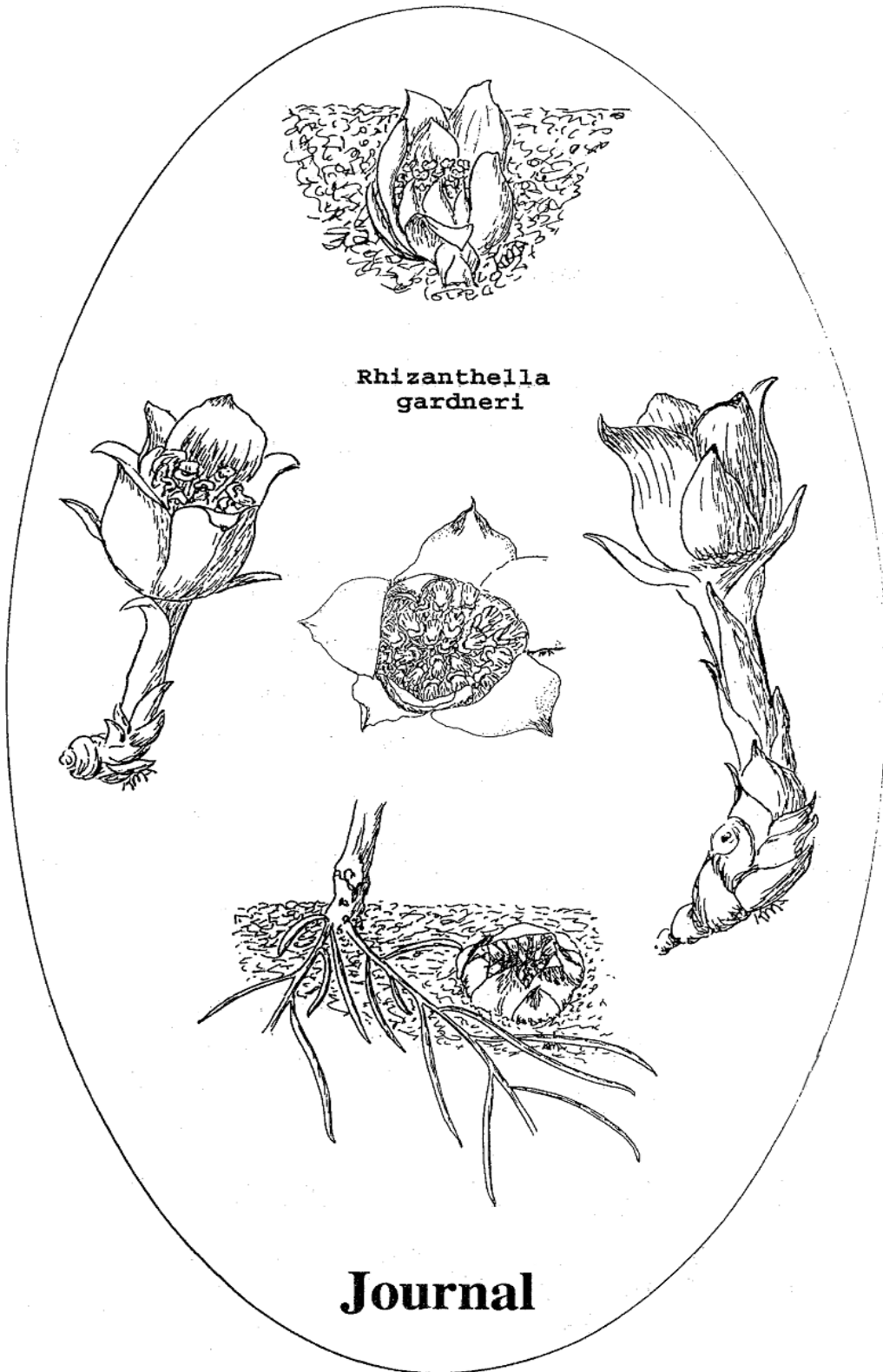


# Native Orchid Society of South Australia Inc.



# NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

P.O Box 565,  
UNLEY S.A 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.

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**NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY**  
**OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC**  
**SEPTEMBER 1994 VOL. 18. NO. 8 JOURNAL**

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Tuesday, 27 September, 1994, 8.00 pm: at St Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. Doors to the hall will be open at 7.15 pm for those wishing to borrow from the library or purchase/sell through the trading table. Past President George Nieuwenhoven will speak on Warm Growing Orchids and more.

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NEWS FROM THE MT GAMBIER ORCHID SOCIETY

A project to reintroduce native orchids to the Valley Lake Flora & Fauna Park is in hand.

This is a joint project between the Mt Gambier City Council and the Orchid Society.

**BUS TRIP \*\*\*\* September 24th \*\*\***

Destination: - Bruce Mules' Orchid Nursery (Port Pirie).

Barry's Tours - Mobile Phone 018 857 332.

Meet at Gepps Cross Hotel - car park at back. Departure Time 9.35 am.

If you prefer to board the bus at West Lakes, please phone Collette on 493 672.

There are still a few seats left - \$15.

There is a toilet on the bus.

Take lunch. Tea & coffee provided.

**DIARY DATES**

Sept 17-18 NOSSA Spring Show.

Sept 24 Bus Trip to Bruce Mules'.

Sept 25 Black Hill native plant sale.

Sept 25 Conservation Group Belair survey. Meet 10 am main gate.

Oct 1 -3 Labour Day Excursion to South East.

Oct 6 -9 SLAP Show.

Oct 23 Echunga Open Day Picnic.

Nov 27 Christmas BBQ at Wally Walloscheck's.

**COMMITTEE MEETING**

To be held at 7.30 pm Friday 30th September at Ron Robjohns.

**NEXT FIELD TRIP**

October long weekend adventure

For details on accommodation and schedule ring Gerry on 332 7730.

For those intending to visit for only one or two days see following program.

Sat Oct 1st. meet Mt Monster Conservation Park car park at 10.30 am. Also visiting Abadour Conservation Park.

Sun 2nd. October meet Lucindale turnoff out of Naracoorte 9 am.

Mon 3rd October meet Naracoorte showgrounds 9 am.

**COMPETITION PLANTS**

Competition plants for sale - *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon X *D. Aussie Charm* \$3.00 for 3 inch pots. Clip board will circulate at next meeting.

Competition plant recall for September meeting. *Cymbidium maddidum* purchased February - March 1993.

## ON THE BENCH

Terrestrials: *Caladenia arenaria*, *C. latifolia* (2), *C. Fairyfloss* (2), *Chiloglottis truncata*, *Corybas incurvus*, *Cyanicula deformis*, *Diuris* aff. *laxiflora*, *Diuris conspicillata*, *D. X palachila*, *D. corymbosa X sulphurea*, *D. Pioneer*, *D. corymbosa X D. palachila*, *D. palustris*, *Glossodia major* (2), *Lyperanthus suaveolens*, *Pterostylis baptistii*, *P. concinna*, *P. curta*, *P. cycnocephala*, *P. erythroconcha*, *P. aff. nana*, *P. pyramidalis*, *P. X ingens*, *P. ingens X nutans*, *P. curta X P. pedunculata*, *P. cucullata X P. nutans*, *Thelymitra X chasmogama*, *Thelymitra Melonglow*.

There was some disagreement as to the identification of the pot of *Diuris conspicillata*. The pot was labelled *D. corymbosa* 'Avenue Range' so there must have been a misplacement of labels as *D. conspicillata* is a very distinctive species from the Esperance area of WA which does well in Adelaide increasing vegetatively by 100% a year.

There was a large pot of *Thelymitra Melonglow* a hybrid made and registered by Les Nesbitt with its parents *T. antennifera* X *T. luteocilium* which is also a naturally occurring hybrid. It was marvellous to see so many different genera of terrestrials at a winter meet.

Epiphytes: *Dendrobium* Aussie Victory (2), *D. Zeppelin*, *D. Ellen* (2), *D. Kathryn Banks*, *D. bigibbum*, *D. Bardo Rose X Gillian Leaney*, *D. Red River Blush X Zip*, *D. Aussie Merit*, *D. Telekon*, *D. Gloucester Sands*, *D. Ellen X Tweed*, *D. teretifolium* (3), *D. speciosum*, *D. Wonga*, *D. Aussie Zest*, *Sarcochilus falcatus*.

Les Nesbitt gave the commentary on the Terrestrials.  
Roger Herriman spoke on the Epiphytes.

## COMMENTATORS CHOICE:

Terrestrial Species: *Diuris conspicillata* grown by Don Wells  
Terrestrial Hybrid: *Pterostylis X ingens* from Black Hill

Epiphyte Species: *Dendrobium teretifolium* grown by G. Burford  
Epiphyte Hybrid: *D. Red River X D. Zip* grown by John Peace

## POPULAR VOTE:

Terrestrials: *Diuris conspicillata* grown by D. Wells.

Epiphytes: *Dendrobium teretifolium* grown by G. Burford.

RESULTS OF THE 1994 NOSSA  
PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

## SLIDES

## Corybas

1st. R. Bates  
2nd. R. Bates  
Merit R. Bates

## Leporella

1st. A. Winkler  
2nd. R. Bates  
Merit R. Edge  
Merit A. Winkler

## Thelymitra

1st. R. Biddell  
2nd. R. Biddell  
Merit R. Bates (two merits)

## Pterostylis

## No winners

## PRINTS

1st. R. Biddell  
2nd. R. Biddell  
Merit P. Bridle

1st. D. Williams  
2nd. D. Williams  
Merit R. Biddell

1st. R. Biddell  
2nd. R. Biddell (two seconds)  
Merit A. Winkler

1st. R. Biddell  
2nd. D. Williams  
Merit R. Biddell (two merits)

## COMMENTS FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHIC JUDGE

## POINTS to improve photos:

1. Greater depth of field.  
ie Higher f stops f16 + which means slower shutter speeds or use flash light at sync speed.
2. All parts of subject in focus.  
ie as in point 1.
3. Darker back grounds, particularly in olive green so as to high light the subject.
4. Garden the back ground through the lens.  
ie remove loose dead leaves and pale twigs. UV reflects from these and creates bright spots in the back ground.
5. Do not cut up parts of the subject, such as petals or leaves.  
Only acceptable when it is obvious to the judge that the photographer is high-lighting certain parts of the subject for identification purposes.
6. Take care when framing the photo.  
ie looking at the subject from another angle can remove other bright flowers or bright objects from the back ground and also other obstructions which you can not remove from the ground.

*A wife knows she is losing her touch  
when her husband starts looking at his orchids  
the way he used to look at her.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editors,

On Sunday 28th August 1994, volunteers from NOSSA Conservation Group helped remove perennial veldt grass (*Ehrharta calycina*) threatening *Pterostylis arenicola* (sandhill greenhood orchids) at Grange. Although *P. arenicola* is now classified as vulnerable, the population at Grange is still threatened by weed invasion and by the small size of the population. The volunteers removed enough veldt grass to fill a large trailer. Hopefully the soil disturbance will promote regeneration of the orchid and other indigenous species.

Members found a number of young seedlings including *Acacia pycnantha*, *Rhagodia candolleana*, *Wahnenbergia* spp., *Maireana* spp., *Senecio lautus* and *Calitris priessii* as well as a number of reptile species.

Further working bees are planned for December this year and in Spring next year. Contact Karen Possingham for further details.

Everyone enjoyed the fresh air and helping to save another population of terrestrial orchid. Thank you to all those who participated and volunteered their time and energy.

Birgitte Sorensen  
Black Hill Flora Centre

## CONSERVATION NEWS: Addition to Parks on Kangaroo Island

by Sandy Philips

In the last five years there have been several exciting additions and extensions to Conservation Parks on Kangaroo Island.

Even Flinders Chase, the largest park on the island has been extended with the addition of the Gosse lands - virgin, very wet scrub and heath to the east side of the West End Highway some 300 square kilometres hardly explored for orchids.

Another park extended recently is the Western River Conservation Park. A block of about 20 square kilometres of dense scrub inland from the main park and hardly explored botanically, was added in 1992.

Although planned as a reserve about 10 years ago the Latham Conservation Park is the first park to be declared on the largely cleared central North Coast of the Island. About 20 square kms of varied terrain with some 40 orchid species including an undescribed *Caladenia*.

One of the most recent additions is the Lashmar Conservation Park near Antechamber Bay set up for the Red-tailed Black Cockatoos living in the Sheoak woodland. Not many orchids here as it was once well grazed.

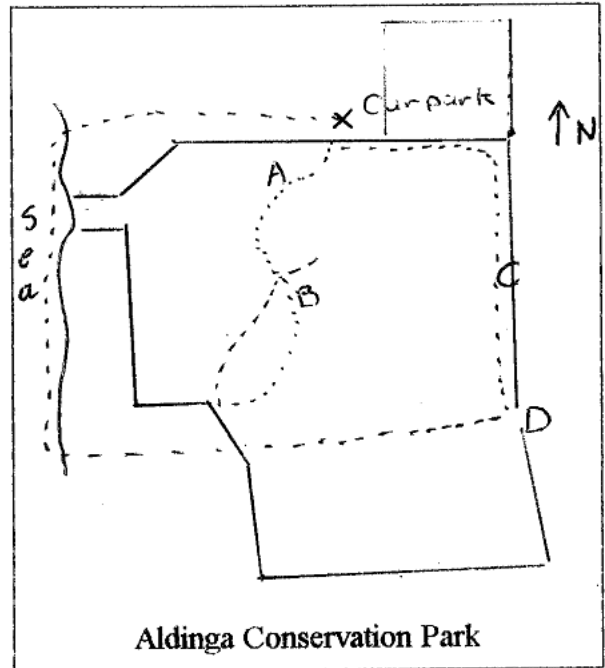
Cape Ganthaume Conservation Park, a large area of Limestone (400 square kms) has been extended to include the old Murray Lagoon farm. This wetland is a valuable addition but does not include any special orchids.

Some 80% of bushland on Kangaroo Island (excluding roadsides) is now reserve, but I believe that not only should the remaining 20% be turned into reserve but also many of the failed farms which can be returned eventually to bush or better still open parks for wildlife.

On one of those wonderful 20° Winter afternoons some twenty orchid enthusiasts met at the northern car park of Aldinga Conservation Park which supports the last stand of coastal woodland on the Adelaide Plains still relatively intact (although badly invaded by Veldt grass). Some of us enjoyed a picnic lunch on the beach before the meet.

Our main aim was to find the white flowered form of *Caladenia latifolia*. Unfortunately the late start to the season and continuing dry had retarded flowering and only buds were found, although we did find a few pink ones in flower. National Parks and Wildlife Service have recently built a boardwalk over the colony of rare Coral Lichen *Cladia ferdinandii* so we walked over that, admiring tall *Pterostylis sanguinea* with up to 12 flowers (this is the hills or woodland form). There were thousands of large leaves of *Burnettia (Lyperanthus) nigricans* so we were not surprised to find a few in flower.

We took the short loop-track through the high sandhills in the centre of the park. It was so dry that most of the *Corybas despectans* flowers had shrivelled. This species is self pollinated so flowers were already developing seed pods. For most species seen there was about one flower per 100 leaves, *Pterostylis sanguinea* being the exception. This is obviously a species which likes it dry.



We were back at the car park within an hour of leaving so most of us headed off again to walk around the boundary track. We picked up a few non-orchid strangers on the way. On the east boundary the soil changed and so did the orchids - lots of lovely blue *Cyanicula*, large colonies of *Pterostylis pedunculata* and a few *Cyrtostylis robusta* mixed in with the *Corybas despectans*.

The excursion ended with a hike along the beach on the long way back to the car park by which time we had 'lost' most of the group.

Orchids seen:      A - by the boardwalk    B - high sandhills  
                             C - clay depressions, east boundary                                      D - Kaurna camp

**In Flower -**

<i>Acianthus pusillus</i> B,C;	<i>Burnettia nigricans</i> A,B	<i>Caladenia latifolia</i> A,B,C
<i>Cyanicula deformis</i> C	<i>Cyrtostylis robusta</i> C	<i>Corybas despectans</i> B,C
<i>Corybas incurvus</i> C	<i>Pterostylis nano</i> (Hills) B,C	<i>Pterostylis pedunculata</i> C
<i>Pterostylis sanguinea</i> (Hills) A,B,C,D		

**In Bud -**

<i>Microtis arenaria</i> B,C,D	<i>Caladenia</i> sp. C	various <i>Thelymitra</i> sp. A,B,C,D
<i>Prasophyllum elatum</i> D		



*Dendrobium baileyi* was named by Ferdinand von Mueller after the nineteenth century Queensland government botanist.

This is a summer flowered epiphyte I've not seen in Adelaide collections. It occurs naturally in North East Queensland from Townsville north, mostly in coastal rainforest along or in trees overhanging water.

The plants have very long slender cane-like pseudobulbs to 1 metre long. The flowers are a real disappointment, occurring only in ones or twos; about 1 to 3 cm across, greenish with red splotches but their big failing is their short life span (measured in hours or minutes!). An odd feature of the spidery blooms is the habit of sepals and petals becoming tangled together as they senesce each afternoon.

The species is rarely cultivated, not only because of the disappointing flowers but because plants are sensitive to cold and to moisture fluctuations.

I saw this species in flower in February 1970 on the coastal plain North of Ingham where much of its habitat has been destroyed for sugar farming. The flowers are very attractive to native bees and flies which visit in large numbers and apparently pollinate the flowers almost as soon as they open. This is just another of the many mysteries concerning the pollination of Australian orchids.

## ORCHID NAMES

by Mark Philips

Human beings love to label. Everything must have a name it seems.

It was the Ancient Greeks who gave us the name orchid from the Greek orchis or testicle because the paired tubers of most of the Greek species did indeed resemble testicles (the Ancient Greeks even ate the tubers believing they might have aphrodisiacal properties).

In the seventeenth century the great botanist Carl Linnaeus came up with a way of naming plants which reflected their relationship to other plants. Carl was sick of the fanciful names given to plants that gave no clue as to their relationships and these names differed from country to country. How was anyone to know that the plant called Dragons Blood in Germany was the same as Heartsease in France. Common names were just too confusing.

Linnaeus based relationships on flower structure; all plants with the same sort of flowers he declared would belong to the same Genus; within each genus there could be lots of similar plants these he would call species. Every plant would then have its genus name and its species name, ie two names (in Latin, binomial). Linnaeus declared all these names must be in the same language ie Latin and that the genus name should begin with a capital. Hence all orchids with green hoodlike flowers would be *Pterostylis* (Latin for winged style) and the species with the largest flowers would be *Pterostylis grandiflora* (Latin large flower) and even if it grew in ten different countries it would always be *Pterostylis grandiflora*.

When choosing the 'Scientific' names for plants the botanist would make sure there was no doubt about what plant was being referred to by first choosing a pressed specimen of the plant which henceforth would be called the Type.

Names usually refer to some special attribute of the plant, take *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* for example *Eu* = well, *calyptus* = covered, all *Eucalyptus* have the buds well covered; and *leuca* = yellow-white; *xylon* = wood, which of course this gum tree has.

Isn't that a lot more sensible than its common name South Australian Blue Gum for a tree that has nothing blue about it.

Sometimes plant names commemorate people or places, ie *Prasophyllum goldsackii*, a South Australian orchid honouring local orchidologist and life member of NOSSA, Harold Goldsack who first recognised the species.

Some botanists who name plants have fanciful imaginations so that we end up with a species named *Dracula vampira*. Others with false pride want their species to appear first in any list so they come up with names like *Aabasa aaron*. Unfortunately once named it is not possible to rename a plant no matter how unsuitable the original name may be.

I said before that all plants have a double scientific name but of course they may have more. For a start all orchid genera together make the family *Orchidaceae*, one of the largest plant families! So we have family name, genus name and species name.

Within a single species there may be differences which warrant a subspecies name (sub = below, ie subspecies = below the level of species). One of the most attractive spider orchids in Australia is *Caladenia longicauda* spp. *eminens*. There are 30 000 species to which the name Orchid applies, 200 to 300 different *Caladenia*, about 10 different *Caladenia longicauda* but only one *C. longicauda* spp. *eminens*.

Next month: Orchid Names part 2: Cultivars and Hybrids.

## ORCHIDS OF MT BROWN CONSERVATION PARK

by Gary Guide

On a visit to what was Mt Brown Forest Reserve in 1974 I was impressed by the large populations of orchids in the higher parts of the park. Glorious clumps of bright blue *Thelymitra nuda*, brilliant pink *Caladenia coactilis*, fascinating spider orchids like *Caladenia filamentosa* and *C. toxochila*, delicate looking *Diuris palustris*, unexpected leek orchids like *Prasophyllum occidentale* and numerous greenhoods.

I was disappointed therefore when taking part in the Nature Conservation Society survey in September 1994 just 20 years later to find the orchid populations much reduced. The reason it seems is overgrazing by sheep, rabbits, hares and perhaps goats. Admittedly it has been a dry year but nevertheless there has been a distinct decline in both orchids and general ground cover. Fortunately the leases for sheep grazing run out in 1995 - it is important that these leases are not renewed. It is never appropriate to run sheep in conservation parks!

We did (on September 3 - 4) find evidence of several orchids. The most abundant of these was *Pterostylis robusta*. At a place called simply 'The Gorge' these were still in flower and we were surprised to find that the flowers differed from the Adelaide Hills form in having red (not green) flowers with long labellum and dorsal sepal point. Growing with them were colonies of *Pterostylis* 'Hills *nana*'. Perhaps this is the furthestmost north this species occurs as North of here it is replaced by 'desert *nana*'. Because of the drought all of the Spider orchids seen had very short stems.

One species found at The Gorge but not on the 1974 list was *Thelymitra pauciflora*. However there were quite a few species that were common in 1974 that we could not locate this year. These include *Diuris behrii* and *D. palustris* as well as *Prasophyllum occidentale* and *Acianthus pusillus*. Hopefully these species will reappear once sheep are removed and drought is over.

The Nature Conservation Society are continuing the survey from October 1 - 4 and October 16 - 20. If any NOSSA members are interested they can get details from the Nature Conservation Society.

Species recorded for Mt Brown

*Acianthus pusillus* (rare)

*Caladenia coactilis* (high altitude)

*C. filamentosa* complex (rocky places)

*C. tensa* (rare)

*C. toxochila* (common in 1974)

*Cyanicula deformis* (rare)

*Diuris palustris* (rare)

*D. behrii*

*Microtis frutetorum* (along creeks)

*Prasophyllum occidentale* (common in 1974)

*P. odoratum* (few)

*Pterostylis biseta* (common)

*P. boormanii* (rare)

*P. excelsa* complex (on limestone)

*P. mutica* (dry sites)

*P. Hills nana* (uncommon)

*P. robusta* (abundant)

*P. pusilla* (few)

*P. sanguinea* (rare)

*Thelymitra nuda* (common in 1974)

*T. luteocilium* (rare)

*T. pauciflora* (one colony)

ADOPT AN ENDANGERED ORCHID

by Bob Bates

NOSSA is involved in management of the endangered Spider Orchids *Caladenia behrii*, *C. gladiola* to and *C. rigida* and *Pterostylis arenicola*.

We have:

1. Searched diligently to locate populations of these orchids.
2. Approached land holders and land managers to let them know they have these species and how to manage them.
3. Weeded populations threatened by exotic plants (see Birgitte Sorensen's letter this issue).
4. Fenced off small populations.
5. Obtained grants from the Endangered Species unit in Canberra to help fund the work.
6. Hand pollinated smaller populations and isolated plants.
7. Collected seed which has been flaked by orchid nurseries like Andrew Pagets in Melbourne and Black Hill Flora Centre.
8. Sown seed in situ after raking to improve conditions for germination.
9. Monitored control burns by Woods & Forest at Mt Gawler.
10. Monitored natural seed set versus hand pollination

11. Reintroduced the species to areas where there is suitable regenerating bushland ie *C. behrii* to Scott Creek and *C. gladiolata* to Onkaparinga River Recreation Park.

12. Attempted to have posters etc published to improve public awareness of the orchids.

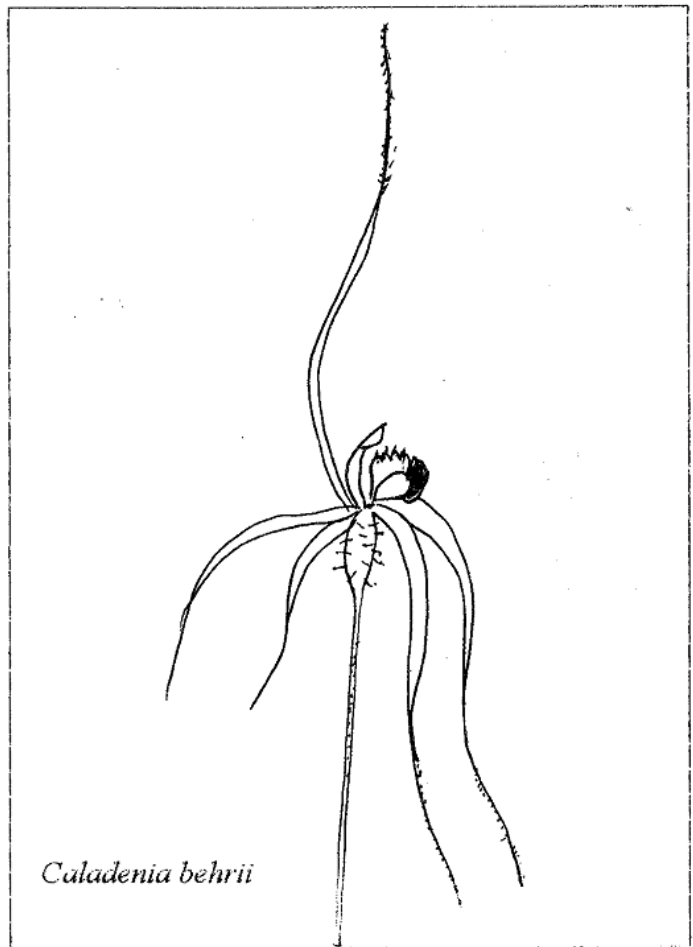
13 Lobbied for extension of reserves and parks to cover as many populations as possible.

14. Had meetings with all the experts and project managers involved.

The *P. arenicola* project has been running about 5 years and has been very successful. The species is no longer considered endangered. The *Caladenia* project has been going just on one year.

What we need is for NOSSA members (and others) to locate small populations of any of these species (and others) and adopt them, ie once found the sites should be reported to the project supervisors Birgitte or myself) and in the case of the *Caladenia* you are invited to assist in management of the populations by hand pollinating, fencing, talking with land holders, weeding and the like. I believe that the personal touch may make all the difference when it comes to small populations not yet known to me.

Sites to search include Belair Recreation Park and Kuitpo Forest where the species have not been located recently. The species are in full flower now!!!



# NATIVE ORCHID SHOW



**SATURDAY 17th SEPTEMBER**

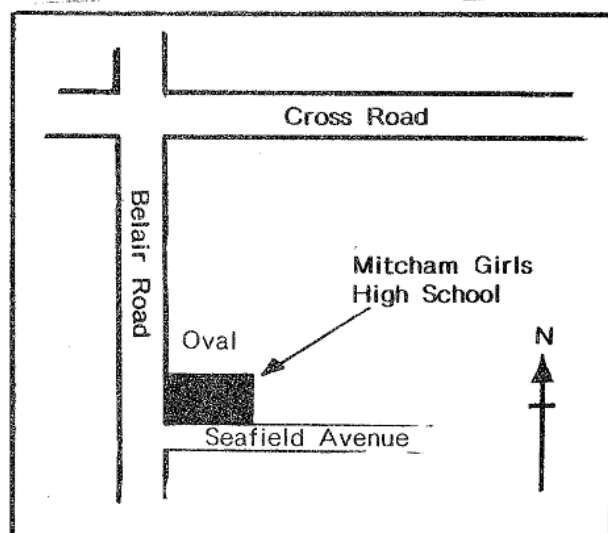
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**SUNDAY 18th SEPTEMBER**

**12 noon - 5 p.m.**

**Mitcham Girls High School  
Seafield Avenue  
Kingswood**

**ENTRY \$2.00**



**NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC**

**P.O. Box 565, Unley SA 5061**