

JUNE 1975

WA NATIVE ORCHID STUDY & CONSERVATION GROUP

TOPICS.

The topic for June was given by Mr. T. Rodrigai and as usual Tibor imparted some very useful information. As these talks are informative the value is not being fully utilized and we are going to try and tape them so that they can be included in this newsletter and could be used as references.

DEVELOPMENT AREAS.

Three areas have been brought under notice, which contain many genera. These can be removed and brought back into cultivation or into a secure place.

1. Forrest Road, between Broome and Stirling Street on the right hand side going towards Armadale. This area is being developed for a golf course.
2. Pine forest Leach Highway.
3. An area between W.A.I.T. and Clontarf.

Any members who are interested in these areas can contact the committee for final details.

FIELD DAY.

Field day of the 15th of June. A small group under the leadership of Mr Fred Bishop headed into the hills east of Byford, then towards Jarrahdale and then back to the Albany Highway via Johnson Road. Many genera were found, but some varieties were difficult to identify. Varieties that were identified were *Pterostylis recurva*, *Pterostylis vittata*, *Pterostylis barbata*, *Lyperanthus nigricans*, *Ericochilus dilatatus*, *Thelymitra Prasophyllum autumn leek*, *Flava*. The autumn leek was flowering in good colonies at Blue Rock the search was on for the Elbow Orchid, but none were found all this area is catchment area and has not been burnt for some time, but all orchid plants found were fine healthy plants.

POINTS OF INTEREST

The Victorian branch of the Australian Native Orchid Society and Mr Roy Hargreaves of South Australia have both requested if possible, that our newsletter be sent to them. The Victorian Branch on a reciprocal basis and Mr Hargreaves will send on to the South Australian orchid bulletin any items of interest. Newsletters have been sent to these people.

Another point of interest which has developed through the efforts of Sir Crawford Walder when on a recent trip overseas, met conservationists from England and America and have asked, would it be possible that the activities of our group be passed on to them. This will be done, as it could lead to a wealth of information.

The visit to the Agriculture Department Herbarium on 22nd July. Mr Alex George has asked that the parties be kept to approximately 12 persons and only one party in the evening.

Any member who finds the underground orchid, would they please contact Mr Neal Hoffman as this is the only orchid he has not photographed. I believe he requires this orchid to complete his collection of slides.

There are some copies of the book 'Orchids of the West' by Rica Erickson in the bookshop Central Arcade Perth. We have not been able to secure the book 'Orchids of Australia' by W.H. Nicholls.

On Saturday 14th June, Andrew and Charmaine Brown, my wife Pat and my self drove to Bunbury to visit Mr and Mrs Bodrigai. It was a very wet and overcast day so on arrival we were treated to a cup of tea, then shown over his collection of native orchids.

On the subject of native orchids, Tibor Bodrigai has had great success in both pot culture as well as transplanting natives to the garden itself. The 'pots' are kept in a wooden frame with wire net covering, and they are partially shaded by a tall tree. In summer, when the orchids die down, Tibor covers the pots with an inch thick slab of foam rubber which keeps some moisture in the soil but allows the heat through. From experience it has been found that as a general rule bush sand is not entirely suitable for potting, but Tibor has used a 50% coarse white sand and 50% leaf mould mixture with an inch of crocking in the bottom of the pot. He has had a lot of success with this mixture, but has now developed an even more successful mixture. Start off with an inch of crocks, then mix 50% bush sand with 50% coarse white sand. Make sure the tuber sits in this sand mixture. Top it off with about an inch of leaf mould on top. This has been very successful and most of the more common varieties of native orchids grow very successfully and have a tendency to multiply in numbers.

In the garden, were native shrubs planted at intervals of 3-4 feet and the ground was covered with a layer of jarrah wood chips. Most species of orchids were found flowering side by side, and in the centre of the yard was a native feature garden. In the centre of this was a large tree stump, partly hollowed and filled with leaf mould, in which several species of orchids were found. This log is exactly as it was found in nature, just sawn off and layed to rest in the garden. Both the garden and the collection of native orchids are a tribute to the dedication and enthusiasm to Mr Tibor Bodragai and his family.

Having seen Tibor's collection of orchids, we then set out to look for *Pterostylis rogersii* and *Pterostylis angusta*. We located *Pterostylis rogersii* near Capel and also found *Acianthus reformis*, *Caladenia menziesii*, *Caladenia latifolia* and *Caladenia flava*. The day was getting on, and after being treated to a delightful tea we headed home. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tibor and his wife and daughter for their hospitality extended to us.

We certainly learnt a lot from Tibor's methods and look forward to getting around to see the methods used by others. If you don't mind sharing your "secrets" with others on pot culture, please let me know and we will arrange some time suitable to both of us.