



Journal
of the
Native Orchid Society
of
South Australia Inc



Plumatichilos plumosum

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
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www.nossa.org.au.

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NEXT MEETING 23 MAY 2006

Tuesday, 23 May, 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 and trading table.

The speaker for the meeting is Topah Petit on Conservation work and Research on *Caladenia behrii*.

DIARY DATES

Friday 26th May	Annual Dinner at the Buckingham Arms
Sat 10th June	weeding at Belair National Park; <i>Pterostylis cucullata</i>
Mon 12th June	Morialta Cons. Park looking for <i>Diplodium</i> .
Sun 25th June	Potters Scrub - survey.
Sat. & Sun. 16-17th Sept	Spring Show
Sunday 3rd December	Xmas BBQ

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wed, 31st May at the home of **Bodo Jensen**. Meeting commences at 7:30 p.m.

APRIL MEETING

Plants Benched

Epiphyte species

Dendrobium lithocola [syn. *Den. bigibbum* var. *compactum*] (three plants); *Dendrobium schneiderae*

Epiphyte hybrids

Dendrobium Hilda Poxon

Terrestrial species

Acianthus pusillus; *Eriochilus cucullatus* (three plants); *Diplodium (Pterostylis) coccinum*; *Diplodium (Pterostylis) laxum*; *Diplodium (Pterostylis) obtusum* (two plants); *Diplodium (Pterostylis) revolutum*; *Taurantha (Pterostylis) ophioglossa*.

Terrestrial hybrids

Pterostylis revoluta x Rogoff; *Pterostylis x furcullata*; *Pterostylis taurodium x furcullata*; *Pterostylis* Trunkfish (two plants)

Judging results

Epiphyte species

- 1st *Dendrobium lithocola* grown by Bodo Jensen
- 2nd *Dendrobium schneiderae* grown by Noel Oliver
- 3rd *Dendrobium lithocola* grown by Bodo Jensen

Epiphyte hybrid

- 1st *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon grown by Bodo Jensen
- No 2nd or 3rd.

Terrestrial species

- 1st *Diplodium laxum* grown by Malcolm Guy
- 2nd *Diplodium obtusum* grown by Malcolm Guy
- 3rd *Eriochilus cucullatus* grown by Malcolm Guy

Terrestrial hybrids

- 1st *Pterostylis* Trunkfish grown by Malcolm Guy
- 2nd *Pterostylis* Trunkfish grown by Les Burgess
- 3rd *Pterostylis revoluta* x Rogoff grown by Les Nesbitt

Plant of the night

Diplodium laxum grown by Malcolm Guy

Popular vote results

Terrestrial species

Eriochilus cucullatus grown by Les Nesbitt

Terrestrial hybrid

Pterostylis Trunkfish grown by Malcolm Guy

Epiphyte species

Dendrobium lithocola grown by Bodo Jensen

Epiphyte hybrid

Dendrobium Hilda Poxon grown by Bodo Jensen

Commentary provided by Noel Oliver (Epiphytes) and Les Burgess (Terrestrials)

New Members Activities

In an attempt to share the knowledge and experience of the many experts in NOSSA with those members who wish to learn more about the place of native orchids in the natural environment and those who wish to grow and even show native orchids, a series of activities is envisaged which includes talks, demonstrations and visits to growers.

The first of these was a repotting demonstration and workshop at the home of Malcolm Guy in early December. Under Malcolm's expert eye, four novices repotted terrestrials and epiphytes including *Pterostylis curta* and *Corybas diemenicus*, and the *Dendrobium's gracilicaule* var. *gracilicaule* and *Den. kingianum* x Bronz Katie x King Jassy . Despite it being the first very hot day of December, it was an excellent learning experience and the participants were very grateful for Malcolm's guidance and also for the refreshments that Libby Guy produced nonstop during the afternoon.

The second activity was a seminar conducted by Reg Shooter with the assistance of John Guy prior to the March meeting. Ten people attended this meeting and learned about the place of orchids in the plant world, the importance of fungi in the biology of the orchid. The mystery of the structure of the orchid flower was revealed, as the members of the group each dissected a magnificent *Cattlya* donated by Reg. It was another excellent session and highly recommended. The group were grateful to Reg for his initiative in structuring and leading the discussion and to John for his support at the seminar.

Further activities will appear in the programme of activities.

John Bartram

FOR YOUR INFORMATION - NOSSA NEWS

FIELD TRIPS

PTEROSTYLIS CUCULLATA

N.O.S.S.A. together with D.E.H. and T.P.A.G. in support of the Lofty Block Threatened Orchid Project, are holding a second weeding day (*Pterostylis cucullata*) at Belair National Park.

Sat 10th June; Meet at the front car park, Belair N.P. at 9:30p.m.

For more information contact Cathy Houston, 83567356.

Diplodium

Monday June 12th (long weekend) for 1/2 day only at Morialta Conservation Park to look for *Diplodium*. Entry to the carpark at Morialta is \$5 per car through the boom gate. There is a carpark about 1.5km further down the road with no parking fee. If you wish to meet at the lower park and share a ride (and cost), please **contact Susan Secomb** 08 85246248 or 0409 091030 or form your own group. We'll aim to be at the upper carpark at 10am.

Potters Scrub

- Sunday June 25th at Potters Scrub for surveying. It takes about 2 hours to reach Meningie from town. I suggest that we meet in Meningie's main street as close as possible to 10am. It will be a good time for a coffee stop, so the later you are, the less time you'll have for a break before we head down the track and some serious searching. **Contact Susan Secomb.**

NOSSA Field Trips - Projected trips for **2006** and until April **2007** – generally meet at 10am. There will be confirmation of all trips closer to the time. **Contact Susan Secomb** 08 85246248 or 0409 091030 with any queries

The Park of the Year for study is Potter's Scrub, so there are two formal dates allocated to help with searching and identifying

Date and time	Place	Details
Monday 12 th June 10am for half day (long weekend)	Morialta	<i>Diplodium</i>
Sunday June 25 th	Potter's Scrub	Survey
Saturday 15 th July with the option of joining the locals for Sat night and staying onto Sunday 16 th	Yorke Peninsula – meeting time and other details closer to the time	<i>Diplodium</i>
Monday 24 th to Friday 28 th July	Gawler Ranges – a meeting time for each day will be distributed closer to the time	
Saturday 29 th and Sunday 30 th July	Lofty Block	NOSSA <i>Oligochaetochilus despectans</i> monitoring
The week starting August 1 st	Bimbowrie – camping, old shearers' quarters	
Sunday September 3 rd	Parrakie and Sherlock – staying on property, access to facilities	Heritage scrub
Saturday September 9 th	Kersbrook at Moriarty's	
Sunday September 10 th	Potter's Scrub	
Saturday 23 rd and Sunday 24 th September	Coonalpyn – camping, shearers' quarters, facilities to be confirmed	
Saturday 21 st OR Sunday October 22 nd – check for forecast of sunny weather (optional stay Sat night at Williamstown)	Williamstown for breakfast, Kaiser Stuhl (Pewsey Vale) woods and forests reserve for the morning, Lobethal in the afternoon	<i>Thelymitra</i>
Saturday 4 th to Monday 6 th November (maybe Tuesday 7 th for Melbourne Cup?) or Honan's Scrub, SE for <i>Caladenia transitoria</i>	Grampians trip combined with ANOS – Black Range, Deep Lead and burnt areas	
Saturday 18 th November 1pm	Mount Lofty – meet at Mount Lofty summit carpark	Look at controlled burn area
Wednesday 27 th December	Talisker and Raywood Nursery	<i>Diplodium</i> special day
2007	More specific dates closer to the times	
February	South East camping	<i>Spiranthes</i> special, rare <i>Corunastylis</i>
March	South Para Reservoir Reserve	Local Midge orchids
April	Knott Hill, Kuitpo	<i>Eriochilus</i> , <i>Leporella</i>

ORCHIDS IN THE FIELD

May – June

The season has started well so members wishing to look for orchids in the wild will be rewarded now. Below is a selective list of some orchids which you could expect to find in the Hills.

	May	June	Where
<i>Acianthus pusillus</i>	flowering	flowering	most localities
<i>Leporella fimbriata</i>	flowering	flowering	Kuitpo
<i>Pterostylis (Diplodium) bryophila</i>	flowering	flowering	Mt. Billy C.P.
<i>Pterostylis (Urochilus) sanguinea</i>	flowering	flowering	most localities
<i>Pterostylis (Diplodium) alata</i>	buds	flowering	Morialta C.P.
<i>Pterostylis (Diplodium) robusta</i>	buds	flowering	Onkaparinga N.P.
<i>Eriochilus cucullatus</i>	flowers finished	leaves	many localities
<i>Thelymitra</i> species	leaves up	leaves	most localities
<i>Glossodia major</i>	leaves appearing	leaves	most localities
<i>Caladenia</i> species	leaves appearing	leaves	most localities
<i>Cyrtostylis robusta</i>	leaves appearing	buds	most localities

DON'T FORGET

“A COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE NATIVE ORCHIDS OF AUSTRALIA”

N.O.S.S.A. is now taking pre-publication orders for David L Jones new book on Australian orchids. The cost is \$75 and orders (not necessarily money) should be sent to the Treasurer. **This offer closes at the end of July** so we will foreclose a couple of weeks before that.

Orders are also being taken for the *Eighth Edition of Australian Native Hybrids*. This lists all registered names to February 2005 and costs \$25. May Meeting last chance.

President's report 2005-06

2005 was a period of consolidation for our society, most notably due to the arrival of vibrant, energetic new members who have embraced the society whole-heartedly. These include John and Faye Eaton; John helped upgrade our constitution and developed a database hopefully to be used in our website, while Faye organises tea and biscuits after each meeting. Then there is Rob Lawrence who quickly embraced the job of society photographer. We gained university students Renate and Susan who spoke to our society about their orchid projects. Then there is John and Libby Bartram who help run our 'new members group'.

Two of our most recent new members are Ben Jacobs and his father. Ben has set up an excellent and evolving NOSSA website at www.nossa.org.au and we will hear much more about this new feature.

The last 12 months have seen NOSSA join the electronic age in many ways as there have been many digital innovations including....

- 1: our journal can now be delivered electronically, thus saving on postage!
 - 2: our photographer Robert uses a digital camera and anyone who has their journal delivered by email receives the full colour edition.
 - 3: our editor David prefers to receive articles electronically by email.
 - 4: our treasurer Peter keeps the books on an electronic spreadsheet.
 - 5: our resident computer whiz Ben has given us the NOSSA website.
 - 6: We are about to buy an electronic computer projector to replace our old slide projector which we will of course keep for speakers with slides. This acquisition will be funded through a legacy left to us by past patron Noel Lothian.
- Much else is new... we have a new patron in NOSSA founder Les Nesbitt (the new and the old in one) and new field trip co-ordinator in the person of new member Sue.

We had a wonderful variety of speakers last year: Reg Shooter on the Dijon orchid conference, Tom Milne on reptiles, the Tindall's on highland orchids, Brendon Killen on orchids of Lord Howe Island and Qld, Renate and Susan on their post graduate orchid projects and Les Nesbitt on his AOF project on growing spider orchids from seed. Les is one of two members who receive an AOF grant for research into SA orchids.

Almost 50 certificates and trophies were awarded last year.

As usual there were many sub groups working on many projects: the Conservation group attended over 20 working bees with TPAG or Lofty Block Orchid projects. Of course it was not always the same members at each. Then there was the tuber bank, a regular fund raiser, the Show committee which helped our spring show to raise nearly \$1000, regular judges meetings, terrestrial study group and field trip planning meetings and new members' activities and people helping staff stalls at Garden Shows etc.

In addition to these sociable activities there were the official whole society events such as the annual dinner in May, the Christmas party and fund raising auction in November and the end of year Society barbecue in December. It seems there is always something on!

Our conservation officer helped to save two areas of bush from damage or development and our survey park was Carroona Creek. The electronic report of this survey with pictures by Ken Bayley and others is available on CD from the President upon a small donation to the Society.

Members found several new orchid species in SA last year. The 1978 *Flora SA* recognised 120 species, *Orchids SA* in 1990 treated about 150 species, the 2005 Census recognised 240 species and the new Electronic Orchids SA 2006 treats 300 species! This incredible increase in understanding of our native orchids is due almost solely to NOSSA members. The new Electronic Orchids of South Australia 2006 is now available for down loading from www.nossa.org.au

Thank you to all who supported our Society in any way during the last 12 months and I know that includes most of you.

Sincerely Robert J Bates, President.

How it is Done

Reg Shooter

Noel Oliver brought in a delightful little species of *Dendrobium schneiderae* a small plant mounted on a piece of old carpet underfelt attached to a short length of hardwood paling. This is the preferred mode for cultivating this species as opposed to growing it in a pot. In its natural habitat of north-eastern NSW to southern Queensland it is quite a common species growing on rainforest trees in the cooler ranges & tablelands. It grows very well in Adelaide only requiring shadehouse conditions with bright light, plenty of air movement and ample humidity.

The small greenish yellow flowers are produced on arching racemes up to 18cms long. Noel's plant carried four 10cm long racemes of nicely arranged flowers. This species is similar to *D. monophyllum*, the lily-of-the-Valley orchid, and a species we see more often on the benches. The difference being *D. monophyllum* has slightly larger flowers and is a clearer yellow.

If you get the opportunity I suggest you try this charming little easily grown species.

ORCHID GRID – April 2006

Les Nesbitt

April turned out to be like the days of old with regular rainfall twice a week in the hills. Total rain for the month was 90mm. The surface soil became saturated and orchids popped up everywhere. No *Eriochilus cucullatus* flowered in the grid but they were numerous elsewhere. I pollinated more than 60 plants this year on the block so 14 years of hand pollination and slashing is starting to show results. Other species to show in the grid were *Caladenia carnea*, *Pterostylis pedunculata*, and *Thelymitra grandiflora*.

We could be in for a glorious flowering year if *Eriochilus* is any indication.

War on Rats

Les Nesbitt

We have all heard the stories of rats eating grower's orchids but I have not had any trouble from the rodents in 40 years until this Autumn. The first thing I noticed was that all the flowers on *Eriochilus* disappeared overnight. Some I had just pollinated the day before. Then the *Genoplesium* flowers went. I blamed birds at first but the next night some of the emerging *Diuris* leaves were bitten off at ground level but left laying on the pots. This was definitely rats so I bought some Ratsak and put out the blue pellets in 2 trays but none was taken. Then the greenhood rosettes started to disappear in the shadehouse. I was getting desperate now so I consulted Les Burgess who is very experienced in these battles. He suggested the green block type baits so these were obtained and placed in the damaged areas. Next morning the blocks were partly consumed. I thought I was winning until I went into the cold glasshouse and found the greenhood rosettes had disappeared in there. Next job was to block up the vent holes at ground level with fly wire and close the louvres since they are not needed in cold weather. The next morning my specimen pots of greenhoods in the shadehouse had holes dug down about 10mm deep to get at the roots since there were no leaves left by now. Today on the last day of April the leaves of *Microtis* have been nipped off neatly in the shadehouse. So far, fingers crossed, *Thelymitra* and *Lyperanthus* have not been touched or are they the next course. *Cymbidium* spikes are also untouched. The bait instructions say it can take up to 2 weeks to kill the rats. Will I have any orchids left by then?

Editor's Note: Over the last few years I have also had trouble with rats (and mice) and now find I need to have Ratsak out all year round and I am buying on average one packet a month. After two or three weeks when the pellets stop disappearing I begin to think I have got them all and I do not check the bait stations as often. Then before I know it the bait is all gone and I seem to back to square one as I found out after having lost nearly all my *Diplodium* flowers again this year

It is also well known that rats are not uncommon in the bush and I am wondering if the wrong animals such as kangaroos are taking the blame for the chewed off flower spikes we see in the wild. These chewed off spikes do resemble what we see in the shadehouse.

S.E. ORCHID SURVEYS – Part 2

By Cathy Houston

At the beginning of October (2004) we again joined forces with Anna Murphy to search for threatened species of orchids in the SE of our state. This time we started at Wolseley with a quick look at the more recently named Wolseley Common Conservation Park. It is an area of remnant bullock with a fairly open understorey. There being no orchids in this area we then moved north to meet a local land owner in the Pine Hill area, the last known sighting of *Caladenia xanthochila*. He took us to a scrub of remnant native pines (*Callitris* sp.) where he pointed out many interesting and historic features of the area. However, the understorey was degraded and although several orchids were seen, none were of significant note to excite the searchers. After lunch the site for the *Caladenia* was inspected, this now being a closed laneway which had been subjected to grazing on both sides and had had sheep in it at various times.

By mid afternoon we had made our way to Geegeela Conservation Park. This was the first stop for the day which had any promise of producing a reasonable range of orchid species. Once again, we were looking for rare *Caladenia* (*Arachnorchis*) species. The one which took the attention of our leader was *Caladenia colorata*, with its varied colours and forms. Here were well over fifty flowering plants, which is to be expected for this park when one is in suitable habitat, viz. blue gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon*) woodland. Other species in flower included *Caladenia carnea*, *C. cucullata*, *C. prolata*, *Diuris brevissima* and *Glossodia major*. It was just too early in the season to see the *Thelymitra*'s in flower, except for the early flowering *Thelymitra antennifera*. Some of these were even in pod.

The following day we made our way to The Heath Native Forest Reserve, east of Tarpeena. It is part of an extensive system of reserves of native bush in the SE owned by Forestry SA. We were ostensibly searching for the rarely seen *Prasophyllum spicatum*; however, the habitat did not seem very likely to produce any flowering plants of this species. It was tall Eucalypt forest with a reasonably thick heathy understorey. A slashed track provided habitat for a few orchids. *Caladenia*'s in the *dilatata* complex produced a lot of interest and discussion. They ranged in size from small with similarly small brown clubs, to a considerable sized orchid with a more commanding appearance with very long clubs. Sometimes they were grouped in considerable numbers, but sometimes found as individuals. Were they *C. parva* or *C. dilatata* or something else? Specimens sent to D.L. Jones in Canberra did not clear up the quandary.

Another *Caladenia* of interest to most of the surveyors was *C. ornata*. Here we found several very good examples of the species. Many specimens exhibited lateral sepals joined for about half of their length. Since most of us were unfamiliar with it a good deal of time was spent in capturing its image. A *Diuris* sp. which had both flowers and buds also elicited some discussion. *D. brevissima* had already been seen in flower, but these flowers did not seem exactly like those and the buds seemed more like *D. sulphurea*. For a while we were distracted by the sight of a koala in *Eucalyptus viminalis*.

In the afternoon we moved across the road to a slightly more open habitat. The same *C. dilatata* complex still had us wondering. *D. orientis* was in flower, as were *C. carnea*, *C. ornata*, *C. prolata*, *Cyrtostylis reniformis* and *Pterostylis pedunculata*. As is so often the case, just as we were leaving the area, a few short specimens of *P. foliata* were seen.

The last hour of the day was spent at Penola Conservation Park. Here there were many "goodies" in flower and once again the *Caladenia*'s were in abundance. Making a bit of a change, *Glossodia major* was plentiful and included white flowers amongst the crisp purples. *Thelymitra antennifera* and *T. flexuosa* were ready to open, but a very cool day precluded this. However, the best was yet to come. Di Richman had found some *Diuris* in the red gum swamp area. At first glance they looked somewhat similar to *D. behrii*, but upon closer examination it was apparent that they were different. Time was running out this evening, but we were to return the following afternoon and spend more

time considering what had been found. Subsequently they turned out to be the highlight of the whole of these SE searches. It was decided by the experts in Canberra that it is likely to be a new species with affinities to *D. chryseopsis*. This was also satisfying for South Australian experts who had always maintained that we had a *Diuris* of this kind.

During that afternoon Barb Bayley located some white spider orchids, two of which were in flower. What a delight for all the photographers! It was concluded that they must be *Caladenia venusta*, which were only just starting to flower. Nearby were a couple of *Pterostylis tasmanica* flowers which was pleasing because we had not come across these in any other locations. However, a few members were not quite so pleased when they came across a snake!

The morning of this day was spent at Nangwarry Native Forest, east of Penola. Once again there were masses of those green comb spiders, especially along the slashed tracks and roads in the forest. They certainly were the most common species. Once again it was too cool to open *Thelymitra*'s. Late in the morning part of the group found some aberrant buds of an unrecognisable species. A lot of interest was generated for quite a while; it was agreed that the leader would keep an eye on them and report developments. What an anti-climax when they eventually turned out to be *Thelymitra juncifolia*. The usual species were in flower, viz. *C. carnea*, *Glossodia major*, *P. pedunculata* and *P. nutans*, this being similar habitat to that which we were in the previous morning. This was the only locality where *Calochilus robertsonii* was seen but it had not yet started to flower.

The weekend finished at Penola C. P., as mentioned before, so we finished on a high.

	G	H-1	H-2	P	N
<i>Caladenia carnea</i>	f	f	f	f	f
<i>Caladenia colorata</i>	f				
<i>Caladenia cucullata</i>	f				
<i>Caladenia dilatata</i> complex		f	f		f
<i>Caladenia latifolia</i>		p	f	p	
<i>Caladenia ornata</i>		f	f		
<i>Caladenia parva</i>				f	
<i>Caladenia prolata</i>	f	f	f	f	
<i>Caladenia pusilla</i>				f	
<i>Caladenia</i> sp.		b			
<i>Caladenia tentaculata</i>		b			
<i>Caladenia venusta</i>				f	
<i>Calochilus robertsonii</i>					b
<i>Corybas</i> sp.		l	l	l	l
<i>Cyrtostylis reniformis</i>		f	f		
<i>Disa bracteata</i>		b		b	b
<i>Diuris aff. chryseopsis</i>				f	
<i>Diuris brevissima</i>	f	f			f
<i>Diuris orientis</i>			f	b	b

	G	H-1	H-2	P	N
<i>Diuris x sulphurea</i> ?		f			
<i>Glossodia major</i>	f	f		f	f
<i>Leporella fimbriata</i>				l	
<i>Leptoceras menziesii</i>				f	
<i>Microtis</i> sp.	b	l	b	l	l
<i>Prasophyllum</i> sp.		l			
<i>Pterostylis foliata</i>			f		
<i>Pterostylis nana</i> - hills form		f		f	
<i>Pterostylis nutans</i>		f		f	f
<i>Pterostylis pedunculata</i>		f	f	f	f
<i>Pterostylis tasmanica</i>				f	
<i>Pyrorchis nigricans</i>	l	f		l	l
<i>Thelymitra antennifera</i>	f			b	
<i>Thelymitra flexuosa</i>				b	b
<i>Thelymitra juncifolia</i>	b				b
<i>Thelymitra pauciflora</i> -group	b	b	b	b	b
<i>Thelymitra rubra</i>	b				b
<i>Thelymitra</i> sp.		b		b	

G = Geegeela C.P., H-1 = The Heath, am., H-2 - The Heath, p.m., P = Penola C.P., N = Nangwarry

f = flower, b = bud, l = leaf, p = pod.

Photos of some of the orchids listed above are included with the electronic version of the journal

I have been growing these plants for only a short time but in that time have managed some success on the show bench. Always the first comment is “you must have a heated glasshouse”. I wish! These notes are designed for those who want to dabble with a few plants, any more and you’d better get a heated glasshouse.

I have a small collection of some 30 *Phalaenopsis* orchids and they grow well inside so it got me thinking about other tropicals and with my keen interest in natives I grabbed some seedling *Dendrobium bigibbum* and *Den. lithacola*. By the time I got them it was May. Winter was closing in and the nights were cold. The plants had already matured their canes and were entering dormancy. These seedlings spent the first winter on the windowsill in full sun. I would observe the canes and only when they started shrivelling did I give them a soak in tepid water, not cold. The pots are stood in water and I let the capillary action of the water gradually wet the bark over a few hours. By next day the canes were plump again. The books say give them no water at all but I think a little is OK. In nature there are many dews in winter so even though it does not rain the plants still get a bit of moisture. Even though the root tips have long since sealed, they still are very effective at getting whatever moisture they can. By September the plants leaves have a real purple tinge and the first signs of new growth are evident. At this time watering is increased to once every two weeks, again standing the pots in some tepid water using capillary action as I did not want any water on the new growths. On warm days the plants sit out in the shade house under 50% but are brought inside every night until minimums exceed 14°C. By late October they can be safely left outside unless we get a usually cold night or period of cold and wet weather. Feeding commences when the new growths are about an inch high and I use horticultural solutions HSO 8 native formula with a little Seasol. Miracle Grow and Power feed are two others I use. Plants are kept damp, not wet and air movement is important. They spend their growing season under 50% green shade cloth. At this stage they are in small pots, no bigger than 65mm and they will stay there until the pot nearly blows up. One thing I have noticed with hard canes like *Den. bigibbum* is that the smaller the pot the better they grow. My first seedling is still in a 65mm pot and has 12 canes and 8 flower spikes evident.

Peak growing season is January and February that coincides with the monsoons of our tropical north. Growth is now rapid and new roots pop out from the developing growths. The one thing I do look for is that each year I expect my canes to be larger than the previous year, a very evident sign of good culture.

The completion of growth is just as rapid. With the development of the final leaf the first signs of flower spikes emerge. Spikes will also emerge from old canes. I usually keep my plants outside until the buds are a reasonable size then move them inside. One cold night and they will drop some or all of their buds so I don’t take any chances here. Once open they brighten up my lounge for ages and even when cut stay in good condition in the vase. It is this keeping ability that is passed on to the hot/cold hybrids as well as the earlier flowering. Flowering starts late in April through to June.

On the completion of flowering the plants need a rest but my problem is the plants are now too big for the windowsill. No problem, I just sit them as close to the window as I can. On sunny winter days I sit them outside near the bricks of the house facing north each morning after 10am. The bricks absorb the heat and radiate that back to the plants so they are quite

happy there until I get home from work and its back inside. Microclimates are wonderful things to learn. Watering is the same as last winter and so on until October when the cycle starts all over again.

Of course this is all rather labour intensive moving plants around, inside and out every day over winter but it is worth it. Our summers are fine for growing these orchids out doors; it's the wet and cold nights of winter that do the damage. Even if you can't give them much light over winter it does not matter, they are dormant anyway. Give them a go.

Orchids of the Clare Valley

Bob Bates

The orchids of the Clare Valley are probably better known than for any other part of the State as nearly every patch of relict woodland has been visited by NOSSA members. In a previous issue of our journal I mentioned that some fifty separate 'patches' of bushland were known in the Clare area. In 2005 I walked two more rather large areas of bushland, one at the top of Ohlmeyer road, the other encompassing a large area to the west of the Emu Flat-Clare road. Both areas are private property previously grazed and now smothered with wild lavender. Orchids were returning to each but there was not much variety, although some interesting orchids such as *Arachnorchis formosa* and *Thelymitra x chasmogama* were seen. I provide below a full list of the orchids known for the district. Those which are only in one or two sites have a well known site in brackets.

Acianthus pusillus, *Arachnorchis argocalla*, *A. formosa* (Scobie Road), *A. leptochila* (Sevenhill), *A. tensa*, *A. tensa x argocalla*, *Bunochilus smaragdinus* (Spring Gully 1978) *Caladenia latifolia* (Emu Rock), *Calochilus robertsonii* (Cascades track), *Corysanthes diemenicus* (Emu Flat), *C. incurvus*, *Cyrtostylis reniformis* (Cascades cliffs), *Diplodium robustum*, **Disa bracteata*, *Diuris behrii* (Sevenhill), *D. x fastidiosa* (Skilogalee 1978), *D. orientis* (Skilogalee), *D. x palachila* (Cascades track), *D. palustris*, *D. pardina*, *Eriochilus cucullatus*, *Glossodia major*, *Hymenochilus cycnocephalus* (Skilly Hills), *H. muticus* (Sevenhill), *Linguella nana* (Spring Gully 1978), *Microtis arenaria*, *M. 'brevis'*, *M. frutetorum*, *M. parviflora* (Hughes Park), *M. aff. parviflora*, *Oligochaetochilus bisetus*, *O. excelsus* (Mount Oakden), *O. pusilla* (Neagles Rock), *Pheladenia deformis*, *Prasophyllum fitzgeraldii* (Emu Flat), *P. odoratum*, *P. pallidum* (Sevenhill), *Plumatochilos plumosum*, *Pterostylis curta* (Spring Gully 1980's), *P. pedunculata* (Hughes Park), *Petalochilus carneus* (Sevenhill), *Pyrorchis nigricans* (Tarlee sandscrub), *Thelymitra albiflora*, *T. antennifera* (Mintaro Hills), *T. batesii* (Spring Gully) *T. brevifolia*, *T. x chasmogama*, *T. 'Choccy top'*, (Sevenhill), *T. exigua*, *T. glaucophylla*, *T. aff. glaucophylla* 'fat bud' (Neagles Rock), *T. grandiflora*, *T. 'Horse manure'* (Cascades), *T. inflata* (Mount Oakden) *T. juncifolia* (Cascades Track 2002), *T. luteocilium*, *T. pauciflora*, *T. rubra* (Sevenhill), *Urochilus sanguineus*.

Yes that's over 50 species and I am sure I have missed some.

Considering that all sites have been grazed by stock in the past and many still are, one would assume that there are many other species which have been lost. There are some species not seen recently and for those I have given a collection date. The main reason for publishing this list is to encourage enthusiasts into finding species not previously known for the Clare district.

***Dendrobium schneiderae* Bailey Var. *schneiderae* 1886**

Len Field

A species of two varieties *Dendrobium schneiderae* var. *schneiderae* and *Dendrobium schneiderae* var. *major*.

Dendrobium schneiderae var. *schneiderae* was first found in the Darlington Ranges S.E. Queensland by H.Schneider in 1886 and described by F.M.Bailey This species ranges from the Clarence River in Northern N.S.W. to Mackay in Queensland. Also named *Australorchis schneiderae* (Bailey) by Schlector in Die orchideen.ed. 1981.

Found usually high up in Hoop Pines (*Araucaria cunninghamii*) or red bean trees (*Dysoxylum muelleri*) in fact when looking for this orchid I have found it easier to search for it on fallen limbs on the ground in the hope of finding it on them for it grows too high up in the trees to see it even with the use of binoculars. Closely allied to *Dendrobium monophyllum* only smaller and growing into dense masses but like *Dendrobium monophyllum* flowers once from each pseudo-bulb but can have more than one flower spike from each bulb.

Flowers are numerous and about 6 to 8 mm diam. coloured yellowish green with sepals outlined in pink or mauve. Flowering is mainly from February to April.

While slow to establish in cultivation these plants give little trouble if firmly attached to there host which would be similar as for *Dendrobium monophyllum* then hung in an airy well lighted area with frequent watering. Perhaps they could have a slight reduction in light to what is needed for *Dendrobium monophyllum*.

***Dendrobium schneiderae* var. *major* Rupp 1939**

Discovered in 1937 by C.P. Ledward in the Eungella Ranges near Mackay N.Q. and given varietal status by Rev Rupp in 1939, this was altered in the seventies by Clements but the name has since been reinstated. While this plant has been found 1000Km north of the type variety plants approaching the size of this variety have since been found in the same area as the type form. It has larger pseudo bulbs than the type form and longer racemes, which carry larger, and more numerous flowers. Cultivation is similar to the type form.

Request for orchid virus testing from Richard Fishlock

As a follow up from last nights (March) orchid meeting- I have included you in this detail, to pass on to your members. (*Apologies from the Editor for the late appearance of this article*)

Virus is present in most genera at some time and members need to know how to positively identify if their orchis has a virus.

I have found that the contact, Peter Cross, provides an excellent service.

The address is

>> Peter Cross

>> TASAG ELISA and Pathogen Testing Service

>> 13 St John's Avenue

>> NEW TOWN

Peter.Cross@dpiwe.tas.gov.au

Costs are \$16.50 (\$15.00 + \$1.50 GST) per test/sample.

The method used is an electron microscope examination of leaf sap extracted in a suitable stain. We prefer a section of leaf 10 cm in length or greater which is showing the symptoms/markings that the grower is concerned about (although some people send in healthy looking samples to confirm their healthy status prior to propagation). Obviously it is best if the leaf is still in good condition despite the symptoms ie not too dry or decomposed. Most clients send a cheque and we send a report out soon after the tests are completed, however a tax invoice can also be arranged. Turnover times can vary with laboratory workloads and during times when we are experiencing problems with the electron microscope and ancillary equipment, however they are normally around one week.



Eriochilus cucullatus

photo D Hirst



Diplodium laxum

photo D Hirst



Diplodium revolutum

photo D Hirst



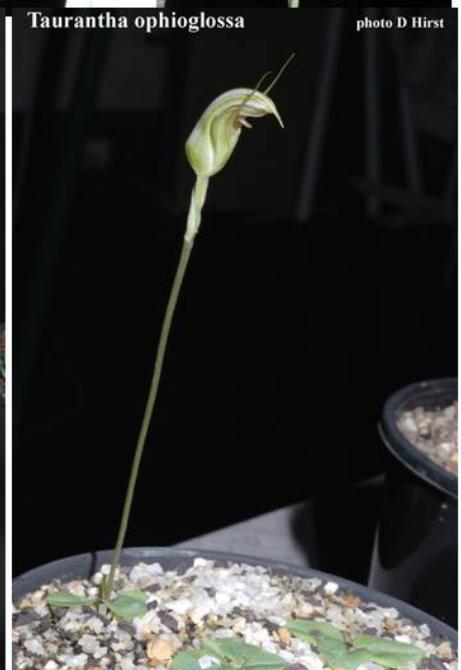
Diplodium coccineum

photo D Hirst



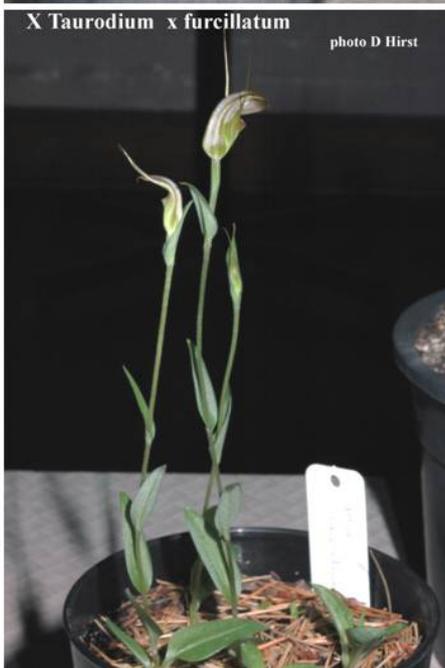
Diplodium obtusum

photo D Hirst



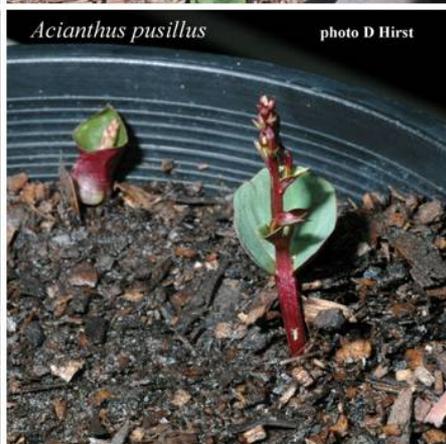
Taurantha ophioglossa

photo D Hirst



X Taurodium x furcillatum

photo D Hirst



Acianthus pusillus

photo D Hirst



Diplodium revolutum x Roghoff

photo D Hirst

**APRIL MEETING
2006
PLANTS BENCHED - 1
TERRESTRIALS**



Dendrobium lithicola

photo D Hirst



Dendrobium schneiderae

photo D Hirst



Dendrobium lithicola

photo D Hirst



Dendrobium schneiderae

photo D Hirst



Dendrobium lithicola

photo D Hirst



Dendrobium Hilda Poxon

photo D Hirst



Dendrobium Hilda Poxon

photo D Hirst

**APRIL MEETING
2006
PLANTS BENCHED - 2
EPIPHYTES**



- 1 *Caladenia ornata* The Heath
- 2 *Caladenia venusta* Penola
- 3 *Caladenia dilatata* complex The Heath
- 4 *Diuris* aff. *chryseopsis* Penola

Photos: Cathy Houston

S. E. ORCHID SURVEYS - PART 2