## THE AUSTRALIAN ORCHID FOUNDATION

Essay Competition 2017 3rd Prize Winner

by Spikey Riddoch

## "Orchid Ailments And Their Management"

A mournful Thelymitra Partly cloudy day Twisted in a gust of wind Turned to me to say

Where's all the pollen? I used to taste lots more Where've all the bugs gone? For that's what bugs are for

I used to feel their gentle caress Bearing news of what's around Now they tell of so much less of mostly barren ground

Bitumen and concrete gravel road, firewood habitat and homes to many mostly misunderstood

Clearfell and plantation species I don't like Biocides and bumblebees they can take a hike

Alas, I said it's all too true your habitat is shrinking and to some your importance too with economical thinking

Fear not said I, we're not all blind There's many adore ya blue We'll raise awareness, try to be kind To the ecosystems that support you