

President: Mr. H. Foote
Treasurer: Mrs. C. Brown

Patron: Sir C. Nalder
Secretary: Mr. L. Sheppard

Topics have not yet been set for the 1976 year, but the general idea will be to vary the subjects, with talks on the plants which are tables each month and of course the slide competition judging. The next two months will be:-

MAY - DAVE EMERY - PHOTOGRAPHY
JUNE - REG LANDER - PRESSING

Field days have not been set in general. Although several days have already been set aside.

ALBANY - ON THE 10TH. & 11TH. APRIL - CALADENIA APHYLLA
MERREDIN - ON THE 6TH. JUNE - CALADENIA DRUMMONDI
BUNBURY - ON THE 27TH. JUNE - PTERO SARGENTI ROGEROII

The affiliation has been accepted by the Orchid Society of W.A. and we are now moving to become an incorporate body.

Graham Kierath made a visit back to Perth and was at our last meeting and accepted the office of Culture Registrar.

We have now in the library, papers from the Canberra Botanical Gardens on flasking of orchid seed and culture. The December issue of the Victorian Branch Bulletin contained an interesting article by Mr. Barry Crockford on his methods of collecting and potting terrestrial. With his permission, this is a re-print.

When collecting Tubers he retains a little of the native soil around the tuber. He makes up a potting mixture consisting of two (2) parts old dried, crushed gum leaves, one (1) part peat moss, one (1) part builders sand, one (1) part river sand or light gravel, one (1) part native soil. He fills the bottom $\frac{1}{4}$ of the pot with charcoal or similar material, the second $\frac{1}{4}$ with potting mix. He then adds about $\frac{3}{4}$ " native soil into which he places the tuber so that it is just resting on the lower layer. He then fills the rest of the pot with the potting mix. He waters 2 caps of "MAXICROP" to 2 gallons of water. In the summer he dries the pots off, keeping them not quite bone dry. When shoots re-appear in Autumn, he soaks the pot well by immersing them in a bucket of water until all the air bubbles have escaped, thereafter waters them normally. He finds that in the first year the plants go back, but in the second year they flower.

These notes are by Mr. Andrew Brown -

CALADENIA APHYLLA - (LEAFLESS ORCHID)

As the common name implies there is no leaf present on a flowering specimen of *C. aphylla*. I had previously thought it appeared, either before or after flowering, however last year Harry Lodge and I visited Bakers Junction and for every flowering specimen we found: we found a number of leaves belonging to immature plants.

Aphylla can be found from Albany to Bunbury and has been reported in the Metropolitan area although I have not met anyone who has personally found it there. Also seen at Bridgetown, Boyup Brook and Yarloop.

PRASO PARUIFOLIUM (AUTUMN LEEK)

The Albany form of *Praso Paruifolium*, which will be in tight bud on April 10th., has several peculiarities differing it from the typical Autumn leek found in the Metro area. It lacks colouring, being pale green and white, has a strong scent and flowers from late April to late May. The local form on the other hand has very little scent by comparison, has rather beautiful colouring in reds and browns and flowers from June to August. Incidentally the typical form can also be found in the same area as the early one, but two months later.

A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER - FEES ARE NOW DUE FOR 1976.
