

# *Native Orchid Society* *of South Australia*

*Caladenia* sp Coorong



Photo : June Niejalke

# JOURNAL

**May**  
**2018**

Volume 42 No.4

# Native Orchid Society of South Australia Journal May 2018

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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.

## Life Members

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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.

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**Front cover** - Photo: June Niejalke, This consistently deep pink large flowered *C. carnea* type was found in a survey last year on the Coorong. It has been confirmed as a new species.

## Bulletin Board / Date Claimers

The Native Orchid Society of South Australia meets every 4th Tuesday of the months February to November at St Matthew's Hall, Crn Welling ton street & Bridge Street, Kensington (just off Kensington Road). Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. Doors to the hall open from 7:15 pm to allow Members access to the Library and Trading Table.

DATE	EVENT
<b>May</b>	
Tuesday 22nd	General Meeting plus NOSSA <b>Plant recall</b> - 8 pm start—Cnr Wellig ton St & Bridge Tce
Saturday 26th	Field trip—destination Fleurieu—more details when you book
<b>June</b>	
Saturday 2nd	Weeding—Long Gully in Belair National Park—9.30am
Thursday 7th	JUNE JOURNAL articles deadline
Sat 9th, Sun 10th	SAROC Fair see page 42
Tuesday 12th	Committee Meeting— 7.30pm at McCallum's—97 Lyons Rd, Windsor Gardens—All Welcome
Saturday 23rd	Weeding—Brentwood Cemetery, Yorke Pen.—10 am
Tuesday 26th	General Meeting—8pm—doors open at 7.15pm— Cnr Wellig ton St & Bridge Tce
Saturday 30th	Field Trip—destination on application: <a href="mailto:nossa.fieldtrips@gmail.com">nossa.fieldtrips@gmail.com</a>
<b>July</b>	
10th	Committee Meeting— 7.30pm Venue to be confirmed—All Welcome

### FIELD TRIPS

Field trips will generally be held on the Saturday following the General Meeting each month.

Next Field Trip will be on May 26th. As previously, please contact Michael Clark to book your place and get further information at [nossa.fieldtrips@gmail.com](mailto:nossa.fieldtrips@gmail.com)

### ARTICLES FOR NEXT JOURNAL

Articles / Reports must reach the Editor **no later than Thursday 7th June**. Thank you.

Please send all articles to [nossa.editor@gmail.com](mailto:nossa.editor@gmail.com)

### ORCHID TALKS/BOOK LAUNCHES

Danielle Clode will be giving a talk about the life of Australian orchidologist Edith Coleman (a founding researcher in pseudocopulation).

'The Wasp and the Orchid'

Final talk:  
Wed 23 May 6.30-8.00 Mitcham Library, Adelaide

For background information go to:  
<http://www.australianorchidfoundation.org.au/293-2013/>

### SAROC FAIR—HELP NEEDED

If you want to know more, or are able to help please check with Les Nesbitt or the convenors—see page 42

### GENERAL MEETING MAY 22nd—8 pm start

Guest speaker: Iain Kilpatrick  
Topic: "Orchid Growers and Me"

A good chance to get together around our common interest—orchids. Bring your SA terrestrial orchid photos and potted orchids for the competitions—you have to be in it to win it!! Remember the PLANT RECALL p. 44  
VENUE: St Matthews Hall, Cnr Wellington & Bridge St., Kensington.

### NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our newest members,



May Weibel, SMITHFIELD  
Holly Ann Price, EDEN HILLS  
Julie Doddridge, PLYMPTON PARK

As new members you may want to learn more about terrestrials, or any orchids—ring the NOSSA PHONE

### NOSSA'S NEW PHONE & POSTAL ADDRESS

Please use to contact NOSSA.

Specific contacts can be made by emailing—see list on previous page.

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 14  
KENSINGTON PARK SA 5068



# House-keeping

Missed in the April 2018 Journal pages 33 & 34

Leo Davis

And there was more!!! So sorry—I inadvertently missed the ending to Leo's excellent article "Shell orchids don't exist, so there " Here it is.....

Sometimes you can see the column (a structure in which the male and female parts are characteristically fused in **all** orchids) inside at the back of the galea, just in front of the dorsal sepal. In this image (Fig. 4) you can see two yellow sacks of pollen (pollinia) on top of the column. The sticky stigma (female part) is immediately below these. You might just make out the labellum pointing out of the front of the galea. When an insect enters the flower it may trigger the labellum to snap back, throwing the insect against the pollinia, which may stick to its back. When the insect is released and flies off, with its pollinia back pack, it will not have learned the lesson that there is no nectar on offer and it will go to another flower, get snapped again, and possibly leave the pollinia stuck to the stigma of the second flower.

I expect to see my first *Diplodinium* buds (maybe not in 2018 because of seasonal conditions) in early April. I see flowers of *D. dolichochilum*, east of the Hills, as early as mid May, but mainly in June and July. I've seen *D. bryophila* flowering as early as May 14 and on into July. From the last week in May till about mid July I have found *D. sp* 'Adelaide Hills' and *D. robustum*, plus hybrids between them, at Hale, Morialta and Warren Conservation Parks and they must be elsewhere. The mallee form of *D. robustum* I see as early as late May at Sherlock but it's a June and July flower for me at Monarto, Ferries-McDonald, Kinchina and Mowantjie Willauwar Conservation Parks. Last year Bob Bates alerted me to an undescribed species of *Diplodinium* at Mowantjie Willauwar CP and I observed it in flower in the last two weeks of June.

A little later *D. erythroconchum* comes into flower there and at the other mallee lands parks mentioned above. I've seen it, the latest local *Diplodinium* to flower, at Muloowurtie Reserve, on York Peninsula, in the second week in September. The *Diplodinium* season can keep you occupied for as long as five months.

## Correction

In the article on *Diplodinium*, in the second to last paragraph on Page 33, it should read: "the galea is composed of just **three** tepals, (a sepal and two petals)" not five.

## Upside down orchids

Les Nesbitt

I enjoyed Leo's thought provoking article on shell orchids in last month's journal.

When I got to the bit about upside down orchids my first thought was hang on that is not correct. Then I thought of other generally recognized upside down orchids that I grow. Two common examples are crucifix orchids and the octopus orchid. These flowers have the labellum at the top and the dorsal sepal at the bottom. With the octopus orchid all the sepals and petals are below the lip and point down.

The generally accepted definition of a flower that is the right way up has the dorsal sepal at the top of the flower and the lip below the dorsal. The lip often juts forward to form a landing platform for the pollinator.

Therefore most Australian orchids including greenhoods are up the right way up. *Prasophyllum* are upside down because the dorsal sepal is at the bottom of the flower below the lip.

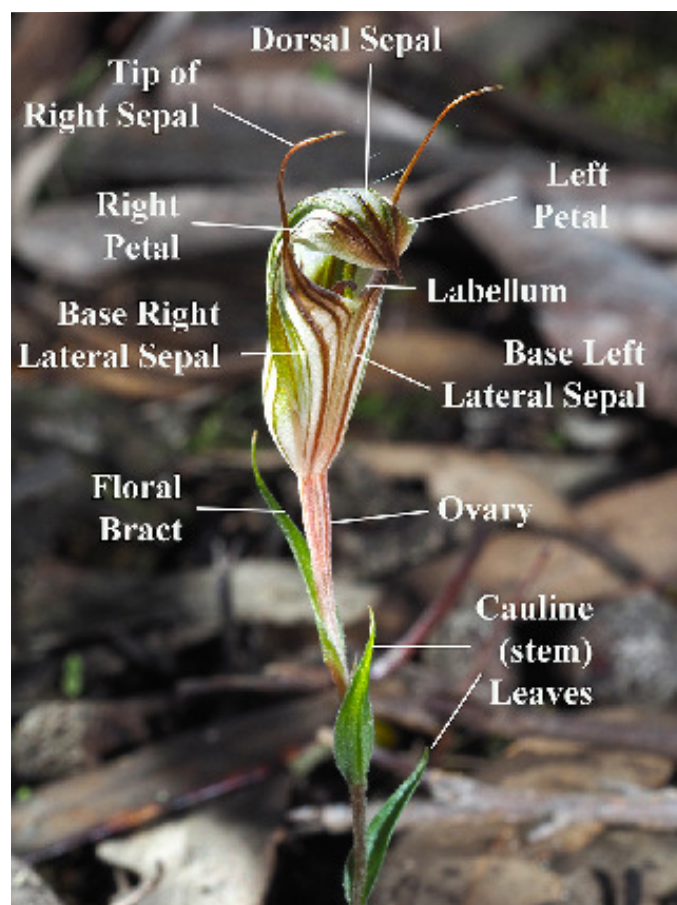


Figure 4: *Diplodinium* sp. Ferries-McDonald C.P. June 28, 2015.  
Photo: Leo Davis.



## Vale Malcolm Houston

We have lost one of our most knowledgeable and experienced members. He was a man of much knowledge and experience, and respected in our orchid community. It is difficult to separate Malcolm Houston's orchid work from that of his wife, Cathy, herself of similar standing in our group.

Malcolm was from a large family and spent much of his life working as a carpenter, at locations as far away as Woomera. He was a keen archer in earlier years and he kept a number of aviaries in which he successfully bred birds. He and Cathy had two sons and they have grandchildren. Malcolm and Cathy did everything together and he was an unfailing and loving support to Cathy during her convalescence in recent years.

The couple joined NOSSA perhaps 20 years ago. They were quick learners and both became experts in orchid identification, field ecology and survey work. Cathy went on to be our Secretary and later our Conservation Officer. Malcolm became a very skilled photographer. You will find more than 50 of his images in the DVD, 'South Australian Native Orchids', issued by NOSSA, and Cathy's photos are there too.

Cathy and Malcolm made many visits to the South East, where Cathy had grown up, and there they searched for orchids at known and fresh sites. Cathy became so knowledgeable and respected that she was granted a permit that allowed her to collect specimens from Nature, the couple depositing a number of undescribed species in the SA Herbarium.

They became involved in the Threatened Plant Recovery Program that was organised by (then) DEWNR. They participated regularly in searches for orchids, weeding programs, fencing work and regular census and monitoring activities for threatened orchid species, at locations on YP, the mid North and the Flinders Ranges.

A contact was made with Forestry SA and annual surveys, identifying and counting orchids, were begun along all tracks in the Native Forest Reserves in the SE. Trips of three or more days were undertaken, usually three times each year, with a team that usually included Malcolm and Cathy, Barb and Ken Bayley, Thelma and Phil Bridle and others, such as Bob Bates, on some occasions. This work, still unfinished, has continued for about 11 years.

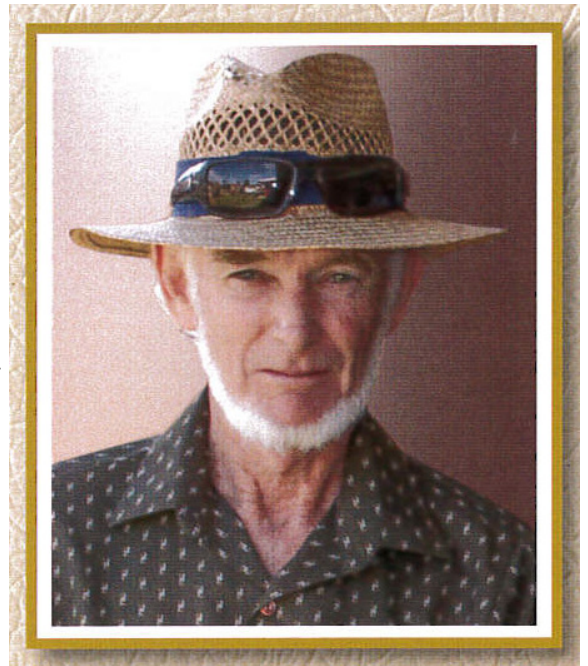
Cathy and Malcolm did extensive work with Joe Quarmby, then still with DEWNR, searching for orchids at locations all over the Adelaide Hills. They represented NOSSA at Field Days on YP and at other events closer to Adelaide.

Malcolm told me of visiting and searching the whole property of Stipiturus CP in every month of the year. This illustrates the thoroughness of his work. Of those of us who ever go there, most do so just when the rare flowers might be seen, either side of Xmas. Malcolm will have applied the same approach to other sites.

I believe that Malcolm had what I call 'the taxonomist's eye'. He could detect minor variations of flowers, that I could not see, that were significant in separating and identifying species. He'd learned well from Bob Bates.

Malcolm had strong views on a number of matters to do with orchids and their conservation. It was only as I came to recognise the damage that I do, every time I go into the field, even alone, that I came to understand his view that certain sites should only be visited when absolutely necessary and by the smallest number of people possible, with the exact location not revealed.

The loss to those close and dear to him will be profound. For us at NOSSA the loss, while less personal, is of a wealth of expertise and knowledge.




## APS Report Rosalie Lawrence

*Rosalie Lawrence*

At the APS autumn sale this year, NOSSA decided to not sell plants but to have a static display. Despite no plants people were still interested. The Flowering Times and Life-size Image posters were very popular with people asking if we had them for sale. One man came specifically to talk with us. He was interested in using orchids in garden landscape settings but felt that the black plastic pots were ugly. He had been experimenting with potting the orchids directly into the ratten wicker baskets. He had some nice looking photos of what he'd done and was wondering whether any NOSSA members had done anything similar. The final question for the day was from a young girl wanting to know how much the orchid display cabinet cost!

# April Committee Meeting Notes

## Some random points of interest

- Thelma Bridle, Les Nesbit, Rosalie Lawrence and Marg Paech have been appointed to the NOSSA committee.
- A gentleman from Netherlands has requested that our journal be sent to him!
- 14 families have NO email address registered on our database (if you do have an email, it would help us to stay in touch if you gave it to us. E.g. when news broke about the recent death of Malcolm, an email was sent out. It is intended to use this form of communication more often, as it is quick, and messages can be sent without much cost, immediately news breaks.
- Treasurer, Christine Robertson sadly will not be continuing the role next year for health reasons, so we need to find someone. Please think about this – there is a lot of support and it really is a good feeling to be involved! Is this an area of expertise or interest for you? 
- In the journal, in past years there has been a President's Report. That is now replaced by Committee Meeting Notes.
- Opportunities exist for those who like weeding and feel strongly about conserving terrestrial orchids, to be part of a team who go to sites and weed. Watch for the dates on the Bulletin Board page (P. 39 this issue)
- Les Nesbit – registrar of Judges reported:
  - \*He is busy at Kildare College, Windsor Gardens – deflasking orchids in the temporary glasshouse while the major building program is underway.
  - \*The *Diuris behrii* project is being watered due to extreme dry, to encourage them to leave their dormancy.
- In the past the Lawrence's land line had been used as a NOSSA contact – with their move this has been disconnected. A phone which is dedicated for NOSSA business has been purchased. See page 38 for details. Phone number is **0439 214 106**
- The calendar proposed for 2019, is being planned – think about who you might give a calendar – could be an opportunity to encourage a new enthusiast, or give joy to a veteran orchid hunter.

### My name is ...

Getting to know members can be made much simpler if everyone wears their name badge – I should take note!! Ways to encourage the wearing of name tags are being investigated – you've been given the 'Heads-up'! This applies to meetings, Field Trips and other NOSSA gatherings and shows.

## Terrestrial Orchid/Seed Growers report

More structural work has been done on the shed so that it will be much more suitable for the purpose it now has!

This is a hands-on project which everyone can be involved in. The bonus in being involved is that you get to know others with similar interests, and you get to learn things you may not have known. You have the opportunity if you are new to growing orchids, to be shown and practice potting and other things 'orchid'. Help is always welcome. Contact the treasurer, Christine.

## A Strange Early Flowering *Corybas*

*Les Nesbitt*

One of the pleasant surprises of the blue tag system for terrestrials was the effect on *Corybas hispidus*. Remember that watering starts in January for pots with blue tags. I have always struggled to grow *Corybas hispidus* with no flowers and a gradual reduction in plant numbers when treating it the same as the local *corybas* which do not appear until June.



I potted up 5 small tubers in December, inserted a blue tag and placed the pot under cover in my Hills flowering house with the other blue tag pots. I was delighted when in early April five small leaves appeared and each had a flower bud inside. There was another surprise when additional leaves appeared in early May as the flowers were about to open. One extra leaf grew out of a drainage hole and sent out a long stolon into the air. I stood the pot in a larger pot half filled with sand so any new tuber formed does not shrivel up in the dry air. Obviously this species makes new plants and tubers in Autumn. It probably dies down in August which is the driest month of the year in coastal NSW. The first flower collapsed on a windy day so I placed a clear cover over the pot to hold in the humidity. Other terrestrials from the East Coast of Australia make new tubers in Autumn-Winter but this strange one makes extra leaves at the same time

## Field Trips

Some guidelines for field trips have been discussed. They arise out of concerns voiced about the degradation of orchid sites, by those visiting and taking photos. The guidelines cover aspects of behaviour—consideration of others, care for the plants—orchids and other native vegetation and care for the soil—not standing too long near a particular plant among other things. When these are officially adopted they will be printed in the journal so all who go out in the field may be guided by the wisdom in them.

# April NOSSA Meeting Guest Speaker

John Eaton

25 members heard Russell Seaman, State Manager, Native Vegetation Branch, Dept. Environment and Water talk on the operation of the Native Vegetation Act 1991 (NVA) Clearance provisions which are aimed at protecting habitat essential for the survival of our native orchids.

Russell outlined the Aims and Objectives underlying the South Australian legislation. The Protection and Enhancement of native vegetation is achieved by controlling developments that require broad scale clearance of native vegetation. The NVA also recognises the need to regulate native vegetation clearances through new regulations outlining the legal processes for managing illegal clearances. Russell showed how effective drones can be in monitoring illegal clearance through the Change Detection Program.

*Conservation and Promotion* objectives of the NVA are implemented through an Incentives program using Heritage Agreements, payments into Native Vegetation Fund.

*Native vegetation* is defined by the NVA as a plant or plants of a species indigenous to South Australia including grasses, herbs, shrubs, trees, mistletoe and (marine) plants growing in or under the sea such as aquatic plants (e.g. milfoil, reeds and sedges), and marine plants (sea grasses).

Native vegetation clearance is defined broadly under the NVA as the killing, destruction or removal of native vegetation, the severing of branches, limbs, stems or trunks of native vegetation, burning or any other substantial damage to native vegetation - including the draining or flooding of land, or any other act or activity such as burning, grazing or harvesting.

Russell mentioned the difficulties of apprehending and enforcing breaches under the NVA.

NOSSA members have an important role in continuing to monitor the location of field orchids, to preserve habitat, to raise alarm bells so as to safeguard their genetic diversity, and - when called upon by DEWNR (name change to DEW) to rescue field orchids *wherever* and *whenever* they are threatened by development.

[A very interesting speaker—due to space availability, John's comprehensive report had to be heavily edited, but please contact him or email the editor for the full report. Ed.]

## SAROC Orchid Fair—PLEASE HELP!



### **SAROC ORCHID FAIR**

Hosted by the Member Clubs of the  
South Australian Regional Orchid Council Inc.

**SATURDAY JUNE 9th 9 am—5:00pm**  
**SUNDAY JUNE 10th 10:00am—4:00pm**

**Drill Hall**

**Torrens parade ground**  
**King William road**  
**ADELAIDE**

**Free parking on parade ground**

- ⊗ Orchid Competitions ⊗ Orchid Raffles
- ⊗ Orchid Sales from Leading Commercial Growers
- ⊗ Horticultural Supplies
- ⊗ Potting Demonstrations daily, & Free Cultural Advice
- ⊗ Sausage Sizzle, Refreshments & Devonshire Teas available.

**\$5.00 Donation includes complimentary cup of tea/coffee**

Help is needed in a number of areas. All clubs are expected to provide helpers including NOSSA.

- On the Door
- on the information desk.
- in the kitchen
  - making sandwiches,
  - preparing plates of scones and
  - serving cups of tea/coffee, hot soup,
  - Serving pies & pasties.

See Pauline or Garry Simcock, the convenors, to be allocated duties.

Phone 08) 8390 2212 (home)

0419 837 761 (Garry)

430 194 808 (Pauline).

Donations of .... scones, jam or cream

Please advise them of what/how much you are bringing and when!



# Another Autumn-Flowering Orchid

Leo Davis

In Latin, *Lepus* means hare. The long cheeky 'ears' (petals) on the fringed hare orchid (*Leporella fimbriata*) are the obvious source of both the generic name, which means 'little hare', and the common name.

The species was first described, way back in 1840, in 'A Sketch of the Vegetation of the Swan River Colony' written by the prominent British botanist, John Lindley<sup>(4)</sup>. It has spent time in each of the genera *Caladenia*, *Eriochilus*, *Leptoceras* and finally, *Leporella*, indicating something of its closer relatives. The two closely related 'sister' genera, *Leporella* and *Leptoceras* are both monotypic, that is each contains only one species. The article comparing the two genera, on our NOSSA site<sup>(5)</sup>, points out clear differences between *Leporella* and *Leptoceras*. These include **autumn** versus **spring** flowering, **open** versus **shaded** as preferred growing sites, and leaves emerging **after** flowering versus leaves emerging **before** flowering. Another distinctive characteristic of the hare orchid is that it sometimes has **two leaves** rather than the **single leaf** that all *Caladenia*, *Eriochilus* and *Leptoceras* species have.

A possibly unique characteristic of the hare orchid is that its flowers may dry out, after the flower has been fertilised, while maintaining their shape for up to 12 weeks<sup>(2 p94)</sup>. The dried flowers can appear, at least to a casual observer, as being fresh. But the colours are not fixed and Bates says beginners can think they have found a new species<sup>(1 p729)</sup>. He assures us that the hare orchid is unlikely to move again from its current status that it acquired when Alex George established the genus *Leporella* in 1971<sup>(1 p728)</sup>.



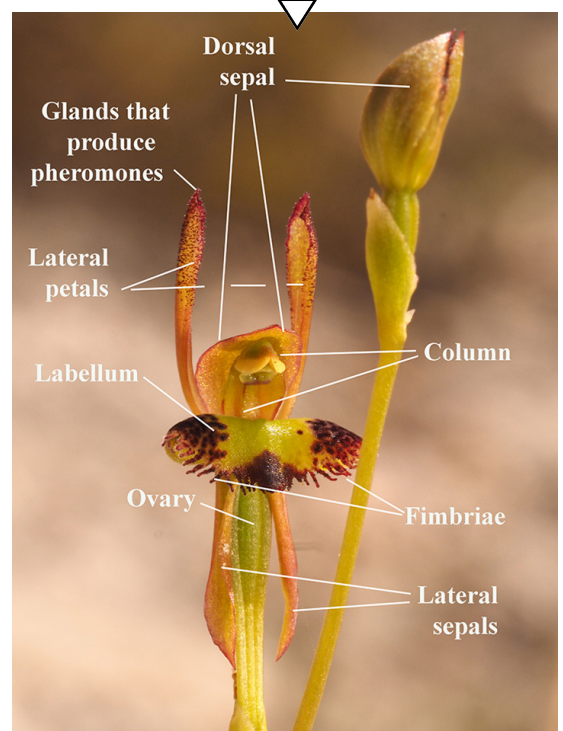
◀ *Leporella fimbriata* (non flowering) showing distinctive and unmistakably patterned single and double leaved plants. In flowering plants the flower stem develops a leaf at the base of the stem **after** flowering. Photo: Leo Davis.

As mentioned in earlier articles, most SA terrestrial orchid flowers are **upside down**. Hare orchid flowers are **upside down**. The two dorsal petals are more or less parallel and point upwards. The third petal has been highly modified to become the **labellum**, the largest of the six flower segments. Its lower rim, roughly a semicircle, has a fringed edge (Latin: **fimbria**; plural **fimbriae**) and hence the specific name '*fimbriata*'.

A double header *Leporella fimbriata* flower. Knott Hill NFR. Photo Leo Davis.

Winged males of a stinging jumper ant (*Myrmecia* sp.) are attracted to the flowers by a mimic of the female ant's sex attracting hormone (pheromone). This is produced by glands (trichomes) on the tips of the two dorsal petals. The males find themselves on the labellum which they mistake for a queen ant<sup>(1 p728)</sup>. Teenage lads! The labellum moves up and backwards (how fast, slowly, or as a snap, I do not know) pushing the ant against the four pollinia on the anther, on the top of the column, under the hood over the anther. The ant wriggles free and may have a **pollinium** attached to it. In a subsequent visit to a different flower, the pollinium on the ant's back may then be transferred to the stigma of that flower, situated on its column. The flowering time (autumn) normally matches the breeding season of these ants. This specific association is an example of how some orchids seem to have evolved themselves into a narrow dependence that leads to a possible dead end. In years when the ants' mating is not triggered (maybe by thunderstorms) at the same time as the flowering, there will be no pollination.

The image above shows the **column**, here about half as wide as the **dorsal sepal**. This structure, a characteristic of **ALL** orchids, is a fusion of the male (pollen producing anther) and female parts of the flower (**stigma**



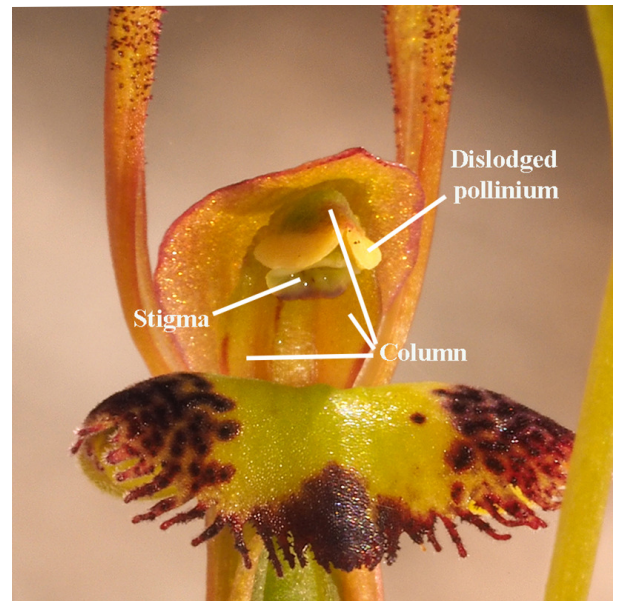


# Another Autumn-Flowering Orchid Contd.

and the ovary at the base of the column). The sticky stigma (that traps **pollinia**) is just under the hood that projects over the hidden anther. You can see a single grape seed shaped **pollinium** (of four) that has been dislodged, perhaps by a male jumper ant, or some other insect. It has become stuck, accidentally, to the edge of the hood over the anther.

The image to the right shows the **column**, here about half as wide as the **dorsal sepal**. This structure, a characteristic of **ALL** orchids, is a fusion of the male (pollen producing anther) and female parts of the flower (**stigma** and the ovary at the base of the column). The sticky stigma (that traps **pollinia**) is just under the hood that projects over the hidden anther. You can see a single grape seed shaped **pollinium** (of four) that has been dislodged, perhaps by a male jumper ant, or some other insect. It has become stuck, accidentally, to the edge of the hood over the anther.

Bates says the species is 'widespread across the south of the state' from EP to the SE, excluding only the Flinders Ranges and is 'well conserved'<sup>(1 p729)</sup>. Clearly I have more searching to do because I know the species only at Knott Hill NFR (where, on April 21, I found just four plants of what must be more), Mt Billy CP and a site that Bob Bates showed me, some years ago, in Scott Creek CP. At this last site Bob told me 'It shouldn't be able to grow here.' The gravelly rocky slope has almost no soil and most plants only produce leaves. This year, so far, I have found a single triple flowered plant there (April 21). The other two sites have the open sandy flats the species favours. There is varied advice for folks who are interested in propagating the species. Back in 1990 Bates & Webber<sup>(2 p94)</sup> said 'difficult to grow in pots'. Jones was more succinct in 2006; 'Impossible.'<sup>(3 p279)</sup> I wonder would Les Nesbitt agree?



Detail of previous image. Photo Leo Davis.

1. Bates, R.J. (2011). South Australian Native Orchids, DVD Issued by the Subediting Committee (NOSSA) on behalf of the Native Orchid Society of South Australia Incorporated.
2. Bates, R.J. & Weber, J.Z. (1990). *Orchids of South Australia*, A.B.Caudell, Government Printer, South Australia.
3. Jones, D.L. (2006), *A Complete Guide to the Native Orchids of Australia*, Reed New Holland, Australia.
4. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leporella>
5. <https://nossa.org.au/> Unknown Author, *Leptoceras* and *Leporella* – Why are they in different genera?

## Plant recall 2018

Please bring your growing exercise plants to the May meeting to check on their progress. As far as I know none have flowered as yet. This could be the year. To jog your memory the species are:

**2012 - *Dendrobium teretifolium***

**2013 – *Dendrobium linguiforme***

**2014 – *Dendrobium comptonii***

**2015 – *Sarcochilus hartmannii***

**2016 – *Pterostylis sanguinea* seed kit**

**2017 – *Caladenia tentaculata* seed kit**

The growing exercise species for 2018 will be *Sarcochilus falcatus*, the orange blossom orchid. This is a small plant with relatively large showy fragrant white flowers. Several donated flasks will be deflasked at the meeting. The flowering size seedlings (one per member) will be available at the trading table for \$2 each. This species likes to be mounted although Kevin Western is having success in the Hills with deflasked seedlings potted in clay balls. I grow my plants mounted on cork or wood and hung low down in the shadehouse over a fish pond. I have seen plants in NSW growing on the trunk of an evergreen bush. The long roots ran up and down the trunk in heavy shade. In Adelaide the roots like to be covered with bush moss. Daily misting is needed in summer.

# Photo Competition—April

Rosalie Lawrence

*Oligochaetochilus excelsus*, an impressive name for the winning photo, taken by John Fennell. It was originally formally described and named *Pterostylis excelsa* by Mark Clement in 1986 from a specimen cultivated from a tuber taken from Eyre Peninsula. This was subsequently published in the fourth edition of Black's Flora of South Australia. In the early 2000s, the genus *Pterostylis* was split into several different genera of which *Oligochaetochilus* was one.

Although not everyone accepted this change, it is helpful for understanding the characteristics of this group. They are found only in Australia and are primarily a semi-arid inland group, sometimes the only orchids to occur in a locality.

Bob Bates has documented some of the drought tolerant and drought avoidance features found in this group.

## Drought tolerance:

- Large moisture-storing tubers, shallowly buried to take advantage of light rain.
- Waxy leaves pressed flat to the soil thus avoiding water loss.
- Fast growth, some species are able to flower on just two good rainfalls.
- Leaves senesce (die off) before or soon after flowering begins; moisture and food from the leaves is then stored in the tuber and scape. Leaves are able to absorb moisture from dew.
- Leaves also contain an anti-freeze and can tolerate black frosts.
- Just one month after rain a replacement storage tuber is produced as large as the old one.

## Drought avoidance:

- ◆ Plants favour damper microhabitats, growing at the base of larger rocks and in seepage zones or on the cooler damper south side of bushes.
- ◆ Tubers of desert species do not usually germinate in drought years.
- ◆ Leaf senesces (dies off) before hot weather meaning plants avoid moisture loss during flowering.
- ◆ Plants cease respiration in long dry periods and resume after rain even up to three months later, staying green even in bone dry soil.
- ◆ Leaves are pressed to the soil.

## References:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pterostylis> accessed 10 May 2018

Jessop, J. P. and Toelken, H. R. (eds) (1986). *Flora of South Australia*. 4th ed. Adelaide: Govt Printers Adelaide.

Bates, R. J., ed. (2011). *South Australian Native Orchids*. [Electronic version](#). NOSSA

## Rules of entry:

- ◇ Subject: South Australian orchids
- ◇ Size: A4 ratio; Jpeg as large as you are able to send
- ◇ Email [nossa.enquiries@gmail.com](mailto:nossa.enquiries@gmail.com)
- ◇ Hardcopies can be posted or brought to the meeting
- ◇ It may not be possible to print entries emailed on the day of the competition, but they will be entered in the following month. Members are welcome to send entries several months ahead.

## Other entries for April:

1. *Eriochilus collinus* and 2. *Leporella fimbriata*

Photos: Andrew Primer;

3. *Arachnorchis richardsiorum* Photo: Pauline Myers

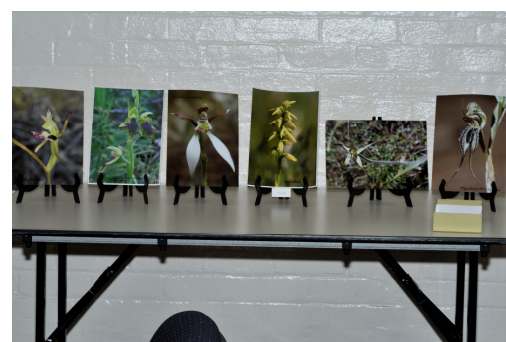


Photo: David Hirst





# Benched Orchids

Plant of the Night - April 2018

Les Nesbitt -Registrar

Commentary for the night provided by Jane Higgs for Terrestrials; Les Nesbitt for Epiphytes

## Open Division

- 1st *Dendrobium* Colonial Gem  
2nd *Dendrobium* Issy's Summer

## Epiphyte Hybrid

- J & D Higgs  
J & D Higgs

Leader: Graham Zerbe

Judge for the night: Don Higgs

Popular Vote - 1st and 2nd tied.

## Terrestrials

### Open Division

- 1st *Acianthus pusillus*  
2nd *Pterostylis laxum*  
3rd *Eriochilus cucullata*

### Terrestrial sp.

- Les Nesbitt  
J & D Higgs  
Les Nesbitt

Popular Vote - *Acianthus pusillus*.



*Chiloglottis diphylla* *Eriochilus dilatatus*



*Pterostylis truncata*

*Eriochilus cucullata* <



*Dendrobium* Colonial Gem



*Den. Issy's Summer*



*Acianthus pusillus*



*Pterostylis laxum*

# Bits and Pieces

## "Heritage SnAps" photo competition

Open now and will conclude on Friday July 13<sup>th</sup>. Winners will be announced during an Awards Ceremony in August 2018

Enter here: <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/our-places/heritage/visiting-heritage-places/Heritage-SnAps>

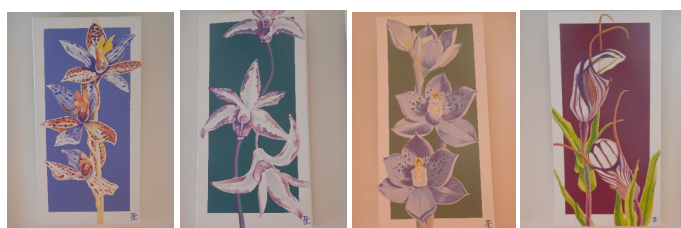
## ANOS Travel Club

Together with Andrew Brown and Casino Travel, ANOS Travel Club are organising a native orchid tour to WA in August 2018. The tour will be fully escorted from Perth by Andrew Brown, author of "Orchids of Western Australia" and "Field Guide to the Orchids of Western Australia" and widely acknowledged as an expert on WA terrestrial orchids. The trip will commence in Perth on Wednesday 22nd August and will conclude in Perth the following Wednesday. Limit of 20 participants. Itinerary available at: <http://anos.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/ANOS-WA-2018-Itinerary.pdf>

## Paintings for sale

These lovely paintings of orchids were done by a SA artist who is willing to sell the set for \$200 total.

They are 30 x 60 cm. Maybe a gift for an orchid lover? ..or lovers! For more information please contact the editor.





# Orchid Sightings around the State

from Cleve area where *Andrew Primer* reports..

Reading the April journal has prompted me to give you a little update on what's flowering around Cleve. The *Eriochilus collinus* (Parsons Bands) have been flowering for the past couple of weeks. There are still flower buds yet to open so they should be around for a few weeks yet. The attached photos were taken at Ticklebilly Hill right in the township of Cleve.

Midge orchids are mostly done. They came up in spite of no rain in Feb. March and early April. Both *Corunastylis* sp Adelaide Hills and *C fuscoviride* were found in Yeldulknie CP.

and another report some hours later..

Just back from Hinks CP and I did find my first ever hare orchid [*Leporella fimbriata*] ever on the Eyre Peninsula. Very exciting. I know they get them at Wanilla near Port Lincoln but I've never been home at the right time to see them. [Do you hear the excitement in his writing?! Thank you Andrew! Ed.] [Andrew attached a number of photos but due to lack of space they are not included. However two were included in the Photo Competition—check out page 45.]

## Some field observations made during a dry March & April

**Cleland CP.** Tracks off Reynolds Road.

April 13: Flowers of *Eriochilus collinus*.

Buds of *Eriochilus collinus* & *Urochilus sanguineus*

April 25: Flowers & fruit of *Eriochilus collinus*.

Buds of *Urochilus sanguineus*

**Knott Hill NFR.**

April 01: Flowers of *Eriochilus collinus* and *Corunastylis* sp. Adelaide Hills type.

\*Dehiscent fruit (a good sign) of *Dipodium roseum*.

April 21: Flowers of *Corunastylis* sp. Adelaide Hills type, *Eriochilus collinus* (just two) & *Leporella fimbriata* (four only!)

Leaves and dehiscent fruit of *Paracaleana minor*.

**Mark Oliphant CP.**

March 23: Buds of *Eriochilus collinus*.

April 21: Flowers & fruit of *Eriochilus collinus*.

Buds of *Urochilus sanguineus*.

**Morialta CP.** Moore's Road entrance.

April 5: Flowers of *Corunastylis* sp. Adelaide Hills type & *Eriochilus collinus*.

April 24: Flowers of *Eriochilus collinus*.

Fruit of *Corunastylis* sp. Adelaide Hills type.

Buds of *Urochilus sanguineus*.

**Mylor CP.**

April 01: Nothing.

\* breaking open to release seed

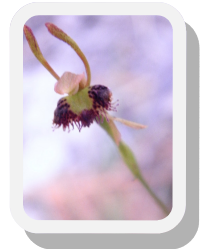
**Cleland CP.** Another site.

April 13: Fruit of *Thelymitra circumsepta*.

**Hindmarsh Falls CP.** (reported by Marg Paech).

April 29: Flowers of *Leporella fimbriata*. (6 plants)

Leaves of *Pterostylis* spp. & *Pyrorchis nigricans*



**Monarto CP.**

April 7: Flowers of *Eriochilus collinus* and *Corunastylis fuscoviridis*.

Buds, fresh fruit and leaves of *Corunastylis fuscoviridis*.

**Mount Billy CP.** (reported by Marg Paech).

April 28: Flowers & buds of *Leporella fimbriata*. (24 plants)

Leaves of *Pterostylis* spp. & *Pyrorchis nigricans*.

May 01: (Probably opened in late April;

Flowers of *Dipodium* reported by Barb Bayley)

**STOP PRESS:** from Lorraine & John Badger

**Knott Hill NFR** over 100 *Leporella* both sides of the road & about 12 *Eriochilus collinus* in early May (no date given)

## The lengths some people go to.....

"I was in a swamp in the Hills, yesterday, with a wet and muddy bum, because I'd fallen over backwards, checking for orchid shoots and repositioning knocked over cages. I was wondering whether I was game to go vege shopping in Stirling on my way home, looking like an incontinent old man. Problem solved in moments. I'd not been watching the front sweeping in over the plains and was suddenly drenched to the skin. It was a very steamy drive back down to the plains to change all my clothes and do my shopping at the local greengrocer." said one member who shall forever remain nameless!!

Please email your observations or interesting experiences for this page to the editor.

