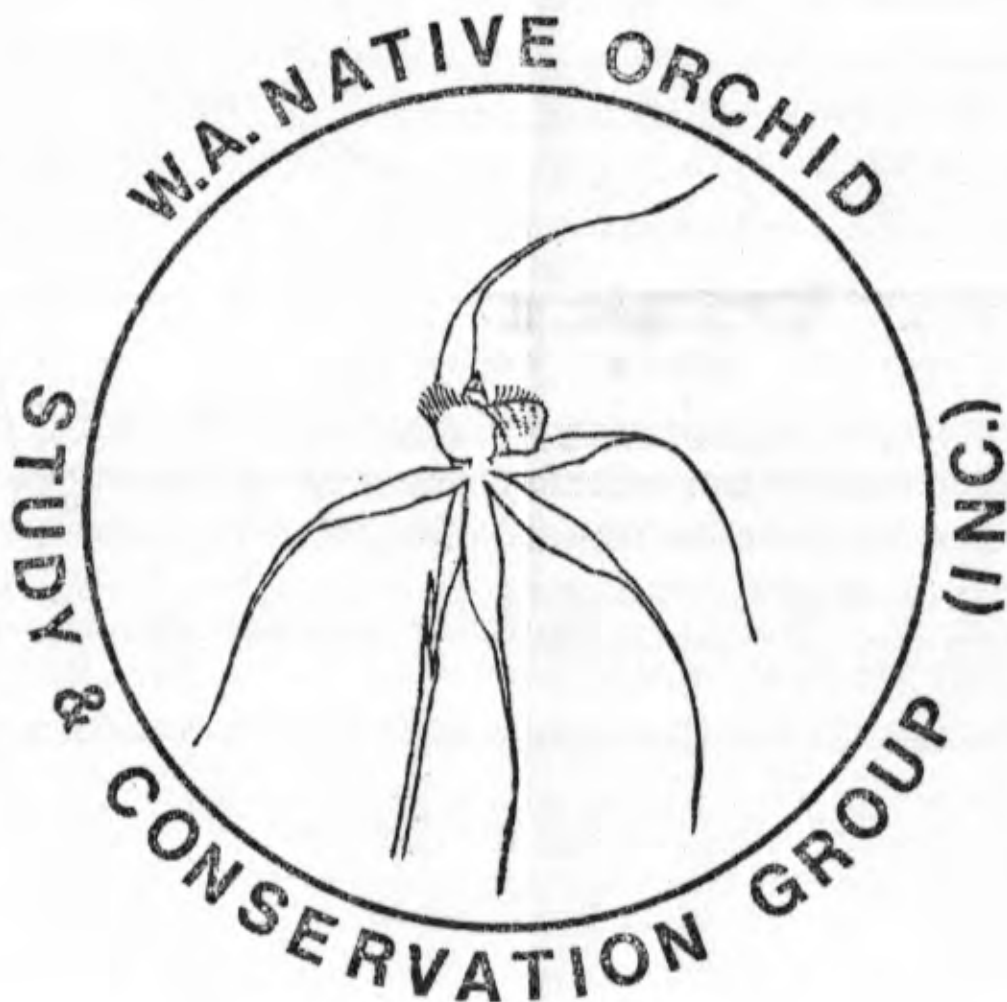


OFFICIAL BULLETIN



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The next committee meeting will be held at WAIT Social Sciences Building at 8.00 pm 27th February 1979.

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The general meeting will be held at the Department of Agriculture Film Room, Jarrah Road, South Perth at 8.00 pm 2nd March 1979.

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The Annual General Meeting was held on 2nd February 1979 and the main business was the election of office bearers for 1979.

Patron	Sir Crawford Nalder
President	Mr L. Sheppard
Vice Presidents	Mr A. Brown Mrs J. Long
Secretary	Mr J. Rance
Treasurer	Mrs M. Stewart
Committee	M/s L. Penny Mrs J. Tonduitt Mrs F. Gordon Mr D. Emery
Registrar	Mr R. Brown
Culture Registrar	Mrs A. Harrington
Librarian	Mrs F. Gordon
Asst. Librarian	Mr T. Wilson
Auditor	Mrs A. Harrington
Reserve Wardens	Mr D. Emery Mr M. Leece
Hon. Botanical Adviser	Mr A.S. George

We have a request from South Australia for the swapping of tubers.

Any member interested can contact:

Mr Alby Phillips

A reminder from the Treasurer that all fees are now due.

Single	\$4.00
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Double	\$5.00
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Single (Country)	\$3.00
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Double (Country)	\$3.50
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As this is the start of a new year, I must appeal to members to participate in making this bulletin interesting by submitting articles or reports of their observations and findings.

Printer's apology:

I must apologise for the standard of printing in the bulletin last month. We had bought another duplicator, mechanical faults and an unfamiliar machine contributed to the poor standard of reproduction.

DON'T FORGET THE OPPORTUNITY TABLE FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

With the State currently celebrating its 150th year, it is appropriate to look back into history and recognize the contribution of the early botanists and settlers of what was then a harsh and inhospitable land. Their efforts in the field revealed to England and Europe the unique and bizarre beauty of our indigenous terrestrials.

Although our State officially began with the 'Stirling' colonizing party landing at the Swan River in 1829, Lockyer had already established an outpost settlement at King George Sound in 1827. Flinders and Baudin had visited during their scientific exploratory expeditions in 1801 - 1803. Vancouver however, in 1791 had explored and named King George Sound, adjacent islands and what we now know as Princess Royal and Oyster Harbours.

As botanical specimens, paintings, drawings and records filtered back to England and Europe from these exploratory visits they created a sensation for their strangely different beauty. This triggered off visits by scientists and botanists to investigate this strange new land. Menzies, Brown, Leschenault and Drummond visited Australia and together with enthusiastic settlers were involved in collecting and classifying these new additions to the world's Orchidaceae - one of the largest families of all plant life. Lindley, Reichenbach, Benth and Endlicher did not visit Australia but did valuable work in studying specimens sent back to Europe.

The next wave of enthusiasts came from botanists within Australia and authoritative visitors assisted by local people to the fast developing state of Western Australia where transport and access had improved immeasurably. By 1950 Mueller, Fitzgerald, Schlechter, Rogers, Sargent, Diels, Andrews, Domin, Coleman, Nicholls and Rupp had all made their contributions.

Then followed many botanists and enthusiasts all active in a common field - studying, recording, naming and

contributing to the knowledge of our Orchidaceae. A major factor in stimulating interest was the publishing of numerous attractive and informative books, beginning with Emily Pelloe in 1930 followed by Rica Erickson, Nicholls, Blackall, Watson-Sharp, Cady, Densey Clyne, Pocock and others. The first two being exclusively West Australian. Strangely all these authors were dedicated lay people. This wealth of pictorial and written material stimulated a public interest both in the town and country gathering momentum to this day.

As a result of this "Orchid Books" explosion it was obvious there was considerable confusion in regard to names and the identification of numerous 'unidentifiables'. In 1960 the W.A. Herbarium decided to conduct a revision of orchid names and launched a thorough and exhaustive search at the various herbaria in Australia, England and Europe. The revised check list in 'Nuytsia' Vol. 1 No 2 1971 was readily available to all interested people. This was a major work and achievement and the Herbarium is to be congratulated. The work remains an important and useful book of reference available to botanists and enthusiasts alike.

Unfortunately five attractive books containing W.A. material had been published between 1970 and 1972 which all became outdated. Further it was fore-shadowed more work was required to establish the separation of some difficult groups in the genera of Prasophyllum, Diuris, Caladenia, Pterostylis, Thelymitra and Drakaea leaving some orchids without names and many others unidentified.

In 1974 a group of orchid lovers formed the W.A. Native Orchid Society in Perth (now changed to the W.A. Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group Inc.) with the objects of adding to the already extensive knowledge and to encourage other enthusiasts to conserve, grow and assist the Herbarium. The group has certainly lived up to its new name, having established its own orchid garden at Hollywood Perth where many terrestrials can be seen growing. Another achievement was pressing to have an area at Bakers Junction Albany declared a Flora and Fauna reserve to conserve the 19 genera and 80 species growing there. The group is currently involved in assisting the Herbarium in the revision of Rica Erickson's book 'Orchids of the West'. The goal is a complete and comprehensive book containing the full knowledge to date of W.A. Orchidaceae and in doing this we should not forget those who have contributed during the past 150 years and before.