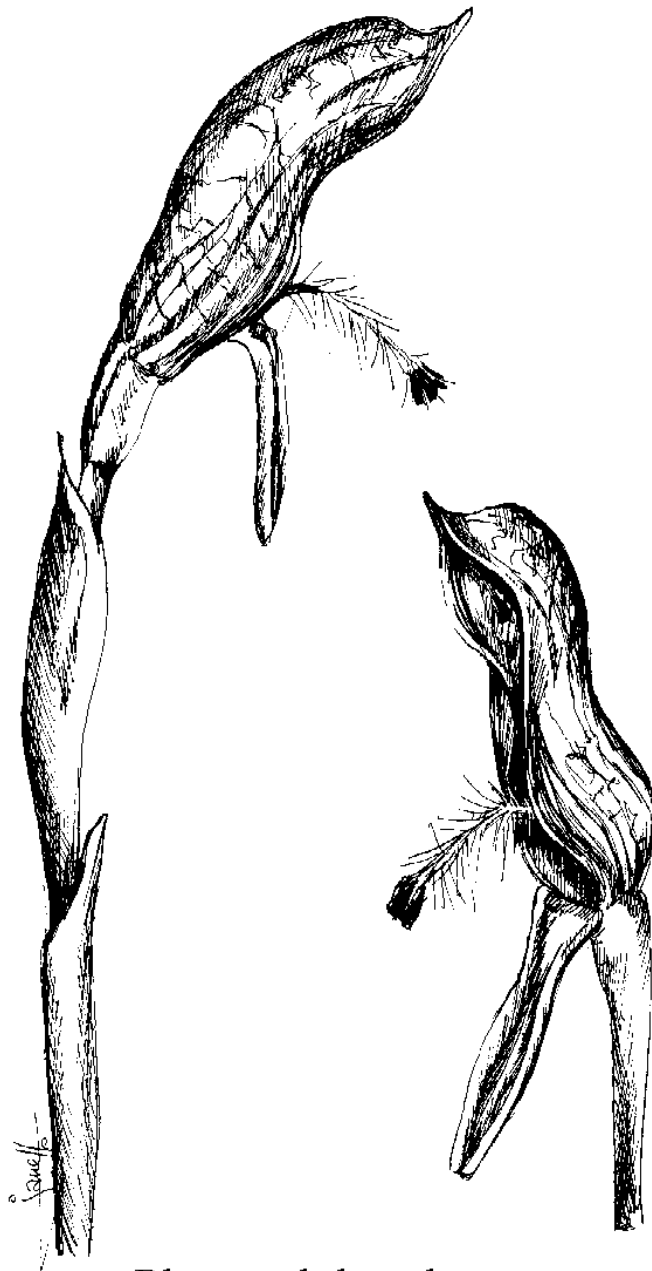




Journal  
of the  
Native Orchid Society  
of  
South Australia Inc



*Plumatictilos plumosum*

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

[Hwww.nossa.org.au.](http://www.nossa.org.au)

*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  
OF  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.**

**NOVEMBER 2006      VOL. 30 NO 10**

**CONTENTS THIS JOURNAL**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Page</b>
Diary Dates		90
October Meeting		91
For Your Information – NOSSA News		92
How it is Done	Reg Shooter	94
Report on the field trip to Kaiser Stuhl Forest Reserve, Pewsey Vale	Susan Secomb	94
Climate Change and South Australian Orchids	R. Bates	95
<i>Dockrillia fairfaxii</i> (Muell. et Fitz) Rauschert 1983	Len Field	96
<i>Dockrillia linguiformis</i> (Sw) 1800 Brieger	Len Field	96
<i>Sarcochilus ceciliae</i> F. Muell 1865	Len Field	97
<i>Rhizanthella slateri</i> at Bulladelah	David Hirst	98

**NEXT MEETING 28 NOVEMBER 2006**

**Tuesday, 28 November**, 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.

**A Special General Meeting has been called to determine 2007 Subscription Rates.**  
This is the Evening of our Annual Auction and Supper

**DIARY DATES**

<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Xmas BBQ (11:30 a.m.)
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Duck Orchids at Kuitpo <b>CANCELLED</b>
<b>November Meeting</b>	Annual Auction; Xmas Supper
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<i>Diplodium</i> : Delamere & Raywood Nursery

**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wed, 6<sup>th</sup> December** at the home of **Cathy Houston**. Meeting commences at 7:30 p.m.

## OCTOBER MEETING - Plants Benched

**Epiphyte species:** *Bulbophyllum prenticii*; *Cymbidium suave*; *Dendrobium monophyllum*; *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii*; *Sarcochilus hartmannii* (2 plants); *Sarcochilus falcatus* (13 plants on a large mount).

### Epiphyte hybrids

*Dendrobium* Bardo Rose; *Dendrobium* Ella Victoria Leaney; *Dendrobium* Gerald McCraith; *Sarcochilus* Aussie Passion x *hartmannii*; *Sarcochilus* Cherie Snow; *Sarcochilus* Cherie x Fitzhart (2 plants); *Sarcochilus* Enid; *Sarcochilus falcatus* x *Plectorrhiza erector*; *Sarcochilus* Fitzhart x *fitzgeraldii*; *Sarcochilus* Heidi; *Sarcochilus* Heidi x Jewel; *Sarcochilus* Hot Ice; *Sarcochilus* Pinkie x *fitzgeraldii*; *Sarcochilus* Sherlock; *Sarcochilus* Sweetheart; *Sarcochilus* Verolicea; *Sarcochilus* Wandjina x *hartmannii*.

### Terrestrial species

*Caladenia tentaculata*; *Calochilus robertsonii*; *Diuris drummondii*; *Diuris laxiflora*; *Oligochaetochilus bisetus*; *Pterostylis baptistii*; *Pterostylis foliata*.

### Terrestrial hybrids

*Diuris brevifolia* x *sulphurea* (2 plants); *Diuris* Mule (2 plants); *Pterostylis* Cutie 'Harolds Pride'; *Pterostylis* Cutie x *baptistii*.

### Judging results

#### Epiphyte species

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Cymbidium suave* grown by John & Bev Gay
- 2<sup>nd</sup> *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii* grown by Brendan Killen
- 3<sup>rd</sup> *Dendrobium monophyllum* grown by Steve Howard

#### Epiphyte hybrid

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Sarcochilus* Aussie Passion x *hartmannii* grown by Malcolm Guy
- 2<sup>nd</sup> *Sarcochilus* Fitzhart grown by Malcolm Guy
- 3<sup>rd</sup> *Dendrobium* Gerald McCraith grown by Russell Job & Edda Viskic

#### Terrestrial species

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Pterostylis baptistii* grown by Jane & Don Higgs
- 2<sup>nd</sup> *Diuris drummondii* grown by Les Nesbitt
- 3<sup>rd</sup> *Caladenia tentaculata* grown by Les Nesbitt

#### Terrestrial hybrids

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Pterostylis* Cutie 'Harolds Pride' grown by Les Nesbitt
- 2<sup>nd</sup> *Diuris* Mule grown by Les Nesbitt
- 3<sup>rd</sup> *Diuris brevifolia* x *sulphurea* grown by Les Nesbitt

#### Plant of the night

*Cymbidium suave* grown by John & Bev Gay

#### Popular vote results

##### Terrestrial species

*Caladenia tentaculata* grown by Les Nesbitt

##### Terrestrial hybrid

*Pterostylis* Cutie 'Harolds Pride' grown by Les Nesbitt

##### Epiphyte species

1<sup>st</sup> *Cymbidium suave* grown by John & Bev Gay

##### Epiphyte hybrid

*Sarcochilus* Wandjina x *hartmannii* grown by Malcolm Guy

Commentary provided by Les Nesbitt (Terrestrials) and John Gay (Epiphytes).

## OCTOBER SPEAKER

**Brendan Killen** gave a talk and repotting demonstration. This was followed by separate repotting demonstrations given on epiphytes by Reg Shooter and Terrestrial tubers by Les Nesbitt.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION - NOSSA NEWS

### SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

A Special General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm at St. Matthews Hall, Bridge St, Kensington. The purpose of the meeting is to set the subscription rates for 2007.

### NOVEMBER MEETING ANNUAL AUCTION, XMAS RAFFLE & SUPPER

Bring along those unwanted items that could be of value to another person for the **Annual Auction** at the November meeting. Books, plants (not necessarily orchids), gardening items and other bric-a-brac can be auctioned for this important fund-raiser. Don't forget to bring along your spare cash to join the fun and grab the bargains.

**Xmas Supper** for the last meeting of 2006. Bring a plate to share.

### Giant Christmas Raffle

*Goods can still be brought in to the November meeting for the Christmas hamper.*

*Please ensure the "use by" date has not expired and goods are intact.*

*This raffle [Tickets - \$1.00] will be drawn at the November meeting.*

Gill Shooter

### Approaching Field Trips – Susan Secomb

#### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November:**

**Ducks at Kuitpo CANCELLED!** Members who were looking several weeks ago advised that we'd be far better heading straight to the Christmas BBQ and the hospitality of the Walloschecks. Due to the dry conditions the orchids have finished off early and there is nothing to see.

#### **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December:**

To the Fleurieu after Christmas. Meet at Delamere local store by 10am. Raywood Nursery will be open and has a picnic area under the stringy barks – pack your picnic and thermos. I've been promised that there will be blue wrens flitting about to entertain us. The proprietor confirmed that *Diplodium*'s are coming up at the moment in spite of the drought. Talisker Conservation Park is tiny and not far away, so depending on fire bans, we will explore there as well.

#### **2007**

Field trips in 2007 will be very much dependant on the weather. The first one, planned for possibly mid February is camping in the South East, looking for the difficult to find *Corunastylis despectans*. Contact me in early February for details.

**Library Books need to be returned at the November meeting.**

## **TUBER BANK – 2006-2007**

This is a reminder to Terrestrial growers to check your pots to see what tubers you can donate to the tuber bank.

Please remember to include locality data with the tubers. The tuber bank depends on growers supplying tubers for the younger or new growers and to ensure a good stock of plants is widely available.

**Please advise Malcolm Guy – by 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

15 Naomi Tce, Pasadena, SA 5042

Phone: 8276 7350

## **ORCHIDS OF VICTORIA**

Orders & Money (\$65) will be taken again at the November meeting. Last chance at this price. See the Treasurer (Peter McCauley) at the meeting.

## **XMAS BBQ**

As last year the Xmas BBQ will be held at the home of Wally and Shirley Walloscheck's at Cherry Gardens.

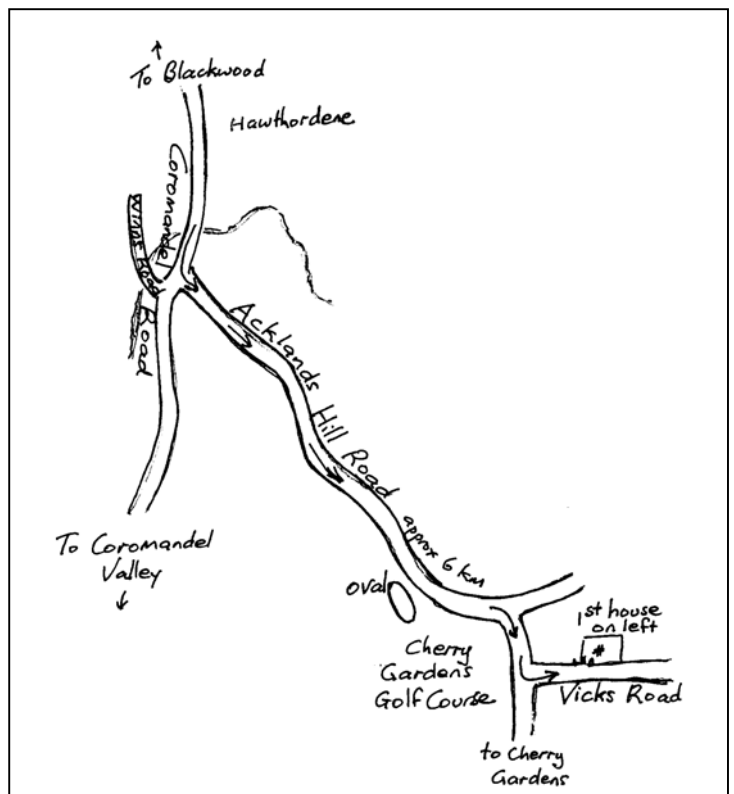
**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November; 11:30 am**

NOSSA will be providing the meat.

### **Please bring**

A salad or dessert to share and \$2.00 donation

Also bring a chair, folding table, plates, eating utensils and drinks inc. tea-bags, coffee, milk & sugar. Hot water will be provided.



Your Editor is producing a CD of photographs of all the awarded plants at the 2006 Spring Show and you can order yours at the November Meeting or phone 8261 7998 to receive your copy at the Meeting. Cost \$2.00. A copy will be placed in the Library. Printed copies not available as yet but orders will be taken @ \$3.50.

The October meeting was truly a *Sarcochilus* night; a total of 32 plants were benched. Brendan Killen brought in display of 13 *Sarco falcatus*, commonly known as the 'Orange Blossom Orchid' in reference to both its floral appearance and its perfume, mounted on small pieces of wood with a covering of sphagnum moss for humidity on a length of wire mesh about a metre long and 80cms tall. All the plants were in excellent condition obviously growing very happily in this fashion. *Sarco falcatus* is not the easiest of the species to grow in South Australia tending to last a few years then dying off perhaps this is the way to grow them successfully.

By far the easiest of the species to grow is *Sarco hartmannii*. They thrive in cool, humid shade; a Shadehouse with 50% shade is ideal. Unlike *Sarco falcatus* they will grow and flower very well in relatively small pots. Like most Australian Native Orchids they are not heavy feeders but do respond well to the occasional dose of fertiliser; once a month during the growing period is satisfactory. Two quite large, specimens of this species was benched but the vast majority were hybrids. I can remember in the early days of the society when only *Sarco hartmannii* was benched carrying one or two flowers. We would get quite excited if and when a hybrid appeared on the bench small plants with one or two flowers. Subsequent hybridising over the past twenty or thirty so years has produced beautiful progeny in many colours.

A *Dendrobium*; *Den.* Gerald McCraith, created a lot of interest to both Judges & members alike. Benched by Russell Job & Edda Viskic this is a New Guinea primary hybrid between two species from the latouria section of the *Dendrobium* genus *Den. engae x convolutum* registered in 1995 by Phil Spence in honour of the doyen of Australian orchids Mr Gerald McCraith AO. It is a typical latouria section dendrobium having the distinctive clavate (club shaped) pseudobulbs and rather strange colour combinations. This hybrid had deep green flat petals and sepals with a spade shaped purple green striped labellum. To grow and flower this orchid successfully some protection by way of a heated glasshouse is required. It is possible to grow it in a protected Shadehouse but due to its tropical parentage does require that protection to flower with any certainty.

Thank you to everybody for bringing in your plants for us to enjoy.

## Report on the field trip to Kaiser Stuhl Forest Reserve, Pewsey Vale.

Susan Secomb

Blackberry muffins, tea and coffee started us for the day at Williamstown before sharing vehicles and heading off. We had a little trouble with the lock combination given to us by the forest ranger, but not enough to stop us getting into the site.

Despite the drought there were still many wildflowers blooming. The spectacular rock outcrops on the hill tops amongst the scrub were a stark back drop for the large leaved, green flowering *Correa* found there. Many of the sun orchids had aborted in bud after the very hot days 2 weeks before but there were enough to confirm that this will be an excellent site to visit in a good year. There were many seed pods showing that the season had not been too cruel at this site. Cathy commented on the large numbers of double *Glossodia* pods. There were still many pockets of Spider orchids holding on in flower.

We explored down a damp gully where ferns were hiding amongst the rocks and followed by driving to the top of the highest “mountain” in the Southern Lofties with spectacular views in all directions. Some of the group continued on to Lobethal, but as I didn’t join them, you will have to hope somebody else does the report.

Cathy has kindly put together a species list, which follows.

### Orchids seen at Pewsey Vale (Kaiser Stuhl area)

<i>Caladenia (Arachnorchis) tentaculata</i>	f	<i>C. (A.) leptochila</i>	p
<i>Disa bracteata</i>	b	<i>Diuris pardina x orientis</i>	f.o.
<i>Thelymitra albiflora</i>	p	<i>Glossodia major</i>	p
<i>T. ‘pale capsules’</i>	p	<i>Microtis arenaria</i>	f
<i>T. rubra</i>	p	<i>Pterostylis nana ‘hills’</i>	p
<i>T. ‘insipidis’</i>	b		
<i>T. ‘tubulina’</i>	b		
<i>T. juncifolia</i>	p		
<i>T. brevifolia</i>	p		
<i>T. bracteata</i>	b/p		

### Climate Change and South Australian Orchids

R. Bates

South Australia as the driest state in the driest continent will be more affected by climate change than most parts of the world. A recent CSIRO study commissioned by the State Government indicated the seriousness of the situation by upgrading forecast changes to suggest that by 2070 our average temperature will have risen by 4.7 degrees and annual rainfall will drop by 35%, with a particular emphasis on reduced winter rainfall.

Farming will simply become non viable throughout most of the state.

This years 50% reduction of crop production with many failing all together is just a sample of what is to come.

For orchids however the situation becomes critical as most species are already living on the edge!

Most regeneration of orchids in SA occurs only in above average seasons.

For those who do not believe that we are already in a period of climate change, Adelaide has not had an above average season for 12 years. In that time rainfall has been either about average or below average. Populations of orchids everywhere are declining. Their habitat is so fragmented that there is little possibility of any species moving north or south to more suitable conditions. We already list 25% of the state’s orchids as threatened without even factoring in climate change. By 2070 most of our orchids will be endangered.

2005 saw Adelaide have its driest autumn on record, 2006 gave us our driest winter since records began.

The cloudless skies saw the southern half of the state break all records for the number of frosts. Everywhere I went I saw not only orchids damaged by frost but the shrubs and trees sheltering them were also badly damaged so that they will have even less protection in the future.

For most of South Australia in the spring of 2006 orchids are either absent altogether or have suffered a 50% loss due to dry conditions. Thrip attacks on flowers have been as bad as the spring of 2004. Even in the wettest parts of the Adelaide Hills most species are having a reduced flowering. In fact I have never seen a worse year for orchids.

In a few years wild orchid flowers may become a novelty!



## ***Dockrillia fairfaxii* (Muell. et Fitz) Rauschert 1983**

Len Field

*Callista fairfaxii* (F. Muell. et Fitzg.) Rev. Kuntze 1872

*Dockrillia fairfaxii* (Muell. et Fitz.) Rauschert 1983

Originally named after Mr. Fairfax of newspaper fame and was first collected by R.D. Fitzgerald in 1872. Found in higher rainforest areas, never at sea level and only as an epiphyte where it favours the *Backhousia myrtifolia* but can also be found on the scrub oak (*Casuarina torulosa*) among others where its range of habitat is from the Central Coast N.S.W. west to the Blue Mountains and north to the Clarence River.

Flowers are creamy white and heavily striated with reddish brown and with only 2 to 4 to a spike also it has more slender leaves and flowers approx. three weeks later than *Dockrillia teretifolia*. Flowering period is from August to October with similar culture except it needs more shade

## ***Dockrillia linguiformis* (Sw) 1800 Brieger**

Len Field

Common names Thumbnail orchid, Tongue orchid, and in North Queensland the Tick orchid.

The name linguiforme is from the Latin lingu(a) as in linguiforme (*a tongue*). It was also claimed for many years that this was the orchid that Olaf Peter Swartz the German botanist founded the genus *Dendrobium* in 1800, but this was wrong, although this was the first orchid seen by white man when they landed at the rocks area in Sydney cove, Port Jackson. It was introduced into England by Rear Admiral Bligh of Bounty fame.

Other names it has been called are

*Dendrobium linguiforme* var. *linguiforme* Swartz 1800

*Callista linguiforme* (Swartz) Rev. Kuntze 1891

*Dendrobium linguiforme* (Swartz) var. *huntianum* Rupp 1942

There was another variety named from this species called var. *huntianum* by Rupp in 1942, which was named after T.E. Hunt and is a June or July flower and found near Ipswich in Queensland, but as it reverts to type form it never reached true variety status and was considered just a variation of the type form.

This orchid has a huge range of habitat which stretches from almost the Victorian border up to North Queensland and West to the Great Dividing Range. It is very common throughout this area and equally happy as an epiphyte or a lithophyte but where as a epiphyte it likes swamp oaks (*Casuarina glauca*), river oaks (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*), in fact it will grow on most trees that will hold there bark including the tea trees (*Leptospermum* species). I have seen this orchid hundreds of kilometres inland from the coast still forming large mats on the rock faces, while in its more prolific growing areas these mats will cover huge areas of the rocks where it can survive and grow in extreme exposed conditions that would kill other orchids. In the dry times the leaves which are very thick, tough and numerous will shrivel and can last up to six months without water. This is a feature of a lot of Australian *Dendrobium* and *Dockrillia*

Flowering is from August to October with blooms that are long lasting, up to two weeks with one raceme per leaf.

Culture. If grown on slabs which is the usual way it should be hung up high and if grown in pots a very coarse open mix. In nature it likes plenty of sunlight although at times it will grow in shade. Whichever way it is grown it should have good light, humidity and air movement.

## *Sarcochilus ceciliae* F. Muell 1865

Len Field

A member of the subtribe *Sarcanthinae*, *Sarcochilus* is confined mostly to the Australian continent with one species *Sarcochilus moorei* extending to New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. Given the common name of "Fairy Bells" because of its bell shaped flowers *Sarcochilus ceciliae* was named after Cecilia Van Maseyh by Ferdinand Mueller in 1865.

Also named by the synonyms *Thrixspermum ceciliae* F. Muell 1871 and *Sarcochilus eriophilus* Fitzgerald 1891.

Once known as a species of 2-variety *Sarcochilus ceciliae* var. *ceciliae* and *Sarcochilus ceciliae* var. *albus*, but the latter has been renamed the same as the type plant as it is just a variation of the colour.

Almost a true lithophytic plant and rarely found on trees (although I have seen it growing on the roots of hoop pines *Araucaria cunninghamii* north of Armidale in N.S.W) it forms small dense clumps spread out from each over by an extensive root system interlacing the face of the rocks, these roots can travel quite long distances to grow into the litter accumulation that is deposited in hollows on the rock faces.

Found in an area from S.E. Cape York in N. Queensland to the Hastings Valley in N.S.W. where it has now become quite rare due to extensive collecting. Growing from damp wet rainforest in very deep shade to exposed rock faces in full sunlight and conditions with temperature up to the mid forties and higher its thick fleshy leaves and roots buried in litter to keep cool offer protection against this harsh environment. These plants are sometimes found far from water, also growing in these exposed conditions they become prone to damage by fire. Other plants I have seen have been completely covered by long grass and unless they are in flower one would not know that these plants were there.

Flowering period is from late November to February but can be longer in favourable seasons. Flowers are bell shaped with 3 to 14 per spike coloured pale to bright pink. I was always impressed with the size of the flowers on some plants I saw growing near Townsville N.Q. until shown the plants that our local growers are producing, where through careful line breeding these plants have far surpassed anything I have seen growing in nature. *Sarcochilus ceciliae* is a close relative of *Sarcochilus hillii* with which it will easily hybridize.

## *Sarcochilus ceciliae* var. *albus* Hunt 1945

Now a synonym of the type form

Described by E. Hunt in 1945 from a pure white form found on Tambourine Mountains in S.E. Queensland and named from the Latin Alb(us) meaning white. While more native to the N.S.W. S.E. Queensland border *Sarcochilus* var. *albus* can be found wherever the type form grows. In his book Australasian sarcanthinae A.W. Dockrill queries whether this should be a true variety or just An alba form of the type variety and although while similar to var. *ceciliae* the flowers are glistening white and open wider with sepals and petals narrower than the type form.

### ***Rhizanthella slateri* at Bulladelah**

In the NOSSA Journal Vol. 27 (2) March 2003 I included a report that a population of the underground orchid, *Rhizanthella slateri* was under threat by the proposed construction of a highway bypass at Bulladelah, NSW.

A report by ABC Online 11 May 2006 makes it clear the situation has not changed and in fact another rare orchid, *Corybas dowlingii*, has been added to the list of species threatened by the bypass proposal.

It seems also the Project's Environmental Impact Statement neglects to include any reference to the underground orchid presumably because the orchid is so rare the location is to be kept secret.

David Hirst



*Diuris drummondii*



*Caladenia tentaculata*



*Caladenia tentaculata*



*Diuris Mule*



*Diuris laxifolia*



*Oligochaetochilus biseta*



*Diuris brevifolia x sulphurea*



*Pterostylis baptistii*



*Pterostylis Cutie x baptistii*



*Pterostylis Cutie* 'Harold's Pride'



*Cymbidium suave*



*Cymbidium suave*



*Dendrobium* Ella Victoria Leaney



*Dendrobium* Bardo Rose



*Dendrobium* Gerald McCraith



*Dendrobium* monophyllum



*Sarcophilus falcatus* x *Plectorrhiza erector*



*Bulbophyllum prenticei*



*Sarcochilus falcatus* x *Plectorrisa erector*



*Sarcochilus Wandjina* x *hartmanii*



*Sarcochilus Aussie Passion* x *hartmanii*



*Sarcochilus Cherie* x *Fitzhart*



*Sarcochilus Verolica*



*Sarcochilus Hot Ice*



*Sarcochilus falcatus*



*Corybas incurvus*



*Corybas diemenicus*



*Diuris pardina*



*Thelymitra antennifera*



*Thelymitra macmillani*



Some plants benched at the August 2006 Meeting. Photos by Robert Lawrence