

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

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1977

PATRON: Sir C. Nalder K.B.

President: Mr H. E. Foote
Secretary: M/s L. Penny
Treasurer: Mrs D. Lander

Mr Fred Bishop gave the month's talk on DRAKEA, ELYANTHERA, CALEANA AND CALOCYLUS.

DRAKEA (Hammer Orchids)

They have a character of their own, a funny looking plant, when I first saw them, I thought the wogs had got to the flower or that it had gone to seed, but study and experience have taught me different. I wonder what Miss Drake thought when she first found them, they are named after her. There are a genus of 4 all only occurring in W.A., all similar except on the labellum. Fitzgerald did not know how these were pollinated as he seldom saw a plant that was pollinated and believed as a last resort that they had missed out or were instead self pollinating. All are slender plants with heart shaped leaves.

D.elastica (The praying virgin) flowers in Sept-Oct. Has a short labellum, upturned tip and covered with hairs and one tuft of glands.

D.fitzgeraldi (warty hammer orchid) has very little hair and one tuft of glands.

D.glyptodon (the king in his carriage) How they got this name I would not know. Flowers in Sept. has the basal end covered with hairs and tufts of glands and the tip is straight.

D.jeanensis flowers later and is similar to the previous one, but has no hair on the labellum and smaller basal tuft of glands.

ELYANTHERA (Enamel Orchid)

of which we have two in W.A. and are only found in this state.

ELY.brunosis (purple enamel) is widespread but mainly found in swampy areas on the coastal plain and granite soil of the forest areas. The name enamel is easy to see why it gets the name from its glossy surface on top which is unusual on orchids to have a glossy top and the underside white with spots, this is a feature which is noticeable.

ELY.emarginata (Pink enamel) It is not as widespread as the purple. It has a glossy pink flower, and the labellum is similar to the purple variety which folds up and back then forward again giving the tip an S shape and the tip is also notched. It appears that the plant does not like cultivation.

There are reports that there is a white type of both species.

CALEANA (Flying ducks)

There is only one that grows in W.A. but Caleana grows in all States. The flowers on the stem are reversed to each other, back to back.

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CALEANA nigrita, also reversed about 15 cm high the column when touched snaps down onto the pouch and so the pollinating action takes place with the insect struggling to get out. The leaf is small and broadly lanceolate, it is red and like the plant small if not in flower. This genus CALEANA was named after G. GALEY a plant collector. Nigrita means black so the W.A. plant is black or dark in colour. Flowers around Sept.-Oct.

CALOECHILUS robertsonii (Beard Orchid)

I must admit I have just recently seen this plant.. I have been told that we should all learn what the name means, in this case it came from CALOS a greek word meaning beautiful and Kheilos (Chilus) a lip all leading to the bearded lip. There are known to be 11 species chiefly Australian, New Zealand, Papua & New Caledonia. These plants are self pollinating. The local type robertsonii is a robust plant with a deeply channelled leaf and is reported to have up to 15 flowers which are small, yellow green to reddish brown or brown marking, the labellum is triangular extending to a hairy covered top and tip, which gives it its common name.

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We had two field days one to Clackline and then one to Collie.

The Clackline trip was enjoyed by all who made the trip and various places were visited along the Great Eastern Highway. Many species were found although some were not in flower, but this could be due to the late season or the dry year. Those in flower were: Ptero barbata, nana, recurva, scabra var scabra and vittata. Caladenia longiclavata, reptans and deformis. Diuris longifolia

Leaves that were identified:

Caladenia cericea, flava and menziesii, Drakea: Calochilus.
Leporella: Thelymitra crinita and antennifera, Lyperanthus,
Prasophyllum, spiculea ciliata

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The trip to Collie was indeed an eye opener and Robin Neave and family must be thanked for their guidance to areas of great interest. One feature of this trip was that some members went lower down the South on the Saturday then came back to Collie for the Sunday. Faye had the misfortune of a broken windscreen, but on arriving back in Collie we were greeted by Ruth Bishop's canteen - a lovely cup of tea and a slice of apple pie. We visited areas around Collie and according to my record 45 species were found.

We returned to Collie and after a cup of tea and a short chat made our way home and we wish to thank our Collie members for an enjoyable day.

Mr Alex George reported that a new Corybas has been found at Busselton, but it will take time to check this out, as over a period of time it has to be studied.

Ron Herbele spoke at the meeting on finding lost orchids and he spoke of searching for Caladenia cristata which has not been sighted for 40 years. I visited Salmon Gums about the middle of September and was shown a patch of orchids by Don Voigt, the type I had not seen before, so I brought back a specimen for Alex George to identify. His identification - Caladenia cristata

October and November meeting - the raffle is a metal pot stand kindly donated and made by Bruce Gordon - please don't forget to buy a ticket or two.

It is very good news that the W.A. Native Orchid Group won the Gold medal for the display at the Aust. Orchid conference.

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The barbeque to Boulder Rock for the conference visitors was enjoyed, but the weather was not to kind, the sun was contrary and belied our state, but apart from that, we met some interesting people and learnt something about the other states and the visitors saw our wealth of wildflowers.

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Long weekend in October. Trip to the South West

Oct. 8 Meet - Margaret River - Grass Patch in the centre
at 11.00 am

Oct. 9 Same place 8.30 am

Oct. 10 Mt Barker - Caravan Park 8.30 am

Robin Neave won the September slide competition.

We still require flowers for pressing but they must be named,
date and location from where they were collected, this is very
important for our records.