

President Mr.H.E.Foote,
Secretary Mr.L.Sheppard
Treasurer Mrs.C.Brown,

Mr.Dave Emery gave an interesting talk at our last meeting on close-up photography. When the notes come to hand they will be printed in this newsletter.

A small party of members made the trip to Albany on the 10th & 11th of April and from reports had a successful trip, as they found the leafless orchid, *Caladenia aphylla*, *Eriochilus dilatatus*, (white bunnies) and *Leporella fimbriata* (hare orchid). Where the *Leporella* were flowering had not been burnt, but the ground had been disturbed by some means of a mechanical hoe, dozer blade or some such thing. These were flowering in profusion. It is a common belief, that this orchid rarely flowers unless the area has been burnt. This belief has some doubt, as last year also, plants were found flowering in areas that had not been burnt for several years.

C.aphylla and *Eriochilus* were found at Baker's Junction.

While on this trip they met Ken & Judy Moore, who, we hope in the near future will be included in our membership list.

Mr. & Mrs. Ron Heberle, the wildflower stalwarts of Albany have joined our ranks. Ron gave an excellent talk at our Christmas meeting on orchids found in the Albany district.

June the 6th is the next field day to Merredin in search of the "winter spider orchid" *Caladenia drummondii*. This is the orchid that was thought to be extinct. The meeting place: CENTRE POINT MIDLAND. AT 8.A.M. SHARP. Andrew Brown the leader.

June 27th is set aside for Bunbury & possibly Busselton.

We have included another member on our list from South Australia Mr.W.Clayson, who is a Forestry Foreman and we welcome him.

A little about our country members, these are people who owing to distance cannot make the journey to our meetings, but contribute to our records with information of orchids of their respective districts. We have on the Sth coast, Mr. & Mrs. Bodrigai of Bunbury, and little further south & inland Mr.B.Stonor of Margaret River. Mr.Terry Wilson & his daughter Annette although Perthites are covering the Walpole area in the sth, now in the Albany area Mr. & Mrs. Ron Heberle. Then further eastward & inland at Salmon Gums, Mr. Don Voigt.

I think I may take the liberty of saying, that these people would be pleased to see any members, who may be in their district at any time.

The spread of orchids would be very interesting if we knew exactly where they originated. Our early botanists listed areas where they were found, but then the country was only young and all places were not searched. We at this age do not know, or it would be impossible to trace the spread of certain species.

On reading of past findings and our own records show some interesting facts. One such plant shows a definite spread in a pattern. The plant an import from Sth.Africa. *MONADENIA MYCRANTHUS*.

It was first reported to have been discovered in an area between ALBANY - DENMARK in 1944, although no-one knows how the introduction occurred, it is thought, that the minute seeds came in the dust of sacking, that covered goods from Sth.Africa and unloaded at Albany. At this time it was found mainly on the roadsides. It was claimed to be elusive as in 1946 it was abundant, but in 1948 it was not to be seen.

In 1974-75 some thirty years later, members found this plant at Walpole, Manjimup, Greenbushes, Bunbury and Crambrook. In my wanderings early this year I found two plants in the Armadale area in a swampy type of soil. These had flowered and the seed scattered. Armadale is approximately 250 miles north of where the plant was originally found.

The pattern is interesting to note that all areas and towns where these plants were found are on the main road arteries leading up from the first place of discovery. Although some doubt could be argued about Bunbury, that being a port of entry like Albany, all areas are quite a distance inland.

Reference "Orchids of the West".

Rica Erikson.