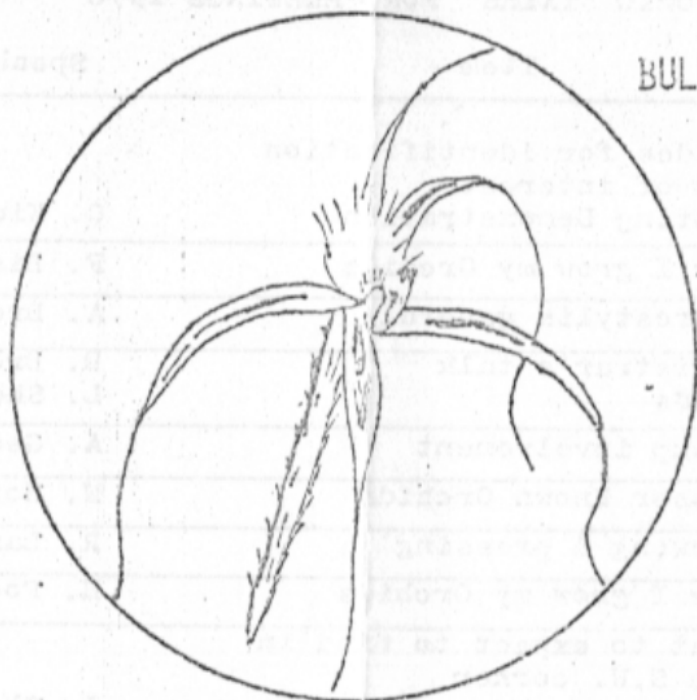


OFFICIAL

BULLETIN



Registered for posting as category "B"

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Mrs. F. Gordon

MARCH 1978

### March Meeting

The meeting was well attended with quite a few visitors, who were welcomed to the meeting.

In the meeting procedure the W.A. Camera Club asked for an official invitation. The Secretary is to send an official invitation, but it is really not necessary as all visitors are welcome to our meetings.

### "How I Grow My Orchids" by Fred Bishop

I cannot remember when the native orchid disease struck me, but it was many years ago when I was tractor driving, cleaning up areas and blocks for planting of reserves, tennis courts and bowling greens etc. Seeing all these plants, native orchids laying about they were collected and planted somewhere, where they had a chance to survive, but many of them eventually found their way home. I realised at the time that they were in flower in most cases, and actually the wrong time to shift them. But it was a case of shift them or die, very often it was die. When it was found that a certain area was to be developed, the spots were marked, and the tubers dug when dormant if you could find them, otherwise a check in the early growing season and dig them then. If it is flowering time or a group of plants are found it is always best to pick the young plants or the small or outside growing plants. I prefer the smaller plants and try to grow them on, with a little care, and not to rough handling, we can grow quite a few of our native orchids.

In regards to growing in pots, try to visualise the conditions in which the plant comes from, wet swamp, dry sand plain, clay or gravel, did the root system go through the gravel into the sand or do the bulbs go down deep into the soil? Try to create the same conditions. Use 4-6" pots, approx. 1" charcoal, gravel or porous

The middle section is where the bulbs are planted in plain bush sand or a mulchy mix according to the type of country in which they are found. The top of the pot in all cases is topped up with sheoak needles and old cymbidium compost left over from repotting orchids. I have at times used about 10 granules of osmocote in the top section of the pots and are kept under gum trees. The hardest part is when they have flowered, I let nature do it for me as from Christmas the plants get no treatment, they are left under the gum trees with the grass and fallen leaves which keeps them cool, and only a quick spray of water to stop them drying out too much. In the bush the bulbs are usually under a thick carpet of leaves and debris which keeps them cool. I do not know that much, but if you have learnt something from this talk, it has been worthwhile, as we are all learning.

#### Registrar's Report for the Twelve Months ended 3rd Feb '78

Once again I am very pleased to make my report, this being the 4th Annual General Meeting of the Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group. During the past 12 months regular trips were made to metropolitan and country areas, and from Field Sheets, I was able to record the areas and times of flowering of the different species of native orchids. It has been a very successful year, with 7 species being found that had not previously been recorded. I would like to thank those members who recorded the orchids they found on Field Sheets, as this is the only way that the register can be kept up to date.

The species not previously recorded were:- *Caladenia Cristata* *Corybas Unguiculatus* *Drakea Jeanensis* *Thelymitra Mathowsii* *Macmillanii* *Mucida Spiralis*

Of the 25 general and 165 species listed in NUYTIA, we have now recorded a total of 21 general and 118 species

Acianthus	3	Eriochilus	2
Caladenia	43	Gastrodia	1
Caleana	1	Leporella	1
Calochilus	1	Lyperanthus	3
Corybas	2	Microtis	4
Cryptostylus	1	Monadenia	1
Cymbidium	1	Prasophyllum	11
Diuris	6	Pterostylis	12
Drakea	3	Spiculaea	1
Elythranthera	2	Thelymitra	18
Eipblema	1		
			<hr/>
			118

# Orchid Of the Month - Caladenia aphylla - A. Brown

Each month I will endeavour to describe a different W. native orchid. The emphasis being on the rarer or more unusual species.

Many of these are localised in specialized types of habitats and though an orchid may be common in your area it may be rare elsewhere. I must emphasize this as I myself have often been guilty of making the statement: "But I have seen that orchid growing everywhere at Albion". You must remember that though you have found it common others may not have seen it at all. So if you find any of the orchids described each month please let me know as you may have discovered a previously unknown location.

The first orchid to be described is Caladenia aphylla which should be flowering by the time you receive your copy of the March newsletter. This species has a single flower with short white petals and sepals and a beautiful green, mauve and yellow column and labellum. Commonly found under sheoak trees near swamps this orchid

can be seen between Albany and Augusta, but also grows in isolated pockets as far north as Yarloop. A flowering plant does not contain a leaf hence its common name the "leafless orchid". However, immature plants have small, striped, sometimes heart shaped leaves, which appear a few weeks after mature plants have begun to flower. Blooming in March and April it is one of our first orchids to flower.

One unusual location for this orchid was at the top of a granite outcrop near Walpole and another at Cranbrook. Remember if you think you have found *Cal. aphylla* please let me know.

#### Rica Erickson's "Orchids of the West"

A revision of this is under way at the Western Australian Herbarium. All descriptions are being revised, new species will be added, distribution and habitat notes updated and keys revised. It is hoped to complete the work by the end of 1978, for publication in 1979. Members of the Study Group can assist in a number of ways, especially:

1. recording species distribution and notes on habitat.
2. check keys as they are prepared.
3. provide advice on common names (especially local names in country districts).

Maps showing the distribution of species as supported by collections are being prepared and are available to anyone who may be able to help fill the gaps. A glance at any map will tell you where the species has been recorded; if you find it elsewhere, please collect a few specimens (complete with leaf). Press them and forward with locality, date and collector's name. Maps are available from Alex George, Western Australian Herbarium George Street, South Perth, W.A. 6151, and specimens

should be forwarded to him also.

Remember that for a plant record to be scientifically valid it must be supported by a specimen. Sight records may be useful, but no-one can verify if the identifications are correct.

Members, by prior arrangement with Alex, are welcome to visit the Herbarium and assist in mounting and labelling specimens they collect.

#### Across the Nullabor to Adelaide - Fred Bishop

After the recent Australian Orchid Conference, Stan Littlely and myself had a discussion on a trip across to Adelaide. So packing in our wives, across the Nullabor plains we went. First night we stopped at Cocklebidy, not much in the way of orchids. The area was dry as usual. We moved onto Madura Pass, where we went up the old Pass and had a wander round, there was Blue bush, which is common on the Nullabor, some spear grass and white everlasting type flowers, further back we looked for the Sturt Pea approx, 57 kms Norseman side of Balladonia. I have seen them here on previous trips, but were absent this year. Moving on we stopped at Eucla, the old telegraph station, where some vandal with a spray can had defaced everything he could use it on, also on the cutting wall at Madura Pass. The sand is still creating problems out there. This time there were a few more building tops showing above the sand. The next 80 miles were spent going down the viewing points that overlook the cliffs along the Great Australia Bight. They are approx. 200 feet high, no sand at the bottom, waves crash into the bare rocks, at the foot of the cliff face. These rugged cliffs are a must for all travellers to see, for photos, the 5th or 6th viewing point out of Eucla is the best. Portulacca type plants and blue bush were common foliage, quite a lot of Frankenia, a flower like Geraldton Wax in a small way

and a prostrate growth, but no orchids. A hunt around the cliff face many nests and burrows, bones and shells in the soil 200 feet above the water, showing it was under water many years ago.

On to Ceduna where trees appeared again - then to Port Augusta, then out to Horricks Pass another must for the Traveller, this rugged pass has a Grandeur of its own. The white gum trees of unusual shape were nice to see, collected a few rocks to add to the collection, plus some iron ore from Iron Knob, when we passed that camp or townsite.

In Adelaide we stopped at the Caravan Park, 4 miles north of Adelaide. We visited the South Coast Orchid Show at Marion Shopping Centre South of Adelaide. Good displays. The clubs and groups of people put on island displays around the centre. Les Nesbitt and Roy Hargreaves names were amongst the native orchids. On a trip out to Cudlee Creek, on hunting over a quarry area, I found Acianthus the mosquito orchid, Caladenia major a blue orchid, and Caladenia dilatatus. On another trip South we found Thelymitra rubra and another large type not open - possibly Thelymitra grandiflorum, a large patch of C.dilatatus and quite a lot of Acianthus that had finished flowering, also plants and leaves of a few Pterostylis.

After visiting Victor Harbour, well South of Adelaide on the way back we called in at Merv Dunn's "Valley Orchids" and as Stan comes from the same district around Kalamunda-Karragullen (W.A) they had quite a lot to talk about, also visited Syd Monkhouse's "Adelaide Orchids" as well. We returned home via the coast down to Port Lincoln and Streaky Bay. We looked around but could only find Pterostylus, no flowers. There is a lot of limestone country and some good looking patches burnt, where in the West it would be considered good orchid country, but not a thing to be seen, compared to the West orchids of the native type

are harder to find not having the variety that we have here in the West, but it is good hunting in any country whether they are on the ground or in the trees. So I will just think about what I have seen till this time next year, when the bug bites again.

... F. Bishop-October '7

### Points of Interest

We are to start an opportunity table at our General meetings. Members are asked to put their names and the price on the article to be sold and the Group will retain 20% of the selling price. Horticultural items are the theme.

Alison Harrington is the controller of the table. It will be open prior to the meeting and then again at the close of the meeting.

Mrs Glad Crowder was the winner of the raffle - a macramé hanger donated by Mrs Robin Noir.

There is the second set of prints available. These can be obtained from the Registrar at \$7 per set of 13.

### New Members

We welcome 5 new members:

Mr Craig Stewart  
Mr & Mrs C. Hill  
Mr F. Nagaganatti  
Mr D. Coates

Remember the deadline for the next edition is 7th April

Have you anything of interest, or something you wish to buy, sell, or swap, then tell the editor. Last month's response was great, but there is a bulletin every month.

Send articles to:

The Editor (Lal Sheppard)

The deadline for the next bulletin is April 7th or the next general meeting.

\*\*\*\* If this section is filled in it will show the subscription now due.

Mr

Mrs

Miss

Arrears \$

Dues to 1979 \$

# FIELD DAYS FOR 1978

Date	Time	Meeting Place	Locality
April 2nd	10 am	Hollywood Reserve	
April 15th			
16th	1 pm	Roundabout - Albany	
May 14th	10 am	Hollywood Reserve	
May 28th	8 am	Midland Railway Station Car Park	Wongan Hills
June 17th	10 am	Hollywood Reserve	
July 23rd	10 am	Booragoon Car Park	Collecting
August 13	9 am	Armadale Railway Station	Dwellingup
Sept. 13th	10 am	Collie River Bridge Daton	Dunbury
Oct. 7th	11 am	Dusselton	Augusta
" 8th	9 am	Tourist	and
" 9th	9 am	Reserve	Marg. River
Oct. 22nd	10 am	Hollywood Reserve	
Nov. 25th	1 pm		
" 26th	9 am	Roundabout - Albany	

††† October weekend: Intending Travellers Please Book  
accommodation early.

Car stickers are a good identification for field days.  
Personal badges are too.

• They are obtainable from the Secretary.

# TOPIC TALKS FOR MEETINGS 1978

Date	Item	Speaker
February	Slides for identification and of interest Potting Demonstration	G. Kiorath
March	How I grow my Orchids	F. Bishop
April	Pterostylis general	A. Brown
May	Registrar's talk Seeds	R. Brown L. Sheppard
June	Group involvement	A. George
July	Lesser Known Orchids	N. Hoffman
August	Growing & pressing	R. Lander
September	How I grow my Orchids	H. Foote
October	What to expect to find in the S.W. corner Seeds	L. Sheppard
November	Thelymitra	F. Gordon
December	Social gathering	

Meetings are held at the Dept. of Agriculture  
FILM ROOM, Jarrah Road, South Perth on the 1st  
Friday of each month

February	3rd	A.G.M.
March	3rd	
April	7th	
May	5th	
June	2nd	
July	7th	
August	4th	
September	1st	
October	6th	
November	3rd	
December	1st	Christmas meeting