

W.A. NATIVE ORCHID STUDY
&
CONSERVATION GROUP

OCTOBER 1975.

PRESIDENT H.E. FOOTE,

VICE PRESIDENT A. BROWN.

SECRETARY L. SHEPPARD,

TOPIC

The topic talk was given by Mr. G. Kierath on the species, Elyantheras, Drakeas, Calochilus robertsoni & Caleana nigrata. When Graham was asked to do this job he was very doubtful about presenting this talk, so it is to his credit the way he ably presented the subject supported by excellent slides.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Dave Emery won the slide competition, which included excellent slides sent up by Don Voigt of Salmon Gums of orchids flowering in that area.

There was a very good collection of flowers to be packed for the Sydney Conference and it will be very interesting to hear the report, it is thank you to all those who participated.

The Royal Show display was a little disappointing, but then again our main display artists were in Sydney. Thanks to Herb Foote, Margaret Groves for the setting up on the Thursday night, thanks also to Barry Duff although a bit late on the scene, arrived just on closing time.

It looks as though this Group is about to stand on its own feet with affiliation with the W.A. ORCHID SOCIETY. The committee are meeting to set up the constitution.

FIELD DAY

This was a very interesting day as Andrew Brown made out a mud map and on this he showed approximate travelling time and the route to be taken. The party of five cars travelled to Brookton then on towards Corrigin where on the day Caleana, Drakea, C. radialis, C. dilatata, C. roei, C. sacharata, C. filamentosa and a plant of pure yellow Diuris was found. The photographers put in a frustrating day as the clouds covered the sun just as they were about to press the button and if it wasn't the clouds it was the wind, but the patience these people have, we should see some good slides.

ROUND AND ABOUT

On a recent trip into the south of this state gave us some sort of an idea of the vastness of this state and the time it will take to cover these areas in our search for orchids. These trips are essential as it gives a record of species found where and when.

We had the opportunity of visiting the property of Mr. F. Smith of Cranbrook who is a devoted conservationist and in particular an orchid lover. He has set aside 1,000 acres to be left as natural bushland. In this area can be seen the stages of conservation, natural bush, and an area that has been grazed, but the stock has been fenced out for 3 to 5 years to allow it to come into it's natural state. The scrub and undergrowth can be seen just taking hold and the orchids are spreading. He states that this reclaimed area will take about 10 to 15 years to revert back to the natural state.

In his programme he controls burns and advocates a burn every 7 to 10 years. A burn more often than this will not allow the plants to recover and consequently will weaken them.

He extends to all members & interstate visitors an open invitation.

will be given on this trip when the slides become available.