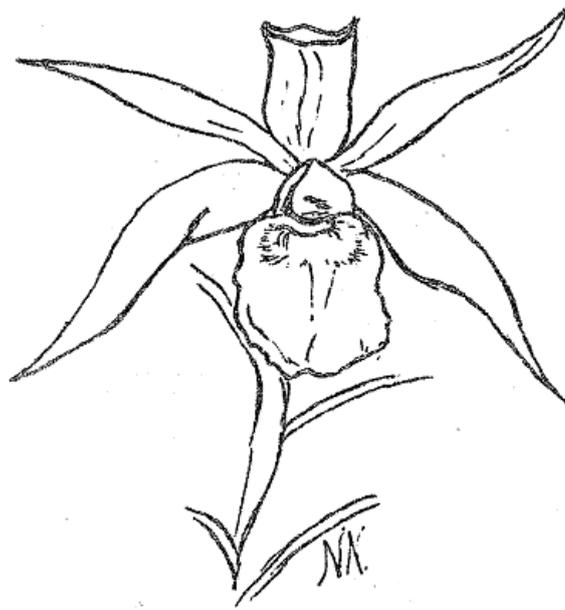
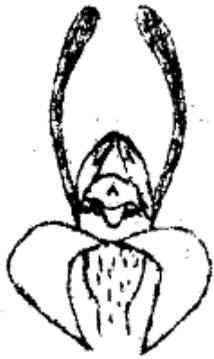


NATIVE ORCHID
SOCIETY
of
SOUTH AUSTRALIA





NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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NEXT MEETING

WHEN: Tuesday, 24th : February, 1981, at 8.00 p.m.

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

SUBJECT: Orchids of the Grampians, recollections of the 1980 Field trip.

Would those members that went on this trip please bring any slides taken during the trip.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1981.

The Annual General Meeting of NOSSA will be held on Tuesday, 24th March, at 8.00 p.m., prior to the ordinary monthly meeting.

Nominations for Management Committee.

Nominations are required for the following offices:-

President (One position.)
Vice President (One position.)
Honorary Secretary (One position.)
Honorary Treasurer (One position.)
Committee member (Two positions)

All sitting members can be re-elected. Mr Reg Shooter and Mr George Nieuwenhoven still have one year to serve on committee. Nomination forms are available from the secretary or at the February meeting. Completed forms must be lodged with the Secretary twenty-one days prior to the Annual General Meeting,

Front Cover:- *Phaius tancarvilliae*.

PLANT DISPLAY.

Have you noticed how well our plant display has been illuminated lately by our new floodlights? These lights have been provided by our Vice-President Jim Simmons - an excellent piece of work and a most generous gesture. Thank you Jim on behalf of the Committee and Members.

On the subject of plant displays, please note that your Committee has, decided on a slight but important change. From the next meeting we will have four categories of plants, namely Terrestrial species, Terrestrial hybrids, Epiphytic species and Epiphytic hybrids. The Popular Vote will not be affected by the change and you are asked to name one plant of your choice from the Terrestrial and Epiphytic sections as usual.

CONSERVATION.

NOSSA has recently made a representation to the South Australian Government about the unallotted Crown Lands on Kangaroo Island, as you will no doubt know the Government has proposed to subdivide this land into farm-land and investigations are being made by the Government into the matter at present, We have received an acknowledgement from the Government of our letter.

SHOWS AND MEETINGS.

David Cannon, the well known grower and hybridiser of native orchids from Melbourne, will be the guest speaker at the orchid Club of S.A. at the Australian Mineral Foundation Building, Conyngham Street, Glenside, on Thursday, 5th March, 1981, commencing at 8p.m. His subject will be 'Cold growing Australian native epiphytic orchids.'

Those interested may like to take the opportunity to go and hear what he has to say, it is sure to be an informative evening.

N.E.D.O.S. The Winter Show will be on the 17-18th July. Plant. set-up is on the 16th. The Spring Show will be from 3rd to 5th September with the plant set-up on 2nd September, NOSSA members have been cordially invited to exhibit at these shows.

S.G.A.P. The SGAP Show will be held on 26-27th September 1981 in the Walter Duncan Hall at Wayville Showgrounds. NOSSA will again put in an exhibit and judging by last year's effort should be worth seeing. Why not plan to join us and make it even better?

SEED AND TUBER BANK.

Don Wells, our hard-working convenor of this enterprise, would be pleased to receive the donation of any native orchid seed from Members. If you have any seed to spare let Don have it for distribution.

SOME THOUGHTS OCCASIONED BY THE VISIT TO THE ASH WEDNESDAY BUSHFIRE AREA. P.H.

Assuming that one is talking of a summer fire, then the effects of a bushfire on orchids may be categorised in three ways. The orchids may be negatively affected, or damaged by the fire. They may be positively affected, or facilitated, by it; or they may be relatively unaffected .

Orchids that seem to be relatively unaffected are such species as *Glossodia major* and *Caladenia dilatata*. Both have the habit of developing their new tubers below the old ones, so they become successively lower each year. Hence the plants most likely to survive are the most mature specimens.

Other species, such as *Microtis unifolia*, develop their tubers relatively close to, though beneath, the surface of the ground. The way they are affected depends partly on how close the tubers are to the surface: and the intensity of the fire at that point. Thus *M. unifolia* could still be found at the perimeter of the fire zone, but not at the more intensely burned central parts.

The fire stopped at one of the firebreaks in the Loftia Recreation Park, making it possible to draw direct comparisons between the burnt area and the parts that were untouched. In the latter area were to be found, in quantity, the basal leaves of *Acianthus reniformis* and *Pterostylis nana*, while *P. pedunculata* were still in flower. These were in effect totally absent across the track in the area that had been burnt out.

These species, together with others such as *A. exsertus*, *Corybas dilatatus* and *C. diemenicus*, have two pertinent characteristics in common. Firstly they tend to be found in areas of deep litter, with many of the tubers in the litter itself, while those actually in the soil tend to be close to the surface. In view of this it is hardly surprising that only a very small percentage manage to survive the fire.

Bushfires can, under natural self-regulated conditions, extend over large areas and so the survival of odd examples of an orchid species at widely spaced intervals would not auger well for the long term continuance of the species. One way of overcoming this problem would be for the species to become self-pollinating. This is an effective but extremely slow process. A much faster method is that embodied in the second common characteristic of this group of orchids, namely that they are "colony" types - that is, they can reproduce vegetatively. This enables a small remaining plant to increase by geometric progression. For example, if a sole remaining *P. nana* produces four tubers the first year, and each of these produce four the following year it obviously does not take very long before the species becomes re-established ; albeit in a relatively confined area. It stands to reason that species behaving in this manner have an enhanced chance of survival and so probably accounts for why those species exist today.

The final classification was the group of orchids that are facilitated by fire. The most visible orchid in the Ash Wednesday fire area was *Prasophyllum elatum*. It had an unusual feature in being predominately green in ordinary circumstances - that is, producing green plants - but more plants than usual are produced after a fire, with the majority of the plants being black. This does not mean that the species contains a black, or melanistic, form that appears only after a fire. It is rather that individual plants change colour as a consequence of the fire.

There are instances in the animal kingdom, for example among fauna from arctic areas, where animals shed their "normal" coloured fur, in favour of a pure white coat, in winter, that enables them to blend in with the snow. A similar effect achieved, in reverse, by the black form of *P. elatum*.

Some thoughts occasioned by the visit to the Ash Wednesday bushfire area. Cont'd.

In this guise it is hard to distinguish them from blackened remains of the shrubs amongst which they are to be found. The visual effect is sufficiently striking to make the justification for the colour change seem obvious. The reason for it is harder to determine. It looks very like a visually protective camouflage, enabling the plant to merge with its background and, as such would have come about as a result of following Darwinian laws of natural selection. A quick check of today's mammals failed to reveal any that depend on visual acuity as a means of finding their food. (It is interesting to speculate about *P. elatum* evolving a black form in order to protect itself against some prehistoric mammal wandering through the blackened remains in search of food.) What seems much more likely is that the mechanism is for protection from birds. For the orchidist what is probably much more significant is the mechanism whereby the orchid manages to change its colour.

There are two other common species that flower in profusion after a bushfire. These are *Lyperanthus nigricans* and *Caladenia menziesii*. Both are colony forming species and both produce tubers relatively close to the surface of the ground. These features put them in the same category as the species that were considered vulnerable to fire. In fact what was said at the time was equally applicable to these two species, and as the result of such a bushfire, many are destroyed. However, *L. nigricans* and *C. menziesii* possess a common characteristic that differentiates them from other species. *A. exsertus* and *A. reniformis* are typical of the other group in the way in which they grow at the base of trees. These species probably do this because they require the supplementary moisture achieved from the run-off from the tree trunks; and conversely the supplementary moisture is necessary to enable the tubers to survive in the leaf litter.

L. nigricans and *C. menziesii* prefer drier areas and are associated more with the under storey shrubs than with big trees. There, as mentioned, they are still vulnerable to the effects of the fire, but not to such a marked extent.

Even during a bushfire the ground is subject to boundary layer conditions. This means that where there is a shallow depression in the ground, the fire will tend to jump from one edge to the other, leading to a situation where, although the above-ground vegetation will be burnt, the soil at the bottom of the depression will be partially insulated. This is why patches of *L. nigricans* and *C. menziesii* that survived the fire tend to be found in such depressions.

Plants living in small colonies: as opposed to isolated individuals, lend themselves to reproduction by cross-pollination, except that in this instance all that remains is a few small colonies. This means that what is required is an enhanced rate of reproduction. Thus there exists the phenomenon of these two species flowering in considerably higher numbers after a fire. This is not to say that the plants have developed this mechanism because of the post-fire effects, but rather that species that are able to do this have the best chance, in the long run, of surviving. Given that this is the case, here once again the problem of chief interest to the orchidist is why the individual plants flower as a response to direct stimulus of the fire.

Having survived the fire, and then flowering en masse in restricted but readily visible areas, means these species would be vulnerable to birds and mammals. They have overcome this problem by having red flowers.

All in all, it is possible to look at the behaviour of the orchids towards such a catastrophe and see how they have refined various mechanisms that have enabled them to cope with the situation.

ADDITIONS AND EXTENSIONS TO KNOWN RANGE OF ORCHIDS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA
DURING 1980.

R. Bates

Prasophyllum frenchii F.U.M. Plants collected in the Adelaide Hills from Longwood, Mylor and Loftia Park exhibit the same morphological variation as plants of this species from Victoria. The population from the Adelaide Hills probably includes *P. gracile* R.S. Rogers (nom. illeg.), *P. frenchii* is in the *P. fuscum* complex and may eventually be included under that name.

A colony of hybrid greenhoods *Pterostylis curta* x *P. pedunculata* was located in the Belair Recreation Park in September. A probable collection of this hybrid was also made from Cherry Gardens some forty years ago and this collection is in the Adelaide herbarium. The Belair plants are easily recognisable as hybrids as they are growing between large colonies of the parent species and are intermediate in most features.

A collection of *Caladenia patersonii* from Menglers Hill in the Barossa has been compared with W.A. material of *C. patersonii* var *longicauda* and found to match large specimens of this taxon in detail. This variety has not previously been recorded in S.A. although it has not been policy, to differentiate between the numerous forms of *C. patersonii* in this State (Le. forma *concolor* and var. *suaveolens*).

Extension to known range during 1980 include collections of *C. ovata* R.S. Rogers made on the mainland in the Deep Creek Conservation Park in October. This species which is very close to *C. leptochila* has not previously been recorded outside Kangaroo Island, (where it is close to extinction) .

Caladenia menziesii R. Br. was found in large numbers near Marion Bay in Sept. It had not previously been recorded for Yorke Peninsula. In leaf litter on travertine limestone some 90% of plants were in flower.

Thelymitra fuscolutea R. Pr. although known to occur on Eyre Peninsula was collected for the first time in October near the Todd Reservoir. A 1960 collection of *Acianthus caudatus* from Mosquito Hill was located at Adelaide herbarium and allowed official recognition of that species for our South East (see also J. Clayson N.O.S.S.A. Journal June 1978).

Minor extensions include *Diuris pedunculata* in the Murray Region (near Murray Bridge) and *Caladenia dilatata* var *concinna* in the Gairdner Torrens Basin on Lake Everard Station.

Prasophyllum occidentale (*P. fuscum* var *occidentale* (R.S. Rogers) Weber & Bates) previously not collected outside S.A. was found (on the N.O.S.S.A. field trip to the Grampians), at Kiata in Western Victoria in October.

Collections were made from all locations mentioned and lodged at the Adelaide herbarium.

A SOUTH AUSTRALIAN VISIT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE W.A. NATIVE ORCHID STUDY AND
CONSERVATION GROUP.

Peter Hornsby.

Alison Harrington, President of the Western Australian Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group, visited her parents, (Mr & Mrs Bert Hocking (two of our founder members) last Christmas. At their invitation, several of us were able to meet Alison and hear the latest news about the W.A. Group.

As their name implies, the W.A. Group is more oriented towards the conservation side and one of the principal activities is in the compilation of records of where different orchid species are found.

A South Australian visit by the President of the W.A. Native Orchid Study And Conservation Group (Contd.)

This is a function that has scarcely been touched upon by NOSSA, and one with which our Society must become more closely associated in the future, as part of our concern about the preservation of South Australian orchids. In contrast, few W.A. members are interested in home cultivation of native orchids and consequently they do not have a table display at monthly meetings - often one of the main features of NOSSA meetings.

In anticipation of the get-together, Alison had brought with her cut specimens of some of the December flowering West Australian terrestrial orchids. Included were several *Thelymitras*, *Caladenias* (imagine spider orchids flowering for Christmas!), *Microtis* and *Lyperanthus forrestii*. The last mentioned had delicate pink and white flowers and a heady perfume. The scent is sufficiently strong to be a means for locating them in the bush. Alison also showed us dome slides of W.A. orchids and the flower of *L. forrestii* particularly caught the attention of Bob Bates. He made the point that if you fastened a *Caladenia* leaf to the stem, one would swear it was an example of *C. lyallii* - a comment on the particularly strong resemblance between the flowers of the two species. In itself this is also an indication of the affinity between the genus *Lyperanthus* and the so-called "Eucaladenia" section of the genus *Caladenia*. Hence it is not surprising that, for example, *L. nigricans* has also been known as *C. nigricans*, the name given by Robert Brown.

Alison showed slides of several other *Caladenias*, including the December flowering *C. corynephora*, with very dense calli. Also flowering in December and found near Albany in the South-west is *C. gemmata*, blue flowered, with purple spots on the labellum and yellow backs to the petals, in fact a species closely resembling *Glossodia major* in its general appearance. She also showed *C. integra*, so named because of the absence of fringes to the labellum (hence its common name of "smooth lipped" spider orchid) and *C. longiclavata* with huge yellow clubs on the petals and sepals; together with *C. plicata*, also founds in the South-west, and which flowers particularly after fires.

She showed *Thelymitra cucullata*, a species flowering in early December, and the more familiar *T. nuda*, (cyn. *T. longifolia*) together with *T. canaliculata* this latter being readily distinguishable from the S.A. form by its strong pink colouration at the base of the petals and sepals, and a much more conspicuous veining. Alison also showed us *T. tigrina*, a small species having yellow flowers spotted with brown. We were also shown an example in pale yellow without spots. *T. tigrina* is to be found flowering in swamps, especially after fire. There were also a couple of *Prasophyllums*, *P. triangulare*, a rare orchid, also flowering in swamps, especially after fire and *P. brownii*, found by Robert Brown during a January visit to the Albany district. There were three *Microtis* including *M. atrata*, the tiny species also found in S.A.; *M. alba*, so named in spite of a definite pale green tinting in the flowers, and *M. brownii*, which Alison thinks may be self-pollinating.

Lastly there was *Eriochilus scaber*, looking like a pink form of *C. menziesii* and *Epiblema grandiflorum*, another swamp-flowering orchid, which is unusual because of its "woody" stem and its habit of climbing like a creeper to the tops of shrubs, where its flowers are readily seen. Thus to find it, one looks for shrubs with beautiful purple flowers.

In all, we had a very pleasant evening, and we are extremely grateful to Alison and, to the Hockings for enabling us to meet her. Hopefully one of these days she will be in Adelaide for one of our monthly meetings and will be able to address the whole Society. Undoubtedly it would be a worthwhile occasion.

Supplementary close-up lenses.

Supplementary close-up lenses or meniscus lenses, sometimes called "portrait attachments" - are lenses which screw into the front of the camera lens just like filters. They come in different magnifications, and are generally available in +1, +2 and +3 dioptré strengths. These supplementary lenses shorten the effective focal length of the camera lens to give a larger image, and may be likened to a low-powered magnifying glass, the higher the dioptré number the stronger the lens and the closer the working distance. They may be used in combination to give a higher power, eg. a +3 and a +2 may be used together to give a +5. Two, or even more may be used, but for the best results the stronger lens should be closest to the camera lens, and no more than two should be used at once. If a filter is to be used, it should be screwed on last.

To give a greater magnification, these lenses can be used with lenses of longer focal length than the standard 50 - 55 mm lenses, up to 200 mm. This also provides an added bonus by increasing the working distance from the subject, an advantage if flash lighting is to be used.

The Hoya Zoom Close-up Lens is another very useful supplementary lens available in most popular filter sizes. This is a light weight lens, providing infinitely variable strengths through a range from approximately +2 dioptrés to +10 dioptrés. Matched with a 50 mm lens, it can give an image on film approximately 1/2 the size of an original covering an area of approximately 78mm x 50 mm, adequate for providing reasonable photographic reproductions of many of our South Australian orchids. The front ring of this lens is engraved with a scale from .49 m (2.04 dioptrés) to 0.1 m (10 dioptrés). The degree of magnification is selected by rotating this ring, just like focusing a normal camera lens.

Supplementary lenses have a lot going for them but they also have some disadvantages. They are relatively cheap, light-weight, capable of giving reproduction ratios up to approximately 1:2, and need no alteration to the basic exposure since there is virtually no light loss associated with their use. However, the image is really only satisfactory in the centre, so the smallest possible aperture should be used to improve sharpness and increase the very shallow depth-of-field. (Apertures of the order f8 - f11 or smaller will give acceptable results). Also, for some of our smaller native orchids, the magnification provided is not great enough,.

Next month: Extension rings.

TUBERS GALORE. L.T. Nesbitt

A terrestrial grower had more species readily available this summer than ever before. Those of us with more than ten years experience, who struggled to build up a collection, adding one or two new species a year, if we were lucky, are perhaps a little envious.

When I received the offerings from NOSSA's tuber bank I stopped to think how far things have developed in a few short years. The NOSSA list included 17 species. and 5 hybrids. If you drew also from the ANOS Victoria tuber bank and our Dormant Tuber Catalogue, you could have had an instant collection of 36 species, 2 natural hybrids and 5 man-made hybrids, a total of 45 different orchids. Not bad at all for a new grower. It makes you wonder what the situation will be like in 10 years from now, Will it be 300 species and 600 hybrids?

CRYPTOSTYLIS LEPTOCHILA - Small Tongue Orchid.

This plant is, of course, not a native to. South Australia, but occurs from the New England Tableland in N.S.W. south to Victoria where it is widespread in eastern highland forests, according to W.H. Nicholls. Plants may be from 15 -35 cm high. The leaves are ovate or egg shaped and broader below the middle on 3 - 6 cm long stalks, the upper surface is green while underneath it is brown to purple. _ The underground part consists of a long rhizome varying in thickness from perhaps 4 mm up to 10 mm. It is through these rhizomes the plant extends itself in its chosen location and can grow into an extensive patch of plants. The dominant feature of the flower is its labellum which is reddish in colour, fairly narrow and abruptly bend near the base. It is slightly hairy and has two or three rows of what appear to be dark spots but these are actually calli. From nine to twelve flowers per plant are produced which open progressively. The plant is often common in the localities it favours.

In cultivation it is not a particularly rampant grower and will sometimes sulk for a long time before it produces new leaves even then these may be very small compared to fully grown specimens. It pays to keep this species at least slightly moist during the summer period, this is the time it flowers, and a well grown specimen will flower for 2 months. During this time you may observe the male pollinating wasps (*Lissopimpla semipunctata*) pollinating the flowers and if you look closely see how the flower colour and the spots resemble the wasp. The same species of wasp probably pollinates all species of *Cryptostylis* in Australia of which there are 5. It is suggested soil which occurs near where the plants grow be used as potting soil.. My plant grows in a large plastic pot and seems quite happy under 50% shade cloth, standing amongst other evergreen plants.

References: W.H. Nicholls, *Orchids of Australia*.

CULTURAL NOTES

P.K. McKay, Toowoomba

PLECTORRHIZA: *tridentata*

RHINERRHIZA: *divitiflora*

PERISTERANTHUS: *hillii*

Temperature: 60 to 90°F.

Humidity: 50% to 100%.

Light: Heavy shade 75% or more. No direct sunlight. Will die in direct sun.

Watering: Heavy misting in hot weather, none during winter and cold weather.

Fertilize: Liquid fertilizer 1/2 strength in misting water every 3 to 4 days during growing season from Spring through to Autumn. (N.P.K. approx 30-4-8).

Pot mix: Mount on board or tree limb, cover roots with moss, bind with fishing line to deep mounted. Except for *Plectorrhiza tridentata*, it tangles its roots around twigs of scrubby brush at the end of tree limbs;.

Additional notes: Flowering season: late Spring into Summer. These three species closely related to Vanda family are very true epiphytes. *Plectorrhiza tridentata* does not host on the bark of trees but is actually free hanging at the end of branches, tangled in twigs etc. Its roots free hang up to 4 ft. in the air. The other two species will attach their roots to the host tree for support.

FIELD TRIP TO YUNDI AND KNOTT HILL - 14/12/80.

Bob Markwick

This trip was originally scheduled to search for orchids in a swamp south of Mount Compass. However, an advance party consisting of Roy Hargreaves and Alwin Clements discovered that this venue was too greatly altered by pasture grasses and grazing stock to justify a visit. Instead, with the kind permission of Brian and May Warner, we were again able to inspect the swamp on their property at Yundi.

The first orchid seen was a solitary white flowered *Spiranthes sinensis*, ssp. *australis* (R.Br.) *Kitamura* found growing with many purple and white coloured, flowers of *Utricularia dichotoma*, surely the most common flower seen during the afternoon.

In many ways this trip was virtually an action replay of last December's visit. The temperature hovered just above 20°C, and with an overcast sky and occasional rain showers none of the numerous *Thelymitra venosa* deigned to open. With a little assistance however, the floral segments of one or two specimens were persuaded to unfold, thus revealing the full beauty of this lovely flower.

Flowers of *Cryptostylis subulata* were widespread, and a magnificent group of plants with some carrying up to seven flowers was discovered. These attracted considerable interest and cameras like flies to the honeypot or ichneumen wasps to the *Cryptostylis*?).

Of the *Microtis*, only specimens tentatively identified as *Microtis parviflora* were found. Under a magnifying glass the labella of these plants showed as triangular in shape, not bifid as is often the case with *M. unifolia*, nor were they of sufficient length relative to the ovary to be *M. rara* R.Br. The flowers were generally crowded in a dense spike. The last orchids located were several handsome specimens of *Prasophyllum australe* in full bloom.

Non orchidaceous plants of special interest were the ferns, multipronged examples of *Drosera binata*, and the rare club moss *Lycopodium laterale*.

For some of us, it was our first opportunity to visit this remarkable area, and first hand inspection makes it easy to understand why our Society is so keen to support the Warners and their neighbours, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Priem, in approaches to the South Australian Government for assistance to preserve the area. Roy Hargreaves was able to show us the extent of the proposed area to be covered by the submissions, and Anne Prescott was pleased to be able to collect further material for her line drawings of orchids occurring in the Mount Lofty Ranges.

From Yundi, most of the group elected to convoy cross-country to the Knott Hill area of Kuitpo State Forest (euphemistically known as 'Quack'-er Country) to search for *Caleana major*, *Paracaleana minor*, and *Orthoceras strictum*.

Initial disappointment at finding only withered flowers of *C. major* in the open areas, turned to smiles all round at Don Wells' discovery of numerous multi flowered, plants in prime condition, nestling under bracken ferns amongst the trees.

P. minor was found growing in a sandy firebreak slashed earlier in the year, and while most were already exhibiting swollen ovaries, a perfectly fresh multi-flowered specimen received much attention from the shutter-bugs.

A call from Bevan Mahar attracted us to several nicely flowering plants of *O. strictum* and as more people gathered around many others were found in the general vicinity. Both the green and the brown colour-forms were represented, and George Nieuwenhoven "capped it all off" by casually announcing the discovery of a magnificent 8 flowered specimen more than 50 cm high.

Field trip to Yundi and Knott Hill. (Continued)

While more film was expended on this truly outstanding example, the unusual pollination mechanism of the flowers (so beautifully described by Dr. Rogers in 1913) was briefly commented on.

All in all, despite the inclement weather, we were able to record an interesting and quite rewarding outing .

Orchids seen:

In flower:

Caleana major	Paracaleana minor
Cryptostylis subulata	Prasophyllum australe
Microtis parviflora (?)	Spiranthes sinensis, ssp. australis
Orthoceras strictum	Thelymitra venosa

Past flowering:

Calochilus robertsonii	Thelymitra sp.
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OCCASIONAL NOTES: P. Hornsby Mark Clements, in Adelaide, spending Christmas holidays at home with his parents, Mr & Mrs Alwyn Clements, enabled us to meet Mark again and get up-to-date with the latest orchid developments from Canberra. As well as talking about laboratory work, Mark also took us on an extensive visual tour of Australian orchids, including Queensland species, and some of the results of the Australian Orchid Foundation survey of the Israelite Bay area in Western Australia. In fact, the magnetism of the West was so strong that Mark went back there again for his spring vacation. We saw the results in profusion, and by the end of the evening, most of the 16 guests were completely mesmerised.

Our pictorial trip started with examples from the McIlwraith Ranges trip to North Queensland - one of the "antelope" Dendrobiums, *D. antennatum*, *Pteroceras spathulatus*, *D. carrii*, one of the cloud forest orchids and the tropical *D. bifalce*, common in New Guinea. We were then shown a couple of New Guinea Bulbophyllums, one with flowers 150 - 200mm long, and a second almost as big! For Les Nesbitt's benefit, we then literally came down to earth again with some "real" orchids, in the form of *Pterostylis daintreana*. This heralded an abrupt move to Western Australia, and *Caladenia caerulea*. Mark pointed out that it was flowering in hundreds in the West and also occurs in the Eastern States, but is absent from South Australia. This must mean that there was once a continuous distribution but that this is no longer so .

We were shown the beautifully veined *P. scabra* and the very hairy *C. discoidea*. Mark also showed us a *Pterostylis* like *P. plumosa*, in his words *P. sp.* (affin *plumosa*). At the same time, he also endeavoured to demonstrate the difference between *P. plumosa* and *P. barbata*, with each living up to its name. The labellum of *P. plumosa* was liberally endowed with golden hairs, whereas *P. barbata* had few, giving it a decidedly barbed appearance,

Next we saw *P. nana* that was "wrong" - *P. nana* in every respect except no basal rosette. The contrast came from *P. nana* flowering in a burnt area - flowering on a tiny stem, together with the basal rosette! Another species unexpectedly stimulated by fire was the August flowering *Eriochilus scaber*. We were shown the self-pollinating *C. graminiflora* and Les Nesbitt was noticeably drooling over a fantastic form of *Diuris longifolia* - a tricolour form with yellow petals and a purple labellum.