

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

July 1986

OFFICE BEARERS 1986

Patron: Mrs J Holmes a'Court

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Kings Park & Botanic Gardens,
West Perth. 6005

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Note:

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

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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

16 July 1986 at 7.00 pm
Kings Park Administration Building

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

16 July 1986 at 8.00 pm
Kings Park Administration Building

Guest speaker..

Kingley Dixon
Part two.. Orchids of Europe.

FEEES Now due - \$10 per family.

NAME BADGES

Please wear them at Club Functions. We know who we are but others may not! Badges are obtainable from Secretary.

FIELD TRIP REPORT - Lancelin/Ledge Point - 21st June

On Saturday the 21st of June, a bright fine day with the exception of a strong and gusty easterly wind, approximately 25 members, their families and 3 visitors made the trip to the Lancelin/Ledge Point area in the search of the elusive, early flowering colour form of typical *Thelymitra variegata*. Members met at the main entrance to the Yanchep National Park at about 10.00 am with Andrew Brown and myself arriving shortly after 10.00 to ensure that all those who were coming were there. However, Pat Dundas and company arrived sometime later and joined the end of the convoy, at which time was travelling north along the Lancelin-Wanneroo Road.

Approximately 15 Km. north of the Seabird turnoff along this road we made our first stop to search for orchids. This stop was in a piece of coastal dune shrub heath that appeared to have been burnt sometime in the previous summer. After a 20 minute search the following orchids were found, all of which were represented by leaves only; *Caladenia flava*, *Lyperanthus nigricans*, *Prasophyllum* sp.

At K.W. Road, which is about 10 Km. south of Lancelin, we turned east and travelled along this road for approximately 5 Km. where we again stopped. Andrew spoke briefly to the group, mentioning that this was the location where he had seen this particular colour form of the typical *T. variegata* several years before, namely in 1974 and 1975. The group spent about 45 minutes searching this piece of coastal dune vegetation which was dominated by *Banksia menziesii*, (Firewood Banksia), *B. leptophylla* and *Dryandra sessilis* (Parrot Bush) scrub over low heath. However, despite the many eyes engaged in searching, this unusual *Thelymitra* was not located. Orchids that were seen were;

C. flava, *Caladenia* sp., *L. nigricans*, *Prasophyllum parvifolium* and *Pterostylis vittata* var. *vittata*. With the exception of *P. parvifolium*, which was in bud, and *P. vittata*, which was in early flower, all the other species were represented by leaves only.

We then continued north along K.W. Road till its junction with Sappers Road where we headed west towards a burnt area, approximately 2 Km. from the road junction. Here in the burnt *Dryandra sessilis*, *Banksia leptophylla* dominated community over limestone, the following orchids were found;

C. flava, *P. parvifolium*, *Prasophyllum* sp. and *P. vittata* var. *vittata*.

Once again it was only *P. vittata* that was in flower while *P. parvifolium* was in late bud.

The convoy of cars then headed east along Sappers Road to where it crosses the Moore River, where the party had lunch. After lunch we travelled east along Orange Springs Road toward West Mogumber Road and *Thelymitra*

cont. on 3

variegata var. *apiculata*. While travelling along this road an unscheduled stop was made to inspect a rather spectacular plant that was endowed with yellow flowers. This plant turned out to be *Banksia laricina* (Rose Banksia), a species that is almost entirely restricted to the small area in the vicinity of Regans Ford and the Moore River National Park. While inspecting this plant two species of orchid were seen, these being; *Leporella fimbriata* and *P. vittata* var. *vittata*. Both species were in flower with the former past its best.

Once at the Brand Highway we continued east for 14 Km. along the Mogumber West Road (note this Kingsley), where on a laterite hill, much to the relief of Andrew and myself, we found approximately 80 plants of *T. variegata* var. *apiculata*. The majority of these plants were in full flower, with each plant having from 1 to 8 flowers. Andrew thought that the flowers of this species of orchid might have been mimicing the flowers of *Hovea trisperma* (Common Hovea) as the flowers had a similar colour and size and thus may be using the same pollinating agent. Other orchids found growing in the lateritic heath, which was dominated by *Xanthorrhoea* sp, *Hovea trisperma*, *Hakea* spp. and *Allocasuarina* sp. were;

C. flava, *L. fimbriata* and *P. vittata* var. *vittata*. *C. flava* was the only species not in flower. After approximately 1.30 hours here we headed back to the Brand Highway and south to the Gngangara Pine Plantation.

At the picnic area in the plantation, with fading sunlight, we found *Pterostylis dilatata*, *P. scabra* var. *robusta* and *P. vittata* var. *vittata* in full flower. Leaves and finished flowering spikes of *Eriochilus dilatatus* were also found.

All in all it was a very enjoyable days trip, although we were unable to find what we were originally looking for. On the behalf of the committee I would like to take this opportunity to thank Andrew Brown for leading the group and the following members and visitors who came along on the trip and made it that more enjoyable;

Glen & Ken Jones
 Joy & Colin St Jack
 Sally & Don Graham
 Margaret & Bevan Buirchell
 Beryl & Peter Brown
 Mary & Greg Bussell (from Margaret River again!)
 Jeff & Margaret Kite (visitors)
 Janice & Denis Burdinat
 Jean Long
 Maria Gowdy
 Sid Gibbings
 Joan Jeffery
 Glenn Reed

Dave Parker
 Beryl Yates
 Andrew Brown
 Stephen van Leeuwen
 Pat Dundas and
 Jeff Campbell (visitor all the way from Tasmania)

(My appologies to anyone who has been left of this list.)

STEPHEN VAN LEEUWEN.

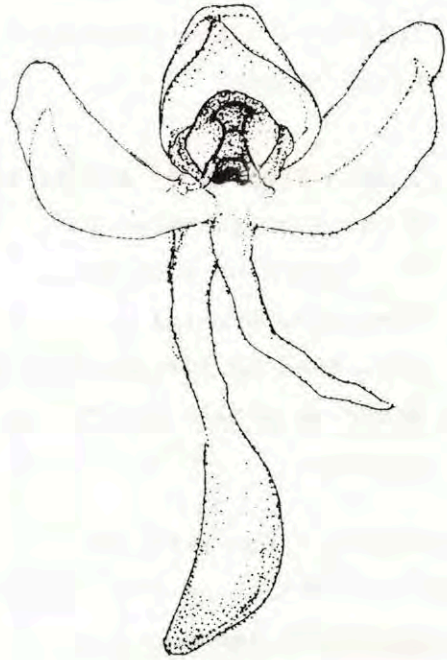
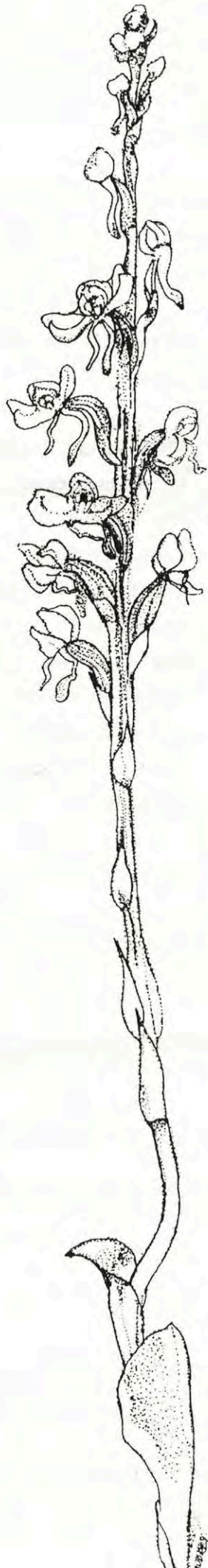
Orchids of the Kimberley 11

Continuing the series on orchids of the far north of W.A we look at the common species Habenaria off ferdinandii.

Plant typically Habenaria - like with 2-4 fleshy, olive green leaves and a scape sheathed with numerous leaf-like brads. Plant up to 40cm high, leaves variable length 5-8cm long, 0.5cm wide oblong and channelled. Scape many flowered often densely so 10-50 samll 10cm wide white flowers. in upper 1/3 ot 1/2 of scape. Dorsal sepal and petals white, loosely formed into a galea or hood (like Pterotylis vittata). Sateral sepals spreading upturned almost sickle shaped with blunt tips. Labellum very deeply dissected into two equal an every spreading sickle shaped, pointed side lobes and an equally long linear central lobe which is more or less decurved (towards the ovary). Nectary spur white changing to green distally, vertically flattened curved saccate in its lower half.

This orchid is widespread and very common in many areas of its only location the Mitchell Plateau. Favours disturbed roadsides especially gravel scrapes where plants form clumps of 5-10 individuals. Flowering begins in mid - late January till early March. Moths and butterflys visit bloom regularly but have not been observed removing pollinia. Plants produce abundant seed unlike the other two Habenarias recorded for the kimberley region. Plants favour a well drained gravelly-loam soil and although untied would make an excellent potted plant. Growth begins in mid- December and plants die back to large elongated ovoid tubers during winter when the soil is cool and dry.

The related species H. ferdinandii is the most common of all Australian Habenaria and is recorded across the tropical northern regions of Australia from the Fitzroy River (QLD) to the Northern Territory. The kimberley species differs in having a larger number of flowers and very much broader lateral lobes to the labellum.



THE 1986 SUPPLEMENT

Planning for the supplement is now in full swing and the committee has ratified the recommendation of the supplement sub-committee that the covers will be presented to the July/August meeting of the Group for a decision on the most satisfactory design.

Chapters for inclusion in the supplement (not necessarily in the following order) will hopefully follow the broad headings listed.

Chapter.

1. Introduction
2. History of Early Orchid Collectors
3. Cultivation and Propagation from seed
4. Birds 'n Bees
5. Common Orchids of the metro Area
6. Orchids of the Kimberley
7. Photographing Orchids
8. Rare W.A. Orchids
9. More Reading for Australian Orchids
- 10 Where to obtain Australian Species for growing

What is an Orchid

Beran Buirchell

Ron Haberle

Kingsley Dixon and others

Orchid pollination and genetics

Rod Peakall

Andrew Brown

Kingsley Dixon.

Sid Gibbings

Stephan Van Leeuwin

editors

editors

The deadline for articles is the July meeting (6). Please include sketches (ink) and black and white photographs..

The supplement sub-committee consists of

Beran Buirchell

Kingsley Dixon

Stephen Van Leeuwin

and our artistic 'director' Pat Dundas.

With such a fine response for chapters we should have an excellent production this year.

WANNEROO ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW

To be held 11th/12/13 Sept.

Help wanted for our Display. Please contact Noel Clarke on plants or help in setting up etc.

LEST WE FORGET....

As an ingrained sandgroper unable to attend meetings of WANOSCG I avidly read each Bulletin for news of orchids in the Great State. While, in the May issue, I found Rod Peakall's article 'Orchid Research - Past and Future' very informative, I feel that I must comment on the first two sentences, 'It has been only in recent years that WA orchids have been the focus of scientific research. Warren Stoutamire's research on the pollination of our orchids was perhaps the first major research project undertaken'.

Perhaps an unusual definition of 'research' was in mind, but I believe that the term encompasses a wide spectrum that, in botany, includes taxonomy with its related areas such as basic collecting, accurate observation and the publication of results. I think it only fair, therefore, to point out that there has been previous such work on Western Australian orchids.

Indeed, one might say that research on the orchids of W.A. began in 1791 with the collection of specimens at King George Sound by Archibald Menzies, surgeon to the Vancouver expedition. Those specimens were studied by Robert Brown, one of the great botanists, who himself collected in the same area in 1801. Brown published his species in 1810 - the first orchid names to be based on specimens from the western third of New Holland, later to become Western Australia.

After settlement in 1829, settlers, collectors and explorers soon began to uncover further floral riches. James Drummond was the most acute observer, though he never formally published any of the new orchids that he collected. Ludwig Preiss was not far behind as a collector and was certainly the most accurate of his day in recording data of locality, date and often habitat with his specimens. Other early collectors Georgiana Molloy, Carl von Huegel, George Maxwell, Augustus Oldfield and Alexander Collie. Their collections were studied and named by botanists such as John Lindley, Stephan Endlicher and Heinrich Reichenbach. George Bentham brought together all the named species in his Flora Australiensis Volume 6 (1873).

After this came that series of great orchidologists Robert Fitzgerald, Richard Rogers, William Nicholls, Edith Coleman and Herman Rupp. All of these except Rupp visited W.A. and all described new orchids from the State. Locally we had Cecil Andrews, Oswald Sargent and that keen collector Colonel Goadby, adding to the pool of knowledge including further new species. Sargent and Coleman made the first observations on pollination. Charles Gardner in 1928, shortly before he became Government Botanist, played an important role in the discovery of Rhizanthella.

In 1930, Emily Pelloe published West Australian Orchids, covering all species then known in the South West. Although the book now is virtually a collector's item it was then the 'bible' until superseded by a 'new testament' in the form of Rica Erickson's Orchids of the West of 1951 (second edition 1965 and still in print into the 1980's). Now we have Noel Hoffman and Andrew Brown's excellent Orchids of South West Australia.

In the 60s and 70s appeared the 'modern' researchers such as David Jones, Warren Stoutamire, Don Blaxell, Jack Warcup, Mark Clements, and then more recently Stephen Hopper, Kingsley Dixon, Bob Bates, Andrew Brown and Noel Hoffman. Members of orchid societies such as WANOSCG greatly assist in the research and one, Ron Heberle, has written a series of articles on some of the early workers. With the benefit of better communications it has been possible to study specimens used by those workers and so revise and correct errors in classification.

We are now at the stage where the basic taxonomy is becoming more settled, and there are more researchers, leaving the way clearer for closer study of aspects such as pollination, genetics, fire ecology, etc. But those topics could not be so easily undertaken without the storehouse of knowledge previously accumulated - a classification, descriptions, distributional data, habitat data, flowering times, etc.

The current research is good, it is exciting and it will expand our understanding, with spinoffs for conservation and horticulture. But please, remember and give credit to those who went before. It takes little effort, and certainly brings no shame.

Alex George.

BUNBURY ORCHID SHOW 87

We are now on the mailing list and will post full details in Bulletin as they come to hand.

COLLECTORS LICENSE.

Your License can be obtained from Dept. of Conservation and Land Management

50 Heyman Road., Como

Cost \$2-00

Written application is required for permit to take whole plants.

Set out Details:- Plants: Reasons: Etc....

RESCUE DIG

We are expecting to be able to carry out Rescue Digs to lift plants at risk due to Land "Development". Members at June meeting have enrolled as helpers and will be called on for action as opportunity presents itself. Notice may be short and quick action needed. Members able to help should contact Kingsley or Stephen.

JUNE PLANT DISPLAY

<u>PLANT</u>	<u>GROWER</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
Pterostylis Rogersii	W.Merritt	
" Vittata Vittata	"	Large green form
" Scabra Scabra	"	1st Flowering
Diuris Longifolia	S.Gibbings	
Pterostylis Vittata Vittata	"	
" Nutans	"	Eastern States
" Sargentii	Kings Park Gardens	
" Vittata Vittata	"	
Thelymitra Macmillanii	"	
Pterostylis Scabra Robusta	N.Clarke	
" Toveyana	"	Eastern States
" Nutans X Curta	"	" "
" Vittata Vittata	"	
Caladenia Filamentos Denticulata	R.Stapledon	Early white
Diuris Longifolia	"	
Thelymitra Antennifera	"	
Pterostylis Vittata Subdifformis	P.Dundas	
Plasophyllum Parvifolium	"	Southern form
Dendrobium Rigidum	D.Burdinaz	

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The committee and members of the group would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new members and wish them a rewarding and enjoyable association with our group. The new members are:

Melba Alain
 Rosalind Lewis
 Beryl & Peter Brown
 Denis Burdinat
 Denis Friend

OUR GROUPS SLIDE COLLECTION

We've lost track of the Groups Slide Collection.

Will the person who has the collection please contact Lionel - or any committee member. It may be that a past member has them and therefore will not read this. If any member can remember anything about them we'd like to hear from them!

Raffle Roster

July.. J. Tonkinson.
Aug... R. Stapledon.
Sep... J.K. St. Jack.

Supper Roster

July.. Pat Dundas.
Aug... Marie Pickersgill.
Sep... To be allocated.

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Mr A Brown

Field Trips 1986

Aug. 23rd. & 24th. Corybas Northcliffe.
Sept. 7th. Corybas Busselton.
Sept. 21st C. Barbarossa Goomalling.
Sept. 27th. 28th. 29th. L.W.E. Thel. psammophila
Jerramungup.
Dec. 6th. & 7th. Late Caladinias Northcliffe.