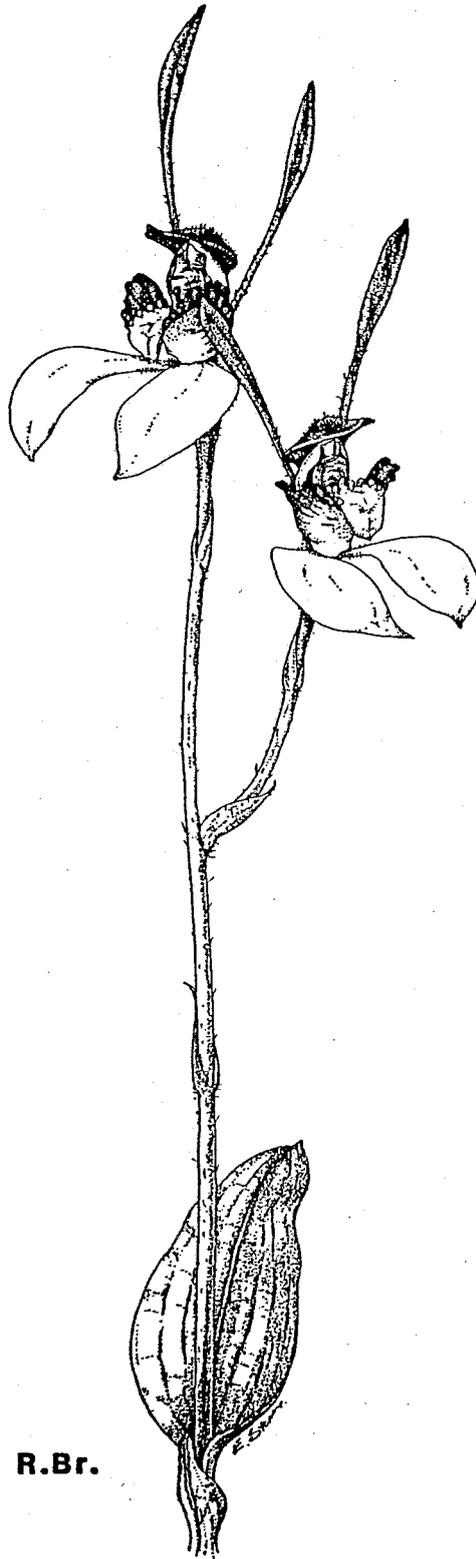


NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY
of
SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

JOURNAL



Caladenia menziesii R.Br.

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NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 26 August 1986 at 8 pm
St. Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington

Item of the evening: Kevin Western will present "Increasing orchid collections: artificial techniques".

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs R.V. Kleinig
Miss R. Watson
Mr G. Carr

FIELD TRIP

Annual NOSSA Show Day trip to Belair Recreation Park on Saturday, 13 September, meet 1.30 pm at Information Centre (western gate area). More than 20 different sorts of orchids were seen on last years visit.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Guest speaker for the evening will be that well known orchid identity, Mr Ted Gregory, discussing Australian native epiphytes with particular emphasis on the species Dendrobium ingianum, D. X delicatum. Ted is an experienced and entertaining speaker and an interesting, educational evening can be assured.

After the meeting we will gather for light refreshments and members are asked to bring a basket supper. Remember this meeting is at the end of Orchids Australia '86 and we can expect a number of interstate and overseas visitors to attend.

REPORT OF THE JULY GENERAL MEETING

PLANTS ON DISPLAY:

Pterostylis grandiflora, P. ophioglossa ssp. fusca, P. longifolia,
P. sargentii, P. vittata var. vittata, P. vittata var. subdifformis, P. robusta,
P. nana, P. concinna, P. sp. aff. decurva, P. revoluta, P. sp. unnamed S.A.,
P. grandiflora x P. concinna, P. 'Nodding grace', P. 'Cutie', P. x toveyana,
P. 'Joseph Arthur', Caladenia alba/catenata, C. reptans, Acianthus reniformis
(early form), A. exertus (green), A. fornicatus, Corybas diemenicus
(syn. C. dilatatus), Glossodia major, Diuris sulphurea, Dendrobium
teretifolium, D. 'Gwen Slade', D. 'Pee Wee', D. 'Kuringai', D. 'Aussie Tracey',
D. 'Hilda Poxon', D. 'Sunglow' x 'Blushing Star'.

POPULAR VOTE:

Dendrobium 'Pee Wee'
Pterostylis robusta

R. Shooter
 G. Nieuwenhoven

PLANT COMMENTARY:

R. Bates, Terrestrials; R. Shooter, Epiphytes. Bob asked us to go back 150 years when S.A. was founded, and by taking examples from the bench, demonstrated the species that would have occurred on the Adelaide Plains, including where we meet.

Several pots displayed were also present at our previous meeting, showing us how long lasting some of them are.

PANEL DISCUSSION:

Four of our intrepid members very capably entertained us by answering numerous questions from the audience and as often happens the members of the audience joined in, often providing answers to hard to solve problems. Some of the questions raised are as follows:

How does one grow Dendrobium pugioniforme?

Here is a plant often sold by retail outlets as forest collected plants, supposedly easy to grow, however this plant likes high humidity, shade and plenty of water during its growing cycle. It should be mounted on a host that will retain a degree of moisture.

Dendrobium speciosum develops pitted spots on leaves when leaves are half grown.

Answer - spraying with Fongarid fungicide and no overhead watering should improve things. Other theories put forward were salt damage, however this did not meet with general agreement.

Dendrobium 'Hilda Poxon' not growing well, it only produces a new growth every other year.

It was suggested that the plant should be grown in a shadehouse rather than a glasshouse. They like to be kept damp during the growing period but should have a very open bark mix that does not become soggy. Most owners of this hybrid remarked how easy it is to grow it into a mature plant that flowers regularly. It also likes good light.

Sarcochilus hartmannii not growing in bark mix.

Answer - repot in scoria or blue metal and bark mix. Sandstone and some bark also works well. Use a small pot and keep it in a fairly shady place.

Dendrobium kingianum in muddy compost.

Repot immediately no matter what time of the year. Numerous potting mixes were mentioned, bark, gravel, scoria dolomite (blue metal), charcoal and even coke as in coal or a mix of some of these ingredients. It should be kept in mind that gravel etc. does not contain any nutrients, therefore a regular fertilising program should be used to supply food for the plant, a little but often while growing is the rule.

Does the pH level of Potting mixes make much difference to the plant?

Answer - it does not seem to make a great deal of difference but aim for the acid side of neutral. Commercially available indicator strips or swimming pool kits can be used to test for results.

FIELD TRIP REPORTMORIALTA NP - 20 JULY 1986

After heavy rains, this park is well worth a visit, simply to see the waterfalls. The extensive system of walking trails makes orchid spotting enjoyable if one is of average fitness.

Nine people met at the Kiosk or along the track with R. Bates as leader. We climbed up the Banksia Trail on the northern side of the creek passing acres of sour-sobs lower down. The weeds gave way to native plants as we climbed and a few stops to look at orchids in flower also became stops for a breather.

With many Pterostylis still in leaf we could identify some species using only their leaf rosette. Along this track, which was in deep shade, we found two species of Corybas.

It looked a long way down from Deep View Lookout and we were careful not to step on the Greenhood rosettes growing by the steps.

A solitary specimen of Pterostylis longifolia in flower was seen along the next section of track and our leader pointed out the early and late forms of Curtastylis reniformis, the early having a 5cm tall stem above the leaf.

We saw both Pterostylis alata and Pt. robusta in flower with red/brown tips to their hoods.

Some large attractive flowers of Pt. robusta were seen near the main waterfall. One locally endemic plant of note was Spyridium spathulata. Hundreds of leaves of Caladenia menziesii were seen in colonies beside Lovers' Creek. The main waterfall held some fascination for some of the party, while the remainder walked to the second fall, but no orchids were recorded as too many introduced plants lined the creek. We rejoined the Sunday strollers below the main waterfall where the valley floor had been substantially cleared of many introduced plants, giving a more native appearance with credit due to the NPWS.

This park could be an interesting orchid venue if a one-way walk could be done starting at the bottom, with cars parked at the top on Moores Road, in late September/early October. A wide range of habitats exists in the park.

PLANT LIST

ORCHIDS IN FLOWER

Pterostylis nana
Pt. robusta
Pt. alata
Pt. longifolia
Pt. vittata
Corybas diemenicus
Prasophyllum rufum
Acianthus exsertus

ORCHIDS IN LEAF

Pterostylis pedunculata
Curtastylis reniformis
 both EARLY and LATE forms
Caladenia leptochila
C. dilatata
C. menziesii
Thelymitra pauciflora

ORCHIDS IN FLOWER BUD

Corybas incurvus

TOTAL: 16 species, 8 in flower.

P.G. Reece

QUARANTINE REGULATIONS AND OVERSEAS ORCHIDS

It appears that several NOSSA members have been contacted by overseas orchid enthusiasts who are interested in obtaining tubers or seed of Australian orchids. Occasionally these growers have sent unsolicited tubers or seed to growers in Adelaide with requests for an exchange of Australian material.

It should be pointed out that it is illegal to even accept such tubers and contrary to popular belief seed also. Stiff fines may be imposed by customs on anyone who imports orchids illegally from overseas. A thousand dollars would indeed be a hefty price to pay for a 'harmless' little orchid tuber. In more serious cases jail sentences may even be imposed.

Are tubers and seeds really harmless? To answer that, one must look at the problem of fungal diseases such as Phytophthora cinnamomi which causes enormous losses to the timber industry in Western Australia through Jarrah dieback. We can all clearly see the damage done to our environment by rabbits, foxes, sour-sobs (Oxalis) and other unwanted alien organisms. What might a new alien fungus, bacteria or virus do if it is allowed to sneak through customs? Virus diseases in particular can be carried in tubers or seeds. It would indeed be unfortunate if a new virulent virus which could wipe out collections of Australian orchids should arrive in Adelaide, hiding in tubers of some less than exciting North American orchid.

It is of course possible to import seed, tubers and bare root plants legally by obtaining permits from the Department of Agriculture, Quarantine Branch (form QP36) and through payment of a fee (usually about \$40 per batch), these plants will be grown in quarantine. But of course we all know that the most exciting orchids to grow are Australian!

Do remember, should you receive a parcel of orchid tubers or seed from overseas - declare them to customs and save yourself and others from possible trouble. Keep Australia free of disease - import legally!

R. Bates

CALADENIA CALCICOLA (A recently described spider orchid from near Portland, Victoria and Mt. Burr, S.A.).

This little spider orchid was only described in May of this year in Muelleria 6:185. An illustration appears in C. & D. Woolcocks Australian Terrestrial Orchids (as C. reticulata).

The new species is very similar to Caladenia reticulata, the veined spider orchid of the Adelaide Hills. It differs in having a broader, more shortly hairy leaf, a shorter stem, glossy flowers, and a flatter labellum with denser shorter calli.

Several NOSSA members may remember the NOSSA/ANOS Victoria combined excursions to Portland in October 1982 and October 1985. We were shown this species at the type location (Bots Ridge) by Colin and Dorothy Woolcock. With Geoff Carr and Mark Clements we discussed how the plants differed from 'our' C. reticulata in the Adelaide Hills.

C. calcicola is being cultivated in Adelaide from tubers rescued from near a limestone quarry. Many of the previous references to C. reticulata in our south-east are probably referable to C. calcicola but only one actual collection (by Jack Warcys from Mt. Burr) has been identified from South Australia.

The name "callicola" means limestone lover. The species should be looked for in October in sandy or terra rosa soils on limestone.

With our refinement of species concepts it is now likely that Caladenia reticulata sensu stricto will prove to be endemic to the Mt. Lofty Ranges and that all other plants at present labelled 'C. reticulata' are other (often unnamed) taxa. I believe there are five species in South Australia which have in the past been lumped under C. reticulata. C. callicola is one of them.

R. Bates

MAKING CALADENIA MENZIESII FLOWER

Following last years visit by Kingsley Dixon, when he advised us that ethylene gas would stimulate the shy flowering species to produce blossoms, and he suggested the now famous "banana treatment", several members experimented with Caladenia menziesii. The results with this species have been amazing. We should see several pots at the Spring Shows with nearly every plant flowering. Usually this species does not flower except after bushfires when massed flowerings are seen. I put my dormant tubers in a plastic bag with a handful of peatmoss and a banana skin for about 3 months. Roy Hargreaves took some potted tubers into the banana ripening rooms, where they were exposed to two gas treatments. These are flowering. Where the entire pot was placed in a plastic bag with a banana, the results were not so good. There must be thousands of Caladenia menziesii in NOSSA members collections which never flower. Now we can change all that. Other species have not been so successful. Lyperanthus nigricans did not respond to the banana room exposure.

Les Nesbitt

SPRING SHOW 1986

COMPETITIVE 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 am on Saturday, 13 September. Plants in displays also eligible. If you do not want your plant judged, place a card on the plant saying "Do NOT Judge".

Exhibitor's number to be written on each exhibit. Exhibitors numbers available from REGISTRAR. Correct name of plant to be written by exhibitor on label attached to exhibit.

Judging will take place between 10.30am and noon on Saturday 13th. 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 application 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 (1st and 2nd prizes in each class)

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

Champion Epiphytic species (from classes 1-4,15)

Champion Epiphytic hybrid (from classes 5-7,15)

Champion Terrestrial species (from classes 8-12,16)

Champion Terrestrial hybrid (from class 13-14,16)

Ira Butler Award to best hybrid.

Roy Hargreaves Trophy to best Terrestrial sp. or hybrid.

Champion Native Orchid of the Show wins ANOS Silver Medal.

All orchids will remain on display to the public on Saturday 13 September, and Sunday 14 September.

Plants are to be removed at 5.00 pm on Sunday 14 September.

L. Nesbitt
(Registrar)

BOOK REVIEW

'The Australian Native Orchid Hybrid Guide' compiled and edited by John Kovack. Published by Jodi Enterprises Pty. Ltd.

In the past few years we have seen an explosion in the numbers of Australian native orchid hybrids being made and it is a daunting task to keep up with so many new registrations. Thus the timely appearance of this volume is a relief to those of us who grow and hybridize Australian orchids. Needless to say, the moment that this list was published it was out of date but the author has indicated that annual supplements will be available.

As noted in the Introduction, the purpose of the book is to provide a simple and easy to follow index of Australian native orchid hybrid names and their genealogy, that can be used by the expert and amateur alike.

The book is divided into several sections. Section 1 deals with recorded hybrids, Section 2 with naturally occurring named hybrids, Section 3 is a species and hybrids cross reference list and Section 4 is devoted to hybrid

family trees which will allow the user to find the complete parentage of any Australian native orchid hybrid included in Section 1. This is perhaps the most fascinating section in the book.

The book together with annual supplements will be an invaluable reference for all native orchid enthusiasts and is highly recommended.

It is available from the Treasurer at a cost of \$9.00 plus postage.

W.K. Harris

POPULAR VOTE WINNER EPIPHYTE

Dendrobium Pee Wee (D. tetragonum x D. bigibbum)

This plant was purchased as a small seedling from Double 'U' orchids some 4 years ago, in fact I got two for the price of one, for when I knocked the seedling out to repot it, I found two plants which obviously had been intertwined when taken from the community park (don't tell Wally).

The beauty of this orchid as with many hybrids having D. tetragonum as one parent, is that it flowers at a very early age, one of mine flowered just 2 years out of the flask and the other, which was smaller, flowered the following year.

I am led to believe the cross was made (by Cannons in 1979) to try to induce some cold tolerance into hybrids having the tropical species D. bigibbum as a parent and indications are that it will grow cold here in South Australia, however because I only have the two plants I have not been game to leave them out during the colder winter months but place them in a warm glasshouse, min. 15°C. It would be interesting to hear from any member who is growing it cold, perhaps they could write an article of their experiences for the Journal.

My plant is grown in a relatively small pot in a compost consisting of seedling grade fir bark mixed 50-50 with small river washed pebbles. I water regularly when the plant is in active growth - Sept. to April, tailing off when the pseudobulbs mature around April. During the winter just sufficient water is given to stop the pseudobulbs shrivelling. I give a minimum of fertilizer during those growing months, maybe 3 or 4 times a year using the aquasol, iron chelates, Epson Salts Formula, none is given during the winter months.

Pests do not pose much of a problem with the exception of the ubiquitous looper caterpillars which can, in my case, be controlled by regular spraying with Dipel.

Unlike many D. tetragonum hybrids D. Pee Wee does not, at least in the two plants I have, exhibit the multi-periodic flowering habit such as you find in D. Hilda Poxon, Star of Gold, Blushing Star etc., but flowers regularly at the end of June into mid-July.

An interesting story is attached to the crossing of D. tetragonum x D. bigibbum, in the early days of botanizing in this country, several forms of D. bigibbum were found given specific stature D. phalaenopsis, D. schroederanum, among others. After subsequent study by botanists in recent years these have been reduced to synonyms of D. bigibbum but not before many had been used for hybridizing and of course having the original names recorded. In 1965 a hybrid - D. Suzanne was registered giving as the parentage D. tetragonum x D. phalaenopsis hence we now have two named hybrids with the same parentage. This of course has no effect on the flowers produced and whether the hybrid is called Suzanne or Pee Wee I think you will agree it is a thing of beauty.

R. Shooter

EVENTS DURING ORCHIDS AUSTRALIA '86**The South Coast Orchid Club of S.A. Inc.**

The South Coast Orchid Club of S.A. Inc. are holding a special meeting in conjunction with Orchids 86, on 16 September 1986. The meeting will be held at the Noarlunga Centre T.A.F.E. theatre.

The feature of the meeting will be two lectures. Andy Easton, of Geyserland Orchids of N.Z., who will give us his views on Orchid Breeding in 1986, the genus illustrated will be, *Cymbidiums*, *Paphiopedilums*, and *Cattleyas*. Don Wells, of the Native Orchid Society of S.A. will give an illustrated talk on "Native Orchids of Australia in Situ".

A cordial welcome is extended to all members. Supper will be provided.

Free Transport

A free reserved carriage has been included on the normal S.T.A. Railway Timetable, for those wishing to attend.

Eligibility

Overseas and Interstate and Country visitors, may avail themselves of this service. Local members may travel on the same train, but are asked to pay the normal rail fare.

Timetable

The train will leave Adelaide Railway Station, North Terrace, Adelaide at 6.12pm. Arriving at Noarlunga Centre 6.53pm. The train will be met by South Coast Orchid members, who will escort you to the venue.

Free Buffet Meal

A free buffet meal will be supplied to all, included will be wines and coffee.

Return Travel

After the Meeting supper will be provided, and a chance to meet and mingle.

The return free train carriage will leave Noarlunga Centre Station at 11.06pm, arriving at Adelaide at 11.40pm.

Would all persons wishing to attend and avail themselves of the train, contact Orchids '86, for ticket availability -

Conference Secretary, Mrs H. Hewitt, P.O. Box 730, Adelaide, 5000, or phone: 08) 258 3988.

The AOF

The AOF will present a segment at Orchids Australia '86, when the following speakers present their papers:

Mr Les T. Nesbitt presents;

"The Cultivation of Terrestrial Orchids in Adelaide".

Mrs Joyce Stewart presents;

"Orchid Conservation: problems & practices".

Mr Mark A. Clements presents;

"Orchid Host Associations in Australian Epiphytic Orchids".

Dr J.H. 'Jack' Warcup presents;

"Growing *Rhizanthella gardneri* in Cultivation".

Mrs Helen Richards & Mr Ric. Datodi present;

"The Conservation of Terrestrial Orchids through Cultivation".

NOTES FROM THE AUSTRALIAN ORCHID FOUNDATION

The Directors of the Foundation are pleased to report that during the past 18 months to 30 June 1986, that the Foundation has received and has been able to assist various applicants who are working with orchids, or the development that is beneficial to the areas of science that involves orchids.

The Directors wish to express their appreciation to those Members, and also to the many "Friends of the Foundation" who have made donations, or created and initiated various schemes within their region or Orchid Society that has attracted funds, to assist and make possible funding the various successful applicants such as:

New Pterostylis species.

Payment to an excellent botanical artist, under the guidance of Mr Mark Clements, for the line drawings of NJNE newly described species that will be published in due course \$621.00

New Botanic Gardens at Coff's Harbour.

Within this complex, provision has been allowed for the construction of Shade Houses to house orchids with other plants and ferns ... \$1,000.00

Studies on improving the post-harvest life of Cymbidium flowers.

Dr Helen Nair, a visiting Associate Professor from the University of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, working at CSIRO? Division of Food Research, North Ryde, NSW. Dr Nair has had considerable experience with the cut orchid flower export trade in Malaysia. A report is being prepared. \$3,000.00

The Ira Butler Trophy Committee.

Assistance was given to this group because of the difficulties in which they were involved. \$200.00

Queensland National Parks & Wildlife Service.

To collect and prepare certain orchid species for inclusion in the "Flora of Australia". About 10 genera consisting of 80 species is involved. The volume covering Orchidaceae is expected to be published in 1991. \$400.00

Queensland National Parks & Wildlife Service.

A wet season visit to Bamaga Jan/Feb 86. A continuing inventory of the Orchids of the Cape York Peninsula. This is the sixth Expedition funded by the AOF to various regions of the Peninsula. Reports have been circulated. A report of this interesting trip is in preparation. Dr Peter Lavarack has been the leader of each of these and surveys for orchids. \$2,000.00

Australian National Botanic Gardens, Research Section.

An IBM compatible micro computer network that will:

- a) enable efficient production of research manuscripts;
- b) eliminate manual sorting;
- c) streamline communications;
- d) recording of the orchids of Australia will form part of the workload of this equipment;
- e) provide a direct link to the large computing resources available in CSIRO.

The Nell & Hermon Slade Trust and the AOF will jointly finance the purchase of this equipment for presentation to the ANBG Research Section.

The AOF share: \$11,694.00

Genetic Systems of Australian Terrestrial Orchids.

Rodney J. Peakall, Department of Botany, University of West. Aust.

Rodney gained first class honours for his preliminary work on this subject, while his thesis provided a basis for his Ph.D. research plans enlarging on this subject. \$1,200.00

A visit to the Solomon Islands in September 1986.

At the time of preparing this sheet, this proposal is still being studied. The application has been well presented by Robert Mitchell, third year student at Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.

The Solomon Islands is a very rich area for orchidaceae, and the region is comparatively still unknown. The visit of ten weeks is intended to be a 'follow-up' of the field work of Dr Phillip Cribb several years ago. As a result of this search Dr Cribb was able to produce the "Preliminary Checklist of the orchids of the Solomon Islands and Bougainville". The occurrence of three species of *Paphiopedilum* in the Solomons is of major importance. *P. bougainvillianum* and *P. wentworthianum* were found and confirmed. *P. praestans* remains unconfirmed, and this visit will be an attempt to locate this species.

Through Scholarships and other avenues, there is a short fall of the estimated financing of \$2,400.00 that is receiving the attention of Australian Orchid Foundation at this present moment.

SPECIAL APPEAL FROM THE AUSTRALIAN ORCHID FOUNDATION

The Directors of the Foundation and Trustees of the Orchid Trust Fund are grateful and express their appreciation for your past donations and special efforts made by you, or from your Society, or from activities initiated by you.

All donations are "Tax deductible". Our receipt can be quite a valuable document at the end of the year, please do it now.

The Directors wish to convey to Members and 'Friends of the Foundation' that they **should consider themselves as representatives of the Foundation** within their region, and pass on the information of activities that are communicated from time to time.

The main and principle purpose of the Foundation is to "assist, promote, support, or to provide grants to any who has a desire to engage in specialized work in the broad field of the sciences that involves orchids".

The Foundation has no desire, and will discourage any attempt to "build up an Empire within itself". Administration, publicity with its expensive costs are kept to absolute minimum by your dedicated Directors.

Obviously, our funds do not come from any Government source, nor do we have a 'money tree' but is the result of many dedicated folk, and the result of many 'special efforts' that have been initiated, performed and built up over the past ten years. The number of projects in which the Foundation can assist is dependent on the funds that are available, what can you do to assist?

Gerald McCraith
107 Roberts Street
Essendon, Vic. 3040