

JULY 1976

CONSERVATION GROUP (INC.)

NEWSLETTER

PATRON
SECRETARYSir Crawford Nalder.
Mr. L. SheppardPRESIDENT
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Mrs. C. Brown

TOPIC

At the July meeting Mr. Roy Brown gave a talk on the spread of orchid in this state. This talk was illustrated by maps and marked on these maps were the localities in which different orchids have found flowering. These maps 6 in all were hand drawn and mounted on cardboard. Thanks to Roy for this informative talk, to make up the maps and compile the data from his records would have taken hours.

From this talk he pointed out an area in which he had no recordings. For this I must apologise, and I will submit a field sheet for this area.

Mr. Roy Hargreaves of Sth. Australia attended the meeting and was given a warm welcome. He spoke of orchids of Sth. Australia and brought greetings from orchid societies in that state.

Sunday June the 27th was weather which left nothing to be desired sunshine and a clear atmosphere. A good roll up of members congregated at Tibor Bodrigai's place, a short stay to look over his exotic orchids and then moved off into a bush area below his place. In this area were found flowering Ptero. angusta, Ptero. robusta and many orchid leaves showing through the ground.

Then it was a run down to a pine plantation, west of Capel, here the pine needles were carpet thick. Ptero. rogersii was the only one flowering, Acianthus coming up to flower, Eriochilus and cericea leaves only. In one place under the first layer of pine needles Corybas were growing in the hundreds.

We then moved back through Capel to a mining area looking for Ptero barbata, here were found Pt. nana and recurva, Cryptostylus leaves were plentiful. Time was moving on and the parties broke up to make their way home.

This month we welcomed new members into our midst.
Ken & Judy MOORE of Albany. Norm & Pat BUTLER of Albany.

Mrs. Pat Butler is seeking the book "Orchids of Australia" by W.H. Nicholls if any person knows of a spare copy about, would they please notify the Secretary.

The following article was written by Graham Kierath of his observations of Pterostylus.

POT CULTURE

Last June I made a trip to Bunbury to collect several specimens of Pterostylus rogersii. However while attempting to remove them from the soil the tubers broke off, so I put the flowering plant section into a small jar (medicine jar) and half filled with water. Several weeks later I noticed that a white auxiliary root was emerging from the tuber stem and heading downwards towards the water.

There are two points to note here. Firstly the bottom section of the jar was dark, due to the label on the jar. The root will move away from the light areas and towards dark areas. Secondly the water was allowed to evaporate slowly, but not allowing the jar to dry out completely.

I had two such stems. One stem had one root, and the other had two such roots. After the root had extended to about 2 inches a very small tuber started to develop. Both flowering stems were transplanted into a pot of bush sand, and this year three rosettes have come through and one of these looks like a flowering plant. This process also works successfully when the plant is put into moist Spargum moss instead of the jar of water. At the moment, however, it has only worked successfully with the Pterostylus family, but other types will be experimented with this year, as well as studying the effects on a tuber itself when it is removed from the rest of the plant.

The most important point to note, is the fact that there must be a portion of the white fleshy stem still attached to the flowering stem. So this year, instead of throwing these stems away, try this method and produce new plants.

Three field days and the meeting places have been set:

August 8th meet CENTRE POINT MIDLAND 8am area BADGINGARRA.

August 22nd meet BOORAGOON 9 am. area MUNDIJONG.

Sept. 5th meet CAROUSEL 8 am. area BROOKTON HIGHWAY.

