subsequent distribution of the tubers through the Tuber bank are one way to save these native orchids and ensure that they are not lost forever.

Urgent Call for Tubers

Tubers (or at this stage promise of prospective tubers) are urgently needed for the Tuber Bank. Could you ***please let Jane Higgs know as soon as possible so that she can complete a list before December.***

Jane Higgs
Phone no 08 8558 6247
PO Box 134 Myponga, SA 5202
Email: jhiggs@activ8.net.au

ROCKLEIGH SURVEY- 15/09/2016

Peter Watts

A group of NOSSA members, June Niejalke, her sister Di, Cathy and Malcolm Houston met at the Watts household at Rockleigh Downs. After a quick cuppa and cake, it was into the Rav and off to Rockleigh; the afore mentioned to find and photograph orchids and myself to look and learn.

At the first stop we were greeted with a large patch of bright pink *Caladenia latifolia*, many with 2 and 3 flowers per stem. There were plenty of single leaves with even some seed pod set. A few steps to the left were clumps of *Diuris palustris* in flower some setting pods. Nearby June found leaves of *Arachnorchis*

tentaculata, rather worse for wear from moisture problems and earth mite, scattered throughout *Microtis* leaves (prob *fruterorum*). Then we started finding, photographing, marking and protecting *Arachnorchis diversiflora*;

counting over 40 including one pure white, bit larger bloom, between 2 normal coloured ones. Two years ago Bob Bates and I pollinated 1 flower, marked it and protected it with branches. This year in this protection area we found seven flowers, four buds still to open and small new leaves – YES!!! Many more *D. palustris* were amongst some sandstone together with *Hymenochilus nemoralis*, towards the end of flowering, scattered about but setting seed. About this time June found a *Prasophyllum odoratum* with 13 buds about to open and I was pleased to find a patch of *Pheladenia deformis*, past flowering but with 3 pods set.

Back to the Rav and off to Talbots with thanks to Steve and Caroline for allowing entry. Over the rabbit proof fence (Ha!!), turn left and there were many *Diuris pardina*, in flower, with many buds still to open. We found *Arachnorchis verrucosa* in bud but no flowers. Next it was the *Diplodium robustum* with many, many leaf sets, some old flowers and very healthy seed pods. Up on the sandstone dozens

of *Acianthus pusillus* were finished flowering but there was little seed set. Over the rise were the *Cyrtostylis robusta* leaves, no flowers, no seed set. Scattered throughout were more *Hymenochilus* and *Diuris pardina*. Next great excitement came when Di found a large, untriggered, Olly *bisetus* flower with fresh green leaves.

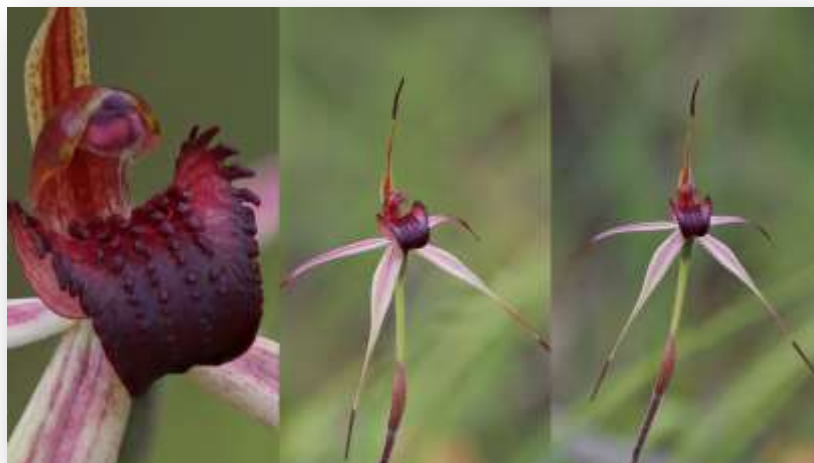
It was back to the Rav and off to Mypolonga. We announced our presence at the shearing shed and set off to the first patch of scrub. With dozens and dozens of *Arachnorchis verrucosa*, you had to be careful not to step on them. Most were in flower,

others yet to flower and a couple setting seed pods. Di found one lonely *Hymenochilus nemoralis*.

Into the next scrub and over the fence, with much frivolity and threats to my personal safety by

unnamed assailants. Five years ago I found a patch of about nine *Oligochaetochilus* (see I can spell it) plants which I protected with branches etc, and this year Cathy counted thirty plants. Some desiccation of leaves had started but recent rain had freshened plants up and flower stems were starting to rise. June found three types of *Hymenochilus*, one plain green hood, one with green striped hood and one flimsy, tall with the flowers all up one side which she thought was unnamed as yet. She explained the differences in the labellum of the first two and how to tell them apart. A few *Arachnorchis stricta* were found and one lonely *Arachnorchis verrucosa*, with its yellow socked legs dutifully crossed. Many thanks to Darryl and Bev for letting us onto their land.

It was then back home to bowls of homemade soup, a cuppa, and deep discussion of the day's activities. Thank you folks for a smashing day. They found, and we all took photos: I looked and boy did I learn.



NOSSA Clare Field Trip 15th October 2016

Rosalie Lawrence

After the storms of recent weeks it was lovely to have a sunny, albeit windy day for the six NOSSA members who met at Clare Oval on Saturday 15th October. The target species was *Thelymitra glaucophylla*. As we were all unfamiliar with the region, Thelma Bridle had kindly supplied details of possible locations with a species list and a bonus: *Arachnorchis argocalla* included.

Following Thelma's directions, we headed off to our first location near Sevenhill. Even before we had finished parking our vehicles the first orchids were spotted, *T. glaucophylla*. Unfortunately, as we climbed up the hill, the orchids petered out and the area become increasingly weedy. Puzzled we retraced our steps. This was where we were meant to find the *Arachnorchis argocalla* but there was no sign of them.

Rechecking the map, we'd parked in the right spot but had gone up the wrong hill! Off again, over the creek, up the hill through some woody weeds and then; wow! A veritable vista of orchids. It was difficult not to step on one. The dominant species were *T. glaucophylla* and *A. argocalla*. Eventually a sprinkling of other species were found (see list at end of article). Hybrids were not a feature of this site; for there was only one that may have been. With so many specimens of the two species it was a good opportunity to observe the variations within a species. The labellums of *A. argocalla* ranged from

pure white through to a solid deep red. Leaves and flower sizes were quite variable with one flower measuring 18cms from tip to tip. Interestingly, there were hardly any buds and only a couple of spent flowers, suggesting that this was the middle of the flowering time. The colours of *T. glaucophylla* ranged from the pale through to deep blue with a delicate floral fragrance.

With so many flowers and such keen photographers it was hard to get people to leave for the next site; to quote Helen McK "I'm a happy little vegemite".

Finally, we were able to move on to the next site, Neagle's Rock. Again, the hill was alive with colour. It required some restraint to have lunch first, but then we were off! This time there was a greater number of different *Thelymitra* species with the result that there were a lot of hybrids including *T. x chasmogama*. Again, there was quite a variation in colour including a soft pink and a pure white *T. glaucophylla*. It was also encouraging to see so many hoverflies, many of them carrying pollinia.

With such an abundance of flowers we did not get very far and as a result, we missed seeing many other species. For example, we did not see any spider orchids even though they are known to be in the area. It also meant that we didn't get to the other two sites that Thelma had told us about but we were all very pleased with what we saw.

Sevenhill	Neagles Rock
<i>Arachnorchis argocalla</i>	
<i>A. tensa/campestris</i>	
<i>Diplodium</i> sp. Leaves	
	<i>Diuris</i> sp.
	<i>Glossodia major</i>
<i>Microtis arenaria</i>	<i>Microtis arenaria</i>
<i>Thelymitra albiflora</i>	<i>Thelymitra albiflora</i>
	<i>Thelymitra bracteata</i>
	<i>Thelymitra x chasmogama</i>
<i>Thelymitra glaucophylla</i>	<i>Thelymitra glaucophylla</i>
? <i>T. luteocilium</i> (hybrid?)	
<i>T. pauciflora</i> complex	<i>Thelymitra pauciflora</i> complex
<i>Thelymitra rubra</i>	<i>Thelymitra rubra</i>
	<i>Urochilus sanguineus</i>

Opposite photo: *T. x chasmogama* by Robert Lawrence



NOSSA Scott Creek CP Field Trip

Saturday 29 October 2016

John Fennell

With a forecast temperature of 30°C and high UV levels things looked good for a day out looking for sun-orchids at Scott Creek Conservation Park. However, the forecast NE winds of 25 - 35 kms/hour was set to test the patience of orchid photographers.

The Scott Creek area was first occupied by European settlers in the late 1830s. Subsequent years saw the area mined for copper and eventually silver. At one time, there were 235 claims pegged along the creek. Today some of the ruins of the old Almanda Mine can be explored from the car park off Dorset Vale Road which was the 10 am meeting place for twelve NOSSA members.

The land at Scott Creek was purchased by the state government in the early 1970s and in 1985, recognized as an important part of the southern Mt Lofty Ranges and so was adopted as the Scott Creek Conservation Park.

The target species for the day was the Leopard Sun orchid, *Thelymitra benthamiana*. At the first location (Gate 17), where it had been found two years ago, the group was given strict orders not to get side-tracked by looking at other orchids on the steep walk up to the site, so that we had plenty of time to look for the target; the trip leaders, being well aware how orchid photographers can get easily diverted. All members complied but on arriving at the site it didn't take long to find plants. However our timing was a bit early and they were still in tight bud.

A few other sun-orchids, including *T. batesii*, *T. pallidifructus* and *T. grandiflora*, and Spider Orchids, including *Arachnorchis tentaculata* and *A. leptochila*, were found and the photographers had plenty of time to get their photos. At this point our intrepid Vice-President, Robert Lawrence, produced his new high-tech invention for photographing orchids on windy days. To the un-trained eye it looks just like a piece of bent wire but to the better-informed it is

evident that the size of the hook and gauge of the wire had been carefully calculated to perform admirably under windy South Australian conditions. Photographers queued to take photos of flowers that had been stabilized by this invention. As would be expected with such high-tech apparatus it did have a flaw; that being the fact that its creator kept losing it. On one occasion he was bemoaning its loss and then found it in his back pocket!!

At the second site visited, near Gate 12, we were told that it was a short walk to the orchids. Some Bearded orchids, *Calochilus robertsonii*, were found at the start of the walk. Then we discovered that the rest of the walk involved a route straight up a steep

eroded track where temperatures in sheltered areas were probably well above the 30° mark. At the top we were rewarded with some nice flower spikes of the Giant sun-orchid, *T. grandiflora*, including a pink one. On this pink-flowered plant the column looks like *T. grandiflora* but leaf and stem did not so possibly a hybrid. The return walk was along the tar-sealed road where *T. juncifolia*, *T. rubra* and more *T. grandiflora* were found on the roadside.

After lunch some members departed and those remaining went to a final site, Gate 21, and found more *T. juncifolia* and *T. x truncata*, and also a lot of *Glossodia major* including a pure white one. Additional species seen at this location were Peppertop, *T. brevifolia* and hybrid Pink spotted sun-orchid, *T. x irregularis*.

Being the first real warm day since winter everyone had been feeling the heat and were happy with the finds for the day. Thanks are due to the leaders Rosalie and Robert Lawrence.

Photo: *T. grandiflora* John Fennell



2016 Seed Kit Review

Les Nesbitt

1. **Was the kit successful?** You would have to say no.

No *Pterostylis sanguinea* seedlings were reported in any of the kit pots which was disappointing. Do not throw the kit pots away. Seedlings could still appear next year.

2. **Was the process a total failure?** The answer is no.

I have had reports from 3 people who raised 12 seedlings of *Pterostylis nana* in total. None appeared in my nana test pots. I have 15 seedlings of *Ptst. sanguinea*, 10 in pots and 5 in the ground. Kildare planted out seedlings from the symbiotic viability trials into pots. Some survived in their shadehouse and the strongest made 4 leaves. If all these seedlings reappear next season that will be reason for celebration.

3. **Were there lessons to be learnt?** You betcha. We learnt a lot from the whole process that will hopefully lead to better outcomes in future.

a) The mix chosen stayed too wet in a wetter than average year. A dry mix with lots of air space & not much organic matter was successful.

b) The pots may have been too small. I used 125mm pots for trialling alternative mixes and 3 of these

produced sanguinea seedlings. Larger pots dry out more slowly in dry weather.

c) You can plant the fungus & seed directly into the ground/garden. I have 5 small seedlings in moss covered open ground on my hills property. It is advisable to use a wire cage over the planting site or birds can eat the millet seed before the fungus can grow out of the grains.

d) You should not seal the pot in a plastic bag in an attempt to keep fungus gnat larvae from eating any protocorms. The pots are quickly covered in grey bread mould. One suggestion was to cover the pot with pantyhose and to place a small pebble in the centre so that water will run through.

e) Were the instructions provided useful? Feedback and suggestions are welcome.

f) Another seed kit is planned for March 2017. Preparations are underway for a *Caladenia tentaculata* kit next year. The Kildare girls have isolated the caladenia fungus and it has been stored in sterile jars of millet seed. Hand pollinated seed pods are developing on potted plants. More details will be provided in the new year.



Letters to the Editor

Erratum: NOSSA York Peninsular Field Trip Report - Vol 40 No 9 October 2016 p 101

Dear Editor, "Just a heads-up that the Caladenia image caption in the Field Trip report is incorrect. It was *Caladenia latifolia* X *A. brumalis* ie a hybrid. I labelled it Caladenia x latifolia but that was probably not correct either" Also

"Did you know the last paras of the field report got transposed?" G & H Fisher

Editor: Thanks for bringing this to my attention. Much appreciated. Not sure how the para switch happened or even missed the checker! It is always good for errors to be picked up and recorded.

Further to the previous letter: "I just noticed that there is an incorrectly labelled image on page 101. It is not Caladenia latifolia but the hybrid *Caladenia x idiastes*." Rosalie L.

Editor: Thanks for this information Rosalie. It is always good to correct errors.

Dear Editor Thanks for the October Journal. A very well constructed and informative Journal. it is, well done. R. H.

Editor: Thanks for your comments Russell. I trust you managed to make sense of the reversed paragraphs mentioned above.

October 2016 - Winning Orchid Picture

Rosalie Lawrence

Quite a few pictures were entered this month. Ricky Egel's *Thelymitra* x irregularis, Pauline Myer's *Caladenia falcata* and *Caladenia cairnsiana*; Margaret Lee's *Diuris orientis* and *Nemacianthus caudatus*; Judy Sara's *Arachnorchis tensa*; Greg Sara's *Arachnorchis stricta* which had an unusual green coloured flower; and Helen Lawrence's *Arachnorchis argocalla*.

Helen's picture of the nationally endangered *A. argocalla* was the outstanding winner. Now known as the White beauty spider orchid, it was featured last year as a winner with Pauline Meyer's June 2015 entry.

This is one of our largest spider orchids. For size, beauty and delicacy it rivals the Western Australian *Caladenia longicauda* ssp. *eminens* (White stark spider orchid) and *A. venusta*, syn *Caladenia venusta*



(Graceful spider orchid) from Victoria and the South East.

It shares many similarities with these two species in that they are reasonably good sized white flowers with a stiffly hinged labellum that has long, thin teeth and the segments have threadlike tips without clubs. It is separated both geographically and in the type of habitat from these two species. *A. argocalla* is a plant of the inland hills and valleys.

Though primarily a white flower and part of the *A. patersonii* complex, *A. argocalla* has red colouring in the labellum which, according to Backhouse,

may possibly indicate genetic introgression (that is long term mixing of the gene pool) with either the *A. reticulata* or *A. leptochila* complexes. Certainly, the colour of the labellum was quite variable ranging from white through to a deep red.

References:

- Department of the Environment (2016). *Caladenia argocalla* in Species Profile and Threats Database, Department of the Environment, Canberra. Available from: <http://www.environment.gov.au/sprat>. Accessed Thu, 3 Nov 2016 16
- Bates, R. J., ed. (2011). *South Australian Native Orchids*. Electronic version, 2011. NOSSA
- Jones, David L (2006) *A complete Guide to Native Orchids of Australia*, Frenchs Forest, NSW: Reed New Holland
- Backhouse, G (2011) *Spider-orchids the Genus Caladenia and its Relatives in Australia*

NB: November Competition will be judging of the monthly winners from this year.



October 2016 Benched Orchids

Photos to be published next month as David was unable to edit them before his holiday

Epiphytes: Open Division

Species:

1st *Dendrobium schoeninum*

Steve Howard

NOTE: There were no orchids exhibited in second division for epiphytes or Terrestrials.

Terrestrials: Open Division

Species:

1st *Caladenia tentaculata*

Les Nesbitt

2nd *Diuris orientis*

Les Nesbitt

3rd *Diuris chryseopsis*

Les Nesbitt

Hybrid

1st *Pterostylis Cutie x baptistii*

Les Nesbitt

2nd *Pterostylis Hoodwink*

Les Nesbitt

3rd *Pterostylis Cutie x baptistii*

Les Nesbitt

POPULAR VOTE

OPEN DIVISION Epiphytes:

Species: *Glossodia major*

Les Nesbitt

Hybrid: *Thelymitra* Melon Glow

Les Nesbitt

Plant of the night

Caladenia tentaculata grown by Les Nesbitt

2016 Sarcochilus Show

POPULAR VOTE

a tie between:

Sarcochilus Hartmannii

Sarcochilus Patricia Abel

Don & Jane Higgs

Unknown

Champion Sarcochilus

Sarcochilus 'Melba 'Orion' grown by Les Nesbitt

Additional Field Trip Photos



Thelymitra brevifolia
John Fennell @ Scott Creek CP



Thelymitra X truncata
John Fennell @ Scott Creek CP



Thelymitra pallidifructus
John Fennell @ Scott Creek CP

2016 Spring Show

Photos Courtesy of David Hirst

