



Journal
of the
Native Orchid Society
of
South Australia Inc



NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
PO BOX 565 UNLEY SA 5061

www.nossa.org.au.

The Native Orchid Society of South Australia promotes the conservation of orchids through the preservation of natural habitat and through cultivation. Except with the documented official representation of the management committee, no person may represent the Society on any matter. All native orchids are protected in the wild; their collection without written Government permit is illegal.

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Front cover from an original drawing of *Caleana major* by Helen Lawrence. Used with her kind permission.

Judging results for March

Open terrestrial species, 1 st <i>Eriochilus cucullatus</i> ,	Les Nesbitt
Open epiphytic species, 1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd <i>Dendrobium lithocola</i>	all grown by Bodo Jensen
Epiphytic Hybrid 1 st <i>Sarcochilus</i> Starstruck x Velvet	W & S Walloscheck
2 nd <i>Sarcochilus</i> Velvet 'Chocolate'	Kris Kopicki
Second Division <i>Dendrobium</i> Elegant Heart	Janet Adams
Plant of the night, <i>Eriochilus cucullatus</i>	
Popular vote, Epiphyte Species <i>Dendrobium scneiderei</i>	Bodo Jensen
Epiphytic Hybrid <i>Sarcochilus</i> Starstruck x Velvet	
Second Division <i>Dendrobium</i> Elegant Heart	

March Speaker

Alan Stephenson gave a talk largely on the destruction of orchid habitat in the Nowra District of NSW. Removal of habitat may be small or of large scale and not only by people with limited knowledge of orchids but apparently deliberate by developers. Wonderful photo's of the numerous orchids found in the area were shown. There was much food for thought.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION - NOSSA NEWS

Weeding at Long Gully, Belair National Park

Sat 12 May Belair N. Park 9:30am. Meet at the information centre. If later than 9:30 proceed to Long Gully as far as the old tank site & make your way up the hill. (For entry through the gate please mention you are attending T.P.A.G. weeding). Bring gloves, secateurs, loppers. A weeding activity for improvement of habitat for the threatened orchid *Pterostylis cucullata*. Many people make it a half day activity. Cath Houston 83567356

2012 MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

Members who wish to pay 2012 Membership Fees electronically should e-mail NOSSA Treasurer on nossatreasurer@hotmail.com

You will receive banking details so that you can complete your subscription. Please remember to include in your e-mail any change of address details. Marj Sheppard, Treasurer"

ARTICLES / ITEMS FOR NEXT JOURNAL

Articles / items for the May journal need to reach the Editor by Friday May 4th.

FIELD TRIP COORDINATION and LEADERSHIP

Cathy Houston (Chairman, Field Trip Planning Meeting, Monday 12th March 2012) and
Rosalie Lawrence

At the recent field trip planning meeting a new arrangement for managing the position of field trip coordinator was outlined.

To date the field trip coordinator role has been largely thought of as field trip coordinator/field trip leader. Bob has done a great job as field trip coordinator. He has the knowledge, the expertise and is a teacher. BUT due to other commitments Bob has sometimes, either, had to leave the trip at an earlier time or has been unable to attend at all. It is envisaged the position will be primarily an administrative role of co-ordinating. The field trips are planned (albeit subject to change if deemed necessary) so the emphasis now is to implement them. For the time being Rosalie Lawrence will be overseeing this role.

At a later date Wendy Hudson will step into the role. We thank both these members for their enthusiasm. Now that we have a co-ordinator position organised, we are asking for people to let us know if they can be available as leaders or support leaders.

Leaders are not required to have a vast knowledge of orchids; members can record details of plants seen on trips and follow up with finding out what they have discovered. Hence we are seeking leaders who have a working knowledge of a given area. Once again their knowledge does not have to be extensive, just enough to be able to navigate the area.

Wherever possible the aim is to have a leader and a backup leader to help share the load. This allows members get to take a more active role and therefore gain ownership of what is happening within the Society.

Please feel encouraged to “put up your hand” and have a go. Below is a list of the planned fieldtrips with dates and location. If you think you could be available for any of these trips or would like more information contact Rosalie Lawrence on 8294 8014 or email nossaorchids@hotmail.com.

Any suggestions for next year’s planning would also be welcome.

Day & Date	Location	Orchid species
Sat, May 19, 2012	Mt Billy CP	<i>Pterostylis bryophila</i>
Sun, June 24, 2012	Placid Estate & Monarto	Mallee greenhoods
Wed, July 11, 2012	Moritalta	Adelaide Hills greenhoods
Sat, July 28, 2012	Sandy Creek & Altona	<i>Corysanthes</i>
Sat, August 11, 2012	Ferris McDonald & Monarto	<i>Jonesiopsis</i> , Red nana, <i>Hymenochilus</i>
Sun, August 26, 2012	Yorke Peninsula – Muloowurtie, Mulbura, Ramsay Way CP	Yorke Peninsula spider orchids, <i>Pheladenia</i> , <i>Diuris</i> , <i>Dipodium</i> <i>erythroconcum</i>
Sat, September 8, 2012	Mambray Creek	<i>Oligochaetochilus</i>
Sat, September 15, 2012	Bassnett Road	<i>Arachnorchis behrii</i> and other Adelaide Hills spring flowering orchids
Sun, October 7, 2012	Sandy Creek	<i>Prasophyllum</i> and <i>Oligochaetochilus psammophilus</i>
Sat, October 13, 2012	Scott Creek CP	<i>Thelymitra grandiflora</i>
Sun, November 11, 2012	Cox's Scrub	Duck orchids
Sat, December 29, 2012	Raywood Nursery & Talisker CP	<i>Dipodium</i>
Sun, January 6, 2013	Adelaide Hills	<i>Dipodium</i>
Sat, February 2, 2013	Stipiturus	<i>Spiranthes</i>
Sun, March 24, 2013	TBA	<i>Corunastylis</i>

Note: This year's dates for the Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens are Wednesday 26th September; Monday Public Holiday 1st October and Saturday 27th October.

These will be led by Bodo Jensen and we thank him for his work in the past and his ongoing help.

Epiphytic Species No. 8 - *Dockrillia linguiformis*

Les Nesbitt

Syn. *Dendrobium linguiforme*

The common names for this orchid are the tongue orchid or thumb nail orchid after the appearance of the leaves. The elliptical fleshy, rough textured leaves creep in all directions over a mount of cork or tree fern. This species is very hardy in Adelaide although slow growing. My plants hang on a vertical mesh frame in the shadehouse facing North-East. Daily misting in summer keeps the plants in top condition. They survive on natural rainfall during the winter half of the year. In spring the plant covers itself in feathery white flowers making a specimen plant a spectacular sight. I once mounted a plant on an apricot tree where it thrived and flowered at the same time as the fruit tree. Unfortunately the tree had to go when the house was extended. Every native orchid collection should have a tongue orchid plant.

Dockrillia linguiformis grows on rocks and trees from south eastern NSW to north eastern Qld. It is extremely tolerant of exposed locations. It can be found in a variety of habitats from sea level to 1000m, growing on trees and rocks. Variety *nugentii*, from North-eastern Qld, is said to have rough leaves, and smaller cream flowers that fade to yellow.

Dendrobium seedling progress

Les Nesbitt

In spring 2010 I pollinated flowers on my plants of *Dendrobium speciosum*, and *Den. falcorostrum*. Pods formed without my help on *Dockrillia linguiformis*. In early 2011 I reported that dry seed had been flasked because the pods split open while still green. Most of the seed from all 3 species germinated within weeks in the flasks.

Now I can report that seedlings of *Den. speciosum* and *Dockrillia linguiformis* were deflasked in spring 2011 and again in Mar 2012 and are thriving in small 50mm tubes. The strongest *speciosum*'s were ready to be potted on into larger tubes by Mar 2012.

Dendrobium falcorostrum seedlings are known to be difficult to get established, especially in Adelaide. Some small seedlings were deflasked in spring 2011 when a flask developed mould but none of these seedlings survived the summer. Growth in flasks has been slow compared with the other two species. I will keep replating the seedlings into new flasks until the seedlings grow small pseudobulbs and leaves reach the top of the jars. They will then have a better chance surviving a hot dry Adelaide summer. Hopefully seedlings of this size will be ready to plant out by Spring 2012. That will be 2 years from pollination to small seedling plant. I expect it will be about another 5 years before any of the seedlings reach flowering size. It is a toss-up whether *Den. speciosum* or *Den. falcorostrum* will flower first. It may take 10 years or more.

If I wanted to grow plants for a living I would choose lettuces or geraniums. They mature in 3-4 months.

20+ extinct and near extinct orchids of the Southern Mt Lofty Ranges (SL)

And when NOSSA members last saw them

Bob Bates

An estimated fifty native orchids have become extinct in the region since settlement but I will only deal with species which have been collected there.

1: *Anzybas fordhamii* (little swamp pelican orchids) last seen in Yundi swamps in the 1980's. Despite intense searches of its peat bog habitat this species can no longer be located and is thought to be extinct in South Australia due to habitat destruction. As the SA plants did not match any from the other states it appears we have lost an entire subspecies. For an image of SL plants see Orchids of SA.

2: *Arachnorchis argocalla* the large white spider orchid once common in grassy woodland throughout the region has no viable remaining populations and is therefore close to extinction. It was once common and I can recall seeing it as a child at Upper Sturt in view of the City but it disappeared there in the 1960's. There are some plants just out of the SL region ie near Springton and Kaiser Stuhl but these are technically in the MU region. The species is endangered nationally.

3: *Arachnorchis aff concolor* the Hills blood red spider orchid once occurred all along the eastern flanks of the Mt Lofty Ranges but has not been seen for a hundred years and is certainly extinct due to habitat loss.

4: *Arachnorchis colorata* never common in the SL region but has been collected south of Strathalbyn and west of Hartley. Still occurs just east of the region in sandy pink and blue-gum with native pines and mallee but thought to be lost in the Hills.

5: *Arachnorchis brumalis*: the early white spider orchid loves rich soil over limestone and occurred in coastal limestone south of Adelaide but disappeared in the 1960's and is regarded as extinct in the SL region now.

6: *Arachnorchis dilatata*; the late green comb spider orchid was once common on the River red-gum flats around Meadows was last collected in the region at Belair in the 1990's. It has not been seen in almost 20 years and is probably extinct in SA anywhere outside the SE region.

7: *Arachnorchis ovata*: there are several collections from the Fleurieu Peninsula but despite searching it has not been seen in twenty years and any population is doubtfully viable. In fact it is nationally critically endangered.

8: *Arachnorchis stellata*; The star spider orchid was never common in the SL region but was seen near Mt Barker as late as 1970. Its sandy pink gum woodland habitat is now cleared in the areas it once grew and the last few plants outside the region are critically endangered in SA. See images in Orchids SA from east of Mt Barker.

9: *Bunochilus melagrammus*: this striated greenhood must always have been rare in SL where it was last collected in the 1980's near Para Wirra. Although thought to have been seen near Victor Harbour in 2010 no plant has been seen since so we would regard it as at least close to extinction if indeed still present as its damp fertile sandy habitat has now been cleared.

10: *Calochilus* spp. Although we have a good luck story here with the Aldinga bearded *C. pruinus* orchid rediscovered a few years back the outlook for *Calochilus paludosus* and *C. herbaceus* is not so good. The latter was last seen in the SL region in the 1990's at Mt Billy but may have disappeared while the former Swamp beardie is known only from a handful of plants, the only viable population (in Stipiturus CP) having been lost in the early part of this century.

11: *Corunastylis ciliata*: There are many old collections from the Mt Compass district but the last specimen of this swamp midge orchid was seen on a NOSSA excursion to Nangkita many years ago. Like many of our lost orchids it was destroyed by cattle trampling its stone reserve habitat. Luckily swamp midges still occur in the Lower South-East.

12: *Diuris chryseopsis*: the mountain cowslip orchid was once common in grassy red-gum woodland at Meadows and less so at Scott Creek. It disappeared about 1990 due to habitat destruction, heavy grazing and low viability. I believe it is extinct in SL now and as lowland plants in the SE are thought to be a separate species. I'd say it is gone from SA for good; or should that say 'bad'.

13: *Eriochilus* sp. 'Swamps': What a sad story this one tells. The species was first discovered in the 1970's when it was found in six different swamps of the SL region and collections made for Canberra and Adelaide herbariums. Soon after the species began a rapid decline as swamps became overgrown with blackberry, drained or over-grazed. When stock were removed from any of these grazed swamps they quickly became dense with weedy species. Not a single flower has been seen in the last few years and this as yet un-named species appears doomed as swamp management is just too difficult these days.

14: *Hydorchis*: the story of the water orchid *H. orbicularis* is particularly sad as this monotypic genus was described from plants collected in SA at Myponga. There were five sites in the 1970's but all disappeared for different reasons; one by cattle pugging its waterholes, one by having pines planted all around it, one by having a dam placed on it, another by drying due to climate change and so on.

15: *Hymenochilus nemoralis*; This little swan head greenhood was once common in open grassy sites in the region, especially around Cherry Gardens and Scott Creek. It was last seen on Mt Barker on a NOSSA excursion a few years ago but despite intensive searches appears to have died out, due originally to habitat loss and more recently small population size which made them unviable. Probably extinct in SL, EP etc but still in SE where it is threatened.

16: *Microtidium atrataum*: Dwarf or yellow onion orchid was known at more than twenty sites in the 1960-70's but only one is left this century at Cox Scrub in a site which appears to be drying out due to climate change. It is thought all the other sites have become too dry for it due to changed hydrology ie water extraction by bores, plantations or draining. This species is likely to die out in the next ten years.

17: *Prasophyllum rotundiflorum* the grassland leek orchid. This species has as its type location Cherry gardens. It grew in native grassland but has been extinct in SL for fifty years due to loss of habitat. Still occurs in NL region but critically nationally endangered.

18: *Specularantha uliginosa*; little swamp greenhood once occurred in a dozen swamps in the Mt Lofty Ranges but may now grow in just one where there are less than a handful of plants. The population would not seem to be viable. Loss of habitat is the main reason this one has disappeared while climate drying has put the seal on its demise.

19: *Thelymitra epipactoides*: metallic sun orchid was probably never common in SL but did occur near Victor Harbour a hundred years ago. Extinct in SL for at least fifty years and nationally threatened now.

20: *Thelymitra matthewsii*: spiral leaf sun orchid was collected at Knott Hill in the 1970's and its habitat soon cleared and planted to pines never to be seen again in the Mt Lofty Ranges (SL). The species is locally extinct and remains nationally threatened. This is not the first native orchid to be wiped out by Forestry SA and is unlikely to be the last.

21: *Thelymitra orientalis*: tiny plum sun orchid once common around Glen Siera in the 1970's (as *T. mucida*) was last seen at Higgs swamp in 2002. It appears lost from there and from Glen Siera (now Stipiturus CP). The story of this species clearly shows that making an area a cons park does not guarantee its survival. Little plum sun orchid is regarded as extinct now in SL region and is critically nationally endangered due to habitat loss. The last plant to be seen was photographed by NOSSA's Malcolm Houston. See Orchids SA for image.

Field Trip report: Midge orchid special on April 1st
R Bates and Gillian

Despite it being April Fool's Day a handful of members met at the start of the Waterfall Track in Mark Oliphant CP near Adelaide. Within seconds we found hundreds of tiny white bunny orchids *Eriochilus* species Hills in groups of up to fifty. None of us had seen so many of these sparkling white flowers in such a small area before. They were easy to see as they grew along an old fire track. So there we were looking at bunnies a few days before Easter. Our little dog Gucci was quite happy chasing these bunny orchids.

After fifteen minutes we moved on to Blows turnoff where there were numerous midge orchids *Corunastylis* species Hills and no bunnies. There were many deep red specimens as well as tall green and brown flowered plants and lots of sun orchid capsules from last springtime.

Once again we moved on quickly, this time to Scott Creek CP where a walk down the Quarry Track revealed numerous midge orchids this time accompanied by white bunny orchids. The former had plenty of small fly pollinators on them to delight the photographers. Some greenhood leaves had also emerged.

image by Kevin Sneemilch



Half an hour later we were at Peter Creek car-park near Knott Hill where there were two different midge orchids, at first the short dense maroon spiked late flowering midge in flower and bud and then the tall early flowered midge orchid mostly in fruit. There was discussion as to these being a different subspecies rather than species as there were occasional intermediates

Eventually we were shown a pure yellow-green flowered midge orchid. (see accompanying photo by Kevin.) This clearly belonged to the late flowered midge.

This was found only after we had tracked down a group of twenty fringed hare orchids *Leporella* with freshly opened flowers. You may be thinking that the 1st day of April is early for so many hares and bunny orchids and you would be right but with climate change



we can expect more and more aberrant flowering times. To complete a pleasant morning we looked for seed capsules of duck orchids and horned orchids but pretty well none were found, surely a bad sign for the future of these wonderful native orchids.

JN, single midge orchid flower

Thank you to our many guides and photographers who provided images for the report on this morning excursion.



Leporella the fringed hare orchids in full flower by KB

TREASURERS REPORT

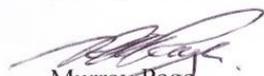
<u>NATIVE ORCHID</u>		<u>SOCIETY</u>	<u>OF</u>	<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>AUSTRALIA</u>
2011		FINANCIAL		REPORT	
		EXCESS RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS ROWG-ROWJ			
ITEM		R	P	EXCESS R	EXCESS P
<u>MEMBERS</u>	-				
<u>Memberships</u>	-	2039.5			
Journal Printing			665.75		
Misc Printing			44		
Journal Postage			378.95		
Stationery					
Trophy Expenses			334.8	616	
<u>Meetings</u>	-				
General - Raffles		504.15	99.82		
Annual Auction		313.2			
Post Office Box Hire			86		
Hall Hire			820		
General - Trading Tables		308.75			
Speaker			300		179.73
<u>General Expenses</u>	-				
Editor			390		
Secretary					
Auditor			75		
Treasurer			122.32		
WEB SITE Reg			30		617.32
<u>Products</u>	-				
DVDS SA ORCHIDS		213.5	84	129.5	
DVD NEW		5299.9	3065.39	2234.51	
Posters		40	24		16
Badges Engraving			52.5		52.5
<u>Special Events</u>	-				
Christmas BBQ			117.7		117.7
<u>Special Items</u>	-				
Insurance			943.98		943.98
Donations		15		15	
web site regn.					
Awards Ira Butler/Bill Murdoch			30		30
LOAN R LAWRENCE			8000		8000
<u>Shows/Sales</u>	-				
NOSSA AND APS SHOW SALES		8561.47	7155.47	1406	
LESS EXPENSES	-				
Growers payments, Judges Exp.	-				
Sashes,Printing & Engraving	-				

TUBER BANK		127	27.35	119.25	
ABC GARDENING SHOW HIRE			95		95
<u>Miscellaneous</u>					
Book purch library (Bill Dear)	N				
Book Vic Small Caladenias	-				
Memberships	-				
<u>*Special Projects - Grants</u>					
South East Four Forests			910		910
The Marshes			2255.7		2255.7
South East Survey		4000		4000	
DEH Grant		1280		1280	
<u>Sundries</u>					
Interest Term Deposits		1733.99		1733.99	
Bank SA (1)		5000		5000	
Bank SA (2)					
Bank SA Chq Interest & Fee		81.04	8	81.04	8
Term Deposit Transfers	-		1500		1500
-	-				
TOTALS		29517.5	27615.73		

STATEMENT of ASSETS AS AT 31st. DECEMBER, 2011

Cheque account	\$8,345-86
Term Deposit Bank S.A. (1) \$20,000-00	
Term Deposit Bank S.A. (2) \$5,000-00	
Computer (at cost)	\$728-95
Speaker System	\$1,534-00

AUDITED with Books, vouchers & Bank Statements provided & I believe these to be a TRUE & CORRECT financial position of the Society as at 31/12/2011


Murray Page
Hon. Auditor
21/1/2012

NOTE: Grants for special projects can be received in 2010 and paid in 2011 when Official Report is accepted.



Eriochilus cucullatus



Dendrobium lithocola



Caladenia Elegant Heart



Sarcochilus Velvet 'Chocolate'



Sarcochilus Starstruck x Velvet



Dendrobium scneideri

