NEW ZEALAND NATIVE ORCHID GROUP Newsletter no.12 December 1984

Dear Member,

Another year completed, they seem to get shorter all the time! Enclosed please find your subscription renewal, notice, the jump to \$5.00 includes affiliation fee to the New Zealand Orchid Council - \$1.00 per member. I think we must join the National Body together with the other 43 orchid societies in the country, before the International Orchid Conference in Wellington, October

Gordon Sylvester, a keen member handy to Wellington has agreed to oversee the Native orchid display at the conference, Please support him with any help you can give. He will need photos, paintings and drawings, as many as possible so he has a range to choose from, as soon as possible so he can start his planning, could you send any material him:

Mr G Sylvester, 22 Pencarrow Crescent, Wainuiomata.

We must show the thousands of expected visitors, many from overseas, that ${\tt New}$ Zealand does have native orchids.

Please send in reports of your summer 'finds', I can't produce a newsletter without your contributions. Anything will be appreciated!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Dorothy Cooper, 14 Avalon Crescent, Lower Hutt.

A Trip to Swampy Summit.

George Gee, South Dunedin,

Starting from the Whare Flat end of the Pineapple track, a trip to Swampy Summit (2600') entails travelling in convoy as permission must be obtained to go up to Swampy Summit through a locked gate.

<u>Caladenialyallii</u> is found at the side of the road - smaller plants than those on the Pineapple track a few hundred feet lower. <u>Lyperanthus antarcticus</u> is found at the edges of peat swamps and sphagnum moss areas, and at the edges of a tarn when traversing Swampy Summit. Going down the other side are more <u>Caladenia</u>, on a north-facing slope and in different vegetation, these are larger than those on the southern side. <u>Pterostylis montana</u> and <u>Aporostylis bifolia</u> are also to be found in this area but not in great numbers. All these can be difficult to find as the sheltering vegetation is fairly dense.

 $\underline{\text{Lyperanxbus}}$ was in bud on 17th December 1963, and well in flower on Jan. 15th 1984.

On the way down the hill two plants of a $\underline{\text{Thelymitra}}$ were found, perhaps $\underline{\text{T.}}$ pulchella?

Swampy is a great place to visit as there is a wide range of native plants including the sundews.

(See also articles on this area - "A Diary from Dunedin" Ian St. George, Newsletter no.3. and an article by M.L. Young, Mosgiel, Newsletter no.2, 1962.

PUFFER TRACK, KAITOKE

Dorothy Cooper

Aporostylis bifolia (several 'new' groups of plants) in bud; not common; Caladenia catenata (single flowered and two-flowered specimens predominatedred stalked and red leaved plants proved to have white flowers); common Caladenia lyalli flowers closed, capsules forming; small specimens; rare Chiloglottis cornuta most had finished flowering, elongated seed stalks; Corybas oblongus in flower, and with capsule; common; /fairly common; Corybas orbiculatus - previously thought to be C. macranthus, Kevin re found it in flower early October; few seed capsules; Dendrobium cunninghamii no flowers seen; rare; rare; Earina autumnalis rare; Earina mucronata rare; Microtis unifolia in flower; common; Orthoceras strictum in bud; not common; Prasophyllum colensoi in flower; not common; Pterostylis banksii in flower; fairly common; Pterostylis foliata plants only; rare; Pterostylis graminea most finished flowering; fairly common; Pterostylis plumosa in flower; rare; Thelymitra decora in flower; not common; (blue, with spots) Thelymitra dentata in flower; rare; (white with blue stripes, usually blue Thelymitra formosa in flower: fairly common; (grey-blue, no stripes or spot Thelymitra hatchii in flower; not common; (blue, no stripes or spots) Thelymllra longifolia in flower; common; (white, no stripes or spots)

Thelymitra pauciflora most finished; not common; (mauve, no stripes or spots) Thelymitra pulchella in flower; common; (blue, with stripes) Thelymitra venosa not yet in flower; not common; (blue with stripes) Dorotby Cocper, Lower Hutt

GUMLAND ORCHIDS IN 1948

L.B. Moore, Warkworth

In a letter written on 5 April 1948 Mr Frank W. Bartlett listed the native orchids that he had located in the Silverdale area, most of them growing on his own property Bankside (N.Z.Prov, 1 mile series Map N38 18- 90-). The records and comments seemed to merit wider circulation and I, as Editor, reproduced the list in the Wellington Botanical Society's Bulletin of August 1948 (No.19,p.7). This, being cyclostyled on poor paper, was ephemeral compared with the later printed numbers and is probably inaccessible to most present-day orchid fanciers; many may find their mouths watering as they read of such a feast!

Frank Bartlett died on 19 May 1979 in his eighties. Part at least of the Bankside property remains in family hands but it is currently threatened by plans for a future highway.

By spring 1984 some gentle slopes near to the centre of Silverdale were being prepared as industrial sites; top soil had been removed, exposing the whitish lower layers of the typical gumland podsol - pipeclay in local parlance.

Mr Bartlett Lists:

Dendrobium cunninghamii
Bulbophyllum pygmaeum
Earina mucronata
Thelymltra longifodia
T. pauciflora
T aemula (rare)
T. caesia (fairly common)
T. imberbis (scarce)
Orthoceras strictum (common)
Microtis unifolia (common)
Prascphyllum colensoi (rare)
P. pumilum (fairly common)
Corybas trilobus (uncommon)
C. macranthus (uncommon)

Pterostylis banksii (uncommon)
Pt. graminea (common)
Pt. trullifolia (common)
Pt. trullifolia var. alobula(uncommon)
Pt. trullifolia var. gracilis(uncommon)
Pt. nana (syn. puberula) (uncommon)
Pt. barbata (uncommon)
Acianthus sinclairii (common)
Caladenia carnea (syn. minor)(ccmmon)
C. carnea var. bartlettii (uncommon)
Chiloglottis cornuta (fairly common)
Gastrodia sesamoides (rare)
Corybas aconitiflorus (fairly common)
C. oblongus (fairly common)

Summing it up:

It is possible to see, within eight or ten chains of my home Pt. barbata
and Pt.nana growing alongside one another with Pt. trullifolia and Pt. graminea
nearby while Th. imberbis bloom alongside the rare and dainty Caladenia carnea var. bartlettii and the dainty little Prasophy11um pumilum
together with the more common orchids while dotted through the scrub is the famous Phy11oglossum, the (I am told not common) Lycopodium laterale,
L. densum, Epacris pauciflora, Drosera binata and D.auriculata ...
<a href="I live in dread that some day the Crown will resume ownership of the property and the scrub and its interesting plant life will go up in smoke and be over run by crawler tractors in the name of progress. Possibly the DSIR might do something in the matter and save some of New Zealand's rarest plants from destruction.

Frank W. Bartlett 5-4-48

(For more recent names and synonyms of some of the above plants see "Flora of New Zealand" Vol 2 by L.B Moore & E. Edgar, Orchidaceae p. 102 - Ed.)

We have not lost all our commoner orchids in this part of North Auckland,. Today (7/10/84) a small party of us spent a couple of hours in rather scruffy looking second growth and saw at least ten species half of them in colonies of one to two dozen plants:

Pterostylis banksii (f1.)
Pterostylis alobula (fr.)
Corybas rivularis (f1.)
C. oblongus (f1. some on fern tree trunks)
C. macranthus (f1.)
C. aconitiflorus (fr.)
Chiloglottls cornuta (f1.)
Acianthus fornicatus var. sinclairii (fr.)
Thelymitra (leaves only)
Earina mucronata (f1.)

We've seen three other <u>Pterostylis</u> flowering this season, <u>Bulbophyllum pygmaeum</u> and <u>Drymoanthus adversus</u> occur hereabouts. <u>Acianthus reniformis</u> var. <u>oblongus</u> is flowering now and leaves of <u>Caladenia</u> begin to show. The true gumland vegetation with some rarer orchids is fast disappearing.

L.B. Moore



4. SIMPLE KEY TO Thelymitra

Dorothy Cooper Lower Hutt

To identify species first look at colour of flowers and whether it has stripes or spots, then look at column and identify further characteristics. Remember that flowers do not develop colour in their segments until a day or so before opening, so if prising open a bud do not rely on colour for identification.

For further details refer to "Flora of New Zealand" Vol.2, Moore & Edgar "A Field Guide to New Zealand Native Orchids" Dorothy Cooper; "Native Orchids of New Zealand" John Johns & Brian Molloy.

Flowers Flowers			T. longifolia	
riowels	with spots	5	T. decora	tubercles on top of post-anther lobe
			T. ixioides	finger-like processes on top of column, distinct side lobules
	with strip	oes	T. dentata	yellow cilia, hooded top to
			T.pulchella T.venosa	flat 'seaweed-like' arms
	no stripes	or spots		
			T. carnea T. formosa	no cilia; pink, cream, blue side lobules; pale mauve-blue; low notch in post-anther lobe;
				filament-like cilia yellow or white.
			T. hatchii	truncate top to column; violet-blue cilia clumps yellow sometimes white
			T. intermedia	
			T.pauciflora	cleft in top of column, lilac-blue; white cilia clumps

Basic shapes, variation common:

