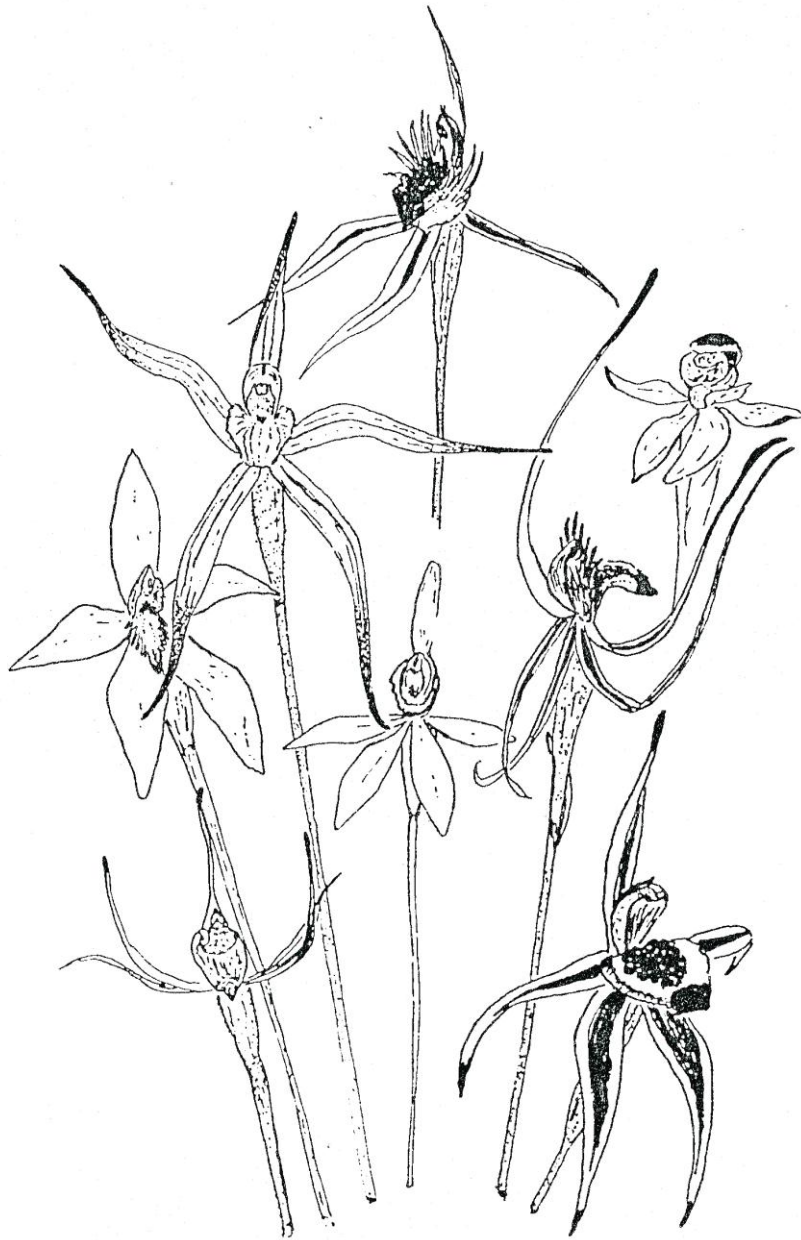


Journal
of the
Native Orchid Society
of
South Australia Inc



NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

POST OFFICE BOX 565 UNLEY SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5061

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JOURNAL OF THE NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.



NOVEMBER 2000

Vol. 24 No. 10

CONTENTS THIS JOURNAL

Title	Author	Page
Diary Dates		91
October Meeting		92
For Your Attention - N.O.S.S.A. News		92
Southeast to Melbourne Field Trip (the Southeast)	Thelma Bridle	93
Southeast to Melbourne Field Trip (SW Victoria)	Thelma Bridle	94
Field Trip to Cox's Scrub 15 th October	Cathy Houston	96
N.O.S.S.A. Prize Winners ANOS Conference and Show	Les Nesbitt	98
Annual Christmas Barbeque		98
Report on the 4 th A.N.O.S. Conference and Show	Doug Bickerton	99

NOVEMBER MEETING

Tuesday, 28 November, St Matthew's Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. Doors to the hall will be open from 7:15 p.m. The meeting is our annual auction. Donations are invited, so bring orchids, ferns, bulbs and other items to be auctioned and a few dollars to purchase some not to be missed bargains. This year, arrangements can be made for auction items to be sold on a consignment basis. (See page 92)

Items for the Christmas Raffle are also sought, the raffle to be drawn at the November meeting.

Also bring a plate of something to share as the evening will be concluded with what will prove to be a most enjoyable Christmas supper and get together.

DIARY DATES

28 November Annual Auction and Christmas Supper
 3 December Annual N O S S A Barbeque
 27 February 2001 first NOSSA General Meeting for 200
 24-28 September 2001 First International Orchid Conservation Congress, Perth, WA

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 6 December at the home of Bob and Kerry Bates. Meeting commences at 7:30 p.m.

New Members

It is with considerable pleasure that the Native Orchid Society of South Australia welcomes Simon Lloyd of Rostrevor, Darren Williams of Greenwith, Leah Kennewell of Norton Summit, Alan Stephenson of Nowra NSW, Wendy Sysouphat and Wayne Turville of Hastings Victoria as New Members. Lets all make them feel very welcome.

OCTOBER MEETING

Plants Benched

Terrestrial Species: *Chiloglottis x pescottiana*, *Diuris brevifolia* (x2), *Diuris sulphurea*, *Leptoceras menziesii*, *Microtis arenaria*, *Microtis parviflora*, *Phaius tancahilliae*, *Pterostylis arenicola*, *Pterostylis baptistii*, *Pterostylis baptistii* 'Jenney', *Pterostylis biseta*, *Pterostylis pusilla*, *Pterostylis rufa*.

Terrestrial Hybrids: *Diuris* Mule, *Pterostylis* Bantam, *Pterostylis* Cutie 'Harold's Pride', *Pterostylis* Jack Warcup

Epiphyte Species: *Cymbidium canaliculatum* (x?), *Dendrobium kingianum*, *Dendrobium monophyllum*, The two *Dendrobium* canaliculatum's very different to each other, - one light, one very dark.

Epiphyte Hybrids: *Dendrobium* Goldflush x *D. Daintree River* (Australasian), *Dendrobium x suffusum*, *Sarcochilus* Weinhart

Popular Voting

Best Terrestrial: *Diuris* Mule grown by Les Nesbitt

Best Epiphyte: *Cymbidium canaliculatum* grown by Graham and Jan Burford

Judges' Choices

Best Epiphyte Species: 1st *Cym. canaliculatum* grown by Graham and Jan Burford

2nd *Dendrobium kingianum* grown by Wally Walloscheck

3rd *Dendrobium monophyllum* grown by Les Nesbitt

Best Epiphyte Hybrid: 1st *Sarcochilus* Weinhart grown by Wally Walloscheck

2nd *Dend.* Goldflush x *D. Daintree River* grown by Les Nesbitt

3rd *Dendrobium x suffusum* grown by Wally Walloscheck

Best Terrestrial Species: 1st *Pterostylis arenicola* grown by Wally Walloscheck

2nd *Pterostylis biseta* grown by David Pettifor

3rd *Microtis parviflora* grown by Les Nesbitt

Best Terrestrial Hybrid: 1st *Diuris* Mule grown by Les Nesbitt

2nd *Pterostylis* Cutie 'Harold's Pride' grown by Les Nesbitt

3rd *Pterostylis* Jack Warcup grown by Les Nesbitt

Judges' Plant of the Night *Cymbidium canaliculatum* grown by Graham and Jan Burford

Les Burgess provided the commentary for the epiphyte orchids; Les Nesbitt provided the commentary for the terrestrials.

COMING FIELD TRIPS

There are no field trips planned for December

FOR YOUR ATTENTION - N.O.S.S.A. NEWS

Journal Articles are sought (from you the reader). In particular, we need more articles about epiphytes. As you can see, there are no epiphyte related articles in this Journal!! Many thanks to those who have already contributed, but don't stop now. I need articles for the December and February Journals.

Donations for our Annual Christmas Raffle are still being sought. This is an important fund raising initiative for NOSSA. Raffle to be drawn (and tickets sold) at November General Meeting.

Now is the time to really begin thinking about items that you might offer for the November General Meeting Auction. This is another important fund raiser for NOSSA. It will be a fun evening with lots of

bargains to be found. Items may be donated or sold on consignment. This is the first year that items are being considered for auction on a consignment basis. A yellow tag or yellow ribbon should be used in clear view to denote consignment items and a Committee Member must be advised that the item is to be auctioned on consignment.

Tuber Bank: Last call for the year!! Donations of Tubers for the NOSSA Tuber Bank are sought. Any number, small or large, will be welcome. Locality data should be included where available. Tuber Bank Co-ordinator Malcolm Guy would appreciate a listing of what tubers you will be providing, on or before the November General Meeting. Please advise Malcolm Guy at 15 Naomi Terrace, Pasadena or phone (08) 8276 7350 by 28th November, or see him at the meeting. The final list with order form will be published in the December Journal.

It may look like I am sitting here doing nothing, but the truth is that I work so fast that I am always finished sign sighted (ed)

SOUTH-EAST TO MELBOURNE FIELD TRIP

by Thelma Bridle

Part 1: South-east 29/9-1/10/00

Mount Boothby Conservation Park is always good for orchid species in the spring, so it was not surprising we were able to find 30 species. The sun orchids were a bit reluctant to flower in the cool breeze and species such as *Thelymitra azurea* and *T. epipactoides* were still a week or two from flowering. A triple-headed *Pterostylis plumosa* was unusual. *Thelymitra x macmillanii* although with only half open flowers ranged from pale orange to deep pink.

Boothby Quarry was greener than last year, making it more difficult to locate orchids. 14 species were found but it was surprising that no *Caladenia latifolia* were seen as these had been plentiful in 1999. Christmas Rock had plenty of orchid species in flower, but Desert Camp Conservation Park was disappointing, with few orchid flowers and *Prasophyllum* species still in tight bud.

Anne and Andrew (researching conservation strategies for 3 endangered orchid species in the SE and SW Victoria), together with several locals including Kath Alcock, had been busy marking *Caladenia calcicola* flowers behind Padthaway Caravan Park. As last year, the flowers were quite variable but about 200 were found, a dramatic increase on last year's approximately 30 plants. They were also found over a larger range. Such an increase and the diversity in the flowers caused some discussion as to the correct identification. *C. cardiochila* probably numbered about 60, similar to last year, but no hybrids between *C. calcicola* and *C. cardiochila* were located. Everyone enjoys the colourful display of *Caladenia colorata* hybrids in Padthaway Conservation Park, so a brief visit here had cameras clicking, recording yet more colour variations.

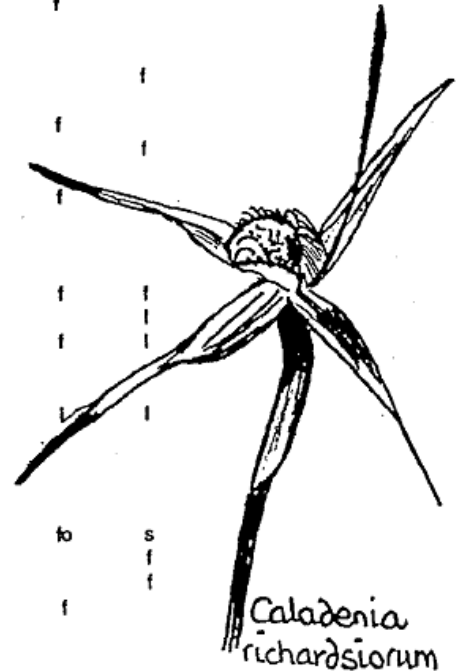
The following morning Elaine Lawson joined us as we travelled through Little Dip Conservation Park looking for population of *Caladenia richardsiorum*. The orchid was found as single plants along the Stony Rise Track and later in the day at Beachport, at both sites growing in leaf litter under coastal mallee eucalypts. Due to heavy rain we didn't spend much time exploring Long Gully, a known site for the orchid, and similar habitat, but Andrew returned a few days later and recorded the orchid here. At Nora Creina we searched the wind-blown cliff-top thoroughly and found 200 flowering-sized plants of *C. richardsiorum*. In the shelter of coastal shrubs this species was found flowering in groups of up to 12 plants. A few flowers had small dark clubs on the petals, as was found last year, but these were not common. Pollination had occurred in finished flowers, but the majority were still in bud. About 90% of the flowering sized *C. richardsiorum* had an associated seedling. One seed germinates alongside the parent where the mycorrhizal fungus is certain to be present. Summer rainfall, as had occurred in 99-00 had helped to improve seedling survival.

After Saturday's cool, wet day even the large-flowered *Thelymitra antennifera* in Penola Conservation Park refused to open. Orchids were late here too, although compensated for by the beautiful array of spring-flowering shrubs and plants. This park is interesting for its contrasting habitats ranging from

-----Page 6-----

swamp and wet heath to dry heath, woodland and a red gum flat. The river gum flat was still water-logged and orchids were flowering standing in water. *Diuris behrii* were in flower together with *Bulbine bulbosa* and buttercups (all yellows). Not only the *Thelymitra antennifera* had large flowers (3.5 cm diam) but *Glossodia major* had flowers to 6.8 cm. diam. *Leptoceras menziesii* grows to a height of 30cm before flowering in this area - is the extra water responsible for these increases? With Penola being wet, it wasn't surprising to find Honan's Scrub was also wet. Again the spring flower display was excellent, but orchids were not so numerous. No spider *Caladenia* species were recorded and no *Thelymitra* species in flower, most requiring another 2-3 weeks. A single open flower of *Calochilus robertsonii* was found, with many more in bud.

	Mt Boothby	Quarry	Christmas Rock	Desert Camp	Padthaway	Little Dip / Nora Creina	Penola C.P.	Honan's Scrub
<i>Acianthus pusillus</i>	s	l						
<i>Caladenia arenaria</i>	f		f		f			
<i>C. carnea</i>	f	f	f	f			f	f
<i>C. calcicola</i>					f			
<i>C. cardiochila</i>	f		f		f		f	
<i>C. colorata</i>	f				f			
<i>C. deformis</i>			f					
<i>C. latifolia</i>						f		
<i>C. richardsiorum</i>						f		
<i>C. prolata</i>					f	b	f	
<i>C. pusilla</i>								b
<i>C. stricta</i>	f						f	
<i>C. tensa</i>	f						f	
<i>C. x variabilis</i>			f					
<i>C. verrucosa</i>	l	f	f		f			
<i>Calochilus robertsonii</i>								f
<i>Corybas despectans</i>						s		
<i>Cyrtostylis reniformis</i>		l	l			s	f	
<i>Diuris behrii</i>								f
<i>D. brevissima</i>	f	f	f	f	f			
<i>D. orientis</i>	f	f					f	
<i>D. palustris</i>	f							
<i>Eriochilus cucullatus</i>	l	l						
<i>Genoplesium sp.</i>	s							
<i>Glossodia major</i>	f	f	f		f		f	f
<i>Leporella fimbriata</i>			l					
<i>Leptoceras menziesii</i>							f	l
<i>Microtis arenaria</i>	f		f			f		
<i>M. frutescens</i>						f		
<i>M. sp.</i>		l		l	b		l	l
<i>Prasophyllum aff. fitzgeraldii</i>	f							
<i>P. odoratum</i>	f							
<i>Pterostylis cycnocephala</i>		f						
<i>P. nana</i>	s						fo	s
<i>P. nutans</i>								f
<i>P. melagramma</i>								f
<i>P. pedunculata</i>		f			f		f	
<i>P. plumosa</i>	f		f					
<i>P. sanguinea</i>	s		s					
<i>P. squamata</i>		f	f		f			
<i>Pyrorchis nigricans</i>		l	l				l	l
<i>Thelymitra antennifera</i>	f		f	f			b	b
<i>T. azurea</i>	l							
<i>T. epipectoides</i>	b							
<i>T. flexuosa</i>							b	
<i>T. juncifolia</i>	f							b
<i>T. x macmillanii</i>	f			b				
<i>T. megacalyptra</i>				b				
<i>T. nuda</i>	f		b	f			b	b
<i>T. pauciflora</i>			b		b			
<i>T. rubra</i>	b							



Caladenia richardsiorum

Part 2 of this report covers the orchids found in South-west Victoria as we travelled to Melbourne.

Dave Ryan, the ranger at Lower Glenelg Conservation Park, gave us directions to a swamp in the park burnt last summer. *Pyrorchis nigricans*, *Diuris orientis* and *Glossodia major* were flowering, but we couldn't locate the small, saprophytic *Burnettia cuneata*. This orchid flowers at the waters edge of swamps the first year after a summer burn. Unfortunately, the flowers open only in warm weather and are well camouflaged on cooler days such as this was. In the afternoon, we met up with Lois and Max Phillips

who guided us around Mount Richmond and Portland surrounds. Although chiefly birdwatchers, they are very familiar with the orchids of the region and happy to share their local knowledge. We were keen to compare *Caladenia fragrantissima* var. *fragrantissima* with that found on the Yorke Peninsular in SA. A couple of flowers looked the same, another had red blotches on the labellum and one flower was red, uncommon and quite spectacular.

At Bat's Ridges, *Caladenia calcicola* was in flower. The flowers appeared much like those at Padthaway, with some variation in labellum appearance and all with red clubs. Max and Lois have never seen an with yellow clubs, as is pictured in Backhouse and Jeannes. Only a few flowers were open and the plants were growing in shallow soil over limestone, not the deeper sand as at Padthaway. Andrew is studying the population here and has set enclosure areas for orchid monitoring.

On a coastal site at Bridgewater we saw *Pterostylis cucullata* growing under coastal heath shrubs. The flowers were the same size as those in Belair National Park (South Australia), but on very short stems, some flowering at ground level. It was a large population, but hard to see amongst moss and other low plants. Our sincere thanks to Lois and Max for all these treasures.

Alcoa Smelters (Portland Aluminium) were very welcoming the next morning, keen to show us their vast operation and explain their commitment to environmental concerns. Unfortunately, we were too early for the flowering of *Caladenia hastata*, which commences mid-October, but a pot in the greenhouse had a bud not far from opening. The leaves of this species were long, broad and hairy. The stem was very hairy and the large red osmophores prominent in the bud. Also in the greenhouse was a specimen of *C. dilatata*, which a few years ago were often mistaken for *C. hastata*, the young leaves being similar. There was also a pot of *P. cucullata*, again with flowers on very short stems. John Hill is in charge of conservation at the site. Whilst there are only about 17 adult plants, this year they have about 300 seedlings, grown from seed scattered around the adult plants. *C. hastata*, once widespread on the coastal cliff-tops is found at several sites within the smelter boundary, outside the boundary and also at Bridgewater. Andrew Pritchard is also involved in the conservation plans for this orchid.

Travelling towards Melbourne along the Great Ocean Road it became irresistible to stop and admire some of the magnificent cliff-top scenery this route is renowned for. Just outside Port Campbell and right alongside the main road we located a colony of 21 flowering spikes of *Thelymitra epipactoides*, all with large pink buds, not far from opening, but definitely not at 15°C with a chill wind.

On Wednesday we met Everett Foster and Margaret MacDonald at Anglesea, together with a bus full of conference delegates. It was a beautiful sunny, spring day and we were treated to a superb selection of the many species of orchids which grow in the Anglesea area. Habitats ranged from open areas of sun orchids to bushland where *Caladenias* and *Diuris* predominated, to forest with its many species of *Pterostylis* and some *Chiloglottis*. I was surprised by the number of *Caladenia* species with which the large white-flowered *C. venusta* hybridises. At Anglesea we saw hybrids between *C. venusta* and *C. cardiochila*, *C. venusta* and *C. oenochila* (formerly known as *C. lindleyana*) and *C. venusta* and *C. tentaculata*. This species is also known to hybridise with *C. australis* and *C. formosa*. Of interest was the readiness of *Thelymitra flexuosa* flowers to open in Victoria, following in late morning right behind the *T. antennifera*. I have noticed in SA they are very reluctant to open, requiring very warm, humid days and only opening a midday for a short period. Another difference I noticed was with *Thelymitra aristata* or *T. grandiflora* in the Adelaide Hills. They often open a few flowers at a time in succession, but at Anglesea whole spikes were a mass of flower, again only in warm conditions.

Those NOSSA members on the trip would like to thank everyone who supplied information and advice on the whereabouts and details of orchid species, making our time both in SA and Victoria most rewarding.

	Lower Glenelg	Portland CP area	Port Campbell	Urquhart Bluff	Anglesea area
<i>Acianthus caudatus</i>					f
<i>A. pusillus</i>				s	
<i>Caladenia calcicola</i>		f			
<i>C. cardiochila</i>					f
<i>C. canea</i>				f	f
<i>C. clavigera</i>					f
<i>C. deformis</i>		f			
<i>C. fragrantissima</i> var. <i>fragrantissima</i>		f			
<i>C. hastata</i>		b			
<i>C. latifolia</i>		f			
<i>C. maritima</i>					f
<i>C. oenochila</i>					f
<i>C. parva</i>		f			
<i>C. prolata</i>		f			
<i>C. pusilla</i>					f
<i>C. tentaculata</i>				f	f
<i>C. venusta</i>					f
<i>C. venusta hybrids</i>					f
<i>Calochilus robertsonii</i>					f
<i>Chiloglottis valida</i>					f
<i>Cyrtostylis reniformis</i>		f			f
<i>Diuris orientis</i>	f	f			f
<i>D. palustris</i>		f			
<i>D. pardina</i>					f
<i>Eriochilus cucullatus</i>		l		l	
<i>Glossodia major</i>	f	f			f
<i>Leptoceras menziesii</i>		l			
<i>Microtis frutetorum</i>					f
<i>M. sp.</i>	l			b	b
<i>Prasophyllum fitzgeraldii</i>	b				
<i>Pterostylis concinna</i>					f
<i>P. cucullata</i>		f			f
<i>P. foliata</i>		f			f
<i>P. melagramma</i>		f			f
<i>P. nana</i>					s
<i>P. nutans</i>				f	f
<i>P. parviflora</i>					s
<i>P. pedunculata</i>				f	f
<i>P. plumosa</i>					f
<i>P. sanguinea</i>					f
<i>P. tasmanica</i>					b
<i>Pyrorchis nigricans</i>	f				
<i>Thalymitra antennifera</i>					
<i>T. aristata</i>					
<i>T. epipactoides</i>			b		
<i>T. flexuosa</i>					f
<i>T. ixioides</i>					f
<i>T. nuda</i>				b	
<i>T. pauciflora</i>	b				
<i>T. rubra</i>		b			f



Pterostylis cucullata



Part 3 : Grampians and Little Desert 10-12/10/00 will be published in the December Journal

FIELD TRIP TO COX'S SCRUB, 15th OCTOBER

Cathy Houston

Sunday 15th dawned sunny bright; -destination Cox's Scrub Conservation Park. Some members were a little reluctant to commit to going, following the fiasco of our trip to the park just under a year ago. However, the forecast was for only the chance of a shower or two and they were to be clearing as the morning went on. Five members arrived at the car park and before taking to the scrub donned their lighter

'wet gear' as it was by then, drizzling. We watched Little Black Cormorants and Coot on the sizeable water hole beside the car park. A Dusky Moorhen was quite often heard but did not reveal itself until we were almost ready to leave. However, getting around the water proved to be difficult, members having to push past *Acacia paradoxa* (prickly Acacia), this of course being in the mud. Another similar spot had to be negotiated a little further along before we started to climb the sandy hills.

By this time we had already enjoyed the tall flowers of *Caladenia tentaculata* and passed a number of *Thelymitra pauciflora* in tight bud. This would not be a day to enjoy the variety of *Thelymitra* species which we knew to be present in the park. Soon the photographers were at work with a number of *Calochilus robertsonii* in flower. These were found scattered throughout most of the area we walked and ranged in height from about 10cm with a couple of flowers/buds to 35 cm with six well formed pods.

As we climbed steadily up the hill the drizzle came and went and then looked to clear. The sun shone briefly and we revelled in the beauty of the low heath around us. The area was alight with yellow *Hibbertia* flowers, yellow *Leguminosae*, and topped with the yellow *Glishrocaryon behrii*. Adding variety to the colour were the occasional pinks of *Calytrix* still flowering, the crimson of the persistent calyx of the *Calytrix* and over topping this were the infrequent plants of *Leptospermum* in flower. In small patches of sand between the carpet of colour, were the leaves of *Pyrorchis nigricans* and the odd blackened flower or two. It mattered not if the orchids were sparse.

Further on and we were looking for a *Prasophyllum* in flower. It had been seen in bud by another couple of members two weeks before. We did find *Prasophyllum*, but it was about seventy leaves of *Prasophyllum elatum*! At this point, Malcolm spotted the first *Thelymitra benthamiana* for the day. Almost unbelievable, it was in flower. The cryptically marked flower disappeared almost completely against the multi-coloured background of the bush. Two plants stood side by side, one almost open. It was sprinkling again and completely grey and overcast. The temperature could not have been more than 17°C. From here on many leaves, and to a lesser extent, buds were seen on the top of the hill. No others were trying to open. A plant of *Thelymitra grandiflora* was in bud waiting for the next suitable day to open the remaining half of the buds. Two others in leaf only were in the area.

By now the rain had set in as a permanent part of the day and the walkers were steadily becoming wetter. It seemed like a case of history repeating itself. It was decided to head on down the hill without much consideration for what orchids may remain. This was interrupted only by the discovery of a *Pterostylis plumosa* still hanging on while its companions had all finished, and nearby were a couple of fire orchids doing the same.

Before leaving, something must be said of the other wild life that was encountered. A sleepy lizard was seen early on the walk in the low heath. On two separate occasions young brown-coloured snakes were observed coiled up in the thicker heath. The first slipped away after a short while. The second was loath to do anything and consequently had its portrait taken for posterity. It slid away only after a very considerable length of time and much talk nearby. Some members went on to Victor Harbour after a late lunch, only to find the place bathed in glorious sunshine that was being enjoyed by the many tourists and visitors.

Orchid List - Cox's Scrub 15/10/00

Flower (fl), flower over (fo), bud (b), leaf (1), seedpod (s)

<i>Caladenia leptochila</i> fo	<i>Prasophyllum datum</i> 1
<i>Caladenia prolata</i> fl, b, s	<i>Prasophyllum fitzgeraldii</i> fl
<i>Caladenia tentaculata</i> fl	<i>Pterostylis pedunculata</i> fl
<i>Calochilus robertsonii</i> fl, s	<i>Pterostylis plumosa</i> s, fl
<i>Diuris orientis</i> fo	<i>Pyrorchis nigricans</i> fl
<i>Glossodia major</i> s, fl	<i>Thelymitra antennifera</i>
<i>Leporella fimbriata</i>	<i>Thelymitra benthamiana</i> b, fl
<i>Microtis parviflora</i> 1	<i>Thelymitra grandiflora</i> b. 1
<i>Microns frutetorum</i> fl	<i>Thelymitra pauciflora</i> b, s
<i>Thelymitra rubra</i> b, s	

NOSSA PRIZE WINNERS AT ANOS CONFERENCE IN MELBOURNE

	CLASS	ORCHID	PLACE	GROWER
102	Den. gracilicaule		3rd	Wally Walloscheck
109	Other Dendrobium Species	Dend. macropus	1st	Les Nesbitt
120	A, C, Chiloglottis	Chiloglottis trulla	3rd	David Pettifor
122	Diuris Species	Diuris punctata	1 st	Les Nesbitt
		Diuris sulphurea	2nd	Les Nesbitt
123	Glossodia Species	Glossodia major	2nd	Les Nesbitt
124	Thelymitra Species	Thelymitra rubra	2nd	Les Nesbitt
		Thely. antennifera	3rd	Les Nesbitt
125	Multiflowered Ptst. Species		1st	David Pettifor
126	Other Pterostylis Species	Pterostylis plumosa	2nd	Les Nesbitt
		Pterostylis pedunculata	3rd	David Pettifor
128	Other Terrestrial Species	Lyperanthus suaveolens	1st	Les Nesbitt
		Microtis	2nd	David Pettifor
		Microtis	3rd	David Pettifor
222	Caladenia Hybrid	Cal. Fairy Princess	1 st	Les Nesbitt
224	Pterostylis Hybrid	Pterostylis Cutie H P	1st	Les Nesbitt
		Pterostylis Bantam	3rd	Les Burgess
225	Other Terrestrial Hybrid	Thely. Spring Delight	1st	Les Nesbitt
		Chilog. x pescottiana	3rd	David Pettifor

CHAMPION TERRESTRIAL HYBRID Ptst Cutie 'Harolds Pride' grown by Les Nesbitt

CHAMPION TERRESTRIAL SPECIMEN Ptst Cutie 'Harolds Pride' grown by Les Nesbitt

IRA BUTLER TROPHY NOMINATION Ptst Cutie 'Harolds Pride' grown by Les Nesbitt

ANOS - Vic Inc Cultural certificate recommendations:

Caladenia patersonii 'Lucindale S.A.' grown by Les Nesbitt

Pterostylis plumosa 'Marble Hill S.A.' grown by Les Nesbitt

CHRISTMAS BARBEQUE

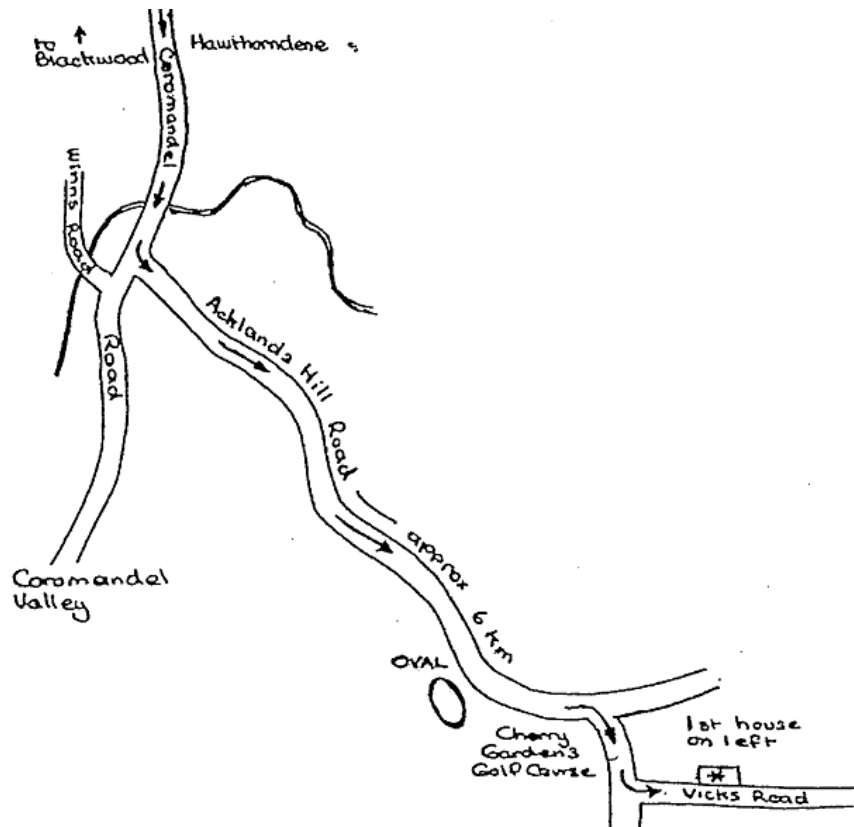
The home of Wally and
Shirley Walloscheck,
Cherry Gardens

Time: 11 am, Sunday 3
December

Bring: chairs, folding
table, plates, eating
utensils, drinks, sun cream,
hat.

Also bring: a desert or
salad to share and a \$2.00
donation.

N.O.S.S.A. will provide
the meat. This is an event
not to be missed, fun for
all, - a great time to catch
up with other members



REPORT ON THE 4TH AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY
CONFERENCE held at RINGWOOD, VICTORIA on 6th - 8th OCTOBER 2000. by
Doug Bickerton

Some notes taken from talks attended

Friday 6th October

Helen Richards: Native Orchids - Our Natural Heritage

(Life Member of ANOS Victoria; Director of Australian Orchid Foundation; author of "Cultivation of Australian Orchids"; special interest - cultivation of native terrestrial orchids as an aid to their conservation.)

n The formation of Australia from Gondwana, and the allopatric speciation that occurred, resulting in 80% of our orchids being endemic.

The impact of aborigines - fire, use of orchids for medicine and paint additives, tubers for food and stems for binding material.

Clarifying taxonomic questions is an important part of orchid conservation.

The States are beginning to work together.

Cultivation research in WA and Victoria, Kevin Western in SA.

Individual success stories, eg *Caladenia rosella* in Victoria

ANOS and other orchid groups can help through education, workshops, lobbying, weeding working bees, cultivation.

Andrew Batty: Conservation Techniques in WA

(PhD student, King's Park, WA)

Orchids produce 15,000 - 60,000 seeds per capsule, depending on the species.

The textured seed coat is thought to aid in wind dispersal.

Seed baiting method (planting slide frames of *Caladenia* seeds) showed that germination begins in April with rains and continues until October.

Seed germination using agar infected with mycorrhiza resulted in 80 - 90% success post-translocation.

The inoculation of a site with endophyte, followed by seed broadcast resulted in good germination rate but poor survival rate.

The mycorrhizae are thought to be saprophytes living on organic material.

Kingsley Dixon: Orchid Biology and Recovery

(Director of Plant Science, King's Park, WA; Adjunct Associate Professor, Botany Department, WA; President, Australian Network for Plant Conservation)

Orchids have the smallest seeds of all flowering plants.

Not all terrestrial orchids need mycorrhizae. Many epiphytes don't.

Many orchid taxa produce a crozier root each year to renew fungal infection. Often the old tubers become depleted and new tubers are produced.

In *Pterostylis* spp., all cells of the plant become infected with the mycorrhiza.

Fungal specificity is more important for temperate terrestrials.

Fungi can be morphologically similar but specific to different orchid spp.

The fungi used by *Monadenia bracteata* in WA and South Africa are morphologically similar, but in other states they are quite different.

Epiparasitism - the fungus co-invades the roots of another species, eg *Rhizanthella gardneri* (underground orchid) and broombush.

Colin Knight: Will the Sun Rise for the Sunshine Diuris?

(Horticultural Technical Officer, Melbourne Zoo)

Melbourne Zoo is involved in the recovery of the critically endangered orchid *Diuris fragrantissima*.

The connection developed as a consequence of the Zoo's involvement in the conservation of four fauna species from the Victorian Basalt Plains Grasslands.

Loss of habitat and inappropriate management has seen the species decline to one site at Sunshine with one flowering plant.

Attempts to increase the wild population have had little or no success. These methods include hand pollination, weed control, fencing and ecological burns.

A reintroduced population at a nearby site in the 1980's was unsuccessful. Eight plants were introduced at the Sunshine site in 1999.

The Zoo was given 100 plants in 1990. Staff have worked with the ANOS Terrestrial Group (a group within ANOS Victoria) to improve propagation techniques. Over 200 plants are now in cultivation.

An NHT grant has funded the construction of a Terrestrial Orchid House at the Zoo, to be used for *D. fragrantissima* and other recovery programs.

Genetic research will determine the origins and genetic diversity of all plants currently in cultivation.

The Zoo has an Education Service and also a high media profile. This can be used to benefit the *D. fragrantissima* recovery program.

James Todd: Threatened Orchid Recovery in Victoria

(Flora Planner, NRE, Victoria; author of Recovery plan for twelve threatened spider-orchid *Caladenia* of Victoria and South Australia).

Todd's paper was similar to the one he gave at the Adelaide Forum in May 2000. Some additional points:

Recovery is currently managed by Recovery Teams for each species but in the future there may be bio-regional multi-species teams.

Mentioned the existence of the Native Orchid Growers Network and the links being made with this group. In future, standards will be set for accreditation of growers.

ANOS Victoria aim to set up a conservation group specifically for in-situ recovery activities.

Ruth Raleigh: Effects of Seed Sterilisation on Germinability in *Caladenia tentaculata*

(PhD student studying "Propagation and restoration of *Caladenia* to natural habitats in Victoria" at Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne)

Orchid seeds are sterilised prior to germination using either symbiotic (mycorrhizal) or asymbiotic techniques. Calcium hypochlorite is less damaging to seeds but more difficult to prepare, whereas sodium hypochlorite is readily purchased in liquid form. Raleigh conducted trials to determine the optimum concentration and length of sterilising time for sodium hypochlorite.

Conclusion: Sterilise in 0.5% NaOCl for 3 minutes or less.

Other points of interest:

Caladenia have poor root systems. The fungus invades the collar cells and forms a fungal peloton (like a ball of string) inside cells. The cell digests the peloton.

Caladenia must have good rhizoid structures (similar to root hairs) in order for the fungus to invade.

Different fungi together on an agar jar appear to form repellent barriers against each other. This is a simple way of determining whether morphologically similar fungi are in fact the same.

Fire sterilises the topsoil containing the fungus hyphae, but mycorrhizae produce asexual cells lower down in *Caladenia* sheaths.

Les Nesbitt: Ten Ways to Save Rare Orchids

(South Australian part-time terrestrial orchid nursery owner with 35 years experience; Life Member of NOSSA; owns 20ha. of bush in the Adelaide Hills)

1. Preserve the habitat
2. Hand pollinate flowers
3. Control threats
4. Search for new populations
5. Relocate plants in imminent danger of destruction
6. Ex-situ cultivation (and translocation)
7. Propagate to increase plant numbers
8. Spread plants and advice throughout the world
9. Educate people to value orchid species
10. Preserve DNA material in long-term storage

To be continued in the December Journal (ed)