

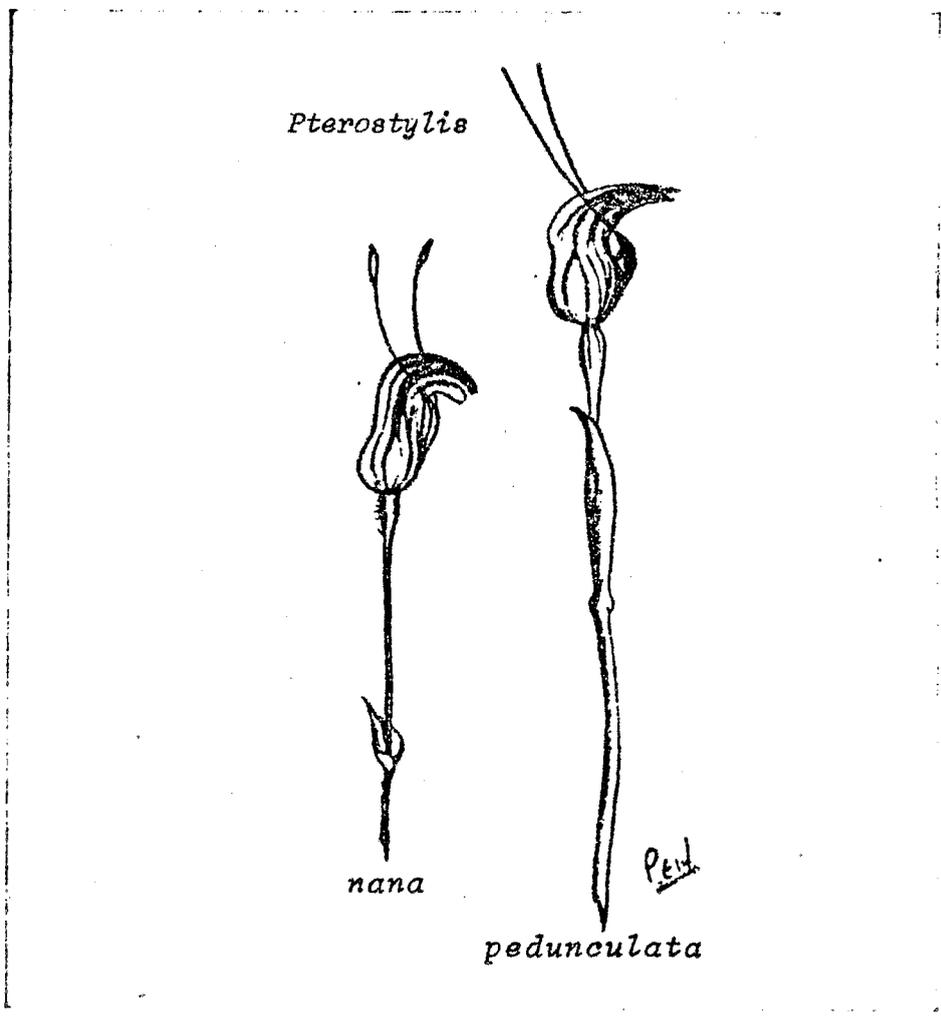
May 1977
have this book.
at next meeting

John Hickling
12 Kenford Ct.
Enfield.
PH. 2623842

NATIVE ORCHID
SOCIETY

of

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

N E W S L E T T E R

Vol. 1. No. 3.

June 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.

* * * * *

NEXT MEETING:

WHEN: Tuesday 28th June at 8.00 p.m. sharp.

WHERE: Goodwood Boys High School, Hardy St, Goodwood.

WHY: Members slide night. Please bring 5 - 10 slides on any subject related to native orchids. Plant display and commentary, Library, Trading Table, Popular Vote, Raffle. The Trading Table at the last meeting was an outstanding success and will become a regular feature at meetings. Members may bring along any items they choose for sale after the meeting. Items may be donated, or if not, then the Society will keep 25% of the sale price. Please mark prices on goods before bringing them in.

....2..

LAST MEETING: Attendance 55.

Nicky Zurcher's Dendrobium was truly magnificent and I don't expect to see anything like it again this year. Nicky described his cultural conditions in detail and answered numerous questions from the audience.

Ray Nash showed slides of a wide selection of terrestrial orchids including some European species. This quick scan showed us how much there is still to learn. Ray will be back in August to elaborate on the orchids of Western Australia. Many thanks to both speakers.

Raffle prizes were Acianthus exsertus, Pterostylis scabra var Robusta and Dendrobium gracilicaule. Thank you to those who donated the pots of orchids for the raffle.

POPULAR VOTE

Epiphyte: - Dendrobium biggibum var compactum "Mauve Showers", grown by Nicky Zurcher. This huge plant, or actually group of plants of the same clone, was growing on a tree-fern stump and carried hundreds of flowers. The plant was about 4 feet in diameter. Mericlones are available.

Terrestrial: Pterostylis scabra var Robusta grown by Les Nesbitt. A 12 inch potful containing 12 flowering plants and 13 non flowering plants. Five plants were going to have 2 flowers each.

TRADING TABLE

The vurtta and cakes were virtually a sellout. The 30 or so 5" pots containing approx. 7 plants of Pterostylis curta will be a useful exercise in the culture of terrestrials. Members were asked to keep records of the number of plants, flowering, increase, growing conditions, etc. We will hear more about these plants later.

PLANTS ON DISPLAY

Plants tabled on 24.5.77 were:

Flowering: Acianthus exsertus, Leporella fimbriata, Prasophyllum nigricans, Pterostylis vittata, Pt. obtusa, Pt. scabra var Robusta, Liparis reflexa, Dendrobium biggibum var compactum, Den. Kingianum x tetragonum, Den. speciosum x tetragonum, Den. monophyllum,

Not Flowering: Caladenia dilatata, Glossodia major, Pterostylis longifolia, Pt. curta, Pt. nutans, Diuris longifolia, Diuris maculata, Pt. biseta, Calanthe triplicata, Dendrobium Kingianum, Den becklerii, Den. rigidum, Den. canaliculatum, Liparis nugentae.

NEW MEMBERS:

Our Society continues to grow rapidly. We had 75 members at the end of May. We welcome these new members who have joined since the last newsletter went to press.

- Mr. P.T. Barnes, Urrbrae. Miss Joan Bree - Lower Mitcham.
- Mr. and Mrs. B.M. Gilbert, Salisbury East - Mr. Fred Hall, St. Agnes
- Mr. and Mrs. J. Keen, Oaklands Park - Mr. R.W. Kiely, Seaton.
- Mrs. M. Knoblauch, Marden - Mr. J.A. Kuchel, Murray Bridge.
- Mr. Gearald McCraith, Essendon, Vic. Dr. B.D. Sadler, Pt. Augusta.
- Mr. Kevin Schultz, Forest Range - Mr. and Mrs. H. Tormet, South Plympton, Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Turner, Plympton. Mr. Wicky Zurcher, Virginia.

SEED BANK:

The first batch of seed was quickly snapped up and is all gone. A limited quantity of seed of the following species is now available from Mary Earle.

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| <u>Diuris longifolia</u> | <u>Pterostylis nutans</u> |
| <u>Microtis unifolia</u> | <u>Thelymitra pauciflora</u> |
| <u>Pterostylis nana</u> | <u>Thelymitra rubra</u> |

PRESIDENTS

Thankyou for your support, for joining, for coming to meetings, for displaying plants, and writing for the newsletter, but above all for your friendliness and good spirit. At the end of last year I had serious misgivings about forming a native orchid society just yet but it is obvious now that it should have begun before now. All that was needed was someone to get it all together and history will place the blame squarely on Roy Hargreaves. NOSSA is settling down quickly but will be expected to take up a responsible role in all matters relating to native orchids. Our progress will depend upon your continuing support.

NATIVE ORCHID GROUPS:

The W.A. Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group Inc. has a short past but a big future. It was formed about 4 years ago as a group within the Orchid Society of W.A. Membership increased to such an extent that a separate affiliated native group was formed just over a year ago. The group is very interested in studying W.A. native orchids in their natural habitat and think nothing of travelling hundreds of miles on field trips. They are very conservation minded and are planting a reserve. A monthly newsletter is published. Membership is \$1.00 per year plus \$2.00 for mailing the newsletter. Write to the Treasurer, Mrs. D. LANDER, 29 Tairu St, Applecross, W.A.

LIBRARY:

As of our third meeting we have a modest library of 9 books and/or sets of magazines for issue. As our group finances make it practical the number and scope of books will expand with particular emphasis on Australian Indigineous Orchids. Contributions of books, magazines etc. would be most welcome.

In order to obtain the maximum use of books available, members are requested to return them promptly at each meeting.

For those members interested in expanding their collection of Orchids, the librarian has available for reference and viewing a number of current catalogues from nurseries which specialise in Australian Native Orchids.

These include:-

- a) Deanes Orchid Nursery - Beecroft - Sydney, (about to shift to Dural N.S.W.)
- b) Mackinney's Nursery - Brisbane.
- c) Hilders Nursery - via Ingham north Queensland.
- d) Glencoe nursery - Atherton - North Queensland.

These nurseries offer a wide range of both terrestrial and epiphytes classified as cool, medium or warm growers. Costs range from about \$2 per plant and typical Air freight cost from say Brisbane or Sydney is \$3.50 for a parcel of 10 plants.

LIBRARY BOOKS.

- 1) Ross Riveash's Australian Orchids.
donated by E.R. (~~Ed~~) Hargreaves.
- 2) Australian Native Orchids in Colour.
Leo Cady and E.R. Rotherham
donated by E.R. (~~Ed~~) Hargreaves.
- 3) Ground Orchids of Australia.
by Maynard R. Pocock.
donated by J.T. (^{JIM}~~Jim~~) Simmons.
- 4) A Book for Orchid Lovers.
by The Orchid Club of South Australia Inc.
donated by E.R. (~~Ed~~) Hargreaves.
- 5) Orchids of Western Australia.
by A.S. George and Herb E. Foote.
donated by L.T. (Les Nesbitt).
- 6) The Australian Orchid Review - year 1973.
- 7) The Australian Orchid Review - year 1974.
- 8) The Australian Orchid Review - year 1975.
- 9) The Australian Orchid Review - year 1976.

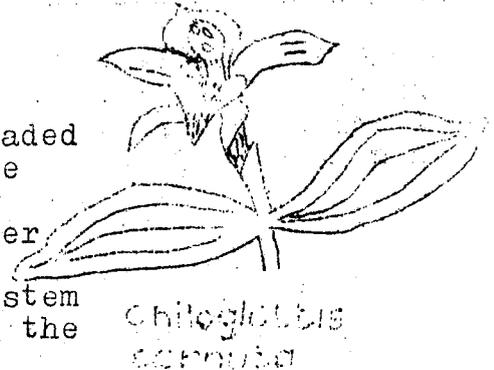
OUR RAREST ORCHIDS No. 2 in a series.

CHILOGLOTTIS cornuta (Bird orchid)

Although common in Vic, Tas, NSW & NZ. this orchid is only a recent addition to the SA list. Found only near sphagnum bogs in our far South East from Wangwarry to Millicent, it appears to be increasing in the pine forests.

I had the pleasure of seeing my first SA specimens in September last year when I was taken to a fern gully near Mt. Burr. Near a tree fern (*Cyathea australis*) the foot track skirted a patch of sphagnum and right on the edge of the track was a small colony of twin leaved *Chiloglottis* and up against the base of a pine tree a single 5 cm. tall green and red bloom.

All *Chiloglottis* species are lovers of damp shaded places. Another species *Ch. trapeziformis*, the Ant orchid also occurs in the South East. They can be easily recognised even when not in flower as there are always two opposite leaves, flat upon the ground. As in the genus *Corybas* the stem often elongates after flowering so as to raise the seed pod and aid seed dispersal.



Chiloglottis of several species will be available from the Victoria group's tuber bank next summer. They increase in cultivation but are shy flowerers especially in Adelaide conditions.

R. BATES.

JUNE COVER:

This month's cover illustrates two orchids, one of which should be well in evidence by now. This is the diminutive Dwarf Greenhood. *Pterostylis nana*, one of our commoner local orchids, being wide spread in South Australia and extending into the other southern states. It can be found in most of the local National Parks around Adelaide, particularly those on the western slopes of the Mt. Lofty Ranges.

Further north, it may be seen extensively in the Mt. Remarkable National Park, where it occupies a range of habitats, from the damper low-lying shady spots (where it seems to show the best development) to far up on the hillside, on the tops of almost bare rocks, where it often fails to survive to maturity.

The other species, *Pterostylis peunculava*, the Maroonhood, will not be in flower until late in July. This orchid is also widespread, though limited to the more temperate parts of the continent. Often plentiful, it seems to prefer a more shaded and damper habitat in South Australia, whereas in Victoria it is more numerous in coastal tea-tree scrub. It gets its name from the characteristic reddish-brown tip of the galea, and is typically a tall slender plant with a solitary flower.

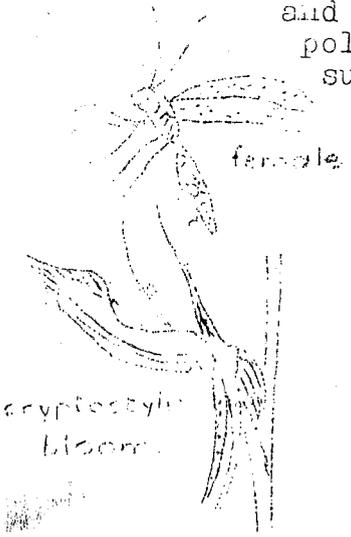
POLLINATION IN ORCHIDS. PART 2.

In part one we were left with the question of how tiny insignificant flowers could compete with nectar laden Eucalypts, pollen rich Acacias and strong scented Banksias in attracting insects for pollination. The answer is a three letter word 'SEX' (please do not read on if you are easily offended).

Most female insects are fitted with glands producing highly volatile

substances which are rapidly dissipated in the atmosphere. These chemicals are known as 'pheromones' and their purpose is to communicate with others of their species and what they most often have to communicate is their urge to mate. Thus an Emperor Gum Moth is able to detect a female over distances of up to forty kilometres and track her down for mating purposes (Reminds me of some women's perfumes with names like 'Man trap').

Through the marvellous process of evolution, nature has fitted many orchids with similar glands to the female insects - glands producing a pretty good copy of the insect sex pheromone. Some orchids produce a pheromone which is identical to that of a single insect species and only that one species of insect will ever effect



pollination e.g. in South Australia *Cryptostylis subulata* - the moose orchid is only pollinated by the males of one species of wasp - *Lissopimpla semipunctata*. The males of this wasp are in a constant state of sexual arousal and have been observed attempting to mate with other males, bees, and wasps of several species and often congregate in large numbers around a place where a female is about to emerge from her pupal case under the soil.

Obviously it would not take much to attract these male wasps and this the flowers of the *Cryptostylis* do rather well. I once sat for an hour in a swamp at Tooperang hoping to observe the process of pollination (I had previously read of it). Nothing happened so I collected two flowers and headed back to my car. Suddenly I was (or the flowers were) besieged by a swarm of six male wasps. They completely ignored me while attempting to copulate with the flowers. - their long abdomen poked into the column of each flower collected pollinia which adhered to the stigma of the next flower they visited.

Continued next month.

R. BATES.

THE EFFECT OF BUSHFIRE ON SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHIDS

For a million years the combination of dry summer seasons and electrical storms has ensured almost annual bushfires, somewhere in the state. More recently aboriginals have deliberately lit fires to flush game; consequently our vegetation has evolved to the point where many species are dependent on occasional fires to ensure re-growth.

Our ground orchids too, benefit from summer fires to varying degrees. Firstly soil is enriched with potash after a fire. Secondly more sunlight reaches the tiny orchids which tend to become smothered when the scrub becomes dense, and of course more light encourages more flowers. Thirdly competition from other plants is reduced. Orchids which prefer sunny conditions will benefit most. In 1976 a visit to Black Hill near Athelstone showed a great increase in flowers of *Caladenias*, *Glossodia*, *Prasophyllum*, *Superanthus* and *Thelymitra*, due to the February bushfires that year. There was a corresponding decrease in blooms of shade loving species like most *Pterostylis*, and orchids which place their tubers in flammable leaf litter like *Corybas*.

There are several species which seldom flower unless a bushfire occurs. The best known of these is the undertaker orchid - Lyperanthus nigricans. In a normal year one can examine thousands of the large flat oval leaves of this species and not find a single flower but after a fire almost every plant produces an attractive spike of maroon and white flowers.

An interesting example of protective camouflage is noted with these fire stimulated plants. They exhibit a phenomenon known as 'melanism' or increase in black pigmentation. The Lyperanthus flowers for example turn black as soon as the seed pods develop in fact the whole plant turns black - hence the name 'nigricans' which means black. The plant is colourful when it needs to attract insects but is camouflaged to avoid being eaten by animals afterwards. Prasophyllum elotum seldom blooms in thick bush unless it is burnt. Approximately fifty percent of these plants are almost black in colour with very dark flowers and yet in a normal year the leaves are green. The dark colour makes the plants difficult to detect in the burnt scrub.

Many Prasophyllums produce only a short leaf in a normal year but gradually build up tuber size until a fire stimulates blooming and the leaf is some ten times larger to help produce the flowerspike.

Many orchids which regularly flower in open country wait for a fire in thick bush i.e. Prasophyllum odoratum and Leporella, the fringed hare orchid. For the grower it is useful to know which species respond to burning as he can either simulate a bushfire by burning a few gum leaves on top of the pot and/or adding ashes as well as providing an enriched soil medium and plenty of sunlight. It is no use trying these tricks until you have built up tuber size first and this may take 1 - 4 years depending on the species.

Fire stimulated species.

Lyperanthus nigricans.
Leporella fimbriata
Caladenia menzeisii
Caladenia leptochila
Prasophyllum (most species)
Microtis unifolia
Glossodia major
Diuris brevissima

R. BATES.

S.A. GROUND ORCHIDS
CULTURE FOR JUNE - JULY

Les Nesbitt.

Since last report winter has set in bringing rain, cloud, and cold weather. Under these conditions growth shows up although the ground orchids continue to make progress. Watering will not be necessary in a shadehouse until springtime, provided normal winter rains continue to fall.

A few straggling orchids will appear this month. Don't ever give up hope until the growing season is over and even then your terrestrials may not be lost. Tubers can remain dormant for 18 months or more before bursting into growth. This characteristic allows orchids to survive dry seasons and is most developed in the species occurring in the low rainfall areas of the State; for example the Pterostylis ruta group and some Prasophyllums.

There is not much to do in winter except enjoy the early flowers, keep up the war on slugs and snails, and fertilize every few weeks. It's more enjoyable to stay inside by the fire, turn off the T.V. and read up on your favourite orchids. Species coming into flower include Coenanthus reniformis (early form), Pterostylis longifolia, Pt. nana, Pt. nutans and Corybas dilatatus.

ORCHIDS OF THE MOUNT LOFTY RANGES

- P. Hornsby.

The title of this article has been culled from the book "National Parks and Wild Life Reserves", published in 1964 by the Commissioners of the National Park and Wild Life Reserves; an excellent book which unfortunately is now no longer available. It is only to be hoped that the present National Parks and Wildlife Service will eventually get round to revising and updating it. In the interim, we can but hope to add a small contribution concerning the orchids.

The original publication contained a full list of plants of the Mount Lofty Ranges, including a section by H. Goldsack on the orchids. The aim here is to reproduce that list, including some minor amendments, mainly the updating of the nomenclature in accordance with the current list supplies from the South Australian State Herbarium. In some instances, species have been incorporated within others where this has occurred, the species is shown as incorporating the other, for example, Thelymitra uralis is now recognised as Thelymitra rubra, and so the new entry appears as Thelymitra rubra (inc. uralis). In other instances, the name has been changed and so the former name has been included as a synonym.

Other changes are to the distribution of some of the species, brought about mainly by the inclusion of the Cudlee Creek Conservation Park, in the Hundred of Talunga. In some cases the dates for the flowering periods can be extended, but since this information is only available on an ad hoc basis, it has been decided to leave the dates as they originally appeared. The major alteration has been to rearrange the list so that it now appears in an alphabetical sequence.

In conclusion, let me add that I found the list invaluable in aiding my own learning and identification of our native orchids. If you find an orchid in a particular Park, reference to the list tells you what is probably there, and this goes a long way towards reducing the range of possible alternatives. (If you're like me, one Microtis looks extraordinarily like another, and only the Orthoceras is easy to specify after all, there's only one!) In the same way, I hope the list will be beneficial to you. Reproducing the list in this manner is the best way I can find for saying thank you to Mr. Goldsack for his help, to others as well as myself, for so painstakingly preparing and publishing the original list.

ORCHIDS OF THE MOUNT LOFTY RANGES

- Acianthus caudatus* Jul 20 - Sep 15. N, K (F)
A exsertus Apr 26 - Jul 25. A, M, M, K (F)
A reniformis Jul 5 - Sep 21. A, N, M, K (F), T (C)
Caladenia carnea Sep 9 - Nov 5. All except M and Y
C deformis Jul 24 - Sep 20. A (NP), O, N, M, K (F)
C dilatata Sep 7 - Nov 29. All
C gladiolata
C latifolia Sep 4 - Oct 3. A (NP), N, K (F)
C leptochila Sep 20 - Nov 6. All
C menziesii Sep 19 - Nov 13. All except O and M
C patersonii Jul 23 - Nov 4. All except (M, SR), T and Y
C reticulata Sep 9 - Oct 15. A (M, NP), N, K
C rigida Sep 18 - Oct 13. N, M, Y and PW
C tessellata Sep 26. A (M), O, Y and PW
C tutalata Aug 22. A
Caleana major Dec 25. A, N and K
Calochilus robertsonii Oct 8 - Nov 14. A (SR, NP), O, N, M, K (F)
Corybas diemenicus Aug 3 - 31. A (NP), N
C dilatatus Jul 19 - Sep 3. A (NP), N, M, K (F)
C unguiculatus Jul. Bridgewater
Dipodium punctatum Jan 1 - Feb 28, Apr 27. A (SR, NP), O, N, K (F)
Diuris brevifolia Nov 6 - 27. O, N, K (F)
D longifolia Sep 7 - Nov 13. All except (M, SR) and Y
D maculata Aug 14 - Oct 17. All except T and Y
D palachila Aug 14 - Oct 2. All except (M)
D palustris Aug 13 - Oct 7. A (all), N
D pedunculata Sep 7 - Oct 15. A (M, SR, NP), N, M, K (F), T
Eriochilus cucullatus Apr 1 - 24. A (NP), N, M, K (F)
Glossodia major Aug 17 - Nov 6. All
Leporella fimbriata (syn *Leptoceras fimbriatum*) Jun 10 - Aug 1. A, N, K (F), Y
Lyperanthus nigricans Sep 21 - Oct 28. A (NP, SR), N, K (F)
Microtis atrata Dec 8 - Jan 1. A (M)
M oblonga Oct 19 - Jan 1. N, K (F), T
M parviflora Oct 9 - Jan 1. A (NP), N, K (F)
M unifolia Sep 20 - Dec 27. A (NP, SR), O, N, M, K (F)
Orthoceras strictum Nov 15 - Jan 21. A (NP), N, K (F), Y
Paracaleana minor (syn *Caleana minor*) N, K (F)
Prasophyllum australe Nov 24 - Jan 8. A (Upper WG), O, K (F)
P constrictum (syn *P gracile*) Oct 8 - Nov 3. A (SR), N, M
P elatum Oct 15. A (MP), M, K (F)
P fitzgeraldii Sep 23 - Oct 19. A (SR, NP), N
P nigricans Feb 20 - May 2. A, O, N, K, Y
P occidentale Oct 8. A (NP)
P odoratum Oct 16 - Nov 13. A (NP), N, K (F?)
P pallidum Sep 28 - Oct 21. A (NP), N, K (F?)
P patens Oct 8 - 23. A (NP), O, N, K (F)
Pterostylis alata Jun 6 - Aug 4. N
P barbata Sep 26 - Nov 1. A (NP), N, K (F)
P concinna Oct 9. M, T
P cucullata Oct 1 - 31. A (NP), N
P curta Aug 17 - Oct 19. A (M, NP), N, M
P cyenocephala N
P longifolia Jun 6 - Sep 20. A (NP), N, M, K (F)
P mitchelli Oct 1. Y

Orchids of the Mount Lofty Ranges - continued

- Pterostylis mutica* Sep 1 - Oct 15. Y
P nana Jun 13 - Oct 8. All except PW
P nutans Aug 31 - Oct 10. A (M, NP), O, N, M, K (F)
P parviflora Apr 6. K
P pedunculata Aug 15 - Oct 15. A (NP), O, N, M, K, T
P pusilla Sep 10 - Nov 11. A (NP), N
P rufa (inc *P squamata*) Oct 14 - Nov 25. A (NP), N, K (F), Y
P scabra var *robusta* (syn *P robusta*) May 25 - Aug 13. All except (SR), O, T and PW
P vereenae Sep 20 - Oct 11. N, K
P vittata May 25 - Aug 19. A (NP, WG), N, K (F)
Thelymitra antennifera Sep 8 - Oct 13. All
T aristata (inc *T grandiflora*) Sep 19 - Nov 24. All
T carnea Oct 11. N
T chasmogona Y
T flexuosa Oct 8 - Nov 21. A (NP), O, N, K (F)
T fusco-lutea Oct 24 - Nov 30. A (NP), O, N, K (F)
T ixioides Oct 26, Dec 1. A (SR, NP), O, N, K (F)
T luteocilium Sep 11 - Oct 25. A (NP), T, PW
T macmillanii Sep 26. A (NP), N
T pauciflora Sep 30 - Nov 6. All except (M), M and PW
T rubra (inc *T umalis*) Oct 6 - 29. A (WG, NP), O, N, M, K

Abbreviations are as follows :-

Hundreds of :- Adelaide, A; Onkaparinga, O; Noarlunga, N; Macclesfield, M; Kuitpo, K; Talunga, T; Yatala, Y and Para Wirra, PW

Subsidiary groups :- Morialta, (M); Waterfall Gully, (WG); the Summit Reserve, now Cleland Conservation Park, (SR); National Park, now Belair Recreation Park, (NP); Kuitpo Forest Reserve, including what is now Kyeema Conservation Park, K (F) and Cudlee Creek Conservation Park, (C)

FIELD DAYS

1. Date : Sunday 3rd July, 1977

Time : 11.00 am (bring packed lunch)

Meeting Place : Belair Recreation Park (Meet at the Belair Entrance, Sheoak Road; near Belair Railway Station - meet on the bridge over the railway line)

Judging by recent experience, the gates at this entrance will be locked, so if you wish to use your car inside the Park (it will be useful if at least some are inside) you would be well advised to come in at one of the other entrances - the Western Entrance (Upper Sturt Road) is certain to be open.

The aim is to view the orchids in the area adjacent to the Belair Entrance, working down towards the lake where we will have lunch. Afterwards, we will probably move to the area above Long Gully, near the (closed) Waverley Lodge Entrance - though final decisions will be left until during the lunch break.

For those wishing to travel by train, the abbreviated train times (trains stop at all stations) are :-

		a m		p m		p m
Adelaide	dep	10.20	arr	4.07	arr	4.57
Goodwood		10.28	dep	3.58	dep	4.48
Mitcham		10.35		3.51		4.41
Blackwood		10.52		3.37		4.27
Belair	arr	10.59		3.31		4.21
Long Gully				3.24		4.14

Unfortunately the first train from the Bridgewater end does not reach Belair until 1.01 pm.

2. Date : Sunday 31st July, 1977

Time : 11.00 am (bring packed lunch)

Meeting Place : Valley Road ford, 1.1 km (0.7 miles) from the Valley Road turnoff on the Corkscrew Road, near Montacute. (See map overleaf)

The aim is to view the orchids in the Montacute Recreation Park, and will involve walking along the tracks in and adjacent to the Park.

[Handwritten signature]

1:50,000
D.S. SHEET
6628-III & PART
6528-II
"ADELAIDE"

1:50,000
D.S. SHEET
6628-II
"ONKAPARINGA"

