

# Western Australian Native Orchid Study and **Conservation Group**

September 2015 Bulletin



Bee on Caladenia deformis. Photo by S. Hayman

### **Fight Dieback**

WANOSCG members are reminded of risk of spreading dieback. It is paramount that groups like ours who enjoy orchids in the wild and go from place to place to see them, sometimes getting off track, do not contribute to spread of dieback.

Follow these simple rules:

- Start clean and stay clean
- Stick to tracks
- Avoid muddy areas
- Do not go from known infested areas to unknown or sensitive areas or community habitats
- Use 70% methylated spirits / 30% water to spray anything that may have been in contact with soil (yes, not just your shoes but backpacks, tripods, car tyres, even clothing)
- Use a strong brush to get out soil that may be embedded in boot threads or tyres, then spray

It is up to all of us to protect the bush!

#### INSIDE:

- **Meeting Minutes**
- Field Trip List
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- Special feature—local reserves

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General Meetings are held 7:30pm the Wednesday of the month, March through November,

at the BGPA Boardroom, Kings Park

# WANOSCG GENERAL MEETING MINUTES Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2015

Meeting held at: BGPA Boardroom, Kings Park.

Meeting opened: 7:37 PM

**CIRCULATION OF REPORTS**: Attendance Book, Treasurer's Report, Conservation Officer's report were circulated to the members

ATTENDANCE: Members present: 23 Apologies: 20 Visitors: 0

Malcolm Puddey, a new member, gave an account of how he became interested in orchids

**RAFFLE**: Prize donated by David and Jane Cummings will be raffled at a later date (see 2.7)

#### 1. PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

#### Amendments to the minutes of the 15th July meeting published in the August bulletin

- i) In "Outward correspondence" change "payed" to "paid"
- ii) In Field Trips" under September 26-28th: Perup Change "Accommodation at 'The Kilns'" to "A preliminary group booking for accommodation has been made at the Perup Forest Ecology Centre"
- Iii) At 3.2 change "landscape view (some tall thin orchids may need to be in 'portrait' view)" to "portrait view". It was moved Jon Warren and seconded Matz Dahlkamp that the General Meeting Minutes of 15th July 2015, as published in the August 2015 bulletin (and amended as above) are a true and accurate record of that meeting. *Carried.*

#### 2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- **2.1 Supper Roster:** Volunteers are still needed for September (*Ed. John Ewing and Alison Higgins will now do September supper. Volunteer is required for October meeting supper. Another volunteer is required for the cake as October meeting is the Octogenarians' night)*
- 2.2 Website for validated digital photographs of all WA native orchids: The website (<a href="www.wanoscg.com">www.wanoscg.com</a>) is up and images are appearing. Noel, however, is a little disappointed that at this stage there are only three contributors (himself, Justin and Pat Richards). An email address for members to submit digital orchid images has not yet been set up but digital images can be given to Noel on a thumb drive or CD or by contacting Noel and asking for his postal address. The file name for each image should include the species name, location and date [eg. Caladenia arrecta, Lesmurdie, 26 August 1979]. See Noel's instructions in the August Bulletin. When you submit images please let Noel know your preferred name so that it can be attached to your images.
- 2.3 Orchid workshops for 2015: Members interested in attending a rerun of the Orchid identification workshop run last year by Margaret Collins and Mark Brundrett should email Margaret or Jay The SRG have indicated that at this stage 4 or 5 members would like to attend a workshop in Albany. It is currently envisaged that the workshop will be run in both Perth and Albany towards the end of the year. Planning is unlikely to proceed until after Mark Brundrett's return and Margaret's teaching commitments have ended in October.
- **2.4 Speakers for 2015:** We are still looking for a speaker for October. One suggestion is that we ask somebody from the extended camping trip to present their findings.
- **2.5 Database:** Members were informed of the progress that Ramon, Peter and Donna have made towards establishing a new excel orchid sighting spreadsheet. The new sheet has dropdown menus (of orchid names and locations) to help members provide data in a form that can be imported into our database.
- **2.6 Red Beaks (Pyrorchis nigricans):** Please Contact Emma Dalziell if you have seen any Red Beaks flowering in the Perth area
- **2.7 Raffle prize for November 2015 or March2016:** At our last meeting David and Jane Cummings presented a framed panel of embroidery depicting 14 orchids (created by Thelma Bridle of South Australia) to be raffled at a later date. A photograph of this will appear in the bulletin and the date for the raffle will be advertised in the bulletin.

#### 3. TREASURER'S REPORT

For the period 1st February 2015 to 31st July 2015

|             | MTD (1/07/15 – 31/07/15) | YTD (1/02/15 – 31/07/15) |  |
|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Income      | \$533.40                 | \$4777.85                |  |
| Expenditure | nil                      | \$1319.70                |  |

It was moved Matz Dahlkamp and seconded Tom Burbidge that the Treasurer's report as circulated be accepted as a true record of the club's finances. Carried

#### 4. CORRESPONDENCE

#### 16th July 2015 to 19th August2015 Inward emails to the WANOSCG Web site and

Electronic versions of Newsletters and Bulletins have been received over the period from: Orchid Society of Western Australia Inc, ANOS Illawarra, ANOS Sydney, ANOS Macarthur, NOSSA

| Date    | Name              | Subject   |  |
|---------|-------------------|---|--|
| 19/8/15 | Jon Warren        | WANOSCG conducting orchid surveys of metropolitan reserves                |  |
| 18/8/15 | Warren Hills      | Cannington City Council are selling a 1.7ha block at 309 Sevenoaks Street |  |
| 14/8/15 | Simone van Hattem | E-bulletin for CCWA Member Groups   |  |
| 10/8/15 | Fwd from NOSSA    | Workshop on native bees on the 18th August , Adelaide, Dr Remko Leijs     |  |
| 4/8/15  | Murray Baker      | ABC Radio National article  |  |
|         | Australia Post    | ABN details required for your PO box                                      |  |
| 31/7/15 | Tim Hodgkins      | Conservation issues   |  |
| 25/7/15 | Anna de Haan      | On our next field trip I will ask how many members would be interested in |  |
| 22/7/15 | Margaret Petridis | Notice to members re the change in Field Trip location 8th/9th August     |  |
| 21/7 to | Donna , Ramon     | New Sighting report sheet   |  |
| 21/7/15 | Margaret Collins  | Please put message about orchid workshop rerun in bulletin and email to   |  |
| 20/7/15 | John Hills        | September Presentation "Time-Line for Rocks and Orchids"                  |  |

#### Outwards correspondence and Business arising from correspondence:

- 4.1 Sale of a 1.7ha block at 309 Sevenoaks Street by Cannington City Council. Telephone conversation with Warren Hill 18/8/15 See 6.1
- **4.2 Letter from Australia Post asking for our ABN details.** Jay contacted Australia Post on 30/7/15 and provided them with our ABN number. Some of WANOSCG's contact information has been updated, including correcting an error in our email contact. Invoices for the Post Box service will continue to be sent to our PO box (ie PO box 323) Victoria Park 6979).

#### 5. FIELD TRIPS

#### 5.1 Upcoming Field Trips

Since the Field Trip coordinator was away on the Andrew Brown led extended field trip, the president summarised the schedule of field trips as outlined in the August Bulletin.

(Ed: For up-to-date information on the upcoming field trips see Page 8 of this Bulletin).

- 5.2 August 8/9th: Northcliffe area. At the August 12th Committee Meeting Margaret Petridis gave a brief outline of the trip. There were 30 people in attendance and 26 species were found in flower including Caladenia meridionalis, Eriochilus tenuis, and Pterostylis sp. 'Chudalup". A wide range of leaves of other species were also found.
- 5.3 Orchid surveys in summer burns sheets Lists of burnt sites, compiled by Kevin Uhe, were distributed to

members earlier in the year. Members have already adopted some of the 'burns'. Kevin asks that members do some exploring and report back (including on sites that are NOT likely to be of interest) so that the club can focus on the more productive sites. All members are encouraged to form a small group and adopt at least one burn. If you did not receive the lists of burns or have misplaced them let Jay know.

#### **5.4 Personal Field Trips:**

Members are requested to fill out the personal field trip report forms and send Orchid sighting sheets to the registrar (Ramon Newmann

If you don't have a copy of the report or sighting sheets then send an email to the Secretary (John Ewing

and he will provide you with an electronic copy.

- Noel Hoffman reported that Eastern Queen of Sheba was nearing the end of its flowering at Tozer's Bush Camp where *Thelymitra spiralis* was also flowering. Noel also reported that he had recently seen what he thought was an as yet undescribed species of donkey orchid (It was15 to 20cm tall, with narrow dorsal sepals and small labellum).
- Matz Dahlkamp reported that in the York area she had found *T. maculata, C. reptans,* Diuris species, *C. lon-giclavata, P. recurva, P. barbata, Cyanicula sericea* and podded Greenhoods.
- Pat Richards reported that 11 species of orchids were currently flowering in Darlington. These included 4
   Caladenia species, 4 Pterostylis species, several Diuris species and Vanilla orchids.
- Wayne Merritt reported that at Pomeroy Rd he found double headed Pterostylis barbata and at Wannamal he found *Caladenia hiemalis*, and two types of Diuris.
- Margaretha Roepen reported bee orchids (of the *D. laxiflora* type) flowering at Kenwick.
- Bob Steer reported that he had found Northern Queen of Sheba flowering near Badgingarra. In addition he
  asked members to let him know if they found any Thelymitra leaves in the area. Marina mention that she
  had seen lots of Sun Orchid leaves at Drummond Reserve on Old Plains Rd.
- Steve Phillips reported that at One Tree Hill in the Victorian *Dandenong* Ranges he had come across a group of orchidologists and concluded that this must be a good orchid site.

Apologies to members whose contributions were either not reported or misreported, I was not able to make sense of some of the notes that I took.

#### 6. CONSERVATION

Tim Hodgins presented his conservation report.

It was moved Margaretha Roepen and seconded Sarah Atkinson that the Conservation report as circulated be accepted. *Carried*.

Three additional matters were raised.

- **6.1 Orchids in the City of Wanneroo reserves.** Tim reported that in his correspondence with the City of Wanneroo, Sasha Poli had mentioned that while weed mapping at Chicquita and Franklin Parks she had noticed that orchids were about to bloom. Additionally other Council staff have reported that there is currently an abundance of donkey orchids flowering in Boyagin Park.
- **6.2 Should WANOSCG volunteer to conduct orchid related surveys/assessments in reserves managed by local authorities?** Due to the lack of reports from members on the condition of reserves, our Conservation Officer asked the committee to clarify WANOSCG's current aims in relation to this endeavour. At the 12th August Committee Meeting, the committee felt that members might be more inclined to report on reserves if they became involved in an organised orchid survey. With this in mind Jon Warren contacted Julia Beijeman, the Environment Policy Manager of the WA Local Government Association (WALGA), to see whether local authorities might want WANOSCG to help carrying out orchid surveys in their reserves. Julia Beijeman replied that she is very keen to coordinate some level of communication to all local governments on this matter. At this meeting it was suggested that a limited number of surveys be scheduled each year (3 or 4).
- **6.3 Sale of a 1.7ha block at 309 Sevenoaks Street by Cannington City Council.** Jay Steer reported on a telephone conversation with Warren Hill (18/8/15). "Warren referred to a block next to the Gerard St railway bridge that is to be sold. He stated that there is a rare orchid that grows at the end of Gerard St and wonders if it is also in the block being sold. He has no idea what the orchid is but believes that the extension of the street was stopped

(some time ago) because of the orchid. Warren wants everyone to send out letters to the local councils and contact media outlets in order to stop the block being sold."

Jay reported that, from his quick research, the block may have already been sold. It appears that the block in question is bounded by Sevenoaks to the East, Guthrie St (near a railway bridge) to SE and Lake St to SW. [Note: beyond the roundabout at the southern end of Gerard St the street becomes Guthrie St.]. The area is near the Carousel Shopping centre and might be near an old (perhaps still current) *Diuris purdiei* site. On Google Earth the block in question (near 309 Sevenoaks) looks quite degraded. Some members, including Sarah Atkinson, offered to have a look at the site to determine whether there was any likelihood that it contained any significant orchid populations.

#### 7. GROWERS TABLE:

Margaretha Roepen tabled a flowering Greenhood that had come from a club rescue several years ago. Noel Hoffman concluded that it was most *likely P. sanguinea*. Comment was made about how the flowers were crowded at the top of the scape.

#### 8. GENERAL BUSINESS:

- **8.1 Christmas function for 2015:** To be held at Walpole on 21st/22nd November.
- **8.2 Online identification keys:** Margaret Collins spoke briefly about her work in putting classification keys of Western Australian orchids up on Keybase. Members should read her article in the August bulletin.
- **8.3 Missing Bulletins:** Marina mentioned that if you are not getting your email version of the bulletin let the editor know (wanoscg.newsletter@gmail.com).
- **8.4 WANOSCG Photographic competition for 2015:** Members were reminded of the rules and conditions for this year's completion. See details in the August Bulletin.
- **8.5 Unclaimed membership badges.** Marina reported that a number of new members had not collected their name badges. Matz Dahlkamp mentioned that she had taken to posting the badges out to members who failed to claim them.

**8.6 Sites where Red and Green Kangaroo Paws are known to flower en mass.** Ryan Phillips requested that WANOSCG members help with research that Steve Hopper is involved with by reporting known metropolitan sites where Red and Green Kangaroo Paws flower. Information should be emailed to Ryan or Steve via wanoscg@gmail.com.

#### 9. PRESENTATION:

Ryan Phillips presented a very entertaining and informative account of the biology of a number of the major orchid groups to be found in Central and South America. His talk was book-ended by narratives on the political history of Costa Rica and the recent land acquisition strategies aimed at orchid conservation. His presentation was interspersed with images of exotic birds and stunning geography which helped to convey the exciting nature of the region. At the end of the presentation members showed their appreciation and I am sure that many felt the urge to pack a bag and set off on their own adventure.

#### 10. RAFFLE DRAW:

Ryan drew the raffle and the winning ticket was held by Mary Hoffman.

MEETING CLOSED: 9:40 pm

NEXT MEETING: 7:30pm Wednesday 16th September 2015

Leptoceras menziesii. Photo by W. Gye

## Special Feature — Local Reserves

#### Island Point Reserve

#### **By Eric Swarts**

One of my favourite orchid reserves is Island Point, situated about 25km south of Mandurah adjacent to the Harvey Inlet. It is predominantly peppermint and tuart bushland with sheoak and banksia also prominent. A variety of habitats including seasonally wet flats, sedges through to sandy woodlands, provides for an abundance of orchid species. I have found in excess of 40 different orchids, and expect a number more to be added to my list as I have never surveyed the area after a summer burn.

One of the first things you will notice when you visit Island point is the vegetation is almost pristine. Minimal weeds and little dieback are welcome features. The Mandurah Council and "Friends of Island Pt" are to be congratulated on their input into the Reserve. It is fully fenced, with only a few access points and the reserve has numerous tracks that are well maintained.

The first orchids, *Eriochilus dilatatus* and *Leporella fimbriata* appear in April, followed by the greenhoods *Pterostylis sanguinea*, *Pt. vittata* and *Pt. aspera*. At least three distinct *Pt.* aff. *nana* types are found. Other greenhoods include *Pt. recurva* and *Pt. barbata*.

A good time to visit is early to mid August when many of the snails are in full flower, the first *Caladenia* to appear is *C. reptans* subsp. *reptans* and at the same time you will see good displays of *Cyanicula sericea*. September is understandably prime time and highlights include the two hammer orchids *Drakaea livida*, *D. glyptodon* and the common duck orchid *Paracaleana nigrita*. The purple enamel orchid *Elythranthera brunonis* is prolific and later in the month the spider orchids start to appear. *Caladenia arenicola* is relatively common and generally flowers before the newly named *Caladenia swartsiorum* which peaks in October. In a good season there is possibly 100 + plants of *Cal. swartsiorum* in the Island Pt reserve. I have yet to find it anywhere else, although reports in the recent Nyutsia journal indicates another population has been found near Lake Preston. Another highlight in mid to late September is the DRF *Caladenia huegelii*. Only small numbers are found in the reserve



Island Point with house for sale in the foreground (the house is situated on 12 Ha and could be yours for a cool \$3 million)

and hybrids with C. swartsiorum and C. arenicola are sometimes seen. Another interesting find is Caladenia attingens subsp. attingens which is very uncommon north of Bunbury.

Mid-October is also a great time to visit the reserve as the pink enamels *Elythranthera emarginata* are everywhere as are a number of sun orchids including *Thelymitra crinita* and *T. macrophylla* and *T. benthamiana*.

Island Point is renowned for its crabbing and is also a bird lovers hotspot. Many waterbirds frequent the shallows and the raptors including kites, ospreys and eagles are often seen. My favourite, the blue wren, occasionally pops in for a visit.

Below is a list of orchids I have found at Island Point. Please let me know if you have any more to add to the list.

| No       | Scientific name                           | Common name                | Flowering time       |
|----------|---|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1        | Leporella fimbriata                       | Hare                       | April-June           |
| 2        | Eriochilus dilatatus subsp dilatatus      | White bunny                | April -June          |
| 3        | Eriochilus dilatatus subsp multiflorus    | Common bunny               | March-June           |
| 4        | Pterostylis sanguinea                     | Dark banded                | June-August          |
| 5        | Pterostylis vittata                       | Banded greenhood           | June-August          |
| 6        | Pterostylis aspera                        | Brown-veined shell         | June-July            |
| 7        | Pt aff nana                               | Short eared snail          | June-Sept            |
| 8        | Pt aff nana                               | Slender snail              | June-Sept            |
| 9        | Pterostylis recurva                       | Jug                        | July-Sept            |
| 10       | Pterostylis pyramidalis                   | Tall snail                 | August-Sept          |
| 11       | Pterostylis barbata                       | Bird                       | August               |
| 12       | Caladenia reptans subsp reptans           | Dwarf pink fairy           | July-August          |
| 13       | Cyanicula sericea                         | Silky blue                 | August               |
| 14       | Diuris brumalis                           | Winter donkey              | July-August          |
| 15       | Pheladenia deformis                       | Blue beard                 | July -August         |
| 16       | Caladenia discoidea                       | Bee spider                 | Aug-Sept             |
| 17       | Caladenia gemmata                         | Blue china                 | Aug-Sept             |
| 18       | Caladenia flava                           | cowslip                    | Aug-Oct              |
| 19       | Caladenia georgei                         | Tuart spider               | Aug-Sept             |
| 20       | Caladenia arenicola                       | Carousel spider            | Aug-Oct              |
| 21       | Caladenia latifolia                       | Pink fairy                 | Aug-Sept             |
| 22       | Pyrorchis nigricans                       | Red beaks                  | Aug-Sept             |
| 23       | Diuris corymbosa                          | Common donkey              | Aug-Oct              |
| 24       | Diuris magnifica                          | Large pansy                | Aug-Oct              |
| 24       | Diuris aff amplissima                     | Giant donkey               | Sept-Oct             |
| 25       | Diuris longifolia                         | Purple pansy               | Sept-Oct             |
| 26       | Caladenia attingens subsp attingens       | Forest mantis              | Sept-Oct             |
| 27       | Drakaea glyptodon                         | King in his carriage       | Sept                 |
| 28       | Drakaea livida                            | Warty hammer               | Sept                 |
| 29       | Paracaleana nigrita                       | Flying duck                | Sept                 |
| 30<br>31 | Caladenia hirta Caladenia nobilis         | Sugar candy                | Aug-Sept             |
| 32       | Elythranthera brunonis                    | Noble spider Purple enamel | Sept Oct             |
| 33       | Caladenia swartsiorum                     | Island Point spider        | Sept-Oct<br>Sept-Oct |
| 34       | Caladenia swartsiorum  Caladenia huegelii | Grand spider               | Sept-Oct             |
| 35       | Caladenia nana                            | Pink fan                   | Sept-Oct             |
| 36       | Diuris laxiflora                          | Bee orchid                 | Sept-Oct             |
| 37       | Thelymitra flexuosa                       | Twisted sun                | Sept-Oct             |
| 38       | Thelymitra crinita                        | Blue lady                  | Sept-Oct             |
| 39       | Thelymitra macrophylla                    | Scented sun                | Sept-Oct             |
| 40       | Thelymitra vulgaris                       | Slender sun                | Sept-Oct             |
| 41       | Caladenia marginata                       | White fairy                | Sept-Oct             |
| 42       | Elythranthera emarginata                  | Pink enamel                | Sept-Oct             |
| 43       | Microtis media subsp media                | Common mignonette          | Oct-Nov              |
| 44       | Microtis media subsp densiflora           | Dense mignonette           | Oct-Nov              |
| 45       | Thelymitra benthamiana                    | Leopard                    | Oct-Nov              |







Caladenia huegelii, C. swartsiorum, Pterostylis recurva. Photos by E. Swarts

#### **FIELD TRIP UPDATE**

Below are details on some of the upcoming field trips. Members wishing to attend or for further information please contact .

#### September 20th

Day trip to the burn on Brookton Highway to look for *Cyanicula* sp. 'Dale' and other species. If time permits, we may visit Yarra and/or Qualen Road later in the day.

Meet at 9.30am where the Bibbulmun track and power lines cross the highway near Omeo Road.

Please advise Margaret by Friday 18th September if you plan to attend.

#### September 26th - 28th

Long weekend field trip based at Perup Ecology Center near Tonebridge, south of Boyup Brook. We will explore some of the burnt reserves near the Muir highway and areas around Tonebridge and Boyup Brook.

There are 2 rooms still available in the bunkhouse, able to accommodate 4 - 6 people.

#### September 29th and 30th

Survey work for Walpole DPaW for *Caladenia harringtoniae* and *C. christineae*. We have extended our stay at Perup for 3 nights to enable members to help with these surveys and should have more information soon.

#### October 3rd and 4th

Survey of a reserve near Boddington on Saturday 3rd, with possible searches in the large burn west of Boddington, if time permits in the afternoon.

Searches of the burn west of Boddington and another one to the south west are planned for Sunday 4th.

Members can attend either or both days. Please advise Margaret.

#### October 17th and 18th

Northcliffe weekend field trip to look in the large burnt area.

The Watermark Kilns accommodation north of the town has been booked, which will comfortably house 12 people. An option for camping in the grounds and using facilities is also available.

Check with the Northcliffe Visitor Center (97767203) for other accommodation options.

#### **EARLY NOTICE OF BREAK-UP FIELD TRIP**

#### November 21st and 22nd

Based in Walpole, with preferred accommodation at the Coalmine Beach Caravan Park as they have a large recreation room that is ideal for a group gathering.

We will get together on the Saturday night to share food, photos and stories.







L-R: Thelymitra antennifera, Corybas despectans, Drakaea livida. Photos by S . Hayman





These photos of *Thelymitra speciosa* (top) and *T. uliginosa* by Noel Hoffman are from Tozers Bush Camp in Bremer Bay.

#### **SOUTHERN RIVERS GROUP — Stirling Ranges 8th August 2015**

The weather forecast was not exactly favourable, however, the assembled group knew the further north we went the brighter the weather would become.

Our first stop at Kamballup delivered the usual *Caladenia hiemalis* (Common Dwarf Spider) and *Diuris* sp. 'Green Range" (Donkey Orchid), *Diuris brumalis* (Winter Donkey), *Pterostylis vittata* (Banded Greenhood), *Pt. recurva* (Jug Orchid) and many *Caladenia reptans* subsp. *reptans* (Little Pink Fairies). Of interest was the absence of *Pterostylis sanguinea* (Dark Banded Greenhood). It was not seen at any of our locations today.

Moving north and into the sunshine along Chester Pass Road, eagle eyes added the following to our list: *Pt. dilatata* (Robust Snail), *Thelymitra spiralis* (Curly Locks) and a small colony of Pt. nana complex. A group of six Caladenia plants was sighted, however at the time they defied identification the one open flower closely resembled *Cal. serotina*. After many emails and another visit two weeks later, "Cal. serotina" probably is a hybrid *Cal. longicauda eminens* x *Cal. longicauda redacta. Prasophyllum parvifolium* (Autumn Leek) was added to the list at our next stop. Further into the park one bud of *Thelymitra speciosa* (Eastern Queen of Sheba) was sighted with a number of *Caladenia arrecta* (Reaching Spider).

At the fourth stop beside the edge of the Stirling Range National Park the very first *Cal. flava* subsp. *flava* (Cowslip) were just opening. A nearby usually wet depression was depressingly dry, however, a few plants of *Pheladenia deformis* (Blue Beard) and *Diuris porrifolia* (Western Wheatbelt) were sighted here. Our last stop for afternoon tea was also very dry and bereft of more orchid species. The rain shadow on the northern slopes is certainly making its presence felt. Leaving the sun and heading south, we were greeted by rain showers 40km from home.

Anna de Haan

# NORTHCLIFFE — 8th and 9th of August

'WINDY, WET .... BUT WONDERFUL!!'

A large and enthusiastic group of around 30 members and friends gathered on Saturday morning inside the Northcliffe Visitor Center and watched the dark grey clouds dump heavy rain outside as we had our morning brief.

Wendy was our local trip leader and we soon headed out, following her south towards Windy Harbour. Our first stop was at some low granite rocks north of Mt Chudalup where we found **Prasophyllum fimbria** (Fringed Leek), **Pterostylis erubescens** and **Pterostylis karri** in flower near the roadside. We also found two different pink bunnies, **Eriochilus scaber subsp. scaber** and **Eriochilus tenuis** in flow-

er and bud at the edge of the rocks. Numerous other orchid species were seen in bud and leaf.

Following a break in communication and convoy procedure, we found ourselves all down at Windy Harbour where we then decided to seek shelter from the heavy rain and have morning tea. After the rain had eased, we headed out west of Windy Harbour towards Cathedral Beach and stopped to search in the sand dunes. Here we found Caladenia meridionalis (South Coast spider), Pheladenia deformis (Blue Fairies), Pterostylis sp. 'coastal clubbed sepals' (Coastal short-eared snail) and Corybas recurvus (Common Helmet) in flower. Various other orchid leaves were seen.

We next headed out to the lookout area on Point D'Entrecasteaux and searched in the burn where we found some of the orchids from the previous stop (snails, fairies and spiders) as well as some different snails, **Pt. sp. 'coastal'**, (possibly **Pt. sp. 'cauline leaves'**), **Pterostylis rogersii** (Curled-tongue shell), **Pyrorchis nigricans** (Red beaks) and a Diuris, probably **D. jonesii** in early flower. Numerous leaves and buds were also found, including **Cyanicula gertrudiae**, which should be in flower in October.

As heavy dark clouds threatened, we decided to have a break and headed off just as a shower of hail pelted down. We returned to the shelter at Windy Harbour for lunch and waited for the weather to abate. After lunch we headed north to some low granites south of Mt Chudalup where we found Pt. erubescens, Prasophyllum fimbria, Pyrorchis nigricans, Eriochilus scaber/scaber, Pterostylis vittata, (Banded Greenhood), Pterostylis recurva (Jug) and Pterostylis barbata (Bird) all in flower. We did find plants of Thelymitra uliginosa (Southern Curlylocks) in advanced bud, but they were tightly closed against the cold and windy weather.

At the end of the day, most people headed back to their accommodation but a small band of around 10 braved the elements to climb Mt Chudalup in search of the rarely seen Mt Chudalup snail orchid, **Pt. sp. 'Chudalup'**. After checking previously found rosettes and finding only small buds, we started heading back down....until Michael called us back to show us a small colony of the snails in bud and flower inside a hollow rock. The location of the snails posed some unique problems for photographers, with some more determined than others to get a close shot!

As we were doing this, Tony called us from further down the rock to say he had found some at the base of a rock we had all walked passed on our way up earlier. These two flowers were much more accessible, and gave us all the opportunity to get some great close-up photos. We left Mt Chudalup with a sense of satisfaction, after a difficult but rewarding day of orchiding.

Next morning, we shared our find on Mt Chudalup with the rest of the group and all decided they would like to see the snail orchid, so we headed back, with Wendy joining us. Along the walk trail, we saw some tall (22cm) and magnificent plants of **Cyrtostylis huegelii** (Midge) and on the lower parts of Mt Chudalup there were Blue Fairies in flower and leaves of **Leporella fimbriata** (Hare), **Caladenia flava** (Cowslip), **Caladenia marginata** (White Fairies), and **Thelymitra granitora** (Coastal Sun). On top of the rock we found finished flowers of **Cyrtostylis robusta** (Mosquito).

L-R: WANOSCG members at Mt Chudalup, *Eriochilus tenu- is, E. scaber.* Photos by M. Petridis.







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Western Australian Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group

Wendy was unable to continue with us after this stop, so we said goodbye and thanked her for showing us so much around Northcliffe. She gave us directions to another lot of low granites in the burn out along Deeside Coast Rd, so we headed off to explore. Here we found more Eriochilus scaber/scaber, Pterostylis karri, a large loose colony of Pheladenia deformis and a large colony of bird orchids, with around 10 in flower and 40 in bud. We also found leeks, **Cyanicula sericea** (Silky Blue) and **many different Caladenias** in bud and leaf on and around the rocks. It will be very interesting to visit this area again on our next field trip in October.

After searching this area for an hour or so, we decided to have lunch and then all started to head for home. It was a very interesting field trip, with over 30 species of orchids identified, with 20 in flower, and we all agreed it had been wonderful, despite the inclement weather. Thank you to Wendy for her leadership and guidance, and to all who attended and enthusiastically searched for the many orchids over the weekend.

I encourage all members to consider attending the next field trip to Northcliffe in October  $(17^{th}/18^{th})$  as we are sure to see another large variety of orchids then.



Margaret Petridis
(Field Trip Co-ordinator)







Anticlockwise: Caladenia meridionalis, Pterostylis erubescens, Pt. sp. 'Mt. Chudalup', Pt. sp. 'Coastal'.

Photos by M. Petridis

#### **City of Wanneroo Reserves**

WANOSCG members may wish to try the following reserves located in the City of Wanneroo. If you have been already, let the Registrar (Ramon Newmann) know about what you found.

- Chicquita Park, High Road/Chicquita Place, Wanneroo.
- Franklin Park, Franklin Road, Wanneroo, near Rome road.
- Boyagin Park, Boyagin Way, Sinagra
- Lake Adams Regional Reserve, Neaves Road, Banksia Grove
- Tranquillity Park, Carramar, NE side of Golf Course, Tranquillity Drive

#### SNAIL TRIP — PART 1 (Days 1-3)

#### DAY 1: PERTH TO JILAKIN ROCK

An excited group of members met early on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August at the Rock Inne car park in Karragullen, eager to set off on the nine day camping trip looking for various snail orchids. Peter and Debbie did not arrive by the designated meeting time and, after a few phone calls, we discovered they had a flat battery in their car. They joined us later at the first stop after purchasing a new battery.

Our first stop was on Brookton highway, east of Warradale Rd where we found *Pheladenia deformis*; *Caladenia hiemalis*, *filifera* and *xantha*, and others, plus our first snail orchid – *Pterostylis* sp. 'crinkled leaf'. A pretty hybrid, *Caladenia filifera x hiemalis* was found a few times.

We proceeded to Brookton and then headed south to the Lake Toolibin NR east of Narrogin where we found the target orchid: *Pterostylis brunneola*, a large flowered brown and white snail orchid.

Heading east, we arrived at Kulin, then went north to Gnarming Road West where we located the newly named *Pterostylis echinulata*, the Hairy Leafed Snail. Much debate ensued that evening and during the trip as to whether it was a hairier form of the variable hairy stemmed snail or not.

Our final stop for the day was on Jilakin Rock Road where we found more hairy leafed snails, *Caladenia dimidia* and *radialis*, and two hybrids, *Caladenia dimidia* x *radialis* and *Caladenia dimidia* x *hirta* subsp. *rosea*. The second hybrid was a new one for Andrew and all of us.

We arrived at our first camp site near Jilakin Rock and set up for the evening. Later we enjoyed a cosy chat around a blazing fire under a clear starry night.



L-R: Pterostylis species - brunneola, echinulate, parva

#### DAY 2: JILAKIN ROCK TO WOODLANDS CAMP

Next morning dawned clear and sunny and we spent some time exploring around the campsite before heading off around 8.30am. Orchid species found were *Pterostylis* sp. 'inland', the Hairy Stemmed snail, *Caladenia roei* and *incensa*, and *Diuris hazeliae*.

Our first stop was on Aylmore Road, south of Hyden where we found some gorgeous flowers of Thelymitra speci-







osa and a Pterostylis sanguinea.

After re-fueling in Hyden, we headed east along the Hyden-Norseman Road and stopped at a site where Andrew had previously seen *Thelymitra speciosa*. We managed to find about 10 plants and noted that the flowers were smaller and less colourful than the ones found at Aylmore Rd.

Our next main stop was at the Breakaways where we were amazed to find orchids growing in small soil pockets on the top of the rocky formations. *Eriochilus saccharata*, *Caladenia microchila* and *Pt.* sp. 'inland' were found here.

A stop in burnt woodlands east of the Breakaways had us searching carefully for the small buds and flowers of *Caladenia voigtii*, which we found, along with *Caladenia roei* and a hybrid between them. *Pterostylis mutica* and *E. saccharata* were also found here.

Our final stop was at a low granite rock on the south side of the road, where we found *Diuris hazeliae*, *Cyanicula amplexans* and *Caladenia roei* and others. We then drove to the Woodlands camp site for the night and again enjoyed a cheery campfire and chat.

### DAY 3: WOODLANDS CAMP TO MT RIDLEY

The third day dawned overcast and cool, with forecasts of rain. We headed into Norseman to re-fuel and re-stock supplies and then headed south to McPherson Rock, where we had to get out wet weather gear due to light rain.

There we found *Caladenia sigmoidea*, *microchila* and *flava*; *Pterostylis mutica* and some *Pt. rufa* buds as well as some of the previously found species.

We were a bit anxious about heading into Mt Ridley with rain forecast, due to the clay tracks, but decided to go in as only about 5mm was expected. On Ridley Rd we stopped and found *Pterostylis brevichila*, the Dwarf Shell orchid and some lovely groups of *C. sigmoidea*.

On the last section of road before the Mt Ridley turn-off, we encountered a large wet and boggy area which we all managed to get through safely with guidance. At Mt Ridley we set up camp and eagerly went exploring and looking for orchids. Snail orchids found were the common hairy stemmed snail (*Pt.* 'sp. 'inland') and *Pterostylis parva*, the Fawn Snail. Some of the other orchids in flower were *Caladenia pachychila*, *Cyanicula aperta* and *Diuris pulchella*.

Rain was forecast and it fell during the night.....to be continued.

Margaret Petridis.

From top: *Thelymitra speciosa, Caladenia voigtii, C. voigtii x C. roei* . All photos are by M. Petridis. More photos on next page.



#### **SURVEY ASSISTANCE FOR DPAW**

We have had a request for assistance with surveys of Priority and Threatened orchid species from Janine Liddlelow of the Walpole DPaW office.

These will happen in late September for *Caladenia harringtoniae* and *christineae*, late October for *Caladenia ambusta* (\*) and in December for *Thelymitra jacksonii* and *Microtis globula*.

Other surveys will be done for *Diuris purdiei* in late September and *Thelymitra* sp. 'Ongerup' (\*) in early November.

Please advise Margaret if you are interested in assisting with any of these surveys and she will advise the survey leaders as they are determined.

More information will be sent out when available.

(\*) These surveys are for ADORP members only.

Caladenia longicauda (right) and C. filifera. Photos by W. Gye.





#### WANOSCG — C is for Conservation

Below is the list of reserves where WANOSCG has previously been involved and volunteers are needed to visit and check if they are in the area:

- 1. Shire of Albany BAKERS JUNCTION
- 2. Shire of Augusta- Margaret River DONOVAN ST RESERVE
- 3. Shire of Cranbrook FRANKLAND RESERVE
- 4. Shire of Esperance VOITII COMPOUND (private property)
- 5. Shire of Mt Barker MONDURUP RESERVE
- 6. Shire of Moora CANDY'S RESERVE
- 7. City of Nedlands HOLLYWOOD RESERVE

If members are interested please contact WANOSCG Conservation Officer, Tim Hodgkins , for address details. So far, Tim only has volunteers for 2 and 7.

Each reserve needs to the checked for signage and fencing and the condition of both to be reported back to Tim by end of year if possible.

# Octogenarians' Night Reminder

Dear members, October meeting is Octogenarians' Night.

Offer a lift to your fellow octogenarian!



A clump of *Pheladenia deformis* (top) and *Cyanicula ceracea* (below). Photos by M. Karyagina



#### **BULLETIN ARTICLES**

Please email any Bulletin contributions to Marina at <a href="mailto:wanoscg.newsletter@gmail.com">wanoscg.newsletter@gmail.com</a>. Items for the next Bulletin need to be submitted by 1st October 2015.

#### COPYRIGHT

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#### **Upcoming Field Trip List**

| Month | Dates | Description   |  |
|-------|-------|---|--|
| Sep   | 12-13 | Visit to a private property in South Bokal                                  |  |
| Sep   | 20    | Day trip to Brookton Highway or York Rd or both plus other nearby locations |  |
| Sep   | 26-28 | Stay at Perup Ecology Centre and explore areas in vicinity                  |  |
| Sep   | 29-30 | Survey work for Walpole DPaW for Caladenia harringtoniae and C. christineae |  |
| Oct   | 3-4   | Survey work in Boddington area  |  |
| Oct   | 17-18 | Northcliffe field trip to look in the large burnt area                      |  |
| Nov   | 21-22 | Season end field trip—Walpole   |  |

soon. Note some of the surveys are for ADORP members only

# WANOSCG photographic competition for 2015



Photographs are to be of two or more orchid species (or hybrids) in the same field of view. Members are reminded that photographs must be taken in 2015 under natural circumstances and not be the result of "Photoshopping" two or more orchids into a single photograph. Photographs should be 6"x4", 8"x10" or A4 sized and without a mounting or backing. Members may enter up to three photographs.

| 2015 | 2015 ROSTERS |                                  | SPEAKERS 2015                                    |  |
|------|--------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
|      | Raffle       | Supper                           | 10.20.00   |  |
| SEP  | Tom Burbidge | Alison Higgins and John<br>Ewing | John Hills Timeline for Rocks and Orchids        |  |
| ост  | Bob Steer    | VOLUNTEER NEEDED!                | Jay Steer—Dieback Management / Snail Trip photos |  |
| NOV  | David Lawson | Kim and Thea Hanson              | Photo Competition and Members slides             |  |