

W.A. NATIVE ORCHID STUDY
AND
CONSERVATION GROUP (INC)

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1977

PATRON: Sir C. Nalder

President: Mr E.E. Foote

Secretary: Ms L. Fenny

Treasurer: Mrs D. Lander

At the March meeting the topic for the evening was given by Mr Herb Foote, supported by slides. These talks are always interesting as some new points always show up.

"The group of orchids listed for discussion tonight are the autumn and early winter flowering species, generally regarded as the first flowers of the new season:

Caladenia aphylla
Pterostylis vittata
" *sargentii*
Eriochilus dilatatus
" *scaber*
Leporella fimbriata

Caladenia aphylla is called "the leafless orchid" because it is usually leafless at the time of flowering, at times the dried leaf is remaining at the base of the stem. The flowering season is from March to May. Group members who went on the Albany trip last April saw it flowering at Bakers Junction and at Kent River. Distribution of *C. aphylla* is South West W.A. favouring the coastal plain.

The solitary flower is white or cream on the slender stem about 12 inches high. The sepals and petals about 1 inch long covered in short hairs on the outside. The labellum is three lobed, and unfringed, with purple stripes across the side lobes, the middle lobe coming out to a solid purple and then a recurved yellow tip. The calli in two rows on stalks with yellow clubs and finishing before the yellow tip. There are wide wings on the column forming a hood.

The tubers are not very deep and as illustrated at the February meeting by Mr Reg Lander are easily transplanted.

Slides show two views of *C. aphylla* and for comparison *C. saccharata* (spring flowering) and *C. alba* Eastern States (autumn flowering)

Pterostylis vittata: is called the "banded greenhood". *Pterostylis* meaning "winged column".

There is a *P. vittata* var *vittata* which is found in Western Victoria, part of Tasmania, South Australia and is widely distributed in Western Australia. In fact it was mentioned by Group members last year that everywhere we listed orchids *P. vittata* was on the list.

The *pterostylis* has a "galea" which is formed by the combined dorsal sepal and the petals. The labellum is set in the centre of the conjoined lower sepals and is sensitive to touch. A small gnat is said to be the pollinating agent. *Pt. vittata* seedlings have a flat rosette of leaves - flowering size plants have the leaves ranged up the stem - large plants can attain a height up to twenty four inches.

Tubers are quite large (up to one inch) roughly spherical and not deep. Usually found in shady places in deep compost. Sheoak trees make ideal habitats, and where there is a thick compost of leaves the tubers will be found quite near the surface.

They are easily transplanted and grow well in pots if fed with plenty of compost.

P.vittata var *subdifformis*. The main difference seems to be a shorter stem and less but larger flowers than the typical form and the labellum appendage point, directed inward compared with the forward inclined point of the typical form.

Slides: <i>ptvittata</i>	{	green)
" "	{	growing in heavy compost
" "	{	showing forward inclined tip of labellum
" "	{	<i>subdifformis</i> inward " " " "
" "	{	labellum down
" "	{	" triggered up.

Pterostylis sargentii 'Frog greenhood'
Endemic to W.A. Widespread through inland wheatbelt areas of the South West. Has a blunt top to the galea with a short upturned point. The labellum on a broad very irritable claw with club shaped appendages covered in short hairs. A slender plant about 8-10 inches tall, starts with a rosette which withers by the time of flowering. It grows in shelter of scrub etc. and transplants easily, the round tuber is not very deep.

Eriochilus dilatatus "White Bunny Orchid"
Eriochilus meaning 'wooly lips' An Australian genus of five species.
E.dilatatus is a slender plant, very variable. The leaf is at or below the middle of the stem. Number of flowers varies, can be one, two or three but sometimes many more (up to 13) Flowering period March to June. It has an elastic mouth edge to the stigma which is pulled down by the visiting insect when pushing past to get to the nectar and the pollinia it is carrying is thrust into the sack which closes up when the insect retreats.

E.sceber "The Pink Bunny Orchid"
This is . widespread through swampy scrubby areas, but is regarded as uncommon as it is generally not seen. When a fire has burnt out the scrub it will make a carpet of flower. Single flowers on stems about four inches high.

Leporella fimbriata "The Hare Orchid"
This was previously known as *LEPTOCERAS* *fimbriata* but the genus name of *LEPORELLA* was given to it by Mr Alex George after extensive investigation. It was at one time grouped with *Caladenia menziesii* "The Rabbit Orchid" but . George has proved it to be a single species in a separate genus. The name *Leporella* refers to the Hare-like look of the orchid as does the common name.

It is widespread in the South West - forming a carpet of leaves in some places that would not leave a path without walking on them, and then not a single flower. Sometimes it has two leaves on the ground. It has possibly been reported as growing in every place the group has visited, but last April at Rakera Junction it was flowering in mass, and on bare sand on a track where there was no sign of a fire. Usually it needs a summer fire to make it flower. I had never seen it growing on site before last year."

As the new season is coming closer the President appealed to members for a concentrated effort centred at the Hollywood Reserve.

There has been a set back, as quite a few of the shrubs that were planted have died. Now it is a matter of checking the trickle system. We have also had a very long hot summer.

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Baker's Junction is moving along in the way of negotiations. The Albany Council and the Main Road's Department have come into the picture, although this should not make any difference to the final outcome.

A painting was presented to Lady Walder on behalf of the Group. This was to show appreciation of the work done by Sir. C. Walder in the foundation work in meetings with the Minister of Conservation in regards to reserves and also instigating the securing of the film room at the Department of Agriculture for our monthly meetings - free of charge.

We welcome into our Group two new members:

Mrs Alison HARRINGTON of [REDACTED]
Mrs Irene LANDBE of [REDACTED]

The April topic for the meeting
"Pterostylus - Greenhoods"
Speaker : Andrew Brown.

April Field Day

Hoolywood Reserve on the 17th. bring your lunch as it is an all day social meeting but don't forget to bring the wheelbarrow and shovel.

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FIELD DAYS 1977

DATE	MEETING PLACE	TIME	LOCALITY
April 17th	Hollywood Reserve	.	
May 29th	Booragoon Car Park	9 am	
June 26th	Collie River Bridge Eaton	10 am	Eaton Capel Pine Forest
July 31st	Carousel Car Park	9 am	Kelmscott
Aug 14th	Centrepoint Midland	9 am	Clackline
Sept	No Field Trips Royal Show Orchid Conference		
Oct 8th	Grass Patch in the centre of Margaret - River	11 am	Alexandra Bridge Muir Highway
" 9th	" "	8.30 Am	
" 10th	Caravan Park Mt Barker	8.30 Am.	
Nov 5th " 6th	Albany Roundabout	1 pm	Albany Districts
Nov 27th	Forrestfield Shop Cnr Forrest Road and Nicholson Road	10 am	Jandakot Area

ITEM FOR MEETING

MONTH	GENERA	FLOWERING TIME	SPEAKER
MARCE	Caladenia aphylla (leafless)	April	
	Pterostylis vittata (banded green-hood)	June	
	Pterostylis sargentii (frog)	June	
	Eriochilus dilatatus (white bunny)	April-May	Herb Foote
	Eriochilus scaber (pink bunny)	Aug-Sept	
	Leporella fimbriata (hare)	April-June	
APRIL	Pterostylis (greenhoods)	June-Nov	Andrew Brown
MAY	Diuris (donkeys)	July-Dec	
	Caladenia drummondii (winter spider)	Herredin May	Roy Brown
JUNE	Acianthus (mosquito)	July-Oct	
	Caladenia gemmata (blue china)	Aug-Oct	
	deformis (blue fairy)	June-Sept	
	serices (silky blue)	July-Oct	Graham
	cerulea (blue orchid)	Aug-Sept	Yeirath
Microtis (mignonette)			
JULY	Prasophyllum (leek)	July-Dec	
	Corybas (helmet)	"	
	Rhizanthella gardneri (underground)	Corrigin-Goomalling Rd June	Alex George
AUG	Caladenia (spiders)	April-Jan	Herb Foote
SEPT	Elythranthera (enamel)	Sept-Nov	
	Drakea (hammer)	Sept-Oct	
	Caecilia nigrita (flying duck)	Aug-Dec	Fred Bishop
	Calochilus robertsonii (beard)	Sept-Nov	
OCT	Thelymitra (sun)	Aug-Jan	Andrew Brown
NOV	Monadenia micrantha (S.Africa)	Oct-Nov	
	Lyperanthus (beak)	Sept-Nov	
	Gastrodia (potato) sesamoides	Dec-Jan	Harry
	Spiculaea ciliata (elbow)	Nov-Feb	Goodchild
	Cryptostylis ovata (slipper)	Nov-Feb	Lal
	Epiblema grandiflorum (babe in cradle)	Nov-Jan	Sheppard

Table plants at 7.30 if possible
 Minutes and business 8 - 8.30
 Item for discussion and slides 8.30-10.00
 Discussion on Month's activities 10.00-10.30