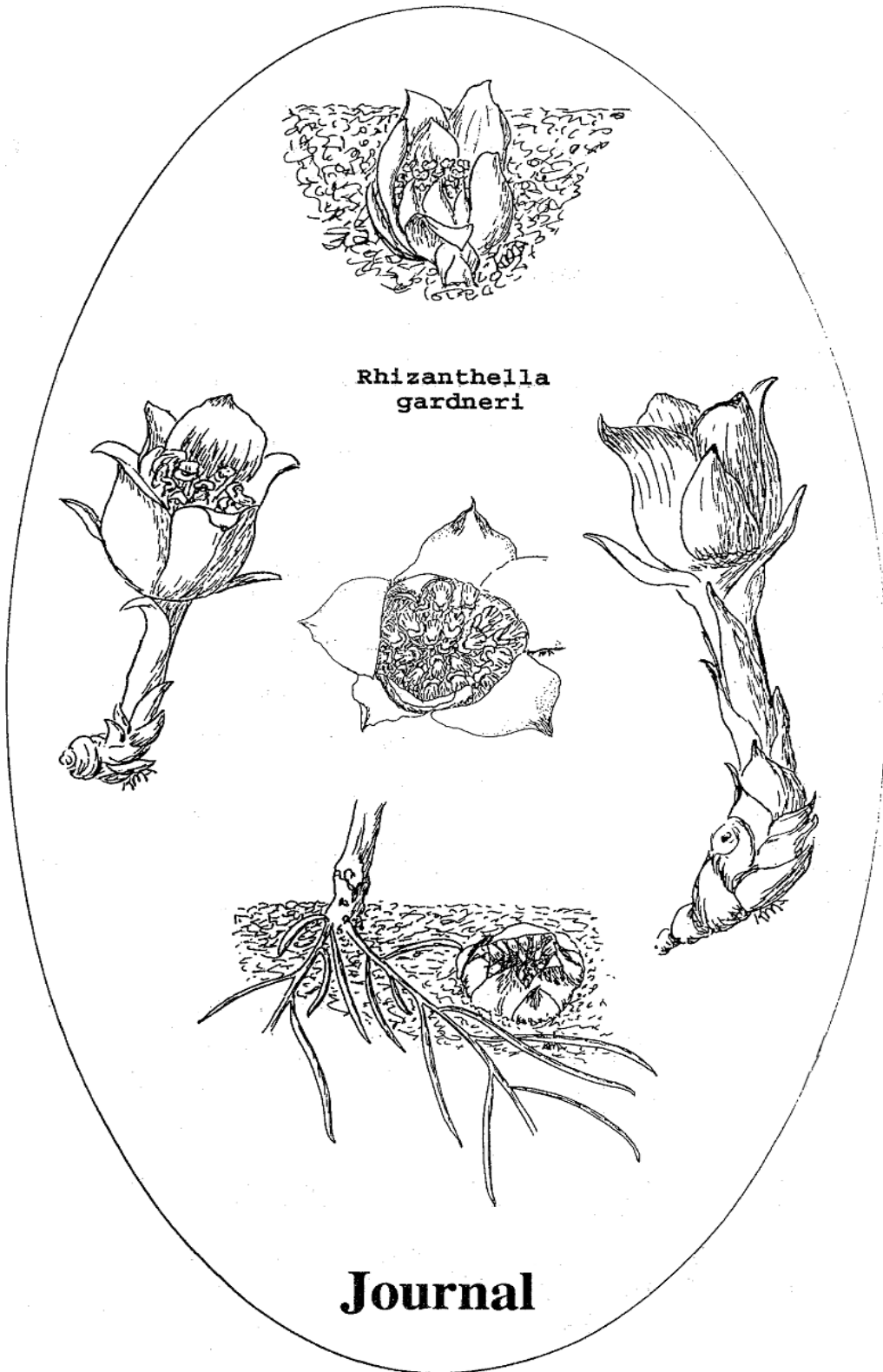


# Native Orchid Society of South Australia Inc.



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MARCH 1994  
VOLUME 18 NO. 2

# NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

P.O Box 565,  
UNLEY S.A 5061

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 the 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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Price: ONE DOLLAR



**NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC**

**MARCH 1994 VOL 18 NO 2 JOURNAL**

**MARCH MEETING**

Tuesday March 22 1994, at St Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. Doors to the hall will be open at 7.15 pm for those wishing to borrow from the Library or purchase from/sell through the trading table, to admire the orchids being benched or perhaps to just socialise. The Meeting is our Annual General Meeting, but we promise to keep the business aspect brief. The evening will be dedicated to native epiphytic orchid culture. We will have several speakers, some demonstrations and a question and answer period. This is a meeting which shouldn't be missed.

**N.O.S.S.A. OPEN DAY**

To be held at the home of Allan and Kate Jennings, 14 Old Belair Road, Belair on Sunday the 27th March. Meet at 2 pm. All Members are welcome to attend. A great opportunity to meet with other Members and to learn new growing techniques and secrets.

**COMMITTEE MEETING**

To be held at the home of Gwen and Ron Robjohns, 71 Edmond Avenue, Unley, on Friday 25 March at 7.30 pm.

**DIARY DATES**

March 22: 8.00 pm Annual General Meeting

April 24: Conservation Group Meeting

May 4: Annual Dinner at the Walkers Arms Hotel

September 17 & 18: Annual Spring Show

September 25 - 30 (1996) Third Australasian Native Orchid Conference and Show

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## NEW MEMBERS

The Native Orchid Society of South Australia takes great pleasure in welcoming Mr Nathan Reid of Hope Valley and Mrs Judy Penney of Windsor Gardens as new Members. It is terrific to have both of you with us

## FEBRUARY MEETING

### Plants Benched At February Meeting

Terrestrials: *Calanthe triplicata*, *Chiloglottis sylvestris*, *Genoplesium* aff. *rufum*, *Pterostylis obtusa*, *Pterostylis revoluta*, and *Spiranthes sinensis*

Epiphytes: *Bulbophyllum macphersonii*, *Dendrobium bigibbum*, *Dendrobium* ?Cheino (a *D. bigibbum* cross), *Dendrobium fleckeri* hybrid (unnamed by Kevin Western), *Sarcochilus ceciliae*

Plant Commentary Plant commentary for the terrestrials was provided by George Nieuwenhoven.

Plant commentary for the epiphytes was provided by Kevin Western.

### Popular Vote

*Chiloglottis sylvestris* grown at the R. S. Rogers Shadehouse was the most popular terrestrial orchid benched.

*Sarcochilus ceciliae* grown by Roger Herraman was the most popular epiphytic orchid benched.

### Commentator's Choice

Terrestrial Species: *Pterostylis obtusa* grown by Thelma O'Neill.

Terrestrial Hybrid No terrestrial hybrids were benched

Epiphyte Species: *Dendrobium bigibbum* var. *compactum* grown by George Nieuwenhoven.

Epiphyte Hybrid: *Dendrobium* Cheino grown by Shirley Pursche.

Several slides of *Rhizanthella gardnerii* were shown to set the mood for this year's search for the Underground Orchid in South Australia. These were followed by the award winning 35 mm slides and prints of the NOSSA 1993 Photographic Competition. Our photographers certainly do us proud! Rosalie Moore concluded the evening by showing us some slides of species and hybrids of the Genus *Sarcochilus*. Rosalie presented a talk on the Genus at an earlier meeting but the projector failed us at the time . It was fortunate in one way in that we were able to become involved in this most beautiful orchid on two separate occasions; - a little like having a second helping of one of our favourite deserts. Thank you very much Rosalie.

## THIRD AUSTRALASIAN NATIVE ORCHID CONFERENCE AND SHOW

Most of the details about the Conference and Show were discussed at our February General Meeting. By the time this Journal is distributed to Members, another meeting of Conference Committee Members will have been held. Several Members are already coming up with some good ideas for a Logo for the Conference. We have firmed up Flinders University conference facilities for the big event and are now preparing a series of articles to appear in the major Orchid Publications and Journals. I am pleased to announce that Barry Collins (Chairman), Janet Napier (Secretary) and John Turner (Council Member), of the ANOS Conference and Show sub-Committee intend to visit us in May and will attend our May general meeting. Any members interested in helping with the Conference who have not already indicated this

interest and any members with any ideas which may help make the 1996 Conference a SUPER Conference, please contact Gerry Carne (332 7730 AH)

#### NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE AND OFFICES - 1994

The following nominations have been made for Office and Committee Positions for 1993.

President: Bill Dear, nominated by Gerry Carne, seconded by Roger Biddell.

Vice President: Roy Hargreaves, nominated by Gerry Carne, seconded by Ron Robjohns.

Secretary: Gerry Carne, nominated by Bill Dear, seconded by Roy Hargreaves.

Treasurer: Ron Robjohns, nominated by Roy Hargreaves, seconded by Bob Bates.

Committee: Karen Possingham, nominated by Wally Walloscheck, seconded by John Peace.

John Peace, nominated by Thelma O'Neill, seconded by Wally Walloscheck.

The above nominations satisfy all positions vacant. No other nominations have been received.

Thelma O'Neill and Wally Walloscheck will serve the second of their two year Committee appointment.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1993-1994

It is with great pleasure that I present the President's Report for 1993-1994. It has been an active and challenging twelve months and we should all feel proud of our accomplishments:

At a Committee Meeting early in 1993, Les Nesbitt suggested N.O.S.S.A. initiate a genuine search for *Rhizanthella gardneri*, the Underground Orchid, in South Australia. A series of articles which subsequently appeared in several N.O.S.S.A. Journals in 1993 resulted in three reports of the Underground Orchid being seen by land holders in earlier years. Several visits were made by Committee Members to a property in the Fleurieu Peninsula where a plant very much resembling *Rhizanthella* sp. was found while digging charcoal pits during the second World War. The plant was described in considerable detail and while still fresh, by the finder's wife. Several of our Members in the South East conducted a serious search in the Bordertown area. Descriptions of the orchid were sent out to various country newspapers to bring the orchid to the attention of as many land holders as possible. The search continues and 1994 will see the search intensify (see article - "Another Report" this Journal). Although we haven't verified its presence in South Australia yet, I am certain that we will in the very near future. Particularly pleasing is the considerable help in the form of knowledge being provided to us by interstate experts who have been successfully involved in searches in their respective States and from people such as Dr. Jack Warcup, who have studied the orchid at length in research laboratories.

Catherine Hosking launched her first Limited Edition Print "The Understorey of Scott Creek Conservation Park" at our July General Meeting. The very beautiful painting produced by Catherine features several orchids, some of which are endangered. Part proceeds of sales are being used for various conservation initiatives relating to endangered plants. The launch meeting attracted several high profile representatives of Government and Friends of Parks and it was a good opportunity to promote ourselves to them. Most of the nearly 100 in attendance enjoyed some Champers and nibbles before starting the main meeting. We wish Catherine every success in her endeavours.

We had a very successful Spring Show with excellent, innovative displays. It must have been one of our best years for epiphytes although the showing of terrestrials was very small. A combined display on the stage with a superb backdrop painted by Thelma O'Neill and with the accompaniment

of the sounds of native birds drew considerable attention and comment. Two cultural certificates were awarded, one to Jan Burford for an outstanding pot of *Leptoceras menziesii* and one to Noel Oliver for a spectacular showing of *Dendrobium linguiforme*. Champion Orchid of the Show was Jan's *Leptoceras menziesii*. N.O.S.S.A. also participated in the SGAP Show later in the year.

Our Conservation Group worked diligently on various projects including the monitoring of endangered orchid species and carrying out various weeding activities. Letters submitted by the group assisted in stopping at least two development projects which would have destroyed environments rich in flora and fauna.

Probably the highlight of the year was ANOS Council choosing N.O.S.S.A. to host the Third Australasian Native Orchid Conference and Show in 1996 (our 20th anniversary as a Society). Although this event is seemingly a long way off, there is much to do now. Having met with a large number of our Members who are keen to be involved, I can promise that the Conference and Show will be spectacular in all elements. We have a wealth of experience, an abundance of drive and most importantly, a tremendous amount of pride. It is hoped that ALL Members will want to become involved in some manner.

Membership reached, I believe, 288. This is a little short of my personal target of 300 for the year, but nevertheless is a number of strength for our Society, now in its 18th year. Many of our new members for the year have already indicated a strong commitment to our Society and this excites me very much.

At our November Meeting, Roy Hargreaves was awarded a framed certificate acknowledging his outstanding contributions to N.O.S.S.A. This is the first time this award has been made. Ron Robjohns will receive a similar award at the March General Meeting. Both Roy and Ron are Life Members and are very actively involved in all of our activities.

I am finishing my second year as President of N.O.S.S.A. and will not be serving you in this capacity after the Annual General Meeting. I have enjoyed very much my two years as President and Editor of the Journal and although I am retiring from both of these positions, I intend to remain very active with the Society. N.O.S.S.A. is a terrific Society to belong to. Without exception all Members are friendly, helpful and hard working and it is a great pleasure to me to be in your company and to work towards common goals together.

I cannot end this report without extending considerable thanks to all who have made the year so successful. I wish first to thank those very dedicated Members who worked so tirelessly with me on the Committee.

I would like also to thank those Members whose enthusiasm and dedication to the Society secured for N.O.S.S.A. the Third Australasian Native Orchid Conference and Show. I made many phone calls seeking support and advice and not one Member turned me down.

On behalf of the Committee and Members of N.O.S.S.A., I also thank those many Members who brought in plants for exhibition and/or trade, those Members who provided plant commentaries throughout the year, those who assisted with the auction, those who offered their homes to the Open Day Group meetings, those who were Guest Speakers, those who submitted photographs and/or slides in our annual photographic competition, those who provided articles or drawings for the Journal, those who looked after the Tuber Bank, the Library and the Trading Table and those who judged our plants.

I know I've missed some out because that's me. I have endeavoured not to mention names for fear of leaving someone out but I must thank Jan and Graham Burford for their work in coordinating the Open Day Group, Philip and Narelle Matthews for looking after the Tuber Bank so capably, John McArthur and his parents, Yvonne and George Duffy for allowing us the use of their very beautiful property Mangiri Park for our barbecue in November and of course to Geoff Edwards for arranging Echunga for us. I thank all Members for the much needed support I have been given over the past two years. I trust I have represented you to your expectations.

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.1993.

RECEIPTS.

Subscriptions - 1993	1867.59
- Prepaid	234.00
Donations	50.00
Badges	22.00
Publications	1294.00
Tuber Bank	398.45
Raffles	466.70
Show admission	643.50
Show Trading 4305.50	
Less vendors 3108.50	1197.00
Trading table	442.05
Sale of pots	866.50
Sale of shells	85.00
Auction	476.50
Bank interest	400.65
Roy Hargreaves Trophy	50.00
Club Dinner	450.00
Glassware	70.00
Name bars	132.00
Bark	1215.00
Refund postage	18.10
Sundries	12.00

\$10391.04

PAYMENTS.

Journal - Postage	932.79
- Print & Type	1577.85
Stationery	104.90
Postage & phone	118.35
Publications	1118.44
Hall rent	250.00
Public Liability Inc.	267.60
Show expenses	541.30
Conservation Council	50.00
Aust. Orchid Foundation	50.00
Ira Butler Trophy Comm.	50.00
A.N.O.S.	30.00
O.C.S.A. affiliation	25.00
Club Dinner	450.00
Roy Hargreaves Trophy	50.00
Social Expenses	21.70
Name bars	160.60
Plants	197.00
Bark	1072.00
Glassware	265.30
Pots	847.40
Shells	82.00
Bookbinding	54.00
Lottery licence	5.00
Repairs projector	25.00
Refunds	22.50
Sundries	2.70
Tax - B.A.D. & F.I.D	51.90

	8423.33
Excess Receipts over Payments	<u>1967.71</u>

\$10391.04

CASH STATEMENT.

Cash at Bank & on hand 31.12.92	\$12998.91	
Add excess Receipts over Payments	<u>1967.71</u>	\$14966.62
Cash at Bank & on hand 31.12.93		
Deposit Account	\$13315.91	
Cheque accounts	1625.71	
Cash on hand	<u>25.00</u>	\$14966.62

Signed

\_\_\_\_\_R.T. Robjohns\_\_\_\_\_

Honorary Treasurer.

I have examined the books and records of the Native Orchid Society of South Australia Incorporated and certify that the above Statement of Receipts and Payments is in accordance with the books and vouchers produced.

Signed

\_\_\_\_\_M. Maxwell\_\_\_\_\_

Honorary Auditor

*Leptoceras (Caladenia) menziesii*

This species is the Society emblem and is easy to grow. Every member should have at least one potful of this species in their collection. The orchid has one smooth teardrop shaped dark green leaf and the tubers multiply rapidly. The tubers have typical *Caladenia* hairy stems and coverings. When repotting leave a "wick" at 10 to 20 mm of stem attached to the tuber. This species is a poor flowerer normally but responds beautifully to the banana treatment. To produce a potful of flowers for the Spring Show each year you have to treat the dormant tubers the previous summer. Place your tubers in a small dish or lid and place the dish in a plastic bag. Put a banana, or just the skin, in the bag, being careful that tubers don't come in contact with the banana, and seal with a rubber band (contact with the moist banana skin could result in the tubers rotting). Leave in a drawer somewhere in a cool dark place for 3 weeks. Then throw the skin and bag away and pot up the tubers. Flowering plants have one or two dainty red and white flowers on a stem about 20 mm tall. Don't be fooled by the small bud inside each leaf during the winter. Unless it has the diameter of a match head, it won't be a flower spike. This species forms masses of leaves in good soil in shady gullies so give it 50 percent shade. Leaves appear in May.

**CALADENIA MENZIESII - ARTIFICIAL INDUCTION OF FLOWERING**

(from N.O.S.S.A. Journal, February 1988 Roy Hargreaves)

*Caladenia menziesii* is an orchid species which requires a bushfire to cause it to flower freely in the wild. Attempts by members to initiate flowering by burning leaves of eucalypt species on the pots have produced little success in the past.

Research botanist, Dr Kingsley Dixon of Kings Park, Perth, Western Australia, found that tubers of *C. menziesii* sealed in a plastic bag with a ripening banana for one to two weeks before sowing resulted in profuse flowering of the resulting plants. In this way, some of the ethylene gas used by the banana wholesalers to ripen the bananas upon their arrival escapes from the banana into the sealed plastic bag and penetrates the orchid tubers.

At the Black Hill Native Flora Centre, *C. menziesii* was grown in a compost comprised mainly of grey Hills sand with a little Hills soil added. They had been grown in large styrene foam boxes and had grown and multiplied without flowering for four years. They were grown under 50% shade cloth and were protected from the hot summer sun.

I had tried placing two bananas on top of the compost and sealing over until the bananas had ripened. The result was two flowering plants, from directly under where a banana had been placed.

In January 1987, tubers were treated as suggested by Dr Dixon until the banana was well and truly ripe (just over two weeks). The tubers were then sown in the usual manner at a depth of about 3 cm down from the surface of the compost which was occasionally damped down until the arrival of the rainy season. Unfortunately no record was kept of the actual number of tubers planted but there were 70 flowering plants, several of these having pairs of flowers. Some of the leaves were 9 cm long x 3.5 cm wide and some flowers were 25 cm in height. In December 1987, 230 tubers were obtained from the box. Non-treated tubers which had been planted at the same time as the above-mentioned tubers did not flower but it was noted that the tubers from these pots were larger than those produced from the flowering plants.

We are grateful to Dr Dixon for the information passed on to us regarding the use of artificially ripened bananas as a source of the ethylene gas which triggers the tubers to produce flowering plants in this species of orchid.



Despite similar attempts to induce *Lyperanthus nigricans* (another fire-induced flowering orchid) to flower I have had no success yet. Have you?

## MORE LIGHT ON SUN ORCHIDS

by Les Nesbitt

For years botanists have speculated on the origin of deep pink sun orchid hybrids. The theory often put forward was that blue crossed with yellow gave pink. Normally you would expect green from a mix of blue and yellow.

Some 5 years ago I made a number of crosses to test these theories. So far 4 hybrids have flowered, the last two in September 1993 while I was overseas. I saw the last flower out on the morning I arrived home but had to rush off to work, so I didn't get a photo. Orchid growers are always looking forward to the next flowering season.

The hybrids are:

1. *Thelymitra* Melon Glow = *T. antennifera* x *T. luteocilium*

*T. antennifera* is yellow; *T. luteocilium* is salmon pink.

The hybrid is pale pink with some clones shading to peach tones.

2. *Thelymitra* Kay Nesbitt = *T. antennifera* x *T. rubra*

*T. rubra* is pink, the best clones are very intense dark pink. The hybrids vary from pink to orange.

The best clones are very very intense deep pink. Real jewels of the bush house.

3. *Thelymitra nuda* x *T. antennifera*

*T. nuda* is pale blue crossed with the yellow *T. antennifera*.

This hybrid had pink flowers but I did not see them open.

4. *Thelymitra nuda* "Tall White" x *T. rubra*

This cross between a white and a pink produced a pink-mauve flower. Where did the blueish tinge come from?

The outcome of the first two is predictable but the second two crosses are surprising. So far only one to three seedlings have flowered. Other crosses are coming along and some may flower this Spring.

## ANOTHER REPORT OF POSSIBLE SIGHTING OF *RHIZANTHELLA* SP. IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

I received a letter (6 Feb 1994) from Winsome and Les McHugh, two very active and much valued N.O.S.S.A. Members who reside in Lucindale and super people they are too. The letter acknowledges another report of a possible sighting of *Rhizanthella gardnerii* on the Fleurieu Peninsula. I won't relate full location details here at this time, but I would like to publish the key details of the McHugh's letter as N.O.S.S.A. will be intensifying its search for the illusive Underground Orchid in South Australia this year.

Winsome and Les, Kath Alcock (the very talented artist who provided the drawings of *Rhizanthella gardnerii* which are presented on this year's Journal cover), Rosemary Taplin, a former member of N.O.S.S.A. who works at the Adelaide Herbarium and Denzel Murfett, a dedicated naturalist who resides in Port Elliot, were looking at swamps in the South East, as well as for *Dipodium companulatum* and *Dipodium roseum* which grow near Naracoorte. During their bush walking and while looking at *Dipodiums*, the subject of *Rhizanthella* came up. Denzel told the group of a fellow naturalist from near Mount Compass who along with his brother, previously owned a property, in the South East. The storey as recalled by Denzel and reiterated by Winsome and Hugh is that following the start of the rainy season (May?), the ground would develop cracks in some places of scrub. "By inserting a knife into one of the cracks and gently levering the soil back, a white circular ?flower with petals around the edge would be revealed. It had a reddish centre and was not very common".

The McHugh spoke to the finders of the ??*Rhizanthella* sp. and they could not add much to the above other than they were not the only land holders who have seen such things.

They also asked if either had seen a *Rhizanthella* at an Orchid Show in Adelaide and both said no - "So our mystery man from the South East is still out there somewhere" (refer N.O.S.S.A. Journal May 1993). Apparently the ??*Rhizanthella* was not seen for many years before the two landholders left their property but then again, they did not go looking for it either.

Winsome and Les will make contact with the current land holder and arrange for a soil sample collecting trip and they suggest an actual search for the ?orchid in May or June.

Thanks Winsome and Les for your most interesting letter. We will be mounting a much more aggressive search for the Underground Orchid in South Australia than we managed last year, and your letter proved both exciting and timely. *Rhizanthella gardnerii* flowers in April/May in Western Australia but *Rhizanthella slateri* flowers in September/October in New South Wales where it appears to grow in association with *Dipodium* sp.

#### BILL MURDOCH TROPHY FOR CHAMPION AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHID SPECIES OF THE YEAR

*Pterostylis taurus*, grown by NOSSA Founder and Life Member Les Nesbitt, has been awarded the Bill Murdoch Trophy for the Champion Australian Native Orchid Species in the Trophy's inaugural year. The winning submission comprises 79 evenly distributed plants, all in flower and with an average height of 20 cm. It was the Champion Australian Native Orchid Species of the Orchid Club of South Australia's Winter Show.

"The flowers were a highly tinged red with whitish, heavy veining and each a good size for the species".

1993 was the first year of the Bill Murdoch Trophy. Fourteen entries were received (entries consisted of five terrestrials (2 *Pterostylis* species, 2 *Caladenia* species and a pot of *Glossodia major*) and nine epiphytes (2 *Sarcochilus hartmannii*, 3 *Dendrobium speciosum*, 1 *Dendrobium canaliculatum*, a *Plectorrhiza tridentata* and a *Peristeranthus hillii*). A nomination for a pot of *Pterostylis baptistii* was received late and could therefore not be considered in the voting process. It is certain that 1994 will attract even more entries.

The concept of a trophy for the Champion Australian Native Orchid Species of the year was first suggested by a one time member of the Ira Butler Committee. Subsequent to this, ANOS New Castle suggested presenting a trophy to honour the late Bill Murdoch who had been very active in native orchid circles for many years. The primary motivation behind the trophy was that line breeding of native species orchids should be encouraged to make the species more attractive and to discourage unscrupulous so and so's from taking species from the bush.

We congratulate Les on yet another distinguished achievement in the cultivation of native orchids. N.O.S.S.A. was a bit remiss in not nominating Les for the award ourselves but we do commend OCSA's Show Marshall for taking the initiative. Les tells me the pot was beyond its prime by the time we got to see it and so we have a weak excuse. Nevertheless it was spectacular and Les received numerous requests for tubers of *Pterostylis taurus* from those who saw it.

OCSA are also nominating Les for the Fitzgerald Trophy for outstanding contribution in the field of orchids in Australia. Les would certainly be a worthy recipient of the award.

#### TERRESTRIAL ORCHID CULTURE

by Gerry Carne

By now you will have potted up all of the tubers you received from the tuber bank and from special friends and would have given the pots a thorough soaking. A good time to soak your pots for the first time is the last weekend in February. Pots can be submerged in a tub of water (don't fully submerge pots) and left for quite a few minutes until soil is well and truly wet and bubbles cease to be released from the soil. This treatment in addition to fully saturating all parts of the soil removes any air bubbles which might have developed in the

soil and removes toxins. It is best to use rain water for watering. Try not to use too much Adelaide tap water.

If your pots from last year were left in the 'open' without protection from rain falls, they would have remained quite wet during December and much of January and well developed plants of many species would already be showing. This is not good for most terrestrial species as temperatures approaching 40°C in February and March can be very detrimental to your plants. Tender new growths may be burnt off or rotted. Autumn flowering species will abort their blooms or have them sucked dry by thrips while tubers may have rot off. The best way to deal with very hot weather is to damp down the tops of pots and cover with hessian bags or something similar - not plastic or glass as they will radiate the heat and do even further damage. It is best to keep terrestrials under cover out of possible rainfalls during the summer months. Most growers like to keep the soil just a little moist during the summer.

If you have kept your terrestrials in a protected area out of reach of rainfall, now is a good time to move them into a more open position. Nothing gets terrestrial orchids growing so well as a cold natural shower. You should soon be thinking of placing your plants in the place you intend to keep them during their growing and flowering period. Once your orchids are showing themselves in their pots, and developing stems, it is best not to move them to other positions as moving them may cause the stems to coil as the plants continue to reach for the maximum light. After removing a pot from its growing position to water, weed or just to inspect, make sure you place the pot in exactly the same position and facing the same way as it was before you removed the pot.

Be careful at this time of year that your orchids don't have too much direct contact with the sun. This is where shade cloth comes in. During the growing season, some terrestrials like more shade than others. *Thelymitras* for example require an abundance of light, *Corybas* a lot less.

You should cover your soil with a thin layer of leaf litter, chopped leaves, small gum nuts, bush litter or pine needles. This helps keep the moisture level in the soil more constant, helps prevent soil erosion when watering, encourages the Mycorrhizal fungi and helps protect the new growth as plants first emerge from the soil. In late March or perhaps preferably April, you may wish to sow some orchid seeds. This is best done by placing seed adjacent to emerging orchid shoots slightly below soil level, where the mycorrhiza activity is the strongest. This of course works best where only small numbers of seedlings are required. For *Caladenia*, seed should be distributed evenly over the pot surface.

Once the autumn rain commences you should no longer have to hand water your terrestrials. The trick is to not let your soil dry out entirely once the tubers have sprouted. Cool days and cold nights keep evaporation to a minimum. Keep your pots moist through hand watering until the autumn rains do arrive but don't over-water as this will cause tuber rot. Damp but not wet is the key.

Watch out for snails and slugs. They really enjoy orchids. In winter, baits need to be replaced every 7 to 10 days. Blackbirds and believe it or not doves (I learned this from Jan and Graham Burford) can also cause considerable harm when the plants are newly emerged. Some growers keep a net over their pots until the plant begins to properly develop.

## NOSSA NOTICES

### FUTURE JOURNALS

Due to other commitments, I will no longer be serving the Society as Editor of the monthly Journals; this will be my last volume, although I promise to continue supporting the Journal with article submissions. Bob Bates and Vanessa Maloney will work together as the new Editors of the Journal. Please give them the same generous support that you have given me over the past two years. There is always room for another article or drawing.

### COMPETITION PLANT "CALL IN"

In April 1993, 20 plants of *Dendrobium* Jiffian Leaney x *D. Bardo* Rose were purchased from Bruce Mules. These were subsequently sold to interested members as competition plants. In order to evaluate how this orchid hybrid responds to various growing conditions, your Committee urges all who purchased the same to bring them to the March Meeting. Even if they haven't progressed or have gone backwards, please bring them in - we will be able to tell you

what you are doing wrong and this can only be to your advantage. We are looking forward to seeing a large portion of the originally purchased plants.

#### CORK

A small quantity of cork was obtained after the trimming of a tree (by permit) in Rose Park and is now available for Members to purchase at our Trading Table.

#### NAME BADGES

Members who have ordered/purchased name badges but have not picked them up should see Ron Robjohns at the back of the hall at the March Meeting.

#### ANOS CHECKLIST OF AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHID HYBRIDS 5TH EDITION SEPT 1993

Several copies of this very worthwhile volume are available through Ron Robjohns at a cost of \$8.50.

#### RAFFLE

A copy of Australian Orchid Research Vol 2 will be raffled at the March Meeting at \$1.00 per ticket. A maximum of 20 tickets will be sold.

#### BENCHING OF PLANTS AT GENERAL MEETINGS

It would be of tremendous help to the Editor of the Journal in listing the plants benched if growers would fill in the appropriate forms available at the meeting. All that is required is plant name and grower. Forms may be taken home to be filled in advance of the meeting if desired.



Darren Williams submitted the above portrait. Darren is a keen photographer but I wasn't aware of his interest in drawing orchids. Both Darren and his wife Jasmine spend a lot of time in the bush pursuing their interests in native orchids and other plants.