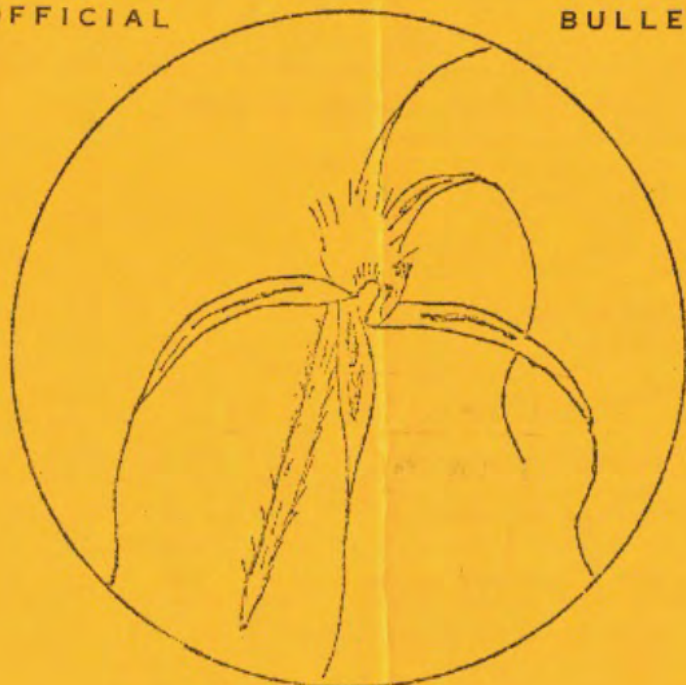


THE W.A. NATIVE ORCHID STUDY & CONSERVATION GROUP INC.

OFFICIAL

BULLETIN



Registered for posting as category "B"

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JUL 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 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 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



Our July meeting was down a little on numbers, but we all enjoyed a good and interesting slide night, given by Noel Hoffman on the lesser known orchids and the variations that have been found within the different genera and species. We must extend to Noel our thanks and appreciation.

Group Involvement - Part 2 - Conservation and  
Cultivation - Alex George

Now I come to conservation. To conserve means to keep in safety, to keep from harm or destruction. Conservation is part of the name of our group. We have already assisted in the conservation of orchids in several areas. The most significant step was in the declaration of Bakers Junction as a reserve for conservation of flora and fauna. The discovery and fencing in of *Caladenia cristata* is also a remarkable achievement. There are only two drawbacks to such a situation. Firstly the area is freehold and if it changes hands the next owner might not be interested in maintaining the bush there. Secondly, the area is small and will be subject to change, for example with weed infestation and fertilizer from the surrounding farmed land. It will be interesting, however, to see how long we can maintain the *Cristata* Compound. Don Voigt is going to collect the other species of wildflower there so that we can draw up a complete list of the flora and monitor it over the years.

Our third achievement in conservation is the Hollywood Reserve where we have the opportunity to try and preserve, in a public place, orchids gathered from threatened areas. Already it appears that we are having success with many of the orchids transplanted last year. It is especially pleasing that they have survived the transplanting, a long hot

summer and a fire.

Our ultimate aim must be to prevent the extinction of any species, and the preferred aim must be to preserve all species in their natural surroundings. We are still able to aim for this in Western Australia, where in spite of agriculture, mining and other environmental changes there is a lot of bush left. In general all our native plants, including orchids, can maintain themselves adequately in the wild. There they are available for everyone and anyone to see, study, enjoy. They are part not of a state, not of a national heritage, but of the world environment. Seventy percent of our orchids grow only in the South West. It is up to all of us to look after them for those to come.

There are now many reserves and national parks throughout the State. What we don't know is how many of our orchids grow in them, and we should make a list of those we know to occur there so that we can see which species are in need of protection. We can then look for areas where they grow and if such areas are not reserves, then try to have them set aside.

#### Cultivation

As in the areas I've already mentioned, the Group has much to offer as regards cultivation. Having already put my views on removing plants from the bush, I want to also make it clear that I'm in favour of growing orchids, as I am of all native plants, providing it is done properly. Again, that means getting the plants initially from threatened or private land, and looking after them. Because we are still learning how to grow them, I think it's important that we exchange information on how we handle them. A start on this has been made through meetings and the newsletter, and this should be developed further. May be we should prepare



cultivation sheets on which records can be kept of each species grown. From time to time these can be collated and compared. Progress - either positive or otherwise - can be reported in the newsletter or other publications. By trying various means and studying different techniques we'll eventually come up, I hope, with procedures which will guarantee success by the average grower.

So again: please write down what you do and make it available for others. It takes time, I know, but it is a further means of involvement and I hope will be a source of satisfaction.

The question of digging up orchids to try to cultivate them is a ticklish one. Most of us like to see them in cultivation, and there is much to learn about this subject, but it should not be regarded as a means of preservation. Plants should be dug up only if they are on private land or if they are threatened. I know the latter is illegal, and I know we often have trouble getting permission to take plants from such areas. We should discuss what action should be taken to get such permission, for it is absurd that plants cannot be taken if they will otherwise be bulldozed.

I hope members will use discretion in taking orchids elsewhere. There is no means of effective control of removal of plants from the bush, and in general the wildflower protection laws are aimed at the exploiters, those who ruthlessly take plants on a big scale usually for commercial gain. However, we are a **study and conservation** group, and we have a moral obligation to assist in preserving orchids in the wild for ourselves and for people in the future. Let us not reach the point now existing in Britain as shown by the following examples (two of many):

Spiranthes aestivalis (Poir.) Rich. - Summer Lady's  
Tresses

This orchid of bogs was once known from the New Forest in Hampshire and from the Channel Isles of Jersey and Guernsey, but was last seen in Hampshire in 1959 and must now be presumed extinct. It was first recorded in Hampshire in 1840 where, at one time, it occurred in quantity in four localities. By 1930 it had diminished considerably, mainly because of drainage, but almost certainly because of collecting as well. In Guernsey it was last seen in 1914 and was exterminated by a combination of drainage and disgraceful over-collecting. A similar fate befell the Jersey population where the last four plants, complete with tubers, were dug up in 1926.

Cypripedium calceolus L - Lady's-slipper

This most beautiful orchid is now at only one station in Yorkshire. It was formerly widespread, though local, in woods on Carboniferous, Magnesian and Corallian limestone in parts of the North Pennine region in Derbyshire, Yorkshire, Durham, Westmorland and Cumberland. Its virtual extinction has been due to uprooting and picking by gardeners, botanists and others, from very early times.

The question of collecting permits has been taken up and we haven't got far as a group. It is possible to get individual permits to collect native plants including orchids, usually so long as the applicant can satisfy the Forests Dept. or National Parks Auth. that the collecting is for a valid purpose. Later this year the new Flora Protection Act will come into force to transfer flora protection from Forests to Fisheries and Wildlife. I've been in touch with the Fisheries and Wildlife Department who assure



me that it should be possible for members of societies such as ours to obtain permits. It will not, for legal reasons, be possible to obtain a group permit.

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Orchid of the Month - Pterostylis angusta - A. Brown

Although named quite recently this orchid was first found in 1905 by J. Staer. Its distribution is centred around Bunbury and also the Stirling Ranges through to Broomehill. Apparently it has not been found elsewhere which is unusual as the type of habitat it is found in (Banksia, she-oak country in sandy soil.) is found well south and north of Bunbury. Perhaps you have found it at Margaret River, Yarloop or Collie, if so please let us know as I feel sure that it must have a greater range of distribution than is at present known.

Green and white (sometimes brown and white) in colour this orchid resembles Pterostylis scabra var scabra, a week or so before it opens and like scabra, it forms large colonies of rosettes. The flowering plant does not have a rosette of leaves. Pterostylis angusta lends itself readily to cultivation and multiplies freely. Flowering is from late May to early August.

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Items of Interest

Raffle the July raffle was kindly donated by Alison Harrington "Dinner fit for a King". This was won by Noel Hoffman. -----

Royal Show Display

A date and place has been set for the making up of

the Royal Show stand. It is to be at:

Alison Harrington's  


on the 30th July at 10 am. Many hands make light work. Please come along. Bring you own refreshments.

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The opportunity table is doing fine, but we still require articles to furnish the table, for the Sale.

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#### Seed Bank

As the flowering season is now on, members are reminded of collecting for the seed bank. Collect the pods and put them in an envelope and mark the name, date of gathering and the locality and then pass them on to Mr Lal Sheppard.

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#### Culture Notes

We have been cultivating our orchids for several years, and the information gained has not been recorded.

The culture registrar has now made up sheets to record this information. These were distributed at the July General meeting. We are now asking members to study these sheets and bring their ideas for a discussion at a special meeting prior to our next General meeting - 7.00pm start.

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Plants on show. These were discussed by Fred Bishop and Andrew Brown.

Caladenia various

Eriochilus dilatatus

Pterostylis curta

Caladenia deformis

Prasophyllum fimbria

Acianthus fornicatus

Corybas

Pterostylis scabra var scabra

Flowers only: Pterostylis rogersii, Pter.nana

### Native Orchids & Temperature - Dove Emery

In the May bulletin Andrew Brown wrote that some Hare orchids (Leporella fimbriata) have flowers at cool Albany for four years in a row without fires. Last year 20 of these same orchids were taken to Perth. Ten were kept in orchid mix in a cool dark case without water from Oct. to May. In April all flowered beautifully! Ten more, put into a partly sheltered spot on the Smythe Road Block have only produced leaves. So, the secret of flowering Hare orchids seems to be to keep the tubers dry and cool through summer and autumn. Three other groups of L.fimbriata put into very hot open areas on our block have evidently dried out and died. Results to date at the Smythe Road block suggest that all orchid tubers like cool summer temperatures, e.g. by deep leaf coverage. An exception may be Eriochilus dilatata, which seems not to flower unless it gets some sunlight in autumn. On the shady side of big trees it will not flower, but makes big leaves. Thought: Is the flowering effect of fires just that it lets in sunlight?

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August General Meeting:

1. An officer from the Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife will address the meeting on the new Flora legislation. This will be prior to discussion of the Bill in the August sitting of Parliament. It is in your own interest to attend.
2. Orchid Growers - the meeting for you starts at 7.00pm to discuss the Propagation sheets.

If this space is filled in your subscription is now due:

Mr  
 Mrs .....  
 Miss

Arrears \$

Current \$

\_\_\_\_\_

\$

\_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer



### 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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