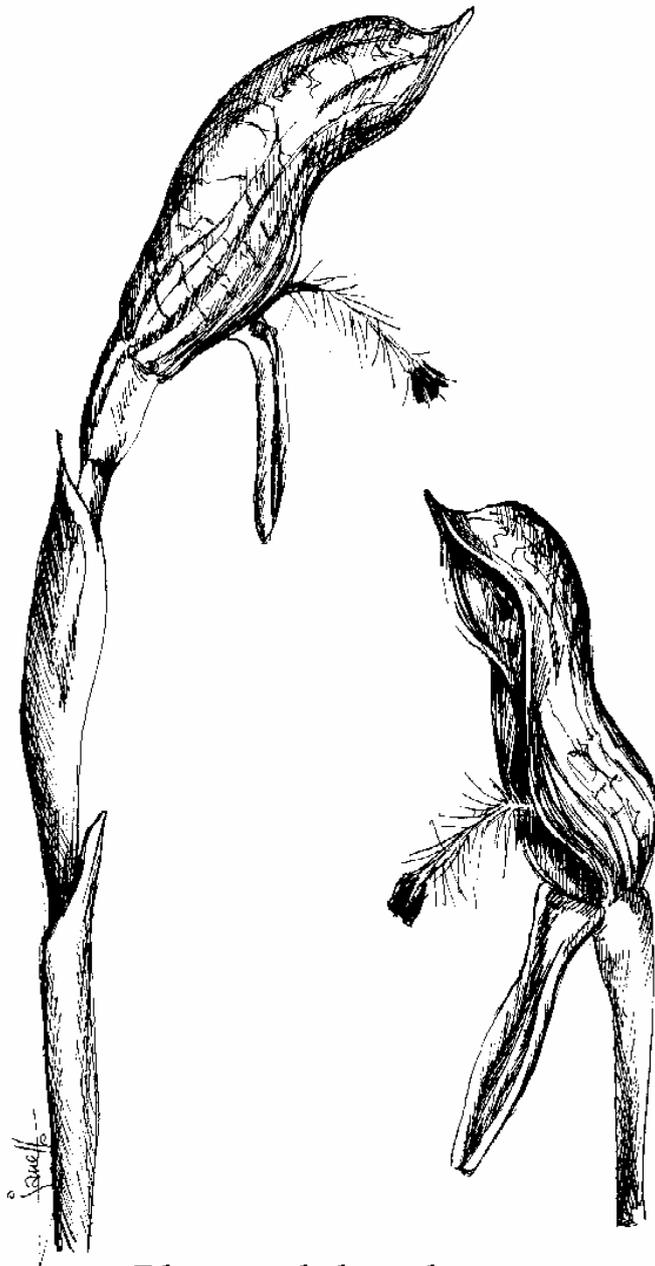




Journal
of the
Native Orchid Society
of
South Australia Inc



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

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 of the management committee, no person may represent the Society on any matter. All native orchids are protected in the wild; their collection without written Government permit is illegal.

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CONTENTS THIS JOURNAL

Title	Author	Page
Diary Dates		38
May Meeting		39
For Your Information – NOSSA News		40
How it is Done	Reg Shooter	41
Fungi in the Hills	Les Nesbitt	41
An Introduction To Hanson Conservation Park	Cathy Houston	42
Rat Wars	Les Nesbitt	42
AOF Awareness Campaign. Perlite & Peat Mix for Orchids		43
Rambles at Anstey Hill	David Hirst	43
Guyana 150 Expedition. Part 1	Edda Viskic	44

NEXT MEETING 27 JUNE 2006

Tuesday, 27 June, 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 Jan Forrest on Butterfly Conservation

DIARY DATES

Sun 25th June	Potters Scrub - survey.
Saturday 15th July - Sunday 16th	Yorke Peninsula - <i>Diplodium</i>
Monday 24th -Friday 28th July	Gawler Ranges
Saturday 29th -Sunday 30th July	Lofty Block- <i>Oligochaetochilus despectans</i> monitoring
Sat. & Sun. 16-17th Sept	Spring Show
Sunday 26th November	Xmas BBQ NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wed, 5th July at the home of **Cathy Houston**. Meeting commences at 7:30 p.m.

MAY MEETING

Plants Benched

Epiphyte species

Dockrillia wasselli; *Liparis reflexa*

Epiphyte hybrids

Dendrobium Anne's Rainbow Surprise; *Dendrobium* Awesome; *Dendrobium* Edda x *speciosum* = *Den.* Wasyl; *Dendrobium* Esme Poulton x Hilda Poxon; *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon (2 plants); *Dendrobium* Jesmond Dazzler (three plants); *Dendrobium* Pee Wee x (Zip x Red River) = *Den.* Dreamtime; *Dendrobium* Val Peck x Hilda Poxon;

Terrestrial species

Acianthus exertus; *Acianthus pusillus*; *Chiloglottis reflexa* (Vic.); *Chiloglottis silvestris* (Qld.); *Corybas hispidus* (NSW); *Eriochilus cucullatus*; *Diplodium* (*Pterostylis*) *abruptum*; *Diplodium* (*Pterostylis*) *alveatum*; *Diplodium* (*Pterostylis*) *laxum* (two plants); *Diplodium* (*Pterostylis*) *longipetalum*; *Diplodium* (*Pterostylis*) *obtusum* (NSW); *Diplodium* (*Pterostylis*) *reflexum* (two plants); *Diplodium truncatum* (two plants) *Taurantha* (*Pterostylis*) *ophioglossa*.

Terrestrial hybrids

Pterostylis revoluta x Rogoff; *Pterostylis* x *furcullata*; *Taurantha* x *conoglossa*.

Judging results

Epiphyte species

1st *Dockrillia wasselli* grown by Noel Oliver

2nd *Liparis reflexa* grown by Steve Howard

No 3rd place

Epiphyte hybrid

1st *Dendrobium* Anne's Rainbow Surprise grown by Brendan Killen

2nd *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon grown by Brendan Killen

3rd *Dendrobium* Awesome grown by Brendan Killen

Terrestrial species

1st *Diplodium laxum* grown by Peter Spears

2nd *Acianthus pusillus* grown by Rob & Lesley Gunn

3rd *Diplodium obtusum* grown by Malcolm Guy

Terrestrial hybrids

1st *Diplodium* x *furcillata* grown by Steve Howard

2nd *Pterostylis revoluta* x Rogoff grown by Les Nesbitt

3rd *Taurantha* x *conoglossa* grown by Malcolm Guy

Plant of the night

Dockrillia wasselli grown by Noel Oliver

Popular vote results

Terrestrial species

Corybas hispidus grown by Don & Jane Higgs

Terrestrial hybrid

Diplodium x *furcillata* grown by Steve Howard

Epiphyte species

Dockrillia wasselli grown by Noel Oliver

Epiphyte hybrid

Dendrobium Awesome grown by Brendan Killen

Commentary provided by Reg shooter (Epiphytes) and Malcolm Guy (Terrestrials)

MAY SPEAKER

Topa Petit speaking at the May Meeting gave a very entertaining and enlightening talk on Sexual Deception in *Caladenia behrii*. The orchid deceives the male wasps into attempting to copulate with it by the use of pheromones. All aspects affecting pollination success were being looked at including that of plants sheltered by Xanthorrhoea, colour, early or late flowering and more. Topa and her assistants found that wasps were not so likely to be fooled a second time by the orchid.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION - NOSSA NEWS

IF A RED DOT APPEARS ON YOUR JOURNAL IT INDICATES THAT YOU HAVE NEGLECTED TO RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION AND THIS JOURNAL WILL BE YOUR LAST.

FIELD TRIPS

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** 08 85246248 or 0409 091030.

JUDGES MEETING

The next judges meeting will be held on Saturday July 1st at the home of Les Nesbitt commencing at 9:30 am.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ORDERED OR WISH TO ORDER A COPY OF "A COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE NATIVE ORCHIDS OF AUSTRALIA"

N.O.S.S.A. is **now taking money** for pre-publication orders for David L Jones new book on Australian orchids. The cost is \$75 and orders (AND 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.

Those members who ordered a copy of *Eighth Edition of Australian Native Hybrids* also need to make their payment of \$25.00.

PLEASE NOTE:

The date for the Annual BBQ has been changed to the **26th November.**

How it is Done

Reg Shooter

As the months progress so we see more of our Australian Native Orchids benched at the meeting. This month we saw a lovely display of both epiphytes and terrestrials.

The plant voted the orchid of the night was a plant of *Dockrillia wasselli* grown by Noel Oliver. Noel grows this plant extremely well year in and year out. The plant is mounted on a piece of natural cork bark with roots running all along and through the rough bark. This species is not the easiest to grow unless the right conditions are provided.

Noel grows his in a shade house throughout the year and as with many orchids they are brought under cover to protect the flowers when in bloom. He provides ample air movement, humidity and water in the warmer months but dryer to the point of slightly shrivelling the terete leaves in the cooler months. In its natural habitat of north-eastern Queensland it forms large rambling patches on coarse barked trees and occasionally as a lithophyte on rocks and although the individual crystalline white flowers are quite small, only about 15mm across they are produced on erect 20cm tall racemes and when a large patch is in flower it is a sight to behold.

Quite a different orchid benched by Brendan Killen was *Dendrobium* Awesome. A 4th generation hybrid with four species in its make up *Den. speciosum*, *D. bigibbum*, *D. fleckeri* & *D. tetragonum*. All these species went into making a very good hybrid. Brendan's plant was only small and this was a first flowering for him. One tall raceme 25mm long carrying eight fully open flowers and two buds. Long 80mm open segments white with magenta tips extending almost to the creamy white magenta striped labellum. When fully grown I expect it will be a vigorous and floriferous hybrid mainly due to the fact that *D. speciosum* makes up over half of its parentage. Keep an eye out for this dendrobium in the years to come.

Green is not a colour often seen in Australian Natives so the plant of *Den. speciosum* x Edda exhibited by Brendan Killen was of interest. This crossing has now been registered as *Den. Wasyl* and has and is made up of 50% *speciosum*, 25% *bifalce* & 25% *tetragonum*. The plant resembles two of its species parents, *speciosum* & *bifalce*, in vegetative form having tall robust pseudobulbs with thick leathery leaves, the green colouration coming from *bifalce* a species we do not see very often on the benches. It is not difficult to grow but hard to flower as it's cultivation requires warm 15c minimum temperatures during the winter months, high humidity during the growing phase and kept fairly dry when resting.

Thanks to all the members that brought plants in for us to enjoy.

Fungi in the Hills

Les Nesbitt

Following the good rains in April and May the growth of fungi and toadstools has been exceptional this year. I have become very interested in the many different types all growing in an area of about one hectare on my Hill's property. I started by photographing two different miniature toadstool species that grow in my fungus dependent *Caladenia* orchid pots. One, an orange toadstool, can have several spore heads in a pot. The second one produces a single delicate grey mini toadstool per pot. Since then I have captured photos of 18 different toadstools. The questions keep coming and I do not know the answers. How many fungi are there in my pots? Do orchids utilize more than one fungus during their life cycle? What role do these many fungi play? Do the fungi that germinate orchid seed produce toadstools? I have observed that within days of the opening rains, fungus threads are everywhere under the leaf litter. Fallen gum leaves that in summer are hard and dry become thin and soft within weeks as the fungi break down the leaf structure. The leaf colour changes from honey brown to a slaty grey.

AN INTRODUCTION TO HANSON CONSERVATION PARK

Cathy Houston

Hanson Conservation Park is one of our newer parks and is in the upper south east, the south west of Jip Jip Conservation Park. A short trip was made to this park mainly for reconnaissance purposes, in the second week of April. It is described as being a seasonally wet heathland and is just under 400ha in size. A track around the boundary is well used and typical of the area – rough where limestone extends to the surface and gouged into ruts in the wettest areas where wheels have dug in. It is all well defined by widely slashed verges. There is also a “central track” alongside a catch drain.

Several stops were made along the boundary track, the first being where a Mallee/ limestone rise met the track. The other side was Melaleuca swamp for as far as the eye could see. Stepping out of the vehicle the inevitable happened, we stepped straight into orchids. This time it was *Eriochilus cucullatus* and they were flowering well. The first flowers were making pods, including one specimen which had had three flowers. Several flowers showed a wash of pink, to varying degrees. Some had leaves appearing at the base but it was too early to ascertain which form they would be. For example, two leaves side by side and the same size, one had hairs on it and the other was smooth. *Thelymitra* sp. had their leaves up, this being mostly observable by following down from their dried pods. *Microtis* sp. was also evident by the dried pods still in existence. The terrain seemed suitable for *Genoplesium* sp. but despite having seen them in numbers for several days previously, here they eluded us.

The usual threats and pressures were very observable. The park would appear to be carrying a considerable number of kangaroos; evidence of rabbits was seen and deer foot prints were identified. One *Eucalyptus fasciculosa* had half its bark removed for a distance of over a metre with deep scratches and gouges above and below. From what we saw of the park it is fairly weed free but Bridal creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*) was noted as just starting on one boundary.

This is another park in the reserves system where we will have to ascertain what orchid species are represented. Future visits will make this clearer, but at present it appears that there are only two main habitat types to be taken into consideration, the Melaleuca swamp and Mallee rises. No other different orchid species were encountered at the other stops, but this is to be expected at this time of year.

Rat Wars

Les Nesbitt

Judging by the rat stories I was told at the May meeting, rats must be active all over Adelaide. Well my rats are not causing any more trouble. About two weeks after putting out the baits I found 4 dead rats over several days. No more orchids have been attacked.

At first it is normal to blame the neighbours for harbouring rats. Then I heard a rat gnawing on a green bait in the small patch of overgrown bamboos in front of my shed. I apologise to the neighbours for thinking such bad thoughts. The bamboos have now been cut back and thinned out. Others have told me from bitter experience that after a while the rats come back and baits should be used periodically. That has to be balanced against the fact that these baits are deadly poisons and can kill frogs, lizards, pets and children.

AOF Awareness Campaign

Perlite & Peat Mix for Orchids

An alternative mixture to use when things go wrong with your orchids

Why use perlite and peat?

Easy to use;

- No break-down caused by bacteria which robs plants of nitrogen;
- Mixture shakes out without damaging roots on re-potting;
- Cheaper and more readily available than good quality bark;
- A low nitrogen fertiliser is suitable.

Queensland perlite is sold in 100litre bags and is available in a number of grades; 'Super Coarse' is suitable for most plants, with 'Jumbo' for larger root plants. Tip the perlite into water and screen off to remove dust. Perlite is neutral in pH and sterile.

Canadian Peat comes in a 275-litre bale; a bit large so two or more growers could share. Rub the peat through a sieve and measure loose. Peat is acidic so it may be necessary to add some form of lime.

Use a mask when screening perlite and breaking up peat to avoid breathing the dust.

For general use mix 8 parts perlite to 1 part screened peat adding 5gms of lime per litre of peat to give a pH of about 6.5. Add any fertiliser of your choice. Mix damp but not too wet, it must still flow easily. Vary the amount of peat according to your climate and watering conditions, use less with high humidity and more in dry climates. Peat very effectively holds water and reluctantly gives it up.

Hold the plant in the pot and fill the mixture around it. A couple of bumps to settle the mix but do not try to compress it as you might do with bark as this may block aeration. Add a long acting fertiliser if you wish and top with small river gravel. Looks better and deters weeds.

This mix holds more water than bark. Aim to have the medium evenly moist. Slightly under-potting may help. High light levels and good air movement will help to prevent bacterial and fungal infection. Plants grown in perlite and peat seem to tolerate higher light levels than similar plants grown in other media.

Rambles at Anstey Hill

David Hirst

On the June long weekend I was walking around by the old quarry at Anstey Hill looking for members of the *Diplodium* genus to photograph and I did find a small clump with several unopened flowers [possibly *alata*] and one chewed off stalk, the prime suspect now being a rat of course. *Acianthus pusillus* were plentiful with some flowering but most are probably a month away. I also found a patch of *Genoplesium* that have just finished flowering and all appeared to have a swelling seedpod so I will keep this spot in mind next year to return with the camera. However I was surprised to see a patch of *Urochilus sanguineus* in flower though I should not have been as they are known to flower at this time of the year but I usually see them later in August or September. It was by far the largest clump I have ever seen as there were over 70 flowering plants in an area of between one and two square metres. Height of the plants ranged from 4cm to 20cm or more.

Guyana 150 Expedition. Part 1

Edda Viskic

To celebrate the life of Richard Schomburgk, 2nd Director of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, and the 150th Anniversary, an expedition to Guyana was mounted by the current Adelaide Botanic Gardens Director, Stephen Forbes with David Forwood coordinating in cooperation with the Georgetown Botanic Gardens, Guyana. This occurred from 26th September to 15th October 2005. Following in the footsteps of Robert and Richard as they discovered new plants and travelled surveying some of the Brazilian, Venezuelan border rivers, was the focus of the expedition as well as collection of seeds of *Victoria amazonica*, the national flower of Guyana

To Florida USA

In preparation for future wild encounters with *Victoria amazonica*, we visited the lily ponds of Miami's Fairchild Tropical Garden and Georgetown's Botanic Gardens where active populations breed and flower seasonally. Fairchild Garden grows 740 species of flowering trees and has a 2 acre plantation with 11 lakes. Their cycad and palm collection are concurrent with the facilities at the adjacent Montgomery Gardens

These Palms are an important benchmark of Reference plants grown for research by the Montgomery Trust Gardens which are outstanding in its global variety of palms and cycads set out in continental distribution as well as sculptural features in the landscape in avenues and circles of *Bismarkia nobilis* and *Roystonea regia*.

The orchid collection is spread throughout enclosed areas where flowering *Spathoglottis chrysantha* and *Cymbidium findlaysonianum*, *Brassia maculata*, *Oncidiums*, *Maxillarias*, *Vandas* and *Phalaenopsis* were grown with other epiphytes and the slender treefern *Cyathea arborea*, and New Caledonian giant fern *Angiopteris* in the Fairchild Tropical Garden. There is also an impressive collection of *Amorphophallus* species that invites children's participation as does a special Butterfly walk. There is also a collection of weird and wonderful Madagascan plants including, *Pachypodium sp*, *Adansonia sp* and *Adenium sp*.

Kampong Research Gardens were extremely interesting in the variety of edible plants and indigenous medicinal plants grown and hybridized for future potential. Barbados Cherry was tasted and Ylang-ylang, *Cananga odorata* fragrance wafted as we enjoyed a wonderful Caribbean flavoured lunch. Many iconic classical Indian sculptures decorated the living and garden spaces and night blooming cactus, *Hylocerus sp.* and *Selenicerus sp.* festooned its walls and a sapodilla tree. The ever-flowering *Jacaranda jassoinoides* and the Calabash Tree were eye-catching as was the apricot pink *Datura* flowering. Though all the gardens visited in Miami showed signs of hurricane damage, most had repaired the sites and were beginning to regrow propped by supports.

Orchid lovers travelling south along the Old Cutter Road covered by *Ficus religiosa* and showing old limestone walls built from the local stone, visited Martin Motes Orchids in Homestead in Dade County. Here the best ever collection of *Vandaceae* hang about sucking up the balmy breezes. It was great to meet the famous varietal form of pure black species *V. tessalata* 'Mary Motes' FCC. Textures, shapes and colours abound in glorious fragrance. It was hard to leave but the *Cattleya* heaven, at Whimsy orchids of Bill and Carol Peters, beckoned. Flowering was not at its peak but promised many delights in bud and seed of many tantalising crosses.

Naturally the *Dendrobium* collections of Lynn Bretsnyder at 'Impact Orchids' were gaily displaying blooms of great impact having many imported Australian bred crosses of the McFarlane lineage as well as many other diverse gems blooming.

Miami Botanic Garden has an Orchidarium collection of epiphytic plants including orchids and Bromeliads which it maintains and sells to the public. These include *Phalaenopsis* which are always popular and grow freely on the palm tree trunks in the gardens. There is a unique moss waterwall vertically constructed from sphagnum moss and coconut fibre which was hosting ferns, aroids, orchids and Bromeliads. It also maintains a small Japanese Garden and Florida indigenous plant sections.

The Everglades were also on the visiting list as we were interested in Conservation programs which included revegetation of the River of Grass National Park. The freshwater habitat is the saw grass and Swamp lily home of the endangered Wood Stork. Hardwood hammock is the raised land area between saltwater habitat. The main trees are peeling bark, gumbo limbo, slash pine, strangler fig, and royal palm which host air plants like Tillandsias and orchids like *Encyclia tampensis* and *Brassavola martiana* growing on swamp oak, *Quercus virginiana*. The half mile boardwalk at Mahogany Hammock loops through the glades into a subtropical tree island with massive mahogany trees layered with epiphytic life linked with lianes. The red mangroves grow on stilt roots where the white sandy land meets the sea. Birdlife is spectacular as seen from Flamingo's Eco Pond viewing platforms.

Miami has many more treasures to share like the Art Deco District on South Ocean Drive where we found a flowering *Pandanus* with stilt roots with unbelievably silky pollen, on the shorefront. The next World Orchid Conference venue in 2008 is The Miami Convention Centre opposite the Miami Botanical Gardens.

To GUYANA

The temperature was warm 27 to 31 degrees C. most of the time and the water intake was high as we toured Georgetown Botanic Gardens officially welcomed on our first day in Guyana. The Lotus lilies stood perfectly regal in the tropical sun, their saucer leaves sunning themselves in wide arrangements. Their frail pink petals gleamed as they faded and were replaced by seedpods of green and brown. They grew in profusion along many of the city canals and roadways. It was a tropical treat to drink freshly cut coconut juice and enjoy pineapple pastries after a ramble through the nursery and trails of the gardens.

The Kiskadee bird had been announcing our entry into its realm and many other birds including the Yellow Oriole and Blue Sackie called from the high branches of some of the tall silk cotton trees where giant bromeliads had made their home. The grassy areas near the waterway were an invitation to picnickers to feed the manatees that swam around the interconnecting ponds. The Zoo area was adjacent and many birds and animals were sighted at close range in anticipation of sightings in the wild. These included peccary, jaguar, tapir, caiman, anaconda, harpy eagle, tayra, capybara, 3 toed sloth, squirrel monkey and giant anteater. We were very impressed by the knowledge and dedication of the volunteer group and the Education programs set up in the Summer.

To be continued.....



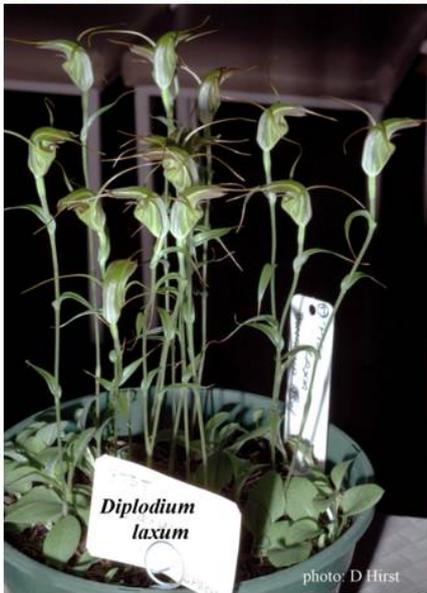
Acianthus pusillus

photo: D. Hirst



Corybas hispidus

photo: D. Hirst



Diplodium laxum

photo: D. Hirst



Diplodium obtusum

photo: D. Hirst



Diplodium revolutum x Roghoff

photo: D. Hirst



Taurantha x conoglossa

photo: D. Hirst



Eriochilus cucullatus

photo: D. Hirst



Diplodium truncatum

photo: D. Hirst



Diplodium reflexum

photo: D. Hirst

PLANTS BENCHED

MAY 2006

TERRESTRIALS



EPIPHYTES - 1

MAY 2006





Dendrobium Dreamtime

photo: D Hirst



Dendrobium Dreamtime

photo: D. Hirst



Dendrobium Desmond Dazzler

photo: D. Hirst



Dendrobium Awesome

photo: D. Hirst



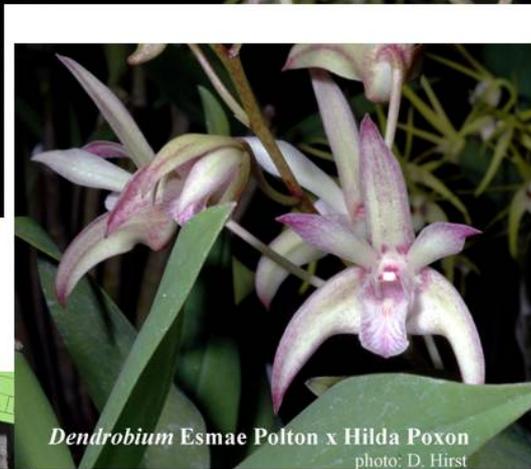
Dendrobium Awesome

photo: D. Hirst



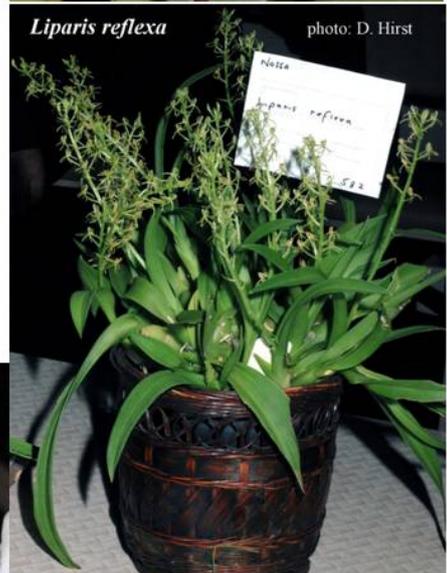
Dendrobium Desmond Dazzler

photo: D. Hirst



Dendrobium Esmae Polton x Hilda Poxon

photo: D. Hirst



Liparis reflexa

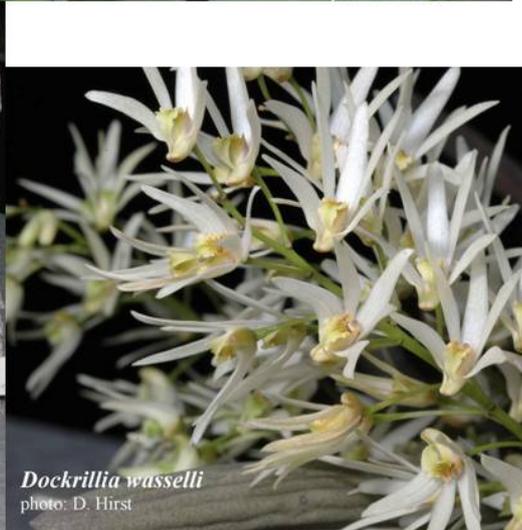
photo: D. Hirst

EPIPHYTES -2



Dockrillia wasselli

photo: D. Hirst



Dockrillia wasselli

photo: D. Hirst

MAY 2006