



Journal
of the
Native Orchid Society
of
South Australia Inc



Acrochorda cordata

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
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www.nossa.org.au.

The Native Orchid Society of South Australia promotes the conservation of orchids through the preservation of natural habitat and through cultivation. Except with the documented official representation of the management committee, no person may represent the Society on any matter. All native orchids are protected in the wild; their collection without written Government permit is illegal.

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Journal Cost \$2. per issue. Family or Single Membership with subscription \$20.00*

*Postal Mail full year \$20.00. Email full year \$15.00.

Pro-rata rates for third quarter \$10.00 and last quarter \$5.00

Students \$10.00 per year. Juniors \$5.00

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**JOURNAL OF THE
NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY
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SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.**

APRIL 2007 VOL. 31 NO 3

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**The Native Orchid Society of South Australia meets every
4th Tuesday of the months February -November**

NEXT MEETING 24 APRIL 2007

Tuesday, 24 April, 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, trading table and to set up plants for show on the benches.

Speakers for April are Lachlan Farrington and Renata Faast on studies into *Caladenia*.

DIARY DATES

Saturday 28th April	Knotts Hill - <i>Eriochilus</i> , <i>Genoplesium</i> & <i>Leporella</i>
Friday 4th May	ANNUAL DINNER at the WALKERS ARMS
22-23 September	ANNUAL SHOW
Sunday 2nd December	Xmas BBQ

Next NOSSA Judging Meeting Date - Saturday May 5

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wed, 2nd May at the home of Bodo Jensen. Meeting commences at 7:30 p.m.

MARCH MEETING

Plants Benched

Epiphyte species

Dendrobium lithocola; *Dendrobium biggibum compactum* (6 plants); *Dendrobium schneiderae*

Epiphyte hybrids

Dendrobium Ellen; *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon; *Dendrobium* (antelope hybrid).

Terrestrial species

Diplodium revolutum (2 plants); *Eriochilus cucullatus*; *Genoplesium rufum*.

Terrestrial hybrids

Pterostylis x *furcillata*

Judging results – not available

Plant of the night

Dendrobium biggibum var. *compactum* grown by Bodo Jensen

Popular vote results

Terrestrial species

Diplodium revolutum grown by Les Nesbitt

Epiphyte species

Dendrobium schneiderae grown by Bodo Jensen

Commentary provided by Bodo Jensen (Epiphytes) and Les Burgess (Terrestrials)

March Speakers

On the theme of our 30th Anniversary our speakers beginning with Bob Bates gave a rundown of early orchid Botanists such as Otto Tepper. Then Les Nesbitt told how he was really not prepared to commit himself to the setting up of a new Society being heavily involved with other clubs but was not sorry he did. Following this Peter Hornsby spoke of setting up of the newsletter/journal, field days/trips and an encounter with a pond and lastly Don Wells explained how he was introduced to orchids and the fascination that developed with them during the war years and how Roy Hargreaves managed to get him to hand-deliver mail to a number of people Interstate. Many of the early members were spoken highly of, particularly Roy Hargreaves and Rob Robjohns.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting saw Bob Bates stepping down as President with Bill Dear accepting that position and presiding over the remainder of the meeting. Peter McCauley gave a run down of the Society's finances during 2006 in his final report as Treasurer.

IF A RED DOT APPEARED ON YOUR JOURNAL IT INDICATES THAT YOU HAVE NEGLECTED TO RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION AND THIS JOURNAL WILL BE YOUR LAST.

Australian Orchid Research Vol 5 by David Jones, & Mark Clements et al is now available. Details and an order form can be found on the inside back cover of this journal as NOSSA will not be doing a bulk order of this issue.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION - NOSSA NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

A number of new members have joined since this item was in a previous journal. Some of these new members have been attending monthly meetings. We trust they are being made welcome and help is offered as they settle in. After all we were all new members once.

The April meeting is to be preceded with a New Members meeting with a session with Reg Shooter on "Introduction to Native Orchids of SA". This will be at 7.15 – 7.45, prior to the meeting.

New Treasurer and two new Committee Members needed.

ANNUAL DINNER AT THE WALKERS ARMS FRIDAY MAY 4TH

6:30pm for 7pm start

To help with reservations please contact Bill Dear or Cathy Houston prior to or at the April Meeting. Cost per head is \$22.00. A deposit of \$5.00 per head is required at the April Meeting.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF VENUE

The Walkers Arms are at 36 North-East Rd Walkerville

NOSSA badges and Name badges are available at a cost of \$5.00 each. See Bill Dear at the meetings.

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday 28th April (the last weekend of the school holidays)

A half day trip to Knotts Hill to search for *Eriochilus cucullatus*, *Genoplesium* aff. *rufum* and *Leporella fimbriata* buds. Knotts Hill is off Peters Creek Road. Meet by 10.00 opposite the oval in Yarooma, a small town 1 km north of Kangarilla, on the Kangarilla / Clarendon Road. There is a toilet block. As usual the early birds get to have a coffee break and chat before we head off. (thanks to Cathy for the details for this trip)

NOSSA Field Trips – Proposed trips for 2007 and until April 2008 – generally meet in time to head off by 10am. There will be confirmation of all trips closer to the time. Contact Susan Secomb 08 85246248 or 0409 091030 with any queries. Most trips are full days.

The Park of the Year for study is Gawler Ranges Regional Park with a camping trip for the grey haired nomads planned for mid August.

Date and time	Place	Details
Saturday 7 th July (first weekend of school holidays)	Warren and Hale Cons. Parks – meet opposite the Williamstown oval where left leads to Springton / right to Birdwood	Diplodium
mid July	South East	Un-named Diplodiums - contact Bob Bates who will lead this trip
Saturday 21 st July (last weekend of school holidays)	Scott Creek, (Frith Road)– meet at the corner of Dorsett Vale and Cherry Gardens Roads	Greenhoods & Diplodiums

Saturday 4 th August	Jenkins Scrub and Cromer C. P.	Helmet orchids
From approximately Sunday 12 th August / mid August	Gawler Ranges	Park of the year study – contact Peter McCauley
Saturday 25 th August	Totness Conservation Park and Mt Barker summit	Helmet and “Swan” orchids
Tuesday 4 th , Wednesday 5 th September (leading to optional survey/monitoring with Lofty Block Threatened Orchid Recovery Project)	Warren Gorge, Alligator Gorge, Mount Remarkable	Caladenia gladiolata, C. woolcockiorum & new Arachnorchis species - Contact Bob Bates
Saturday 8 th September	Placid Estates, Monarto, Hartley Hill	Spider orchids – from Tailern Bend, turn onto Meningie road, meet on road to Carawatha Nursery
Saturday 15 th September	Meet at Clarendon am - Hardy’s Scrub (Chapel Hill Rd) before Kangarilla; pm - Onkaparinga	
September 15 th / 16 th	western Victoria- fire area search	Contact Peter McCauley 8337 6181
September 22 nd / 26 th	western Victoria- fire area search	Contact Peter McCauley 8337 6181
Saturday 29 th September	Kyeema and Mt Magnificent – meet at Kuitpo forest Headquarters	
Wednesday 10 th October (2 nd week school holidays)	Altona Scrub and Kaiserstuhl Native Forest Reserve – meet 25 Whiteman Rd Williamstown	
Saturday 13 th October (last weekend of school holidays)	Scott Creek (Frith Road) – see previous meeting details	Spider orchids
October / November	Grampians with ANOS	Check with Peter McCauley
Saturday 3 rd November	Cox’s Scrub – southern end – from the lower carpark	This area was burnt in 06/07 T benthamiana, P. australe
November 3 rd to 6 th	eastern Victoria- fire area search	Contact Peter McCauley 8337 6181
Friday 28 th December (our alternative to Summer sales)	Deviation Road, Carey Gully – meet at Uraidla	Dipodiums
2008		
2 nd week in February 2008	South East	Corunastylis despectans
Late February	Mount Compass swamps – Glen Shera, Brawleys	Spiranthes
Saturday 12 th April	Halbury Parklands and Zachers scrub	Genoplesiums (Corunastylis)

Many thanks to Thelma Bridle who put together a wonderful list of suggestions for us to build on and to the enthusiastic planners on my verandah. Susan Secomb

Presidents Report for 2006

Rob Bates

There were bad aspects, good aspects and many great events in 2006. The drought was the worst of all and a few field trips were cancelled because of it. The rest was mostly good.

Most impressive was the work being done by new or newish members. The Bartrams have added plenty of new members activities.

Sue Secomb organised many excellent field trips. Reading the reports I see that some exciting orchids were seen, I can only imagine how much more would have appeared in a good year.

The Jacobs have established a NOSSA website and many new members are winning awards at Shows.

o The theme for 2006 seemed to be teamwork: NOSSA continued to work with Joe Quarmby, TPAG and ANOS Victoria on threatened orchid recovery and shared in many field trips. Many NOSSA members headed to WA and were shown around by members of the WA orchid community.

The junior members came to the fore in 2006 providing articles for our journal and attending field trips.

Peter McCauley revamped our financial system so that it is now an electronic one.

We were disappointed to lose Peter as our Treasurer after that. Speaking of things electronic many members are now receiving their journal electronically thanks to our modern editor David Hirst. Don't we love all those coloured pictures by Robert Lawrence and other members that are in the electronic journal.

The Show was a Success, in fact NOSSA helped out at no less than five shows in 2006 with displays and plant sales. The highlight of our own show was Brendan Killen's *Dendrobium* Amber Banks but we were disappointed to lose Brendan who has relocated to Queensland with his family.

It was fun to see the Wells win the Wells Trophy for Champion Epiphyte Species.

We had a whole swag of orchid books and CD's come out in 2006-7 and our treasurer helped us buy these at reduced rates with his special deals. These included David Jones' Native Australian Orchids, Orchids of Victoria, and interactive CD of Australian Orchids, a CD of South Australian orchids and Australian Orchid Research volume 5. These should help to ratify all the new names and help us learn them. We had quite a few new South Australian species named in 2006.

We had fabulous speakers culminating in a spectacular world orchid trip by Mike Duncan in February.

Thank you to all members and friends who helped make the last year so successful under difficult circumstances!

How It Is Done

Les Nesbitt

At the March meeting the first terrestrials of the season were benched. A single plant of *Genoplesium rufum* with tiny flowers, best seen using the magnifying glass provided, caught the judges eye. This orchid is fungus dependent and flowers at the end of summer whether it rains or not. Another early local orchid with these characteristics on display was the first *Eriochilus cucullatus* flower of the season. April is the peak flowering month for this species which has the common name of Parsons bands. There were two community pots of *Diplodium revolutum*, one still at the bud stage. This species from the eastern states always seems to produce some flowers in Adelaide which is more than you can say for some of the other early flowering diplodiums. This orchid got the popular vote for terrestrial species. All the species were grown by Les Nesbitt. The only hybrid benched was *Pterostylis x furcillata* brought in by Les Burgess.

Bodo Jensen brought along a number of beautiful flowering plants of *Dendrobium bigibbum* var *compactum* including a specimen plant grown from a mericlone of Nicky Zurcher's plant that was shown as a specimen at an early meeting of NOSSA 30 years ago. One of these was judged plant of the night. Bodo won the popular vote for species with a plant of the miniature *Den. schneiderae*. Bodo was also successful in the epiphytic hybrid section with an antelope hybrid with 4 tall sprays of red-purple flowers. Bodo grows this plant in full sun. Other hybrids displayed were J & B Gay's *Den.* Hilda Poxon, and Les Burgess's *Den.* Ellen. We will see more plants of these two hybrids as the year unfolds.

Introduction

Advantages of having a digital camera: The best part is that once you have purchased the technology and have that expense behind you and forgotten, it costs virtually nil to take as many photos as you want. You can view the results immediately. You need print only those exceptionally good photos. Digital cameras deal with contrasty situations much better than the old film cameras. High resolution photos together with the advantage of being able to manipulate them with computer programs produce far better images than the average film camera. *Disadvantages* are the added expense of needing a computer and programs to efficiently edit the images, and of course the knowledge required to manipulate photos if you wish, unless you are content to have the photos printed straight from the memory card, and this is relatively cheap.

Camera choice

Many digital cameras are simple to use and compact. You can choose an Ultra-Compact, a Point and Shoot, an Advanced camera that offers more options or a Digital SLR camera. The SLR's are larger, more expensive but give the opportunity to use different lenses i.e. macro/zoom and generally offer a lot more flexibility in composing the photo.

What to look for.

Pixels: A 6 megapixel camera on the highest settings will produce a RAW image (like a 'negative') which then is processed by the camera to produce a compressed jpeg file of around 3Mb and of a size far larger than the ordinary printer can cope with (this will be automatically downsized with the printing setup menus). Some advanced cameras are capable of storing the RAW file (if that setting is selected) in addition to the jpeg but require a program and skills to manipulate it on the computer at a later stage. If you are only going to print photos at the standard 6x 4 size you don't need to use that many megapixels. In other words it may not be the main deciding factor of your purchase but see below.

Minimum focus distance: Some of the small cameras have optional screw-on close-up or wide-angle lenses using an adapter. If you want to get close to your orchid flowers then make sure you are getting a camera that will do just that. A number of advanced compact digital cameras are able to focus as close as 2 – 3 cm due to the short focal length of the non-removable lens and it is worth seeking out such a model if your interests centre on close-ups. The screen/monitor of some is hinged and often can be swivelled 180° which is very handy if you don't want to lie on the ground when taking shots of tiny terrestrials.

Sports Mode. Some cameras begin processing the exposure and shutter speed only once you have pushed the button down so there is a delay between that and when the photo is actually taken. While orchids are not very mobile some other subjects may be and could disappear out of the screen and not even appear in your photo. Sports mode is a handy setting to have as it tells the camera to make the necessary calculations earlier. Shutter delay of some noticeable period is inherent in the design of all digital compacts although some are better than others. If timing is essential to your type of photography then digital SLRs offer instantaneous shutter release when the button is pressed. Shutter delay is often one of the most frustrating aspects of switching from film to digital cameras.

Viewfinder: We are all familiar now with seeing people holding their smaller camera at arms length but I have heard complaints that they can not get sharp photos because they move their camera when they press the button and the more they try to steady it the more they shake. A viewfinder as well as the viewing screen enables you to jam it against your head to hold it steadier. Digital SLR's however work in exactly the same way as their film

counterparts i.e. the viewfinder is positioned against the eye and the lens view is transferred to the eyepiece via a mirror and prism system.

Memory Card: Some digital cameras have internal storage; will this be large enough if you go on an extended holiday? Most cameras are sold with a small memory card. You need to add a large memory card to the initial purchase especially if are going to use lots of megapixels so in other words your camera is going cost another \$100 extra.

Batteries: Depending on the brand and model batteries may be AA, AAA, or rechargeable Lithium ion batteries of a special shape often designed to fit only one model camera. In the long run rechargeable batteries are the preferred solution so it is wise to check this specification before purchase. Many of the compact digital cameras drain batteries quickly as the screen is continually on when the power is on and it may need to be on to line up your shot. Carry spares or a second (rechargeable) battery so if in the field out of reach of a power socket then all is not lost. My SLR camera screen comes on after a shot then goes off after a short time as a power-saver and the shot is composed through the viewfinder that also has an adjustable diopter so I don't need my glasses. My SLR battery is large enough for many hundreds of shots over a three week period.

Movie Mode: Great for a windy day but you will fill your memory card quickly and still won't get sharp orchid pictures. Personally if I wanted to take movies I would buy a movie camera. Try a faster shutter speed instead.

Taking photos

Digital cameras can be fully automatic but I mostly set my SLR on manual for close-up work as I like to tell the camera how to take the photo not vice versa. This way I can place the bias on depth of field but must make greater use of the flash. However the settings are there to tell the camera to do the same and it will then automatically adjust the other settings to suit.

I find the auto-focusing tricky as my SLR has several points where it selects the area of the photo it will focus on (and take light readings from) and if I don't watch where this selected area is sitting then my subject (the labellum) will be out of focus as the camera has instead auto-focused on a stick that I didn't notice 1cm beyond the plant. In general it is possible to manually intervene and select the auto-focus area as the default centre setting may not be the actual main subject area. Another reason to take lots of photos and why I like to use the manual settings.

Flash photography

Built in flash or more versatile flash units: Make sure the built in flash is capable of good exposure with close up shots. This is a disadvantage with a SLR and macro lenses. The lens gets in the way of the light from the pop up flash producing a shadow in the bottom of the photo if I get really close If extension tubes are used it will not hit the subject at all so I use a separate flash unit.

Reflectors. A bit of crumpled stiff aluminium foil or similar is handy to bounce a bit of sunlight or flashlight back onto those orchids that persist in growing in the shade. Using flash except as fill-in will produce a very dark background, if you don't like this use a light coloured board you can prop-up behind the orchid. An important point to consider when using external flash units is to ensure that the chosen flash is approved for use with the camera model. Generally older flash units designed for film cameras should not be connected directly (or by cable) to digital cameras as the trigger voltages passing through the connection may damage the sensitive electronics of the digital camera. The camera manual should be consulted to determine compatible units.

Manipulating the image

The computer: If set up properly with programs of the same level as your own skills you will keep your hair for longer. Many cameras come with programs to organise and make basic adjustments to your photos. Always keep the original photo and save manipulated photos under a new name because if you overstep the mark say with too much brightness you can delete it and start again. If you save it over the original then the only option left is to retake the photo. However you should have taken more than one photo anyway as it cost nothing and that orchid won't be popping up again for another twelve months.

Storage. Images are stored on the hard drive, given names and can be organised in folders. Digital cameras record the time and date the photo was taken along with other useful data like f-stop and shutter speed. If you organise these files and folders skilfully you can find your photos a week sooner than you would if they were in a photo album. If you don't have a computer, photo-shops can save these images to CD for you but you can't organise the photos and make adjustments such as cropping.

If you take lots of photos you need a hard drive with lots of gigabytes and if you are taking photos at high resolution and making the most of your high megapixel camera you will need lots more costly gigabytes for extra storage. Another disadvantage here is that if your computer is aged and lacking good memory it will run very slowly when manipulating those large images. One other way you can make them take up less room is save them at a lower resolution which you may need to do if sending photos via email but again, never do this to the original!

If close-up capabilities of your camera are not good, set it to a higher resolution (more megapixels) then the image will come on the computer screen at say 40% and you can crop the image so the main subject fills the screen at around 100%. The image file then takes up less room on the computer as the unnecessary clutter cropped out need not be kept but don't overcrop. This can be done on other copies of that 'original' file. However the quality of the resulting photo is dependent on sharp focusing and exposure as the orchid, instead of being the main subject, can get a bit lost in all that background and is seen only as part of the whole picture by the camera, which has subsequently given an average reading overall. Cropping Services are also provided by some photo-shops but this is costly and it is far better to spend the extra buying a camera with good macro capabilities.

Printing. This is where the added expense comes in. I prefer to save my photos to CD and show through the DVD player rather than printing. I find that the colour and brightness levels you see on the computer screen are not always faithfully reproduced by the printer. Regardless of whether you print or not, save them to CD/DVD as a backup (you will need a burner in your computer) or get someone to do it for you. This precaution ensures that you have 'negatives' for the future if need be.

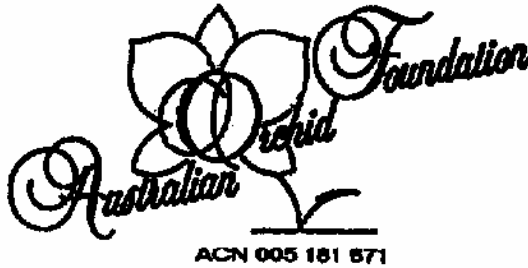
I wish to thank Rodney Hutchinson for helping me through my own transition from film to digital.

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Closing date is Friday 4th May for the May Journal

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“Australian Orchid Research VOL 5, 2006”

By David L. Jones, and Mark A Clements et al

Fourteen New Taxa of Orchidaceae from Northern and Eastern Australia and Two New Combinations from New Guinea. Revision of Thelychiton speciosus group and Bunochilus, New Australian species, new Prasophyllum from Eastern Australia. Well illustrated with colour photographs and b/w line drawings.

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Left and above: *Dendrobium lithocola*

Photos: D. Hirst



Above and below:
Dendrobium bigibbum var. *compactum*





Above and right: *Dendrobium schneiderae*



Left and above: *Dendrobium Hilda Poxon*
Below: *Dendrobium Ellen*

Photos: D. Hirst





Left and centre: *Dendrobium* 'antelope' hybrid



Above: *Pterostylis* x *furcillata*

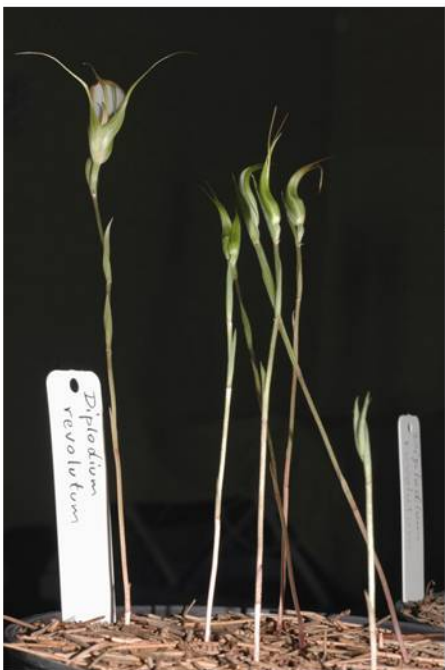


Above: *Eriochilus cucullatus*: Note mite hanging to right of column



Above: *Eriochilus cucullatus*

Left: *Genoplesium rufum*.
Note webbing of mites



Left and right:
Diplodidium revolutum

Photos: D Hirst

