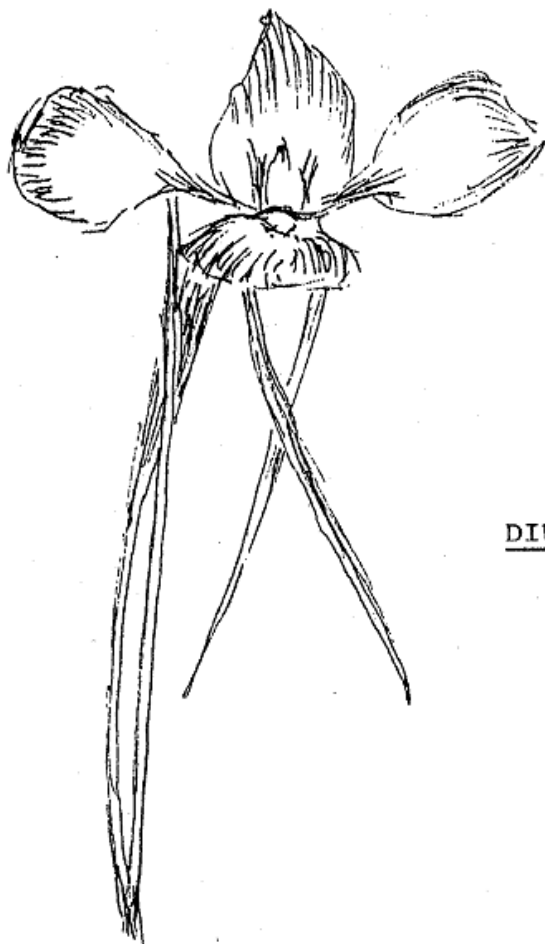
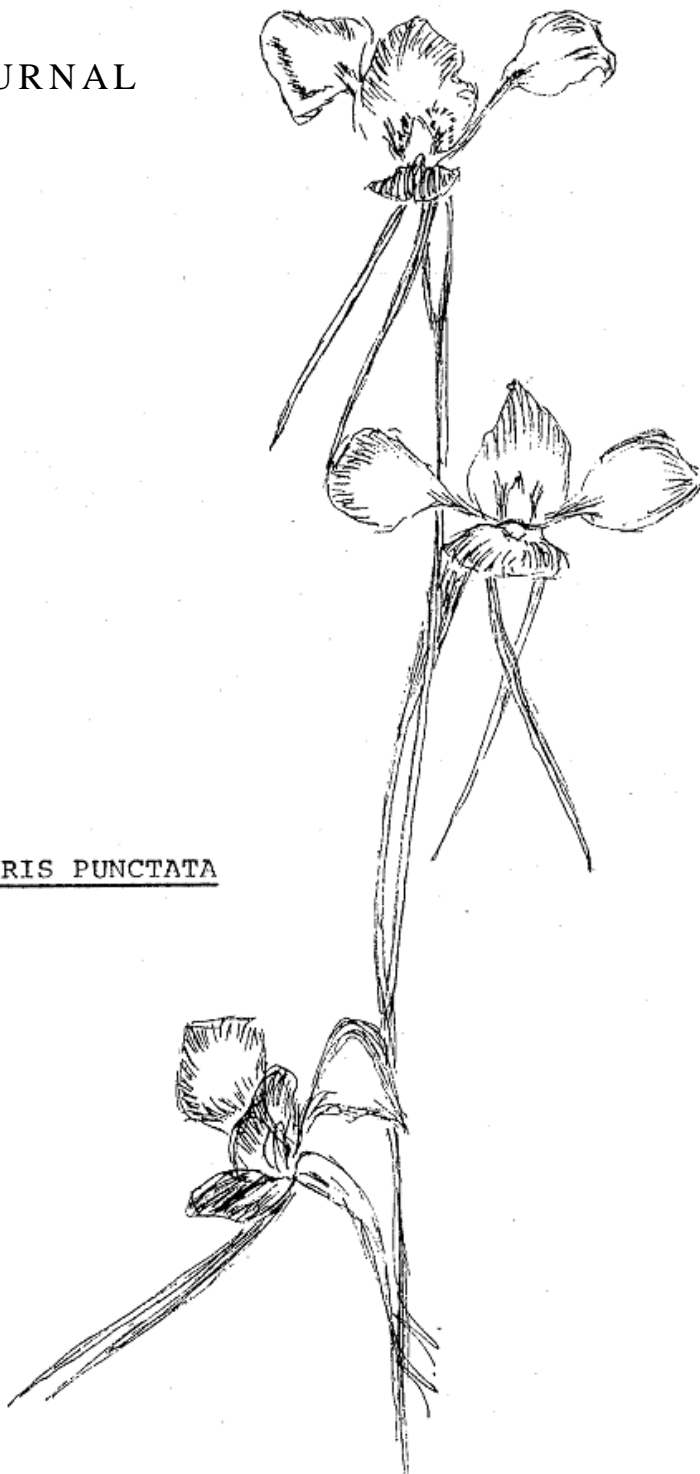


NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY
of
SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

JOURNAL



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NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

The Native Orchid Society of South Australia promotes the conservation of native orchids through cultivation of native orchids, through preservation of naturally-occurring orchid plants and natural habitat.

Except with documented official representation from the Management Committee of the native orchid society of South Australia, no person is authorised to represent the society on any matter.

All native orchids are protected plants in the wild. Their collection without written Government permit is illegal.

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NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 28 November, 1989, at 8.00 p.m.

St Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. Visitors always welcome.

All members intending to attend the November break-up meeting are urged to bring along something to be auctioned on the night - remember all proceeds go to your society. A supper plate would also be appreciated.

OCTOBER MEETING

In place of a speaker for the October meeting a panel of expert native orchid growers were co-opted to answer questions from members present. The panel comprised Mr Bob Bates and Mr Les Nesbitt (terrestrials) and Mr Gordon Brooks and Mr Reg Shooter (epiphytes). Judging by the quantity and quality of both questions and answers the session was well received by members.

NEXT FIELD TRIP

Duck Orchid Special, Saturday, December 9, Kuitpo area.

LIBRARY NEWS

All members are requested to return library books to the librarian at the November meeting as it is imperative that an end-of-year stocktake is made.

OCTOBER MEETING - DETAILS

PLANTS BENCHED

Terrestrials: *Caladenia barbarossa* x *C. longicauda*, *C. caudata*, *C. congesta*, *C. cucullata*, *C. dilatata* (mallee), *C. longicauda*, *C. menziesii*; *Chiloglottis gunnii*, *C. trapeziformis*, *Dipodium ensifolium*; *Diuris Pioneer*, *D. punctata* "Old Vic", *D. semilunulata*, *D. semilunulata* x *D. lanceolata*, *D. sulphurea* "Golden Dragon", *D. venosa* x *D. abbreviata*; *Orchis morio*; *Pterostylis arenicola*, *P. bicolor*, *P. biseta*, *P. cucullata*, *P. Cutie*, *P. excelsa*, *P. hamata*, *P. mitchellii*, *P. rufa*, *P. woollsii*; *Serapias*.

Epiphytes: *Dendrobium beckleri*, *D. bifalce* x *D. tetragonum*, *D. delicatum*, *D. gracilicaule*, *D. gracillimum*, *D. jonesii*, *D. kingianum*, *D. Kingrose*, *D. Kuringai* x *D. John Upton*, *D. lichenastrum*, *D. linguiforme*, *D. suffusum*, *D. Sunglow* x *D. tetragonum*, *D. tenuissimum*; *Sarcochilus Fitzhart* x *Fitzhart* x *hartmannii*, *S. fitzgeraldii*, *S. fitzgeraldii* x *fitzgeraldii* x *Fitzhart* (red), *S. hartmannii* (several specimen plants), *S. Melba*, *S. olivaceous*, *S. Weinhart*.

COMMENTARY AND JUDGING

Terrestrials: Mr G. Nieuwenhoven

Epiphytes: Mr R. Shooter

RESULTS OF POPULAR VOTE

Terrestrials: *Pterostylis punctata* "Old Vic", grown by Les Nesbitt.

Epiphytes: *Sarcochilus Melba*, grown by Reg Shooter.

RESULTS OF JUDGING

Terrestrial Species: *Pterostylis woollsii*, grown by Les Nesbitt

Hybrid: *Caladenia barbarossa* x *C. longicauda*, grown by Bob Bates (Rogers

House). Epiphyte Species: *Sarcochilus hartmannii*, grown by L. Chambers.

Epiphyte Hybrid: *Sarcochilus Melba*, grown by Reg Shooter.

COMMITTEE BRIEF

The Management Committee meeting was held at the residence of Mr Les Nesbitt on Friday, 27 October, 1989. All members except Mr W. Walloscheck were present and a number of issues were discussed, including:

1. NOSSA'S involvement in "Burnside Information Week" and the provision of a static display in the atrium at the Burnside Village from 6-11 November, 1989.
2. The awarding of a cultural award to Mr and Mrs Les Nesbitt for the development of the specimen terrestrial plant *Diuris punctata* "Old Vic". This plant was greatly admired at the October meeting.
3. The possibility of obtaining reasonable size native orchid plants for members on the same basis as the society acquired *Sarcochilus Fitzhart* plants.

Should any member have any issue which they would like considered by the Management Committee please contact any committee member.

D.R. Butler

CULTURAL CERTIFICATE - NOSSA AWARD No. 18

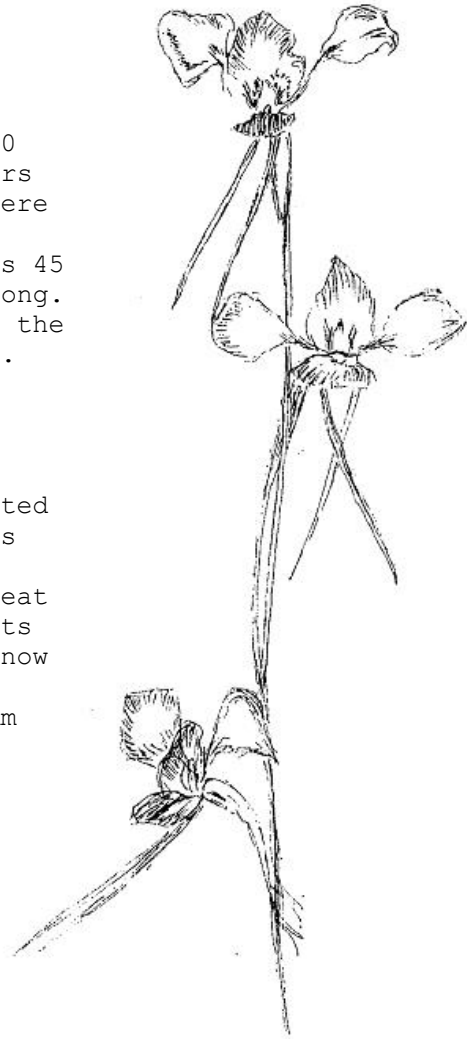
Diuris punctata "Old Vic",

grown by Les and Kay Nesbitt.

This beautifully presented exhibit consisted of 10 spikes of pale mauve flowers growing from 8 tubers in a 250 mm (10") squat plastic pot. The plants were 530 mm tall with sturdy flower stems 4 mm in diameter. Each raceme carried 5 to 7 large flowers 45 mm across the petals with ventral sepals 100 mm long. The shapely flowers were attractively arranged on the stems with most flowers facing the same direction. The exhibit carried a total of 61 flowers and one bud. The leaves were free of disease and standing erect.

Les said that all of the plants have been propagated from one original tuber by removing the new tubers after flowering. The plants were grown in his standard soil mix of 40% soil, 45% sand and 15% peat moss with a little blood and bone added. The plants and tubers just get bigger each year. Each tuber now covers the palm of a man's hand and has 4-5 "fingers". The pot sits on a weldmesh bench 450 mm high under 50% shade cloth. The plants flower reliably every year in October. They have a faint sweet perfume.

Diuris punctata



CULTURAL COMMENTS

Mr Bob Bates addressed members present on the watering and fertilising of terrestrials once the flowering season has been completed. Bob pointed out that different genera required different amounts of water at this time of year and suggested that, where possible, the placing of these plants in different areas of the shadehouse may make it easier to cope with such requirements. Extra tubers may also be encouraged if a weak fertiliser solution is used and plants kept damp up until Christmas. The exception to this rule is *Caladenia* which needs to be kept dry after flowering to avoid tuber rot.

Mr Gordon Brooks covered the epiphytes and emphasised that it was now time to consider repotting our epiphytes. Gordon suggested that the ideal time to re-pot is when the new growth appears after flowering has finished. It is also important not to over-pot into too large a container for the size of the plant. Re-potting those *Dendrobium kingianum* plants that haven't flowered for a number of seasons may "wake them up" and lead to better results. *Sarcochilus* need to be kept in a humid environment during summer months rather than keeping them wet and should be re-potted once the new growth becomes apparent.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

PTEROSTYLIS ARENICOLA SPECIAL - September 23 R.J. Markwick

On 23 September a small group of native-orchid enthusiasts enjoyed a mild sunny day's excursion into four areas of bushland on the dryer (eastern) side of the Mount Lofty Ranges. The party, led by Bob Bates, included Rosemary Taplin, Denzel Murfett of the South Coast Field Naturalists Society, Everett and Margaret Foster of the Geelong (Victoria) Group of ANOS and the author. The first and the third of the locations visited are Public Land. The second and the fourth locations lie on privately owned land where permission is required to visit. The habitats provided by each of these areas differ in several respects, influencing to some extent the distribution and numbers of orchid species growing in them.

In this account of the trip, only the names of the noteworthy plants are recorded. A full list appears at the end.

Location (1) is a Forest Reserve approximately 8 kilometres south of Tailem Bend. It consists of a stand of southern cypress pine (*Callitris preissii*) associated with whip-stick mallee on red sandy soil. The understorey is generally grassy with some low shrubs. This is the habitat of the rare and endangered *Pterostylis arenicola*, the sighting of which was the principal objective of this trip. Although most plants were still in bud we were lucky enough to find several plants in flower. These were eagerly photographed by the photographers present. Other notable orchids seen were *Thelymitra epipactoides*, *Caladenia stricta* and a *Caladenia* sp. nov. with large flattened yellow clubs.

Eckert's Scrub (Location (2)), is land recently set aside and preserved by the owner under the provisions of the South Australian Government's Heritage Agreement Scheme, and lies approximately 5 kilometres south-east of Langhorne Creek. This most interesting patch of mallee on white sand and sandy-loam, is rich in orchids. The scrub is fairly open in nature with grasses and low shrubs making up the understorey. This area had not previously been surveyed for orchids by NOSSA members. The notable finds were *Pterostylis arenicola*, the true (?) *Thelymitra* x *macmillanii*, i.e. *T. nuda* x *T. antennifera* (no *T. luteocilium* grows here), and putative hybrids of *C.* sp. nov. "yellow clubs" x *C. cardiochila* displaying considerable morphological and colour variation. The extension to the known range of the endangered *P. arenicola* is particularly significant, highlighting the importance of preserving floristically valuable remnant scrub-land such as this. Mr. Eckert is to be congratulated for his far-sighted generosity on conserving this land and its flora for future generations. Areas such as this are now all too rare!

Ferries McDonald Conservation Park (Location (3)), lies approximately 10 kilometres to the south of Monarto South. This area consists of fairly dense mallee scrub with some thick pockets of broombush (*Melaleuca uncinata*). Soils vary from leached white sands in the low parts, through sandy-loam soils to darker loamy soils overlaying limestone in the higher parts. Plant density and species diversity in the under-storey is greatest in the limestone areas. The highlight of our incursion into this area was Bob Bates' discovery of a pollinating wasp visiting an albino form of *Caladenia fitzgeraldii*. Fortunately for those trailing behind him, Bob resisted the temptation to capture the wasp, leaving the flower intact for inspection and photography.

The fourth location (4) lies near Hartley. I believe the owner would prefer it if its position were not widely known, so I will not be more specific than this. Subject to ratification, this is another property to be preserved under

Pterostylis arenicola Special (contd.)

the Heritage Agreement Scheme. The area is a limestone hillside of largely open grassland with occasional mallee trees, and a small forest of native pine in which we hoped to find *Pterostylis erythroconcha*. In this quest we were unsuccessful; the flowers eluding even the eagle eye of our leader. The existence here of *Diuris x fastidiosa* (not seen on the day since it had finished flowering) is of particular interest. More exciting than this, however, was the discovery of *Caladenia concolor*, a species supposed to be extinct in the area. Growing close by was a plant with strong affinities to *Caladenia x variabilis*. Its rich colouring was highly suggestive of a crossing between *C. cardiochila* (a plant of which grew close by) and *C. concolor* (which grew some 4-5 metres away). Other noteworthy orchids seen were a dwarf form of *C. filamentosa*, a similar form of *C. filamentosa* var. *tentaculata* of rich blood-red colour, and putative hybrids *C. aff. patersonii* "large white" x *C. patersonii* "mallee princess" and *C. aff. patersonii* x *C. fitzgeraldii*. Several plants of the large mallee form of *Prasophyllum patens* were also discovered.

This was a highly successful excursion in terms of the rare and unusual plants seen, reinforcing the message (if ever it needed reinforcing), of the value of preserving remnant pockets of mallee scrub at all costs.

ORCHIDS SEEN:

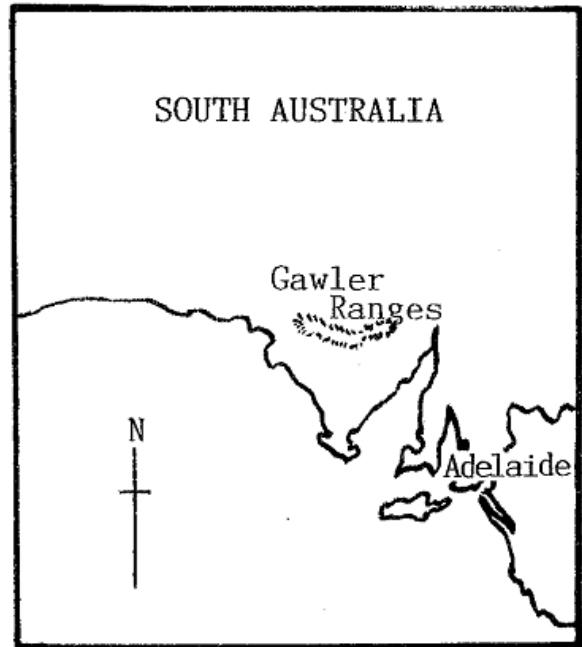
IN FLOWER:		In Flower (contd.)	
location		1 2 3 4	<i>P. cycnocephala</i>
3	<i>Caladenia</i> aff. <i>dilatata</i> (Mallee)	3	<i>P. mutica</i>
4	<i>C. aff. patersonii</i> x <i>C. fitzgeraldii</i> ?	3	<i>P. plumosa</i>
		2 3	<i>Thelymitra antennifera</i>
4	<i>C. aff. patersonii</i> "mallee princess"	1	<i>T. epipactoides</i>
		2 3 4	<i>T. nuda</i>
1 2 3 4	<i>C. cardiochila</i>	2	<i>T. x macmillanii</i>
2	<i>C. cardiochila</i> x <i>C. sp. nov.</i> "yellow clubs"		
4	<i>C. concolor</i>		
3	<i>C. deformis</i>		IN BUD
4	<i>C. filamentosa</i> (dwarf hairy leaf race, blood red)	4	<i>Pterostylis biseta</i>
4	<i>C. filamentosa</i> (dwarf hairy leaf race, pale)		
2	<i>C. filamentosa</i> (short pale, hairy leaf)		LEAF
		4	<i>Diuris x fastidiosa</i>
3	<i>C. filamentosa</i> (tall, pale)	4	<i>Eriochilus cucullatus</i>
4	<i>C. filamentosa</i> var. <i>tentaculata</i> (dryland form)	2	<i>Prasophyllum elatum</i>
		1	<i>Pterostylis dolichochila</i>
3	<i>C. fitzgeraldii</i>	4	<i>P. erythroconcha</i>
4	<i>C. patersonii</i> "large white" x <i>C. patersonii</i> "mallee princess"		<i>P. robusta</i>
1 2	<i>C. sp. nov.</i> "yellow clubs"		
1	3 4 <i>C. stricta</i>		
	4 <i>C. x variabilis</i> ? (<i>C. cardiochila</i> x <i>C. concolor</i> ?)	2	IN SEED:
		2	<i>Acianthus exsertus</i>
2	<i>Diuris maculata</i>	3	<i>Caladenia deformis</i>
3 4	<i>D. palustris</i>		<i>Cyrtostylis robusta</i>
2	<i>Lyperanthus nigricans</i>	4	<i>Diuris palustris</i>
	4 <i>Microtis frutetorum</i>	3	<i>Prasophyllum nigricans</i>
1	4 <i>Prasophyllum occidentale</i>	2	<i>P. rufum</i>
	4 <i>P. patens</i>	2 3 4	<i>Pterostylis dolichochila</i>
1 2	<i>Pterostylis arenicola</i>	3	<i>P. nana</i>

FIELD TRIP REPORT

GAWLER RANGES SURVEY - September 25-28

This was a highly successful excursion in terms of species added to the Gawler Range orchid list, extension of range and in the capture of pollinators of several species.

We concentrated our efforts in the Scrubby Peak/Lake Acraman areas. [Scrubby Peak is the wetter part of the Gawler Ranges (over 250 mm per year) and Lake Acraman is much dryer (200 mm per year). Scrubby Peak is an area of bare granite with drifts of white sand over the granite in places, red loamy flats and ephemeral salt-lakes/claypans. Lake Acraman is a huge meteorite crater some 20 kilometres across. The debris thrown up from the meteorite impact millions of years ago has been found as far away as the Flinders Ranges. It must have been some big bang! The meteor impact helped to form the red granite porphyrys rock that occurs as hundreds of rounded granite hills throughout the semi-arid ranges. There is no permanent water and Lake Acraman itself contains, at best, a few centimetres of water in only the wettest years. There are about 20 islands (gypseous mounds) on the lake and we were able to walk out to them by removing shoes and socks. The only orchid found on these islands is *Pterostylis mutica*.



On the dry red hills around the lake can be found all the "typical" Gawler Range orchids: *Pterostylis ovata*, a species endemic to the area but plentiful there; *P. "inland nana"*; *P. excelsa*; *Prasophyllum patens* (these were amazing - up to 80cm high and smothered with perfumed white flowers so that they could be seen from 100 metres away); *Caladenia ? tentaculata* (not quite the same as the Adelaide Hills or true *tentaculata* and it seems with a different pollinator); and on the south side of most hills *C. toxochila*. *Thelymitra nuda* is the only other orchid common throughout the area.

We began our survey however in the sandhills behind Scrubby Peak Station homestead and the excitement began instantly for here was a new species of *Caladenia* in abundance, an aff. *dilatata*, with long golden bayonet-shaped clubs and growing with it another undescribed species with small brown osmophores. The wasp pollinators of both were caught and, as expected, these were wasps not known to pollinate any other *Caladenia*. Another surprise was a patch of *C. latifolia*, normally recognised as a coastal species. Here it was 150 kilometres inland.

Around Scrubby Peak itself we found *Caladenia stricta*, also a new record for the Gawler Ranges (it later proved quite widespread wherever *Melaleuca uncinata* occurred), and *Thelymitra antennifera* (not previously recorded) growing with *T. nuda*. These two species hybridise to give *T. x macmillanii* but we did not locate any.

We moved on to Pine Lodge and in the white sandhills came across *Pterostylis vittata* in seed (another new record), lots of the rare desert greenhood *P. xerophila* and buds of what later turned out to be a probable new species of

Gawler Ranges Survey (contd.)

rufa group *Pterostylis*. The most common orchids in this area were *Caladenia cardiochila* and *C. filamentosa*, which just smothered the sandhills in places. Also here was a (probable) colony of the *Pterostylis* "mallee nana" (another new record - but all plants were senescent so this could not be confirmed). A fascinating find on the red loams between Mt Granite and Mt Centre was a strange new *Caladenia* of the *C. dilatata* complex but one lacking a fringe to the labellum. This was either a freak or a relict species! (Has anyone got time to spend a few days there next year and map out the population?) Also here was an insipid *Caladenia* aff. *carnea* with non-opening flowers - this one appeared to be a form not previously recorded for South Australia.

There were many colonies of *Microtis* in bud so it could not be confirmed what species were involved but one patch in flower seemed to be *M. frutetorum* (the commonest of the *M. unifolia* complex in South Australia).

That about completes the interesting orchids but besides the orchids there were hundreds of different wildflowers - from Sturt Peas on the flats to *Glossostigma* in the rock holes. And the commonest animal in the area? - hairy-nosed wombats! (Be very careful if you drive off the road in the Lake Acraman area - it can be difficult to extricate a vehicle from a collapsed wombat burrow.)

The official orchid list for the Gawler Ranges is now:

<i>Caladenia bicalliata</i> (only Scrubby Peak)	<i>P. mutica</i> (throughout)
<i>C. aff. carnea</i> (Mt Centre)	<i>P. "inland nana"</i> (throughout)
<i>C. deformis</i> (Scrubby Peak, Paney, Pine Lodge)	<i>P. ? aff. nana</i> (Pine Lodge only)
<i>C. cardiochila</i> (Scrubby Peak, Paney, Pine Lodge)	<i>P. cycnocephala</i> (one record only for Coralbrynne)
<i>C. aff. dilatata</i> "small brown clubs"	<i>P. excelsa</i> (throughout)
<i>C. aff. dilatata</i> "golden bayonets"	<i>P. ovata</i> (throughout)
<i>C. aff. dilatata</i> "unfringed"	<i>P. xerophila</i> (western half only)
<i>C. latifolia</i> (Scrubby Peak Station only)	<i>P. aff. xerophila</i> (Pine Lodge)
<i>C. stricta</i>	<i>P. aff. excelsa</i> (west end only)
<i>C. ? tentaculata</i> (throughout)	<i>P. aff. ovata</i> (one collection only)
<i>C. toxochila</i> (throughout)	<i>P. ? dolichochila</i> (1 record)
<i>C. filamentosa</i> (throughout)	<i>P. vittata</i> (Pine Lodge)
<i>C. toxochila</i> x <i>C. filamentosa</i> (one record only)	<i>Prasophyllum nigricans</i> (sandy or calcareous areas)
<i>Microtis unifolia</i> complex	<i>P. occidentale</i> (rare)
<i>Pterostylis biseta</i> (uncommon)	<i>P. patens</i> "inland odoratum" (throughout)
<i>P. boormanii</i> (uncommon)	<i>Thelymitra antennifera</i> (new record)
	<i>T. luteocilium</i> (Mt Sturt, one record)
	<i>T. nuda</i> (throughout)

Other orchids likely to occur in the Gawler Ranges include *Prasophyllum elatum*, *Calochilus campestris*, *Lyperanthus* and *Thelymitra azurea* which normally are only obvious after fires. All occur in equally dry sandy areas just south of the Gawler Ranges. I would not be surprised if further undescribed orchids were to be found in the Gawler Ranges especially greenhoods of the "rufa group". Prior to this NOSSA survey the list was of 22 species, the survey increased this to over 30 species and from previous experience I would expect that closer to 40 species would occur in this area; which is amazing for a "north of the wheatbelt" location.

(Report by Bob Bates)

FIELD TRIP REPORT

SCOTT CONSERVATION PARK SPRING SURVEY - September 16,

This was our final official visit. We entered via the south-west corner access track, hiked along the western boundary: at first through sandy *Eucalyptus baxteri* woodland, then into *E. fasciculosa* and mallee scrub on a low ridge and cut down to the clay flats by the creek in the north-west corner. We lunched by the north-west access track where we met some members of the "Friends of Scott Park" group led by Tony Scott whose family owned the land before it was sold to the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The group was spraying bridal creeper with Roundup.

After lunch we headed along the creek, then cut up hill into a boggy depression then on to the highest point in the park, adjacent the eastern boundary - an area of mallee-broombush. Finally we visited the south-east corner and hiked back to the cars via the southern boundary track. We did in fact visit all major habitat types and added several new orchids to the park list (the official park list had only three species of orchid but recent work by Rosemary Taplin, Denzel Murfett and others had increased this to over thirty). New additions included *Thelymitra benthamiana*, *T. x macmillanii*, *Pterostylis plumosa*, *Diuris corymbosa*, *Caladenia deformis*, *C. pusilla* and (just out of the park), *C. latifolia*.

The most common spring-flowered species seemed to be *Glossodia major*, *Thelymitra antennifera* and *Acianthus caudatus*. There were no unexpected finds but we failed to locate *Pterostylis longifolia* and *Diuris maculata* which were known to occur in the park in 1980. A high resident population of kangaroos and rabbits may have caused the loss of these species. This pattern is unfortunately likely to continue.

In total the survey revealed 46 different orchid taxa to have been present - quite remarkable for such a small area of relatively uniform habitat.

R. Bates

FIELD TRIP REPORT

LAUREL PACKER'S COTTAGE GARDEN - FOREST RANGE

Laurel's garden is situated in an apple and pear orchard of 10 hectares just 10 kilometres out of Lobethal. At the time of our visit the apple blossoms were just bursting out. After scones and tea we made a tour of the garden - peonies, azaleas, rhododendrons were a speciality. We then headed through the orchard to a block of stringybark bushland burnt ten months earlier. There were masses of gorgeous *Diuris corymbosa*, dozens of *D. maculata* and, of course, the kids present were smart enough to spot a hybrid. *Glossodia* of both purple and white and here and there little white *Caladenia carnea*, occasional greenhoods, *Pterostylis nutans* and *P. pedunculata*, were all in bloom.

The weather was inclement and a brief hailstorm had us holding sheets of galvanised iron over our heads as umbrellas with the hail a staccato of machine gun fire loudness. The area is later than elsewhere and despite the date (October 9) the spider orchids were still in bud and with the air so cold the various sun orchids were tightly closed. It was cold for us too but Laurel's wood stove and hot tea soon changed that.

Thank you for a pleasant morning Laurel.

Garry Guide

ORCHID RAMBLES IN VICTORIA R.J. Markwick

This spring I made two trips to Victoria. The principal aim was to find and photograph native orchids new to me. The locations visited are indicated by numbers in brackets. It should be noted that many plants flowered later than usual this year. A full list of the orchids seen is appended.

The first trip in mid-September was to Deep Lead near Stawell and to some of the usual Grampians areas.

This year I was able to photograph a perfect two-flowered specimen of the very rare *Thelymitra mackibbinii*. This was an unexpected bonus, because I had been informed before leaving home that these plants only flower for about two days and that the plants at Deep Lead (1) had self-pollinated some 9-10 days before my expected time of arrival. Several plants of *T. x macmillanii* and *T. x chasmogama* were sighted. Another plant of the rare *Caladenia audasii* was located in addition to last year's specimen. (After returning home, a letter was received from Everett Foster of ANOS (Geelong) advising that a third plant had been found about 200 metres further into the bush.) Nearby, a putative hybrid was found between *C. audasii* and, it is suspected, one of the many *C. patersonii* varieties so common in the area.

Much time was spent photographing these plants and examples of flowers in the *C. patersonii*/*C. aff. patersonii* hybrid swarm for which the area is justly famous. It would be a botanist's nightmare trying to determine the true species among the confusing array of flower shapes and colours. Flower size varies considerably, colours range from albino to deep red. The shape of the calli and the fringing of the labellum can also vary considerably from plant to plant.

At Bellfield Settlement, near Halls Gap (2), the only notable flowers were of *Pterostylis scabrida*.

Spiral leaves and buds of *Thelymitra matthewsii* were located at Colton Gorge (3). It was gratifying to see that steps have been taken to protect these rare plants from unwitting damage by tourists.

The second trip was in late October.

On an excursion led by Chris Hall of Ballarat, Mount Beckworth near Clunes (4) was visited in company with members of ANOS Victoria and the Geelong Group of ANOS. A large group of Maryborough field naturalists also visited on the same day so the reserve was literally crawling with nature lovers. The Victorians are justifiably proud of their natural heritage and seem to be very keen to study and preserve it. Notable orchids included *T. antennifera* x *T. rubra* and an additional plant of the putative *T. antennifera* x *T. ixioides* (reported for the first time in the December 1988 issue of this Journal) in a location considerably removed from the original discovery. The latter carried several intensely coloured purplish-red flowers. Other interesting flowers included the very tiny *Caladenia pusilla*, plants tentatively identified as *Diuris brevissima*, and *Diuris* hybrids including a putative *D. x palachila* x *D. lanceolata*. The *Calochilus* aff. *imberbis* discussed last year with the *T. antennifera* x *T. ixioides* was not yet flowering. I was delighted to learn that this very same plant had been recorded from Rushworth and is illustrated in Margaret Dacy's book "Victorian Orchids in Habitat: An Aid To Their Identification", a copy of which is in the NOSSA library. A week later, on my return trip, many magnificent flowers of *C. robertsonii* were flowering.

(to be continued)

TERRESTRIAL ORCHIDS: WHAT TO DO IN OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

Now that the spring flush of flowering is over you will probably be looking back over the year's results, working out how you could improve next year. It is wise to keep a notebook and jot down observations and bright ideas as you have them. Even the most brilliant idea may be quite forgotten over the summer.

How did your "banana treatments" go? What species improved their flowering? Did leaving banana skins around the pots during the growing season help? Did you record the difference between fertilised pots and unfertilised? Did your *Pterostylis* do better in the shade or a well lit spot?

All this information should be recorded and much would make material for articles in your journal.

By now you will have pollinated numerous flowers, perhaps line breeding with the best forms of a species. You may have two pots of *Pterostylis curta*, one from the Adelaide Hills with large flowers, another from the Flinders Ranges with big rosettes and tall stems. Why not cross-pollinate (the large rosette habit of the Flinders Range plants may increase the vigour of your Adelaide Hills clone!) Perhaps you are into hybridising. Do you plan and predict the results of a crossing? All crosses need to be recorded in that notebook! Watch all seed pods and harvest in the morning of a hot day as they turn yellow and are about to split. Seed pods bursting everywhere can give some awful mixes in your show pots. Many growers label crosses on the plants themselves with the tags one gets on loaves of bread.

Have you tried the tuber-removal method of increasing your plants? I'm a real fan of this method and now is the time to really get stuck into it. I carefully tip out the pot, shake (not pull) the soil away from plants, twist off the new tuber and repot the plants in the same soil (or if any sign of tuber rot is evident, in fresh bush soil). I usually put the removed tubers back in the same pot to avoid later confusion and water the whole lightly, putting the pot back into a shady place. This system works well with all *Diuris* (except vegetative ones), *Prasophyllum*, non-colony forming *Pterostylis*, *Eriochilus*, *Thelymitra* and, if you're game, *Caladenia*, but not *Glossodia* or *Corybas*.

Now is the time to clear up all the weeds around the orchid house before they seed: the tiny seeds of some species seem to blow up onto orchid pots and next year those pots will produce fine crops of weeds.

Some species of orchids (i.e. *Pterostylis vittata*, *Eriochilus*) will be dying back now. Make no attempt to keep those green - put them aside to somewhere dry and cool. Other plants are just getting into a rush of growth (i.e. *Diuris punctata* complex, *Chiloglottis* sp.) - these must be kept wet to guarantee large tubers for next year. (By the way, if you pull off tubers, do not expect large flowering plants next year!)

Sandy Phillips