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HISTORY OF ORCHID COLLECTING IN  
SOUTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 1791 - 1971

R. L. Heberle

INTRODUCTION

The botanical history of the South West was essentially a saga of extraordinary endeavour, where the first settlers although mainly involved with "day to day" survival, still found the time to explore and collect the strangely different flora, and ranged far and wide into what was then a harsh and inhospitable land.

It was largely from the efforts of these intrepid souls and the early visitors providing a solid foundation of knowledge that has culminated in the current nearly 8000 species that have been named and described.

With the spectacular progress of our state during the past 160 years, agriculture, industry, commerce and population increases have put much of the flora under threat, it is appropriate to look back, to recognise, admire and pay homage to those very few, who paved the way forward.

The scope of this work is cover botanical history from Menzies (1791) to George (1971) with the emphasis on those people involved in the collecting, recording, naming and describing terrestrial orchid species. A brief history is given of the lives and times of those so involved.

The author hopes that the members of the W.A.N.O.S.C. and other readers will be influenced to read at least some of the literature, where a much fuller coverage makes quite fascinating reading.

ARCHIBALD MENZIES 1754-1842. Surgeon and Naturalist.

H.M.S. "Discovery" under the command of Captain George Vancouver en route to North America discovered King George's Sound (Albany) in 1791. During thirteen days (28 Sept - 11 Oct) Vancouver explored the area and named King George's Sound - Bald Head - Breaksea and Michaelmas Islands - Princess Royal and Oyster Harbours.

Archibald Menzies had been appointed to the expedition under the sponsorship of Sir Joseph Banks with the instructions to study climates, report on soil fertility, collect samples of seeds, plants and shrubs, and to put the earth and rocks to his microscope. His remuneration was to be eighty pounds per year.

He made extensive collections of plants at King George's Sound, however, most were lost before the "Discovery" returned to England 3½ years later.

Robert Brown wrote up and published the surviving specimens in his epic work *Prodromus Florae Hollandiae et Insulae Van Diemen* in 1810 (The forerunner to the *Flora of New Holland and the Island of Van Diemen*). This work contained the first three terrestrial orchids to be named and described from New Holland (the south western part of W. Australia). One of these was named in Menzies honour

*	<i>Caladenia menziesii</i>	R Brown	Prod. 1810
*	<i>C. flava</i>	R Brown	Prod. 1810
*	<i>Diuris longifolia</i>	R Brown	Prod. 1810

As at least 30 orchids flower in the area during September-October, we must assume that if collected, were among the lost specimens.

ROBERT BROWN 1773-1858. Surgeon, Botanist and Naturalist.

Under the patronage of Sir Joseph Banks, Robert Brown was appointed to the Flinders Expedition commissioned by the British Admiralty in 1801 to explore and map the coastline of New Holland. The "Investigator" first sighted Cape Leeuwin and proceeded east to King George's Sound, arriving on December 8 and continued the voyage along the south coast on January 5, 1802.

Apart from the mapping exercises of the area a defective mast had to be replaced. This enabled Robert Brown and his assistants Peter Goode (a gardener from Kew) and Ferdinand Bauer (botanical artist) to collect some 500 specimens of flora mostly new to botanical science.

During one of these collecting trips the party was stranded overnight in an area now called Lake Seppings and recorded being 'eaten alive' by mosquitoes. The most extensive search was from Princess Royal Harbour along a chain of swamps and lakes to the west where Young's Siding now stands and returning along the coastal scarp to Frenchman's Bay anchorage. Brown recorded 13 terrestrials from his King George's Sound collections and a further 18 from his eastern states collections have since proved to be represented in W.A.

We can thank Sir Joseph Banks for the success of Brown's collections as he provided ten thousand pounds to finance the Flinders Expedition. Orchids named as a result include:

- \* *Cryptostylis ovata*
- \* *Diuris emarginata* var *paucaflora*; *D. emarginata* var *emarginata*;  
*Diuris setacea*.



- \* *Epiblena grandiflora*
- \* *Microtis alba*; *M. media*; *M. pulchella*
- \* *Prasophyllum gibbbum*; *P. macrostachyum* var *macrostachyum*
- \* *Thelymitra ovaliculata*; *T. tigrina*; *T. fuscolutea* var *fuscolutea*



Heinrich Gustav Reichenbach

In 1871 Reichenbach named *Prasophyllum brownii* and *Microtis brownii* in Brown's honour from specimens collected at King George's Sound by Brown in 1801. The latter has since been reduced to synonymy because of Brown's prior name *M. rara* from a collection in South Australia in 1802. He was also honoured by Endlicher in 1871 with *Caladenia brunonis* (now *Elythronthera*) collected by Von Hügel at the Swan River Colony (Perth) and at King George's Sound (Albany) in November and December 1833.

Brown's work at King George's Sound in 1801 has proved to be extremely thorough, since then just four terrestrials not recorded by him have been found flowering in December. It is interesting to note that all of Brown's recordings can still be seen flowering in December as they did 185 years ago.

JAMES DRUMMOND 1748-1863. Gardener, Botanical Collector.

Captain Stirling's colonising party arrived at the Swan River on the "Parmelia" in 1829. James Drummond one of the original colonists became official gardener, and soon afterwards commenced botanical exploration and collecting that was to span the next 15 years.

His expeditions ranged far and wide into what was then an inhospitable and unrelenting land. He was in the forefront of settlers to visit remote areas, south to Augusta, east to the Barren Mountains (Fitzgerald River National Park) and north to the Champion Bay (Geraldton) and the Murchison River and north-east to the edge of the desert country (The Eremaean).

Drummond's collections were sent initially to Captain Mangles who visited the Swan River in 1831 and later to John Lindley and Sir William J Hooker. Lindley arranged disposal of duplicate collections that were studied by Stephan Endlicher and Heinrich Reichenbach. Poor communication between European and English researchers resulted in numerous species being named more than once; this was later to cause great confusion as to the correct status of species. Drummond's collections represented some 2000 species new to botanical science, his contributions were easily the most important of the period.



John Lindley, English orchidologist

It is difficult to speculate the hardship he endured when the only transport was **ON FOOT** or on horseback with initially only bush tracks and few datum points in sparsely settled areas. This resulted in an inability to give precise locations for most specimens, many of these are still known only by the type collections.

Sir W J Hooker of "Kew" (The Royal Botanical Gardens) with the receipt of one of his last collections (220 species) in 1848 from the northern areas stated that this was a fitting conclusion to a dedicated collector whose love of a unique and beautiful native flora has never been matched before or since. He played his part in the growth of the infant colony and was in the forefront of the exploration of the landscape. Hooker commenting on a consignment from the Barren Mountains stated that he had rarely seen so great a number of fine and remarkable species arrive at one time from any country. Ludwig Diels wrote: "He joined in every struggle the young country had to fight to overcome the difficulties, but all his labours and bitter experiences did not separate him from his favourite hobby, with rare devotion and real enthusiasm he kept it up to the end.

In 1846 the British Government recognized his contributions to botanical science with a gratuity of two hundred pounds; he was further recognized by some 100 species named in his honour.

Drummond's terrestrial orchid collections resulted in some 60 species being named. Just 30 have survived botanical revisions.

Named by J Lindley 1840 Vegetation Sketch Swan River Colony.

*Caladenia discoides*; *C. gemmata*; *C. reptans*; *C. sericea*; *C. pateracnii*  
var *longicauda*; *C. filamentosa* var *denticulata*; *C. filamentosa*  
var *filifera*.

*Paracaleana nigrita*

*Diuris laxiflora*

*Drakaea elastica*

*Eriochilus dilatatus*; *E. scaber*

*Leporella fimbriata*

*Lyperanthus serratus*

*Microtis atrata*

*Prasophyllum ovale*; *P. parvifolium*; *P. giganteum*; ~~*P. drummondii*~~  
*Pterostylis barbata*; *P. scabra* var *scabra*  
*Thelymitra antennifera*; *T. campanulata*; *T. orinata*; *T. fuscolutea*  
var *stellata*; *T. variegata*; *T. villosa*; *T. spiralis*.  
*Spiculaea ciliata*.

Named by Reichenbach, 1871, *Additional Plants to Systematic Botanical Science*.

*Caladenia barbarossa*; *C. multiclavia*; *C. saccharata*.  
*Prasophyllum drummondii*; *P. fimbria*; *P. hians*; *P. ovale* var  
*triglochis*;

Named by Bentham, 1873, *Flora Australiensis*.

*Caladenia drummondii*  
*Pterostylis recurva*

JOHN SEPTIMUS ROE 1797-1878. Surveyor, Explorer and Botanical Collector.

John Septimus Roe was another of the original colonists and was later to become Surveyor General. He became the principal explorer of the colony. Possibly his greatest exploratory achievement was in 1848 when under the orders of Governor Fitzgerald, he was instructed to explore from Cape richie to the Russell Ranges (east of Esperance and named by John Eyre in 1841). He was to look for coal deposits, permanent fresh water and grazing land. Roe had previously explored the coastline by sea with Captain Phillip King in 1819, he had noted mountain peaks inland and was to name most of these.



Fitzgerald Peaks (after the Governor), Mount Charles (now Peak Charles), Mount Eleanor, Mount Ridley, Mount Howick, Mount Ney and Mount Merrivale, Stokes Inlet, Lort River, Young River, Phillips River, Fitzgerald River, Mount Desmond, Eyre Range, Mount Bland, Mount Madden, Culham Inlet and the Bremer Range.

During this and other expeditions, he collected botanical specimens that were sent to Sir W J Hooker and Ferdinand Von Mueller. Ten species were named in his honour, one being an orchid.

Bentham 1873, *Flora Australiensis*.  
*Caladenia roei*.

CAPT JAMES MANGLES R.N. 1786-1867. Naturalist and Patron of Botanical Collecting.

Capt. Mangles arrived at the Swan River at the invitation of his cousin Lady Stirling (the Governor's wife) in 1831. Assisted by James Drummond and other settlers; G F Moore, T. Carroll, Capt. Meares and Mrs Bull, he made extensive collections of seeds and specimens of the flora in an area approximating the Perth Metropolitan Region. Through Lady Stirling he arranged for these and other collections to be forwarded to England in the future. Georgiana Molloy of Augusta was later to forward extensive collections to Capt. Mangles.

Dried specimens particularly from Drummond were forwarded onto Lindley and some found their way to European Herbaria. Seeds and growing material were grown by Mangles in his private gardens and by his brother Robert who was a horticulturist. Some type specimens were grown in this way, with surplus material sent to other English gardens.

Orchid collections reaching Lindley were credited to the name of the sender.

BARON VON HUEGEL 1796-1870. Botanical Collector.

Von Huegel visited the Swan River Colony in 1833 during November/December. He botanised around where we now know as Perth assisted by James Drummond and other settlers. He later proceeded to King George's Sound by ship and made further collections. He had some very pertinent criticisms about the British Governments lack of support to the struggling colony. His collections were written up by Endlicher and others and published in "Enumeratio Plantarum" in 1837 wherein he was honoured by 16 species bearing his name. This work included three of his orchid collections:

*Caladenia huegelii*. H.G. Reichb.  
At Swan River. Nov 1833.

*Elythranthera brunonis*. (Endl) A.S. George  
At King George's Sound & Swan  
River, 1833.

*Thelymitra flexuosa*. (Endl)  
At King George's Sound Dec, 1833.

DR ALEXANDER COLLIE. Surgeon, Magistrate and Amateur Botanist.

Dr Collie was another of the original colonists and was later stationed at King George's Sound where he remained until 1835. He took a keen interest in the Aborigines, learning their language and customs and showed compassion and concern for their welfare. His botanical collections were sent to Lindley resulting in two orchids being named:

\* *Pterostylis vittata* var *vittata* Lindley 1840. *Vegetation Sketch of Swan River Colony.*

\* *Caladenia marginata* Lindley 1840 *Vegetation Sketch of Swan River Colony.* ex King George's Sound and Collie.

GEORGIANA MOLLOY 1805-1843. Botanical Collector.

Mrs Molloy was the wife of Capt Molloy leader of the first settlers at Augusta in 1830. Georgiana, a cultured and well educated woman had a love for garden flowers and had brought seeds, bulbs and plants from England. She quickly became enchanted with the local native flora and was fascinated by their strange and different beauty.

Lady Stirling arranged for Mrs Molloy to collect seeds and specimens to forward onto Capt. Mangles. She maintained a regular correspondence with him sending specimens over a period of seven years. Mangles responded by sending her regular supplies of "creature comforts" that were not readily available in the colony. Although not very robust she was to bear seven children and under tragic circumstances her only son was drowned as a child.

Mrs Molloy extended her hospitality to all who came to Augusta including James Drummond and Ludwig Preiss and assisted them with her extensive knowledge of the local flora.

George Bentham mentioned in "*Flora Australensis*" that she made a major contribution to botanical science. After the family moved to the Vasse her health deteriorated. She wrote to Mangles in her last letter "I have sent you everything worth sending".

George Hailes, prominent English Gardener wrote of her "not one in ten thousand who go to distant lands has done what she did for her native country".

Most of Georgiana Molloy's orchid collections were reduced to synonymy. She shared with James Drummond:

*Caladenia hirta* Lindley  
Vasse River Mrs Molloy

JOHANN AUGUSTUS LUDWIG PREISS 1811-1883. Botanist and Biologist.

Ludwig Preiss was financed by the and Austrian Governments to collect plants and biological specimens. He spent three years 1839-1841 at the Swan River Colony and collected some 2700 specimens, being assisted by the settlers, particularly James Drummond and Georgiana Molloy.

Most of his biological specimens were purchased from the settlers and their children. Animal and bird skins, eggs, seashells etc. There was considerable criticism from the settlers that foreign governments were taking advantage of the colony's natural flora and fauna and their own government was not interested.

Preiss **AWARE** of the settlers resentment, sought to become a British subject and offered to the Governor to make all his collections available, however this was refused.

Most of the collections of Preiss came from the well settled areas and he was able to give meticulous descriptions, locations and habitats, mostly lacking from other collections at that time.



One very important result of Preiss's visit was that he influenced Ferdinand Von Mueller to come to Australia in 1852.

His botanical collections were written up in "*Planta Preissianae*" by J.G.C. Lehmann 1844-1847 wherein he was honoured by 40 species being named after him.

As most of Preiss's orchid collections were duplicates of Drummond's just three have survived reduction to synonymy.

*Caladenia nana* Endl.

Mt Clarence, Preiss, Oct. 5, 1840.

*Prasophyllum macrostachyum* R.Br. var *ringens* Reich. F. 1871  
York, Preiss

*Acianthus reniformis* R. Br. var *haegelii* Endl.

Rottneest Island

Preiss Aug 22, 1839.

GEORGE MAXWELL 1805-1879. Botanical Collector and Naturalist.

George Maxwell arrived at King George's Sound in 1840 and did extensive collecting work around the Sound in the Stirlings and east to the Barren Mountains. On at least two occasions he botanised with James Drummond.

To provide income for his expeditions he established a nature and curios stall on the shipping jetty and also gave guided tours for a fee. He later became a supplier of sandalwood *Santalum spicatum*, even he kept up his botanising until 1863.

Most of his specimens went to Mueller however some are lodged at Kew and the British Museum of Natural History.

Ten species were named in his honour though only one orchid was named from his collections:

*Thelymitra cornicina* H.G. Reichb.

King George's Sound, Maxwell.

DR WILLIAM HENREY HARVEY 1811-1866. Professor of Botany, Keeper of Herbarium Dublin.

Dr Harvey visited King George's Sound in 1854 and spent eight months in the colony mostly collecting marine plants, of which he was a world authority.

He had one orchid named:

*Caladenia aphylla* Benth. *Flora Australiensis* 1873

King George's Sound, Harvey

AUGUSTUS FREDRICK OLDFIELD 1820-1887. Botanist and Zoologist

Oldfield made extensive collections in Tasmania during the mid nineteenth century. He collected in W.A. up to the 1860's and his collections went to the Melbourne botanical gardens and to Kew gardens.

Thirteen species were named in his honour he had one orchid named:

*Prasophyllum apophyllum* Benth.

Upper Kalgan, Oldfield.

His interest spanned nearly 50 years and numerous orchid specimens are under his name at the W.A. Herbarium. He also sent specimens to Dr Rogers in South Australia who in recognising his contributions to knowledge named *Goadbyella gracilis* in his honour. It is ironical that this genus was considered to be an aberrant hybrid and therefore was subsequently dismissed as a valid taxon. However the literature and herbarium sheets will preserve and recognise his more than half a life time of dedicated effort.

R.S. Rogers records Goadby specimens in naming:

*Arianthus tenuissimus* Nicholls et Goadby Sept-Oct 1933  
ex E.T. Goadby Bayswater Perth Sept-Oct 1932.  
*Caladenia triangularis* Goadby, Highbury Sept 1924  
*Pterostylis rogersii* Goadby, July 1928-29  
*P. scabra* var *robusta* Goadby, Perth, Fremantle, July 1927  
*Thelymitra sargentii* Goadby, Dalwallinu, Oct 1929

CECIL ROLLO PAYTON ANDREWS 1870-1957. Principal, Teachers Training College - Director of Education.

Cecil Andrews was a keen botanist and collected mainly in the Perth - York - Northam areas and visited Albany, Stirling Ranges and the Barrens; often with his friend and associate, Oswald Sargent; his interest spanned some fifty years. Many of his specimens are lodged at the W.A. Herbarium.

His work has been honoured by 7 species of flora bearing his name.

He was the first West Australian to name an orchid and published two in the Journals of the W.A. Historical Society.

*Pterostylis sargentii* C Andrews 1905  
York, O.H. Sargent, July-Aug 1905  
*Thelymitra psammophila* C Andrews 1905  
Upper Kalgan River & Stirling Range,  
Andrews, Oct 1903.

OSWALD HEWLETT SARGENT 1880-1952. Pharmacist and Orchidologist

Did extensive field work in the York area and elsewhere. Was the first West Australian to publish notes on pollination; from observations of wasps pollinating *C. barbarossa*. Many of his specimens are lodged at the W.A. Herbarium.

Five species were named after him, three were orchids.

*Pterostylis sargentii* C. Andrews 1905  
York, O.H. Sargent, July-Aug. 1905  
*Thelymitra sargentii* R.S. Rogers 1930  
Bruce Rock O.H. Sargent Oct 1929  
*Prasophyllum sargentii* (W.H. Nicholls) A.S. George  
Beverley, Nicholls, Sept 1948

One Species named

*Caladenia douthettii* Sargent 1926  
Datatine near Katanning, Miss L. Douthett

FREDRICH LUDWIG EMIL DIELS 1874-1945. Director of Berlin Botanic Gardens

Ludwig Diels together with G C Pritzel (Teacher of Botany) travelled widely in W.A. during 1900-1901. Their most extensive collections of flora totalled some 5700 specimens. These collections were jointly written up in *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae Occidentalis*, a major authority on our flora. This work named one orchid.



*Diuris purdiei* Diels 1903  
Cannington, A. Purdie.

KARL DOMIN 1882-1953. Professor of Botany Prague.

Professor Domin described and wrote about many W.A. plants.  
He named two of our orchids.

*Caladenia filamentosa* var. *caesarea* Domin 1912  
Bridgetown, Kojonup, Slab Hut  
Gulley, Dorrien Smith, 1909  
*C. filamentosa* var. *dorrienii* Domin 1912  
Bridgetown, Kojonup, Slab Hut  
Gulley, Dorrien Smith 1909

DR RICHARD SANDERS ROGERS 1862-1942. Surgeon and Orchidologist

Dr Rogers was one of a number of orchidologists who surfaced  
in the late 1800's in Australia, after British and European  
interest in taxonomy had waned.

His contributions to knowledge and research was evident in  
numerous papers published in the Royal Societies of Australia  
and overseas. These were recognised by him being awarded  
his Doctorate of Science at Adelaide University in 1936. His  
thesis on orchids was acclaimed by authorities in England and  
elsewhere.

After correspondence with a number of W.A. enthusiasts, he  
and his wife Jean, visited in 1919 and did extensive fieldwork.  
His total of 79 orchid species named Australia wide has not  
been surpassed and has only been approached by the Reverend  
Rupp.

He named and described seventeen species from W.A. all  
published in the *Trans Royal Soc. of S. Aust.* The most uniquely  
important of these was "The Underground Orchid" *Rhizanthella*  
*gardneri*, the subject of considerable research over recent  
years, initially funded by a grant from the World Wildlife Fund.

His names for W.A. orchids include:

**Bryce MacIntyre**

*Caladenia bryceana* Rogers 1914 *Palilla* River, Sept 1914.  
*C. cristata* Rogers 1923 F. Simpson, Milng, Sept 1923.  
*C. lavandulacea* Rogers 1927 Miss W. Deadman, Beverley, Sept 1926.  
*C. radialis* Rogers 1927 F. Stoward, Beverley, 13 Sept 1927.  
H. Ising, Beverley, 1 Sept 1913.  
*C. sigmoidea* Rogers 1938 L. Horbury, Kumarl, 25 Aug 1937.  
*C. triangularis* Rogers 1927 E.T. Goadby, Highbury, Sept 1924  
*Psathyllum regiae* Rogers 1918 R. Pulliense, Manjimup, Dec 1917.  
*P. lanceolatum* Rogers 1920 Johnson, Albany, 25 Sept 1919.  
Mrs W.E. Cooke, Muresk, 4 Sept 1907.  
*Pterostylis allantoidea* Rogers 1938 L. Horbury, Kumarl, Aug 1937.  
*P. scabra* var. *robusta* Rogers 1920 E.T. Goadby, Perth, July 1927.  
E.T. Goadby, Swanbourne, July 1927.  
*Rhizanthella gardneri* Rogers 1928 J. Trott, Corrigin, 23 May 1928.  
J. Plant, Shackleton, June 1928.  
*Thelymitra sargentii* Rogers 1930 O.H. Sargent, Bencubbin, Oct 1924.  
R.E. Edmonson, Bencubbin, Oct 1929.  
B.T. Goadby, Dalwallinu, Oct 1929.  
*Drakaea juncensis* 1920 Jean Rogers, Ravenswood, Sept 1919.

EDITH COLEMAN, Orchidologist

Edith Coleman continued the research on pollination of  
Australian orchids commenced by Robert Fitzgerald during  
the 1880's and was involved with O.H. Sargent who was  
doing similar work in W.A. The results of this work were  
published in the "Victoria Naturalist" 1927-1934, in  
thirteen papers.

Her pioneering work on pollination made her the first of her sex to publish results of this type of research. She was also the first woman to name and describe orchids in Australia.

After corresponding with enthusiasts she visited W.A. in 1928, doing extensive fieldwork with their assistance. This resulted in the naming of four W.A. terrestrials all published in the "Victoria Naturalist".

*Caladenia integra* E. Coleman 1933 Miss R Sandilands,  
Tunney  
Mr Rowe, Kendenup, Sept  
1930/31/32

*C. longiclavata* var *longiclavata* E. Coleman 1930, Boyup Brook,  
Busselton, Donneybrook, Sept  
1928/29/30.

*C. longiclavata* var *rhomboidiformis* E. Coleman 1929, Boyup Brook,  
Busselton, Donneybrook,  
Sept 1928/29/30.

*Pterostylis rogersii* 1929 E. Coleman, Miss J. Banks, Mr E. Bryant  
E.T. Goadby Bunbury, Collie,  
Busselton, June-July 1928/29.

#### WILLIAM NICHOLLS Amateur Orchidologist.

With only a primary school education he TAUGHT himself enough botanical Latin and art to name and describe numerous Australian orchids.

William Nicholls life interest in our orchids reflected a dedication and singleness of purpose that was quite unique for his time. His magnum opus, *Orchids of Australia*, remains the most comprehensive reference available.

He visited W.A. in 1946 and 1948 and assisted by local enthusiasts did extensive field work resulting in describing and naming 13 new species. Two of these have subsequently been reduced to synonyms.

All were published in the "Victorian Naturalist".

*Caladenia dilatata* var *falcata* Nicholls. Kojonup, Sept  
26, 1948.

*C. ericksenae* Nicholls. Mrs R Erickson, Bolgart,  
Sept 27, 1949.

*C. longiclavata* var *magniclavata* Nicholls, Lesmurdie,  
Sept 26, 1948.

*C. radiata* Nicholls. Yarloop. Oct 9, 1948.

*Prasophyllum griseodanum* Nicholls. Middleton Beach,  
Oct 1946.

*P. sargentii* Nicholls. July/August 1949.

*Pterostylis vittata* var *subdiffinis* Nicholls. Miss F. Corker,  
Boyup Brook, 1930.

*Thelymitra spiralis* var *pallida* Nicholls. ex Mrs G.  
Seulvera, Yarloop, Aug 1948

*T. spiralis* var *punctata* Nicholls ex Mrs G. SCOULERA Yarloop  
August 1948.

*T. spiralis* var *seoulera* Nicholls ex Mrs G. SCOULERA Yarloop  
August 1948.

*Acianthus tenuissimus* Nicholls et Goadby. E.T. Goadby,  
Bayswater, Sept/October 1932.



William Henry Nicholls first.



HERMAN M.R. RUPP. 1872-1956. Clergyman and Orchidologist.

The Reverend Rupp was another of the Australian enthusiasts that became involved with the Orchidaceae in the late 1800's. During an extremely active life he travelled widely in the eastern states, and corresponded and visited numerous interested people. His enthusiastic interest resulted in the naming of some 70 orchids. He published numerous papers the most important being:

*Orchids of New South Wales* and *A Guide to the Orchids of New South Wales* as sections of the *Flora of NSW* (National Herbarium).

His contribution to the knowledge and taxonomy placed him on an equal footing in importance to Dr Rogers.

He named one terrestrial from W.A.:

*Thelymitra cucullata* H.M.R. Rupp. Aust Orch Review 1946  
Miss D Southland, Youngs Siding, W.A.  
August 1945.

ALEXANDER SEGGER GEORGE (1939 - ) Botanist.

Alex George joined the W.A. Herbarium staff in 1959 and became a senior botanist. He was one of the very few who had an extensive knowledge and interest in the Orchidaceae. He also specialised in *Verticordia* and *Banksia* and has published more than 50 scientific papers. Has also been author and co-author of a number of books on general flora and orchids. The most important of these are "The Banksias" illustrated by Cynthia Rosser.

It was Alex George's continuing interest over a period of years that eventually contributed to the rediscovery of one of the world's most unique orchids *Rhizanthella gardneri* at Munglipup by farmer John McGuinness in 1979.

One of his most important works was the publication of "A Check List Of The Orchidaceae Of Western Australia" in 1971.

In 1981 he took up a position at Canberra as Executive Director of the revision of *The Flora of Australia*, where he is responsible for co-ordinating the more than 100 specialised researchers that are contributing throughout Australia.

He named and described four orchids published in *Myrtia* bulletin of the Western Australian herbarium Vol 1 No. 2 1971.

*Caladenia corymbifera* A.S. George,

Banks of Donnelly River, Dec 7, 1957.

*C. crebra* A.S. George 1971

Dongara, W.A., A.S. George, Aug 29, 1969.

*C. graminifolia* A.S. George, Culham Inlet

W of Hopetoun, W.A., A.S. George, Aug 1, 1969.

*Pterostylis angusta* A.S. George, 1971

West of Mt Trio, Stirling Range, W.A.,

A.S. George, Aug 2, 1969.

#### FUTURE DIRECTION

Alex George published 7 new names in 1985. Bob Bates 1 in 1984. Stephen Hopper after four years of revision of *Drakaea* and *Caladenia* has some 30 new species in Manuscript. *Diuris*, *Pterostylis*, *Proserpyllum*, *Thelymitra* and minor genera are currently being revised for inclusion in *The Flora of Australia*.

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