

Patron: Sir C. Nalder
President: Mr. H.E. Foote
Secretary: Mr. L. Sheppard
Treasurer: Mrs. C. Brown

The trip to Merredin was highly successful and a good roll-up of members, 22 in number made the trip in good travelling weather, although the wind was light and chilly. Andrew Brown led the party to a spot South of Merredin, where we found that elusive but beautiful orchid "Caladenia drummondii". It is not surprising that this orchid was thought to be extinct for although it was known to be in this area it was still hard to find. It only grows to the height of about 3" and is very hard to see in its natural surroundings. The day was sunny, so some good slides should be the result and we look forward to seeing them. "Pterostylus sargentii" was also found just coming into flower.

After a roadside lunch we moved back to the Merredin Golf Course and there found quite good colonies of PT. Seaba Vat. Scaba, as before none in flower. From this point the party broke up, some heading south to Bruce Rock, others returning home.

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News from Bunbury area that Tibor Bodrigai and helpers have been given permission to transfer orchids into a reserve at Bunbury. With Tibor's knowledge of terrestrial orchids, this should be a step in the right direction in conserving our orchids. We know that this project is in capable hands, hope to hear more when we visit Bunbury on the 27th. June.

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There was a small profit made at the Expo 76 and the President thanked those members who assisted in the exhibition.

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Sets of orchid prints with relevant information of the orchid shown, or separate prints, are now available at \$6 a set of 13, or single prints at 50 cents. These can be obtained from the Registrar, Mr. Roy Brown.

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We welcome five new members into our Group - Mr. Bruce Gordon, Mrs. Linda Penny, Miss Helen Skender and Mr. and Mrs. Linfoot - and hope they enjoy our activities.

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This is an extract from a letter written by Don Voigt of Salmon Gums on his observations of Pterostylus allentoidea.

This year have been doing some ground work in the finding of Pt. allentoidea, originally found by L. Horbury 1938.

I found my first patch at Peak Charles in September 1973, it is only this year that I found out its name for sure, since then discovered it at Bromus dam catchment September 1974, Moir's Rock September 1975 another patch at Peak Charles, No. 26 Dam Catchment (original 1938 spot) Kumari, a rocky area about 28 km through bush tracks on motor bikes all in September 1975.

The tubers are about the size of smallish garden peas 6 or 7 mm across the largest. They grow in and under granite rocks, cracked in past years and soil and leaves rotting down to a black humus compost. The tubers grow at a depth of up to 3" right against the underside edge of the rock, keeping cool as the temperature must reach 110°F. at times.

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I have found that the tubers, when planted in a 4" clay pot in the middle of the compost (bush type) have moved themselves to the bottom right out to the extreme inside edge of the pot.

I would say they would do well in a large pot with granite rocks in the top of the compost.

The largest plants I have found were only 6" high, mostly around 3 to 4 inches.

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N.A. NATIVE ORCHID STUDY & CONSERVATION GROUP

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1976

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