

NATIVE ORCHID
SOCIETY
of
SOUTH AUSTRALIA



*Thelymitra
antennifera*

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NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1. No. 1.

APRIL 1977

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AIMS AND OBJECTS

- a. To promote the culture, propagation and scientific knowledge of the native orchids of Australasia.
- b. To assist in the preservation of the native orchids of Australasia in their native habitat and to discourage the wanton destruction of the same.
- c. To print and publish literature that the Society may consider desirable for the promotion and furtherance of any of its objects.
- d. To engage in any activity relevant to these objects.
- e. To extend the membership of the Society by creating a public interest in its activities.

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NEXT MEETING:

WHEN TUESDAY, 26th APRIL 1977, at 8.00 p.m.

WHERE ASSEMBLY HALL, Goodwood Boys High School, Hardy St., GOODWOOD.

WHY Vice-President, Peter Hornsby will speak and show slides on the orchids of the Mount Lofty Ranges.

Plant Display and commentary.

Hints on seed sowing by Les Nesbitt.

Arrangements are being made to provide suitable backgrounds at the Meetings to assist photographers who wish to photograph the orchids on display. Shutterbugs, please bring cameras.

INAUGURAL MEETING:

The Society was formed on 22.3.77 when 48 interested people attended the inaugural meeting at the Goodwood Boys High School. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Colin Jennings, President of the Orchid Club of South Australia.

It was decided to hold regular meetings at Goodwood on the 4th Tuesday of the month. A committee was elected to hold office until the Annual General Meeting in February 1978.

No meetings will be held in December or January.

Subscriptions were fixed at \$4.00 single member and \$6.00 family.

Mr. C. Keith Yates was appointed Auditor.

We were invited to exhibit at the South Coast Orchid Club of S.A. Orchid Show at Marion in early October by their President, Mr. John E. Leeder.

The Society got off to a tremendous start when 44 people paid their subscriptions after the meeting and became the Foundation Members of N.O.S.S.A.

FOUNDATION MEMBERS:

Mr & Mrs N. Auliciems, MAGILL.	Mr & Mrs A.J. Jansen, COROMANDEL VALLEY.
Mrs Betty Barclay, DOVER GARDENS.	Mr Brian Lehmann, CLARENCE GARDENS.
Mrs Barbara Bennett, GLENELG NORTH.	Mr & Mrs C.C. Lindsay, CLAPHAM.
Mr & Mrs G.P. Burniston, WESTBOURNE PARK.	Mrs Shirley Little, ALLENBY GDNS.
Mr & Mrs R. Chisholm, GLENELG NTH.	Mrs. A.M. Marks, WARRADALE.
Mrs. M.L. Earle, BRAHMA LODGE.	Mr & Mrs L.T. Nesbitt, VALE PARK.
Miss M. Furness, COROMANDEL VALLEY.	Mr G.J. Nieuwenhoven, HOPE VALLEY.
Mr & Mrs K. Furness, EDEN HILLS.	Mr & Mrs R.G. Nunn, SEAVIEW DOWNS.
Miss C. Furze, BRIGHTON.	Mr Brian Osborne, VALE PARK.
Mrs Jean Gardner, EDEN HILLS.	Mr Ron T. Robjohns, UNLEY.
Mrs F.S.(Bubs) Gready, EDWARDSTOWN.	Mr & Mrs R. Shooter, GRANGE.
Mr E. Roy Hargreaves, EVERARD PARK.	Mr J.T. Simmons, STONEYFELL.
Mr & Mrs C.R. Hocking, ENFIELD.	Miss Helen Walker, CUMBERLAND PARK.
Mr & Mrs P.E. Hornsby, LOWER MITCHAM.	Mr & Mrs D.H. Wells, WINDSOR GARDENS.
Mrs A.M. Howe, FINDON.	Mr Kevin W. Western, BLACKWOOD.

PLANTS AT INAUGURAL MEETING:

Flowering: Dendrobium bigibbum var compactum

Non-Flowering: Pterostylis baptistii (2), Pt. nutans, Pt. ophioglossa, Pt. revoluta, Eriochilus cucullatus, Thelymitra aristata, Phaius tancarvilleae.
Dendrobium speciosum, D. kingianum (2), D. falcorostrum, D. gracilicaule (2), D. mortii, D. becklerii, D. pugioniforme, D. canaliculatum, D. linguiforme, D. speciosum x tetragonum.

OUR COVER:

Thelymitra antennifera (Rabbit ears) is a dwarf sun orchid growing about 200 m.m. high. It carries 1 - 3 scented yellow flowers which have reddish tinting on the backs of the tepals. The brown projections or rabbit ears on top of the column are a most distinctive feature of this species. Not an easy subject in cultivation since it is prone to rot troubles and new tubers tend to be formed deep in the bottom of the pot. Plants are shy flowering.

Peter Hornsby sketched our cover illustration.

Watch for another of our orchids in future issues.

PRESIDENT'S:

This is our first newsletter and it clearly shows the tremendous enthusiasm within the Society. People are bursting with ideas and willing to help bring them to fruition. I hope this spirit can be maintained. Things which I imagined would take months to organise are underway overnight. March 22nd 1977 was a historic occasion for South Australian native orchid lovers and this initial issue records the foundation of the Society on that date. Future issues will bring you articles on the natural history

and cultivation of our orchids as well as recording the activities of the Society. Please use the newsletter for communicating items of interest to native orchid lovers because that is what it is for. I regard the newsletter as the second most important activity of the Society after the monthly meetings. For country members the newsletter is the Society. Please do your utmost to make it worthwhile.

LIBRARY:

Three books have been donated to the Society. Others are welcome. Our tiny library consists of:

- Australian Orchids by Rosa Fiveash.
- Australian Native Orchids in colour by Leo Cady and E.R. Rotherham.
- Orchids of Western Australia by Alex George and Herb Foote.

We need a volunteer to look after the library and issue books at meetings. Anyone interested?

SEED BANK:

Mary Earle will look after the seed bank this year. What we need most of all is seed. Have you any to spare?

Autumn flowering species such as Eriochilus cucullatus may be hand pollinated now and seed will be ripe in June, in time to sow and produce seedlings this winter-spring. Later flowering species will ripen in spring for sowing at this time next year. More details at the next meeting.

NATIVE ORCHID GROUPS:

You will hear references to other Australian native orchid groups from time to time. Membership of interstate Societies is a natural extension of the activities of the keen native orchid lover. Each month we will feature one of these groups.

The controlling body for native orchids in Australia is THE AUSTRALASIAN NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY (A.N.O.S.). This Society is dedicated to the study and conservation of Australasian indigenous orchids. It has published quarterly for 15 years an authoritative and informative periodical called "The Orchadian", a must for anyone keen on native orchids. Annual membership fee is apparently \$4.00 single and \$5.00 family. Write to - The Treasurer, P.O. Box C106, Clarence Street, SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000.

GROUND ORCHIDS - CULTURE FOR APRIL - MAY

Les Nesbitt.

This is an exciting time because the majority of our ground orchids appear again in Autumn. The greenhoods and donkeys come up in April and the spiders in May. Some greenhoods are already well advanced and can be given weak applications of liquid fertilizer sprayed over the leaves once a month.

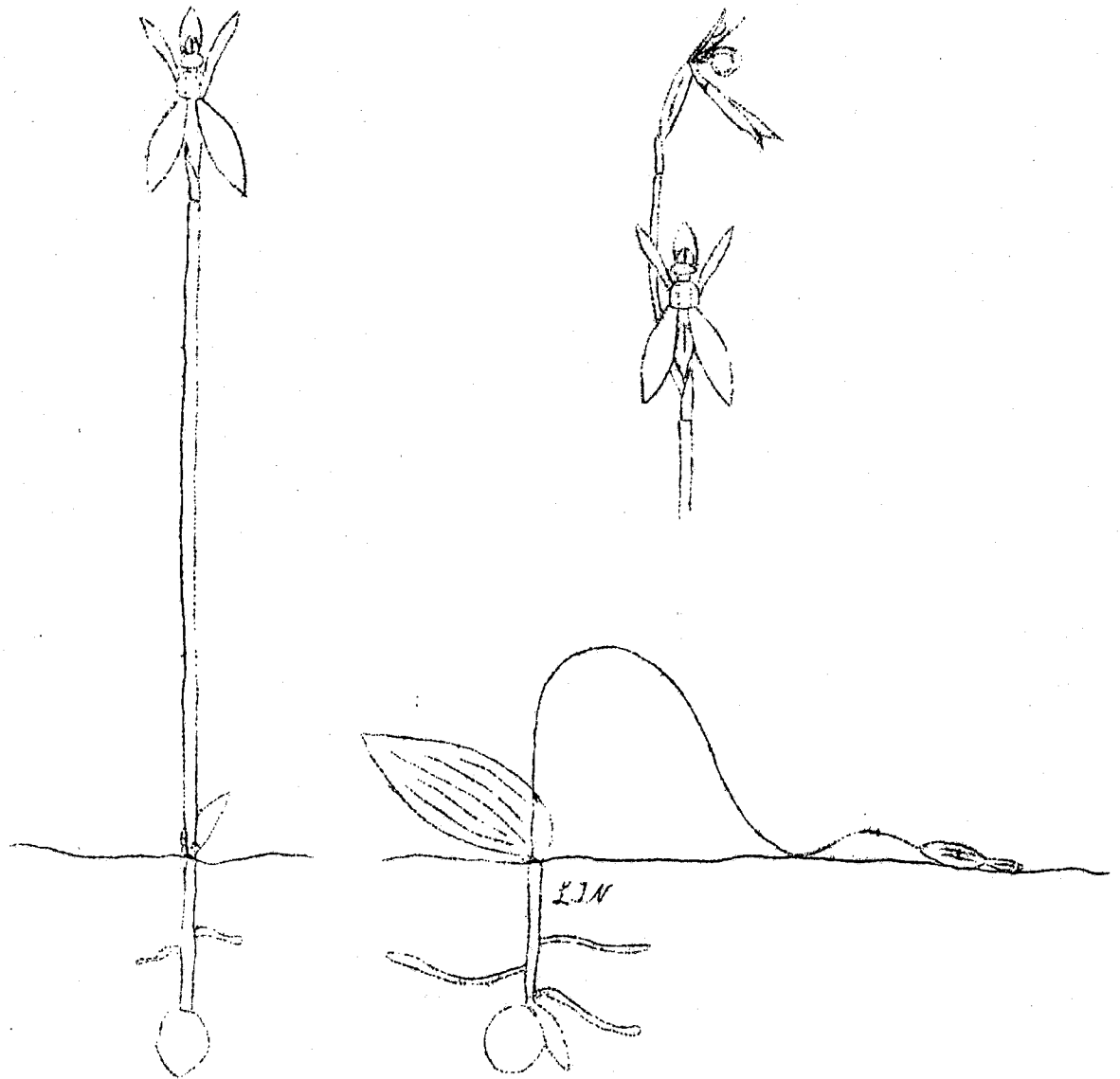
Clean up rubbish from the growing areas and eliminate slugs and snails. Despite all efforts some slugs and snails will reach your ground orchids. These are best controlled by going out at night with a light and picking them off. Do it regularly before these pests eat all there is to eat, because they will stay on the pot, hiding in the drainage holes by day. Grubs and aphids may cause trouble. Thrip sometimes ruin autumn flowers. I find them a pest on Eriochilus cucullatus (Parsons bands). They eat the base of the ventral sepals which wither up and ruin the flower.

Weeds are germinating with the early rains. Pull these out while they are still small. The first deciduous terrestrial flowers of the season will be seen at the April meeting. The number of species in flower will increase steadily reaching a peak in August-September.

April-May is seed sowing time for those fortunate enough to have both seed and mother plants to sprinkle seed around. It is a rather hit and miss method, but I find it very successful with some *Diuris* and *Caladenia* species which are very difficult to propagate by other means.

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Visitors are always very welcome at our Meetings.



ERIOCHILUS CUCULLATUS