

BULLETIN

OF THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHID STUDY & CONSERVATION GROUP (INC) (1974 – 2003)

MARCH 2003

OFFICE BEARER	ADDRESS	PHONE
PATRON	Dr. Steve Hopper	
PRESIDENT	Mike Harper	
VICE PRESIDENT	Noel Clarke	
VICE PRESIDENT	Don Manners	
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TREASURER	Delyce Hayward	
COMMITTEE	Eddy Wajon	
	Phil Bunney	
	Ian Greeve	
	Virginia Bird	
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LIBRARIAN	Bill Burton	
EDITOR	Noel Clarke	
CONSERVATION OFFICER	Eddy Wajon	
REGISTRAR		
AUDITOR	Ross Wilton	
SUPPER COORDINATOR	Donna Wajon	
CONSERVATION COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE (1)	Eddy Wajon	
CONSERVATION COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE (2)	Wayne Merritt	

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 environment.
- 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: this group does not specifically endorse the opinions expressed by contributors to this Bulletin.

POSTAL ADDRESS OF GROUP: PO Box 323, Victoria Park, 6979

WANOSCG E-mail address: Web address:

Web Master Don Ward E-mail: Web:

Registered by Australia Post Publication No WBH 1240

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, 19 March 2003 at 7.00 p.m. at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Administration Office.

NEXT GENERAL & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 19 March 2003 at 8.00 p.m. at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Administration Office.

All positions except one Vice president (Noel Clarke) & two Committee (Phil Bunney & Eddy Wajon) will become vacant. Please consider joining the Management Committee.

GUEST SPEAKER

Members slide night.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

19 March	General & Annual General meeting.
16 April	General meeting.
21 May	General meeting.
18 June	General meeting.
16 July	General meeting.
20 August	General meeting.
17 September	General meeting.
15 October	General meeting.
19 November	General meeting.

MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASE

Your Committee has decided to increase the annual membership fee to \$25.00. This increase is due to the increase cost of postage, insurance & to cover the running cost of our web site. Our last fee increase was in 1992.

ANNUAL GROUP MEMBERSHIP FEES **MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE**

The Group's financial year commences on 1 February.

Annual fees are \$25.00 for singles & families. New membership joining fee is \$10.00 and if joining after 30 June membership fee is adjusted prorata.

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 April 2003. 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

Keep them rolling in.

PTEROSTYLIS BOOK

The Australian Orchid Research Pterostylis book has now been published. This book is a product of the Australian Orchid Foundation. The price will be about \$25.00. The Group is organizing a bulk purchase. Members wanting a copy please advise the treasurer.

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.
Part 3: Esperance & The Wheatbelt
Car Stickers \$1.50.
Pat Dundas Cards \$8.00.
Bush Survival Kit \$4.00.
History of WANOSCG \$3.00.

NAME BADGES

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

CAR STICKERS

Additional stickers may be purchased for \$1.00 from the treasurer.

SUPPER & RAFFLE ROSTER

A glance at the back page shows three vacancies for the supper roster & four vacancies for the raffle roster.

If you can help out please don't feel shy to volunteer your services. The roster book will go round at the next meeting, or you can tell the secretary.

A DITTY by BETH & RON KINSEY
"NOEL"

There is a young man named Noel,
Finding orchids is his favourite goal,
If he hears of a new taxa
He will not relaxa
And would drive till he reaches the North Pole.

Sometimes in the night he wakes with a fright,
Remembering an orchid he's forgotten,
So he's up with the dawn
And by lunch he's long gone
If he's not found it by dark he feels rotten.

In his trusty Falcon, all beware,
He goes where others never dare,
And sandy tracks never deter him –
As long as there's an orchid in sight
There's no such thing as a fright
If at the end there's a new Prasophyllum.

And if someone needs assistance
They can count on his persistence,
He's the first one to offer some clues.
He goes back in his mind
When you've got in a bind
Then rings you up with the news.

ROADSIDE VEGETATION DAMAGE

I have received the following letter dated 24 December 2002 from the office of the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, signed by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister, which may be of interest to members.

"Thank you for your letter of 26 November 2002 to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Dr Judy Edwards MLA regarding the slashing of road verges along roads in the South Coast area. The Minister has asked me to reply to you on her behalf.

I am advised that the clearing along the roadsides that you mentioned occurred as part of a vegetation control programme conducted by private contractors employed by Main Roads WA. This method of roadside management involves the slashing of vegetation adjacent to the road using tractor-mounted rotary slashers. I understand, however, that there is a second follow-up phase of the operation that is required to clear up debris and cut back the ragged ends, leaving the roadside in a more presentable state. Unfortunately, this subsequent activity can be delayed for some time, resulting in the unsightly effect that you observed.

As a consequence of the number of complaints about the slashing of roads in the South Coast region, Main Roads and other stake holders, including the Roadside Conservation

Committee which advises the Minister, will be reviewing this practice and the general clearing templates employed by Main Roads, early in the new year. It is envisaged that new guidelines and policy can be developed to reflect changing community expectations regarding the conservation of native vegetation along transport corridors.

While I understand and share your concern, it must be remembered that Main Roads has a duty of care to the travelling public and thus is required to provide a safe road network. This network must also be maintained in a structurally sound condition, which means there is an ongoing requirement to ensure that vegetation in the road reserve is adequately managed. The above process will seek to develop guidelines that provide for this objective, while not compromising conservation or aesthetic values.

Thank you for raising this matter with the Minister, and let me assure you that steps are being taken to modify the effect of this method of vegetation control.

Yours....."

The above response could give the impression that my letter had placed emphasis on aesthetic values, but I had really tried to focus on the severe vegetation damage for excessive width from the roadside. The damage had resulted in the unsightly appearance of the verges.

It is pleasing to see that complaints have caused a review of the recent procedures.

TOM BLINCO

EPIBLEMA GRANDIFLORUM SSP
CYANEA

Jeff Spencer sent me an article published in "The Web" a TSN National Newsletter, too late for inclusion in the November issue.

The Bennett Brook Catchment Group has gained TSN funds to undertake habitat restoration for the endangered blue babe in the cradle orchid that grows only at Beechboro North Nature Reserve. The Group aims to remove any exotic trees and weeds in the Reserve.

The long-term aim is to encourage the dispersal and growth of this orchid in new habitats that are free from invasive weeds.

NOTE by NOEL CLARKE

I was on the first field trip to see this interesting orchid. It only ever grew in one small area of the reserve and there were never ever an abundance of plants. In recent years the water level has been low. Has this been caused by the drainage for the growth of the

urban sprawl, or can it be attributed to the lack of winter rain? Only time will tell. We wish the Bennett Brook Catchment Group well with this project.

FIELD TRIP PROCEDURES

Remember the rule, keep the following vehicle in sight. If it falls behind then slow down till it catches up.

Most importantly when you turn, stop at the turning point till you are sure the following vehicle is going to turn.

No participant in a field trip is exempt from these two important rules.

A new procedure is to be trialed this year. The trip leader will ask you to enter your name and a contact name and phone number on a piece of paper in case of an emergency. The paper will be destroyed at the end of the trip.

FIELD TRIPS

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

Please advise the Field Trip Coordinator, phone [REDACTED] or the field trip leader, 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 REPORT 7/8 TO AUGUSTA, HAMELIN BAY AND SCOTT RIVER by JEFF & WENDY SPENCER

We set up camp at Hamelin Bay. With abundant wild flowers and green paddocks everywhere, the late flowering orchids were expected. At the Augusta Par 3 Golf Course, near the Civic Centre, we 'struck it rich', seeing healthy specimens of *C pholcoidea* (Albany spider) and *Cryptostylis ovata*. A fire had recently burnt a large area along the full length of the Augusta airstrip (useful for next year).

At the Scott River National Park, we found a largish population of *C serotina* in full bloom. You access this patch by travelling down Brockman Hwy from Karridale, turn right into Scott River Rd and stop at the beginning of the Scott River National Park (RHS).

Approximately 40 meters south of the Park sign and on the west side of Scott River Rd is a track winding into a swampy national park section in a westerly direction. *C. serotina* was on the left and right sides of the track approximately 200 – 400 m from the main

road. *P brownii* were near their peak flowering cycle.

Hamelin Bay – in the marri/karri bush up on the ridge just below the new Hamelin Bay subdivision there was *C abbreviata* (Coastal Spider) along the edge of the main subdivision west firebreak. These orchids were in the later stages and closing up for seeding. Leopard Orchids are at this location also (green but had seeded).

Both Noel and Mary Stuart suggested the flat rock behind the Yacht Club at Augusta. It was very dry there but we found *C pholcoidea*.

Seeded and dried out sun orchids proliferated.

No Bull

Noel suggested that we try another spot in Augusta beyond the old rubbish tip. We had to take the old track on the left of the closed rubbish tip, turn right at the T-junction and follow the track through to a fence with firebreaks.

The track had become quite overgrown and with difficulty, we reached the fence to be greeted by a paddock full of approximately 40 very large bulls that rushed over to give us the stare. We comforted ourselves in the knowledge that if they knocked over the fence and trampled us to death, at least Noel knew where we had gone and we would get decent funerals!

With strict adherence to Noel's instructions, we proceeded down the fence, followed by the bulls, into a swamp. At this point, we were engulfed by a huge cloud of bush flies. The swamp seemed to be a graveyard for recently dead kangaroos (possibly shot) that encouraged the flies and which drove us back towards the bulls.

We wondered why Christine didn't set any field trips for December and now we think we know the answer.

WANOSCG – MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 20th NOVEMBER 2002

Meeting commenced at 8.10pm

President Mike Harper opened the meeting.

ATTENDANCE:

27 members were present 3 apologies as per the attendance register.

NEW MEMBERS:

Nil

VISITORS:

Jim & Ruth Downes, Kaye Bell & John Ewing.

MINUTES

Moved. Noel Clarke/ Matz Dahkamp Minutes of General meeting of October 16th 2002 as represented in the Bulletin be confirmed.

CARRIED.

Matters Arising:

Nil

CORRESPONDENCE:

As per list circulated with attendance book and dealt with by committee.

Members were advised of the account from KPBG for the room hire.

TREASURERS REPORT:

The treasurer's report is circulated with attendance register for members.

Matters from that report are dealt with by committee or by any inquiry from the floor.

Matters Arising:

Nil

FIELD TRIPS:

Our field trip co ordinator is an apology for this meeting.

Secretary reported on a late flowering Paracaleana species in the Daring Scarp.

Eddy Wajon reported on a trip to Qualen Road in the Dale Forest area.

Len Stewart reported on a trip to Boulder rock to see the Spiculea.

PLANT TABLE:

Nil

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. An account for \$297.00 has been received from KPBG for the hire of the boardroom and facilities to hold our meetings.

This account exceeds committee's liberty to pay without consulting members.

Moved Virginia Bird Seconded Don Manners, that the treasurer pay the KPBG account for \$297.00 being for amenities for the 2003 meetings.

2. Members were informed of a new orchid publication by Riley & Banks. Further information from committee members.
3. Christmas Party. As per previous advice. Treasurer needs numbers tonight.
4. Eddy Wajon brought to the attention of the meeting a letter proposed by committee regarding Ken Hurst Park. Draft available from Eddy.
5. Eddy Wajon brought to the meetings attention the matter and nature of road verge clearing adopted throughout the southwest shires. He has written a letter of protest, again a draft available from Eddy.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Members presented an array of slides from the past season on interesting finds and forms of our native orchids.

RAFFLE:

The raffle was donated by Len Stewart and won by Gloria Jackson.

SUPPER:

Ron & Beth Kinsey provided supper for the meeting.

Thank you from all members who attended.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

The next general meeting, and AGM will be on 19th March 2003, at the Kings Park Botanic Gardens Administration building, 8.00pm.

WANOSCG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES 20th

MARCH 2002

Meeting opened at 8.10pm

ATTENDANCE

29 Members and 5 apologies as per attendance book.

No visitors were present.

New member Steve Edmett was welcomed to the meeting

MINUTES

The minutes of the 20001AGM were as printed in the BULLETIN.

It was moved Noel Clark seconded Chris French that the minutes be accepted.

CARRIED.

The President declared all positions vacant except Vice President Don Manners and Committee members Virginia Bird and Ian Greeve and called for nominations for a

Returning Officer. Tom Blinco volunteered and was unopposed.

It was deemed by a show of hands that no scrutineers were required.

The acting President then vacated the chair and the Returning Officer called for nominations for the vacant positions.

The following nominations were received –

PATRON

Steve Hopper*	nominated by
N.Clarke/Eddy Wajon	CARRIED

PRESIDENT

Mike Harper	nominated by
Donna Wajon/Don Smith	CARRIED

VICE PRESIDENT

Noel Clarke	nominated by
Donna Wajon/Don Smith	CARRIED

SECRETARY

Garry Brockman	nominated by Tom
Blinco/Eva Smith	CARRIED

TREASURER

Delyce Hayward	nominated by N
Clarke/V.Bird	CARRIED

COMMITTEE

Phil Bunney	nominated by
I.Greeve/Don Smith	CARRIED

Eddy Wajon nominated by
I.Greeve/Don Smith
CARRIED

FIELD TRIP CO-ORDINATOR

Chris Locke* nominated by
G.Brockman/N.Clarke CARRIED

LIBRARIAN

Bill Burton nominated by Beth
Kinsey/M.Harper CARRIED

EDITOR

Noel Clarke nominated by Don
Smith/Donna Wajon CARRIED

AUDITOR

Ross Wilton nominated by
N.Clarke/Bill Burton CARRIED

SUPPER COORDINATOR

Donna Wajon nominated by Eva
Smith/Eddy Wajon CARRIED

CONSERVATION OFFICER

Eddy Wajon nominated by Don
Smith/I.Greeve CARRIED

REGISTRAR

Chris French nominated by
N.Clarke/V.Bird CARRIED

* Absent from the meeting but had previously
indicated willingness to accept nomination

AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Auditor's report was circulated with the
attendance book for members to view.

GENERAL BUSINESS

The President resumed the chair and thanked
Committee members for their contributions in
the past year especially Stuart Harris, retiring
Field Trip Coordinator.

Annual General meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

EAST MEETS WEST by MIKE DUNCAN

I've recently managed to convince the local
conservation department to fund me to do
some work on orchids. That's right, I'm on a 6
month 'paid holiday' from my forest research
job, preparing a recovery plan for 15
threatened Victorian orchids! I've tried to
convince my workmates that spending last
spring rushing around the state visiting an
assessing orchid populations for work and play
has made everyday a work day (rather than a
holiday), but they were never going to believe
me.

A recovery plan sets out the actions necessary
to support the recovery of critically
endangered species to maximise their chances
of long term survival. In fact, most of the taxa
I'm working on are so rare that they don't even
have a name. They are known as 'sp. aff.' this
or that, and many are 'one site wonders'.
There's the spider orchid that's known from
only 4 plants (3 apparently sterile) on a

farmers property in northeast Victoria; the
November-flowering midge orchid from the
Otway Ranges; and the rufa greenhood
(*P. cheraphila*), known from a few thousand
plants, but restricted to just a short stretch of
the Wimmera River floodplain near Horsham.
However, I thought one taxon might be of
particular interest to WANOSCG, as it appears
to be the only Victorian population of a mostly
Western Australian genus.

Paracaleana (sp. aff.) *nigrita* is known from a
single population of approximately 30 plants
near the Grampians NP in Victoria. As luck
would have it, the site is a private property
bush block, surrounded by the national park
rather than within it, which makes
management that bit more difficult. It's also
less than 50 m from one of the major roads in
the park. The vegetation is *Eucalyptus baxteri*
woodland with a diverse healthy understorey
containing many examples of the attractive
Grampians flora, such as *Xanthorrhoea*
australis, *Banksia marginata*, *Astroloma*
conostephioides and *Acacia implexa*. Within
this vegetation, *P.* (sp. aff.) *nigrita* favours
open relatively bare areas between shrubs or in
mossbeds associated with the base of trees.
Although this vegetation type is relatively
widespread in the Grampians NP, no other
populations have been reported.

The Grampians population occurs over a very
small area (only 20 m by 10 m), and appears to
be relatively stable, with 20-30 plants
producing a leaf each year since its discovery
in 1992. Covering such a small area, this
population is very susceptible to 'natural
disaster'. As an example, the stems of 4 of the
8 flowering plants in 2001 were broken by a
small dead branch which fell from an
overhanging tree. This single event robbed the
population of half its potential seed set for the
year. As a result, caging and fencing of the
site has been identified as a priority in the
recovery plan.

P. (sp. aff.) *nigrita* produces a single, flat,
ovate leaf in response to autumn and early
winter rains. A single flower is then produced
on a short, wiry stem (up to 10 cm) in
November. The flowers are reddish-brown
coloured, with the narrow-ovate labellum
having a covering of shiny calli confined to the
apical third. The flowers are quite distinct
from those of *P. minor*, which is common and
widespread in eastern Australia. *P. minor*
plants have 2-5 greenish flowers, the labellum
is covered all over in black calli and has a
bilobed tip, and the leaf is long and thin.

Although it is much closer to *P. nigrita* and the other WA members of this genus, *P. (sp. aff.) nigrita* can be readily distinguished by its ovate shaped leaf, and labellum which lacks the central hump, and only the apical third is covered with calli.

While the Grampians is the only known population in Victorian, there are records of a very similar taxon from 2 sites in South Australia (Ashbourne and Kangaroo Island). Evidently the Kangaroo Island population has not been seen for a number of years, but 3 plants were recently seen at Ashbourne. The description of these plants in *Orchids of South Australia* (Bates and Weber) suggests that it may be the same as our Victorian taxon.

This year, despite of the worsening drought, 24 plants flowered in the Grampians population, and a single specimen was collected and sent to Andrew Brown for identification and comparison with WA species. Andrew has had a look at it and tentatively identified it as being quite similar to an unnamed taxon from east of Esperance – what a surprise! Apparently this is not the taxon on pg 209 of H&B, but a new one which was previously lumped under *P. linearifolia*. However, we need to keep in mind that this identification is only tentative and based on a single plant. Further research is required (e.g. examine more specimens, DNA analysis) before any conclusions can be drawn. But, wouldn't it be great if it turned out to be a new species with a distribution from eastern Western Australia, through South Australia, to western Victoria!

Mike Duncan says "G'day" to all our members over here.



P sp aff nigrita from near Grampians NP



P sp aff nigrita leaf



P minor (common in E States)

	SUPPER ROSTER	RAFFLE ROSTER	SPEAKER
MARCH	D. Wajon	D. Hayward	Members slides
APRIL	M. Fox	S & G Stack	
MAY	M. Harper	N. Clarke	
JUNE	G. Blinco	G & V Brockman	
JULY	N. Clarke	S. Harris	
AUGUST	M. Dahlkamp		
SEPTEMBER			
OCTOBER			
NOVEMBER			

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FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS