



# Western Australian Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group

## July 2016 Bulletin

### PTEROSTYLIS SPECIES

This is the second month in a row that a *Pterostylis* species makes it to the front page beating such illustrious contenders as majestic *Thelymitra apiculata* and cheerful first donkey orchids.

If you ask many members what their favourite orchid is, I bet *Pterostylis* species will not be a front runner. Perhaps, this is why many of them are amongst the first orchids to flower—they want to make sure we do pay attention to their quirkiness.

Still, *Pterostylis* are not without its fans. Just ask Jeanette Wheatley, Margaret Petridis, Andrew Brown and Kevin Uhe who just done a 'mammoth' (Andrew's description) 2400 km trip to the Eyre Bird Observatory just to see Varicoloured Banded Greenhood. That's dedication!

### INSIDE:

- Meeting Minutes
- Field Trip Reports
- Conservation report
- Orchid identification
- Body in the bush
- And more



*Pterostylis  
scabra*, Moora.  
Photo by J.  
Brown.

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General Meetings are held 7:30pm the 3rd Wednesday of the month, March through November, at the BGPA Boardroom, Kings Park



# WANOSCG General Meeting Minutes

## Wednesday, 15th of June 2016

**Meeting held at:** BGPA Boardroom, Kings Park.

**Meeting opened:** 7:35 pm.

### ATTENDANCE:

**Visitors:** Greg van der Vaard, Kath Bolin

**Number of members present:** 47

New members and visitors were welcomed.

**Apologies:** Stuart Gale, Julie Murphy, Eddy Wajon, George Kokosinski, Noel Hoffman

**CIRCULATION OF REPORTS:** Attendance Book and Treasurer's Reports were circulated to the members

**RAFFLE:** Prize donated by Ross and Margaret Fox

### 1. PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Members were asked if there were any amendments to be made to the minutes of the general meeting on 18 May 2016. It was moved by Tom Burbidge and seconded by Jon Warren that the General Meeting Minutes of 18 May 2016, as published in the June 2016 bulletin, are a true and accurate record of that meeting. *Carried.*

### 2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

**2.1 Supper Roster for 2016:** The plea in June bulletin for members to help with the Supper roster was reiterated with the roster list being tabled asking members to sign up.

**2.2 Reminder was made that fees** are due, the deadline being the end of the May.

**2.3 Speakers for 2016:** Mark Brundrett is now likely to be busy with the Eurardy survey in July so we need to find a speaker for July. Speakers are still being sought for September and October.

**2.4 Website of validated digital photos of all WA native orchids:** No report in Noel Hoffman's absence.

#### 2.5 Upgrade of the current WANOSCG Website:

- Paul Winthrop is investigating a change of template for our Google sites website, which could potentially provide a more appropriate structure.
- Once this is done the committee will look at this issue further and report back to the membership.
- Stuart Gale has offered his assistance.

#### 2.6 Snail Trip book:

Ramón Newmann brought the books to the meeting for collection by those who had ordered them. 46 books had been ordered with some being posted out.

**2.7 WANOSCG conducting surveys for local governments:** Jon Warren reported that nine volunteers had come forward to help with potential surveys and the offer to conduct them is scheduled to go out in the WALGA newsletter in the next week or so after which a small number of local government reserves will be selected for the pilot.

### 3. REGISTRAR'S REPORT

**WANOSCG Database:** Activity is continuing.

### 4. TREASURER'S REPORT

For the period 1 May 2016 to 31 May 2016:

|                            | MTD        | YTD        |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|
| Income (operating account) | \$1,725.80 | \$4,088.20 |
| Expenditure                | \$891.50   | \$1,210.55 |

It was moved by Tim Hodgkins and seconded by Matz

Dahlkamp that the Treasurer's report for May 2016, be accepted as a true record of the club's finances. *Carried.*



*Pterostylis scabra*. Photos by J. Brown



## 5. CORRESPONDENCE

### From 19 May 2016 to 15 June 2016

Electronic or hard copies of Newsletters and Bulletins have been received over the period from: Orchid Society of Western Australia Inc, ANOS Illawarra, ANOS Sydney, ANOS Macarthur, NOSSA. Correspondence covered a wide range of topics.

#### 5.1 Inward emails to the WANOSCG Web site and jay.steer@gmail.com:

| Date    | Sender                           | Topic   |
|---------|----------------------------------|---|
| 9/6/16  | Invasive Species Council         | e blog and bulletin: fire ants                              |
| 8/6/16  | Margaret Petridis                | Brochures and cards, new members                            |
| 8/6/16  | Tim Hodgkins                     | Construction of Bunbury Outer Ring Road                     |
| 8/6/16  | Stuart Gale                      | Levart is able to provide / create and host website for you |
| 8/6/16  | Simone van Hattem (CCWA)         | Member Group Bulletin                                       |
| 28/5/16 | Anna de Haan                     | Minutes of SRG AGM and Annual Report                        |
| 26/5/16 | Margaret Petridis                | Winter Spider Orchids                                       |
| 20/5/16 | Pat Richards, Margaret and Peter | WANOSCG calling cards                                       |
| 20/5/16 | Invasive Species Council         | e bulletin May 2016: Take action edition                    |
| 19/5/16 | Margaret Fox                     | Can we get copy of Andrew's Talk                            |
| 19/5/16 | WANOSCG Newsletter               | Sun Orchid talk   |

#### 5.2 Business arising from Correspondence:

- **Request for copy of Andrew Brown's talk of 18 May:** This was made available for members to download.
- **Requests from correspondents for political support:** It was felt that the Group should not participate in political lobbying but any members wishing to do so on an individual basis should contact Jay Steer for relevant contacts.
- **Calling cards and brochures:** Pat Richards ordered limited commercial print runs of the calling cards and brochures. These were made available to members at the meeting for handing out as opportunities arose. Margaret Petridis indicated that she had taken some cards and brochures on the recent field trip to Albany and the Stirling Range during which she handed out cards and brochures to interested parties. This had resulted in three membership applications from people wishing to join the Group.

## 6. FIELD TRIPS

**Saturday, 4 June – Monday, 6 June: Stirling Range and Albany:** There were 36 participants, including some from the Southern Rivers Group.

- Day 1 involved visiting sites on Albany's Torndirrup Peninsula as organised by Anna de Haan. Given the large number of participants and vehicles involved, it was organised so that members could circulate to the various sites to their own schedule. Participants identified seven orchid species in flower, including two specimens of *Pyrorchis nigricans* and some early flowering *Prasophyllum fimbria*.
- Day 2 was located in the Stirling Range and, again because of the many participants involved, it was arranged to split into two parties, one led by Terry Dunham and the other by Ian Greeve. One party's convoy visited the planned circuit in one direction and the other in the reverse direction, meeting up half way round for lunch. The second group identified a new population of *Pterostylis hamiltonii*.
- Day 3 was left up to individuals to visit such sites as they wished in the Stirling locality or on the way home. In the two formally organised days over 12 species were seen in flower and over 30 identified in bud. Kevin Uhe is preparing a more detailed report on the trip overall.

**Sunday, 26 June to Cataby/Badgingarra – looking for *T. apiculata*:** This trip is now full and may need to be split into groups as in the previous trip. Arrangements will be made available to participants nearer the time. Visits will be to locations of known occurrence and locations of potential occurrence. Will also be looking for *Diuris perialla*, some snails and banded greenhoods.

## 6.1 Upcoming Field Trips:

Amendments to the outline for upcoming field trips that had been published in the June 2016 Bulletin were emailed to members on 9th of June (**Ed. See back page for Upcoming Field Trips**). Members wishing to participate in the field trips should contact Margaret Petridis, making sure their name is written down or that the request to Margaret is in writing. Apologies were offered to members in relation to participation in the forthcoming camping field trip which was fully subscribed before the official announcement was made. Amended arrangements for publication of plans (in April 2017) for next year's camping trip are proposed to avoid such issue.

Margaret Petridis has written up a list of procedures for field trips that will be tabled at the next meeting for members.

## 6.2 Personal Field Trips:

Members are requested to fill out the personal field trip report form on the front table to make the Secretary's job easier and send electronic Orchid Sighting sheets to the Registrar (Ramon Newmann [wanoscg.registrar@gmail.com](mailto:wanoscg.registrar@gmail.com) or [REDACTED]) Those not having a copy of the report or sighting sheet should send an email to the Secretary (Pat Richards – [REDACTED]) who will provide an electronic copy.



*Diuris brumalis*, Perth Hills.  
Photo by J. Brown

## 7. CONSERVATION

### 7.1 Construction of Bunbury Outer Ring Road: see correspondence

We have permission from the Department of Main Roads in Bunbury to survey and relocate orchids in the way of the new road. Anyone interested should contact Tim Hodgkins.

### 7.2 We now have membership of the Urban Bushland Council

Information material is starting to come in by email and some hard copy. One of the bigger issues is the new strategic assessment for the draft Perth and Peel Green Growth Plan, in which there is a lack of recognition of the "Bush Forever" sites. A letter was tabled at the meeting for inspection by members. The Plan itself is a huge document so it may not be available for easy electronic download.

It was moved by Tim Hodgkins and seconded by Donna Wajon that the group offer to assist the Council in getting some adjustments made to the Plan. *Carried.*

### 7.3 Road widening on Ongerup - Boxwood Hill Road

Donna Wajon indicated that a road upgrade project is being carried out near their property in which corners are being realigned, gradients reduced and the road widened with consequent impact on the verges where various *Thelymitra* species grow. It is understood that the works are proceeding without a conservation permit. Eddy Wajon is trying to get the local authority to agree to arranging offsets or be penalised. It was noted that many road upgrade applications are submitted each week and it is to be hoped that local authorities concerned are doing the right thing and waiting for permission. Although it is known that some orchids are being disturbed, it is only in the case of the rare ones that the Group can mount a protest.

## 8. GROWER'S TABLE

Kath Bolin tabled a pot with some orchid leaves indicating that she had many such growing on her property. She showed a photograph of one in flower indicating that it was believed to be a *Microtis* species.

## 9. GENERAL BUSINESS

### 9.1 WANOSCG calling cards/business cards: See item 5.2 (third bullet point).

### 9.2 New Study groups: Margaret Petridis reported on two new study groups:

- 'Caladenia drummondii Study Group' to formalise the research done by Margaret, Kevin, Paul and others over the past few years. We aim to get a large map printed with all known locations and target gaps in the map and data base for further searches.
- 'Snail Orchid Study Group' with Kevin Uhe as leader. After finding interesting rosettes out in the wheatbelt the aim is to continue the accumulation of knowledge and build on the interest and awareness of members following the Snail trip and book.

The formation of these two groups will enable other members to participate in searches and send in known data



to the leaders as a focus for collecting this.

It will also give members a contact to send in questions regarding relevant orchids found, for snails in particular. Kevin will do his best with these and liaise with Andrew Brown for confirmation of ID when necessary.

**9.3 Strategic Plan:** The subcommittees that are looking after the various programs have begun looking at the action plans, implementation of some aspects of which is underway.

**9.4 New rules for associations and incorporated clubs:** Consideration of the implications of the new rules and the Group's adaptation response is ongoing.

**9.5 Badges and WANOSCG car stickers** were made available for new members present.

**9.6 Marking tape on field trips:** when field trip participants have used flagging tape to mark items of interest for the benefit of other participants, the Group's policy is to remove such markers before departure. This applies only to markers set by the Group, not to those set by other parties.

## 10. PRESENTATION

John Ewing – Red Spider Orchids

**10.1 Reference material:** John drew attention to reference material:

- Department of Conservation and Land Management, Nuytsia, 2001
- Brown, A.P., Dixon, K., French, C., and Brockman, G., Field Guide to the Orchids of Western Australia, Simon Nevill Publications, 2013
- Brown, A.P., and Brockman, G., New taxa of Caladenia (Orchidaceae), Nuytsia, Vol 25, Department of Parks and Wildlife, 2015

**10.2 Process of identification:** John stressed that identification within the group of red spider orchids needs to follow a systematic process based on location found, time of flowering and some 16 dimensions and other physical features as detailed on the Attachment provided by John. The importance of taking measurements was also stressed.

**10.3 Photographs for identification purposes:** should preferably be taken against a scaled grid background (ideally not a white grid background to avoid exposure issues).

**RAFFLE DRAW:** John Ewing drew the raffle and the winning ticket was held by Janeanne Cumming.

**MEETING CLOSED:** 9:10 pm **NEXT MEETING:** 7:30 pm Wednesday 20 July 2016 BGPA Boardroom, Kings Park.

## GENERAL ITEMS

### ASK NOT WHAT YOUR CLUB CAN DO FOR YOU — ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR CLUB !!!!

The club needs YOUR help in several areas:

- Volunteers wanted to provide supper for August, September, October and November. Please approach Trish or Ramon Newmann or email [redacted] if you are able to help. Members are reminded that they can be reimbursed for the cost of any supper that they provide.
- Report orchid sightings to the Registrar [redacted] or [wanoscg.registrar@gmail.com](mailto:wanoscg.registrar@gmail.com)). Having accurate records of orchids sightings helps with conservation projects and planning field trips.
- Join a study group. WANOSCG has several study groups including Adopt an orchid project (ADORP) - See June bulletin for the list of study groups and contacts or contact the President on [wanoscg@gmail.com](mailto:wanoscg@gmail.com).
- Offer assistance to Conservation Officer (see next page)



### FOUND

While looking at *T. apiculata* off Mogumber Rd in June I found a Joby ball head tripod mount. If it was lost by a member please contact Bill. [redacted]



## Conservation Officer Report to 2016 July General meeting

### Clearing Notices:

I am continuing to view the clearing notices weekly, but have not seen any that involve rare or threatened orchid species.

There is a report of roadside slashing in the Great Southern that has been brought to Margaret's attention and further details of this incident are being sought.

### Projects under watch:

- Norwest Energy, Eneabba
- BAJV Bauxite, Morangup/Avon Valley NP
- Meelup Regional Reserve – Mountain Bike Trail
- Warwick Bushland - Hockey Stadium construction now commenced

Members with updated information on these projects should contact me ASAP.

### Future projects:

- Bunbury Outer Ring Road: Our submission has been sent to the MRD Bunbury and a positive response has been received. This project is as yet unfunded so construction is not imminent; however there is an opportunity to conduct a field survey this year to add to our knowledge of orchids that will be threatened by the development. According to a local member of our group Graeme, there is a chance of a population of *Thelymitra variegata* in the area that in a 'good' season may flower. Any survey should be conducted mid to late August and we will need someone willing to lead because the writer will be in Queensland at that time. Please contact me.

### Other items:

Members have been asked to visit and report individually on a list of Reserves that our Group considers important and remains a priority into the future as people travel to various parts of the State. The report below is a good example of the information needed (thanks Jon Warren).

*Tim Hodgkins, Conservation Office*

(mobile: [REDACTED])

### Reserve Report — Candy's Bush Reserve, Moora

*Overall it seems to be in good condition with little evidence of vehicle damage (apart from some bicycle tracks and that was only in one spot). The reserve is completely fenced and fence is in good condition although it is just wires with droppers in-between some stout pine poles - see pics. Unlikely to keep hoops out if they decide to crash in - but proximity to residential homes makes that unlikely. Access gates very stout.*

*Tendency to be very weedy near boundaries with wild radish/brassica and oxalis being main broad leaf weeds and either wild oats and/or brome grass being chief grass weed. Interior less affected by weeds. Has been some revegetation recently undertaken with reasonable establishment success.*

*Orchid wise found heaps (100s) of what I am pretty sure is *Pterostylis scabra* in flower in two key areas and thousands of non flowering rosettes throughout the reserve. Also found a couple of possible *Diuris* leaves but despite walking a considerable distance did not see a single *Caladenia* leaf.*

*Place was very free of rubbish and obviously there are folk who are looking after the place.*



Report and photos by  
Jon Warren



### Orchid identification and names

By Andrew Brown

In his talk on the red (wispy) spider orchids at the June WANOSCG meeting, John Ewing raised a range of interesting points of discussion, two of which I think I are worth investigating further. In this article I will touch on orchid identification using photos and the use of formal, manuscript and phrase names.

### Orchid identification from photos

As I am sure most of you know from personal experience it can be quite a challenge to accurately identify an orchid species (or other flowers for that matter) from a single photo, particularly if it is an extreme close up. John's talk illustrated this when he showed close up photos of a range of red wispy spider orchids that we all struggled to identify.

Single close up photos of orchids often lack vital information required for identification. You get no feel for flower or plant size and when the ends of the petals and sepals are cropped there is no feel for how they hold themselves, their shape or if they are long or short. You also get no feel for variation from a single photo. Were all other flowers in the population similarly coloured and shaped to the one photographed or was it exceptionally large, unusually coloured or odd shaped? It is human nature to photograph the best or most unusual plant seen and for the person trying to do the identification there is no way of telling from a single photo if the one illustrated is representative of the population or an unusual variant. It is hard enough to identify a species from a close up photo of a normal looking flower without oddball forms being thrown into the mix.

In addition to unusual forms of named species, I am often sent photos of what turn out to be hybrids. These unusual flowers, which often get the attention of the photographer, can at first be puzzling but become obvious once you know what other orchids they are growing with. This information is often not provided by the photographer but can be vital in identifying the orchid pictured in the photo.

If photos are the only way that you can show someone what you have found, photograph a range of plants showing as much variation as possible. Also take a mixture of whole plant shots, leaves and close ups of flowers, and take the close ups from several different angles. I find habitat shots are also helpful. Also include other important information that may help identification such as location, habitat and flowering time. The more information the better.

Of course, having said all of this, there are quite a few very distinct species, i.e. *Caladenia drummondii*, *C. latifolia*, *Leporella fimbriata*, *Leptoceras menziesii*, *Prasophyllum fimbria* and *Pterostylis recurva* to name but a few that are easily identified from photos. It is the closely related species, the oddball forms and the hybrids that are much more difficult. For these, by far the least preferred method of identification is from photos and I usually preface my determination with a "possibly", "may be" or "likely to be".

Nothing beats seeing plants in the field. You can immediately see how big they are, get a feel for variation and see what they are growing with.

In the absence of seeing plants in the field, the next best thing is to see a fresh specimen or preferably several specimens showing the range of variation found in the population. Even dried Herbarium specimens are better than photos as you can see the plants size and get a feel for variation in form.

Doing identifications from photos can be very difficult and is potentially subject to error. So, be aware that for some species at least you will only be able to get an educated guess, rather than an absolute determination.



It can be quite a challenge to accurately identify an orchid species from a single photo, particularly if it is an extreme close up. Can you identify this donkey orchid? I will let you know what it is in the next Bulletin. Photo Andrew Brown.



*Caladenia perangusta*, prior to being formally named, was known by the phrase name *C. sp. Keninup* (S. Clarke SC 127) and for a while also had the manuscript name *C. gracilitepala*. Photo Garry Brockman.

### Formal, manuscript and phrase names

The second point that John made is in relation to a suggested name error, i.e. *Caladenia gracilitepala* versus *C. perangusta* for the same species. The paper John referred to was a draft of a more recently published paper and highlights the danger of drafts (or manuscript names) getting into general circulation. Proposed plant names can change between an early draft of a paper and the paper being published. In this case we had coined the name *gracilitepala* (slender tepals) for the species previously known as *Caladenia* sp. Keninup (S. Clarke SC 127) but changed it to *perangusta* (very narrow) for the final draft. It is the latter name that is validly published.

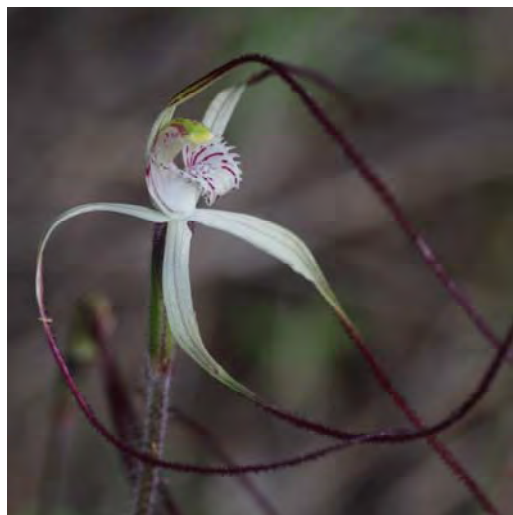
For the reasons outlined above, drafts of taxonomic papers and lists of manuscript names are not circulated widely. The longer a manuscript name is in circulation the more entrenched it becomes. An example is the name *Pterostylis brevisepala* for the short-eared snail orchid (*P. sp.* short sepals (W. Jackson BJ259)) which has been widely used even though not validly published. Noel and I were also guilty of including manuscript names in early versions of *Orchids of South-west Australia* as we thought at the time that those names would soon be validly published. Well, things did not turn out that way and it was some years later that the species were formally named. By that time, some of the previously used names had been changed and some subspecies had been elevated to species. Lesson learnt and we will not do that again.

At one time the WA Herbarium commonly listed manuscript names on *FloraBase* but this no longer happens. The Herbarium now has a phrase name policy, so instead of listing manuscript names, a phrase name is used. An example of an orchid phrase name is *Pter-*

*ostylis* sp. cauline leaves (N. Gibson & M.N. Lyons 1490). Following the name cauline leaves, which in this case describe a feature of the plant, you will notice a collector (or collectors) and a collection number. This allows us to go to that collection and see what the undescribed species looks like. This is the equivalent to a type collection for a named species.

Manuscript names and phrase names should not be thought of as the final thinking of the taxonomist studying that species. Rather, they should be thought of as current (perhaps even tentative) thinking that may change as studies continue and new information comes to hand. Once a species name is formally published the phrase name becomes obsolete or the ms following a manuscript name is removed.

Remember, for the current accepted name of a species always go to *FloraBase* which contains the most up to date lists of Western Australian plants.



L-R: *Caladenia exilis* subsp. *vanleeuwenii*, Gillingarra, *Diuris ?perialla*, Mogumber. Photos by M. Karyagina



## FIELD TRIP REPORT — ALBANY AND THE STIRLING RANGE 4 — 6 JUNE

The first day of the trip was a visit to Torndirrup National Park which had been burnt in a summer wild fire. Due to the large number of members and visitors Anna de Haan organised four staggered starting times with members collecting a map from Anna at Jimmy Newells Harbour and setting off to explore areas that had been burnt or in unburnt country. A granite rock near Jimmy Newells Harbour revealed the amazing sight of two flowering *Pyrorchis nigricans* (red beaks) which is way outside of its normal flowering period. A number of leaves and buds of various orchids were seen in this area.

At Stony Hill another unusual flowering was seen, this time a group of *Prasophyllum fimbria* (fringed leek) which had been out for a few weeks. Large numbers of *Cyrtostylis robusta* (mosquito orchid) were discovered around the area, together with *Pterostylis vittata* (banded greenhood).

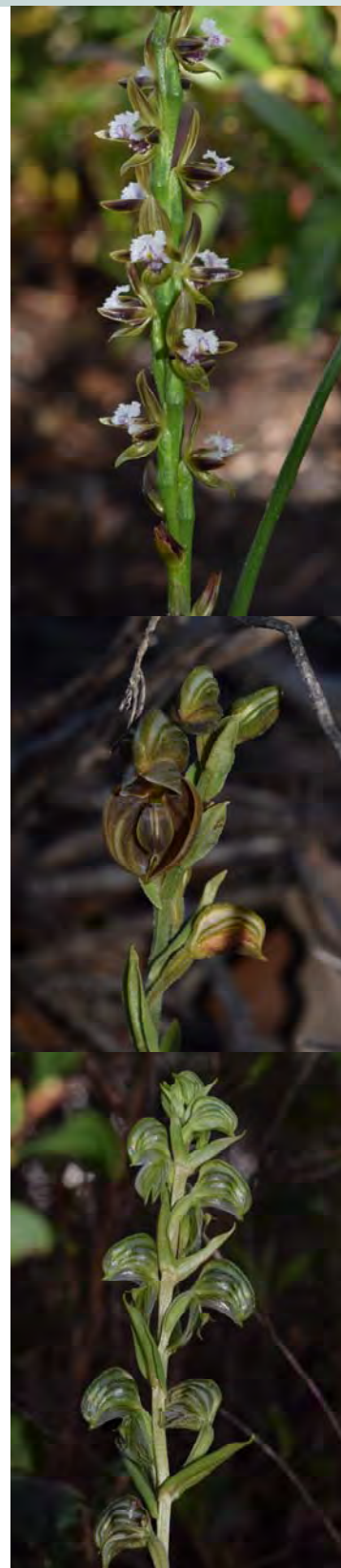
All the group met up for lunch overlooking the water before heading to the Lower King area where Anna lead the group through a nice area of bushland which produced *Leporella fimbriata* (hare orchid) still in recognizable flower and some lovely specimens of the banded greenhood *Pterostylis vittata*. Members then departed for their overnight accommodation with those heading to the Stirling Range retreat stopping off at a spot suggested by Andrew Brown where a number of robust snails (*Pterostylis dilatata*) were found along with the scented Autumn Leek (*Prasophyllum* sp 'early') and the Autumn leek (*Prasophyllum parvifolium*).

On Sunday members gathered at the Stirling Range retreat and were introduced to local orchid expert Terry Dunham who lead members to a group of the narrow hooded shell (*Pterostylis angusta*) and some *Pyrorchis nigricans* in bud ( these apparently flower every year in the absence of fire) and a number of Hare Orchids in good flower. We then followed Terry to another stop where a number of cupped greenhoods (*Pterostylis concava*) were in flower, together with scattered robust snails and banded greenhoods.

The group then split into two with Terry leading one group and Ian Grieve leading the other group. Various stops along the way were undertaken by both groups with a common meeting place for lunch where we discussed our finds. Each group then went back the other way before concluding the trip. Orchids seen on the tour included more mosquito orchids, banded greenhoods, robust snail and a large number of leaves. The most interesting find was a colony of the Red Veined Shell (*Pterostylis hamiltonii*) which is at the bottom end of its normal range. A number of rufa rosettes were found and Andrew informed us that *Pterostylis ciliata* was a common rufa in the Stirling Range.

On the trip we had a number of visitors who all decided that they would like to join the Group as they all had a good time and enjoyed the knowledge that various members were able to impart. Overall, despite the early season the trip revealed more than ten flowering orchids with many leaves indicating a very rewarding spring to come.

Special thanks must go to Anna de Haan for organising the Saturday leg of the trip at Albany and to Terry Dunham for using his local knowledge of the area on Sunday to assist the group to find a number of orchids. Thanks to Terry and Ian for leading the two groups on Sunday and thanks as always to Margaret Petridis who did a lot of the behind the scenes work to make the trip a success. And finally to those members who enthusiastically clambered over many kilometres of ground in the hunt for those elusive orchids and shared their knowledge with the visitors as well.



*Prasophyllum fimbria*,  
*Pterostylis concava*, *Pt.*  
*vittata*. Photos by K. Uhe

Kevin Uhe

### FIELD TRIP REPORT — CATABY AREA — 26TH OF JUNE

The latest WANOSCG field trip to the Cataby area, on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June was led by Margaret Petridis, supported by Bob Steer's research and pre- trip reconnaissance.

Margaret picked a really beautiful day for us to be looking for sun orchids and spending time in the bush. We travelled along the local roads in the area searching at Bob's suggested stops and finished the day at Yandin Hill. With this larger group of orchid hunters we all benefitted from our collective finds of 30+ *Thelymitra apiculata* (Cleopatra's needles).

The other orchids we found in flower or leaf were as follows: Flowers - *Prasophyllum parviflorum* (Autumn leek orchid), *Pterostylis platypetala* (Broad petalled snail orchid), *Pterostylis dilatata* (Robust snail orchid), *Pterostylis* sp. 'northern' (Northern banded greenhood), *Pterostylis* sp. 'small bands' (Small banded greenhood), *Pterostylis sanguinea* (Dark banded greenhood), *Leporella fimbriata* (Hare orchid), *Diuris perialla* (Early donkey orchid). Leaves - *Leptoceras menziesii* (Rabbit orchid), *Pyrorchis nigricans* (Red beaks), *Thelymitra benthamiana* (Leopard orchid), *Thelymitra pulcherrima* (Northern Queen of Sheba), *Caladenia flava* subsp. *flava* (Cowslip Orchid), *Caladenia reptans* subsp. *reptans* (Pink fairy orchid) and other *Caladenia* leaves.

It is always great to see members who have travelled long distances to attend our field trips, including Beth and Dallas from Geraldton and Colin and Mischa Rowan from the Eastern states. We also welcomed visitors, Mathew and Lauren Toomey and other members attending their very first field trip. Well done and thanks to Margaret, Bob and everyone for joining us and making it wonderful outing.



L-R: *Diuris perialla*, *Thelymitra apiculata* and *Pterostylis dilatata*. Photos by K. Uhe

### 2016 PHOTO COMPETITION

The WANOSCG 2016 photo competition will be an open competition. That is, any photograph taken in 2016 that contains one or more Western Australian native orchids is eligible. Members will be asked to choose the best orchid photograph.

The maximum size of entries will be 8" x 10" or A4.



SOUTHERN RIVERS GROUP FIELD TRIP REPORT— STIRLING RANGE 2ND JULY 2016



It has been four weeks since the club visited the local burns. Not enough had changed to warrant another club trip so soon. Thus, north we headed to the Stirling Range National Park.

Heavy fog made finding the hairy leaves of *Caladenia* plants easy to find at Kamballup. Each leaf and stalk were covered in fine droplets of water making a strong contrast of white against the red soil. Alas, *Caladenia hiemalis* (Common Dwarf Spider) were still in bud. Only one cluster of *Diuris* sp. 'Green Range' (Donkey Orchid) were sighted as well as *Pterostylis dilatata* (Robust Snail), *Pterostylis vittata* (Banded Greenhood) and *Prasophyllum parvifolium* (Autumn Leek). The latter had gone to seed.

Beside Chester Pass Road within the national park we found a large number of *Pterostylis sanguinea* (Dark Banded Greenhood) and *Pt. concava* (Cupped Banded Greenhood). Quite a sight when such numbers are found in close proximity. Morning tea at the rangers' station was enjoyed in the sun and its warmth.



Off to Formby Road where one *Thelymitra speciosa* (Eastern Queen of Sheba) bud and one *Caladenia arrecta* (Reaching Spider) in flower were found. Both were struggling to survive due to heavy foot traffic and "gardening". Beside the nearby gravel road, tiny *Pt. nana* complex orchids had already gone to seed.

Along the northern boundary many *Pyrorchis nigricans* (Red Beaks) leaves were found whilst the stalk, petal, sepal and swollen ovary of many *Leporella fimbriata* (Hare) were easily identified.

Heading due south in open bush, we added *Pt. recurva* (Jug Orchid) in bud and the *Cyrtostylis robusta* (Large Gnat) to the list. Lunch and afternoon tea were both enjoyed in the warm afternoon sun. At the final picnic spot, a small colony of *Pt. sp.* 'slender' (Slender Snail) were sighted. A very rewarding day knowing tomorrow's weather forecast was for a cold, wet and windy day.

**Anna de Haan, SRG Convenor**



Ccw from top: *Pterostylis concava*, *Caladenia arrecta*, *Cyrtostylis robusta*, *Pt. sanguinea* and *Pt. dilatata*.  
Photos by K. Johnston.



## BODY IN THE BUSH

It all started with the news that John Ewing discovered dozens, no, hundreds of *Cyanicula ashbyae* in Flynn, fields of them, in fact. As I have not seen this orchid before, I made enquiries and was furnished with the location by a sympathetic member (thank you, you know who you are).

On the way to the location (all by myself, as usual, in spite of my Mum's constant warnings about '*all these bad people out there*') I was listening to ABC radio. The program was about a mentally disturbed person who had recently escaped from a mental facility. This person some years ago killed his mother with an axe but was not deemed a danger to the public at present... I was not worried and only listened with half ear, concentrating on the road.

When I got to the destination, I found the first *C. ashbyae* within minutes but it was small and old so I looked for more – I was expecting the fields of them. Half an hour later I was regretting not photographing the first one as I could not find any other plants (although there were some gorgeous *Thelymitra fuscolutea* plants) and lost the first one as well.

I made broader and broader circles and, finally, I came across a small patch of *C. ashbyae* although they were worse for wear.

I took about a hundred photos (none of them any good, as it turned out) before moving on.

On my way to the car, I noticed some tarpaulin on the ground in something that looked like a fire pit. 'Campers', I thought, 'left something here'. I walked closer and could see that it was a long (2m) object about 60 cm wide, covered in blue and white tarpaulin with a few branches on top. I wondered what it was and why people left it behind ... and this is when a smell of rotten flesh hit me....Instantly, the thought of the axe murderer on the run and all my Mum's warnings flashed through my mind. The fire pit looked like a shallow grave and an object, well, is it a body?

I ran to my car and was out of the area within minutes...After some time, I came to my senses (because the bush I was driving through was so beautiful) and continued with my orchid hunting along Brookton Highway in areas which were close to the road where I thought I should be relatively safe from any homicidal maniacs. I almost forgot about my unpleasant discovery.

When I got home, I related my findings to my family and on my husband's advice called the police. For a week after that we watched the news intently but never heard anything, so I guessed, it was not a body....thanks heavens for that.

Almost a year later we were in the same area (I was with my hubby this time) and I said 'This is where 'the body' was'. We were wandering around and guess what, I could see the blue tarpaulin! I wasn't keen on getting closer and investigating but Barry (my husband) went over, poked around for a while and came back saying that the tarpaulin was full of feathers. His theory was that at some stage it was full of chickens or some other poultry, now only feathers are left.

Umm, so they were bodies after all... I suppose it will remain a mystery who and why dumped the dead birds in the bush.

**Marina Karyagina**

**Ed:** Finding bodies in the bush is a very unlikely scenario. Spraining ankles, getting lost or bogged are more likely risks for us. Getting bitten by ticks is a certainty. See next page for bush safety tips.



*Cyanicula ashbyae.*

Photo by M. Karyagina



## FROM ARCHIVES

### W. A. NATIVE ORCHID STUDY GROUP

Chairman: Mr Herb Foote.  
 Secretary: Mr Lal. Sheppard, 31  
 Tonkin Rd., Hilton 6163.  
 Slide Librarian: Mr Reg. Lander.  
 Committee: Mrs Jean Long, Hon. Sir  
 Crawford Nalder, Messrs  
 Harry Goodchild, Roy Brown,  
 and Ken Adcock.

The group met on Monday evening 1st July in the film room at the Agricultural Dept., Jarrah Road, South Perth.

The chairman reported on having received phone calls from interested persons willing to help, and a letter was read from a resident of Bunbury offering help. A donation of \$2.00 was received from Westralian Farmers Co-operative Limited.

A short report was given on the field day of June 23rd at Madora Bay. Members present voted it a success.

Slides of native orchids, loaned by Mr Jack Ettles were shown and his use of the natural environment background was agreed to be of advantage.

Mr Andrew Brown tabled several species of orchids and spoke on his culture methods. Andrew donated a box of slides to the study group library.

Mr Reg Lander was appointed slide librarian.

Mr Noel Hoffman showed a selection of beautiful slides and concentrated on some very rare species.

A field day will be held on Sunday 21st July. Meeting place Carousal Shopping Centre, Cannington, ready to depart 10 a. m.

The next meeting will be held in the Ag. Dept. film room, Jarrah Rd., South Perth, at 8 p. m. on Friday 2nd August. The item will be "photographing native orchids" with a practical demonstration led by Herb Foote.

### W. A. NATIVE ORCHID STUDY GROUP

Within the Orchid Soc. of W. A. - Group membership \$1.00.



Top: Record of one of the first WANOSCG group meetings. Above: Noel Hoffman and Andrew Brown. Photo courtesy of N. Hoffman.

## WHAT'S IN MY BOX



I keep all my non-camera gear together in a box so that I can just chuck it in the car when ready to go. This is what I have:

- 70% Metho spray (for dieback prevention)
- Brush (ditto, Christmas present, by the way)
- Insect repellent, Mosquito net
- Sunscreen
- Knee pads
- Overboot covers
- Rain gear: coat and waterproof pants
- Hat

*Marina Karyagina*

## BUSH SAFETY TIPS

- If travelling alone, let someone know where you are going and when to expect you back and what to do if they have not heard from you when expected
- Check weather conditions. Do not venture into flowing creeks or burning areas
- Learn basic navigation skills (something I am yet to master)
- Use GPS. Mark the car location before wandering off into the bush
- Carry a distress beacon (also sometimes referred to as EPIRB) and / or satellite phone, especially if going into areas with no mobile reception
- If you have car problems, the advice is usually to stay with the car (unless you are in a populated area or can see the farmer's house)
- Carry plenty of water in the car and in the bag
- Carry spare batteries
- This one for the ladies: learn to change tyres!

*Marina Karyagina*

**Disclaimer:** The tips above are my own and do not represent WANOSCG's official position. Share your bush safety tips—write to the Editor on [wanoscg.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wanoscg.newsletter@gmail.com)





*Pterostylis sargentii*. Photos by L. Alcock

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Please email any Bulletin contributions to Marina at [wanoscg.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wanoscg.newsletter@gmail.com)

**DEADLINE FOR AUGUST ISSUE: 2nd of August 2016**

#### MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2016

All members are reminded that annual subscriptions are now **OVERDUE**. The annual single or family membership fee is **\$30**. Payment can be made :

- to the Treasurer in person
- by mail with cheques made out to WANOSCG and sent to: WANOSCG PO BOX 323, VICTORIA PARK, W.A. 6979
- by electronic transfer to the club's bank account:  
BSB: 306044 Bank name: Bankwest  
Account number: 5492468

If you choose to send money electronically please identify what the payment is for (eg "Annual Fees" and send a copy of your receipt of electronic transfer with your name on it to the club's email account ([wanoscg@gmail.com](mailto:wanoscg@gmail.com)))

**2016 membership fees are now OVERDUE. If you have not paid, your bulletin subscription will cease.**

#### Upcoming Field Trip List

| Month     | Date  | Location                      |
|-----------|-------|-------------------------------|
| July      | 17th  | Noble Rd, NE of Arthur River  |
| July      | 24th  | Between Cataby and Jurien Bay |
| August    | 20-21 | Geraldton                     |
| September | 17-18 | Kojonup                       |
| September | 24-26 | Albany and Stirling Range     |

Please contact **Margaret Petridis, Field Trip Co-ordinator** for more info or to register

| 2016 | ROSTERS                    |                   | SPEAKERS 2016                                 |
|------|----------------------------|-------------------|---|
|      | Raffle                     | Supper            |   |
| JULY | Janeanne and David Cumming | Volunteers needed | Michael MacPherson, Native Orchid Photography |
| AUG  | Tom Burbidge               | Volunteers needed | Kingsley Dixon, topic TBA                     |
| SEPT | David Lawson               | Volunteers needed | TBA   |
| OCT  | Bob Steer                  | Volunteers needed | TBA   |
| NOV  | Marina Karyagina           | Volunteers needed | Photo competition, Members photos             |