



NOSSA Journal - April 2017

Volume 41 No. 3

**President**

Robert Lawrence

Email: nossa.membership@gmail.com**Vice President****Vacant****Secretary****Vacant**Email: nossa.secretary@gmail.com**Treasurer**

Christine Robertson

Email: nossa.treasurer@gmail.com**Editor**

Lorraine Badger

Email: nossa.editor@gmail.com**Committee**

Michael Clark

Bob Bates

Craig Humfrey

Rosalie Lawrence

Other Positions**Membership Liaison Officer**

Robert Lawrence

Ph: 8294 8014

Email: nossa.membership@gmail.com**Botanical Advisor**

Bob Bates

Conservation Officer

Thelma Bridle Ph: 8557 6553.

Field Trips Coordinator

Michael Clark

nossa.fieldtrips@gmail.com**Librarian**

Pauline Meyers

Registrar of Judges

Les Nesbitt

Show Marshall**Vacant****Trading Table****Vacant****Tuber Bank Coordinator**

Jane Higgs

Ph: 8558 6247

Email: jhiggs@activ8.net.au**Website Manager**

Rosalie Lawrence

Email: nossa.enquiries@gmail.com**NOSSA WEBSITE** <https://nossa.org.au/>

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		27
Vice President	Robert Lawrence	28
AGM, 40 th Anniversary Reveew	Lorraine Badger	29
40 th Greetings	Les Nesbitt	30
Wild Orchid Watch	R & R Lawrence	31
Letters to Editor	Lorraine Badger	32
Request Country Field Trip Ideas	Jane Higgs	32
Nossa April 1 st Field Trip Report	Greg Sara	33
Orchid Photography Quote	Reprint	33
March Picture competition	Rosalie Lawrence	34
Benched Orchids Omission	Lorraine Badger	35
Ground Orchid Culture April - May	Les Nesbitt Reprint	35
Benched Orchid Photos	David Hirst	36

Life Members

Mr R Hargreaves†	Mr G Carne	Mrs T Bridle
Mr H Goldsack†	Mr R Bates	
Mr R Robjohnst†	Mr R Shooter	
Mr J Simmons†	Mr W Dear	
Mr D Wells†	Mrs C Houston	
Mr L Nesbitt	Mr D Hirst	

Patron: Mr L. Nesbitt

The Native Orchid Society of South Australia, while taking all due care, takes no responsibility for loss or damage to any plants whether at shows, meetings or exhibits. Views or opinions expressed by authors of articles within this Journal do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the management committee. We condone reprints of any article with full acknowledgment.

Front cover – Celebrating 40 years - Lorraine Badger with the help of Adrian Ward, using the NOSSA logo.

On 22 March 1977 at an inaugural meeting NOSSA was formed and the committee called for members to "submit designs for consideration of a logo for letterheads, badges, signs, car stickers, etc." The winning entry, Chris Butler's *Caladenia menziesii* (*Leptoceras menziesii*) commonly known as Rabbit Orchid was announced in the June journal 1977 Vol 1 No 5. This distinctive and attractive design in colours of red and white on a green background has changed very little and is still in use today.

Bulletin Board

The Native Orchid Society of South Australia meets every 4th 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
April 25 th Tues	General Meeting - Speaker: Mark Bachmann, The hydrological restoration of Glenshera Swamp, Stipiturus Conservation Pk
April 22 nd Sat	Field Trip – Bookings essential – see information below
May 2 nd Tues	Committee meeting - Lawrences
May 4 th Thur	Journal articles due – NOTE one day earlier than previously
May 6 th Sat	Weeding Belair NP - Contact Tim Jury for further details 7127 4166 or tpag@ncssa.asn.au



TO NEW MEMBERS

FIELD TRIPS FOR 2017 - SEE NOSSA CALENDAR

For those who receive a printed copy the provisional schedule for field trips for 2017 is included on the accompanying NOSSA Calendar which also includes weeding, show & meeting dates. Those who receive the electronic journal have already received a copy with the March journal.

FIELD TRIP APRIL 22nd **NOTE DATE CHANGE**

Saturday 22nd April Location TBA – *Eriochilus* or *Leporella* and any other Autumn orchids.

Bring lunch, drinks cameras & chairs.

REMEMBER: Field trips must be booked through co-ordinator - Michael Clark

nossa.fieldtrips@gmail.com



COMMITTEE MEETING MAY 2nd

Next committee meeting is on Tuesday 2nd May Laurence's home – 24 Patricia St., Camden Park Observers welcome.

ARTICLES FOR NEXT JOURNAL – MAY 4th

Articles / Reports need to reach the Editor **no later than Thursday 4th May**. Thank you.

WEEDING AT BELAIR – MAY 6th

Saturday May 6 - Belair NP - *Pterostylis cucullata*

Entrance fee waived for those helping with working bees so please inform staff at the vehicle entry point that you are a helper. Sturdy footwear, long pants, hat and weeding gloves are essential.

Meeting point - contact Tim Jury for further details 7127 4166 or tpag@ncssa.asn.au

FOR THE 2017 DIARY

APS Autumn Native Plant Show

* 29th & 30th April – Adelaide Showgrounds

Saturday 29th April 10 am to 5 pm

Sunday 30th April 10 am to 4 pm

Volunteers needed

APS Spring Expo: Native Flower Display and Plant Sale date TBA

NOSSA SPRING SHOW

* 9th & 10th September

NOTE: show brought forward 1 week

Volunteers needed – contact secretary

Email: nossa.enquiries@gmail.com



***NOSSA Christmas BBQ** Dec 2 at the Higgs place

ANOS VIC ANNUAL SPRING SHOW

23rd & 24th September Mt Waverley Community Centre, Victoria.

PTEROSTYLIS Despectans – SURVEY 2017

This full count survey will take place on Saturday & Sunday of **August 19th & 20th**

Areas include Hallett, Koolunga and Wirrabara Forest.

For further details contact Erica Reeves, Threatened Flora Officer, Northern and Yorke phone: 08 8406 0500 fax: 08 8406 0599

mobile: 0408 812 677

email: ericar@treesforlife.org.au





From the President

Robert Lawrence

Spring Show 2017

40th Anniversary

The Annual General meeting marked the 40th anniversary of the inaugural meeting of NOSSA. It was an appropriate celebration with several people present who were also at the first meeting. We heard some interesting background to the formation of the Society and its earlier history from Peter Hornsby, Kevin Western, Bub Wells, George Nieuwenhoven and Bob Bates. We learnt how important terrestrial orchids were at the start. This was a great introduction to the meeting the following Saturday about propagating and growing terrestrial orchids.

Terrestrial Orchid Growing Group

It was exciting to be involved in the inaugural meeting of this group at the home of Jane and Don Higgs with thirteen people attending. The meeting considered possible aims and it was clear that there was sufficient interest to proceed with setting up a group and a laboratory with facilities for growing. We have the mentors to help members learn the techniques. Christine Robertson and Craig Humfrey have agreed to facilitate the group with mentoring from experienced growers such as Kevin Western. Christine has offered to make her lined and air-conditioned shed available as a laboratory for NOSSA members. Ongoing meetings will be organised.

Tuber Bank

There was also a suggestion at the growing group meeting that we have an additional meeting in January for potting demonstrations and the distribution of tubers from the tuber bank especially since the cost of postage is becoming prohibitive. Another suggestion was that volunteers could attend workshops to help growers separate tubers for the tuber bank in early January each year.



Kris Kopicki has deflasked seedlings for selling at the NOSSA Spring Show, which is to be held on 9th and 10th of September 2017. He expects to have at least 150 plants and these will be available to NOSSA at a lower cost than we would have paid if they were obtained from commercial growers. There will be epiphytic varieties not previously seen at the show and possibly some other terrestrial species will also be available.

The management committee considered that the sale of new plants would cover costs and had proposed to remove the entrance fee for the 2017 show, in line with the practice of all ANOS affiliated societies in the eastern states. Nevertheless, some members were concerned that removing the fee would devalue the event, so the request for a gold coin donation is reinstated for the 2017 show. As we have no past records of numbers going through the door, we are planning to use tickets for entry this year for both recording and planning.

Another area that the committee has looked into is the availability of EFTPOS. Hopefully this will commence with the Autumn Show of the Australian Plant Society at Wayville Showgrounds on 29 and 30 April 2017.

The need for a new Secretary

Rosalie Lawrence chose not to be nominated as Secretary this year in the hope that somebody would step into the role. She has been seconded as an ordinary member of the management committee and is prepared to help the new incumbent. We appreciate John Eaton for taking on the role of organising speakers for general meetings as this will lighten the load.

NOSSA March Meeting Review

39th AGM & 40th Anniversary Celebrations



It was one of those delightful Autumn nights which entice folk to go outdoors in the cool of the evening and 27 NOSSA members and 3 visitors ventured out to celebrate 40 years of NOSSA. There was a hum of excitement in the room as folk caught up with old friends or simply enjoyed the photographic entries on the screen or checked out the benched orchids, of which there were more than last month.



Robert Lawrence, Vice President, welcomed the assembly, especially Peter Hornsby, George Nieuwenhoven, Bub Wells, Kevin Western, Bob Bates and Brian Lehmann who were at the inaugural NOSSA meeting on 22 March 1977. Unfortunately a number of current members were unable to attend but it was encouraging to receive apologies from Les Nesbitt, who was overseas, Thelma Bridle, Ros Miller and Rob and Jenny Pauley.

Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting on 22nd March 2016 were read by the Vice President who also read out the annual report which appeared in the February journal. Christine Robertson, treasurer, presented the Financial report as published in the March Journal. With all reports accepted it was time for the Election of Office Bearers and Committee members. Geoff Borg, a previous president chaired the meeting, declaring all positions vacant.

Nominations were received and accepted for President: Robert Lawrence; Treasurer: Christine Robertson and only one nomination was offered for the two ordinary committee members (first of 2 years) being, Craig Humfrey. Gordon Ninnies and Bob Bates, in the second of their two years, also continue as Ordinary Committee members. Unfortunately there were no nominations for secretary leaving that

vital position, vacant. Kris Kopicki was nominated as Vice President (subject to signing nomination form).

With no other items of business and voting for the photographs completed the President declared the business meeting over. Our honoured guests, NOSSA foundation members, were invited to share their stories of the early days of NOSSA

English born, Peter Hornsby was first to speak explaining how on finding English plants did not do so well in the hot summers of SA, he discovered our native orchids. He was, over the years, involved in many aspects of the society including creating the title

NOSSA, believing that it was best to have a name where the initials were pronounceable. He was also responsible for the different orchid sketches each month on the early journal covers plus the explanation that accompanied them in the journal pages. He was the first Vice president, organised initial field trips, participated in orchid rescues, grew and benched plants at meetings. At just 4 years of age, Peter's son was good at spotting orchids.



Bub Wells explained that it was her husband, Don, who was first introduced to orchids when clearing areas in Queensland whilst serving in the army. She told of rangers having permission to collect orchids from trees being removed and then selling them on stalls. She also remembered seeing big bunches of orchids being sold on roadside stalls. The early society members were involved in orchid rescues and Bub remembers one occasion when they collected orchids just in the nick of time and to the sound of approaching tractors. They were the good old days when growers learnt so much from one another. She also mentioned the "Wonderful weekends away."

Kevin Western spoke fondly of our founders, Roy Hargreaves and Les Nesbitt who did a lot of work getting things running. He attributed the relative success with terrestrial orchids to these two men. He told of Roy's concrete wash troughs that had been relegated to the garden and were always full of *Pterostylis Curta* (Blunt Greenhood) despite the fact that he always gave some to others. He described Roy as an honourable, likeable, yet very persistent fellow who was so passionate about orchids that he could be forgiven for anything.

Others also shared their experiences of those early years and their stories will be recorded in later journals. The evening concluded with the cutting of the cake, followed by a great supper offering folk another opportunity to chat with others.

Photos: David Hirst & Lorraine Badger for cake:



Cutting of the cake

L-R: Peter Hornsby, George Nieuwenhoven, Bub Wells, Kevin Western, Bob Bates, Brian Lehmann

Thanks go to all who made this a memorable celebration and to Rosalie who organised and collected the cake.

40th Greetings from Les Nesbitt

Enjoy the gathering to celebrate 40 years of NOSSA. My thoughts are with you even though I cannot be present in person. Forty years is a long time for modern organisations to exist and says something about the power of orchids to bring people together. There are so many memories...

Roy Hargreaves twisting people's arms to get a native orchid club up and running so native orchids could be rescued. All those rescue digs as farmers knocked down scrub before native vegetation laws were proclaimed in mid 80's.

Cleaning out my shed each month so helpers could run off the journal on the gestetner, then collate, fold, and stuff it into envelopes.

The first show display as a guest of South Coast Orchid Club at Marion Shopping Centre at their spring show. The big step of holding the first NOSSA show at the Orphanage on Goodwood Road and how nervous the treasurer, Ron Robjohns, was that we would lose money. I can remember we ran short of sales plants so I went home to get two big speciosum that I

split up in the boot of my car with people queued up to get a division.

The many shows in the St. Peters Town Hall with patrons thinking the sales area was the show when the show was down a narrow corridor in the main hall.

The field trips when we were younger and fitter. The sad thing is many of the orchids we saw are no longer alive or greatly reduced in number.

The tropical orchids brought to meetings by a number of keen growers in the early days. Something that has faded away with the increase in cost of heating a glasshouse.

Groups of NOSSA members attending ANOS conferences and lugging car loads of orchids to Sydney and Melbourne. Our own ANOS Conference in 1996 at Flinders University with our baby son in a pram. He is almost 21 now.

The camaraderie and exchange of ideas which continues today is what I like most about NOSSA. Long may it continue.



Wild Orchid Watch

Robert and Rosalie Lawrence

Wild Orchid Watch (WOW) is a plan to bring together, through an interactive website, the latest tools for orchid identification, a collection of curated photographs, a forum

for discussing such things as taxonomy and conservation and portals into government databases for field observations and monitoring.

This is the next step following the publication of the book *Start with the Leaves: a simple guide to the orchids of the Adelaide Hills* in 2011 which coincided with the NOSSA publication of the DVD version of *South Australia's Native Orchids*.

While working on the DVD, NOSSA members met with staff at the Adelaide Herbarium to discuss their concerns. At one of these meetings Michelle Waycott told us about Reef Watch, a citizen science program gathering information on the environment. Reef Watch had its own identification guides which included informal names for as yet undescribed species. This got us thinking about the possibility of having an Orchid Watch.

We subsequently contacted the New England Orchid Wild Flower Society (NEWFS) to see if we could use the technology from their *Go Botany* interactive website and simple key based on using photographs. This led to a successful application to the Australian Orchid Foundation (AOF) in 2014. The aim of this project was to produce an interactive key with 40

common orchid species from the Adelaide region so that more species could be added progressively.

One of the grant reviewers suggested that we make use of the character set developed in the Well-structured Key to Australian Orchid Genera. Enquiries about getting permission to use this were made and in August last year an email from CSIRO publishing giving permission to use or adapt data in our interactive website was received. We can also use their illustrations and some of the information from the fact sheets of individual genera.

Robin Goodfellow, a computing professional, used the AOF to enable him to try to work with the NEWFS. By the middle of 2016 it became evident that the transfer of technology was not feasible. With Robin's help, we were free to think about the possibilities of Wild Orchid Watch so that we could build a framework that could incorporate modules as they were developed. We thought of having a catalogue of orchid descriptions, tools or identification, a comprehensive collection of photographs (well beyond only flowers), training in identification and monitoring techniques, a portal into government databases, a forum for taxonomy and a means for networking between organisations. We also decided to build the system so that it could be used across Australia, rather than being limited to South Australia.

Our daughter, Louise, was keen to apply artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning to orchid identification. She had the idea of using augmented reality so that the computer could tell a user what further information would be needed to complete the identification of an orchid.

The next step in the process was to conduct a user survey and this was done in October 2016. We were thrilled to receive 160 responses from across the country and from a variety of user groups. This showed that participants were willing to share location data and photographs, and that they shared our concerns about having location data that was detailed enough for poachers to use. Fortunately, this is already addressed in government databases, which obscure location details.

Greg Steenbeeke, senior threatened species officer in the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, helped



us see the importance of having a national approach to recognising the distinguishing features from the start which has influenced our planning.

In February this year, we worked with Ben Sparrow of the Terrestrial Ecosystems Research Network to complete an application for a Citizen Science grant from Innovate Australia for a significant amount of funding over a three-year period; if successful we will be on the way to produce a system that will be useful across the country, as well as being useful for other kinds of citizen science projects.

One of the outcomes of the grant would be to develop the methodology for monitoring orchids and for enabling data to be recorded on smart phones. Opportunistic findings by any member of the public could be recorded by taking photographs of their findings.

We also hope that it will be possible to produce locally relevant field guides for any specified area in Australia. Indeed, NOSSA could use it for producing a book on South Australian orchids.

As much as possible, we envisage data being recorded in the government databases so that the data is stored securely and available for research and for government decision-making. Information will be available to the public through the Atlas of Living Australia with its security features for obscuring sensitive data.

Currently we have a team of undergraduates from University of South Australia working on the beginnings of a database. We are happy with the quality of the students in this group and the progress that they are making. Robin has been a great asset in bridging the gap we would have had in relating to the requirements of a student project.

Wild Orchid Watch is not a NOSSA project, but NOSSA members have much to gain from its success and the support of the Society is greatly valued. It is hoped that orchidologists from across the country will continue to get involved as the project develops.



Letters to the Editor

Re - omission in 2016 Conservation Report in Feb NOSSA journal, Vol 41 No 1 p 5 –

Hi Lorraine,

The photos of people were taken by Bevin Scholz. All other photos are mine. Thelma Bridle

Editor: Thanks for pointing this out Thelma.

Editor: Found in the first newsletter in 1977.

"Arrangements are being made to provide suitable backgrounds at the Meetings to assist photographers who wish to photograph the orchids on display. Shutterbugs, please bring cameras."

Does anyone know if any such arrangements were made and if so what were they? Ed.

Request Country Field Trip Ideas

Lorraine Badger

In our endeavours to make field trips more attainable to those who live north or south of the city we *endeavour* to have about a 50 - 50 split between north and south. This year we have also tried to include some of our country members and so planned two weekend trips to the country; one to the west on York Peninsula [Aug 26, 27] and one to the south somewhere either out from Coonalpyn or further towards the coast on the last weekend of the

school holidays (Oct 14th & 15th). If you live in any of these regions or can help us with some good location ideas or even want to be involved in planning we would love to hear from you. OR if you have any other good spots that you think would make a good field trip Just send a letter to the editor ASAP and we will be in touch.

Email: nossa.editor@gmail.com

1 April 2017 NOSSA Field Trip

Greg Sara

A small group of nine people met at 10 am outside the Myponga Memorial Hall on a cool Saturday morning and drove a few kilometres south to the Nixon Skinner Conservation Park on the shore of the Myponga Reservoir. The sandy soil was dry but the vegetation was still quite green after our reasonably moist summer. Orchids were sparse and difficult to find. There were some dried brown *Microtis* sp with capsules but the flowers were long gone. Eventually a flowering Parson's Band, *Eriochilus collinus*



Eriochilus collinus formerly sp Adelaide Hills
Photo: Judy Sara

(formerly *Eriochilus* sp Adelaide Hills) was located and then as usual a few more were spotted as our search image improved. There were less than 10 individual flowering plants in total. However there were lots of Golden Orb spider webs with the females usually sitting in the centre of the strong web and attended by small cautious males.

Robert and Rosalie Lawrence then took us to Mt Billy Conservation Park on the Hindmarsh Tiers Road. We

Editor: Thanks Greg and Judy for the report and the beautiful photographs. I am sure we can all identify with the author of the following snippet when trying to take good photographs. Some are more successful though.

Orchid Photography Quote

REPRINT: NOSSA Journal JULY 1993 Vol. 17 No 6 Page 58 "Letter from Peter Penney"

... I have found, as I am sure you have also, that orchid photography is particularly challenging. It can also be very frustrating ; as it usually means having to be in just the right place at the right time to catch the flowers at their best, and choosing the plant and view to give the maximum information for identification, not to mention contending with the vagaries in the weather. Have you ever noticed how the wind seems to really blow up just as you are about to release the shutter? ***I have a theoretical formula for photographing orchids which seems to work every time the intensity of the wind is directly proportional to the rarity of the orchid and the magnification of the lens in use! ...***

walked along an access track and found a number of Common Midge Orchids, *Corunastylis* sp. Adelaide Hills, growing in the low, regenerating, mown down vegetation on the side of the track. The small spikes of reddish black flowers were difficult to see. There was a possibility that these plants could be *Corunastylis* sp. Mount Billy but the pictures taken by Greg Sara, Rosalie and Robert Lawrence did not show any sepals which were gland tipped.



Corunastylis sp Adelaide Hills
Photo Greg Sara

We met two DEWNR officers who had been helping volunteers put in some honey possum shelter boxes. They were very concerned when they saw one of us prone on the ground and thinking someone had collapsed, were just about to get out their first aid kit. They were very relieved when we explained he was just getting a few close ups of the midge orchids.

A big thank you to Robert and Rosalie Lawrence for being our guides and experts on this trip.

March 2017 Photographic Competition

Rosalie Lawrence

As part of NOSSA's 40th anniversary celebrations, the theme for this month was *Leptoceras menziesii* (Hare Orchid or Rabbit Ears), the NOSSA emblem. Entries were received from John Badger, Pauline Meyers, Robert and Rosalie Lawrence, with John Badger's photograph being declared the winner.

In February 1977 it was announced that the nascent NOSSA society required an emblem. Members were invited to send in drawings, to be judged by members and then ratified by the committee. Mrs Chris Butler [Ron Robjohns' daughter] was the winner.

The first *Leptoceras menziesii* flowers to be benched at a NOSSA meeting were in September 1978. It appears to be an easy plant to grow but a most difficult one to flower.

This seems to be because it is fire dependent. In spring, it will flower profusely if there has been a summer fire such as occurred after the 2015 Sampson Flat (SA) fires. It is possible that the ethylene gas produced during a fire event may initiate the flowering response.

Otherwise, apart from the occasional flowering plant, it will be mainly leaves that are found when out in the field. The single leaf of this plant lying prostrate along the ground is distinctive. It is firm, boat-shaped, glabrous (no



hairs), with a fine 'snake-skin' pattern. Interestingly, sterile plants can be mistaken for a plant with a developing bud as there will be at the leaf base a ligule (a thin membranous growth, often found on grass stems)

NOTE: Next Month's theme: Orange and Yellow orchids

References

- Backhouse, G et al (2016) *Bush Gems: A Guide to the Wild Orchids of Victoria* Electronic version
 Bates, RJ, ed. (2011). *South Australian Native Orchids*. Electronic version
 Lawrence, RW, (2011) *Start with the Leaves: A simple guide to common orchids and lilies of the Adelaide Hills*, Adelaide, Australia: Richmond Press
 NOSSA Journal Volume 2 No 6 July 1978
 NOSSA Journal Volume 2 No 9 October 1978

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:

1. **Email** nossa.enquiries@gmail.com – jpg as large as you are able to send - preferably A4 ratio for printing
2. **Post:** PO Box 565, Unley, 5061

March 2017 Benched Orchid Results



As evidenced by the above photograph the orchids were judged on the night and I have been told that results were recorded but as we ran out of time there was no popular vote and no results were given. Due to judges being on holidays and despite

my best efforts of badgering various people the record sheet has not reached me in time to be entered into this journal. My apologies. Thanks to all those who have responded to frantic emails. Results will be published in the May Journal.



GROUND ORCHID Culture for April - May

Les Nesbitt

Reprint from NOSSA's first newsletter Vol 1 No. 1 March 1977

This is an exciting time because the majority of our ground orchids appear again in Autumn. The greenhoods and donkeys come up in April and the spiders in May. Some greenhoods are already well advanced and can be given weak applications of liquid fertilizer sprayed over the leaves once a month. Clean up rubbish from the growing areas and eliminate slugs and snails. Despite all efforts some slugs and snails will reach your ground orchids. These are best controlled by going out at night with a light and picking them off. Do it regularly before these pests eat all there is to eat, because they will stay on the pot, hiding in the drainage holes by day. Grubs and aphids may cause trouble. Thrip sometimes ruin autumn flowers. I find them a pest on *Eriochilus*

cucullatus (Parsons bands). They eat the base of the ventral sepals which wither up and ruin the flower. Weeds are germinating with the early rains. Pull these out while they are still small. The first deciduous terrestrial flowers of the season will be seen at the April meeting. The number of species in flower will increase steadily reaching a peak in August-September. April-May is seed sowing time for those fortunate enough to have both seed and mother plants to sprinkle seed around. It is a rather hit and miss method, but I find it very successful with some *Diuris* and *Caladenia* species which are very difficult to propagate by other means.

March 2017 Benched Orchids

PHOTOS - David Hirst



Dendrobium Mekong



Den bigibbum Samford Good Guy x
Samford Celebration



Dendrobium Peewee Bucko x
tangerinum



Left, Right and above
Sarcochilus hirticalcar



Sarcochilus Bonanza Fitzhart X
Velvet Chocolate



Dendrobium Anthedon X
pugiomforme



Sarcochilus