



BULLETIN
OF THE
**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHID
STUDY AND CONSERVATION GROUP
(INC)**
(1974 – 2001)

AUGUST 2001

Registered by Australia Post Publication No WBH 1240

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PRESIDENT	Mike Harper	
VICE PRESIDENT	Noel Clarke	
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SECRETARY	Garry Brockman	
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COMMITTEE	Eddy Wajon	
	Phil Bunnev	
	Ian Greeve	
	Virginia Bird	
FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR	Stuart Harris	
LIBRARIAN	Bill Burton	
EDITOR	Noel Clarke	
CONSERVATION OFFICER	Eddy Wajon	
REGISTRAR	Steve Phillips	
AUDITOR	Ross Wilton	
SUPPER COORDINATOR	Donna Wajon	
CONSERVATION COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE (1)	Eddy Wajon	
CONSERVATION COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE (2)	Wayne Merritt	

OBJECTIVES OF THE GROUP

- To promote interest in and preserve Western Australian indigenous orchids.
- To learn the best means of cultivation and do all things possible for the conservation of native orchids in their environment.
- To learn their habitats and keep records.
- To have field days and learn to recognise the different genera and species.
- To hold meetings for the exchange of knowledge and furthering of interest in Western Australian orchids.
- To affiliate with kindred organisations.
- To make rules of the Group's domestic affairs.
- 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 this group.

POSTAL ADDRESS OF GROUP: PO Box 323
Vic Park 6979

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, 15 August 2001 at 7.00 p.m. at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Administration Office.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 15 August 2001 at 8.00 p.m. at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Administration Office.

GUEST SPEAKER

Bill Jackson, topic "Orchids of the Lower S.W".

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

15 August	General meeting
26 August	Field trip to Brookton
8/9 September	Field trip to Wagin
NOTE - change	
15 September	Neerabup National Park
19 September	General meeting
29/30/1 October	Field trip Walpole
7 October	Field trip Armadale swamp
13/14 October	Field trip Margaret River
17 October	General meeting
21 November	General meeting
1-2 December	Xmas field trip to Albany

ANNUAL GROUP MEMBERSHIP FEES MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE.

The Groups financial year commences on 1 February. The Group membership fees are as follows:

Single Membership \$20.00 pa.

Family Membership \$20.00 pa.

The digit after your name on the address label is the year for which you are financial and is updated to the last meeting. If you have paid since then please make the allowance.

Please send fees to The Treasurer, P.O. Box 323, Victoria Park, 6979.

RED DOT ON YOUR BULLETIN

Do you have a red dot on your bulletin?

This means that by our records you are an unfinancial member and THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST BULLETIN.

If you have paid since the last meeting please ignore the red dot.

NAME BADGES

Group name badges can be ordered from the Treasurer. The cost is \$10.00 each.

BULLETIN CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions are needed for every edition of the Bulletin. Articles should be sent to Noel Clarke. The article submission deadline for the next issue is **1 September 2001**. Country members, we

would love to share your orchid adventures (or misadventures). Many private field trips are undertaken, how about sharing them with the membership via the Bulletin.

SUPPER COST

Each month our supper is generously donated by group members (per list on the back of the Bulletin), while the group supplies the tea, coffee, sugar and milk. To recoup some of the cost of these supplies, a modest fee of 50 cents applies. This can be left on the supper table and will be collected by the Treasurer at the end of the evening.

Also please rinse out your cups when you have finished with them.

WANOSCG ORCHID SIGHTING FORMS

These forms are now available from the Secretary. Please help get our database off and running.

REGISTRAR POSITION

Steve Phillips does not have space at his home to accommodate his and the Group's computers and would be happy to relinquish the position to another volunteer. The job is not onerous. It will entail entering the data provided by the members via the "Orchid Sighting Report" form. The system is set up such that both the orchid name & sighting location is converted to a three digit code each. Thus the requirement will be to enter date, orchid ID number and site ID number in one table and site ID number and site condition numbers in another table. Naturally if a new orchid is introduced it would entail adding it to the orchid name table. Similarly for a new site it would have to be added to the site table.

The current position is that I have entered my sighting database and set up the Group's database using sighting forms that have been provided to me. All tables and queries have been set up.

Noel Clarke

PHOTOS FOR GROUP'S DATABASE

The next phase for data entry on the Group's computer is to scan in photos or slides.

To do this two things are required.

1. Photos or slides including full plant and individual flowers. Credit will be afforded the contributor, though copyright is not possible with Internet access.
2. One or more volunteers to scan the photos or slides into the computer.

Please advise any member of the committee if you feel you can help with either.

WANOSCG WEB SITE

Don Ward has set up an orchid web site using his own photos. The address is

Don's e-mail address is

FOR SALE

Rufa Trip Report \$10.00.

Caladenia flava Badges \$4.00 members, \$5.00 non-members.

Name Badges \$10.00.

Orchids of WA (2nd Ed) \$9.00.

Orchids of SW Australia \$45.00.

Orchid Flowering Times \$5.00.

Colour guide to Spring Wildflowers by Eddie Wajon \$ 18.00 each.

Part 1: Kalbarri & The Goldfields.

Part 2: Perth & The Southwest.

Car Stickers \$1.50.

Pat Dundas Cards \$8.00.

Bush Survival Kit \$4.00.

History of WANOSCG \$3.00.

PHOTO BOARD

Photo boards consisting of plastic envelope sheets to take your orchid prints is being provided courtesy of Eddy Wajon. Many of our members use print film. This is a chance for you to show other members your masterpieces. No longer will the slide brigade have it to themselves.

FIELD TRIPS

Please ensure you have sufficient fuel to get you through the field trips.

Please advise the Field Trip Coordinator; phone [redacted] if you intend participating.

It is important that you advise the Field Trip Coordinator because then you can be advised of any change of plans, etc.

The field trips listed are proposed and are subject to change if needed.

Please consider car pooling, particularly on metro trips.

FIELD TRIP SATURDAY 11 AUGUST TO KALAMUNDA ZIG ZAG

Meet at the top of the ZigZag (first car park) at 12.30 p.m.

FIELD TRIP SUNDAY 26 AUGUST TO BROOKTON

This trip is to search for a new *Caladenia*. Meet at the Brookton tip, approximately 3km West of Brookton, at 10.00 a.m. There is a parking bay on the right hand side of the road. This is an area that has quite a few orchids. Andrew Brown will be there to take us to some new areas. *C. xantha* & *T. spiralis* are two orchids we should see.

FIELD TRIP WEEKEND 8/9 (Note change) SEPTEMBER TO WAGIN

Search areas between Phumpreys Bridge & Narrogin, then on to Wagin (overnight) Kojanup & Darkan.

It will be a round trip of approx. 650km.

Meet at Phumpreys Bridge (on the Wandering - Narrogin Road) at 9.30 a.m. Saturday 8th September. Andrew Brown will be joining us again.

FIELD TRIP SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 15 TO NEERABUP NATIONAL PARK

This area was burnt last summer.

Meet at the western end of Hall Road, approximately 1km from Wanneroo Rd at 10.30 a.m.

FIELD TRIP LONG WEEKEND 29/30 SEPTEMBER, 1 OCTOBER TO WALPOLE - NUYTS WILDERNESS

This is advance warning, as apart from being a long weekend it is the start of the school holidays. Stuart Harris has a list of accommodation available at Walpole.

Meet in the car park - picnic area opposite the shops in the main street at 10.30 a.m.

FIELD TRIP SUNDAY 7 OCTOBER TO ARMADALE SWAMP

Details September Bulletin.

FIELD TRIP 13/14 OCTOBER TO MARGARET RIVER AND BUSSELTON

This is advance warning as this is the end of the school holidays. Details September Bulletin.

FIELD TRIP WEEKEND 1-2 DECEMBER TO ALBANY

This is to a burn at Two Peoples Bay. It is also our Xmas trip. Details November Bulletin.

PEMBERTON FIELD TRIP REPORT by TOM BLINCO

On 1st - 4th July Glenys and I had to choose between the field trip to Yilliminning or a visit to see our youngest son now working in Pemberton. This was the first opportunity to visit him for some time and it coincided with the flowering of *Corybas recurvus* (Helmet Orchid), which we had not seen before, so to Pemberton we had to go.

We had been advised of this particular population about two years ago but until now, other events have had preference. The site is not readily accessible by road but is quite handy to a regular stop by trams on the Pemberton Tramway and Neil was able to show us in the course of his daily work.

There were dozens of plants in flower or bud, and in the small amount of time available I was able to find many more in a large scattered population. But despite a search in a number of other places around the Pemberton area no others were found, nor was any other type of orchid.

On the way home we stopped at our usual location in the vicinity of the Balingup Cemetery, where there were *Pt. vittata* (Banded Greenhood) in flower and bud, another *Pterostylis* in bud which Noel tells us appears to be *Pt. aff vittata* (Crowded Banded Greenhood), *T. crinita* (Blue Lady Orchid)(leaf) and *Eriochilus* (Bunny Orchid) sp. in seed.

FIELD TRIP REPORT: GILLINGARRA, MOORA AND WONGAN HILLS SUNDAY 29TH JULY by PETER GEE

A pre-dawn start for the family created: much excitement for our children. We were accompanied to the meeting point by low cloud and occasional light showers. This was our first orchid trip for several years, so it was good to renew acquaintances and meet some newer members. We met near the railway line about 1 km north of Gillingarra. After muggins drew the short straw and won the privilege of reporter, we dispersed along the narrow stretch of railway reserve. We found the following in flower, unless otherwise noted: *Caladenia varians* ssp *exilis*, *Cyanicula deformis*, *Eriochilus dilatatus* - in seed, *Pterostylis aff nana* (leaves up stem, 5cm rosette) and *Pterostylis vittata*.

We then moved to a location about 1 km south of Gillingarra and found the following within metres of the road (why don't I find so many species when I randomly stop and have a look around?). *Caladenia footeana*, *Caladenia varians* ssp *hiemalis*, *Cyanicula deformis*, *Eriochilus dilatatus* - in seed *Pterostylis aff nana* (no stem leaves, 2-3cm rosette), *Pterostylis vittata*, *Diuris aff corymbosa* or *brumalis*.

An about turn took us a few kms north of our original meeting place, in bushland beyond the railway line. We found *Caladenia flava* ssp *flava* (leaf/bud), *Cyanicula deformis*, *Pterostylis vittata*, *Eriochilus dilatatus* - leaf only, *Pterostylis aff nana* (no stem leaves, 2-3cm rosette) and *Diuris aff corymbosa* or *brumalis*. I also found a number of native potato plants, below that can be found a juicy, sweet tuber that I found delicious as a child. They would make good "bush tucker" if you didn't die of exposure beforehand!

From here, we drove north to our lunch spot in a reserve at the southeast edge of Moora town

site. Lunch and a look at some of members' photos and, of course, the inevitable debate about orchid identification and naming. We then found the following orchids: *Caladenia vulgata*(?), *Caladenia vanleeuwenii*, *Pterostylis aff nana* (2-3cm rosette, crinkly-edged leaf), *Pterostylis scabra*, *Pterostylis aff rufa* (rosettes). Our two children were happier with this site, which had some areas of Soursob (*Oxalis*), their form of "bush tucker". Some of our party returned to Perth after this, while others decided to follow me to a location near Wongan Hills for further hunting. Then the rain set in.... The crops and bushland around Wongan showed the stresses of the very dry season, even in pouring rain. We searched the Craig Road site for orchids but, in this area, it was not the right year and certainly not the right day. The following orchids were found: *Leporella fimbriata* (leaves), *Cyanicula deformis*, *Cyanicula gemmata* (leaf), *Pterostylis sanguinea*, *Caladenia flava* ssp *flava* (leaves). There was no sign of the many *Thelymitra spiralis* or occasional *Paracaleana nigrita*? that I have seen in better seasons in the past.

In the steady rain we slithered back to the black top and headed for home after a change of clothes in Wongan Hills.

ORCHID TAXONOMY by TOM BLINCO

I recently had a letter from Eva and Robert Breiner of Bavaria, whom some members have met in recent years during their visits to Australia and specially their orchid expeditions in WA.

I'm certainly no botanist, but a comment made by Robert in his letter may be of interest to members and is repeated hereunder - "In orchid taxonomy there is just now a revolution in Europe because of the research of BATEMAN from London Nat. History Museum and Bot Inst of Edinburgh. They have been analysing the amino acid sequences of the genes of many orchid species samples and then calculated by a mathematical model a relation-tree of orchid species. Now many species of *Ophrys* and *Epipactis* are the same, others like *Aceras* are belonging to *Orchis* and about 20 "species" of *Nigritella* are all the same! There is a lot of discussions among botanists and hobby botanists. I personally am happy for the reduction of species because there was an inflation of species and it was impossible to find out relationship between species because all were species. I hope ssp and var rank will now come again and this is good to find out relationships without knowing history and all synonyms."

PT VITTATA V PT SANGUINEA by NOEL CLARKE

On recent field trips with other members we discussed the relative identification of *Pt vittata* & *Pt sanguinea*. In the old days it was easy, they were all *vittata*. Then with the advent of *sanguinea* we considered the thinner plants to be *vittata* and the robust ones *sanguinea*. This does not hold true now with the expansion of the groups with aff varieties. To try and differentiate between them, armed with my trusty H & B, I have come up with a key that may help in identification, if not cause greater confusion.

The key assumes the genus *Pterostylis* with flowers banded.

KEY TO PT VITTATA & SANGUINEA

1. Flowers small light green translucent 2, 3, 4.
2. Lateral sepals flattened broadly oval *Pt vittata*
3. Lateral sepals rounded dark green
labellum brown *Pt aff vittata* (363)
4. Grey banded *Pt aff vittata* (361)
5. Flowers green to brown 6.
6. Plant size varies 60 – 300 mm 7, 8, 9.
7. Sepals broad & flat *Pt sanguinea*
8. Sepals slightly cupped labellum narrow
..... *Pt aff sanguinea* (360)
9. Flowers crowded *Pt aff sanguinea* (358)
10. Flowers pale creamy fawn
..... *Pt aff sanguinea* (449)

THELYMITRA VARIEGATA by RON HEBERLE

Thelymitra variegata (Lindl) F. Muell
"THE QUEEN of SHEBA"

The species is considered to be the most colourful of all Australian "Sun Orchids" reflecting a riot of colour combinations that can be blotched, speckled, striped or banded or just one colour embracing all the colours of the spectrum with an overall iridescent sheen which has to be seen to be believed.

Whilst there is some controversy about the botanical meaning of the species name, there are no problems with the common name, coined by an anonymous genius who linked the species with the legendary "Queen of Sheba" considered to be the most beautiful woman of her time.

The handsome "star" like flowers, open only in warm sunlight, are considered to have regular flowers although most have a wider dorsal sepal and a narrower labellum segment. Plants can bear one to six flowers up to 4 cm across. Basal flowers open in rotation upwards; it is not unusual for all flowers to be open at one time. Most colonies have a similar colour

combination but no two flowers bear the same markings. Occasionally strong colonies have a number of different colours and markings, to view one of these with all flowers expanded is a sight to be remembered.

Apart from colour, the species shows a number of unique features together with the allied species *T spiralis*, *T apiculata* and the Eastern States species *T matthewsii*. All have spirally twisted leaves (to the left) corkscrew or a slow spiral of two or three. There is a frilly spatula process at ground level from which the very narrow leaf arises.

The erect column coloured blue or purple at the base and golden yellow above terminates with an elongated centre lobe extending forward and is flanked by the erect lateral lobes. There is an inconspicuous crest behind the lobes and a prominent rostellum that extends forward and above the large stigmatic plate. This is pressed hard against the centre lobe that splits from the base at maturity and exposes the pollinas. The pollen is coherent, flaked and can be extruded, the rostellum is a positive device that prevents self-pollination and also makes the removal of the pollen difficult. This may explain why very few fertilised ovaries are observed (in my experience) and could explain why the species though widely distributed is reputed to be less abundant than most other species of the genus. The distribution is at least from Dongara in the north to east of Esperance through the coastal strip with recordings inland from east of Katanning, Tincurrin and with a recent find west of Kulin, a spread of 600 km north to south and similar west to east. Once common in the Perth metropolitan areas, around the Swan River, Rivervale, South Perth, Como, Canning Bridge and elsewhere, some can still be found at Wanneroo and Jandakot. In my experience plants have been difficult to culture and flower for two or three years, then non-flowering leaves with tubers withering. With the advances in culturing terrestrials, particularly in the Eastern States the above results would most certainly be improved on. This article relates mainly to experiences in the Albany region.

WANOSCG – MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 18th July 2001

Meeting commenced at 8.10pm

ATTENDANCE:

30 members were present and 6 apologies as per the attendance register.

NEW MEMBERS:

Len Stewart was welcomed as a member.

VISITORS:

Nil

MINUTES

Moved. Margaret Collins/ Dave Parker.

Minutes of General meeting of 16th May

2001as presented in the Bulletin be confirmed.

CARRIED.

Matters Arising: Nil

CORRESPONDENCE:

As per list circulated with attendance book.

Matters arising from correspondence:

President reported that inquiries as to our missing poster are being followed up.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Report for both June and July was circulated to members with the attendance register.

Matters Arising:

Nil

FIELD TRIPS:

Trip coordinator reported on proposed trips to Moora and the Zig Zag prior to the next meeting.

Noel Clarke reported on a trip to the Canning Mills Road area.

Marie French reported of a trip to Lesmurdie falls and a trip Chris made to Narrogin.

PLANT TABLE:

There were no plants displayed.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Tom Blinco presented a letter and photos of West Australian species hybridized in Germany.
2. Editor reported on the need to relocate the computer and possibly elect a replacement registrar. Members are asked to consider this position.
3. Members are advised that photographic material that appears on our website forfeits copyright.
4. The groups website was discussed and Don Ward presented a preview following the meeting.
5. Members are advised that this will be the last bulletin for unfinancial members and this bulletin will contain a note regarding this matter.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Chris French was unable to attend the meeting due to a death in his family.

The group sends their thoughts to the French family.

In his place, Garry Brockman presented a talk on the family Pterostylis, where we are and the possible break up of the family in the future.

RAFFLE:

The raffle prize was donated by Joe Ward, drawn by Ron Heberle and won by our Committee man Ian Greeve.

SUPPER:

Thanks to Katie Ward who provided supper following the meeting.

A pretty special effort since both Joe and Katie were unable to attend the meeting

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

FANTASTIC WA ORCHIDS **PHOTO COMPETITION**

The Kings Park Conference Organising Committee is running this competition. The competition is limited to 35mm slides of W.A. orchids with a maximum of 3 slides in each category.

The categories are: -

1. Artistic.
2. Botanical (technical & perfection).
3. Ecological.

Preferred images are: -

1. Taken in natural habitat.
2. Not modified by computer.
3. Promote public appreciation.

Prizes are enlargements of winning photos.

Forms & conditions for entry will be available at the August meeting.

Winning entries will be displayed as part of the World of Orchids exhibit at the Kings Park Festival.

Closing date for entries is 31st August.

Enquiries to Kirsty on [REDACTED]

Post entries to: -

Fantastic WA Orchids Photographic Contest
Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority
Fraser Ave, West Perth, WA, 6005.
Att: K. Harris.

	SUPPER ROSTER	RAFFLE ROSTER	SPEAKER
MARCH			
APRIL			
MAY			
JUNE			
JULY			
AUGUST	Delyce Hayward	Eva Smith	Bill Jackson
SEPTEMBER		Mike Harper	Mike Duncan
OCTOBER	Sarah Atkinson	Ian & Joan Greeve	Sandra McKenzie
NOVEMBER		Gary Brockman	Andrew Brown

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FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday 11 August – Zig Zag

Sunday 26 August – Brookton

Weekend 8-9 September – Wagin (NOTE – date change)

Saturday 15 September – Neerabup National Park

Weekend 29-30 September, 1 October - Walpole