**Diuris Project Update Oct 2019**  Les Nesbitt

In the early years of the project the strongest plants were selected for replanting at the mine site because it was believed that they would have a better chance of survival. Reports of successful reintroductions and flowering allowed more scope for a different approach. For the past 2 years I have retained the 3 largest daughter plants of each clone and sent most of the remaining plants back to the mine site. Stronger plants with larger tubers perform better after tuber removal resulting in increased plant numbers so more plants are available for replanting in future years. A side benefit is increased flowering plants in my shadehouse. This Spring approximately 100 daughter plants flowered creating a carpet of yellow on the bench.

Tuber removal commenced on the 19th September and was halted on the 17th October after 15mm rain saturated all the pots not under cover. At my location in the Adelaide Hills, mid-October is the nominal cutoff for tuber removal to give enough time for extra tubers to form before dormancy. On the Adelaide plains this process would start and finish weeks earlier. The removed tubers are potted singly to grow on next season. The magic happens in the pots containing a clump of plants of the same clone the have had the new tubers removed. Extra small tubers form over the next 4-6 weeks as long as the pots are kept watered. Clones with few daughter tubers were the first to have their tubers removed this year because it looks good on my record chart to not have empty squares. The last flower faded on the 23rd October after several hot days. A healthy crop of seed pods was developing at this time.