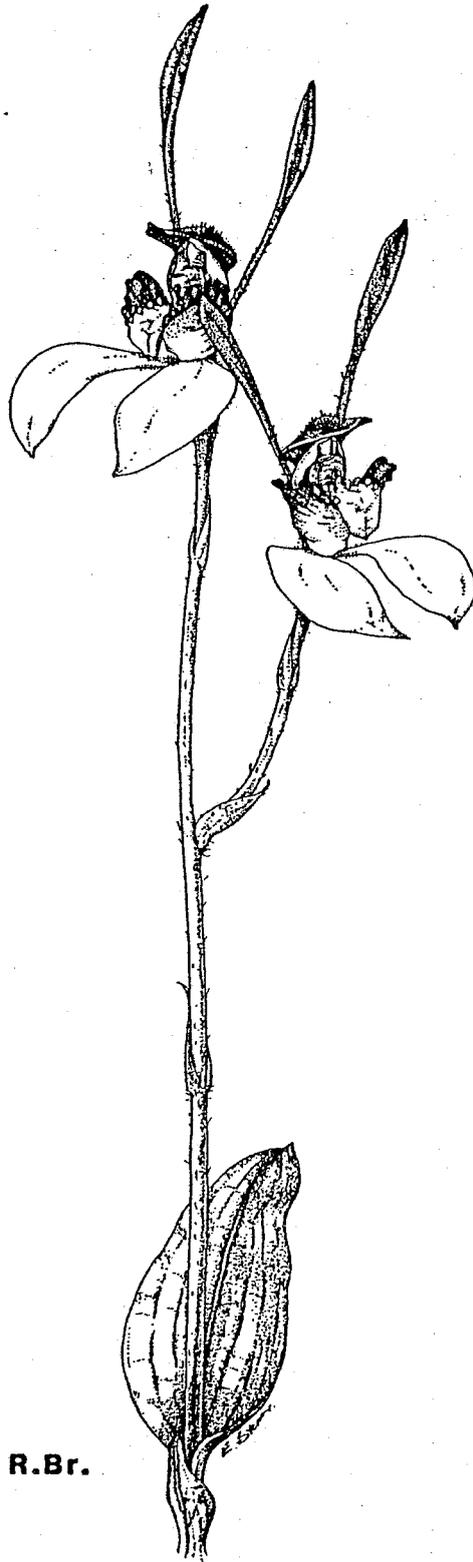


NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY
of
SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

JOURNAL



Caladenia menziesii R.Br.

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NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 20 October 1986 at 8 pm
St. Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington

Our next meeting will be a culture event or to be more precise potting. A timely demonstration as repotting time will soon be upon us; plus mounting of epiphytes and techniques of deflasking and tuber removal. Something interesting for everyone.

NEW MEMBERS

Miss H. Crowsley	Mangere East, N.Z.
Mr J. Child	Rushworth, Vic.
Mr S. Deards	Bonnet Bay, N.S.W.
Mr D.A. Shannon	Cheltenham, Vic.
Mr G. Yong Gee	Mansfield, Qld.
Mr B.K. Feldberg	Mylor
Mr & Mrs H.J. Jacobs	Cherry Gardens
Mrs L. Keene	Aldinga
Mr J.C. Light	Kingston-On-Murray
Mr & Mrs G.A. Riggs	Windsor Gardens
Mr & Mrs S. Stefanowicz	Paradise
Mrs L.J. Thomas	Mitchell Park
Mr & Mrs J. Woodrow	Belair

REPORT OF THE SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING**SPEAKERS:**

For this meeting we were fortunate in having two guest speakers from interstate. Ron Heberle from W.A. gave firstly a brief account of the natural hybrids and their putative parents in Thelymitra and supported his talk with some excellent colour slides. He concluded with a short segment on W.A. Diuris.

The main speaker for the evening was the ebullient Ted Gregory from Queensland. Ted's well illustrated talk concentrated on hybridising in Dendrobium with particular emphasis on D. kingianum as a parent. The message

that he gave is to acquire the best clones possible if you intend to breed superior hybrids.

The meeting concluded with an enjoyable supper.

PLANTS ON DISPLAY:

Terrestrials

Caladenia ceasarea, C. barbarossa x longicauda, C. menziesii, C. leptochila, C. clavigera, C. reptans, C. flava, C. alba, C. patersonii x latifolia, C. rigida, C. patersonii, C. denticulata, C. carnea, C. integra, C. cairnsiana, C. chapmanii, C. uliginosa, C. spp. (W.A.), C. reticulata, C. pectinata, C. gladiolata, C. longiclavata, C. catenata, Diuris aurea x longifolia, D. platichila, D. aurea, D. "Pioneer", D. maculata, D. palachila x longifolia, D. sheaffiana, D. punctata var. alba, D. laxiflora, Pterostylis barbata, P. plumosa, P. aff. plumosa (W.A.), P. 'Cutie', P. baptistii x furcata, P. baptistii, P. foliata, P. hildae, P. nana, Prasophyllum rostratum, Glossodia major, Chiloglottis x pescotiana, C. gunnii, C. trapeziformis, Calochilus robertsonii, Thelymitra rubra.

Epiphytes

Dendrobium delicatum, (Moodie River), D. "King Rose", D. "Yondi", D. "Hastings", D. kingianum, D. "Ellen" x tetragonum x falcorostrum, D. "Hilda Poxon", D. "Susan", D. "Bardo Rose", D. falcorostrum, D. aemulum, D. torresae, D. linguiforme, D. johannis, D. semifuscum, D. delicatulum (N. Guinea), D. teretifolium, D. canaliculatum x superbiens, D. speciosum, D. tenuissimum, D. tetragonum, D. "Suffusum", sarcochilus falcatus, Plectorhiza tridentata, Parasarcochilus weinthalii.

Outstanding specimens of Den. delicatum, kingianum, demulum Sarcochilus falcatus and Den. teretifolium were also benched.

PLANT COMMENTARY:

Terrestrials

Bob Bates began his commentary by pointing out that there are six different plants under the Pterostylis plumosa group. While they are not separately named there is quite a lot of variation between them. Two species are recognised at present; Pterostylis barbata and P. plumosa. Amongst the Caladenia we saw the tall C. pectinata and the rare C. gladiolata with tiny seedlings from South Australia. This endemic plant has a very strong musty odour. Another rare plant was C. barbarossa x longicauda, a natural hybrid from Western Australia. Many of the Caladenia present were from W.A. and Bob kept his commentary short due to the busy program for the evening. Mention was made about name changes to be made, apparently the true Diuris longifolia occurs in W.A. and our S.A. species is probably something different altogether, however, for now the usual name should be adhered to. On the same subject it was pointed out by Mark Clements that unofficial or manuscript names should not be used as these create confusion. Mark suggested unknown species should merely be called, for instance, Caladenia sp., until they have been officially named. Of course you can call it what you like to be able to identify it for your own convenience, but such names must not be used at plant displays or in articles for our bulletin.

Epiphytes

Les Nesbitt pointed out how late the season is this year for epiphytes. Sarcochilus falcatus, the first plant under discussion, has been observed in the Blue Mountains near Sydney on the shady side of trees by Les. A fine flowering specimen was on display. It needs regular watering in South Australia, especially during summer and find a cool shaded position. In contrast Dendrobium speciosum likes a bright airy spot, in fact, almost full sun to produce good flowers in Adelaide. It then seems to flower best every other year. It seems to be a good year for D. falco-rostrum. This species is fond of cold winters to bring on its full flowering potential, and unlike the eastern states where it likes to grow mounted with its roots exposed, under S.A. conditions it will grow best in a pot using various bark mixes. Les mentioned how D. kingianum has been used a lot in hybridising over the last few years. Like D. tetragonum this has been very popular as a parent, the latter will flower more than once a year; a desirable habit usually passed on to its hybrid progeny. Les also demonstrated how to remove the new tuber of a Diuris thus encouraging the plant to produce a second tuber in one season. Carefully remove plant and soil from the pot, remove soil from the plant and by holding the plant and old tuber, remove the new white tuber by twisting it away from the plant. Then replace the lot in the pot and water in. A second tuber will form in time. Keep the plant going as long as possible to obtain the maximum size tuber.

POPULAR VOTE:

Terrestrials: Caladenia sp. W.A. - R. Bates

Epiphytes: Dendrobium linguiforme - M. Fuller

Dendrobium linguiforme var linguiforme

This species, on which the genus Dendrobium was founded, is easily cultivated under Adelaide conditions. The plant itself is neat, compact and unique in appearance, even when not in flower, and it is obvious why it was given the common name of tongue orchid. The variety nugentii seems to differ only in the sandpaper roughness of the leaves, with no improvement in flower size or shape, and as it needs more warmth in our winter. I would not recommend it.

The plant that won the popular vote at the September meeting carried 21 racemes, each with 20 or more flowers of good size and shape. It was brought three years ago, naturally mounted on a piece of Melaleuca (paper-bark). The back of the mount was planed flat and it was attached to a piece of natural cork by, appropriately, Fuller's water-proof glue. It is grown in an ARC shadehouse under 70% shade cloth, hanging on the centre wall facing west and receives daily watering in the hot weather. I do not use any artificial fertiliser. It is protected from the rain until the flowers are about to open, then it is taken under a fibreglass cover. Careful watch should be kept for aphids which can rapidly ruin the flowers.

Together with D. aemulum, this is an excellent species for beginners, with good flowering from quite small plants. D. linguiforme is widely distributed

in Eastern Australia, growing as an epiphyte or lithophyte from the coast to many miles inland, so adapts easily to varying conditions.

Margaret Fuller

SOME RECENTLY NAMED SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GREENHOODS



Pterostylis excelsa



Pterostylis ovata

In the Flora of South Australia Vol. 4 (1986) five 'new' Pterostylis were named.

The best known of these is the red shell orchid Pterostylis erythroconcha (the name means "red shell"). The species was previously known (Blacks Flora 1943) incorrectly as P. hamiltonii. It is very popular in cultivation. A most magnificent potful (grown by Don Wells) was on display at the August meeting. It is actually quite a common species, found in limestone country on Eyre Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula and Kangaroo Island, and more rarely in the Murray Mallee and South-East. It is apparently restricted to South Australia.

A second species, very similar to the red shell orchid in appearance, is Pterostylis dolichochila (the name means long tongue). Both are 'cauline' species i.e. the leaves are on the flower stem, and both have the labellum protruding from the flower. P. dolichochila is less colourful and has a much narrower, more pointed, actually shorter labellum. It grows in limestone or in calcareous sands on Yorke Peninsula, the Murray Mallee and the South-east, extending into Western Victoria. A colourful form of this species is found in rocky country on Eyre Peninsula. P. dolichochila flowers in June-July and is usually finished before P. erythroconcha begins blooming. The two sometimes occur together. Both are easily grown and common in cultivation.

The third 'new' species is Pterostylis excelsa (previously known in South Australia as "P. mitchellii" or "P. hamata"). It is a 'rufa group' species with a rosette of leaves on flowering plants. These are usually withered at flowering time. This is the tallest of our 'rufa group' species. The downturned lateral sepals are rather narrow, the labellum narrow but thick (Photo 1). This species is common throughout the dry inland from the Nullabor Plain across to Broken Hill and south to the Adelaide Plains, Yorke Peninsula and Port Lincoln. It flowers from late September to December being later in the south.

The fourth new species is Pterostylis ovata, a 'rufa group' greenhood from the Gawler Ranges. This short stemmed, large flowered species is common on rocky

granite porphyry hills. It was depicted on the cover of the NOSSA journal during 1984. It is a colourful species flowering in September and October. Although cultivated at the Botanic Gardens it is rarely seen in private collections (Photo 2).

The rarest of this batch is Pterostylis xerophilus, a plant which resembles P. boommanii but differs in its broad labellum and paucity of 'whiskers' on the lateral sepals. Despite its rarity it is widespread on rock outcrops in dry sandy country. The name 'xerophilus' means desert loving and P. xerophilus does occur on the fringe of the Great Victoria Desert well outside the range of any other orchids.

Surprisingly there are still other greenhousings in South Australia waiting to be named or perhaps even to be found!

R. Bates

PART OF NOSSA SHOW REPORT

Champion terrestrial was an unnamed species of Caladenia grown at the R.S. Rogers Orchid House. The Roy Hargreaves trophy to the value of \$50 will be used to upgrade watering facilities and provide pots for the expected 50 additional species to be added to the collection of Australian terrestrial orchids in the R.S. Rogers Orchid House at the Botanic Gardens this summer.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The photographic competition, conducted in conjunction with the Annual Spring Show, attracted 77 slides. The judge commented that a fairly high standard of subject matter was submitted for judging but the great majority of entries were close up photographs leaving little for the other two categories.

The winners were:

1. Close up of Australian Native Orchid Flower:
Athrochilus huatianus - P. Reece
2. Australian Native Orchid in situ:
Chiloglottis cornuta - P. Reece
3. Australian Native Orchid Plant in Flower:
Pterostylis cucullata - R. Bates

Congratulations to the winners. They will be presented with their prizes at the November General Meeting.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

BELAIR PARK - 30 SEPTEMBER 1986

This trip is getting to be a tradition, held yearly on the Saturday afternoon of the NOSSA Spring Show. On this occasion the weather was cold and threatening to rain and it was wet underfoot so only the most eager persons participated - 8 adults and 2 children.

The meeting place was the new Information Centre at 1.30pm, from where the group proceeded to the first orchid spot a little west of Govt. Farm Oval.

Rubber boots were the order of the day. After a dry first half of the year, the Adelaide Hills had been deluged in July and August and persistent low temperatures carried through into Spring. The result was a season late by about 2 weeks and many plants lacked their usual robust form. The Diuris species and hybrids were struggling to open their flowers. Of note in this spot was the sighting of two excellent flowering plants of Diuris x palachila, a natural hybrid, between D. maculata and D. lanceolata and seldom seen in this Park. A leaf rosette of Pterostylis biseta with a 10mm high central stem was also seen and might have been stimulated into growth by the passing of the last drought. It is encouraging to see this orchid re-appear as many years ago it was well known in the Blackwood area.

The next venue was the track to Long Gully Station, where Pterostylis abounds. Due to the late season Corybas diemenicus and C. sp.* were still in flower, sheltered from any sun by large amounts of fallen bark and other litter. A natural hybrid between Pterostylis curta and P. pedunculata was in flower as usual. Many of these orchids are close to the road. Pterostylis cucullata was starting to flower and was difficult to see, despite its large size.

The group continued on to Melville Hill where the green form of Acianthus caudatus was seen in flower as a colony numbering 12 blooms. The red form was intermingled with the green, but no hybrids were seen. Both sides of the green caudatus leaves were green, whereas the red was green on top and red under. Some excellent examples of Pterostylis vittata were seen in flower near the cars.

The fourth spot was off Melville Gully Road where 10 Pterostylis cucullata were in flower along with many more P. curta higher up.

The last location was a new one - west of the Upper Sturt entrance, where we found large colonies of Pterostylis nutans, Cyrtostylis reniformis and P. longifolia, all in flower. A few lonely looking flowers of Caladenia deformis were also located. Many Diuris maculata were out. It seems that the more the Park is explored, the more is found.

PLANT LIST

ORCHIDS IN FLOWER

Pterostylis pedunculata
Pt. nana
Pt. longifolia
Pt. vittata
Pt. cucullata
Pt. nutans
Pt. curta
Pt. curta x pedunculata
Acianthus caudatus (green form)
A. caudatus (red form)
Corybas diemenicus
C. SP
Diuris lanceolata
D. longifolia

ORCHIDS IN FLOWER BUD

Caladenia dilatata
C. leptochila
Thelymitra antennifera
T. luteocilium
Glossodia major

ORCHIDS IN LEAF

Microtis unifolia
Pterostylis biseta
Thelymitra nuda
Prasophyllum sp.
Caladenia menziesii
Lyperanthus nigricans

<u>D. maculata</u>	
<u>D. palachila</u>	ORCHIDS IN SEED
<u>D. lanceolata x longifolia</u>	
<u>Cyrtostylis reniformis</u> (late form)	<u>Acianthus exsertus</u>
<u>Caladenia deformis</u>	<u>Prasophyllum rufum</u>

TOTAL: 19 species in flower.

* Some new names are from Part 4 of Flora of S.A., J.P. Jessop, 1986.

P.G. Reece

NOTES FROM THE AOF

The English translation of:

"Orchidaceae of German New Guinea" by R. Schlechter

The Directors are concerned about the volume of stock on hand of this magnificent and faultless publication of 1200 pages describing 1500 species. Storage and insurance is ever increasing, and we have decided to make a special effort to reduce these stocks. Although this book is selling for \$150.00, its true value exceeds \$200.00.

A member, Mr Bill Johnson of Glenwood Orchids, being a practical man, made a special effort, and through the Mornington Peninsula Orchid Society, disposed of ten books by making 'special efforts' by selling 10 tickets @ \$10.00 each, 20 tickets @ \$5.00 each, and even 1 ticket @ \$100.00.

Mr Len Lawler disposed of five copies on the same basis to his friends in Sydney. Can you initiate or have you any bright ideas for your Society, or within your region, it only requires a little effort - PLEASE!

Our special allowance for this effort is \$95.00 (includes postage). A descriptive brochure is available if required.

The AOF Orchid Species Seed Bank

We appeal to our friends for the supply of fresh seed, especially from those species within your collection which you regard as really good.

This Seed Bank is gaining 'world-wide' attention because of the efforts that have been expended. A number of references have been quoted in London, now we note that in an article on conversation in the American Orchid Bulletin, March 1986, referring to Seed Banks "The most famous and still operational is that of the Australian Orchid Foundation which collects and distributes seed of native orchids and other species etc.". It is most rewarding that our efforts are recognized from any source, and it is also rewarding to learn that Orchid Nurseries are advertising seedlings for sale from seed obtained through the AOF Orchid Species Seed Bank.

Will you do something about it when those species come into flower in this next flowering season, it's not a difficult task or effort. Our Seed Curator, Mr Erhard Husted, 81 Darvall Road, West Ryde, NSW 2114, will be very pleased to hear from you, what about it - do your part.

Gerald McCraith
107 Roberts St.,
ESSONDON, VIC. 3040

SARCOCHILUS HARTMANNII

The home country on the variety commonly referred to as the "Blue Knob" hartmannii is the feature, Blue Knob, part of the western edge of the Nightcap ranges which are themselves a rhyolite feature formed during the evolution of the entire Border Ranges (on the NSW/Qld border), during the Mt. Warning volcanic eruptions some 30 million years ago.

It is in these Border Ranges, often high on precipitous rock faces or hidden away in deep gorges that Sarcochilus hartmannii is to be found. Those who are fortunate to have some of this variety treasure the plants immensely, and none more so than Stewart Penman, who during his childhood roamed these rugged ranges. We all know that Stewart is one of our more successful growers of native orchids and he has given us some of his secrets in growing this magnificent species.

Stewart writes: "Hosting more orchid varieties than any other area of Australia except Northern Queensland, the north-eastern corner of NSW is the nursery for some of the most beautiful, cooler growing species in Australia. From Sarcochilus hartmannii, high on the exposed rocky cliffs, to Phaius tancervilliae sheltered in the coastal swamps, the region once abounded in both the epiphytic and terrestrial species. Most can still be found in remote areas removed from the mainstream of commercial activity, and it is from this variety that I select, S. hartmannii as one of my favourites.

Sarcochilus hartmannii is quite well represented in our area with many different forms. Possibly two forms that should be mentioned briefly, for obvious reasons, are those from Mt. Lindsay and Blue Knob. Both areas host superior and inferior forms, but all are very beautiful indeed. Unfortunately due to this very nature, S. hartmannii has been a much sought after orchid throughout its entire range, so much so, that now it is quite rare, but it can still be observed growing well in some of the more remote and inaccessible localities.

Vegetatively all forms resemble one another to a degree. Those that are more exposed tend to be shorter in leaf length, more channelled and of a more upright habit, while those of the more shaded areas are more pendulous and longer in leaf length. The former, possibly to make the most of the rain when it falls and to reduce transpiration loss, being in exposed areas. The latter, possibly to expose a larger leaf area to enable maximum photosynthesis to take place in the lower light intensity.

All forms grow in conjunction with degrees of leaf litter or similar mulch from companion vegetation, which for the purposes of this article I will refer to as "grasses". Many clones in exposed localities receive a little relief from the sun's rays by the shade cast from these plants at some time during the day. I see these grasses presenting other advantages for S. hartmannii also. Firstly, they must act as a repository for the airborne orchid seed, and to provide a suitable environment for this seed to germinate and grow. Secondly, they must act as a wind-break to a degree, and finally, as a continual, but fragile supply of humus. The gradual breakdown of spent foliage from these grasses provides a constant supply of nutrient from which to draw sustenance.

Clones observed in shadier localities appear to have less substantial grasses growing with them, in fact, most are mosses. The growth habit of these

mosses, being short, enables the orchid to receive better light concentrations than would otherwise be expected.

Culture of this orchid has, in the past, been regarded as unpredictable especially over a long period. Some growers have had good results for many years only to lose the clone during an abnormally wet and possibly hot year. I personally all but lost a clone which I had had for about 10 years following repotting.

Close observations over the past 4-5 years have given me a better understanding of the requirements of this plant. They appear to like to be planted in a very well-drained medium with considerable depth to enable the roots to penetrate down to the cooler medium below. I am now having quite good results using terracotta pots with mixed ingredients. In the bottom centre of the pot, I create a pyramid of large rock pieces rising almost to the top. On this I place the plant, I then cover the roots with equal parts of blue metal and pine bark. The pyramid creates a well-drained, cool central area for the roots. The end result is a plant placed very high in the pot to aid additional drainage to the vegetative area of the plants. After this I sprinkle a fine layer of mixed ingredients over the surface of the pot. This material includes shell grit, pine bark and leaf mould. This mulch gradually washes down through the coarser mix and provides a supply of nutrients that the grasses supply for the plants in nature.

Other methods with equally good results are cylinders of saron or gutter-gard with similar ingredients packed in them. Plants are tied onto the side to "hang" in a more natural manner than being placed upright in a pot. This method has many advantages for successful culture. Plants drain more quickly than those in pots. Roots aerate more freely and root health can be observed through the webbing of the cylinder. Sometimes problems can be detected early by observing the roots. This hanging method is possibly a more natural habit of growth and tends to suit the plant better. A problem I can envisage with this method though will be a repotting time. Many roots will certainly be damaged in any attempt to take the plant from the cylinder. But despite this, this method gets results.

Wire and wooden baskets are quite successful. Any new methods, with emphasis on excellent drainage, should be explored in an attempt to achieve success in culture.

S. hartmannii prefers to be given reasonable amounts of shade, say between 60-70% and be placed in possibly the coolest place in your bush house. When roots are active these plants appear to enjoy heavier waterings and a thorough drenching will do no harm.

Once established and with a little care and attention, you will have an orchid to be cherished and admired for many years to come".

Stewart Penman
(reprinted from ANOS North Coast Monthly
Newsletter October, 1984)

NOSSA SPRING SHOW 1986 - PRIZE LIST

<u>Class</u>	<u>Description</u>		<u>Orchid</u>	<u>Grower</u>
1	Den. kingianum	1st	Den. kingianum	G. Nieuwenhoven
		2nd	Den. kingianum	B. Mules
2	Den. speciosum	1st	Den. speciosum	P. Barnes
		2nd	Den. speciosum	P. Barnes
3	Den. species other than class 1 or 2	1st	Den. falcorostrum	W. Harris
		2nd	Den. falcorostrum	N. Oliver
4	Epiphytic species other than Dendrobe	1st	Sarcochilus falcatus	H. Goldsack
		2nd	-	-
5	Den. hybrid having D. kingianum parent	1st	Dendrobium Eureka x Aussie Starlight	B. Mules
		2nd	Dendrobium Aussie Bananga x King Rose	B. Mules
6	Dendrobium hybrid other than class 5	1st	Dendrobium x gracillimum	B. Mules
		2nd	Dendrobium Hilda Poxon	P. Barnes
7	Epiphytic hybrid other than Den.	1st	Not represented	-
		2nd	-	-
8	Caladenia species	1st	Caladenia sp.	Botanic Gardens
		2nd	Caladenia menziesii	R. Robjohns
9	Diuris species	1st	Diuris pedunculata	L. Nesbitt
		2nd	Diuris laxiflora	R. Bates
10	Glossodia species	1st	Glossodia minor	L. Nesbitt
		2nd	-	-
11	Pterostylis species	1st	Pterostylis barbata	R. Bates
		2nd	Pterostylis curta	W. Walloschek
12	Terrestrial species other than class 8-11	1st	Chiloglottis trapeziformis	W. Walloschek
		2nd	Acianthus caudatus	L. Nesbitt
13	Pterostylis hybrid	1st	Ptst. curta x pedunculata	R. Bates
		2nd	Ptst. Cutie	R. Bates
14	Terrestrial hybrid other than class 13	1st	Diuris Pioneer 'Big Ears'	L. Burgess
		2nd	Caladenia latifolia x patersonii	G. Nieuwenhoven
15	Specimen epiphyte - species or hybrid	1st	Dendrobium falcorostrum	W. Harris
		2nd	Dendrobium speciosum	P. Barnes
16	Specimen terrestrial species or hybrid	1st	Diuris pedunculata	L. Nesbitt
		2nd	Caladenia menziesii	R. Hargreaves
Champion epiphytic species 1-4, 15			Dendrobium falcorostrum	W. Harris
Champion epiphytic hybrid 5-7, 15			Dendrobium Eureka x Aussie Starlight	B. Mules
Champion terrestrial species 8-12, 16			Caladenia sp.	Botanic Gardens
Champion terrestrial hybrid 13-14, 16			Diuris Pioneer 'Big Ears'	L. Burgess
Ira Butler Award Nomination (Best hybrid)			Dendrobium Eureka x Aussie Starlight	B. Mules
Roy Hargreaves Trophy (Best terrestrial sp of hyb)			Caladenia sp.	Botanic Gardens
Champion Native Orchid of Show			Dendrobium falcorostrum	W. Harris