



Dear Member,

Only a few weeks to go to the International Orchid Show in Wellington (Show Buildings Oct. 10-13th for public viewing) Many thanks to those who have offered help in some way to Gordon Sylvester - it's not too late to add more, and I hope many of you will be able to attend this great event. The Group must offer their grateful thanks to Gordon who is doing an excellent job and it will certainly 'spread the word' on native orchids.

Due to some demolition by the Show Association our group's display has been moved so please disregard the locality map on page 4 of our last newsletter.

Thanks too to those who have sent in their reports on 'finds'. I will use them as space permits and will try to keep them in relevant date order so that the Spring newsletter will include data on orchids found from Spring into Summer so you can look for the appropriate plants. Caladenia catenata has now reverted to its former name of Caladenia carnea. Mark Clements has done some work on it at Kew. Our variety C. carnea R.Br. var. minor (J.D.Hook.) Hatch does not represent the typical C. carnea. so our var. minor is also reinstated. See 'The Orchadian' Mar. 1985, which incidentally has added colour to the latest editions and is well worth subscribing to. Subs are \$14.00 Australian, send to A.N.O.S., C/- B & C Mailing Service Pty Ltd, Box 4142, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W.2001.

Have a safe and happy summer and please report your 'finds'. Lastly, please note my change of address :

Dorothy Cooper,
37 Waimea Road,
Waikanae Beach.

Elderly Orchids?

Near where I live in North Auckland a specially good place for ground orchids is under a stand of kauri rickers, mixed with pole-sized young trees of half a dozen other species. Among the innumerable orchid plants there last spring the following species were noted: Acianthus fornicatus var. sinclairii, A. reniformis, Caladenia carnea, Chiloglottis cornuta, Pterostylis trullifolia, Pt. brumalis, Pt. alobula, Pt. graminea (var. rubricaulis?), Thelymitra 2 spp., Corybas at least 1 species, and Bulbophyllum pygmaeum quite common on the smooth bark of young kauri. C. carnea leaves were recognised but only 1 or 2 flowers were seen. Equally narrow leaves, but longer and without hairs were a puzzle until plants flowered in November when most other orchids were already in seed. Rather surprisingly, the leaves, about 30cm by 2mm, turned out to belong to 2 species of Thelymitra. Several had ordinary white T. longifolia flowers, 2 had blue flowers and columns that seemed to add up to T. intermedia, a species I'm not familiar with in the living state.

The site, on a back slope and amongst the slender trunks of trees mostly 4-6m tall, is atypical for sun orchids. The poles, probably up to 40 years old, would have established on open ground or amongst short stunted scrub where Thelymitra would also thrive, and probably in large numbers. It is tempting to speculate that the present quite numerous Thelymitra plants are actual survivors from the original population, becoming progressively more attenuated as they approach the fourth decade of their lives. Elsewhere, individual plants of Drymoanthus adversus kept under observation for 20 years showed no sign of senility so why not long-lived ground orchids? Any other records?

Lucy Moore
Warkworth, Mar.'85.



Orchid trips 1984

Beryl & Bob Goodger,
Tauranga

1984 was a bad year for us in many ways but one of its compensations was in the realm of native orchids, as we notched up quite a few first sightings. For us in Tauranga, the Kainai Range is a happy hunting ground, with lots of tracks varying from easy to difficult, but most are well within our range. All seem to have the earinas and Drymoanthus adversus. Also common are Dendrobium cunninghamii and Bulbophyllum pygmaeum, Corybas trilobus is abundant and Aciantbus fornicatus is present in large numbers as are Microtis unifolia and Thelymitra species. Orthoceras strictum can be seen on open banks and the largest specimens we have seen were at the entrance to the Kaimai Tunnel.

The following is a diary of our various trips, starting in the springtime.

Sept.(?) Sapphire Springs Rd, Katikati - Te Rereatukahia track and Tuahu track, *Pt. graminea var. rubricaulis growing only under kauris.
 Sept. 15th Woodlands Rd, Kk. - Waitengaue track - Pt. banksii & alobula, some in flower, Pt. trullifolia seedpods. Flowers on Corybas trilobus and rivularis. and buds on C. macranthus, oblongus and orbiculatus. Chiloglottis cornuta showing, though not in the large numbers which are present a month later when they can be seen in flower. The Thelymitra buds were also too young to identify.
 Oct. 4th. Wentworth Valley, near Whangamata - *Corybas aconitiflorus showing seedpods, abundant under ti tree near start of track. Caladenia carnea var. callinger. Pt. banksii in bud & flowering, trullifolia and alobula with seed pods. Thelymitra, Microtis and Chiloglottis as well as epiphytes.
 Oct. 13th. A visit to an Orchid Soc. member's property at Lunds Rd., Katikati - drove on up the road several Pterostylis on roadside. Quick, stop the car! It's *Thelymitra carnea, cream through to yellow and a beautiful apricot shade. Abundant on the roadsides but not quite open.
 Oct. 28th. Dawson Falls, Mt. Egmont - Corybas macranthus and orbiculatus flowering well near the bottom of the steps leading to the base of the falls - both on the steps themselves and the bank alongside.
 Oct. 29th. On the way home, took the Ahititi - Ohura Road. Stopped to have lunch at a patch of bush and saw the largest C. trilobus we have ever seen, several with seedheads. The flowering Chiloglottis cornuta were also abundant, a few quite tall. Also present were Pt. montana (flowers) and alobula, C. rivularis and Caladenia carnea. There would be comparatively little traffic along this road which is unsealed and winding. Many Pterostylis and Thelymitra on roadsides.

Back home again and then off to Rotorua on Nov. 7th - a very hot day. Stopped on the roadside near the County boundary to fossick and photograph the many Thelymitra which were wide open. T. longifolia of course and pauciflora in deep pinks and blues - very intense colours. Then on to the Forest Research Inst, to be shown the site of Gastrodia cunninghamii only two of which were showing so far. Calochilus robertsonii flowering well nearby darker colouring, due maybe to more shade, than those we saw as we moved on to Rainbow Mt. These plants were flowering well, but this is their most favoured habitat. Also saw our first plants of Prasophyllum colensoi and *Th. ixiooides both just opening. Also flowering were Cal. carnea, Th. carnea, decora, pauciflora and longifolia, and of course Microtis unifolia. Saw Orthoceras and also Earina mucronata growing on a rock.

Back home and then off on the weekend, with Bruce Irwin along and the caravan in tow, to Ohakune. Went down west side of Lake Taupo and stopped for lunch at the Waihaha Bridge rest area and a walk along the Pureora track (Nov. 9th). Saw our first Caladenia lyallii but it was not quite open - just one sepal down. I touched it and it unfolded before our eyes, what a thrill! The Thelymitra flowers also needed a little persuasion to tell us what they were - mainly longifolia, decora,

	leaf on distinct petiole	dorsal sepal less than $\frac{1}{2}$ width of labellum	petals usually less than $\frac{1}{2}$ length lateral sepals	labellum broad apiculate but not tapered	labellum dark red
<i>C. macranthus</i>	*	*	*	*	*
<i>C. orbiculatus</i> (New Plymouth)	x	x	x	x	x
<i>C. species A</i>	x	x	x	*	*

cm

