

NOSSA

Native **O**rchid **S**ociety *of* **S**outh **A**ustralia



How to take stunning photos

Understanding those foreign
terms for Acianthus

Queen of Sheba secret revealed

JOURNAL

JUNE
2020

Volume 44 No.5

Front cover - *Pterostylis truncata* commonly called the Brittle Greenhood or Little Dumpies. Photo: Les Nesbitt

Pterostylis truncata is a species of orchid endemic to eastern Australia. It is easily distinguished from other greenhood orchids by its short habit and relatively large, "dumpy", green, white and brown flowers. It is widespread and common in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory but is classed as "endangered" in Victoria due to severe habitat loss - a result of urbanisation.

Pterostylis truncata, like a number of other orchid varieties, has a rosette of between two and six bright green, egg-shaped to lance-shaped leaves, each leaf 10–35 mm long and 5–18 mm wide. When it flowers it produces a single white flower with green and brown stripes, borne on a cauline stem 50–150 mm (2–6 in) high. There are between two and five cauline leaves closely wrapped around the cauline spike. The flowers are 35–45 mm (1–2 in) long, 7–20 mm (0.3–0.8 in) wide and inflated, leaning forward with a downturned tip. The dorsal sepal has a sharp point and the petals turn inwards underneath it. The lateral sepals have a deep V-shaped sinus between them and each sepal has a thread-like tip 25–30 mm (0.98–1.2 in) long.

The Brittle Greenhood (*Pterostylis truncata* Fitzg.) is a ground-dwelling orchid which emerges in autumn from an underground tuber and dies back in early winter. Individuals may emerge as solitary flowers (rarely two) with cauline leaves or as rosettes with two to six leaves and no flower for the season. (c.f *Bunochilus* and *Urochilus*).

Orchid News

Wild Orchid Watch launches app

Wild Orchid Watch is a national citizen science project designed to collect, record and share scientific information about Australian native orchids.

You can now install the Wild Orchid Watch (WOW) app on your mobile device, simply by typing in your internet browser: app.wildorchidwatch.org and follow the prompts. The WOW app is a progressive web app, so it sits on the web not in the app store, but looks just like a regular app once installed. And what's more, it is FREE!



The newly launched app feeds data directly to iNaturalist. Orchid observations collected using the WOW app are identified, managed and stored by iNaturalist. If you already have an iNaturalist user name and password, you can use this when logging into the WOW app. If not, you will be prompted during the WOW app sign-up to follow a few simple steps to create an iNaturalist username and password.

The WOW app will put an icon on your home screen and after the initial signup you can always log in to the WOW app via the icon.

According to the uptake of the app and its being used fully, there may well be some very interesting results and finds which otherwise would just remain local knowledge.

To find out more, and to watch the instructional videos, one of them featuring Sophie Thompson, go to the website, <https://www.wildorchidwatch.org/>

Queen of Sheba's secret

Western Australia is home to almost 400 orchid species, nearly three-quarters of which are endemic, meaning they don't occur anywhere else. Of those, 77 are of conservation concern.

One of the rarest is the Queen of Sheba, the holy grail for orchid people, – one of the most brightly coloured of all orchids.

Orchids are tricky to grow from seed because of their reliance not only on seeds, but on a "fungal partner", and it has been ten long years of very low success rates for environmental scientists in WA trying to propagate them.

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As the result of a chance conversation between two conservation scientists a new determination was born. The partnership that developed between them, despite living on opposite sides of the continent, finally cracked the Sheba's secret: the nutrient requirement to support the meeting of the fungus and the seed.

Not only did they have to approximate soil conditions, they also had to provide a little food for the seed itself, contrary to normal thinking in orchid propagation in which the fungus provides the food for the seed.

Les Nesbitt, I am sure, will understand the sheer delight of having finally achieved success in growing something which has eluded him for a long time! It is an interesting story—check the whole story on:

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/orchid-fever-as-10-year-quest-finally-unlocks-queen-of-sheba-s-secret-20200521-p54vb6.html>

[No doubt the leaf looks familiar to you - there was one on the front cover of last year's journal which looked very similar. *Thelymitra matthewsii* has the same rare corkscrew shaped leaf. Ed.]



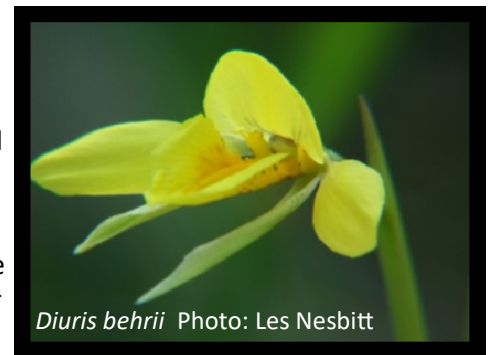
Diuris behrii project May update

On 25th May 2020 the contractor for the Kanmantoo Mine rehabilitation work collected 200 daughter plants and the remaining 39 mother pots from my nursery in the hills.

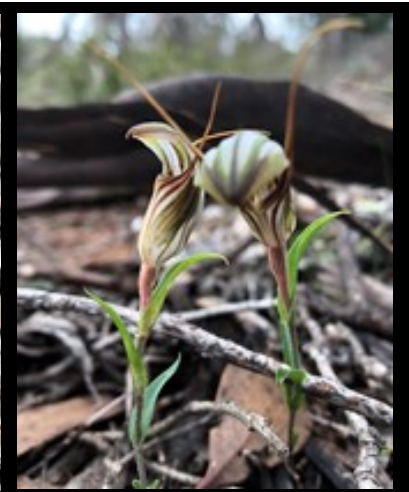
The mother pots contained the remaining *Diuris behrii* plants originally collected from the mine site way back in 2011. Some mother clones had multiplied over the years to a total of 45 plants.

This year's truckload of orchids takes the number of *Diuris* replanted at the mine site to 984. There are still some 600 *Diuris* plants at the nursery and this number is expected to increase by at least another 200 next Spring after tuber removal.

Les Nesbitt



Diuris behrii Photo: Les Nesbitt



Yorke Peninsula sightings

Chris Davey

I went for a look in a couple of scrubs down the peninsula [on Sunday May 31st] with my wife.

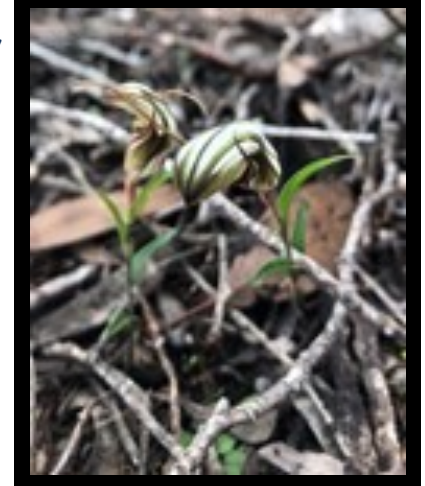
In regards to the attached photos, I am pretty certain one is the Red Shell Orchid, but I didn't know if the other was the same (but less mature, not having opened its flower properly) or is it a Common Green Shell Orchid?

Any feedback on this would be appreciated.

I think 2020 is shaping up to be a fantastic orchid season, with the early rains allowing a good germination of leaves.

We saw thousands in our travels, which was fantastic.

[Chris took the photos above on Yorke Peninsula at Muloowortie and Ardrossan.]



Photographing Orchids in the Wild

Bob Bates

Long coveted

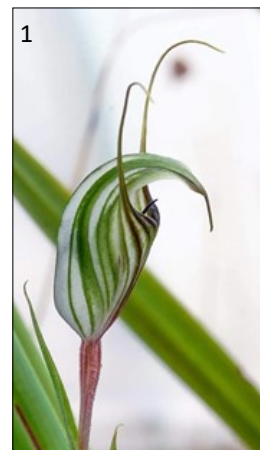
As for any photography choose your camera to suit your needs. If you want to publish, buy a quality (expensive) camera and learn how to use it manually. Otherwise your mobile phone will suffice. Your smart iphone has many advantages including it probably always being with you. It's perfect for that surprise find or perfect orchid. With an iphone you can take dozens of shots and delete all but the best which can be modified instantly without photo-shopping.

Choose your day and time wisely

Morning light provides something special. A calm day with light cloud is perfect, although mobiles are fast so a light breeze will be no problem. Mobiles can get dirty screens so check that before imaging. I've been caught a few times with drizzle on the screen causing blur, although your phone will most likely tell you that.

Background distractions

Remove any bleached gum leaves and sticks from the background as these will be exaggerated in your photo. Carry your own 'natural' background ie a card painted in pastel-green merging with pale brown and perhaps soft pink blurs. Soft sunlight can be used as backlighting, but not harsh sunlight. Some folk use an umbrella to provide shade. You can look for specimens already in the shade and position yourself so the background is shaded too. (There is usually plenty of shade in the woods.) You can use your own shadow as well. No one likes those burnt out images taken in harsh light. For larger orchids you may use the sky as a background. Choose the orchid's best angle so that you include the main identifying features. Sometimes this will be front on but for others it is best to image at an angle. For deeper purple or red flowers try late afternoon light.



Do's and don'ts

Do try a few group shots; a clump of bright sun orchids or hyacinth orchids, a whole patch of greenhoods receding into the distance, or twin spider orchids.

Do not over-use flash or take orchids home (or to another location) to photograph.

Don't photograph damaged orchids past their best, or with blemishes and bugs (other than pollinators). Remove distracting cobwebs etc unless your image is only needed as a reference of what you found on a particular day or location (in which case one shot will do).

Artistic merit

Although I'm not competitive I do like to have a few arty shots in my Facebook posts. It's these photos that tend to win prizes i.e. with blurred edges as in nature. You might not win with pictures of onion orchids or small green hoods, but you might take the best pics ever of a little-known species.



Capturing pollinators is a science as well as an art. In the past when orchids and their pollinators were in good numbers we used to shift a flower 100metres down the track and wait for the pollinator to arrive but these days, even if you use the pollinia to hand pollinate you can still get scolded, so you need to be patient enough to wait until the sun warms up.

[What follows are photos which illustrate some of Bob's principles of photography.]

1. This image of *Diplodinium alatum* (*Pterostylis alata*) was taken with an inexpensive camera. (The leaf behind should have been removed for the perfect shot.)

2. *Urochilus sanguineus* I took this for its colour, using my mobile phone, angling to make use of the natural back lighting, with darker background so the flower stands out.

3. a la natural. I was walking along a path at Morialta Falls and this backlit group of un-named shell orchids just caught my eye, just leant over and clicked with my mobile phone.



4. Common Mosquito Orchids are so often hidden in sticks and are hard to image so being opportunistic I had to image this group by the track in a shaft of sunlight and darker background looking like tiny fairies in flight. Mobiles can't focus well on tiny bright-lit orchids but I was happy.

5. Similarly, with this un-named Midge Orchid at Heathfield, I caught it on my mobile phone in the right light. A unique photo!

6. The exact opposite! Large colourful orchids like the *Spiranthes alticola* at Yundi in late Summer and ...

7. *Dipodium roseum* at Basket Range, photographed by NOSSA member, Laliith Kandanearachchi emphasising what I often say: '...groups are more interesting...' and '..colour is a winning feature.'

8. Hyacinth orchid, *Dipodium roseum* taken in Feb this year to emphasise that a beautiful subject helps to win prizes when in the natural setting of our Adelaide Hills.



9. *Dipodium pardalinum*—stunning when a stringy bark trunk is used as background!

10. Another Diplodium, the endangered Swamp Shell Orchid photographed by NOSSA's Ken Bayley. It pays to have a quality camera and be a master of the art. Go to page 72b for more...

Orchids for the learner

Acianthus pusillus and the words to describe them!

Marg Paech

I have taken the description and information about *Acianthus pusillus* straight from the South Australian Native Orchids DVD-ROM and highlighted the terms which may not be easily understood, giving the explanations in italics after the term, and then indicating many of the terms on the photos in this article.

The name is derived from the Greek *akis* a barb or needle and *anthos* a flower, in reference to the slender, **acuminate** floral segments of most species. You knew that from the last two months' journal articles and crossword, didn't you! '*pusillus*' is Latin for insignificant, weak, referring to the flowers, which are much smaller than *A. exsertus*, an eastern states species with which it was previously confused.

Description

They are **glabrous** [*lacking hairs or scales*] plants that grow mostly in the cooler months. The leaf is solitary, green, **petiolate stem** [*a leaf which has a stem*], **ovate-caudate** [*ovate= egg-shaped or heart-shaped, oval or elliptical, caudate = a tail-like appendage*], red below. The small flowers are purplish or green, few to many, with free **perianth** [*a collective term for petals and sepals*] segments. The **labellum** [*a modified third petal often called the lip, or tongue*] is distinct, immobile, hardly ornamented. The Column is **exserted** [*pushed forward, dominant*] from the flower, **recurved** [*curved backward or upward*] above, **semi-terete** [*semi = partly but not completely; terete = slender-cylindrical, but not so slender, tapered*]; anther terminal with four round, hard, ***pollinia** [*in orchids, the waxy bundles of pollen grains, held in one to several masses*], stigma near the top of the **column** [*a structure/organ, largely unique to orchids formed by the union of stamens, pistil and stigma*]. The insect-like appearance of the flowers is reflected in the common name.

Leaf heart shaped, to 40 mm long, dark green above and purplish-red below, often set several centimetres above the ground on a slender **petiole**. [*The petiole or leaf-stem can be quite long in some Acianthus colonies. See photo.*] The **flower stem** is reddish to 15 cm tall, the **flowers** usually numerous, about 6 mm across, in tones of maroon and grey-green. Segments short with fine points; top sepal (dorsal) erect, to 10 mm; lateral sepals similar, curving downward; petals smaller, narrowly **ovate**, spreading back, **labellum** to 5 mm long, narrowly **caudate**, column to 3 mm.

Continued on p 72a.

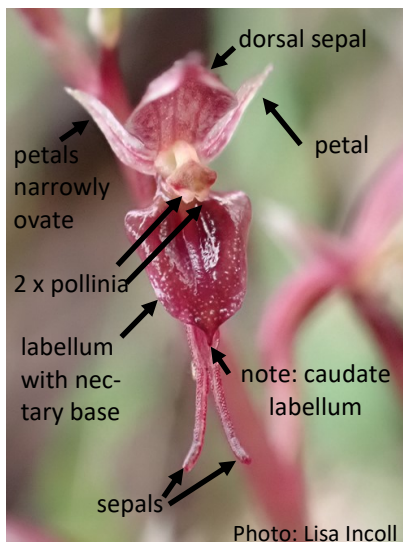


Photo: Lisa Incoll

*Sometimes when photographing, the clear bright yellow of the pollinia is very prominent adding to the beauty of the plant.



Photos: Lisa Incoll

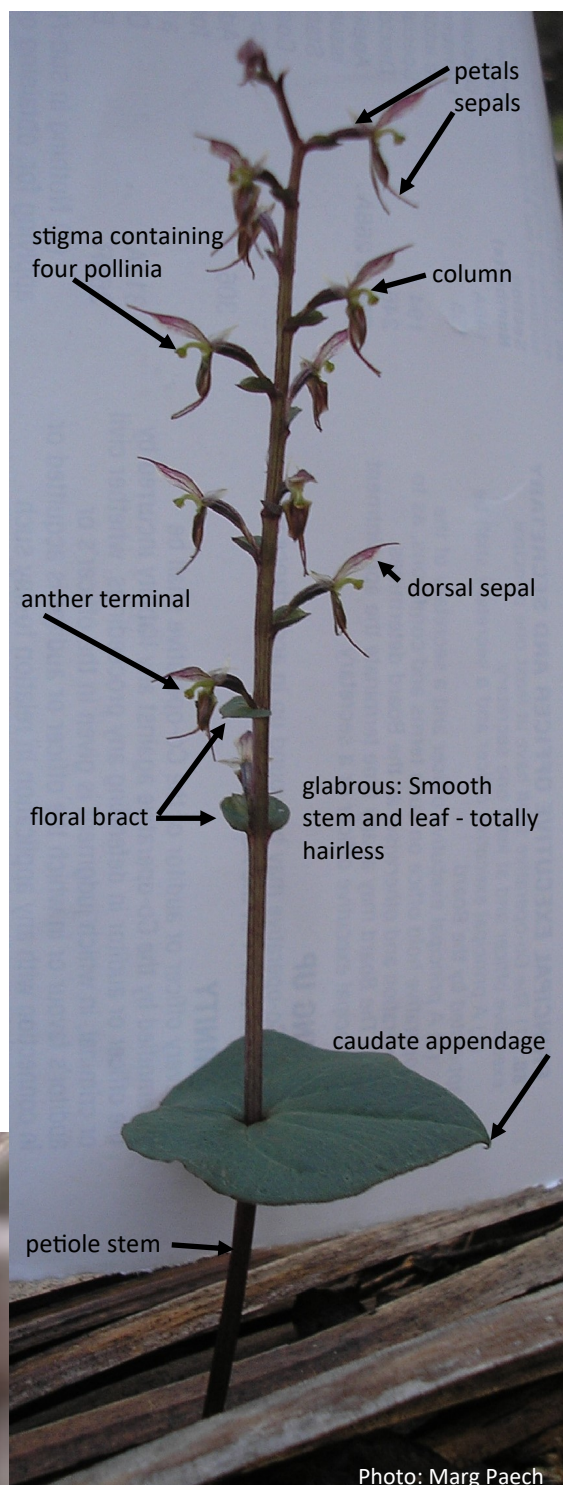


Photo: Marg Paech

Reference:

South Australian Native Orchids R.J.Bates 2011 DVD-ROM

Field Guide to the orchids of Western Australia By A. Brown, K. Dixon, C French, G. Brockman © 2013

Native Orchids of Kangaroo Island A field Guide Text compiled by Bev Overton / Kangaroo Island Flora and Fauna Club © 2017Kangaroo Island Flora & Fauna Club

Benched Orchids—popular vote for June



- A *Acianthus pusillus*
B Den. Hilda Poxon
C *Pterostylis sanguinea*
D *Pterostylis robusta*
E *Corybas hispida*
F *Zygo dynamite*
G Unknown. A lovely flower!

VOTING OPTIONS

1. **Return email** nossa.editor@gmail.com with a letter for Benched Orchids, and a number for the best photo
2. **SMS** to ph 0427 440 316
3. **Mail** to NOSSA PO Box 14 KENSINGTON PARK SA 5068

By 5pm on Monday 22nd June.



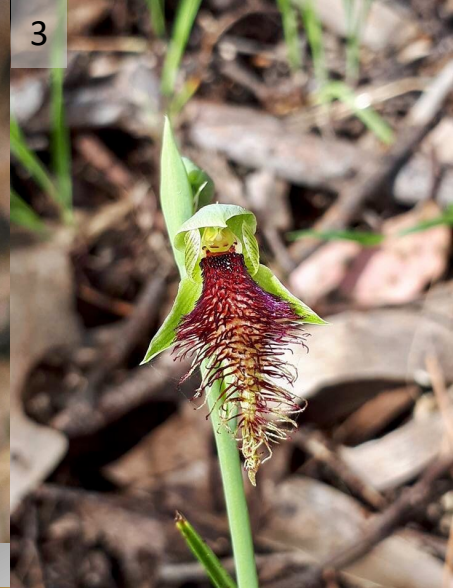
REMINDER that entries in both competitions must be **Australian native orchids.** To qualify for the calendar they must be South Australian orchids.



1



7



3



4

Some
stunning
photos to
choose
from!



5



9



1

Send in your
vote
by 5 pm
22nd June



6

[The Photography article by Bob
Bates has made me look at these
photos differently, paying more
attention to their composition,
lighting and background! Ed.]



8

Please send **entries** for the July Photo Competition to the Editor
by 5 pm, 22nd June.

nossa.editor@gmail.com , SMS to 0427 440 316,
mail to NOSSA PO Box 14 KENSINGTON PARK 5068

Winning Photo - May

John Fennell's *Corysanthes incurva* Marg Paech

The Latin epithet, *incurva*, applies to the rigid, strongly incurved labellum margins. Until the 1980s it was referred to (incorrectly) as *Corybas diemenicus*. See the NOSSA website for more information about helmet orchids.

The leaves are rounded to caudate, to 30 mm by 25 mm, or larger in very shaded sites, sometimes lobed, and fleshy; and wholly green. The flower is solitary, without a stalk, to 15 mm wide, hugging the leaf, dark purple-green or maroon, with a prominent white labellum boss; dorsal sepal to 20 mm long, narrow at the base but expanded into a rigid hood over the labellum, varied in colour from cherry red to green or greyish.



Found in cool to cold, shaded spots in fertile soils of forest, closed woodland and scrub, and sandy heath-land, the Slaty Helmet-Orchid occurs from sea level to the highest peaks, often in dense shade. It can be found further inland than other helmet orchids and thrives in the coldest valleys of the Mount Lofty Ranges, valleys that are often under heavy frost at flowering time. It is often found growing with *C. diemenica* which flowers earlier than *C. incurva*. The colonies are dense with leaves often overlapping each other. It flowers from late July through to early September, but flowering time is short from the time the leaf emerges until the flower is finished and the leaf disappears. As the leaves emerge they often have a developing bud as well.

The species is much more rigid in all its parts than other *Corysanthes*.



The other contenders



Rosalie Lawrence's
Pheladenia deformis



Lisa Incoll's
Caladenia carnea
or maybe *vulgaris*?



Robert Lawrence's
Corunostylis sp.



Robert Lawrence's
Leporella fimbriata



Gordon Ninn's
Prassophyllum brownii
[a WA orchid]



MAY WINNER
More about this orchid
above.



Lindsay Ames'
Pyrorchis nigricans



Popular Vote Benched Orchids



MAY WINNER

See page 62, front cover and below.



Les Nesbitt's
Eriochilus cucullatus

Thank you to all who entered photos in the Photo Competition and the Benched Orchids for June.

Popular vote winner—May

Pterostylis truncata

Les Nesbitt

The winning grower's photo for March was *Pterostylis truncata*, 'Little Dumpty'. This cauline group of *Pterostylis* originates from the You Yangs, a range of hills south west of Melbourne. I got my plants from the ANOS-Vic tuber bank many years ago. The photo (on the front cover this month) is of a 175mm blue tag pot that I grow in my flowering house under cover all year round in the Adelaide Hills. Watering commences in January to get more flowers as flowers abort if kept too dry for too long in summer-autumn.

The large striped flowers on short stems are why its common name is Little Dumpty. I also grow plants in smaller pots in the shadehouse. Less than 10% of plants flower each year. In very wet years tuber rot can be a problem. Because it flowers early it is a popular greenhood so I am trying to build up stock to meet the demand.

It is satisfying to help preserve one of Australia's iconic terrestrial orchid species and make it available to other growers.

All the 'cauline group' of *Pterostylis* have the habit of only sending up a stem if flowering – plants that will not flower for the year have a rosette. This includes *Pt. Sanguinea* (*Urochilus*) and *Pt. robusta* (*Diplodium robusta*). Usually only a small percentage of plants will flower if they are the multiplying type. *Sanguinea* is fungus dependent and seldom multiplies. [The Photo is on the front cover of this issue.]

From the Committee - May

It has been pleasing to see members continuing to get involved with the Photo Competition, including the start of a popular vote for orchids benched virtually!



NOSSA video on website

Last year a small group of undergraduate students at the University of South Australia produced a video about NOSSA. This has had some minor editing of content and is ready for release. It features interviews of Rosalie Lawrence, Bodo Jensen and Les Nesbitt. It will be launched on Tuesday 23rd June 2020, after which there will be a link on the NOSSA website. The students did well to produce a succinct video from much longer interviews. It covers many issues in a positive light and we hope you find this pleasing and a useful resource to promote NOSSA.

Delayed AGM

Of course, we notice that social distancing restrictions are being relaxed by the government of South Australia and we hope to resume activities of the past. The options for continuing meetings at St Matthew Hall are being considered, including a delayed Annual General Meeting. We also hope to resume field trips in the near future.

WOW launch

Launch of the Wild Orchid Watch (WOW) app is imminent and may well have happened by the time this Journal is printed. We hope members will relish the opportunity to start adding to the data collected on wild orchids, not just in this state, but across Australia. It will be interesting to see what changes this brings about. Last month the City Nature Challenge was highlighted in the Journal. This required recording observations on iNaturalist. The WOW app also uses the iNaturalist platform with some differences. Please try it out when you can.



NOSSA mobile phone

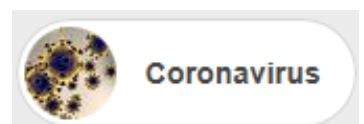
The NOSSA mobile telephone can now be used to contact the NOSSA Committee. If you call 0439 214 106 you can leave a message and a member of the committee will either answer or return your call.

Other changes

Editor

There has been a change to our treasury position. It had been a position held jointly by Tony and Ros Miller - Ros has now taken over full responsibility. Tony still remains on the committee as a member only.

As a result of the COVID-19 restrictions the Badgers have gone into voluntary isolation, and now Ros Miller (and Tony too?) have taken on collection, folding and mailing of the journals for the next few months. John and Lorraine still do emailing and proof-reading and in time will resume the tasks the Millers are doing at present.



The shouldering of these tasks by Ros & Tony, Lorraine and John are very much appreciated. Most would not appreciate the valuable contribution of the proof-reader. I have grown in expertise as a result of Lorraine's coaching and advice. John has been a constant source of encouragement by his feedback and dependable support via emailing and practical advice.

Vale Malcolm Guy

Malcolm became a NOSSA member in 1997 with his membership lapsing in 2017 due to poor health. In 1999 he was the Tuber Bank Coordinator, and filled in as raffle ticket seller to fill a gap at the time.

Rosalie Lawrence remembers him as a gentle, quiet person.

Jane Higgs took over from him as Tuber Bank Coordinator some 15 odd years ago. She remembers him bringing in terrestrial orchids.

Les Nesbitt remembers him as a good grower who grew a wide range of orchids both Australian and exotic. He regularly exhibited at NOSSA meetings and shows. He was a member of the NOSSA judging panel for years until his health deteriorated a few years ago.

Malcolm Guy passed away on May 28th.

Bulletin Board / Date Claimers

The Native Orchid Society of South Australia generally meets every 4th Tuesday of the months February to November at St Matthew's Hall, Cnr 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. **This has been suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions until further notice.**

DATE	EVENT
June	
9th	Committee Meeting—7 pm — venue: APS Club Rooms, 21a Richards Tce, Goodwood
22nd	DEADLINE for all Benched Orchid and Photo competition VOTES and July ENTRIES
23rd	General Meeting—if this happens you will be notified.
July	
14th	Committee Meeting
27th	5 pm Votes for Benched orchids, Photo Competition; Competition photos for next month to the Editor
Sept	
19th—20th	NOSSA Spring Show—Still to be confirmed.



NEW MEMBERS

We welcome

Barbara Parker, North Haven

and look forward to how you might be involved in our society. Don't forget to vote!



MEMBERS ONLY NOSSA PASSWORD

Members with emails should have received their password for the members section of the NOSSA website. If not, please contact NOSSA Enquiries. Entry onto this site is only available to financial members.

FIELD TRIPS CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Normally Field Trips are held on the Saturday following the General Meeting.

If you have found a possibly good place for a field trip in the future, please make contact with our Field Trip coordinator on nossa.fieldtrips@gmail.com Lisa will be delighted to hear from you!

PROPAGATING WORKSHOPS CANCELLED



Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 these have been cancelled until further notice.

For those of you who have issues with plants you have propagated at earlier workshops, please get in touch with Les by emailing lesn@adam.com.au

GENERAL MEETINGS CANCELLED ...BUT

We can still have the competitions!!

PHOTO Competition

Email your photos in by **5 pm Monday 22nd June** to the NOSSA enquiries at nossa.enquiries@gmail.com

BENCHED Orchids

Take a photo of your orchid plant and an individual flower and send it to the editor by **5 pm Monday 22nd June**. These will be judged by popular vote like the photos. This will allow those who live in the country or who are unable to come to meetings to enter plants and for all members to vote.

VOTING DEADLINE the day before the General meeting. Get your votes in by **22nd June**

ARTICLES FOR NEXT JOURNAL

Articles / Reports must reach the Editor **no later than Wed 1st July**. Early-bird articles - so appreciated!

DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE!

Please send all articles to nossa.editor@gmail.com

COVID-19 FUN

Sign seen in a Chemist shop recently read:

"Can we start showering again or do we just keep washing our hands?"

Thanks, John Badger, for sharing this!





The Committee

President

Gordon Nines

Vice President

Robert Lawrence

Secretary

Lindy McCallum

Email: nossa.secretary@gmail.com

Treasurer

Ros Miller

Email: nossa.treasurer@gmail.com

Ordinary Committee Members

Craig Humfrey

Rosalie Lawrence

Bob Bates

Tony Miller

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 –Lisa Incoll

Email: nossa.fieldtrips@gmail.com

Botanical Advisor

Bob Bates

Librarian

Pauline Meyers

Show Marshall

Craig Humfrey

Speaker Coordinator

John Eaton

Trading Table - Craig Humfrey

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 Shootert†

Mr John Eaton

Mr D Wells†

Mr W Dear

Patron: Mr L. Nesbitt

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



PRIVATE FACEBOOK PAGE

This is open to any of our NOSSA paid-up members but not your non NOSSA friends. 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.



BANKING DETAILS

BSB 105 011,

Account no 073 181 741

Add your name and NOSSA Membership number for correct allocation of funds, particularly when paying membership.



INFORMATION AND MAKING CONTACT

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



MOBILE PHONE

0439 214 106

Leave a message and someone will return your call.

MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 14
KENSINGTON PARK SA 5068

WEBSITE:

NOSSA.org.au

Orchids for Learners *contd.*

Mosquito orchids prefer cool, shaded sites in higher rainfall areas but extend into semi arid areas where suitable **microhabitats** [a 'different climate' to that around it caused by various factors e.g. moisture retention, warmth, humidity—which favour certain plants to thrive] exist, i.e., in gorges and about rock outcrops.

In ideal conditions very large colonies may occur due to **vegetative reproduction** [not sexual reproduction, but root, stem and /or leaf reproduction]. Flowering is inhibited by bushfires and dry autumns.

Pollination: The deep red, greenish or brownish colour of the flowers is commonly associated with fly pollination. The labellum has a nectary at its base upon which various types of insects and beetles feed, but only flies have been observed to transfer pollen.

Distinguishing features: The heart-shaped leaf which is red below (as with *Nemacianthus caudatus*), but not **crenulate** [crenulated means the margins of the leaf are wavy, indented] or crinkled and is often set well above ground level. The numerous tiny, unscented, pale green and maroon flowers which have a late autumn-winter flowering period set it apart from the spring flowered Mayfly orchid, *Nemacianthus caudatus*.

Intensity of colour varies from deep red through to insipid blends of grey and green or semi-transparent red.

The flowers are long lived if not pollinated. Flowering is dependent on the onset of rains and after false 'breaks in the season' most flowers will abort. In low rainfall districts colonies may only flower every 2-5 years. Flowering may be reduced to zero after hot fires but some plants in each colony survive.

Nemacianthus, which often occurs with *Acianthus*, is spring flowered unlike the autumn flowered *Acianthus*.



Photo: Lisa Incoll



Photo: Marg Paech



Photo: Marg Paech



Photo: Marg Paech

Above: *Acianthus* early bud. Notice outer edge of leaf and shape of bud.

Top right: *Nemacianthus* early bud. Notice crenulate leaf edge, and shape of bud.

Top left: *Acianthus* in bud with large floral bracts. Some years these are very accentuated.

Right: To disperse seed the capsule splits.

Lower right: Green *Acianthus*—green under leaf.



Photo: Marg Paech



Photo: Lisa Incoll

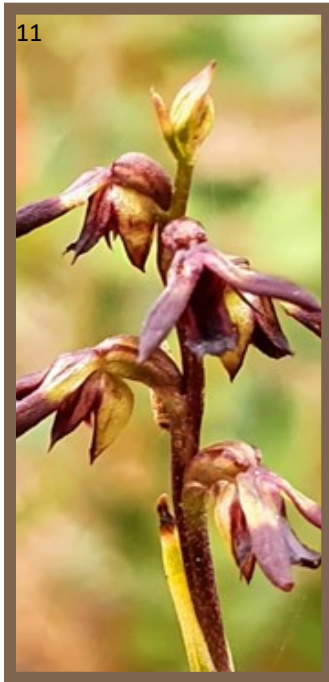


Photo: Lisa Incoll



Photo: Lindsay Ames

Photographing Orchids in the Wild *contd*



11. There is great skill needed to photograph a tiny un-named Midge Orchid in detail, as Lalith did in May.

12. Another *Dipodium roseum*—note the background and how it complements the flower.



13. Mass of *Diuris brevifolia* - Kuitpo, make a beautiful show of colour.

Seeing the funny side of life!

Finally, some donkeys, *Diuris* species photographed at Kuitpo - making an image fun!

14. A lighter one for contrast - *Diuris brevifolia*.

15. *Diuris pardina*'s funny faces! Or is it a person with his legs crossed?

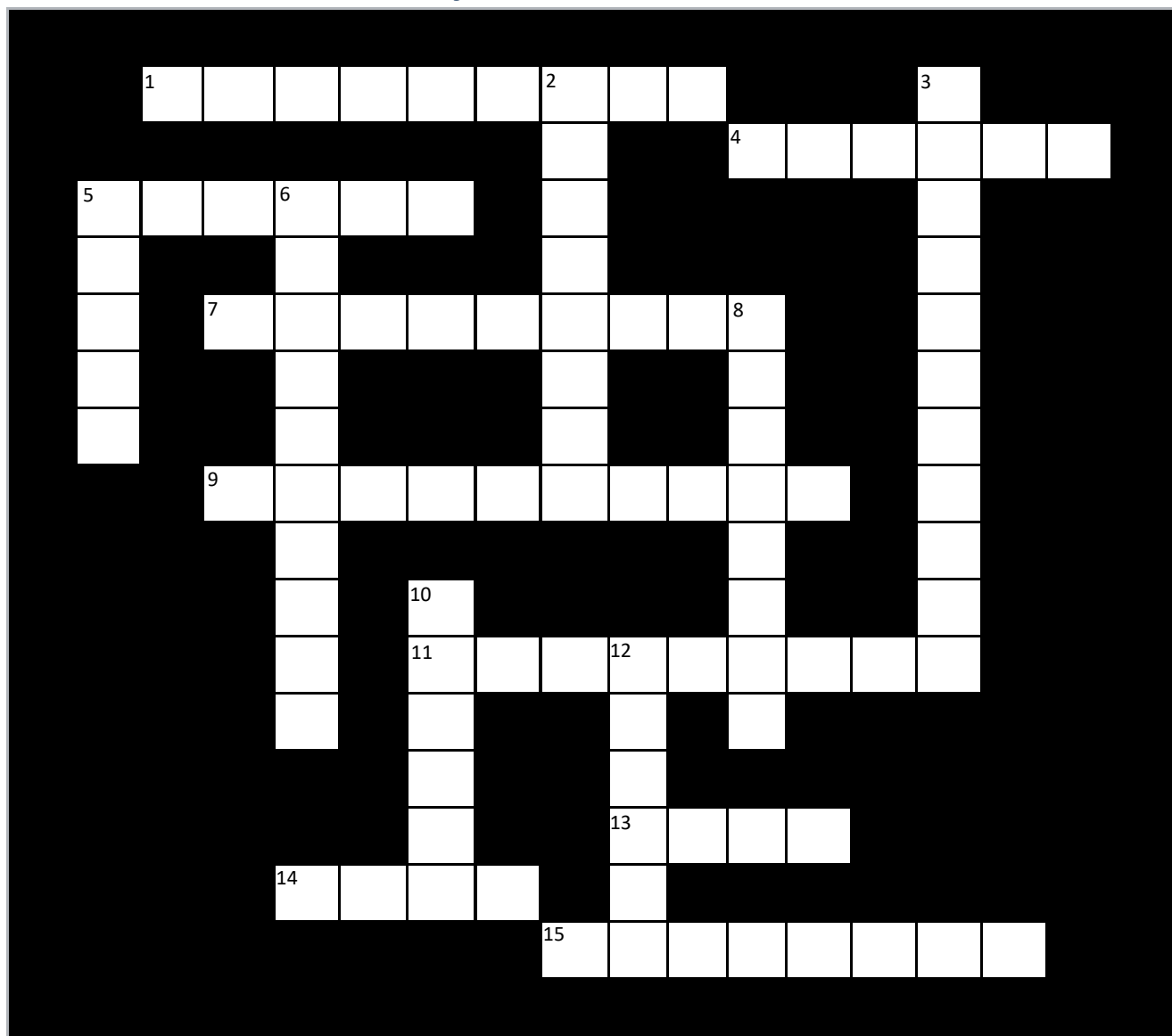
16, 17 and 18 See if you can find the funny faces in these.

The bright colours make for a beautiful, eye-catching photo.



Crossword 01# 2020

How well do you know the orchid names?



CLUES

Across:

1. Common name is 'Purple Cockatoo'
4. Donkey Orchid
5. The common *Dipodium* in South Australia
7. Remove one letter from this one and you get a very different orchid
9. The group of orchids which are generally shy to open—sun light makes the difference!
11. Has cauline leaves on its flower scape
13. *Linguella* sp Hills is commonly called this
14. South African orchid—a weed in Australia
15. *Nemacanthus* has a heart-shaped leaf with crinkled margins

Down:

2. Commonly known as the Hyacinth Orchid
3. Means spider in Latin, and drop the final H from its correct spelling
5. A pink-flowering *Thelymitra* (Sun Orchid)
6. One of its common names reminds us of Easter
8. Looks like an onion plant, very hard to photograph individual flowers
10. Common Greenhood
12. A common name is 'Pink Fingers'

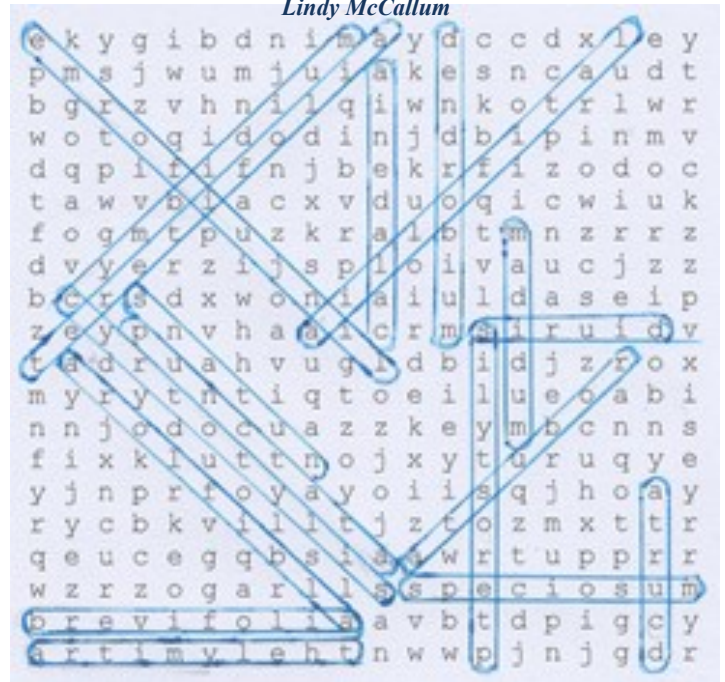
Word Search 44 No.3

Lindy McCallum

Solution for May - NOSSA Propag'n Lab Species

Lindy McCallum

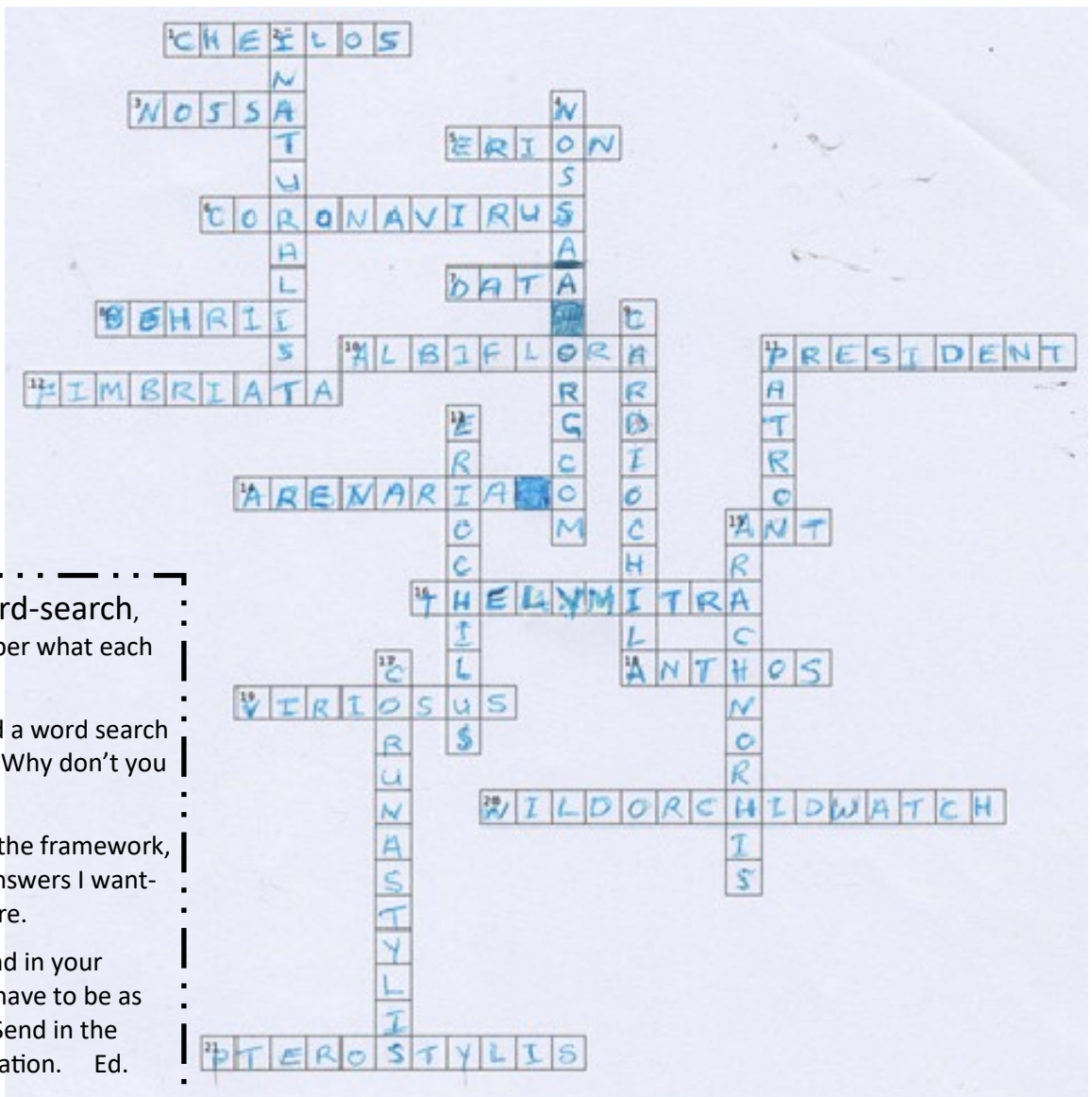
P D K M B E L B A R E N L U V
T E L U S P A C L K W B X W P
E K C M O O Z S L N S G A O S
R S Y A N E I L E O P S L T A
O A I Y L R T A H T P L B L N
S L P H U L B A T T I I I M G
T F E I C E I N N N K H C U U
Y E D P R R E Y A I C X D L I
L D W R O C O T Z O M F S L N
I F A L S R O N I K T U J E E
S N F I O R E D H Z Q Q C B A
T S H O K E R L R C B A S A L
V E K R K A K B L N A O C L V
D B E N C H E D Z A F R L A X
M Y C O R R H I Z A L G A N J



Solution for MAY: Reference Journal Vol 44 No. 3

Lindy McCallum

ABERRANT
ACUMINATE
ARACHNORCHIS
BASAL
BEINCHED
CALLI
CAPSULE
CARDIOCHILA
DDIURIS
DEFASKED
DEHISCENT
KNOTT
LABELLUM
LEPORELLA
MYCORRHIZAL
POLLINATOR
PTEROSTYLIS
RHIZANTHELLA
SANGUINEA
VULNERABLE
WASP
ZOOM



As you do the word-search,
see if you can remember what each
term means!

Have you ever created a word search
or crossword puzzle? Why don't you
give it a go?

I used Excel to create the framework,
then decided which answers I want-
ed and went from there.

Would love you to send in your
attempts. They don't have to be as
large as the last two. Send in the
solution with your creation. Ed.