

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

June 1987

OFFICE BEARERS 1987

Patron: Mrs J Holmes a' Court

President: Bevan Buirchell

Vice President: Beryl Yates

Immediate Past
President: Kingsley Dixon

Secretary: Stephen Van Leeuwen

Treasurer: Lionel Johnston

Field Trip Coordinator: Sid Gibbings

Registrar/
Field Cultivation: Andrew Brown

Editor: Ken Jones

Librarian: Wayne Merritt

Committee Members: John Tonkinson

Pat Dundas

Peter Brown

POSTAL ADDRESS OF GROUP:

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

17th June 7.00 pm.

Kings Park Administration Building.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

17th June 8.00 pm.

Kings Park Administration Building.

Guest Speaker...Rick Humphreys from the Australian Conservation Foundation. Rick is a very active member of the Conservation movement in Australia and is currently putting the Conservationists side of the story for the South West Forests Plan.

Rick will speak on the need for conservation, the conservation movement and give the Group a run down on the processes necessary for approaching the Government on conservation issues.

For all those people who have seen their favourite orchid spots disappear under housing developments, roads or pasture this talk may tell us that we are not helpless in stopping future destruction of habitats.

PLANT TABLE - APRIL MEETING

Pt. obtusa - 2 pots

N. Clarke

D. Hilda poxon (D. tetragonium x
D. speciosum)

N. Clarke

CONSERVATION

Due to the concern expressed by the group on conservation of orchids the committee has formed a special sub-committee to monitor endangered habitats. The members, Beryl Yates, Pat Dundas, Wayne Merritt and Ken Jones have been asked, initially to collect information on the orchid species, numbers and distribution in the Canning Vale area. (Any other habitats that are destined for destruction will also be monitored).

The Canning Vale area bordering Nicholson Road and Ranford Road is under imminent threat of destruction. This area not only contains the largest number of species in one spot in the metro area (atleast 30) but also is the habitat for a confined population of Diuris purdei-a gazetted rare and endangered species. The developers associated with The Campbell Estate and the Livingston Estate have both received permits from CALM and the State Government to develop areas of virgin bush that contain Diuris purdei. A sorry state of affairs considering the Rare and Endangered Flora Act was passed purely and simply to protect rare plants from such developments. Unfortunately the Act has been coupled to the big dollar sign and if the Government cannot afford to purchase the land on which the plants grow, then permission must be granted to the "developers" to proceed with the "progress". Alas only a small budget is allocated for this purpose.

It is ironic that an individual interested in preserving these plants cannot even rescue them from the path of a bulldozer without facing prosecution. The "developers" can destroy it but you cannot try to save it.

In order to do something about protecting orchids from irreversible destruction and to put more pressure on the Government to use the Act as it should be, we need information on habitats. The sub-committee is seeking two types of information. Firstly, that which may already be in your possession, collected over the years from field trips to these areas. They would appreciate knowing locations, species types, approximate number, time, year etc. Any information would be helpful.

And secondly information which can be collected this season. Anyone looking around Canning Vale area please note the above information. Later on in the year a number of field trips may be organised to supplement this information.

Those members who do have something to contribute please either sent it to the above mentioned committee members or myself (addresses at the beginning of the Bulletin). Alternatively, give it to them at the next meeting.

The information is vital if we are going to make submissions to Government Departments, Land owners/developers etc. Please assist.

Conervation starts with you!!


E1 Presidente

THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF WILD FLOWERS

Many an audience, during talks on photograghy, find them selves bemused by what appears to be a mass of technical data. Unless they are fast note-takers, they find that only about 10% of the information is absorbed. At the meeting in the Kings Park Admin. Building on 20th May, Dr Ted Edkins avoided all the pitfalls, and we were treated to a clear, consise presentation, useful to beginner and advanced amateur alike. His gear ranged from the humble (but useful) supplementary lens, to a very expensive looking set of double racked automatic bellows. Each piece was assessed as to it's usefulness, it's cost, and more importantly, it's drawbacks were explained. Advise was given on selecting S/H gear, and for the millionaires present, such goodies as a macro lens and extention tubes were shown. Emphasis was given to the types of tripods (both useful and useless!) which should be used by everyone involved in close-up work. Even an expert like Ted had a bit of bother assembling one of them, thereby proving his point!!! Lighting was covered next, the uses and abuses of electronic flash, and bounced light via homebrewed reflectors - a nice cost cutting touch, Ted!! This was followed by a selection of slides showing what we could expect, using close-up equipment, accompanied by advice on such things as back lighting and out of focus backgrounds. Ted kept mathematical formulae to a minimum, but once bitten by the shutterbug syndrome, they creep up on you one at a time - you've bin warned!! In the short time available to him, our very welcome guest speaker covered his subject in a very comprehensive style. This should lead to more members becoming avid (meaning fanatical) shutterbugs !!

Kerr Cunningham

FOR
SALE


RONEO MACHINE

in good condition

Offers and enquires to Alison Harrington

tel; 

Vanilla from Orchids.

A work colleague recently drew my attention to a copy of the National Geographic (Feb 87)

The magazine featured an artical on Madagascar. It noted that the island's isolation had sheltered a unique eccosystem that was now in great danger due to the pressure of modern day man.

It also noted that many of the island's plants had value to the medical world. Of 10,000 flowering species perhaps 1,000 orchids, many of them unstudied so we dont really know. One of the orchids is harvested and yealds a major Madagascar export: Vanilla.

The report didnt state the name of this orchid..
.. does anybody know?



Rx for leukemia: Madagascar periwinkles are collected for export to pharmaceutical companies that produce drugs for childhood leukemia. Many of the island's unstudied plants, including other periwinkle species, may harbor more potential wonder drugs. Nearly 10,000 flowering species include perhaps 1,000 orchids, one of which yields a major Madagascar export: vanilla.

Supper Roster..

June.. Bill Bunton &
Sarah Atkinson.

July.. J.K.St.Jack.

Raffle Roster..

June.. Lionel Johnston.

July.. Peter Brown.

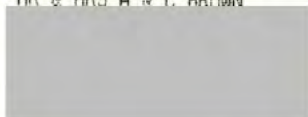
Next Field Trip.

June 27 th. Bunbury area
P. rogersii
P. angusta

REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST
PUBLICATION No. WBH1240

41 GARDNER ST.,
COMO, 6152

MR & MRS A & C. BROWN



6

