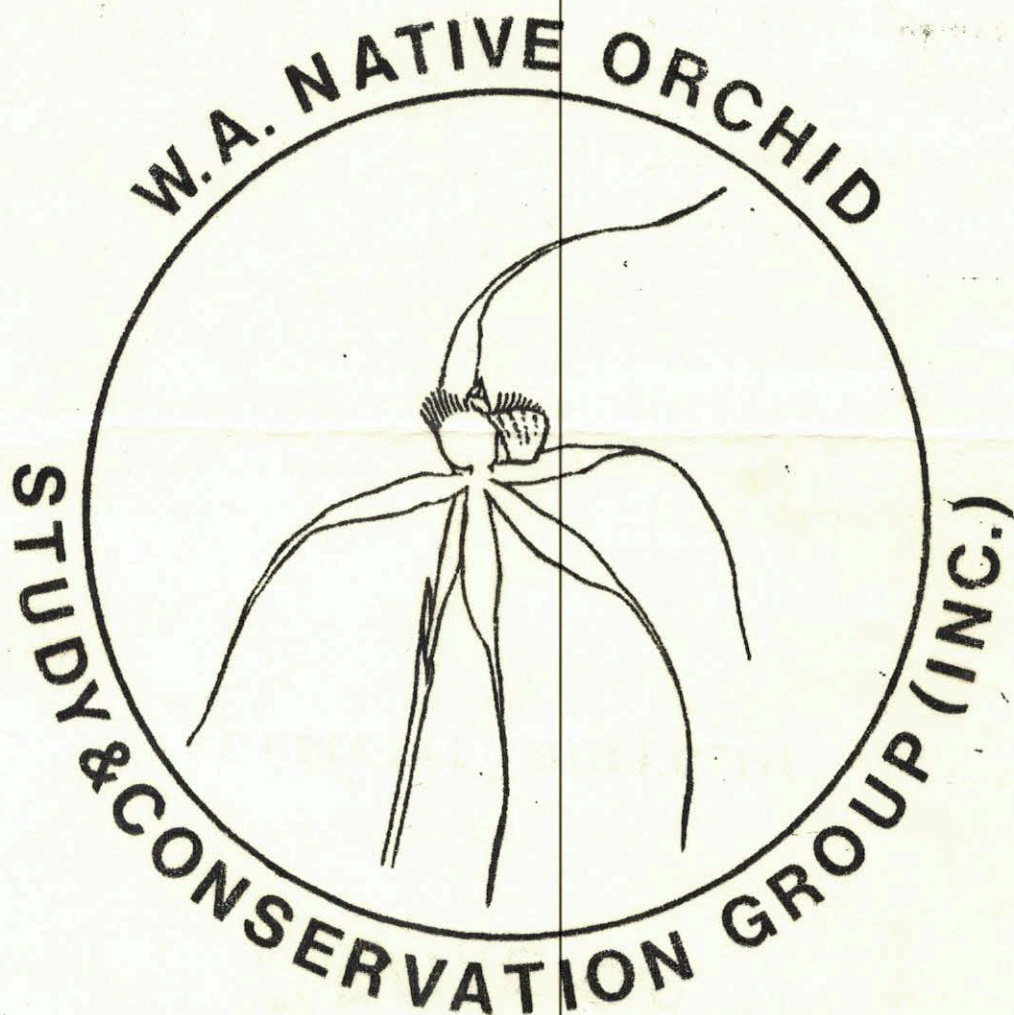


NOVEMBER 1979

OFFICIAL BULLETIN



Registered for posting as Category "B"

20 CENTS

December is our Social Meeting or evening and this will be held at the residence of Mr Roy Brown, 28 Windfield Road, Melville. The procedure is that everyone attending brings their own barbecue meat, also salads and liquid refreshments which are pooled. The evening entertainment will be a botanical quiz organized by Mrs Alison Harrington and Mr Alex George for which prizes will be awarded.

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The next Committee meeting will be held at the residence of Mrs Harrington on 4th December 1979. Business - Discussion on the election of Officers for 1980 and settling of any outstanding business.

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President's Report - November Meeting.

When we made the field trip to Mogumber we had with our party members of The Swan Camera Club and in the course of conversation I asked Mr Stan Gibbings if one of his members would give us a topic night on the art of close up photography. Mr Gibbings rang me on the Friday night and said that he had made arrangements for Mr Leighton to give this talk. It was a very interesting evening and I should imagine all members learnt something from this practical demonstration without taking shots. As a result my talk on National Parks was postponed until next year when it will be given in two parts. We wish to extend to Mr Leighton our thanks.

Business of the evening was to pass a motion which was moved by Mrs Alison Harrington "That the Annual General Meeting be held in March of each year" This was put to the members and duly passed.

A suggestion was discussed at the committee meeting of rostering an host and hostess at our monthly meetings to look after new members and visitors. I have asked for names of members who would be interested in this and names should be submitted before the A.G.M. in March 1980.

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One thing that should be mentioned in this bulletin is a vote of thanks to those members who helped in the displays at the Royal Show. Also to Mr Mick Leece and Mr Alex George for the 'Greenfingers' show.

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Mrs Jean Long donated for the raffle a well grown *Dendrobium Speciosum*. This was won by Mrs Leighton.

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Mr Bob Bates of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has a lot of tubers he wishes to swap for West Australian tubers. Any member interested can get in touch with him at the above address. The following species are available for swapping:

Diuris maculata

" pedunculata

" sulphurea

Pterostylis ingens

" nutans

" curta

" biseta

" longicurva

Caladenia leptochila

Corybas dilatatus

Glossodia major

Acianthus exsertus

Thelymitra carnea var. rubra

" ixioides

Microtis oblonga

He is especially interested in Elythranthera, Caladenia and Pterostylis of the rufa group.

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Reports

Mr Herb Foote reported on the Manjimup show where there were approximately 140 species shown. These according to Mr Ron Heberle of Albany were shown at four different shows over the three weeks. Good work Ron and if we could have a list of these it could appear in the next bulletin for the interest of members who did not attend the shows.

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Mr Dave Emery reported that Cryptostylis ovata and Elythranthera emarginata were flowering at The Smythe Road Reserve.

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Mr Terry Wilson reported that he had just come back from a back-packing trip into the wilderness area of the Walpole Nornalup National Park and that only a few species were in abundance. The area had not been burnt for at least five years and of course rainfall was down on preceding years. On a round trip of approximately 20 km the only orchid seen in any numbers on the coastal sand hills was Elythranthera brunonis. Thelymitra nuda was growing profusely on the top of Mt Hopkins with very thick stems. Also found on the slopes was Thelymitra flexuosa although this had finished blooming. Other than a few Caladenia latifolia on the track through the forest leading to the wilderness area Caladenias were conspicuous by their absence. Generally in this area spider orchids grow in profusion but on this occasion not a single spider orchid was seen. Of particular interest were what looked like Gastrodia sesamoides just coming through in an

area where they are known to grow and an inspection will be made just before Christmas.

A publicity sheet concerning the reprint of R.D.Fitzgerald's book, AUSTRALIAN ORCHIDS has been received from the Australian Native Orchid Society. Volume I has already been printed and now Volume II is about to go to print. Any member who is interested or has purchased Volume I may now contact:

Lansdowne Editions
14 Lansdowne Street
East Melbourne 3002

Price per volume \$350.00.

Wildflower Display at Busselton 1979 - Bernard Stonor

Each year a religious group stages a display of Wildflowers from all over the state. This year the display, held at the end of September, included a number of native orchids, well arranged and clearly labelled. There were also several jars of orchids which need not, and should not, have been collected. In the case of Lyperanthus serratus both flower and leaf had been taken and many plants must have been destroyed. It is obvious that shows and displays are among the enemies of conservation. There used to be a law prohibiting the picking of wildflowers, and notices to this effect were displayed along the roads. Now the notices are disappearing and everyone picks as many flowers as they please.

The first exhibit to catch the eye was a jar containing a dozen or more flowers labelled Caladenia lavandulacea. Fortunately the name was incorrect and the flowers appeared to be, in fact just another of the curious forms of Caladenia huegelii which seem to be a speciality of the area around Busselton. Other Caladenias included C. flava, C. filamentosa, C. patersonii var longicauda, C. huegelii, C. discoidea, Caladenia roei and a fine yellow and red flower labelled Caladenia radiata. Not all the species were correctly named and no reference books were available and of course it was not possible to handle the flowers, it might be better to omit the doubtful ones from the list. Caladenia latifolia had rather small flowers, I have seen much better specimens from Wonnerup. Caladenia sericea was there and Caladenia dilatata var. falcata. It was a surprise, incidentally, to learn that this is the only variety of

dilatata found in W.A. There is always something new to learn. I did not see Caladenia macrostylis, which is common locally, but it may have been there. Caladenia nana completes the list of this genus.

Caleana nigrita, Drakaea sp. and the two Elythrantheras, brunonis and emarginata were shown. It was said that Elythranthera emarginata was rare this year though common last year. Diuris was represented by longifolia and emarginata, also pauciflora, now synonymous with emarginata. Pterostylis was represented by recurva, the last of the genus to flower down here, though a few P. nana and a P. barbata were still flowering locally.

Prasophyllum fimbria was shown, also some specimens which appeared to be a dark brown form of fimbria although these were labelled P. grimwadeanum. As far as I could see,

Thelymitra crinita was the only representative of this genus although Thelymitra cornicina and Thelymitra flexuosa were flowering down here. In this area Thelymitra crinita is the last to flower, seldom appearing before November.

We were told that all the orchids shown, with two exceptions (C. roei and C. radiata perhaps) were growing within 20 miles of Busselton, a fact which surprised many visitors greatly. There would be other species shown besides those listed above and of course other species grow in this area too, but I hope it will give some idea of the species found near Busselton.

ROBERT BROWN - BOTANIST 1773 - 1858 Ron Heberle

To appreciate Robert Brown's career, it is necessary to understand the development of botanical science and investigation in England and Europe in the 19th Century. English and European botanists were kept busy naming and describing plants that were pouring in from numerous expeditions of science and discovery from all over the world.

The period was known as 'The Golden Years of Descriptive Botany' and it is generally recognized that Kew Gardens London was its centre. In 1772 King George III inherited his mother's property Kew House and its extensive private botanical gardens. He later added more property and appointed Joseph Banks to direct and administer what was later to become Kew Botanical Gardens. Joseph Banks was very much involved in botanical science and collecting of specimens having recently returned with Captain Cook from the epic voyage that explored the east coast of Australia in 1770 (then New Holland).

Robert Brown an eminent Scottish botanist became Joseph Banks' private secretary at Kew and on Banks' death in 1820 inherited his library and vast personal collections of botanical specimens. In 1827 Robert Brown made these over to the British Museum of Natural History and became its 'Keeper of Botany'.

Brown was deeply involved in naming and describing plants and became recognized as a world authority and achieved international fame in his chosen field. It was said by his contemporaries that he sat for forty years - spider like in the centre of the web of the world's botany.

In 1801 under Sir Joseph Banks' patronage, he was appointed official botanist to Matthew Flinders' exploratory voyage to annex the western part of New Holland for Britain.

The "Investigator" arrived at King George Sound in early December ahead of the Baudin expedition that had left France two years earlier.

Brown with his assistant Peter Good, gardener of Kew Gardens collected some five hundred specimens in thirty days before the Investigator sailed on to Cape le Grand and the Recherche Archipelago, then on to the east coast and Van Diemen Land. Many of the specimens were illustrated by Ferdinand Bauer by fine drawings accurate to the minutist botanical detail. When Flinders arrived back in England in 1805, Brown and his assistants had a well documented collection of over 4,000 specimens from New Holland.

In 1810 Brown used these to publish one of his greatest works "Prodromus Florae Novae Hollandiae et Insulae Van Diemen" (Introduction or Forerunner to the Flora of New Holland and Island of Van Diemen.) This work contained names and descriptions of the previously largely unknown flora of New Holland and established him as the Father of Australian Botany.

THE ORCHIDACEAE

Robert Brown was particularly interested in the strangely different Orchidaceae of New Holland, he named and described 13 genera and 33 of our West Australian terrestrials. These included 3 from Vancouver's visit to King George Sound.
King George Sound collection - Menzies 1791

Caladenia flava and *menziesii*. *Diuris longifolia*
- Brown 1801

Cryptostylis ovata. *Diuris emarginata*, *pauciflora* and *setacea*.
Epiblema grandiflorum. *Microtis alba*, *pulchella*, *brownii*, *media*.
Prasophyllum gibbosum, *macrostachyum* var. *macrostachyum*, *brownii*.
Thelymitra canaliculata, *fuscolutea* var. *fuscolutea*, *tigrina*.
ex East Coast and Van Diemen Land 1802 and later proved to be in Western Australia.

Acianthus reniformis var. *reniformis*
Caladenia caerulea, *deformis*, *latifolia*, *patersonii*, *dilatata*.
Lyperanthus nigricans. *Pterostylis mutica*, *nana*, *rufa*.
Prasophyllum sargentii, *elatum*, *nigricans*, *brownii*.
Thelymitra carnea, *nuda*, *pauciflora*. *Calochilus robertsonii*.
Corysanthes unguiculata. = *Corybas unguiculatus*.

In 1871 Reichenbach named *Microtis brownii* and *Prasophyllum brownii* in Robert Brown's honour from specimens collected at King George Sound in 1801.

It would be interesting to establish whether these two orchids were collected from the colonies that still flower at Lake Seppings. All of Brown's King George Sound terrestrials can still be found flowering in December as they did 178 years ago.

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References: Journal & Proceedings - W.A. Historical Society.
Pioneer Botanists of Western Australia - G.G. Smith.
Orchids of the West - Rica Erickson.
A check list of the Orchidaceae of Western Australia
Nuytsia Vol. 1 No.2 1971 - A.S. George.

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