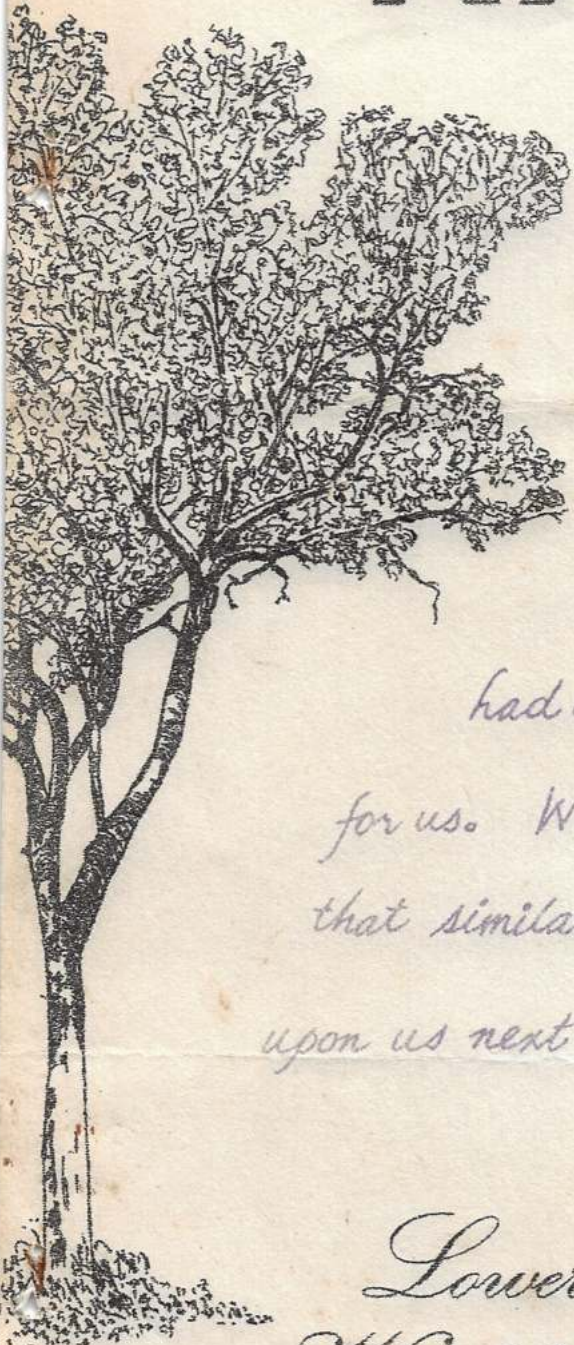


KALORI

February 1972



The Clutha agreement
with the State Government is
a dead letter. Do not think that we
had a victory. World economics did it
for us. We must maintain vigilance so
that similar schemes will not be foisted
upon us next time we look the other way.

Lower Blue Mountains
Wildlife Conservation Society

PO Box 58

Springwood 2777

Minutes of meeting held 10th. December, 1971.

Miss I. Bowden gave a most interesting talk on orchids - and she kindly allowed her notes to be published in this and following issues of Kalori. Such a pity that so few people were present to hear her.

Minutes of the November meeting were read and adopted.

Notice of motion (D Perrin). "That the Constitution be altered by deleting the word 'Wildlife' from the title of the Society."

Resolved (N McGrath, B Bramsen) to pay the rental of the Society's Post Office Box, at \$4.00 .

Correspondence in :- From the Minister for Environmental Control, in answer to our letter asking his assistance in tree preservation, stating that he had referred our request to the City Council, and telling us what conservation is about.*****

Minutes of meeting held 14th. January, 1972.

Fifteen members enjoyed a talk by local herpetologist Mr. Ormsby, and viewed at close range some specimens. (Of snakes and lizards, naturally.)

The notice of motion from last meeting was not proceeded with because of plans to completely review the Constitution.

A barbecue was held at Euroka on the evening of the 22nd. to farewell Keith King, who is to take a job in the Parks and Gardens Dept. of Tweed Shire Council. After the rain began we all repaired to the Dark's and carried on. Keith was presented with a copy of "Butterflies of the Australian Region" to commemorate his stay with us. His energy, knowledge and unfailing good humour will be missed.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE

ACCOUNT.

PERIOD I/II/70 TO IO/9/7I.

DEBIT -- EXPENSES.

Postage & Petty Cash	
Expenses.....	46.58
Rent for Hire of Hall	
paid to B.M.C.C.....	35.00
Payments to various	
Subscriptions.....	32.00
Advertising.....	5.50
Delegate (D.Perrin) to	
N.C.C. dinner.....	9.00
Purchase of Library	
Books.....	8.75
Credit Balance as per	
Books of A/c. IO/9/7I....	98.86
	<u>\$235.69</u>

CREDIT -- INCOME.

Bank Balance as at	
I/II/70.....	82.30
Bank Interest.....	1.86
Dividend from Portland	
Cement Co.....	09
Contribution for Myall	
Lakes Scheme.....	33.50
Sale of Plants.....	8.40
Sale of Books.....	3.10
Donations from Film	
Nights.....	20.54
Subscriptions from	
Members.....	85.90
	<u>\$235.69</u>

CREDIT BALANCE in hand as at IO/9/7I.....\$98.86.

BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT.

Balance as per Bank Statement	\$98.86.
Balance as per Books of A/c.	\$98.86.

NOTE. Credit Balance includes
\$40 Capital Fund (Life
Members Subscriptions).


TREASURER.

ORCHIDS

A talk given by Miss I. Bowden.

Introduction

This is rather a personal journey into the world of orchids. The thoughts I want to share with you are of a general character, opening a vista here and there into some aspects of interest in this wonderful family.

Distribution

The Orchidaceae consists of approximately 20 000 species, probably only surpassed in numbers by the Compositae. This enormous group of plants is spread through most of the plant communities of the world. From snow fields beyond the tree line to steaming jungles, and even into relatively hot, dry country. Yet little is known of the contribution these unique plants make to these varying habitats.

Orchids may be terrestrial, epiphytic, lithophytic, semi-aquatic or even subterranean, since two Australian monotypic genera grow and flower entirely beneath the ground - but they are never parasitic or carnivorous.

Moisture

Moisture is a controlling factor both in distribution and flowering, the greatest concentrations of species being in moist tropical areas. At the same time several species exist beyond the tree line in Canada's Arctic North. A Canadian friend is at present arranging a wild flower excursion to Iceland during the coming summer. In a letter she says that the Iceland Department of Agriculture sent very compact and at the same time detailed information of the flora. It was quite a surprise to note the number of orchids. A few are protected but most species are in sufficiently large numbers to require no action of this nature.

Orchids - they are everywhere, the beautiful, the rare, the delicate, the strange. There are about 6 000 species in Australia distributed through the more moist parts of the continent. In contrast New Guinea has about 2 200 described species. In the whole of the Wildflower State of Western Australia there are a possible 150 species. The same as have been recorded for our Blue Mountains.

The distribution of flora is one of the most interesting studies. About 50 spp of orchids are still to be found in Britain and the adjacent Isles. One species, the Dense flowered orchid (*Neotimaa inacta*), occurs in a number of Western Irish counties, but is otherwise confined to lands near the Mediterranean, from the Iberian peninsula to Asia Minor. There is thus a gap of over a thousand miles between the two communities. A species of *Spiranthes*

which is widely distributed in North America occurs nowhere in the Old World but in certain Irish counties where it is known as Irish Ladies Tresses.

Cultivation

Attempts must have been made from earliest times to coax orchids into gardens. Some exotic species have been in cultivation for one hundred or more years, yet on the whole they remain plants of the fields and the forests.

The flower

Two main features which distinguish an orchid are well known. Stamens and pistil have been replaced by a central structure known as the column which combines anthers and stigma.

The structure of the flower is close to the Liliaceae, the corolla of each consisting of three coloured sepals and three petals. But in the orchid the third petal has become modified to form the labellum, sometimes known as the tongue or lip. This labellum is subject to extraordinary modifications in some orchids, all of which with other variations in the flowers are aimed at ensuring pollination by particular insect visitors.

Nature seldom draws a hard line, and there are some other plants which have similar modifications but are not orchids; thus the trigger plants (*Stylidium*) have a tiny lip, and a moveable labellum, while sun orchids (*Thelmytras*) have a simple corolla with little if any differentiation in the third petal.

In *Prasophyllum anomalum* and *Corunastylis apostacioides*, two tiny orchids, there has been a reversion to an earlier type and the stigma and anther are separate structures. Various features of the flowers, however, separate them from closely related species so that, for example, they cannot be regarded as anomalous forms of *P. fimbriatum* for instance.

The various trapping devices of many orchids led to the idea that nourishment was obtained from insects as in the droseras and other plants; however pollination is the goal in all these variations.

In the slipper orchids the labellum is pouched; insects when they crawl in are unable to go out the same way as the edge of the slipper is rolled inwards, thus the insect must find a passage which leads it past the column and finally the anthers, and so to the outside world again.

Many orchids are modified to attract only one kind of insect. Thus when Darwin found an orchid with a spur ten inches long with nectar only in the last inch, he declared that a moth would be found with a tongue eleven inches long. It was.

(To be continued)

"Man is confronted with the difficult and complex problem of finding out how he can fit into his environment so that it will not deteriorate but will continue to provide what he needs."

R.G.Downes

Kalori is published monthly by and for the members of the Lower Blue Mountains Wildlife Conservation Society.

The aims of the Society are, briefly, to:-

1. Educate the public and civic leadership towards a better understanding of environmental conservation.
2. Work for the dedication of areas of natural environment and for the maintenance of their values in perpetuity.
3. Carry out research into the distribution and population of wildlife in the Blue Mountains.

President
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Telephone 391764

Secretary
Mr.D.Pain
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Warrimoo.2775

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE,
SPRINGWOOD, ON 11TH. FEBRUARY, AT 8.00 PM.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To the Treasurer,
P.O.Box 58,
Springwood. 2777

Enclosed is the sum of \$ to cover one years membership*

Name in full.....

Address in full.....

Occupation.....

* Individuals \$2.00 annually or \$20.00 Life.
Associates \$1.00 annually - subscription to Kalori.
Junior 30 cents annually.
Family \$3.00 annually.