



Journal
of the
Native Orchid Society
of
South Australia Inc



NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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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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**JOURNAL OF THE
NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY
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OCTOBER MEETING

Tuesday, 23 October, St Matthew's Hall, corner of Bridge Street and Wellington Street, Kensington. Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. Doors to the hall will be open from 7:15 p.m. to allow Members access to the Library and Trading Table. Expert grower and long time NOSSA Member Noel Oliver give a talk on the genus *Sarcochilus*.

Bring lots of orchids - all that you may have in flower as it is these that attract many of our Members to our meetings. August and September saw terrific displays.

Plant of the Month - see page 83 for details.

DIARY DATES

Oct 20-21 Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP) Annual Show at Wayville S.G.

Oct 28^h: Adelaide Plains 'Rufa' group *Pterostylis*.

Nov 4^h: Talisker Conservation Park

Nov 10^h: Spring Gully late *Thelymitras* and Mount Bryan

Nov 25: Society's Christmas BBQ at Wally & Shirley Walloscheck's (Sunday)

Nov 25 Annual Auction and Christmas Supper - last meeting of the year

18-21 Sept 2003 16TH Australian Orchid Council Conference Adelaide, hosted by O.C.S.A.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 31 October at the home of Iris Freeman. Meeting commences at 7:30 p.m.

NEXT JUDGES MEETING

Saturday 3rd November 9:30 am at the home of Reg and Gill Shooter

NEW MEMBERS

The Native Orchid Society of South Australia takes great pleasure in welcoming Troy and Sheena Saunders, Bruce Jackson, Simon and Lisa Hein and Jeanette Harvey as new Members.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

NOSSA Life member and native orchid expert Bob Bates talked about the *Caladenias* of Eyre Peninsula. More about this in next month's Journal.

Plants Benched

Terrestrial Species: *Acianthus caudatus*, *Caladenia tentaculata* (three of), *Caladenia parva*, *Caladenia caudatus*, *Caladenia ex Lucindale* (three of), *Caladenia clavigera*, *Caladenia falcata*, *Caladenia speciosa*, *Caladenia latifolia*, *Caladenia multiclava*, *Caladenia cardiochila*, *Caladenia carnea*, *Calochilus robertsonii*, *Chiloglottis playpetera* (two of), *Chiloglottis formicifera*, *Chiloglottis truncata*, *Glossodia major* (two of), *Leptoceras menziesii*, *Microtis arenaria*, *Microtis rara*, *Pterostylis pusillus*, *Pterostylis nutans*, *Pterostylis curia*, *Pterostylis biseta*, *Pterostylis baptistii*, *Pterostylis pedunculata* (two of), *Pterostylis concinna*, *Pterostylis nutans*, *Thelymitra grandiflora*, *Thelymitra rubra*, *Thelymitra antennifera*.

Terrestrial Hybrids: *Pterostylis Bantam* (two of), *Pterostylis Joseph Arthur*, *Pterostylis x ingens*, *Pterostylis Cutie 'Harolds Pride'*, *Caladenia flava x Caladenia latifolia*, *Thelymitra Spring Delight*, *Diuris Pioneer*, *Diuris Earwig*, *Diuris brevifolia x Diuris orientis*

Epiphyte Species: *Dendrobium comptonii* syn., *Dendrobium gracilicaule* var. *howianum*, *Dendrobium moorei*, *Dockrillia linguiforme* (two of), *Dockrillia mortii*, *Dockrillia shoenina*, *Dockrillia striolata* (two of), *Sarcochilus auquelis*, *Sarcochilus falcatus*.

Epiphyte Hybrids: *Dendrobium Ellen*, *Dendrobium Dainty Gem*, *Dendrobium Eureka x Graham Hewitt*, *Dendrobium Aussie Springtime*, *Dendrobium Miara*, *Dendrobium Nugget x Dendrobium speciosum*, *Dendrobium Nugget 'Gold Rush'*, *Dendrobium Watervale Peach*, *Dendrobium Regal Rose 'Gold Medal'*, *Dendrobium Bert Bushell*, *Dendrobium kingianum x (Gillian Leaney x Zip)*, *Dendrobium Gilliston Gem x Dendrobium kingianum*, *Dendrobium Bardo Rose*, *Dendrobium X Suffusum*, *Dockrillia Jigga*, *Dockrillia Ida Mary*, *Dockrillia Michael Jupp*, *Sarcochilus Otways*

A terrific showing! I count 31 terrestrial species representing 9 genera and including 11 species of *Caladenia* and 8 species of *Pterostylis*, and 9 epiphytic species, for a total of 40 different native orchid species. I also count 9 different terrestrial hybrids and 18 epiphyte hybrids for a total of 27 different hybrids. Many thanks to those growers who contributed to this tremendous showing (ed).

Popular Voting

Best Terrestrial: *Caladenia speciosa* grown by David Pettifor

Best Epiphyte: *Dendrobium Nugget x Dendrobium speciosum* grown by Graham & Sue Zerbe

Judges' Choices

Best Epiphyte Species: 1st *Dockrillia mortii* grown by Bill Dear

2nd *Dendrobium comptonii* grown by Les Nesbitt

3rd *Dockrillia striolata* grown by Graham and Jan Burford

Best Epiphyte Hybrids: 1st *Dendrobium. Nugget x Dend. speciosum* grown by Graham & Sue Zerbe

2nd *Dendrobium Regal Rose* grown by Malcolm Guy

3rd *Sarcochilus Otways* grown by Russell Job & Edda Viskic

Best Terrestrial Species: 1st *Pterostylis baptistii* 'Gosford' grown by David Pettifor

2nd *Glossodia major* grown by David Pettifor

3rd *Pterostylis pedunculata* grown by David Pettifor\

Best Terrestrial Hybrids: 1st *Diuris* Pioneer 'Big Ears' grown by Les Nesbitt

2nd *Pterostylis* Cutie 'Harolds Pride' grown by Les Nesbitt

3rd *Diuris* Earwig grown by Les Nesbitt

Judges' Plant of the Night *Diuris* Pioneer 'Big Ears' grown by Les Nesbitt

Marjorie Chance provided the commentary for the epiphyte orchids, Les Nesbitt provided the commentary for the terrestrials.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION - NOSSA NEWS

GIANT CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Once again this year a giant Christmas raffle will be drawn at the November meeting. Members are asked to bring donations to the October and November meetings for this club fund raiser. Past Christmas raffles have been very well subscribed to with all sorts of goods such as pudding, cake, pickles, and other goodies, nothing will be refused. Once again Gill Shooter has agreed to organise and run this raffle. Please see her with your donations at the next two meetings and then purchase your \$1.00 tickets from her at the November meeting. You might be the lucky winner!!

Plant of the Month for October

Epiphyte: *Sarcophilus hartmannii*

Terrestrials: *Caladenias* - all species and hybrids

Please bring along your plants to the October meeting, even if they are not in flower, and place them on the separate tables provided.

Nov 25: Society's Christmas BBQ at Wally and Shirley Walloscheck's on Sunday November 25th.

Details (and a map) in November Journal

Keep this date open!! It will be N.O.S.S.A.'s last social function for the year

Now is the time to begin thinking about items that you might offer for the November General Meeting Auction (Tuesday November 27). This is another important fund raiser for N.O.S.S.A. It will be a fun evening with lots of bargains to be found. Our annual Christmas Supper will follow the auction.

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

Popular Vote: Commencing the October General Meeting, and on a trial basis, Members will be asked to place voting cards for each of terrestrial species, terrestrial hybrid, epiphyte species and epiphyte hybrid, four votes in all.

Library: NOSSA has a very extensive Library from which all Members are encouraged to borrow. Now located towards the back of the hall!

SGAP Show and Sale October 20 - 21. Members who are willing to dedicate an hour or two of their time assisting NOSSA at the show should see President Bill Dear or another Committee Member. Your help would be very much appreciated.

TUBER BANK

Donations of tubers for the NOSSA tuber bank are sought. Any number large or small will be welcome. Locality data should be included where available. Please advise Malcolm Guy at 15 Naomi Terrace, Pasadena, SA. or by phone (08) 82767350 by November the 27th. The final list with order form will be published in the December Journal.

FIELD TRIPS FOR NOVEMBER

Oct 28th: Adelaide Plains 'Rufa' group *Pterostylis*.
Meet: Halbury council offices 10am.

Nov 4th Talisker Conservation Park
Meet: Main south Road at Delamere loam

Nov 10 th: Spring Gully late *Thelymitras* and Mount Bryan
Meet: Sevenhill crossroads at loam

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WOMEN ORCHID PAINTERS NUMBER 4

ALISON ASHBY (in the centenary year of her birth.)

R. Bates

Alison Ashby was born at Melbourne St, North Adelaide in February 1901 to Edwin and Esther (nee May). The family soon acquired land at Blackwood in the Adelaide Hills and built a home that they named Wittunga.

Enid Robertson writes, "Alison recalls that in the peak of the season thirty to forty species of orchids could be found within walking distance of Wittunga".

Alison was greatly influenced by her father Edwin who was an intrepid naturalist and she regularly accompanied him on trips through most states of Australia while she was just a child. Alison was already a wildflower painter at ten and her early paintings cover wildflowers from five states.

Alison's only instruction in art was a series of six lessons from Rosa Fiveash who she much admired. From 1933-1944 Alison was housebound caring for her ailing mother and in 1934 Wittunga was largely destroyed by a bushfire, Alison and her mother were lucky to escape alive.

In the 1940's Alison began to raise seedlings of native plants from all states and plant them out at Eclair, Mt Alma and Watiparinga. (Forty years on the evidence of this work is there still). Alison was a foundation member of the National Trust and a Life Member of the Field Naturalists and SGAP being awarded an MBE in 1960 for her work in conservation and art.

In 1963 she bought her first station wagon and used it to travel on the first of many trips throughout Western Australia collecting and painting wildflowers. It was a 'home away from home and many were the adventures she could tell'. She named the car Henry - the 1st. It was followed by seven more 'Henry's' over the years and after Henry the 7th she had 'Hercules' as she did not think it appropriate for a woman to be associated with Henry the 8th!

She lived well into her eighties and Wittunga was Alison's home throughout her long life. It is today a delightful botanic Gardens. Alison painted some hundred different orchids. As a child I loved to visit the museum and Art Gallery and delighted in looking at Alison's wildflower cards that were on sale to raise money for those institutions. There was always a large vase of native wildflowers in the foyer of the Art Gallery in those days and these were courtesy of Alison too. It was Alison's painting of *Caladenia flava* that convinced me as a child that one day I must go looking for orchids in the West.

Many native plants are named in honour of Alison i.e. *Acacia ashbyae*, but perhaps the most attractive of these is the pale blue orchid *Cyanicula ashbyae* Hopper & Brown from Western Australia. The many orchid collections at the State Herbarium are also a memorial to Alison and tell us where she was at the time, out doing what she loved best looking for wildflowers!

Reference: Alison Ashby Wildflower Paintings by Enid Robertson

NOSSA SPRING SHOW

Reg Shooter

A number of new innovations were introduced at this years show. First of all we had a new venue. For many years we exhibited at St Peters Town Hall but the last couple of years public through the doors plus the escalating hire fees meant the club was only just breaking even and stood the risk of actually losing money on the venture.

The new venue was at St Bernadette's Church Hall, South Rd, St Marys. The hire fee included the use of the well appointed kitchen, complete with crockery and continuous boiling water. A large number of trestles were kindly loaned to us by the South Coast Orchid Club all of which we had to pay for at St Peters.

Another innovation was free entry to the show. This worked really well as visitors were quite happy to purchase raffle tickets and spend at the trading table. Many complimentary comments were received throughout the weekend on the magnificent displays. All members who exhibited plants are to be congratulated. Not all plants win prizes but every plant was a winner. Thank you.

Judging started at 8am Saturday morning and was completed by 11am by which time the hall had started to fill with members of the public.

After much deliberation the Grand Champion of the show was awarded to *Caladenia filamentosa* grown by Les Nesbitt. This plant also won Champion terrestrial species, the Roy Hargreaves trophy and was the nomination for the Bill Murdoch trophy. Shown to perfection in 120mm squat pot the 8 plants carrying 11 flowers, (3 of them had 2 flowers on a stem) on 300mm tall stems. In the wild this is a wide spread species often quite common found from NSW through VIC to SA and also TAS. According to Les easy to grow in cultivation. Well done Les.

The Champion Terrestrial Hybrid, which is awarded the Kay Nesbitt Trophy, was also won by Les with *Pterostylis* Dusky Duke (*Pt. pedunculata* x *Pt. curta*) This hybrid shows the best features of both parents. The vigour and size of *curta* and the maroon colour of *Pterostylis pedunculata*. Grown, as many of Les's exhibition plants are, in a 200mm squat terra-cotta pot, many plants the majority in flower and even in height.

Champion Epiphyte species was won by Wally Walloscheck, who also collects the Wells Trophy, with an excellent example of *Dockrillia teretifolia* previously known as *Dendrobium teretifolium*. It was mounted on a piece of natural bark and was suspended over Wally's display. The judges felt the flowers were very large for this species and each one was in excellent condition.

A very attractive and eye catching *Dendrobium* Star of Riverdene (Star of Gold x *speciosum*) was adjudged the Champion from a very large field of competition. This was grown and shown by Brendan Killen. A large plant carrying 15 inflorescences of starry clear yellow flowers with light purple markings on the labellum. This orchid was nominated for the Ira Butler Trophy. Congratulations Brendan.

Pauline Edwards swept the pool in the floral art section with some very attractive arrangements. Geoff hardly missed the flowers she 'borrowed' from his plants!!

The displays are judged by all the judges, each being given a section to judge i.e one group will look at design and appearance another at presentation and so on. Points are allotted to each section then totalled. All displays did very well but there has to be a winner. In the floor display section Malcolm & Libby Guy just pipped Don & Bubs wells who both exhibited stunning displays. Again in the table top exhibits it was very close between David Pettifor and Les Nesbitt (and a number of others) Les was eventually successful (I think the *Phaius tankervilleae* was the clincher) As I stated although these were the winners the voting was very close and every exhibiter is to be congratulated on contributing to such a successful show, thank you.

The genetic name *Phaius* is derived from the Greek word *phaios* meaning dusky and was chosen because of the dark colouring of the flower, while the name *tankervilleae* was named after the Countess of Tankerville a patron of botany at that time about 1778.

This orchid has always been a favourite of mine since first seeing it growing in the wild in northern N.S.W. back in the sixties when at that time I found it growing near the bank of a river in damp soil among a stand of swamp oak (*Casuarina glauca*) since that time I have found it growing elsewhere under similar conditions and even in pure sand. *Phaius tankervilleae* has had an amazing amount of name changes over the years with one name *Phaius wallichii* named by J.D. Hooker in 1890 having a bearing on the Australian species because some years ago this *Phaius* although the same species as *Phaius tankervilleae* was imported into Australia in great numbers from India under the name *Phaius wallichii* and in my opinion these tended to be larger in flower size and a deeper red on both petals and labellum than the Australian species which tends more to a brown colouring, that is in all the plants I have seen growing in nature.

Phaius is a genus of about 20 species extending from India and China southward through Malaysia, Indonesia and adjacent Pacific islands, New Guinea and down to Australia where 4 species can be found *Phaius tankervilleae*, *Phaius australis*, *Phaius bernaysii* and *Phaius pictus*. *Phaius tankervilleae*, which can also be found in the Hawaiian Islands where it was introduced and has now become naturalised. In Australia *Phaius tankervilleae* extends from North Queensland to N.S.W. as far south as the Richmond River but many reports claim it was once found much further South. Once fairly common and usually found in wet coastal situations it has now become almost extinct in its natural setting, and with the reclamation of swamp land, sand mining and severe collecting one must feel fortunate to have seen this orchid growing in its natural state. *Phaius tankervilleae* is the largest native orchid flower found in Australia, the plant can grow up to 210 cm. when in flower with pseudo bulbs 3 to 7cm. in diameter with 4-7 leaves 30 to 120 cm long with the outer leaves being smaller than the inner and even when not in flower it makes a nice foliage plant.

Flowers are trumpet shaped and can be up to 10cm. in diameter but have been recorded up to 17cm. Coloured white on the outside red-brown or densely mottled brown on the inside, labellum bright purple or red. Flowering period is September to October but can be much later further south.

In 1900 a Mr Charlesworth crossed *Phaius tankervilleae* with *Phaius australis* to make *Phaius Charlesworthii* this would be among the first man made hybrids registered for 2 Australian native orchids.

Culture. While many people grow this beautiful orchid in Southern areas without the help of a glass house I feel that if your winter temperature constantly drops below 7c., some extra warmth may be needed. One sign of being too cold are the tips of the leaves becoming black and ragged from dying back, this can also point to some growing deficiency. A fair amount of shade is needed (up to 50%) and it must be well watered in the hot summer months and just damped down in the colder months. Special precautions must be taken against mealy bug and other insect pests because anything that fly, crawls or walks seem to have a great liking for this plant. A rich potting mix is needed and they respond to a natural fertiliser. I use mostly a mix a little coarser than cymbidium mix with a little charcoal and a dose of old fowl manure does seem to help, another point I feel is important is that as these plants grow an extensive root system, they quickly become root bound, so I think that it is a good policy to repot more often than with most other orchids and always leave plenty of room in the pot for root growth as I feel this is a main reason between a large healthy plant or a small sickly one. After flowering which can last up to six weeks, the flower spike is cut off at the base near the pseudo bulb and laid either on moss or wet sand on the floor of the bush house or placed in a bucket with about 25 to 50 mm of water in the bottom, after some time if conditions are right small shoots will appear along the length of the spike below where the last flower bloomed. The spike can be cut about 3 cm either side of each shoot and potted.

THE GENUS *SARCOCHILUS* R.BR. 1810

Len Field

The genus was named by Robert Brown in the year 1810. While nearly all are endemic to Australia with the majority small epiphytes or lithophytes that are confined to the east coast of Australia stretching from Tasmania to Cape York Peninsular where in this large area they are found growing in many various conditions. Named by Robert Brown from the Greek word *sarx* meaning fleshy and *cheilos*, a lip in reference to the fleshy labellum on some species.

Sarcochilus hartmannii Muell 1874

Common name. Hartmanns orchid.

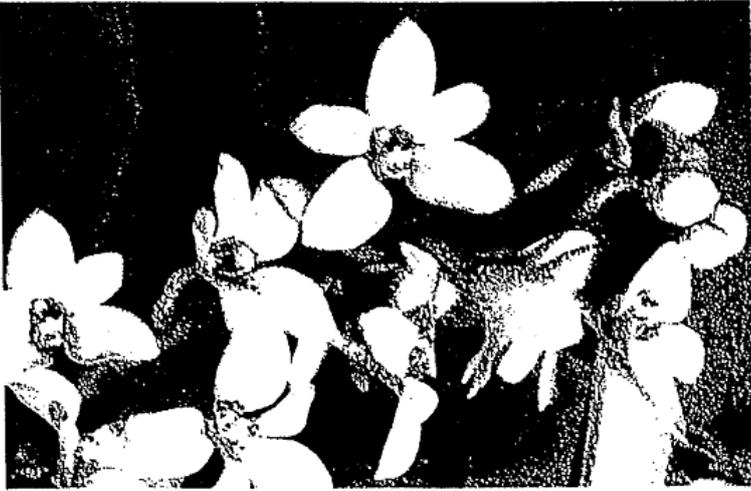
Also known by the synonyms *Thrixspermum hartmannii* Muell 1877

Sarcochilus rubricentrum. Fitzg . 1880

Thrixspermum rubrocinctum Fitzg. 1887

Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii var. *rubricentrum* Fitzg. 1900

Named after C.H. Hartmann the original collector and was first described by F. Mueller from plants found on Spring Bluff just North of Toowoomba in South East Queensland in the 1880s. It ranges from around the Border Range areas of the N.S.W. and S.E. Queensland border. It was until very recent times ranging from the Manning and Hastings Rivers up to S.E. Queensland and orchids from this area were known as *Sarcochilus hartmannii* southern form. These are now called *Sarcochilus aequalis*. It was once reported from the Cairns district in N.E. Queensland as *Sarcochilus rubricentrum* by Fitzgerald in 1884 but this was not recognised by botanists although the plants Fitzgerald described matched those from S.E. Queensland.



Growing in high altitudes well above 600 metres it is almost completely lithophytic although it can at rare times be found on the butts of trees. It is found on the high ranges well back from the coast where on these high ranges it can be found in shady ravines to highly exposed cliff ledges. From my own observations this high cliff ledge habitat seems to be its favourite place where it is exposed to huge temperature changes with which it easily seems to cope. These temperatures can range in excess of 38 Celsius down to zero. This is all right as long as the roots are protected and the air movement is constant with the roots which are large and fleshy can enter into the rock crevices and penetrate the soil and decayed humus to stay cool and seek out the nutrients. It favours Eastern and northern aspects and in the areas it grows it enjoys very high rainfall. It is very endemic to these areas and it can be found in smaller clumps and enjoys better light than its Southern form now renamed *Sarcochilus aequalis*. It can at rare times be found near creeks in a shady position.

Bush fires can be a problem but not as big as the extensive collecting this orchid has been subjected to. Having visited some of the areas this orchid used to grow in the sixties and then going back 25 years later I have been astounded that so many orchids could be removed with or without official approval. Whole cliff faces that were once covered with this orchid were almost completely bare on my return trip particularly in the Blue Knob area, although the Southern form has fared little better. I know of one instance where a Helicopter was used to remove plants from the cliff faces. Why plants have to be removed from these natural areas is beyond me for with the line breeding that has taken place by some growers cultured plants are easily obtained and far superior to collected plants. A few years ago on a trip to the Border range area I was still able to see this orchid in nature and still quite plentiful as long as one kept away from the areas that had become famous for fine plants such as the

Mount Blue Knob area on the Western end of the Nightcap Ranges or the Numinbah Valley in N.E.N.S.W. Blue Knob is an area that *Sarcochilus hartmannii* is found and it is not a form or variety of the species. Their fleshy leaves and stiff erect dark coloured raceme can identify plants from these areas.

This plant is closely related to *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii* but is much more exposed to sun in its growing conditions and is a lot more erect and robust plant. It has thicker, broader and darker leaves than *Sarcochilus aequalis* (formerly Southern form) and is one of the most popular and easiest of all the *Sarcochilus* species to grow.

Flowering which takes place about six weeks later than *Sarcochilus aequalis* has up to 26 flowers on an erect or slightly arched raceme which can be up to 30cm long. It is highly prized for its floral display. Flowers are white with red centre although pure albino forms are not so uncommon. While much hybridising has been done with other *Sarcochilus* species as well as plants from other genera the plant is quite showy enough on its own and does not really need any help to assist in its beauty.

Culture. While this is a very easy plant to grow and from my own experience and pointers from other growers I could suggest the following. Grow them in a mixture of pine bark (coarse) and some gravel under reasonably heavy shade cloth with good light, warm humid conditions and good air movement in a shallow pot with very good drainage a must. Watering in summer should be done in the afternoon, do not water in the heat of the day and in Winter any watering should be done in the morning and not too often and if in doubt whether to water or not do not as over watering should be avoided at all costs, Also do not water in very cold conditions for while the plant will withstand the cold it can not tolerate frost or freezing water on its roots, also too much watering at the wrong time of the year will cause rotting or die back. Water carefully but do not allow the plant to dry out for very long. Watering should reach its peak in late February and this is when the plant starts to make new growths and continues to grow through the winter. It does not have any growing rest period but does ease up in spring and summer. A regular feeding during the main growth time would also be of some benefit. There are no pseudo bulbs and the roots, that are big and coarse, are very attractive to slugs and snails

photo *Sarcochilus hartmannii* by E Rotherham, scanned from Native Orchids of Australia by David L. Jones (colour) page 568

ORCHID CONGRESS REPORT

Dr. Topa Petit

Doug Bickerton, my research associate from the Department of Environment and Heritage, and I were very fortunate to attend the First International Orchid Conservation Congress in Perth, 24-28 September 2001.

My trip started off rather poorly at Adelaide airport. I had forgotten to remove my camping Swiss Army set consisting of a spoon, a butter knife, and a fork, from my bag. The security officers detected the folded set and I had to go back out so as to mail it to myself. It was lucky that I had come early, because after standing in line for a fairly long time again, the officers detected my nail-clippers. Clearly, I could have potentially threatened the pilot with the other object, maybe not the butter knife, but the little fork or the spoon...

I made it to Perth without any more trouble, and that evening I met other delegates at Kings Park Botanic Garden. It was during the Flower Festival and we were hosted for a welcome drink in a huge marquee containing an extraordinary collection of orchids. It was a rare treat. The "nouvelle cuisine" nibbles, however, scant but sure to a) set your mouth on fire or b) make you swallow vast quantities of orchid fertilizer to erase the scary taste, were a bad omen. They should have stuck to meat pies. During the rest of the week, however, the food was absolutely delicious and copious, and most delegates are now in great need of dieting.

The Congress was of excellent quality. Twenty-one countries were represented, including Thailand, Chile, USA, the Netherlands, etc. Doug and I were the only two representatives of South Australia.

Monday started at the Hyatt with a conservation overview by Dr. Peter Wyse-Jackson and an orchid conservation overview by Dr. Phillip Cribb. Various aspects of orchid conservation, phylogeny, and threatening processes were discussed. On Tuesday, two sessions were running concurrently concerning the population biology of orchids and *in* and *ex situ* conservation and recovery. Two stimulating sessions on "mycorrhiza for conservation" followed.

Wednesday was a beautiful day dedicated to field exploration, socializing, and photography. Andrew Brown led 90 of us through some exquisite orchid sites and we are supposed to have seen over 60 species of orchids, including flying-duck orchids and hammer orchids. The most fascinating aspect of the trip was the 'demented' behaviour of some people who would clearly have walked over fire (and did not hesitate to walk over people) to take pictures of orchids. Most of the crowd spent the day bum up or standing in line to photograph a particularly desirable specimen. One man even had a miniature duster to clean the selected specimen of any trace of spider web or other rude and unwelcome microorganism. Some people had cameras and flashes so fancy that I think they could be used for intergalactic voyage as well. My good camera having broken down the week before, I contented myself with a few bum shots with my point-and-shoot camera.

Thursday was dedicated to the orchid specialist group meeting, gathering people from all over the world to work voluntarily under the guidance of the World Conservation Union (IUCN). I went to the WA Museum (nowhere near as good as the SA Museum) and Kings Park. In the afternoon, we followed the latest research on conservation genetics.

On Friday, I attended an excellent pollination biology session. I presented a talk on the "preliminary investigation on the ecology and conservation of the endangered *Caladenia behrii* in South Australia", with Doug as a co-author. The presentation had great success and everyone laughed. Some people told me I gave the best talk of the conference, but when I related this objective information to Doug, he said: "Well, at least the most entertaining". Nevertheless, South Australia is on the orchid world map. We ended the day with a solid dinner, live entertainment, and good company.

Some interesting tidbits: over 1/3 of the 30,000 species of orchids are under threat; threats include fire and trade (new species are sometimes collected to extinction as soon as they are described);

blue and green cellulose sponges work well to grow seedlings with their mycorrhizae, but avoid yellow and pink!

16TH AUSTRALIAN ORCHID COUNCIL CONFERENCE AND SHOW
ADELAIDE - SOUTH AUSTRALIA
18TH - 21ST SEPTEMBER 2003

UPDATE FOR DISPLAYS AND JUDGING: - OCTOBER 2001

Venue: Centennial Hall, Royal Adelaide Show grounds.

Dates / Times: Tuesday 16th . Sept. - Put in and Nominations for Judging. (8 a.m. - 8 p.m.),
Wednesday 17th. Sept. - Judging and Opening Night, Sunday 21st. Sept. - Take out and clearing of Hall. (from 5 p.m.)

General : The Conference is an Open show and entry is free.

Conference Theme : 'Orchids in the Wine State'.

Exhibitors are encouraged to incorporate this theme into their displays. Assistance will be given with display materials, for all Exhibitors wishing this assistance.

Display Sizes and Competition : The majority of display areas will conform with the open display sites within Centennial Hall. At this stage it is expected that live turf will be used as the base material, to mount your displays. Some table top areas, will be available, if requested. Displays will be judged and prize money given, also first, second and third prize cards will be presented in several

different classes. Only Nominees who reside outside the State of South Australia, shall be permitted to exhibit cut blooms, unless prior approval is given by the Show Marshal.

Quarantine Requirements : At this early stage, quarantine rules may change. At the appropriate time, before the Conference, final details will be supplied.

Transporting Orchids : On request, assistance will be given to transport orchids from Adelaide airport, to the venue.

Schedule : This is to be ratified by representatives from the A.O.C. Judging Panel. Show Judging will conform to A.O.C. standards. It is envisaged that a very comprehensive schedule, exceeding the A.O.C. minimum listings, will be available.

Prizes

Grand Champion Orchid will receive \$1,500.00, plus a gold medal and sash. Section Champions each will receive \$250.00, plus bronze medal and sash. Champion Display receives \$250.00, plus bronze medal and sash. Other sectional prizes, i.e. perfumed, floral and photographic, will also be available. Major Prizes and Awards, will be presented to recipients, during the Conference Banquet on Saturday Night, 20th. September, in the Banquet Room. First, Second and Third placing prize cards will be issued.

Judges : All qualified Orchid Judges who are Registrants, will be welcome to assist with the Judging, including Championship classes. Judging teams will be selected by the Conference Registrar of Judges. A.O.C. Award Judging will be conducted under the control of the Regional Registrar of the Regional Judging Panel, after a suitable break, following the completion of the Show Judging.

For further information, please contact David Harmer
Phone (08) 82500718 or email - deepee@smartchat.net.au

If you are not yet among the 300 names on my mailing list and wish to be included, please send your name and address to, Richard Fishlock, Conference Chairperson, Email - fishy@arcom.com.au.

EMAIL RECEIVED -Humorous English Signs From Around The World

TOKYO HOTEL: Is forbidden to steal hotel towels please. If you are not a person to do such thing is please not to read notis.

BELGRADE (YUGOSLAVIA) ELEVATOR: To move the cabin, push button for wishing floor. If the cabin should enter more persons, each one should press a number of wishing floor. Driving then going alphabetically by national order.

JAPANESE HOTEL: You are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid.

MOSCOW HOTEL: You are welcome to visit the cemetery where famous Russian and Soviet composers, artists and writers are buried daily except Thursday.

SWISS MENU: Our wines leave you nothing to hope for.

MOSCOW HOTEL: If this is your first visit to the U.S.S.R., you are welcome to it.

BUDAPEST (HUNGARY) ZOO: Please do not feed the animals. If you have any suitable food, give it to the guard on duty.

ROMAN DOCTOR: Specialist in women and other diseases.

TOKYO SHOP: Our nylons cost more than common, but you'll find they are best in the long run.

JAPANESE HOTEL: colles and heates: If you want just condition of warm in your room, please control yourself.

TOKYO CAR RENTAL FIRM: When passender of foot heave in sight, tootle the horn. Trumpet him melodiously at first, but if he still obstacles your passage then tootle him with vigor.