



Journal
of the
Native Orchid Society
of
South Australia Inc



Oligochaetochilus excelsus

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
POST OFFICE BOX 565 UNLEY SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5061

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CONTENTS THIS JOURNAL

Title	Author	Page
Diary Dates		101
November Meeting		102
For Your Information – NOSSA News		102
How it is Done	Reg Shooter	103
Orchid Grid –	Les Nesbitt	103
Kuitpo Karers Kolumn	Les Nesbitt	104
Field Trip Report – Kuitpo Forest	Thelma Bridle	105
A Recent New Orchid genus for South Australia	Bob Bates	106
Field Trip Report – Lobethal Bushland Park	Thelma Bridle	106
Orchids on South Australian Islands, a review	Bob Bates	107
Tuber Bank	Malcolm Guy	108
TUBER BANK ORDER FORM		109

NEXT MEETING 23 February 2006

Tuesday, 23 February, 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.

DIARY DATES

Sept 16-17 2006 NOSSA Spring Show

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wed, .. February at the home of . Meeting commences at 7:30 p.m.

**Merry
Christmas**

NOVEMBER MEETING

Epiphytes benched

Species & Hybrids

Cymbidium canaliculatum (3 plants); *Cym madidum* (3 plants); *Cym suave*; *Dockrillia prenticei*; *Plectochilus* Lynore; *Sarcochilus* Elizabeth; *Sarco fitzgeraldii*; *Sarco hartmannii*

Terrestrials benched

Species & Hybrids

Caladenia tentaculata; *Diuris sulphurea* x *brevifolia*; *Diuris* Mule; *Microtis unifolia*

Judging results

Epiphyte species

1st *Cymbidium canaliculatum* grown by John & Bev Gay

2nd *Cymbidium madidum* grown by Malcolm Tiggerman

3rd *Cymbidium canaliculatum* 'Alba' grown by Russell Job & Edda Viskic

Epiphyte Hybrid

1st *Sarcochilus* Empress grown by Wally Walloscheck

2nd *Plectochilus* Lynore grown by Wally Walloscheck

3rd *Sarcochilus* Elizabeth grown by Steve Howard

Terrestrial Species

1st *Microtis unifolia* grown by Les Nesbitt

2nd *Caladenia tentaculata* grown by Les Nesbitt

No 3rd place



Terrestrial Hybrids

1st *Diuris* Mule grown by Les Nesbitt

2nd *Diuris sulphurea* x *brevifolia* grown by Les Nesbitt

No 3rd place

Plant of the night

Cymbidium canaliculatum grown by John & Bev Gay

Commentary on the terrestrials was given by Les Nesbitt & on epiphytes by John Gay.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION - NOSSA NEWS

CHANGES TO SUBSCRIPTIONS

Changes to the NOSSA Subscription rate and due date for 2006 were passed at the November meeting.

The new Subscription rate is **\$17.00** Family or Single membership.

FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR REQUIRED

Thelma Bridle will no longer be continuing in this position next year

Contact the Secretary if you are interested in filling this position.

MAIL-OUT OFFICER AND A SHOW MARSHALL REQUIRED

Contact the Secretary if you are interested in filling either position.

How it is done

Reg Shooter

This was the last meeting of the year and cymbidiums were very much in evidence. Australia boasts 3 species and all were benched at the meeting.

The largest of the three species is *Cym madidum* having readily recognised large pseudobulbs and long strap like leaves. It is an easy orchid to grow and flower in South Australia requiring only shadehouse treatment and to be kept on the dry side during the cooler months and given plenty of water when growing. The flowers are produced anytime from late August to February on long arching pendulous racemes up to 60cm long carrying as many as 70 perfumed flowers 20-30mm across varying in colour from pale green through to brownish green. Like most Australian natives they are not heavy feeders, a fortnightly fertilising with a low nitrogen fertiliser will keep them growing healthily.

There were three specimens of this species benched. The one owned by Malcolm Tiggerman caught the judge's eye. The flowers were large for the species being just over 30mm across and flat and open.

The flowers on *Cym madidum* do not vary much in colour unlike the other species that was benched *Cym canaliculatum*. Three specimens were on the display table; one was the typical colour of dull red infused with blotches of green; one was the very dark red/brown with just a touch of green and the third one was the fairly rare pale green with a white labellum. There are many other colour forms perhaps the best known is 'Sparkesii' that has flowers so dark red as to appear almost black. Unfortunately many dark forms are referred to as 'Sparkesii' when in fact they are just a deep red.

The final species benched was *Cym suave*, the sweet cymbidium. This is quite different from the previous two species that had large pronounced pseudobulbs. *Cym suave* has virtually no pseudobulbs but arises from grassy like clumps which in its natural habitat form huge masses in mainly eucalypt trees sending down extensive roots in the rotten heartwood of the host tree, new growths appearing from holes and hollows in the trunk and limbs as the orchid ages. The small 20-30mm light green to brownish green highly fragrant flowers are carried on 30-40cm pendulous racemes. It is more difficult to maintain for any length of time here in South Australia and the grower of the benched plant is to be congratulated. Some of the older members of the Society may recall the huge plant that Don Wells grew in an old terra cotta drainage pipe; he had to bring it into the show on a sack truck it was so large and heavy.

ORCHID GRID — 28 November 2005

Les Nesbitt

A number of naturally occurring blue sun orchid seedlings opened on the 1st November and were identified as *Thelymitra juncifolia*. They quickly self pollinated and set pods at every flower.

Several small blue *Thel pauciflora* plants also have fat pods developing. There are two fat seed pods on *Pterostylis plumosa*. Most of the other orchids have died off in the grid despite the high rainfall in October-November.

The first *Dipodium roseum* asparagus-like shoots appeared on 7th November just before 93mm rain fell in 2 days. This is earlier than last year. In the past dipodiums did not show until a couple of weeks after caladenia seedpods burst giving me time to slash the orchid area. Now I have to be very careful when I mow. Are the seasons changing permanently with spring rain to Xmas and dry autumns to mid winter?

For those new to NOSSA the grid is a 6m x 11m patch of slashed bush divided into 1m squares. I am trying to establish 30 species of Adelaide Hill's orchids in this patch on my property by every available method including direct seed sowing, deflasking and planting out tubers from pots. So far results have ranged from total failure to successful establishment to flowering and seed set. I thought that *Pterostylis curta* would be the easiest but the plants have been eaten off every year and have almost disappeared. Orchids that are already growing elsewhere on the property have done the best as they seem to have few predators and like the soil type.

Kuitpo Karers Kolumn 28 November 05

Les Nesbitt

At the October meeting I had a pot of the sun orchid *Thelymitra ixioides* 'Kuitpo'. The flowers were closed at the meeting but had opened during the day. It has mauve-blue flowers with small dark spots on the dorsal and petals. These spots come through in the beautiful dark blue hybrid with *Thel. nuda*. *Thel. ixioides* is recognised by the self pollinating habit, almost spherical seed pods and the purple base to the leaf that is covered with a white bloom.

The dreaded rust pustules have burst out all over the leaves of *Calochilus robertsonii*. The bottom flowers opened normally and pods formed but then disaster struck as the stem withered away due to the rust. There will be no seed this year. I have moved the pot to the downwind edge of the shadehouse along with the similarly infected *Pyrorchis nigricans*. The very wet October/November provided ideal conditions for fungal diseases. To try to prevent a recurrence of rust next season, I will throw away the top 10mm of mix and move the remaining plug of sandy soil containing the dormant tubers to a clean pot.

Microtis unifolia flowered in early November with lots of tiny green flowers. I removed the seed-pods from this species and from *Thel. pauciflora* before they developed seed. Otherwise they will come up as weeds in all my other pots next year.

Pods developed on *Caladenia tentaculata* and *Glossodia major* after the flowers were hand pollinated in October. Some have been harvested this week.

Late seedlings continued to appear around mother plants of *Glossodia major* until the 3rd week of November and there are now about 100 seedlings. This species is part of my next AOF Project so I will be watching these seedlings closely.

This will be the last instalment of the KK Kolumn as the rescued plants and their offspring will get absorbed into the general collection after repotting this summer.

Kuitpo Forest was wet underfoot and the afternoon cloudy/raining, so there were only a few members on the field trip. Spring flowers at Knott Hill looked beautiful, with colour everywhere, despite the weather. Pink ranged from the tiny bladderworts through book trigger plants to the large deep pink bells of *Tetralochea pilosa*. There were orange peas and many yellows, including *Adenanthos terminalis*, hibbertias, goodenias and other peas. Blues were the milkwort, blue grass lilies and blue *Boronia* and all set off by the taller tea tree shrubs covered in white flowers.

Camouflaged amongst the trackside yellows were *Diuris brevifolia*, the late flowering (late Oct-Dec) donkey orchids of the Adelaide Hills. There were many *Thelymitra* 'pauciflora' with flowers finished and a number with swelling seedpods. *T. juncifolia* and *T. albiflora* would have had open flowers in more favourable conditions and a few spikes were found of *T. nuda*, these still in bud.

On the edge of the trees *Calochilus robertsonii* was in flower and a few remaining *Glossodia major*, whilst growing in the white sand *Caleana major* had large buds, with the first flower already partly open. *Leporella fimbriata* had still recognisable flowers above large seedpods, surprising as the flowers were open in May.

At Chookaleroo orchid enthusiasts were well outnumbered by cyclists. *Gastrodia sesamoides* were fewer flowered than last year and late, but in large numbers, congregated around or near the base of eucalypts. As a saprophyte, *Gastrodia sp.* get nourishment from mycorrhizal fungi in the humus-rich soil. *Caladenia tentaculata* were large-flowered and plentiful, a group of *Pterostylis foliata* had swelling green seedpods and there were many flower spikes of *Thelymitra* species still to open at this cool, usually moist (but currently more like a swamp) site. *T. juncifolia* were again close to opening. Tall-stemmed *Caladenia carnea*, ranging from white to pink were scattered throughout.

Orchids recorded:

<i>Caladenia carnea</i>	f	<i>Microtis sp.</i>	b
<i>C. tentaculata</i>	f	<i>Monadenia bracteata</i>	f
<i>Caleana major</i>	f/b	<i>Pterostylis foliata</i>	s
<i>Corybas sp.</i>	l	<i>P. sp.</i>	s
<i>Cyrtostylis sp.</i>	l	<i>Pyrorchis nigricans</i>	l
<i>Diuris brevifolia</i>	f	<i>Thelymitra albiflora</i>	f
<i>Gastrodia sesamoides</i>	f	<i>T. juncifolia</i>	f/b
<i>Glossodia major</i>	f	<i>T. nuda</i>	b
<i>Leporella fimbriata</i>	s	<i>T. pauciflora</i>	fo/s
<i>Leptoceras menziesii</i>	l	<i>T. sp.</i>	b/fo



A Recent New Orchid genus for South Australia

Bob Bates

In a recent paper found in the *Orchadian*, (Volume 15 number 1), David Jones and Mark Clements have further split *Chiloglottis* so that it is now three genera.. ie

1: *Chiloglottis* in the strict sense is a genus of summer-autumn flowering species with very small flowers and insect like decoys on the labellum ie *Chiloglottis reflexa* which is thought to have occurred in SA before land clearance and still occurs in the adjacent Glenelg River National Park.

2: *Simpliciglottis* (the bird orchids) is a genus of large, spring-summer flowered species without any insect decoy on the labellum as in *Simpliciglottis cornuta* from our South-east and the better known *S. valida* which apparently once grew in the Mt Lofty Ranges.

3: *Myrmechila* (ant orchids) of spring-summer flowering species with ant shaped decoy on the labellum as in *M. trapeziformis* from near Comaum in our South-east. This is a species I was once shown by Kath Alcock at Comaum.... but felling of pines has changed the environment so that these days I would be unlikely to find them again!

In the same paper the authors succinctly validate the reasons for accepting theirs and others segregate genera in *Caladenia* and I believe we will come to accept these names in SA.

A less happy aspect of their paper is the resurrection of the name *Sullivania* for what we presently call *Paracaleana*...but as the original author (Mueller) soon rejected the name I'll be quite happy if we can too. Yes I am in favour of the conservation of *Paracaleana*!

FIELD TRIP REPORT - LOBETHAL BUSHLAND PARK 5/11/05–

Thelma Bridle

Seven NOSSA members met at Bushland Park, Lobethal to learn more about the *Thelymitra pauciflora* complex sun orchids on a day with more suitable weather conditions than 7/11/04 (see NOSSA Journal v.28, pg 114, 2004).

Where last year the water level in the dam had flooded some undescribed species of sun orchids, this year the water level was higher, due to more recent heavy spring rains and the *Calochilus* sp. were also underwater.

We were too late to see *T. 'slate-buds'* in flower. Growing in groups they flower all together on a suitable day in late October. We could still see the colour of the sepal backs, together with the purple-grey capsules. Some *T. 'pauciflora'* species have flowers that rarely open, not a requirement for self-pollinating species, and even the 30°C temperature on Saturday was not sufficiently tempting. The wide, slashed firebreak through the park provides an ideal site to see and photograph all parts of sun orchid plants and there are numerous flowers all along this track.

T. albiflora, the small, white-flowered sun orchid was coming to the end of its flowering period, but another *T. aff albiflora* was seen. This species, with flowering just beginning, had very erect, even obtuse, columns with orange tops and a split right through to the back of the column. Forward-projecting hair tufts were white.

T. 'latifolia' (manuscript names appear '') had a flat, green leaf with the fistula just above ground level. The pink stem had 2 sterile bracts and pink buds. The blue flowers had a small slit in the column top and a crinkly edge to the post anther lobe.

T. 'aff peniculata' had a pink tinge on the buds and, when open could be identified by the wide, open frog-mouth of the column. Divergent lateral lobes had sparse hair tufts.

T. 'pale capsules' had lime green capsules, lilac-coloured buds and pink stems with one stem bract from a high fistula. Flowers were almost finished for this species but the red tubular column with yellow apex could be identified on a couple of flowers. The plants grow in groups.

The unnamed *Thelymitra 'violafragrans'* with a narrow leaf had a two sterile stem bracts and a low fistula. The freely opening, bright blue, slightly fragrant flowers had white hair tufts, with a small split in the yellow top of the column. *T. brevifolia* had short leaves and flowers that open readily. Columns with bright orange-red tops make this species easy to identify. *T. bracteata* at this location were a later-flowered more slender form of the species, but still the larger stem bracts are an identifying characteristic.

In the messmate stringybark woodland, *T. juncifolia*, both spotted and unspotted forms were flowering and the true *T. pauciflora*. *Glossodia major* and *Caladenia carnea* still had the last flowers, but *Diuris* species and the winter/early spring *Pterostylis nutans* were developing seedpods. In this cooler, moist environment, *Corybas sp.* leaves were still in evidence and *Leptoceras menziesii* had a few flowers. Blue grass lilies (*Caesia calliantha*) and yellow bulbines (*Bulbine bulbosa*) were abundant.

There is still much for us to learn in the *T. pauciflora* complex and still some species to be named, but thanks to Bob Bates we now know more than a year ago.

Orchids recorded 5/11/05:

<i>Caladenia carnea</i>	(f)	<i>Thelymitra bracteata</i>	(f)
<i>Corybas sp.</i>	(l)	<i>T. brevifolia</i>	(f)
<i>Diuris orientis</i>	(fo)	<i>T. bracteata x peniculata</i>	(f)
<i>D. pardina</i>	(fo)	<i>T. juncifolia</i>	(f)
<i>Glossodia major</i>	(f)	<i>T. latifolia</i>	(f)
<i>Leptoceras menziesii</i>	(f)	<i>T. aff peniculata</i>	(f)
<i>Microtis frutetorum</i>	(f)	<i>T. pauciflora</i>	(f)
<i>Pterostylis nutans</i>	(s)	<i>T. peniculata</i>	(f)
<i>P. nutans x pedunculata</i>	(s)	<i>T. rubra</i>	(f/s)
<i>Thelymitra albiflora</i>	(f/fo)	<i>T. 'violafragrans'</i>	(f)
<i>T. aff albiflora</i>	(f/b)	<i>T. 'slate-buds'</i>	(fo)
		<i>T. 'pale capsules'</i>	(f/fo)

Orchids on South Australian Islands, a review

Bob Bates

Introduction: there are, according to maps, over 1000 official islands in South Australia. The most obvious of these are off-shore islands, the largest of which is Kangaroo Island. There are however many more islands on water bodies onshore; these include islands in the Coorong, in freshwater lakes like Lake Alexandrina, in salt lakes and salt pans of which there

are hundreds, as well as in rivers, ie Long Island in the River Murray, in private dams and swamps. Many of these islands are either conservation parks in their own right, part of a conservation park or partly conservation park.

The Islands and their orchids:

The best known of our islands is Kangaroo Island which has some thirty conservation reserves. KI as it is affectionately known has about 100 orchid species, and yes that is more than for the whole British Isles! It has even had a book written about its orchids (by Ida Jackson) and even one or two spider orchid species found nowhere else these days, (viz. *Caladenia sanguinea*). KI even has its own islands, such as those in Pelican Lagoon and these have 3-4 orchid species on them.

Islands in the Coorong, especially those near Salt Creek have up to 20 orchid species, including some undescribed greenhoods.

Wedge Island in Spencer Gulf has seven orchid species.

There are dozens of Islands off the West Coast, most have never been surveyed for orchids but there are collections at the herbarium of such unexpected species as *Oligochaetochilus bisetus* and reports of at least five species on some islands there.

I have written previously of orchids on islands in our salt lakes, particularly on Lake Gilles and Lake Gairdner which are both Conservation parks. Lake Gairdner even has its own endemic un-named greenhood.

Then there are the islands on our reservoirs and private dams. Black Island on Warren Reservoir has at least ten orchid species and I have been shown *Microtis* on an artificially constructed island in a farm dam.

Then there are the 'doubtful islands' such as that in the middle of Island Swamp Native Forest Reserve near Nangwarry which I visited recently and where I saw ten orchids, including *Gastrodia sesamoides*.

I would be pleased to see other members write of their discoveries of Island orchids!

N.O.S.S.A Tuber Bank for 2005/2006 **Malcolm Guy**

Available to financial members only! Closing date for orders is the last mail on the 2nd of January 2006. Tubers will be posted on the 23rd January 2006.

I thank all growers who have generously promised tubers, which need to reach me by the 6th of January.

NOTE; 45 lots in all. See next page for listing.

Circle each lot number that you wish to order & mark 'Sub' by any that you would like if your first choice is not available. Lots will have from 2-10 tubers depending on supply & demand. Tubers in short supply will be issued on a first come first served basis. Please record the provenance of tubers you receive if known.

Price per lot is \$1.00. An additional charge of \$4.00 for postage & handling costs applies.

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15 Naomi Terrace
PASADENA Sth Aust. 5042

Sub	TUBER BANK ORDER FORM	LOCALITY DATA
1	<i>Acianthus caudatus</i>	
2	<i>Acianthus pusillus</i>	
3	<i>Caladenia latifolia</i>	
4	<i>Chiloglottis trapeziformis</i>	
5	<i>Corybas incurvus</i>	
6	<i>Cyrtostylis robusta</i>	
7	<i>Diuris orientis</i>	yellow form
8	<i>Diuris orientis</i>	pale form
9	<i>Leptocerus menziesii</i>	
10	<i>Microtis brownii</i>	WA
11	<i>Pterostylis anatona</i>	
12	<i>Pterostylis baptistii</i> 'Gosford'	Gosford NSW
13	<i>Pterostylis baptistii</i>	
14	<i>Pterostylis baptistii</i>	Warnervale NSW
15	<i>Pterostylis baptistii</i> 'Janey'	
16	<i>Pterostylis concinna</i>	Bichino Tas
17	<i>Pterostylis concinna</i>	Warrandyte Vic
18	<i>Pterostylis concinna</i>	red-brown Vic
19	<i>Pterostylis curta</i>	Kuitpo SA
20	<i>Pterostylis curta</i>	
21	<i>Pterostylis foliata</i>	Kuitpo SA
22	<i>Pterostylis hildae</i>	
23	<i>Pterostylis nutans</i>	
24	<i>Pterostylis nutans</i> (var)	
25	<i>Pterostylis nutans</i>	NSW
26	<i>Pterostylis (Taurantha) ophioglossa</i>	
27	<i>Pterostylis pedunculata</i>	
28	<i>Pterostylis pedunculata</i>	small form Tas
29	<i>Pterostylis procera</i>	
30	<i>Pterostylis (Diplodium) robusta</i>	Adelaide Hills
31	<i>Pterostylis (Diplodium) russellii</i>	
32	<i>Pterostylis stricta</i>	
33	<i>Pterostylis (Diplodium) truncata</i>	
34	<i>Pterostylis (Diplodium) truncata</i>	You-Yangs Vic
35	<i>Pterostylis</i> Cutie x <i>baptistii</i>	
36	<i>Pterostylis</i> Dusky Duke	
37	<i>Pterostylis</i> x Joesph Arthur	
38	<i>Pterostylis</i> Nodding Grace	
39	<i>Pterostylis</i> "SA Great"	
40	<i>Pterostylis</i> x <i>ingens</i>	
41	<i>Pterostylis torquata</i> x <i>metcalfei</i>	Edor Falls NSW
42	<i>Thelymitra graminea</i>	WA
43	<i>Thelymitra pauciflora</i>	
44	<i>Thelymitra rubra</i>	
45	<i>Thelymitra</i> x <i>macmillanii</i>	

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