Native Orchid Society of South Australia









JOURNAL

DECEMBER 2019

Volume 43 No.11

Native Orchid Society of South Australia Journal December 2019

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WEBSITE: NOSSA.org.au The Native Orchid Society of South Australia promotes the conservation of orchids through preservation of natural habitat and cultivation.

Except with the documented official representation of the management committee, no person may represent the Society on any matter. All native orchids are protected in the wild; their collection without written Government permit is illegal.

Life Members

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Front cover - Photos: June Niejalke.

Thelymitra matthewsii—Has this cover with notes about a somewhat rare terrestrial orchid helped you? Maybe you have seen one in the field—we'd love to hear from you. We won't publish locations but would be good to hear about any finds.

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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 pm Doors to the hall open from 7:15 pm to allow Members access to the Library and Trading Table.

DATE	EVENT
December	
10th	Committee Meeting — 7.30pm — venue: APS Club Rooms, 21a Richards Tce, Goodwood
2020	
January	NO regular MEETINGS
11th	NOSSA Workshop - 10 am with lunch, continuing into the afternoon—all welcome
February	
11th	Committee Meeting—7.30pm—venue: APS Club Rooms, 21a Richards Tce, Goodwood
25th	General Meeting—8pm start—John Fennell "British Native Orchids"
March	
10th	Committee Meeting — 7.30pm — venue: APS Club Rooms, 21a Richards Tce, Goodwood
14th	Propagating Workshop

FIELD TRIP

Field trips are held on the Saturday following the General Meeting. No trips are planned until May 2020.

Next Field Trip will be on 2nd May, seasonally affected. 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*<u>Wed 5th February</u>
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.

BANKING DETAILS

BSB 105 011, Account no 073 181 741 Add your name and NOSSA Membership number for allocation of funds.

NEW MEMBERS

This month we welcome:

Judy Calicchio, Ingle Farm Colin, Alex & Judi MacDonald, Christies Beach Richard Crinion & Marilyn Buckerfield, Blackwood

We look forward to getting to know you soon, and hope your membership will help you in your orchid journey.

GENERAL MEETING February25th - 8 pm

Guest Speaker: John Fennell Subject: "British Native Orchids"

Remember to bring

your orchid plants to be voted for orchid photos for 'Photo Competition' your name tag so everyone knows who you are

VENUE:

St Matthews Hall, Cnr Wellington & Bridge St, Kensington

TUBER BANK

Jane Higgs has once again prepared the list of tubers available for sale. In emailed journals this will be on the back page and in the posted journals it will be in loose form. Contact Jane for more information - see opposite page for her contact.

PRIVATE FACEBOOK PAGE



This is open to any of our NOSSA paid-up members <u>but</u> <u>not your non NOSSA friends</u>. It is a place for discussing orchid issues and photos, and allows for more detail than we would share openly for the general public. Email:nossa.enquiries@gmail.com to join.

INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

All contact details including who to contact in our NOSSA team are on the previous page. If you don't know who to direct your enquiry to, send it to the Secretary who will re-direct it if necessary.

Tuber Bank

The Tuber Bank is an excellent means of building up a collection. Jane Higgs has produced an order form. Because there are so few tubers available you will need to be quick to get what you want!

Closing date for orders is the 3^{rd} January, 2020 and they will be posted out the week starting the 13th January, 2019. Please post the order form to Jane Higgs with your order.

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

NOSSA 2020 Calendars

Calendars are available for members to purchase. A great gift idea for someone who loves orchids or even just flowers.

Copies will be available for sale at our meetings and at other NOSSA events. Contact Rosalie Lawrence by email at nossa.enquiries@gmail.com to order your copies and to arrange the best way of getting them - postage may become rather expensive and Rosalie will work with you to find the easiest and cheapest method in your circumstances.

Get your order in so you don't miss out. You may like to take extras for friends, or maybe you know an outlet where Rosalie could sell them i.e. through a book shop near you!

Postage will cost \$5 for one calendar; to send 2 or 3 calendars in one package will cost \$7.

An informative, unique A4 calendar which features:

- ~ orchids found nowhere else in the world
- ~ flowering times for each month
- ~ details of the individual monthly species

Price: \$15 (members \$10) plus Postage & Handling Available only from the Native Orchid Society of South Australia Contact: Rosalie Lawrence 0488 159 357 nossa.enquiries@gmail.com

Fire in Cathedral Rocks National Park

Serpentine Nature Reserve, Styx River State Forest NSW

Dear Readers.

Yesterday I visited the *Diuris eborensis* [venosa] site near Ebor NSW. Fortunately the site was not burnt out by the Cathedral Rocks fire. Unfortunately, my 2 hour survey revealed that not one single plant in flower was found. This included the fenced and non fenced areas. The area not fenced [fencing was promised by the Department of Heritage ... earlier this year], showed indications of the past presence of cattle and sheep plus rabbits as well. The fire got to within 200 metres of the site.

This is the largest site for this species. I do not see it EVER recovering. The ground was mostly bare of native grasses.

I thought I would add that this fire, deliberately lit, is as I now write, impacting on the **New England National Park** having joined with a fire to the south that has burnt out Jeogla and Georges Creek, heading for Point Lookout. This area is a world heritage area and will not and cannot survive without proper firefighting resources. Already this fire has burnt

out 23,000 hectares of terrestrial orchid habitats and is about to burn out 3,000 year-old Antarctic Beech trees that contain almost all the epiphyte orchid species in this park.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT???????????????

Please pass this on to anyone who may have some interest. This is serious.

The 11th commandment is 'THOU SHALT NOT STAND IDLY BY'

Peter Dowling
Conservation Officer
Newcastle ANOS group



November Committee Meeting Notes

Documentary about NOSSA

A team of second-year undergraduate students from UniSA has produced an eight-minute documentary on UniSA featuring Les Nesbitt, Bodo Jensen and Rosalie Lawrence. The students were encouraged to produce a documentary that would appeal to their age group. It still needed a bit of editing, but they did well to compile the main points from much longer interviews. This will be available online.

Benched Orchid changes for 2020

With a heavy heart Les Nesbitt proposed that judging be discontinued next year at monthly meetings, except for the Sarcochilus show in October; often only two judges are present and they should not judge their own plants. Also, there are no NOSSA members being trained as orchid judges. The popular vote at monthly meetings will be extended to choosing the plant of the night.

Judging at the Spring Show will continue and the perpetual trophies will continue to be awarded. The plan is to have the list of past winners on the NOSSA website.

Propagation news

Another seed propagation workshop was held on 9 November 2019. The next one is planned for 14 March 2020. It is good to see members involved. The event is also a social event at which people have plenty of opportunity to talk about native orchids, or anything else for that matter. There is plenty of scope for more members to attend and the committee would like to encourage people to try. Growing orchids in jars doesn't take up much room.

Internal matters

A review of the NOSSA Spring Show is planned for Saturday 11 January 2020. We will start at 10 am and expect to have lunch together and continue in the afternoon. Members who are not on the committee are welcome to be involved. Strategic issues, such as recruiting members and the calendar may be discussed as well.

Another former grower is no longer able to keep his collection of epiphytic orchids. A collection has been purchased for \$250 and two of the pots have since been divided into about 15 smaller pots. It is expected that some of these will be ready for sale at the Spring Show in 2020.

Website, social media

Robin Goodfellow has now been made an administrator for the NOSSA website and for both Facebook pages. Rosalie Lawrence continues to be an administrator for the NOSSA website. Robert Lawrence continues to be an administrator for the public NOSSA Facebook page. Colin Rowan, Rosalie Lawrence, Robert Lawrence and Robin Goodfellow are now the administrators for the NOSSA Members Gallery private Facebook page.

Rosalie reported that she has had difficulty in adding members to the private NOSSA Members Gallery Facebook page. She discovered that she needed to use the email address that they use for Facebook. Any other email address will not work.

2020 Membership Fees

The fees for 2020 will remain the same and reminders with details for payment will be sent out to each member in due course. They are \$20 for those receiving only email journals

\$30 for those receiving printed copies.

These costs have remained the same since November 2017

(Please note that those paying for printed copies may request an emailed copy as well at no extra cost.)

Trophy Presentation

At the December general meeting the trophies from the NOSSA Spring Show were awarded. See next page for photos. Les Nesbitt and Jane Higgs were the recipients.

2019 final meeting



Guest Speakers

John Eaton

On February 25th **John Fennell**, a member whose name comes up very frequently in the Photo Competition will show photos of British orchids he spotted while visiting there.

At our March 24th meeting, **Rick Davies** will speak on the subject, "To burn or not to burn? That is the question.' in relation to native orchids. Rick will talk on the *effect of season of burn on orchid emergence and flowering*. All the field work for this project will be undertaken in the Mt Lofty Ranges. This is a collaborative project with SA DEW who will be undertaking some burns specifically for this research. Baseline (pre-fire) monitoring for this project will commence in 2020.

Rick will present the results of previous ecological burns for threatened orchids, when he was working as Threatened Flora Ecologist with DEW. His aim is to enthuse NOSSA members who might be interested in helping in a volunteer capacity with orchid searches in 2020 and assist in the monitoring needed for this new PhD project.

(Wild Orchid Watch software will probably have a useful role to play in extending our coverage for this survey and recruiting more into orchid spotting.)

Two meetings not to be missed!

I have speakers for most of the other months but I'm still to confirm these. I'm always interested in further leads so I appeal to members to let me know if they have an interesting topic themselves or if they've heard a particularly good speaker.

October Photo Competition

Roslalie Lawrence

Yes, it is the October competition just running late!



The October winner was Pauline Meyer's *Caladenia caesarea* subsp *maritima* (Cape Mustard Orchid) from Western Australia. It is a spider orchid which flowers in August - September. It is both endangered and endemic with a very limited location. *Maritima* means of the sea, and it is found on coastal granite outcrops.

Overall Winner 2019

John Fennell took out the honours for this competition with his photo of the Large Bird Orchid (*Simpliglottis valida*) pictured bottom right. This photo will grace the cover of the 2021 NOSSA calendar. **Congratulations!**

There were many who entered the competition over the past year with some really great photos. Thank you to each of you who took the time to enter them for our enjoyment, and thank you too, to Rosalie Lawrence for the time and effort which has gone in to staging this competition each month.

Keep your cameras rolling and we look forward to the many and varied entries in 2020.



Field Trip - Scott Conservation Park, 30th November

Mike Burrell



We commenced our morning with the traditional "purification of the shoes" ceremony, in order to prevent the spread of Phytophthora. While Robert attended to the soles of our footwear, Leo gave a short talk reminding members of the importance of not interfering with monitored orchid sites. It is essential that protective cages, pins and plants are not disturbed. Unfortunately, not everyone respects these sites, as has been recorded on security cameras.

We set off on the Watercourse Hike which is a 2.6 km loop circuit through open forest dominated by pink and blue gums, and an understory of various native shrubs and grasses. The park is situated on gently sloping land with an area of 2.1 square kilometres. Although relatively undisturbed, Scott Conservation Park has its share of invasive species that are a threat to the native biodiversity.

After a short walk we reached the off-track area where we expected to find our target orchid, *Orthoceras strictum*. The area we searched was relatively open compared with other sections of the park. The orchid lacks a large ostentatious flower and blends in well with the surrounding sword—sedge (*Lepidosperma* sp.) and so is not easy to spot unless you know what to look for. This was evidently the case for the less experienced NOSSA members. The orchid's tall thin stem varies in colour from green to reddish brown and is a similar colour and height to the sedge it grows amongst on the sandy soil. The introduced South African Weed Orchid (*Disa bracteata*) was prevalent, although they were well past their prime.

After initially eluding the group's efforts to find a plant, the first specimen was eventually discovered. The orchids were soon revealing themselves as we got our collective eye in and it was not long till the cameras starting clicking. The orchid's thin leaves, flower stem and small flowers presented a challenge to capture a sharply focused image for those of us who use phone cameras. This orchid answers to the common name of the crucifix orchid as a yellow cross can be seen on the darker labellum. If your preferences are more secular, this orchid may also be referred to as the horned orchid according to Robert's indispensable reference "Start with the Leaves". What the orchid lacked in "look at me flowers" it made up for in an understated charm.



NOSSA members resorted to prostrating themselves in order to get up close and personal with the sexy parts of the orchid, although resuming an upright position was proving more difficult for some. GPS coordinates were recorded in order to compare locations and numbers with previous visits to this site. The Lawrences had recorded 187 orchids on a previous trip in November 2016. The numbers were well down for our visit, but that did not stop our enthusiastic efforts to seek out the choicest specimens for image capturing.

Sun orchids (*Thelymitra* sp.) that had finished flowering and were reduced to the capsules on the thin flower stems were also common. It was suggested that it may be worth returning to the park when they are in their full flowering glory.

Eventually we moved back onto the walking track and continued to make our way through the delightful bush that was full of bird song and the occasional fleeting kangaroo. An echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*) crossed our path, but on seeing the NOSSA group it headed for the nearest bush and buried its head in the sand. It made its intentions obvious

that it did not want to cooperate with the photographic efforts of the ensuing frenzied paparazzi. A large Shingleback lizard (*Tiliqua rugosa*) was also encountered, and she was more than happy to pose for the cameras. An onion orchid (*Microtis* sp.) in fruit was found in the understory of the scrub.



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Due to the lack of orchids in the latter stages of the walk on the fire track, NOSSA improvised and morphed into a bird watching / native plant society. A Golden Whistler (*Pachycephala pectoralis*) standing its ground in an old blue gum caused particular excitement for some members of the club. A lone shrubby bush with tubular green flowers, thought to be an Eremophila and subsequently identified as *Prostanthera chlorantha*, (a member of Mint Family - Lamiaceae) also managed to quicken the pulse of those with botanical inclinations that extend beyond orchids. A group of *Lobelia gibbosa* (Family Campanulaceae) was also discovered by Robert. They consisted of long thin shoots and could be mistaken for orchids. The papery yellow flower heads of the button everlasting *Coronidium scorpioides* made an appearance on the edge of the fire track.

It was a enjoyable day; the rain held off, the flies were not overwhelming, no one came to grief from the wildlife or terrain, and we all learnt something new.

Thanks to Lisa and Marg for organizing and leading the field trip and all the NOSSA members who attended and shared their enthusiasm, knowledge and experience.

[More photos and species list Page 132a in emailed copy. Ed.]



Anzybas unguiculatus



Marg Paech

Lindsay Ames caught this photo. It is a photo to that I have fallen in love with.

So often in conversation it becomes quite apparent that people have no concept of how small an orchid flower is. We see photos of tiny flowers taken with super macro settings on the camera and expect to see something quite substantial out in the field.

However, this lovely little orchid is so tiny and not at all easy to spot in the field.

The reason I love this photo is that it illustrates so well, the relative size of the Anzybas flower. The Nemacianthus caudatus alongside is very obviously a tiny plant, but the Anzybas is still dwarfed by it.

Glenthorne National Park

There are opportunities for volunteers to become involved in this fairly newly created National Park to the south of Adelaide. On their website www.glenthorne.sa.gov.au there is a link on the page to 'Join the Glenthorne Action Team'.

Interested members can keep up-to-date on the creation of Glenthorne National Park by clicking on the 'Get involved' link at the top of the home page and subscribing to Glenthorne's enews.

it is envisioned that Glenthorne National Park will include picnic areas, heritage buildings, walking and cycling trails, and 200 hectares of native revegetation creating an urban forest that will be enjoyed for generations to come. Feeling inspired to lend a hand? register on the website and be the first to know about upcoming events.

Benched Orchids for November—the photos



Sarc. Patricia Abell 'Pink +Chiffon

Jane & Don Higgs

Diuris Dragonfly

Les Nesbitt



Benched Orchids for November

Les Nesbitt - Registrar

Judging: was by popular vote

Epiphytes



PLANT OF THE NIGHT

Open Division Epiphytic Species

Cym. Canaliculatum var. sparksii Les Nesbitt

Les has had the Cymbidium pictured above for 54 years. An annual flowerer, it grows in Les' shade house under 50% shade being fertilised only in Summer as he does all other Cymbidiums.

It is kept completely dry from the end of April until the flower spikes emerge in Spring.

Terrestrials

PLANT OF THE NIGHT
Open Division Terrestrial Species
Pterostylis maxima Les Nesbitt

The leaves of this orchid are dead by the time it actually flowers—characteristic of the Rufa group of orchids.

Les has only had this orchid for 5 years. It grows in his shadehouse under 50% shade, flowering every year. He fertilises it very little — and only in Springtime.

Photos: Les Nesbitt

TIED

Epiphytic Species Terrestrial Species

Cym. Canaliculatum var. sparksii Les Nesbitt Pterostylis maxima Les Nesbitt

Epiphytic Hybrid Terrestrial Hybrid

Sarc. Patricia Abell 'Pink +Chiffon J&D Higgs Diuris Dragonfly Les Nesbitt

Judging to cease at monthly meetings

On the recommendation of the Registrar of Judges, the Committee have decided to cease the judging of orchids at monthly meetings. Insufficient judges are attending meetings to get a fair result as judges cannot judge their own plants.

Instead there will be the usual popular vote with an additional vote card for the plant of the night. At the end of the year the members present will vote on the best of the ten months for the perpetual trophy (formerly the judge's trophy). The new system commenced at the November meeting. The Spring show will still be judged.



Terrestrial Culture - December

Les Neshitt

A few late orchids such as *Diuris drummondii* may still have green leaves and flowers so will need watering every couple of days. Most terrestrials will have died down by now on the Adelaide Plain. Watering consists of a quick squirt with the hose once a week to moisten the top 1cm to prevent tubers shriveling. A small terrestrial collection of pots can be moved to a cooler place out of direct sun under a bench or to the south side of the house. A

Repotting is in full swing now. Keep a stock of the required materials on hand including sand, soil, native potting mix, clay, blood & bone, chopped sheoak needles, smashed and sieved gum leaves, pots, labels, shadecloth squares for crocking, pencils to write on plastic, sieve and bowl, watering can & shadehouse benching. A system for washing and sterilizing pots before reuse is essential to control disease and virus.

large collection must stay on the benches so extra shadecloth is added for the summer.

Pots dry out quickly in hot windy weather. Water a day or 2 before repotting so that the potting mix is just moist. If too dry dust will be a problem and tubers can be damaged by hard lumps of mix. Too wet and the mix sticks to the tubers and clogs the sieve. The ideal is a mix that is easy to work when separating tubers from mix. It helps to move some pots under cover in case of rain. Wet pots take several days to dry out which can hold up repotting. Alternatively, a sheet of plastic over the pots when rain is forecast will shed the water but remember to weigh it down with bricks or it will blow away.

Pick out the tubers and put them in a kitchen sieve sitting in a container of water. Use a jet of water to wash the tubers clean and spread them on a towel to dry. Discard any tubers that are soft or have turned black. If the tubers are healthy, firm and a pale colour the mix can be reused. Colony type tubers should have at least doubled in number since last year. Add half fresh mix to the old mix and add a big pinch of blood & bone fertilizer. Should the old mix be dark in colour, or the tubers not be healthy looking then throw out the old mix and pot up in new mix.

Select the pot size, place a shadecloth square in the pot to retain the mix when it dries out. Fill the pot with mix to about 2cm from the top. Select the largest tubers for a show pot and push them into the mix with the shoot on top. The small tubers can be potted in another pot to grow bigger next year. Cover the tubers with more mix and almost fill the pot. Firm the mix down with your hand or use the bottom of an empty pot. Cover the surface with chopped sheoak needles. Write out a label with the name of the orchid and the provenance, if known. On the back of the label note the number of tubers and the date planted. Water

the pot gently so as to not disturb the needles. This helps settle the soil around the tubers and makes subsequent watering easier. Put the finished pots back in the shadehouse to await the next growing season.

Send off your tuber bank order before Christmas or you might miss out on your choices. The tuber bank is a great way to increase your terrestrial collection.

Terrestrial Culture - January

Les Nesbitt

Start watering the blue tag pots in January. Pots of orchids from the East Coast of Australia where it rains in Summer are given a blue tag as the culture is different compared to local terrestrial orchids. This early shooting group includes most cauline greenhoods, *Ptst. baptistii* and *Corybas hispidus*. Local South Australian tubers can be kept completely dry until at least mid-February if pots are shaded.

When your tuber bank order arrives, pot up the tubers straight away. Plant each species in a separate 125mm or 150mm pot. Don't forget to record the provenance name (if known) on the label and in your recording system. The provenance is the location of the original collection. Provenance is important because in 10 years the orchid will possibly be extinct in that area as suburbia expands or weeds take over the habitat.

Summer watering is important. Too little and tubers may dry up. Too much and they may rot or come up early before the heat of summer is over when they will be attacked by thrip and aphids. A light sprinkle on top of the pots once a week works OK.

Try to finish repotting this month. If left until February there is more chance of breaking off the new shoots which can be well developed by late February.

From the Field Trip...

Species list

Orthoceras strictum Microtis sp. with dried capsules Thelymitra species most likely Calochilus species in capsule possibly Glossodia major in capsule. Diuris brevifolia capsules





Has large ovary

Note the characteristic curling of the lateral sepal Usually found among other orchid species.

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The table of trophies...



More photos of Benched Orchids for November



Would you like to know more about how to grow orchids like these? Our growers would be very happy to give you some tips and help you on your way. By going along to a Propagating Workshop, these skills can be learned in the company of others who are there to learn too. An opportunity not to be missed. Next workshop on 14th March 2020. More details will be in the next journal

Thanks to Les Nesbitt who puts so much time and energy into staging the benched orchids each month. He also spends lots of time showing members and even school classes how to grow orchids from seed. As Les says on page 132, one day they may no longer be growing in the wild where we first found them, so to be able to propagate them may be very useful in the future.

ncoll

NOSSA TUBER BANK FOR 2019 / 2020

It has been a bad year for terrestrials in SA and I have only I thank all growers who have generously promised tubers which need to reach me by the first week of January Please record tuber provenance, if known. received 3 lots of donations from others. I hope to be able to supply the tubers listed but I had a lot of frost damage this year so PLEASE LIST SUBSTITUTES. Closing date for orders is the 3rd January, 2020 and they will be posted out the week starting the 13th January, 2019

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		Acianthus soxatilis	limited		17		Pterostylis curta			
		Caladenia latifolia pink	Anglesea Vic		18		Pterostylis hildae		Warrumbungle NSW	
		Chiloglottis trapeziformis	Cravensville Vic		19		Pterostylis nutans			
		Chiloglottis aff truncate	Cravensville Vic.		20		Pterostylis robusta			
		Conybas diemenicus	Kuitpo, SA		21		Pterostylis truncata		You Yang Vic	
		Conybas hispidus	South Queensland		22		Pterostylis concinna		Toukley NSW	
		Corybas hispidus dk form	Vic		23		Pterostylis Dusky Duke	uke		
		Diplodium laxum	Bungonia, NSW		24		Pterostylis Dusky Duke	uke	Tasmania	
6		Diuris conspicillata	WA		25		Pterostylis Nodding Grace	Grace		
10		Diuris drummondii 'Buttery'			26		Pterostylis nutans			
11		Diuris orientus	Langwarren Vic.		27		Pterostylis Hoodwink	Ä		
12		Diuris orientus yellow form	Kuipto. SA		28		Pterostylis Trunkfish	ų		
13		Microtis arenaria	Loch Sport, Vic.		29		Thelymitra nuda			
14		Microtis fruitetorum			30		Pterostylis repandum	E	New Caladonia	
15		Microtis parviflora	Loch Sport Vic.		31		Pterostylis repandum La Foa	ım La Foa	Numea	
16		Microtis unifolia			32		Serapias lingua		European terrestrial	
vame:		Name:Address:		Address:					Post Code	
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heque/Mc	oneyC	Cheque/Money Order to be made payable to N.O.S.S.A.	N.O.S.S.A.	(In Australian Dollars)	n Dollars	_		(5)		

ncoll