



Dear Member,

I have enclosed another renewal form for those who have not renewed their subscription, this will be the last newsletter you will receive until it is renewed. Many thanks to all those who have renewed their sub - even at \$5.00! Which brings me to a letter received from Jean Jenks in Nelson who points out that as our orchid group has no organised structure, rules, officer; or committee, we have no meetings or organisation to elect delegate; and many members already belong to an orchid society which is affiliated to CONZED (N.Z.Orchid Council), further affiliation wouldn't achieve anything. I agree with Jean and until further events warrant it have decided against affiliation for the time being. If anyone has any objections, please let me know. As increases in costs would shortly have necessitated an increase in subs, I trust members will be happy to use the present increase for this instead of affiliation fees, thus leaving the subscription at \$5.00.

Dr Ian St George of Dunedin has suggested we start mapping localities of our orchids. This is a major project and will need the help of you all. Following overseas methods we need a map, perhaps one for each species and anywhere a species is known to occur is marked with a cross. Either we could each do it on a map of NZ or we could each do it on a more detailed map of the area where the species occurs and it could then be included on a larger map by the collator. This was one of the original reasons I set the group up (see editorial Newsletter no.5), and suggestions would be gratefully received and perhaps you could all start now. Once we have decided on a suitable map you will all be sent a copy, after some time when results have been collated everyone would have a copy of localities throughout NZ, and would be able to report on any new ones. Please don't leave it to 'others' who "know more than you do", 'others' may not get around to it. Remember even one locality of one species will help the overall picture develop. This method works well in Australia but we do need the co-operation of each and every one of you. If at all doubtful about the identification of a species, add a question mark. e.g. species like Gastrodia sesamoides - this has to be the right honey colour and have a long column, to correlate with the type, while G. cunninghamii should be dark green-black with a short column; this necessitates pulling a flower apart and using a hand lens, so unless you have done this with Gastrodias, the identification may not be inaccurate. Similarly with Thelymitras and Pterostylis. if you are not sure try and get identifications checked by someone, we could have a check-up system to follow later, all will be very useful as part of the whole picture.

So there you are, that will give everyone something to work on. My very grateful thanks to those of you who have taken the time to put pen to paper, for an article for the newsletter or even a single species location,

Happy hunting,
Dorothy Cooper
14 Avalon Crescent,
Lower Hutt.

I have found lots of
Pterostylis graminea, in
the orangaronga valley.

I have also found
Microtis unifolia in the
Orangaronga's.

Simon Duno.



The extract on the left is from our youngest member, who is just 8½ years old, - he joined when he was 7! If he can contribute I'm sure you all can. Thanks Simon. - Ed

Kevin also reported Pterostylis australis and Lyperanthus antarcticus from the top of Kapakapanui behind Waikanae, - Southern Tararuas, at about 3,300 feet, above the bushline. The latter species is quite rare in this area so this is another useful recording. Three plants had one leaf, while the majority - 8-10, had 1-2 flowers and 2 leaves.

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Orchids of the Herbert State Forest (about 17 miles south of Oamaru)

Barbara McGann

Pterostylis - probably 2 species, a largish one and a smaller one with more reddish colouring in it - both growing along tracks in the remaining patches of native bush in the mainly radiata pine state forest. In flower 1st December.

Corybas - almost certainly macranthus and possibly another species. In flower 1st December.

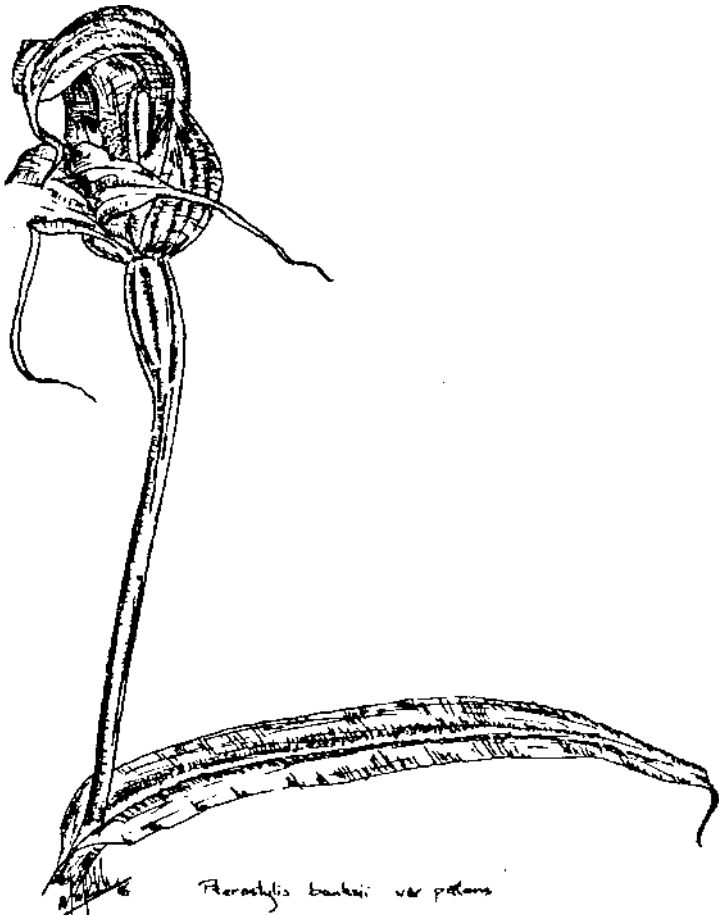
Caladenia - probably C. lyallii - just 2 plants, 2 metres apart, one with two flowers 1st December, growing in grass at the edge of newly logged pines.

Thelymitra - probably pulchella - growing on damp clay banks - flowering 26 December.

("By this time I was quite 'hooked' although our botanical knowledge is fairly limited and we've only recently started 'orchid-spotting', so spent some hours with the hand lens and 3 or 4 books to identify the species. Your description of the "flat seaweed-like arms" was very helpful. ")

?Microtis unifolia - just a lone plant in the tussock, past its best, 17 Feb.

(Many thanks for taking the trouble to write down all your observations, +f everyone did this we would soon know all about everything - Ed.)



Pterostylis banksii var. patens

Yoania australis at Kare Kare

Sandra Jones

When I went Yoania hunting last year at Karekare with the Beevers and Mr Hatch, we found only one flower stem, despite a fairly thorough search of two areas of taraire forest. On 5 January this year, I tried again. In the same area as we found last year's flower, I counted a total of 15 flower stems in a one hour search. Only one flower stem had open flowers. It is only a small pocket of taraire forest on a slope below the road, but what surprised me was that although the 15 flower stems were scattered down the slope (30-40 yards, I guess), all were within a few feet of an imaginary line drawn down the slope from top to bottom.

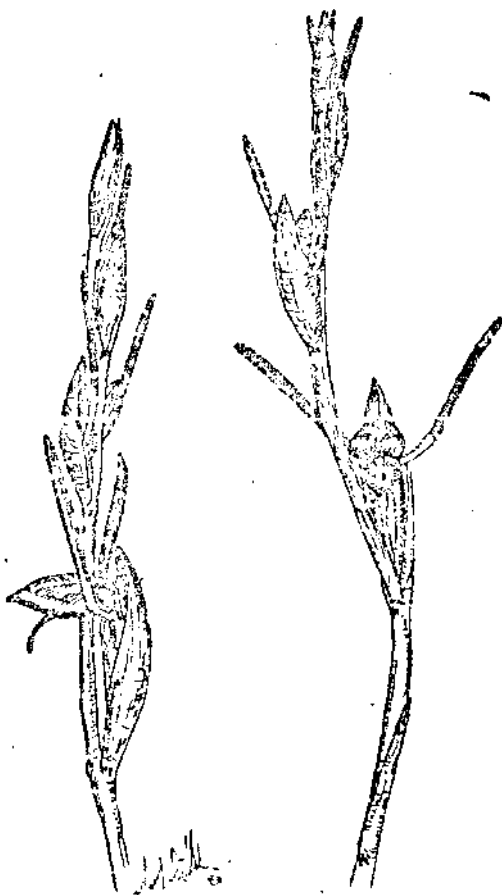
(This note was published in the Auck. Bot. Soc. News Sheet March 1985, and I am sure will be very useful information for someone in the future. Thanks Sandra. - Ed.)

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Pterostylis banksii var. patens
by Max Gibbs - see Page 4.

Some Orchids of the Taupo DistrictMax Gibbs
Taupo

The range of sizes of *T. longifolia*, at Whakamoenga Pt. must give a good indication of the patchiness of the 'soil' quality in that area. An object preview of that area indicates that the larger plants are confined to areas of more open pumice in slight hollows whereas the little plants - less than, 10cm tall - are all in the moss and litter on rocky patches. This is in contrast to the *Pterostylis banksii* plants which were in colonies of several dozen in the litter trapped between the large rocks and were all over 20cm tall. Less common were *Pt. graminea* under the denser scrub and on the more exposed pumice ridges. Both were present in ones or twos and hard to find. The *Orthoceras strictum* produced 3 or 4 green flowers with purple lip and 'ears'. Later I found other plants in large patches on clay at Raglan but these all had 8 to 12 purple to brown flowers which stood out as dark sticks in the short sun bleached grass. All has well formed seed pods even the immature and unopened flowers Other roadside finds this summer were:



Desert Rd: *T. longifolia* flowered 10/12/84
T.sp. (blue) " "
Prasophyllum colensoi ""
Microtis unifolia ""
M. oligantha patchy) ""

Raglan Roadsides: 5-10/1/85
T. longifolia
O. strictum (flowering)
M. unifolia "
Earina mucronata "
E. autumnalis
Pt. banksii (flowering)
Corybas sp.

Kaimanawa State rarest Road: 12/1/85
Chiloglottis cornuta
Corybas sp.
Earina autumnalis
E. mucronata (flowering)
M. unifolia "
Pterostylis banksii "
Pt. banksii var. *patens* "
T. longifolia

All the above sightings were made within 50 feet of the road and many were spotted from the moving car. The shade loving ground orchids were found beside picnic spots and all could be classed as common at each site. I wonder how many people use the picnic spots without even seeing the orchids they walk and sit on?

Most of the orchids found I photographed and drew. The method of photographing even the smallest flowers was to use an SLR camera fitted with an 80-210 mm zoom tele-macro lens and a 7 mm auto close-up ring between the lens and the camera. Although this alters the operation of focussing and zoom on the lens it permits the subject flower to be framed easily and from far enough back so that natural light can be used without camera shadow

(I hope we shall see more of Max's beautiful illustrations in future newsletters - Ed.)

