



BULLETIN
OF THE
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHID
STUDY AND CONSERVATION GROUP
(INC)
(1974 – 2004)

JUNE 2004

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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:

Web Master Don Ward E-mail: Web

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, 16 June 2004 at 7.00 p.m. at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Admin. Office.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 16 June 2004 at 8.00pm at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Administration Office.

The guest speaker is Mrs Regina Drummond, and her topic is "The Brixton Street wetlands".

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

27 June	Field trip Mogumber
21 July	General meeting.
8 August	Field trip Dryandra (<i>Tentative</i>)
15/17 August	Field trip Kalbarri
15 August	Field trip Applecross (<i>Tentative</i>)
18 August	General meeting.
4 September	Field trip York area
12 September	Field trip Narrogin area
15 September	General meeting.
19 September	Field trip Wooroloo
2/3 October	Field trip Tenterden
9/10 October	Field trip Hyden/Pingaring
20 October	General meeting.
17 November	General meeting.
4/5 December	Field trip Albany

MEMBERSHIP FEES

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE 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. Your prompt payment would be appreciated.

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 6 July 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.
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
Rufa Trip Report \$10.00
Club Polo Tee-shirts, 100% cotton with embroidered club logo, varying sizes, surplus after orders have been met. Cost is \$25.00 each
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.

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 Leader 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 TRIP MOGUMBER AREA
SUNDAY 27 JUNE 2004**

Meet at the Mogumber Tavern at 10.00am. Trip leader is Tom Blinco, looking for *Thelymitra apiculata* at a particular location.

Please advise or leave a message on phone [redacted] if you are attending, or if you subsequently change your mind.

**FIELD TRIP TO DRYANDRA
SUNDAY 8 AUGUST 2004**

A Field Trip to Dryandra has been suggested for Sunday 8th August. In accordance with previous advice, a trip leader is required for this trip to go ahead. Please contact Christine Lock if you can assist.

FIELD TRIP KALBARRI 15/16/17 AUGUST

Meet at Northampton at 9.00am Sunday 15th August. Field trip leader is Stuart Harris. Please advise Stuart on [redacted] if you are attending or if you subsequently change your mind.

Arrange own accommodation.

FIELD TRIP REPORT MAY 16-18 2004

By Wendy and Jeff Spencer

We followed Ross and Margaret Fox's advice and found *Pr. apyllus* in bloom off Somerville Drive Bunbury. *E. dilatatus/dilatatus* were also in numbers.

Further on at Augusta (near the yacht club on the river and around the granite outcrops), many *E. helonomos* were flowering – seemed to be in the scores!

Some large specimens of *E. dilatatus/dilatatus* were at the south side of Hamelin Bay Caravan Park, and next to the Arumvale Tea Rooms on Caves Road (Boranup). The Manager told us to be careful and not step on the orchids – a good sign.

ROE HIGHWAY EXTENSIONS AND DRF

At the April meeting Eddy Wajon reported on developments challenging the proposed route of Roe Highway extensions.

Eddy has kindly provided a draft of the contents of the submission for members' interest, and that is shown hereunder, under the heading

**DESTRUCTION OF CALADENIA HUEGELII
ROE HIGHWAY STAGE 7**

About 520 Grand Spider Orchids, *Caladenia huegelii*, are present in and adjacent to the road reserve for Roe Highway Stage 7. Up to 86 plants are directly in the footprint of construction of the road along the proposed alignment. Consequently, the Western Australian Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group made a submission to the

WA Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) as part of the Public Environmental Review process which ended on 24 March 2004, objecting to the road proceeding.

The main grounds for objecting to the proposal were as follows:

- there would be direct impacts on 86 plants (about 11% of the 800 or so total known individuals) which is Declared Rare under Western Australian legislation and Endangered under the Commonwealth EPBC Act
- there would be indirect impacts on another 160 or more plants from weeds, dieback and fire
- 4.5 ha of habitat will be removed
- this is the largest known population of this plant (and contains approximately 65% of the 800 or so total known individuals)
- the proposed translocation of the affected plants is not proven in the long term because of the obligatory relationship with soil fungi that are specific to individual orchid species and the construction of the road would lead to a long term decrease in the size of the population. Significant additional research needs to be conducted before specific terrestrial orchids can be successfully translocated from highly specialised niches in remnant bushland. Translocation of 86 plants would be a huge experiment
- large numbers of at least 20 other orchids are also present in the bushland.

WANOSCG recommended that an alternative route be found, or that a 5–7 year program of research on translocation be undertaken before the road is constructed. Whether or not experimental translocations are undertaken before removal of the Grand Spider Orchids in the proposed road alignment, the fate of all translocated Grand Spider Orchids must be monitored for at least 5–7 years to assess the success of translocation.

If the proposal was deemed acceptable to the WA EPA, WANOSCG recommended the following:

- the footprint of the road be narrowed as much as possible, and moved as far away from populations of the Grand Spider Orchid as possible
- the ultimate six lane highway be replaced by a four-lane highway with provision for any additional lanes on the south side of the highway, rather than between the opposing two lanes in the initial four lane highway

- eliminate or substantially reduce the width of the ultimate median from 15 m by installing a crash barrier
- increasing the grade of the road and reducing the amount of cut or fill
- using retaining walls rather than embankments.

If it is decided that construction of Roe Highway Stage 7 should proceed despite the direct and indirect impacts it will have, the WA Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group called for substantial compensation and mitigation for the removal of Declared Rare and Threatened Flora. The fundamental elements of a Compensation and Mitigation program should include the following:

- purchasing and contributing to management of high conservation value remnant bush on a 2 for 1 basis and donating it to the conservation estate. Possible areas include Fraser Road bushland, Ranford Road at the intersection with Wright St, and a proposed urban area in Gosnells, some of which at least contain *Caladenia huegelii*;
- the Mitigation Plan to be funded by a \$5 million Mitigation Fund to be created by MRWA with a trustee such as the National Trust or the Conservation Commission, or to be allocated internally and quarantined;
- alternatively, establish a Western Australian Bushland Compensation Fund to which MRWA and all other proponents who intend to clear remnant vegetation must contribute and which would be used to purchase high conservation value bushland, including Bush Forever sites;
- expenditure of the Roe Highway Stage 7 Mitigation Fund to be overseen by a committee containing community and project representatives, and chaired by an independent professional with expertise in native vegetation restoration;
- revegetating degraded areas in otherwise high quality bushland in Ken Hurst Park;
- additional management, particularly of dieback, weeds, rubbish and fire, in areas that contain the Grand Spider Orchid;
- propagating appropriate Declared Rare and Threatened Flora, obtained by seed germination or tissue culture, in areas of suitable habitat;
- upgrading degraded areas of other remnant bush inside or outside the conservation estate;

- establishing a Flagship project to undertake research into the ecology of Spider Orchids, and the Grand Spider Orchid in particular.

WANOSCG also expressed concern about MRWA's poor record of revegetating road verges and controlling, let alone eliminating, weeds from road verges, either soon after completion of construction or in the long term. To prevent this happening on this project, the minimum restoration and revegetation requirements suggested were as follows:

- all disturbed ground to be revegetated to at least 80% of pre-construction vegetation composition, and to contain no more than weeds than originally present, within 5 years of completion of construction;
- MRWA to deposit a \$1 million revegetation bond or bank guarantee with a trustee such as the National Trust or the Conservation Commission;
- the revegetation to be substantially commenced within 12 months of the end of disturbance in the area, and be completed within 24 months. If this does not occur, the bond is to be utilised by the trustee to directly contract the work to others;
- the revegetation to be monitored and maintained by, or funded by, MRWA for at least 5 years.

It was also requested that if translocations of Grand Spider Orchids are undertaken, groups such as the WA Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group should also be allowed to undertake or participate in translocations, flora rescue digs and seed collection in the proposed clearing zone well in advance of clearing, at the appropriate time.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 19 MAY 2004

Meeting opened at 8.20pm by President Mike Harper.

ATTENDANCE:

The meeting was attended by 25 members, and there were four apologies, as per the attendance register

VISITORS:

One visitor, Frank O'Connor, was made welcome

NEW MEMBERS:

Nil.

MINUTES

Moved Noel Clarke/Ross Fox that the Minutes of General meeting of 21 April 2004 as presented in the Bulletin be confirmed. CARRIED.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Nil

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

Nil.

TREASURERS REPORT:

A copy of the Treasurer's Report was circulated with the attendance book.

MATTERS ARISING:

Our term deposit matures shortly and will be reinvested to the best advantage.

FIELD TRIPS:

Field Trip Coordinator Christine Lock advised details of proposed trips that will be shown in the Bulletin, including a field trip to Wireless Hill in Applecross on August 15 to which the public will be invited in an attempt to generate new members.

A suggested field trip to Dryandra on August 8 will only occur if there is a volunteer to lead.

Eva Smith reported on orchids in flower at their Toodyay property

Bill Burton reported on orchids seen at Wilyabrup Nature Reserve and Frank O'Connor reported on sightings at Fitzgerald National Park.

PLANT TABLE:

Nil

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. The President drew attention to the proposed field trip to Wireless Hill as a means of trying to encourage new members.
2. The President invited ideas for a photographic competition this year. A suggestion from Matz Dahlkamp that the subject be the most unusual *Caladenia flava subsp flava* in colour or shape was approved.
Guidelines decided upon were –
A photograph to be in print form only, to be taken this year, presented in the normal post

card size (10 x 15 cm, 6 x 4 in), photos to be numbered and result decided by popular vote at the November meeting.

3. Bill Burton advised that with thanks to Noel Clarke for his assistance, the new library index has been completed and is ready for use by members. The library contents have been reviewed and a lot of new material has been included, some of which is quite old. Members to please read instructions for use of the revamped library and index, which is in the KPBG library cabinet.
4. Eddy Wajon drew attention to his photos of the 30th Anniversary celebration and invited members to take any photos they desired.
5. Eddy Wajon asked about the frequency of submission of Orchid Sighting Report forms. Members are urged to complete and submit the forms for each field trip.

SPEAKER

The speaker was Joe Ward. The focus of his address was his experiences as a helicopter pilot during a biological survey in 1975 of the Drysdale River National Park (in the north Kimberley region between Kalumburu and Wyndham), but he first spoke about some experiences in 40 years as an airman.

There were no orchids to be seen, but he gave a most interesting and entertaining talk, supported by excellent slides, a map of Western Australia on which were pointed out the many localities at which he worked, and an enlarged chart of the Drysdale River area.

RAFFLE

Thanks to Eva and Don Smith for their donation of the raffle prize, which was drawn by Joe Ward, tonight's speaker, and won by Joni Eaton.

SUPPER

Thanks to Margaret and Ross Fox for their donation of the supper.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

MAY MEETING GUEST SPEAKER

As recorded in the General Meeting Minutes, Joe Ward spoke about some experiences in over 40 years in aviation, including the surveying in 1975 of the Drysdale River National Park in the North Kimberley Region of Western Australia. This area, comprising 425 000ha, had been gazetted in 1974.

Joe's flying career started in 1943 as a conscript with the RAF, choosing to learn to fly in preference to joining either of the other services. In the next twenty years he flew many fixed wing aircraft, from Catalinas to bombers, including a jet bomber at 60 000 feet. He described the beauty and colours of the atmosphere and the earth from that height.

Being an aviator had enabled him to work all over the world, including –

In Nigeria, five years with Shell/BP, and he described some experiences on the North Africa coast.

In the Mediterranean region his base was Habbaniyah, which has since become the airport for Baghdad.

In Malaya, three years with the RAF – his description of events during which a sick soldier was evacuated and there was the birth of a child was quite humorous.

In Hong Kong with the RAF, one month of crowd surveillance as a riot control measure.

Along the way he had been married to his late wife Kate, and it was 40 years ago when they flew to Melbourne for a job in a new helicopter division then being developed by Ansett, that they realised the size of Australia.

Kate and Joe travelled to Perth by train in 1972 and Joe joined the Bristow Company at Jandakot airport, in the southern suburbs of Perth, as a helicopter pilot.

Joe was involved in servicing lighthouses along the complete WA coastline, and worked extensively in the Murchison and Pilbara regions.

He helped build the Mt Newman railway line and saw the birth of the iron ore mine at the township of Shay Gap (since abandoned).

There are 72 islands between Broome and Cape Leveque (north of Broome), and he has been to most of them in a surveying role. He helped build the Ord River Dam, worked on Melville Island and at many places in the Northern Territory, at Barrow Island (WA's first commercial oilfield but now nearly dry), at the Monte Bello Islands (site of the British nuclear device testing in 1953), and eighty kilometres offshore from Barrow Island was the gas field now known as the Gorgon Field.

There were unbelievable security measures to gain access to the US Communications Base Ground Zero at North West Cape.

The base for the surveying of the Drysdale River National Park was a bush airstrip near the Old Doongan (Pastoral) Homestead, and it took two and a half days to fly a helicopter from Perth via Geraldton, Billabong Roadhouse, Tom Price, Sandfire Roadhouse, Derby and Mt Hann, refueling enroute. Fuel for the base was trucked in from Derby.

The "ologists" concerned with the survey - ornithologists, entomologists and others - arrived at Broome by various means. The pilot of the Twin Otter aircraft relaying them onwards was unable to find the base and it was Joe who used his helicopter radio to "talk" the pilot into the airstrip.

Having pointed out all these places on a map, which would have almost lined the northwest coast of WA had his pointer been tipped in colour, Joe then showed a number of slides, in a nice touch starting with a beautiful sunrise and ending with an equally beautiful sunset.

In between, there was a travelogue of wildlife and scenery, including Eagles, Yellow Footed Boobies, Gannets, Ospreys, Perentie (a large goanna), Euros, a colony of flying foxes estimated to number 50 000, and the work for the Museum of taxidermist Janet Henry (many insects and birds). There was the old Continental Hotel at Broome and the Spinifex and Boab Hotels in Derby (all of which some members could relate to), magnificent aerial views of a large wildfire, and a new waterfall discovered on the Johnson River – since named Solea Falls.

The statistics of the different species recorded by the various "ologists" during the three week duration of the project included 2415 insects, 126 birds, 25 ferns, 28 mammals including three new bats, 26 freshwater fish, 10 tree frogs, and over 500 flowering plants.

At the start of his address Joe offered us a choice of a short or long presentation, and I for one was glad for the latter – a very informative and entertaining talk. As was said, there were no orchids, but two of the slides did show an Alex George and others at work!!

Many thanks, Joe. (Ed).

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

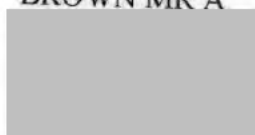
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FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Sunday 27th June - Mogumber area.

Sunday 8th August - Dryandra, providing there is a volunteer Trip Leader.

Sunday to Tuesday 15th, 16th, 17th August - Northampton/Kalbarri.

Sunday 15th August (Tentative) - Wireless Hill, Applecross.