



Journal
of the
Native Orchid Society
of
South Australia Inc



Leptoceras menziesii

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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NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY
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NEXT MEETING 25 NOVEMBER 2003

Tuesday, 25 November, St Matthew's Hall, Bridge 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. Spring Show trophies will be presented. Bring your plants and other items for the ANNUAL AUCTION and money to bid for a bargain. The drawing of the XMAS RAFFLE will follow and also bring a plate of nibbles for SUPPER.

DIARY DATES

25 November Annual Auction and Christmas Supper
7 December Annual BBQ
16-19 Sept. 2004 5th Australasian Native Orchid Conference and Show

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wed, 26th Nov. at the home of David Hirst. Meeting commences at 7:30 p.m.

OCTOBER MEETING PLANTS BENCHED

Terrestrial species: *Arachnorchis tentaculata*; *Chiloglottis* aff. *formicifera*; *Diuris corymbosa* (yellow); *Diuris corymbosa* (Brittwood); *D. sulphurea* (Golden Dragon); *Microtis arenaria*; *M. media* spp. *media*; *M. oblonga* (Vic.); *M. parviflora*; *M. scrutalorum*; *M. unifolia*; *Phaius tancarvilleae* *Pterostylis rufa* (Tas.).

Terrestrial Hybrids: *Diuris* Dragonfly; *Pterostylis* Cutie 'Harolds Pride'; *Pt. Jumbuck* x *ovata*.

Epiphyte species: *Dendrobium canaliculatum*; *Den. jonesii*; *Den. kingianum* (2 Plants); *Den. tetragonum*; *Dockrillia linguiformis* (2 plants); *Dock. mortii* (2 plants); *Dock. pugioniformis* (2 plants); *Plectorrhiza tridentata*; *Sarcochilus falcatus*; *Sarco. hartmannii* (3 Plants).

Epiphyte hybrids: *Dendrobium* Bert Bushell; *Den. x delicatum*; *Den. Elegant Heart*; *Den. Ellen*; *Den. Gillian Leaney* x *Bardo Rose*; *Den. Gilliston Gem* x *kingianum*; *Den. x Suffusum*; *Sarcochilus* First Light; *Sarco. Burgundy* on Ice; *Sarco. Pinkhart*; *Sarco. Bon Bon*

Judging results

Epiphyte species

1st *Sarcochilus hartmannii* grown by Rick Pankoke

2nd *Dockrillia linguiformis* grown by Noel Oliver

3rd

Dendrobium kingianum grown by Wally Walloscheck

Epiphyte Hybrid

1st *Sarcochilus* Burgundy on Ice grown by Peter McCauley

2nd *Dendrobium* Bert Bushell grown by Brendan Killen

3rd *Sarcochilus* George Colthrup grown by Rick Pankoke

Terrestrial Species

1st *Chiloglottis* aff. *formicifera* grown by Les Nesbitt

2nd *Phaius tankervilleae* grown by Les Nesbitt

3rd *Diuris sulphurea* grown by Malcolm Guy

Terrestrial Hybrids

1st *Pterostylis* Cutie 'Harolds Pride' grown by Les Nesbitt

2nd *Diuris* Dragonfly grown by Les Nesbitt

3rd *Pterostylis* Jumbuck x *Ovata* grown by Les Nesbitt

Orchid of the Night

Sarcochilus Burgundy on Ice grown by Peter McCauley

Popular Vote

Epiphyte Hybrid

Sarcochilus Burgundy on Ice grown by Peter McCauley

Epiphyte Species

Dockrillia linguiformis grown by Noel Oliver

Terrestrial Species

Phaius tankervilleae grown by Les Nesbitt

Terrestrial Hybrid

Pterostylis Cutie 'Harolds Pride' grown by Les Nesbitt

Plant commentary on Terrestrials by Les Nesbitt, on Epiphytes by Noel Oliver.

OCTOBER SPEAKER

Nicky Zurcher gave a talk on wildflowers, including orchids, that were in abundance on the snow covered slopes of the mountains surrounding his home town in Switzerland. The talk was illustrated by excellent slides of orchids, wildflowers and the amazing mountainous countryside.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION - NOSSA NEWS

..TUBER BANK 2003-2004 ..

Final reminder to Terrestrial growers to check your pots to see what tubers you can donate to the tuber bank. Please remember to include locality data with the tubers.

Please advise Malcolm Guy, 15 Naomi Toe, Pasadena, Phone 8276 7350, by Nov, 14th so a list can be printed in the December journal.

Remember; many of you rely on the tuberbank to increase the diversity of your orchid stook and it is of particular importance to new members. Without tuber donations there will not be a tuberbank.

November meeting AUCTION

Spring Show Trophies will be awarded at the meeting.

Bring in all the items for auctioning you have put aside for the night. These can be not only your unwanted orchids and related paraphernalia (books, pots, potting mixes), but can also include any item excess to your household.

The Christmas Hamper raffle will be drawn at the meeting.

Bring a plate of finger food to share during supper

NEW MEMBERS

NOSSA Committee and members welcome new members Chris Lynch of Wudinna and Graham Pike of Auburn.

XMAS BBQ

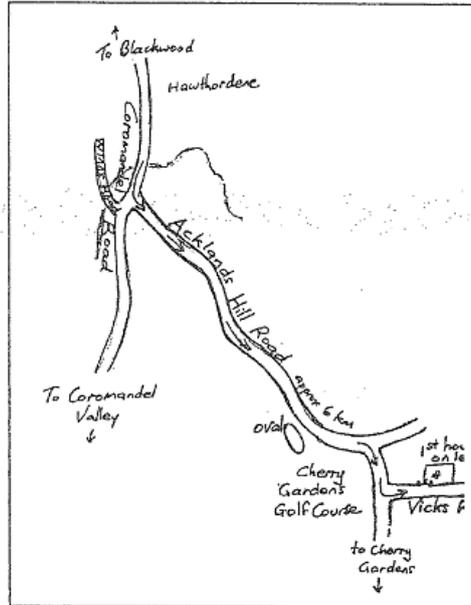
As last year the Xmas BBQ will be held at the home of Wally and Shirley Walloscheck's at Cherry Gardens.

Sunday 7th December at 11:30 am

NOSSA will be providing the meat.

Please bring
A salad or dessert to share and
\$2.00 donation

Also bring a chair, folding table, plates, eating utensils and drinks inc. tea-bags, coffee, milk & sugar. Hot water will be provided.



Black Day at Black Hill

Les Nesbitt

On the 28th October I attended the auction of the remaining items at the Black Hill Government Nursery. What a shame that this once great research facility is no more. The auction was just the last gasp as the researchers have long since gone. Roy Hargraves will be turning in his grave as he spent every Wednesday for years at Black Hill helping out and giving advice on the orchids.

Having attended the Orchid Research Forum in Melbourne in September I cannot help but compare the two states. Victoria has 4 or 5 government departments funding research into Victoria's rare and endangered orchids. South Australia now has no such activity. If someone can prove me wrong I would be glad to hear it. It is a very sad reflection on this State.

Only 20 or 30 bidders attended the sale and many items had only one bidder. The three very large glasshouses went for only \$200 each as only a salvage company was prepared to dismantle them. Someone said the large aluminium framed quarantine glasshouse complete with benching would cost more than \$100,000 to buy now. The glasshouses were too big for the hobbyist and beyond the capacity for one person to dismantle by the end of the week as stipulated in the sale rules. One quarter of one house would make a large hobby glasshouse and then you would need the room to erect it and the ability to build new ends.

I got two desks for \$5, one of which will become a potting bench, and 5m of 1m wide galvanised steel benching for \$30. Bargains I thought.

There was a lovely display of both Epiphytes and Terrestrials at the October meeting. The terrestrials that caught my eye were the 5 pots of different species of *Microtis*. Not exactly the most showy of orchid species but it is nice to see them so well grown by Malcolm Guy. This is one of the rare types of orchid that freely sets seed and spreads its progeny around any adjacent pots, benches or even the earth floor of the orchid house. To prevent this it is advisable to remove the flower head before the seed pods have ripened, not always the easiest thing to do.

At the other end of the beauty scale was the tropical species *Phaius tankervillea* exhibited by Les Nesbitt, one tall spike carrying many golden and white flowers. Possibly the most attractive of the Australian terrestrial species. The common name for this orchid is the 'nun orchid' referring to the sepals that reflex back like a nun's hood. The pot that Les benched had a couple of small plants alongside the main plant. These were sections of stem that Les had cut after flowering. Each length having a dormant node, when inserted into the pot will readily strike. I remember seeing at a nursery in England trays of sphagnum moss that had lengths of *Phaius* stems laying horizontally just buried a couple of inches under the moss with new growths coming from every node, an easy and cheap way to increase one's stock. This of course being a tropical species does require a little more coddling than our locals but not excessive heat, a minimum of 10°C at night during the winter will be ample.

The Epiphytes put on a brilliant display, there were 27 plants benched in a variety of colours. The judges and the popular vote were in agreement on the plant of the night a hybrid *Sarcochilus* Burgundy on Ice, an apt description for this flower being burgundy red suffused with white. It was a medium sized plant carrying 4 racemes with 18, 18, 13, and 12 flowers beautifully arranged on the stems. Peter McCauley is the owner of the plant but Peter was unable to attend the meeting so thanks goes to Les Burgess for bringing it in for us to enjoy.

The other orchid that caught my eye was a line bred *Dendrobium kingianum*. The expression line breeding is often referred to and I was asked at the meeting what line breeding meant. Line breeding is where two superior clones of the same species are mated to (hopefully) produce superior progeny. The resultant progeny is still a species as only the same species has been used. This is often confusing when one sees, as in the one benched, Glouster x Lipstick on the label. What this tells us is that the variety *kingianum* Glouster was crossed with the variety *kingianum* Lipstick and in this case it certainly produced a superior orchid. The flowers were a brilliant magenta colour one and a half inches across they were so large they tended to hang their heads so perhaps further line breeding is required by mating with a variety with strong stems.

Thanks to all members who brought plants in for us to enjoy.

CORRECTION

The Author of the article in the October issue of the journal titled "A visit to Montacute Conservation Park" was not Thelma Bridle as printed but was by Cathy Houston.

The Upper South East has had good rainfall and Blacket's Scrub, now included in Gum Lagoon Conservation Park, appeared quite wet on our arrival. Crossing the flowing roadside drainage channel we were surprised to find the swampy heath was only damp underfoot and even more surprised to find *Pyrorchis nigricans* flowering. A number of flower spikes were scattered through the area. There were many animal tracks through the dense vegetation and a number of orchid species. An unusual find was a *Linguella (Pterostylis) nana*, not only with white hairs on the stem, but also around the edges of the leaf bracts and on the ridges of the ovary. Other *L. nana* in the area were of the mallee form. A heavy shower had us heading back to the cars and unfortunately it was the same story all weekend. We drove further along Wicks West Road as the scrub extends for 6km in this direction. The vegetation changed to *Leptospermum/Banksia* on leached sand, supporting only *P. nigricans* and *Leporella fimbriatum*. Other small areas of woodland proved inaccessible due to lying water. A wide lagoon edged the scrub along Keith-Cantara Road, but we found an access point into the mallee scrub. Many mallee fowl mounds, of varying ages were scattered here, although it was an echidna who rapidly dug into the soft sand to avoid meeting us. We added a number of orchid species to the list. *Bunochilus (Pterostylis) smaragdinus* and *Urochilus (Pterostylis) sanguineus* were both short, mallee forms, except for one 25cm tall *U. sanguineus* with 6 fat seedpods. *Caladenia cardiochila* and *C. latifolia* were both flowering, but *C. arenaria*, the white spider orchid of the Upper SE was still in bud.

Bunbury Conservation Reserve was wet and there were many rabbits in the area. We decided to only investigate the roadside, which proved to have several orchid species, before continuing along the increasingly slippery road to the NE corner of Messent Conservation Park. There had been many gum flowers and twigs scattered along the roadside, and suddenly, with much noise a flock of about 150 yellow-tailed black cockatoos flew up from a clump of banksias, scattering cones in all directions as they flew. Many more birds remained on the ground, so this was quite the largest flock I have seen. The flowering shrubs in Messent were lovely - pinks, yellows, white and red and all largely unnoticed as someone called out 'spiders in flower'. *C. arenaria* had a variety of colourations, particularly variable in the labellum, ranging from white through pink to red-tipped. A number of the *Thelymitra antennifera* flowers had been open. In the SE these flowers are particularly large, and once open rarely close completely at night. A single specimen of *Diuris brevissima*, similar to the Adelaide Hills *D. pardina*, was flowering.

Sunday began with hail and there were a number of such showers during the morning. We were pleased to find Tilley Swamp Conservation Park accessible after the amount of water encountered through the region and surprisingly the dense tea tree heath seemed quite dry. We were interested in the *Casuarina* woodland on the limestone ridge. One of the *Thelymitra epipactoides* located last year was not found on this occasion, but a total of 9 plants were found, 3 with flower spikes. *Diuris palustris*, *C. carnea*, *C. latifolia* and *Pheladenia deformis* were all flowering in shallow soil over limestone. A single *C. reticulata* was in bud, *C. cardiochila* also in bud, but one of a group of *C. tensa* had a flower open. The *Casuarina* woodland at the site is extensive and warrants a longer search in better weather conditions, although 10 pairs of eyes did a pretty good job.

As last year, we were keen to check out some of the burnt area in south western Messent Conservation Park. Vegetation has continued to return to the region and the colourful shrubs were beautiful, compact and full of flower. One species Wheel fruit (*Gyrostemon australasicus*) with burnt-orange coloured fruits germinates freely after fire in mallee areas and the bushes presented a striking appearance. Last year, *Thelymitra benthamiana* were prolific. Whilst still common, I think numbers may have been fewer than previous, but about 40% had buds, compared to 30% last year. There was a greater variety of orchid species in the regrowth area, *C. arenaria* were flowering, also *C. cardiochila* and their natural hybrid, *C. x variabilis*. Some *Prasophyllum elatum* leaves were tall, but not yet in bud.

Surprisingly the fire orchid, *Pyrorchis nigricans*, leaves were still only small, as per last year, scattered with no sign of flowers. A single colony of *Corybas* sp. had leaves as thick as the more common *Cyrtostylis robusta*. Several greenhood species were found with *Plumatochilus (Pterostylis) plumosum* proving very hard to photograph in the strong wind.

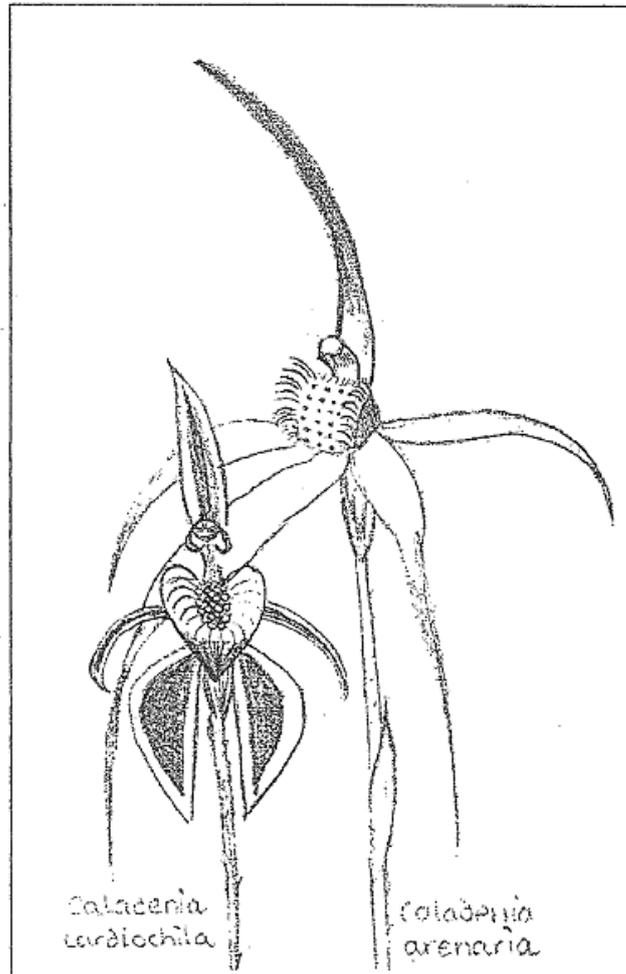
June made the find of the weekend, just one flowering plant of *T.*

epipactoides. This species has not been recorded in the park since 1979.

Unfortunately the limestone hillsides were too far from shelter to go looking for the elusive *T. matthewsii*, so perhaps next year, which will probably be our last chance as the species does not survive many years after fire.

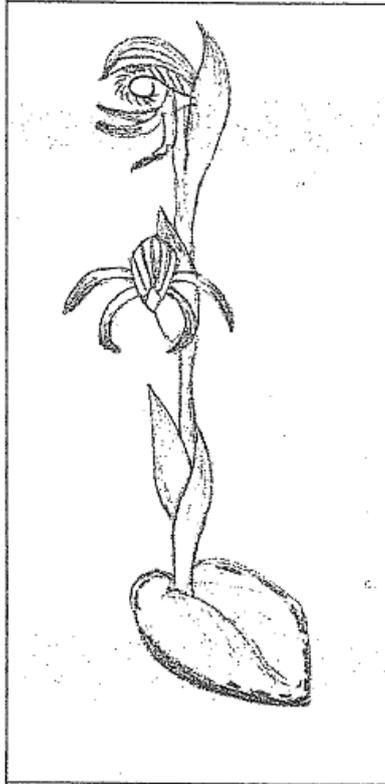
All information on the orchids seen over the weekend will be submitted to DEH at Meningie, including GPS points for the *T. epipactoides* plants recorded.

Thelymitra epipactoides, the metallic sun orchid, is an endangered species of mainly coastal heathlands in South Australia, often flowering in damp depressions. The species is quite robust with a large, fleshy, dark green heavily ribbed leaf and 5-20 flowers, varying in colour from yellow, bronze, pink, grey, green or bluish, all with an iridescent lustre. Flowering time is September to early October. The species was more widespread, but has become endangered due to loss of habitat to agriculture. Flowering is increased following summer fires, but generally the species requires protection due to its rarity.



ORCHIDS SEEN ON COORONG WEEKEND 13-14/9/03

	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Bunochilus smaragdinus</i>	f				
<i>Caladenia arenaria</i>	b	b	f		f
<i>C. capillata</i>		l			
<i>C. cardiochila</i>	b/f			b	f
<i>C. carnea</i>	b			f	
<i>C. latifolia</i>	f	f		f	
<i>C. necrophylla</i>				?b	?b
<i>C. reticulata</i>				b	
<i>C. tensa</i>				f	
<i>C. x variabilis</i>					f
<i>Corysanthes despectans</i>	s				
<i>C. incurvus</i>				fo	
<i>C. sp.</i>					l
<i>Cyrtostylis robusta</i>	f	l	l	fo/s	l/f
<i>Diplodium dolichocheilum</i>	l				l
<i>Diuris brevissima</i>			f		
<i>D. palustris</i>				f	
<i>Eriochilus cucullatus</i>				l	
<i>Genoplesium sp.</i>	s				
<i>Glossodia major</i>	f		f	f	f
<i>Hymenochilus sp.</i>					l
<i>Leporella fimbriata</i>	l				
<i>Linguella nana</i>	f		f		f
<i>Microtis arenaria</i>					b
<i>M. sp.</i>	l		l	l	l
<i>Oligochaetochilus sp.</i>	l			l	
<i>Pheladenia deformis</i>	f		f	f	f
<i>Prasophyllum elatum</i>					l
<i>P. sp.</i>	b				
<i>Pterostylis pedunculata</i>		f		f	
<i>Pyrorchis nigricans</i>	f		l		l
<i>Thelymitra antennifera</i>	b		b/f		b/f
<i>T. benthamiana</i>					b
<i>T. epipactoides</i>				f/b	f/b
<i>T. flexuosa</i>	b				
<i>T. megacalyptra 'nuda</i>	b			b	
<i>T. x macmillanii</i>	b				
<i>Urochilus sanguineus</i>	s				fo

*Pyrorchis nigricans*

- 1 - Blacket's Scrub
 2 - Bunbury Conservation Reserve
 3 - Messent Conservation Park (NE)
 4 - Tilly Swamp Conservation Park
 5 - Messent Conservation park (SW)

- l - leaf
 b - bud
 f - flower
 fo - flower over
 s - seedpod

History: NOSSA members have been involved with this, the only subalpine grassland reserve in South Australia since its inception.

This high altitude treeless park, off Whitehill road via Mt Bryan in the mid north had been grazed for 150 years before being acquired by DENR in 1996. NOSSA members had visited as early as December 1986 and recognised the value of the property as a grassland reserve ... but strangely no survey was done in Spring until Meg Robertson visited in the mid 1990's and recorded 2 orchid species ... (as *Pterostylis mutica* and *Thelymitra nuda*.)

Since 1997 NOSSA members have visited almost annually and counted (or estimated) the number of orchids of each species.

The result is recorded in the table below.

Name of species	1997	1999	2001	2003	Notes
<i>Diuris behrii</i>	-----	8	22	26	5 colonies
<i>Hymenochilus</i> aff. <i>cycnocephala</i>	40	65	100+	150+	One colony in NW corner of Park.
<i>Microtis</i> sp.	----	-----	15	5	Leaves no fl.
<i>Oligochaetochilus</i> sp.	-----	-----	-----	2	No flowers
<i>Prasophyllum odoratum</i> ssp.	-----	5	10	12	One location
<i>P. occidentale</i>	20	40+	60+	160+	widespread
<i>Thelymitra</i> aff. <i>nuda</i>	1	2	4	5	Scattered in NW

Notes:

The *Pterostylis mutica* identified by MR has now been identified as an undescribed subalpine sp. of *Hymenochylis* more closely related to *H. cycnocephala*.

This is one of our rarest and most cold tolerant SA orchids and many years suffers a snowfall at flowering time (Aug). It seems to be increasing well but as yet has not left the original location.

The *Microtis* species has never flowered and seems to be declining but in contrast *Prasophyllum occidentale*, the grassland leek orchid is recolonising all except the exposed peaks.

Each year an additional small colony of *Diuris behrii* (the small hardly opening ssp.) is located. It may not be increasing in reality; we are looking for it better!

Note that extra species are continuing to be located most years. 2002 was a poor year due to drought and 2003 saw smaller than average plants due to the many cold days in September.

Since the survey began there have been no above average rainfall years. The genera so far represented are those most tolerant of grazing. There are no *Caladenia* alliance species as these are particularly susceptible to sheep.

Let's hope further species return to Mokota in years to come and that sheep are not returned to the Park as part of the management systems ... sheep and orchids are just not compatible

I apologise for comments made in the October journal regarding sheep on the reserve this year. This was part of a well organised experiment testing the affects of fire, exclusion of mammals and effects of sheep grazing in small fenced areas.

Observations:

At least 2 species not previously listed appeared in the burned areas and all perennials recovered well after fire. Native plants were smaller but flowered more profusely in the sheep grazed areas and plants were larger and healthier in the mammal exclusion zone.

The results were pretty much as expected but no conclusions should be drawn without further trials and long term analysis.

New Editor required

For the next year or two a new editor is needed as the present one would like a break so that he can concentrate on endless house renovations and on completing some taxonomic manuscripts of huntsman spiders. The latter is done at home as well as at work.

Support will be given.

LIBRARY BOOKS SHOULD BE RETURNED AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING FOR STOCKTAKING PURPOSES.

The final NOSSA Judges meeting for 2003, is Saturday 6th December.