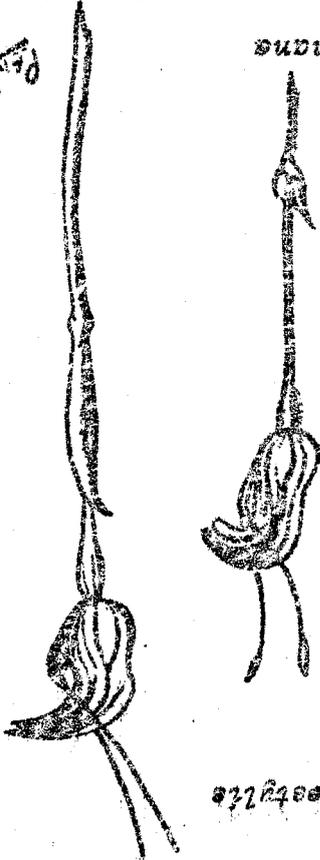


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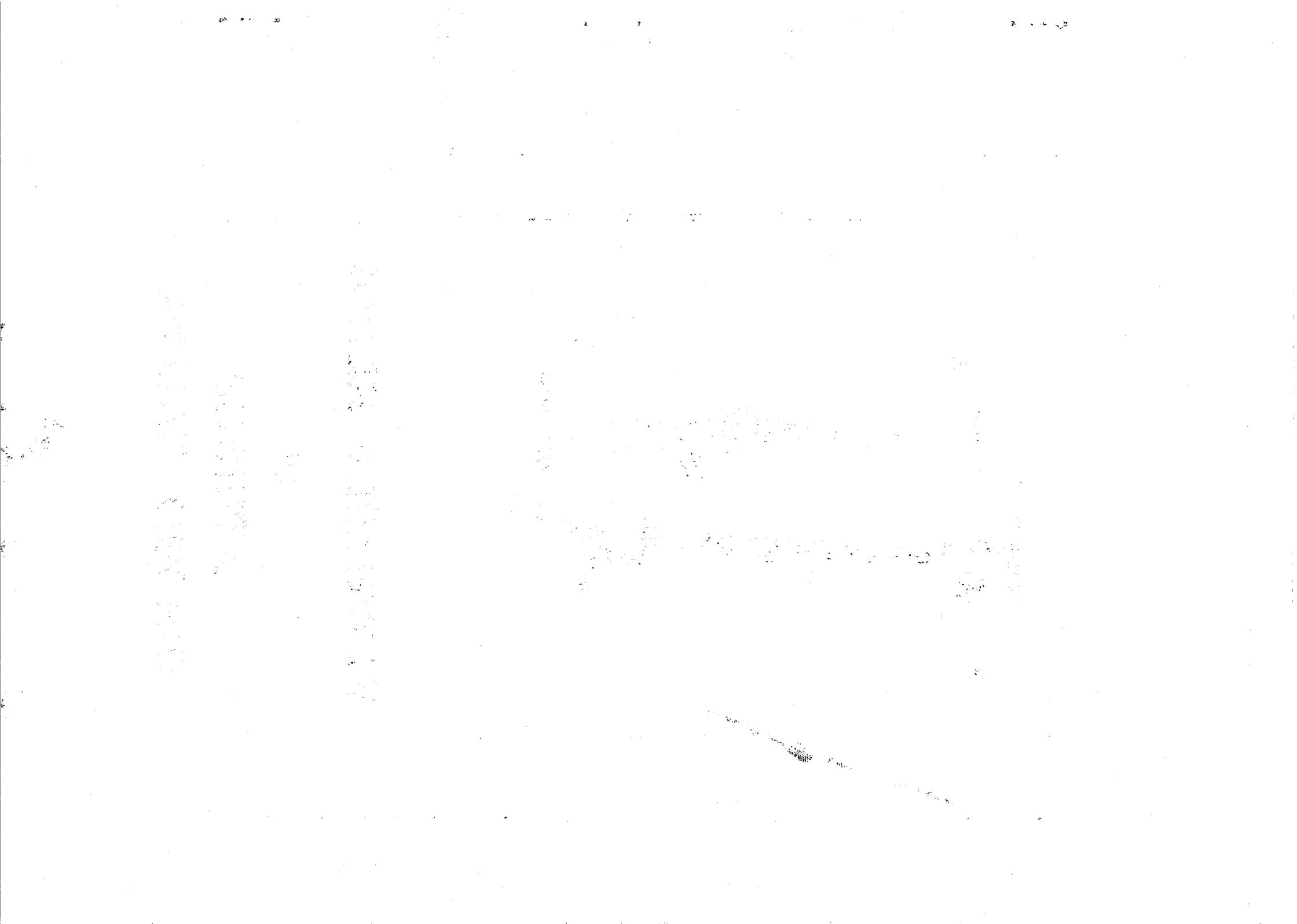
Pterostylis

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

of

SOCIETY

NATIVE ORCHID





NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

JOURNAL

Volume 4, No. 5

June, 1980

Registered for posting as a publication Category B. Price 40c.

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NEXT MEETING.

When: Tuesday, 24th June, 1980 at 8 p.m.

Where: St. Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington.

Why: Kevin Western will talk about and demonstrate, on stage, the art and techniques of "Flasking".

Trading table, Library, Raffle, Plant display and commentaries plus Popular Vote.

Everyone present at the meeting should collect a Popular Vote slip on arrival and sometime between 7.45 and 8.00 pm note down the number of both the Epiphyte and Terrestrial which they like best. Slips are collected at the start of the meeting and counted. Highest number of votes in each category receives the popular vote.

PLANT DISPLAYS.

NOSSA displays are for endemic species of Australian and New Guinea orchids and their hybrids only. Any hybrids which have any proportion of exotic blood are not considered to be Australasian orchid hybrids. Members with hybrids of doubtful parentage may refer them to the Committee for clarification.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

To be held on Friday next following a Monthly meeting in future.

LAST MEETING.

Attendance 68.

Dr. Russel Sinclair's talk on epiphytes coping with water stress was most thought provoking and touched on concepts of which we ordinary growers are not aware, even though we often allow for them in our cultural methods. Some examples were:-

1. Opening and closing of stomates (pores in leaves) during the day.
2. Tightness of water retention in cells of plants.
3. Percentage of water retention in a droughted plant compared with the total possible water content.

Dr. Sinclair was surprised by the drought resistance of the epiphytic orchids and ferns that he studied.

POPULAR VOTE.

<u>Epiphytes:-</u>	1st.	<u>Dendrobium Star of Gold.</u>	Jim Simmons
	2nd.	<u>Dendrobium johannis X bigibbum</u>	Jim Simmons
<u>Terrestrials:-</u>	1st.	<u>Pterostylis baptistii</u>	G. Nieuwenhoven
	2nd.	<u>Pterostylis alata var robusta</u>	Peter Barnes

RAFFLE.

<u>Dendrobium gracicaule</u>	Jim Simmons
<u>Pterostylis alata var robusta</u>	Peter Van de Riviere
<u>Dendrobium delicatum</u>	John Henderson.

PLANTS ON DISPLAY.

A good selection of orchids were displayed. No two epiphytes were alike but there were up to six pots of the same terrestrial species. Pterostylis (greenhoods) dominated the terrestrial bench especially Pt. toveyana (a putative hybrid between Pt. alata and Pt. concinna) which seems to grow and flower strongly considering that most growers have only recently acquired their plants. The hybrid Den. Star of Gold had very large yellow flowers which needed the support of a stake. The large white Dendrobium had some exotic parentage and therefore was not considered to be an Australian native. Plants benched were:-

<u>Epiphytes.</u>	<u>Dendrobium mortii, Den. striolatum, Den. cucumerinum, Den. Hilda Poxon, Den. Star of Gold, Den. johannis X bigibbum, Den. Ellen, Den. gracicaule X tetragonum, Den. rigidum, Den. torressae, and Oberonia palmacola.</u>
<u>Terrestrials.</u>	<u>Acianthus exsertus, Chiloglottis reflexa, Pterostylis alata, Pt. alata var robusta, Pt. baptistii, Pt. concinna, Pt. grandiflora, Pt. obtusa, Pt. toveyana, Pt. vittata, Pt. vittata var viridiflora (green and white--W.A.), Pt. longicurva, Pt. pedoglossa, Pt. ophioglossa var collina.</u>

FIELD TRIPFIELD TRIPFIELD TRIP

The October long week-end trip to the Little Desert and Grampians, in conjunction with A.N.O.S.--Victoria, is at the advanced planning stage. Details are to be attached as a supplement to this Journal.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S RAREST ORCHIDS, NO. 17.

R. Bates.

Thelymitra resecta. Rupp, the peat bog Sun Orchid is the rarest known orchid species in S.A. One of the most unusual aspects of its discovery in this State less than ten years ago by Mark Clements was its closeness to Adelaide (about 15 km from the centre of the City). From the Gleichenia fern bog where it was found one can look directly down onto the City.

When Mark first showed me this sun orchid it was in the last few days of December and the orchid was in bloom. I was delighted to find another specimen in flower on Jan. 1st, 1980, in a tree fern swamp, about 1 km from the original discovery. That made a total of three mature plants found. Close examination of the ground around one of the plants on March 15th showed a number of seedlings. The T. resecta swamp is fortunately in a conservation park and the species is therefore 'safe'.

T. resecta is not a very attractive species, the leaf is thick like T. venosa, the flowers about the size of T. pauciflora, seldom opening and pale blue in colour--certainly not a species for cultivation.

The species has been collected in N.S.W. and Victoria, but is more common in Tasmania.

T. resecta is close to T. circumsepta from the Blue Mountains and a revision of the genus may see the latter name preferred as T. circumsepta is probably a staminodal form of the species.

RUPP.

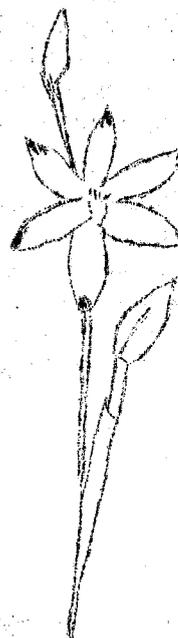
Two copies of "The Orchids of N.S.W." by H.M.F. Rupp are available from the Trading Table for \$5.50 each.

FIELD TRIP

Sunday, 20th July - afternoon trip to Anstey's Hill.  
Full details next month.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. E. Cook	Wauchope, N.S.W.	Mr. J.R. Lawry	Leabrook
Mrs D.W. Clifton	Henley Beach	Mrs A. McDonell	Unley
Mr. I. Fletcher	East Doncaster, Vic.	Mrs M. Nicholas	Woodville South
Miss G. Harrison	Murray Bridge	Mr & Mrs M. Vile	Pt. Augusta West.

T. resecta.

Column X 10  
The column does not end in a head like T. pauciflora.

DIURIS MACULATA X DIURIS LONGIFOLIA 'Big Ears'. Les Nesbitt.

NOSSA Cultural Certificate No 4 was awarded to a potful of this hybrid on 31.8.79. Seven plants were growing in a 250 mm plastic plantainer. The plants were 640mm tall and had 2-3 leaves up to 14 mm wide. Six plants had nine flowers and one had ten flowers although not all flowers were open. Flower colour was cream, blurred and streaked with red-brown. The largest bloom was 45 mm across the petals. Both flowers, plants and tubers are larger than either parent. The pot gets my normal Diuris culture which is 50% shade, plastic pots, good air movement and repotting each year during the dormant period. Soil mix is 40% soil, 40% sand, 20% German peat moss plus a small amount of blood and bone mixed in.

The 'Big Ears' clone seems sterile as I have tried many times to pollinate it without success. It does not form pollen itself. It is one of three clones which appeared as seedlings in a pot of Diuris maculata in the early 70's. I first flowered the plant in 1974. Tubers are up to 150 mm long and 12 mm diameter and usually lay at an angle to the surface. They shoot at one end only. When plants are growing strongly, a large tuber plus a small one are produced each year, resulting in a gradual increase in the number of plants.

GREENHOOD GREENPODS

To continue his research into the mycorrhizal associations with certain of our Australian terrestrial orchids, Dr. Warcup of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute requires fresh seed (preferably green pods) this year of the following Greenhood species:-

Pt. <i>accuminata</i>	Pt. <i>aestiva</i>
<i>alpina</i>	<i>alata</i>
<i>congloussa</i>	<i>angusta</i>
<i>daintriana</i>	<i>decurva</i>
<i>falcata</i>	<i>depauperata</i>
<i>furcata</i>	<i>furcillata</i>
<i>hildae</i>	<i>nana</i>
<i>ophioglossa</i>	<i>oreophila</i>
<i>reflexa</i>	<i>rogersii</i>
<i>russellii</i>	<i>tenuissima</i>

Any offers of green pods or seed may be given to Alwin Clements or Les Nesbitt for forwarding to Dr. Warcup. Hand pollinate the flowers of any of these species if you have them. This is a chance to help in local research on our native orchids. Some of these orchids are very rare here and you may be the only person to flower one this year.

NEDOS WINTER SHOW

A display of native orchids will be set up by NOSSA members at the NEDOS Winter Show on Thursday, 17th July at 8.00 p.m. Any flowering plants which can be brought along will be welcome. The show will be taken out at 9.00 p.m. on Saturday, 19th July. The show will be open to the public on the Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. There will be a trading table.

PLANT OF THE MONTH.

G. Nieuwenhoven.

PTEROSTYLIS CONCINNA. (Commonly known as the Trim greenhood.)

A very neat looking, small plant coloured two tone green, like many of our greenhoods, with reddish tints on the sinus and tips of the galea.

It occurs in South East South Aust., Victoria, New South Wales, Southern Queensland and Tasmania. It is a common orchid which flowers between May and October forming colonies in its favoured habitat, consisting mainly of sandy soils. At Hall's Gap, in the Grampians (Vic.), it has been observed to grow not only on a sandy hillside, but also on solid rock covered with a layer of moss. When it was lifted up the whole plant system could be observed roots, tubers etc. as well as the above ground part of the plant. (Does this qualify it as a lithophyte?).

In cultivation it is one of the easiest of our greenhoods to grow and flower, in fact almost every tuber seems to produce a flower. My plants are grown in a sandy soil mix and seem to thrive in it. Both plastic and clay pots are suitable.

An interesting point to note is this, one lot of large tubers planted in a clay pot emerged later than a quantity of small tubers planted in a plastic pot during the beginning of this season, the small tubers also flowered surprisingly well. Perhaps it is explained by the fact that a plastic pot has less moisture fluctuation than a clay one thereby ensuring steadier growth. They usually emerge from the soil about the middle of March and grow rapidly from then on, forming a flat rosette on the ground with the flowering spike emerging from the centre soon after the rosette has formed, occasionally two flowers are produced but usually one is the norm.

The flowers last quite a long time on the plant (up to three months) which makes it a desirable plant to grow. It multiplies very well in cultivation, easily doubling itself every year. Which means of course you will have plenty of tubers to spare within a couple of years and thus be able to donate some to the tuber bank.

Pt. concinna is said to hybridise with Pt. alata the progeny being Pt. toveyana, it is known to occur in Tasmania. Several plants were displayed at our last meeting.

A.O.F. WORKSHOP.

The first A.O.F. sponsored orchid workshop in Adelaide was held on 18th May 1980 at Glenside. The 220 registrants present voted it a most enjoyable day. People came from all over the State, including Mount Gambier, Port Lincoln and a contingent of 18 from the Riverland.

The workshop covered all aspects of orchid culture and included lectures, potting demonstrations and trade exhibits and stalls. One of the papers presented covered native orchid culture in S.A.. Both terrestrial and epiphytic native orchids were on sale. Gerald McCraith, the force behind these workshops, which have been held in most states, came over from Melbourne to give the keynote address and guide the proceedings. Jim Simmons and Roy Hargreaves were on the organising committee and other N.O.S.S.A. members played a prominent part in ensuring that the activities ran smoothly. Copies of the papers can be purchased from Roy Hargreaves.

THE CULTIVATION OF PTEROSTYLIS LONGIFOLIA.

R. Bates.

The tallest of all 'greenhoods', P. longifolia, may produce as many as a dozen translucent green flowers on a stem up to 90 cm in height.

It is a very common and widespread species in S.A. growing as far west as Streaky Bay, north to Wilpena Pound and south to Mt. Gambier. There are two main forms. The mountain form from the Mt. Lofty and Flinders Ranges is robust and deep green. The slender yellow mallee form is seldom over 30 cm tall with fewer flowers and remains small in cultivation. The life span is shorter than for most greenhoods (5-10 years). It compensates for this by producing a great number of seedlings. Growth is rapid and these juvenile plants often flower in their second year (at least they have done so for me in cultivation.)

P. longifolia provides quite a challenge for the grower as it will not increase vegetatively unless the main tuber is damaged or removed. Without seedlings or special methods a potful soon dies out in cultivation.

Soil: The first requisite for successful cultivation is a well drained soil with healthy micro-flora. I use a friable bush soil with very little peat moss added. Clay pots are preferred as they give better drainage and aeration.

Tuber depth: A quick check of a large plant in the bush often reveals that the huge tubers are sitting on top of the soil and are covered only by leaf litter. Taking a cue from that I place my tubers so that they are just buried by soil but covered with 4-6 cm of bush leaf litter.

Seeding: Seed should be sown in May on top of the leaf litter and covered with a handful of dried gum leaves. In September numerous 2-3 leaved seedlings should begin to peep out around the edges of these leaves. I counted 30 in one pot last year.

Hygiene: Repotting can be done annually. Each pot should be washed out before use and fresh soil used. Dry tubers showing a red discolouration should be potted up separately as these red streaks are caused by a pathogenic fungus (1). The best tubers from each pot can be combined to make up a large specimen pot. Strict hygiene should be observed for disease-prone species like P. longifolia. If infection does strike while they are in full growth, they can be successfully repotted in fresh bush soil.

Vegetative propagation: If no seedlings appear by October it is a simple enough task to tip the plants out while still green, pull off the new tubers and repot the plants with old tubers intact. These produce 1 or more new tubers if the soil is not too wet.

Hints: Tubers should not be kept wet over summer nor should the pots be hand watered in autumn as plants which come up early are subject to bud damage from thrips, low humidity or virus attack. Each year I get a few plants with tall healthy stems but no flowers due to abortion from one or more of the above. My notes show that plants which come up latest produce the best flowers. If conditions become over-wet in winter, pots should be removed to a dry location. Certainly P. longifolia is not a species recommended for the beginner.

(1) This fungus was identified as a Pythium sp. and in my experience is peculiar to the tubers of P. longifolia and P. vittata. This latter species is particularly sensitive to this fungus and is even more difficult to grow. The fungus is common on tubers of the species in the bush and may be responsible for the short life span observed as only large mature plants seem to be affected.

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY of SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Field trip to the Grampians and Little Desert, 11-13 October 1980.

Initial Information Sheet.

1. Accommodation

The recommended spot to stay for the visit is Horsham. The headquarters will be at the Olde Horsham Motor Inn, details of which are given below. There are, of course, several other motels in Horsham, but this was chosen for the sake of its location, and the presence on the opposite side of the road of the Wimmera Lakes Caravan Park for those who may wish to take their own vans, or use the 'on site' facilities in the Park.

Rates (all per night):-

Olde Horsham Motor Inn	1 person - \$22.00	)	
	2 persons - \$27.00	)	Rates
	3 persons - \$32.00	)	for room
	Extra persons \$5.00;	)	only
	children under 14,	)	
	\$4.00; cot \$3.00	)	

Wimmera Lakes Caravan Park

Tent sites - \$2.00, for 2 persons, + \$2.00 for power

Caravan sites - \$4.00, for 2 persons, power included

On site vans: 16ft, 4-berth - \$10.00 for 2 persons, + 50¢ for each extra person  
(one double, 2 bunks)

20ft, 6-berth - \$12.00 for 2 persons, + 50¢ for each extra person

\* \* \* \* \*

If you wish to go on this trip, please remember that you are responsible for booking your own accommodation, and BOOK EARLY.

2. Visits

Saturday 11th 9.00 am Little Desert National Park (meet at Kiata)  
2.00 pm Mount Arapiles

Sunday 12th 9.00 am Grampians; all day

Monday 13th 9.00 am Grampians; all day

3. Other features

Members of the Victorian Group of the Australasian Native Orchid Society are coming from Melbourne to join us on Saturday and Sunday.

We also expect to see some of their local members, as well as some from the Field Naturalists Society and the Horsham Group of the Society

Continued overleaf

for Growing Australian Plants. The SGAP Group have their regular monthly meeting on Friday evening, 10 October, and doubtless would welcome any who would like to visit them for the evening.

We look forward to renewing old acquaintanceships, and making new ones, and hope we can all get together for a barbecue on the Saturday evening.

4. There will be a follow-up Information Sheet, giving more details of meeting-places, precise venues, etc. to be issued nearer the time.

Peter Hornsby  
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