



BULLETIN

OF THE

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHID
STUDY AND CONSERVATION GROUP
(INC)

April 1994

OFFICE BEARERSPHONE

PATRON	Mrs. J Holmes a'Court
PRESIDENT	John Eaton
VICE PRESIDENT	Andrew Brown
VICE PRESIDENT	Steve Phillips
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	Joan Biddle
SECRETARY	Noel Clarke
TREASURER	Minna George
EDITOR	Chris French
LIBRARIAN	Tony Lock
AUDITOR	Anna Brunnbauer
COMMITTEE	Bill Burton
	Jean Long
	Joni Eaton
	John Arends

OBJECTIVES OF THE GROUP

- a. To promote interest in and preserve Western Australian indigenous Orchids.
- b. To learn the best means of cultivation and do all things possible for the conservation of native orchids in their environments.
- c. To learn their habitats and keep records.
- d. To have field days and learn to recognise the different genera and species.
- e. To hold meetings for the exchange of knowledge and furthering of interest in Western Australian orchids.
- f. To affiliate with kindred organisations.
- g. To make rules for the governing of the Group's domestic affairs.
- h. To do all such other lawful things as are incidental to or conducive to the attainment of the above objectives.

NOTE: The opinions expressed by contributors to this bulletin are not specifically endorsed by the group.

POSTAL ADDRESS
OF GROUP

PO Box 323
Victoria Park 6100

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING - Wednesday, 20 April, 1994 at 7.00pm, Kings Park Board Administration Centre.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING - Wednesday, 20 April 1994 at 8.00pm, Kings Park Board Administration Centre.

TOPIC FOR GENERAL MEETING

Ron Foreman will be giving us a talk and slide show covering the native orchids that he and Dulcie discovered on their recent trip to Turkey and Greece.

BULLETIN CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions are needed for every edition of the Bulletin. Articles should be sent to Chris French.

The article submission deadline for the next issue of the Bulletin is 1st May, 1994.

Please send in anything remotely newsworthy which relates to our group, to our members (ie, birthdays, special occasions, pen portraits, etc), grower's tips, rescue digs, field trip reports, native orchids and conservation activities. Anything (almost!) will be published, provided it is of interest to our group (or should that be read "of interest to your Editor"?).

ANNUAL GROUP MEMBERSHIP FEES

1994 Membership Fees are now due!

The group membership fees for 1994 as follows:

Single Membership	\$20.00 pa
Family Membership	\$20.00 pa
Junior Membership	\$ 2.00 pa

FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS

At this stage we do not have a Field Trip Coordinator. Nobody was game enough to stand for election at the A.G.M. so we are short of a valued committee member. There was some discussion of a Field Trip to see "Praecoxanthus aphyllus" during mid to late April but so far nobody has volunteered to lead the trip. At this stage there will not be a Field trip to see this orchid unless somebody wants to lead the trip. If somebody is prepared to do so, then please let us know at the next meeting so that the trip can be arranged.

Of course this means that we won't know if a trip can take place until the night of the meeting, so if you want to go on an "P. aphyllus" trip, then you better be at the next meeting.

R.I.P.

The members of the committee and the group would like to extend their deepest sympathies to Bill, Gloria, Steve and Sue Jackson upon the recent sudden loss of their much loved daughter and sister, Lisa.

Lisa's death was sudden and unexpected and a great shock to Bill and Gloria and all who knew Lisa. We all extend our heartfelt condolences.

ARTICLES

There are a number of reprinted articles in this Bulletin and thanks to the members who have brought them to our attention. The first reprint comes from the recently formed, Western Australian group of A.N.O.S. and is reprinted with their permission through the agency of our member, Mat Tiong.

REPORT ON THE SECOND AUSTRALASIAN NATIVE ORCHID CONFERENCE AND SHOW

17 - 19 SEPTEMBER 1993

The University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba, Queensland, was the venue for the Second Australasian Native Orchid Conference and Show. Approximately 120 delegates attended, including eleven from West Australia.

The lectures were held in the Library Lecture Theatre and topics covered in the various papers presented included:

- The relationships between Australasian and Asian orchids
- Advances in the hybridisation of; Australian terrestrial orchids
- The Australian genus *Sarcocochilus* and *Dendrobium* (Separate papers)
- In vitro germination of terrestrial orchids
- Conservation of native orchids in Western Australia
- Conservation of North Queensland orchids
- Orchid research and conservation in Papua New Guinea
- Self fertilisation of New Zealand orchids
- Pollination of epiphytic orchids in N.E. Queensland
- The Fairfield City indigenous flora park.

Dr Kingsley Dixon presented two papers and they were very well received; all delegates displayed a very keen interest in W.A.'s terrestrial orchids.

The show was held in the sports stadium with displays being entered by ANOS Groups from Queensland and N.S.W., individuals and commercial growers. The displays varied in size from one square metre (tabletop) to 7 - 9 square metres, with most in the 4 - 5 square metres category. The ANOS Sydney Group's entry was most outstanding and drew much attention.

The plants in the display gained many prizes including Grand Champion, Reserve Champion and numerous individual class prizes. This was a tremendous effort when one considers that the plants had been in a show in Sydney prior to coming to Queensland for this show. The approaches, and imagination, used by each of the exhibitors in arranging their displays provided some ideas for the W.A. delegates.

Some of the special prizes were:

- Grand Champion - Dendrobium Star of Riverdene "Amanda"
- Reserve Champion - Dendrobium King Wong "Striker"
- Champion Terrestrial Species - Diuris alba
- Champion Terrestrial Hybrid - Diuris longifolia x pendunculatum

Each plant was an outstanding exhibit.

A very popular sales area was set-up in a marquee next to the Stadium. The outbreak of Thrip Palmi in Queensland and the W.A. quarantine regulations meant that the W.A. delegates had to show judicious restraint when entering the marquee.

The conference show was not as the organisers had hoped for; no doubt due to the Darling Downs and Toowoomba Orchid Societies both holding their Spring Shows at the same time and each having large displays of Australian Native Orchids.

On the Friday evening a delegates' meeting was held to discuss the possible reorganisation of ANOS and the formation of State Councils. It was proposed that State Councils elect an overall Australian coordinating national body to allow for growth and to give a stronger voice as the national level. (Further submission are to be made by the States for consideration by the ANOS Council).

The Conference Banquet was held on the Saturday night in the magnificent dining hall of one of the residential colleges.

On Sunday a farewell Aussie BBQ was held on the lawns of the University's very attractive Japanese Garden, prior to the presentation of prizes and the dismantling of the exhibits.

Toowoomba is referred to as the Garden City of Queensland and the Conference and show were held as part of the City's Festival of Flowers. The weather was perfect and the city was a blaze of colour. Many delegates viewed the Saturday morning Street Parade, staged as part of the Festival, and many of the local gardens that formed party of the City's competitions.

It was an outstanding Conference at which new friendships were made and others renewed. All agreed that it was 'great' and are looking forward to the next ANOS Conference to be held in 1996.

Ross Wilton

The following three articles were extracted from "WATSNU", which is the newsletter of the Western Australian Threatened Species and Communities Unit of C.A.L.M. Many thanks to Jill Pryde, the Editor of WATSNU, for allowing us to reprint them. I hope we will be able to use future articles of interest from WATSNU as they give us a good insight into some of the specific conservation activities of C.A.L.M.

The first article is of some interest as it gives us some insight into one of our Vice Presidents, Andrew Brown. While some of our more experienced members may well be aware of Andrew's background, I'm sure many people will find it as enlightening as I did.

WATSCU PERSONALITIES: ANDREW BROWN

The second in our series on our WATSCU staff is Andrew Brown who is a native orchid devotee and the Botanist of our Unit.

Born in England in 1951 Andrew had just turned one year old when his parents emigrated to Australia. Settling at Kelmscott (a country town in 1952) Andrew and his family spent their early years in what was predominantly a small rural community. Large areas of uncleared bushland occurred nearby and as he lead an active outdoor life Andrew spent many happy hours exploring these areas. It was not long before he began to take notice of the native birds, plants and animals. Even in these early days of his life he was fascinated by the seasonal changes in the vegetation, noting the flowering of different plant species as the seasons came and went.

This led him to gain an appreciation of the native flora and it was at this time that he began to notice Western Australia's dainty terrestrial orchids. In his final years at primary school Andrew was actively encouraged by his headmaster to take a more focussed interest in the natural sciences and on being shown a copy of *Orchids of the West* by Rica Erickson he became hooked for life on these fascinating plants.

Some years later Andrew met two other orchid enthusiasts, Ron Oliver and Noel Hoffman, and they together formulated the first plans for producing a comprehensive book on the native orchids of Western Australia. Although Ron dropped out due to work commitments Noel and Andrew continued with the proposal.

Although Andrew spent the early years of his working life as a painter, in what was then the Public Works Department, he never lost his love of the Western Australian flora and at every opportunity got out into the bush. He often thought about getting a job which would allow him to pursue his interest in this area and in this regard had his first break in 1980 when offered the position of horticulturist in charge of the Herbarium garden. He quickly settled into that position and within a few years the garden became a showpiece of over 1000 different native plant species. Whilst working in the garden Andrew studied part time for a *Certificate in Horticulture* with the view of increasing his knowledge of the Western Australian flora.

In 1984 Andrew's interest and increasing knowledge in the Western Australian orchidaceae resulted in the co-authoring with Noel Hoffman of the first edition of *Orchids of South-west Australia*. This became compulsory reading for anybody interested in the study of our native orchids.

Andrew's next career change came in 1985 when he commenced work as a Technical Officer with the newly formed Department of CALM. Working with Steve Hopper in the Research Division's Flora Conservation Unit, Andrew participated in numerous field trips to all corners of the State and soon developed a comprehensive knowledge of the localities, habitats and biology of many threatened plant species that are found in Western Australia. At this time he also actively worked on the taxonomy of the Western Australian orchid flora with Steve Hopper. This has resulted in the writing of a major paper in which some 140 new species and subspecies will be described, and new combinations of our orchid flora made. It is hoped that the paper will be published late in 1994.

In those early years at CALM Andrew was also a member of the Wildflower Industry Review Committee (WIRC) and co authored the WIRC report on the Wildflower Industry.

Andrew continued to work principally in the flora conservation area until 1992 when Steve Hopper was appointed Director of Kings Park. His time was then effectively split 50/50 between the Science and Information Division's Species Conservation Section and the newly formed Western Australian Threatened Species and Communities Unit (WATSCU).

Within WATSCU Andrew has primary responsibility for threatened flora. He is at present concentrating on developing priorities for threatened plant conservation research and management, developing and implementing Recovery Plans or Interim Wildlife Management Guidelines for the most threatened plant species, developing a photographic catalogue of threatened flora, fauna and communities and promoting threatened plant species conservation.

His Science and Information role includes working with Sue Patrick in preparing District Flora Management Programs (he is currently working on Programs for the Moora and Geraldton Districts and the development of a quadrant-based monitoring system for threatened flora.)

Over the years Andrew has given numerous talks to Wildflower Societies, Naturalist Clubs and Orchid Groups, including a major paper to the 12th Australian Orchid Conference, and has published many scientific papers and popular articles on orchids, threatened flora and nature conservation issues. These include the Landscape articles, *Orchids of the Stirling Range, Endangered - The Dwarf Bee Orchid, Alluring Orchids and Threatened with Extinction*, a colour lift out in the 1991 Western Australian Year Book and a chapter in the recent CALM publication, *Mountains of Mystery*, a natural history of the Stirling Range. Andrew is also one of the authors of *Western Australia's Endangered Flora*. His continuing interest in orchids resulted in the publishing in 1992 of the second edition of *Orchids of South West Australia*. Even more comprehensive than the first edition this book contains colour photographs and text describing some 320 different orchid taxa that are indigenous to south-west Western Australia.

Andrew is currently a member of a number of flora recovery teams, the Endangered Flora Consultative Committee (EFCC) and, outside of CALM, is Vice President of the W.A. Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group

and a member of the Australian Orchid Foundation.

Andrew's other interests include badminton, tennis, table tennis, nature photographs, bush walking, gardening and travel.

This second article from WATSNU was written by Jean-Paul Orsini who was a guest speaker at our April 1992 meeting, when he spoke about the National Threatened Species Unit. The article presents a brief summary of the status of the National Threatened Species Unit.

THE NATIONAL THREATENED SPECIES NETWORK

**BY JEAN-PAUL ORSINI
WA COORDINATOR NTSN**

The National Threatened Species Network (NTSN) is a non-government community-based network promoting the conservation and recovery of endangered species and their habitat in Australia. It is a component of the Federal Endangered Species Program (ESP), is administered by the Australian Nature Conservation Agency (ANCA), and World Wide Fund for Nature Australia (WWF), and is represented by a coordinator in each state and the Northern Territory. The NTSN supports community education and participation on endangered species conservation and provides an important information resource to a wide range of individuals and conservation groups.

Since its establishment three and half years ago, the Western Australian NTSN has developed regular exchanges with over 220 community groups, research bodies and government agencies throughout the state and around Australia. Its mailing list numbers over 500. The WA-NTSN makes submission on state and national strategies, management plans and legislation. It provides community input to government on endangered species-related issues and feeds back information to the community (such as the progress of recovery plans and the new Commonwealth Endangered Species Protection Act).

Over the last eighteen months, the WA-NTSN has developed a community-based conservation project for the endangered Malleefowl in Western Australia. The Malleefowl Preservation Group was established in June 1992 and has grown to 200 supporters throughout the South-West. A three-year project funded under the National Landcare Program has been initiated and a part-time Project Officer has just been appointed. A Community Action Plan and a Research Plan for Malleefowl conservation in the Gnowangerup district have

been produced recently. Active involvement is spreading in other areas of the wheatbelt with the support of local Land Conservation District Committees.

In 1994, the NTSN will be promoting increased community input and involvement in the recovery of Western Australian threatened species and communities. The NTSN produces a national newsletter called "The Web" and a WA newsletter called "Wanted Alive". For more information on the National Threatened Species Network in Western Australia, please contact Jean-Paul Orsini, WA coordinator, on (09) 384 3756.

Please forgive the commercial connotations of this final article from WATSNU. It is not meant to be a plug for the R&I. However it does give us some information about the outcomes to date of their VISA card program in association with CALM's popular magazine, Landscape. Please make of it what you will.

R&I LANDSCOPE CONSERVATION VISA CARD

The R&I Landscape Conservation Visa card was launched on 7 June 1993 by the R&I Bank. Every time the card is used a percentage of the transaction goes towards an Endangered Species Conservation Trust Fund set up by the bank.

So far there has been a strong response from the public and there is a likelihood that over 4,000 cards will be issued by June this year. The R&I Bank made an additional payment to the Trust Fund of \$1,000 to recognise the issue of the first 1,000 cards.

The species that will benefit first from the funds are the Corrigin grevillea, the Wyalkatchem foxglove, the western ringtail possum, the Lancelin Island Skink and one threatened ecological community - Lake Toolibin, a freshwater wetland to the east of the town of Narrogin.

NEW MEMBER (A VERY NEW MEMBER!!)

The committee and members would like to congratulate Peter and Cheryl Gee upon the birth of their baby boy in January.

We hope that the sleepless nights are becoming fewer and that we will get to catch a glimpse of the new arrival on a field trip. Well done!!

MINUTES OF W.A.N.O.S.C.G. GENERAL MEETING - 16 MARCH 1994.

Meeting commenced 2010.

PRESENT: As per attendance book.

MINUTES

Moved Greeve/Bright "that the minutes of the General Meeting held on 17th November 1993 be accepted." Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING: Nil.

CORRESPONDENCE: Inward. As Tabled.

Venue meeting place for September/October meeting to be at Education Centre.

Progress on *Diuris* sp. Three Springs advised by Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT: As circulated.

Treasurer advised members that sales were down and price of compass reduced to \$4. Though fees don't cover bulletin costs no increase is required.

FIELD TRIPS

New committee to organise.
Nye Evans will put an early trip together which will only take place if a trip leader is found.

Dave Bright spoke of a successful Whiteman Park trip. Two more trips will be organised this year.

Chris and Marie French had a successful trip to the Victorian Alps.

Eric Swarts had a successful trip to Jervis Bay N.S.W.

Bevan Buirchell will put together a field trip to Moora area over the June long weekend.

PLANT TABLE: 3 plants exhibited.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Bill Burton advised that Kingsley Dixon wanted 2 pots of any species with no growth yet above ground for an experiment on smoke effects. Kingsley also requires locations of *Burnettia nigricans* for a smoke experiment.

Marie French advised the meeting that Cheryl and Peter Gee had a son.

Bill Burton will look after the key requirements re

Kings Park this year.

John Arends gave a repotting demonstration.

The raffle prize provided by Dick and Betty Mumford was won by Gerhard Brunnbauer.

The group birthday cake was cut by foundation member Jean Long.

The meeting was attended by another foundation member Harry Lodge.

Meeting closed at 2145.

FOR SALE.

ORCHIDS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.. 2ND ED.

WANOSCG's second publication of the cultivation and natural history of WA native orchids is now available with 14 pages of COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS. THE BOOK IS PRICED AT...

\$ 9.00 (plus \$2.00 postage for WANOSCG members OR \$12.00 (plus \$2.00 postage) for non-members.

5 IN 1 SURVIVAL AID

In order to encourage safety awareness in the bush on field trips, the group purchased 50 "Survival Aids". These are basically a whistle and compass combination but also incorporate a small signalling mirror, a fire starter flint, a nylon lanyard (to hang it around your neck) and a water proof match container. In addition, the compass has a luminous dial.

We have sold around half of these items and are now offering the remaining "Survival Aids" at the discounted price of \$4.00 (plus \$2.00 for postage and handling).

I recommend members carry a whistle and compass combination of some sort. Even our most experienced members have been lost at some time in the bush.

PAT DUNDAS NATIVE ORCHID CARDS

Packs of 6 blank cards and envelopes featuring different W.A. native orchids by Pat Dundas are available from WANOSCG.

These are excellent value at a price of \$8.00. They would make a superb gift or would be a perfect way to contact friends or relatives while highlighting the colour and beauty of our W.A. orchids.

SUPPER ROSTER		RAFFLE ROSTER	
April	A & G Brunnbauer	April	J Eaton
May	T Lock	May	No Nomination
June	M French	June	J Greeve

WANOSCG

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Forthcoming Field Trips