

BULLETIN JULY 2010
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WANOSCG (INC) 1974 - 2009

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Bill Burton

Field Trip Coordinator:

Iain McLean

or

Conservation Officer:

Eddy Wajon

Supper Coordinator:

Donna Wajon

Auditor:

Phil Bunney

Conservation Council

Rep:

Eddy Wajon

Christine Lock

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 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.
- f) To affiliate with kindred organizations.
- g) To make rules for the governing of the Group's domestic affairs.
- h) 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 21ST July 2010 at 7.00pm at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Admin. Office.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 21ST July 2010 at 8.00pm at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Admin. Office.

BULLETIN ARTICLES

Please email any Bulletin contributions to John Ewing at or call on Articles for the next Bulletin need to be submitted by 1st of next month

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FORTH COMING MEETINGS

21 July	General meeting
18 August	General meeting
15 September	General meeting
20 October	General meeting
17 November	General Meeting

WANOSCG GENERAL MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, May 19th, 2010

Meeting held at: BGPA Boardroom, Kings Park.
Meeting opened: 8.10pm

CIRCULATION OF REPORTS:

Attendance Book and Treasurers Report were circulated to the members.

The President noted that the Treasurers Report did not balance (out by \$30), this will be rectified when the Treasurer returns and the latest bank statement is available.

ATTENDANCE: 29 members present,
11 apologies, 3 visitors

RAFFLE : Kindly donated by Christine Lock

1. PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES Amendments: None

The General Meeting Minutes as distributed are a true and correct record of the meeting of 19th May 2010.

Moved: Stuart Harris and Seconded John Ewing and carried

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE

PREVIOUS MEETING - No matters arising

3. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter in from
 - 1.1. Noel Clarke
 - 1.2. Conservation Council
 - 1.3. AON Insurance
2. Letter out to
 - 2.1. Noel Clarke
 - 2.2. Conservation Council
3. Membership subscriptions received from 3 members
4. Bulletins received: ANOS Geelong, ANOS Victoria, WA Orchids

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

1. AON Insurance to be paid
2. Conservation Council affiliation subscription to be paid

5. FIELD TRIP REPORT:

The Group field trip to Corrigin on May 30th was very successful, as reported in the Bulletin. Names are being sought for the next trip, to Mogumber on June 20th. Christine Lock requested that sighting reports be completed for the Database from the trips.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS - No general matters were raised.

7. CONSERVATION REPORT

Eddy Wajon, Conservation Officer presented his Conservation Report (see later in Bulletin).

He asked if any members would like to assist in the Group's conservation activities or to provide any alternative approaches to please contact him.

8. PRESENTATION - Mark Brundrett presented the Wheatbelt Orchid Rescue programme 2009/10. What was of special interest was the program on propagation and transplanting out of rare orchid species.

9. GROWERS TABLE - Mark Brundrett exhibited a range of pots, including *Pterostylis aspera* and *Pterostylis sanguinea*

10. RAFFLE DRAW - Mark Brundrett drew the raffle, and the winner of the raffle was Clive Pegler

MEETING CLOSED: 9:15 pm

**NEXT MEETING: 8.00 pm Wednesday
21st July,**

2010 PLANNED TRIPS

JULY 24&25th – meet at corner of South Coast Highway and Mandalay Beach Road (Chrystal Springs) at 10.30am (to see South Coast Spider Orchid – *C. meridionalis* and many other things. Overnight stay in Denmark and visiting sites along Albany Highway on way home.)

AUGUST 14&15th – Meet at Visitors Centre in Wongan Hills (Railway Station, Wongan Road) at 10am. Over night in Wongan Hills.

AUGUST 28&29th – meet at Western Flora Caravan Park at 10am.

SEPTEMBER – Day trips in or near Perth on dates to be decided to build the data base information for the Metro area. There could be more than one location on any day.

SEPTEMBER 25-27th - Esperance. **Note – this is a correction from previous bulletins**

Meet at 12 midday in parking area on beachfront at corner of Norseman and Goldfields Road (Norseman Road is the main road into town –this corner is before you get into town – it has a fishing jetty right next to it.)

OCTOBER 23&24th - Collie and surrounds.

Meet at 10am in Darkan at the War Memorial (on the Collie-Darkan Road) – o/night in Collie
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER – Christmas trip still to be decided.

WANOSCG 2010 Photographic Competition

In order to ensure that more members have an opportunity to win the competition prizes, it was decided to consider having a 'portfolio' competition this year – whereby members submit a portfolio of their photographs from the year (typically 3 or 5), and the prizes go to the top 2 or 3 portfolios and to the best overall individual photograph.

All entries must be of Western Australian native orchids in their natural settings, and print size A4, 10"x8" or 12"x8" in colour or black & white, un-mounted and un-framed.

The Committee would like to hear and discuss any feedback from members on the portfolio proposal at the next General Meeting.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

From the meeting

Margaret Petridis and Iain McLean revisited last month's Winter Spider Orchid (*C. drummondii*) sites and found very few flowers remaining. Other reserves in the area, including Kalgarin, were very dry and had no flowering plants. Margaret had also been to Wongan Hills and found some *C. drummondii* in that area.

Jay Steer visited Wongamine Reserve and found dozens of the same species during late May

Ursula Koksinski has found Autumn Leek Orchids (*Pras parvifolium*) in flower in Nicholson Road. The same area has a huge number of Bird Orchid (*Pt barbata*) leaves that promise a bumper season later next month.

MOGUMBER Sunday June 20 A good turn out of members and visitors, apart from the field trip co-ordinator who unfortunately called in sick, met at Mogumber. Wayne Merritt accepted the role of trip leader for the day. Wayne's knowledge of the area was invaluable and he is to be thanked for taking of the role at a minutes notice. Seventeen vehicles headed for the first stop near the Mogumber Recreation Oval where a reasonable number of Hare Orchids (*Leporella fimbriata*) were located with a few Crinkle Leaf Bunnies (*Eriochilus dilatatus subsp undulatus*). Also found were Dark Banded Greenhoods (*Pterostylis sanguinea*) though there was some debate whether they were some of the soon to be named species. A number of various leaves were found which holds promise of things to come later in the season. The group then headed along Mogumber West Rd with a number of different stops to search for Cleopatra's Needles (*Thelymitra apiculata*) which were found at a number of places with some good results at the usual place. The group split up into a few separate groups to increase the chance of locating these colourful orchids. A few hardy Common Bunny Orchids (*Eriochilus dilatatus subsp multiflorus*) were discovered coming to the end of their flowering period.

A lunch the group reformed and headed up the Brand Highway to Mullering Road where two Cleopatra's Needles were found after an extensive search. A further stop located one in

tight bud which indicates a different flowering time to the other ones found.

Turning south the final stop was at the gravel pit south of Cataby where one Cleopatra's Needle was found. A thorough search of the area uncovered two snail orchids (*Pterostylis nana type*), a number of leek orchids in bud, thought to be Little Laughing Leeks (*Prasphyllum gracile*) and many spent Bunny Orchids were also located.

Kevin Uhe

MEMBER PROFILE Bill Burton



Bill has been a long time enthusiast about wildflowers, but he decided a long time ago (it's so far back he can't remember when) to specialise in orchids. At first he went to a Wildflower Society meeting and then discovered WANOSCG. At his first meeting in November 1988 he was met at the door by Kingsley Dixon who was then the president and Kingsley introduced Bill to others. From then on Bill has been an enthusiastic participant in the group.

Bill's working life began in 1939 with Ansett Airlines where he started in aircraft maintenance. Over the years he qualified as an engineer and moved on to work for MMA (MacRobertson Miller Airlines). The last 10 years of his working life were as a Manual Arts Teacher in High Schools.

Bill is one of the few members who cultivates native orchids and he is regular contributor to 'The Plant Table' at monthly meetings.

Bill is also one of the few members who has an orchid species named after him. He was on a field excursion with the late Bill Jackson travelling up the main highway north of the Murchison River. They had pulled into a little track and were walking under some trees when Bill Burton found a different greenhood. Described by Bill as 'an ugly looking flower' it is

now known as Burton's Rufous Greenhood (*Pt* sp 'northwest').

If you ever get the chance to look at Bill's map book you will see it is absolutely covered in sites to go to. It should really be stored in the archives of the club. However, at 88 Bill still has plenty of enthusiasm and he is not about to give it up yet (despite its somewhat battered condition).

Although hesitant to pick a favourite flower Bill was prepared to name the Grand Spider Orchid as at least, one of his favourites.



CONSERVATION ISSUES

From the editor – the above photo is of a plant that doesn't exist anymore. It was taken at Fraser road in 2006. This is now just a sandpit.

CONSERVATION REPORT – 16 June 2010

Woodanilling

Status of investigation of clearing without a Clearing permit along Robinson Road is subjudice and thus confidential

We haven't written to the Shire yet requesting further work to remove stockpiles and tidy up area at creek crossing on Robinson Road or Martup Pool

Woodanilling being investigated for other instances of clearing without a Clearing permit.

Toodyay

Status of investigation of clearing without a Clearing permit is subjudice and thus confidential

Temporary CEO has been appointed and is co-operating and receptive to discussions about road verge clearing. CEO considering reducing clearing

However Works Supervisor cleared section of road along nature reserve without explicit approval or consultation with Toodyay Naturalists Club in apparent attempt to do so before any change of plans

I met with DEC on 27 April to discuss the matter but there was little action resulting

Nevertheless, DEC are meeting with Shire of Toodyay to discuss revising Clearing Permit.

Jandakot

Meeting with Ascot Capital (owners of Jandakot Airport Holdings) arranged by Fremantle Federal Member of Parliament to re-establish relationships attended by Friends of Ken Hurst Park and Urban Bushland Council. It was agreed to accept decision to approve Master Plan and clearing for commercial development

Ascot Capital agreed to have monthly meeting with us and allow us to have input and make suggestions for improvements on their plans. Ascot Capital agreed to determine whether we could be represented on the Community Forum that needs to be established.

Ascot Capital agreed to determine whether we could comment on Conservation Management Plan Revegetation Management Plan and Offset Management Plan. They advised that we would need to seek the DEWHA's agreement on this.

Ascot Capital agreed to set up a meeting with Kingsley Dixon to discuss the Conservation Management Plan and the Orchid research project.

Other issues

Potential clearing of land in Murray Field airport with potential impacts on orchids. Need to identify area involved.

Ferndale School clearing. Follow up required to ensure area left as conservation area.

WHEATBELT ORCHID RESCUE REPORT

(Ed - Below is an excerpt from Mark Brundrett's report.)

OBJECTIVES – This project aims to help conserve Critically Endangered orchids in the Western Australian Wheatbelt by obtaining knowledge required for sustainable management and directly contributing to recovery actions.

(This report is continued on Pg 7)

SURVEY on the following two pages is a survey that each member is requested to complete and return. Post instructions are on the form. Electronic recipient are asked to copy the page, fill it in and return to Kim Hansen.

A report on the survey will be presented to members as soon as collation of results can be made. A VERY PROMPT return will be appreciated.

WANOSCG SURVEY OF MEMBERS JUNE 2010

Recently there have been a range of issues raised in club meetings with some widely divergent views. The committee has decided to canvas members about some of these issues with a view to considering whether changes in direction, policies or activities should be considered.

Could you answer the statements below with one of the four alternatives

Strongly Agree **SA** Agree **A** Disagree **D** Strongly Disagree **SD**

	SA	A	D	SD
1. We should retain 'conservation' in the Group's name and objectives.				
2. We should retain part of clause 2b) of the Group's Constitution that states that the Object of the Group is to "do all things possible for the conservation of native orchids in their natural environment".				
3. We should only have passive involvement with the conservation of WA's native orchids.				
4. We should be very actively and consistently involved with conservation of all native orchids.				
5. The Group should undertake more study and research into the presence of orchids				
6. Access to the Groups Database should be restricted to only those members who have contributed data to it.				
7. The Group should actively promote greater membership.				
8. The present number and type of field trips is appropriate.				
9. A proportion of field trips should be primarily to research new areas.				
10. There should be some opportunity at most Group meetings to have a short segment to show members' slides.				
11. The bulletin style, content and information are appropriate.				
12. The Group's current general pattern of expenditure is appropriate.				
13. I am satisfied with the decisions the committee is making with regard to allocating the Group's funds.				
14. The club should financially support other conservation groups.				
15. Decisions about financial support of other conservation groups should be made by a general meeting, rather than by the committee.				
16. Accepting sponsorship for the Group's photo competition is appropriate.				
17. Overall I am satisfied with the way the club is run and the activities it undertakes.				

Respondent details – please tick the box

Length of membership	Less than 5 yrs		More than 5 yrs	
Place of residence	WA Metro		WA Country	Outside WA

Add any comments about the statements or any other issues on the other side of the page. If you wish to put your name on the reverse side please do so.

If posting reply, fold so comments are inside and tape like the bulletin and put stamp on.

Name (optional) _____
Comments

**THE SECRETARY
WANOSCG
PO BOX 323
VICTORIA PARK, W.A. 6979**

WOR report continued

Orchid propagation and conservation

In 2007, 2008 and 2009 seed was collected for propagation of rare orchids. Seed bags were placed on naturally or hand pollinated flowers used ensure good quality. In total, about 200 seed samples were collected. Seed baiting trials have confirmed that seed collected from these orchids is viable and that compatible mycorrhizal fungi are present in potential translocation sites. Soil samples were also collected to provide compatible fungi for orchid propagation.

Several methods are routinely used to propagate orchids for horticulture or conservation. Of these, asymbiotic and symbiotic sterile germination are most commonly used, but require expensive sterile culture facilities. An alternative method, where symbiotic fungi germinate orchid seeds in a non-sterile environment was first suggested by Brundrett et al. (2003), but had not been trailed on a large scale until now.

The primary objective of propagation trails in 2009 was to produce seedlings of orchids for translocation trials. These trials were also designed to compare the relative efficiency and effectiveness of different propagation methods. Emily Ager, a 4th year student at UWA conducted some of these experiments and compiled the comparative growth data shown in Table 2 for her thesis. All experiments included one or more co-occurring common / species along with the rare species required for translocation. This allowed the relative growth capacity of rare and common species to be compared and there was no evidence that rare species were harder to propagate than common orchids.

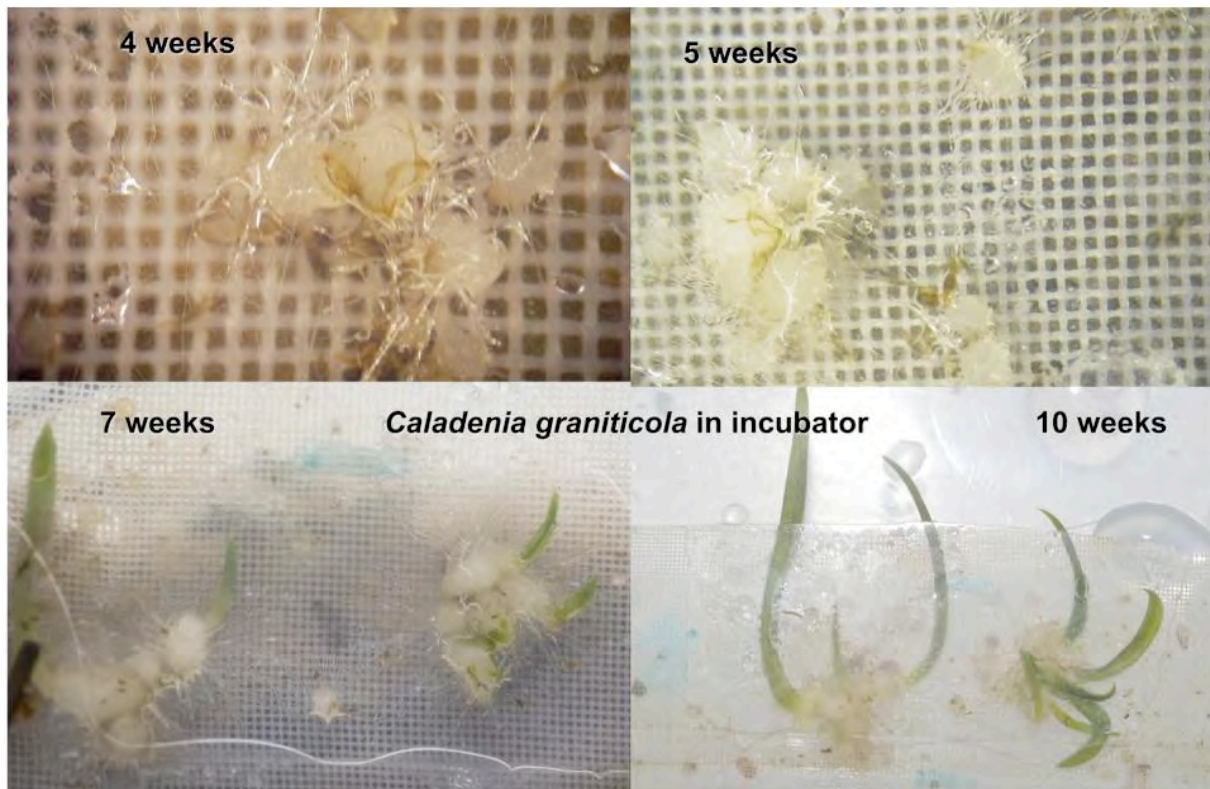


Figure 2. Seedling germination in permeable pouches designed for the WOR project.

In 2009, I developed an innovative germination pouch system to protect and track growth of very small orchid seedlings (Fig. 2). This method enclosed germinating orchid seeds in permeable mesh and transparent plastic packets placed in contact with organic matter containing highly active mycorrhizal fungi (symbiotic fungi required by orchids for germination and growth). After germination, protocorms are transplanted into larger permeable pouches placed in potting mix inoculated with the same mycorrhizal fungi.

Mark Brundrett

(The full report is included in the electronic version)

	Raffle Roster	SPEAKERS 2010
MAR	Ramon Newmann	Andrew Brown - New Caladenia species
APR	Donna Wajon	Ramon Newmann – slides from 2009
MAY	Bill Burton and Sarah Atkinson	Kingsley Dixon Conservation ‘in situ’
JUNE	Christine Lock	Mark Brundrett Wheatbelt Orchid Rescue programme 2009/10
JULY	Jeremy Storey	John Ewing – Orchids of South Australia
AUG	Kevin Uhe	Members’ Slides
SEPT	Stuart Harris	
OCT	Scilla and Gerald Stack	
NOV	David Lawson	Photo competition and members slides

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FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS

June 20th Mogumber
July 24&25th Walpole and Denmark
August 14&15th Wongan Hills
August 28&29th Eneabba
September – various around Perth and environs
September 25,26,&27th Esperance
October 23&24th Collie and environs

