



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

***SEPTEMBER 2001***

Registered by Australia Post Publication No WBH 1240

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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

Temporary E-mail address:

Temporary web page address:



### **NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday, 19 September 2001 at 7.00 p.m. at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Administration Office.

### **NEXT GENERAL MEETING**

Wednesday, 19 September 2001 at 8.00 p.m. at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Administration Office.

### **GUEST SPEAKER**

Mike Duncan "Orchids on Top Alpine National Park". Mike is one of our Victorian members.

### **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

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.**

### **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 [redacted] The article submission deadline for the next issue is **1 October 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**

We are still looking for a registrar. Can you help please?

### **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**

The addresses in the August Bulletin were both E-mail addresses for Don Ward.

The addresses that Don has set up for orchids are: -

E-mail - [redacted]  
Orchid species web page -  
[communities.ninemsm.com.au/wanoscg](http://communities.ninemsm.com.au/wanoscg)  
Good hunting.

### **FOR SALE**

Rufa Trip Report \$10.00.  
Caladenia flava Badges \$4.00 members, \$5.00 non-members.  
Name Badges \$10.00.  
Orchids of WA (2<sup>nd</sup> 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.  
Eddy's 2001 calendars are now available.

### **PHOTO BOARD**

Photo boards consisting of plastic envelope sheets to take your orchid prints is being provided courtesy of Eddie 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 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. **Note – Hall Rd sign is not in place. Hall Rd is 1k North of the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Heritage Trail on Wanneroo Rd.**

#### 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

Meet at 12.30 pm on Forrest Rd parking bay, 200 m North West of Stirling Rd, Forrestdale.

#### FIELD TRIP 13/14 OCTOBER TO MARGARET RIVER AND BUSSELTON

This is the end of the school holidays. Meet at the Carbrunup store, corner of Bussell Hwy & Wildwood Rd at 10.00 a.m. I will be staying at the Beachlands C.P. in Busselton, phone (08) 9752 2107 or freecall 1800 622107. Book your own accommodation.

#### FIELD TRIP WEEKEND 1-2 DECEMBER TO ALBANY

This is to a burn at Two Peoples Bay. It is also our Xmas trip? Meet at 11.00 a.m. at the corner of Lower King Rd & Norwood Rd. I will be stopping at the Mt Melville C.P., Albany, phone (08) 9841 4616 or freecall 1800 888617. Book your own accommodation.

#### TRIP REPORT ZIGZAG & LESMURDIE SAT 11 AUGUST by MARY HARRIS

The whole of the ZigZag had been burnt so we did only a small section, the areas around the first two car parks. We found *C. hiemalis* & *reptans* though most of the *hiemalis* were finished. *Cyanicula deformis* were in large numbers including several albinos, many in excellent condition. *P. fimbria* was in flower, and another large *Prasophyllum*, possibly *elatum*, not yet flowering was also there. Several *D. brumalis* were also found.

From the ZigZag we went to Pomeroy Rd to a site Stuart & I have visited regularly over the years. Here we found *C. longiclavata* in flower and bud, *Pt. barbata*, *recurva* & *sanguinea* in flower and *P. parvifolium* almost finished. The *Lyperanthus serratus* will be a great display when they flower later.

Len Stewart then mentioned a site off Canning Mills Rd where he found *Pt. barbata* a few days ago. As it was only mid afternoon & the weather had stayed fine, we decided it was worth a visit. We bumped along a bush track off Canning Mills Rd and found *Pt. barbata* almost translucent with the afternoon sun behind them. Also here were *Pt. recurva* & *sanguinea*, *D. brumalis* and to our delight, several *Drakea livida* in flower and bud.

From there we followed the road to the Cohuna corner where we saw more *Cyanicula deformis*, *D. brumalis*, *C. flava* & other *Caladenias* in bud. This bush was burnt the summer before last, so the leaves were easy to find. By now it was 4.30 pm, so it was time to call it a day.

Thanks to those who came along despite the uncertainty of the weather.

#### BROOKTON TRIP REPORT 26<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST by NOEL CLARKE

I drew the black disc. There was a large turn out for this trip, 19 cars, many with two occupants. It was good to see so many come out of the woodwork.

Andy Brown showed us a flower and leaf of the new orchid we were to look for. The manuscript name *Caladenia williamsii* is in honour of the finder Judy Williams. Andy also had a sample of a small flowered *T. cornicina* that had been named *T. fasciculata* by Fitzgerald and subsequently reduced to a synonym. As it flowers so much earlier than *T. cornicina* it should be reinstated.

The first place we looked for more populations of *C. williamsii* was at the Weam Reserve on the Aldersyde Rd. The reserve is fenced and access is denied without prior reference to CALM. Several cars were put off by a rock on the track in the reserve. Unfortunately we did



not see any more populations here. However we did see *C cairnsiana* or *pachychila* (depending on who you spoke to), *flava* ssp *flava*, *reptans*, *saccharata*, *Cyan deformis*, *D nicholsiarum* ms, *Pt sanguinea* & *sargentii* all in flower, and *T sp* in bud. Andy informed us that most of the *Diuris* round Brookton will be *D nicholsiarum* ms.

From here we proceeded to Pingeculling Reserve at Shultz & Moorumbine Rds. The party split here, the 4WDs carrying on down Shultz Rd and the rest stayed about 0.5k along Shultz Rd. Once again we were disappointed not to find any more populations of *C williamsii* ms, but did find more of what we'd seen at Weam Reserve plus *C dimidia* and white forms of *Cyan deformis*. *Pt aff rufa* in early bud was also found here.

After lunch and a session of photographing the new orchids we went to Boyagin Rock and again searched without success. All the sites visited had the features that existed at the venue where the orchid was originally found wandoo woodland in brown gravelly soil with little leaf litter below a breakaway ridge. The Pingeculling Reserve site looked like a possible location for *Calochilus aff robertsonii*.

Last year there were 12 plants, this year only 5. May be there will be more plants in good rainfall years.

Some members, including me. Called it a day here. The rest followed Judy Williams to her *C xantha* site on Pike Rd.

#### CALADENIA REVISION

Andrew Brown informed the meeting that the long awaited revision of Western Australian *Caladenias* should be available at the September meeting. Hopefully there will be sufficient copies available for members. At this time the cost is not known.

#### AUSTRALIAN ORCHID REVISION

Many members would know that David Jones has been working on a revision of *Pterostylis* & *Diuris* and is almost ready to go to print. Unfortunately a Polish botanist who is unknown here has rushed in with a paper, with errors, unfortunately advancing the same arguments being put forward by David Jones. An article produced by Andrew Brown for members information and action as you think fit is below.

### Notes on the Szlachetko paper, Polish Bot. J. 46: 11-26(2001)

Many of you will have by now heard that Szlachetko has published a recent paper in which he places quite a few Australian orchids into new genera. The Western Australian Herbarium is currently accepting only two of these genera (*Plumatichilos* and *Oligochaetochilus*). *Plumatichilos* contains all the bird orchids previously contained in *Pterostylis* while *Oligochaetochilus* contains all those taxa found in the rufa group as well as the banded greenhoods, frog orchid etc. If any of his other genera are accepted I will let you know.

Paul Wilson from the WA Herbarium tells me that some of the generic names published by Szlachetko (2001) were given an incorrect gender.

This affects a number of species in *Plumatichilos* and *Oligochaetochilus*, both of which Szlachetko treats as feminine but should be masculine. The International Code of Botanical Nomenclature Article 62.2(c) states that whereas -chilos or -chilus ought to be neuter they are treated as masculine in accordance with botanical tradition. Therefore the endings of most of the epithets of these genera listed by Szlachetko need to be changed.

Also, the Tribe 'Pterostyliodeae' should be tribe Pterostylideae

Western Australian species affected are shown in **bold**.

#### Plumatichilos

Generic names ending in -chilos are treated as masculine. Therefore: **barbatus**, **plumosus**, **tasmanicus**, **turfosus**.

*Plumatichilos turfusus* (Endl.) Szlach. not (Lindl.) Szlach.

#### Oligochaetochilus

Treat as masculine. Therefore: *aciculiformis*, *arenicola*, *bisetus*, *boormanii*, *calceolus*, *chaetophorus*, **ciliatus**, *cobarensis*, *commutatus*, **concavus**, *despectans*, *excelsus*, *gibbosus*, *hamatus*, **insectifer**, **leptochilus**, *lingua* (treat as a noun), **macrocalymmus**, *maximus*, *mitchellii*, *ovatus*, **pictus**, *praetermissus*, *pusillus*, *roensis*, *rufus*, *setifer*, **spathulatus**, *squamatus*, *woollsii*, *xerophilus*, *bicolor*, *cycnocephalus*, *daintreanus*, **muticus**, *pratensis*, *rubenachii*, *wapstreorum*, *ziegeleri*, *concavus*, *longifolius*, *melagrammus*, **sanguineus**, *sargentii*,



*stenochilus* (not-os), *tunstallii*, *vittatus* and *williamsonii*.

Note that *insectifer* is not a typo and is the correct spelling for what was *insectifera*.

**THELYMITRA SPIRALIS (LINDL) F. MUELL – “CURLY LOCKS” by RON HEBERLE.**

This article is a reprint of an article in the December issue of *The Orchadian*. It is being reproduced at the request and with the permission of Ron Heberle.

This unique species has the rare distinction where both the species and common name are beautifully descriptive making positive identification a matter of course. This paper has been written to cover some of the complexities of the species, *Thelymitra spiralis*.

This species, closely related to *T. variegata*, *T. apiculata* and *T. matthewsii* with the spirally twisted “corkscrew like” narrow leaf was originally named by Lindley (1839) as *Macdonaldia spiralis*. This was from a collection by James Drummond, colonial botanist at the Swan River Colony (as Western Australia was known at that time).

Mueller (1865) changed the generic name and included it under *Thelymitra*. Nicholls (1949) subsequently named four varieties of *T. spiralis*: var *pulchella*, var *punctata*, var *pallida*, var *scoulerae*. The former, *T. spiralis* var *pulchella*, was the only one to survive the revision by Clements (1989).

So after a somewhat fragmented taxonomic history we have just two valid taxa *T. spiralis* var *spiralis* and *T. spiralis* var *pulchella*. The latter was a collection by Rica Erickson from Bolgart, north of Perth. This lady is a renowned botanical artist and writer of books and papers, possibly her greatest success was the publication of *Orchids of the West*, a former benchmark and now a collector’s item. She was also responsible for the perceptive name “Curly Locks”.

The species complex is widely distributed over a vast area as shown by Hoffman & Brown (1992) with disjunct populations in the Kalbarri – Murchison River area in the north and a very significant coverage from south of Perth arcing up into the central wheatbelt then south easterly to between Esperance and Israelite Bay embracing all the south west corner of the State. These authors in their summary suggested that the species had a confused history, is widespread with a sporadic distribution. I agree with most of this, however, in my experience in the Albany –

Great Southern and eastern wheatbelt the species can be quite numerous “in the right year”.

Broadly there are two distinct groups within the inland and coastal populations. The southern forms extending from the coast to approximately 100kms inland have small flowers predominantly blue; some are bicoloured with speckling and blotching of a different colour. The typical narrow corkscrew type leaf is conspicuous. Conversely the crest at the back of the column base is very hard to see. They have a preferred environment and grow along watersheds and seepage areas around swamps, lakes and rivers, and have a preference for black sandy soil in open forest country with a tolerance for sedges and rushes where they often choose to grow. This group appears to have adapted to climatic conditions prevailing during the July-August flowering season and are able to expand their segments with ambient temperatures of 17-20°C under favourable conditions. Cloud cover and inclement weather can retard or inhibit flowers opening, as these are self-pollinating species will pollinate in the bud and never open.

The inland forms have larger flowers, a greater range of colour, mostly all shades of pink with speckling and blotching similar to the coastal forms. Leaves can be corkscrew or have a wide spiral of two or three with some nearly straight, they do not appear to be self-pollinating and have a preferred habitat of sand or loamy soil in open forest country and thrive in flat country and depressions that have dried out after winter rains, they also can be found in environments similar to the coastal forms around the perimeter of granite rocks. They flower in August-September at 20-30°C and have long lasting flowers depending on climatic conditions.

Pollen can be mealy or cohesive with a group close to the Albany town site having a radical departure where pollen is exuded in a viscous semi-liquid mass and covers the large stigmatic plate, after some 30 minutes this has shrunk and dried now ringing the outer edge of the stigma in a hard biscuit-like deposit with a few wisps extant.

This strong colony is flowering on fragmented sheets of ironstone (laterite) that once supported a Jarrah Casuarina forest, the area was bulldozed to establish a gravel pit, this was later aborted. *T. spiralis* has colonised the area with tuberosids growing in cracks and indents in the ironstone covered by a thin layer of soil and moss. I have not seen this phenomenon elsewhere.

Vegetative reproduction is most likely caused by seeds falling straight down and germinating



around the parent plant. I have cultured the species and have seen no sign of tuber multiplication. The species cultures fairly easily and will persist in a pot for up to five years. The southern coastal species self-pollination and short-lived flowers offer little potential.

#### **References**

- Clements M.A. (1989) Australian Orchid Research Vol 1 (pp 142-143)
- Erickson R. (1951) Orchids of the West (pp19-24)
- Heberle R.L. (1991) "Thelymitra, The Sun Orchids of Western Australia" Proceedings 12<sup>th</sup> Australian Orchid Conference, Perth 1991
- Heberle R.L. (1999) *Thelymitra variegata* – "The Queen of Sheba" Arcadian 13 (2) 73-77
- Hoffman A.N. and Brown A. (1982) Orchids of South-West Australia (p253)
- Nicholls W.H. (1969) Orchids of Australia (pp 46-47)

**Question** – Does the observation regarding the propagation of *T spiralis* also apply to *T variegata*? If this is so the taking of flowers could see a decline in the populations.

#### **WANOSCG – MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 15th August 2001**

Meeting commenced at 8.15pm

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

**33 members were present and 4 apologies as per the attendance register.**

#### **NEW MEMBERS:**

Nil

#### **VISITORS:**

Nil

#### **MINUTES**

*Moved. Ross Fox/ Tom Blinco. Minutes of General meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> May 2001 as presented in the Bulletin be confirmed.*  
**CARRIED.**

#### **Matters Arising:**

Omission: At the July meeting, Ron Heberle presented the group with an artistic copper beating of a Caladenia orchid by Herb Foote, a founding member of the group.

Hon. Secretary apologises to Mr Heberle for this omission from the minutes.

Correction: Tom Blinco's letter and photos were from Bavaria not Germany as reported. Fortunately the Bulletin got it right in Toms report on page 5.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

As per list circulated with attendance book.

#### **Matters arising from correspondence:**

Nil

#### **TREASURERS REPORT:**

Report for August was circulated to members with the attendance register.

#### **Matters Arising:**

Nil

#### **FIELD TRIPS:**

Stuart Harris reported of changes to the Wagin Trip, forward a week to September 8-9.

Stuart also suggests you book any accommodation for this and any other trips as early as possible.

Eddy Wajon reported on Kenhurst Park.

Beth Kinsey on a trip to Walpole.

Andy Brown visited Armadale Golf Course burn site.

Chris French on a trip to Bindoon and Northam.

#### **PLANT TABLE:**

There were no plants displayed.

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

1. Noel Clarke reported on the Kings Park Wildflower Show and requested any plants from members to show. These will be required from September 20<sup>th</sup> and as always, any help to set up displays would be appreciated.
2. Andrew Brown reported on a paper from Poland, which has reclassified some of our orchid genera, and presented a critique of that paper which will appear in the September bulletin.
3. The group still has a position for a registrar. Members were once again asked to consider someone to fill the position.
4. Andrew Brown reported that the much-awaited Hopper and Brown Caladenia review would be available prior to the September meeting.

#### **GUEST SPEAKER:**

Bill Jackson of Walpole presented a talk and slide show of interesting orchids of the Walpole area. Bill has spent most of the past 15 years wandering the southern coastline and turned up some very interesting specimens and some wonderful slides.

#### **RAFFLE:**

The raffle prize was donated by Eva Smith, drawn by Bill Jackson and won by our Treasurer Delyce Hayward..

#### **SUPPER:**

Thanks to Delyce Hayward who provided supper following the meeting.  
The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

	SUPPER ROSTER	RAFFLE ROSTER	SPEAKER
<b>MARCH</b>			
<b>APRIL</b>			
<b>MAY</b>			
<b>JUNE</b>			
<b>JULY</b>			
<b>AUGUST</b>			
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Virginia Bird	Mike Harper	Mike Duncan
<b>OCTOBER</b>	Sarah Atkinson	Ian & Joan Greeve	Sandra McKenzie
<b>NOVEMBER</b>		Gary Brockman	Andrew Brown

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#### FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday 15 September – Neerabup National Park

Weekend 29-30 September, 1 October – Walpole

Sunday 7 October – Armadale swamp

Weekend 13-14 October – Margaret River