Native Orchid Society of South Australia

The first Field Trip for 2019 held on Saturday 27th April at Mt Billy.

Three orchid varieties found:
See report inside.

JOURNAL

MAY 2019

Volume 43 No.4

PO Box 14, Kensington Park SA 5068 Website: www.nossa.org.au Phone: 0439 214 106

NOSSA PHONE
0439 214 106

The Committee

President
Gordon Ninnes
Email: nossa.president@gmail.com

Vice President
Robert Lawrence
Email: nossa.membership@gmail.com

Secretary
Lindy McCallum
Email: nossa.secretary@gmail.com

Treasurer
Tony & Ros Miller
Email: nossa.treasurer@gmail.com

Ordinary Committee Members
Craig Humfrey Rosalie Lawrence
Bob Bates *1 more required*

Editor
Marg Paech
Email: nossa.editor@gmail.com

Conservation Officer
Thelma Bridle Ph: 8557 6553.

Registrar of Judges
Les Nesbitt

Other Positions

Field Trips Coordinator –*To be Confirmed*
nossa.fieldtrips@gmail.com

Botanical Advisor
Bob Bates

Librarian
Pauline Meyers

Membership Liaison Officer
Robert Lawrence
Email:nossa.membership@gmail.com

Show Marshall
Craig Humfrey

Speaker Coordinator
John Eaton

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

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 John Eaton
Mr D Wells†	Mr W Dear	

Patron: Mr L. Nesbitt

Contents

TITLE / SUBJECT	AUTHOR	PAGE
Housekeeping— Flasking Day		40
April Committee Meeting Notes		40
Guest Speaker: Katja Hogendoorn	John Eaton	41
Corunostylis ciliate—Winning Photo -March	Rosalie Lawrence	43
I have a question!	Marg Paech	43
Field Trip—Mt Billy - 27th April	Lisa Incoll	44
Field Trips—Guidelines for Participants		45
Photo Competition	Rosalie Lawrence	46
Benched Orchids for April	Les Nesbitt	47
Terrestrial Culture—May	Les Nesbitt	48
May Guest Speaker	John Eaton	48
Field Observation Notes in April	Jenny & Rob Pauley	48
Extra Photos—Field Trip		48a
Extra Photos - Varroa Mite		48b

Front cover - Photo: June Niejalke.

Thelymitra matthewsii is the earliest Thelymitra to flower in South Australia. It flowers in August-September, preferring open areas, especially slashed fire breaks and won't flower when overgrown.

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
May	
11th	Flasking Day—1– 4pm at NOSSA Store Room Wayville - see page 40 for more details
14th	Committee Meeting—7.30pm Venue: 97 Lyons Rd, Windsor Gardens
28th	General Meeting—8 pm start **Guest Speaker**: Members' Night **Subject:** ? See below and page 48
June	
1st	Field Trip—site to be decided—but please register your interest via the Field trip email.
15,16th	SAROC 2019 Orchid Fair [note date change]
29th	Field Trip [This was accidentally missed on the NOSSA calendar.]
August	
21st—26th	ANOS conference - Strathpine, Qld Great holiday opportunity! See page 4 in February Journal for info
September	
13-15th	NOSSA Spring Show and Sale

FIELD TRIP

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

Next Field Trip therefore, will be on 1st June. As previously, please make contact 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 2nd May.*** Early-bird articles - so appreciated!
Please send all articles to nossa.editor@gmail.com ☺

I'd love to hear from anyone who has spotted orchids in the wild that seem a little different, or are the first of a variety to emerge or flower giving general location. This could be useful information for those doing research.

NEW MEMBERS

If you'd like to learn more about terrestrials, or any orchids, feel free to ring the NOSSA PHONE.

John Eaton
Speaker Coordinator
Native Orchid Society of South Australia
Email: *joneaton@bigpond.net.au*
Tel. (08) 8431 5460
Mob. 0419 176 713

GENERAL MEETING May 28th - 8 pm

Guest Speaker: NOSSA Members' Night
Subject: "about orchids" Looking for members prepared to speak for 10 mins each. See below & p. 48

Remember to bring
your orchid plants to be judged
Orchid photos for 'Winning Photograph'
Your name tag so everyone knows who you are.

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

SPEAKERS—NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Do you have an orchid story to tell—maybe a how to… of growing them, tricks you have learned, a surprise orchid find, stories about seeking the elusive orchid? Those who are passionate will have stories and John Eaton would like to encourage you to share with fellow-members at the May Meeting. Email him by 17th May if you can help him out!

NOSSA'S 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

Those front pages …

Do you just pass over the first pages? Maybe you have not noticed that there are notes about the cover flower each month on the second page, below the list of contents. Each month a new fact, or facts, about the flower are printed—bit by bit, to increase your awareness of the orchid – using the 'trickle-feed' technique to teach!

Flasking Day at the NOSSA Lab

Les Nesbitt

When: Saturday 11th May from 1pm to 4pm.

Where: NOSSA Storeroom, Goodwood Tce, Wayville.
(next to the railway line)

Why: Have a go at replating *Dendrobium teretifolia* protocorms into new flasks. You will take home the flask that you replate. Training in the use of a laminar flow cabinet and working in sterile conditions will be given on the day. Replating is the easiest of the lab processes used to raise orchids from seed. Prepared flasks and all materials will be supplied. All members of NOSSA are welcome.

I have a question!

This new section will appear from time to time in the journal. If you have a question you can email it (or post it to the NOSSA post box- see bottom of page 27) and it will appear in the next Journal, with an invitation for anyone to give an answer. Depending on the question it may be referred to some who have specialist knowledge then the replies will be published in the next journal.

This is open for any questions you may have about orchids. It may be about growing them or a problem you are having, or it may be about an observation in the field. Anyone may send in a reply . This section has the potential to facilitate lots of knowledge sharing. I look forward to your questions—and your responses!

Last month's question was also put on social media and drew a response which I have not yet received—that will be in next month's journal. Anyone else with thoughts on Lib's orchid reduction may still email the editor.

April Committee Meeting Notes

The Committee composition

The Committee endorsed the following people into roles:

Patron:	Les Nesbit
Editor:	Marg Paech
Conservation Officer:	Thelma Bridle
Web master:	Rosalie Lawrence
Show Marshall:	Craig Humfries
Registrar of Judges:	Les Nesbit

Because we have a couple holding the treasury role, Tony and Ros Miller, they will have one vote. However, there is a vacancy in the list of Ordinary Committee members (see page 38), so they will have a second vote while that vacancy exixts i.e. they can each vote at a committee Meeting.

Also, Robert Lawrence is now the **minute** secretary while Lindy remains the Secretary. This takes a lot of pressure off Lindy allowing her to concentrate on the many and varied tasks of the Secretary.

April Committee Meeting Notes *contd.*

Printer changes for the journal

Our current printer has closed with almost no notice. For the time being to give breathing space we will continue with a printer at Port Elliot (our printer, Janet, now works for this firm) and the editor will post out the journals. This is a temporary position while printers are investigated for price and suitability.

Special Meeting

This was held at our last general meeting on April 23rd. Permission was granted for Robert Lawrence to change the newly adopted constitution where terms are not consistent— replacing the term "List of members" with "Membership Register".

Life Membership

Congratulations to a well-deserving new life member, John Eaton. He is now in the list of life members on the second page.

Field Trips

Some comments have been heard about having to book in. One of the important reasons for this is so that no one gets left behind. When the organizational side of the trip is working properly someone who expresses interest via the Field Trip email should receive an acknowledgement email promptly along with any information available about the upcoming trip. By the day of the Field Trip they should have been contacted about where the group is meeting and the time. If something happens and they run late they can contact the leader and the group will wait or make arrangements so the participant is not left behind.

April Guest Speaker Notes

John Eaton

"What's the Buzz?"

Dr Katja Hogendoorn 23rd April

While Native and Honey Bees are our main pollinators, there has been noticeable decline in native bee and feral honey bee populations. Katja asks *Why*? And *what happens when bee numbers decline*?

While some plants rely on self-pollination, 80% of flowering plants depend on animals and insects with the main pollinators being bees.

Pollination has a significant economic benefit to us. 75% of food crop species benefit from animal or insect pollination. It's not only fruit but also vegetable seeds, and the seeds of food plants for livestock that need animal or insect pollination. Honey bees, both managed and unmanaged were introduced in 1820s. Feral bees compete with birds, native bees, mammals and managed (hived) bees for nectar, pollen and nesting hollows and are abundant in areas where there are old trees and water. Katja is attempting to quantify the contribution of bees from unmanaged hives to food production in cropping areas - a work in progress.

There are 1700 described species of Australian native bees of which 50 species pollinate crops. Other pollinators include wasps, flies (pollinators of avocados), moths, butterflies and beetles which together account for up to 30% of crop pollination.

April Guest Speaker Notes *contd.*

What has happened globally with bees?

The world awoke to Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) - in the USA and Europe in 2005 - with between 30-50% winter losses observed affecting all bees, native, feral and hived. The CCD which has multiple causes - pesticides, monoculture, disease, climate change, habitat-fragmentation and loss of biodiversity and above all of these - the effect of the Varroa mite (*Varroa destructor)*. The varroa mite became a problem when in the 1960's, this mite jumped from the Asian honey bee (Apis cerana - already in Australia but without the varroa mite) to the European honey bee - Apis mellifera, spreading to Eastern Europe, USSR, Asia and in the 80's to Western Europe and North America. It reached New Zealand in 2000. Australia is one of only two or three countries where it has not been reported.

Hives need to be managed for the varroa mite. Managed (i.e. farmed) hives are better able to avoid or cope with the varroa mite, a vector and incubator of viruses such as the deformed wing virus (DWV). In Australia the numbers of managed hives have nearly doubled since the 1960s. Are honey bees in decline, globally? In managed hives - there has been no decline globally, but there has been a substantial global decline in feral (unmanaged) honeybee hives - *but not yet in Australia*.

What do we know about Australian Native Bees?

There are 1700 *described* Australian native Bee species in Australia alone. They come in all the colours of the rainbow, ranging in size from 2mm to 2.5 cm in body length, numerically 4x the number of mammals and twice the number of bird species, globally. Phenomenally diverse - native bees produce no honey but they are exceptionally important pollinators.

Laura Burkle (in USA) found that when more specialised native bee species disappear - other, more generalist native bee species take over those pollination services – but don't do as well as the specialist bees so overall leading to a decline in seed production. In Australia there is *no Varroa*, *no Colony Collapse Disorder*, *no Deformed Wing Virus* - so feral honey bees are doing well - although drought and seasonality has made it harder for plants to produce nectar and therefore harder for feral bees to produce more honey. What is important for native bees is habitat, and especially the biodiversity of that habitat.

The problem in Australia is native vegetation loss. Only 60% of Australian ecological assemblages remain intact and consequently, Australia is a global hotspot for mass extinctions. Alarmingly, Katja reports that 50% of our described native bees have not been caught in the last 30 years which raises the issue of the *extinction rate* of many of our native bee species. One of those species, the Green Carpenter bee, *Xylocopa aerata* is now extinct in Victoria (last sighted 1938) and mainland SA (last sighted c. 1906). Remaining colonies are found in NSW and the western half of Kangaroo Island (Flinders Chase). The causes of extinction are habitat clearing and large and frequent bushfires.

Katja showed pictures comparing the quality of fruit resulting from *poor* pollination with fruit from *good* pollination. (Clearly we need the diversity of bee species) Growers need to become more aware of pollination-dependent crops; that the close association between native vegetation (especially large eucalyptus trees where most of the bees are located) and pollination-dependent crops like lucerne is important and leads to greatly improved yields. More flora diversity and all-year-round flowering and nectar production is the key to effective, year-round pollination by native bees – they need food ALL year-round!

What we can do?

We can support the conservation program for the KI carpenter bees by planting bee food and by providing bee hotels in our gardens: old eucalyptus logs drilled with holes of varying diameters for a range of native bees and lodged upright in the ground. You can also help Katja with her work on native carpenter bee conservation on Kangaroo Island.

Tax-deductible donations to the Australian Entomological Society will help the conservation effort for native carpenter bee conservation on KI – a remnant habitat of this species which has become extinct in many areas including mainland SA. Click on the link: https://www.austentsoc.org.au/Web/Donations/Donations.aspx.

For the full report check our NOSSA website. See Page 48 for Next month's speaker details.

Winning Photo - March

Rosalie Lawrence

Corunasylis ciliata (syn *Genoplesium ciliatum*). As with so many orchids, it has undergone a few name changes. Originally *Prasophyllum,* then *Genoplesium* and currently *Corunastylis*

Although *Genoplesium* was split into two with only one species remaining in *Genoplesium* and the others placed into *Corunastylis*, this split has not been accepted by the everyone. For example, eflora of SA and PlantNET use *Genoplesium* whilst VicFlora uses *Corunastylis.*

Whilst researching *C. ciliatum* I came across images of *Prasophyllum* spp. being misidentified as *Corunastylis* spp. and as it was originally described in *Prasophyllum* it seems appropriate to examine the similarities and differences between the two genera.

In South Australia (SA), the most obvious difference would appear to be size but across the rest of the country some *Prasophyllum* species potentially can be similar in size to the much smaller *Corunastylis*, although *Corunastylis* species are never as large as many of the *Prasophyllum* species.

Some of the shared features of the two genera are

- multi-flowered on a single stem
- single tubular leaf
- flowers non-resupinate, that is the labellum is above the column and the dorsal sepal is below (the only other non-resupinate flowered orchids in SA are *Gastrodia, Caleana,* including *Paracaleana,* and *Cryptostylis subulata*)
- Grow as scattered individuals

	Prasophyllum	Corunastylis
Size	Tends to be a larger plant (up to 150cm), but can sometimes be as small as *Corunastylis*	Always a small plant (maximum no more than 90mm)
Leaf	Leaf sheaf opens well below the inflorescence (flower head)	Leaf sheaf opens at the base of the inflorescence.
Leaf	Often withered at flowering	Not withered at flowering
Labellum	Immobile Usually curved backwards (recurved) resulting in an upright appearance of the flower.	Mobile Not recurved resulting in a more drooping appearance of the flower
Season	Mainly spring flowering	Mainly autumn flowering
Season	Mainly spring flowering	Mainly autumn flowering

References:
Jones DL *A Complete Guide to Native Orchids of Australia including the Island Territories* 2006
Prasophyllum and Corunastylis descriptions from VicFlora, accessed 1 May 2029
https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/bbf0eb5e-fc8d-426b-9cac-58c384474e17
https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/91aa3829-ead8-407f-9db7-db2357ddb7e1
Bates R & Weber J *Orchids of South Australia* 1990
Jones DL, *et al, Australian Orchid Genera* CD-ROM 2008 CSIRO

Competition Guidelines:
Any type of photograph can be entered as long as Australian Orchids are in the subject. Though there are no other restrictions on the monthly competition, only those featuring South Australian orchids will be eligible for the 2019 calendar competition.

I have a question!

Marg Paech

We have a patch of scrub which has been closed off from stock for a few years now, and which took some years before any sign of orchids appeared despite a very thorough search for a few of the early years. Eventually, the unexpected happened—some Thelymitra were found with buds.

How long would it take for orchid seed to germinate and get to flowering stage—and the other question is: were these Thelymitra there in a dormant state all along or would these have been seeds that germinated and took some seasons before being noticeable?

If you have any thoughts or knowledge on this subject please email the editor. Also last month's question may still be answered—looking for your thoughts on these things. A few thoughts on Lib's question have surfaced and will be printed in the next journal, giving time for more thoughts to come in.

Field Trip Mount Billy C.P.

Lisa Incoll

The orchid season has now officially begun and we were eager to see what we could find for the first field trip of the year—on Saturday 27th April! Four of us met at the Myponga Community Centre and then we headed to Gate 1 of Mount Billy Conservation Park where our leader for the day, Marg Paech was waiting for us.

We walked along with our heads down for a little while before Marg found the first orchid for the day, a species of Corunastylis, distinct to Mount Billy, *Corunastylis* sp. Mt Billy. We saw a couple of patches of *Corunastylis*, and some isolated plants. We noticed that many of the plants were just finishing flowering. Lorraine Badger observed that one particular flower had 10 pods with only 3 being fertilised but we didn't know if that was a common occurrence or not. Marg advised that the *Corunastylis* had been in full flower a couple of weeks before and later in the day when there is more shade they are easier to spot. We had a beautiful sunny day for our field trip but it made it difficult for that perfect photo and we had to make shade for each other to take photos!

Photo: Lisa Incoll

The first *Eriochilus* was found by Lorraine in the sand alongside the path. We were then very excited to find a patch of 10 *Eriochilus* in a small area all in flower and also a plant with two flowers, causing further excitement and lots more photos!

Photo: Lindsay Ames

We continued on our walk, looking for the third species that we were hoping to find and finally the shout went up by Marg and the first *Leporella fimbriata* had been spotted! We saw about 4-5 plants and one plant which had a flower and a bud. A couple of the plants were right in the middle of the path so we had to watch carefully where we were walking!

After eating our lunch in a shady corner and ready for orchid hunting again, we headed off to Gate 4 but unfortunately we didn't find any orchids at this site. We said goodbye to John and Lorraine and the remaining 3 of us went to Hindmarsh Falls for a quick look at the falls (yes there was water in the falls!) and a quick scout around for orchids but again the orchids were being elusive.

The day was very enjoyable and successful in that we found the 3 species that we were hoping to find. I personally was extremely happy to see 3 species that I had never seen before which is always a great thrill!

Photo: John Badger

Photo: Lindsay Ames

Photo: Lisa Incoll

Field Trips *continued from last month*

Reminder: Members are welcome and encouraged to feed back any comments for improvement.

Participant Guidelines

Purpose of Field trips

- Enjoy, with other like-minded people, orchids in the wild
- Learning and education
  - identification, learning the fragility & difficulty of growing, orchid/bushland etiquette, normal growing condition, training for Wild Orchid Watch
- Photograph
  - opportunities, photographic competition
- Conservation
  - develop an understanding of orchid conservation, how they fit into the environment, scientific information gathering, recording orchid distribution & phenology.

People interested in protecting the rarer orchids
need to contact the Conservation Officer for information on how they can help.

Principles of Field Trips

- It is illegal to collect any part of an orchid
- Avoid sensitive sites
  - Field trips will **not** be planned to sites known to have threatened orchids for which knowledge of the location places the orchids at increased risk of harm/extinction.
- Respect environment and people
  - Avoid damage to the surrounding bush/plants
  - Minimal impact – as much as is possible, leave the site as found
- Minimize spread of phytophthora

Register for Field Trip

- Email nossa.fieldtrips@gmail.com to register interest with the Field Trip Co-ordinator
- Information required by the Field Trip Co-ordinator when booking
  - Mobile number (the one you will have on the trip) for last minute changes
  - Emergency name and contact phone number
- Any bush related health issues such as insect & pollen allergies, asthma, EpiPens, etc

What to Bring

- Field Trip Leader's contact phone number
  - As much as possible the leader should have the NOSSA phone
- Epipens or relevant medications
- Wear sturdy clothing and shoes
- Hat, sun cream, water
- Snake protection – closed shoes, long trousers or gaiters
- Cameras, GPS, hiking sticks (two-way radios have their uses), whistle
- Name badge
- Lunch as arranged when registering

Field Trips *Contd*

Children are welcome but remain under the supervision of their guardians at all times

NO dogs on field trips

On the Field Trip

- Read the Safety Sheet and sign the Attendance Sheet
  - Phytophthora hygiene
    - Use Phytophthora Kit
- Clean shoes of mud and soil and spray with methylated spirits/Phytoclean before & after entering site and when changing locations
- Follow leader's instructions regarding
  - Tracks/trails
  - Private land owner's instructions
  - Bushland etiquette
  - Watch where you put your feet
  - Photograph etiquette
  - Caged orchids: do **not** remove the cages for any reason

- Avoid getting lost
  - Maintain ear/eye contact with others
  - Have a 'Tail End Charlie'
- Leave the sites as you find them
- Notify the leader before leaving the field trip, so that everyone is accounted for at field trip end

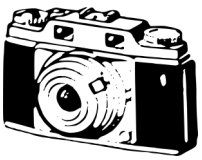
Winning Photo April

Rosalie Lawrence

April's winner was Caladenia plicata photographed by Shane Graves

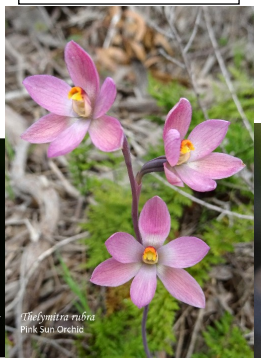
Other contenders:

Cyrtostylis subulata
2 photos
John Fennell



Thelymitra rubra
Lisa Incoll

Speculantha sp
Kate Czban



Paracaleana nigrita
Shane Graves

Thanks to modern technology, this month entries came from Eyre Peninsula, the South East and Adelaide Hills as well as Adelaide.

Remember that only South Australian orchids qualify for the annual Calendar Competition.

Benched Orchids for April

Les Nesbitt - Registrar

Leader: Jane Higgs

Judge for the night was: Don Higgs

Commentary for the night provided by Les Nesbitt

Open Division Epiphyte Hybrid

**1st *Den.* Jonathan's Glory 'Dark Joy'	Les Nesbitt

Open Division Terrestrial Species

***1st Pterostylis truncata*	Les Nesbitt
**2nd *Eriochilus cucculatus*	Les Nesbitt
3rd *Genoplesium rufum*	Les Nesbitt

**Popular Vote winners

Plant of the Night

Pterostylis tuncata — Les Nesbitt


Photo David Hirst

A 175mm pot of *Pterostylis robusta (Diplodium robustum)* grown by Les Nesbitt was the judge's pick on the night. There were 3 plants in flower: 1 in bud, 2 with aborted buds and 11 rosettes in the container.

Les had a blue tag in the pot which denotes watering from January on. In Victoria this species is now rare in the wild. This cultivar originally came from the You Yang Ranges in Southern Victoria. Les obtained tubers via the ANOS-Vic tuber bank many years ago. He grows it in a 50% shadehouse with a little liquid fertilizer in the early growth stages. It is an easy species to grow but is a shy flowerer in Adelaide. The pot must be kept as cool as possible from February until flowering so placing it under the bench helps.

All photos: David Hirst

Eriochilus cucculata

foreground: Genoplesium rufum
behind: Pterostylis truncata

Den. Jonathan's Glory 'Dark Joy'

Terrestrial Culture—May

Les Nesbitt

The majority of terrestrials will have leaves showing by month's end. A few stragglers like SA corybas and WA *Cyrtostylis huegelii* will not appear until June so do not panic yet. *Pterostylis truncata* (little dumpy) flowers this month with a large flower on a short stem. This species is given a blue tag to denote watering from January otherwise there will be no flowers under Adelaide conditions. Move the Autumn flowering greenhoods under cover as the flowers open because they generally have tall thin stems that will bend over under the weight of rain drops on the flowers. Rot can be a serious problem in May. Do not overwater if there is little rain, and inspect plants closely and often. The rot can be on the leaves or below ground. Look for plants that are not thriving and give them a gentle tug to see if there are any roots. Move infected plants away from healthy plants to a hospital area under cover. Water from below by standing the pot in a saucer of water. Keep the leaves dry. Good air movement and at least 5 hours sunlight a day are essential for the next 3 months. The fast multiplying orchids will appreciate a weak dose of liquid fertilizer once a month until spring. Weeding is a chore this month as weed seeds germinate after rain. Pull them out while they are small maybe even with the help of tweezers.

Virus

Inspect plants closely for virus as the symptoms show in the emerging leaves. All plants can be infected with viruses of which there are many. There is no cure for virus. Infected plants must be destroyed to prevent virus spreading to healthy plants via sap sucking insects or human activities spreading sap. Infection during the growing season does not show up in the leaves until the following year. It is difficult to eliminate virus entirely hence the need to be vigilant. Virused pterostylis leaves may have light & dark green blotches or be thicker than normal and look crippled or turned up at the edges. Another sign to look for are pointed pimples on caladenia and pterostylis leaves. Virus is harder to spot on the narrow leaves of diuris and thelymitra. Healthy leaves are straight with almost parallel sides. Leaves that have kinks or are curved probably have a virus. Variegated blotching may be present in severe cases.

If only one or two plants in a community pot show symptoms they can be lifted out soon after the leaves appear and before side stolons form. A tool can be made from wire to do this. Bend a foot on the bottom of the wire and a loop handle on the other end. Push the foot into the mix alongside the infected plant, rotate the foot under the tuber and lift the plant out. If several plants are virused it is better to dump the whole pot, soil and all.

A sieve is a great time saver during repotting but at the same time an excellent way to spread virus. Do not shake the sieve when tubers are present. Pick out the tubers as you see them and drop them into a smaller kitchen sieve sitting in an ice-cream container of water. The sand and dirt washes off and falls through leaving clean tubers behind. Use a jet of water to remove any remaining dirt. Pat the lumps of mix in the big sieve to crush them to expose any tubers. Shaking the sieve is the equivalent of sandpapering the tubers, a sure way to spread virus. All efforts should be made to eliminate virus from an orchid collection. Refuse new plants that look suspect.

May Guest Speaker Spot - Member's Night

John is looking for MEMBERS to speak for 10 minutes about orchids -

about orchid growing, or the seed bank,
orchid presentation,
orchid work with schools,
orchid photography,
rare orchids or orchid hotspots e.g. in drought – or other orchid-related topic.

If you'd be willing to give it a go, contact John (details on page 39) by **Friday, May 17th**. Otherwise John may have to present something on the Underground Orchids of WA, NSW (and SA?). Now there's a threat!

Field Observation notes for April

Jenny & Rob Pauley

April 9th Sir Mark Oliphant CP 30 *Corunastylis* sp. Adelaide hills?; 2fls. & 3 buds *Eriochilus collinus*

April 10th Mylor CP 7 *Corunastylis* sp Adelaide hills; Eriochilus just starting flowers and buds .

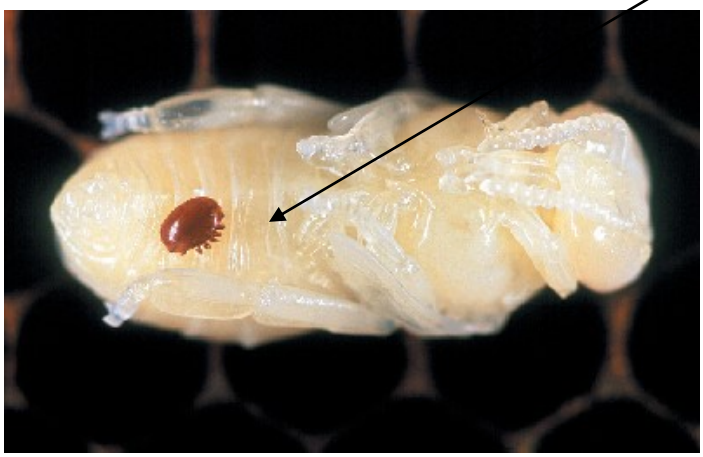
April 12th Monarto CP 16 *Corunastylis fuscoviridis* flowers and buds.(out from tank)

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

Field Trip Photos Mt Billy

Varroa destructor mite

Mites on bees and lava



Size of the mite compared with a fingernail and match