

Spring Newsletter 2021



Rhododendrons.

Spring at last! The Open Gardens SA Committee has prepared a wonderful program of open gardens for our Spring season with a mix of new gardens and some of our regular favourites. Our garden Selectors are always scouting for suitable gardens, and they have again excelled themselves this season! We look forward to seeing you in these gardens over the coming weeks and months. All the gardens have a Covid Safe Plan and open following the Government's guidelines and rules, but please always check our webpage prior to visiting to confirm there are no late changes to our garden opening program.

We hope you enjoy our Spring Newsletter!

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Early Spring Open Gardens

September 04 - 05

Avondale, Rhynie 1st Open
Battye Farm, Encounter Bay

September 11 - 12

Rosie and Mick's Garden,
Springton

September 19 SUNDAY ONLY

Al Ru Farm, One Tree Hill

September 25 - 26

The Working Persons Garden,
Burnside

September 26 SUNDAY ONLY

Marybank Farm, Rostrevor

October 02 - 03 - 04

Avondale, Rhynie 2nd Open

October 09 - 10

Crabapple Cottage, Leabrook
TickleTank, Mt Barker
Denise's Garden, Mt Barker
ElderHood House, Pt Lincoln

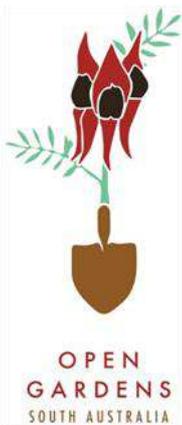
October 16 - 17

Garden at Wilpena Street,
Eden Hills
St Mary's Vineyard, Penola

See the full program at:

<http://opengardensa.org.au/>

Open Gardens SA Annual General Meeting



Unfortunately, our Annual General Meeting scheduled for 26 July 2021 had to be postponed due to Covid restrictions.

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of Open Gardens South Australia Inc will now be held on:

Date: Monday 11 October 2021
Time: 6.00 – 8.00pm
Venue: SA Country Women's Association House, 30 Dequetteville Terrace, Kent Town.

Order of Business

- Minutes from AGM 2020.
- Consideration of the Accounts.
- Report from Chair of the Committee.
- Election of committee members.
- *Please note that due to Covid-19, there will be no guest speaker this year.*

Election of Committee Members

- The election of committee members will take place at the AGM.
- The Committee comprises a minimum of 10 people and a maximum of 18 people.
- A committee member must be a current paid up member of OGSA Inc.
- Retiring committee members are eligible to stand for re-election without nomination.
- Any other member who wishes to stand for election must be nominated by a current member of OGSA before June 28, 2021. Both the nominee and the proposer must sign the nomination and send it by email to the [Secretary](#) or by post to PO Box 1184, Stirling SA 5152. *NOTE: OGSA Members were advised by email of these requirements prior to the deadline.*

We invite OGSA Members to attend. Please note that due to Covid-19, numbers will be limited so please RSVP to the Admin Officer, Sonia Green at: office@opengardensa.org.au



Please also note there will be no guest speaker this year.



Open Gardens SA Seasonal Program

The full listing of our open gardens with all details and beautiful photographs will be available on our website:

<http://opengardensa.org.au/>

Our aim is to promote the enjoyment, knowledge, and benefits of gardens and gardening in the South Australian community, and to build strong public support for the development of gardens across the state.

STAYING ON....

By Trevor Nottle

Photo's By Di Michalk

Deciding to stay where we are is not so often thought of nowadays as many home owners see home ownership as a means of increasing their personal wealth by a process of buying low, improving and upgrading, selling and moving on. Some even seem to be in a perpetual state of readiness to move out and move on. It is not unusual for people to move every 5-6 years throughout their lives eventually landing up at an expensive retirement complex with all services at hand.

For keen gardeners it seems a pretty bleak prospect to be ever-shifting and relocating. To never see a garden grow to maturity means leaving behind many strong attachments in the form of heirloom plants garnered from family and friends, as well as abandoning plants that represent significant events in family life. Avoiding this

rather dis-spiriting situation has been our goal for at least the last 15 years. We want to stay where we are as long as possible.



Apart from getting our very old house in good order and ready for continued occupation by us, as we get older we have also put much thought into how we will be able to manage our half acre garden without resorting to jobbing gardeners whose hourly rates are beginning to rise sharply.

We began to edit our garden, removing high maintenance plants

that need frequent care such as pruning, trimming and spraying. Modern roses have all gone, as have many old roses until we are left with a range of shrub roses, mostly species, that attract nesting birds and have the considerable assets of massed flowers and colourful hips. Together they make a formidable defensive hedge which is perhaps something of a comfort to us as we age.

Since buying our home some 45 years ago our once rural setting has changed markedly; the flock of sheep next door has gone, the orchards and market gardens have all been subdivided and built on. The lanes have been paved and the verges straightened. We accept this knowing it is just how things go, and we are grateful for all the big trees that remain, but we are aware of the increasing traffic in our cul-de-sac and have taken steps to enclose our block with an informal hedge of hybrid Camellias. These are appropriate to our situation in long settled Crafers Tiers and are slowly developing into a solid mass along the lane. To further reduce our work load we have planted prostrate Camellias there too so that over time our clumps of hardy bulbs and tough perennials will be replaced with spreading mats of greenery. For variety there are other evergreens too. We have not eschewed variegated plants or those with coloured foliage and look for diverse leaf shapes to add year-round interest.

There are a few pieces of topiary and two upright Irish Yews that I am still pondering over. The yews need topping out before they get too tall. That is an easy decision; the hard part will be cutting them at the right height for the scale of the garden. It will definitely be a tall ladder job so it is not one for me but a professional. The topiaries are another challenge altogether. I can manage most of the work from on the ground using battery operated hedge clippers but five have finial balls on top that I can't reach. Where can I find a professional who I'd trust to cut them



properly? My former hedger has developed arthritis and can no longer undertake the work so do I solve the problem by cutting off all the finials? It seems an easy decision but I have been dithering over making it for several years. Such a decision is final, once cut off the finials would be finished – forever. It is not an idea I can handle comfortably. They look so right as they are.



Weed control is a big issue when gardeners must take more down time. Garden work is great exercise if you are digging, reaching, bending, stretching, barrowing, raking and so on but cold wet weather discourages our habitual daily activity. We definitely love working when it is dry and sunny but are equally aware that hot and glary days also cut into our work time. As our garden has matured we have implemented a program to eliminate weeds – soursobs, periwinkle, ivy and blackberries. We achieve this by spreading newspapers opened flat and covering them with a deep layer of sugar cane bagasse which we renew every year. Annual winter grasses are controlled with SLASHER and some hand

weeding. Self-sowing plants such as violets, forget-me-not, nasturtium and love-in-a-mist are not given much heed but as the garden becomes more shady they will tend to lessen in number. Invasive woody weeds like Laurestinus, holly, gorse, broom, climbing Senecio, pines and even sprouting acorns are dealt with on sight before they become a pest.



Professional help is sought for any work requiring ladders and we are fortunate in being able to access skilled help for this. We save up chores which need paid work and get it done when we have enough to take up a full day. Sometimes we use casual help to encourage local youngsters, but this always calls for us to keep a careful watch, and to explain and demonstrate what we want done.

Staying put is our goal and we feel pretty confident our planning and continued editing will see that achieved. Things will change and the garden will gradually become simplified, but it will still be our garden around our Home. Fine detailed planting will give way to a deep mulch of leaf and flower litter such as camellias, deciduous trees and shrubs naturally produce but we will by no means be letting it go. We will not be abandoning our beautiful place.

Trevor Nottle.



Open Gardens SA Spring Garden photographs!



Avondale, Rhynie



Battye Farm, Encounter Bay



Crabapple Cottage, Leabrook



Rosie and Mick's Garden, Springton



Al Ru Farm, One Tree Hill



TickleTank, Mt Barker

Garden Diversity

The gardens that open for Open Gardens SA are chosen to reflect a great diversity of styles and may even challenge the conventional view of what constitutes a garden. While aspects of a garden may not be to your taste, we urge you to celebrate this diversity.

Please remember you are visiting a private home and show respect and sensitivity for the owners who have so generously shared their garden with you.

Thank you.



The Working Persons Garden, Burnside



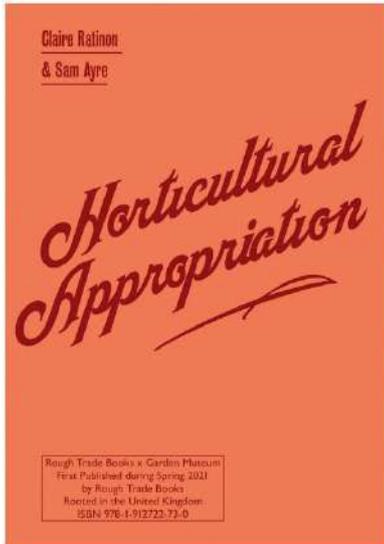
Marybank Farm, Rostrevor

Book Review - HORTICULTURAL APPROPRIATION

by Claire Ratinon and Sam Ayre

Published by Rough Trade Books (UK) 2021 approx., 8 UK Pounds plus postage: <http://roughtradebooks.com/editions/horticultural-appropriation-why-horticulture-needs-decolonising/>

By Trevor Nottle



Here is a woke book that will challenge many who read it, and anger some too. It deconstructs the Colonial venture with reference to England alone, which is a bit biased by omission - it leaves out all the other European 'aggressors' but it does pose a few important questions about who owns the world's resources, who benefits most from their exploitation and how indigenous peoples can get payment for the natural resources of their lands, if possible. Here we are focussed on the plant world and

how plants from one country have been appropriated for the wealth of another. England is one country where such a process has been in play for roughly 400 years, at least with rubber trees being relocated from Brazil to Malaysia, tea relocated from China to India; cinchona, bread fruit, cotton and other significant natural products collected and taken elsewhere without any recompense to the indigenous owners.

It is all pretty confronting stuff, especially when associated with slavery and the spread of disease; Imperialism and conquest, cultural destruction and social decay, power and control, profit and theft.

As a first primer about cultural appropriation it is pretty small beer alongside some of the heavier academic arguments that call for strong political action and correction. However, in reading it its controversial nature will be plain enough.

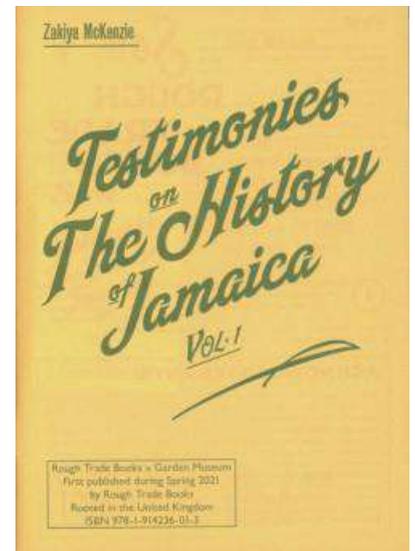
In some respects it is a supplement to the current debate about the book DARK EMU which attempts to challenge conceived ideas about the simplicity of Australian indigenous culture with a contrary view depicting the noble, and well organised native.

It is as well to consider at least two sides of the same picture, even though as yet the balance of ideas remains to be gauged. While consensus seems a long way off at least this slim volume puts the case that anthropologists are not the sole proprietors of 'historic reality'.

Should readers wish to have a more strongly stated case they should seek out another small volume from the same series co-sponsored

by the Garden History Museum (London)
TESTIMONIES ON THE HISTORY OF JAMAICA
Vol.1 by Zakiya McKenzie.

Written in what I take to be London-Jamaican Creole it speaks in terms so current and particular to one language sub-group that it defies understanding by those who think English is their lingua-franca. The patois is impenetrable thus rendering any argument irrelevant.



When we cannot understand what someone says, what hope is there for shared understanding?



Follow OGSA on Facebook
and Instagram



OGSA Recommends....

We recommend you always check our website for garden opening details. The website is an up-to-date, reliable and informative site which lists each open garden with a description of the garden, address (including a map), photographs, the availability of refreshments etc. The official Garden Notes written by the garden owner are also provided which you can read in advance or print and take a copy with you for your garden visit. Importantly, our website will always list any late additions or cancellations to our garden opening program.

<http://opengardensa.org.au/>

Open Gardens SA 2021 Spring Calendar

Entry Fee \$8 per Adult, Limited Concessions available, Under 18 free.

PLEASE NOTE:

In these uncertain and variable times, it is important to confirm garden openings by checking our webpage. Garden openings will adhere to Government directions applicable to COVID-19.

September 2021

04 - 05

*Avondale 1, 146 Avondale Road, Rhynie
Battye Farm, 1 Battye Road Encounter Bay*

11 - 12

Rosie and Mick's Garden, 4 Graetz Terrace, Springton

19 Sunday ONLY

Al-Ru Farm, 1016 One Tree Hill Road, One Tree Hill. (Plant Fair and open garden)

25 - 26

The Working Persons Garden, 11 Ringmer Drive, Burnside

26 Sunday ONLY

Marybank Farm, 404 Montacute Road, Rostrevor

October 2021

02 – 03 – 04

Avondale 2, 146 Avondale Road, Rhynie

09 – 10

*Crabapple Cottage, 1 Jean Street, Leabrook
TickleTank, 24 Hill Street, Mt Barker
Denise's Garden, 99 Burnbank Way, Mt Barker
ElderHood House, 12 Prospect Road, Pt Lincoln*

16 – 17

*The Garden at Wilpena Street, 41 Wilpena Street, Eden Hills
St Marys Vineyard, 563 V & A Lane, Maaoupe (near Penola)
Spring Calendar continued next page.*



Denise's Garden, Mt Barker



ElderHood House, Pt Lincoln



Garden at Wilpena Street, Eden Hills



St Marys Vineyard, Maaoupe (near Penola)



Bostonvista, Boston (Port Lincoln)



Tegfan, Stirling

Open Gardens SA

2021 Spring Calendar – *Continued.*

Entry Fee \$8 per Adult, Limited Concessions available, Under 18 free.

October 2021 *Continued*

23 – 24

Bostonvista, 125 Howard Avenue, Boston (Port Lincoln)

Tegfan, 6 Bracken Road, Stirling

30 – 31

Ashgrove Iris Garden, 53-55 Albert Street (cnr Randell Terrace), Gumeracha

Kenton Park, 437 Torrens Valley Road, Gumeracha

Lelant, 1 Waller Drive, Clare

November 2021

06 – 07

Botathan, 51 Hunt Road, Mt Barker

Tweed Cottage, 54 Woodside Road, Lobethal

13 – 14

The Station Masters House, 4 New Road, Clare

Doole Garden, 95 Montarra Road, Dingabledinga (near Willunga)

14 – Sunday ONLY

Etre, 10 Delaney Avenue, Willunga

20 – 21

Cooinda, 8 Fowler Road, Mt George

Heatherby, 29 Longwood Road, Stirling

27 – 28 November

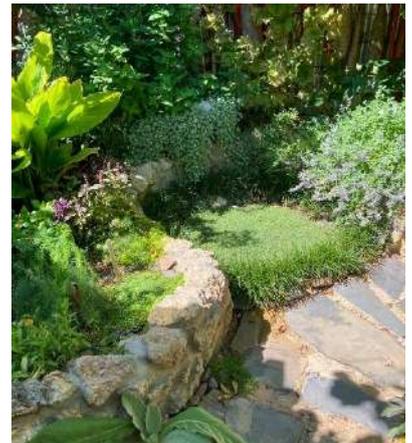
Beverina, 2 Silver Road, Bridgewater



The Station Masters House, Clare



Doole Garden, Dingabledinga (near Willunga)



Etre, Willunga



Ashgrove Iris Garden, Gumeracha



Lelant, Clare



Cooinda, Mt George



Botathan, Mt Barker



Tweed Cottage, Lobethal



Beverina, Bridgewater



Open Gardens SA Selector Awarded the Pelzer Prize for SA Environmental Heroes.



Gardener and nature lover, Jill Woodlands has won the \$10,000 Pelzer Prize to dedicate towards an environmental cause for SA environment heroes.

Jill is one of the Open Gardens SA valued garden selectors, and the committee of OGSA is delighted to lean of this exciting news! Congratulations Jill.

Jill received the award for "her many efforts to reconnect people with their planet". Apparently, Jill wasn't even aware she had been nominated!

Jill is a gardener, a nature person, a communicator, and a consummate connector. Jill is also a manager of the Diggers shop at the Adelaide Botanic Gardens and is also the Nature Program Curator for the Nature Festival SA. She has also been at the heart of other vital nature programs including the Parklands Project, @zoodletv and Amongst It. Jill is also founder member and organiser for the Mediterranean Garden Society.

The Pelzer Prize is a new award for the state's green heroes, conservation leaders and champions of the environment and has been created and named in honour of Adelaide's first city gardener. *The Advertiser* and *Sunday Mail*, together with Green Adelaide, the University of Adelaide Environment Institute and the Australian Science Media Centre, launched the Pelzer Prize. The awards ceremony was held on the 26 August 2021.

OGSA also offer our congratulations to all commended nominees across the 12 categories of these awards.

August Wilhelm Pelzer

By Jude Elton, History Trust of South Australia

Landscape gardener and horticulturalist August Wilhelm Pelzer was appointed by the Adelaide City Council as 'City Gardener' in August 1899. By the time of his retirement in 1932 at the age of 70, Pelzer had done much to change the appearance and atmosphere of Adelaide. His landscape designs and plantings of trees transformed many of the city's streets, squares and parks.

August Pelzer was born in 1862 in Bremen, Germany. He trained in horticulture and landscape gardening at the Royal Horticultural



College in Geisenheim before completing an apprenticeship at IC Schmidt's nursery in Erfurt, Saxony. Once qualified, Pelzer worked for local authorities in Berlin and Hamburg. Pelzer then moved to England and was employed at the nursery of F Sanders & Co., St Albans where he became familiar with English garden design.

In 1886 August Pelzer joined his extended family in Adelaide. They had arrived with other German migrants to South Australia in the 1840s and 1850s. Pelzer soon obtained employment and developed a productive working relationship with the nursery of Charles Newman & Sons. Through Newman, Pelzer designed and planted large suburban gardens for several prominent Adelaide families. Private clients included Chief Secretary James Vincent O'Loghlin.

August Pelzer gained great respect Australia-wide for his knowledge and experience in arboriculture, floriculture and landscape gardening. He was invited to speak at a major conference on tree planting in Ballarat, Victoria in 1927 and served as a judge for Adelaide and Melbourne gardening competitions. He also advised local councils.

Following his retirement Pelzer continued to serve as an official adviser to the Adelaide City Council. He died suddenly two years later, leaving a wife, a son and a daughter. He was buried in North Road Cemetery, Nailsworth.

Theatre in the Garden - Noël Coward's hidden gem set to shine under Blue Skies!



This January 2022, *Open Gardens SA* and *Blue Sky Theatre* are presenting outdoor performances of *Present Laughter*, one of Noël Coward's lesser-known comedies, in three of SA's finest gardens.

It tells the story of famous and fabulous superstar Garry Essendine who's preparing for an overseas tour. His life spirals into chaos as lovers and fans swoop on him in rapid succession. The night before he sails, all hell breaks loose in a whirlwind of sex, panic and soul-searching.

According to the director, Dave Simms, *Present Laughter* is a giddy and modern reflection on fame, desire and loneliness; people familiar with Coward's comedies are in for a surprise.

"Our production is fast-paced and provocative with several twists," smiles Dave. "We're setting the story on Garry's swish patio where remarkable people in beautiful costumes sweep into the garden wreaking havoc as they go."

Set in pre-war London, the cheeky comedy is packed with Coward's wicked wit.

"Garry and his glamorous entourage gossip about everyone, drink too much and sleep around," says Dave. "We're out to prove that 'sex, drugs and rock'n'roll' were around long before the 60s."



Blue Sky Theatre's garden productions are a popular summer favourite starring many regular performers, including Simon Barnett, Ashley Bell, Robert Bell, Rachel Burfield, Joshua Coldwell, Lee Cook, Miriam Keane, Michelle Nightingale, Nicole Rutty, Angela Short and Leighton Vogt.

As performances are outdoors, there's plenty of room to enjoy a picnic washed down with a drink from the bar. It'll be another colourful and energetic experience under the stars.

Present Laughter will be staged between January 7 and 23 at Crozier Hill near Victor Harbor, The Cedars in Hahndorf and Wittunga Botanic Garden in Blackwood.

Tickets are \$35 and go on sale on 19th September 2021.

Available at:

<https://www.blueskytheatre.com.au/>

WHERE:

7, 8 & 9 January 2022
Crozier Hill, *VICTOR HARBOR*.

14, 15 & 16 January 2022
The Cedars, *HAHNDORF*.

21, 22 & 23 January 2022
Wittunga Botanic Garden, *BLACKWOOD*.

All shows start at 6.30pm. Bar available. Bring your own picnic!



Kenton Park, Gumeracha



Heatherby, Stirling



Five stunning orchids to look for in South Australia.

Shared from:

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/goodliving/posts/2017/11/native-orchids> Published 09 September 2019.

The true beauty of nature is perfectly summed up in some of SA's native orchids. Which of these can you find?

In South Australia, there are more than 350 species of native orchids. They play an important role in nature – knowing how many there are and where they are found can give us an indication of the environment's health.

However, some of these fascinating plants are endangered, including the delicate looking [bayonet spider-orchid \(*Caladenia gladiolata*\)](#), with its maximum of two flowers, and the [pink-lipped spider-orchid \(*Caladenia behrii*\)](#), which, like all spider orchids, has only one leaf.

There's also the closed-fingers orchid (*Caladenia cleistantha*), a [rare species found in tiny numbers on the Fleurieu Peninsula](#). It's an unusual looking plant because it has just a single flower that never really opens.

Around the world, most orchids grow on rock surfaces, trees or on other host plants. The technical name for this trait is 'epiphytic'. SA orchids are unusual though because they grow directly in the ground.

Orchids can be pollinated by native bees, native wasps, native flies, ants and fungus gnats, or they can self-pollinate, which means they don't need assistance to reproduce.

Different orchids flower at different times of the year. But with some species being as small as 2 cm, you could easily walk straight past them – or even worse, tread on them by accident.

Here are five you might like to look out for:

1. Pink hyacinth orchid (*Dipodium roseum*)

Growing up to 1 m tall, you would think this orchid would be easy to spot. But because it has no leaves, and is just a stem before its flowers open, it might still be a bit of a challenge.



(Image courtesy of Robert Lawrence).

This species, like most SA orchids, has a tongue – technically a labellum. The pink hyacinth orchid has a stripy tongue, something that sets it apart from its rare spotty cousin the *D. paradalinum*.

The flowers for this species are out and about from November to February.

2. Fire orchid (*Pyrorchis nigricans*)

Known as the red-beak, undertaker or black fire orchid, this spring flowering native species grows up to 30 cm tall and has a particularly important relationship with fire.

Without fire, they rarely flower – so you're more likely to see just the flat, ground-hugging green and red leaves of this species, sometimes the size of a small saucer, than their maroon and white flowers.

The name 'black fire orchid' relates to the way its flowers and leaves turn black after the plant has finished flowering. Surprisingly, even when the flowers are dead and dried out, they still keep their shape.

This species self-pollinates but it is unknown whether it is also pollinated by anything else.



(Image courtesy of Jason Tyndall)

3. Veined helmet orchid (syn *Corysanthes diemenica*)

At a tiny 2 cm tall, you will need to keep your eyes peeled to spot the veined helmet orchid when it flowers in July

and August. They grow in groups though – also referred to as colonies – so that might make them a tad easier to find.

Look for a flower that resembles a gum nut from above. If you have a magnifying glass, you’ll notice that this tiny flower also has tiny teeth!



(Image courtesy of David Manglesdorf)

4. Spotted donkey orchid (*Diuris pardina*)

With its spotty flower and two big ‘ears’ (which are actually flower petals), you can see why this species is known as the spotted donkey orchid. You might also hear it referred to as the leopard orchid – also self-explanatory.

The flower of this species is about 3 cm across, and the entire plant is about 40 cm high. You’ll find it flowering from August through to October.

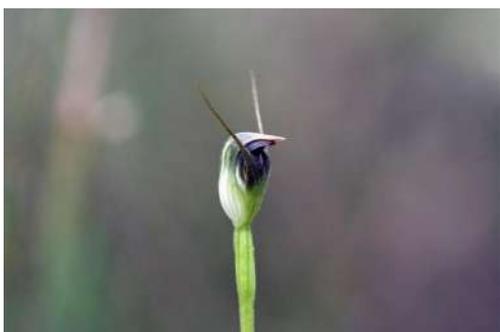


(Image courtesy of Kris Kopicki)

5. Maroon-hood (*Pterostylis pedunculata*)

This bizarre-looking orchid is found in colonies and reaches a maximum of 30 cm tall. Its flower is shaped like a hood and looks as though it has two aerials sticking out of it.

It has veiny leaves that grow on the ground in a flat rosette, and is pollinated by a fungus gnat. You’ll spot this flower from late July to October.



(Image courtesy of Jason Tyndall)

Protecting our plants.

Just remember that under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act*, plants of any type cannot be taken from parks or reserves. If you want a souvenir, a photo is the best option – so make sure you pack your camera!

These beautiful orchids are featured in the [Native orchids ID chart](#) and [Creature features publication](#) produced by [Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges](#).

This story was originally posted in November 2017.

Like what you just read? There’s plenty more where this came from. Make sure you don’t miss a post by subscribing to Good Living’s weekly e-news:

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/goodliving/home>



Native orchids photographed in the grounds of Stangate House, Aldgate, 25 August 2021.





Delightful Spring Daffodils.

Open Gardens South Australia is a not for profit organisation opening private gardens to the general public.

The purpose of Open Gardens SA is to educate and promote the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening in South Australia and to build strong public support for the development of gardens.

Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening.

Our mailing address is:

Open Gardens SA Inc
PO Box 1184
STIRLING SA 5152

Website: <http://opengardens.org.au/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/opengardens/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/opengardens/?hl=en>

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Editors: Di Michalk and Trevor Nottle.

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