

BULLETIN October 2011

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Inappropriate Verge Road Clearing Alert!

Please report any road side clearings
relevant to native orchids.
Take photos if possible.

Report any orchid sightings on road verges
to the Group's database.

This information can be used to advise
Shires before road verges
clearings take place.

Photo shows the recent clearing along
Robinson Road Woodanilling which is
supposed to be a Flora Road.



ADOPT AN ORCHID PROJECT (ADORP)

By Andrew Brown

Background

The Department of Environment and Conservation's (DEC's) monitoring and survey program is prioritized towards threatened flora species (species listed under the Wildlife Conservation ACT) and much less time is available to monitor and survey priority flora species. These species are known from few locations and are thought to be under threat but require further monitoring and survey in order to accurately ascertain their conservation status. Some 30 orchid species fit into this category and, because they have generally not been adequately monitored or surveyed, may potentially be highly threatened without us knowing.

The Adopt an Orchid idea was born out of WANOSCG's desire to obtain better and up to date population, threat and survey information for Priority orchid species. This way, DEC can be more certain of their conservation status, including threats and necessary recovery actions and can better manage and protect them.

To obtain of this important information small groups of volunteer members (no more than 6), will be enlisted through the WANOSCG Coordinator (currently Kim Hanson) to monitor and survey specific Priority orchid species. The monitoring and surveying will be conducted in co-operation with DEC. Habitat, population, biological and threat information will be obtained and sent to the WANOSCG coordinator who will in turn forward the information to the DEC Coordinator (currently Andrew Brown).

Each volunteer will be asked to complete a DEC Volunteer Registration Form and send it to the WANOSCG Coordinator.

There are four Priority categories but for the purposes of this project only P1 to P3 will apply. P4 species are generally better known and are not thought to require urgent monitoring and survey.

What is a Priority Orchid?

Priority One orchids are known from one or a few collections or sight records (generally less than five), all on lands that are not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, Shire, Westrail and Main Roads WA road, gravel and soil reserves, and active mineral leases and are under threat of habitat destruction or degradation. These species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes.

Priority two orchids are known from one or a few collections or sight records (generally less than five), some of which are

on lands not under imminent threat of habitat destruction or degradation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, State forest, vacant Crown land, water reserves, etc. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes.

Priority Three orchids are known from collections or sight records from several localities not under imminent threat, or from few but widespread localities with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat, much of it not under imminent threat. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from several localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them.

Outline

1. Group of no more than six members selects up to four orchid species from the list provided to them.
2. Group will be given one or two of these orchids to investigate. Committee to decide appropriateness of orchid or orchids for each group.
3. Group will be given a DEC Volunteer Registration forms to complete and return to the WANOSCG Coordinator.
4. After approval the group will be provided an information package on the selected orchid/s from the WANOSCG Coordinator that has been prepared by the DEC Coordinator.
5. The group makes contact with the nominated DEC District flora officer (details in the info packages) and in co-operation with them plan the trip/s.
6. Group conducts monitoring and survey of orchid or orchids including accurate GPS coordinates for each population visited.
7. Group fills out a Threatened and Priority Flora Report Form for each population visited and notes areas searched.
8. Group sends reports, photos and other information (maps, additional observations etc) to the WANOSCG Coordinator either electronically or in hard copy.
9. Reports are forwarded by the WANOSCG Coordinator to the chosen DEC Coordinator (currently Andrew Brown).
10. The DEC Coordinator will ensure that copies of reports are sent to relevant DEC staff.

Information Packs (from DEC Coordinator)

1. General induction to the program.
2. Threatened and Priority Report Forms – Field Manual.
3. Nominated DEC Regional or District Officer contact details. Once contacted, the District Officer will discuss hygiene measures and sensitive areas.
4. How to identify the orchid/s including photographs, descriptions, life cycle information (flowering, fruiting) and other relevant information.
5. Known locations of selected orchid species*.
6. Type of habitat to look in.

*Note: Surveying of private properties will only be done with the owner's permission and awareness of who will be receiving the information.

Group Procedures and Guidelines

2. Group will follow WANOSCG and DEC protocols.
3. Group to make contact with the nominated DEC Regional or District Officer at least 4 weeks prior to monitoring/surveys.
4. Group to, if possible, visit each of the known populations twice each year during the species flowering and fruiting periods and provide completed Threatened and Priority Flora Report forms to the WANOSCG Coordinator.
5. Group to survey other areas of suitable habitat and provide a report on which areas were searched. If new populations are found, group to provide the WANOSCG Coordinator with completed Threatened and Priority Flora Report forms.
6. If unsure of the correct identity of an orchid (i.e. the group think it may be the nominated species but are unsure), the group should take good quality digital photographs and forward them to the WANOSCG coordinator.
7. Group to look out for pollinators. Record if present and photograph if possible.
8. Group to record pollination success or otherwise i.e. seed set or lack of.
9. Group to note any threats (actual and perceived).
10. Group may, if required, Google habitats to locate possible new areas for survey. Ask coordinators about this.
11. All areas searched should be noted regardless of success or failure in locating the orchid. Failure to find the orchid is extremely important to report to show where surveys have been conducted and to avoid duplication in survey effort.
12. If the group thinks it has located a new population it is important that good quality photos are taken of flowers so as to aid identification.
13. Group should take the following photos (preferably digital) for each population visited:
 - Photo of general habitat.
 - A set photo of each population/habitat from the same position each year to monitor change.
 - Photos showing threatening processes (i.e. weeds, clearing, herbicide damage, insect predation, grazing etc).
 - Photo showing general location of orchid.
 - Photo of whole flower front view.
 - Photo of whole flower side view.
 - Photo of whole plant including leaf, stem and flower.
 - Photo of labellum and column front view.
 - Photo of labellum and column side view.
 - Photo of leaf.
 - Photo of pollinators if seen.
 - Photo of seed capsules.
 - Photo of group conducting monitoring or survey.

14. Group to propose prospective sites for occasional large group surveys.
15. Photographs of nominated priority and threatened orchids to be shown at WANOSCG meetings to familiarize members.

Rules

1. Groups shall consist of only nominated WANOSCG members, sometimes accompanied by DEC officers.
2. Groups shall not consist of more than six persons.
3. Groups shall not divulge location information except to the WANOSCG coordinator and DEC.
4. Groups will contact nominated Regional or District DEC officers at least 4 weeks prior to undertaking monitoring and survey to inform them what species they are viewing and to obtain additional information on possible survey sites, sensitive areas that should be avoided and dieback hygiene needs etc.
5. Groups will only survey Conservation estate with the knowledge and approval of the nominated Regional or District DEC Officer.
6. Group will only enter private property with the permission of the owner.
7. Dieback and weed hygiene measures will be required for works in Conservation estate, this will include ensuring vehicles are clean, they remain on existing tracks and that no work is undertaken in conditions where vehicles are likely to move soil (wet soil condition).
8. Groups shall monitor (monitoring forms provided) known populations of selected species and shall attempt to find new populations through targeted survey.
9. Groups shall submit completed Threatened and Priority Report Forms to the WANOSCG Coordinator who will collate and send to the DEC Coordinator.
10. Groups shall conduct all operations in a sensitive manner with an outlook to minimize impact to sites.
11. Groups shall not collect specimens or propagating material.

We envisage the program to be a fun and rewarding experience. You will see some of our rarest orchids growing in their natural habitat and get to interact with other dedicated enthusiasts. You may even find new populations of these species. But even if new populations are not located, the information obtained during the project will be invaluable to DEC and will result in positive actions being undertaken by DEC to protect and conserve of our priority orchid species.

If you are interested in being involved in the „Adopt and Orchid“ project, contact the WANOSCG coordinator Kim Hanson via email kim.hanson@wanoscg.org.au for more information.

Some examples of our priority orchids are as follows:

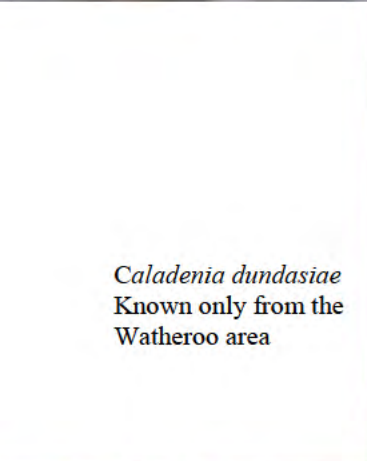


Priority 1

Paracaleana alcockii
Known from just two
locations on the NW
Coastal Highway north
of Galena Bridge

Priority 3

Thelymitra jacksonii
Known from just a few
locations north-west of
Walpole



Caladenia dundasiae
Known only from the
Watheroo area



*Thelymitra
magnifica*
Known from just
a few locations
in Darling Range



Priority 2

Caladenia luteola
Known from just a few
locations between
Katanning and Cranbrook

Caladenia starteorum
Known from just one
location south-west
of Mt Barker



Kings Park and The University of WA are undertaking a survey for native orchids with leaves that are variegated (with white and green patterns of any type) or 'albino' (white).



If you are aware of any populations or plants that are variegated or white we would appreciate details

For example, albino *Pterostylis* once occurred at the Gnangara pine plantation but vanished when burning commenced.

Professor Kingsley Dixon
Director, Science
Kings Park and Botanic Garden

**SOUTHERN RIVERS GROUP
FIELD TRIP REPORT
10TH SEPTEMBER 2011
STIRLING RANGES AND BORDEN**



A calm brisk sunny morning greeted seven club members just north of Albany. By the southern boundary of the Stirling Range National Park the usual cold spring breeze greeted us at the parking bay. The cold was soon forgotten when *Prasophyllum gibbosum* (Humped Leek Orchid) and *Prasophyllum hians* (Yawning Leek Orchid) were found.

Further north only one side of the highway rewarded us with a number of orchids, but only after covering a large area. *Caladenia pectinata* (King Spider Orchid) were just opening whilst *Elythranthera brunonis* (Purple Enamel Orchid) was still in bud. Very limited numbers of *Pterostylis barbata* (Bird Orchid), *Caladenia plicata* (Crab-lipped Spider Orchid) and *Caladenia ferruginea* (Rusty Spider Orchid) were found. On closer observation using photos *C. ferruginea* may have hybridised with *C. pectinata*. Lots of *C. flava* subsp. *flava* (Cowslip Orchid) were found at most stops. Much interest was shown in a co-joined *C. pectinata*. One fully mature flower was just open whilst the second more immature closed flower was joined at the junction of the ovary and dorsal sepal.

Stop number three had us all working hard at identifying various flowers. Even the local D.E.C. Ranger with a keen interest in orchids couldn't help us out. Back at home with the assistance of technology zoomed right in could we identify *Diuris laevis* (Nanny Goat Orchid). The following orchids were added to the list of sightings *Prasophyllum ovale* (Little Leek Orchid), *Pterostylis vittata* (Banded Greenhood), *Thelymitra antennifera* (Vanilla Orchid), *Caladenia splendens* (Splendid Spider Orchid), *Diuris porrifolia* (Western Wheatbelt Donkey Orchid), *Caladenia reptans* subsp. *reptans* (Little Pink Fairy) and *Pterostylis recurva* (Jug Orchid).

Off to Borden where the sun was warm with no breeze ... a summer's day we said. Yes the temperature was in the



low twenties!!! Lunch was eaten whilst sorting out 10cm to 55cm tall plants from the genus *Caladenia*. In the end our best efforts identified *Caladenia falcata* (Fringed Mantis Orchid), *C. vulgata* (Common Spider Orchid), *C. longicauda* subsp. *longicauda* (White Spider Orchid), *C. longicauda* subsp. *eminens* (Stark White Spider Orchid), *C. dimidia* (The Chameleon Orchid), *C. discoidea* (Dancing Spider Orchid), *C. cairnsiana* (Zebra Orchid) and possibly *C. hiemalis* (Dwarf Common Spider Orchid). Many hybrids of possibly *C. longicauda* x *falcata*. A most unusual mutation of a *C. longicauda* with three labella created much interest. Lots of *Diuris corymbosa* (Common Donkey Orchid) rounded off the findings here.

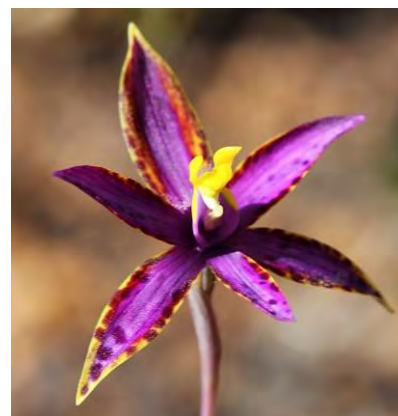
Our next stop was the club site on the edge of town. More *Caladenias* were added to the list - *C. hirta* subsp. *hirta* (Sugar Candy Orchid), *C. hirta* subsp. *rosea* (Pink Candy Orchid), *C. x ericksoniae* the named hybrid of *C. cairnsiana* (Zebra Orchid) and *C. polychroma* (Joseph's Spider Orchid).

Back into the Stirling Range National Park to successfully locate *C. bryceana* subsp. *bryceana* (Dwarf Spider Orchid). It was noted that the leaf litter was crackling under foot during our search. Our first noticeably dry stop.

The penultimate stop was a real treasure. *Thelymitra speciosa* (Eastern Queen of Sheba) was in full bloom with a couple of buds still to come. *T. variegata* (Queen of Sheba) finished flowering in Albany two weeks ago.

Our final stop was in a small reserve. Lightly timbered with moist soils, flat and full of orchids. Here

Prasophyllum gracile (Little Laughing Leek Orchid), *P. macrostachyum* (Laughing Leek Orchid), *Diuris laxiflora* (Bee Orchid), *Diuris corymbosa* (Common Donkey Orchid) and a hybrid *Caladenia polychroma* x *vulgata* completed the list for the day.



We headed south leaving the bright yellow canola crops behind. It had been a very successful and rewarding day.

Anna de Haan

WANOSCG GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday 21 September 2011

Meeting held at: BGPA Boardroom, Kings Park.
Meeting opened: 7:32 pm

CIRCULATION OF REPORTS: Attendance Book and Treasurers Report were circulated.

ATTENDANCE: 33 members and 5 visitors.
9 apologies.

RAFFLE: Kindly donated by Kim & Thea Hanson.

1. PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The Minutes of the General Meeting on 17 August 2011 as distributed are a true and correct record of the meeting.

Moved: Gary McDonald Seconded: Urszula Kokosinska Carried.

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

The general correspondence list was circulated to members present.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE Nil

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

- 5.1 The Treasurer's report was circulated.
- 5.2 The payment of the Group's insurance policy is waiting for an invoice for the premium. The insurance broker has given the Group assurances that it is covered by the insurance even though the payment has not yet been made.
- 5.3 The Group has received its final GST refund, and is no longer required to be registered for GST.

6. FIELD TRIPS

- 6.1 The Field Trip Co-ordinator sent in his apologies for the meeting; however he asked that any requests for Field Trips be given to Kim Hanson in his absence.
- 6.2 The long week-end to Cape Arid has been cancelled, and replaced by a south coast field trip on the long week-end of Oct 28/30 to Augusta. Details are in the Bulletin.
- 6.3 Individual field trips and sightings were reported on by Jack Eborall, Wayne Merritt, Ross Fox, Eva Smith, Clive Pegler, Eddy Wajon and John Ewing.
- 6.4 Jack Eborall made the suggestion that the Group have a panel of Members to whom any unusual orchids could be reported.

This panel could help identify any such reported orchids.

7. GROWERS TABLE

- 7.1 Bill Burton exhibited a Dunsborough Donkey Orchid plant in full flower.

8. CONSERVATION

- 8.1 Road Side Clearing. Eddy Wajon lead a discussion about the spate of reports of seemingly inappropriate road verge clearing near Weam Reserve, Kalbarri, Erindoon Rd, Chester Pass Rd [and others]. Eddy outlined one possible reason for the extra verge clearing being the closure of tier 3 railway lines and the widening of roads for replacement truck transport. He also alluded to the difficulty of prosecutions as there was a requirement for evidence of material from a rare or endangered plant species from such a verge clearing being presented to a botanist for confirmation before DEC would proceed.
Eddy Wajon re-iterated his previous requests for any reports on any road side clearings relevant to orchid that have been seen to take place, so he can check if they have been properly authorised.
Eddy also requested for any orchid sightings on road verges to be reported to the Group's database, so this information can be used to advise Shires before road verges clearings take place.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 9.1 Secretary's Position. Eddy Wajon outlined that according to the Constitution a Secretary must be appointed, though the duties may be delegated or distributed amongst the committee. Hence the meeting should elect a Secretary.
Moved Wayne Merritt Seconded Robin Moyle that Eddy Wajon be appointed as the Secretary. Carried.
- 9.2 CB Radios. Two 77 channel CB radios will be bought by the Group because the 44 channel CBs are not available. These are slightly more expensive.
- 9.3 Librarian. Jay Steer volunteered to take on the role, with Alison Higgins offering to provide support.
- 9.4 John Ewing announced that he is going to Challenger TAFE in Mandurah on 26 September to assist with an orchid survey of the grounds, at the request of the TAFE. John asked for any other volunteers to help on the day.
- 9.5 Kingsley Dixon has requested any location where albino or white/green variegated-leaf forms of orchids can be found – to be used for orchid research purposes by Kings Park and the

University of WA.

- 9.6 5 Year Plan. John Ewing reported that the 5 year plan is progressing with the committee, but no submissions have been received from the General Members as yet.
- 9.7 Long Field Trips. The Committee is currently discussing the potential for long trips to, for example, the Kimberley. Any interest or feedback should be given to the Committee.
- 9.8 Group Funds. The Committee invited members to provide any feedback and ideas on what the Group should spend its funds on in the future.
- 9.9 John Ewing invited Members to bring details of orchids for identification by other members to the Meetings and outlined some of the information that is useful to help such identifications. This includes basic measurements of the flower, plant and leaves, plus close up photos of the front and side of the flower and photos of the full flower plus its environs. These photos and details can be discussed at the end of the General Meetings during the tea break.

10. PRESENTATION

Ross Fox gave an excellent presentation on his recent trip to the eastern states and the many orchids that they found.

11. RAFFLE DRAW

Won by visitor Jackie Albert.

MEETING CLOSED: 9:30 pm

NEXT MEETING: 7:30 pm

Wednesday 19 October 2011

Long awaited **3rd Edition** of
"Orchids of South-West Australia" by
Noel Hoffman & Andrew Brown is here!

The book will be available to
WANOSCG members at the **October 19th**
meeting for **\$50** (RRP is \$59.95).
There will be no eftpos facilities so cash and
cheques would be perfect.
More information at web site
www.orchidswa.com.au



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.*
- To have field days and learn to recognize the different genera and species.*
- 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.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 12th October at 7.30 pm

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 19th October at **7.30** pm
at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Admin. Office.

BULLETIN ARTICLES

Please email any Bulletin contributions to Urszula Kokosinska at [redacted] or call on [redacted]. Articles for the next Bulletin need to be submitted by 1st of next month.

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	Raffle Roster	SPEAKERS 2011
MAR	John Hills	Mark Brundrett – Final Report on Wheatbelt Orchid Rescue Project that has been funded by a Lotterywest grant
APRIL	John Ewing	Rod Peakall
MAY	Ross & Margaret Fox	Ross Fox – “Orchids from our Travels”
JUNE	Sarah Atkinson	Eddy Wajon – “Wildflowers of Western Australia” Andrew Brown – “Adopt an Orchid”
JULY	Jack Eborall	Belinda Newman – “Urban Orchids in Perth Region”
AUG	Tom Burbidge	Margaret Petridis - "Orchids of Mt Gibson Sanctuary: August 2009"
SEPT	Thea & Kim Hanson	Ross Fox – My Trip Part 2
OCT	Jay Steer	Peter McCauley – Orchids of South Australia
NOV	Ian Greeve	Adopt an Orchid Reports and Photo Competition

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PROPOSED FIELD TRIPS

- **28th/30th Oct - Walpole-Augusta. Meet on Friday 28th (Public Holiday) at Walpole Visitor Centre at 12.00 (noon). Sunday 30th meeting 9.00 am near jetty at Ellis Street parking in Augusta.**
- **6th Nov (Sunday)– Bindoon and Roleystone** for late flowering orchids –Meet at 9.00 am on Great Northern Hwy / Muchea East Rd intersection in parking area over the traffic lights .
- **Christmas trip - Still to be decided.**

Additionally, those members who are involving themselves in the Adopt an Orchid project will be organising their own trips with their respective orchids.

**If you are coming on any
of these trips please
advise Iain McLean**