

Professor Stephen D. Hopper FLS, Director

Kew

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POSSIBILITIES

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Mr Alan Stephenson
President,
Australasian Native Orchid Society
Illawarra Group

21 May 2010

Dear Mr Stephenson

I have no hesitation in supporting a nomination of Dr Colin Bower for the R D Fitzgerald Trophy. Colin's work on orchid pollination, undertaken primarily in his own time over more than two decades, is recognised nationally and internationally as meticulous, and ground-breaking. He has been consistently rigorous in testing hypotheses about pollinator specificity in Australian orchids using bait flowers in the field. The insights gained and papers published are world class. The findings have helped significantly in unravelling the taxonomy and phylogeny of species complexes of orchids and of wasps involved especially in pollination through sexual deception. There are also major learnings relevant to conservation strategies.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely



Professor Stephen D Hopper, FLS
Director

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