

WANOSCG GUIDELINES FOR FIELD TRIPS

TO AVOID GETTING LOST

There is always potential for getting lost in the bush. The following will assist you keeping safe: -

- Use a GPS and mark your vehicle and an entry waypoint when commencing a walk.
- Use a portable two-way radio tuned to UHF channel 13
- Carry spare batteries for GPS. Ensure radio is charged or has spare batteries.
- Wear hi visibility clothing.
- Carry a whistle.
- Stay within eye contact of the group.
- Search with a partner (buddy).
- Return to the vehicles when notified or at the allotted time or if you hear car horns

TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF DIE BACK

- Carry a spray bottle containing 70% Methylated Spirits 30% water in your vehicle.
- Spray footwear and equipment when entering and leaving susceptible areas.
- Do not enter dieback areas when it is wet

WANOSCG VISITS TO RARE OR ENDANGERED ORCHIDS

- Club trips to see Threatened orchids will only proceed after consultation with DBCA staff.
- WANOSCG members should respect the privilege of visiting orchid sites that are not generally known or accessible to the general public. They should not disclose or mark the location of rare, threatened or priority taxa to non-members, or visit these sites unnecessarily.
- Large groups should be **split up to minimise** impact when visiting sensitive orchids.
- In order to protect rare and threatened orchids and their habitat, restrictions may be imposed on the number of members attending such field trips.

COLLECTION OF PLANT SPECIMENS

- The collection of plant material or orchid specimens without a licence from DBCA **is against the law and forbidden.**
- If a licence holder wishes to collect plant specimens on a WANOSCG field trip they should notify the FTL.

MINIMIZATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- Look for orchids along tracks and road sides as they often grow in these areas
- Follow existing trails in the bush if possible to avoid unnecessary damage to the undergrowth.
- Avoid disturbing vegetation and soil, especially in wet areas and creek lines.
- Walk and kneel carefully when photographing orchids to minimise habitat impact.
- Regulate members going in to photograph an orchid, one at a time, to minimise damage.
- DO NOT break or damage protective vegetation to get a clearer photo. Ask for assistance from another person to hold back vegetation. Prickly vegetation, branches and plant litter assist orchid survival in many ways including keeping grazing animals at bay.
- If accessing bush tracks by vehicle always attempt to make minimum impact on the bush and try to stay off the sides of tracks as orchids often grow in these areas.

FIRST AID AND EMERGENCIES

- First Aid equipment is carried, generally in the vehicle of the Field Trip Leader.
- Instruction on Emergency Procedures is carried in each First Aid Kit.
- On more remote trips, a Personal Locator Beacon with GPS or similar is advisable (<http://beacons.amsa.gov.au/about/beacon-types.asp>)