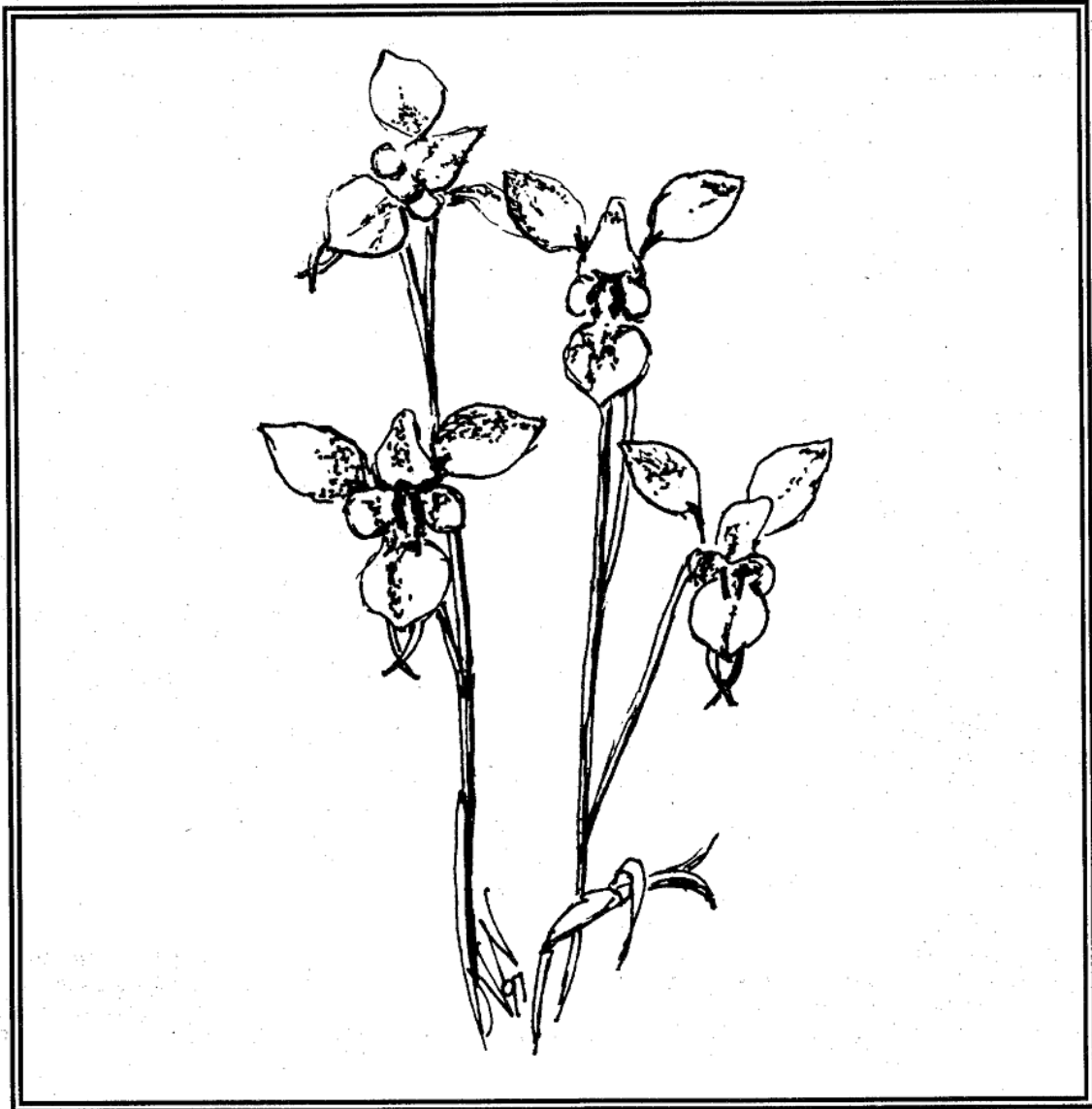




Journal  
of the  
Native Orchid Society  
of  
South Australia Inc



# NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Post office box 565 Unley 5061

The Native Orchid Society of South Australia promotes the conservation of native orchids through cultivation of native orchids, through preservation of naturally-occurring orchid plants and natural habitat.

Except with the documented official representation from the Management Committee of the native orchid society of South Australia, 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.

**PATRON: Mr T.R.N. Lothian**

**PRESIDENT:**

Mr George Nieuwenhoven  
Telephone: 8264 5825

**SECRETARY:**

Cathy Houston  
Telephone: 8356 7356

**VICE-PRESIDENT:**

Mr David Pettifor

**TREASURER:**

Mrs Iris Freeman

**COMMITTEE:**

Mr David Hirst  
Mrs Thelma Bridle  
Mr Roy Hargreaves  
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**LIFE MEMBERS:**

Mr R. Hargreaves  
Mr L. Nesbitt  
Mr D. Wells  
Mr R. Robjohn  
Mr G. Carne  
Mr R. Bates

**EDITORS:**

Bob & Kerry Bates  
38 Portmarnock Street  
Fairview Park 5126  
Tel: 8251 2443  
E-mail bobbates63@hotmail.com

**REGISTRAR OF JUDGES:**

Mr L. Nesbitt  
Tel. 8332 7730

**FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR**

Mr G Carne 8332 7730

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# NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC

## OCTOBER 1998 Vol. 22 No. 9 JOURNAL

### OCTOBER MEETING

Tuesday October 27 at 8.00 pm: Saint Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. Speaker to be announced!

Doors open at 7.15 to allow trading table and library to proceed. Don't forget tea and biscuits available before meeting!

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### DIARY DATES

Oct 18	<i>Thelymitra</i> Special	Belair
Nov 1-4	Combined ANOS Vic-NOSSA Excursion	Naracoorte
Nov 8	<i>P. arenicola</i> working bee	Grange
Nov 15	<i>Gastrodia</i> ....new sites	Scott Creek
Nov 29	Annual Picnic	Burnside
Jan '99	<i>Dipodium pardalinum</i> and Wirrarninna visit	Ironbank
March '99	<i>Genoplesium</i> special to Simpson	Victoria
March 23	Bruce Mules Speaking	Kensington

### SEPTEMBER SPEAKER

As our advertised speaker was unable to attend, President George led a feisty discussion on cultivation of epiphytic orchids whereby it was decided that *Dendrobium kingianum*, since it is a lithophyte was most easily grown in terracotta pans in an inch or so of sand and leaf litter. The best clones to grow are long cane forms or hybrids.

We discovered that dried, cold, orchid pollen can be kept in a sterile container for at least 10 years which makes it easier to hybridise species which flower at different times! We welcomed back David Hirst who had returned from the Kimberleys.

## FIELD TRIPS

*Thelymitra* special at Belair Oct 18: Meet at the information Centre at loam. We will see *T. nuda*, *T. mucida*, *T. juncifolia*, *T. grandiflora* and at least one hybrid.

Combined ANOS Vic and NOSSA South East Melbourne Cup Weekend Oct 31. Meet at Frances Post Office at 10am.

Saturday Morning: along the railway north of Frances to see *C. cucullata*, an undescribed rufa group *Pterostylis*, *Calochilus* aff. *robertsonii* etc. Then to Bangham CP to see *Microtis atrata*, *M. orbicularis*, late *Thelymitra* sp. and *Caladenia necrophylla* and *Diuris sulphurea*. After lunch we visit Mary Seymour CP to see an unnamed *Prasophyllum*, *Orthoceras*, early flowered *Dipodium* and various *Microtis*.

Sunday Morning: In the Penola forest looking at 3 different *Calochilus*, various *Thelymitra* hybrids at Cornaum.

After lunch we visit Dergholm to look at late spider orchids then on to Honans scrub for a late afternoon look at *Caladenia vulgaris*, *Pterostylis tasmanica* various *Caladenia* sp.

Monday: Piccaninnie Ponds and Lower Glenelg NP

Next Committee Meeting will be held at 7:30 Wednesday Nov 5 at Malcolm Guy's 15 Naomi Terrace Pasadena.

A Thank You From the Secretary

October Long Weekend Excursion: on behalf of the thirty odd members and friends who took part in the trip 3-5<sup>th</sup> of October, I would like to express our sincere thanks to the organisers. This includes those who instigated the trip from Adelaide, those in Padthaway / Naracoorte who reconnoitred areas, contacted landholders and made it possible for us to visit such a range of properties and the landholders themselves for making their properties available. Everything went smoothly and those people and their planning are the reason why. Thank you from all of us!

## ON THE BENCH:

Epiphytes----*Bulbophyllum schillerianum*, *Dendrobium aemulum*, *D. falcorostrum*, *D. falcorostrum* x Jane Leaney, *D. kingianum* (5), *D. speciosum* (4), *D. schoenianum*, *Dockrillia striolatum*, *D. Jesmond Dazzler*, *D. x Peewee*.

Terrestrials --- *Caladenia arenaria*, *C. cardiochila hybrid*, *C. denticulata*, *C. latifolia x rigida*, *C. longicauda*, *C. parva*, *C. Fairy Floss*, *C. pectinata*, *C. polychroma*, *C. tentaculata*, *C. Harlequin*, *Chiloglottis formicifera*, *C. platyptera*, *C. trapeziformis*, *Diuris aurea*, *D. brevifolia x D. sulphurea*, *D. corymbosa*, *D. laxiflora*, *Glossodia major*, *Leptoceras menziesii* (3), *Lyperanthus suaveolens*, *Microtis parviflora*, *Phaius australis*, *Pterostylis baptistii*, *P. arenaria*, *P. biseta*, *P. pedunculata*, *P. Dusky Duke*, *Thelymitra grandiflora*, *T. flexuosa*, *T. fragrantissima*.

The *Caladenia* hybrid between *C. rigida* and *C. latifolia* was shown in flower for the first time!

## PLANT COMMENTARIES Marjorie Chance and Bob Bates

## JUDGING

## Terrestrial species

1st *Caladenia denticulata* grown by Les Nesbitt 2nd *Diuris aurea* grown by Les Nesbitt 3rd *Caladenia longicauda* grown by G. Nieuwenhoven

## Terrestrial hybrids

1st *Pterostylis Dusky Duke* grown by D. Pettifor 2na *Caladenia Harlequin* grown by Rogers House

## Epiphytic species

1<sup>st</sup> *Dockrillia striolatum* grown by B. Jensen  
 2<sup>nd</sup> *Dendrobium speciosum* grown by Peter Barnes  
 3<sup>rd</sup> *D. schoenianum* grown by Rick Pankoke

## Epiphytic hybrids

1<sup>st</sup> *D. Peewee x King Wong Wow* grown by B. Jensen  
 2<sup>nd</sup> *Dockrillia Duffy* grown by G&J Burford  
 3<sup>rd</sup> *D. Shan Leaney x falcorostrum* grown by W. Walloscheck

Plant of the Night *Caladenia denticulata*

## POPULAR VOTE

Best Terrestrial: *Caladenia denticulata* grown by L. Nesbitt

Best Epiphyte *D. kingianum* grown by

## LETTER FROM A READER

Wendy Bagshaw, RMB 400 Cherry Gardens is concerned that the wonderful Methuselah scrub on ETSA and SA Water land is to be opened up to horse riders. The bush here is almost pristine and contains almost 50 orchid species. Wendy is working with the Onkaparinga council to prevent a change to the by-law which stops horse riders from entering native bushland.

If you can help in any way write to Wendy or the council. Once horse riders are allowed in, weed infestations, increased erosion and trampling of orchids all follow. We have already lost populations of rare orchids such as the duck orchid *Paracaleana* at Kuitpo to trampling by horses!

SPRING SHOW: many thanks to all those people who helped out at THE SHOW. Despite a dearth of customers and a lack of exhibitors due to many regulars being interstate the show was a success! At least it looked good, smelt good and we managed to fill a lot of space in the large St Peters Hall.

Congratulations to all winning exhibitors.

These include the following

Grand Champion of the Show: *Caladenia denticulata* grown by Nesbitts Orchids

Champion Terrestrial Species: *Caladenia denticulata* grown by Nesbitts Orchids

Champion Terrestrial Hybrid: *P. Cutie 'Harolds Pride'* grown by Nesbitts Orchids

Champion Epiphyte Species : *Dendrobium aemulum* grown by Steve & Betty Mezsaros

Champion Epiphyte Hybrid: *D. Desmond Dazzler* grown by Bruce Mules

Champion Floral Art Exhibition: Vase of Native Orchids by Sylvie Creed

The Bill Murdoch Trophy: *Caladenia denticulata* grown by Nesbitts Orchids

The Ira Butler Trophy: *D. Desmond Dazzler* grown by Bruce Mules

DISPLAYS A certificate will be presented to the best display in each section

Section 1 - Floor display Wally Walloscheck

Section 2 - Tabletop display Noel Oliver

Section 3 - Display by another society Nil

#### FOR SALE - - R.D. FITZGERALD'S 'AUSTRALIAN ORCHIDS' V1 &2

Published by Landsdowne in 1977 and 1979, these two volumes bound in green half-leather with gold tooling and marbled end-papers, are faithful copies of a set of parts which was the authors personal copy (published 1875 and 1894). Both books, numbered 144 of a strictly limited edition of just 350 are signed by the author's grandson, also Robert D. Fitzgerald. The format is a large 489x330mm and the colour plates are full page.

Walter Stone, author, historian and book collector described the original set as "one of the most beautiful and desirable books in the sphere of natural history....".

This set would be the perfect Christmas gift for any Australian Orchid bibliophile! It is being offered by Bob Markwick at \$550. This is actually \$150 less than the original published price. If you want to take advantage of this offer ring Bob on (08) 82652538.

#### Recent New Spider Orchid records in the Southern Lofties

Kerry Bates

With so many orchid enthusiasts now able to recognise those less obvious species, 1998 saw the finding of 4 species of *Caladenia* either new to the Southern Lofties or thought to be extinct there. Both *Caladenia bicalliata* and *C. filamentosa* were found by Ron Taylor in Newland Head Conservation Park on calcareous soils close to the sea (both have not been seen in the Southern Lofties for many years). This was a surprise to people like Denzel Murfet who has been searching the Park for yonks! Our own David Pettifor found *C. filamentosa* at Roseworthy, so that means it grows at opposite ends of the region! David also showed us *Caladenia tensa* at Roseworthy on a recent NOSSA excursion! !

While on the subject of NOSSA members, Thelma O'Neill made the first confirmed discovery of *Caladenia parva* in the Mount Lofty Ranges. This species looks like a miniature *C. tentaculata* and was found at Belair. Bob tells me he remembers this species on the river redgum flats at Kuitpo and Meadows but he was not clever enough to ever collect the species or relocate it after it was named! *C. parva* also occurs in our South-east.

Two 'mythical' *Caladenia* were located in good numbers this year, one on Yorke Peninsula and the other near Freeling in the Northern Lofties. Both of them are undescribed but were known from photo or collection of a single specimen. Now that decent populations have been located we can go ahead and have them named!

#### Plants or the Adelaide Hills and Plains

(Second Edition). This excellent book is now available for \$33 including postage from the State Herbarium.

FIELD TRIP REPORT-  
YORKE PENINSULAR 4 - 6/9/98

by Thelma Bridle

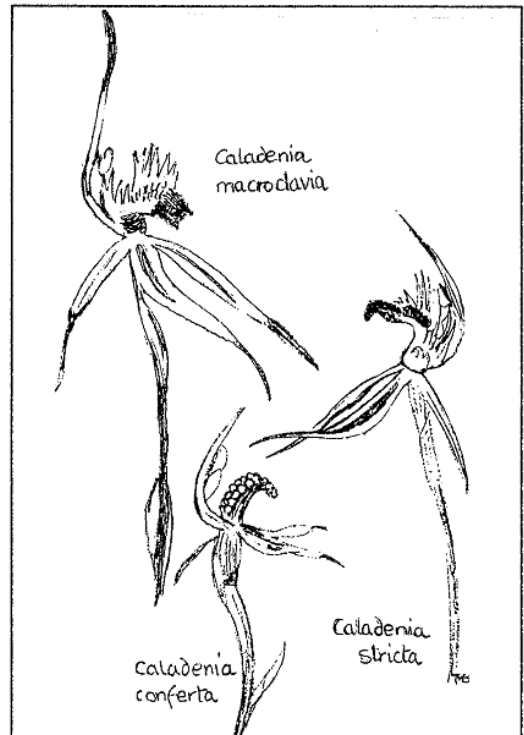
We made an early start to a weekend on Yorke Peninsula, meeting at Port Wakefield at 9am on Friday and were pleased to welcome Everett and Margaret Foster from Victoria. Driving in sunshine we headed to Muloowurtie Reserve, now fenced and looking much greener this year compared to 1997. The hollowed rock just inside the fence had 20 *Pterostylis mutica* in flower and *Caladenia latifolia* was found flowering just outside the fence. *Cyrtostylis robusta* were numerous, some still flowering. *Pterostylis* aff. *longifolia* and *P. sanguinea* had well-fattened seedpods, while *P. erythroconcha* was still in flower. *Caladenia filamentosa* var. *tentaculata* was flowering in small, tight clumps. Both *Lasiopetalum behrii* and *L. baueri* were in flower together with other shrubs, but the abundantly flowering early nancies of last year were finished.

We continued along the Curramulka Road finding a number of *Diuris palustris* in flower, *Thelymitra* sp. in bud and on both sides of our roadside stop about 50 *Caladenia brumalis* in flower. These large, up to 7.5cm diameter flowers belong in the *Caladenia patersonii* group. Being up to 30cm. tall they were easy to spot amongst the low grass and shrubs. *Caladenia stricta* were close to flowering and *Pterostylis mutica* were common. Large clumps of purple *Olearia ciliata* were particularly attractive here. A little further along the road we stopped again and walked through the roadside bush finding up to 100 *Caladenia brumalis* flowers, *Caladenia stricta* and *Caladenia deformis* both in flower. *Thelymitra antennifera* was flowering in the warm sunshine, but the *Thelymitra nuda* flowers were a few days from opening. *Diuris palustris*, in various-sized clumps was common. *Caladenia bicalliata* was not found in large numbers but was in all stages of flowering - buds to seedpods.

Lunch was at Mulbara Park. Here there were many birds including variegated wrens, wattlebirds and crested bell birds. A male crested bell bird was sitting on a high branch calling his territory just like a tolling bell. *Caladenia deformis* were quite common here and it was pleasant to see the area green after last year's dry spring. *Caladenia brumalis* was flowering and *Caladenia conferta* common with one colony of more than 60 flowers.

Two plants of *C. conferta* were found with albino flowers - yellow calli, although still with a red tip to the labellum - not very attractive but certainly unusual. *Thelymitra nuda* had been flowering around midday, mainly pinky colours here, with few true blue flowers. A *Prasophyllum elatum* with a bright green stem and greenish flowers was opening and there were a number of leaves in the vicinity. This is a mainly fire-stimulated flowering species, with only odd plants flowering other years.

Leaving Mulbara about 4.30pm it was raining hard by 4.45pm as we headed towards Marion Bay. By the time we arrived most of the 19mm of rain was over. Some of the attractive roadside shrubs could be seen through the streaming windows as we travelled south, *Templetonia retusa* being common here. The Marion Bay caravan park situated by the beach is set in natural bushland and is most attractive.

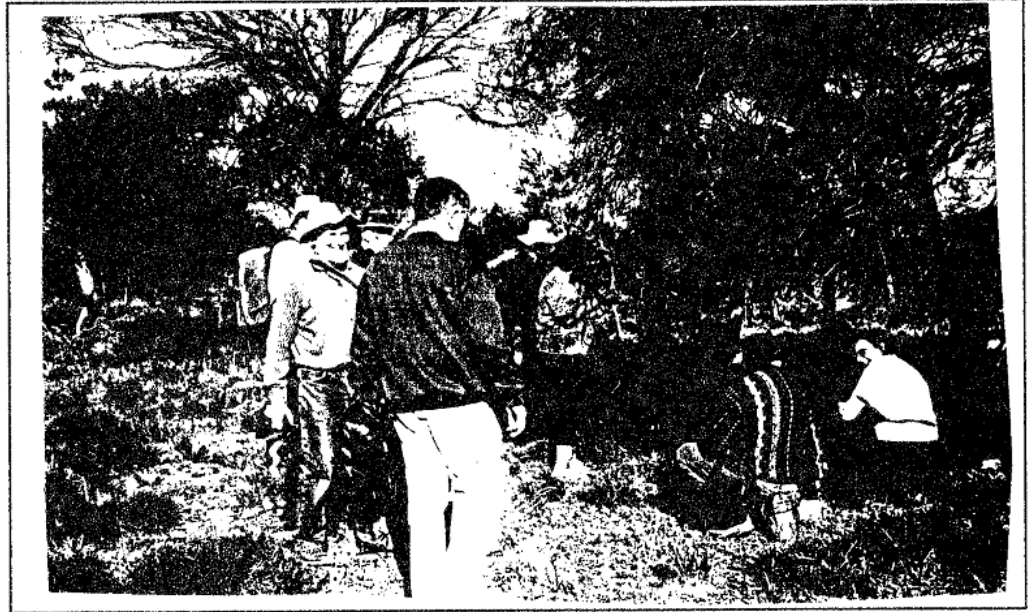


By Saturday morning our party had increased to 15 members and we set off for Innes National Park. An orchid survey had been conducted in the park during 1987-8 by M & F Koppe of Yorketown. From 28 visits over the period they had listed 23 species. Could we find that many in one day? There is now an entry fee to the park but with the road bitumenised as far as Pondalowie Bay that seemed well worth the money. At Brown's Beach, where the road ends we walked along the track towards Gym Beach. Before leaving the carpark area *Caladenia bicalliata*, *C. filamentosa* and *C. latifolia* were found in flower together with *Cyrtostylis robusta* and *Microtis* sp. leaves and *Thelymitra* sp. buds had already been located. The shrubs along the track were a mass of bloom and many birds were heard including golden whistlers and singing honeyeaters. The *Templetonia retusa* shrubs all had slightly different coloured flowers ranging from yellow, through oranges and reds to deep red. Orchids found included *Corybas despectans* in seed, -----Page 9-----



87 *Pterostylis* aff. *longifolia* with a few small flowers remaining, *Caladenia stricta* in bud (these can easily be identified as the flower has no clubs), *Pterostylis erythroconcha* and *P. pedunculata* both in flower and the leaf of a *Prasophyllum* sp. *Thelymitra nuda* was in bud under the eucalypts. Some of the *Caladenia filamentosa* flowers had deep red markings. We drove back towards Shell Beach stopping a couple of times by the roadside.

*Acianthus pusillus* were found and *Caladenia carnea* was almost in flower. Flowers on a spike of *Prasophyllum calcicola*, the small leek orchid found only on the tips of the Yorke and Eyre peninsulas, were just coming out. A roadside stop after lunch had us almost stepping on *Diuris palustris* as we got out of the car. Here we found more examples



NOSSA ON YP EXCURSION

of orchids seen previously, *Diuris corymbosa* only 5cm tall with purple labellum tips and our first finding of *P.* aff. *nana* 'sandhills'. These had smooth stems, long sepals and 2 stem bracts like the hills variety, which one would not expect to be growing here. Also the galea was apricot-tinted. Bob Bates has since informed us that this is an unnamed species found only on coastal sandhills. Our greatest find was that of 2 isolated specimens of *Caladenia fragrantissima* -unscented, on a cool, windy day (16°C). The largest plant was 30cm high with a flower diameter of 10cm. The flower was greeny-cream with red glandular sepal and petal tips. The wide labellum had 4 rows of red clubbed calli with 2 marginal rows of clubbed calli and was curled right around. The column and labellum were streaked with red and there were yellow basal glands to the column.

Our final stop for the day at Deep Lake initially showed little promise of any different orchids. The lake itself was inaccessible from here, being surrounded by dense tea-tree and a boggy salty mud edge. A yellow bearded dragon and a 45cm snake were the only new finds. On the opposite side of the road was a large sand dune. Half way up was *Prasophyllum occidentale*, 15cm tall with half the flowers out. This was the quickest photographed orchid of the weekend as the plant had more than adequate protection from an aggressive colony of inch ants. We returned to the Rhino Tavern at Stenhouse Bay for an excellent meal and some of us even managed to stay awake to view orchid slides in the evening - thanks to Ken and Malcolm for the slides and Cecil and Margaret for their hospitality. In Innes NP we had seen all but *Caladenia tensa* and *Pterostylis robusta* from the 87-88 survey and been able to add *Caladenia latifolia* and *Diuris corymbosa* to that list.

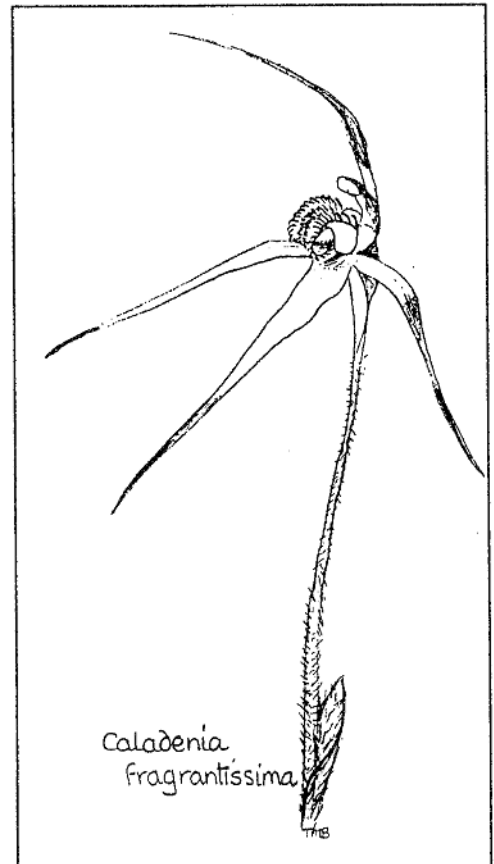
On Sunday morning we left Marion Bay, heading along the Foul Bay Road and again making several roadside stops at 2km, 6km from Marion Bay and 0.5 km past the Hillocks Drive turnoff. At the first stop *Caladenia latifolia*, *C. deformis*, *C. bicalliata*, *C. filamentosa* var. *tentaculata*, *Cyrtostylis robusta* and *Pterostylis* aff. *longifolia* were found in flower with *Thelymitra nuda* in bud and *Microtis* sp. leaves. At the second stop several orchids were added to the list including two specimens of *Prasophyllum odoratum*. One of these was just opening and had strongly lemon-scented flowers, whilst the other was fully out and had no perfume to the white-labellumed green flowers. *Corybas despectans* and *Pterostylis sanguinea* were both in seed, *Prasophyllum calcicola*, *Pterostylis pedunculata* and *Microtis frutetorum* in flower and a large colony of *Diuris corymbosa* were flowering. A number of morel (*Morchella elata*) fungi were found at most stops on the southern Yorke Peninsular, surprising as this species is relatively uncommon especially without bushfire stimulation. There were also many attractive spring flowers and shrubs along the roadsides, but with so many orchids to list these were not recorded. A white-flowered *Lasiopetalum* at the third stop was recorded - *L. discolor*, a SA endemic restricted to the tips of EP, YP and KI. *Pterostylis* aff. *longifolia* under mallee gums here were up to 35cm tall with several 30cm high. *Diuris corymbosa* was also 35cm tall, pushing up through the centre of shrubs. A small *Caladenia fuscata* flower was found and

*Pterostylis erythroconcha* in flower with *Acianthus pusillus* and *Corybas despectans* over. A group of scrub wrens were flitting about madly amongst the shrubs. We headed back towards the Warooka Road stopping for lunch at the roadside. This was an area of limestone sheet, unfortunately poor in orchids, with the roadside vegetation proving more successful, with a large colony of *Pterostylis* aff. *nana* in flower. Our last stop was made along the Warooka Road at the SE corner of Warrenben Conservation Park, where a quick look revealed *Caladenia deformis*, *C. bicalliata*, *C. latifolia*, *Cyrtostylis robusta*, *Diuris palustris*, *D. corymbosa*, *Pterostylis erythroconcha* and *Microtis* sp. leaves. As it was now mid-afternoon it was time to return to Adelaide. Phil and I remained on the peninsula for a few more days and a report of our orchid hunting will appear in a later journal. We all had a terrific weekend so thanks to David Pettifor for organising the trip and to Barb and Ken Bayley for choosing such orchid-rich locations.

Orchids seen 4-6/9/98

- 1 - Muloowurtie and Curramulka roadside
- 2 - Mulbara Park
- 3 - Inns National Park
- 4 - Foul Bay roadside stops

<i>Acianthus pusillus</i> 1	<i>Microtis</i> sp. 1,2,3,4
<i>Caladenia bicalliata</i> 1,2,3,4	<i>Prasophyllum calcicola</i> 3,4
<i>C. brumalis</i> 1,2	<i>P. elatum</i> 2
<i>C. carnea</i> 3	<i>P. occidentale</i> 3
<i>C. conferta</i> 2	<i>P. odoratum</i> 3,4
<i>C. deformis</i> 1,2,4	<i>Pterostylis erythroconcha</i> 1,3,4
<i>C. filamentosa</i> 1,2,3,4	<i>P. aff. longifolia</i> 1,3,4
<i>C. fragrantissima</i> 3	<i>P. mutica</i> 1
<i>C. fuscata</i> 4	<i>P. nana</i> complex 4
<i>C. latifolia</i> 1,2,3,4	<i>P. nana</i> (sandhill var) 3
<i>C. stricta</i> 1,2,3	<i>P. pedunculata</i> 3,4
<i>C. sp.</i> 4	<i>P. sanguinea</i> 1,4
<i>Corybas despectans</i> 3,4	<i>Thelymitra antennifera</i> 1,2
<i>Cyrtostylis robusta</i> 1,2,3,4	<i>T. nuda</i> 1,2,3
<i>Diuris corymbosa</i> 3,4	<i>T. sp.</i> 1,3
<i>D. palustris</i> 1,2,3,4	
<i>Eriochilus cucullatus</i> 1	
<i>Genoplesium</i> sp. 1,2	



### AUSTRALIAN ORCHID RESEARCH VOL 3

This volume edited by David Banks deals with the orchids of Tasmania in several papers by David Jones. Forty four new species are described and 180 species dealt with. Many of Jones' conclusions affect us here in South Australia.

We have been told for some time that the name for one of our commonest and best loved orchids was likely to change. We once knew it as *Diuris longifolia* it then became *D. corymbosa*. Both those species are considered WA endemics. The eastern state species is now known as *Diuris orientis* Jones. The name means simply 'eastern'. If our reader would like to see what the real *D. longifolia* and *D. corymbosa* look like the photos in *Orchids of South Western Australia* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition are excellent. Jones says *D. orientis* can be recognised from its basically yellow flowers with brown or purplish suffusions.... a good example can be seen in *The Orchids of Victoria* by Backhouse & Jeanes on page 173. This form occurs in our South-east but the Adelaide Hills plants are much larger and more colourful and may one day be named as a separate subspecies. See *Orchids of South Australia* plate 98!

Now that *Caladenia minor* is regarded as a New Zealand endemic we need new names for our South Australian forms. Jones names *Caladenia mentiens* which occurs in Marshes Swamp in our South-east but it appears that not even the name *C. pusilla* can be applied to Adelaide Hills forms.

The species which we have called *Pterostylis* aff. *aphylla* has now been given the name *Pterostylis uliginosa* D. Jones. This rare species from NSW, VIC, TAS also occurs in a few swamps near Mt Compass in South Australia. The plate 151 in *Orchids South Australia* shows the new species.

Although we will never lose the name *Diuris behrii* for the beautiful cowslip orchid of the Adelaide Hills, the smaller, more delicate species previously called *D. lanceolata* has been described as *D. chryseopsis*. This species still occurs in our South-east but is apparently extinct in the Adelaide Hills. See photo on page 177 of *Orchids of Victoria*.

Other Tassie species which Jones does not record for South Australia include *Pterostylis alata* ( the South Australian plants will be described as at least 4 new species!); *Pterostylis cycnocephala* (but I believe this is an error as the tall form of this species in South Australia matches too well with the original....nevertheless the limestone-loving, short form so common at Monarto is likely to be a new species); *P. parviflora* (the plants from our South-east belong to 2 undescribed species); *P. nana* (I believe that true *P. nana* does occur in coastal sandhills near Beachport but all other forms in SA belong to at least 5 undescribed species); *T. circumsepta* (I believe this is an error as this species certainly grows near Mt Lofty); *T. ixioides* (another likely error as *T. ixioides* with insect pollinated flowers occurs in our South-east) and *T. malvina* (this is certainly an error as *T. malvina* has been collected at Honans Scrub in the South-east: another error is Jones' comment that *T. malvina* is only recently recorded for Tasmania as I collected the species there in 1987 and freely disseminated that information).



Jones also says of *Thelymitra megcalyptra* 'has a large thick leaf', which would mean that the mallee plants we have been calling *T. megcalyptra* are undescribed as they have small leaves.

With luck Australian Orchid Research vol 4 or 5 may deal with the now 40+ undescribed South Australian species. I'm sure that most of us would be pleased to help David with this volume by sending plants and information on ecology, variation, conservation status and hybrids.

Bob Bates

FIELD TRIP REPORT:  
Gawler - Balaklava Sept 13

The flat plains stretching 70km north of Adelaide were, before settlement covered with a mix of mallee, peppermint woodland, pine forest and shrubby grasslands with orchids and lilies in abundance. Today the native vegetation is largely gone, replaced with bare paddocks in summer and crops or weedy pasture in winter, but there are tiny remnants of native vegetation, mostly eaten out by stock and rabbits and weed infested. We were fortunate on Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> to be guided to some of the best of these sites to search for the 'last mohicans', the few surviving orchid plants.

We started at Owen led by Emu-bush expert Ken Warnest (the recently named *Eremophila warnestii* honours Ken's work on emu bushes). Ken showed us his family's tiny fenced off scrub block with rosettes of *Pterostylis excelsa*, then to a patch of mallee with numerous 'rufa group' *Pterostylis* and *P. robusta* rosettes. We were told that a white spider orchid had been seen here but nary a leaf was found. At Owen town common we saw more *P. excelsa* rosettes and wondered if we would see any orchids in flower at all! Conditions were poor as even though it was spitting with rain the soil was hard and dry. It

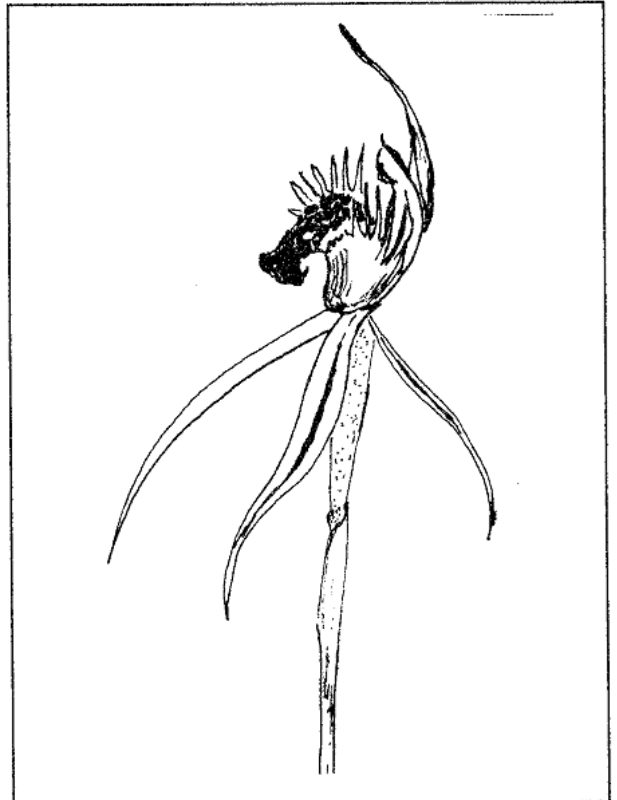
seemed incongruous that in such a dry area the commonest orchid (*P. excelsa*) was still in early bud. This species is easily recognised from its tall, slender bud-spikes. From Owen, Ken & Barbie Bayley took us north to Zachers heritage scrub north of Balaklava for our lunch stop. This area of 10 hectares of grassy woodland provided an amazing display of annual everlasting daisies of several species and despite being grazed for many years before it was fenced and having lots of weeds, still had over 100 native plant species present including at least 10 orchids.

The most abundant was *Microtis frutetorum* the dryland Onion orchid in early flower, but there were lots of mallee greenhoods, *P. mutica*, in full bloom, numerous wheat-belt spider orchids *Caladenia tensa* and *C. stricta*, with some fairly obvious hybrids between the two as well as some odd, very tall, large-leaved, double-header specimens which probably were *C. tensa* hybrids with an unknown species no longer present.

*Thelymitra megalcalypta* were common, if the weather had been better they would have been in flower.

There were thousands of *P. excelsa* in tall bud and at least one *P. aff. biseta* with short fat bud-spikes. There were 2 dryland *Genoplesium* in seed, namely *G. nigricans* and *G. aff. rufum*. A rare plant seen here was *Phebalium glandulosum*. We thanked Mr Zacher and moved on to Halbury pine scrubs.

As time was getting short we could only look in one small section. There were hundreds of the winter flowered *P. 'rufa* group Halbury' present as well as a single *P. boormanii* and a *P. pusilla* and most of us agreed that *Pterostylis* sp. 'Halbury' is probably a stabilised hybrid of these. In addition to the by now ubiquitous *P. excelsa* and *P. mutica* we saw brightly coloured *Caladenia fuscata*, more *C. tensa* and *C. stricta* and leaves, buds or seed-heads of *Cyrtostylis*, *Cyanicula*, *C. filamentosa*, *P. robusta*, *P. nana*, *Thelymitra* and *Genoplesium*. Perhaps our most significant achievement for the day was correctly identifying that *C. tensa* not *C. verrucosa*, is the common spider orchid in the area! The sand loving *C. verrucosa* has crossed sepals, pale osmophores and verrucose labellum calli and once occurred at the nearby Devils Garden and Tarlee sandscrubs.



We thanked Ken and Barb and followed David Pettifor to Pengilly scrub heritage reserve near Roseworthy. It was surprising to find *Caladenia tensa* and *C. filamentosa* still growing so close to Adelaide! (Both were probably common on the Adelaide plains before settlement). Dozens of *P. pusilla* in full flower made this an exciting stop and we located a possible undescribed 'rufa' species related to *P. aciculiformis* to finish the day nicely. Other orchids at Pengilly's not seen previously included *Acianthus pusillus* in seed and *Microtis arenaria* in bud.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of the day was hearing of (and seeing photos of) new *Caladenia* species from near Yorketown and Freeling, the former similar to *C. brumalis* but with clubbed sepals, the latter closely related to *C. xanthochila*. The new discoveries take our SA spider orchid list to over 40! Both the Yorketown and Freeling species seem to be restricted to tiny relict bushland areas in intensely farmed districts and both are being carefully managed.

Many thanks to Ken and Barb, Dean Zacher, Ken Warnest and David Pettifor for acting as guides. In total more than 20 species were seen. We hope to do a similar trip in AD 2000 visiting different sites to those done this year.