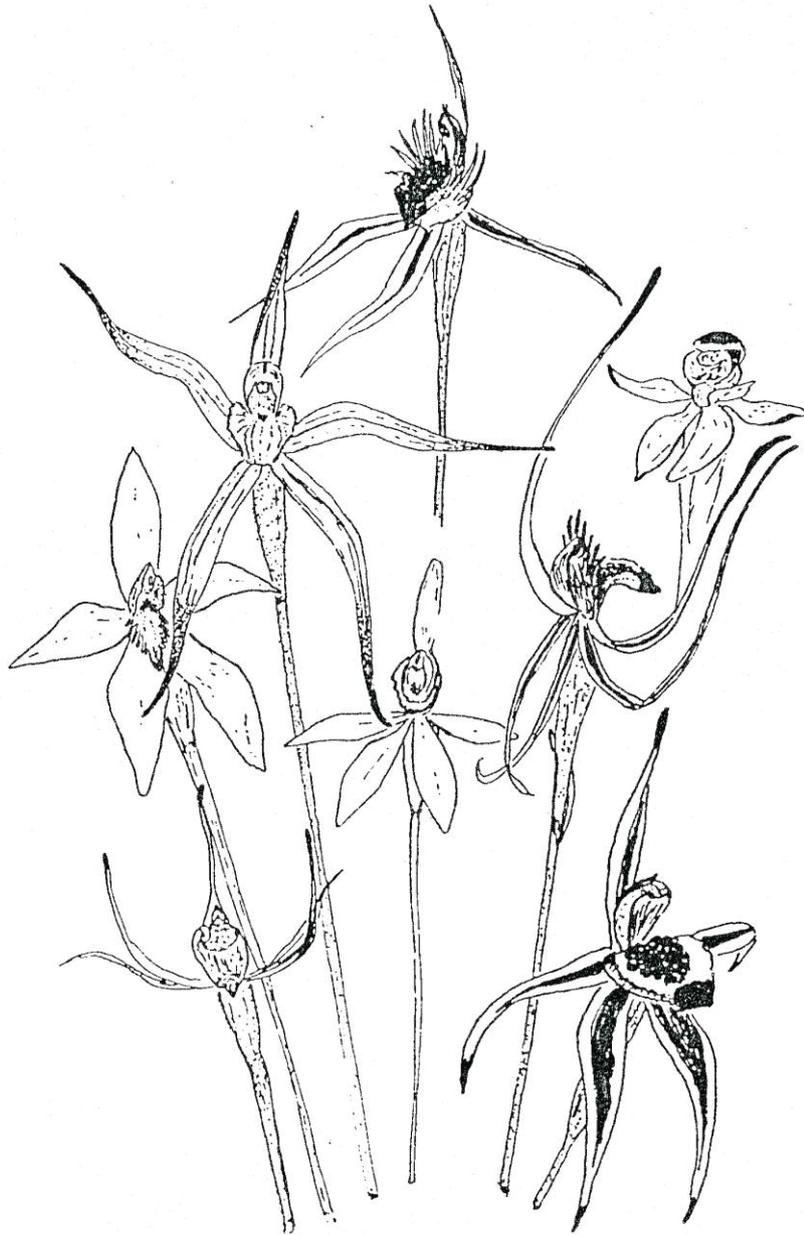




Journal
of the
Native Orchid Society
of
South Australia Inc



NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

POST OFFICE BOX 565 UNLEY SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5061

The Native Orchid Society of South Australia promotes the conservation of orchids through the preservation of natural habitat and through cultivation. Except with the documented official representation from the Management Committee no person is authorised to represent the society on any matter. All native orchids are protected plants in the wild. Their collection without written Government permit is illegal.

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The Native Orchid Society of South Australia Inc. while taking all due care, take no responsibility for the loss, destruction or damage to any plants whether at shows, meetings or exhibits.

Views or opinions expressed by authors of articles within this Journal do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Management. We condones the reprint of any articles if acknowledgement is given.

Journal cost \$2 per issue. Subscription \$14 family or single.

NEXT MONTH'S FIELD TRIPS

June 4 (Sunday) Mount Billy Conservation Park. Meet at Willunga turnoff on Main South Road, 2 km north of Myponga at 10 am

June 18 (Sunday) Halbury weeding with Friend's of Halbury Scrub. Meet at Halbury Scrub at 10 am

Both of the above will involve weeding as well as looking for orchids. Bring leather and rubber gloves, cutters etc to Mt Billy, rubber gloves to Halbury.

If you have any suggestions of places to visit on field trips, or particular orchids you wish to see, please contact Thelma Bridle (83844 174) or any Committee Member. We look forward to welcoming all Members on all of our Field Trips.

APRIL MEETING

The April Meeting was held on Anzac Day which immediately followed a four day Easter holiday period. Consequently, attendance levels were considerably below normal. Nevertheless, it proved to be an excellent meeting with two well presented, interesting and related talks by popular and expert growers, and a good number of orchids being benched.

Life Member Reg Shooter presented a most informative talk with his normal mix of humour on the three *Cymbidium* species that are endemic to Australia: *Cymbidium suave*, *Cymbidium madidum* and *Cymbidium canaliculatum*. Many excellent slides showing the orchids growing both in their natural habitats and in cultivation were shown. The primary message was that if we are to find success, we must grow our native orchids under conditions that approximate as closely as possible those under which they grow naturally. Over-watering your native *Cymbidiums* (and other orchids) and allowing them to remain wet for lengthy periods will result in failure. The choice of the most appropriate growing media is also important. There was useful participation from the audience, some of whom have had outstanding success in growing native *Cymbidiums*. A slide taken in the 1980's of Don's spectacular, award winning *Cymbidium suave* with hundreds of cascading flowers provided a good reminder that Australia's *Cymbidiums* can be as spectacular as any orchid in the world if grown correctly.

Kevin Western followed Reg with a talk on growing media, a key element of native epiphytic orchid culture. Instead of supporting his talk with slides, Kevin brought in a 'box of goodies'; - a box of miscellaneous mounted (and some not yet mounted but doing very well thank you very much) orchids. As he removed the orchids from the box, one by one, he described the conditions required for successful growth and flowering, the reasons behind his choice of growing media, and the degrees of success and failure that he has experienced in growing native epiphytic orchids under different conditions and using different media. Again, Kevin sought (and achieved) active participation from other Members in attendance.

Talk to experienced growers, not just one of them but as many as you can find, as often as you can. Learn from their wealth of knowledge, much of which will have been gained through their mistakes and growing misadventures, but considerable of which will have been gained through their talking to other growers and through making first hand observations of natural growing conditions. It is one thing to see orchids growing in the bush, but it is another thing to observe and consider why they are growing where they are. and what conditions are special to their natural habitat.

Plants Benched

Terrestrial Species: *Pterostylis torquata* (ex *obtusa* -Wauchope), *Pterostylis bryophila* (ex affin *obtusa* Hindmarsh Valley S.A.), *Pterostylis truncata*, *Pterostylis ophioglossa*, *Pterostylis laxa*, *Pterostylis longipetala*, *Pterostylis x furcillata*, *Eriochilus cucullata*, *Leporella fimbriata* (Lucindale).

Terrestrial Hybrids: *Pterostylis revoluta* x Rogoff.

Epiphyte Species: *Dockrilla bowmanii*, *Sarcochilus ceciliae*, *Dendrobium biggibum*, *Dendrobium monophyllum*.

Epiphyte Hybrids *Dendrobium* Elegant Lace x *Dendrobium* Red River, *Dendrobium* Elegant Lacey *Dendrobium* Valmai, *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon, *Dendrobium* Aussie Victory, *Sarcochilus* Otways.

Popular Voting

Best Terrestrial: *Pterostylis bryophila* grown by David Pettifor

Best Epiphyte: *Dendrobium* Elegant Lace x *Dendrobium* Red River grown by Steve and Betty Meszaros

Judges' Choices

Best Epiphyte Species: *Dendrobium monophyllum* grown by Les Nesbitt

Best Epiphyte Hybrid: *Dendrobium* Aussie Victory grown by M. Tiggerman

Best Terrestrial Species: *Pterostylis bryophila* grown by David Pettifor

Best Terrestrial Hybrid: *Pterostylis revoluta* x Rogoff grown by Les Nesbitt

March Meeting (28-03-00)

Best Epiphyte Hybrid: *Dendrobium x superbiens* (a natural hybrid) grown by George Nieuwenhoven

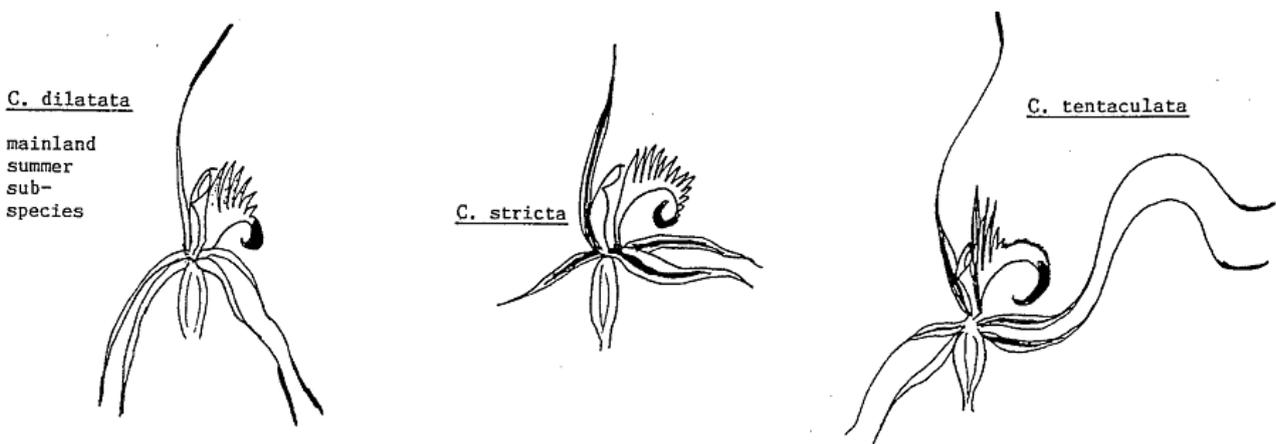
Best Epiphyte Species: *Dendrobium lithocola* grown by George Nieuwenhoven

Best Terrestrial Species: *Pterostylis torquata* grown by David Pettifor

The Commentary for the epiphyte orchids was provided by Peter McCauley; the commentary for the terrestrial orchids was provided by Les Nesbitt

FOR YOUR ATTENTION - N.O.S.S.A. NEWS

Terrestrial Study Group: The initial meeting will be held at Bob and Kerry Bates' house - 17 Carnarvon Street, Redwood Park on Sunday 28th May at 6:00 PM. The discussion will be on the *Caladenia dilatata* complex and all NOSSA Members are invited, and indeed encouraged, to attend.



A repeat announcement!! I would like to publish in a future Journal a listing of Top Growing Tips as put forward by our Members. Please give me a listing of your tips be it a list of one or many, be it a tip(s) specific to one species or general, terrestrial or epiphyte. See or contact Gerry Carne

Raffle Ticket Sellers are being rotated on a monthly basis. Many thanks to those who have and who will be taking on the task. Malcolm Guy is coordinating.

Reg Shooter has started up Judging Classes. If you are interested in learning more about Australasian native orchids and their cultivation, and becoming involved in judging native orchids, please contact Reg (8235 2323). A meeting is scheduled for the morning of Saturday 27th May from 9:30 am. Another is scheduled for Saturday 17th June.

Membership Fees are due!!. Although all costs have risen, the membership fee will remain unchanged from last year.

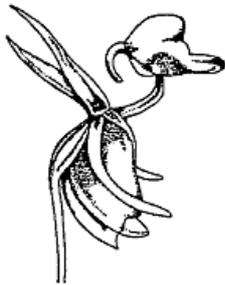
Trading Table. Items are needed for the trading table. Items don't have to be orchids.

Journal Articles are sought. Also Artists to prepare drawings to accompany articles. (Gerry Carne 8332 7730)

Fourth Australasian Native Orchid Conference and Show

Melbourne 5-9 October 2000

"Native Orchids - Our Natural Heritage"



Large Duck Orchid
Caleana major

Less than FIVE months to go!!

Bub and Don Wells, Iris Freeman, Bill Dear and Gerry Carne met at the Well's residence and subsequently at Bill Dear's residence to scope out a N.O.S.S.A. display for the Fourth Australasian Native Orchid Conference and Show. We are pleased to be able to announce that we have come up with some excellent ideas for a display. What we will need are orchids, - we need your orchids, -whatever you have in flower or coming into flower in early October, and whatever you might have with interesting leaves or form (such as Dockrillia). Les Nesbitt has promised us the terrestrials he will have available and this is an excellent start. We are keen to hear from others who might be able to assist with plants.

We will be using our Spring Show in September as a practice run. It will give us a chance to see where improvements might be needed. Your critical advice will be most welcome, as will your plants.

We are actually getting excited about the quality of display we expect to have. Most things that Bub and Don are involved in are exciting. Don will be busy over the next few months making light weight rocks. Bill and Gerry will take the display to Melbourne and set it up. Others who might be attending and are willing to transport or set up please advise either Bill or Gerry.

NEEDED: an Artist (or several) willing to paint an approximately 8 ft x 4 ft 'bush setting' backdrop on hessian material for the display. All materials will be provided.

Dendrobium kingianum bidw.ex.Lindley 1844

by Len Field

Other previous names *Callista kingiana* (Bidw.ex.Lindley) Kuntze 1891

Tropilis kingiana (Bidw.ex Lindley) Butzin 1982

Tropilis kingiana (Bidw.ex.Lindley) Rauschert 1983

While the names *Dendrobium kingianum* var. *aldersoniae* Bailey 1905

Dendrobium kingianum var. *pallidum* Bailey 1884

Dendrobium kingianum var. *pulcherrimum* Rupp 1943

Dendrobium kingianum var. *silcockii* bailey 1902

Dendrobium kingianum subvar. *pallidum* Veitch 1888 have all been omitted and all

these varieties and subvarieties are all now *Dendrobium kingianum*. As nearly all these varieties were based on colour difference with the exception of var. *pulcherrimum* this is easily understood, as there are over one hundred colour differences that have been described.

Dendrobium kingianum var. *pulcherrimum* Rupp is named from the Latin pulchell (us) meaning most beautiful and is considered the miniature of the species and while now not a recognised variety does have some significant differences, these being: Pseudo bulbs are more crowded and very short, tapering and not exceeding 9 cm with the leaves usually two in number but sometimes up to four and are as long as the pseudo bulbs. It does not produce aerials and while the flowers are the same colour as the type form and are in comparison to the size of the plant quite large it does not carry near as many of these flowers. These small differences are not considered enough to give the plant varietal status.

Dendrobium kingianum was named and described by John Carne Bidwill who was Commissioner of crown Lands at Wide Bay and was Chairman of Bench of Magistrates and Harbourmaster at Maryborough Queensland. Bidwill sent specimens to England for original descriptions and named the orchid after his friend Captain later Rear Admiral Phillip Parker King. It has also been known by the common names of Captain King's Dendrobium, Small rock orchid, Lily of the valley orchid and Pink rock orchid.

Found in an area from the Northern side of the Hunter Valley in central coastal N.S.W. to the Tropic of Capricorn in Queensland and while found mainly on the coast and adjacent ranges it can also be found growing isolated at Carnarvon Gorge in Central Queensland. This is an isolated area and a remnant of the rainforests that used to cover Central Queensland. Found at an altitude from sea level to 1200 metres. While this growing area is quite large it is not found growing at all in the drier parts of the inland or in the tropics as the plant needs some cool temperatures to initiate flowering.

A clumping lithophyte that forms large mats on rocks and cliff faces and can cover several square metres. It is very common in its growing habitat, which is usually open forests and woodlands in steep country. It does favour growing near waterfalls and streams as it enjoys a humid location.

While it is predominantly lithophytic (growing on rocks) it can also be found as an epiphyte (growing on trees) and this is not uncommon, as I have seen them growing on many different types of trees from small rainforest shrubs to grass trees (*Xanthorrhoea australis*) and Casuarinas etc. They may at times also be found growing on the forest floor, phenomena I have seen many times so this type of growing may not be as unusual as one would expect. It also grows in very high fire risk areas and has an unusual way of coping with this by its many aerial growths that fall off when the heat of approaching fires reaches them. These aerials will then start another colony lower down the rock face in a less threatened area.

There are three distinct growing forms, with plants from the more northern areas (ie) Queensland and northern N.S.W. having much longer and slender pseudo bulbs and will flower much easier in cultivation than its southern form and also produces aerials more freely. These longer canes are probably caused by the higher rainfall of this growing area. At the extreme northern range plants become restricted and very sparse. In the more southern areas plants tend to become smaller with shorter, stouter pseudo bulbs and have shorter

racemes that carry less but larger flowers and also these plants tend to produce less aerals than its more northerly form. Another form is found at its extreme southern limit. These plants from the Alum Mountain at Bulahdelah N.S.W. are different with very small pseudo bulbs and carry only one to three pink flowers on very short racemes and also very rarely produce aerial growths.

Dendrobium kingianum while being mainly a lithophyte in nature has a very untidy appearance and is very abundant in growth, with its tapering pseudo bulbs that are very bulbous at the base and taper to a slender neck near the top, stems are closely tufted and can be up to 30 cm long. New pseudo bulbs tend to clump with older bulbs from earlier seasons and with its numerous aerial growths which can be as much as four aerals high all growing on top of each other overall tend to give the plant its untidy appearance. The plant is also able to (as many of our native Australian plants) withstand drought conditions. The shape of the pseudo bulbs and the colour differences of the flowers point to some cross pollination with other species in the distant past. Another odd behaviour of the plant is its growing in conjunction with the scented sun orchid *Thelymitra aristata*. This species will grow in the middle of the *Dendrobium kingianum* colony and will flower at the same time. I have seen this phenomena too many times for it to be just coincidence. This is a remarkable association between the two orchids. Another orchid that it grows with is the onion orchid *Liparis reflexa*. *Dendrobium kingianum* can be found growing in a wide range of habitat ranging from hot open forest with high light intensity to deep sheltered gullies with little light.

Leaves which can number from two to seven, born from near the top of the pseudo bulb, are not very thick, are narrow elliptical, leathery and weakly folded and can be from 40mm to 200mm long and coloured in many shades of green, this is relative to where the plant is growing with the lower the light intensity the darker green the leaves, also when subjected to high light this will produce a red pigmentation in the pseudo bulbs in some clones.

Flower size is not related to plant size and flowers can be between 13 and 25mm in diameter and have 2 to 15 flowers on stems, which can be 150mm long. These flowers can be fragrant with broad segments and rise on racemes, which grow from between the leaves near the top of the pseudo bulb. While racemes tend to be pendulous in nature this feature has been bred out of many of the line-bred plants. Colour of the flowers would be the most variable of all Australian native *Dendrobium* orchids with colours ranging from pink, red, white, mauve, purple and many other varied colours markings. There have also been some found with yellow tinges. The labellum usually has dark stripes and sepals are broad with the dorsal sepal longer than the laterals, petals are rigid and as long as the dorsal. Flowering period is from August to October but can be erratic.

Culture. This is one of the easier orchids to grow. With its ease of culture and diverse floral habit, shape and colours and its ready adaptation to pot culture make this a very desirable plant to grow. It can also be grown on slabs and in the garden quite successfully but the growing in pots does appear to give best results. While very adaptable it does best in a coarse mix with good drainage, plenty of air movement with protection from frosts, a humid atmosphere with plenty of water in the hot summer months and little in winter. A little fertiliser can be beneficial during the growing months but do not overdo it. It becomes almost dormant in the winter and will not acclimatise to hot climates. Removing the aerals and growing them in sphagnum moss can grow new plants but do not leave these aerals in the moss for any great length of time. With the great strides that have been made in recent years with line bred plants by growers there is no need to remove bush plants, as the plants grown in culture are far superior in all ways to bush collected plants.

In nature *Dendrobium kingianum* can cross with, *Dendrobium speciosum* to make *Dendrobium X kestevenii*, with *Dendrobium tarberi*, to make *Dendrobium X delicatum*, *Dendrobium gracilicaule* to make the rare *Dendrobium X suffusum*. It has also been known to cross although very rarely with *Dendrobium aemulum*, *Dendrobium falcorostrum* and *Dendrobium tetragonum*.

For further information on this most beautiful orchid I can highly recommend the book *Dendrobium kingianum: A unique Australian Orchid* by Peter Adams and Sheryl D. Lawson. With its beautiful photos and graphic descriptions it makes this book a must for enthusiasts of this orchid.

MIDGE ORCHIDS OF KANGAROO ISLAND

By Bob Bates

A few weeks back Kerry announced excitedly that she had booked a beachside cottage at beautiful Penneshaw and we were spending a week in April on a family holiday. The cottage was owned by another Bates family but that was not unusual as Penneshaw was settled by five brothers named Bates. At the time it was known as Hog Bay as early settlers had released pigs and they were well established wild. Turkeys, hens, peacocks and goats were also released and except for the goats all still roam wild on the Island today.

I was given permission to do some botanising and as I had never been on Kangaroo Island in Autumn before, it seemed like a great chance to study the Island's midge orchids (*Genoplesium*).

I checked Orchids of South Australia and just one species was listed (ie *Genoplesium rufum* which I found under *Prasophyllum*.... how conservative was that!). I had the feeling midge orchids were probably rare on Kangaroo Island but how wrong I was as I saw them at nearly every location checked.

The species listed in Orchids SA was *Genoplesium rufum* and as it turned out that is one species which does not occur on Kangaroo Island.

Near Penneshaw there is a lot of limestone and here just at the top of the hill by town we found the dark flowered *Genoplesium nigricans*. These plants (of the typical form) with short dense inflorescences were in full flower. We later found this species on limestone or calcareous sands over much of the Island.

On the road to Kingscote the typical laterite and clay soils appeared and at the first stop in mallee broombush a slender red and green flowered species, *Genoplesium* aff. *rufum* ssp. 'Kangaroo Island' was in seed with just a few late flowers. This same species was seen at dozens of places mostly tourist spots like the Eucalyptus Oil Farm, simply because these places were on the family itinerary.

On the dry north side of the Island are a few patches of powdery limestone soil and here grew *Genoplesium fuscoviride*, the mallee midge orchid with its tall spikes of many green and maroon flowers. This species is probably rare on Kangaroo Island but is South Australia's commonest species despite having been previously confused with *Genoplesium. nigricans*.

In the swamps at the western end of the Island we found a species in seed which I can only presume to be *Genoplesium ciliaris*, but we need plants in flower to be sure.

So it appears that there are at least four species on Kangaroo Island, all of them quite habitat specific.

If we checked other habitats maybe we would find other midges.

CONSERVATION REPORT by Bob Bates

On April 30th the NOSSA conservation group worked on the endangered spider orchid *Caladenia argocalla* site near Sevenhill. In the morning we removed several thousand St Johns wort plants and dabbed poison on *Salvia* in the area where the orchids grew. Lots of leaves were already showing of *Thelymitra*, *Acianthus* and *Pterostylis* but no *Caladenia*. In the afternoon dozens of Hawthorne and wild plum were cut down and swabbed with Garlon. These latter are encroaching on the downhill site of the *Caladenia* patch. Thank you to all 'you's blokes' who were involved.

After the work was over some of us went into Spring Gully Conservation Park and found *Genoplesium* in seed (a new record for the Park), *Eriochilus* in flower and seed, *Acianthus* in flower and bud and *Pterostylis sanguinea* almost in flower. This put paid to the idea that you can only find 'Spring flowered orchids up that way.'

FROM YOUR LIBRARY by Geoff Edwards .

A mix of books to wet the appetite this month, with one being a delightful coverage of 'The Orchids of Tasmania' by Jones, Wapstra, Tonelli and Harris, persons very well known in their fields of orchids, photography and botany. Just released, the book was published by the Melbourne University Press in 1999. This book is number twenty eight in the second numbered series of the Miegunyah Volumes made possible by the Miegunyah Fund established under the bequests under the wills of Sir Russell and Lady Grimwade ('Miegunyah' was the home of Mab and Russell Grimwade from 1911 to 1955).

This beautifully illustrated book describes in detail every known Tasmanian orchid. Its authority rests on two key projects, one a survey of Tasmanian orchids published in 1996, the other a full revision of the major genera, completed only in 1998. In both cases the research of orchid specialists was underpinned by the enthusiastic record-keeping of amateurs. The 195 Tasmanian species recognised so far include an orchid discovered as early as 1777, with dozens added by nineteenth-century plant collectors, and with four species joining the list as late as February 1999. The 317 pages is described as a popular handbook as well as a valuable contribution to the science. Its features include:

- colour photographs of every species
- drawings and location maps
- traditional identification keys based on floral features
- an innovative 'leaf key' for identifying out of season plants
- notes on taxonomy, distribution, habitat, flowering time and response to fire
- comprehensive glossary and index

The text is sufficiently up-to-date to describe *Dockrillia striolata* with the type Bicheno having a beautiful photoplate (Pauline and I were lucky enough to see this plant in full bloom on a huge boulder near Bicheno a few years ago - and I have some colour slides of it as well). This is a book well worth reading with the chapters covering Tasmanian Habitats, and Conservation being most informative. (NOTE: unfortunately the book will not be available until the June meeting as Pauline and I will be enjoying life in Queensland at the time of the May meeting - oh well, such is life).

N.O.S.S.A. has many books that fall into the historical category with many being first printed many, many years ago. Over a period of time I have mentioned some of these and although not containing the most recent information they have a real value. One such book I draw to your attention this month. Australian Sarcanthinae was written by A. W. Dockrill and published by The Australasian Native Orchid Society in September 1967 (the Forward, written in March 1966, congratulates the ANOS initiative in publishing the results of Mr. Dockrill's labours). It is interesting to read and compare the book with that written by Walter T. Upton, called *Sarcophilus Orchids of Australia*, published in 1992 (and also in the Library).

The second book in the historical vein that I comment upon was published in Kent, England in 1930. Titled 'Orchids for the Outdoor Garden - a descriptive list of the world's orchids that may be grown outdoors in the British Isles' is for the use of Amateur Gardeners. The 467 pages contain 22 illustrations by the author, A W. Darnell, with some being plants well known to us now (eg *Caladenia patersonii*). An interesting book to 'flick through' with lots of words and not many pictures.

Pleasant reading.

Most scribes and speakers stress the importance of understanding and knowing one's own growing environment when trying to successfully emulate the native conditions in which our Aussie orchids grow. Hence my move to mount many of my orchids on hosts of well matured wood fence palings, hard wood pieces, paper bark tree pieces (a friend cut down a large *Melaleuca* shrub/tree so I have plenty available), and cork.

My shade-house at Bellevue heights (and therefore our home) is on the southern aspect of the Mount Lofty Range, being down below the top level of the range. The surrounding undulations and the lovely gum trees mean that sun light does not reach the shade-house until about 9:30am in the winter, being gone by about 3:30pm. Hence it is a lot colder (and wetter) than on the plains in winter, with less sunlight. Air movement is not a problem with the howling south westerlies and the cool summer gully winds going straight through the shadehouse. In the summer it is therefore just a little cooler and more pleasant than elsewhere. The cold and the wet plays havoc with root systems that are tucked up in pots, irrespective of how free draining the mix is supposed to be, especially when the roots are of the finer variety.

For the winter reasons, I have progressively mounted many of my finer rooted, pencil caned plants on wood (with only a few on cork). The majority treated this way are the Aussie natives, however some *Laelia anceps* and *Oncidium*s are thriving with similar treatment. They all hang in the open on a wire mesh wall being watered by the natural rainfall. Extra water is given in the summer and all survived this year's heat.

A number of *Sarcochilus falcatus* are tied to small pieces of the fence palings, and although the plants are small, they have strong root growth and all flowered last season.

A piece of *Dendrobium aemulum* is attached to a mount that I saw being used in a Brisbane Orchid Show - made of plastic gutter guard and rolled into a small cylinder; - the inside is lined with coconut fibre and filled with a mix of 'blue metal' and pine bark. In its second year, the root system is now making its way into the fibre - it is slow progress, but the plant is alive and healthy. Other pieces of this orchid are happily growing on paper bark, hardwood and fence palings.

A healthy piece of *Dockrillia cucumerina* is attached to a piece of ridged hard wood (from a tree of some type) that has no bark. The roots are firmly attached within the ridge and follow the channels, generally upwards. A small piece of the same plant has been attached to a piece of fence paling and is alive and well.

Dockrillia striolatum, *Dockrillia schoeninum*, *Dockrillia pugioniformis*, *Dockrillia diolichophylla*, *Dockrillia* Duffy, *Dockrillia* Aussie Cascades and *Dockrillia* Stephen have all been treated this way. So have *Dendrobium gracilicaule*, *Dendrobium fleckeri*, *Dendrobium wassellii*, *Dendrobium tetragonum* (which are alive but static) *Dendrobium* Elfin and *Dendrobium* Virginia Jupp, along with a piece of *Plectochinus* Rumill. These are generally on paper bark pieces with the roots 'eating' their way into the bark.

The need for a little extra attention in the real heat of summer makes up for the ease of looking after in the winter as the plants receive the natural rain (with run-off) and no root rot. Knowing one's growing conditions helps, coupled with the fact that all of these plants generally grow attached to something in the wild - not in a pot. Therefore, why not replicate what happens in the bush.

Terrestrial Orchid Growers should also make observations in the bush with respect to soil, shade, moisture, humidity, associated plants, aspect etc, and consider growing conditions in the shadehouse in order to achieve maximum growing results. Editor.

GET TO KNOW YOUR MEMBERS by Gerry Carne
Ron Robjohns - Life Member

The Society is extremely fortunate in having Ron Robjohns as a 'long-time' and stand-out Member. Much of the Society's success can be attributed to Ron. From the Society's inception in 1977, Ron has dedicated a tremendous amount of time and energy to N.O.S.S.A., serving as an active Committee Member for twenty years from 1977 until March 1997.

Ron was a Foundation Member of N.O.S.S.A. He was elected Treasurer at the inaugural meeting of the Society, a position that he very capably held (continuously) until 1997; -he served as our Society's President in 1988-1989. Ron is a quiet and modest achiever, who, as a Committee Member, was involved in almost all of NOSSA's activities, often as an organiser and initiator. Ron drafted the Society's Constitution and By-Laws and formulated the Society's Conservation Policy. For most of his time on Committee, he maintained the Register of Members, updated address schedules for the Journals, collected the mail, and took care of much of the outgoing correspondence, as well as managing all of NOSSA's funds.

Ron's involvement in the Journal cannot be overstated. He was the principal operator of the duplicator (Gestetner/Roneo) which copied the Journals until 1985. During that time computers and photocopiers were not used and stencils had to be cut. The Gestetner had a motor but when used, often malfunctioned. Ron took it upon himself to turn each page by hand. After N.O.S.S.A. began to use photocopiers, Ron continued to assist with collating the Journals, and preparing them for mailing. In addition to the production side, Ron has been a frequent contributor of articles for the Journal, providing his own botanical drawings as illustrations.

Until his retirement from Committee in 1997 (in his 84th year), Ron was a primary organiser of and exhibitor at all of NOSSA's Spring Shows and other NOSSA supported shows and displays. He is a much awarded grower of Australian native orchids, in particular epiphytes. Over the years, Ron participated in several rescues of orchid tubers from sites destined for development or clearing.

Most recently, Ron served as a Committee Member and as Treasurer for the Third Australasian Native Orchid Conference and Show, which was held in Adelaide in September 1996. Although no longer a Committee Member, Ron's contributions to NOSSA will continue to be seen.

Signs that may be of interest to those who go on field trips

on florists truck:	"drive carefully, the next delivery may be yours"
along a country road:	"if you lived here, you'd be home now"
traffic sign:	"drive right so more people will be left"
notice in a field:	"the farmer allows walkers to cross the field for free, but the bull charges"
sign at Norfolk farm gate:	"beware! I shoot every tenth trespasser and the ninth one has just left"

Hint: Wondering how to get rid of those slugs and snails that never seem to eat the snail bait, only the Grand Champion at the forth coming show! Put a few lettuce leaves around the place, and check before you retire for the night. You can be quite surprised at how many snails and slugs you've attracted when you didn't think you had many. Use a weapon of your choice once you have attracted them - a slipper perhaps.

Please send any other hints regarding keeping pests away from your orchids. The above was provided by Cathy Houston.