

W.A. NATIVE ORCHID STUDY

&

CONSERVATION GROUP

February 1976.

President	Mr.H.Foote.
Vice Presidents	Mr.A.Brown, Mrs.J.Long.
Treasurer	Mrs.C.Brown.
Secretary	Mr.L.Sheppard.
Registrar	Mr.R.Brown.
Librarian	Mr.R.Lander.
Committee	Mr.H.Goodchild
	Mrs.F.Hoffman
	Mr.F.Bishop
	Mrs.J.Lodge.

TOPIC

The topic for February was on *Epiblema grandiflorum* and *Cryptostylus ovata*.

Epiblema grandiflorum- or commonly known as "Babe in a cradle".

It flowers in December, usually in swampy areas and amongst bottle brush and swamp reeds, it appears to strive to flower above this under growth. The beautiful blue flower, unlike the sun orchids, are the only means by which the plant can be identified as the leaf is identical to the swamp reeds.

It has been found growing swamp water and in swamp areas where the water has dried up. The plants growing in water or moist soil are more robust and flower more profusely than those in the drier areas.

The beautiful blue flower having 3 petals, but with unusual appendages at the base of the column, from the centre of the flower and on the labellum and petals are darker blue markings.

It is solely a Western Australian genus and has been found in the swamps at Jandakot, Albany and Redmond.

Cryptostylus ovata- commonly known as the "slipper orchid".

A genus of 18 species, found in Malaya, New Guinea, Formosa, Phillipines, New Caledonia, Fiji Samoa, and Australia. There are 5 species in Australia, one of which is confined to Western Australia.

C. ovata found in all types of habitats from jarrah forests to sandy flats. Flowering in the months of November to January.

The leaf of this orchid is evergreen, although on observations have found, that in some plants the leaf will die back after flowering, but will send up a new leaf, which look like a gum leaf stuck in the ground stem first. It has no bulb or tuber and the roots are fleshy. It has been known that pieces of the root system will strike if set in.

The flower stems are stout and fleshy and will grow to about 18-24 inches. The flowers are delicately tinted and veined and the unusual labellum is the beauty of this flower, which is inverted. The short wide column is hidden by the enclosing base of the labellum, hence the name - *Cryptostylus*- hidden column.

Fertilisation is a very interesting feature of this orchid, where as the male Ichneumon wasp, which hatches before the female, attempts to mate with the flower thus picking up the pollina and depositing on the next flower visited.

The February meeting was our Annual General and office bearers were elected under our new constitution, which was passed at a special meeting in January.

Those elected to office:

President	Mr.H.Foote
Vice Presidents	Mr.A.Brown, Mrs.J.Long.
Treasurer	Mrs.C.Brown
Secretary	Mr.L.Sheppard
Registrar	Mr.R.Brown
Librarian	Mr.R.Lander
Ass.Librarian	Miss.M.Groves
Auditor	Mr.R.Lander
Committee	Mr.H.Goodchild
	Mrs.F.Hoffman
	Mr.F.Bishop
	Mrs.J.Lodge
Culture Registrar	Mr.G.Kierath.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The second year of the Group's existence proved to be one of great interest and advancement. Membership now stands at 70.

The committee met monthly and attended to all the business of the Group. Committee minutes were read at General Monthly Meetings so that all members could follow the work of the Committee. The Committee prepared a list of items and speakers for the full year and this proved very interesting and educational. A list of field days for the year (including a visit to the herbarium) was also prepared by the Committee and was most successful. Meetings have been well attended and field days have proved popular. Many good stands of orchids have been found, lots of photographs taken, and a wide range of native orchids are now being cultured. Field sheets have been well used and passed to the Registrar who is compiling a valuable record from these. The Librarian and Assistant Librarian are gathering a valuable collection of slides and pressings. The Secretary - Treasurer has kept pace with our progress and our finance is in a sound state. His monthly newsletter is a popular innovation.

During the year the Committee (as a deputation) was received by the Minister for Conservation who promised to help in the finding of a site for the transfer of native orchids from areas of intended development. Group members have inspected reserves and sites which have been offered for planting, and this particular aspect should become a reality in the coming months.

The native orchid exhibit at the 1975 Royal Show was a success and added to the Group's publicity. We have been asked to exhibit again this year and also at Expo '76 in May. I was asked to prepare a paper on W.A. native orchids for the Australian Orchid Conference held in Sydney last September which I did and illustrated with a number of slides. The Group Registrar obliged by reading the paper at the conference.

At this stage the Group has decided to stand on its own feet and become a separate organisation and to affiliate with The Orchid Society of W.A. A Constitution has been drawn up by the Committee and adopted at the General Meeting of the Group held in January 1976.

I have enjoyed the year with the Group and sincerely thank all the officers and members for their friendship and support in making it a year of progress.

Herb Foote (President).

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR.

Once again I am very pleased to be able to make this report at the 2nd Annual General Meeting of the Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group.

During the past 12 months I have continued to record, from field sheets handed in from members, the different genera and species of native orchids, their habitat and time of flowering.

The areas covered this past 12 months were much the same as the previous year, that is, from Dongara in the north to Albany in the south; a report was also received from the Salmon Gums, Esperance areas.

The register is gradually showing up a pattern and it's interesting to note the widespread areas some of the orchids are to be found.

The following native orchids have now been recorded in the register.

Acianthus	3	Eriochilus	2
Caladenia	38	Gastrodia	1
Caleana	1	Leporella	1
Calochilus	1	Lyperanthus	3
Corybas	1	Microtis	4
Cryptostylis	1	Monadenia	1
Cymbidium	1	Prasophyllum	11
Diuris	5	Pterostylis	10
Drakaea	2	Spiculaea	1
Elythránthera	2	Thelymitra	12
Epiblema	1		

Of the 25 genera and 165 species listed in Nuytsia, we have recorded a total of 21 genera and 102 species.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT 1975/1976.

I have much pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the year ending February 1976.

The slide library expanded very quickly during the active months last year and the following genera have been recorded and cross indexed.

Caladenia 96, Calochilus 4, Corybas 3, Cryptostylis 7, Diuris 18, Eriochilus 14, Lyperanthus 15, Pterostylis 39, Prasophyllum 26, Leporella 4, Elythranthera 3, Thelymitra 30, Acianthus 15, Spiculaea 2, Drakea 4, Caleana 5, Microtis 1, Monadenia 1, Epiblema 0, Gastroides 0, General 15.

This makes a total of 260 slides covering most of the species. I am indebted to two members whom I feel should be named. They are David Emery and Andrew Brown who worked tirelessly and made many valuable contributions to the library. To these and others of the group I would like to record my thanks.

It has become obvious that our original slide box will have to be replaced by a more commodious one if our present enthusiasm for photography continues. I would like to see more slides of our natives taken in the field and also photos of the group on field days. I feel this would break up the monotony of looking down the throats of our native orchids.

Despite efforts by a number of our members, we have not been able to obtain a volume of "Nicholls" for our book library. We have not given up hope that one day it will come.

Once again, I wish to thank all those members who made my task easier than it would otherwise have been and I look forward to your support again during 1976.

Reg. Lander, Librarian.
24/2/1976.

Mr. Les Nesbitt of South Australia wrote out his method of seed raising, this article was reprinted and made available to members. The members wish to thank him for his time and effort to make this information available.

The first outing this year of 1976 is a weekend to Albany on the 10th and 11th of April and the orchid on this occasion, the leafless orchid or Caladenia aphylla.
