



BULLETIN

OF THE

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHID
STUDY AND CONSERVATION GROUP
(INC)

APRIL 1988

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THE WEST AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHID STUDY & CONSERVATION GROUP

OFFICE BEARERS 1988

Patron:	Mrs J Holmes a'Court
President:	Kingsley Dixon [REDACTED]
Vice President:	Beryl Yates [REDACTED]
Immediate Past President:	Bevan Buirchell [REDACTED]
Secretary:	Stephen Van Leeuwen [REDACTED]
Treasurer:	Lionel Johnston [REDACTED]
Field Trip Co-Ordinator:	Sid Gibbings [REDACTED]
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Librarian:	Wayne Merritt [REDACTED]
Committee Members:	Denis Burdinat [REDACTED]
	Chris French [REDACTED]
	Ian Greeve [REDACTED]
Postal Address of Group:	PO Box 323 Victoria Park 6100

OBJECTS OF THE GROUP

- a. To promote interest in and preserve Western Australian Indigenous orchids.
- b. To learn the best means of cultivation and do all things possible for the conservation of native orchids in their natural environment.
- c. To learn their habitats and keep records.
- d. To have field days and learn to recognise the different genera and species.
- e. To hold meetings for the exchanging of knowledge and furthering of interest in Western Australian orchids.
- f. To affiliate with kindred organisations.
- g. To make rules for the governing of the Group's domestic affairs.
- h. To do all such other lawful things as are incidental to or conducive to the attainment of the above objects or any of them.

NOTE: Opinions expressed by contributors to this Bulletin are not specifically endorsed by the Group.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 20th April, 1988 at 7.00 pm
King's Park Administration Centre

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 20th April, 1988 at 8.00 pm
King's Park Administration Centre

Topic: David Bellamy's Film 'Wheat Today, What Tomorrow'
This outstanding film was shot entirely on location in W.A.

BULLETIN

Contributions wanted for Bulletin editions.
Copy deadline 1st of the month.

FIELD TRIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Committee has compiled the following programme as a suggested basis for the new season.

Next Field Trip

Saturday 30th April - 'Leafless Caladenia' - Meet at Exchange Hotel in Pinjarra at 10.00 am, then move to Goodale Reserve to look for Caladenia aphylla and Eriochilus dilatatus.

Saturday and Sunday 11th-12th June - 'Underground Orchid' - A weekend trip to check up on our old faithful Rhizanthella gardneri. Some of our newer members may not have seen this orchid yet so here's your chance. The "Rhizanthella Arms" is no longer available so other accommodation must be found. Ardath Pub or Corrigin Motel are possibilities but suggestions are welcomed.

Sunday 19th June - 'Cleopatra's Needles' - This one day trip is to seek out another old friend Thelymitra apiculata. Meet at Reagan's Ford Roadhouse at 10.00 am. This place is about 1 kilometre north of the Moore River on Brand Highway.

From there we travel via Mogumber West Road to the orchid site, and if time permits we will carry on to Mogumber where a colony of Leporella fimbriata exists.

During July some one day trips will be made to the area of the "Gnangara Mound". This is a Water Supply project and maps will be provided.

August 20th and 21st - There was some talk of a trip to Kalbarri as Beryl and Dave are going up there, but nothing official was decided. Members wishing to check on the orchids in Kalbarri should see Vice-President Beryl Yates for details.

August 27th and 28th - 'Northern Heathland Orchids' - Leeman - On site vans may be available in the caravan park but no more details are available yet.

September 24th to 26th - 'South Coast Orchids' - This is a long weekend to Ravensthorpe to investigate the large summer burns in the area. As yet no details on accommodation but watch this space.

Early September - Any free days here will be used for further checks on the 'Gnangara Mound' project, with possible runs further north for Caladenia cristata, the Crested Spider Orchid.

Saturday October 15th - 'Purdie's Donkey Orchid' - A trip to the Ranford Road area to look for Diuris purdiei.

October 22nd and 23rd - A weekender to the Frankland River area. A prolific orchid area and we seek Caladenia filomentosa var. dorrienii. Accommodation still in the pipeline.

From then on the trips are a little vague as yet, but one has been suggested to Forrestonia on November 5th and 6th for Pterostylis rubra and "extinct species"!!

Another trip on the drawing board is one to the Kimberley area, or even the Mitchell Plateau. This one is due for November or December.

December 3rd and 4th - 'Late Flowering Diuris' - This will be a weekend trip to Walpole to look for late Diuris species. Accommodation will probably be in the Forestry Department's quarters again.

The Kings Park Plant Display will be on from 23rd to 30th September. This clashes with a field trip but it caters for those of us who can't make the field day. Please keep dates free if you can help and get those plants growing.

In addition several new field trips have been arranged since the publication of the March Bulletin. Please make note of these new field trips and attend if possible.

September 3rd - 4th, September 10th - 11th (All dates are tentative, will be confirmed). Pithara-Miling area for an intensive survey for Caladenia cristata. A bus to be provided at no cost. Accommodation to be subsidised by grant to Society from World Wildlife Fund.

September 17th or 18th, October 1st or 2nd, October 8th or 9th, November 5th or 6th (All dates are tentative, will be confirmed). Gnarara Mound to conduct a survey for Thelymitra carnea and other rare and geographically restricted orchid species that occur in this area. The Water Authority may provide a large four wheel drive vehicle to assist with transport in the areas to the west of Gingin and Muchea. Will visit Twin Swamps and Ellen Brook Nature Reserves which were burnt this summer.

November 4th or 5th (Date to be confirmed) - Walyunga-Gidgegannup areas to search for Thelymitra benthamiana. This taxon was lumped with Thelymitra fuscolutea var. stellata but since its rediscovery two years ago by a local property owner it has been recognised as a separate taxon. Literature searches by Andrew Brown revealed that this species had been described previously as T. benthamiana. The difference between it and T. fuscolutea var. stellata are quite marked and therefore it deserves recognition as a separate species. This field trip will be conducted in conjunction with the Eastern Hills Wildflower Society. Their members will be joining us on this field trip. The aim of the trip will be to discover new populations of this species which at present appear to be rare and geographically restricted.

TUBER EXCHANGE WANTED

Tubers of Pterostyllis Available: If anybody is interested in obtaining tubers from Eastern States Pterostyllis species please contact Lorraine Marshall, [redacted]. Lorraine has indicated that she is willing to supply members of our group with tubers from species within this genus.

Tubers Required: Mrs Dawn Williams [redacted] would like to obtain tubers from any Western Australian species of terrestrial orchid, particularly the more bizarre species, especially caladenias. Dawn is willing to pay for these tubers and will also cover postage costs. Or, in exchange for WA tubers she is willing to provide tubers from Eastern States species. If anybody is interested please contact Dawn direct.

Mr Chris Hall [redacted] would like to obtain some tubers from Caladana flava. If anybody has any excess tubers from this species would you please contact Chris to make the necessary exchange arrangements.

Mr John Roberts [redacted] would like to obtain tubers from several species of Western Australian terrestrial orchids. He is willing to trade tubers from south eastern Queensland species if anyone is interested.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Current year fees are due - \$10 per family or individual Member. (Fees run from 1 February to 31 January of next year).

SUMMARY OF WORK UNDERTAKEN BY A GROUP MEMBER - Mr R Peakall

"Pseudocopulation of an orchid by male ants: a test of two hypotheses accounting for the rarity of ant pollination

R Peakall¹, A J Beattie², and S H James¹

1 Botany Department, University of Western Australia, Nedlands 6009, Australia

2 Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL 60201, USA

Summary. The orchid *Leporella fimbriata* is pollinated by pseudocopulation with winged males of the ant *Myrmecia urens*. This recently studied interaction provides a unique opportunity to examine the two current hypotheses concerning the apparent rarity of ant pollination systems worldwide. The first hypothesis requires a series of specialized growth forms and floral characteristics regarded as adaptations to ant pollination. *L. fimbriata* does not possess them. The second considers the pollenicidal effects of secretions from the metapleural gland of ants. These glands are absent in *M.urens* males and it may be that the occurrence of ant pollination requires the absence of metapleural glands in the vector."

F W PADDOCK MEMORIAL PROJECT

This Project is expected to attract the interest of all orchid enthusiasts in Australia, and for practical purposes of operation, EIGHT divisions have been formed to cover each region which possibly have differences in environmental conditions etc.

It is an OPEN COMPETITION, not only to orchid growers, but to any person who has an interest that must relate directly to orchids.

::: The COMPETITION DIVISIONS :::

To persons in West. Australia	To persons in Tasmania
To persons in South Australia	To persons in New South Wales
To persons in Victoria	To persons in Queensland SOUTH of Mackay.
To persons in Queensland NORTH of & including Mackay and the Northern Territory.	To persons who have an interest in the native orchids of Aust. regardless of residence.

The FIRST PHASE OF THE PROJECT

The participant is required to reasonably describe, and possibly how the problem may affect the entrant :-

" What is the greatest problem experienced by the entrant in their interest in orchids, such as pests and diseases, cultural, conservation, environmental, or whatever problem that may be experienced, as long as it relates directly to orchids."

The only restriction will be to exclude VIRUS DISEASES from the Project. Sufficient material is available on this major and apparently uncurable disease. The AOF recommends the 1986 Edition of the AOS Pests and Diseases which gives 50 pages of illustrations and the results of research work that covers this field reasonably well.

The AOF will provide \$250-00 for the winning entry in each division. The address to where entries must be delivered in each division is given overpage, and the names on the ADJUDICATING PANEL in your area.

The closing date for ALL entries is :- 31 MAY 1988.

Rules governing this PROJECT have been kept ' deliberately simple ' to allow flexibility by the entrant, and the adjudicating panel.

Send entries to Mr H Lodge, [REDACTED]

Note: Members may wish for the group to nominate a project. Please contact Stephen Van Leeuwin before April Meeting.

SUPPER ROSTER 1988

RAFFLE ROSTER 1988

April K PICKLES

April H LODGE

May M FRENCH

May Ken JONES

June J EATON

June Margaret ADAMSON

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MR A S GEORGE

Next Field Trip:

April 30th - Pinjarra

Meet 10.00 am. Exchange Hotel Pinjarra, just over the bridge (left).

Caladenia aphylla