

Native Orchid Society of South Australia



JOURNAL

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2018**

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Native Orchid Society of South Australia Journal October 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

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

Patron: Mr L. Nesbitt

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Contents

TITLE / SUBJECT	AUTHOR	PAGE
Housekeeping—Corybas/Corysanthes		100
Out New Banner explained		100
September Committee Meeting Notes		101
Field Trip to Para Wirra - Sept 29th	Robert Lawrence	102
Winners at the NOSSA Spring Show		103
Urgent call for Tubers		104
Diuris behrii Project update	Les Nesbitt	104
Sept Guest Speaker—Bob Bates	John Eaton	105
October Sarcocylus Show Classes		105
Benched Orchids	Les Nesbitt	106
Winning Photo—September	Rosalie Lawrence	107
Orchid Sightings Around the State		108

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 Wellington 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
October	
Sat/Sun 6-7th	APS Spring Show
Tuesday 9th	Committee Meeting - 7.30pm at 97 Lyons Road, Windsor gardens - all welcome.
Wed 10th	Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens Walk—11am to 12 noon—see below—bookings necessary
Tuesday 23rd	General Meeting- 8 pm start - Sarcophilus Show
Sat 27th	Field Trip - See below
November	
Sat 3rd	Mt Lofty Botanic Gdns Walk—11am to 12 noon—see below—Bookings essential.
Tuesday 13th	Committee Meeting - 7.30pm venue to be confirmed
Tuesday 27th	General Meeting- 8 pm start
December	
Saturday 1st	NOSSA Christmas BBQ at Higgs and Field Trip—the two events can be combined.

FIELD TRIP

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

Next Field Trip will be on October 27th. As previously, please contact Michael Clark to book your place and get further information at nossa.fieldtrips@gmail.com

ARTICLES FOR NEXT JOURNAL

Articles / Reports must reach the Editor **no later than** **Thurs 1st November**. Early-bird articles -so appreciated!
Please send all articles to nossa.editor@gmail.com ☺

NEW MEMBERS

If you'd like to learn more about terrestrials, or any orchids, feel free to ring the NOSSA PHONE .
Tubers (or at this stage promise of prospective tubers) are urgently needed for the Tuber Bank.

URGENT CALL FOR TUBERS

Tubers (or at this stage promise of prospective tubers) are urgently needed for the Tuber Bank.

Please let Jane Higgs know as soon as possible so that she can complete a list before December.

Phone: 08 8558 6247 Email: jhiggs@activ8.net.au
Address: PO Box 134, Myponga, SA 5202

GENERAL MEETING Oct 23rd - 8 pm start

Guest speaker: Kevin Western

Topic: Sarcophilus Orchids

Remember to **bring in your flowering Sarcophilus plants** to be judged in various categories—winner gets to hold the perpetual trophy for a year. More information on page 105.

VENUE:

St Matthews Hall, Cnr Wellington & Bridge St, Kensington.

MOUNT LOFTY BOTANIC GARDENS WALK

Come and discover the native orchid treasures of this Botanic Garden with a guide. Great place for a picnic and being during the holidays, children will love the outing.

Meet at the lower car park, Mt Lofty Botanic Garden.

Monday 10th October, Saturday 3rd November

Not much in life is free but these walks are **FREE**

Bookings: 0488 159 357 or email: nossa.enquiries@gmail.com

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

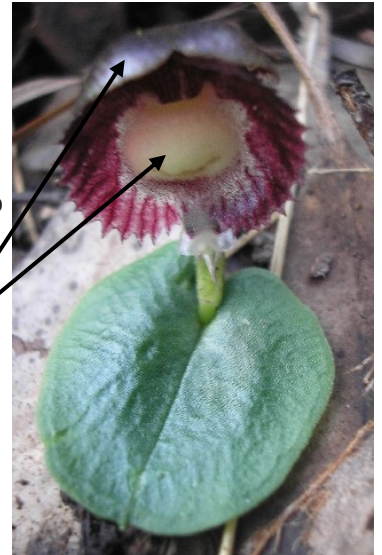


Housekeeping

Corybas/Corysanthes



Further to Rosalie's Winning Photo article last month (page 94) she has sent through a photo of a *Corybas* to be compared with a *Corysanthes* orchid.



Dorsal Sepal
Labellum

Features which differentiate are:

<i>Corybas</i>	Dorsal Sepal covers so that the labellum is not seen
<i>Corysanthes</i>	Flower is open; labellum and dorsal sepal equally prominent

For this reason the orchid experts say that South Australia does not have any true *Corybas*.

Our New Banner

As the process of the design developed, it was soon realised that the message conveyed to the public needed to be positive - which then defined the selection of photos.

A blue orchid (*Thelymitra glaucophylla* from the *Thelymitra nuda* complex) was chosen as the main focus. Internationally, Australia is renowned for its bright blue orchids so this seemed a good choice.

The top inset is *Arachnorchis cardiochila* syn *Caladenia cardiochila*. Moving down the banner then is the lovely yellow *Diuris behrii* and the *Corysanthes diemenicus*. Jane Higgs photographed the *C. diemenicus* while Claire Chesson took the other three photos used. The photos had to be very high quality because of the size of the banner, so thanks go to these two members for allowing their photos to be used for the banner.

There was more to the choice of flowers than just the photo quality. The public's questions as they view the banner were anticipated. All four orchids are relatively easy to find in Conservation or Recreation Parks relatively close to Adelaide. Only three of the orchids, *D. behrii*, *C. diemenicus* and *T. glaucophylla* are relatively easy to grow, indicating the sensitivity of our native flora in the bush, and the need to conserve it. It also gives the message that NOSSA is involved in conservation and cultivation (in situ and ex situ) of native orchids.

Rare or threatened orchids, even though some of them are very eye catching eg the duck orchid or moose orchid, were not chosen. This was to avoid drawing undue attention to them as we would not want to direct the public to these sites because of the fragility of these orchids.

Much thought went into the design of the banner, with a very good finished product. Thanks are due to the committee whose input and comments lifted the standard creating such a well-thought-out, and attractive banner.

A little aside: once produced the banner stood in the premises of the graphics designers for a week or more before it was collected. In that time, they reported that they received a lot of positive comments about it. That was a nice bit of free advertising for NOSSA!!



September Committee Meeting Notes

NOSSA Private Facebook

Social media is the way the world is going and our own NOSSA Private Facebook is beginning to gain members. The private Facebook is open to all NOSSA members so if you'd like to be involved please contact one of the executive listed on page 98. You can just be a passive reader of comments!



NOSSA Spring Show and Sale

Unfortunately due to a mix up with bookings the venue was only available to us on Saturday – a fact we only discovered at the 11th hour!! One report was that it was rather quiet, but Christine was pleased with the sale of the orchids from the Lab. Any orchids not quite ready for sale at the show could be held over and taken to the APS (Australian Plants Society) 2018 Spring Expo Native Flower Display and Plant Sale which was held just three weeks later.

Highlights of the Show were the use of our new banner and having a disc of WA orchids was run on a loop on a computer screen. Photos from the Show (thanks to David Hirst's photographic skills) are to be found on page 103.

At the Royal Adelaide Show this year Kildare College did quite well in the judging with a number of firsts and second prizes. Les Nesbitt has done a lot of work with them in developing their orchid- growing and it appears that it is paying off now. Well done, Les.

Terrestrial/Orchid Seed Grower's Lab at Strathalbyn

There has been another large donation - 3 ½ wine casks full of orchids! The latest donation will be collected when the orchids have finished flowering as they will need to be broken up before they are able to be moved.

The laminar flow cabinet and other gear mentioned last month in Christine's report has now arrived, and the paint has been purchased. If you are handy with a paintbrush or good with plumbing (it is only a simple job), the lab people would welcome you with open arms. It can be in your time not a regular working bee. This would speed the laboratory development up enormously.

If you can help, please phone Christine to discuss times, etc. Christine Robertson Ph (08) 8536 3948



NOSSA 2019 Calendar

Just a reminder that following the October general meeting, voting will happen via email, website or email to choose the 12 most-liked winning photos from our meetings. Unfortunately due to logistics it is too hard to mail out photos to everyone. The calendar will be printed and ready for sale at the November general meeting. These will make lovely Christmas gifts – easy to send overseas or interstate too. It will be a lovely keepsake, and even more-so for those whose photos grace the pages of the calendar!

Orchid Sightings and other information from country members

The involvement of our country members has been noted with enthusiasm, as they submit observations and photos for the Journal. It is appreciated and gives a greater understanding of what is happening in areas further from the city. Keep those photos and comments coming! It is interesting to compare the different areas and how the season is progressing in different locations.



Field Trip - Para Wirra CP –29th Sept *Robert Lawrence*

Seven of us met at the Kersbrook Hall on Saturday 29 September to go to the southern end of Para Wirra Conservation Park. It was a delight to have Cathy Houston, one of our life members, with us on a field trip for the first time for many years. She took Rosalie and me under her wing. On Rosalie's and my first field trip back in June 2005, Cathy took us under her wing; all we saw was leaves but despite that, Cathy introduced us to many species. We were able to do the same for the two new members on this trip.

We had some instructions from Steve Howard and went to the Orchid Dam Track to start our search. Then we had lunch at Basnett Road and did another search near the northern end of the road.

Two species of orchid dominated at both sites at Para Wirra. These were *Diuris pardina* and *Arachnorchis behrii*. Indeed it seems to have been a good year for *Diuris pardina* at different sites, including Morialta Conservation Park and Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens. They seem to be abundant wherever there are open spaces with little competition. While they are abundant next to roadsides and in firebreaks, they are not near as common in less disturbed bushland. Most were in flower, some had finished and capsules were forming on some plants. None were noticed in bud.

Arachnorchis behrii (syn *Caladenia behrii*) were certainly the highlight of the trip. I counted 170 plants at the two sites. Many were quite tall and didn't seem to mind the competition. They seemed to do particularly well in areas of *Ixodia achillaeoides* (Hills daisy or Fire daisy). It seemed to be the peak of flowering with a small portion still being in bud and some spent flowers or with capsules forming. They may have been more heavily grazed in the open areas, presumably by Chuffs.

Some of the other species we saw were either finished flowering or past their best. *Acianthus pusillus* had mature capsules, some having released their seed. Only leaves remained of *Corysanthes* species. *Urochilus sanguineus* were drying off, but some had started forming capsules. *Cyrtostylis reniformis* were still flowering in a small colony. *Thelymitra antennifera* were still flowering, but most didn't seem to have the energy left to open fully. *Linguella* sp. Hills nana, *Pterostylis pedunculata* and *Pterostylis nutans* all had some flowers remaining and also had capsules forming.

The species that were yet to reach their best were *Glossodia major*, *Arachnorchis tentaculata* and *Diuris orientis*. There were hundreds of *Glossodia major* with advanced buds, a small portion having already opened. Some of these appeared to be insect-damaged. *Diuris orientis* and *Arachnorchis tentaculata* were just starting to open. We only found a single flower that looked like a *Diuris pardina* hybrid. *Microtis* species were mostly represented by just leaves. However a few had flower spikes that had pushed their way through the leaf. Only one flower was open enough to identify as *Microtis arenaria*. There was one flowering plant of *Petalochilus carneus* noticed, so these could be yet to come. There were of course many plants of *Thelymitra* species in varying stages of bud formation. There were clearly buds of *T. luteocilium* and *T. rubra* remaining stubbornly closed, waiting for a hotter day while others with ribbed leaves or channelled leaves were far from flowering.

The weedy *Disa bracteata* were widespread in the disturbed edges with buds hardly starting to form.

Rosalie was hoping that we would be able to find *Leptoceras menziesii* in flower where we had found it in 2015 after the Sampson Flat fire. I scouted ahead but missed finding any colonies. I showed others the general area that I remembered and left Jason to search in his own time, being local to the area. He managed to find flowers before we got to Kersbrook on our way home.

It was a pleasant day and it was encouraging to see orchids doing well in spite of the dry conditions.

Photos are on page 108a

What does a budding orchid field-tripper say when finding a new orchid?

Labellum!!



NOSSA Spring Show and Plant Sale

Les Nesbitt

CHAMPION Terrestrial Species
Roy Hargreaves Trophy
Cyrtostylis huegelii
 Jane & Don Higgs

CHAMPION Terrestrial Hybrid
Kay Nesbitt Trophy
Pterostylis Hoodwink
 Jane & Don Higgs

CHAMPION Australasian Orchid
Dendrobium Australian Freckles
 Steve Howard



All show photos: David Hirst

NOSSA Trophy
Dendrobium Australian Freckles
 Steve Howard



GRAND CHAMPION
of the Show



CHAMPION Epiphytic Hybrid
AOC Trophy
Den. Australian Artist 'Kev'
 Steve Howard



Margaret Fuller Trophy

CHAMPION Novice Terrestrial Sp.
 No award

CHAMPION Novice Epiphytic Sp.
 No award

CHAMPION Floral Art

Vase of native orchids
 Jane Higgs

**IRA BUTLER Nomination &
 Reg Shooter Nomination**

Den. Australian Artist 'Kev'
 Steve Howard

**BILL MURDOCK TROPHY Nom. &
 Les Nesbitt Nomination**

Cyrtostylis huegelii
 Jane & Don Higgs

CHAMPION Epiphytic Species
The Wells Trophy
Dendrobium speciosum 'Windemere'
 Steve Howard



G HERMAN SLADE TROPHY Nom.

Den. Australian Freckles
 Steve Howard



Urgent Call for Tubers

Tubers (or at this stage promise of prospective tubers) are urgently needed for the Tuber Bank.

Please let Jane Higgs know as soon as possible so that she can complete a list before December.

Phone: 08 8558 6247 Email: jhiggs@activ8.net.au

Address: PO Box 134 Myponga, SA 5202

Diuris behrii Project Update

Les Nesbitt

For those of you who were around in 2012 you will remember that NOSSA was given this project to care for and try to propagate plants rescued from the Kanmantoo copper mine in 2011. One of the conditions of the mining lease was that each orchid plant be tracked and later reintroduced to the mine site because *Diuris behrii* is listed as vulnerable in the state act.

We are now in the 7th season of this 10 year project. *Diuris behrii* is a slow multiplier that has proven to be difficult to raise from seed. Mature plants sometimes make two tubers but this is barely enough to make up for losses. The tuber removal method works well with this species which in favourable seasons can double plant numbers.

This spring has seen the best flowering to date. On the 27th September 103 plants were in flower or bud in the shadehouse, (33 mothers, 70 daughters, 0 smalls & 0 seedlings). This is a result of the large tubers formed in the very wet growing season in 2017.



Photos: Les Nesbitt



Tuber removal commenced on this day and will continue until mid-October. The daughter tubers will be done first as they are easier to work with. This year's new tubers are small compared with the old tubers from the previous season.

As these orchids are grown in the heavy red clay soil from Kanmantoo the pots to have the new tubers removed are put under cover in case it rains and makes the soil too wet to work. Spare soil also has to be partly dried out before use. This year's drier spring makes the job easier. Any flower spikes are broken off and discarded. Each plant is knocked out of the pot and the soil gently squeezed off until the new tuber is visible. The plant is held firmly in one hand at the junction of the plant and old tuber while with the other hand the new tuber is twisted and pulled free. The new tuber is potted up as the numbered daughter plant to grow on for next year. The plant is potted up in a separate pot under the clone number.

Usually 3-4 plants of the same clone are grouped together to grow on until November. In good years 1-2 additional smaller tubers are produced per plant before dormancy. After dormancy in December the clone pots are knocked out and the additional tubers potted up. Large tubers become extra daughter tubers in individual pots while the small tubers are put in community pots under the clone number.

All tubers are counted at repotting and again next Autumn as some do not reappear. The small tubers that survive dormancy may take several years to reach flowering size.

Sept NOSSA Meeting guest speaker

John Eaton

The NOSSA meeting held on **Tuesday, September 25th** was attended by 26 members. Our guest speaker was NOSSA Life-member and Committee member, Bob Bates who entertained us with some personal reminiscences and memorable anecdotes of famous South Australian and interstate orchidologists:

- Robert Brown, the father of Australian Botany;
- The eye-catching Rica Ericksson, author of *Ericksoniella* – now a collector's item;
- Dr R S Rogers, Adelaide pathologist and orchidologist;
- Andrew Brown (speaker at our 25th July meeting- last year on “*Western Australia's Summer Flowering Orchids*”) and his collaboration with Noel Hoffman – both of them WA authors, researchers and teachers;
- Steve Hopper, who co-authored a recent book – *Orchids of South West Australia* with orchidologist, Kingsley Dixon;
- The Cleland Dynasty:
William, and his son, Sir John Cleland – also, most recently, Thomas Cleland, g.g.gson of William.
- The Woolcocks: Colin and Dorothy who co-authored *Australian Terrestrial Orchids* (publ. Nelson)..
- David L Jones, horticulturalist and orchidologist;
- Edwin Ashby, father of Alison Blackwood, 1920;
- Gary Backhouse, orchidologist;
- Hans Herman Behr, German American doctor and orchidologist;
- Rev. Hans Herman Rupp, pastor and orchidologist and Rev. Herman Montague and Florence Rupp;
- Jeff Jeanes and Gary Backhouse, contemporary Victorian orchidologists;
- Otto Tepper, 19th C., German-born teacher and orchidologist;
- Professor Ralph Tate, University of Adelaide;
- Ron Herberle.

Rob showed us some of the books from his Orchid Library that were authored by some of these orchidologists.

You may wish to google additional information about the work of these orchidologists.

October Guest Speaker—Kevin Western - Oct 23rd

At this meeting there will be a *Sarcochilus* Show with judging in various categories as listed below. If you have one or more *Sarcochilus* flowering, bring them along. Lots of plants will make for a successful show.

Sarcochilus Show categories

The judges will judge the orchids in categories and choose an overall winner. The owner gets to hold the perpetual trophy for a year.

Classes

Sarcochilus hartmannii

Sarc. falcatus

Sarc. fitzgeraldii

Other *Sarc.* species

Other allied species

Sarc. hybrid – predominately white

Sarc. hybrid – Pink/red

Sarc. hybrid – yellow/green

Sarc. hybrid any other colour

Allied intergeneric hybrid



Photo: David Hirst

Judges will select from within these classes for both species and hybrids:

- The best seedling (Mark seedlings with a white ribbon)
- The best specimen
- The best overall orchid will be Champion *Sarcochilus*

There will be only one division for the Sarc show at the October meeting.

Benched Orchids for August

Les Nesbitt -Registrar

Commentary for the night provided by Steve Howard (Epiphytes) and Les Nesbitt (Terrestrials)

Open Division Epiphyte Species

**1st	<i>Dendrobium striolatum</i> 'Ruffles'	Steve Howard
2nd	<i>Dendrobium falcorostrum</i>	Steve Howard
3rd	<i>Sarcochilus aequalis</i>	Les Nesbitt

Leader: Steve Howard

Judges for the night were: Les Nesbitt
Jane Higgs
Don Higgs

Epiphyte Hybrid

**1st	<i>Den. Hamilton x King Wong</i>	Les Nesbitt
2nd	Rhincs (<i>Colonial Zeal x hartmannii</i>)	Les Nesbitt

Second Division Epiphyte Species

1st	<i>Dendrobium kingianum</i>	Janet Adams
**2nd	<i>Dendrobium linguiforme</i>	R&R Lawrence

Epiphyte Hybrid

1st	<i>Dendrobium</i> Australian Idol	Janet Adams
2nd	<i>Dendrobium X delicatum</i>	Janet Adams
**3rd	<i>Dendrobium</i> Angus	Peter Lukeman

Open Division Terrestrial Species

**1st	<i>Cyrtostylis reniformis</i>	Les Nesbitt
2nd	<i>Caladenia latifolia</i>	Jane Higgs
3rd	<i>Acianthus caudatus</i>	Les Nesbitt

Terrestrial Hybrid

**1st	<i>Diuris</i> Earwig	Jane Higgs
2nd	<i>Chiloglottis X pescottiana</i>	Les Nesbitt
3rd	<i>Caladenia</i> Fairy Floss	Les Nesbitt



Plant of the Night
Diuris Earwig - Jane Higgs

All photos on this page: David Hirst

**Popular Vote winners

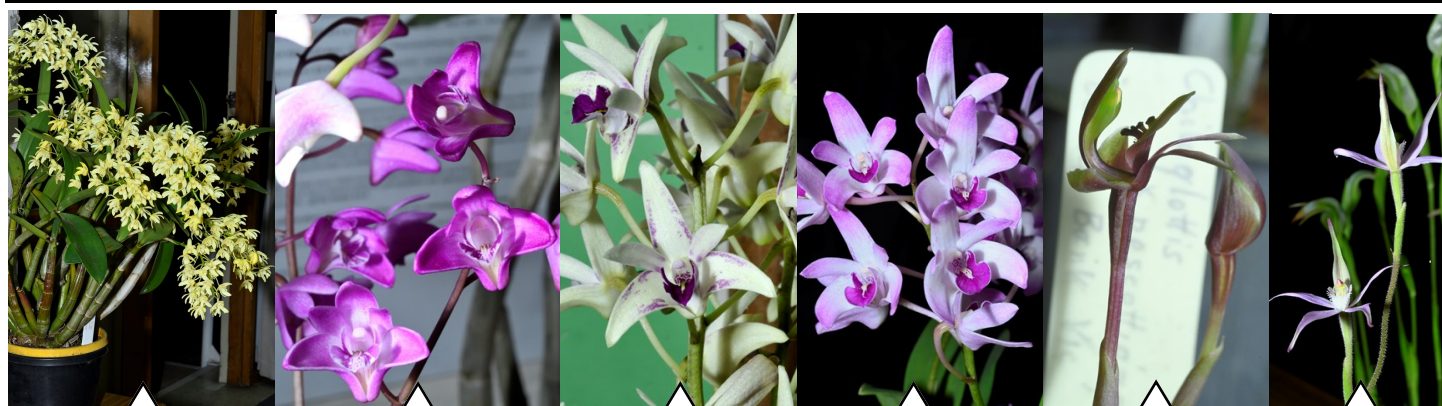


Caladenia latifolia

Cyrtostylis reniformis

Den. striolatum 'Ruffles'

Den. x delicatum 'Apple Blossom'



Den Australian Idol

Den. kingianum

Dendrobium Angus

D. Hamilton x King Wong

C. X prescottiana

C. Fairy Floss



Sarcochilus aequalis



Den. linguiforme



Sarc. Colonial zeal x hartmannii

Winning Photo - September

Rosalie Lawrence



Thank you to everyone who entered photographs this month. It was so good to see some new members entering the competition. There were thirteen entries, all of them flowering in the last few weeks. From these entries there were seven spider orchids representing five species. So, it was not surprising that the winner was a spider orchid, John Fennel's *Arachnorchis reticulata* syn *Caladenia reticulata*.

With over potentially 50 species of spider orchids in South Australia it can at times be difficult to sort them out. Some authors of field guides, such as Jones, Backhouse and Brown, have grouped them into complexes before putting them into alphabetical order. Backhouse has five groups for the spiders of which *C. reticulata* has its own group or complex. Of the 30 named species in the complex, there are at least eight species occurring in South Australia.

They are:	<i>A. calcicola</i>	<i>A. stellata</i>
	<i>A. clavigera</i>	<i>A. strigosa</i>
	<i>A. cruciformis</i>	<i>A. saxatilis</i>
	<i>A. reticulata</i>	<i>A. valida</i>

C. reticulata was once considered to be widespread across south eastern Australia but with the naming of new species within the group it would appear that *C. reticulata* could be restricted to the Adelaide Hills.

The features of the complex are

- small to moderately large spider orchids
- flower colour varies from white to yellow to reddish
- short to long clubs on the sepals, occasionally on the petals
- sepals slightly longer than petals
- labellum short to moderately long teeth, though some have irregular or no teeth
- labellum tip (apex) curve varies from being downcurved to tightly rolled under

Of course, the name *reticulata* refers to the netted patterns of veins on the labellum, although not all in the complex, such as *C. saxatilis*, have these veins.

Reference Backhouse, G (2011) *Spider-orchids the Genus Caladenia and its Relatives in Australia*
 Backhouse, G, et al (2016) *Bush Gems: A Guide to the Wild Orchids of Victoria* Electronic version
 Bates, R. J., ed. (2011). *South Australian Native Orchids*. Electronic version, 2011. NOSSA
 Jones, D. L., *A Complete Guide to Native Orchids of Australia Including the Island Territories*. 2006, Reed New Holland

Orchid Sightings around the State

Observation from Kelvin Powrie Reserve

Lyn Edwards



Lyn writes, "A beautiful clump of *Pheladenia deformis* which I saw at Kelvin Powrie Reserve near Keith."

Field observations: from Mt Lofty

Rosalie Lawrence

While on the Mt Lofty Orchid walk on the October public holiday Monday, a VERY healthy *Thelymitra grandiflora* was spotted.

from Fleurieu Peninsula

On Sunday 16th September a group who were exploring Hardy Scrub found nine *Pyrorchis nigricans** flowering.

Observations from Fleurieu Peninsula

Marg Paech

In our scrub

There are more *Diuris orientis* flowering than I've seen for quite a few years. There have only been the odd flowers, where this year there are patches of a dozen plants flowering. There is a patch of *Diuris* on the roadside which had over 70 flowering plants some years ago. They then disappeared. This year they are back—perhaps about 30 plants. Our scrub is less than 300 metres from there, but the roadside patch had completely finished flowering before our scrub ones opened.

The first *Caladenia carnea* are opening for the season, and there are lots of *Thelymitra antennifera* flowering this year—many more than I've seen in the last few years.



It is extremely dry in our area in general. Although there seem to be a lot of *Glossodia major* flowering, they are withery. Quite surprisingly, the leaves of *Leptoceras menziesii* are not stiff—they feel really withery.

An unusual coloured *Glossodia major*

At Parsons Beach

lots of *Arachnorchis tentaculata* were flowering but most were on stems around 10cm long and even shorter. *Caladenia latifolia* also were quiet stunted.

Two *Pyrorchis nigricans** were flowering quite close to the car park

*Perhaps more than normal reports of *Pyrorchis nigricans* flowerings have been received this year where there has not been a fire incident to trigger flowering.



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

Photos from the Field trip

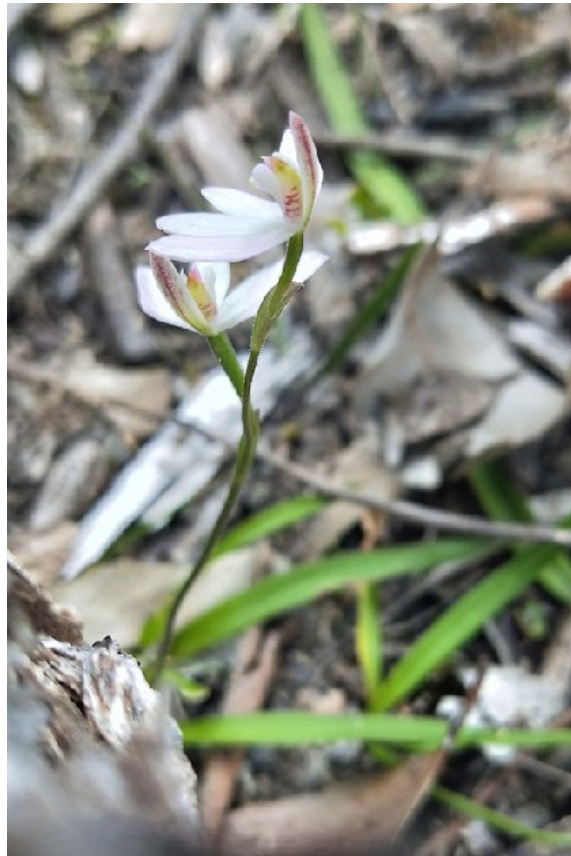
See report on page 102



Arachnorchis behrii



P. nutans



Petalochilus carnea syn *Caladenia carnea*



Arachnorchis behrii



Microtis arenaria



Arachnorchis behrii capsule



Diuris orientis



Arachnorchis reticulata