

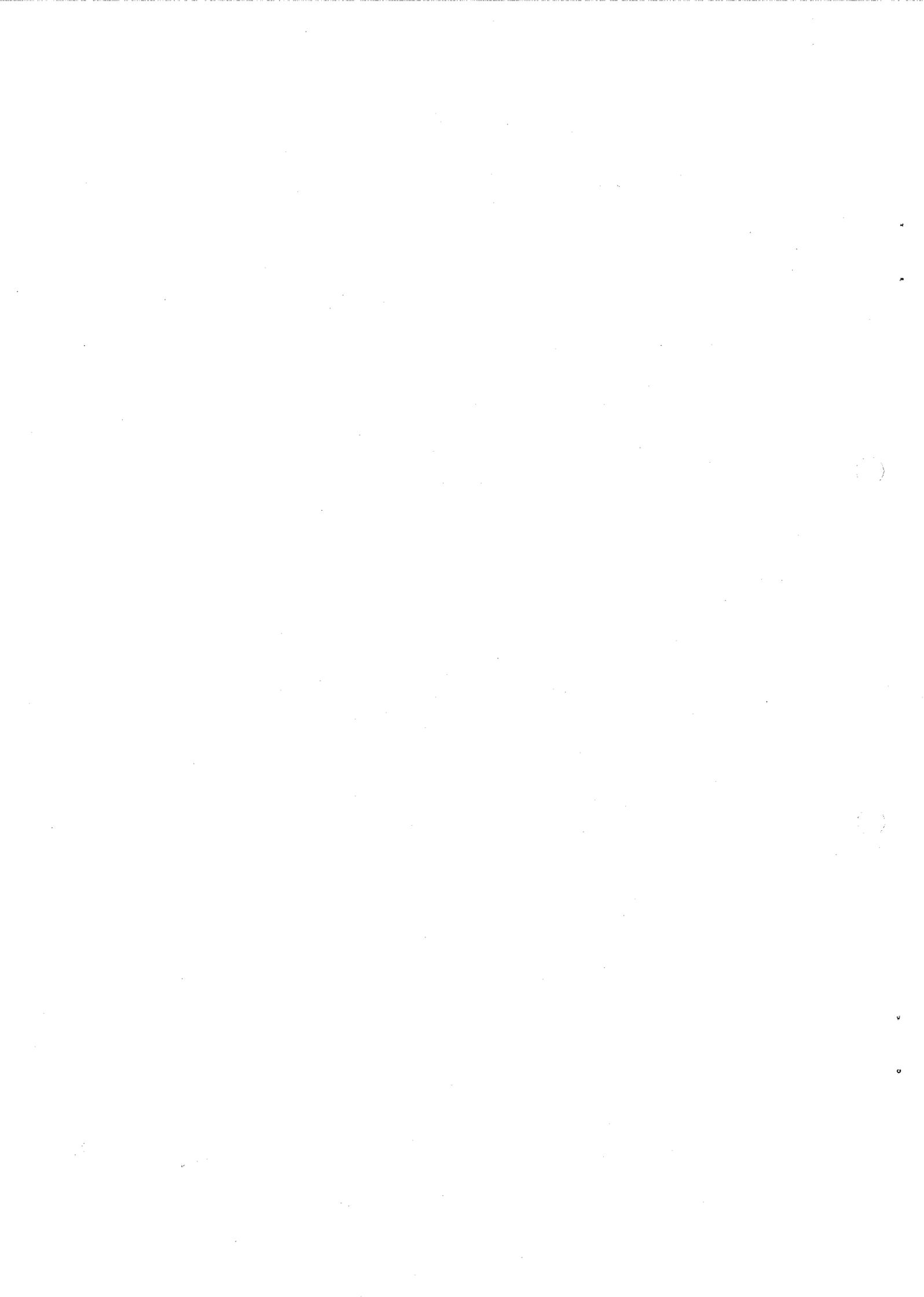
NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY
of
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
JOURNAL

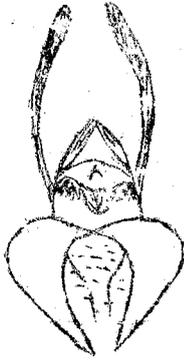


Pterostylis unnamed

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NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

JOURNAL

Volume 8, No. 7

August, 1984

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NEXT MEETING

When: Tuesday, 28 August at 8.00 p.m.

Where: St Matthews Hall, Bridge Street,
Kensington.

Subject: Mr Bob Chinnock will speak on the
function of a herbarium.

LAST MONTH

Dr Oliver Fuller took us on a conducted tour of the higher ranges of South Australia. Dr Fuller is well qualified to speak on the subject as he was district medical officer for the North West of South Australia since 1961 and spent a lot of time in these areas.

He showed us some fine slides (recent and some taken several years ago) covering the gorges and mountains of the Flinders Ranges, Everard Ranges, etc., interspersed with slides of some of the orchids that occur there. Many of the slides were of places closed to the public or inaccessible to most.

An evening enjoyed by all those present. Thank you Oliver for taking us on such a wonderful guided tour.

NEWS, VIEWS AND THANKS FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

As we all realise many people, often unknown to a lot of us, help to ensure our club runs smoothly. One particular member we feel should be brought to your notice because he lives in New South Wales. His name is Len Field. Len has, for some time now, taken an interest in our well being. He has often organised parcels of epiphytes for distribution to our members and these have been much appreciated by the recipients. So, on behalf of myself and the rest of the committee, thank you Len and may our association continue for a long time.

LIBRARY

The librarian is trying to put together some missing back issues of the "Orchadian". They cover the years 1979-1980. If you have any of these copies to spare and would like to donate them to the Society please contact Reg Shooter at our monthly meetings.

CORRECTION

References in support of last month's article "Concerning the Status of Thelymitra macmillanii and T. carnea" should read:

Ingram, C.K. (1970) "The Pink Thelymitras in New South Wales", Orchadian 3: 82-83.

Markwick, R.J. (1980) "On the Re-discovery of Thelymitra mackibbinii in S.A.", NOSSA Journal, February 1980, 5-6.

COMING FIELD TRIPSBelair Recreation Park

Saturday afternoon,
September 15.

This is a repeat of last year's trip to see rare natural hybrids (Diuris and Pterostylis).

Meet at 2.00 p.m. by the Woods and Forests Nursery within the park.

AUGUST CULTURE NOTES FOR EPIPHYTES

Reg Shooter

This is the time of the year the epiphyte grower most looks forward to — when the results of the years labours is reflected in the quantity and quality of flowers produced. Most Australian epiphytes bloom from late August through September into early October. This means that the benches at meetings and shows should be well patronised for these three months.

If you decide to bench some of your plants pay attention to one or two points before taking them along and they will look all the better for it. Spend a couple of minutes cutting off any dead or brown leaves. If some leaves have browned off tips, trim them neatly back to healthy green leaf removing only the minimum of tissue to achieve this aim. Gently remove any dry brown bracts that sheath the pseudobulbs on some species. Be careful only to remove the really dry brown sheaths not while they are still green and fleshy. Further caution is required to ensure you do not damage the emerging new growth at the base of the pseudobulbs. If you do inadvertently break off one of these growths don't despair, another will usually grow but it will be later developing and may not be quite as vigorous as the original.

Arrange the pseudobulbs by gentle manipulation to show the flowers to the best advantage. Top up the compost in the pot if it has shrunk and left the plant high and dry with exposed roots, but be careful not to bury the plant too deeply otherwise the pseudobulbs might rot.

Clean the leaves by gently wiping with warm soapy water and a tissue. Make sure the label is readable and finally wipe the outside of the pot, removing any accumulated salts from around the drainage holes. You will be surprised how much better your plant looks if you heed these few simple suggestions.

Another few weeks will have repotting time upon us. Now is the time to make sure you have all the materials necessary for the job. Obtain the pots, in various sizes, that you may need, ensure you have sufficient bark, charcoal, etc., for compost. It is not too early to start preparing the compost by making up your mix according to your own formula. If you do not have one then 80% bark with 20% charcoal is a good basic mix for Australian epiphytes and many other exotic orchids too. Sift this mixture through $\frac{1}{4}$ inch sieve to remove all dust and very small components. Place the sifted mixture in a container of rainwater for 3 or 4 days until the bark is thoroughly soaked, drain well then place in plastic bags to "mature". You will find that in a few weeks the compost has a nice soft feel about it and will readily absorb moisture when in the pot. If dry compost is used to pot orchids without first conditioning it by soaking, then no amount of watering in the pot will dampen the mixture and the plant will suffer accordingly.

PLANT SALES

We are looking for people to grow on pots of tubers for future use. The idea is to grow some pots of tubers, give some back to the tuber bank each year and keep growing on surplus tubers left over. If you would like to help please see me (George Nieuwenhoven) or any other committee member.

ON THE BENCH

Several epiphytes were new to most of us and they included a pure white Dendrobium bigibbum. Reg Shooter, the owner of D. atrovioleaceum, noted that the flowers last up to six months in good condition! He has six clones but only one flowers regularly. This fact emphasises how important it is for growers to select the best clones only.

The Dendrobium discolor was unusual in that it was flowering from small canes and could represent a dwarf form.

There was a large pot of the common but un-named red and white Pterostylis (aff. scabra) from limestone areas of South Australia. Some thirty plants (almost 100%) were in flower. A pot of P. curta included some plants with spikes of three flowers. Pterostylis trullifolia from New Zealand was reminiscent of our local P. nana. The P. barbata from Western Australia was of a form intermediate in flower between coastal P. barbata and our local P. plumosa.

The P. cycnocephala had flowers so dense on the spike as to resemble miniature bunches of grapes. A P. recurva was about 80 cm tall but it was noted that it had been grown in low light and was so slender that the whole plant was "recurved".

Epiphytes:

Dendrobium discolor, *D. bigibbum "alba", *D. rigidum, D. atrovioleaceum, *Sarcochilus olivaceus, D. rhodostictum x D. macrophyllum D. "Gwen Slade", D. Ellen (5), *D. "Katherine Banks" (D. Ellen x D. kingianum), D. "Hilda Poxon" D. "Ellen" x D. tetragonum x D. falcocrostrum, D. johannis x D. dicuphum.

Terrestrials:

Acianthus reniformis (early form), Caladenia deformis, C. patersonii, C. reptans, Corybas diemenicus (syn. dilatatus), C. despectans, Chiloclottis formicifera, Diuris abbreviata, D. palustris, Phaius tancarvilliae, Pterostylis barbata?, P. cycnocephala, P. cucullata, P. curta, P. x inqens, P. mutica, P. nana, P. nutans, P. recurva, P. aff. obtusa, P. aff. scabra, *P. trullifolia, P. vittata var. subdifformis, P. vittata var. ? (S. Aust.), P. "Cutie" (P. cucullata x P. baptistii), P. "Curtans" (P. curta x P. nutans), P. x inqens, x P. curta.

Commentaries:

Epiphytes: Reg Shooter

Terrestrials: George Nieuwenhoven

Popular Vote:

Epiphytes: Dendrobium "Kipps Special", grown by Reg Shooter.

Terrestrials: Phaius tancarvilliae, grown by Les Nesbitt.

TASMANIA TRIP

G. Smith
 Editor, ANOS (Bass) Group
 P.O. Box 878, BURNIE. Tas 7320

Dear Secretary

ANOS (Bass) Group is hosting a visit by ANOS (Vic) to the north west coast of Tasmania in November 1984. This letter is an invitation to you and your members to this trip. Should any of your members be interested then I suggest you contact the Secretary ANOS (Vic) re travel arrangements via plane so that all interstate members to Tasmania can arrive together.

Can you please mention this trip to your members at your next meeting as an early indication of numbers coming, accommodation required, etc., will be needed so that ANOS (Bass) can firmly book accommodation and transport.

Many top growers from ANOS (Vic) have already indicated their intentions of attending and Bass Group members see this trip as an ideal venue to meet members from interstate with similar interests and to show them what Tasmania has to offer in terms of orchidaceae and scenery. Hoping some of NOSSA's members can make this trip.

Regards, Grant Smith.

PROPOSED ITINERARY — November 2 - November 6, 1984

Friday, 2 November

p.m. Meet interstate visitors at Wynyard airport and escort them to accommodation.

Saturday, 3 November

8.00 a.m. Depart by bus and drive to various areas near Smithton to view Sarcochilus australis in situ.

1.00 p.m. Lunch at Tas' Tavern.

2.30 - 5 p.m. Guided field trip to Rocky Cape National Park to view terrestrial orchids in the field.

7.00 p.m. Counter tea.

Sunday, 4 November

8.00 a.m. Depart by bus and drive to the Sir Henry Somerset Conservation area, Railton. Guided tour by local expert Mr Peter Tonnelly and viewing terrestrial orchids in situ.

1.30 p.m. Lunch at Sheffield.

3.00 p.m. Scenic drive through Gowrie Park, terrestrial orchid viewing, and arrive at Forth.

7.00 p.m. Counter tea at Forth Hotel.

Monday, 5 November

8.30 a.m. Depart by bus for scenic drive to the west coast of Tasmania, see rainforest, view native orchids in situ, barbecue lunch en route, hopefully travelling back to Burnie via private roads.

5.00 p.m. Dinner at visitors accommodation.

7.00 p.m. Lectures and meeting. Mr Peter Tonnelly will present a lecture, a visitor from ANOS (Vic) will also talk.

Tuesday, 6 November

a.m. Free morning for interstate visitors either for ½-day trips, visiting local members glasshouses, shopping, etc.

p.m. Escort mainland guests to airport.

FISHY BUSINESS

Kevin Western

During May, my family and I enjoyed the scenic pleasures of central and coastal New South Wales, of coastal Queensland and a little of eastern Victoria. Apart from just simply enjoying a holiday we hoped to see eastern states orchids, epiphytes in particular, with a view to studying the immediate habitat around the wild plants in an attempt to ascertain features which might be essential to the plants successful existence, e.g. light, moisture, air movement and general micro-climate.

Many plants seen received more light than I had expected they would, e.g. Dendrobium tetragonum growing on a branch about 10 feet above a small stream and about 15 feet downstream of a small waterfall which probably gave rise to a continuous source of tiny water droplets. The plant also received far more light than I had previously considered and heard that this species would enjoy. Another feature which was ever present and noticeable upon any exertion was that of humidity far in excess of that normally encountered here in Adelaide.

Naturally enough we spent a significant amount of our time on excursions to various orchid nurseries. Initially we restricted our purchases to potentially cold growing species and/or hybrids. Eventually we succumbed to buying irresistible species and hybrids which would probably require warmth to survive. I resolved that upon our return to home, I would build a large version of a Wardian case: all insulated, double-glazed with electronically controlled vents and some simple electronic logic circuits to detect prevailing conditions and adjust temperature, ventilation and humidity and so on.

What a brainwave — could not fail!? Luckily my good wife reminded me that my "couple-of-day" jobs usually ran into months (which I did not have) and that the plants may not sit around enduring our winter for that long. She suggested that I should scale the grand scheme of things down to perhaps a 4 feet x 1½ feet x 1½ feet aquarium — especially since I had one to spare. After significant resistance to anything less than a built-in, fully-controlled, Wardian case, I realised that it was bound to take ages to organise materials, designs and logic circuits and accepted the concept of the humble aquarium, as simple as it was.

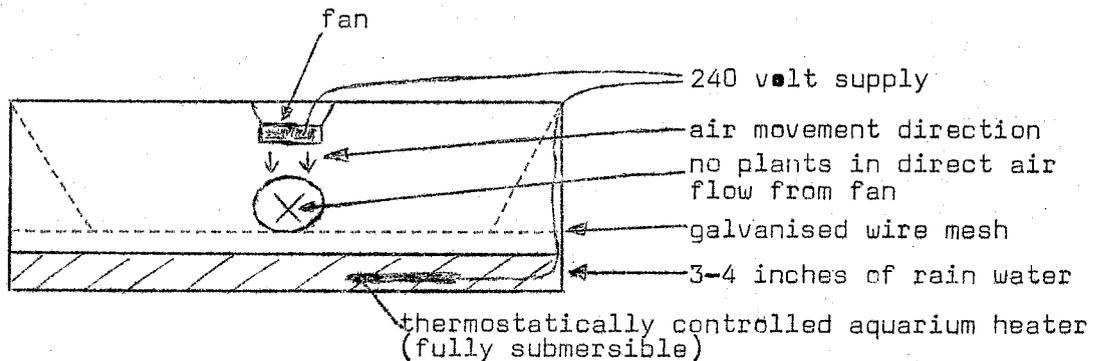
The aquarium was of the all-glass type of construction. I gave it a thorough clean out with "White King" to remove any aquatic fungi which may have lingered. Next a simple galvanised wire mesh frame to cover the rear ends and to form a "dry-floor" was cut. The plants, mounted or in pots were hung from this mesh. An immersible aquarium heater was placed flat on the floor of the aquarium and set to maintain a minimum of 20°C in the approximately 3-4 inches of rainwater that was added. For air movement, a 240 volt mini fan intended to cool small computers, power supplies and such like was suspended at the top-mid-front of the aquarium. The aquarium was all but sealed with cover glass leaving a hole about 5 inches x 3 inches at one end for air exchange.

The whole lot is lit with 80 watts of ordinary white fluorescent light for 16 hours a day, during which time the heat from the fluoros raises the temperature to about 25 to 27°C, falling again at night during darkness. The plants are misted morning and night and 2-3 time a week receive weak fertiliser. Once a week the pots are watered thoroughly with rain water. No plants are placed immediately in the direct draught of the fan.

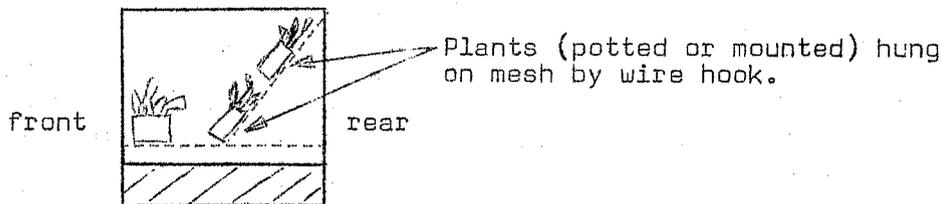
The result has been absolutely amazing. I have never seen such root growth

Fishy Business (contd.)

especially and there is no doubt that vegetative growth is occurring well also though this is not so readily visible as $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch of root growth per day. Even some nigh-on-dead pieces of species, which I managed to scrounge, are filling out, greening up and generally indicating a desire to live again.



FRONT ELEVATION



END ELEVATION

The result so far has been spectacular to say the least. Positive plant response was seen from new root growth within one week. No plants show signs thus far of any deterioration (I know the time period is small so far). The only potential problem I can see to date is that the fluorescent lights need to be better ventilated than they are now so that their heat can escape away from the unit during the warmer months — however, if growth continues at the present rate I think the Wardian-case will need to be started soon in order to be ready in time to house the growing plants.

Most of the plants are seedlings in $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inch pots. Some recently de-flasked cattelya seedlings seem to be quite happy in the environment also. In general, I think the aquarium system as outlined may offer the average enthusiast a cheap and reasonable means of growing new seedlings into larger plants more quickly and effectively, thus decreasing the time taken to get seedlings to flowering size and enhancing the pleasure of the hobby in general.

In summary I would commend the above system to the hobbyist who, through pressure of time or finance, does not have glass house conditions and who wants to raise small plants quickly to the point where they are large enough to endure our climatic extremes without undue setback. While it is certainly only "early days" as yet, the results to date are most heartening. Naturally I will report any shortcomings or proven success as time proceeds.

PROJECTS FOR DIRT FARMERS

Kevin Western

Having first read Bob Bates' article on "Experiments with Thelymitra x macmillanii" in the June 1984 issue of this Journal, and then Bob Markwick's follow-up article regarding his own experiences and observations in the same matter (July 1984, NOSSA Journal) it occurs to me that a definitive approach to settling the question of hybrid or species status for disputed plants would be to secure stock of the putative parent species (verified of course) and of the plant under review, e.g. T. x macmillanii. Then, as Bob Bates did, the various crosses involving putative parents should be remade (each cross being clearly labelled at the time). Then, assuming seed is produced, I believe I can germinate that seed on symbiotic medium and, assuming I am successful, the seedlings could then be grown on to flower, whereupon we may have the chance to prove/disprove status with respect to species or hybrid.

I believe it is important to germinate seed - flask rather than open soil - to avoid the possibility (no matter how remote) of stray wild seed lobbing into the plot and fouling the exercise. I believe it is also necessary to self plant(s) of the "species" under review and to examine the progeny from this cross also.

Since there are a number of crosses involved in the case of T. x macmillanii alone and since the transfer of terrestrial seedlings from flask to pot culture is still something of an experiment, I believe any seed which germinated and grew in such a project should be distributed (one cross per person, ideally, to avoid chance of mix-up) to NOSSA "dirt-farmers" to grow on until flowering occurs when the dispute may be settled.

A brief scan of literature has indicated that several plants previously accorded "species" status are now suspected to be hybrids. Overall there are several crosses which I think should be attempted to verify such status:

1. Thelymitra antennifera x T. luteocilium
2. T. antennifera x T. carnea
3. T. antennifera x T. rubra
4. T. fuscolutea x T. rubra
5. T. antennifera x T. pauciflora
6. T. carnea x self
7. Glossodia major x Caladenia deformis
8. G. major x C. caerulea
9. T. x macmillanii x self
10. Pterostylis alata x P. concinna
11. P. obtusa x P. concinna
12. P. ophioglossa x P. concinna

I would be interested to hear from any NOSSA members who have any of the above - flower or due to flower - and who would be interested to participate in such a project.

Kevin Western
P.O. Box 276
BLACKWOOD. S.A. 5051

NEW MEMBERS: Mr E. Beasley, Mr K.L. Luff

SPRING SHOW 1994COMPETITIVE SECTIONS

To be staged on trestles in the hall separated from the rest of the orchid exhibits. All plants to be benched by 10.30 a.m. on Saturday, 15 September. Plants in displays also eligible but must be nominated by placing paper streamer around the plant. Streamers will be supplied at show.

Name of grower to be written on a small piece of paper to be placed under each exhibit. Correct name of plant to be written by exhibitor on label attached to exhibit.

Judging will take place between 10.30 a.m. and noon on Saturday 15th. Plants must have been grown by the exhibitor for at least six months before the show. A.O.C. judging standards will be used. NOSSA By-Laws will apply. Hybrids include natural hybrids.

Any applications for NOSSA awards will be judged by the Committee. No prize money will be awarded but class winners will be acknowledged in the Journal. Champions will receive a card.

The Society accepts no responsibility for any loss, damage or infection suffered by any plant exhibited at the Show. All possible precautions against these happenings are taken. Stewards may remove from the Hall plants suspected of carrying disease.

Schedule

<u>Class</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Dendrobium kingianum
2	Dendrobium speciosum
3	Dendrobium species other than class 1 or 2
4	Epiphytic species other than Dendrobium
5	Dendrobium hybrid having D. kingianum in parentage
6	Dendrobium hybrid other than class 5
7	Epiphytic hybrid other than Dendrobium
8	Caladenia species
9	Diuris species
10	Glossodia species
11	Prasophyllum species
12	Pterostylis species
13	Terrestrial species other than classes 8-12
14	Terrestrial hybrid

Champion Epiphytic species (from classes 1-4)

Champion Epiphytic hybrid (from classes 5-7)

Champion Terrestrial species (from classes 8-13)

Champion Terrestrial hybrid (from class 14)

Champion Native Orchid of the Show (from previous four champions)
A.N.O.S. Silver Medal.

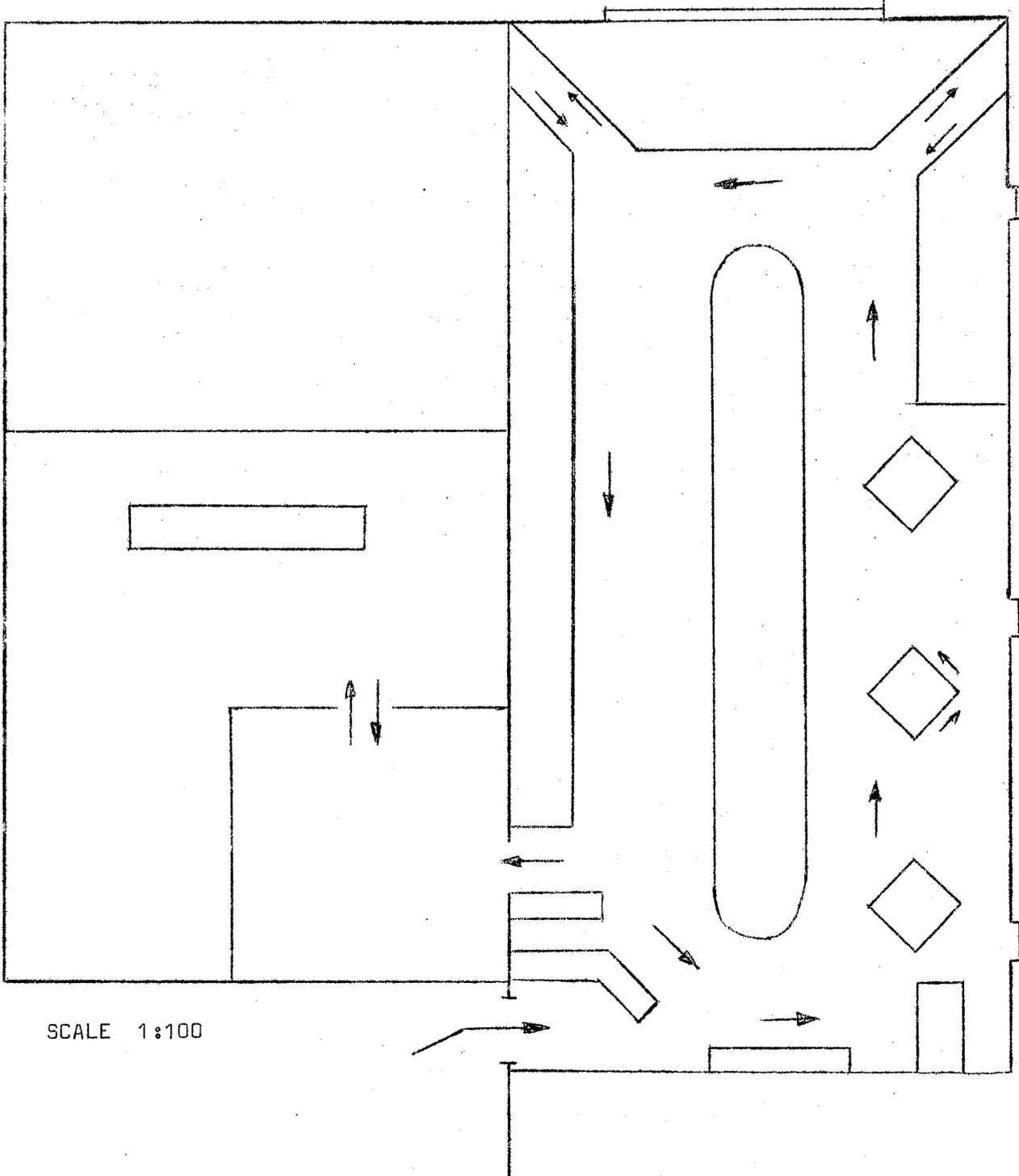
All orchids will remain on display to the public on Saturday, 15 September, and Sunday, 16 September.

Plants are to be removed at 5.00 p.m. on Sunday, 16 September.

Les Nesbitt
Registrar

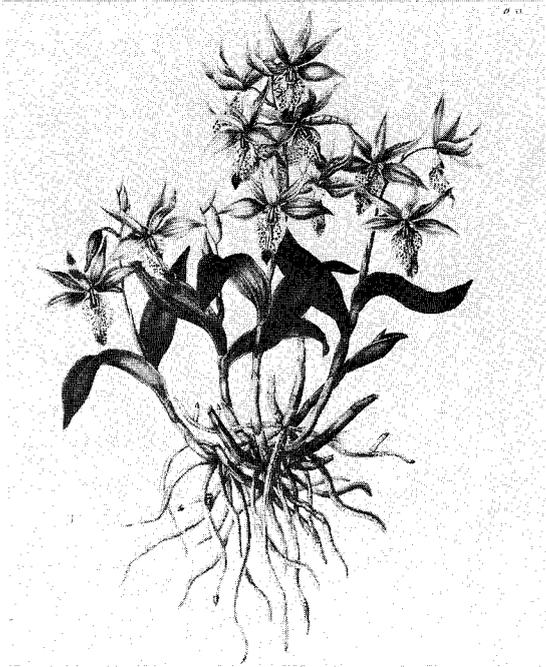
SPRING SHOW 1984

HALL LAYOUT



SCALE 1:100

FIELD TRIP
Details of the field trip
to the Belair Recreation
Park are on page 62.



Barkeria spectabilis

Limited Edition Offer

LITHOGRAPH REPRODUCTIONS FROM
BATEMAN'S CLASSIC ORCHID WORK —

'ORCHIDS OF MEXICO AND GUATEMALA',
PUBLISHED IN 1843.

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Full price is \$60.00 per set of two prints plus packaging and postage costs of \$A 2.95 (Aust., N.Z., P.N.G.), \$A 4.95 (U.S., U.K.).

Forward orders are now being accepted, with delivery expected in August '84. Please send cheque or money order payable to 'Maribyrnong Orchid Society', to, 'The Secretary, Mr. G. Campbell, "Kyle", Taylors Rd., Mt. Macedon, Vic. 3441'. Enquiries write, or phone (054) 26 2096.

All proceeds will directly assist the Australian Orchid Foundation, Library Council of Victoria, and the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

James Bateman (1811-1897), born Redivals, Lancashire, the only child of John and Elizabeth Bateman. Matriculated Lincoln College, Oxford in 1829 and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Magdalen College in 1834, with a further Masters degree in 1845.

Whilst a young man Bateman took great interest in growing tropical fruits which later lead to an interest in orchids. In 1833 he sent out, at his own expense, the collector Colley to South America to collect orchids. Later he induced G. Ure Skinner, a merchant trading in Guatemala to send him orchids, many of which were to be depicted in his later books.

By far Bateman's most famous work was the 'Orchidaceae of Mexico and Guatemala', commenced in 1837 and completed in 1843. Only one hundred copies of the book were made, each depicting 32 folios of orchid lithographs together with historical and botanical notes. At the time, each book sold for twelve guineas.

To the best of our knowledge only two books exist in Australia today, one being in the State Library of Victoria, and the other being in the Mitchell Library, Sydney.



Oncidium ornithorhynchum

