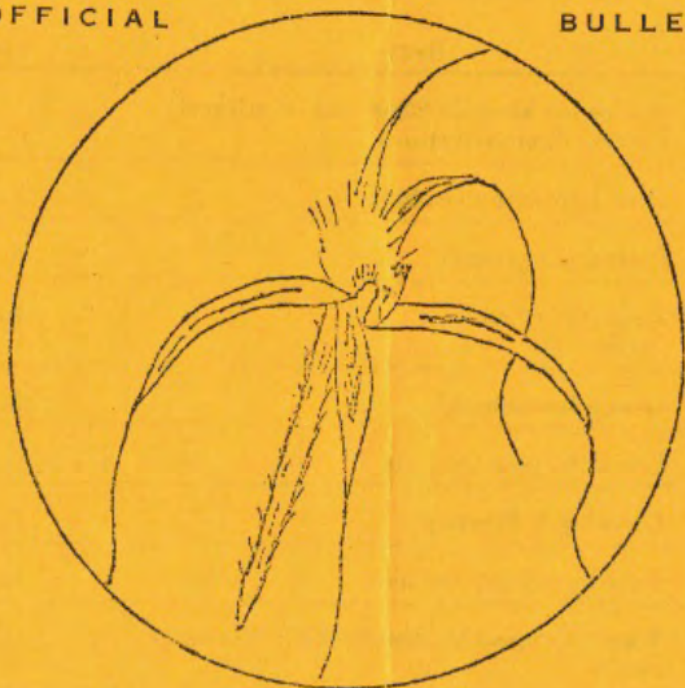


THE W.A. NATIVE ORCHID STUDY & CONSERVATION GROUP INC.

OFFICIAL

BULLETIN



Registered for posting as category "B"

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JUN 1978

## TOPIC TALKS FOR MEETINGS 1978

Date	Item	Speaker
February	Slides for identification and of interest Potting demonstrations	G. Kierath
March	How I grow my Orchids	F. Bishop
April	Pterostylis general	A. Brown
May	Registrar's talk Seeds	R. Brown L. Sheppard
June	Group Involment	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 Department of Agriculture FILM ROOM, Jarrah Road, South Perth on the 1st Friday of each month.

February 3rd AGM

April 7th

June 2nd

August 4th

October 6th

December 1st Christmas Meeting.

March 3rd

May 5th

July 7th

September 1st

November 3rd



The June meeting was well attended and all those present had the pleasure to listen to Mr Alex George, who gave an interesting talk on aspects of the Group's involvement, appertaining to W.A. orchids. This will be printed in two parts in the June and July Bulletin.

GROUP INVOLVEMENT .. By A.S. George W.A. Herbarian

To look at this subject we should begin with the basic objects of the group. It seems to me that these are:

1. to find out what orchids occur in .  
W.A.-
2. to conserve those orchids
3. to assist in gathering information on their;
  - i classification
  - ii distribution
  - iii biology
  - iv cultivation.

Already a great deal has been done and continues to be done in these areas. Your very presence here tonight shows a willingness to be involved. Getting together at meetings and field days is a basic kind of involvement, and helps to spread interest in and understanding of orchids - and the more people interested, the greater the chance of conserving these strange plants.

Lets look at the above areas. To find what we have, means finding and recording all the different species. The Group is very active in locating orchids in the wild and recording their distribution. This involves much travelling and field work, for we must range as far afield as Shark Bay, Kalgoorlie, and Israelite Bay.

Most of us know the joy that comes from being in the bush, and the added thrill given by the sight of an orchid, especially a rare one.

Already the Group has made many interesting and significant finds such as the relocation of Corybas unguiculatus and Caladenia cristata extensions of range such as of Caladenia aphylla and Prasopphyllum nigricans. Further collections have been made of some unnamed species, and it is fairly certain that more new orchids await discovery.

One thing I would like to see encouraged is the publication of your discoveries either in our newsletter - the preferred place - or even in a journal such as the Orchidian. This will be easier, perhaps, after 'Orchids of the West' is revised, when distributions, etc., will be more available for reference. But there is no reason why it should not be done now. If you have something you want to share or see in print, write it down and put it in the newsletter.

The distribution sheets maintained by the Group are a very useful record of what has been found where. But - as I have said before and will continue to say - they are of limited scientific value, in that the identifications cannot be verified. I don't wish to spoil your enjoyment of orchids with hard work, but it does seem a wonderful opportunity to add significantly to the scientific knowledge of them by supporting your records where necessary with specimens, I don't mean wanton picking. This is why I am preparing distribution maps of all orchids, so that you can see at a glance if a species is recorded from where you find it, if it is, enjoy it photograph it - but then leave it



made accordingly.

As I said, we could prepare field sheets with these aspects as headings so that you only have to fill in the details. When a specimen is mounted for the collection, the details then can be copied onto the label so that they remain with the specimen.

While on this area I must include the group's slide collection. A colour slide is very useful for further study especially in identifying plants, though it cannot compare with a specimen. May be one of its most useful attributes is to educate others about a species: and education is an extremely important aspect of our involvement together and with other people. Photography is an intriguing hobby which allows on to indulge in various artistic and technical skills and enjoy them. Again - to enhance the value of your slides, record on them the locality and date of photograph.

I'd like to mention that an orchid slide collection is also being built up by the Australian Orchid Foundation. The Foundation will be pleased to consider properly labelled slides for inclusion in its national collection.

At this stage I want to bring you up to date on the revision of Rica Erickson's "Orchids of the West". Besides gathering information on the distribution and habitat of orchids, and providing further specimens for study, the Group can help the revision in several ways. Already several of you have helped in the writing of descriptions and in processing the backlog of orchid specimens collected over the past four or five years. The latter exercise is a continual one, and any help is very much appreciated. Linda Penny has so far prepared over

50 descriptions and for the past month has been checking the size and variation in all the Herbarium specimens of those species. Jean Long has mounted over 200 specimens, including many collected by the Group.

Later in the year I will have keys for identifying species and will circulate these for people to use. They can then advise me if the keys work, if not why not. Then there will be proof reading, first of the manuscript after typing, and then of the galley and page proofs from the printer. While these stages should be processed as quickly as possible, it will help to avoid errors if several people can check them. I've already had one offer in this respect.

An important part of the book is the common names. Rica Erickson provided these for most species, but it would be nice to have the preferred common name of each species as well as any others used in different areas. I wonder if one or two of the people who offered to help with the revision could take on the job of assembling a list of common names.

#### NEXT MONTH - PART TWO - CONSERVATION & CULTIVATION

This year the Orchid Society of W.A. is including 4 - 5 categories for W.A. native orchids in its spring show. Further details will be passed on as they come to hand.

The committee had decided to test some screens at the June meeting with the intention of purchasing the most suitable, but were beaten to the punch by Mrs Jean Long who donated a screen to the Group. On behalf of the members I wish to thank Jean for



her wonderful gesture. Jean is a tireless worker at the Hollywood Reserve and members may remember that her son made and donated to the Group a waterproof holder for the visitors book at Cristata Compound. Jean, your'e a brick!!!

We welcome into the Group two new members:

Mr Stephen Hopper  
Miss Blaine Hall

Our application to enter the display at the Royal Show has been successful. Details will be worked out and busy bees listed. Help will be needed from members so that we may endeavour to do better than last year, which netted the Group the sum of \$75. Details will appear in the bulletin.

A donation of \$50 from the Group's funds has been sent to the Australian Orchid Foundation to help them in their projects. They assisted the Group when we appealed for help to fence Cristata Compound.

Report on Hollywood Reserve - Alison Harrington

The Warden Dave Emery, Mick Leese and two other members turned up. The fallen banksia was cut up and some weeding done, only Dave and Mick stayed into the afternoon. It was a very disappointing turnout even discounting rain and Mother's day.

In the light of developments being undertaken on uncleared land south of Perth there is an enormous amount of work to be done - orchids present on this land must be removed to our reserve before they are destroyed. We hope to see you at our next working bee.

Orchid of the Month - L. Sheppard

Pterostylis rogersii - common name is 'curled tongue snail orchid'. It is a short sturdy plant no rosette of leaves at the time of flowering, but with 4-5 stem leaves, it is very similar to Scabra var robusta, except the flowers being reddish brown and white, the labellum is shorter and recurved sometimes circinate, and the sinus is acute. It is found only in the extreme south-west of W.A. from Bunbury to Augusta and then only coastal. Flowering late June-July.

Ref: Rica Erickson "Orchids of the West"

Study Trip to Wongan Hills - Alison Harrington

Sunday 28th May, 1978. Seven cars left Midland at 8.10 am and were met at Wongan Hills by another Perth car and Des Kruske, our Wongan Hills member. Our first orchids were found on the property of Mr Ennall Smith, 30 miles from Wongan Hills at Mannamanning. Mr Smith has preserved 90 acres of bush around his home and kindly allowed us to view the orchids in flower; many Caladenia drummondii were discovered. Mostly they were within 6" of the base of the trees, Eucalyptus erythronema and E. flocktoniae or under Melaleucas. It was noted that the C. drummondii were 3-4" high compared with a normal 1-2". In 1978 rain had fallen mostly in the summer, to a total of 5" and no rain had fallen in the previous month. The very hard sandy clay soil was bone dry for the first 2-3" and moist underneath, litter was not deep and no real growth of small bushes had commenced. We also located Eriochilus dilatatus but with only one or two flowers, compared with 6 in a normal year. Leaves were seen of Pterostylus vittata and Thelymitra nuda.



It poured with rain during lunch and intermittently for the rest of the day. Behind Manmanning Dam only one *C. Drummondii* was found. At Dingo Rock 12 miles out of Wongan Hills and on our return from Manmanning no orchids were found but it was a positive location for a Spring excursion. Then two miles west of the township, in the Wongan Hills we stopped and ventured into the scrub on our left hand side, moving towards the same tree stands as at the Smith's *C. drummondii* was found growing in groups in open spaces between the trees. The scrub was thicker here and litter deeper. The sandy/clay soil was moist superficially from the days rain but bone dry to a depth. Leaves of Leporella fimbriata and Lyperanthus nigricans were found growing near Melaluecas, some Briochilis dilatatus were seen. We adjourned around 3.30pm and the race was on for the only paddock of mushrooms seen on the morning's journey. There were enough for all even greedy me and our thanks to the unknown farmer.

It was an excellent day, rain included and our thanks must go to the Smiths for their hospitality. We hope their drought breaks and they have a good season.

I have known one member carries binoculars on field trips and it is surprising the things that he has seen off the road, but I believe they were put to very good use on Sunday May 28 as he directed members to the good patches of mushrooms.

If this space is filled in your subscription is now due

Mr  
Mrs .....  
Miss

Amount \$.....

### FIELD DAYS FOR 1978

Date	Time	Meeting Place	Locality
April 2nd	10.00.am.	Hollywood Reserve	
April 15th 16th	1.00.pm	Roundabout - Albany	
May 14th	10.00.am	Hollywood reserve	
May 28th	8.00.am.	Midland Railway Station. Car Park	Wongan Hills
June 17th	10.00.am	Hollywood Reserve	
July 23rd	10.00.am.	Booragoon Car Park	Collecting
August 13th	9.00.am.	Armadale Railway Station	Dwellingup
September 10th	10.00.am.	Collie River Bridge Daton	Bunbury
October 7th	11.00.am.	Busselton	Augusta
October 8th	9.00.a.m.	Tourist	and
October 9th	9.00.am.	Reserve	Margaret River
October 22nd	10.00.am.	Hollywood Reserve	
November 25th	1.00.pm		
November 26th	9.00.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



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