



Native Orchid Society of South Australia Inc. Journal



Diuris calcicola One of new orchid species named in 2015

Photo: R. Bates

December 2016

Volume 40 No. 11



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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
Jan 31st Tues	Committee Meeting – TBA– Planning for 2017 observers welcome
Feb 3rd Fri	Journal articles due
Feb 28th Tues	General meeting
Mar 7th Tues	Committee meeting
Mar 10th Fri	Journal articles due
Mar 28th Tues	AGM



NEXT GENERAL MEETING FEB 2017

Please note: no General meetings in December or January. The next general meeting will be held on Tuesday 28th February

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE -

Subscriptions are due as of 1st January 2017. Remember you need to be financial to vote at the AGM in March, and to receive journals. Refer to accompanying invoice for further information.

TUBER BANK 2016/17

Tuber orders are being taken and will be available in January – please refer to order form which accompanies this journal.

Tubers need to reach Jane by the 1st week of January. Closing date for orders is the 4th January, 2017 and they will be posted out the week starting the 9th January, 2017.

Please note: Postage and handling is now \$11.00 *Postage has increased substantially due to the fact that tubers now need to be sent express post because of the changes to Australia Post deliveries.*

For further enquiries contact:

Jane Higgs
Phone no 08 8558 6247
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ARTICLES FOR NEXT JOURNAL

It was decided by the committee in 2015 that the February journal should be in the form of an Annual Report with short report from each of the groups within NOSSA.

Articles / Reports need to reach the Editor **no later than Friday 3rd February**. Thank you.

FIELD TRIP: Michael Clark field trip coordinator

nossa.fieldtrips@gmail.com

Remember bookings are essential
Nothing is planned for this period

FOR THE 2017 DIARY

29th & 30th April - APS Autumn Native Plant Show

9th & 10th September - NOSSA SPRING SHOW

NOTE: the show has been brought forward one week

23 & 24th September ANOS Vic Annual Spring Show
Mt Waverley Community Centre,

COMMITTEE MEETING

Next committee meeting is on Tuesday 31st January 2017 – location TBA.



From the Vice President

2017 Spring Show Changes

At the recent committee meeting it was decided to make changes to the NOSSA Spring Show making it more attractive to the public and to growers.

The commission paid by growers will be reduced from 20 to 10%, matching the rate charged by eBay. We expect to increase the variety and number of orchids for sale from growers as well as from NOSSA by purchasing epiphytic plants in bulk and selling on at the Spring Show. This will further increase the diversity of orchids available in South Australia.

In addition admission will be free but with a visible donation box for people to contribute if they want. This would mean that attendance numbers would be difficult so we are planning some sort of counter to get a better idea of numbers attending.

We look forward to the next event on the weekend of 9th and 10th September 2017.



Wild Orchid Watch

The organising team of Wild Orchid Watch has been greatly encouraged by the response to the on-line survey that was run during the month of November. There were 160 responses from a range of potential users. The many thoughtful comments to digest showed a definite enthusiasm for the project.

Season's greetings

On behalf of the management committee of NOSSA I hope all members enjoy the holiday season and to those who celebrate Christmas, I hope you enjoy a blessed time. Best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2017. Of course, we hope that any orchids you are growing flourish in the coming season. 2016 has been a busy and exciting year for orchid enthusiasts and we expect the unexpected in 2017.



NOSSA 2016 Spring Show Winners

Grand Champion of Show **NOSSA Trophy**

J Higgs: *Sarcochilus* Heidi

Champion Epiphyte Hybrid **Australian Orchid Council (AOC) Trophy** - J Higgs: *Sarcochilus* Heidi

Champion Terrestrial Species **Roy Hargreaves Trophy**

Les Nesbitt: *Chiloglottis trapeziformis*

Champion Epiphyte Species **Wells Trophy**

J Gay: *Sarcochilus harmannii*

Champion Terrestrial Hybrid **Kay Nesbitt Trophy** L.

Burgess: *Diuris* earwig

Champion Novice Epiphyte Species **Margaret Fuller Trophy**

No award

Champion Novice Terrestrial Species **Margaret Fuller Trophy**

No award



TUBER BANK 2016/17

Jane Higgs

A big thank you to those who promised tubers -these tubers need to reach me by the first week of January. Closing date for orders is the 4th January, 2017 and they will be posted out the week starting 9th January, 2017.

Please note that postage has increased substantially due to the fact that tubers now need to be sent express post because of the change to Australia Post deliveries. Postage and handling is now \$11.00

End of Year BBQ and Swamp Orchid Field Trip

Marg Paech (Photographs - Ros Miller)

By 12.30 pm on Saturday 3rd December, 23 NOSSA members were seated under the shade in Don and Jane Higg's lovely garden. The men cooked the meats – just as I like it! And the salads everyone brought were the perfect complement. Lots of catch-up, getting to know you and stories were told around the tables as everyone ate. The desserts capped off the meal nicely.



At 2 pm, 19 people donned boots, cameras etc and headed for the creek where the rare *Pterostylis falcata* (right) did not disappoint. On one mound there were 6 very healthy flowers and a number of non-flowering plants with one or two flowers on another mound. While some waited, a reed warbler was seen in the bamboo-like grasses. Then the trek to the swamp began. We didn't find any *cryptostylis* but we got a good taste of trekking through swamp with its tea-tree, swamp irises, viminara, and coral fern to crawl past along a narrow track – definitely



not two abreast there. We found an almost spent *Diuris brevifolia* in the swamp – the only orchid found. While we waited for the last folk to exit the swamp, shiny green jewel beetles caught our eye in the tea-tree keeping photographers busy.

Everyone left having been offered *Sarcochilus* seedlings as

an early Christmas present, compliments of Kevin Western. A lovely gift – thanks Kevin. Thanks too to Don & Jane for their warm hospitality and lovely venue, and also to Rosalie and Robert for their organisation both for this day and throughout the year. The weather was idyllic – no wind, comfortable temperature – a wonderful relaxed way to end the NOSSA year.

NOSSA Scott Conservation Park Field Trip

26th November 2016

Greg Sara

A group of 19 NOSSA members met on the corner of Alexandrina and Gould's Road to make our way to Scott Conservation Park on a surprisingly cool morning which eventually warmed up to be a perfect day looking for orchids (apart from the occasional breeze setting the flowers nodding and annoying the photographers). Marg Paech was our guide and we soon had photographers assuming their typical orchid positions kneeling or prone on the ground focusing on some of the many *Orthoceras strictum*, the main target of the morning. Most of the flowers were



purple but some green forms were observed. There were many plants to choose from and I counted 45 flowers without moving whilst Rosalie tagged 116 on GPS but I am sure there were lots more to be found. The less obvious but also quite numerous *Microtus arenaria* and probably *M. parvifolia* were flowering inconspicuously

throughout the same area. There was also a nice colony of *Diuris brevifolia* adding a splash of gold, one plant had a flower with a double labellum. The introduced South African orchid, *Disa* (*Monadenia*)

bractea was present in small numbers where the *Orthocerus* were most common but we saw many more when we walked south towards the creek. We saw a few more *Orthoceras* and *Microtis* on the walk south across the creek.

After lunch a much smaller group of six visited Knott Hill in Kuitpo where we saw many *Diuris brevifolia* in full bloom, a few *Disa bractea* and what was probably *Microtis parvifolia* in flower but the

highlight of the day was the Large Duck Orchid, *Caleana major* in flower on the side of the cleared track. We spent a long time engrossed with the well-known caricatures of a flying daffy duck taking many pictures. Some *Paracaleana minor* were also present growing close to the *C. major* and it was a good opportunity to compare these two Duck Orchids. A great way to finish the day.

Scott Conservation Park	Knott Hill
<i>Corysanthes</i> sp. - leaves only	<i>Caleana major</i> – flowering
* <i>Disa bracteata</i> – flowering	<i>Calochilus robertsonii</i> – caps forming
<i>Diuris brevifolia</i> – flowering	* <i>Disa bracteata</i> – flowering
<i>Microtis arenaria</i> – flowering	<i>Diuris brevifolia</i> – flowering
<i>Microtis parviflora</i> flowering – identification not confirmed	<i>Cyrtostylis</i> sp. - capsules with seed released
<i>Orthoceras strictum</i> – flowering	<i>Microtis parviflora</i> – flowering – identification not confirmed
<i>Thelymitra</i> species probably several species with capsules	<i>Orthoceras strictum</i> – in bud – 11 plants counted <i>Paracaleana minor</i> –some flowering and others in bud
	<i>Thelymitra</i> species – probably a number of different species with capsules



Member's Orchid Stories

Wonderful, Amazing and a Privilege

Jenny Woodley 27 Oct 2016

I have just returned from a walk at Knott Hill, Kuitpo Forest. How lucky we are to be able to get in the car, drive for 10 minutes and be in this most beautiful, safe and clean environment. Not only is this part of the forest walk covered with native flowers in full bloom but the air is fresh, there are many different bird calls and there is so much expectation as to what we might see. (Will we see a snake today? Gee I hope not!) This particular walk is where I have been going for over 37 years and it amazes me to see new things each time we go, especially at different times of the year. Thank goodness for digital photography! I remember the times when films were sent off to the chemist and I waited with bated breath to see if I had some good photos. Now, one can check immediately!

It was pleasing to note there were no hoof marks on the native verges and it seems that riders are using the

roadway all the time now. Thanks again to the SA Forest rangers for organising appropriate signs.

I have told friends about my walk and said that I had seen "Spideries", Donkeys, Purple Cockatoos, Purple Beardies, Bulldogs, Flying Ducks (big and little!) and recently Mosquitoes and Mayflies. Wow! I don't think they knew what I was talking about. I then sat down with them and explained the "proper" names for these orchids. I still need the orchid guide for this exercise. Being a member of NOSSA has helped to understand our native orchids, their habitat and the resources I have purchased make my "flora" experiences richer.

Over and above the wonderful range of orchids in flower (as well as the blue and pink sun orchids which were there but not flowering yet) on this particular walk, the many colours of pinks, whites, oranges, reds, yellows, purples, browns and greens of the beautiful

other native flora have me in awe every time I go to the forest at this time of the year. How lucky are we? International visitors that we take to the forest cannot believe the space and beauty of the forest. We are even allowed to walk on the grass!

If you haven't been to the Ranger Headquarters on Brookman Road and are near there, pop in to the Rotunda and take a free Native Flora Guide for the Kuitpo and Mt Crawford Forests. This resource is

worthwhile having, especially for the general public who like to walk in the forests.

I look forward to the next few weeks in the forest. How long will the ducks last? Will I see the sun orchids blooming? At Iron Barks will the Pink Hyacinths come up? ... and one of my favourite flowers, the Running Postman. Are they still flowering in the new plantations?? Thank goodness for the Forest.

A Royal Hullabaloo

Lorraine Badger

The history of orchids teems with tales of temptation and passion. In a recent book that we were given "*Orchid: The Fatal Attraction*" by Anne Ronse, she opens with "Orchids are born seducers" initially referring to the pollinators but then goes on to say "Human beings are also seduced by the beauty of these striking flowers."¹ WA's Queen of Sheba can certainly be said to seduce both insects and humans. From mid-July to early September, "word quickly spreads among a trusted orchid lovers' inner circle"² about sites where the queen has been seen. There are three Queen of Sheba species in total, distinguished mainly by flower colour and distribution: *Thelymitra pulcherrima* (Northern Queen), *Thelymitra variegata* (Southern Queen) and *Thelymitra speciosa* (Eastern Queen), with significant colour variations in species.

Having first seen the northern Queen (top) in mid-July and again toward the end of August the news that the Southern Queen had been seen not faraway excited us and a visit became a must. When a day dawned with a blue sky we excitedly set off and eventually found the park. Stopping at the first signed gate we saw we decided not to stop for lunch as clouds were already gathering in the sky and we didn't want to risk having the flowers close up for the day.

Eventually finding what we thought to be the general area a flash of colour saw us hurrying off the path. Sure enough there were two beautiful plants,

perhaps not as brilliantly coloured as those in the north but larger and with more flowers per plant.



We immediately set about taking photos but then I noticed a man heading our way carrying a camera with larger than average lens. Was he there to take photos also? Something in his manner made me think otherwise, so I went to greet him allowing the others to keep taking their photos. On being asked what we were doing to which I replied "Taking photos of the Queens. They are *Thelymitra variegata*, aren't they?" (left)



My question ignored I was told that he and his wife had 'done a course on orchids', and was I aware that we could well be treading on tiny orchids. I mentioned that the area did remind us of places where we had seen, *Paracaleana nigrata* (duck), and *Drakea livida* (hammer) orchids a few days earlier, and so had taken great care. "Know a thing or two about orchids?" he asked? I explained that we were NOSSA members.

He said that as 'friends of the park' he and his wife had noticed our car outside the gate ... the wrong gate! "But it was signed." I explained. "Yes

but we want the signs to come down as there is no foot cleaner at that gate ... " In addition to ignorant people trampling on any small orchids they could be carrying phytophthora root rot and then there could be ... he continued on in this vein listing the numerous frustrations that he and his wife experience whilst looking after the queens. A few years ago there were 25 queens; now there were 14; well no ... 17.

My suggestion that he contact an organisation for ideas on protecting the plants, brought out a raft of suspicions of orchid lovers, believing some would dig up the orchids for themselves. He also explained that Kings Park officials had even taken the seeds "so that they could get them to grow in their gardens." He wasn't about to accept that this was a recognised conservation strategy to prevent extinction.

His expressed frustrations were many and so I eventually suggested, to placate him, that I could raise his issues through a journal article, to which he was very receptive. I was then taken to check each queen – all the while 'tromping on possible small orchids'. I was glad to accompany him back to the path, for I had also been wondering what had happened to fellow NOSSA friends Pauline & Fred who had accompanied us. John had come to briefly see what was going on and take a few more photos but where were our friends? ... Back on the path, as it turned out, 'leaving it all up to Lorraine'.

A couple of young ladies lugging cameras with even larger lenses than the 'guard's' appeared. It was obvious where they wanted to head but the 'guard's wife' would not allow it. The girls moved off and were seen talking on their mobile.

As if to further illustrate the difficulties in conserving the area we then heard the roar of a motor bike of some sort. The 'guard' rushed off to take up a position on the track and challenge the rider for unauthorised motor vehicles are not permitted and the fines are substantial. This mud bike was ridden by an underage girl with a pillion passenger and neither seemed to care about the rules. We were also informed of the illegal removal up to 10 Jarrah trees a couple of months earlier, presumably to be used as firewood. Moving along the path our 'guard' pointed out a small cutting where greenhoods had recently been dug up.

The girls with their camera were back and having found another queen alongside the opposite side of the path to the previous lot, they sought permission to take one little step off the path to photograph them but were again denied. Then blow me down ... the 'guard' hopped in and took his own photo!

As we left the group we noticed a camera laden couple with even larger lenses greeting the girls. We did not stop to observe but that very afternoon a beautiful *Thelymitra variegata* photo appeared on the park's Facebook page. That photographer was not the 'guard' who also turned out to be a professional photographer.

A few days later we saw a large number of folk lugging huge camera lenses around, and learnt that they had come from Europe to photograph not only our beautiful flowers but also birds. Apparently money is to be made from photographs of Australian wildlife.

After eating lunch we went up the road to the 'correct' gate where the 'guard's wife' told us some other orchids were growing. Here we experienced a more positive side to bush walking. Firstly we dutifully cleaned our shoes at the station although my hands were not strong enough to squeeze the hand bulb of the device releasing spray. So for old and young, shoes may well go uncleaned. We witnessed a couple of large family groups out walking on this lovely Sunday afternoon. All dutifully used the shoe cleaning station, and children were encouraged to stay on the tracks. Several times folk stopped and asked what we were photographing and asking further questions about orchids. Their interest was genuine and more than a polite query.

The more I thought about the day the more I wondered about the motives of the 'guard'. Did he really want to conserve the plants in general, or in his location per se, or for other altruistic purposes? Then, were we any better? I, at least, sought to add the sighting to my orchid list. Was I any different to *Pokemon Go* addicts who had swarmed Kings Park a few weeks earlier? Why do I hunt for orchids, really?

The whole experience was a reminder that we have a responsibility when hunting orchids to not only care for the environment but to demonstrate to the public how to protect it and appreciate it. "Remember to tread carefully, not to touch the flowers, or do any 'gardening' around them -to ensure the orchids have the best possible chance to continue growing and bring joy to all of us for many years to come."

WANOSCG 2016 Aug

References: To previous article.

1. Ronse, Anne (2008) *Orchid: The Fatal Attraction* Stichting Kunstboak (Acc)
2. Morrison, Lisa (2016 Aug16) *Queen of Sheba Orchid Conservation Concerns* ABC Great Southern article retrieved from <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-08-16/queen-of-sheba-orchid-conservation-concerns/7718166>
3. Collins, Andrew & Papas, Chloe (2015 August 13, 2:34PM AWST) *Rare Queen of Sheba orchid rears its head*. ABC Great Southern WA retrieved from <http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2015/08/13/4292742.htm>
4. Burne, Cris (2015 Sep 24) *The Queen reigns supreme this wildflower season*. Science Network WA retrieved from <http://www.sciencewa.net.au/topics/environment-a-conservation/item/3803>



Letters to the Editor

Thank you for another exciting journal with so many images of rarely seen orchids captured as they were in the wild. True gems of the bush to do a bit of plagiary. *R. Bates, Science Consultant (Botanist)*

Post-script to NOSSA Scott Creek CP Field Trip

Rosalind Miller.

Tony (my husband) and I took part in the excellent Scott Creek Conservation Park NOSSA Field Trip on Saturday 29th October. The target for the site was the Leopard Sun Orchid, *Thelymitra benthamiana*, but although Robert and others found some buds, there were no flowers. We were, however, delighted to see a number of other Sun Orchids, including (as mentioned in the article by John Fennell in the NOSSA Journal of November 2016) *Thelymitra batesii*, *T. pallidifructus* and *T. grandiflora* as well as Spider Orchids, including *Arachnorchis tentaculata* and *A. leptochila*. So we had a great time photographing these wonderful orchids.

A few days later we were told that the Leopard Sun orchid had actually been seen in the same location. Because we have only recently joined NOSSA, we were excited that we might see one of these. We therefore drove back to Scott Creek CP on 6th October, a week after our first visit, and were amazed to find that the orchids we had seen only the week before had almost entirely disappeared -- not a Sun Orchid in sight. The few Spider Orchids that we saw were shrivelled up -- way past their prime. We now know that there is only a short time window to view these beautiful orchids and appreciate even more the NOSSA gurus who plan the field trips for just the right time and the right places! By the way, we didn't find the Leopard Sun Orchid that was the original object of our revisit. A disappointment, but there is always next year.

Post-script to NOSSA Scott Creek CP Field Trip

John Fennell

The target species for the NOSSA field trip to Scott Creek CP on Saturday 29 October was *Thelymitra*

benthamiana, the Leopard sun-orchid. A few plants were found but they were still in tight bud.

A number of members made the pilgrimage back to the site about a week later, and what a difference a week made. The warm weather had dried the environment and had finished off many of the flowering orchids that had been seen the weekend before including the spider orchids and most of the sun orchids but there were at least three *Thelymitra benthamiana* plants in full flower. They were quite hard to spot and I believe that some members couldn't find them even though they knew exactly where. But they were there all right.



Editor: *Thanks for your photos John and to both John and Ros for their interesting observations. This reminds me of a field trip we went on a few years ago which was also at Scott Creek where we saw a Thelymitra grandiflora with 55 tight buds on the stem. The following day we revisited with NOSSA friends unable to attend the trip with the intention of showing them the plants so that we could go back in a week or two to photograph the flowers. You can imagine our surprise when not 1 or 2 but at least 75% were in full flower. Being one of those sudden hot bursts of heat days, the flowers had quickly opened up.*

2016 - Orchid Picture of the Year

Rosalie Lawrence

For the final meeting of the year the best of the 2016 monthly winners of the picture competition was selected.

In Australia we are fortunate to have such a variety of orchids. They may not be as big and showy as some overseas orchids but the multiplicity of shapes fires the imagination as reflected in this year's monthly winners, when put together. The common names of the winners – spider, leopard, flying duck, cowslip, zebra, helmet, bluebeard and greenhood – reinforce this theme of diversity.

Patterns and colours contribute to the variety of our orchids. Australian orchid colours run the gamut of

the rainbow and more, with Australia being home to most of the naturally occurring blue orchids in the world. This colour fascinates and allures people around the world so much so that nurseries will dye a white orchid blue because it will sell. There is even a website devoted to the colour called, not surprisingly, Blue Orchid (<http://blueorchid.org/>) and the popular band master Glenn Miller wrote a song titled Blue Orchids (1944).

Could this be why the very clear winner for the year was Claire Chesson's *Pheladenia deformis* commonly named Bluebeard or Blue Fairy?

Congratulations Claire Chesson on your most beautiful picture.



Pheladenia deformis
Blue Beard or Blue Fairy

NOVEMBER 2016 BENCHED ORCHIDS

Epiphytes: Open Division

Species:

1 st <i>Cymbidium suave</i>	Les Nesbitt
2 nd <i>Sarcochilus ceiliae</i>	Les Nesbitt
3 rd <i>Cymbidium maddidum</i>	Les Nesbitt

Hybrid

1 st <i>Peristerchilus</i> Olive Grace	Kris Kopicki
2 nd <i>Sarco</i> Melba X Kunama	Kevin Western
3 rd Prchls. Mem. Iris Pendelton	Kevin Western

Epiphytes: Second Division

Species:

1st Nil

Hybrid

1 st <i>Sarco</i> Heidi	Janet Adams
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Terrestrials: open division

Species:

1 st <i>Diuris sulphurea</i>	Les Nesbitt
2 nd <i>Caladenia tentaculata</i>	Les Nesbitt
3 rd <i>Microtis frutetorum</i>	Les Nesbitt

Hybrid

1 st <i>Diuris</i> Dragonfly	Les Nesbitt
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Terrestrials: Second division

1 st <i>Phaius wallachii</i>	Janet Adams
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POPULAR VOTE:

OPEN DIVISION Epiphytes:

Species: *Cym suave* X *canaliculatum* Les Nesbitt

Hybrid: *Den Ella* Victoria Leaney Les Nesbitt

2nd DIVISION Epiphytes

Species: nil

Hybrid: *Sarco* Heidi Janet Adams

OPEN DIVISION Terrestrials

Species: *Diuris sulphurea* 'Golden Dragon' Les Nesbitt

Hybrid: *Diuris* Dragonfly Les Nesbitt

2nd DIVISION Terrestrials

species: *Phaius wallachii* (below) Janet Adams



BEST ORCHID FOR NIGHT

Peristerchilus Olive Grace Kris Kopicki



Photographs: David Hirst



October & November 2016 Benched orchids

Photographed by David Hirst



Diuris dragonfly



Diuris sulphurea 'Golden Dragon'



Diuris orientis yellow



Sarcochilus falcatus



Cymbidium Suave



Sarcochilus Jean



Thelymitra 'Melon glow'



Sarcochilus Patricia Abell 'Pink Chiffon'



Sarcophilus Melba



Sarcophilus Flair



Sarcophilus Galaxy 'Cream 2011' x
Parma 'Best'



Cymbidium canaliculatum 'Bundarra'



Dendrobium Ella Victoria 'Leaney'



Sarcophilus Cosmic Snow



Sarcophilus hartmannii 'Blue Knob'



Sarcophilus spathulatus (Green x
self)