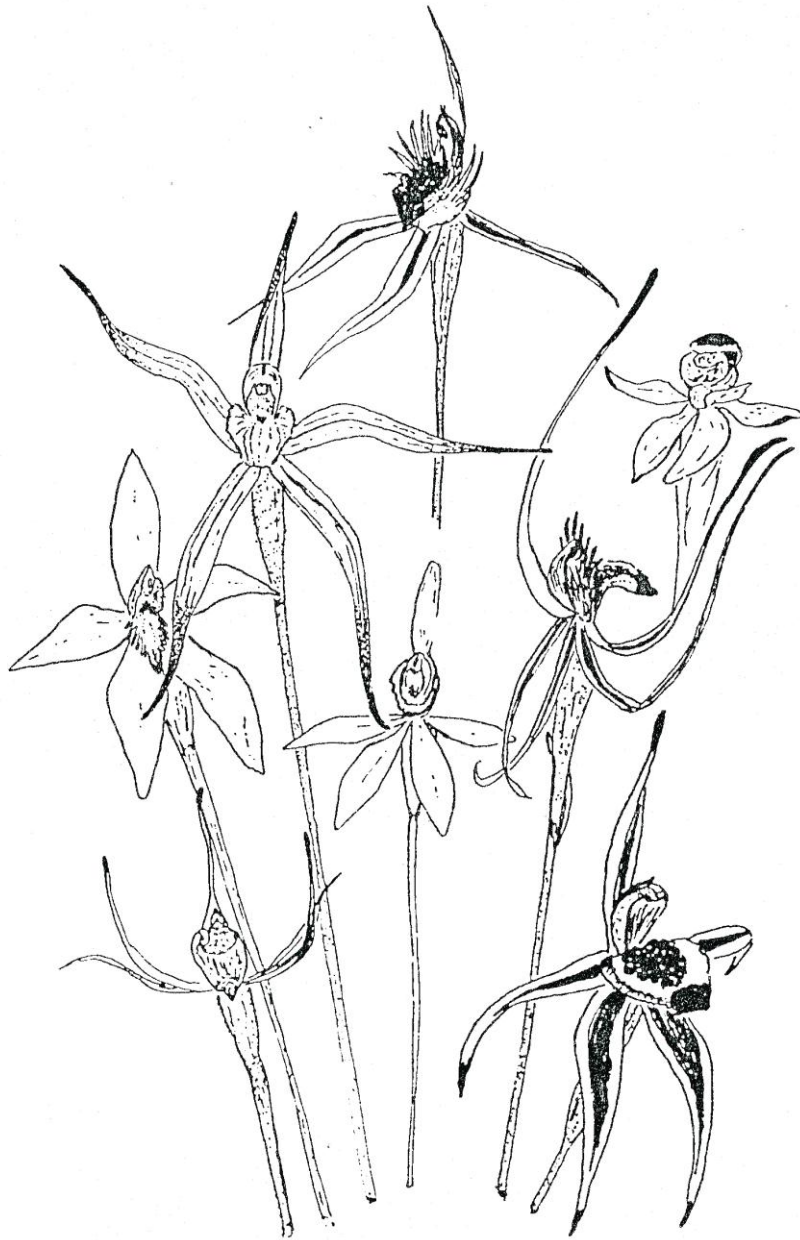




Journal
of the
Native Orchid Society
of
South Australia Inc



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.

OCTOBER 2000

Vol. 24 No. 9

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OCTOBER MEETING

Tuesday, 24 October, 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. to allow Members access to the Library and Trading Table. Guest speaker will be NOSSA Member and Native Orchid expert Noel Oliver who will speak on the Genus *Sarcochilus*. Bring lots of orchids to the meeting!!

DIARY DATES

15 October Field Trip Cox's Scrub Conservation Park
 29 October Weeding *Pterostylis arenicola* at Grange Golf Course
 19 November Wetland Conservation Awareness - Mount Compass (details Page 83)
 28 November Annual Auction November General Meeting
 3 December Annual N.O.S.S.A. Barbeque
 24-28 September 2001 First International Orchid Conservation Congress, Perth, WA

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 1 November at the home of (to be announced). Meeting commences at 7:30 p.m.

New Members

It is with considerable pleasure that the Native Orchid Society of South Australia welcomes Faye and John Eaton and Ken McGillick as New Members. Lets all make them feel very welcome.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Committee Member and Spider Expert David Hirst spoke on "What do Huntsmen Spiders (and others) and Orchids have in Common." After he brought a rather large live one out of a bottle and allowed it to crawl about his hands and arms, David spoke on the Huntsman and the spider he specialises in, - the Badge Huntsman, relating the distribution and evolution of these spiders with the break-up of Gondwanaland and the changing climate of the Australian landmass. David also gave examples that showed that the distribution and evolution of Australia's native orchids were influenced by climatic changes that accompanied the drifting continents. David provided evidence for both the huntsmen spiders and terrestrial orchids gradually moving from the west coast of Australia to the east coast with certain east coast orchids and spiders being more highly developed than west coast counterparts, but there being more species on the west coast. Huntsmen Spiders have adapted to a wide variety of conditions, from arid regions of Australia to high altitudes where snow falls during the winter months. More than one species of Huntsman flourishes along the high tide line of our coasts, living in cracks and crevices in rocks. A most interesting talk that was well illustrated with slides.

Plants Benched

Terrestrial Species: *Caladenia cardiochila* (Culburra), *Caladenia filamentosa*, *Caladenia latifolia*, *Caladenia patersonii* (affin. - Lucindale S.A.), *Caladenia reticulata* (Goldfields S.A.), *Caladenia tentaculata*, (Adelaide Hills), *Chiloglottis formicifera* (true species - Warrumbungles NSW), *Chiloglottis trapeziformis* (Comaum S.A.), *Chiloglottis trulla* (type - Blackdown Tableland Q1d), *Chiloglottis platyptera* x 2 (Barrington Tops), *Chiloglottis palachila* (Mt Kaputar Qld), *Diuris laxifolia*, *Diuris sulphurea*, *Glossodia major* (Pingal), *Glossodia major* (Altona), *Microtis arenaria* (Adelaide Hills), *Microtis parviflora* (Warrumbungles NSW), *Pterostylis biseta*, *Pterostylis nutans* (Wynyard Tasmania), *Pterostylis pedunculata* (Wynyard Tasmania), *Pterostylis arenicola*, *Pterostylis baptistii* (Gosford), *Pterostylis pusilla*.

Terrestrial Hybrids: *Caladenia* Fairy Floss, *Chiloglottis* x *pescottiana*, *Pterostylis* Bantam, *Pterostylis* Chocolate Drop, *Pterostylis* x *ingens* (natural hybrid), *Pterostylis* x *ingens* (natural hybrid - Gumdrop Rd Anglesea), *Pterostylis* Joseph Arthur, *Pterostylis* Talhood.

Epiphyte Species: *Dendrobium falcorostrum*, *Dendrobium gracilicaule* var. *howeanum*, *Dendrobium tetragonum*, *Dendrobium speciosum* x 5, *Dockrillia linguiformis* x 2, *Sarcochilus falcatus* x 3.

Epiphyte Hybrids: *Dendrobium* Yondi x Dend. Yondi, *Dendrobium* Jonathon's Glory, *Dendrobium* x *suffusum*, *Dendrobium* Ellen, *Dendrobium* Bardo Rose, *Dendrobium* Annes Rainbow Surprise, *Dendrobium* Numbumbil, *Dendrobium* Glen Star, *Dendrobium* Zip x Dend. King Wong, *Dendrobium* Sunglow Gai Ellen, *Dendrobium* Rutherford Surprise, *Dendrobium* Aussie Treat.

Another month with a fantastic congregation of orchids although considerably down on Epiphyte Hybrids from the August meeting! For the September meeting I count 21 terrestrial species (not counting variations), 6 epiphyte species, 7 terrestrial hybrids and 13 epiphyte hybrids (total of 47 compared with total of 65 different native orchid species and hybrids benched at August meeting) ed-

A lot of colour, particularly from the epiphytes with deep pure pinks and mauves of *Dendrobium* crosses, clean pronounced creams of the *Dendrobium speciosum*s and fresh pure whites of *Dendrobium falcatus* standing out amongst the more subdued tones of the other epiphytes.

The Spring flowering terrestrials are now making a good show. The Rufa Group of *Pterostylis* is now coming into flower. There were lots of greenhoods but the warm weather will soon finish them off. There was a large collection of *Chiloglottis*, a unique chance to examine and compare their insectiform labellums.

Of interest, David Pettifor brought in three pots of *Microtis*, two of which had been influenced with smoke water. The pot which had not been given smoke water had no flowers and had relatively small leaves. The pots that were given smoke water were more vigorous with much larger leaves and stems and both displayed lots of flowers. See article this Journal.

Popular Voting

Best Terrestrial: *Caladenia filamentosa* grown by Les Nesbitt

Best Epiphyte: *Dendrobium speciosum* grown by Brendan Killen

Judges' Choices

Best Epiphyte Species: 1st *Dendrobium speciosum* grown by Brendan Killen

2nd *Dendrobium linguiformis* grown by Noel Oliver

3rd *Dendrobium speciosum* grown by Brendan Killen

Best Epiphyte Hybrid: 1st *Dend.* Annes Rainbow Surprise grown by John & Bev Gay

2nd *Dendrobium* Sunglow grown by Brendan Killen

3rd *Dendrobium* Yondi x D. Yondi grown by Noel Oliver

Best Terrestrial Species: 1st *Caladenia filamentosa* grown by Les Nesbitt

2nd *Pterostylis pedunculata* grown by David Pettifor

3rd *Glossodia major* grown by Les Nesbitt

Best Terrestrial Hybrid: 1st *Pterostylis* Joseph Arthur grown by David Pettifor

2nd *Chiloglottis* Pescottiana grown by David Pettifor

3rd *Pterostylis* Bantam grown by Les Burgess

Judges' Plant of the Night *Dendrobium speciosum* grown by Brendan Killen

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

COMING FIELD TRIPS Thelma Bridle

Sunday 15 October : Cox's Scrub Conservation Park. Meet at Northeast entrance to the park at 10 am

Sunday 29 October: Weeding *Pterostylis arenicola* at Grange Golf Course. Meet in the car park at 10 am.

Sunday 19 November: At Mt Compass Board Walk. Swamp Awareness Day. A display will be mounted by NOSSA, MLR, Southern Emu-wren Recovery and Bush Care on swamp conservation. This is a family day with walks, face painting, food live animals etc.

There may be a field trip to the southern swamps in November, but Members will need to either get information at the October General Meeting or contact Thelma Bridle for details. This trip is not related to the Mt Compass Swamp Awareness Day.

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

Trading Table. Items are needed for the trading table. Items don't have to be orchids.

Journal Articles are sought (from you the reader). In particular, we need more articles about epiphytes. Many thanks to those who have already contributed, but don't stop now. Two more Journals to be created this year.

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

Now is the time to 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.

Tuber Bank: 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. Also wanted, for mailing tubers out to members, small post-office boxes, or boxes of similar size (but not 35mm slide boxes as we now have an abundance of these). Please advise Malcolm Guy at 15 Naomi Terrace, Pasadena or phone (08) 8276 7350 by 28th November. The final list with order form will be published in the December Journal.

Fourth Australasian Native Orchid Conference and Show, Melbourne 5-8 October 2000
"Native Orchids - Our Natural Heritage"

I had been planning to assist in taking the NOSSA Display to Melbourne and setting it up at the Conference and Show. Unfortunately, my work here in Adelaide prevented my travelling to the city on the mover. Bill Dear and Les Nesbitt refused to let NOSSA down and took the task at hand upon themselves. Many thanks to Les and Bill for doing so, and to Bill's Dad who assisted in setting up the display and to Phil and Thelma Bridle who assisted in taking down the display. Many thanks also to David Pettifor, Wally Walloscheck, Les Burgess, Don and Bub Wells, Bill Dear, Les Nesbitt and John and Bev Gay for providing plants. Special mention too to Don and Bub Wells for the huge effort they put into the display itself, creating very realistic rocks and backdrop.

By the time this Journal is published the Conference will be over. I will endeavour to have a full report of the Conference and Show in the next NOSSA Journal. Bill tells me that the Conference displays were very good and that plants in the NOSSA display earned quite a few prizes. Phil Bridle photographed the displays and I am quite sure that copies of these will be available for Members to view. (ed).

MALLEE WEEKEND REPORT (23-24 September)

by Thelma Bridle

We returned to the roadside site at Yumali, where winter-flowering orchids had been so good, to confirm and identify *Caladenia* sp. leaves seen in the winter. This added another 6 species to the list, namely *Caladenia verrucosa*, *C. cardiochila*, *C. latifolia*, *C. filamentosa*, *Diuris brevissima* and *Thelymitra nuda*. *Caladenia stricta* specimens were up to 30cm tall. Both these and *C. verrucosa* had flower buds nipped off. *C. stricta* was the commonest species. There was a large colony of *C. latifolia* with very short flower stems. *Thelymitra antennifera* was common in this small area and *T. nuda* was found in some attractive shades of blue and almost purple. Some of the winter-flowering orchids had seedpods eg. *Pterostylis dolicochila*, *P. nana* and *Acianthus pusillus*.

Another site visited on July 16th was the Tailem Bend rubbish dump. Again we were able to increase and confirm species and extend the range over which orchids occur at the site. *Caladenia stricta* was confirmed and *C. verrucosa* was found to be the most numerous species here. Both *Pterostylis mutica* and *P. cycnocephala* were identified. Also Australian broomrape (*Orobancha cernua* v. *australiana*) was found. This is a rare dryland parasite on the roots of *Senecio* sp. daisy bushes and is sometimes mistaken for an orchid. At Tailem Bend we were also permitted access to a private bush block, an untouched area of which has been placed on the Heritage Register. We were keen to look here to determine the range of species which would have been found at the nearby rubbish dump site. *Pterostylis mutica* and more commonly, *P. cycnocephala*, *Caladenia stricta* and *C. verrucosa* both widespread and numerous, some with nipped off buds, others so vigorously pollinated they had entirely lost their labellums. *Thelymitra nuda* was in small pockets and *Prasophyllum odoratum* of similar extent, but in larger numbers. On a warm, humid day there were many butterflies, particularly the large wanderer or monarch. There were many other plants, particularly the small varieties which seem to only be numerous in un-grazed areas.

A large roadside scrub block at Sherlock yielded some interesting finds. Being warm and humid, the sun orchids were soon fully open. *Thelymitra antennifera* and *T. nuda* were both common, with a large colour range in the *T. nuda*, from pink through all the blues to almost purple and with a range of column colours from bright orange through shades of brown to black. We were surprised to find one plant of *T. azurea* amongst the *T. nuda*, and noticeable by its intense blue flowers. Despite searching no further specimens were located. *Caladenia cardiochila* was found in many variations of red and cream, and one hybrid, although we couldn't determine its other *Caladenia* sp. parent. The flower was red with the typical heart-shaped labellum of *C. cardiochila*, but straight lateral sepals with dark clubs. Other *Caladenia* species found in this sandy area were *C. stricta*, one or two *C. tensa*, *C. verrucosa*, very few *C. carnea* and *C. filamentosa*. *Prasophyllum occultans* was found in bud. Probably the large *Prasophyllum* sp. leaves were *P. elatum*, but there were no buds.

Pterostylis plumosa whilst not numerous were scattered over the whole area. *P. pusilla* was found in small colonies growing in leaf litter and shade. Other orchids were *P. smaragdina*, with green stripes remaining on the labellums of even dying flowers, *Genoplesium nigricans* in seed, *Diuris brevissima*, *Pterostylis mutica* and *P. cynocephala* in flower.

Continuing eastwards a roadside block at Peake had many weedy species and few orchids. A few *Caladenia stricta* were located.

Another roadside in the Jabuk region of calcrete limestone had many *Lasiopetalum behrii* shrubs and several orchids as seen before (*Caladenia cardiochila*, *C. tensa*, *C. verrucosa*, *Pterostylis pusilla* and *P. nana* (seed)), but we added to the list *P. robusta* in seed and *Cyrtostylis reniformis* in flower.

CYMBIDIUM CANALICULATUM

by Brendan Killen

This is one of my favorite natives. Why? Well, there is such diversity in the plant in terms of distribution, form and flowers and it happens to be a real challenge to grow well.

The first 'canic' I saw in the bush was on the Warrego Highway on my way back to Toowoomba from Brisbane. It stood out and begged my attention as I was whizzing past at around 109kmph - as you do. It's hard to take a serious view of the road ahead in Queensland when it's so much more interesting checking out the trees and roadside rocks for orchids! This plant was in full flower and still had previous years' seed pods dangling like grapes on old spikes. The flowers (about 50 of them) had a lime green background with maroon spotting and a spade shaped lip that was clear white. The bulbs were around 2.5cm diameter (1 inch) and the narrow leaves around 25cm (10 inches) long. It was a stunner. For the next four years I stopped many times during the flowering season to view it, love it, appreciate it and drool on it through 10X binoculars. My family referred to it as "BK's orchid". Earlier this year I noticed it was missing - I thought a storm might have brought it down. Unfortunately, I discovered the remains of a rope and tire marks that told me someone had pulled the dead limb from the tree using a rope and their tow bar. If I see it at a show, I'll recognise it.

When I first discovered this plant, I told some friends about it. Several weeks later they rang and told me about some 'orchids' they saw on a trip back from the Bunya Mountains - they thought they may be the same species. I followed their instructions through some isolated back roads and found the solitary plant they described - it certainly was a canic.

As I left the area I discovered a whole paddock full of canics. Some were up to a metre across with not a single bare back bulb in evidence. They were in hollows on eucalyptus trees in full sun - and full frost in the middle of a Darling Downs Minter. Some sat in the top of tree stumps that made them look like small palm trees. Some had hundreds of flower spikes. Some had migrated down the tree stumps by extending their rhizomes in steps of one metre or more - sometimes the same plant covered a tree for 4 - 5 metres, just popping out at cracks in the trunk. What a sight in full flower!

The flowers in this area varied from nearly full yellow or lime green, through spotted to almost fully maroon coloured. The lips were always predominately white, some with small maroon spotting. Some

lips were very pointed, others spade shaped. An occasional plant displayed good red markings instead of the duller maroon markings.

As I travelled the Darling Downs on business or pleasure I saw hundreds more canes. The most westerly plant I saw was west of St George, over 500km inland. This plant happened to be the biggest canic I saw in the bush as if it was saying "look how tough I am!" This area is not unlike the Lower Flinders Ranges in terms of the landform, the diversity of plants and the limited rainfall - it floods out there, but the rain is not consistent in summer.

The most southerly plant I saw was south of Parkes in central NSW - on a trip back to Adelaide one Christmas. It wasn't flowering but it had a great 'cluster' of seed pods - it's anybody's guess how much further south they may be found.

I had the chance to see several "sparksii" in flower just north of Mareeba on the Atherton Tableland. Most of them look great in flower - but they tend to all look the same as they are solid purple/brown - some tending toward being 'muddier' than others and therefore less attractive. They have more diversity in lip colours than the southern form. The only plants I saw were up high on eucalyptus - I speculate that any which grew down low were 'souvenired' long ago. The locals refer to these as "black orchids".

There is a very attractive form out toward Georgetown on the road to the Gulf Country. This is getting into the semi arid zone where big cattle stations and mining dominate. This form has very long leaves, big bulbs (maybe to store moisture and nutrients to combat the harsher climate) and attractively marked flowers that sit between the southern and "sparksii" forms. It is found on melaleucas, eucalyptus and sheoaks.

I have seen all types of flower spikes - straight up, straight out and pendulous. The 'straight out' seems to be the most common in my experience.

Growing these is not easy - at least, to get a vigorous plant. I found that the bulbs must be well clear of whatever mixture you use so that they don't rot and so the emerging flower spikes don't suffer the same fate. I have them growing in a very coarse bark mix and in the deepest pots I can get - unfortunately they don't make special pots for canics. I have also been successful in growing good plants in sphagnum moss, but in shallower, wider pots. They love full sun for most of the day and in winter they need full sun all day long. In Adelaide, I'll be keeping my canics up high in the orchid house and absolutely DRY. They like a bit of water when the days get warmer around September and the flower spikes emerge - but be careful, the new flower spikes can rot in a day if they get too damp and cold. I fertilise them from straight after flowering until mid April.

If you can get one of these plants, give it a 'go' and test your cultivation skills - you'll be well rewarded when you succeed.

SCOTT CREEK FIELD TRIP REPORT - 10/9/00

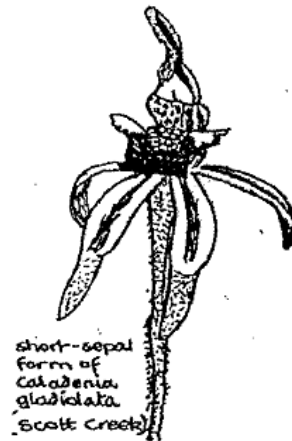
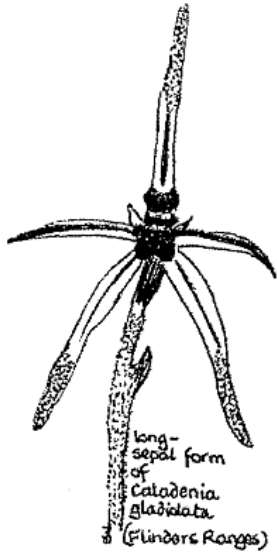
by Thelma Bridle

Despite a cloudy start to the day, eleven NOSSA members turned up for this trip, together with one English and two German visitors. Doug Bickerton was conducting a genetic survey on *Caladenia gladiolata* and wished to collect leaf samples from the Scott Creek population, to compare with samples collected last weekend at Mount Remarkable. Rainfall in the Hills has been very high recently, which made access to the orchid site quite treacherous and considerable care was needed. The population of *Caladenia gladiolata* has increased steadily over the past few years, probably assisted by re-colonisation of the bare rocky slope. The orchids are still found amongst small shrubs, affording them protection against being eaten. A total of 44 leaves, 43 buds (including 4 which had been chewed off) and 2 flowers were found. When I first saw these orchids, some 7 years ago they were quite green in colour, and yes, I do have a photographic record to prove it. Now they appear the same as those in the Flinders Ranges, but measurements confirmed all sepals are shorter. Also the flower size only

corresponds to the smaller specimens in Mount Remarkable. A second population, found across the ridge 7 years earlier was not located, but there appeared to be a couple of specimens growing on the track.

David repeated his orchid finding skills by spying a medium-sized white spider *Caladenia* sp. in flower. This had musky-scented yellow osmophores, a red labellum with 4 rows of calli and a surprisingly small leaf - certainly in the *patersonii* complex, but was it the suggested *C. behrii* ?

Many orchid flowers this season are late, due to the wet and cool temperatures, so a number we expected to be out were still buds, but the numbers of flowers this year are going to be high. *Pterostylis nutans* and *Acianthus caudatus* in particular were flowering, and in great drifts. We walked along the Alamanda Track, but eventually had the afternoon cut short, when heavy showers set in for the day.



ORCHIDS RECORDED 10 September 2000

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Acianthus pusillus</i> (s) | <i>Leptoceras menziesii</i> (l) |
| <i>A. caudatus</i> (f) | <i>Microtis</i> sp. (l) |
| <i>Caladenia behrii</i> (f) | <i>Pterostylis foliata</i> (f) |
| <i>C. carnea</i> (f,b) | <i>P. nana</i> (f) |
| <i>C. gladiolata</i> (f) | <i>P. nutans</i> (f) |
| <i>C. leptochila</i> (b) | <i>P. plumosa</i> (b) |
| <i>C. reticulata</i> (b) | <i>P. sanguinea</i> (f) |
| <i>C. tentaculata</i> (f,b) | <i>P. smaragdina</i> (f) |
| <i>Cyrtostylis reniformis</i> (f) | <i>P. pedunculata</i> (f) |
| <i>Diuris orientis</i> (f) | <i>Thelymitra antennifera</i> (b) |
| <i>D. pardina</i> (f) | <i>T. grandiflora</i> (b) |
| <i>Genoplesium</i> aff. <i>rufum</i> (s) | <i>T. nuda</i> (b) |
| <i>Glossodia major</i> (b) | <i>T. pauciflora</i> (b) |
| <i>T. rubra</i> (b) | |

(b) bud, (f) flower, (l) leaf, (s) seed

SMOKED WATER By David Pettifor.

During the time I was working with Roy Hargreaves at Black Hill nursery he told me that the *Caladenia latifolia* had not flowered for the past 12 years. I took 3 pots of 3 tubers home with me and

conducted an experiment with smoked water. One pot was watered normally. One was watered as for *Caladenia*. The third was watered, from the first watering, with smoked water at a solution of 10 to 1. Season 1998 produced 1 flower in the smoky pot. Season 1999 produced 3 flowers in the smoky pot. Spring show 2000 a pot of three tall flowers were exhibited. No flowers were produced in the other pots, only leaves. It is known that *Prasopphyllum* respond to the smoke treatment. How about *Leptoceras*? The search continues. The next experiment will be with *Diuris sulphurea*, which also have not flowered at Black Hill for the same amount of time. I do not hold a lot of hope for *Diuris* but we have to try.

GROWING *DENDROBIUM FALCOROSTRUM*

by John and Cynthia Woodrow

We had intended to grow *Dendrobium Delicatum* in a hanging basket just like the one we had seen at the place where we bought *Dendrobium falcorostrum*. The *Delicatum* we bought at another place turned out to be nothing special when it flowered, so the *D. falcorostrum* went into the hanging basket instead.

This move was supported by our reading of J. N. Rentoul's *Growing Orchids*, Book 4: The Australasian families (Lothian, 1985) where the author writes:

"Would-be growers should note that it may Become rather sulky if tried in warm, humid conditions. A lead should be taken from the nature of the habitat, high in the mountains, with ample fresh air, dramatic climate changes, even to snow in the winter. " (p 132)

At our place in the Hills the sun in winter is rather scarce, but hanging on the end of the pergola in whatever sun there is and enjoying the chilly breezes and cold rains, it flowers every year for us with a mass of crystalline white flowers which last about two to three weeks. We have to be careful to take them in under shelter as the flowers form, otherwise they will suffer from disfiguring black spots.

The basket is at present a 14" wire basket lined with a commercially made coconut fibre lining. We find that Debco Coarse bark (8-18mm) is a useful growing medium and sometimes we throw in some coarser bark, even some 15mm blue 'metal'. The open mix and the fibre lining allow good drainage and drying out, and are able to retain some moisture in summer. The stone also keeps some moisture in summer when the basket is hanging high, but under the cover of shade cloth.

The use of stone might sound a little unusual, applicable to lithophytes such as *Dendrobium speciosum*, but it is interesting to note Ted Gregory writes in his *Growing Native Orchids* (Eagle Heights, 1992):

"...there is a common belief that *D. falcorostrum* only grows on the Antarctic Beech tree. This is not always true as *D. falcorostrum* will grow happily on any spot where the appropriate moss will grow. This can be seen in the national parks on Dorrigo Plateau where there are colonies of *D. falcorostrum* growing well on boulders that host the special moss required." (p.23)

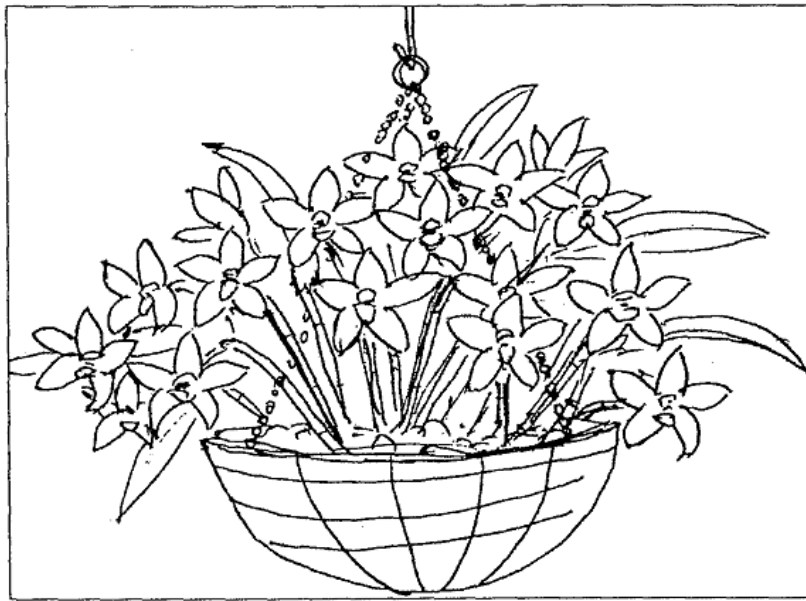
In an interesting article in the NOSSA Journal Vol. 22 No 5 (June 1998), George Nieuwenhoven describes how he used sphagnum moss to revive his ailing *D. falcorostrum*. We are not aware of any special moss in our culture and we have not used sphagnum moss, but the presence of a cool, moist mix and the cooling effect of breezes on the hanging basket works well for us in maintaining the roots in our dry, hot summers.

Sometimes wooden slabs or old tree-fern are recommended as hosts for *D. falcorostrum*, but given the size of our plant and the work required in maintaining the other species we have on slabs and branches, we find the hanging basket to be a much easier and more successful alternative in Adelaide conditions.

Most growers here seem to grow their *D. falcorostrum* in a plastic pot. We persevered with this culture for several years with two other *D. falcorostrum* plants we have. The larger plant flowered sporadically and the smaller plant hardly at all. We thought we might even lose them. But we have put them into appropriate size hanging baskets with coconut fibre linings and both are flourishing with improved growth and regular flowering. Our neighbour was talking to us recently, talking about the garden as we

often do, and he said he lost some of his fuchsia collection last summer and was told that black plastic pots tend to absorb heat and the moisture in the pot cooks the roots of the plants.

We think that a well-grown species native orchid is something special. Clearly, other members of NOSSA do, too, given the comments made when such plants are benched at meetings and shows. I remember Ted Gregory saying that he continued to grow and breed species plants because the better they are, the better crosses become. And if you consider the primary crosses made with *Dendrobium falcorostrum*, you can see that it has made a considerable contribution to the development of Australian native orchid hybrids. Consider, for example: *D. Bardo Rose* (*D. kingianum* x *D. falcorostrum*), *D. Star of Gold* (*D. tetragonum* x *D. falcorostrum*) and *D. Peter* (*D. fleckeri* x *D. falcorostrum*). These hybrids can stand alone as interesting and beautiful plants. Going further into more complex crosses, *D. falcorostrum* often takes with it its cool growing qualities, a crystalline texture to the flowers and some of that beautiful perfume. Nei Finch has made comment on the ability of *D. falcorostrum* to bring out the gold and orange tones in such hot-cold crosses as *D. Brinawa Sunset* (*D. Peewee* x *D. falcorostrum*).



Dendrobium falcorostrum is not easy to obtain, although Down Under Orchids had some clones for sale last year. The species is protected in the wild after many years of damage and abuse. Ted Gregory has this to say about its qualities:

'Seen in its rightful habitat this surely must be one of the gems of the orchid world! It would be hard to imagine more plants per tree and harder to imagine more flowers per plant! This plant has been raved about since the days of Fitzgerald (1876) and will be raved about as long as those fantastic beech forests remain. Those glorious white crowns and the glorious perfume the permeates the whole atmosphere in spring!' (op. cit. p.23)

When we look at our *falcorostrum* we get great pleasure from the plant itself and it reminds us of the beautiful places where it grows in the wild; when we cannot see it as it flowers, we can smell that perfume.

NOSSA SPRING SHOW 23-24 September .

Not one of our better or more successful shows, but certainly one well worth putting on and visiting. Several of our members who normally bring in large numbers of orchids and even set up displays of their own were unable to attend this year. Hence the number of plants was down, but the quality of

those brought in was excellent. Many thanks to those who brought in plants, prepared individual displays, assisted in setting up and/or taking down, selling admittance and raffle tickets, looking after the trading table, judging the orchids and just being there to answer questions from those who came to see the show. Your support of the Society in this regard is very much appreciated.

TROPHY WINNERS NOSSA SPRING SHOW 2000

Champion Orchid of the Show
Caladenia filamentosa grown by Les Nesbitt

Roy Hargreaves Trophy for Best Terrestrial Species
Caladenia filamentosa grown by Les Nesbitt

Kay Nesbitt Trophy for Best Terrestrial Hybrid
Thelymitra Melon Glow grown by Les Nesbitt

Wells Trophy for Best Epiphyte Species
Dendrobium speciosum grown by Peter Barnes

Australian Orchid Council Trophy - NOSSA Champion Epiphyte Hybrid
Dendrobium Lorikeet x *Dendrobium jonesii* grown by Noel Oliver

Ira Butler Nomination for Best Native Hybrid
Dendrobium Lorikeet x *Dendrobium jonesii* grown by Noel Oliver

Bill Murdoch Nomination for Best Native Species
Caladenia filamentosa grown by Les Nesbitt



ORCHID ROOTS AND REST PERIODS by Brian Milligan
Australasian Native Orchid Society (Victorian Group) Inc. Vol 33 Issue 2 (August 2000)

What is most important to an orchid - its roots or its leaves? Actually it all depends on the orchid. Some orchids never have leaves.

One example is the Australian native terrestrial *Dipodium roseum*, commonly called the Hyacinth Orchid because its pink flowers resemble those of the hyacinth. Its often found flowering under trees in the mountains in summer. *D. roseum* and many other saprophytic orchids rely on mycorrhizal fungi growing in association with tree roots to provide them with all the nutrients they need. *D. roseum* therefore has no need for leaves, only a stem to support its flowers, which of course are needed if its to reproduce itself through seed.

Other leafless orchids such as the epiphytic *Polyrrhiza lindenii* and *Chiloschista lunifera* are not saprophytic and need to manufacture their own sugars and other components necessary for plant growth. They do so in the same manner as leafed orchids, that is by photosynthesis from water and carbon dioxide, using the green pigment chlorophyll as a catalyst. The only difference is that these leafless orchids carry chlorophyll in their roots, whereas it is present in the leaves of most orchids.

If it can't be fixed with pantyhose and fencing wire, its probably not worth fixing

The early bird gets the worm, the second mouse gets the cheese

Change of Address ANOS Geelong and Everett Foster: Everett's new address is Unit 2, 2 Elizabeth Street, Belmont, Victoria, 3216