

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

August 1987

OFFICE BEARERS 1987

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Pat Dundas

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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

Wednesday 19th August, 7pm
Kings Park Administration Building

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 19th August, 8pm
Kings Park Administration Building

GUEST SPEAKER

Rod Peakall from The Botany Department,
University of Western Australia.

Rod will talk on "Orchid Research in Australia" with particular emphasis on eastern states terrestrial orchids.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

The Group has many excellent photographers and it is a pity we don't see more of their work. At the next meeting time is being allowed for the showing of members slides. For all those interested please bring along your best slides (maximum 5 slides) - preferably of this seasons orchids. There even may be a prize for the best slide of the night.

ORCHID NAMES

Many of us are familiar with the common names of orchids and a few have mastered or are struggling with the botanical names. Not being Latin scholars it is difficult to come up with the right pronunciation of some of these names, for example Acianthus- is it aki-anthus or assi-anthus. At the next meeting one of the botanists or Latin scholars will give us a quick lesson on botanical pronunciations.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

HART, SIMPSON and ASSOCIATES
Environmental Services

Dear Fellow Members,

Recently I had a quick look at the Ranford Road-Nicholson Road area in Canning Vale. This area looks like it is liberally infected with dieback, no doubt due to *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. The vegetation shows the typical pattern of dieback infection and, although I didn't take any samples to isolate the fungus, I am 99% confident that *Phytophthora cinnamomi* is there.

I have seen a lot of dieback around Perth as part of my work (we run a dieback testing and mapping service). Everybody knows about dieback in the jarrah forest but it is possibly worse in other areas, and is one of the major problems in native vegetation conservation because so many native plants are susceptible and affected.

Dieback is spread by moving infested soil. Digging up orchids could infest your own garden and kill off an unpleasant proportion of native as well as non-native plants.

Yours sincerely

Dr Ray Hart

KINGS PARK NATIVE PLANT DISPLAY ROSTER

The Kings Park Native Plant Display and Wildflower Exhibition is coming up soon and is to be held on the September long weekend 26th - 29th.

Unfortunately it clashes with the Busselton-Augusta trip but we are hoping that those people who cannot go on the trip will volunteer their time either a morning or afternoon to man the Group's display. This year we have asked for extra space to accommodate a larger display. As with last year we will be selling some items including the booklet we produced last year. It is an excellent opportunity to increase public awareness of the states orchid flora. As Andrew's book will ensure that any difficult questions can be quickly and accurately answered, a wealth of knowledge on the orchids is not a prerequisite for volunteering.

Your support is needed if this is to be a success and help promote the aims of The group. A roster page will be drawn up for the next meeting but if you cannot attend or are a country member visiting Perth at that time please write to The Secretary, P.O. Box 323, Victoria Park with details of when you are available, preferably with some alternative times.

TUBERS REQUIRED

Stephen Deards of N.S.W. would like to obtain some tubers from Western Australian terrestrial orchids. He is willing to swap tubers with those from the eastern states if anybody is interested. He can be contacted at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Melba Dyer, also of N.S.W. would like to hear from a member willing to give her some tubers. She is interested in obtaining some *Pterostylis* tubers, particularly those from *P. angusta* and *P. rogersii*. She can be contacted at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

MATTERS OF INTEREST

Below are two extracts from eastern states bulletins that are of particular relevance to our group and the conservation of our unique orchid flora.

The first extract is a copy of a letter to the Editor of the Journal of the Native Orchid Society of South Australia. This letter appeared in the June 1987 issue. The second extract appeared in the A.N.O.S. Victorian Group's July 1987 bulletin and deals with the Australian Orchid Foundation attempt to establish an orchid seed bank.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ref. Mass Collecting of Western Australian Orchids

Dear Sir,

As a visitor to the "ORCHIDS 86" show, I was horrified by the Perth Orchid Society display of cut native orchids. Thousands of wild orchids including some "Spider Orchids" so rare they have not been named had been picked and jammed together in bunches. That display should never have been accepted, especially as many of the flowers had died by the first day of the show.

This kind of display is not uncommon in Western Australia. The Albany Wild Flower Show is a well known example. Local "orchid lovers" spend up to a week before the show scouring the country, collecting large bunches from as many species as possible. As many as 1000 individual flower spikes may then be exhibited.

As each orchid seed capsule may contain a thousand seeds this means that a potential 1,000,000 potential orchid seeds are destroyed annually. It is many years now since this sort of event was allowed in South Australia. (i.e., the old Belair Wild Flower Shows)

Congratulations NOSSA on your support of conservation in South Australia through not exhibiting orchids cut from the bush at your shows.

Signed Ms S. Young.

• • •

CONSERVATION - R L Heberle, Albany WA

Our presidents article highlighting the problems occurring, to preserve and conserve Terrestrial Orchid habits and in particular, the declared rare and endangered species *Diuris purdiei*.

Similar problems but with different circumstances were experienced when obvious signs that part of a Reserve (?) where some hundreds of *Caladenia bryceana* grew, were likely to be destroyed. This was reported to the appropriate Government Dept whose response was that they had a representative on the New Land Release Advisory Committee, and that no report had been made regarding the land in question. Within 18 months the land was rolled, burnt and ploughed and that was the end of the *C. bryceana* and associated 30 to 40 other orchids and native flora.

Shortly after this debacle another area to the north along the Pallinup River was reported being bulldozed, virgin land that was wrongly presumed to be part of a reserve (later proved to be a very old survey of an undeveloped block) where *C. bryceana* and numerous other orchids were in flower. The local representatives of the Fisheries and Wildlife Department made a deal with the owner and a small section of rocky ground impractical for clearing was left, conserving very few of the *C. bryceana*. Here grew the only pink to apricot colour forms that I knew of.

A recent attempt to save the rare and endangered species *Prasophyllum lanceolatum* and at least 38 other orchids and associated flora that have been observed flowering over a period of 28 years on land designated Public Open Space and Recreation, seems likely to have a similar fate. The land extends from the eastern boundary of the Albany Golf Course bounded by Middleton Beach and Golf Links Road and comprises some 3½ ha. Proposals are to re-zone the land and hand it over to the Golf Club who propose to permit a Japanese investment company to build a 5 star Hotel and a new clubhouse for the Golf Club in exchange. A very tidy little deal for all concerned, except if you happen to believe in conserving orchids.

Persual of the plans of the Golf Club development show that a practice driving range is proposed for the area where *P. lanceolatum* has been recorded. A recent on site discussion with the local Council representatives and the local C.A.L.M. flora officer suggests that a compromise may be possible; this hinges on a specimen being identified growing on site and the local Council being willing to burn the area next March. We must wait and see!

Notwithstanding all of the preceding the recent announcement of the formation of a sub-committee to monitor endangered habitats is a long overdue step in the right direction. It behoves all members to give their support.

The president and his committee are to be congratulated.

(Reference 'Caladenia bryceana' Australian Orchid Review Autumn 1986)

SPECIAL APPEAL FROM THE AUSTRALIAN ORCHID FOUNDATION

Practical Conservation With The Use of Orchid Seed

The importation of orchid species is becoming more and more difficult and expensive because of various forms of legislation, the depreciation of the natural habitat, and the awareness of many countries for the conservation of their natural heritage of their orchid species.

The question of conservation of the orchid species in Australia is very familiar to orchid enthusiasts, and while we have many successful species, that is, their habitat is wide spread, there are a number of species whose future is very fragile, because of the specific nature of the habitat in small pockets, or the safety of that habitat presently depending on isolation and remoteness.

The A.O.F. Orchid Species Seed Bank was created because it was believed to be one of the more practical avenues of conservation and every effort should be explored that will encourage the commercial orchid nurseries to raise some orchid species from seed and, ideally, for that nursery to promote their sales as 'Nursery raised species'.

Being practical, the commercial grower would be very interested in those species which may be termed desirable if the seed is available.

The purpose of this preamble, is to emphasise that there is an urgent need for the seed of these desirable species to the amateur as well as the commercial grower.

The A.O.F. Orchid Species Seed Bank seeks your co-operation to encourage your friends to 'self' a few of these species as they come into flower. It is appreciated that the seed cannot be produced overnight. Many of the epiphytes will take 9 to 10 months to mature, and while many talk about conservation, here is a chance for you to do something really positive from the enormous amount of very attractive species that have been imported into Australia in the past decades.

A number of Members of the A.O.F. have been regularly supplying seed, both native and exotic, to the A.O.F. Orchid Species Seed Bank to their credit, making a creditable good list of the seed available, and this segment of the foundation is attracting more and more attention from overseas orchid enthusiasts which makes our efforts encouraging.

It is the desire of the Foundation to enlarge this list of seed being available, hence this appeal to you personally. Dry seed, rather than green pods, is being sought to enlarge the number of species available.

Let me repeat, that while seed from you will be most acceptable, it will be wonderful if you can encourage your friends to join our contribution of PRACTICAL CONSERVATION of the orchid species.

Practical Conservation With The Use Of Orchid Seed (cont)

Seed should be packaged in paper bags or envelopes
NOT plastic bags.

Send seed and all enquires for seed to:-

NEW MEMBERS

The committee and its members would like to welcome the following new members to the group. We wish them a rewarding and enjoyable association with our group and look forward to meeting them at forthcoming events.

The new members are:

Jane Scott
John Considine
Chris & Leonie Hall

PLANT DISPLAY JULY '87

Ken Jones	<i>Pterostylis scabra</i> var. <i>robusta</i> <i>P. nana</i>	
Andrew Brown	<i>Glosodia major</i> <i>Acianthus exertus</i>	Ex. N.S.W. Ex. S.A.
Bevan Buirchell	<i>P. russellii</i> <i>P. concinna</i> <i>P. nana</i> <i>P. nana</i>	Ex East Ex East
Syd Gibbings	<i>Diuris longifolia</i> <i>Caladenia deformis</i>	
Peter Brown	<i>Prasophyllum parvifolium</i>	
Pat Dundas	<i>C. deformis</i>	
Noel Clark	<i>P. nutans</i> <i>P. curta</i> <i>P. vittata</i> var. <i>vittata</i> <i>P. nana</i> <i>P. concinna</i>	Large red form
David Parker	<i>Thelymitra antennifera</i>	

FIELD TRIPS

August 23rd, Bindoon

Meeting at Bindoon Hotel at 10am. The trip will entail a visit to Dave Parkers orchid patch on his farm and a visit to a large burn in the Jelimar Forest. Except to see a number of *Caladenias* including the rare *Caladenia gemmata lutea* and *C. longiclavata magniclavata*.

September 5th & 6th, Mt Jackson

Details announced at next meeting. Anyone who is interested but not attending next meeting please contact Bevan Buichell - [REDACTED]

September 19th, Miling/Pithara area.

Meeting at Northern end of Miling township 11am. The group will firstly visit the site where *Caladenia cristata* was found last year. Then we will search areas in N-E direction towards Pithara for other locations of this orchid.

September 26-27-28, Busselton- Augusta

Accommodation has been booked for 18 people at the Wallcliffe Caravan Park. You must supply your own linen and food. Price \$10 - \$20/weekend depending on number of people. Meeting at 12 noon on Saturday at the Wallcliffe Caravan Park. Could you please notify Sid Gibbings if you are attending.

October 17th-18th, Walpole

Arrangements have not yet been finalized. Further information will be available at the next meeting or in the September edition of the Bulletin.

Protea Flower Festival



SEPTEMBER 87

18th, 19th, 20th.
at The

'Crystal-room',
ORCHARD

Convention—Centre
WELLINGTON STREET

[crn.—Milligan—st.]

PERTH

'Official Opening'
18th september 11:00am
Open-to-the-public
10:30am 9:00pm

Admission
Adults 5.00
Children Pensioners 2.50

Presented By

The Commercial

Protea Growers Association of Western Australia Inc.

Supper Roster.

August.. Ray Stapledon
Sept.. Joan Gibbings
Oct.. Kingsley Dixon.

Raffle Roster.

Aug.. Val Preston
Sept.. Wayne Merrit
Oct.. Bevan Buirchell

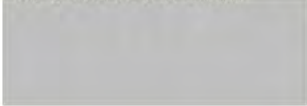
Next Field Trip.

August 23 rd, Bindoon.
September 5 th & 6 th. Mt. Jackson.
September 19 th. Miling / Pithara area.

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