



Journal  
of the  
Native Orchid Society  
of  
South Australia Inc



*Caladenia eminens*

# **NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**Post office box 565 Unley 5061**

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 from the Management Committee 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 1999 Vol. 23 No. 8 JOURNAL

### SEPTEMBER MEETING

Tuesday September 28 8.00 pm: Saint Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. Various speakers will show slides of and discuss European Native Orchids.

Doors open at 7.15 to allow trading table to set up and library to proceed

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### DIARY DATES

|                |   |               |
|----------------|---|---------------|
| Sept 25        | New members/ Open Day                   | Windsor Gdns  |
| Sept 26        | Orchid Trip                             | Hardy's Scrub |
| Oct 1-5        | Orchid Spectacular                      | South East    |
| Oct 9          | Spring Gully Trip                       | Clare         |
| Oct 17         | Annual Echunga Picnic                   | Echunga       |
| Nov 7          | Three Duck Orchids                      | Ashbourne     |
| January 2000   | Three Dipodium species                  | Naracoorte    |
| April 3-4 2000 | SE Genoplesiums, Pterostylis parviflora | Mt Monster    |
| July 2000      | Ghost Corybas                           | Maccy         |
| Oct 5-8        | Native Orchid Conference                | Melbourne     |

Next Committee Meeting: Wed Sept 29 at the home of Cathy and Malcolm Houston Margaret St Henley Beach. Meeting starts at 7:30.

### RS ROGERS ORCHID HOUSE

Due the fact that there is no longer a home for this orchid house it is going to be dismantled. The collection of native terrestrial orchids is to be looked after by David Pettifor. Due a disastrous last summer most of the species were lost. This was as a result of a faulty sprinkler system which caused all pots to be inundated on several occasions. If and when the house is ever re-established the orchids will be returned.

## ON THE BENCH

## Epiphytes

*Dendrobium* Andelline, *D. Awesome*, *D. Aussie Springtime* x *Zip*, *D. Aussie Ira* x *Peewee*, *Aussie Ira* x *Pee Wee* x *speciosum*, *D. Aussie Child* x *Hilda Poxon*, *D. Bicentennial Rose*, *D. Brinama Sunset*, *D. Candice* x *Ellen*, *D. comptonii*, *D. Darlington Parish*, *D. Ed Lloyd* x *speciosum*, *D. Elegant Lace* x *Red River*, *D. Ellen*, *D. Essie Banks*, *D. Glamour* x *Star*, *D. Gai- Ellen*, *D. Golden Fleck*, *D. Janine Banks*, *D. Kardinia*, *D. Kim*, *D. kingianum*, *D. Ku-Ring-Gai*, *D. Lisa Turville*, *D. Jonathans Glory*, *D. Rutherford Galaxy* x *Aussie Victory*, *D. speciosum*, *D. tetragonum*, *D. Telecom*, *D. teretifolia* (3), *D. Violet Yamagi* (Australasian hybrid), *D. Zeppelin*, *D. Zip*

## Terrestrials

*Acianthus caudatus*, *Caladenia deformis*, *C. latifolia*, *C. latifolia* (white) x *C. tentaculata*, *C. parva*, *C. Fairy Floss*, *Calassodia NOSSA*, *Chiloglottis* aff. *truncata*, *Ch. trullata*, *Corybas dilatatus*, *C. incurvus*, *Diuris conspicillata*, *D. pardina* (SA form), *D. orientis*, *D. Pioneer*, *Pterostylis arenicola*, *Glossodia major*, *P. curta*, *P. Dusky Duke*, *P. grandiflora*, *P. x ingens*, *P. nutans*, *P. pedunculata*, *P. procera*, *P. stricta*, *P. tunstallii*, *P. williamsonii*, *T. antennifera*.

As *Caladenia latifolia* is difficult to flower growers have been trying smoked water with some success. Other growers are using hybridising as a solution by crossing free flowering spider orchids with the *C. latifolia* to come up with vegetatively increasing, free-flowering hybrids.

## PLANT COMMENTARIES - Les Nesbitt and Noel Oliver

## JUDGING

## Terrestrial species :

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Pterostylis curta* grown by D. Pettifor
- 2<sup>nd</sup> *Caladenia latifolia* grown by R S Rogers House
- 3<sup>rd</sup> *Diuris conspicillata* grown by M Tiggeman

## Terrestrial hybrids :

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Diuris Pioneer 'Big Ears'* grown by Les Nesbitt
- 2<sup>nd</sup> *Pterostylis x ingens* grown by David Pettifor

## Epiphytic species :

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Dendrobium speciosum* grown by G & J Burford
- 2<sup>nd</sup> *Dendrobium tetragonum* grown by I & K Charlesworth

## Epiphytic hybrids

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Dendrobium Elegant Lace* x *Red River* grown by S & B Meszaros
- 2<sup>nd</sup> *Dendrobium Delicate King* hybrid grown by G & P Edwards

Plant of the Night *Dendrobium speciosum*

## POPULAR VOTE

Best Terrestrial *Diuris 'Big Ears'*  
 Best Epiphyte *Dendrobium Elegant Lace* x

#### LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER:

Foundation member Bob Bates spoke firstly on the nine sections of the genus *Pterostylis* emphasising the differences in their morphology, ecology and pollination.

He then showed slides of many of the most recently discovered orchids of Kangaroo Island, emphasising the similarity of the plants of Kangaroo Island to the flora of Western Australia. Bob showed slides of scenery and wildlife to round off. Amazingly there do not appear to be any orchid species endemic to the Island although there may be some endemism at subspecies level.

#### FIELD TRIPS IN SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

Sat Sept. 25 Family Day at Belair with OCSA members.  
Meet: Main entrance to Belair National Park 10am

Sun Sept 26 Hardy's Scrub.  
Meet: Old Noarlunga, South Road turnoff to Willunga, 10am,

Fri Oct. 1 - Tues Oct. 5 -October long weekend  
SE trip including Mount Boothby, Nora Creina, Honan's Scrub, Mary Seymour Con. Park, Padthaway Con. Park. Many different orchid species should be found on this 5 day trip. Please contact Thelma Bridle (83844174) for more details.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Oct. Spring Gully Conservation Park  
Meet: Seven Hills, South of Clare at 10am. We hope to see the northern beard orchids and red *Caladenia* aff. *leptochila*.

Oct. 9/10 SGAP Show - Wayville

Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Oct. Echunga Police Training Area  
Meet: Jupiter Creek turnoff 1 km before Echunga at 11am

Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Oct. Kaiserstuhl Conservation Park  
Meet: Lyndoch Council offices at 10am.

Sun 31<sup>st</sup> Oct. Grange Golf Course - weeding trip  
Meet: Grange Golf Course carpark, 10am

#### NEW MEMBERS GROUP / OPEN DAY

A meeting of the above groups will be held on Saturday September 25<sup>th</sup> at the home of Bub & Don Wells at 86 Pitman Rd Windsor Gardens. We will be mounting epiphytes on various media. Some lithophytes too.

All necessary items will be supplied and a small charge will be made for plants which have been purchased for the day.

It is imperative that bookings be made for this event which will commence at 2pm. Ring 82616030 or 0416095095.

After a wet start to the day on Sun, August 8th the weather improved for the NOSSA field trip to Callington, Monarto and Ferries McDonald. 12 members, including 2 from Victoria and a visitor met in the rain and proceeded to a private block near Callington. Here we found a number of *Caladenia stellata* in flower with probably an equal number in bud. The range of appearance of this species always causes discussion. A main distinguishing characteristic is the star-shaped pale greenish-cream flower, with rigidly held petals and sepals often with red suffusion. The sepals have deep red/blackish osmophores. The labellum is dark maroon from the mid-lobe with 4 rows of calli on the toothed labellum.

*Caladenia deformis* was widespread but no albino flowers could be found this year. *Diuris palustris* was flowering well, but *Pterostylis* aff. *cycnocephala* was late, only a few flowers actually out. There was an enormous number of austral adder's tongue (*Ophioglossum lusitanicum*) leaves, a few with 'tongues' already forming. Clumps of early nancy (*Wurmbea dioica*) looked attractive.

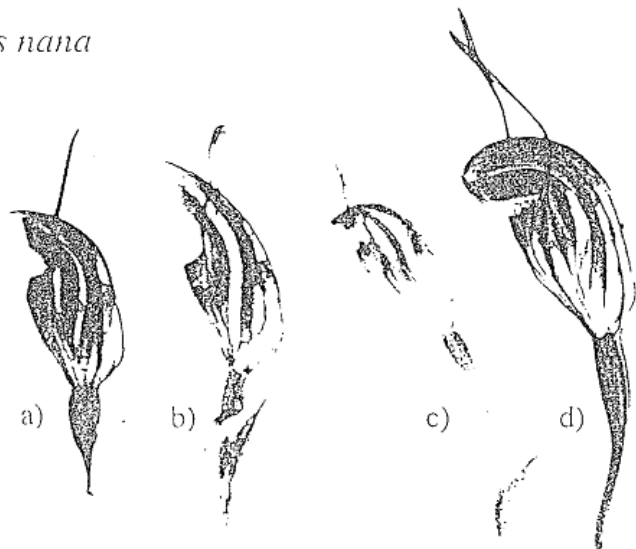
Monarto Conservation Park was commencing flowering of its beautiful array of shrubs. I always find this one of SA's loveliest parks, full of colour and perfume. There were many *Caladenia* sp. leaves - *C. stricta* and *C. cardiochila* were budding, with possibly one or two other species we did not identify. *C. filamentosa*, the white wispy spider orchids with very fine leaves were coming into flower and a few *C. deformis* were flowering. *Genoplesium fuscoviride* had had a good flowering season judging by the number of seedpods. *Pterostylis sanguinea*, the shorter mallee form, was common in colonies under the shelter of shrubs or in leaf litter and large colonies of *P. aff. nana*, the small, short, mallee form, were in flower. *P. dolichochoila* was coming to the end of its flowering period.

The south eastern corner of Ferries McDonald Conservation Park had the largest number of *Caladenia filamentosa* I have seen. Along the track in this area there was a flower at least every 0.5m. and many of these were small clumps of flowers with up to 3 flowers per stem. There were also many buds still to open, including at least one albino. *Caladenia cardiochila* was quite numerous along the track also. These were in bud and apparently have quite pale flowers when open. *C. stricta* buds were also found. This park is drier than Monarto, although only a few kilometres away and here the small *Pterostylis* species was *P. mutica* rather than *P. cycnocephala*, but a short form with only 2-3 flowers. *P. aff. nana* was found as the mallee form and amazingly an unusual and well-photographed colony of 'Hale *nana*' growing on the track. These plants had smooth stems and very small, flat, heavily veined rosettes of pointed leaves. The flowers were the same size as the mallee form of *P. aff. nana*, with long outwardly-pointing brown 'horns'. The translucent galeas were heavily veined in dark green. The tops of the galeas were orange/brown ending in an acuminate tip. As this is a very endangered taxon this was quite a find. The final find for the day was a *Sminthopsis*, a dunnart or marsupial mouse, lying dead on the track and identified by our visitor.

*Pterostylis nana*

x2

- a) Ferries McDonald CP - orange/brown  
 b) Hale CP - orange/brown galea top  
 c) Ferries McDonald CP "mallee form"  
 d) Scott Creek CP "Adelaide Hills form"



## NOSSA SURVEY DUTCHMANS STERN CP QUORN

August 28-29<sup>th</sup> 1999

Gary Guide.

Late August was certainly the best time to survey this rugged park, situated north west of Quorn. We were pleasantly surprised at the variety and number of orchids seen. From Quorn north the country is generally regarded as semi-arid and the approximately 25 taxa seen exceeded expectations, Fifteen members satyed in the old homestead which had hot and cold running water, bathrooms and a fully functioning kitchen. This was some of the most luxurious camping I have managed in the Flinders Ranges!

About 6mm of rain had fallen in the week before our visit so everything was green and fresh if not exactly damp.

We started early on the Saturday morning, dividing into 2 groups. The first group headed up the 4wd track to the saddle north of the Stern where open grassy woodland and rocks followed the track up to the first Lookout and a grand view over the arid plains north of Port Augusta. By 8:30 we had, already found nine species in flower despite almost freezing to death in a chill wind.

These species turned out to be the most common in the Park ie *Caladenia coactilis* (in all shades from pure white to carmine), *C. aff. filamentosa*, *C. tensa*, *C. toxochila*, *Diuris palustris*, *Prasophyllum occidentale*, (green form) *Pterostylis aff. mutica*, (Flinders), *P. robusta* and *Thelymitra aff. nuda* 'early'. The photographers were delighted, to see the albino or pure green form of *C. aff. filamentosa* 'Flinders' and forms of *C. coactilis* with orange labellum tips. This group later added *Thelymitra grandiflora* in bud, *Pterostylis pusilla*, and possible *P. boormanii* in bud as wells as leaves of the *Pterostylis biseta* complex.

Although the Park is really in the Flinders Ranges this is counted as the Eyre Peninsular Region and the *T. grandiflora* was a new Regional record.

The second group chose the more difficult Summit Track which led to the highest point on the Range, the Dutchmans Stern Lookout. From here we could see all the way south to Port Augusta and the Gulf! This group saw many of the same species but added *Pterostylis plumosa* in flower, *T. pauciflora* in bud and at least 2 *Microtis* species. Vegetation here included Sugar Gum woodland, Callitris scrubs and



heath with many sheer rock faces and outcrops. The soils were poor quartzite derived and hence orchid variety was low. After lunch and a quick siesta back at camp two groups were formed ..... the first walked from the homestead up the creek into nearby grazing country, through *Triodia* grassland and into sheoak woodland. They saw basically the same species as before. The second group headed toward Town and visited the Quorn Flora Reserve which is about one 1km from the Park itself but was included in the survey.

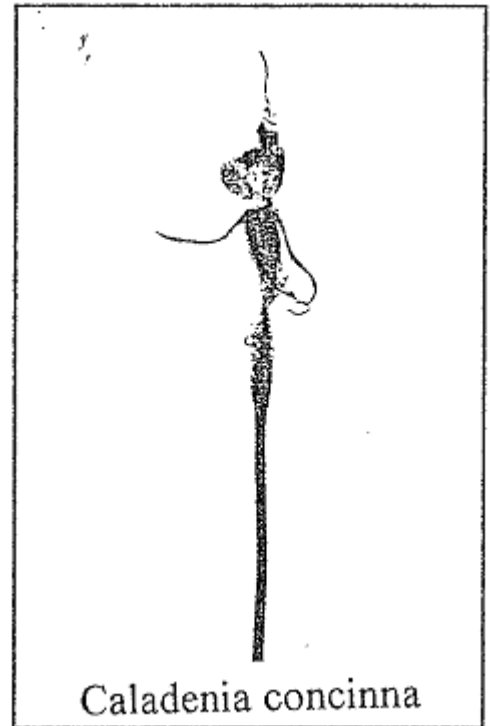
It was much drier here but orchids were abundant in the better soils. There were numerous *Caladenia toxochila* with their broad lips and several colonies of *C. aff. filamentosa* in dense tufts of up to fifty plants. We searched for the reported hybrids between the two but saw none. Noleen Ridley found a very rare albino *C. toxochila* and the cameras were clicking again. Soon we were finding a tiny flowered, narrow leaf version of *C. toxochila* which we guessed may have been *C. concinna*.

Kerry then located a colony of *Pterostylis* 'desert nana' and choccy frogs were promised for the next new discovery but these were not awarded as it was our leader who spotted flowers of *Caladenia* 'desert tensa' a legendary taxon which has not been seen for years and certainly not this close to civilisation.

Other orchids in this reserve included *Microtis ? arenaria* and 3 or 4 different 'rufa' group *Pterostylis* in bud. We were well and truly orchid sated and headed to the pub for refreshment as it was now in the mid twenties. After a barbecue tea we viewed slides, firstly those of Ken Bayley taken on a visit to the park 25 years ago and secondly slides of English orchids provided by D. Pettifor ... its only natural I suppose to be sitting in the Flinders Ranges looking at slides of orchids from English bogs!

On Sunday we headed south to the spring fed Stoney Creek, stopping half way to inspect a veritable wildflower garden with no less than three species of Early Nancy .... *Wurmbea centralis* (ssp. *australis*), *W. biglanduosa* (ssp. *flindersii*), and *W. dioica*, masses of *Bulbine*, paper daisies and a dozen orchid species including (surprisingly) *Caladenia deformis*, red tinted *Prasophyllum occidentale* and more *C. toxochila*.

The steep drop down into Stoney Creek was too much for the 2wd cars.





It was pleasant in this very dry year to see water gushing over the short falls. *Microtis pauciflora* was common here but nothing else was seen so our intrepid Leader headed up to Stoney Creek Gorge.

Orchids were scarce but a plant of *Pterostylis sanguinea* and a patch of *Thelymitra luteocilium* with flowers wide open in the soft winter heat made the trip worthwhile.

After lunch the more adventurous headed for a 4wd adventure on the rugged west side of the park. It was very dry here but there were plenty of *Pterostylis* aff. *mutica* both 'Flinders' and 'mallee' taxa being present. Most of us headed off home but a few did the grassland walk and were rewarded with *Diuris behrii*.

For some of the orchids seen this was the most northerly limit of their range ... ie *Caladenia deformis*, *Diuris behrii* and *D. palustris*, *Pterostylis plumosa*, *T. pauciflora* and *Thelymitra luteocilium*. Many readers may be surprised that all these orchids were in flower at high altitude in winter but this is a long way north of Adelaide! Another visit is planned for October to identify the 'rufa *Pterostylis*' species.

#### STATE HERBARIUM: NEW LOCATION

As from now you will find the Herbarium at the old Tram Barn off Hackney Road. The barn has been revamped and all the latest technology added to make this a contemporary facility.

#### SALES AT MEETINGS

Growers are requested to have all their paperwork ready before placing commission sales plants on the trading table.

Members are encouraged to bring excess plants, flasks, tubers, orchid art and other orchid paraphernalia to sell on the trading table on a commission basis!

#### New Orchid Viruses

New viruses are constantly being discovered. At the July meeting a pot of virus affected *Corybas* was sampled by orchid virus expert Anne McKenzie who determined the virus as *Pterostylis* virus 'Y'.

Anne emphasised that any virus affected plants should be destroyed along with the pot and soil they were in !

#### NEWSFLASH

*Pterostylis boormanii* has been found in the Southern Lofty region on a heritage scrub near Belvidere via Strathalbyn by Rosemary Taplin and Denzel Murfet.

## NOSSA MEMBERS DISCOVER NEW ORCHID SPECIES

Could there still be undiscovered orchid species out there? Judging by the discoveries made in South Australia in the last decade there could still be some very attractive orchids yet to be found. Many NOSSA members seem to spend a lot of time looking. The Bayleys of Balaklava and the Houstons are among them.

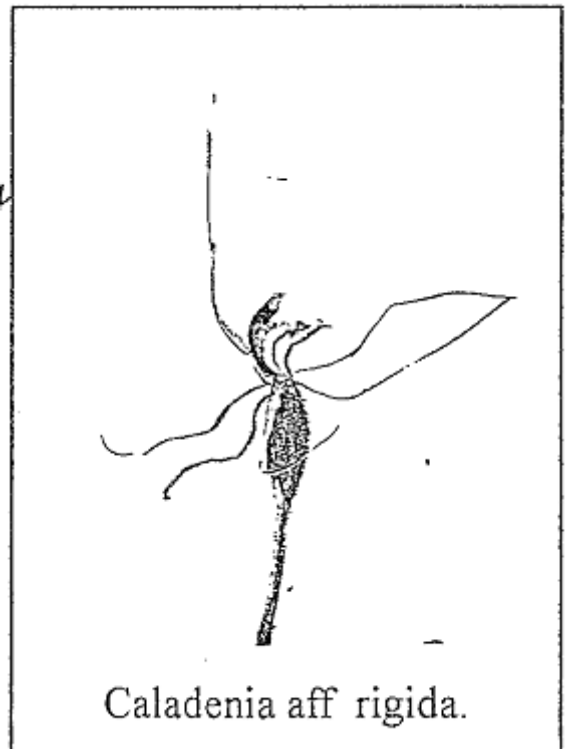
Last spring they were exploring on Yorke Peninsula when they came upon an old cemetery with its tiny patch of sandy, sheoak woodland. This is now an endangered habitat. One would assume that the site was chosen as a cemetery especially because its sandy soils are surrounded by kilometres of sheet Limestone which is particularly hard to dig graves in. Very fortunate for the orchids present.

The orchid enthusiasts were overwhelmed at first by the fragrance of Freesias but amid the creamy Freesias were sparkling white *Caladenia* flowers. At first it was thought they had located a distant population of *C. rigida*, but the leaves were quite distinct, being broad and covered in dense, short, silky hairs, most unlike the narrow leaf of *C. rigida* with its few long hairs. The osmophores were less distinct too and the flowers smaller and of thinner texture.

Your editor soon confirmed that this was indeed a new species. A type collection was made this year and plants sent to David Jones for drawing.

The NOSSA conservation group are planning to work with the Threatened Plant Action group in 2000 to poison the bridal creeper and pull up the Freesias which threaten the new *Caladenia*. It is thought that the plants at the cemetery and a few in the adjacent paddock may be the last remaining plants of this species.

The site may remain a secret for a while as an extra protection. We don't want any of the plants dug up. Just 103 plants were counted in 1999, flowering from about the beginning of August. Hand pollination was used to supplement the little bit of natural pollination, which was being effected by a very shiny *Phymatothynnus* wasp which was seen later feeding on flowers of a new winter flowering subspecies of *Prasophyllum odoratum* nearby.



*Caladenia aff rigida.*

Victoria Park Moonta was last visited by NOSSA in August 1984. Two species found on that visit seemed to have disappeared but two new ones were located to keep the species count at nine. *Pterostylis* aff. *mutica* were abundant with tall slender specimens having nine flowers! *Eriochilus* sp. were found in large colonies with seed already released from the dried pods. *Caladenia latifolia* also had large colonies and *Cyrtostylis robusta* had the largest flowers we had ever seen. *Diuris palustris* were scattered on higher ground and were often accompanied by *Caladenia brumalis*.

There were two likely hybrids one a *C. brumalis* x *C. conferta* the other *C. brumalis* x *C. cardiochila*, (although this latter species was not located).

Our second stop was at Rocky Bend, a small fire a few years back had altered the flora but of the 14 species found this trip five were the same as 1984. Only three seemed to have disappeared. One species not seen in 1984 was *C. conferta* although it took a lot of discussion before we settled on this identification. A large colony of a *Pterostylis* aff. *nana* with white-haired stems, broad galeas and long sepals was identified as the dryland form of 'Hills *nana*'.

The *Pterostylis* aff. *longifolia* growing under gum trees in company with *P. sanguinea* were the as yet un-named mallee form. In contrast to the large *P. smaragdina* of the Adelaide Hills these were all small, pale-flowered and self pollinated. The labellum was short with a green stripe and yellow tips, on some the labellum was so pale it blended in with the sepals. *Diuris palustris* here were all growing in the shelter of grassy tufts and *Caladenia deformis* were on the shaded, southern side of shrubs.

After lunch we drove to the Agery Scrub, ably led by Sandra Woods from Kadina. This is only a small bushland area and infested with weeds, especially bridle creeper, but there was an excellent variety of mallee orchids. Two kinds of rufa group *Pterostylis* were found in bud. The smaller ones were probably *P. biseta*, the larger ones *P. excelsa*. A good sized colony of *Pterostylis erythroconcha* had flowers beginning to dry off. *Caladenia filamentosa* was in flower and several *C. dilatata* complex were in bud.

Sandra led us to a colony of *Acianthus pusillus* at the base of a Eucalypt. These were all albinos.... white flowers not green and everyone wanted a photo, although the flowers were past their best.

Our last stop at Ardrossan cemetery revealed a large colony of *Pterostylis robusta*, and leaves of many other species. It had been a successful day, with 25 species recorded.

NEW ORCHID BOOK

by Ian St. George

The Nature Guide to New Zealand Native Orchids

This delightful little book published by Random House in September 1999 is in a 20 x 15 cm format, has glossy pictures of all known New Zealand Orchids, generally with one treated per page.

There is a short text and distribution map included for each species. There is a particularly interesting introduction dealing with habitats, pollination, history, orchid art, Maoris and orchids and much more.

I certainly learned more about New Zealand Orchids from this book than from any other source.

On a day that promised sunshine in Adelaide, fifteen people assembled at Mt Crawford information centre in drizzling rain! We headed to our first stop at Jenkins Scrub where we watched sled dogs and their trainers as well as keen mountain bikers before setting off on our walk. We were here for *Corybas* and instantly we were amid colonies of *C. dilatatus* and *C. incurvus*. This was repeated for much of the walk. We looked long and hard for hybrids and much debate raged as form after form was seen ... how large did the serrations of *C. incurvus* labellum margins have to be before they could be called hybrids, were there two species under the name *C. dilatatus*?

We certainly saw a lot of variety including two large *C. dilatatus* with flowers 22mm across. Other orchids in flower included *Pterostylis nana* and *P. robusta* including some very lanky specimens adjacent the base of a gum tree in heavy bark litter. It was a bonus to find *Diuris pardina* already in flower at several locations.... each with rich purplish stems and pale creamy flowers. Each plant had different flower patterns much like their own fingerprints.

A few *Caladenia deformis* were just starting to flower and *Caladenia tentaculata* in early bud were common. A lengthy digression occurred when we were taken with the beauty, diversity and colour of some *Wurmbea dioica*. There was a collection of flowers ranging from pure white with broad rounded petals, to white with purple markings (narrower petals), through to fairly strong pink. (Some of these were possibly *W. latifolia* ssp *vanessae* which is common in the area and flowers in August. Eds.)

Rounding a corner we came across a long skid mark and a tell tale rounded swirl mark in the clay. (But that's another story!)

After lunch in cold conditions we went to Centennial Drive in the hope of locating albino *Corybas incurvus*. Again they eluded us but we did see tall *Pt. curta* at the base of the mountain before our climb to the summit.

Our day concluded with another digression as we watched fathers and sons try to rescue their Port Power football from the creek by throwing large rocks to splash the ball toward them. Their efforts were eventually rewarded.

Of twenty orchid species seen about eight were in flower.



#### ORCHIDS RECORDED- j (Jenkins Scrub) ; C (Centennial Drive)

*Acianthus pusillus* J,C sp. flowers  
*Caladenia latifolia* C leaves  
*Caladenia deformis* J flowers  
*Caladenia* sp. J buds  
*C. tentaculata* J,C buds  
*Corybas dilatatus* J,C flowers  
*C. incurvus* J,C flowers  
*C. x misscellus?* J flowers  
*Cyrtostylis reniformis* J buds  
*Diuris pardina* J flowers

*Eriochilus cucullatus* J leaves  
*Glossodia major* J,C buds  
*Leptoceras menziesii* J leaves  
*Microtis* sp J,C leaves  
*Pterostylis curta* C flowers  
*P. foliata* J bud  
*P. nana* 'Hills' J,C flower, buds  
*P. pedunculata* J,C flowers, buds  
*P. robusta* J,C flowers  
*Thelymitra* spp. J,C buds, leaves