



BULLETIN
OF THE
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHID
STUDY AND CONSERVATION GROUP
(INC)

(1974 – 2004)

30 YEARS AND STILL COUNTING

MAY 2004

Registered by Australia Post Publication No WBH 1240

OFFICE BEARER	ADDRESS	PHONE
PATRON	Dr. Steve Hopper	
PRESIDENT	Mike Harper	
VICE PRESIDENT (2 years)	Noel Clarke	
VICE PRESIDENT (1 year)	Garry Brockman	
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT		
SECRETARY	Gerald Stack	
TREASURER	Matz Dahlkamp	
COMMITTEE	Phil Bunney	
	Ian Greeve	
	Ross Fox (2 years)	
	Margaret Fox (2 years)	
FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR	Christine Lock	
LIBRARIAN	Bill Burton	
EDITOR	Tom Blinco	
CONSERVATION OFFICER	Eddy Wajon	
REGISTRAR	Chris French	
AUDITOR	Ross Wilton	
SUPPER COORDINATOR	Donna Wajon	
CONSERVATION COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE (1)	Eddy Wajon	
CONSERVATION COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE (2)	Mike Harper	

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 for the governing 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

Victoria Park 6979

WANOSCG E-mail address: Web address: v

Web Master Don Ward E-mail: Web:

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, 19 May 2004 at 7.00 p.m. at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Admin. Office.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 19 May 2004 at 8.00pm at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Administration. Office

The guest speaker is Joe Ward and his topic is "The Establishment of Drysdale River National Park".

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

16 June	General meeting.
27 June	Field trip Mogumber
21 July	General meeting.
6 August	Field trip Dryandra
18 August	General meeting.
22/27 August	Field trip Kalbarri
4 September	Field trip York area
5 September	Fathers' Day – no trip
September ?	Field trip Narrogin area
15 September	General meeting.
9/10 October	Field trip Hyden/Pingaring
20 October	General meeting.
17 November	General meeting.
4/5 December	Field trip Albany

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.

The digit after your name on the address label is the year for which you are financial and is updated as far as practicable.

If you have paid since then please make the allowance.

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

BULLETIN CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions are needed for every edition of the Bulletin. Articles should be sent to Tom Blinco, [redacted] The article submission deadline for the next issue is *Tuesday 1 June 2004*.

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 \$1.00 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.

FOR SALE

History of WANOSCG \$3.00.
Group wineglasses \$7.50 each.
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 Eddy 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.
Rufa Trip Report \$10.00

CLUB POLO T-SHIRTS

Donna Wajon has on hand five short sleeve polo shirts in varying sizes, 100% cotton, with embroidered club logo, surplus after orders have been met. Cost is \$25.00 each

NAME BADGES

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

GROUP WEB SITE

Have you visited our web site? See page 2 of the Bulletin for the address.

Thanks to Webmaster Don Ward.

WANOSCG E-mail

Several members have previously provided an email address and some more names were added to the list at the April meeting.

Any other members wishing to have their address included on the list please advise the Webmaster on the club email address, or the Secretary.

FIELD TRIP PROCEDURES

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

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

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

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

FIELD TRIPS

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

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

Please consider car pooling, particularly on metro trips.

Accommodation for weekend trips is your own responsibility.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trip leaders are still required for the coming season. Please let Christine Lock know how you are prepared to assist. Any field trips before the June *Bulletin* will need to be arranged by email and word of mouth.

In the meantime a field trip to the Mogumber area is proposed for Sunday 27 June – please see the June *Bulletin*.

EMAIL TO THE (FORMER) EDITOR

Thanks to Ruth Rudkin for her comments in a recent email that Noel Clarke has passed on -

“Congratulations to Matz Dahlkamp, Margaret and Ross Fox for their report on the Field Trip of last September/October. It brought back happy memories of the trip I did with the group from the International Orchid Conference. Now I see news of the Orchid Spectacular of 2005 and am sorely tempted. And thank you for an interesting Bulletin. May your members feel encouraged to keep giving you articles.

(From) Ruth Rudkin, Sydney (but born and grew up in Perth).”

ORCHIDELIRIUM

The following item was reported in the February 2004 edition of The Orchidophile, the newsletter of the Australasian Native Orchid Society, Sydney Group Inc; and extracted from “The New Zealand Herald” Saturday 24/1/04 –

“A professor of medicine and an orchid enthusiast, both from the Czech Republic, are the first people to be accused of stealing orchids in New Zealand. Cestmir Cihalik and Jindrich Smitak appeared in the Manukau District Court yesterday.

They are alleged to have smuggled numerous protected native orchids and other plant species out of New Zealand in the last month.

- Cestmir and Jindrich Smitak both charged with trading in specimens of a threatened species.
- Maximum penalty for offence under Endangered Species Act 1989 is three years’ jail and/or \$50,000 fine.
- Smitak also faces three charges of removing plants from Fiordland, Mt Aspiring and Nelson Lakes national parks without authority.
- Maximum penalty for each of those offences under the National Parks Act 1980 is three months’ jail and/or a \$2500 fine.

The pursuit of orchids is a centuries-old international phenomenon known as Orchidelirium and popularised in the movie *Adaptation* and the best-selling book *The Orchid Thief*.

There have been several cases of orchid smuggling around the world. Motivations may be financial (orchids can fetch up to \$25,000 on the black market) or simply to feed the desire of collectors to own rare specimens.

The presence of Northern Hemisphere enthusiasts in the Southern Hemisphere has also been causing tension in the global orchid-hunting community. New Zealand orchid-hunters contacted yesterday said they disliked the way European “armchair botanists” came looking for unidentified specimens because there was nothing left to discover in Europe.

A Polish scientist who has allegedly never set foot in Australia sparked uproar there by renaming dozens of native orchids. Dariusz Szlachetko, who was branded a botanical “terrorist” in Australia last year and accused of sparking an “international orchid-hunting race”, is understood to have also made advances to New Zealand orchid-hunters in the past 18 months in his bid to find “new” species.

It has been reported at the time of the arrest one of the gentlemen had 110 orchid plants in his possession and the other had 15”.

SEARCH FINDS ORCHIDS

Thanks to Jeff Spencer for this item from the March edition of Conservation News, a CALM publication -

CALM staff from Narrogin district, Swan Region, Perth Hills District and flora volunteers from Perth, Brookton and Narrogin went in search of a newly described orchid on a nature reserve in Brookton late last year.

Caladenia williamsiae was discovered three years ago and was named in honour of CALM flora volunteer Judy Williams who found the orchid. The last year has been the best season for orchids for four years and was a wonderful opportunity to conduct orchid surveys. It was hoped that CALM's nature conservation staff and flora volunteers would find the species occurring between Brookton and Perth.

The search team consisted of Judy Williams, Pat Rose (Narrogin Regional Herbarium), Fred Hort (flora volunteer), Caitlin Prowse (CALM Mundaring), Rebecca Evans (CALM Swan Region) and Kim Kershaw (CALM Narrogin).

Judy took the team to the site of the only known population to give them a feel for the habitat and an opportunity to see the plants *in situ*.

After searching for the orchids the team collected some *Dryandra* specimens to assist CALM's Herbarium staff confirming another possible rare species. It was at that point that flora volunteer Fred Hort found the rare *Caladenia williamsiae*.

A survey found 102 plants, the newest and largest population of this little known species. Another population was found nearby with 27 plants.

Caladenia williamsiae is ranked critically endangered by CALM's Rare Flora List, so congratulations on the fantastic efforts of the search team.

GUEST SPEAKER

Our speaker at the April meeting was Life Member Noel Clarke, and in the year of our 30th Anniversary his address was on the early days of WANOSCG.

Noel has kindly provided a copy of his draft notes, which are as follows -

"I was not an original member. I joined the group in March 1978. What I know about the early days of this group I have gleaned from letters and papers loaned to me by Jean Long, an original and

still a member; and the relevant Orchid Society of W.A. newsletters; and early WANOSCG newsletters loaned to me by Fred Bishop an original member. Incidentally Fred told me he left the group because when he showed members orchids on field trips they had a habit of disappearing - nothing changes.

Members of the Orchid Society of W.A. attended an orchid conference in Sydney and their display exhibit of W.A. native orchids took first prize. This further kindled interest in W.A. native orchids and in the March 1974 Bulletin of the Western Australian Orchid Society a special notice appeared -

'There will be a meeting on March 29th Friday, at Mr Herb Foote's residence "Foothills" Hale Rd, Forrestfield for the purpose of forming a "W.A. Native Orchid Study Group" under the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc) Constitution.

The forming of this group has been approved by the Management Committee. The information and knowledge of these orchids is very limited so the formation of a study group is really worthwhile, so as many members as possible should join this group.'

Resulting from this meeting of 38 people the group was formed with Chairman - Herb Foote, Secretary - Lal Sheppard, Slide Librarian - Reg Lander and Committee - Jean Long, Crawford Nalder, Harry Goodchild, Roy Brown and Ken Adcock.

The group met at the Agricultural Dept., Jarrah Rd, South Perth. Meetings were held on the first Friday of the month. This was changed in 1980 to 3rd Wednesday because Friday meetings were not good for field trips the next day. Fees were \$1.00. In February 1976 the group decided to stand on its own feet.

A field trip was held on Sunday 23rd June to the Nicholson Rd area - possibly the first field trip. This area is now under wall-to-wall housing.

Other trips in 1974 were on July 21st to the same area, to Lancelin date unknown, Bunbury early September, Mundaring 15th September, York/Quairading 29th Sept., Manjimup 12-14th October and for some members to Albany on 9th November. Like us now they had a full program.

The group's slide collection shows some naughty things took place on the early field trips in the name of learning. There are slides of complete plants including tubers.

In those early days Rica Erickson's "Orchids of the West" was the bible. Unfortunately it was mostly descriptions with a few pictures.

Descriptions are open to interpretation of the

reader. I can remember a trip to the Wickepin area to look for *C. lavendulacea*. It was a good season and we saw many other orchids.

We now know this orchid is a hybrid. Field trips are an essential method of learning about orchid habitats and finding new ones.

In late 1976 a deputation from the Committee met Mr. H. B. Shugg and a representative of the Minister's Department to discuss the new wildflower Bill which was to become law in 1977. Was this our first foray into conservation?

The next conservation act in 1977 was the preparation of Hollywood Reserve (part of the cemetery) for the transfer of native orchids. After the initial impetus weeding became a chore. As we now know the project was doomed to failure for most species relocated to this area.

1978 saw the construction of "Cristata Compound" to conserve what was thought at the time to be *C. cristata*. Funds were obtained from the Australian Orchid Foundation and the farmer erected the fence. Unfortunately the current owner is not amenable to visitors. We now know this orchid as *C. voigtii* named after Don Voigt our Esperance member. It is very common in the area.

In 1976 Lal Sheppard visited Baker's Junction and reported that the land was forestry and the orchids were safe. In March 1977 the Albany Council & Main Roads Dept became involved.

In December 1977 Alex George announced that the Baker's Junction area has been made an "A" Class Reserve. The Baker's Junction swamp I presume.

1977 also saw interest kindled in *R. gardneri*. It is now history that Kingsley Dixon produced a paper on this orchid. Group members assisted in looking for and finding several plants in 3 locations.

Other conservation acts the group initiated were the realignment of Muir Hwy and the Old Bunbury Rd to miss populations of orchids. In those days before the domination of accountants it was much easier to talk to and get assistance from government departments. Today its like hitting a brick wall as Eddy well knows with his efforts on the extension of the Tonkin Hwy.

The group shifted from the Department of Agriculture venue to Kings Park 20 years ago because everything required for the meeting had to be carried a long way from the car park to the room. Kingsley Dixon organized the new venue. At first it was free till once again the accountants got their finger in the pie."

Editor's Note - Noel prepared a paper on this topic for our 25th anniversary. A copy is available from the Treasurer.

IN THE NEWS

Noted in *The West Australian* on April 26 2004, an item on conservation of the Brixton Street wetlands in the City of Gosnells.

It was reported that the conservation efforts of a Kenwick resident over 14 years were acknowledged on March 18 when the wetlands were bought by CALM.

Haven't been there myself - perhaps a field trip is beckoning? (Ed)

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Margaret and Ross Fox have reported a quick trip to the Margaret River area May 3 - 8.

On the way they visited Somerville Drive in Bunbury where they found *Praecoxanthus aphyllus* (Leafless Orchid) and *Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp. *multiflorus* (Common Bunny Orchid).

Some more of the same "Bunnies" were found around Margaret River and at the Nine Mile Lake Reserve location near Pinjarra on the way home. At the latter spot they also saw three good specimens of *Pr. aphyllus*.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 21 APRIL 2004

Meeting commenced at 8.22 pm.

President Mike Harper opened the meeting.

ATTENDANCE

30 members attended and there were 3 apologies as per the Attendance Register.

VISITORS:

Nil

NEW MEMBERS:

Nil

SUPPER TONIGHT: Donated by the Group

RAFFLE TONIGHT: Donated by Stuart Harris with thanks.

MINUTES

Moved Chris French/Donna Wajon

Minutes of the General meeting of 17 March 2004 as presented in the Bulletin be confirmed.
CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1. Roe Highway, Stage 7. Eddy Wajon reported on developments with the Group's submission and his meetings with the EPA Chairman. Alternate sites were considered for replacement of the subject land, one in Huntingdale and one on Fraser Road (recommended by WANOSCG). There was an invitation to join Eddy in the public appeals process which will follow the EPA recommendations.

NOTED.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The correspondence was as per the list circulated and dealt with by the Committee.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM
CORRESPONDENCE:**

Nil

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer reported to committee on the group's financial status for the previous month. A copy of that report was circulated to members. No matters arose that required committee's attention.

FIELD TRIP REPORT:

The President foreshadowed that this matter would be raised under General Business.

PLANT TABLE:

Bill Burton presented a specimen of *Eriochilus dilatatus/multiflorus* for April, sourced near Quindalup in the South West. It was the first and best following a repotting exercise last year.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Donna Wajon reported that T-Shirts in a selection of sizes were available for \$25 each.
2. Noel Clarke offered his thanks to those members who visited him in hospital and specially to Tom Blinco for assistance with preparation and mailing of the Bulletin for March
3. The Group Librarian, Bill Burton referred to the missing Nichol's book and sought advice on its possible replacement. He also introduced the new system for recording items borrowed from the Group's collection. He asked members to trial the new system and provide comments and suggestions on its effectiveness.
4. Eddy Wajon referred to the photographic competition of 2003, and asked for suggestions for a 2004 competition and possible target specimens. It was RESOLVED that the committee consider a draft and present to the General Meeting.
5. The President drew attention to the benefits of email for alerting members quickly on reports of particular specimens and the like. He urged those with email addresses to provide them in the Email Register which was circulating.
6. Trip Register. A Roster template was presented and circulated with the request for any members to nominate to lead a trip during the year. If they put their names in the Roster, they will be offered support and the trip will be publicised in the Bulletin.
7. The President pointed out that subscriptions were due and urged early payment.

8. The Group enjoyed its 30th Birthday (29 March 1974) with the distribution of commemorative badges and (later) a supper. Thanks were offered to Christine Lock for leading the preparations.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Noel Clarke spoke on his recollections of the first decade of the Group.

Herb Foote suggested a sub-group of the WA Orchid Society to focus on native orchids, then very poorly studied.

There was solid interest with 38 at the first meeting (Fees \$1).

Noel joined in 1978, as the Club grew.

In 1986 it became independent of the WANOS. With an early focus on conservation the club prepared submissions on the Wildflower Preservation Bill.

In 1977 the club successfully developed the Hollywood wildflower reserve, sadly since overrun with weeds.

The club supported the establishment of the Bakers Junction Reserve near Albany.

The club marked its first decade in 1984 by moving its meetings from the Agriculture Dept at South Perth to the administration office of Kings Park.

Chris French then presented a selection of slides taken on his travels around Western Australia.

9. In response to Noel Clarke's call for new and younger members there were suggestions for advertising in the *West Australian* and participating in the annual Kings Park Wildflower Exhibition.

The RAFFLE donated by Stuart Harris was drawn.

The meeting closed at approximately 9.20pm and members enjoyed a catered supper.

	SUPPER ROSTER	RAFFLE ROSTER	SPEAKER
MARCH	Donna & Virginia	Gary Brockman	Members slides
APRIL	N/R	S. Harris	Noel Clarke
MAY	M. Fox	Eva & Don Smith	Joe Ward
JUNE	M. Dahlkamp	G. Blinco	
JULY		P. Bunney	
AUGUST		S. & G. Stack	
SEPTEMBER		Ian Greeve	
OCTOBER			
NOVEMBER			

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FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Please see March General Meeting minutes and other notes about the need for field trip leaders or even a "full time" Field Trip Coordinator. A list inviting volunteers for field trip leaders was circulated at the April meeting and will again be circulated at the May meeting. Metropolitan and country members not attending the meeting please advise Christine Lock at any time if you are able to lead a field trip to your favourite area.

The Editor is proposing a field trip to the Mogumber area on 27 June and will turn this into a field trip.

NOTE - If there are no trip leaders there will be no field trips. *Many hands make light work.*