

NATIVE ORCHID  
SOCIETY  
of  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

*Corybas diemenicus*  
*C. dilatatus*

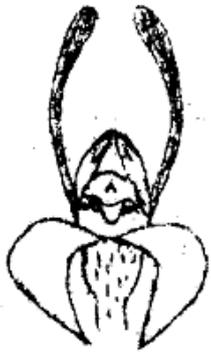
*Corybas*



*diemenicus*

*dilatatus*





NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

JOURNAL

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#### NEXT MEETING

When: Tuesday, 22 August, 1978, at 8.00 p.m.  
Where: Goodwood Boys High School, Hardy Street, Goodwood.  
Why: Well known professional orchid propagator Nicky Zurcher will speak on European orchids.

Ray Nash will give a short demonstration of preparing herbarium specimens.

LAST MEETING Attendance 58

Mrs T. Torment gave a well-prepared and illustrated talk on the history of Darwin and showed us some of the orchid collections there. Shots of vanda flowering en-masse in the open garden are sights seen only in the tropics; and brought gasps from the audiences

Ray Nash commented on the terrestrials on display and also spoke about his recent trip to Western Australia with Mark Clements.

Joe Betts from Sydney, who spent a week in Adelaide, attended the meeting and explained the function of the ANOS Council and the Groups in the Sydney area. Thanks to the untiring efforts of Jim Simmons and Roy Hargreaves, Joe met all the local identities during his stay and probably had to rest a while when he got home because he was certainly kept on the run here.

COMMITTEE MEETING -- Date Changed

The next Committee Meeting will be held at 8.00 p.m. on Friday, 25 August, at 18 Cambridge Street, Vale Park.

## POPULAR VOTE

Terrestrial: *Corybas dilatatus*  
grown by Brian Lehmann. A 6-inch  
pot containing 20-30 plants with  
the majority in flower. All of the  
flowers were in peak condition. A  
very crowded pot with the healthy  
robust leaves jammed in completely  
covering the soil. A very good  
effort amongst strong competition.

Epiphyte: *Dendrobium teretifolium*  
grown by Glynn Burniston in a small  
4-inch clay pot of bark and charcoal.  
The plant was trained up a 30-inch  
stake and then hung down to pot level.  
Half a dozen sprays, each with 6 or 7  
feathery white flowers, were carried  
in a cluster at the top of the plant.  
A small but healthy plant well-flowered.

Because of the large numbers of plants being tabled, first and second will be recorded in both sections at future meetings. The voting procedure will not change.

The previous month the growers of the most popular plants were: *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon - Ray Haese and *Den. johannis* x *bigibbum* - Jim Simmons.

**PRESIDENT TO ADDRESS ANOS**

The President, Les Nesbitt, has been invited to address the Annual General Meeting of the Council of the Australasian Native Orchid Society in Sydney on Saturday, September 2 this year. His topics will be "NOSSA" and "Terrestrial Orchids". At the July monthly meeting it was decided that NOSSA should pay the fare to send Les there. In the meantime Jim Simmons has arranged a half fare concession ticket and the remainder of the cost has been donated, consequently there will be no call on NOSSA funds. We hope that Les's talk will also be given at one of our monthly meetings next year, and in the meantime we wish him a successful trip and hope the visit will prove to be mutually beneficial.

## NEDOS SHOW DISPLAY

Les Nesbitt will set up the NOSSA exhibit in the North Eastern Districts Orchid Society Show from 7-9 p.m. on Wednesday, 6 September. Deliver plants on Wednesday before 8.00 p.m. to the St. Philips Parish Hall, Galway Avenue, Broadview. The hall will be open from about 9.30 a.m. Place plants in our allotted area in the entrance hall. Collect plants at 9.00 p.m. on Saturday, 9 September, as the hall must be cleared on the Saturday night for Sunday School in the morning.

The show is open to the public on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. Admission is 50c. Ours is a non-competitive display although NEDOS members may enter a popular vote competition.

## CORK

NOSSA has purchased 10 slabs of cork for sale to members at monthly meetings. Each slab is 3 feet x 1 foot x 2 inches thick and costs \$4.50. These slabs may be cut into smaller pieces or can be crumbled up to use in place of fir bark in potting mixes.

## PLANTS ON DISPLAY - JULY

## Terrestrials

An unexpectedly large number of plants were benched, some seven genera being represented by 23 species of plants. Commentary on this section was given by Ray Nash.

## Plants on display;

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <i>Acianthus caudatus</i>   | fine specimens were on display.  |
| 2. <i>Acianthus fornicatus</i>   | 20. <i>Pt. concinna</i> : the pot of plants  |
| 3. <i>Acianthus reniformis</i> : early<br>flowering form.  | benched appeared to have two colour<br>forms of flower.  |
| 4. <i>Caladenia caerulea</i>   | 21. <i>Pt. curta</i> : both local and interstate   |
| 5. <i>Caladenia deformis</i> ; in flower.  | forms were seen, the local form being  |
| 6. <i>Chiloglottis formicifera</i><br>Collective pot:  | considerably larger and taller of the  |
| 7. <i>Caladenia carnea</i>   | two forms. Plants were seen carrying   |
| 8. <i>Caladenia deformis</i>   | both flowers and buds. Some relative-  |
| 9. <i>Glossodia</i> ?<br>Collective pot;   | ly overcrowded pots had plants which   |
| 10. <i>Pt. nana</i>  | had produced aerial roots.   |
| 11. <i>Pt. plumosa</i>   | 22. <i>Pt. cycnocephala</i> , a greenhood whose  |
| 12. <i>Acianthus reniformis</i> ; late<br>flowering form   | flowers are originally tightly pack-   |
| 13. <i>Corybas dilatatus</i>   | ed to the stem during bud stages but   |
| 14. <i>Caladenia</i> ?   | move away as flower matures.   |
| 15. <i>Diuris</i> ?  | 23. <i>Pt. longifolia</i> ; an unusually healthy   |
| 16. <i>Corybas despectans</i> : our most<br>recently named species of<br><i>Corybas</i> ; a large pot of healthy<br>specimens. | collection of tall robust plants in<br>flower.   |
| 17. <i>Corybas dilatatus</i> : several<br>handsome potfuls.  | 24. <i>Pt. mutica</i> ; planted in the same pot<br>as <i>Pt. cycnocephala</i> and very similar<br>in appearance to it. |
| 18. <i>Diuris</i> ?  | 25. <i>Pt. ophiglossa</i> var <i>collina</i> plants  |
| 19. <i>Pterostylis baptistii</i> ; as<br>usual, a showy greenhood; some  | from north Queensland, thriving under<br>local conditions.   |
|  | 26. <i>Pt. pedunculata</i> , a somewhat crowded<br>potful with plants in bud.  |
|  | 27. <i>Pt. ?</i> ; rufa type early flowering.  |

## Epiphytes

Considering the time of year, the evenings benching of Epiphytes was quite commendable. In all, a total of thirteen species or hybrids were shown, this number being made up by eleven *Dendrobiums* and 2 *Bulbophyllums*. Commentary in this section was given by Les Nesbitt.

## Plants on display:

1. *Bulbophyllum aurantiacum*: numerous small flowers along stems; second flowering from this plant in four months; grown indoors by light from an eastern window.
2. *B. crassulifolium*: grown on natural cork; small hidden flowers arising from base of leaves.
3. *Dendrobium* "Ellen" (*D. kingianum* x *D. tetragonum*); flowers with shape from *tetragonum* parent but size from *kingianum* parent.
4. *D. fleckeri* x *D. gracilicaule*; currently in flower; a pot grown specimen maintained under shadehouse conditions.
5. *D. gracilicaule*: potted plant grown in scoria and bark mix, was grown under heated conditions but it is claimed to do well if grown cold. Many buds with a few at the point of opening.
6. *D. "Hilda Poxon"* (*D. speciosum* x *D. tetragonum*); a young plant with large bright flowers; good lasting properties; grows well cold.

## FIELD TRIPS

Warren Conservation Park - August 26

Meet at Les Nesbitt's nursery at Kersbrook at 10.00 a.m. on Saturday, 16 August.

From there we will proceed along the Kersbrook-Williamstown Road for 6.4 km (4 miles) and turn right onto Watt's Gully Road and continue as far as the Warren Conservation Park on the left hand side.

We will explore the immediate area until lunch, and after lunch the more adventurous can go further into the Park and examine the higher ground.

We hope that Terry Dennis from Streaky Bay will lead this trip. Don't forget to take your lunch.

Belair Recreation Park - September 16

This should be the climax for this year's visits and should see the orchids at their peak. Hopefully Ray Nash will be able to show us where to find some of the more elusive ones. Meet at the Belair Entrance - the road entrance near the Belair Railway Station - at 10.00 a.m. Again it is an all day trip so do not forget lunch.

FIELD TRIP TO CHERRY GARDENS - 30.7.78

Although the maximum temperature at home only reached 16.3°C, it was nevertheless a delightful afternoon, with clear blue skies; the best day we have had for some time, and a timely reminder that spring is not too far away. Thus it is not surprising that the turnout was probably the biggest we have had, causing an embarrassingly long convoy from the Cherry Gardens rendezvous to our nearby destination.

That we were due to find some orchids was obvious from the moment we arrived because beside some of the snow-white *Drosera whittakeri* I saw a couple of *Pterostylis nana*, and an *Acianthus caudatus* with the flower just beginning to be identifiable, before I got out of the car!

At regular intervals since the formation of the Society, I have bemoaned the lack of rain, and in fact to mid-April we had achieved 52 mm of rain this year in Adelaide; by the end of May it had risen to 119 mm, whereas by yesterday it had reached 338 mm - which means we have had 219 mm (8.6") in the last two months. No wonder the plants looked so well-nourished. Just for a change though, this year I'm complaining about the cold instead. The consistently dull, cold and wet weather we have been experiencing means that some of our earlier orchids could be delayed this year. In fact, many of the *P. nana* we found still have a long way to go.

With so many ferrets scouring the undergrowth, it was not long before we were successful. Patches of basal leaves of *Leporella fimbriata* led eventually to a couple of plants that were only just at the end of their flowering,

## FIELD TRIP TO CHERRY GARDENS - 30.7.78 (contd)

and a solitary plant with well-developed seed pods. Shortly afterwards we found one example of *Pterostylis alata* (?) well past its best. Our leader for the afternoon, Ray Nash, reports that its current status is suspect, and under review. In spite of quite diligent efforts, we failed to discover any more.

Our next find was some *P. vittata*, with pale-coloured flowers that had a pronounced dark brown ridge running down the hood, giving them a particularly attractive appearance. Whenever we have found *P. vittata*, there has been a good likelihood that *P. longifolia* will be nearby, and so it was not long before some were discovered.

Meanwhile, a debate about the correct identification of some basal leaves led to the discovery of one of the day's major finds, *Corybas unguiculatus*. These are particularly shy plants, and it seems quite probable that they would have been completely overlooked, were it not for some literal scratching through the undergrowth. They are almost on the way to being a subterranean species. Ultimately, the most difficult task was carefully covering them up again.

Other basal leaves to be discovered were *Acianthus reniformis*, both late and early forms, and *A. exsertus*, with a few of the latter in flower. We also found some basal leaves of various *Thelymitra*, *Caladenia* and *Glossodia major*, with odd examples from all of them showing the beginnings of a flower spike.

At this stage, we moved away from the scrub with a predominantly northerly aspect to one facing west. Walking down the track we noticed an empty seed-pod from the Parson's Bands, *Eriochilus cucullatus* and *P. nana* in numerous small clumps. Undoubtedly the most attractive sight of the afternoon was a truly Wordsworthian mass of *Acianthus reniformis* with their rich brown flowers and shiny labellums, standing out against the verdant green of their basal leaves in the late afternoon sun. Near them were some *A. exsertus* still in flower, and basal rosettes of *P. pedunculata*, and possibly *P. nutans*.

The scrub at this point contained numerous examples of the native cherry, *Exocarpus cupressiformis*, one of the Sandalwood family, and possibly also a root parasite. In spite of its abundance, Cherry Gardens was not named after it but after the imported *Prunus* species. (The Aboriginal name for the area was Penna chowinga - does anybody know what that means?)

The mass of *A. reniformis* was found under a cherry tree, and the trees inevitably had *P. pedunculata* round their bases. Further down the track we also found a patch of *n* (where *n* is greater than 35!) *P. vittata* and a veritable carpet of *Caladenia menziesii*.

By this time, the numbers had thinned considerably, and the edge of the vigilance of those remaining was somewhat dulled, so we returned to the cars, still with an eye open for other *Corybas* and the elusive *P. alata*. We did though find some fine *P. longifolia* and Ray Nash justified his reputation by spotting a solitary example of the basal leaf from a *Calochilus*. Ultimately it was left to Alwin Clements bring up the rear to complete the list with basal leaves of *Lyperanthus nigricans*.

In all, it was a rewarding day, and the spot is well worth visiting at a later time of year. Our thanks are again due to Bob Bates for suggesting the venue, and also to Ray Nash for his inspiring leadership.

As a final word, I would like to apologise to those members who also belong to the S.A. Ornithological Association, for whom our outing coincided with the regular SAOA monthly field day. How ever does one combine interests like birds and orchids? The only really successful bird observations I have managed is in one of the few parts of South Australia where no orchids have ever been recorded. I might manage to spot log runners in the undergrowth, but to the best of my knowledge, *Orthonyx* has not been recorded in South Australia!

## Field Trip to Cherry Gardens - 30.7.78 (contd.)

## Plants recorded:

Past flowering	In bud
Eriochilus cucullatus	Acianthus caudatus
	A. reniformis (late form)
In flower	Pterostylis pedunculata
Acianthus exsertus	
	Basal leaves
A. reniformis (early form)	Caladenia menziesii
Corybas unguiculatus	Caladenia sp.
Leporella fimbriata (S. Leptoceras fimbriatus	Calochilus sp.
Pterostylis alata (?)	Glossodia major
P. longifolia	Lyperanthus nigricans
P. nana	? Pterostylis nutans
P. vittata	Thelymitra sp.

An imposing list, with eight species in flower, including four not recorded last year.

**POLLINATION OF ORCHIDS - Part 8****R. Bates**

## Late Evening Rendezvous

The "Flying Duck" orchids *Caleana* and *Paracaleana* are uncommon in South Australia where they are usually found in light sandy forest in association with *Banksias*, particularly *B. ornata*.

Both have evolved (perhaps by convergent evolution) the same method of pollination. The large beetle-shaped labella, smooth in *Caleana* and glandular in *Paracaleana*, have pressure sensitive hinges like the *Pterostylis*. When an insect lands on the labellum it swings back into a "bowl" formed by the inflated wings of the column (children especially delight in triggering these orchids). The insect, when trapped in the column is forced to squeeze past the stigma to escape and collects a dab of glue then past the pollinia which adhere to the glue. After escape, a repetition of the process ensures pollination.

Strangely enough, an investigation of sprung flowers in the bush usually reveals them to be empty, triggered perhaps by the wind. In December 1976 I investigated hundreds of plants of *Caleana* and *Paracaleana* in the Adelaide Hills and despite the number of flowers with released labella, was unable to find the pollinating insects at first. I had read reports of wasps pollinating the flowers in New South Wales. Even the funnel traps (see earlier journals) failed to trap any insects when placed over the plants, suggesting (though not proving) that pheromones were not the major attractant.

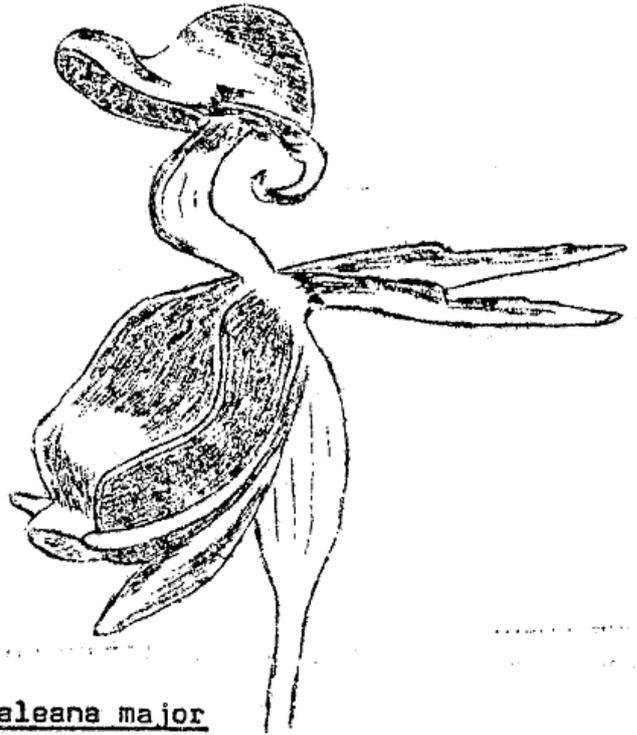
One late afternoon on a hot, humid day with the barometer "falling" and flying ants emerging from the old fence posts along the track I was out to collect the funnel traps for the last time. Moths and beetles were swarming - and it suddenly occurred to me that this was what the flowers and I were waiting for - sure enough a quick investigation in the fading light revealed two *Caleana* containing jewel beetles (Buprestidae) which were identified as a species whose larva feed on *Banksias*. As pollinia were glued to the head of one specimen it was almost certainly a pollinator. If however, pheromones were not the attractant, what was? Certainly the beetle-shaped labellum was a good visual attractant (no scent or food reward was offered).

## Pollination of Orchids - Part 8 (contd.)

A friend suggested that as the beetles were night-flying they would use infra-red radiation to locate the flowers. A point certainly worth further investigation.

Surprisingly, *Paracaleana minor* growing in cultivation are self-pollinated simply because air currents and temperature changes are constantly springing the labellum, gradually smearing the pollinia over the stigma of the same flower. This probably also occurs in the bush where the majority of flowers had full seed capsules, but it was a process not evident with *Caleana*.

This brings me to the topic of the next episode titled "Who needs insects?", or "Why are so many South Australian species self-pollinating?".



*Caleana major* *Caleana major*

## NOSSA DISPLAY

NOSSA display at the South Coast Orchid Club of S.A. Inc. Spring Show to be held at the Marion Shopping Centre from Monday, 2 October, to Saturday, 7 October, 1978.

## Australian Native Orchids

As defined in A.O.C. judging rule book.  
Judging by NOSSA nominated judge to A.O.C. rules.

## PRIZE SCHEDULE

Champion Australian Native Orchid  
(Judged from all the following classes)

Class	1st	2nd
1. Best <i>Dendrobium kingianum</i>	\$5	\$3
2. Best <i>Dendrobium speciosum</i>	\$5	\$3
3. Best <i>Dendrobium</i> species other than Class 1 or 2	\$5	\$3
4. Best epiphytic species other than <i>Dendrobium</i>	\$5	\$3
5. Best <i>Caladenia</i> - one species	\$5	\$3
6. Best <i>Diuris</i> - one species	\$5	\$3
7. Best <i>Glossodia</i> - one species	\$5	\$3
8. Best <i>Pterostylis</i> - one species	\$5	\$3
9. Best terrestrial other than classes 5, 6, 7 or 8.	\$5	\$3
10. Best <i>Dendrobium</i> hybrid	\$5	\$3
11. Best hybrid other than <i>Dendrobium</i>	\$5	\$3
12. Best specimen (species and hybrids eligible)	\$5	\$3

## THIS MONTH'S COVER

This month's cover shows two of the five "helmet" orchids found in South Australia, *Corybas dilatatus* and *C. diemenicus* the other three being the newly described *C. despectans*, *C. fordhamii* and *C. unguiculatus*. The last-named was spotted during the last field trip to Cherry Gardens and we may be lucky enough to find the cover examples on the forthcoming field trip to the Warren Conservation Park.

*C. dilatatus* is common in the Adelaide Hills, but we have yet to record *C. diemenicus*. The genus *Corybas* gets its name from the Greek "Corybantes", who were the priests of Cybele (Rhea) in Phrygia. According to Ovid, they were a people of Crete produced from rain, and it is likely that the epithet was given to the genus because of their habit of flowering in early spring, following the winter rains. In fact, they should never have been called *Corybas* in the first place. They were discovered by Robert Brown during the Flinders Expedition (1801-1805), and illustrated by the Austrian Ferdinand Bauer, another of the members of the expedition. Brown called them *Corysanthes* from the Greek "korys" (a helmet) and "anthos" (a flower), and they were known for many years by that name. However, in this instance, justice was never truly done, because the decision was made to call them *Corybas*, the name previously allotted by R.A. Salisbury in 1805, on the strength of seeing Bauer's illustrations.

The species epithet *dilatatus* comes from the Latin word meaning "widened", in reference to the grossly enlarged labellum that forms the most conspicuous part of the flower. *C. dilatatus* also has the synonym *C. pruinosus*, the name first given to specimens from Tasmania and here the epithet comes from the Latin for "frosted" or "snowy", in reference to the appearance of the underside of the leaf.

The other *Corybas* to be found in South Australia that is named after one of its characteristics is *C. unguiculatus*, where the species name comes from the Latin word for "clawed" - on the basis of the strongly-ribbed underside of the leaf, resembling a claw.

Where a plant does not have conspicuous defining characteristics that can be expressed in one word, or possibly the appropriate word has been used for a similar species an alternative is to give it the name of the place from which it comes. Such is the case with the *Corybas* on the cover, *C. diemenicus*, the name given by Lindley based on the "latinisation" of Tasmania - van Diemen's Land. Another method is to give the plant the name of the person who first discovered it - or first enabled it to be separately classified - for example, Rupp named one of the other *Corybas* found in South Australia as *C. fordhamii*, because his specimens came from Fordham, who had collected them at Brunswick Heads, in New South Wales.

Finally, there is *C. despectans*, classified by Jones, and Ray Nash. In this case the name comes from the Latin verb meaning to overlook, or look down upon - a reference to the fact that the plants had been known for some time, but it had never previously been examined sufficiently closely to warrant a separate species - it had been overlooked!

SHOWTIME 1978 P. Hornsby

The membership of our Society seems fairly distributed in that some are more interested in seeing and recording orchids in their native habitat, whereas others concentrate on cultivating and exhibiting them. They are,

Showtime 1978 (contd.)

of course, by no means mutually exclusive, and shows are, after all, one of the easiest means of bringing orchids to the attention of the general public. Thus it was pleasing to see the range of native orchids on display at the S.A. Orchidaceous Society's Winter Show at Thebarton Assembly Hall, held on a wet and wintry Saturday last month.

Australian orchids were dispersed in various parts of the Hall and some required an eagle eye to be seen. This was undoubtedly true of the smallest blooms exhibited at the show in the form of *Bulbophyllum crassulifolium*. Nearby were two superb examples of *Dendrobium tetragonum* var *giganteum*, the magnificent flowers truly justified the varietal title. Another young, but freely flowering plant was the *D. bigibbum* alongside, with good sprays of flowers from long slender canes. The last epiphytic species to be seen was an enviable specimen of *D. teretifolium* in full flower, though it is a pity that its pendulous habit had been gathered above to create a rather bouffant hair style.

Two epiphytic hybrids were on display, both of *Dendrobium* parentage. The first was a cross between one of the "antelope" orchids, *D. johannis* "giganteum" and *D. bigibbum* "compactum". Its shape and colour (a beautiful rich magenta) owing far more to its latter parent. The second was *D. kestevenii* Nowen Doc x *D. tetragonum giganteum* "Kennedy" - a cross I assume to be that now registered as "Ku-ring-gai" (see Brian Osborne's letter, NOSSA Newsletter, September 1977, p. 2). If you sat down with an illustration of both its parents before you and "designed" the hybrid with 50% from each, *D. ku-ring-gai* would be the result!

All the terrestrials except one were *Pterostylis*. The exception was a nice little pot of the early-flowering form of *Acianthus reniformis*, but from the way all the plants had crowded to one side of the pot, they were not very keen on the plants next door. The most popular native was *P. nana*, of which there were three pots on display. Two pots were full of plants, but all three should be flowering better than they were. From their appearance, they would have been better for a little more exposure to the elements. There were two pots of *P. nutans*, one of which was well past its best - to the extent of showing some nice fat seedpods. Finally, there was one pot of *P. baptistii* in flower and one of *P. curta*, the size of the two species being very nearly the same, with *P. curta*, if anything, slightly larger. Once again, they showed the appearance of being too kindly treated. This may facilitate early flowering but at the expense of robustness in the plants.

In summary, the Orchidaceous Society deserves congratulating for the overall standard of its display, while among the natives, the standard of the epiphytes was far higher than that of the terrestrials. In all, well worth the 300 admission. In these days of inflation, I cannot help but feel they should have charged a little more - it was well worth it.

A SPRINGTIME VISIT TO THE CLARE HILLS Bob and Sharon Bates

Departure time was 7.30 a.m. as our destination was over 100 km north of Adelaide and it was to be a one day trip.

The route took us via Gawler and Hamley Bridge to our first stop at Owen where we found the seed pods of *Pt. mutica* and flowers of *Pt. hamata*.

9.00 a.m. saw us under the native pines near Halbury admiring *Pterostylis rufa*, *Pt. boormanii*, and even more numerous than both were the hybrids between them.

## A Springtime Visit to the Clare Hills (contd)

We awoke the licensee of the Hoyleton pub at 9.30 and he was none too impressed by our request for raspberry and lemonades. We were off the bitumen by now and turned due east from Hoyleton into the rolling S.E. foothills of the Clare Range. Verdant fields of wheat dotted with huge River Red Gums dominated the landscape at first but as the hills became higher we entered the beautiful Spring Gully with its quaint old English atmosphere - poplars and oaks amid the eucalypts and acacias. The road was like an English country lane but the heady fragrance of the wattle blossom reminded us we were still in Australia. At the head of the valley we entered the Spring Gully National Park which has been declared to protect the Red Stringy Bark forest, for the Red Stringy Bark is a tree which grows no-where else in South Australia. It was here, 10 km west of Clare, an island of native vegetation in a sea of rich farmlands, that was our destination.

On leaving the car we were immediately in luck orchid-wise, with the discovery of a tall double-flowered *Caladenia patersonii* (the only one we saw) and almost forming a carpet beyond it the amazingly abundant purple *Glossodias*. We didn't expect them to grow here so far north, yet the whole park was glorious with them and dotted here and there among the *Glossodias* were deep yellow splashes of *Diuris pedunculata* and *D. maculata* with the occasional hybrid *D. palachila*.

We followed the creek, flowing strongly after recent rains, to a magnificent waterfall. The rosettes of *Pt. robusta* were the main ground cover, with here and there the flash of pink *Caladenia carnea* or blue *C. deformis* among them. *Acianthus reniformis* in flower and *A. exsertus* in seed were growing as lithophytes on the mossy rocks, with the grotesque twisted "grass trees", *Xanthorrhoea quadrangulata*, framing our view over the valley below the waterfall.

By mid-afternoon the sun was warm and the *Thelymitras* were opening - the bright blue of *longifolia*, the pink *carnea* var *rubra*, and the yellow *antennifera*. Only *Th. pauciflora* and *luteocilium* could not be tempted to open.

After fording a sparkling crystal stream we were chased by nesting magpies and laughed at by kookaburras but we made up for it by finding a long-sepalled form of *Pt. biseta*, a huge colony of them.

Other orchids seen during the day included *Caladenia leptochila*, *Pt. vittata*, *M. unifolia*, *Pt. patens*, *Corybas diemenicus* and the leaves of *Eriochilus*. Expected orchids *C. dilatata* and *Pt. nana* were conspicuous by their absence. Tea was at the Watervale Hotel and by 9.30 we were home after a long but enjoyable day. We were surprised to find such a variety of orchids in an area I had thought to have been over cleared. We would certainly recommend the trip to Adelaide NOSSA members this spring; especially those likely to enjoy the Clare wines!

## PLANTS ON DISPLAY AT THE JUNE MEETING

## Epiphytes

Commentary on the Epiphytic section was given by Mary Earle. Overall a total of 10 species or hybrid orchids was shown.

These were;

1. *Dendrobium bigibbum*: light coloured flowering form.
2. *D. johannis* x *D. bigibbum*: maroon coloured form.

## Plants on Display at the June Meeting (contd.)

3. *D. gracilicaule* var *howeanum* x *D. tetragonum giganteum*.
4. *D. Hilda Poxon* (*speciosum* x *kingianum*)
5. *D. Ellen* (*tetragonum* x *kingianum*)
6. *D. kingianum* var *hastings*
7. *D. tetragonum*
8. *Bulbophyllum macphersonii*
9. *B. gadgarrense*
10. *Oberonia palmicola*

*Oberonia palmicola* afforded members the chance to see a very pretty and relatively uncommon orchid species. *O. palmicola* occurs naturally from northern Queensland to the north coast of New South Wales and occurs to altitudes of 3500 feet.

## Terrestrial

There was an impressive number of terrestrial orchids benched including at least six genera (possibly more when all members of community pots emerge) and more than twenty species. The commentary in this section was given by George Nieuwenhoven.

Plants benched were:

1. *Acianthus exsertus*: typical form.
2. *A. exsertus*; green flowering form.
3. Community pot by Les Nesbitt: some species still emerging from the soil.
4. Community pot by George Nieuwenhoven: planted some time ago; shows comparatively dominant and spreading nature of some species.
5. *Corybas dilatatus*
6. *C. fimbriata*
7. *T. unguiculatus*
8. *Pterostylis baptistii*: Queensland form.
9. *Pt. concinna*: very similar in appearance to *Pt. nana*.
10. *Pt. curta*: 7 plants in the pot last year - now 30 plants - could possibly be said to reproduce rapidly!
11. *Pt. cycnocephala*; 3 pots; similar to *Pt. mutica* but flower appears first then stem elongates afterwards.
12. *Pt. hildae*: ex. South Queensland and New South Wales; similar to *Pt. nutans*.
13. *Pt. longifolia*: 2 pots; tall, well grown specimens; like *vittata*, does not like to be disturbed.
14. *Pt. mutica*: 2 pots; similar to *Pt. cycnocephala* but stem rises first then flower appears.
15. *Pt. nana*; 4 pots; readily reproduces vegetatively; prefers sandy soils.
16. *Pt. nutans*; 3 pots; included one notable specimen to 45 cm (1½ ft).
17. *Pt. ophiglossa* var *collina*. north Queensland.
18. *Pt. scabra* var *robusta*; 2 pots; flowering and non-flowering forms present.
19. *Pt. vittata*: 3 pots; George recommends not repotting this species.
20. *Pt. ? alata*: a species of the "robusta" type.
21. *Spathoglottis pauline*

The specimen of *Spathoglottis* gave members a chance to see a beautiful species which is even uncommon in its natural habitat. This species has subterranean rhizomes with pseudobulbs conspicuous above the ground. It occurs in moist well-drained areas and creek beds in grasslands or open country and is confined to a relatively small area of north eastern Queensland. This species requires some warmth in order to prosper under local climatic conditions.

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