



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**

*The Native Orchid Society of South Australia promotes the conservation of orchids through the preservation of natural habitat and through cultivation. Except with the documented official representation of the management committee, no person may represent the Society on any matter. All native orchids are protected in the wild; their collection without written Government permit is illegal.*

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**JOURNAL OF THE  
NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY  
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**NEXT MEETING 26 APRIL 2004**

**Tuesday, 26 April**, St Matthew's Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. Doors to the hall will be open from 7:15 p.m. to allow Members access to the Library and trading table. .  
The speaker for the meeting will be Brendan Killen with a presentation of "Orchids in situ".

**DIARY DATES**

**Friday 6 May**                      Annual Dinner  
**August** (dates to be announced) Caroona Creek CP  
**17-18 September**              NOSSA Spring Show  
**13-19 September**              WA Orchid Spectacular  
**4 December**                      Annual BBQ

**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wed, 4<sup>th</sup> May** at the home of **Bodo Jensen**. Meeting commences at 7:30 p.m.

## MARCH MEETING

### **Epiphytes benched**

*Dendrobium lithicola*; *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon; *Dendrobium* Graham Banks; *Dendrobium* Riverson.

### **Terrestrials benched**

*Pterostylis [Diplodium] torquata* [green] Ebor Falls.

### **Judging results**

Epiphyte Hybrid

1<sup>st</sup> *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon grown by Malcolm Guy

2<sup>nd</sup> *Dendrobium* Graham Banks grown by John Gay

3<sup>rd</sup> *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon

Terrestrial Species

1<sup>st</sup> *Pterostylis torquata*

Plant of the night

*Dendrobium lithicola* grown by Edda Viskic and Russell Job

## MARCH SPEAKER

Jane Higgs, our speaker for March, gave us an enthralling talk on the restoration and revegetation of the swamps on their Myponga property. This property on the Myponga River was purchased around 1970 and contained the only remnant swamp vegetation of the area. It was not until prominent botanists surveyed the property that Jane & Don Higgs realized the conservation value of the property. With assistance from the government, blackberries have all but been eradicated, fences erected to keep out cattle and indigneous scrubs and trees planted. Orchids found in the swamps include *Cyrtostylis subulata*, *Spiranthes* (two forms), *Eriochilus cucullatus* (swamp form), *Thelymitra holmsii*, two species of *Microtis*, two species of *Prasophyllum* (one being *P. nitidum*) and *Speculantha (Pterostylis) uliginosa*. Indeed a heroic effort for which Jane and Don are congratulated.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION - NOSSA NEWS

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE**

**It is that time of the year once again. Subscriptions remain at \$16.00 which is value for money even for those members who are unable to attend meetings. As monies raised from subscriptions do not even cover annual journal costs the shortfall is made up by members who contribute towards raffles, plant sales and other fund raising activities.**

**Failure to renew will mean that the June Journal will be your last received.**

### **ANNUAL DINNER**

### **FRIDAY 6<sup>th</sup> MAY at the Buckingham Arms**

A show of hands will be asked for at the April meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting then please register your interest by phoning Bill Dear or Cathy Houston.

## NOSSA FIELD AND CONSERVATION TRIPS 2005

- April 6 (Wed) Weeding *Caladenia argocalla* in Leighton Road, Clare  
 16 (Sat) Weeding *Pterostylis cucullata* in Belair with TPAG
- May 30-1 APS sale, Showgrounds  
 15 (Sun) Weeding *Pterostylis cucullata* in Belair with TPAG  
 26-27 (Th-Fri) *Diplodium bryophila* monitoring in Hindmarsh Valley  
 29 Field trip to Cox's Scrub Conservation Park
- June 11 (Sat) Weeding *Pterostylis cucullata* in Belair with TPAG  
 24 (Fri) Weeding at Halbury
- July 2 (Sat) Winter flowering greenhoods in Scott Conservation Park  
 4 (Mon) *Diplodium bryophila* monitoring in Hindmarsh Valley  
 10 (Sun) Winter flowering greenhoods in Potter's Scrub, Coorong  
 24 (Sun) Winter flowering greenhoods at Newland Head Conservation Park  
 30-31 Monitoring *Oligochaetochilus despectans* in the mid-north
- Aug 18-19 (Th-Fri) *Caladenia intuta* conservation trip to lower Yorke Peninsular  
 21 (Sun) Private block visit to McHarg Creek  
 22-23 (Mon-Tues) *Oligochaetochilus 'Halbury'* counting at Halbury  
 27-28 Orchid species search in Caroon Conservation Park
- Sept 2(Fri)-4 Mount Remarkable weekend for *Caladenia woolcockiorum* and *C. gladiolata* monitoring  
 11(Sun) *Caladenia gladiolata* in Scott Creek Conservation Park  
 12 (Mon) *Pterostylis cucullata* search in Lobethal Bushland Park  
 17-18 NOSSA Show  
*Caladenia macroclavia* search for new populations on Yorke Pen.  
 24(Sat) Aldinga Scrub field trip with Friends of Aldinga Scrub  
 25(Sun) Wadmore Park orchids
- Oct 9(Sun) Sevenhill Winery, Clare orchid search including *Caladenia argocalla*  
 29(Sat) *Gastrodia sesamoides* in Kuitpo Forest – morning trip  
 30(Sun) Belair sun orchids (weather dependant)
- Nov 5-6 Sun orchid trip in Lobethal area (Sat or Sun depending on weather)  
 19-20 Mid-North monitoring of *Oligochaetochilus despectans* flowering
- Dec 4(Sun) Morning - field trip to Kuitpo for duck orchids  
 Lunchtime - NOSSA Annual BBQ  
 10(Sat) *Orthoceras strictum* in Belair National Park – afternoon trip
- Jan 2006 *Dipodium sp.* special to Adelaide Hills

Photographs of competition plants in the March Journal were provided by Robert Lawrence
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## **LES NESBITT.-. Our new Patron**

Les Nesbitt, co-founder and first President of N.O.S.S.A has been appointed as the Society's new Patron, the position of which was previously held by the late Noel Lothian. Les has been forefront in both protection and cultivation of native orchids. The number of his plants that have won prizes at shows both here and interstate attest to his prowess at growing outstanding displays of orchids.

## **BILL DEAR – Our new Life Member**

Bill Dear joined N.O.S.S.A. in 1990. Some of his activities/ achievements include

- Served three terms as President
- Served as Committee member for two terms, including joining the “team” only months after joining N.O.S.S.A.
- Served as Assistant Treasurer for three years, including a year when he was still President.
- A long serving member of the team which collated and prepared the Journal for posting.
- Worked with the Conservation committee on survey sites at Belair Recreation Park, and other conservation efforts.
- Has managed the Library books and re-classified them
- Is the current mailing officer
- Spokesperson for rescue digs
- Has been Show manager at the Annual Shows
- Liaises with Australian Plant Society S.A., especially with regards to our stalls at their plant sales.
  - Always present at our Shows/Displays at any venue that involves the public and is usually the primary set-up person.

## **Terrestrial Cultural Activities for Autumn**

**Les Nesbitt**

### ***Repotting***

It is too late to repot now. It will have to wait until next summer. All pots should be in their permanent position for the growing season. Extra topping of chopped pine or sheoak needles should be added to pots to prevent soil erosion and feed the orchid fungi.

### ***Watering***

Pots should have been watered heavily to wet the entire soil mass in March. It may take 2 or 3 waterings to wet the centre of a dry soil mass if non-wettable sand is in the potting medium as was found at Kuitpo. The water often runs down the insides of the pot and out the drainage holes without wetting the centre. The soil should be kept moist now which means hand watering if there is no rain. I have found that with regular light watering my Kuitpo pots stayed very moist throughout the summer. The fine Kuitpo sand doesn't dry out like my usual mix. Leaves are appearing but they do not seem to grow rapidly until the rains come. After the first heavy rainfall, usually in April-May, the fungi explode into life and in a few days send threads through the leaf litter on the ground. The orchids also seem to grow more rapidly once the temperatures drop and there is less evaporation.

### ***Sow seed***

Seed of slow multipliers and fungus dependent species should be sown on mother pots before the break in the season. I sprinkled seed on all my mother pots of *Caladenia* and *Glossodia* at Easter. I mixed the seed with fine dry sand and used a pepper shaker to ensure the pots are covered in seed yet seed was not wasted or sown too thickly. I watered the pots immediately to wash the seed down into the topping layer.

### ***Weeds and wogs***

Weeds appear along with the orchids. Weeding can be a major chore in Autumn that becomes less as winter arrives. Try to find the time to get the weeds out while they are still small. A pair of tweezers helps when working around emerging orchid leaves.

Autumn is a time of rapid change in daylight hours so each week something new appears in the shadehouse. This includes slugs, snails and grubs that find terrestrials a very tasty meal. I go out at night with a torch and hunt them down. They can eat your plants as they emerge so that you never see your orchid plants.

### ***Flowers***

Enjoy the first flowers for the season. *Eriochilus cucullatus* (Parsons bands) and some of the eastern diploidiums (cauline greenhoods) flower in Autumn.

## ***Corunastylis* Easter special field trip to South-East report.**

**Bob Bates**

Ten NOSSA members including some from country and interstate attended a trip to the South-East over Easter ostensibly to look for midge orchids, those tiny cryptic species for which South Australia is somewhat 'under endowed'. We were slightly disappointed at the number of different ones seen but it has to be remembered that almost no rain had fallen in the previous 6 weeks in much of the South-East.

We started at Honans Forest Reserve north of Mount Gambier and at our very first stop we found *Corunastylis ciliata*, but to our disappointment the flowers were spent. Fortunately the mood changed to excitement when large numbers of an undescribed greenhood, *Speculantha* species were found in flower on the edge of a firebreak growing with the fringed hare orchid *Leporella* mostly in bud. The photographers were especially busy.

At this point we split up to search different tracks and the most successful group soon found more fringed midge orchid *Corunastylis ciliata*, this time in flower and the anticipation mounted when the slender midge orchid *C. despectans* was found in seed - we had two midges tracked down in an hour! We expected to find the slender midge in flower next, but instead it was the autumn bunny orchid, fifty of them! Very appropriate as it was, after all, Easter. The *Eriochilus* here at Honans have a smooth leaf and are probably a different sub-species to our hairy Adelaide Hills form. Of course there were fringed hare orchids here too and soon a real hare was spotted. This was fun especially as Susan had a chocolate Easter bilby in the car. In addition kangaroos and emus were seen.

After lunch we found more *C. ciliata*, including a large red flowered specimen and a probable *C. despectans* x *C. ciliatum*, sadly past its best. One really keen member went off gathering dead remains of last spring's orchids and showed us bearded orchids, little duck orchids and a seed pod of *Caladenia mentiens*. Sadly no-one was very thrilled by all these dead remains. In fact we felt it was time to move to another forest reserve north of Glencoe.

'The Marshes' was a real disappointment, for despite several members' stories of the wonderful orchids they had seen there last year, including midge orchids, all we found were pods of *Dipodium*, *Gastrodia* and about eight different sun orchids turned black by the sun. Then at last a tiny splash of pink, a couple of *Spiranthes* in late flower.

Our camp that night was at the back of 'The Marshes.' The only midges here were of a different kind --- the flying, biting sort and several of us suffered the next day from reactions to their stings. We did enjoy the full moon and next morning we had another surprise - iced up window screens. Was summer really over!

Day two saw us dashing here and there. Lake Edward and Lake Leake, Lake Edward Forest Reserve, Whennan's Forest and back to Honans - embarrassingly frenetic behaviour really. The only joy came with the discovery of a patch of *Cryptostylis* orchids to 130 cm tall. A count on one spike showed in excess of twenty flowers. Surely this height, the number of flowers and a triple branched spike must have been some sort of *Cryptostylis* record!

The only other new find was a *Microtis parviflora* in a dry waterhole, and it was still in flower. Camp that night was at Penola CP, crackling dry underfoot and a very noisy place thanks to possums. Soon after dawn on Easter Sunday and after an Easter Egg hunt for one, a walk to the dry lake turned up the remains of *Dipodium campanulatum* and *Thelymitra lucida* plus one pristine white rabbit orchid. Heading toward home and a stop at Bangham CP we at last found more midge orchids, *Corunastylis fuscoviride* and *C. aff. rufa* 'Western Victoria' and met up with a bevy of ornithologists. We would have got on well together if we had found any bird orchids!

Our numbers dropped to seven as we headed to Mount Monster on the back way; an hours drive through the ruined remains of once orchid rich red gum, blue gum, peppermint gum, manna gum and bulloke woodland and not an orchid left. Pensively we wondered how many endemic orchids from here had become extinct and never been collected; perhaps a dozen species. Yes the woodland types mentioned above once had one of the richest terrestrial orchid floras in the world, and now the livestock were being hand fed due to lack of pasture!

Mount Monster did have a few more midge orchids and *Eriochilus* too but it was crunchy underfoot and the orchids were infested with thrips.

Should we have been disappointed at our catch of four or five *Corunastylis*. You bet. We had hoped to see something new to SA. Perhaps our next midge orchid trip should be interstate as our most successful *midge orchid trip* ever was to Victoria about 5 years ago. In discussions with our Victorian member Mike Duncan we made tentative plans for a NOSSA trip to the Victorian Alps next January.

Thanks to all who attended and helped to make a trip in March, traditionally the worst month for orchids in SA, in drought conditions such fun and after all, we did see eleven different orchids in flower!

## **S.E. ORCHID SURVEYS – Part I**

**Cathy Houston**

During the spring of 2004, N.O.S.S.A. members made several trips to the South East of the state to survey a range of habitats with the S.E. Threatened Orchid Project Officer, Anna Murphy. The first trip in August found us based at Gemini Downs searching nearby parks for such noteworthy orchids as *Thelymitra epipactoides*. The previous year we had located one plant in Messent Conservation Park, following the fire. A few other plants had been seen in the vicinity at a later time. In 2004 we located only two plants in bud.

At this time of the year orchids in flower were scarce, but the photographers were busy after lunch when one precocious white spider orchid (*Caladenia* aff. *arenaria*) was found. Kangaroos were counted in the dozens as we followed up old records of *T. epipactoides*. None were found and it seemed likely that the habitat had changed, sometimes dramatically. Five fallow deer were encountered during our travels around the park. Orchids seen in flower were limited mainly to *Pterostylis nana* (mallee form), *Glossodia major*, *Pheladenia deformis* and *Acianthus caudatus*.

The following day we headed to Tilley Swamp Conservation Park, believing it to have a greater potential. We were fortunate to welcome Karen, the local D.E.H. ranger to our group. With many eyes to the ground we were soon keeping Anna and her “off-sider” Tina, busy taking down notes, readings and data on the buds and/or leaves found. By lunch time we had pushed the numbers of known *T. epipactoides* to over thirty. Many were in well developed bud stage. Evidence of rabbits was widespread. Previous years experience had shown us that predation by flowering time, was high, so Anna resolved to return with cages as soon as practical. At the same time it was agreed that D.E.H. would address the rabbit problem.

Other orchids were noted during searching and at one stage two members were particularly interested in a large group of very long *Caladenia* spider orchid leaves. Growing in muntries (*Kunzea pomifera*) there were well over fifty leaves with no buds at all. As we continued through the park more of these colonies were found. Finally it occurred to us to look very closely. Buds were found to be still concealed in the axils! We could only conclude that they would be *C. necrophylla* or *C. dilatata*, either of which was of note to the project officer. After examining a group of these we were walking about 6m. apart for the purpose of searching more ground when Barb Bayley felt her foot roll on the rough, limestoney ground. She looked down in time to see a red bellied black snake slithering away! With heart racing she uttered a brief “ohh” after which the full realisation that she had just stepped on a snake set in. Later in the day, in another area of the park, two more snakes were seen, brown snakes this time. The author did not see any of these because at the time she and Malcolm were out-waiting a pair of White fronted Chats carrying food for their young. Eventually they revealed the nest with three sizeable chicks crouched inside. It was extremely well hidden inside an *Allocasuarina* shrub.

A few weeks later, in the third week of September, we were searching for white spider orchids. The search started at Desert Camp Conservation Park where members spread out and covered a lot of the area. Orchids seemed sparse and once again collections of spider orchid leaves with buds still in the axils were noted. *Diuris orientis* had been anticipated since this had been a well known spot for beautiful flowers. Hardly any were found. Eventually a few *C. aff. arenaria* were located. Numbers were low and they were very localised. A couple of *T. megalyptra* had obliged us by opening.

In the afternoon we moved over the road to Desert Camp Conservation Reserve where once again orchid numbers seemed low. However, we were happy to find two species of *Prasophyllum* in flower (*P. occidentale* and *P. odoratum*). There was an attractive collection of the former in a group of about eight plants. At last the cameras were busy. No *Caladenia* spiders were found in flower. The decision was made to drive the perimeter with stops at strategic points. We made our way through *Xanthorrhoea* and heath to mallee over limestone, without finding anything of note. By now the weather was making it more conducive to remaining with the vehicles. It was out at a back corner that “hawk-eyes” Barb Bayley spotted two *T. epipactoides* in bud. That was enough to get everyone out searching in the rain again. No more plants were located. This was the site of the only *C. cardiochila* seen in flower.

The next day we headed to Mount Scott Conservation Park. A few flowering *Caladenias* were found along the road before we entered the park. Although they were beautiful looking flowers, we were unable to determine what they were; medium-large creamy coloured flowers with a red lip and red to brown osmophores, in the *C. patersonii* group.

Within the park we were looking for an area which had experienced fire a few years before. We found it to be too dense; presumably the fire was too long ago. A couple of other stops in slightly different habitats produced some lovely flowering specimens of *Prasophyllum fitzgeraldii*, one only white spider orchid with perfume, and not much else of note.

The volunteers finished the day with a quick trip to Little Dip Conservation Park to see *C. richardsiorum* in flower. A number of fresh greeny-yellow flowers were seen on sandy rises covered with green moss. They were a perfect finish to a couple of days searching.

	M 1	M 2	M 3	T 1	T 2	DCP	DCR	DCR	DCR	MS	MS	LD
							1	2	3	rd		
<i>Acianthus caudatus</i>		f										
<i>Acianthus pusillus</i>				l						l	sf	
<i>Caladenia</i> aff. <i>arenaria</i>	f					f						
<i>Caladenia</i> aff. <i>patersonii</i>										f		
<i>Caladenia cardiochila</i>	b								f		f	
<i>Caladenia carnea</i>		b		f		f	f	f		f	f	
<i>Caladenia dilatata</i>				l	l							
<i>Caladenia dilatata</i> / <i>necrophylla</i>										b		
<i>Caladenia latifolia</i>		b		f	b					f	f	f
<i>Caladenia necrophylla</i>						b						
<i>Caladenia prolata</i>										f		
<i>Caladenia reticulata</i>					b							
<i>Caladenia richardsiorum</i>												f
<i>Caladenia venusta</i>											f	
<i>Calochilus robertsonii</i>											b	
<i>Corybas despectans</i>		sf										
<i>Corybas incurvus</i>				f	f							
<i>Corybas</i> sp.	l			l		l	l	l		l	l	
<i>Cyrtostylis reniformis</i>							f				af	
<i>Cyrtostylis robusta</i>	sf			l	l	l				p	l	p
<i>Diuris brevissima</i>						f	f					
<i>Diuris orientis</i>						f	f				f	
<i>Diuris palustris</i>				f								
<i>Eriochilus cucullatus</i>				l		l						
<i>Genoplesium</i> sp.				p								
<i>Glossodia major</i>	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	
<i>Leporella fimbriata</i>		l					l	l			l	
<i>Microtis</i> sp.				l		l			l	f	b	l
<i>Pheladenia deformis</i>	f			f		f	f					
<i>Prasophyllum elatum</i>	l											
<i>Prasophyllum fitzgeraldii</i>											f	
<i>Prasophyllum occultans</i>							f					
<i>Prasophyllum odoratum</i>						f	f					
<i>Prasophyllum</i> sp.	l							b				
<i>Pterostylis (Diplodium) sp.</i>							l					
<i>Pterostylis (Oligochaetochilus) sp.</i>		l										
<i>Pterostylis nana</i> - hills form											f	
<i>Pterostylis nana</i> - mallee form	f	f				f	f				f	
<i>Pterostylis pedunculata</i>		f		f						f	f	
<i>Pterostylis plumosa</i>	f	l				f						
<i>Pterostylis sanguinea</i>		l									sf	
<i>Pyrorchis nigricans</i>	l	l	l		l	l	f	l		l	l	
<i>Thelymitra juncifolia</i>							b	b				
<i>Thelymitra antennifera</i>	b		l			b	b	b	b	b	b	
<i>Thelymitra benthamiana</i>	b	l	l			b						
<i>Thelymitra epipactoides</i>	b			b	b	b			b			
<i>Thelymitra megalyptra</i>						f	b					
<i>Thelymitra pauciflora</i>				b	b	b		b		b		
<i>Thelymitra</i> sp.						b			b	b	b	

f = flower, b = bud, l = leaf, sf = spent flower, af = aborted flower, p = pod

M1 = open heath, M2 = Stringybark/ heath, M3 = low open heath, T1 = Casuarina woodland, T2 = Mallee/ heath,  
DCP = Desert Camp C.P., DCR1 = Desert Camp C.Res. SW corner, DCR2 = Des. Camp C.Res. mid south  
DCR = Des. Camp C.Res SE corner, MS = Mt. Scott, road in, MS = Mt. Scott CP, LD = Little Dip CP

## **R.S. Rogers Shadehouse, (1982-1999)**

**Lauder Scott Rogers**

Sometimes known as the R.S. Rogers Orchid House, the R.S. Rogers Shadehouse project was the inspiration of Roy Hargreaves and the late Jim Simmons, two foundation members of the Native Orchid Society of South Australia. The pipe-framed structure was built in conjunction with the Australian Orchid Foundation in the grounds of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens and opened in 1982. It was named after Dr Richard Sanders Rogers in recognition of his contribution to Australian orchidology.

In 1993 the orchid collection was relocated to the Black Hill Flora Research Centre, near Adelaide. This was successfully achieved after a 12 month period of quarantine in the original building. A considerable effort of care and commitment went into the transition of the plants in order to ensure the pot soils were free of *Phytophthora cinnamoni*, a deadly fungus that is spreading through local soils slowly devouring the root systems of a significant range of plants. The project had been directed and maintained by members of the Native Orchid Society and in particular the orchid collection had been managed by Hargreaves throughout its existence.

The roles of the project have been to perpetuate native orchid species in cultivation, to provide plants for research projects and to provide visiting botanists with live plants to study. The initial orchid collection comprised some 200 pots of terrestrial orchids many of which were from interstate.

The success of the project can be measured by various standards not the least of which were the number of visits of eminent botanists from Australia and overseas countries. In particular, in 1984 and 1985 plants from the collection (locally known as the Black Hill collection) won the Kay Nesbitt Trophy for a cross between *Caladenia flava* and *Caladenia latifolia*. Another success story was finding seedlings of *Spiranthes sinensis* coming up in pots of other plants being cultivated at the Black Hill Flora Centre. Apparently the seeds were being dispersed naturally by the wind.

A more obvious measure of success, and an indication of the dedication by members of the Native Orchid Society to their collection, has been the awards from local and national competition given to Black Hill specimens. Over a period of six years from 1992 terrestrial natives and terrestrial hybrids from Black Hill have won at least thirteen 1<sup>st</sup> prizes and eleven 2<sup>nd</sup> prizes in open competition. In particular a *Caladenia* hybrid came 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Australian Native Orchid Conference in 1996 and a *Caladenia flava* came 1<sup>st</sup> at the Affiliated Societies Interclub competition in 1997. Overall, Black Hill specimens of *Acianthus*, *Caladenia*, *Chiloglottis*, *Diuris*, *Eriochilus*, *Glossodia*, *Leptocerus*, *Lyperanthus* and *Pterostylis* have performed exceptionally.

Further information on the R.S. Rogers Shadehouse may be obtained from the Native Orchid Society of South Australia.

[written, 2002] *Lauder Scott Rogers, of Sydney, is the grandson of Dr R..S. Rogers*

### Editors Note:

The shade house was purchased and removed from Black Hill by David Pettifor early in 2000 due to a winding down of operations at Black Hill by DEH. Also a number of plants had been lost as they had been adversely affected by a change of watering regimes implemented by staff of Black Hill.

## Four species of *Cadetia* [following on from the article in the March 2005 Journal]

by Len Field

### *Cadetia collinsii* Lavarack 1981

A newly described species that is named after the late Rev. Ronald Collins. The type plant was found on the Rocky River in Cape York Peninsula. An endemic species that is found on the McIlwraith and Janet Ranges where it grows in small groups and partial shade on small rainforest trees in the lowland gorges of the eastern side of the escarpment. Growing low down on these trees it forms dense erect clumps of thin upright stems that have a large thin bract that covers half the stem. These stems are only about 2-3mm in diameter and 20mm high. Like most of the genus it has a single leaf that is dark green in colour and ovoid in shape and about 25mm long and 10mm wide. The plants are very small and have no rhizome as such.

The single flower arises from the top of the stem and is 5 to 8 mm in diameter and does not open widely, this flower lasts for only a little over a day and is self pollinating and while I have never seen this plant growing in nature I am told that most plants have many seedlings growing with them. The flower is white and has two purple marks on the column. Flowering period is from December to January but is very sporadic.

From plants I have seen in cultivation it appears very similar to *Cadetia maideniana* but is much smaller both in plant size and the size of the flower, there are many other differences mainly in the lip which in *Cadetia maideniana* is very fleshy while in *Cadetia collinsii* it is only very slightly fleshy and also the shape of the sepals and petals are different.

I have never grown this orchid but have been told it prefers much more shade than the other three Australian species and is very slow in growth, also does not flower so profusely as the others but otherwise is easy to grow. It does need some warmth in a temperate climate to keep the minimum temperature to at least 10° celcius.

### *Cadetia maideniana* (Schltr) Schltr 1912

Other names *Dendrobium maidenianum* Schltr. 1905  
*Dendrobium hispidum* sensu F.Muell. 1869  
*Cadetia hispidula* (F.Muell) Dockr. 1961

This species was named after J.H.Maiden and is endemic to northeast Queensland where it is found growing in an area from the Burdekin River to the McIlwraith range. In this area it shows a preference to grow as an epiphyte on rainforest trees in the lowlands ravines but on occasions can be found growing at moderate altitudes. While classed as an epiphyte it can like many others of the genus be found growing on rocks, but wherever it grows it favours a moist shady position.

While very similar to *Cadetia taylori* in many ways it does have some significant differences these being that it is much more restricted in habitat. It is a much smaller plant and grows in much smaller clumps. Stems are much shorter and thinner and grow between 2 to 7mm long and are only about 2mm thick and while they are very thin they gradually widen towards the apex and are covered with bracts or the remains of old ones.

The single leaf as per most of the genus is about 6cm long and 15mm wide thin textured and coloured a dark green while the flower is white with a touch of purple streaking the labellum. Flowers can be in single or pairs and are about 6mm in diameter and are short lived. Flowering period is from January to July but is very spasmatic, in fact every time I have seen this plant in the wild it always seemed to be in flower and again I have noticed that even though its growing area is much more restricted than *Cadetia taylori* it does not appear to be nearly as common.

Cultivation would be as per the genus and as long as it is grown in high humidity with low to medium light and good air movement with temperature above 10°c it should not prove to be difficult to grow.

## *Cadetia taylori* (F.Muell.) Schltr., 1912

Other previous names      *Bulbophyllum taylori* F.Muell. 1874  
                                 *Dendrobium hispidum* F.Muell. var. *taylori* (F.Muell.) Bailey 1902  
                                 *Dendrobium uniflos* Bailey 1884

First described by F.Mueller as *Bulbophyllum taylori* in 1874 in honour of Norman Taylor but was transferred to the genus *Cadetia* by R.Schlechter in 1912. A small but very attractive mainly epiphytic orchid from the tropics where it can be found growing in an area from the Iron range in Cape York Peninsula to the Burdekin River in north eastern Queensland where throughout this area it can become very common. It also extends into New Guinea.

Found growing on mangroves at sea level up to an elevation of 1300 metres where it grows on both trees and rocks and at these higher altitudes it is usually more abundant and also favours rainforests but can extend into open forests if it is a protected growing area. It was in this open type forest on Mt. Lewis on the Atherton Tablelands that I saw the largest colony of this orchid that I have ever seen, but wherever it grows it likes to have its roots buried in moss. Another area I found this orchid to be quite plentiful was on the coast near Mossman where it appeared to prefer growing on rocks, again with its roots buried in moss in fact if it had not been in flower with the dainty white flowers sticking up out of the moss one would never have known that the orchids were growing there. While reminiscing about this orchid another fact I can recall is that the more moisture in the area the bigger the clumps appeared to be.

The stem like very slender pseudo-bulbs are about 100mm long and 3-5mm thick and growing on a creeping small rhizome which is matted and covered with old stem sheaves. A solitary leaf which is 50 to 60mm long and 5 to 10mm broad and is fleshy, rigid and from its base at the junction with its stem like pseudo-bulb a single inflorescence rises which carries a solitary flower on a short stalk. This flower is 12 to 15mm in diameter and coloured a cream or white with the lip often with some brown or pink marks. The flowering period is January to April but will flower at any time of the year and sometimes twice.

This is one of the easier orchids to grow remembering in nature it grows in areas of high humidity and good air movement so if both these conditions are met it should prove to be no problem. Although it comes from the tropics it does not appear to have any trouble coping with a temperate climate and can quickly grow into a large plant. (for the genus). It can be grown either on a slab or in a pot. I prefer growing in a well-drained pot with a bark mix slightly smaller than I grow my *Dendrobiums* in. As long as the plant is kept evenly moist throughout the year and given the same conditions that nature gives it growers should have no difficulty with this pretty little gem.

## *Cadetia wariana* Schltr 1912

The type plant was found by Schlechter in New Guinea in June 1908 where he found it flowering on the base of trees in the mountain forests at Jaduna on the Waria river at an altitude of 800 metres. It was from the name of this area that the plant received its name of Wariana. Although the type plant was described from New Guinea this species has since been found growing in Australia on the Mellwraith and Tozer Ranges where it grows in colonies mainly on rocks and at times on rough barked trees near water courses at moderate altitudes. In these areas it will form huge dense mats of considerable size that will cover the large rocks it grows on.

Its small size, creeping habit and the shape of its shiny pseudo-bulbs make it different to the other members of the Australian genus. These pseudo-bulbs are from 5-10mm long and 3-5mm in diameter and coloured a greyish-green with leaves to 15mm long and 5mm wide. They are thick and leathery while the flowers are small being only about 5mm in diameter and coloured white with the tip of the labellum and the anther yellow or orange.

I have never seen this orchid growing in nature so know little about its growth habits but I believe that if it is grown as per the genus it should not be too difficult.



1<sup>st</sup>

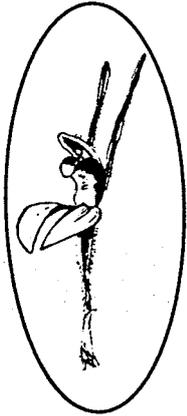


2<sup>nd</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup>



Some plants benched at the March meeting  
Photos by Robert Lawrence



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