



Journal  
of the  
Native Orchid Society  
of  
South Australia Inc



**NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**  
**PO BOX 565 UNLEY SA 5061**

[www.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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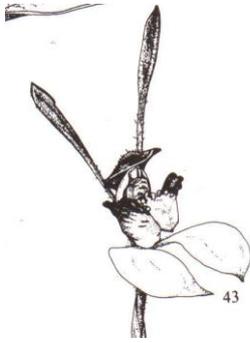
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Front cover from an original drawing of *Caleana major* by Helen Lawrence. Used with her kind permission.



**JOURNAL OF THE  
NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY  
OF  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.**

**NOVEMBER 2012      VOL. 36 NO 10**

<u><b>CONTENTS THIS JOURNAL</b></u>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Page</b>	
Diary Dates		100	
October Judging Results		101	
NOSSA Sarcanthinae Show 2012 Results		102	
For Your Information – NOSSA News		102	
Appreciation for Bill Dear’s contribution to NOSSA	Les Nesbitt	104	
NOSSA Field Trip to Upper Spencer Gulf 2012	Bob Bates	104	
Who was our first Conservation Officer?	Rosalie Lawrence	106	
<i>Diuris behrii</i> Project Update 5	Les Nesbitt	107	
NOSSA visit to Sandy Creek Conservation Park and various sites, inc. Kersbrook Native Forest Reserve adj. to Para Wirra Recreation Park	Leo Davis	108	
October 2012 Winning Photo	Rosalie Lawrence	109	

**The Native Orchid Society of South Australia meets every  
4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the months February –November**

**NEXT MEETING 23 NOVEMBER 2012**

**NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday, 23 October at 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.**

**ANNUAL AUCTION and XMAS SUPPER**

**DIARY DATES**

<b>25th November Sunday</b>	Annual NOSSA BBQ, Myponga
<b>Nov 27<sup>th</sup> Tuesday</b>	ANNUAL AUCTION and XMAS Supper
<b>Dec 29<sup>th</sup> Saturday</b>	Raywood Nursery & Talisker CP for <i>Dipodium</i>

**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Next meeting on 4 December 2012 is to be held at the home of Robert and Rosalie Lawrence at 24 Patricia Avenue, Camden Park.**

## Judging results for October Meeting

**Species:** *Dendrobium monophyllum*; *Sarcochilus aequalis*; *Sarcochilus australis*; *Sarcochilus falcatus*; *Sarcochilus Sarcochilus weinthalii*.

**Hybrids:** *Dendrobium* Olga Wench.

**Terrestrials benched;**

**Species:** *Caladenia carnea*; *Caladenia tentaculata*; *Caladenia reticulata*; *Glossodia major*; *Diuris behrii*;

**Hybrids:** *Pterostylis* Cutie 'Harolds Pride'; *Pterostylis* Mary Eleanor x *baptistii* Janney; *Pterostylis* Tallhood.

### Judging results

#### Epiphyte species Open division

1<sup>st</sup> *Dendrobium monophyllum*

No 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### Grower

Les Nesbitt

#### Epiphyte Hybrid Open division

1<sup>st</sup> *Dendrobium* Olga Wench

No 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>

John & Bev Gay

#### Epiphytes Species or Hybrids 2<sup>nd</sup> division:

None benched

#### Terrestrial species Open division

1<sup>st</sup> *Caladenia tentaculata*

2<sup>nd</sup> *Caladenia carnea*

3<sup>rd</sup> *Glossodia major*

Les Nesbitt

Les Nesbitt

Les Nesbitt

#### Terrestrial hybrids Open division

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

2<sup>nd</sup> *Pterostylis* Cutie 'Harolds Pride'

3<sup>rd</sup> *Pterostylis* Mary Eleanor x *baptistii* Janney

Les Nesbitt

Les Nesbitt

Les Nesbitt

#### Terrestrial Species 2<sup>nd</sup> division

None benched

#### Terrestrial Hybrid 2<sup>nd</sup> division

None benched

#### Popular vote

**Terrestrial species:** *Caladenia tentaculata*

**Terrestrial hybrid:** *Pterostylis* Tallhood

**Epiphyte Species:** *Dendrobium monophyllum*

**Epiphyte Hybrid:** *Dendrobium* Olga Wench

Les Nesbitt

Les Nesbitt

Les Nesbitt

John & Bev Gay

#### Plant of the night:

*Dendrobium monophyllum*

Les Nesbitt

Plant commentary on terrestrials given by Graham Eakins & on epiphytes by Noel Oliver.

### NEXT JUDGES MEETING

The next judges meeting will be 9:30 December 1<sup>st</sup> at Les Nesbitt's home

## Sarcanthinae Show Results

Class	Description
1	<i>Sarcophilus hartmannii</i> 1 <sup>st</sup> Steve Howard
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Eric Nesbitt
2	<i>Sarcophilus falcatus</i> 1 <sup>st</sup> Steve Howard
3	<i>Sarcophilus fitzgeraldii</i>
4	Other <i>Sarcophilus</i> Species - <i>S. aequalis</i> 1 <sup>st</sup> Les Nesbitt
5	Other allied species N/A
6	Specimen Species <i>Sarcophilus hartmannii</i> 1 <sup>st</sup> Steve Howard
7	Seedling - species 1 <sup>st</sup> flowering (Mark with a white ribbon) N/A
8	<i>Sarcophilus Fitzhart</i> N/A
9	<i>Sarcophilus</i> Hybrid – predom. white Judith x Yvette 1 <sup>st</sup> Kevin Western Heidi x Karen Anne 2nd Kevin Western
10	
11	<i>Sarcophilus</i> Hybrid – pink/red Fitzhartx Velvet 1 <sup>st</sup> Kevin Western Heidi ‘Kew x Heidi 2nd Kevin Western
12	<i>Sarcophilus</i> Hybrid – yellow/green KS 10 1 <sup>st</sup> Kevin Western Madge x Topaz 2nd Kevin Western
13	<i>Sarcophilus</i> Hybrid – any other colour Weinhart x Coralta Kevin Western
14	Allied Intergeneric hybrid Rhyks Lava Burst Les Nesbitt
15	Specimen Hybrid N/A
16	Seedling - hybrid 1 <sup>st</sup> flowering <i>Sarcophilus falcatus</i> Steve Howard
<b>Grand Champion of the show</b> <i>Sarcophilus falcatus</i> Steve Howard	

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION - NOSSA NEWS

#### Upcoming Field Trips

All field trips commence at 10:00 AM

Date	Site	Orchids	Meeting Place
Dec 29 Saturday	Raywood Nursery & Talisker CP	Dipodium	Delamere Store, corner Main South Road & Cole Road, Delamere.

#### 2012 MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

Members who wish to pay 2012 Membership Fees electronically should e-mail NOSSA Treasurer on  
[nossatreasurer@hotmail.com](mailto:nossatreasurer@hotmail.com)

You will receive banking details so that you can complete your subscription. Please remember to include in your e-mail any change of address details.  
Marj Sheppard, Treasurer

#### TUBER BANK

Tubers (or, at this stage, promise of prospective tubers) are urgently needed for the Tuber Bank. Could you please let me know if you will have any, and what they are, as soon as possible, so that I can compile a list before December. Thank you. Contact details are as follows:-

Jane Higgs  
Phone no. 08 85586247  
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## XMAS RAFFLE

Please bring in to the November meeting (Tuesday 27 November) any items to Faye Eaton that can be added to the Christmas Stocking / Basket **Raffle prize**. Please check that the use by dates on the products will still be current into 2013. Raffle Tickets \$1.00.

## ANNUAL AUCTION

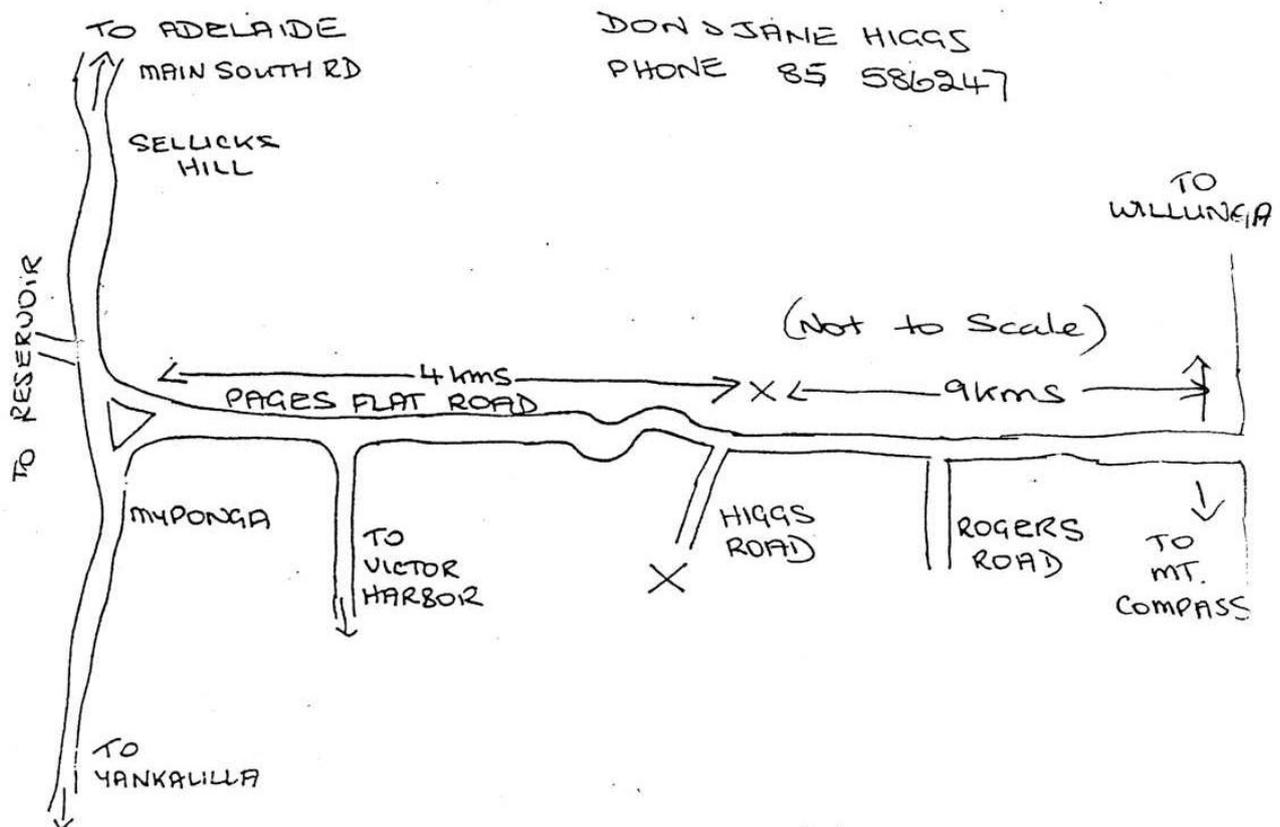
The traditional end-of year Auction will be held at the November meeting. Please bring donations for the Auction to the meeting - recycled pots, garden implements, potted plants (for example, orchids, cactus, elkhorns, any plants that may be excess to your needs) are just a few examples of the items you could bring - and bring money so that you can bid for new treasures. Be there for a wonderful evening and bring your wallet to snap up a bargain item you will find.

## ANNUAL BBQ

The venue for the Annual BBQ on December 4<sup>th</sup> (for around mid-day) will be at Jane & Don Higgs property at Myponga. **See Map Below.**

NOSSA will be providing the meat. **Please bring** a salad or dessert to share and \$2.00 donation per person.

Also bring plates, eating utensils and drinks other than tea-bags, coffee, milk & sugar. Chairs, tables will also be provided



**Would members please return all library books at the November meeting so that a stock-take can be done over the Xmas break.**

### **Appreciation for Bill Dear's contribution to NOSSA**

Some members may be unaware that one of our Life Members, Bill Dear, has recently moved to Western Australia to enjoy the native orchids growing there.

When Bill Dear joined NOSSA he took over from Roy Hargreaves as the soul of NOSSA. He was always there to help organise NOSSA shows, plant sales, exhibitions and information days. He stored the Society's show equipment at his home and carted it to where it was needed. He always had a list of reminders for committee members on what decisions needed to be made at each meeting and often volunteered to do the work himself. (Older members will be aware that Roy did all these things and more until advancing years and ill health meant he could no longer carry the load. Roy was responsible for the formation of NOSSA, was our first secretary and was the first life member.)

Bill Dear devoted a large part of his life to NOSSA. The general membership of the Society, and the management committee in particular, wishes to acknowledge Bill's significant contributions and is very grateful for his help over many years. His contribution will be sorely missed.

Bill, we wish you well in your new life in Western Australia and trust that you will enjoy promoting orchids there. We are sure you will remain in contact and we look forward to learning about your involvement with orchids there.

Les Nesbit  
Patron, Native Orchid Society of South Australia Inc.

### **NOSSA Field Trip to Upper Spencer Gulf 2012** **Bob Bates**

Many thanks to Bernie Hasse who invited us to visit his private reserve adjacent Mambray Ck/ Mt. Remarkable NP adjacent Highway one on the dry coastal plain near the head of the Gulf with native pine flats and stony river red gum lined creeks which have not held water for many years according to Bernie. It was our chance to see true dryland orchids as they once were right around the Gulf before Europeans.

The highlight of the property are the dryland greenhoods (*Oligochaetochilus* sp) and there were many large rosettes of *O biseta*. A few hairy Sikhs Whiskers *O. boormanii* in early flower and plenty of the much smaller but un-named *Oligochaetochilus* sp 'Upper Spencer Gulf' in good flower and strangely restricted to the dry rocky creek-beds and adjacent eroding banks. This 'desert greenhood' has features of both *O. cobarensis* and *O boormanii* and may be a stabilised hybrid (of which this genus has plenty!)

The only spider orchid present was the arid land *Arachnorchis toxochila*, the type form with depressed sepals and we were to see plenty of them during the day's orchiding. We were just in time for the dry woodland leek orchid, the slender, fragrant *Prasophyllum occidentale* which was scattered under the pines.

Soon we returned to Bernie's for lunch and drinks before local identity Oscar led us south, past Telowie to Nelshaby Gorge Plant Reserve which as he promised had a dozen orchid species in flower including an amazing four different spider orchids as superb examples. Firstly were more *A toxochila*, real beauties with tiny flowers on tall stems and all around them clusters of the un-named southern Flinders green comb spiders their flowers five times the size of the *A toxochila*. Gary Backhouse in his book *Spider orchids of Australia* was the first to give this a tag name, *Arachnorchis* species 'southern Flinders'. Among them were one or two desert comb spiders *Arachnorchis* species 'Desert', much smaller and brightly coloured. As if two un-named spiders wasn't enough we soon found the small brown bayonet Spider orchid which most of us noted was similar to the larger bayonet *Arachnorchis macroclavia* from York Peninsula but is instead the same species as the small brown bayonet spider so common on Eyre Peninsula.

Surprises continued with *Caladenia coactilis*, *C latifolia* and many *Microtis* species coming into flower. The sun orchids too gave us some surprises. *Thelymitra grandiflora* (or at least the northern version of it) growing with straggly *Thelymitra nuda* complex with dark blue flowers and *T batesii* in bud. *T luteocilium* rounded out the sun orchid list and as we went further into the Gorge helmet orchids *Corysanthes incurvus*, mosquito orchids *Acianthus* in seed and gnat orchids *Cyrtostylis* in flower and many *Oligochaetochilus* aff *bisetus* in bud. (June Niejalke returned to these a week or so later to find that these were a species new to science!).

This magic day provided quite a show of mostly less well known Flinders Ranges orchids. Thanks also to Wendy Hudson for organising this splendid excursion.



RB, a fine form of *Arachnorchis toxochila* Nelshaby Gorge in the Flinders

## WHO WAS OUR FIRST CONSERVATION OFFICER?

**Rosalie Lawrence**

Recently I've been looking over the old NOSSA Journals. I like (my husband says addictive!) reading history and even more reading original source material, so it's not surprising that I've enjoyed this activity. There are some lovely gems in them. I like to read about the people which brings me to the title of this article – Who *was* our first Conservation Officer?

Well if you ask Thelma Bridle, she'll say that it was Karen Possingham but when I read in the April 1984 edition, I see that Margaret Fuller is said to be “the initiator of the Conservation Group” back in 1982. Margaret had a long involvement with the Bird Care and Conservation Group. She headed the NOSSA group who collaborated with the Education Department to produce Pic-a-Pac, an orchid teaching package for the schools.

Yet was Margaret the first? For I then read of two foundational members. Roy Hargreaves who is described as a “keen conservationist, ambassador and liaison person with numerous groups including SGAP, OCSA, Parks and Wildlife, the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, Black Hill Flora Research Centre, ... an initiator of the R. S. Rogers Orchid House.” The other is Ron Robjohns who “drafted the Society's Constitution and By-laws and formulated the Society's Conservation Policy.” But ..... there is a third contender amongst the founding members – Peter Hornsby, the Society's first editor and an organiser of field trips. Peter was always putting articles in the Journals relating to conservation. A keen conservationist and current member, he resigned his role as editor in 1981 to “concentrate on his study of the behaviour of the Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby in the North Flinders Ranges.” And yet we could continue for there were other foundational members who took a keen interest in conservation.

So who was our first Conservation Officer? Well, Thelma is right. It was Karen Possingham. She was the first one to have the title Conservation Officer when she was appointed to the role in March 1992 – fifteen years after the founding of the Society, and remained in that role until May 1997 when she became a councillor with the Burnside City Council. Karen formalised many activities, organizing bi-monthly meetings, Conservation Booths at the various NOSSA shows, lobbying, weeding, etc

Below is her report of their first meeting.

### **CONSERVATION GROUP PRIORITIES SET**

***K. Possingham***

*The first meeting of the 1992 NOSSA Orchid Conservation Sub-Committee was held on Wednesday 15th April. The following priorities were set at the meeting:*

- 1) Lobby politicians; resolution to write letters to the Minister of the Environment, to National Parks and Wildlife, Department of Environmental Planning, Woods and Forests and Leaders of the Opposition Parties, and request a meeting in July to discuss Orchid Conservation strategy.*
- 2) Liaise with other Conservation groups such as the Conservation Council; join at first as an Association Member and find out about South Australia's conservation concerns and needs.*
- 3) Monitor Hills Zone development; – liaise with Mt. Lofty Ranges Conservation Association.*
- 4) Prioritise high risk sites that are not managed properly and in danger of clearance, habitat degradation etc.*

- 5) *In short term adopt a Reserve such as Belair National Park in order to monitor known Orchid populations, raise Society profile and provide assistance in weeding and other such requirements. This will provide conservation experience for members. There is easy access to Belair from Adelaide and the park and conservation activities should appeal to younger members as well as older members: we'll be doing something concrete!*
  - 6) *Possibility to apply for funding from Endangered Species Program, World Wildlife Fund and Save the Bush, to work on endangered orchids.*
  - 7) *Education: area at Warrawong to be fenced off from animals for native orchids to be established and protected.*
- Meetings are to be held bi-monthly: Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 10th June at 8P.M. Anyone is welcome. Enquiries Karen Possingham, Conservation Officer, ph 364 0671.*

Karen remained involved with the Conservation Group until the family moved to Queensland in 2000 where her husband Hugh took a chair in the departments of Mathematics and Biological Sciences at the University of Queensland. Prior to leaving Adelaide, Hugh had been President of the Nature Conservation Council, Professor of Environmental Science and Management at Adelaide University and instrumental in initiating biodiversity planning in South Australia. Hugh has made various trips back to Adelaide will be back here on 27<sup>th</sup> November to talk about *Citizen Science* prior to the Uni SA and ABC 891 Great Koala Count the next day.

I have wandered a bit from Karen as NOSSA's first Conservation Officer but from what I can see in reading the Journals Hugh and Karen worked together in conservation and though no longer in South Australia are still actively involved in conservation. The objectives of that first meeting Karen left with NOSSA and continues to this day, albeit with changes to adapt to current issues and thinking.

## ***Diuris behrii* Project Update 5**

Les Nesbitt

The first *Diuris behrii* flower opened on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2012. The last flower faded on October. Ten of the largest flowering plants were hand pollinated between 24<sup>th</sup> September and 4<sup>th</sup> October. Each pair of clones was cross pollinated to maximise the chance of pods full of viable seed. The pollination report records the results so far. Pods should take 6-10 weeks to ripen depending on the weather. Pods will be checked every few days in October/November and harvested just before they split open.

Tubers were removed from 15 clones between 27<sup>th</sup> Sept and 29th September. Tuber size and quality was good. The largest tuber from each clone was planted in a 150mm pot to carry on the clone. The plants with their old tubers attached from the 15 clones have been potted in 125mm pots to grow on until dormancy. Hopefully many small new daughter tubers will be produced. Just how many will become apparent when repotting during the dormant season. Any very small plants were replanted in the 125mm pots along with the tuber removed plants. We now have 15 clones in 150mm plastic pots and about 60 clones still in the original plastic bags.

30 daughter tubers have been potted up in 100mm pots for reintroduction to the mine site rehabilitation areas next winter. In addition there are 23 lilies, ferns and *Microtis* potted up for reintroduction next year.

**NOSSA visit to Sandy Creek Conservation Park and various sites, inc.  
Kersbrook Native Forest Reserve adj. to Para Wirra Recreation Park.  
Leo Davis**

The turn out on Sunday, Oct. 07, 2012, of just four, had at least two possible explanations. One who attended only just made it because he'd forgotten about Daylight Saving starting. Maybe others forgot too and so could not get there on time. A number of our regular participants were away, interstate, on what must be great outings.

This outing, led by Bob Bates, was one of our most rewarding and interesting. At 7 sites we sighted almost 50 species with 25 of those being in flower (in a couple of cases some persistent blowing and prodding was required for flowers to qualify). Lorraine Badger was easily the winner in the "find the next species" event, with Bob a close second (champion at spotting the rarities) and John Badger a respectable third. Bob cheered on the cameras, hoping for images for the Orchids of SA DVD, of which you will all be looking forward to improved versions.

Notable finds included;

....1. *Thelymitra* sp. *Clare* (*R. Bates 77464*) (Little Clare Sun Orchid or Choccy top; don't blame me!), an undescribed species, close to *T. batesii* (Frog Mouth Sun Orchid), previously photographed just once, near Clare. We also saw *T. batesii* plants at another site, that, appositely, are shy and retiring, to the extent that they open, when they do, just one day a year. Not today!

2. A single *Arachnorchis* hybrid (*cardiochila* x *verrucosa*), surrounded by locally rare *A. verrucosa* (Little Yellow-Club Mallee Spider Orchid) flowers, nicely showed characters of each parent. Even Bob Bates had not seen this hybrid before. Several wasps (*Zaspilothynnus* sp) were seen visiting both species, one even landing on Bob Bates, presumably because he'd touched a flower and so carried its odour.

3. Some unusually red flowers of *A. leptochila* (Narrow Lip Spider Orchid or Queen Spider Orchid) that had small teeth on the sides of their labella, putting them somewhere between ssp. *leptochila* and ssp. *dentata*. (Red Queen Spider Orchid).

4. Several cream coloured flowers of *T. rubra* (Common Pink Sun Orchid).

5. Five species, including a hybrid, of *Oligochaetochilus* (Rufous-hoods) were found, four in flower. Two quite distinct forms of *O. psammophilus* (Sandy Creek Rufoushood), known about for some 30 years, were observed.

6. Five species, including an unknown hybrid, of *Prasophyllum* (Leek Orchids) were found in flower.

As ever, there was much to learn from Bob, if only you could keep up with him. He spoke of the need for habitat disturbance if healthy orchid populations are to be maintained. He advocates small mosaic burning, which encourages germination of fast disappearing small shrub species, and recycles nutrients, as opposed to the current practice of fuel reduction burns, which are primarily used to reduce the severity of bush fires, certainly encourage weed species and do little to benefit orchids. He claims that when native mammal populations were larger and more diverse, the after effects of fires were much different, due to the browsing of the mammals, and so were more likely to maintain healthy diversity in environments.

Bob referred to the onset of the latest El Niño weather pattern and suggested that many plants seem to have a means of anticipating such and, even when the dry conditions have not yet set in, suspend flowering and seeding operations in thrifty anticipation. We watered a few slightly wilting plants, in bud, of *Thelymitra glaucophylla* (Jeanes ms) (Glaucous Leaf Sun Orchid) and *Oligochaetochilus excelsus* (Tall Rufoushood), at a very dry site beside Kings Cutting, near Lyndock.

A single spent plant of *Bunochilus viriosus* (Adelaide Hills Banded Greenhood or Tall Greenhood) had failed to produce any fertile seed pods and Bob suggested this was due to the scarcity, the extinction maybe, of the pollinator in the area. Perhaps with this idea in mind, Bob hand pollinated some *Arachnorchis reticulata* (Veined Spider Orchid or Soldier Spider Orchid) flowers, beside Bassnett Road where we found a single late flower of *A. behrii*. (Pink Lip Spider Orchid).

## October 2012 Winning Picture

Rosalie Lawrence

Thank you to all who sent in pictures this month. Again there was an interesting variety with a range of orchids from Kangaroo Island across to Yorke Peninsula and through the Lofty region down to the South East, plus another from Western Australia. Some were rare such as the *Thelymitra circumsepta*, found in swamps, whilst others were common such as *Thelymitra antennifera*. There were also a couple of pictures of artwork. Appropriately, as this meeting was the annual *Sarcochilus* Show, one picture was of a *Sarcochilus* which had been taken at the previous meeting on a mobile phone with all the editing and special effects done on the phone – *phones ain't phones* anymore!



But to this month's winner which was taken by Deb Furbank on Yorke Peninsula. *Arachnorchis fuliginosa* or Coastal Spider Orchid is one of South Australia's threatened orchids. Endemic to the state it has a very limited range.

A spring flowering orchid, it is distinguished by its yellowish flower, dark red thickly tapered segments, large leaves and coastal habitat.

(Information can be found in *South Australia's Native Orchids* DVD-ROM, which can be purchased from the Secretary.

Additional information can also be found in *Spider-orchids the Genus Caladenia and its Relatives in Australia* by Gary Backhouse)

Remember, entries can be sent via post or email [nossaorchids@hotmail.com](mailto:nossaorchids@hotmail.com)



*Pterostylis Tallhood*



*Pterostylis Cutie 'Harold's Pride'*



*Pterostylis Mary Eleanor x baptistii 'Janney'*



*Glossodia major*



*Diuris behrii*





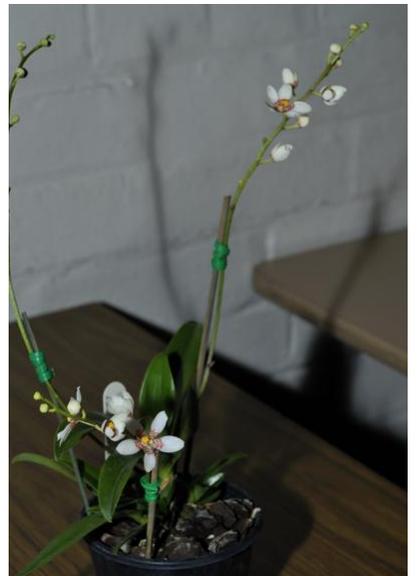
*Sarcophilus falcatus* 'Jenna'



Above & Below  
*Sarcophilus hartmanni* 'Red Heart x D.B.'



*Sarcophilus eaqualis*



*Sarcophilus Rhyks Laval Burst*

*Sarcophilus weinhart* 'Corulta'



*Sarcophilus hartmanni x hartmanni*





*Sarcochilus* Heidi 'Kent' x Heidi 'Red Chocolate'



*Sarcochilus* Heidi x Karen Anne



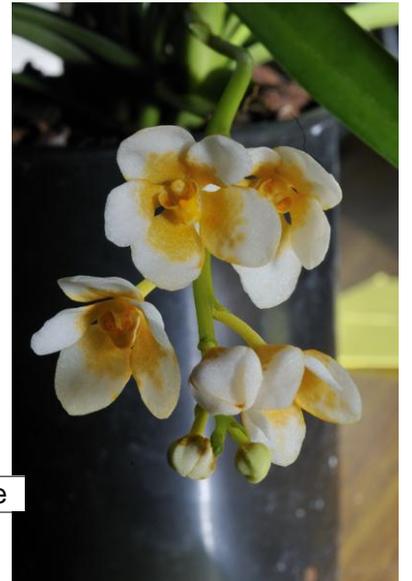
*Sarcochilus* Fitzhart 'Velvet Chocolate'



*Sarcochilus* Judith Yvonne x Yvette



*Sarcochilus* Roberta x Fizzi Dove

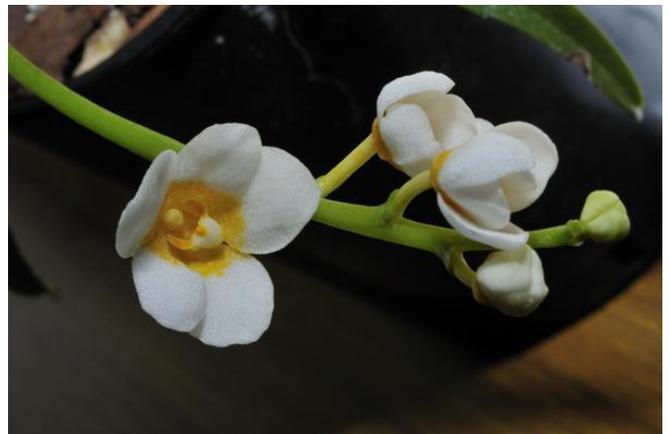


*Sarcochilus* Madge x Topaz



*Sarcochilus*

*Sarcochilus* (Dove x Jeannie) x Ronax Fitzhart



*Sarcochilus* Roberta x Topaz