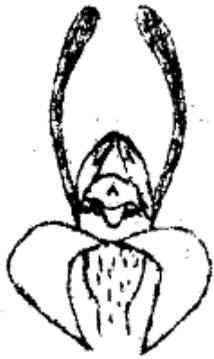


NATIVE ORCHID
SOCIETY
of
SOUTH AUSTRALIA



*Lyperanthus
nigricans*



NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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NEXT MEETING

WHEN: Thesday, 28th October, 1980.

WHERE: St. Matthews Hail, Bridge Street, Kensington.

WHY Harold Goldsack will talk on "Native Orchids and Ferns". Harold is well known for his fine culture and knowledge of both groups of plants and his ability to convey his enthusiasm to the audience.

Please bring along your flowering plants for the display. The flush of the season is now over and last month's abundance will not be repeated at the end of October. Don't forget the popular vote, raffle, trading table and library.

WANTED EDITOR WANTED

NOSSA is looking for a new Editor so that the present editor can concentrate on judging matters. Can you help???

LAST MEETING

Attendance 67

Dr Brian Morley's talk on hybrids made us more aware of the complex nature of hybridization and the shortcomings of the human system of plant 'species' especially when hybrid swarms are encountered. He described the isolation mechanisms which occur in nature e.g. spacial, ecological, mechanical, flower time, genetic and physical incompatibility. Mendelism is too simple an approach for predicting hybrid behaviour and is therefore not always true. He suggested that hybridizers should consider pollen as D.N.A. in mobile form.

Dr Morley deplores the extremely low level of Government funding for research on 'native' plants and appealed to interested people to nurture endangered species and to select and name superior clones of species for cultivation and possible breeding. Another area where we can help is in population studies of S.A. orchids. Characters of parents and putative (possible) hybrids can be measured and plotted on scatter diagrams.

Bob Bates rounded off the evening with slides of South Australian putative hybrids in the genera *Caladenia*, *Diuris*, *Pterostylis* and *Thelymitra*.

Raffle prizes were nice plants of *Dendrobium gracilicaule*, *Cymbidium canaliculatum* and *Diuris longifolia*.

Thanks to David Moody for donating the *Cym. canaliculatum* which was in spike

PLANTS ON DISPLAY; 2-9-80.

Those who attended witnessed our best ever display. It was a credit to the growers and made us all a little proud of NOSSA. The comment was heard that we are now ready to stage our own Spring Show. Magnificent flowering plants filled tables across the front and down the sides of the hall, while others perched on cupboards and one stood on the floor because no table large enough could be found. I counted 61 pots of terrestrials and 64 epiphytes. The popular vote system was severely stressed with many members deciding not to vote at all.

Plants shown were:

Caladenia menziesii, *C. patersonii*, *C. huegelii* var. *reticulata*, *C. huegelii*, *C. leptochila*, *C. rigida*, *C. filamentosa* (Red form from K.I.), *C. cucullata*, *C. gladiolata* x *patersonii*, *C. catenata*, *C. dilatata*, *C. tessellata*, *Cryptostylis erecta*, *Diuris longifolia* x *D. pedunculata*, *D. maculata* x *P. longifolia*, *D. laxiflora*, *D. palachila*, *D. longifolia*, *D. maculata*, *D. sulphurea* *Glossodia major*, *Lyperanthus nigricans*, *Microtis unifolia*, *Prasophyllum alpinum*, *Pr. elatum*, *Pr. patens*, *Pr. tuscum* var. *occidentale*, *Pterostylis plumosa*, *Pt. boormanii*, *Pt. alpina*, *Pt. x ingens*, *Pt. foliata*, *Pt. biseta*, *Pt. mitchellii*, *Pt. baptistii* 'Janney', *Pt. rufa*, *Pt. hamata*, *Pt. cycnocephala* (Qld), *Thelymitra* x *chasmogama*, *T. longifolia*, *Dendrobium gracillimum*, *D. striolatum*, *D. kingianum*, *D. johannis*, *D. falcorostrum*, *D. Bardo Rose*, *D. speciosum*, *D. x delicatum*, *D. longuiforme*, *D. gracilicaule*, *D. tetragonum*, *D. Ellen*, *D. adae*, *D. ruppianum*, *D. x suffusum*, *D. dicuphum*, *D. Susan*, *D. aemulum*, *Papillilabium beckleri*, *Sarcochilus falcatus*, *S. australis*, *S. hartmannii*.

CORRECTION

Please note that Don Wells correct phone number in 261.6030.



Prasophyllum elatum R. Br. the 'Tall leek-orchid', certainly lives up to its common name as it is South Australia's tallest orchid, often being over a metre in height. There are 20-30 flowers on the spike which is generally taller than the leaf. The flowers are larger than most leek orchids and are usually of contrasting dark and light colours - green and white; purple and green; purple and yellow or a suffusion of these colours.

The species is common and widespread in S.A. in most areas receiving greater than 300mm annual rainfall. In open, limestone country flowering is regular, but in heavily timbered areas or acid soils the stimulus of a bushfire, scrub-rolling or other soil disturbance is necessary for flowering to occur.

Non-flowering plants are usually green in colour but amazingly enough the flowering plants usually turn purple-black. This melanism or tendency to produce dark colour forms is common in *Prasophyllum*. Possibly the black leaves being lees conspicuous in a burnt area are less likely to be eaten by kangaroos. The survival element is selective of melanic plants after a fire and green ones under normal conditions. *P. elatum* fills both requisites.

In cultivation *P. elatum* will flower each year if it is repotted in fresh gravelly-clay bush soil and a fire of dead gum leaves made on top of the pot. A heavy pot is required to support the weight of the 120 cm tall plants. I use tall concrete pots as these give excellent drainage and accentuate the height of the plant. *P. elatum* does increase vegetatively if grown well (50-100% tuber increase per annum).

In Adelaide, flowering occurs in late September to early October and lasts about 3-4 weeks. Flowers are often lightly perfumed. An excellent plant for cultivation.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:-

Mr & Mrs B. Ebert	Mr A.P. Garnham
Dr N.J. Grundon	Mr V.K. Lewis

POPULAR VOTE - September 1980.

EPIPHYTES *Dendrobium speciosum* Ray Haese

TERRESTRIALS (*Caladenia patersonii* Bob Bates
(*Diuris maculata* x *D. longifolia* Les Nesbitt

Rainforests are the most interesting and beautiful of places for any person who likes plants of all types. The temperature in a rainforest is very constant, about 72°F to 82°F all the year, with a humidity of 50% to 80% and 50% to 75% of shade. In a 100 yards walk I have counted over 200 different species of ferns, trees, vines, shrubs and orchids.

When in flower it is a most spectacular and beautiful sight to see the colour, shape and form; from tiny *Bulbophyllum minutissimum* to great clumps of *Dendrobium speciosum*: Rocks covered in clumps of *Dendrobium kingianum* with masses of small pink flowers; pendulous sprays of *Dendrobium teretifolium* and *Dendrobium pugeoniforme* hanging from the trees.

Intermingled through the trees are numerous Staghorn, Elkhorn and Birdnest ferns. The trees and rocks are covered in lush carpets of green moss and creeping ferns that send their rhizomes 50 to 60 ft up huge Moreton Bay Fig trees. The Staghorn grows up to 8 ft across with 6 ft long antlers hanging down, while the Birdnest grows up to 12 ft across and are a truly magnificent sight.

Recently I visited a rainforest that is doomed for extinction as it is soon to be dozed down and cleared for a new housing estate to be built in the area. After obtaining the owner's permission to collect orchids from the area, I ventured in. As I entered the bush I saw growing on rotting logs and in the trees, clumps of *Cymbidium maddidum*. Great gums and paperbark trees grew everywhere forming a canopy of leaves so thick overhead that the sun never shines on the forest floor. Intermingled into the canopy were great vines with 6" thick trunks forming a great massive tangle of living plants.

I came across a grove of huge Sentry Palms, 100 ft high and behind the grove a magnificent Moreton Bay Fig over 100 ft. high and spreading over an area 120 ft. across. Its branches were covered in mosses and ferns. Attached to the trunk of the tree, I found eleven plants of a rare orchid, *Peristeranthus hillii*. By this time I decided to go back to the car as I had been four hours in the Rainforest. As I left the area and walked up through the open forest I discovered a patch of *Geodorum pictum*.

Just above the rainforest I came across a small gorge with the rocks covered with *Dendrobium kingianum*, *Liparis reflexa* and *Bulbophyllum aurantiacum*. Above the gorge were *Calanthe triplicata*.

A very pleasant way of enjoying a day out!

NICHOLS for sale.

Mary Earle has donated the following books to the NOSSA library:

Orchids of Papua - New Guinea O.S. of Papua New Guinea
 Victorian Native Orchids, Vol II C.E. Gray
 Australasian Sarcanthinae A.W. Dockrill
 Kangaroo Island Orchids I. Jackson
 Book for Orchid Lovers O.C.S.A.
 Orchids for all Syd Monkhouse
 A check list of Australian Native Orchid Hybrids A.N.O.S.

She has a copy of "Orchids of Australia" by W.H. Nicholls for sale.
 Contact Mary on 272.5089 if you are interested.

PLANT OF THE MONTH.

THELYMITRA ARISTATA (formerly *GRANDILORA*)

G. Nieuwenhoven

This is our largest sun orchid, its South Australian occurrence is widespread. from the Flinders Ranges to the Lofty Ranges and into the South-east of S.A., also Vic., N.S.W. and Qld. It is much sparser in number than *T. longifolia*.

Well grown plants have a very robust leaf up to 50 cm high and 50 mm wide, it is thick and fleshy. At the base it stands upright for its length, then curves away gradually and tapers into a sharp point (non flowering plants have much narrower leaves and are hard to distinguish from *T. longifolia*). The basal part of the leaf surrounds the thick flowering stem and the lowest bract. The plant has 3 or 4 large stem bracts. The flowering stem will reach 75 cm easily and produces many dark blue flowers which are also provided with a bract. Unfortunately the flowers open only on warm sunny days but a stem in full bloom is a magnificent sight indeed.

In cultivation it is not quite as easy as *T. longifolia*. My plant is growing in a soil, sand and peat mix and I use a large plastic tub. A large container is needed since a fully grown specimen produces an extensive root system to support the above ground part. The tuber is large commensurate with the rest of the plant. It is about 40-50 mm long and 30 mm across and normally does not increase vegetatively, therefore plants need to be increased by the seedling method.

Place your plant in the brightest location in your shadehouse (it will no doubt grow just as well in full sun with no shade), and if you are a worker, hope for sunny weekends as this is likely to be the only time you will see the flowers fully open.

Finally sun orchids, as a rule, do not like wet conditions (with some exceptions) and *T. aristata* in not any different, so do not over-water your plant.

RECOMMENDED READING

1. *RHIZANTHELLA GARDNERI*, The W.A. underground orchid.
A long article by A.S. GEORGE in the "American Orchid Society Bulletin" Vol 49, June 1980, gives details of last year's observations of the life cycle of these rare and mysterious plants.
2. An excellent article by Bob Bates on "The Cultivation of Caladenias" in the September 1980 issue of "The Orchadian" is required reading for every would be terrestrial grower.

QUESTION NIGHT

Our NOVEMBER meeting is the last for the year. The main item will be a question and answer session followed by a supper. Please write out your questions and hand them in at the October meeting. We want everyone to bring a plate of supper to the November meeting.

CULTURAL COMMENTS.

Les Nesbitt.

It is interesting to note how our orchids respond to changes in climate from season to season. 1980 began with no rain for 3 months. This very dry period was followed by 3 very wet months without the usual week or two of dry cool weather in the middle. The early long dry period did not affect the majority of my terrestrials but two groups showed signs of stress.

The first group was the Queensland terrestrials which are used to Summer rain. These plants have less resistance to drought when dormant and I lost some of them in late Summer. A cool shady area with very light watering in Summer is best for these. The group includes *Acianthus fornicatus*, *Pterostylis baptistii*, *Pt. depauperata*, *Pt. ophioglossa* var. *collina*, *Pt. stricta*, and *Thelymitra aristata*. If given full Summer watering they come up early but buds may not develop properly in our dry Autumn heat. A common feature of this group is that the new tuber develops at the same time as the leaves, early in the growing season. Local terrestrials do not commence making new tubers until mid-Winter when leaf growth is almost complete.

The second group of terrestrials affected by the dry spell were the cauline greenhoods (those with stem clasping leaves). Most of these flower early in the season but this year there were very few flowering plants and none at all in some species. I do have lots of nice rosettes so there is hope for "next year". *Pterostylis vittata* and *Pt. longifolia* were not affected and flowered freely as is normal. I did not get one flower from *Pt. truncata*, *Pt. revoluta*, *Pt. grandiflora* (but then I have never flowered this one), *Pt. parviflora*, and *Pt. fishii*, although one *fishii* threw up a late spike alongside a rosette which opened on 2nd August, (the normal flowering period is April-May). *Pt. obtusa* managed 1-2% flowering plants.

FIELD TRIP TO BLACK HILL NATIVE FLORA PARK, 30.8.80.

Peter Hornsby.

The weather forecast estimated a maximum of 26°C., a prediction that could have led to the warmest day since last summer. In fact, the Adelaide maximum for the day was 23.6°C., the effects of which were somewhat tempered by quantities of cloud scudding across the skies aided by a strong blustery wind. The constant threat of rain may have deterred us, but the orchids knew they were on to a good thing. Six weeks previously, Bob Markwick had been talking of *Pterostylis vittata* in full flower: by the time of this trip, the best to be seen were specimens with withering flowers, and several with the characteristically fat seed-pods. On the other hand, like Bob, we found *P. nana*, with plenty of them still in full bloom.

The original aim had been a quick flip round the Wildflower Garden, followed by a keep fit exercise to the top of Black Hill and back again. In the event, those who attended were more canny than the leader, so we spent sufficiently long in the Wildflower Garden to render the main circuit out of the question. Part of the reason for this arose because of the proliferation of orchids in the Garden area. Of these, probably the most noticeable at this time of the year is the smart blue-flowered. *Caladenia deformis*, an attractive orchid that is common throughout the Park.

We found dozens of *Acianthus* leaves, but only a few flowers of the early form of *A. reniformis*, some of the best specimens of which are to be found high up towards the top of Black Hill proper. Several *Eriochilus cucullatus* leaves were also found nearby.

FIELD TRIP TO BLACK HILL continued.

C. deformis was so frequently encountered that they were soon afforded little more than a passing glance, so it took the sharp eyes of Don Wells to spot the first *Glossodia major* in flower. Both plant and flower were quite small even by *C. deformis* standards. Even so there was no doubting its identification.

By then we had reached the edge of the low cliff overlooking the quarry. There one of our more unexpected finds was a small stand of *Prasophyllums*, one or two of which were in bud at a sufficiently advanced stage to enable us to identify them as *P. patens*. The official species list for the Park (Revised by J. Bolton, November 1979) shows that both *P. patens* var. *patens* and var. *pruinatum* are to be found, though at that stage we were unable to identify further than the species itself.

In the same area, we found a small specimen of *Diuris maculata* in flower. Its three flowers had sapped its strength to such an extent that Harry Brune felt sufficient compassion to prop it up with an effective twig. Meanwhile, a small example of *Caladenia dilatata*, standing about 15 cm. high, was persuaded to open a day earlier than nature intended. A feature of *C. dilatata*, *D. maculata* and *Glossodia major* was that all three were of much diminished stature. This is probably because they were so early in their flowering, coupled with the previous dry summer, and fairly dry autumn. The evidence for the latter though is somewhat negated by the size of some of the basal leaves we had seen from specimens that will be flowering much later in the season.

Diligent searching failed to disclose any other species in flower in the Wild Flower Garden, so we took to the main track up to the top of Black Hill. On our way out we stopped to admire the beautifully marked trunk of a *Eucalyptus steedmani* surely one of the real sights in the Garden area. Its appearance such as to leave one with the feeling that trainee rangers have the task of buffing it with copious spit and polish until the Park Director can see his face reflected from it!

One has to walk some way up the track before orchids are again to be found, so other classes of flora became the focus, but the walk did allow time to philosophise about orchids without being inconvenienced by having to stop and admire them!

Eventually we were rewarded by finding the late form of *A. reniformis* in bud, together with *A. exsertus*, some of which were in seed., but all were past flowering. The country member, Jim Shaughnessy, who had joined us for the day, confirmed his country affinities by calling "Hey, look at this" every time he found something interesting. He rewarded us with some fine specimens of *A. reniformis* in flower, and basal leaves of *G. major* "as big as on a good stem of barley". He was also the first to spot our last "new" orchid in flower with *P. pedunculata*, the only species we found that does not occur on the official Flora Park list.

At that juncture the decision was taken to retrace our steps, thereby putting the best examples of *A. reniformis*, together with *P. alata* var. *robusta* just beyond the reach of most of the party.

We were met at the Office by Greg Tedder, the ranger, who has a keen interest in the orchids, and who had previously pointed out the most appropriate places to look. We took him back into the Wildflower Garden to show him *D. maculata* in flower, and in return he showed us where *D. longifolia* "ought to be". True to his prediction, we found a very dainty specimen in full flower.

FIELD TRIP TO BLACK HILL continued.

While looking for the *D. maculata* we also came across some leaf spikes of what will possibly turn out to be one of the big *Prasophyllums*. Greg has promised to keep an eye on them. The way in which he just about knows each individual orchid plant among the more uncommon ones, as opposed to just the approximate area where they live, makes this to be no idle promise.

In all, we would like to thank Greg for his help and assistance, and hope that we will see him again in future visits to the native Flora Park. This was our first visit to the Park, but there is every reason to believe it will not be the last.

Eventually, we recorded ten species in flower; over one third of those on the official list.

Orchids seen:—

In flower:

Acianthus reniformis
Caladenia deformis
C. dilatata
Diuris longifolia
D. maculata
Glossodia major
Pterostylis alata var. *robusta*
P. nana
P. pedunculata
P. vittata

In bud:

Prasophyllum patens

Past flowering:

Acianthus exsertus
Eriochilus cucullatus

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APPENDIX

Orchids of the Black Hill Native Flora Park.

(From the November 1979 revised species list by J. Bolton.)

<i>Acianthus exsertus</i>	<i>Glossodia major</i>
<i>A. reniformis</i>	<i>Microtis unifolia</i>
<i>Caladenia deformis</i>	<i>Prasophyllum nigricans</i>
<i>C. dilatata</i> var. <i>dilatata</i>	<i>P. patens</i> var. <i>patens</i>
<i>C. heugelii</i> var. <i>reticulata</i>	<i>P. patens</i> var. <i>pruinoseum</i>
<i>C. leptochila</i>	<i>P. rufa</i>
<i>C. patersonii</i>	<i>Pterostylis alata</i> var. <i>robusta</i>
<i>Calochilus robertsonii</i>	<i>P. nana</i>
<i>Corybas diemenicus</i>	<i>P. plumosa</i>
<i>C. dilatatus</i>	<i>P. vittata</i>
<i>Dipodium punctatum</i>	<i>Thelymitra antennifera</i>
<i>Diuris longifolia</i>	<i>T. carnea</i> var. <i>carnea</i>
<i>D. maculata</i>	<i>T. carnea</i> var. <i>rubra</i>
<i>Eriochilus cucullatus</i>	<i>T. pauciflora</i>

ORCHID FESTIVAL 20-21 September. 1980.

Peter Hornsby.

The Orchid Festival was an occasion completely different from anything previously attempted, so naturally there was a certain amount of apprehension about the out-come. As it turned out, all went smoothly, in spite of the weather. The forecast was "fine and mild"; on Saturday the sun shone intermittently in the morning, brilliantly at lunchtime, then hardly at all in the afternoon, whereas Sunday was uniformly dull. This naturally curtailed our tally of Sun Orchids, none of which we saw fully open. This, in turn, probably increased the amount of time devoted to them in terms of learned discussion; Bob Markwick was regularly to be seen carefully examining *T. carnea* var. *rubra* in an attempt to resolving the suggestion that Fitzgerald's *T. urnalis* is really a developmental stage for *T. carnea* var. *rubra*. An interesting by-product of this examination was examples of what he suspected may have been *T. irregularis*. By the following day he had modified his opinion in favour of them being "a *T. ixioides* cross, but what with I would not hazard a guess". Somewhat less controversial Thelymitras to be recorded included *T. pauciflora* and *T. antennifera*, both of which were sufficiently far advanced to permit the contention that we would have found them certainly in flower had the sun favoured us with a little more consistency.

We were fortunate enough to have Enid Robertson and Ann Prescott with us at Warren Conservation Park. They helped our Parrakie guests to put specific names to several of the genera they had recognised from locally growing examples. Even so, the responses were tempered with the professional botanist's caution - thus we managed *Goodenia primulacea*, but only *Leucopogon* sp. Ann became quite lyrical at the discovery of a tiny *Levenhookia dubia*, one of the *Stylidiaceae*, or Trigger Plants, with diminutive white flowers. Falling on her knees, she was extolling its virtues until someone pointed out she was kneeling on a meat ant's nest. This episode probably accounted for why Ann and Enid were the only ones to get as far as the creek, finding *Pterostylis longifolia* and *P. pedunculata* in flower in the process, as well as *P. alata* var. *robusta*. Several others also found the last named, but most examples were well past their flowering stage.

Among the first species to be found were *Corybas diemenicus* and *Acianthus exsertus* in seed, plus *A. reniformis* in flower. There were still quite a few *P. nana* in flower, but all the *P. vittata* were well beyond that stage. Les Nesbitt makes the point that with *P. vittata* and *P. longifolia*, where one is found then invariably the other is also there. However, in Warren C.P., *P. longifolia* is relatively uncommon whereas *P. vittata* is frequently encountered.

It was not long before the most spectacular *Caladenia patersonii* was spotted. They were undoubtedly the highlight of the morning, and we were to find some really superb specimens. They were liberally scattered over the hill near the entrance to the Park, but *C. huegelii* var. *reticulata*, another striking caladenia was confined to one small patch. Our interstate guest, Andrew Garnham, from Melbourne, the custodian of the tuber bank for A.N.O.S. Victoria, showed an unusual singleness of purpose in being the first to find *C. catenata* - more familiar to us under its former name of *C. carnea* - on both Saturday and Sunday!

Once again we discovered the basal rosette of the solitary '*P. rufa* type' seen previously on our visit to the Park on October 8th last year, close to a clump of *Acacia continua*, another species that is widespread throughout South Australia. The *Acacia* was of particular interest to Pat Holmes, the Parrakie Group President, who is also a member of the S.G.A.P. Acacia Study Group.

Another relatively uncommon species for us on this visit was *Diuris maculata* while none of the *Glossodia major* to be seen had reached the flowering stage.

ORCHID FESTIVAL continued.

Returning to the cars, we found *Microtis unifolia* in flower, leaving Claire Lithgow, the Parrakie Group Secretary, struck by the enormous size contrast between the tiny green flowers of *M. unifolia* and the flowers of *C. patersonii*.

The last find for the morning was a couple of patches of *C. deformis*, rather faded and jaded, but still recognisable. With that we left the patchy sunshine and adjourned to Les and Kay Nesbitt's Orchid Nursery at Kersbrook, where we enjoyed a magnificent barbecue lunch under a brilliant clear blue sky.

Eventually replete, we wended our way back through the Adelaide Hills to a somewhat cold and windy Morialta Conservation Park. There one of the first orchids to be encountered was *D. maculata*, together with numerous basal leaves of *Lyperanthus nigricans*, though nobody found any likely to flower. We again found *P. vittata* in seed, and *D. longifolia* in bud. Eventually a couple of specimens of the latter were found in flower, but the highlight of the afternoon was a magnificent specimen of a hybrid between *D. longifolia* and *D. maculata*. We are familiar with Les Nesbitt's "home grown" examples, but this one, while equally recognisable, was quite different, with big petals having the upper surfaces predominantly a rich purple colour streaked with yellow.

Further searching revealed dozens of *M. unifolia* stems, but none had reached the flowering stage. However, we did find *C. leptochila* in flower. This was the first time Andrew had seen a wild one, and he was also impressed by the size of *C. dilatata*, several examples of which were flowering nearby.

Our last 'free-living' species to be recorded was *P. alata* var. *robusta*. By this stage it had become decidedly cooler, and after digressing to compare the diversity of colour to be found in *Grevillea lavendulacea* at that location, we adjourned to the home of the M.O.P. Group leaders, Don and Bubs Wells, to admire the captive specimens in their shade houses.

Later our guests were treated to a slide show and supper to 'round off' the day at the home of Les and Kay Nesbitt, with a lamp-lit tour of the orchids there.

Partially revived, we made our way on Sunday morning to the Belair Recreation Park, where our numbers were supplemented by several additional members. After initial confusion with the Belair Entrance gates, we reassembled at the Pines Oval, where there was a marked lack of enthusiasm for the suggested jog to the top of the hill (offered as compensation to those who had to miss the morning's fun-run from the City to the Sea, Adelaide to Glenelg). Perhaps it was as well because we found numerous orchids before we reached the top of the hill. The first to be seen was *Diuris longifolia*, a species to become one of the most plentiful and widespread for this visit.

Next to be discovered was *Pterostylis pedunculata* in flower, with *Acianthus exsertus* and *Corybas dilatatus* in seed nearby. We even found one beautiful example of a "hybrid" between *P. pedunculata* and an *Acianthus*; the *Pterostylis* stem growing exactly in line with the stem "notch" in the *Acianthus* leaf!

Also at hand were *P. longifolia* in seed, and a couple of *Thelymitras*, *T. antennifera*, *T. carnea* var. *rubra*, all resolutely closed against the unrewarding weather. One *Glossodia major* had made the mistake of opening, and as a result had more than forty admirers that morning. Other species still to flower included *T. pauciflora*, *T. aristata* and *Microtis unifolia*.

P. nana were found with some still flowering, but many already with big seed pods. Then someone spotted an unusual *Diuris*. "It's a *Diuris* alright; *Diuris* 'stone the crows', I wouldn't like to say exactly what it is", was Bob Markwick's initial reaction. Once he'd recovered his amazement and had time to

ORCHID FESTIVAL continued.

pick out the defining characteristics, it resolved into a probable hybrid between *D. pedunculata* and *D. longifolia*. There were plenty of the latter round about, and Oliver and Margaret Fuller had earlier in the day located a plentiful patch of *D. pedunculata* near the Governor's Residence, but it was quite a trek from there to where we were.

Eventually we drifted further into the orchid "patch", finding some good examples of *A. reniformis*, with three and four flowers. Andrew Garnham spotted an unusual *Microtis*, with two basal leaves, making a mockery of its specific name, *M. unifolia*. Another species whose name embodies its description was *T. luteocilium* unopened, like its predecessors, it was still examined. "It must be *T. luteocilium* look at the yellow column tufts". While examining that, we noticed a solitary *Caladenia leptochila* nearby, whereas earlier we had found several examples of *C. dilatata* in full flower.

Once in the orchid patch, *P. vittata* was found in seed and then the species we had been looking for, *D. pedunculata*. Then we spotted a dense clump of *C. menziesii*, and we were lucky enough to find about half a dozen in flower – giving us an opportunity for showing our guests our floral emblem in its natural state. A mere stride away, we discovered *P. plumosa* in bud, and soon found one open. Andrew maintained his reputation by finding an example of *C. catenata*, with big pink flowers. While this was happening, our country guest, Jim Shaughnessy suddenly burst out with "By golly, look at this", and so discovered our first *Prasophyllum*, probably *P. patens*, in bud.

Turning westwards, we continued to the edge of the ironstone area that forms the orchid patch, and found several more examples of *C. leptochila* in flower, together with another *Diuris* hybrid, very close in appearance to the one we had found earlier, though on this occasion, both *D. pedunculata* and *D. longifolia* were to be seen close by.

At that juncture, we made our way back to the cars where we split into two groups; one went with the Fullers to near the Governor's Residence, where we again found *D. pedunculata*, though considerably more plentiful than previously together with *C. dilatata* and *C. leptochila*, as well as *D. longifolia* and *T. antennifera*, tantalizingly close to being open.

Meanwhile the other group had made their way to the other end of the Park, where they found *C. catenata* in flower, together with our Secretary, Roy Hargreaves speciality, *P. curta*. (The idea that someone was going to look at *curta* caused Roy to start off so fast in his car that he nearly took one of the Park benches with him.) This group was also successful in finding some of the elusive *P. cucullata* in full bloom.

By that stage, most of us were satiated (and some of us stupefied!) with orchids, so we gave it all away and moved back to my own home where the finishing touches were being applied to the biggest lunch ever to be served there.

cOo

In summary, two features emerge from this weekend. In the first instance, we had a chance to make instant comparisons between three quite widely separated National Parks. We found *Caladenia patersonii* extensive in one Park, and non-existent in the other two, whereas *C. dilatata* was just about in bloom at Morialta, none seen in flower at Warren, and plenty in bloom at Belair. On the other hand, *Microtis unifolia* was in bloom at Warren, very close to it at Belair, but nowhere near it at Morialta. *C. leptochila* was about equally advanced at Belair and Morialta, while Belair led by a nose in the flowering of *Glossodia major*. *Acianthus reniformis* was in flower both at Belair and Warren,

ORCHID FESTIVAL continued.

but the individual plants were far bigger in the former Park. *Diuris longifolia* was well into flower at Belair, but only just beginning at Morialta, and so on.

The second aspect concerns the people side of the Festival. We have never had a social gathering before and this time we made the effort and by the reactions of those who attended, and indeed from the numbers who turned up (we 'seated' nearly 40 on each occasion) it was a success.

Those who came were surfeited with both orchids and good food; we came, we saw, and we had a highly satisfactory time. It would be invidious to try and name names, so let me finish by saying a very sincere "Thank You" to all those people who worked so hard to make the Festival the success it was. And we would like to say "Thank You" to our principal guests, the Parrakie Group of S.G.A.P., who alone were responsible for the germ of the idea in the first place. We have their appreciation in the form of an attractive illuminated address, together with a donation for our library; "Thank You" for that unnecessary but nevertheless much appreciated gesture.

Orchids seen:—

WARREN C.P.	MORIALTA C.P.	BELAIR R.P.
In flower:		
<i>Acianthus reniformis</i>	<i>Caladenia dilatata</i>	<i>Acianthus reniformis</i>
<i>Caladenia catenata</i>	<i>C. leptochila</i>	<i>Caladenia catenata</i>
<i>C. deformis</i>	<i>Diuris longifolia</i>	<i>C. dilatata</i>
<i>C. huegelii</i> var.	<i>D. longifolia</i> x	<i>C. leptochila</i>
<i>reticulata</i>	<i>maculata</i>	<i>C. menziesii</i>
<i>C. patersonii</i>	<i>D. macula.</i>	<i>Diuris longifolia</i>
<i>Diuris maculata</i>	<i>Pterostylis, alata</i> var.	<i>D. longifolia</i> x
<i>Microtis unifolia</i>	<i>robusta</i>	<i>pedunculata</i>
<i>Pterostylis alata</i> var.		<i>D. pedunculata</i>
<i>robusta</i>		<i>Glossodia major</i>
<i>P. longifolia</i>		<i>Pterostylis cucullata</i>
<i>P. nana</i>		<i>P. curta</i>
<i>P. pedunculata</i>		<i>P. nana</i>
<i>P. pedunculata</i>		
		<i>P. plumosa</i>
		<i>Thelymitra antennifera</i>
In bud:		
<i>Glossodia major</i>	<i>Glossodia major</i>	<i>Microtis unifolia</i>
<i>Thelymitra antennifera</i>	<i>Thelymitra antennifera</i>	<i>Prasophyllum patens</i> (?)
<i>T. carnea</i> var. <i>rubra</i>	<i>T. carnea</i> var. <i>rubra</i>	<i>Thelymitra aristata</i>
<i>T. pauciflora</i>		<i>T. carnea</i> var. <i>rubra</i>
<i>T. affin ixiodes</i>		<i>T. luteocilium</i>
		<i>T. pauciflora</i>
In seed:		
<i>Acianthus exsertus</i>	<i>Acianthus exsertus</i>	<i>Acianthus exsertus</i>
<i>Corybas diemenicus</i>	<i>Pterostylis vittata</i>	<i>Corybas dilatatus</i>
<i>Pterostylis vittata</i>		<i>Pterostylis longifolia</i>
		<i>P. vittata</i>
Basal Leaves:		
<i>Pterostylis affin. rufa</i>	<i>Lyperanthus nigricans</i>	
<i>Microtis unifolia</i>		