

MARGARET MacDONALD OAM

When she retired from teaching, Margaret envisaged taking three years off to relax and do nothing. But her sister, Kath Morgan who was battling cancer, persuaded Margaret to take up a position with the environmental group ANGAIR Inc (Anglesea, Aireys Inlet Society for the Protection of Flora and Fauna). Margaret recognised and appreciated the fragile nature and special environmental values of the area and, although she had no formal training in botany, quickly became one of its most impassioned and fearless advocates and an authority on the local indigenous flora.

In 2009, ANGAIR published *Flowers of Anglesea & Aireys Inlet*, a field guide to the local flora. Margaret was the Editor, coordinator, principal author, photographer and driving force behind the book that is proving to be an invaluable guide to the flora of the district.

There is no disputing Margaret is a stalwart of ANGAIR, but her conservation activities have not been restricted to that group, evident when one considers the long list of other activities, projects, organisations and bodies to which she has contributed as a leader or team member. By personal example, Margaret has inspired volunteers in the Anglesea/Aireys Inlet district for many years. It is true to say she is an individual who is making a difference.

Margaret, who is a member of ANOS Vic and ANOS Geelong, has given presentations to both societies and has been our guide on numerous outings to her area. She is a regular contributor to the Geelong Group's Bulletin and, with the late Everett Foster OAM, is co-author of *A Field Guide to the Orchids*

By ANGAIR Inc and Helene Wilde of the Anglesea District (now in its third edition). She is widely recognised as an expert on the terrestrial orchids of the district.

With their keen eyes and attention to detail, Margaret and her sister Kath were responsible for the rediscovery of Merran's Sun Orchid (*Thelymitra x merraniae*) at Moggs Creek and Fairhaven, a species that, for 63 years, was thought to be extinct in that area. Margaret also discovered the Angahook Caladenia (*Caladenia maritima*) - a new and endangered species endemic to Anglesea. She has conducted annual surveys of these species, has been instrumental in having their sites protected, and has lobbied to have them listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.

In 2008, she recorded the first observation of the Striped Greenhood (*Pterostylis chlorogramma*) at Moggs Creek.

Margaret loves the beautiful coastal heath lands where she lives, and doesn't see her conservation efforts as hard work. She says volunteering has given her a real purpose in life; and she never has to wonder what she is going to do today.

Margaret regularly sets up a terrestrial orchid display at the annual ANGAIR Wildflower Show, and her orchid excursions are quickly booked out.

Margaret MacDonald received an OAM for her service to conservation and the environment in the Eastern Otway region.

Editor: Many thanks to ANGAIR who nominated Margaret for this award and who supplied the photograph and most of the information in this citation.



Margaret MacDonald OAM



Helen Richards
photograph by Barry Richards

AUSTRALIAN DECIDUOUS TERRESTRIAL ORCHIDS

Available as....

Bare root plants: May – August

Dormant tubers: November – February

Easily grown species and hybrids from a range of genera including: *Caladenia*, *Chiloglottis*, *Corybas*, *Cyrtostylis*, *Diplodinium*, *Diuris*, *Microtis*, *Pterostylis* and *Thelymitra*.

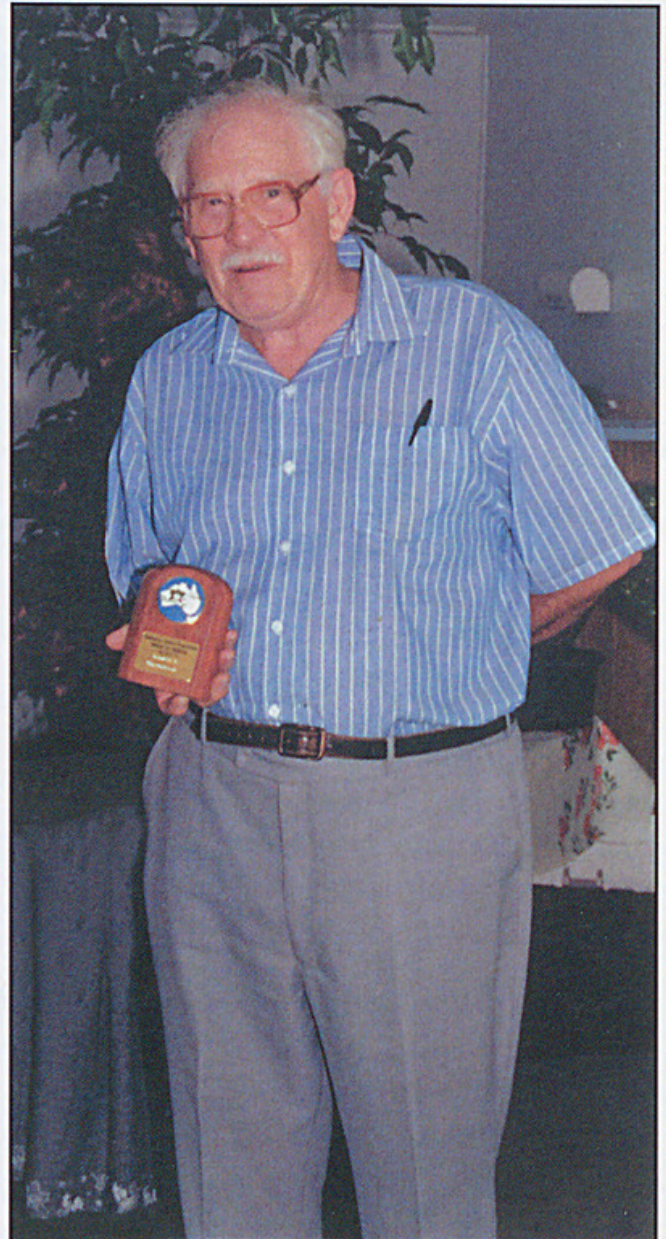
NESBITTS ORCHIDS

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Wilde, Helene. 2011. "Margaret MacDonald OAM." *The Orchadian* 16(11), 487–488.

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