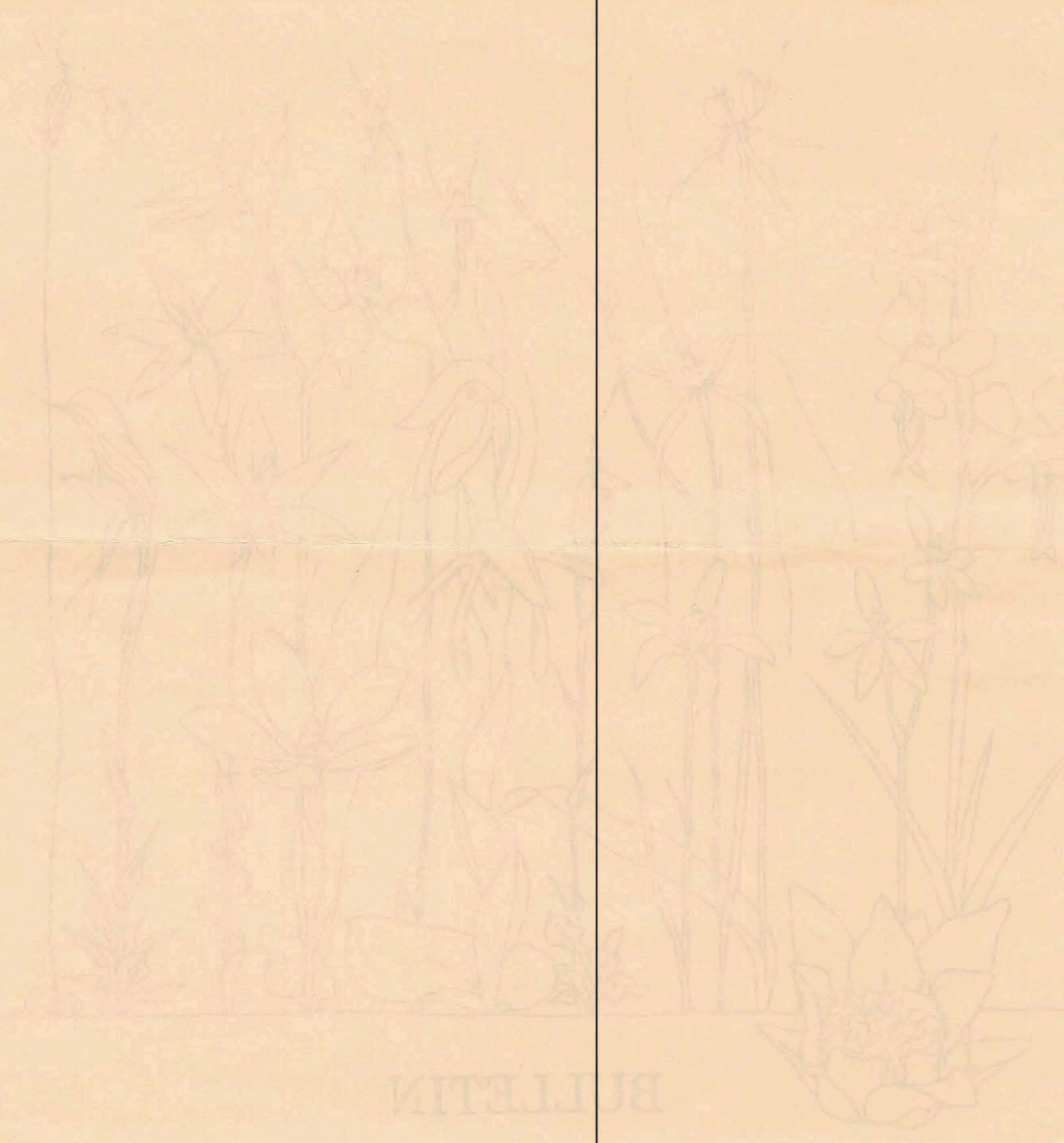


**BULLETIN**  
*of the*  
**Western Australian Native Orchid  
Study and Conservation Group (Inc.)**

meetings held third Wednesday each month  
in Kings Park Board Administration Centre,  
Fraser Ave Kings Park

**March 1986**



# BULLETIN

## Western Australian Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group (Inc.)

meetings held third Wednesday each month  
in Kings Park Board Administration Centre  
Fraser Ave Kings Park

March 1988



OFFICE BEARERS 1986

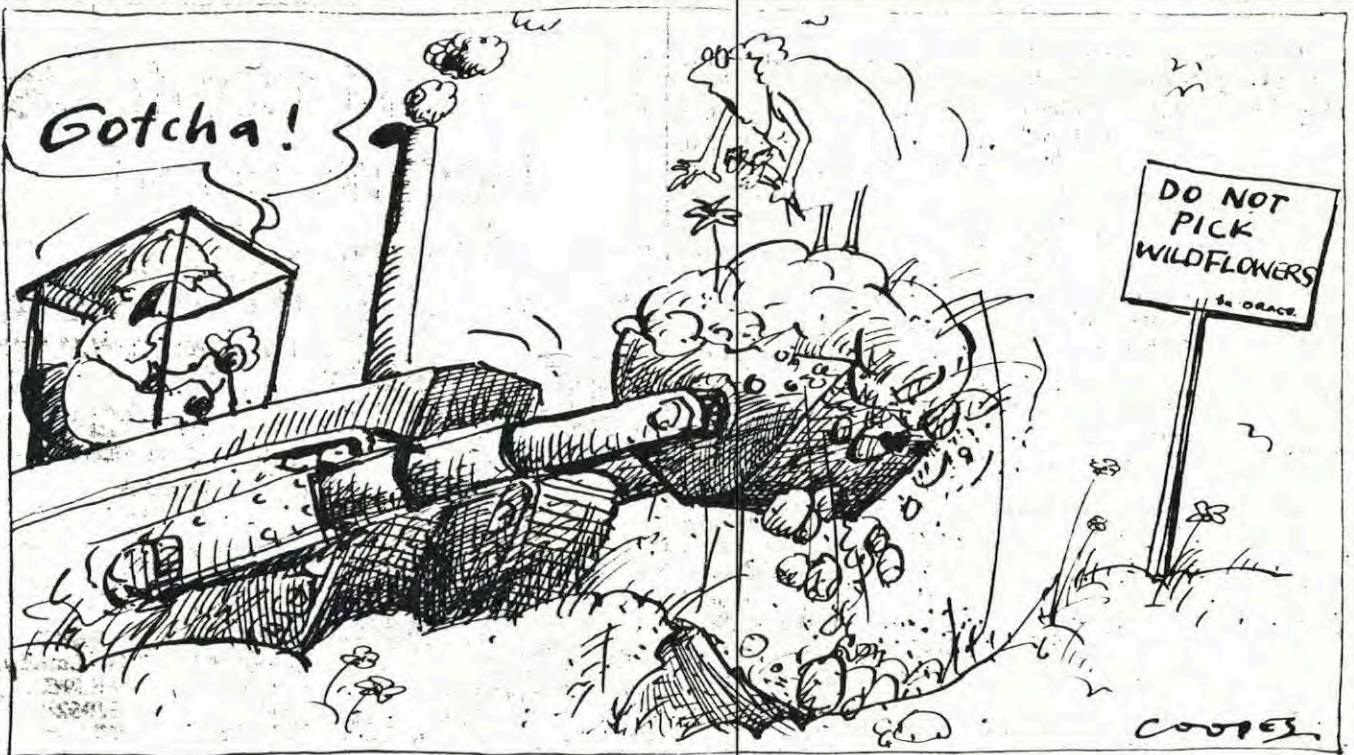
Patron:	Mrs J Holmes a'Court
President:	Kingeley Dixon Kings Park & Botanic Gardens, West Perth, 6005
Vice President:	John Tonkinson
Immediate Past President:	Noel Clark
Secretary :	Stephen Van Leeuwin
Treasurer:	Lionel Johnston
Field Trip Co-ordinator:	Sid Gibbings
Registrar/ Field Cultivation	Stephen Hopper
Editor :	K Jones
Librarian:	Bevan Buirchell
Committee Members:	Don Graham
	Wayne Merritt

POSTAL ADDRESS OF WANOSCG:

P O Box 323, Victoria Park WA 6100

NOTE

Opinions expressed by contributors to this Bulletin are not specifically endorsed by the Group.





## THE WEST AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHID STUDY & CONSERVATION GROUP

### OBJECTS OF THE GROUP:

- a. To promote interest in and preserve Western Australian indigenous orchids.
- b. To learn the best means of cultivation and do all things possible for the conservation of native orchids in their natural environment.
- c. To learn their habitats and keep records.
- d. To have field days and learn to recognise the different genera and species.
- e. To hold meetings for the exchanging of knowledge and furthering of interest in Western Australian orchids.
- f. To affiliate with kindred organizations.
- g. To make rules for the governing of the Group's domestic affairs.
- h. To do all such other lawful things as are incidental to or conducive to the attainment of the above objects or any of them.

### NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

7.30pm Wednesday, 19 March 1986

### NEXT GENERAL MEETING

8.00pm Wednesday, 19 March 1986  
Kings Park Board Administration Centre.

Speakers: Wayne Merritt will give a talk on Orchid experiences in New Zealand including a visit to the Rotorua Orchid House.

Kingsley Dixon will speak on Orchids of the Kimberley Region.

### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In this months Bulletin are a Statement of Receipts and Payments, a Statement of Income and Expenditure and a Balance Sheet to 31 January 1986. None of these have been audited.

The Statement of Income and Expenditure gives a true picture of expenses and income for 1985/6. It relates only to the transactions for the year.

L K JOHNSTON.

### 1986 FEES

These are due now! \$10.00 per member or member family.

2  
W. A . NATIVE ORCHID STUDY & CONSERVATION GROUP (INC)

Statement of Income & Expenditure for the year  
ended 31 January 1986

	<u>1985/6</u> \$	<u>1984/5</u> \$
INCOME		
Fees	813	670
Profit from sale of books, badges & cards	462	282
raffles profit	157	97
Suppers	65	43
Bank Interest	52	33
Field trips (including a donation of \$168)	101	38
Donation	25	-
	<u>1,675</u>	<u>1,163</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Bulletin	623	431
Affiliation fees	20	20
Stationery, postage & petty cash	151	98
Post office box	21	20
Presentations	12	10
Federal & State taxes	6	7
	<u>833</u>	<u>586</u>
EXCESS ( Income over expenditure)	<u>\$ 842</u>	<u>\$ 577</u>

Balance Sheet at 31 January 1986

Members funds		
Balance at 1 February 1985	\$ 929	\$ 352
Add : excess income 1985/6	842	577
Balance at 31 January 1986	<u>\$1,771</u>	<u>\$ 929</u>
Assets		
Cash at bank	1,786	753
Debtors	21	146
Stock of publications	192	70
	<u>1,999</u>	<u>969</u>
Liabilities		
Fees paid in advance	90	40
Sundry Ceditors	<u>138</u>	-
	<u>228</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$1,771</u>	<u>\$ 929</u>



3  
WA NATIVE ORCHID STUDY & CONSERVATION GROUP (INC)

Statement of Receipts & Payments for the year ended  
31 January 1986

		<u>1985/6</u>	<u>1984/5</u>
		\$	\$
Balance at bank 1 February 1985		<u>753</u>	<u>547</u>
RECEIPTS			
Raffles		160	97
Suppers		65	48
Fees		773	640
Fees in advance		90	40
Book sales - books and cards	\$1,861		2,997
- badges and stickers etc	<u>41</u>	1,902	25
Donation		25	
Field Trips - members	574		103
- donation	<u>168</u>	742	
Bank Interest		<u>52</u>	<u>33</u>
		<u>3,809</u>	<u>3,983</u>
		<u>4,562</u>	<u>4,530</u>
PAYMENTS			
Raffle prizes / supper costs		3	5
Bulletin Costs - monthly	507		431
- supplement	<u>330</u>	837	
Affiliation Fees		20	20
General, stationery, petty cash etc		151	98
Presentations		12	10
Post office box rental		21	20
Field trips		641	65
Book sales - books and cards	1,045		2,974
- badages and stickers etc	<u>40</u>	1,085	147
Bank charges and stamp duty		<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
		<u>2,776</u>	<u>3,777</u>
Balance at bank 31 January 1986		<u>1,786</u>	<u>753</u>

FIELD TRIPS '86

Owing to the unpredictable nature of the seasons it is somewhat difficult to plan our trips in advance but the following programme is suggested as a guide.

The committee has only suggested major trips because shorter, or one day trips, can be arranged as the season progresses.

Details of each trip will be published in the Bulletin prior to the trip and at meetings.

Sunday, April 27th

A one day trip to the Goodale reserve near Pinjarra to review our last year's sighting of the leafless orchid C. appylla.

May 31st, June 1st and 2nd long weekend

A somewhat major excursion to try for the underground orchid Rhizanthella gardneri in another location, with Prasophyllum nigricans as a side issue. The venue here is area from Goomalling to Corrigin.

June 21st or 22nd

A trip to Ledge Point to see the local variation of Thel variegata, and to check out the extensive burnt areas.

August 23rd and 24th

This will be a trip to the south coastal areas in the vicinity of Northcliffe, to seek out some unusual Corybas (helmet orchids).

September 7th

Almost a local jaunt this time to Yalgorup for more Corybas, including the famed 1.6km long strip of Corybas!

September 27th, 28th and 29th

A trip to a new area; Jerramungup/Ongerup, to look for the rare Thelymitra psammophila.

December 13th and 14th

The south coast again but further west from Northcliffe to Augusta. Late flowering Caladenias will be the treat on this trip (see article this issue by Wayne Merritt).

SID GIBBINGS.



## A SOUTH COAST JAUNT

On 10th of December I was fortunate in being able to meet up with Steve Hopper, Andrew Brown and Sue Patrick who were on an official C.A.L.M. field trip.

We met at the local Inn at Margaret River.

After a few drinks and a meal we were finally able to drag Andrew away from 'Mary Xmas' and onto Greg and Mary Bussell's. Greg showed us an interesting array of slides from the south west corner.

11/12 Greg and Mary showed us locations from Margaret River down to and including Augusta.

At all stops we sighted Caladenia Corynephora, C. sp. (Albany spider, page 65 B & H), Prasophyllum Brownii and P. Reguem (one over 1.8m).

In a swamp behind the Augusta rubbish tip Diuris Emarginata var Paueiflora was in full flower.

Greg and Mary left us after Augusta.

Next stop Alexander Bridge. The Albany Spider was the only flowering species found there.

10km east on Brookman Highway in a burnt area the late flowering Caladenia sp. (page 69 B & H).

Along 4 Acres Road on the Scott River plain Thelymitra tigrina, Microtis rara, M. alba and M. unifolia.

Next stop was on the Pemberton - Northcliffe Road previously visited on the October long-weekend trip, here some Lyperanthus Forrestii were still flowering.

Just south of Mt Chudulup around the edge of a gravel dump on the Windy Harbour Road, C. corynephora, the Albany Spider.

3km further south, Epiblema grandiflora and T. tigrina were both flowering along the road verge.

Bert and Babs Wells joined us for the evening meal at the Northcliffe Hotel or rather we joined them.

(Most unusual, we were late and dirty).

Next morning George Gardner accompanied us to a spot approx. 20km east of Northcliffe to where Bert was busy photographing Gastrodia sesamoides being pollinated. Also flowering here was Caladenia sp. Huegellii complex, C. infundibularis, C. Longiclavata var magniclavata, and C. flava.

At a granite outcrop approx 2km further on T. fuscolutea (early flowering), T. crinita and Monadenia bracteata.

Here Steve and George discovered a rare Grevillea not formally recorded south of Kirup.

After lunch at George's we pushed on towards Walpole. A winter



wet burnt swamp approx 75km south of Manjimup yielded Prasophyllum Gibbosum (dark coloured form), T. tigrina. There was also a magnificent display of Pitcher plants (Cephalotus follicularis).

On a granite outcrop just north of Walpole Cryptostylis ovata and Gastrodia sesamoides.

On the outskirts of Walpole a burnt swamp, Microtis globula and M. pulchella, P. drummondii and P. regium.

After staying at Denmark overnight we headed home via Muir Highway and Manjimup. At Lake Muir we found Diuris emarginata var. emarginata. Palgarup Road north of Manjimup C. corynephora, M. Unifolia.

15km north of Manjimup we found a late flowering Caladenia and C. radiata, Elythranthera emarginata, M. unifolia, P. brownii.

All in all a very successful trip. Who would have believed it possible to see 29 flowering species in the middle of December.

Thanks to Steve, Andrew and Sue for having me along.

WAYNE MERRITT.

#### NEWS SPECIAL!!

W A Orchids feature on stamps.

In regard to Australian Native Orchids being featured on Australian Postage Stamps. I have been advised that Australia Post has chosen:

Caleana major  
Dendrobium nindii  
Elythranthera emarginata  
Thelymitra variegata

These species to be featured on Australian Postage Stamps that will be released during the course of Orchids Australia in Adelaide next September.

Also, I have been given to understand that other species may be used on the cover of the Commemorative Pack that will be available at that time.

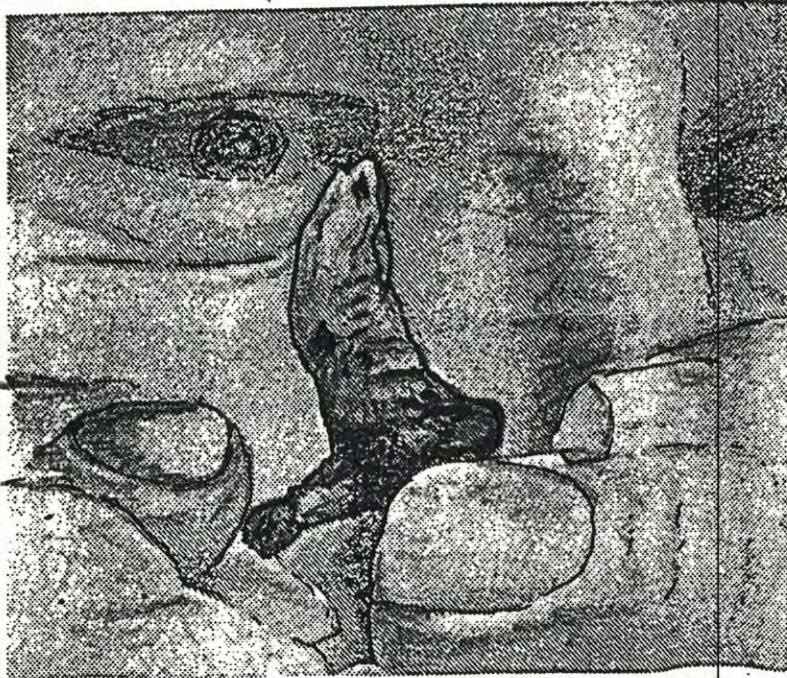
GERALD MC CRAITH

Members should note that the last two species are endemic to W.A. and represent a major coup of W.A. orchids over some very exotic eastern states species. The artwork for the W.A. species came from WANOSCG members' slides.

ED.



# ACT researcher finds underground orchid in NSW



Mr Mark Clements holds an example of *Rhizanthella slateri*, the underground orchid whose habitat he found at the weekend.

By GRAEME O'NEILL

destroy the orchids habitat by searching for further specimens.

He will say only that he found the orchid "somewhere between Sydney and the Lamington Plateau". The Lamington Plateau is inland from the Gold Coast.

It is understood that the botanic gardens will mount a formal scientific study of the orchid's biology, and believe that any disturbance at the site would make such a study impossible. Nothing is known of the orchid's biology.

The last specimen of *Rhizanthella slateri* was found more than a decade ago, and the species' rediscovery is expected to cause a sensation in international botanical circles.

Australia has the only two underground orchids in the world, and there is intense interest in their evolution and biology.

The two underground species are very unusual among the world's orchids in that they are saprophytes, living exclusively off decaying organic material in the soil, obtained through a symbiotic association with a mycorrhizal fungus which lives within the orchid's roots, and which aids nutrient gathering by breaking down organic material.

*Rhizanthella slateri*, like its Western Australian cousin, has forfeited its ability to obtain energy from

A researcher from the Australian National Botanic Gardens has made the botanical find of the decade — the habitat of the world's second species of underground orchid.

The researcher, Mr Mark Clements, an international authority on terrestrial orchids, made the discovery at the weekend after a search at an undisclosed site in coastal NSW.

Only five specimens of the orchid, *Rhizanthella slateri*, have been found since it was first discovered in the 1930s — all of them by chance.

The orchid is tiny — just a few centimetres in length — has no green tissue, and its leaves have been reduced to little more than scales on what passes for its "stem".

Mr Clements's specimen was not in flower, and he plans to return to the site in a few weeks' time to see if he can find a flowering specimen.

Mr Clements, who was elated at the find, managed to focus his search through his knowledge of the biology of the Western Australian species, *Rhizanthella gardeni*, which lives in association with the roots of a species of *Melaleuca*.

He indicated that the eastern Australian species also lives in association with the roots of a particular native plant, but would give no further information — in fact, he is avoiding giving any clues to the location of his find out of concern that amateur orchid collectors will be able to find the site and

the sun by photosynthesis, because it has no green tissue. Very few plants in the world lack photosynthesis tissue.

According to Mr Clements, the habitat of the orchid is already in some danger because it is not inside a botanical reserve, and is not far from human habitation.

Although the botanic gardens now has material from which it can clonally propagate the species, once its specific fungus has been isolated, its discovery raises a dilemma for its conservation in the wild.

Because of its cryptic habit — the only previous specimens were found by people digging or ploughing — it is at risk from any major disturbance of the surface layers of the soil.

But any move to preserve it by declaring a conservation reserve would immediately flag its location to dozens of amateur — though expert — botanists and orchid growers who would dearly love to add the species to their collections.

Although such amateur collectors have added considerably to scientific knowledge of rare orchid species, they have also been responsible for collecting extremely rare species from the wild for their private collections, thus placing the species at risk. Because of the often specialised biology of such species, amateur efforts to cultivate them are frequently a tragic failure.

## EPILOGUE.

A revisit to the site in December failed to locate further specimens.

Ed.

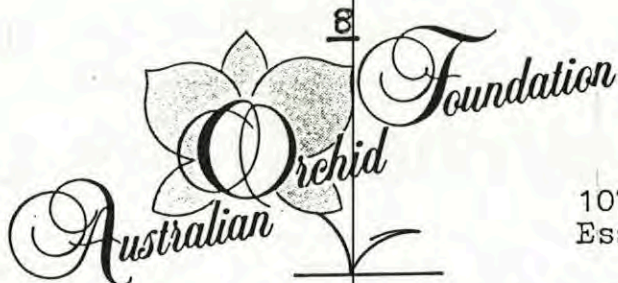


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Dr. Peter S. Lavarack  
Mr. John W. Wrigley  
Mr. Leonard J. Lawler  
Mr. David L. Jones  
Dr. Stephen Hopper



107 Roberts Street  
Essendon Victoria 3040

Book List as at 20th Sept 85.

The Foundation would be grateful if you would bring to the attention of your Members, and through your Bulletin, that the following publications are available.

The Orchidaceae of German New Guinea by R. Schlechter 1200 pp.

This is a major publication of the Foundation of the English translation of this basic work that covers nearly 1500 species. An informative brochure is available. The price includes postage to anywhere ....

\$150-00

A leather hand bound de luxe edition is also available at an extra 'at cost' of \$50-00

\$200-00.

Tropical Orchids of Australia by Lavarack & Gray 168 pp.

\$49-95.

An excellent publication .. 48 pp. of full colour, full page line drawings, an excellent format.

Revision of Dendrobium sect. Latouria by Phillip Cribb

\$17-50.

New reprint just arrived, reprint from Kew Bulletin.

Growing Orchids by J. N. Rentoul Hardback 192 pp. Paperback

\$22-50

\$16-95

The Australasian Families, Book four, 265 colour and black & white illustrations incl. maps. This book covers most of the interesting native orchids of Australia.

Book one, covering Cymbidiums & Slippers 178 pp.

two, covering Cattleyas & other Epiphytes 224 pp.

three, Vandas, Dendrobiums & others 248 pp.

Each are available .. Hardboard cover

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Paperback edition

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Disa uniflora .. its propagation and cultivation  
Published by the Disa Orchid Society of South Africa.

\$6-00

Handbook of Orchid Nomenclature and Registration.

\$7-50

International Orchid Commission publication, the latest edition, ~~expected to arrive soon~~.

An essential handbook for all Judges, Bulletin writers, orchid growers, covering many aspects, including abbreviations for multi-generic and other orchid hybrids.

----- Postage is extra -----



Australian Terrestrial Orchids by Colin & Dorothy Woolcock.  
Beautiful artistry, magnificent publication \$40-00

Growing Orchids By Jim Rentoul  
A set of the four editions in soft cover in slip case. \$67-50.

Preliminary Checklist of orchids of the Solomon Islands  
and Bougainville, by Phillip Cribb & A. Thorne 34 pp.  
\$5-80.

Handbook of Orchidists Glossary 96 pp.  
American Orchid Society publication ..  
Well illustrated \$5-00

The Proceedings of the Eleventh World Orchid Conference.  
held in Miami USA 1984.  
A magnificent production of 424 pages, containing  
all of the papers presented and 522 colour photos  
covering many aspects of the Conference.  
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