

Native Orchid Society Of South Australia Inc. Journal



Thelymitra grandiflora ssp. *exposa*

Photo: R. Bates

October 2015
Volume 39 No. 9

Native Orchid Society of South Australia



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The Native Orchid Society of South Australia, while taking all due care, takes no responsibility for loss or damage to any plants whether at shows, meetings or exhibits.

Views or opinions expressed by authors of articles within this Journal do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the management committee. We condone the reprint of any articles if acknowledgment is given.

Front cover - photo Robert Bates, Sept 2014 A newly named subspecies.

Thelymitra grandiflora* ssp. *exposa R.J. Bates.

This new subspecies of Australia's largest sun orchid (restricted to South Australia) is limited to high, rocky exposed parts of the Flinders Ranges which begin more than one hundred km north of Adelaide. This rare taxon extends for 250 km from near Laura in the south of the Range almost to Arkaroola in the north and is conserved both in national parks and native forest reserves.

Bates, R (2014) A New Subspecies of the "Giant Sun Orchid" *Thelymitra grandiflora* ..." *Australian Orchid Review* Vol 79 No 6 p. 52



The Native Orchid Society of South Australia meets every fourth Tuesday of the months February to November at St Matthew's Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. Doors to the hall open from 7:15 pm to allow Members access to the Library, Trading Table and Grower's Forum.

Date	Event
Oct 19, Sat	Weeding - Belair
Oct 24, Sat	Field Trip Belair National Park
Oct 27, Tues	General Meeting: –'Sarcochilus Show'
Oct 27, Tues	General Meeting 'Growers Session' -
Oct 31, Sat	Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens Public Guided Tour - meet 11 am lower carpark
Nov 3, Tues	Committee Meeting - Sandra Penny-Dimri's -10 Patrick Auld Dr., Auldana
Nov 21, Sat	Field Trip – Scott Creek
Dec 5, Sat	Annual Christmas BBQ

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

- Lyn Hill of MEADOWS
- Stephen and Marianne Lynch of LOVEDAY
- Kate Gregson of GREENACRES
- Lalith Kandaneerachchi of MAGILL
- Mr K A Wilson of HOPE VALLEY
- Bob and Alison Arthur of BOOLEROO CENTRE

FIELD TRIPS

Bookings Essential: Contact Rob or Jenny Pauley
nossa.fieldtrips@gmail.com OR phone: (J) 0402 281 781
 (R) 0419 843 845

- **Oct 24, Sat - Belair Rec. Park** - Spring Orchids
- **Nov 21, Sat – Scott Creek**

Meeting location and other information will be provided following registration.

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING 2015

Tues Oct 27 General Meeting: –'Sarcochilus Show'

Come see the wonderful display of plants

ARTICLES FOR NEXT JOURNAL

Due to reach editor (nossa.editor@gmail.com) **no later than Friday Nov 3.** *NOTE: Articles can be sent any time prior to that date.*

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BBQ



December 5, Saturday – Higgs' property near Myponga.

- Detailed information in November journal
- NOTE:** This event is open to **ALL** members of NOSSA. Both new and long-time members are more than welcome. Come and get to know one another. Please let Rosalie know if you will be attending for catering purposes.

Rosalie Lawrence Ph: 8294 8014

Email: nossaorchids@hotmail.com

FOR THE 2016 DIARY

The 11th F J Rogers Seminar

'Native Terrestrial and Epiphytic Orchids'

Hamilton Victoria

Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th October

Program:

Saturday – Full day conference
 Formal dinner

Sunday – Bus tours

Registration of interest:

Contact Mr Kevin Sparrow

Post: 35 Swann St, Warrnambool Vic 3280

Email: ksparrow93@gmail.com



From the President

Robert Lawrence

Committee Meetings Open to all

Were you aware that Committee Meetings are open to all NOSSA Members. Meeting locations are listed in the journal so that any members may attend. You could well find that these meetings are worthwhile, interesting and informative. All members are welcome to sit in and listen to proceedings or to join the discussions.



Annual working bee at Grange Pinery

Rosalie and I represented NOSSA at the annual working bee at Grange Golf Club. Malcolm and Cathy Houston who normally attend were unavailable on the day as they, with other NOSSA members, were reviewing the conservation status of orchids in the state of South Australia.

When I first visited this site in September 2008 there were 91 plants counted. Since then there has been a continuous increase. This year 1,207 plants were counted! Needless to say, we were very pleased with this result.

The increase can be attributed, in part, to weed-control helping to sustain suitable habitat. Presumably the climatic conditions over the years have been suitable for the growth and multiplication of these orchids.

Joe Quarmby of the Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources has supported work at this site, including providing funding for contract weed control.

Bioblitz at Morialta Conservation Park

A Bioblitz is a focussed attempt to list as many species of plants, animals and fungi over a 24 hour period. Experts gather to lead groups looking for such diverse things as frogs, mammals, bats, spiders, birds, moths, ants and other insects, native plants and weeds. On 18 and 19 September a Bioblitz was held at Morialta Conservation Park coinciding with this year's centennial celebrations. NOSSA led two walks on

the Saturday. In the morning Leo Davis and I led a trip and Rosalie and I lead another in the afternoon.

We found 14 species that we could identify confidently, of which only seven were in flower. There were only two buds of *Glossodia major* and people had a chance to look at the glandular hairs on the leaves and stem of these plants with advanced buds. We noticed that all of the *Caladenia latifolia* we saw flowering were pure white and speculated whether this was due to members of the public selectively picking pink flowers over the years.

The participants were amazed that there were so many orchids which had escaped their attention on previous visits. We talked about their ecology including the concept of female fungus gnats fertilising helmet orchids thinking they were laying eggs on fungi while male fungus gnats pollinated greenhoods thinking they were female fungus gnats.

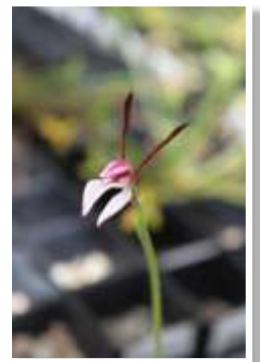
Overall it was a day well spent introducing the general public to our wonderful ground orchids.

Orchids in Schools Project

Kildare College Aug 2015

A *Leptoceras menziesii* has generated a lot of interest at Kildare College. A recent email to the school community stated:

The Orchid club is delighted to be able to share with the community, the Hare Orchid grown at the school. It is a native to the Adelaide Hills, This orchid does not flower until after a fire, therefore, should be seen over the next few weeks in the Kersbrook area which was burnt by the Sampson Flat fires.



Editor: Furthermore it won Best Orchid for NOSSA's September meeting. Well done!

NOSSA Field Trip – Bassnett Road

12 September 2015

Paul Bertrame

The field trip commenced near the junction of Bassnet and Humbug Scrub roads. The survey followed the roadside vegetation along the unsealed Cattleyard Track for approximately 500m in an easterly direction. Initially, the vegetation along a 50m section of Kel track in a southerly direction, was surveyed. Early recovery from the Sampson Flat bushfires was the most obvious scenery along Kel track, with the Long Leaved Box (*Eucalyptus goniocalyx*) being the most dominant tree. Recovery of stem and trunk epicormics below the dead portions of the crowns was clearly evident throughout the scrub. *Xanthorrhoea semiplana* appeared to withstand the fires better than other low shrubs. The ground was still scorched, and it was clear the organic matter in the top layer was lost and will likely take many years to return.



Prior to the survey, our field group leader for the day, Leo Davis, effectively explained the flower morphology of the *Arachnorchis* species and demonstrated a useful method to differentiate the different species we were likely to encounter.

This simple yet effective method involved Leo using a stick to draw different diagrams of the sepals and petals of spider orchids in the sandy surface of the

unsealed road. For example, he explained the typical flower characteristics of *Arachnorchis* genera. In true teacher form, he explained that they are characterised by brightly and variably coloured spidery flowers, ranging in size (measuring 1-12 cm in width) and usually having one or two flowers. The spreading to drooping sepals and petals are similar in size and shape, with numerous small glands on the tips. Their labellum have elongate to triangular marginal teeth, and are adorned with hairs and calli. These calli are arranged mostly in two or more rows. The winged column has a pair of conspicuous yellow glands at the base.

Leo went on to mention the floral segments have clubbed and/or elongate tips bearing osmophores. There are differences between the clubs which can be used to identify different species. Below are descriptions of the four *Arachnorchis* species Leo described prior to the survey:

- *Arachnorchis behrii* have greenish fading to creamy-white flowers with its labellum mid-lobe being coloured crimson. Sepals and petals are lanceolate with thin dark tips. Dorsal sepal is usually erect with lateral sepals spreading at the base then drooping in front of the flower. The petals are similar but drooping behind the flower. The flowers also have a distinctive spicy fragrance.



- *Arachnorchis tentaculata* have large green and red flowers with lateral sepals which at first curve downwards and then are usually swept upwards. Sepals are green with a red median stripe and have dull yellowish long and thin clubs which are not distinctive. The dorsal sepal is erect but often has a floppy tip. Petals sweep downwards alongside the ovary but are not clubbed.



- *Arachnorchis reticulata* have distinct dark clubs on the sepals only. Sepals and petals have a reddish dominant middle section on a paler buff background. Segments gradually taper from a broader base to rigid thinner down-angled tips. Lateral sepals and petals spread downwards with the dorsal sepal erect.



- *Arachnorchis rigida* have rigid very white flowers with clubbed sepals. A red median stripe exists on the outside surface of white sepals. The sepals end in distinct cylindrical



clubs which can vary in colour (usually dark). The dorsal sepal is erect and incurved over the column and terminates in a dark red, glandular club. Lateral sepals spread in front and petals behind. The flowers do not have an odour.

All *Arachnorchis* sp. that were discussed were found in flower, except for *Arachnorchis tentaculata* which were still in bud. Robert Lawrence (who is the president of NOSSA) observed a leaf that may have been *Arachnorchis leptochila*. A small population of *Caladenia carnea* was also seen in flower.

Many *Glossodia major* leaves were seen. After lunch, the group commenced a short walk in the nearby scrub which was burnt out from the January 2015 fires. The group managed to find a population of *Leptoceras menziesii*, with approximately 40 in flower and 40 more in bud.

The following orchids were observed during the field trip

<i>Acianthus pusillus</i>	<i>Corunastylis</i> sp. Adelaide Hills	<i>Microtis</i> sp
<i>Arachnorchis behrii</i>	<i>Corysanthes</i> sp.	<i>Nemacianthus caudatus</i>
<i>Arachnorchis reticulata</i>	<i>Cyrtostylis reniformis</i>	<i>Plumatichilos</i> sp. Woodland
<i>Arachnorchis rigida</i>	<i>Cyrtostylis robusta</i>	<i>Pterostylis nutans</i>
<i>Arachnorchis tentaculata</i>	<i>Diuris orientis</i>	<i>Pterostylis pedunculata</i>
<i>Bunochilus viriosus</i>	<i>Diuris pardina</i>	<i>Thelymitra antennifera</i>
<i>Caladenia carnea</i>	<i>Glossodia major</i>	<i>Thelymitra brevifolia</i>
<i>Calochilus robertsonii</i> (glaucous leaves)	<i>Leptoceras menziesii</i>	<i>Thelymitra grandiflora</i>
	<i>Linguella</i> sp. Hills nana	<i>Thelymitra luteocilium</i>

*Also *Disa bracteata*, the South African orchid, which has become a weed.



Leptoceras menziesii



Thelymitra luteocilium



Caladenia carnea



Diuris orientis

NOSSA Field Trip – Hale Saturday 26th Sept 1915

Jenny Pauley

NOSSA Field trips are scheduled months in advance, however seasonal conditions often dictate the success or failure of each trip. On this occasion early scouting failed to find enough orchids to warrant Sandy Creek CP, the main focus for the September field trip. The nearby Hale CP on Warren Road Williamstown proved to be a rewarding alternative.

A fine warm morning greeted those who attended including Len Stevens and Ricki Engel from Murray Bridge making a group of ten for the day. We headed south and uphill on a firm track and were quickly rewarded with *Thelymitra luteocilium* and *T. rubra* just opening. At this same spot *Arachnorchis tentaculata* (King Spider) was growing in moderate numbers on both sides of the track. Robert Lawrence found one standing no less than 640 mm tall. This was just the first of an abundance of orchids to view and photograph. Progress was slow with the meat ants moving along the track at a quicker pace than our group. Striding it out at an average speed of 500 metres per hour we found four *Arachnorchis* species; *A. tentaculata*, *A. reticulata*, *A. behrii* and *A. leptochila*, plus many other species as listed at the end of this article. Hawk eye Rickie was



Photo courtesy of Rob Pauley

the first to spot the *Arachnorchis behrii* which was on our bucket list for the day.

Hale CP is a must to explore whenever you are looking for a destination to spend a few hours of orchid hunting or just a pleasant walk, with magnificent views to the west and north. Outstanding scenery, hundreds of *Glossodia major* and the good company of those who attended were highlights of the day.



Arachnorchis reticulata



Arachnorchis leptochila (above)

Thelymitra antennifera (below)



Arachnorchis behrii

<i>Acianthus pusillus</i>	Leaf
<i>Arachnorchis behrii</i>	Flowers
<i>Arachnorchis leptochila</i>	Flowers
<i>Arachnorchis reticulata</i>	Flowers
<i>Arachnorchis tentaculata</i>	Flowers
<i>Bunochilus</i>	Flowers finishing
<i>Caladenia carnea</i>	Leaf & bud
<i>Corysanthes diemenica</i>	Leaf
<i>Corunastylis</i>	Seed capsules
<i>Cyrtostylis robusta</i>	Leaf

<i>Diuris pardina</i>	Flowers
<i>Linguella</i>	Flowers finishing
<i>Microtis arenaria</i>	Flowers
<i>Pterostylis nutans</i>	Flowers finishing
<i>Thelymitra antennifera</i>	Flowers
<i>Thelymitra brevifolia</i>	Leaf & bud
<i>Thelymitra luteocilium</i>	Flowers
<i>Thelymitra rubra</i>	Flowers
<i>Urochilus sanguineus</i>	Flowers finishing
<i>Disa bracteata</i> - Sth African weed orchid	

***Diuris behrii* Project Report 2015.5**

Les Nesbitt



At the end of September there were 79 *Diuris behrii* plants in flower creating a sea of yellow on the benches. Most plants had 2 flowers with four plants carrying 3 flowers. This is the best flowering display to date. None of the small tubers flowered. One flower on six

plants was cross pollinated by hand to set seed for sowing on pots next Easter.

Two new seedling leaves were found on the 1st October. Hand watering of the pots commenced in the last week of September as showers tapered off after mid-September and temperatures increased.

Tuber removal started at the NOSSA September meeting demonstration. The new tubers are smaller than expected possibly due to the rat damage early in the growing season. Tuber removal will continue until mid-October.

Urgent Request! New treasurer Required for 2016

Gordon Ninnes

In March 2016 I will be one year past my use-by-date as Treasurer. I won't be standing again as I anticipate some time spent out of the state, indeed, out of the country. This means that NOSSA has to come up with a new Treasurer between now and then.

The ideal person would have all sorts of accounting qualifications and experience but in the real world we know that this is not going to happen. What would be perfectly adequate is someone with computing skills and a willingness to play with the basic accounting program "Cashflow Manager". We have been using this for a year and have worked through most of the knots. The job comes with a computer complete with the program installed.

The job could be split between two people – one doing the book keeping , banking, reports, etc. and the other collecting money at meetings etc. or some other arrangement suitable to both parties. The committee will need to look at sourcing a bookkeeper type person from outside the group if one can't be found internally. Could you take on one or both of these tasks? Training with me until next year is readily available.

In order to successfully maintain the many activities in which NOSSA is involved willing helpers are a necessity. Are you able to assist in this area?

NOSSA Annual Spring Show Reports

Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th September 2015

Gordon Ninnes

This year's Show was a spectacular success. In fact, from comments at the time, the best for many years. One long time member went as far as saying it was the best ever!

At times on Saturday morning those staffing the event were hard pressed to keep up with sales and requests for information. Even Sunday, which is usually quiet, was crowded. Customers were buying plants as soon as Les had labelled the extras



he had brought to refill the stalls which had almost sold out on Saturday.

Mind you, not a lot of this success was attributable to me. There are many who put in considerable effort to bring it all to fruition. Of particular note was Sandra Penny-Dimri who brought off a fantastic coup with her publicity arrangements. Sandra shared her first experience of a NOSSA show below.

Sandra Penny-Dimri

The annual NOSSA September show was amazing. As a newbie I had never seen so many native orchids in one room. An ocean of wonderful, colourful orchids for sale in one half of the hall. In the other half there was a competition presenting magnificent, brilliant displays by growers; their wonderful blooms being judged. So much colour and rich perfume filled the hall.

On the Friday as I brought in a car load of NOSSA orchids I'd been baby-sitting I asked Les where I should hang the 30+ mounted orchids. He grinned and said to leave them on the stage because they would be sold so fast it wasn't worth the effort of decorative hanging. Yes, of course, he was right. They were taken by the first people wave through the room.

Saturday was fantastic. People lined up in a long queue waiting for the doors to open. An impressive wave of people erupted into the room and subsequently left with happy faces and arms full of orchids to leave them in their car and quite a few returned to purchase even more orchids.

Working on the door I was aware of the people's smiles as they entered and their comments on the wonderful perfume of the orchids that greeted their arrival. By Saturday afternoon tables once overflowing were bare to completely empty. John rushed off to get more so there would be something on the tables for the next day.

I was told Sunday was traditionally dead quiet but it is not what I experienced. On Sunday the people continued to flow through. Les dashed off to bring in more trays to refill empty tables but they never managed to make it to a table. As Les sat trying to write tags people lingered around him waiting to grab the plants as fast as he could write the tags!

The customers were interested in learning more about native orchids - where they come from, what conditions they need, how to get them to bloom (like in the growers displays). Jan, Chris and Les were wonderful in answering their questions. Although more helpers were needed, the show was a success at every level and it was excellent to see the growing public interest in these lovely orchids.



Show Winners

Grand Champion of Show *Sarco Heidi* by Jane & Don Higgs.

Champion Terrestrial Species *Chilogottis trapeziformis* by Les Nesbitt

Champion Epiphytic Hybrid *Sarco Heidi* by Jane & Don Higgs.

Champion Terrestrial Hybrid *Diuris* Earwig by L. Burgess

NOSSA Sarcophilus Show Schedule

OCTOBER MEETING 2015

Classes

Sarcophilus hartmannii

Sarc. falcatus

Sarc. fitzgeraldii

Other *Sarc.* species

Other allied species

Sarc. Fitzhart

Sarc. hybrid – predominately white

Sarc. hybrid – Pink/red

Sarc. hybrid – yellow/green

Sarc. hybrid any other colour

Allied intergeneric hybrid



Judges will select from within these classes for both species and hybrids:

- The best seedling (Mark seedlings with a white ribbon)
- The best specimen
- The best overall orchid will be Champion *Sarcophilus*

There will be only one division for the *Sarc* show at the October meeting.

Letter to the Editor:



I was lucky enough to venture down to the Ardrossan scrub on the weekend and saw some pretty amazing orchids. Below are 3 photos that are special to me.

1. A double Stiff Spider Orchid (*Arachnorchis stricta*) – I have never seen this before so it was exciting to stumble across it late in the day.
2. A Blue Sun Orchid (*Thelymitra nuda*) with a native bee in it – just a great photo showing the detail of the bee in the orchid
3. A beautiful Large Clubbed Spider Orchid (*A. macroclavia*)

Photo 3 was really meaningful as it was found in an existing protective cage that someone had placed around a previous orchid. Proof that with careful management, we can protect and prolong the livelihood of such rare orchids.

I came across 3 flowers of *A. macroclavia* and one leaf at the Muloowurtie Reserve which I placed wire cages around so that the next generation hopefully can enjoy the beauty of these orchids.

Chris Davey.



Photo 1: *Arachnorchis stricta*



Photo 2: *Thelymitra nuda*



Photo 3: *A. macroclavia*

September Winning Photo

Rosalie Lawrence

Five photos were entered for the September competition. Pauline Meyers' photo of a plant from the *Caladenia huegelii* complex from Western Australia drew with Jill McPherson's *Plumatichilos sp.* Woodland Bearded Greenhood from Scott Creek Conservation Park. The other three by Chris Davey were photographed on Yorke Peninsula (see Letter to the Editor in this journal).

As winners they showcase the great diversity that can be found in our Australian terrestrial orchids. *Plumatichilos* belongs to the greenhoods but the



features that set it apart from the other greenhoods are the long thin bristled labellum, the galea pinched in the middle resulting in two openings and the rosette of leaves growing a short way up the stem. Nationally there are thought to be several species but only a small handful have been named. In South Australia, there may be a few distinct species but currently they are usually identified with a phrase name such as *Plumatichilos sp* Woodland Bearded Greenhood. Mainly flowering in spring the flowers of the *Caladenia huegelii* complex are characterised by the thickened clubs on the three sepals, petals shorter than the long sepals, fringed (either short or long) labellum with four or more rows of calli. All of these features can be seen in Pauline's photograph

but the leaf is not so easily seen which should be long, hairy and curved inward. In all there are said to be twenty two species within this complex of which twenty are named.



References:

- Brown et al (2013) Field Guide to the Orchids of Western Australia, Floreat, WA Simon Nevill Publications.
- Jones, David L (2006) A complete Guide to Native Orchids of Australia, Frenchs Forest, NSW: Reed New Holland
- Jeanes, Jeffrey & Gary Backhouse (2006) Wild Orchids of Victoria, Seaford Vic: Aquatic Photographics.
- Bates, R. J. (2011) *South Australia's Native Orchids* NOSSA DVD, Adelaide

November's photographic theme - Hybrids

September Benched Orchids 2015

Epiphytes: Open Division

Species:

1 st <i>Sarcochilus falcata</i>	Kris Kopicki
2 nd <i>Sarcochilus falcata</i>	Kris Kopicki
3 rd <i>Papillilabium beckleri</i>	Kris Kopicki

Hybrid

1 st <i>Rhincs Colonial Zeal x Hartmanni</i>	Les Nebitt
2 nd Nil	
3 rd Nil	

Epiphytes: Second Division

Species:

1 st <i>Sarcochilus aequalis</i>	Peter Lukeman
2 nd <i>Dendrobium kingianum</i>	Janet Adams
3 rd <i>Dendrobium kingianum</i>	Janet Adams

Hybrid

1 st <i>Den. Aussie Springtime X Ellen X kingianum</i>	Janet Adams
2 nd <i>Den. Delicatum 'Apple Blossom'</i>	Janet Adams
3 rd <i>Den. Yondi Fairy</i>	Janet Adams

Terrestrials: Open Division

Species:

1 st <i>Diuris sulphurea</i>	Les Nesbitt
2 nd <i>Diuris punctata</i>	Kris Kopicki
3 rd <i>Diuris sulphurea</i>	Kris Kopicki

Hybrid

1 st <i>Pterostylis X ingens</i>	Les Nesbitt
2 nd <i>Caladenia harlequin</i>	Les Nesbitt
3 rd Nil	

Terrestrials: Second Division

Species:

1 st <i>Leptoceras menziesii</i>	Kildare College
2 nd Nil	
3 rd Nil	

Hybrid

1 st <i>Pterostylis X ingens</i>	Peter Lukeman
2 nd Nil	
3 rd Nil	

Popular Vote:

OPEN DIVISION Epiphytes:

Species: *Papillilabium beckleri* Janet Adams

Hybrid: *Rhincs Colonial Zeal x Hartmanni* Les Nebitt

2nd DIVISION Epiphytes

Species: *Den. Hilda Poxon* Janet Adams

Hybrid: *Den. Aussie Springtime X Ellen X kingianum* Janet Adams

OPEN DIVISION Terrestrials

Species: *Diuris sulphurea* Les Nesbitt

Hybrid: Nil

2nd DIVISION Terrestrials

Species: *Pterostylis X ingens* Peter Lukeman

Hybrid: Nil

Best Orchid for Night

Leptoceras menziesii

Kildare College



Photos: Courtesy of David Hirst