



BULLETIN

OF THE

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHID
STUDY AND CONSERVATION GROUP
(INC)

MAY 1996

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EDITOR	John Haynes [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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OBJECTIVES OF THE GROUP

- 7
- 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 environments.
- 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 exchange 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 objectives.

NOTE: The opinions expressed by contributors to this bulletin are not specifically endorsed by the group.

POSTAL ADDRESS
OF GROUP

PO Box 323
Victoria Park 6100



NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING -
Wednesday, 15 May 1996 at 7.00 p.m., Kings
Park Administration Centre.



NEXT GENERAL MEETING-
Wednesday, 15 May 1996 at 8.00 p.m., Kings
Park Administration Centre.

This months speaker is Andrew Brown on "Conference
Talk Preview"



EDITOR'S RAVE

I was disgusted to learn at the last meeting that just after the club had visited the site of *Thelymitra variegata* near Kulin that it was found with large holes where orchids used to be! This site was not endangered and there was no threat to the orchids (except from digging, obviously). It seems a shame that we need to be so careful about who we show our sites and who we tell about them! But in a perfect world, we wouldn't need to have an orchid conservation club at all I suppose.

John Haynes

BULLETIN CONTRIBUTIONS



Contributions are needed for every edition of the Bulletin. Articles should be sent to John Haynes

The article submission deadline for the next issue of the Bulletin is 1 June, 1996.

Please send in anything remotely newsworthy which relates to our group, to our members (ie, birthdays, special occasions, pen portraits, etc), grower's tips, rescue digs, field trip reports, native orchids and conservation activities. Anything (almost!) will be published, provided it is of interest to our group (or should that be read "of interest to your Editor?").



ANNUAL GROUP MEMBERSHIP FEES NOW DUE!!

1996 Membership fees are now due! If you, have a red dot on your bulletin, you have not paid your membership, you are now an unfinancial member and cannot speak or vote at meetings! The group membership fees are as follows:

Single Membership	\$20.00 pa
Family Membership	\$20.00 pa
Junior Membership	\$ 2.00 pa

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

May 15.. General Meeting
June 19.. General Meeting
July 17.. General Meeting
August 21.. General Meeting
September 18.. General Meeting
October 16.. General Meeting
November 20.. General Meeting

ERROR

Please note the date for the October General Meeting was incorrect in the last Bulletin, the correct date is the 16th of October.



Supper Cost

Each month, our Supper is generously donated by group members (per the list on the back of the Bulletin), while the group supplies the tea, coffee, sugar and milk.

To recoup some of the cost of these supplies, a modest fee of 30 cents applies. This can be left on the supper table and will be collected by the Treasurer at the end of the evening. Also, please rinse out your tea and coffee cups when you have finished with them.

1996 FIELD TRIPS

This year, yet again, I need your help in selecting areas to visit on field trips. What I need from you is if you have a particular orchid you would like to see, a location you would like to share, or would like to go to an area to see what is there. Please let me know at the meetings or by mail.

John Arends



FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Please don't forget to send in reports of all your orchid hunting field trips. We want to hear all about the trips that group members are making, not just the official field trips. The reports are a very useful tool for other members to use to plan future field trips and for you to report on your discoveries.

Field Trip reports don't have to be long and witty, so don't feel daunted. A brief description of locations visited and orchids found is all that you need to supply. Of course, long entertaining stories will also be reproduced.

INTERNET

In view of the fact that our Editor now has an E-mail address for members to communicate with him via the computer network, it is felt that the following article may be of interest to the members of the Group. The article was originally printed in the ANOS Warringham (NSW) Group's Newsletter, March 1995.

Ross Wilton

ORCHIDS AT THE WEBSITE

Peter Eygelshoven

At the meeting, Ruth (Rudkin) mentioned something about orchids being at the Web Site and that Graeme Bradburn from Wollongong was organising something. I naturally assumed they were having a rescue dig. I gave Graeme a call to find out more. I said that I was interested in going to the Web Site. He said 'Well, first you need the hardware'. Well, as a seasoned orchid rescuer, I had all the necessary tools, chisel, spade, mattock, etc. I knew the ground might be hard. He then said 'You'll need a phone line', I said 'Yeah, got that' I have a mobile phone for work, so if I got lost I could give him a ring. That wasn't a worry. He said 'Then you'll need an address'. Of course, how else would I know where to go. He gave me a real weird address for the Web Site:

Yeah, I thought he was having me on as well. He said 'No it is, just go through the directory, it will be there'. He said 'the E-mail address is:

I knew Graeme was a teacher at the uni, but I didn't know he had all those letters behind his name. Well by now I was becoming a little confused. He said, 'The Web Site is on the world Wide Web, you get it on the Internet'. Don't tell me State Rail have changed their name again. I thought that the World Wide Web sounded like an amusement park of some kind, so I said 'Could the kids go there as well?' He said, 'Sure, mine go there all the time'. I thought great, the fresh air will do them good and get them off that computer. So my next question was when is it on. 'It's on now', he said, 'It's been on since October'. It looked like they were going to get all the orchids they

could find as they grow and flower all year long. I said 'How often do you go there?' he said 'At least once a week'. He must have a hell of a lot of orchids by now. I was just about to ask him another question when he said, in a slightly agitated voice, 'Look here's the address again, ANOS E-mail address is: [redacted] and the ANOS Website is: [redacted]

Now take it to your computer shop and they will show you it. Computer Shop?

FIELD TRIPS

Reasons for Field Trips

Why do we need field trips?

- To find new orchids and new locations for known species. New locations are essential to replace habitats destroyed by progress.
- To review the health of orchids and their habitat.
- To introduce new members to habitats and species. Looking at slides is nice, but seeing the real thing is far better.
- To extend our knowledge. Both new and old members can learn together
- More eyes lead to more sightings that a single pair can overlook.
- It is one of the aims of the group

Planning Field Trips

The group has a field trip coordinator, as the name suggests to get the field trip information to the members. To enable him to fulfil his role, he requires two things:-

- requests to either see particular orchids or to visit particular locations.
- Offers to lead trips

The only people who can provide this is the members of the club.

Leader's Role

The leader should have some knowledge of the area to be visited, though this is not essential. The blind can sometimes lead the blind! The leader should nominate the meeting place and time. He should call a group meeting prior to start and remind members of convoy procedures. He should appoint a 'tail end charlie'. He should appoint a trip reporter, usually the last to arrive at the meeting venue. Lastly he needs to overview the conduct of the trip, ensure we take only photographs and do not decimate the bush.

Members' Role

The members first role is to participate in field trips. They need to ask the Field Trip Coordinator for specific field trips - He is not clairvoyant. They need to offer to lead trips. If you plan on doing a trip, consider making it a field trip so that other members can participate. You need to advise either the Field Trip Coordinator or the Trip Leader of your intention to attend the field trip. If circumstances change and you cannot participate, then advise that you will not be attending. You should attempt to be on time at the meeting venue, it is very annoying hanging around for late arrivals. The penalty is having to write the field trip report. When on the Trip, you should look at, admire and photograph the orchids. **DO NOT PICK THEM** This is an offence and carries a fine. It does not amuse CALM and you will be lighter in the pocket. If you are leaving the trip, you need to tell the leader and Tail End Charlie. You must obey the laws of the land and convoy procedures.

Field Trip Report

Field trip reports are our record of orchid sightings and provide a means for members who cannot participate because of distance or other engagements to keep in touch. New members are usually reluctant to write field trip reports. The easiest way to learn the names is by familiarity. There are always members present willing to help. Don't forget we were all novices once (and some still are! ed.)

Requirements for Field Trips

You need; Hoffman & Brown to settle arguments, or to confuse you more! A camera and plenty of film if you want a memento, a note book and pen - you might be a field trip recorder and it is a good practise to keep your own record for posterity. One day you will wish to return to your old spots and Al(zimer) may have visited. Food and drink are essential, there are a shortage of Delis in the scrub, on weekend trips we usually have a bbq. Good walking shoes and clothes suitable for scrub work. Wet weather gear, if for nothing else, it makes a great support for taking photos of orchids in swamps. First Aid gear - the club has a kit, but it is not always taken. A WANOSCG sticker on your car to help you fellow members to stay with the convoy and not follow a blow in. If you get lost easily, you need one of our whistles with a compass in it! Also useful in the convoy is a CB for communication. Several members have them and the group has 2 portables. They have come in handy on past trips when members have broken down.

Convoy Procedures

1. Trip Leader is to call meeting prior to start and remind members of convoy procedure and outline route to be taken.
2. Tail End Charlie appointed each trip by Trip Leader
3. Trip Reporter to be appointed each trip by Trip Leader
4. Observe road rules at all times
5. All vehicles are responsible for keeping the **following** vehicle in sight particularly when **turning off a road and at cross roads**. If you lose sight of the following vehicle, slow down or stop as necessary.

6. Vehicles leaving the convoy for any reason must wave on the remainder of the convoy and inform Tail End Charlie of their intention.
7. Tail End Charlie is to remain with any vehicle which has stopped until it is mobile again.
8. No vehicle is to overtake a vehicle in front or change position unless in an emergency.
9. Keep a safe distance behind the vehicle in front at all times.
10. Drivers are responsible for their passengers and passengers' actions at all times.
11. If leaving a trip early for any reason you must inform the Trip Leader of your intention.

DR R S ROGERS

This article was given to me by Ross Wilton, who received it from a friend, Paul Campbell. It is believed to have come from an Adelaide paper, probably the Register about 1914/15

A FLOWER PERSONALITY.

(By a Special Correspondent)

The Cult of the Orchid.

The gnat was intoxicated - drunk! It had enjoyed too long the seductive hospitality of the spider orchid, and as loth to rise from the banquet table. There he lay - a shockingly minute example of over indulgence. But the gnat was not altogether to blame. When the little Bohemian flew into that delicate fragrant room it was probably with the intention of having a 'nip' and going out again like a respectable insect. But the orchid had good reasons for detaining its gay visitor. It was going to get the gnat drunk, and make him stay longer. Why? This is why. The orchid wanted the gnat to work for it, a sort of quid pro quo. As a matter of fact, the orchid trapped the gnat. First it enticed, and then imprisoned him. The exit was barred by a wonderful system of tiny entanglements. The orchid has a spiteful tongue. Near the point where its hinge is attached to the column there is an apparatus like a watch spring, and the slightest weight on this appendage causes it to fly up. The gnat got in alright, and, having made merry, it wanted to get out. There was no escape by the entrance because the tongue had blocked that. So the front was a dead end, and behind was the impenetrable face of the column. The only way the embarrassed insect could leave was exactly the way the orchid desired it should leave - at the proper time. This was to crawl up between the two shadowy wings, which looked like the blades of hatchets, attached to the upper part of the column.

The Orchid's Victory.

There was a reason for this. At the back there was a fairly wide space between these blades. The front edges were pretty close together, but had cunningly devised hairs which turned inwards and prevented the gnat from negotiating that particular passage. It, therefore, continued to climb towards the anther that closed the space like the lid of a box. The anther had a small hinge at

the back and as the insect pressed against it, it gradually opened. Then the prisoner was free! In the long and rather complex process of reaching daylight again the gnat seemed to have become a perfect gentleman once more. Under a microscope you might have discerned a cynical smile on his face as he flew off - a smile of victory over heavy odds. But the orchid had the last laugh. Its perky guest, unconsciously, had done it a good turn. While forcing past the anther the gnat had lifted some of the pollen. By-and-by, allured to the hair of another flower, it was imprisoned again, and smeared this pollen on the stigma. That was fertilisation.

The Safety Valve.

Do you wonder, then, at Dr. R. S. Rogers taking the orchid as his life's baby? I don't. It is a study of infinite appeal. After all, you know, every professional man, to a large extent, is a Dr. Jeckyl and a Mr Hyde. I mean he is something in addition to what the general public sees or knows. A hobby is half of life, and represents its devotee in quite another personality, although unostentatious and often exclusive. I never think of Dr. Rogers unless I also think of orchids. And, similarly, keeping the analogy in the realm of physicians, I always associate spiders with Dr. Pulleine, shells and molluscs with Dr. Verco, and blackfellows with Dr. Ramsay Smith. The world would be a prosaic and monotonous thing if we saw it always as a real and serious business, without comparison, without versatility. Variety is the sharp, intimate colour which, introduced into life's great canvas, gives it contrast and balance and interest. Students who are taking a heavy science course at a university frequently resort to the perusal of trashy novels. It looks silly, but it is perfectly pardonable. What a dull round of duties school would be to the youngsters if it were not for the tops and marbles and match brands! It is much the same when we grow up.

The Most Cosmopolitan Flower.

After a chat with Dr. Rogers you love the orchid. He makes you understand its personality. Most people think of an orchid as merely something that Mr Chamberlain wears in his coat - or did when he was in politics. here is the hazy idea, to, that it is the particular flower that has won the heart of stern Kitchener of Khartoum. We recall its spidery picturesqueness and strange beauty, and remember the shy colours that have peeped up at us from a field that had seemed destitute of any floral charm. It is through a superficial acquaintance that the orchid is misunderstood. Listen to the tribute of the enthusiast. The orchid' says Dr. Rogers, 'is the most cosmopolitan flower in the world. It extends even into the arctic regions. and is an object of worship by certain ain savage tribes who regard the flower as sacred. The personality of the orchid is more versatile than any other plant. Once you are attracted by its habit and characteristics and development, the study is positively absorbing.

All Over the World.

I asked Dr. Rogers how South Australia stood in the list of orchid countries. There is no genus found exclusively here. Ten of our types have a wide climatic range. and extend into the Australian tropics; eight are peculiar to Australia: eleven are represented in New Zealand; seven are in New Caledonia, the Malay or Eastern Archipelago or the East Indies: one reaches southern China: and one is a cosmopolitan flower found in many temperate and tropical regions of the globe. The distribution of the order', remarked Dr. Rogers, 'is apparently very much governed by the average rainfall. A 10 inch record would appear to provide the minimum amount of moisture necessary for the maintenance of these plants. The boundary lies a little to the north of Goyder's line. Beyond this no orchids have been found. It will thus be seen that their distribution occupies a comparatively' small portion of this large State, and is chiefly coastal in character. So far 100 species have been discovered in South Australia, but we are always finding them. Not more than half of those we have catalogued have grown over 100 miles north of Adelaide.'

Study in the Open Air.

Dr. Rogers has his collectors all over Australia. Some of the best of them are school children, in whom he has instilled a love for this flower of remarkable personality. They have helped him to discover new species. Mrs Rogers is a victim of the orchid fever, and her husband finds her a splendid patient. They go out into the fields together. That's the great merit of this hobby - it is the delectable pastime of the open air and the sunshine. 'The fact that the study of the orchid took me into the country,' remarked Dr. Rogers, 'was largely what captured my interest. Don't you see! You combine the instinct of the hunter with the expectation of the gambler! You never know when you may stumble on a new and beautiful species. Some days, I suppose. Mrs Rogers and I walk 30 miles. For the collector, not only keen vision but a keen sense of smell is necessary on these exploratory expeditions.' 'It seems, then, you need the orchid nose, as well as the orchid eye.' 'Well, in a country where it is commonly reported that the flowers are without scent, it is interesting to note that in the case of our orchids the statement cannot be substantiated. There are species where the perfume is sufficiently marked to reveal their presence in the field before they have been observed by the eye of the collector. There is one rare little orchid, with rather diminutive flowers, of common colour. It does not grow in communities; yet on warm days the powerful magnolia-like odour of one such small plant will perfume the air for many yards from the spot in which it is growing.'

Wonderful Mechanism.

Nature has given the orchid an elaborate mechanism for fertilisation. The story I have told about the gnat is merely one function of that complex and delicate system. Darwin

did not believe that cross-pollination ever occurred orchids, so Dr. Rogers explained to me. His idea was that the process was effected by the intervention of insects. The study of Australian orchids shows that Darwin was only partially correct. We have many instances where fertilisation has taken place long before the flower has opened or has reached maturity. In every South Australian species most careful provision is made to ensure its survival and progress. There is sometimes furnished an apparatus that will enable it to become cross-fertilised by insects, but, in their absence, there is the capacity for self-fertilisation. But should both of these fail, the orchid still has the power of what is known as propagation by vegetative methods - a root system almost similar to that of the potato.

../TO BE CONTINUED



FOR SALE

Rufa trip report \$10.00

New *Caladenia flava* badges. \$4.00 to members, \$5.00 to non-members

Name badges. \$8.50

Orchids of WA(2nd ed) \$9.00

Orchids of SW Australia \$40.00

Car Sticker \$1.50

Pat Dundas cards \$8.00

Bush Survival Kit \$4.00

MINUTES OF W.A.N.O.S.C.G. GENERAL MEETING - 17 April 1996.

VENUE: Kings Park Board Administration Centre.

PRESENT: As per attendance book.

VISITORS & NEW MEMBERS: There were two new members present, and Lyn Todd and David Bebee were made welcome.

MINUTES: It was moved MANNERS/PARKER "that minutes of General Meeting of 20th March, be accepted." Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING: Mr Lodge was surprised to see in the Bulletin that flowers would not last long enough to be sent to the Adelaide display. He said flowers would last if treated properly.

CORRESPONDENCE: As per correspondence list.

AMP quote for Public liability seems high. Will get other quotes.

Friends for Moore River Estuary and Bushland are attempting to modify plans to build a major development on the south bank of the Moore River Estuary, and ask that we endorse their petition. Moved CLARKE/BURTON 'that the petition be endorsed.'

Carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Treasurers Report was circulated.

FIELD TRIPS: John Arends put it to the members that they let him know what orchids they wish to see this year, or be satisfied with whatever trips are organised.

Bill Jackson could arrange a trip in Walpole 3rd weekend in August to see *Thelymitra spiralis*.

Ron Heberle notified that *Thelymitra variegata* site east of Kulin was vandalised just after field trip

PLANT TABLE: Bill Burton displayed pots of *Pterostylis revoluta* and *Eriochilus multiflorous*.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Chris French has seen Jons' book "Orchids of Australia" available for \$25.

Victorian orchid book giving descriptions and location maps would be good for our library.

Rufa report now published.

Noel Clarke gave a very informative talk in Field Trips and members' responsibilities on these trips.

Winner of the raffle was Phyl Bunney and supper was provided by Melissa Haynes.

Meeting closed at 9.20.

SUPPER ROSTER	RAFFLE ROSTER
May: Margaret Wilton	May: D&E Smith
June: -	June: Wayne Merritt
July:	July:

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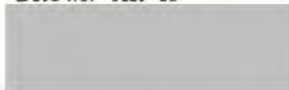
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BROWN MR A



Forthcoming Field Trips