BULLETIN SEPTEMBER 2009

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WANOSCG (INC) 1974 - 2009

Patron: Dr S Hopper

Registrar: Christine Lock Librarian: Bill Burton Field Trip Coordinator: Ross Fox Conservation Officer: Eddy Wajon Supper Coordinator: Donna Wajon Auditor: Phil Bunney **Conservation Council** Rep: Eddy Wajon

Christine Lock

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 habits and keep records.
- d) To have field days and learn to recognize the different genera and species.
- e) To hold meetings for the exchange of knowledge and furthering of interest in W.A. orchids.
- To affiliate with kindred organizations.
- To make rules for the governing of the Group's domestic affairs.
- To do all such 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.

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NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 16TH September 2009 at 7.00pm at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Admin. Office. **NEXT GENERAL MEETING**

Wednesday 16th September 2009 at 8.00pm at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Admin. Office.

BULLETIN ARTICLES

Please email any Bulletin contributions to John Ewing at

Articles for the next

Bulletin need to be submitted by 1st of the next month.

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PLANNED FIELD TRIPS

Sept 20th along the York Rd - meet at 10am on the corner of Inkpen and York Rds.
Sept 26 - 28 long W/E. Meet at Jerramungup Caravan Park(ph 98351174) @ 11 am Sat. 26th. Cabins available.

Oct 4th Jarrahdale - Thelymitra frenchii – date may be still changed depending on flowering. Meet at the corner on Jarrahdale Rd and Albany Hwy, at 10am Check with Ross Fox!! Oct 10 - 11 Frankland. meet at caravan park at 11 am Sat 10th. The only accommodation still available in the area is at Osbourn Lodge B & B Yarnup Rd (ph 98566287)

Oct 18th - Brookton Hwy. Meet at Edison Mills Rd corner Brookton Hwy at 10 am. Dec 5-6th Christmas Weekend — Denmark Meet at layby on Muir Hwy just past the hospital in Mt. Barker at 11am on Saturday. We will be staying in Denmark overnight with a BBQ to be held at Jeff and Wendy Spencer's, on Sat evening, bring own chairs etc. Caravan parks in Denmark - Rivermouth-Ph 98481262. Riverbend-Ph 98481107. Ocean Beach-Ph 98481105.

WANOSCG GENERAL MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY 19th August, 2009

Meeting at: BGPA Boardroom. Wednesday 19th August, 2009. Commencing 8:10 pm ATTENDANCE: 20 members present, 1 apology, 1 visitor as per Attendance book. RAFFLE: Kindly donated by Louise Little MINUTES TO THE MEETING:

The following corrections on the 15th July General Meeting minutes as published in the Bulletin were noted:

 The raffle was won by Meg Gillespie and not Don Manners

Moved: Noel Clarke Seconded: Gary McDonald that the minutes of the July 15th, 2009 General Meeting be accepted by the meeting as a true and correct.

FIELD TRIPS: Ross outlined the trips as printed in the Bulletin

 August 21st-23rd Mt Gibson – 20 attendees have confirmed

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

16 September General Meeting21 October General Meeting18 November General Meeting

- September 6th Weam Nature Reserve, Brookton Hwy
- September 20th York Rd/Ink
 Pen Road
- September 26-28th Jerramungup
 October 4th Jarrahdale
- October 4
 October 10-11th Frankland
- October 18th Edison Mills Road/Brookton Highway
- December 5-6th Xmas gathering

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- The meeting was reminded of the forthcoming 2009 Photo Competition in November, with three categories (Thelymitra, Hybrids and Mutations).
 There will be a prize for each category winner, plus an overall best photo prize. Details of the competition will be posted in the September Bulletin, and in October the judge, John Dell, will be giving a presentation on judging of photos.
- DEC Conservation Awards
 - WANOSCG submitted Eddy
 Wajon as a nominee for the
 DEC Conservation Awards
 - The President thanked EW for spending so much time in preparing the Group's submission to the DEC Conservation Awards, and to Jeremy Storey for getting it all together and sending it off at the last minute.
- Eddy Wajon reported on Conservation activity:
 - Jandakot Airport: we received an invitation (10/8/9) to send a submission on the Jandakot Airport referral documentation and additional information related to the proposed Jandakot Airport Expansion, Commercial Development and Clearance of Native Vegetation which is due 2/10/9. EW intends to

- undertake an informal site visit to look for Caladenia huegelii and Drakaea elastica in mid September interested WANOSCG members requested to contact me if they wish to come
- Roe Highway Stage 8: Referral of Roe Highway Stage 8 to the Commonwealth DEWHA. Submission required by 24/8/9. EW is preparing a submission on behalf of the Friends of Ken Hurst Park. Andrew Batty from consultant AECOM invited a CCWA representative to come on a inspection for Drakaea elastica in August. EW offered to go on behalf of WANOSCG as an affiliate of CCWA - interested WANOSCG members requested to contact EW if they wish to come.
- Toodyay: after WANOSCG sent a submission on Offset Proposal and Flora and Fauna Survey to Shire of Toodyay with copy to DEC, DEC sent reply indicating that they had not received a copy of the Flora and Fauna Survey, and had approved the Offset proposal on 27 March 2008. 18 months before the flora survey. EW drafted letters to the Premier, Minister for Environment, Minister for Local Government, EPA and DEC complaining about lack of consultation by Shire of Toodyay and indicating the offset proposal was inadequate. Meeting approved letters to be sent.
- Woodanilling: after meeting with Shire CEO on 20 July, EW drafted a letter to the CEO outlining the actions agreed to, and requesting confirmation of this agreement and a schedule for undertaking the action.
 Meeting approved letter to be sent.
- Noel Clarke provided information on a recent book by Jeff Hecht titled "Vanishing Life". One observation being that extinctions appear to have

- taken place when large land masses covered either of the poles. The book is available from the public library system.
- The Australian Journal of Botany vol 57, #4 on orchids is being circulated by the President. All of the papers in this volume are available as a bound copy for \$75. If the Group orders 100 copies, they would be available for \$35.50. If anyone is interested they should contact Kim Hansen who will compile a list of those interested to see if the Group should place an order.
- The Bye Laws for accommodating additional 'branches' of the main WANOSCG are currently being drafted by Steven Phillips. The draft is scheduled to be presented to the next committee meeting for consideration. Due process will be followed before the new Bye Laws are ratified.
- Eddy Wajon invited any interested members to participate in the forthcoming survey of animals at his property near Boxwood Hill.
- 2009 Xmas party: A show of hands indicated that there was an interest to have the 'party' out of Perth once again – with the Denmark area as the most popular option.
- Noel Clarke made a short presentation on Pterostylis concava vs sanguinea.

PRESENTATION BY Dr Ian Colquhoun (chair of the Dieback Working Group, a community based conservation group) on *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (dieback) – details of the disease caused by a microscopic organism present in the soil, its spread and the potential issues created by botanical groups such as WANOSCG who go through the native bush looking for flora.

RAFFLE DRAW:

The raffle was drawn by Ian Colquhoun and claimed by Stuart Harris.

GROWERS TABLE: N/A
NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday
September 16th 2009
MEETING CLOSED at 10 pm.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS August 21-23 Mt Gibson

17 members made their way to Mt Gibson station during Friday. Most arrived during the latter part of the afternoon having made multiple stops along the way. The early scouting was done by trip leader Wayne

Merritt. Friday evening saw a gathering at the accommodation area where we met Bush Australia representatives and laid out plans for the next day. It was early to bed for a VERY cold night in either the dongas, the shearing shed or camper trailers that some had brought. Saturday morning saw the convoy head out to the first location where a range of white spider orchids were seen. The first part of a lengthy (and mostly unresolved) discussion ensued. Maybe they were the Outback Spider Orchid (Caladenia remota subsp remota) or the Glistening Spider Orchid (Caladenia incensa) or the Common Spider Orchid (Caladenia vulgata). The flowers seemed to provide features of all three species and distinguishing them was difficult for those present. At this location there were also Purple-veined Spider Orchids (Caladenia doutchiae) and many Dainty Blue Orchids (Cyanicula amplexans), including some that were pure white. Blue Fairy Orchids (Pheladenia deformis) were also in huge profusion.

The group moved on down the tracks to Mushroom Rocks for an exploratory exercise. Despite a wide search, little was found in an apparently promising spot. On the return trip towards the homestead, a number of stops revealed more 'white spiders', 'dainty blues' and also plenty of the northern form of the Ant Orchid (Caladenia roei).

After lunch, the group headed off along another track to a site where the Narrow-lipped Dragon Orchid (Drakonorchis [now renamed Caladenia] mesocera) was found in a number of locations. Around the granite rocks there were also Little Laughing Leek Orchids (Prasophyllum gracile) and in a number of places, the Northern Granite Donkey Orchid (Diuris sp 'northern granite).

Saturday evening saw the debate about the 'white spiders' continuing over the barbeque that was kindly provided for us. Despite having samples that were picked for pressing that allowed comparisons definitive answers were still not forthcoming. We did agree that there

were different species!!!!

Sunday morning saw us out on yet another track and we stopped at 'Orchid Flat'. It didn't look too promising at first, but there were more spiders, some with a strong cream, even up to pale yellow colouring - the Outback Spider???. We moved on to another granite outcrop and found more of the previously seen species and a rufa that was almost out. One of the narrowlipped Dragons was almost pure white. A little further along the track was the Kalbarri Cowslip (Caladenia flava subsp maculata).

Altogether some 20 plus species were recorded, which meant this doubled the number of known species. The survey was thus viewed as successful.

Etienne and John's Final 2009 trip August 5th - 9th

We knew it was a couple of weeks, but Etienne was going back to France, so it was then or not at all. We called in to Drummond's Reserve near Badgingarra, finding some Dark Banded Greenhoods (Pterostylis sanguinea). The next day rain limited options, but a call in at Cockleshell Gully yielded many Blue Fairies (Pheladenia deformis), a couple of early Crimson Spider Orchids (Caladenia footeana) and the Daddy-long-legs Spider Orchid (Caladenia longicauda subsp borealis). We were too early for the Blushing Spider Orchid (Caladenia lorea) on the Jurien Road and the same was the story on the Coolimba-Eneabba Road where we stopped for the Arrowsmith Spider (Caladenia crebra).

We continued up to Eneabba where we saw the Arrowsmith Donkey Orchid (Diuris sp 'Arrowsmith'), and then worked our way towards Northampton. At the overnight car park south of Northampton we found hundreds of 'white spiders; which were definitely Common Spider Orchids (Caladenia vulgata). but may also have included the Noble Spider Orchid (Caladenia nobilis). A huge number of Mini Donkey Orchids (Diuris recurva) were found on the hill.

The next day we drove out on the Port Gregory Road and found a site with many Elegant Spider Orchids (Caladenia elegans) together with other species previously found. Continuing up to Yerina Springs Road we stopped at a site where an interesting 'red spider' was found. It looked very like the Crimson Spider Orchid (Caladenia footeana) and may in fact have been that species. Further along the road we found the Northampton Midget Greenhood (Pterostylis sp 'Northampton') together with many small white spiders.

[NOTE - see Noel Clarke's item on the new

The next stop was off the Kalbarri/Ajana Road along the road going in to the Z Bend. The northern form of Curly Locks (Thelymitra spiralis) was located and to Etienne's frustration all we could find of the Kneeling Hammer Orchid (Drakea concolor) were buds on long stems, but none in flower. We continued to the Z bend car park where we saw the Kalbarri Cowslip (Caladenia flava subsp maculata), the Pale Pink Fairy Orchid

(Caladenia impensa) and a couple of Kalbarri Spider Orchids (Caladenia wanosa). A rushed trip up to Eurady Station was disappointing, so we went back along the Kalbarri/Ajana Road to 'the gravel pit' where we found the Dwarf Zebra Spider Orchid (Caladenia pachychila) and a few other species that had been previously sighted. The next day we moved on to Perenjori, stopping at nature reserves near Yuna, with the hope of finding the Yuna Spider Orchid (Caladenia sp 'Yuna). While we found many things, including an interesting 'red-lipped labellum, we couldn't locate the one we were looking for. A further nature reserve at Tenindewa yielded many Glistening Spider Orchids (Caladenia incensa) but no 'Yunas'. We went to yet another reserve just north of Mullewa is the Urawa Nature Reserve where there were more Glistening Spider Orchids and Common Spider Orchids together with thousands of Blue Fairies.

Further along the road we stopped at Caron Dam where many spiders were growing on the dam wall. We also went via another small reserve named the Maya Nature Reserve. While we found nothing new, there were many snail orchids and again a vast array of white spiders, many of which were the Glistening Spider Orchid (Caladenia incensa). At the western end of the Gunyidi Wubin Road we stopped at the Gunyidi Nature Reserve. After some searching we found many 'red spider orchids' some of which seemed too large for the Crimson Spider Orchid, but perhaps that was what there were. [Returning to this reserve after the Mt Gibson trip there were thousands of these spiders and in one spot I counted 7 different species in a 3

The last two stops were on the Watheroo West Road for Patricia's Spider Orchid (*Caladenia dundasiae*) and then at Candy's Bush Reserve where the Moora Spider Orchid (*Caladenia excilis* subsp *vanleeuwenii*) was in full flower. Interestingly there were also thousands of Mini Donkey Orchids.

metre circle]

While he did not see everything he would have liked, Etienne had a successful final 2009 trip. We will all be looking forward to seeing him back in WA in the future.

John Ewing

Pterostylis concava by Noel Clarke

At the August meeting I showed some slides & said a few words about *Pt concava* at Fox's Lair. This was not sufficient for bulldog Bill Burton who wanted more convincing, and

thereby hangs a tale.W. H. Nicholls described *Pt vittata* var *subdifformis* in Vict. Nat. 49:253 (1933). I do not have this document so don't know what it said. However in Orchids of Australia, W. H. Nicholls p90 is a brief description that amongst size etc., says that the habitat is gravelly soil amongst rocks & a distinguishing feature is the labellum point is directed downwards. Surprise, surprise! Plate 332 shows the labellum point directed upwards. Examining my photo taken along Wellesley Rd, Marbalup at a sandy winter wet location the labellum point is directed upwards.

In the first edition of Orchids of South-West Australia, the name was Pt vittata var subdifformis. In subsequent editions, the name is Pt concava. The habitat is described as moist, sheltered situations with little preference for soil type. A distinguishing feature is that when viewed from the side the labellum can't be seen. The labellum point is directed upwards.Pt vittata var subdifformis was renamed Pt concava, sp nov, by D.Jones & M.Clements in Australian Orchid Research Vol 1, 1988. The same publication has Pt sanguinea, sp nov, D.Jones & M.Clements with a line drawing. In my view, all this means is that the way to identify Pt concava is to look at the flower side on, to determine whether the labellum can be seen or not.

NEW NAME - David Jones has described & named Pt aff cycnocephala, also known as Pt sp Northampton, in the latest Orchadian as Hymenochilus sinuatus. This translates to Pt. sinatus.

Noel Clarke

CONSERVATION ISSUES CONSERVATION OFFICER'S REPORT

JANDAKOT AIRPORT

Jandakot Airport Holdings (JAH), the owner of the 50 year lease of Jandakot Airport, is proposing to clear 167 ha of native vegetation on the site which has a total area of 622 ha. Some of the clearing (30 ha) is to construct a fourth runway running approximately east-west to take the congestion off an existing east-west runway. Clearing (33 ha) is also proposed to three the existing Approximately 96 ha is proposed to be cleared for a commercial development consisting of business, office, bulk retail, showroom, warehouse, storage and café uses. Some of this commercial development is proposed to be located under the flight path of the proposed 4th (and existing 3rd) runway. A further 6 ha will be cleared to provide southern and northern access to the commercial development. This proposal is currently being assessed by the Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA).

The airport already contains a 132 ha commercial precinct for business, office, bulk retail, showroom, warehouse and storage uses, of which 53 ha remains to be cleared. There is some dispute whether the 79 ha that was cleared (and the 53 ha remaining to be cleared) was done with appropriate authority and permission. Currently there are only 5 developed businesses/buildings in this area with about 90% of the area vacant, and further tenants are uncertain or in some cases not going ahead with earlier plans.

The areas proposed to be cleared are Banksia woodland in very good to excellent condition. The Banksia woodland contains approximately 225 Grand Spider Orchids (*Caladenia huegelii*) and 4 Glossy Leaved Hammer Orchids (*Drakaea elastica*) and provides habitat and food for Carnaby's Black Cockatoos which roost and feed (but do not nest) in the area. Of these, 40 *Caladenia huegelii* and all 4 *Drakaea elastica* are in the area proposed to be cleared. It is proposed that these be relocated.

The current proposal is an improvement over an earlier proposal (2007/2008) where 201 Caladenia huegelii and all 4 Drakaea elastica were in the area to be cleared. The earlier plan proposed to translocate the 200 Caladenia huegelii into a 10 ha "Orchid Park" which was surrounded by warehouses and show rooms, and was remote and not connected with the nearby Ken Hurst Park. This proposal was not approved by DEWHA, in part because of submissions opposing the proposal by WANOSCG, the Friends of Ken Hurst Park, the Urban Bushland Council and

others. The current proposal includes a continuous corridor between Ken Hurst Park and the northern area of the airport containing most of the Caladenia huegelii. This was on the basis of a comment from WANOSCG and the Friends of Ken Hurst Park that a corridor was required between two of the three largest populations of Caladenia huegelii to allow movement of seeds and pollinator between the two areas.

WANOSCG, the Friends of Ken Hurst Park, the Conservation Council of WA, the Wildflower Society of WA and the Urban Bushland Council are totally opposed to the proposed development for the following reasons:

- the proposal would result in clearing 167 ha of irreplaceable biodiversity
- the remnant vegetation is one of the largest areas of contiguous bushland in the region. Clearing such an area is another (large absolute) incremental loss of bushland
- the remnant vegetation to be cleared is in very good to excellent condition and is recognised as regionally very significant through its listing as a Bush Forever site
- the amount of vegetation cleared is a significant proportion of the remaining habitat for the Grand Spider Orchid, the Glossy-leaved Hammer Orchid and Carnaby's Cockatoo
- the loss of 167 ha of habitat would significantly impact on the Grand Spider Orchid, the Glossy-leaved Hammer Orchid and Carnaby's Cockatoo
- the hierarchy of environmental management is avoid, reduce, mitigate, offset. Caladenia huegelii and Drakaea elastica are best conserved in-situ. Translocation and research should not be undertaken before all other avenues to protect them have been exhausted

Actions undertaken by the Conservation Officer include the following:

- preparation of submission opposing the earlier proposal in January 2008
- preparation of submission opposing the latest proposal in April 2009
- organised meeting between JAH and WANOSCG, Friends of Ken Hurst Park, Wildflower Society and Urban Bushland Council in February 2008
- prepared a press release welcoming DEWHA rejection of JAH proposal in March 2008
- prepared a submission opposing a minor amendment to the JAH Master Plan proposing to construct a southern access road in November 2008
- personal meeting with Managing Director of JAH and Director of Ascot Capital (the owner of JAH) in March 2009
- organised and attended site visit with WANOSCG, Friends of Ken Hurst Park and Wildflower Society to portion of Jandakot Airport bushland in April 2009
- written many letters to the Commonwealth Minister for Infrastructure

- written many letters to the editor of the Melville Herald and Melville Times, with several lead articles and photographs on site
- ABC TV interview
- attendance at public meeting called by the City of Canning to present JAH revegetation and road construction proposals, and spoke about real reasons for JAH offers
- letters to the Mayor and all Councillors of the City of Melville, City of Canning and City of Cockburn expressing opposition to JAH proposals
- attendance at City of Canning Council meetings where JAH revegetation and road construction proposals were tabled, and speaking to the Mayor and Councillors
- proposing and researching possible location of JAH commercial development on the already cleared sand mines rather than on the uncleared bushland, taking into account the fact that portion of the sand mines and Jandakot Airport are on the Jandakot Groundwater Mound Priority 1 and 2 protection zones
- meeting with the Federal Member for Tangney, Dr Dennis Jensen, to discuss the issue and potential alternative site for commercial development
- making two written and several verbal requests for permission for WANOSCG and the Friends of Ken Hurst Park to visit the site to look at or for the orchids. JAH have refused all but one request. The latest request (1 June 2009) was refused despite earlier assurances (March 2009) that permission would be granted
- preparing a Vision for the Jandakot Airport bushland and Ken Hurst Park.

Eddy Wajon

WANOSCG Conservation Officer Convenor, Friends of Ken Hurst Park June 2009

WANOSCG 2009 PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION RULES

- The WANOSCG Photographic Competition will be held on :
 - November 18th, 2009

- At the time and location of the General Meeting (8pm at the King's Park Administration building)
- All entries must be of Western Australian native orchids in their natural settings.
- 3. There are 3 Categories
 - I. Genus Thelymitra
 - II. Hybrids
 - III. Mutations
- 4. The appointed judge will choose a winner from each of the 3 Categories, plus the best overall photograph which will be awarded the President's Prize. The judge's decision shall be final.
- There will be a prize for each of the category winners plus the President's Prize.
- Only photographic prints can be submitted, of size A4, 10"x8" or 12"x8" in colour or mono (black & white), unmounted and un-framed.
- The back of each print submitted must bear, in the top left-hand corner, the entrant's name and Category entered.
- To be eligible to enter, entrants must be WANOSCG members, financial at the time of entry.
- Each entrant can submit one print per category
- The entrants must have taken the original photograph and done so during 2009.
- The entry must be an original photograph and not a copy of any image.
- 12. Any manipulation or modification of the original photograph must be limited to only minor retouching including cropping, removal of blemishes, tonal corrections and sharpening, but excludes any major modifications including the removal of any significant objects or any form of composite images.
- 13. All entries must be submitted to the Competition Organiser at the start of the General Meeting on the night of the Competition.
- All entries, or copies thereof, must be freely available for any of WANOSCG's publications or promotional material.
- 15. Whilst reasonable care will be taken with entries submitted, WANOSCG will not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage to any of the entries.

	Raffle Roster	Welcomer	SPEAKERS 2009
MAR	Gerald Stack		Mark Brundrett - Wheatbelt Orchid Rescue Project
APR	Glenys Salter	Tom Burbridge	Ramon Newmann - How I started orchids
MAY	Etienne Delannoy	John Ewing	Tony Lock - WANOSCG data base
JUNE	Noel Clarke	Tom Blinco	Eddy Wajon - flowers of the Pilbara
JULY	Tom Blinco	John Ewing	Etienne Delannoy
AUG	Louise Little	John Ewing	Ian Colquhoun, Chair of the Dieback Working Group 'Phytophthora Dieback - Could you be spreading it?
SEPT	Jay Steer	John Ewing	Lesley Wall - Perth Zoo
OCT	David Lawson		John Dell - DEC
NOV	Gary McDonald		Photo competition and members slides

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GEORGE MR A S

FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS
SEPTEMBER 20TH – YORK ROAD
SEPTEMBER 26-28TH JERRAMUNGUP
OCTOBER 4TH – JARRAHDALE
OCTOBER 10-11TH FRANKLAND
OCTOBER 18TH BROOKTON HIGHWAY
DECEMBER 5-6TH DENMARK