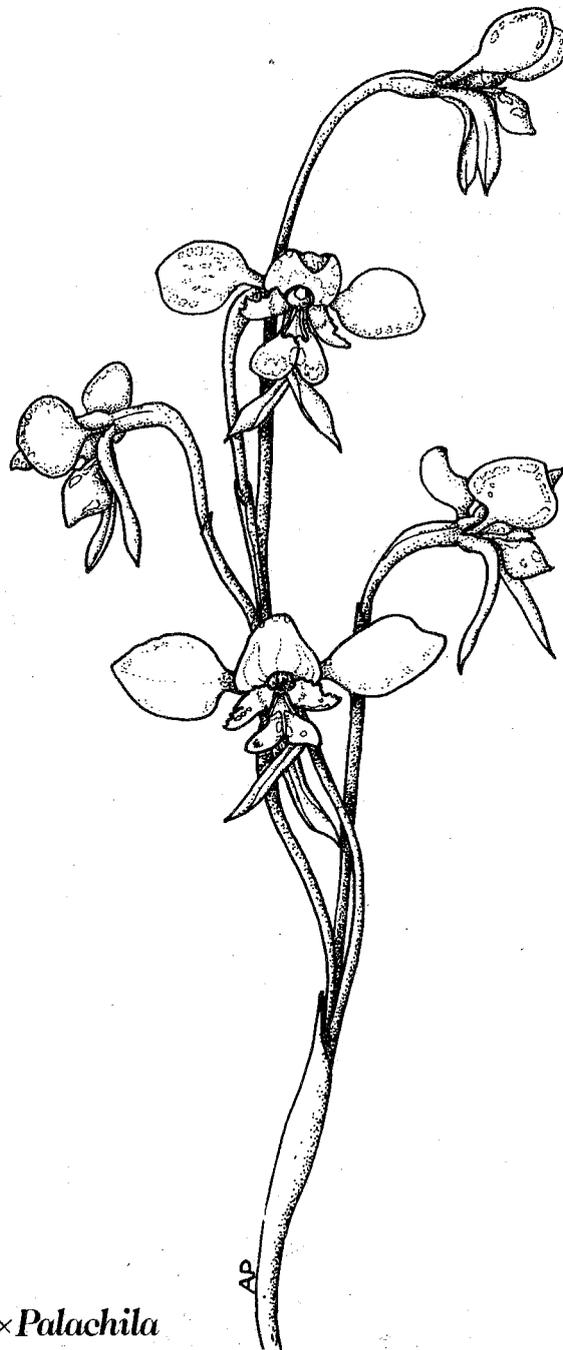
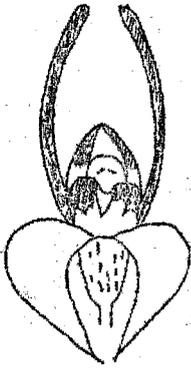


NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY
of
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
JOURNAL



Diuris x Palachila



NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

JOURNAL

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TREASURER:	Mr R.T. Robjohns		
EDITOR:	Mr G.J. Nieuwenhoven		

NEXT MEETING

When: Tuesday, 22 March, 1983 at 8.00 p.m.
Where: St. Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington.
Subject: First item of the evening will be the proposed changes to the Constitution. Followed by the Annual General Meeting. The normal monthly meeting will take place at the finish of election of officers.

One of our own members, Mr Reg Shooter, will speak and show slides on "How I Grow Dendrobiums". If you want to learn how to grow dendrobiums perfectly don't miss this one.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOMINATIONS

The following nominations have been received for Committee positions 1983:

President:	Mr G.J. Nieuwenhoven
Vice Presidents:	Mr R. Shooter
Secretary:	Mr R. Hargreaves
Treasurer:	Mr R. Robjohns
Committees:	Mrs M. Fuller Mr R. Bates Mr W. Harris

Mr R. Barnes still has one year to serve.

TUBER BANK REPORT 1982-83

D. Wells

An increase in demand for scarcer, less common tubers, resulted in the quantity per person lower than last year, nevertheless most orders were supplied without substitutes.

The growing on programme is increasing by multiplication in the master pots, as well as more master pots being started for future years. Several members are multiplying by seeding their own master pots with the object of supplying the Tuber Bank at a future date.

I would like to interest more members prepared to give seeding a try. Help is available.

This year the bank has supplied three interstate clubs with surplus tubers in appreciation of assistance afforded to NOSSA.

Kew Gardens (England) also received tubers to assist their growing on project.

Our own club has benefited by tubers being supplied for: raffles, trading table and sales at our own many selling outlets at Shows, etc., raising funds for NOSSA.

The bank is firmly established and playing an important part. Tubers are being grown on and set aside for the introduction to regenerated areas promoted by one of our local quarries.

This successful year would not have been possible without the assistance and co-operation of many of our members, each doing their part to make it possible. The willingness to assist in all forms has been very rewarding.

My sincere thanks to all those who assisted me.

Payment to NOSSA after postage was \$210.05.

PLANTS ON DISPLAY LAST MONTH

Epiphytes	<u>Sarcochilus ceciliae</u> (small clump in clay pot)
	<u>Liparis coelocynoides</u>
Terrestrials	<u>Prasophyllum archeri</u> (two flowering plants)
	<u>Pterostylis baptistii</u> (just emerging, grown in glasshouse)

TERRESTRIAL STUDY GROUP

The Terrestrial Study Group has been formed to enable interested members to get together to discuss such aspects as photography, cultivation, distribution and pollination, etc., of each genus.

The intended format is: slide show, discussion, drinks and supper. All meetings will be at members homes.

Please ring 251 3450 if you would like to join the group.

The first meeting will be at the home of Bob Bates,
38 Portmarnock Street,
Fairview Park,
on
April 12,
beginning 7.30.

Please bring slides, etc., of Caladenias.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO MEMBERS

It has been both a privilege and a pleasure to have been President of our Society for the past two years and quite gratifying to vacate the position knowing the group is in a sound situation, not only financially, but in terms of keen active members.

Upon reflection, there have been two highlights during this term of office which have been major milestones for our Society. One was the holding of our first Annual Show in 1982, which was successful beyond our most optimistic expectations, and reflected the careful planning of our Show Sub-committee, Reg Shooter, Peter Barnes and Les Nesbitt, not forgetting the contribution made by Roy Hargreaves and all the other members who assisted in setting up and manning of the trading table, etc.

The second has been the installation of the shadehouse for growing South Australian species orchids at the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. This has been a joint venture with the Australian Orchid Foundation and our members have contributed in numerous ways. Jim Jacobs most generously provided all the material at cost as well as supplying equipment and his labour to assist the construction. Les Nesbitt, Reg Shooter, Ron Robjohns, Roy Hargreaves and Harry Brune, just to name a few, also assisted with the erection and other members have contributed generously with tubers to help stock the house.

Since taking over the position as Editor, George Nieuwenhoven has done a first class job and ensured that the high standard of our Journal has been maintained.

Don Wells has again run our tuber bank most successfully and as well as a wide local distribution, we have sent a further consignment of tubers to Kew Gardens to build up their stock of Australian species. Bob Bates and George Nieuwenhoven also contributed to this consignment.

Ron Robjohns has continued to do an excellent job as Treasurer as have all other Committee members in contributing their time and effort in the management of the Society.

Finally, it has been most gratifying to have the tireless efforts of our Secretary, Roy Hargreaves, and our Society is indeed most fortunate to have had a person of Roy's calibre in its formative years.

May I wish the new President every success in the position.

J.T. Simmons

SHOWS

The Black Hill Native Flora Park, Maryvale Road, Athelstone, is conducting "Field Days" for the general public on Saturday and Sunday, March 26 and 27, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The theme being "Growing Native Plants".

NOSSA has accepted an invitation to stage an exhibit and we require several members to be in attendance to promote our Society.

Please let the Secretary know at the next meeting.

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAStatement of Receipts and Payments for year ended 31 December 1982

<u>RECEIPTS</u>			<u>PAYMENTS</u>	
Subscriptions			Library	
1982	696.00		Orchidaceae of N G	120.00
1983	<u>243.00</u>	939.00	Sundry Books	<u>79.09</u> 199.09
Donations			Cash Drawer	45.00
Hargreaves R	70.00		Slide Viewing Box	45.00
N.E.D.O.S.	20.00		Stylus and Plate	14.04
Sundry	<u>27.84</u>	117.84	Postage	402.32
Badges		22.00	Stationery	761.71
Publications		533.90	Typing Journal - Honorarium	123.00
Tuber and Seed Bank		253.85	Publications	314.65
Raffle Proceeds		343.30	Plants - Trading	472.39
Plant Sales			Rent of Hall	100.00
and Commission		1781.36	Insurance	196.70
Shows			Raffle Permit	5.00
Admission	515.10		Aust. Orchid Foundation	25.00
Aft. Tea	<u>43.50</u>	558.60	Aust. Native Orchid Society	10.00
Bank Interest		50.84	Orchid Club of S.A.	10.00
			Society for Growing	
			Aust. Plants	20.00
			A.N.O.S. Medallions	20.00
			Repairs - Duplicator	105.50
			Show Expenses	95.25
			Sundry	<u>16.09</u>
				2980.74
			Excess Receipts	
			over Payments	<u>1619.95</u>
		<u>\$4600.69</u>		<u>\$4600.69</u>

Cash Statement

Cash at Bank 1.1.82	1028.10
ADD Excess Receipts	<u>1619.95</u>
Cash at Bank 31.12.82	<u>\$2648.05</u>

(signed R.T. Robjohns)

Honorary Treasurer

I have examined the books and records of The Native Orchid Society of South Australia and certify that the above Statement of Receipts and Payments is in accordance with the books and vouchers produced.

(signed C.K. Yates)

Honorary AuditorBOTANIC GARDENS

The following eight species have been added to the shadehouse project:

Thelymitra crinita
Caladenia sigmoidea
Diuris laciflora
D. setacea

Microtis (unifolia ssp) oligantha
Pterostylis satqentii
Pt. baptistii
Pt. recurva

FIELD TRIP TO TASMANIA - December 1982/January 1983

P. Reece

While the south-east of mainland Australia suffered from drought, Tasmania had received a little below average rain for 1982.

I did a three-week car trip to the Holiday Isle, visiting most of its National Parks and any roadside scrub of interest. After unloading my car from the Devonport Ferry my first stop was Ben Lomond National Park, a highly elevated plateau in the dry north-east of the state. Its access road is the hair-raising Jacob's Ladder - a one-lane gravel road that zig-zags its way up the side and onto the top. Legges Tor yielded Caladenia lyallii in flower under shrubs, and between two ski lodges near the summit was a group of Prasophyllum alpinum in leaf. They bulged with flower spikes in bud. I was a little too early to see their flowers. At the foot of the plateau at 900 metres elevation in tall eucalypt forest was Chiloglottis gunnii in flower.

The north end of Cradle Mountain - Lake St. Clair National Park was next. Occasional rain fell while I was there, keeping the vegetation in good condition. Beside the Waldheim Huts in tall Beech forest I came across Townsonia viridis in a late stage of flowering. The flowers were still erect but their ovaries had swollen. This orchid has a creeping rhizome that sends up stems through the bushmoss that is found in such wet forest. More Caladenia lyallii was found in flower, two to a stem at right angles, 1 km south of Waldheim beside the Overland Track under large snow gums. An unwelcome leech dropped out of such a gum tree onto my hand, possibly attracted by my body warmth. Thelymitra venosa was in flower nearby. The surrounding terrain was a result of glacial action with swampy places divided by old moraines. The scenery was superb.

Driving around to the Lake St. Clair end of the park I climbed Mt. Rufus with the ranger-naturalist Alex Buchanan. The Park held programmed walks during the summer months and on this occasion I had been the only one to turn up. When Alex found I had an interest in orchids he agreed to proceed, despite the small party of two.

In tall eucalypt forest we found in flower Pterostylis alpina = Pt. scabrida right on the track where a small creek crossed. The leaves of Chiloglottis gunnii were abundant but rarely did we see a flower. Higher up we passed through a Beech forest with very ornamental lichen hanging from branches in festoons. Again Townsonia viridis appeared in the moss but no flowers in their prime.

Before coming out of the forest some small circular leaves of Corybas sp. caught my eye. The top ridge of Mt. Rufus did not yield up any leek orchids as I had hoped so the scenery out to Frenchman's Cap and the head of the Franklin River consoled us. The return walk was fairly long with little time to stop and look at the beautiful Tasmanian Waratah, Telopea truncata, in flowers of crimson.

On the sandy beaches of Lake St. Clair grew a few stands of large Melaleucas. Beneath one such stand I found Pterostylis dubia in flower with an elongated black beetle in attendance for 20 minutes. I could not confirm it as a pollinating agent.

Along the road to Straun I found many flowering examples of Calochilus campestris, some plants having 10 flowers to the raceme. It was too cold for the wasps that day as snow had begun falling on the highlands so I did not wait for any to be attracted to the hairy labella of these orchids.

Heading back to Devonport I stopped at Rocky Cape National Park and found Dipodium punctatum in flower among tall eucalypts just outside the park boundary.

Had the days been sunnier, I might have come across more species of Thelymitra.

CORYBAS DESPECTANS: AN UNDERSIZED ORCHID MUCH OVERLOOKED

B. Bates

The helmet orchid Corybas despectans D.L. Jones and R.C. Nash, was named in 1976. How is it that this species, the commonest and most widely distributed helmet orchid in South Australia, remained un-named for so long? Almost certainly Doctor Roger's, the state's greatest "orchidologist", must have encountered the species (which once grew on the inland side of Adelaide's coastal dunes) but as far as I am aware he made no comment in the literature and there were no collections of it in his large herbarium.

The first person to recognise the existence of the plant appears to have been Harold Goldsack who found it on Yorke Peninsula about 1950. Marion Beek, a keen student of our native orchids, collected plants in the South-East in the 1960s and sent them to Ray Nash, who then spent several years studying the species with a view of giving it a name. When I was teaching at Yorketown in 1971 I found many hundreds of colonies of the species and, realising that it was un-named, I took some to Mr Nash who was able to tell me a good deal about the plants.

Soon after it was named it was found that Corybas despectans was common in coastal areas of southern Western Australia and Don Voigt showed me two different forms around Esperance in 1981. During the NOSSA/ANOS Victorian field trip to Portland last year Colin Woolcock took us to Bridgewater Lakes and it was mentioned to Colin that this area looked very similar to the habitats of C. despectans in South Australia. Colin returned to the area in August this year and, not surprisingly, the Corybas he collected there turned out to be C. despectans.

The plant had been overlooked for so long because of its very small size (the flowers are only 1 cm tall and face down into the tiny ground-hugging leaves). The flowers bear a superficial resemblance to those of C. diemenicus and because their predominantly greenish flowers have such a tiny dorsal sepal and a ragged edge to the labellum, they could easily be mistaken for virus-affected plants of C. diemenicus. Once picked the flowers quickly decay into a shapeless black mass, and, of course, are practically un-recognisable when pressed. The only useful way to collect them is to place the plants directly into a spirit bottle. The leaves appear in June or July and the flowers in August. By mid-September the leaves have generally shrivelled. No wonder the species has been overlooked!

Corybas despectans may be found in coastal dunes or in leaf litter on travertine limestone from near Portland in Victoria, along the Coorong, at Aldinga, the Barossa Valley, Kangaroo Island, Yorke and Eyre Peninsulas in South Australia and along the coast from east of Esperance almost to Albany in Western Australia. Undisturbed colonies often contain thousands of plants which favour deep shade. Some forms are self-pollinating but generally pollination is effected by tiny flies. In a wet Spring the stem below the seed capsule may elongate to as much as 10 cm, but in dry years the capsule ripens at ground level. Because the flowers are often half hidden by leaf litter and moss C. despectans is the nearest thing we have in South Australia to an "underground orchid".

Attempts to cultivate this species usually fail. The more attractive C. dilatatus and C. diemenicus are much better propositions.

NEWS IN THE ORCHID WORLD

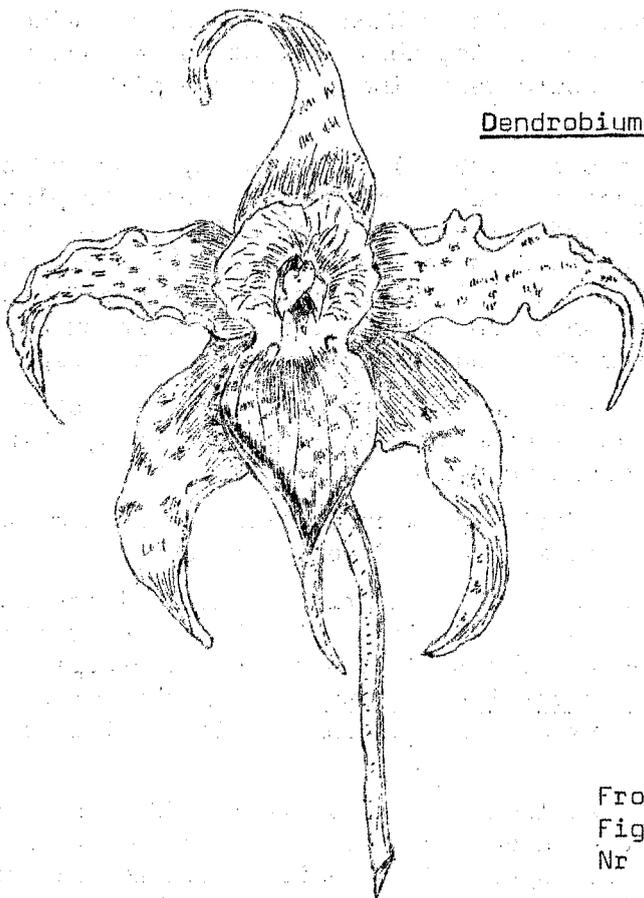
From Papua New Guinea comes the rumour that Dendrobium Alexandrae Schltr. has at last been collected again in the Waria Valley of P.N.G. Rudolf Schlechter collected the Type material of this species of the Section Latouria in 1909 and as far as can be ascertained it had not been collected since that date.

Schlechter described it as closely related to D. spectabile (Bl.) Miq. but surpassing it in beauty. In his descriptive notes he said:

"The colour of the flowers is yellowish with dark red spots on the outside of the sepals and petals, the labellum pale violet with brown-violet veins and spots. The leaves are blue-green."

The species was named by Schlechter as a dedication to his wife Alexandra.

Tom Reeve writes from Laiagam, Papua New Guinea, recently that he has collected Type material of an uncommon new Dendrobium of the section Latouria. It is expected that the description will be published later this year.



Dendrobium alexandrae Schltr.

From R. Schlechter's
Figuren = Atlas
Nr 624.

(Continued from NOSSA Journal, Vol. 6, No. 10, page 100.)

At that time the property along my southern fence-line had a nice thick hedge along its western border, various sheds ran in a line from the western boundary towards the east. The common fence between the two properties was composed of a sturdy wire netting structure and about the middle of galvanised iron. All in all, all the above made a good windbreak. Beside the above I had hedges to the west of my collection spot and along the eastern part of the common boundary.

Now the property next door is completely open for the sheds were removed shortly before 1965 and the hedge along the western boundary went while I was away in Canberra. My hedges had also vanished some years before 1965.

In 1970 I had a garage built to the west of my present plant house which I thought would break the wind at least from that direction. The plant house was commissioned in 1974.

Before 1965 I had my pots placed either under small bushes or behind low earth banks or three or four layer brick walls. Part of the area was situated in a shallow pit, banked to the north, with a low brick wall to the south.

About 1975 the pit area was deepened and lined with stone. This was then covered with netting to exclude birds, possums, etc., and became an extension to the plant house.

The primary plant house is about 3.5 metres long by a little over a metre wide and two metres high. The frame is of angle iron covered with fly wire on top of bird wire. Originally there were three shelves but I soon found out that the middle one was best removed for the orchids did not like living with a roof just above them. As you can see the above "Plant house" has no protection from those cold south and south-west winds, even the pit area receives too much of these winds.

On my return from Canberra, in early 1967, I restarted my growing collection in pots clustered along the eastern wall of my house. Here the plants received some shelter from most winds, the exceptions being the south-easterly (the gully winds) and those coming from the north-east. However, these winds did little damage to the plants. In this situation the pots all had full exposure to early morning sun and during the winter most were exposed until almost noon. During the summer the area was deeply shaded by grape vines.

My only problem with the above location came from the flooding of the rain water gutters on the house, overflowing at times of heavy rain, when many pots became flooded or had compost washed from them.

In this eastern situation many species grew and multiplied in a most pleasing manner, also quite a number of species grew freely from seed.

Before closing this little preamble I must mention a small discovery made by friends in the higher areas of the Belair Recreation Park. On top of one of the ridges these people discovered about 20 plants, in two groups spaced about three metres apart, of Pterostylis foliata, during the spring of 1982. This is a new record for the Park and is also remarkable for the site, a ridge top.

After that I think I have rambled long enough, so it is off to have a look at the genus *Diuris*. After the Greenhoods this genus is the most common grown, being very showy in flower. Most species are easily grown and almost all will grow freely from seed if conditions are right. The genus hybridises freely in the wild, especially in the eastern states and is being hybridised in culture with some exciting results.

Having said that this genus is generally easy to grow I must now warn that it

Methods and Madness of an Orchidologist (contd.)

does suffer badly from various complaints. These have been mentioned earlier where silverleaf rot was given as the worst here at Blackwood.

The culture of Diuris is, in many ways, similar to that used for the Pterostylis, that is good drainage below the tuber is essential and in this region humus should be kept to a minimum. Above the tuber the humus material may slowly increase to the surface but should not exceed more than 10% of the bulk except on the surface where some litter should be present. Remember, any humus or litter material used must be aged, do not - and I repeat - do not use fresh material for this will burn your plants as it starts to decompose. As mentioned earlier, I have lost many plants by using fresh or green humus material.

In the region above the tuber the compost can consist of medium to fine sand, plus the humus material and loam. I have used a red clay loam with no ill effects but it should not exceed 40% of the bulk. This material can be more concentrated near the surface if you wish. Those pots that I have added the clay loam to catch quite a pool of water in them during heavy rain. This water slowly drains through the compost over a period of hours with no ill effects upon the plants. In fact, I think these plants are more robust than those growing in pots not containing the clay loam. However, please do not take this as a general potting method for I have only had this experiment going for a few years and mention it here as a possible method. It would be worth doing a little experimenting of your own if you do have spare plants. If you do experiment then I am sure we would all like to know the results via this journal.

In my general potting medium for most Diuris, that is the area above the tuber, I use up to 10% aged humus mixed with the medium and fine fraction sand. This has been used successfully with such species as D. longifolia, D. pedunculata, D. maculata, D. palachila, D. aurea, D. emarginata, D. sulphurea, D. punctata var alba, and some hybrids which will be mentioned later.

Species tried in the clay loam have been D. pedunculata, D. maculata and D. sulphurea.

The species D. palustris in my experience will not tolerate more than an extremely low amount of humus material in the compost with a very light amount of litter as a topping. It does prefer the more neutral to slightly alkaline loams of the mallee lands but here at Blackwood these must be replaced every few years for I think the rain neutralises the mixture. I have also found that this species is intolerant of repotting, which makes quite a problem. I am experimenting with the leaching problem by placing a small amount of crushed limestone on top of each pot with this species in each autumn. Indications are that it may be working.

Diuris brevifolia I find prefers a sandy mix with about 10% of well rotted humus and a small amount of black peaty swamp soil. Unlike the previous species, this one likes the compost to be slightly acid, but not too much acid however.

All the Diuris like a very good exposure to sunlight, in fact growing them in shade makes the flower stems long and floppy. These plants do not like wind, especially when in flower. Rain is also a trouble at flowering time as it is caught upon the blooms and weighs them down and if the stems are not robust then the flowers will often be found laying flat to the pot or bench after a rain storm. That, to a proud grower, is a disaster for that wonderful free-standing spike will most likely have to be bound to a stake, not the thing to gain prizes in a show. So, if you have a prized spike, or pot of Diuris, remember - keep it/them out of the rain until after the show.

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(to be continued)

FIELD TRIPS

The provisional schedule for field trips for 1983 is as follows:

Date	Location	Time
APRIL 30	Hindmarsh Falls; Spring Mount Conservation Park; Inman Valley.	Saturday afternoon
AUGUST 20	Hahndorf - Mount Barker Summit.	Saturday afternoon
SEPTEMBER 17	Belair Recreation Park.	Saturday afternoon
SEPTEMBER 24 and 25	Mount Boothby Conservation Park.	Saturday and Sunday
OCTOBER 15	Kyeema Conservation Park; Cox's Scrub Conservation Park.	Saturday afternoon
NOVEMBER 19	Cleland Conservation Park area.	Saturday afternoon