

OCT 1980
OFFICIAL BULLETIN



Registered for posting as Category "B"

20 CENTS

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Hon. Botanical Adviser	Mr Alex George
Bulletin Editor	Mr Terry Wilson

Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday October 8th at the residence of Mrs Alison Harrington, [REDACTED] at 8.00 pm.

General Meeting

The next General Meeting will be held as usual on the third Wednesday of the month, 15th October at 8.00 pm in the Film Room of the Department of Agriculture, Jarrah Road, South Perth.

The topic for the evening will be a talk by Mr Alex George on the "Meanings of Generic Names and the Naming of Species". This talk will be illustrated with specimens and slides.

New Members

We welcome the following new members to the Group

Mr N. Lockyer [REDACTED]

Mrs C. Brooks

Mrs W.A. Stewart

Field Trips

Walpole - October 11th to 13th

Terry will be arriving in Walpole about 10.00 pm on Thursday 9th October. Anyone wishing to arrive prior to this should telephone him on [REDACTED] and leave a message for him to ring you to arrange for a key.

Anyone intending to arrive on Saturday 11th should also arrange for a key in advance as the house will almost certainly be shut as the earlier arrivals will be out orchid hunting.

Beds - There will be nine beds and mattresses available in the house. You should bring blankets, sheets, pillow cases, (there are 7 pillows available and the rest can make up with cushions), bath towel, clothes including wet weather gear if you have it, food for however long you intend to stay and also food of a type suitable for an all day hike through the wilderness area on Sunday 12th. It is unnecessary to bring cutlery, crockery, saucepans etc although a personal water bottle for the all day hike would be useful. It need not be large however as there are freshwater springs where it can be topped up.

Terry will be staying on for a few more days so if you wish to stay on you may.

Report on the September Meeting - N. Hoffman

A particularly interesting talk on the field trip to the Esperance/Israelite Bay area funded by the Australian Orchid Foundation was given by Alex George.

Slides by Alex and Andrew Brown illustrated the type of country visited, the flora generally and the orchids found.

Those fortunate enough to take part are listed in the report later in this bulletin by Don Voigt.

Some of the more unusual discoveries were as follows:

Corybas despectans previously thought to be an unnamed species from the coastal region near Albany was discovered some 100 km east of Esperance in coastal sand dunes proving the range.

A new variety of *Pterostylis scabra* best described as being a small form of the variety *robusta* was quite common in mallee country from Munghlinup to Mt Ragged. The only other time this orchid had been recorded was in 1979 on the Albany Highway near the turn off to Woodanilling.

An unnamed form of *Pterostylis* was found growing generally between Mt Ridley and Mt Ragged. It had previously been found in pine plantations

near Perth, at Sth Burracopin, Tenterden and in the Stirling Ranges. The orchid varies in that flowering plants have no rosette of leaves and that the galea is broader.

Some very interesting colour forms of *Diuris longifolia* were found near the salt lakes and granite outcrops north east of Esperance. These included some bright yellow forms with white tips to the lobes.

Caladenia caerulea had been considered relatively uncommon in W.A. and yet proved to be the most common species flowering in the survey area at this time of the year. Indeed it was almost impossible to avoid destroying plants when pitching tents at the Mt Ney camp site.

While some sixty species were recorded during the trip other unusual finds included *Caladenia discoidea*, *C. graminifolia*, *C. sigmoidea*, *C. filanentosa* var *tentaculata*, *Acianthus reniformis* and the variety *huegelii*, *Pterostylis plumosa*, *Eriochilus scaber* (inland near Mt Heywood) and *Pterostylis allantoidea*.

SMYTH ROAD RESERVE - David Emery & Mick Leece - Wardens.

It was a delight on 24th September to see our first *Caladenia barbarossa* in flower. This orchid was a donation in 1978 from Reg Lander, but it did not flower last year, or even appear then, so far as we recall. Also a group of *Caladenia marginata* (white fairies) from 1978 plantings have just produced a flower for the first time. This indicates that transplantings may take a couple of years to re-establish themselves.

There are many species flowering now in our Group's reserve and it is worth a visit. Also we need assistance with weeding if you have any time. Equally welcome would be some non metropolitan area species from your country trips.

With areas of orchids in the Metropolitan region ever reducing, our orchid collection at Smyth Road seems certain to be an irreplaceable asset. Can you help?

THE NUTRITION OF CYMBIDIUM ORCHIDS

Available from our library.

This article by Mr D.G. Nichols of the Horticultural Research Institute, Knoxfield outlines the various chemical fertilizers available on the market and their uses in the feeding of *Cymbidians*.

It also gives the results of fertilizer trials held at the Institute and makes interesting reading for those interested in the subject.

1980 AUSTRALIAN ORCHID FOUNDATION EXPEDITION TO ISRAELITE BAY REGION

- Don Voigt

Members of the Party were:

Mr Alex George (Leader) W.A. Herbarium, Research committee A.O.F.
Mr Mark Clements Canberra Botanical Gardens, A.O.F.
Prof. Warren Stoutamire Ohio University, U.S.A.
Mr Gerald McCraith Chairman of Directors, A.O.F. (Melbourne)
Dr Arthur Parkins Director, A.O.F. (Melbourne)
Mr Paul Phillips A.N.O.S. (Victoria)
Mr Andrew Brown A.O.F. member (Perth)
Mr Ron Heberle A.O.F. member (Albany)
Mr Don Voigt A.O.F. member (Esperance)
Mr Tom Voigt Esperance

DIARY OF EXPEDITION

August 5th

All members of the expedition converged on Esperance. Alex, Mark and Warren travelled from Perth via Hyden and Norseman. Gerald, Arthur and Paul via Norseman and 'Cristata Compound', Salmon Gums. Ron and Andrew via Ravensthorpe.

After buffet tea at Don Voigts plans were made of different localities to be visited and it was decided Mt Ney area was to be checked during the first week.

During the late afternoon and evening, orchids which had been collected enroute to Esperance were studied and photographed.

Orchids collected locally: *Corybas despectans*, *Pterostylis* sp. (nana) (non rosette). Gibson area.

August 6th

Andrew drove Gerald, Arthur and Paul to Munglinup to observe *Rhizanthella gardneri*, while Don, Alex and Mark collected *Pterostylis rogersii* and *Corybas despectans* at Wireless Hill, Esperance (Dempster Head).

The purchase of stores, fuel and loading of vehicles completed, the convoy of four vehicles left Esperance after lunch. The plan was to camp at Mt Burdett/Wittenoom Hills, however as shelter was limited, the decision was made to make base camp at Mt Ney. Tents were hurriedly erected before dark, in a clump of tall mallee; the only portion of the ground which had not been burnt. After tea, and by torchlight, Andrew and Paul found *Caladenia sigmoidea* and *Pterostylis scabra* var *robusta*. (? species status). *Caladenia caerulea* growing abundantly around base camp 1. Alias "Caerulea flat".

August 7th

In fine weather the entire party searched Mt Ney (1) Alex, Mark and Warren covered the north westerly aspect while the remainder of the party concentrated on the south west and eastern aspect. Ideal orchid country, forty species were recorded at Mt Ney and surrounding country.

Two wedgetail eagles (*Aquila audax*) were seen soaring on thermals above Mt Ney.

The Fisheries and Wildlife Department are keen to establish Mt Ney as a reserve although the Esperance Shire are not interested because of the natural water catchment and its potential as a future townsite.

August 8th

Full contingent travelled north from Mt Ney to Mt Heyward (2). Surrounding countryside was checked enroute.

Mt Heyward area is suffering from fire damage; large sheoaks were all killed and rejuvenation of understorey slow and very sparse. Rock crumbly and the orchids suffering from exposed conditions and kangaroos grazing. Warren netted small insect with pollen attached. After tea slides were shown by Ron.

August 9th

Alex, Warren and Mark drove 12 km south of Mt Ney (3) and found *Caladenia douthae* in bud and *Pterostylis* aff. *plumosa* at advanced flowering stage.

The rest of the party travelled along survey grids in Arthur's Landcruiser. Collected and checked orchids enroute to Mt Beaumont (3) which is situated north of Mt Ney.

Pterostylis aff. *rufa* growing abundantly under Acacias at Mt Beaumont, even though conditions were dry, rosettes were healthy.

Large mobs of emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*) seen on newland farms adjacent to Mt Ney.

On the return trip to base all members met at 'T' junction near 'Caerulea Flat'.

21 species recorded and collected at Mt Beaumont. Evening spent viewing slides.

August 10th

Party separated with Alex, Warren and Mark travelling south to Mt Burdett/Wittenoom Hills (4), remainder of party covered Flora and Fauna Reserve (4) Location 374, No. 32128. One *Drakaea glyptodon* plant found in flower. After lunch at Howick Hill (4) an extensive search was made around the slopes and down to the open flat country.

32 species were collected and recorded.

Travelled to Fisheries Road, then west to Condingup Peak (4) for another look at *Drakaea glyptodon* which grows on granite slopes. Almost forty plants seen with fifteen in bud. 24 species recorded at Flora and Fauna Reserve No. 32128. 32 species recorded/collected at Howick Hill, 26 recorded at Condingup Peak.

August 11th

The party packed and travelled to Mt Ridley (5) via Mt Burdett, west along Norwood Road to Dempster Road and the north to Mt Ridley.

Teatree fringed saltlakes (5) checked enroute. One night camp established under Yate trees. The Victorians in the party were hoping to see *Caladenia hirta* flowering but no such luck, only leaves were found.

Prasophyllum macrostachyum var. *ringens* was seen flowering. An interesting feature at the western end of Mt Ridley is the unique domes of rock, created by the continual flaking and crumbling of the internal rock surface. Aboriginal drawings inside one of these domes had been washed by Museum staff during 1979.

One specimen of wasp (*Zaspilothynnus* sp.) was expertly netted by Warren, while it was visiting a newly open flower of *Caladenia dilatata* var. *falcata* which Ron had previously collected in bud at Mt Ney. 31 species recorded.

August 12th

Repacked camp, motored in north westerly direction towards Grass Patch (6). During the drive a wasp obliged Warren by flying into the vehicle window and being captured for identification.

East of Grass Patch, in deep yellow sandy soil, and at the Truslove Flora and Fauna Reserve No. A16801, we checked, hoping to find *Caladenia graminifolia* flowering but it was just too early. Orchids seen flowering at Truslove included *Caladenia discocidea* and *Pterostylis scabra* var. *robusta*.

Further south at Gibson (6), on an uncleared portion Loc. 644 of the Esperance Downs Research Station, Alex found flowering *Thelymitra matthewsii* (spiralis). On the many occasions in the past that I had surveyed the Gibson area I had not seen this orchid before. 25 species were recorded at Gibson.

Arrived at Esperance for an overnight stay and to replenish stores etc.

August 13th

Members gathered at the Chinese Restaurant for tea; a welcome diversion from camp cooking.

Because of Warren's commitments in Perth, he was unable to join the party for the second week. After Warren's departure from the Airport, an early start was made for the Israelite Bay region (7). Before lunch a stop was made at Boyatup Hill (7) and there collected *Thelymitra variegata* with ageing flower, while hybrid, *Caladenia latifolia* x *flava* was seen in bud. Passing through Cape Arid National Park, near the turn off to Pt. Malcolm, we checked a small area of *Melaleuca uncinata*. (Only Alex and Mark had permits to collect in the National Park).

Camp was made near Israelite beach and as weather was so fine it was decided not to erect all tents. Rain fell at 2 am and in spite of the cover which had been made up, Gerald's and Arthur's bedding ended up very damp.

Fish were as scarce as the orchids in this area. We noted *Caladenia latifolia* in flower and also very robust flowering plants of *Pterostylis mitiae*.

33 species were found at Boyatup Hill.

August 14th

The decaying remains of the Israelite Overland Telegraph Station and graves of pioneers were visited, then two sites checked along salt lake fringe (8), a mountain duck (*Tudorna radiorornoides*) and several ducklings seen on salt lake. Teatree, mallee, banksia growing along lake fringe. 12 orchid species located in this area.

Travelling in north westerly direction toward Mt Ragged we ascended scarp, then on to Sheoaks Hill. This site was a watering point for pioneers who carted wool to Port Malcolm because Government policy prevented the settlers from using Israelite Bay jetty.

After lunch checked and recorded area. This section of track was not easy for travel, protruding limestone made it rough. A brush turkey (*Eupotodis australis*) was seen. While waiting for Alex west of Scott Rock, Andrew and I checked and recorded the western slopes. The campsite which Alex directed us to was between Mt Ragged and Scott Rock and around the edge of camp *Caladenia patersonii* and *Diuris longifolia* were flowering.

Ron's theatrette at night.

Israelite region - 15 species (three sites), Sheoaks Hill - 26 species, Scott Rock - 19 species.

August 15th

On this day the party recorded and collected around the south western corner and south eastern fringe of Mt Ragged. Alex, Mark, Gerald and I continued searching for orchids while the rest climbed to the summit.

One interesting find was *Pterostylis allantoidea* flowering on top of a sheer rock face; westerly aspect. Near the south eastern corner I found debris of a weather balloon with radio instruments intact. Mt Ragged - 32 species.

August 16th

Travelling in a northerly direction from Mt Ragged, along the Balladonia Road, *Pterostylis mutica* was flowering in the harsh kopi soil (fine bull dust). Junana Rock (10) was next surveyed and this low granite waterhole on the west side, supported abundant stands of *Caladenia deformis* growing in red loamy soil.

The European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) had chewed the *Acianthus reniformis* flowers, making it hard to find flowering specimens to collect.

The rocky area of Pine Hill (10) situated a few km further along the track was searched and *Pterostylis scabra* var. *scabra* with wilted flowers were seen.

Graves mark the final resting place of travellers; this rocky outcrop was utilized to fill a dam for early settlers. Juranda Rock. The next stop over was at a rock edged salt lake and during our brief visit 11 species were located. Junana Roak - 20 species, Pine Hill - 19 species, lake fringe 11 species.

August 17th

From base camp Alex, Mark and I drove to the north west face of Mt Ragged (11) before climbing to the summit. The rest of the party remained to pack up camp as Gerald, Arthur and Paul were leaving for the return trip to Melbourne via Balladonia. Later Alex and Mark collected near Scott Rock, then on to Boyatup Hill to make camp at Aboriginal site. Ron, Andrew, Tom and I drove to Duke of Orleans Bay recording orchids at Thomas River - 2 sites checked. Camped near High Island - 11 species, recording only part of Cape Arid National Park.

August 18th

This was our final day and the finish of two weeks of fine conditions. Rain fell at 5 am and in cool overcast weather Ron and I waded over to High Island to check progress of hybrid *Caladenia latifolia* x *flava* which Ron had seen during August 1978. It is the same as the hybrid growing at Boyatup Hill. Also in bud was the green form of *Caladenia patersonii*. Mark and Alex arrived about 10 am and waded over to join us but as rain loomed Ron and I opted to drop our search, leaving Alex and Mark to contend with the rain.

The rain had set in as we packed camp and wet weather continued on our return trip to Esperance.

August 19th

All members homeward bound.

August 21st

August 29th

I returned to Mt Merivale Res. No. 28170 to collect *Acianthus tenuissimus* and *Caladenia douchae*, 12 km south of Mt Ney (3) as these were in bud at the start of the trip. Noted *Thelymitra canaliculata* in bud a few km east, along Kau Rock Road.

In summary the expedition was funded primarily by the Australian Orchid Foundation to cover the Orchidaceae, but other genera were collected as well. Mark Clements collected mainly propagating material for the National Botanical Gardens Canberra.

The range of most species was extended by considerable distance, while some previously collected unnamed species had enough extra material collected to facilitate revision of some of the doubtful species or the possible naming of species.

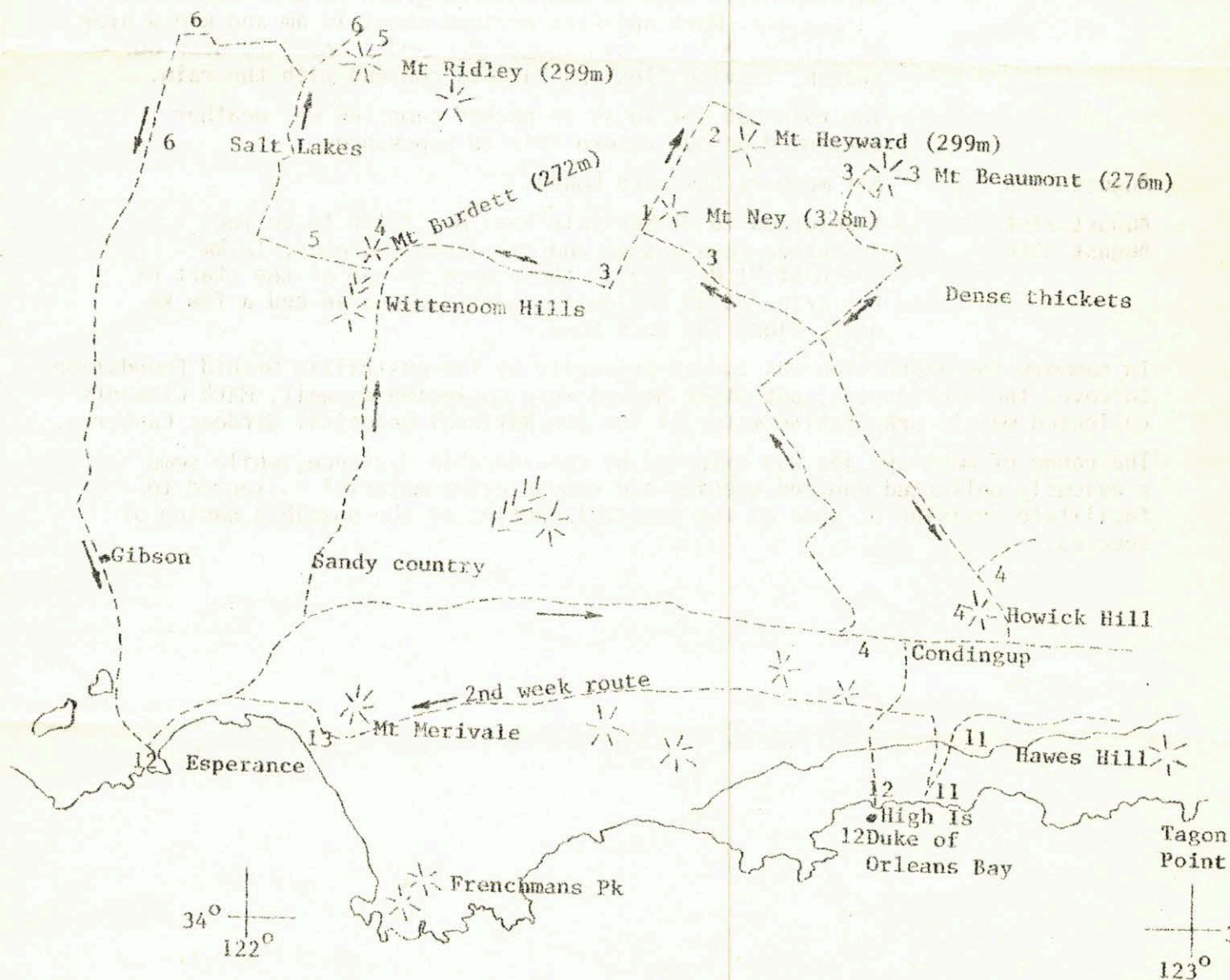
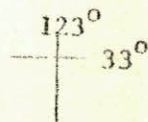
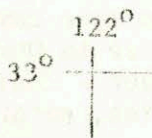
Map of First Half of
SOUTH EAST W.A. ORCHID PROJECT

Showing collection sites

Route traversed

Day 1 2 3 4 5 6 11 12 13

Natural Scale $\frac{1}{610,000}$



23

MT HEYWARD

MT BEAUMONT

FLORA AND FAUNA RESERVE 32128

MT. HOLICK

CONDINGUP PEAK

AT BURDETT/WITTENBOM HILLS

ST
RICH
LEY

STBSON

WIRELESS HILL

MERIVALE RESERVE 28170

[illegible]

B = Bud
F = Flowers
L = Leaves
S = Seed Pods

	MT NEY	MT HEYWARD	MT BEAUMONT	FLORA AND FAUNA RESERVE 32128	MT HOWICK	CONDINGUP PEAK	MT BURDETT/WITTENOOM HILLS	MT RIDLEY	GIBSON	WIRELESS HILL	MERIVALE RESERVE 28170
<i>Elythranthera brunonis</i>	L	L	-	L	L	B	L	L	B	-	-
<i>Eriochilus dilatatus</i>	S	S	S	L	L	L	S	L	S	S	L
<i>scaber</i>	F	F	-	-	F	L	L	-	F	-	-
<i>Drakaea glyptodon</i>	-	-	-	F	L	B	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Leporella fimbriata</i>	S	L	-	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
<i>Lyperanthus nigricans</i>	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	B	L	L
<i>serratus</i>	-	-	-	L	B	L	-	-	L	L	-
<i>Microtis unifolia</i>	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
<i>atrata</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	L	L	-	-
<i>Pterostylis allantoidea</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>mutica</i>	F	F	F	-	-	-	F	F	-	-	-
<i>nana</i>	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	-
<i>sp (nana) ?</i>	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	F	F	-
<i>aff. plumosa</i>	L	-	-	B	B	-	-	-	B	B	-
<i>rogersii</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	F	-
<i>recurva</i>	F	F	F	F	F	-	F	F	F	F	-
<i>sargentii</i>	F	-	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>scabra</i> var <i>robusta</i>	F	F	F	-	-	-	-	F	-	-	-
<i>aff. rufa</i>	B	B	B	L	L	L	-	B	-	-	-
<i>vittata</i> var <i>vittata</i>	F	F	F	L	F	F	F	F	F	S	-
<i>Prasophyllum</i> sp	L	-	-	-	L	-	L	L	L	L	-
<i>grimaudeanum</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	L
<i>macrostachyum</i> var <i>macrostachyum</i>	L	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>macrostachyum</i> var <i>ringens</i>	-	-	-	-	L	-	-	F	-	-	-
<i>nigricans</i>	S	S	S	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>ovale</i> var <i>triglochin</i>	-	-	-	-	L	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>parvifolium</i>	-	-	-	S	F	-	-	-	F	S	S
<i>sargentii</i>	-	-	-	-	-	L	-	-	-	-	-

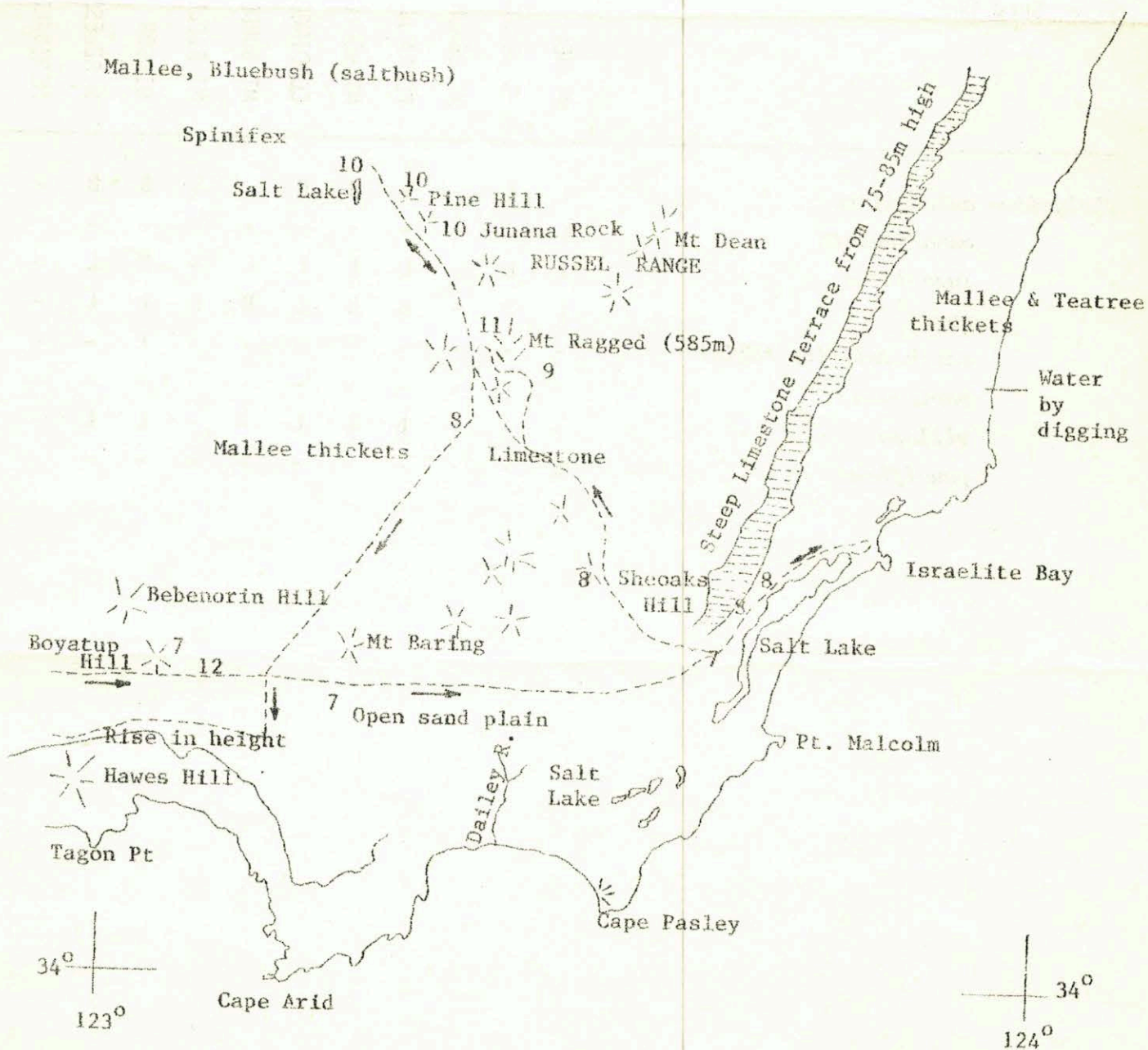
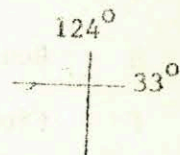
B = Bud
F = Flowers
L = Leaves
S = Seed Pods

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Map of Second Half of
SOUTH EAST W.A. ORCHID PROJECT



Showing collection sites.
Route traversed -----
Day 7 8 9 10 11 12



B = Bud
F = Flowers
L = Leaves
S = Seed Pods

	BOYATUP HILL	ISRAELITE BAY REGION	SHEOAKS HILL	SCOTT ROCK	MT RAGGED	JUNANA ROCK	PINE HILL	LAKE NORTH OF PINE HILL	THOMAS RIVER	HIGH ISLAND	DUKE OF ORLEANS BAY
<i>Acianthus reniformis</i> var <i>reniformis</i>	F	F	F	F	L	F	F	-	F	F	F
<i>reniformis</i> var <i>huegelii</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>tenuissimus</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Caladeria aphylla</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>caerulea</i>	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	-	F	F	-
<i>cairnsiana</i>	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	B	-	B	-
<i>deformis</i>	F	F	F	F	F	F	-	-	F	-	-
<i>doutchae</i>	-	-	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>dilatata</i> var <i>falcata</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>discoidea</i>	F	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>filamentosa</i> var <i>denticulata</i>	F	-	F	-	F	-	F	-	-	-	-
<i>filamentosa</i> var <i>tentaculata</i>	-	F	-	F	F	F	F	F	-	-	-
<i>flava</i>	B	-	-	-	B	-	-	-	-	XB	L
<i>geminata</i>	XB	-	-	L	B	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>graminifolia</i>	L	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>hirta</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>huegelii</i>	B	-	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>latifolia</i>	B	-	-	-	-	B	-	-	F	B	-
<i>longiclavata</i> var <i>magniclavata</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>marginata</i>	L	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	L	-	-
<i>menziesii</i>	L	-	-	L	-	-	L	L	-	-	-
<i>patersonii</i> var <i>longicauda</i>	-	-	F	F	F	-	F	-	B	B	-
<i>saccharata</i>	-	F	-	F	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>sigmoidea</i>	-	-	-	-	F	F	F	F	-	-	-
<i>Diuris longifolia</i>	F	F	F	F	F	F	B	-	-	F	-
<i>laxiflora</i>	-	-	-	-	L	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Corybas despectans</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	F
<i>Elythranthera brunonis</i>	L	-	L	B	B	-	-	-	-	B	-
<i>Ericochilus dilatatus</i>	L	L	S	L	S	L	-	-	L	S	-
<i>scaber</i>	F	-	-	-	L	-	-	-	-	-	-

BOYATUP HILL
ISRAELITE BAY REGION
SHEOAKS HILL
SCOTT ROCK
MT RAGGED
JUNANA ROCK
PINE HILL
LAKE NORTH OF PINE HILL
THOMAS RIVER
HIGH ISLAND
DUKE OF ORLEANS BAY

[illegible]

THE TALLEST LEEK ORCHID - B Stonor - Margaret River

In the August Bulletin, A. Brown gives us a list of lesser known species and asks for information concerning any of these. It is apparent from the article that some of the *Prasophyllum*s are still proving difficult to find and identify. This note concerns the very large, robust and conspicuous species which is fairly common locally and flowers freely every year. It is surprising that it has proved so difficult to identify since the name the Tall Leek Orchid refers to *Prasophyllum elatum*, it seems we must refer to this plant, until it is identified, as the Tallest Leek Orchid which is indeed the fact. Last year, after some few attempts at identification, I was assured that this plant is *Prasophyllum brownii*. Now it is stated in the article that *P. brownii* is one of the rare, unknown species, which confirms my belief that this large plant is not *P. brownii* at all. It does not fit the published description of *Prasophyllum ellipticum* which is supposed to be synonymous with *P. brownii*.

These two species have a rather vague and uncertain history in any case. *P. brownii* was named by Reichenbach in 1871, being described in a German journal, but no type plant is known. A plant collected by R. Brown in 1810 at King George Sound, was found to agree with Reichenbach's description and taken as the type. This specimen is in London. Of the two illustrations by Reichenbach of *P. brownii*, one is said to be not very accurate.

Then in 1920 R.S. Rogers named a species collected at Yarnadup, *Prasophyllum ellipticum*. The description was published in South Australia and the holotype is in the Adelaide Herbarium. Now the specimen in Adelaide has been found to be very similar to the plant in London, collected over a 100 years previously by R. Brown and identified from Reichenbach's description as *P. brownii*. There seems to be at least a chance of error here, botanists do make mistakes occasionally. So although it is now recognized that *P. brownii* and *P. ellipticum* are one and the same species there would seem to be at least a very faint chance that two separate species are involved.

If there is only one species, then the local plant is not *P. brownii*. If there are two, it might be *P. brownii* but without having seen the description of *P. brownii* it is not possible to be definite. It does seem however that it is most unlikely to be *P. brownii*. So in this case, what is it? I have suggested that it might be *Prasophyllum giganteum* but understand that this is one of the lost species. Here too, the botanists have not been as helpful as we might wish. This species was named and presumably described by Lindley in 1840. The type plants are at Kew. Here too it is quite impossible to say whether the local plant might be *P. giganteum* until a description of the species is available. There does not seem to be any reason why it should not be *P. giganteum*, it is certainly large enough. The details of the flower are rather similar to those given for *Prasophyllum grimmianum* in Orchids of the West by Rica Erickson.

THELYMITRA CRINITA - D. Emery

Sometimes called the "Blue Lady Orchid", *Thelymitra crinita* is a bright blue flowered sun orchid with up to a dozen blooms on a good stem.

The flower is 2½ - 4 cm across, and usually opens only on sunny days. Sepals are pinkish tinged on the under or outer sides. As with the rest of its genus, the lower petal is quite similar to the upper two petals, although thinner. The top of the column is yellow crested and the lateral lobes are crowned with mauve hair tufts.

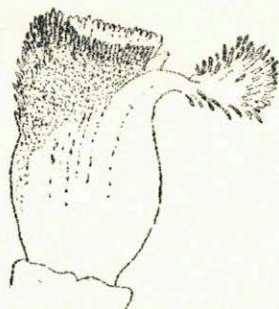
The plant itself is quite robust, often over 30 cm tall. The leaf is quite large, broad, ovate-lanceolate, 3 - 10 cm long. The distinctive leaf is vertically ribbed and is of a dull medium green with reddish purple base or at least reddish tinges. Compare *Thelymitra fuscolutea* which is of similar size, but is plain green and lighter coloured and smooth.

The seedling leaves are thin (to ½ cm) and up to 5 cm long, and flat with the same reddish purple tinges at the base and on the back of the leaf. The leaves dry to an unusual reddish brown colour.

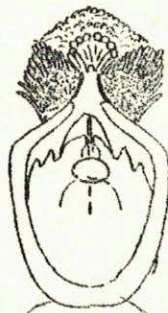
The tubers are quite large, up to 10 cm deep and with strong laterally spreading white roots.

It seems to like gravel soils best, but is also native to Kings Park.

Flowering period is September to November.



Column from side
x 8



Column from front
with hair tufts
removed x 8

