

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

NOVEMBER 1977

NEWSLETTER

Patron: Sir C. Malder K.B.

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

The November meeting was very well attended and on that night we had two speakers: Mr Harry Goodchild who spoke on *Monadenia micrantha*, *Lyperanthus*, *Gastrodia* and *Spiculea ciliata* and Mr Lal Sheppard who spoke on *Cryptostylus ovata* and *Epiblema grandiflorum*...

Monadenia micrantha

A naturalised specie one of the commonest endemic to South Africa. There is some speculation to how it originally came to Western Australia, but it was first found on the extreme South Coast. It is amazing how the seed has dispersed in W.A. as it can now be found over a wide area. There is nothing spectacular about this orchid and the only thing in its favour is the amount of flowers it has on the stem.

Lyperanthus (Rattlebeaks)

A Terrestrial orchid with a fleshy tuber, a solitary leaf which is usually broad and thick. Dorsal sepal, broad, erect and incurved over the column, other segments narrow and spreading, and almost equal in length to the dorsal sepal. It is a small genus of 12 species, four in Australia and endemic, while one is found in New Zealand and the others in New Caledonia. There are three in Western Australia.

Forrestii

Confined to Swampy areas of the South West.

Nigricans

Not so confined, usually found in colonies, dark in colour even to the leaf, called the Red Beak, will only flower after a fire.

Serratus

Widespread throughout the South West, flower Pale Green to a yellow, commonly called the 'Rattle Beaks'.

Gastrodia (Potato Orchid)

I have yet to see one growing but hope one day to see it. A leafless orchid, flowers in a loose raceme of a fine bell shaped flower, stem is dark brown 30-80 cm high and has been recorded as many as 75 flowers to a stem.

The sesamoides is restricted to the Karri forest areas and flowers from Sept. to Feb, at its best in cool moist gullies and has a delightful spicy cinnamon scent.

Spiculea ciliata (Elbow Orchid)

Plant grows to 6-17 cm in height and has a small leaf. The flowers - 2 - 6 on short pedicels are greenish red and are still fresh and open after the stem has dried. Quite common on Grevillea outcrops extending as far east as Herredin, flowering period October to January.H. Goodchild

Epiblema grandiflorum (Babe in the cradle)

It is a monotype genus which is endemic to W.A. and grows in swampy type soil. The plants that grow in wet swamps appear to be more robust than those growing in dry swamps. It was thought to grow only in the swamps of the south, but has been at Jandakot and so has been reported at Muchea north of Perth.

The plant which has a reedlike or linear leaf, grows in conjunction with the swamp reed and unless in flower would be difficult to identify. The flower or flowers are of a deep lavender, similar in shape to the *Thelymitra* group, the petals and sepals are veined. The petals and labellum being more deeply blotched. The labellum has two parallel appendages on the claw and a tuft of long calli type appendages near the base. The column is very short with two petal type lateral wings which are spotted and erect behind the anther and it flowers early in December.

Cryptostylus

Means hidden column and commonly known as "Slipper Orchid" a genus of 18 species represented in Malaya, New Guinea, Formosa, Phillipines, New Caladonia, Fiji, Samoa and Australia. There are 5 species in Australia, but only one is confined to W.A.

Crypto. Ovata - it is very widespread growing in all types of habitats from forest areas in the Sth West to sandy flats of Jandakot and areas round to Hopetoun. The leaf in some cases grow to six inches in length and is similar to a leaf of a Jarrah tree. It is mainly evergreen but the leaf will on occasions die back after flowering. The root system is fleshy and has no bulb or tubers. It favours shady places and grows in conjunction with low scrub or in the protection of low lying branches of jarrah trees. The flower stems are stout and fleshy growing to about 18 inches. The tinted flower bracts and unusual labellum are the chief beauty of the flower. The sepals and petals are inconspicuous and the flowers are inverted. The short wide column is hidden by the enclosing base of the labellum from which the name is derived. On looking at the flower from the underside you will notice the beautiful veined curves. It flowers from late Oct. to February. Culture: easy to grow in any well drained soil. Broken roots.

....L. Sheppard

Recent communication with Bernard Stonor of Margaret River has revealed another area in which *Caladenia corynephora* can be found and reports that the amount of red colour in the flower varies a lot as a few flowers are almost entirely green. This now brings the areas in which this new orchid can be found to three, all in the south of the state - Margaret River, Manjimup, and Albany, and flowers late from December to January. For those members who have Alex Georg's 'NUYTSIA' will find it is clearly defined.

On reading the Bulletin of the A.N.O.S. Victorian Group. There is an article which I think will interest our members, and with their kind permission I will reprint it. But firstly, it is pleasing to note that I am not the only person who is always in a hurry to get from one place to another.

.... How I Grow *Pterostylus recurva* and *barbata* by Mr. Rick Datodi

(reprinted from the A.N.O.S. Vic. Group)

Pterostylus recurva and *Pterostylus barbata* are both endemic to W.A. and both flower in the spring. W.A. has a harsh climate, having extremely long hot dry spells through summer, and moderate winters. This harsh climate produces plants which are more robust in stature and more leathery in texture. These different growing conditions have obviously contributed to the marked differences which exist between the controversial species *Pterostylus barbata* (W.A.) and *Pterostylus plumosa* (E.Australia). *Pterostylus recurva* and *barbata* normally do not reproduce by vegetative means, both relying on seed dispersal for multiplication. This unfortunately means that they are seldom seen in cultivation. The primary requirement of these plants is

perfect drainage, as excessive moisture quickly leads to rotting of tubers and dampening off of plants. To create a perfectly drained situation in the pot, one must fill the bottom $\frac{1}{4}$ of the pot with crocking material, following by a potting mix consisting of approx. 50% river sand, 25% mountain soil and 25% leaf mould. The plants require a little more light than most other *Pterostylus* species, so should be grown in the same light conditions as one normally grows *Diuris* and *Thelymitra*. An occasional feeding of very dilute Aquasol during the growing season helps to produce bigger tubers and more vigorous plants. The pots should be kept moist while the plants are above the ground, but allow to dry out during the summer.....

Remember that January is a rest month, but we have the Annual General meeting and the election of officers in February. There are retiring members and positions to fill so please give this important meeting serious thought, some new blood is required.

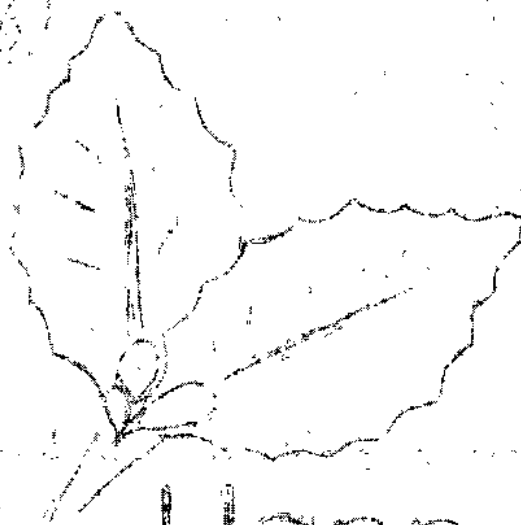
We welcome a new member Mr Lansdowne [REDACTED]

Starting next year we hope to upgrade our newsletter with an editing committee.

The President and committee wish to take this opportunity to wish all members a very Merry Festive season.

*A Merry
Christmas*

and



Happy
New
Year