

Western Australian Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group



May 2017 Bulletin

From the Editor: Stuart Gale

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Well, the orchid season has officially started, with sightings of Hares, Bunnies (of all varieties), Leafless and just starting to flower; Winter Spider, Greenhoods and rosettes for Snails.

We are desperate for our winter rains to come and soak the ground so that we can again have a bumper season again, it is quite dry at present. This is evident from the Field Trip reports I have received.

Something new to the General Meetings this year we would like to open the floor to our Members, New or Old to talk about their love of Orchids and how you became interested. We plan to have an 'Open Mic night' in October at the General Meeting.

Register your interest with our committee in the coming months to secure your spot.

For those unaware, WANOSCG has a website full of information that may just help you on your next outing. This is a moving space and will be updated with new and interesting stories. Check it out today www.wanoscg.com

Have you joined the WANOSCG Facebook page yet? A forum to share findings and educational pieces too. Search for WANOSCG through your Facebook profile and select Join.

Happy Orchid Hunting in the coming weeks.



Wrong Turns and Random Stops- Marina Karyagina

I am extremely grateful to everyone who shared their orchid leads with me. There are so many orchids I would not have seen if not for generosity of others. It is, however, extremely satisfying to find a long desired orchid on your own.

I found my very first spider in Dryandra, near Congelin dam. It was a *Caladenia xantha*. It is a special spot for me and I try to visit it every year if I can.

A couple of years back, while on the way to the dam, I took a wrong turn (not deliberately, I am just that bad) towards Congelin (town site, not dam). I kept driving for a while even after I realised I was on the wrong road and had to turn back. There was a convenient pull off into the bush so I thought I check the place out. As soon as I got out of the car, I was surrounded by hundreds of donkey

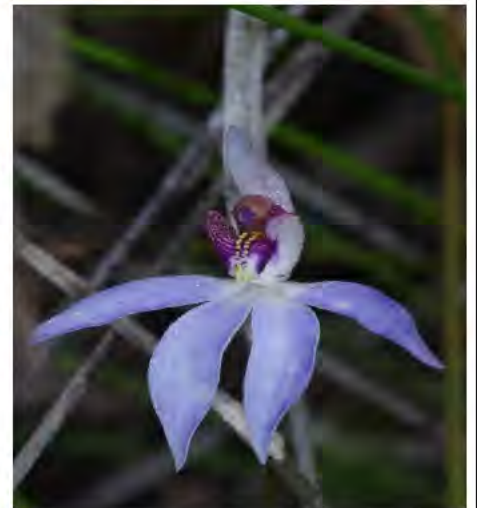
that were rather small in stature. A few steps further I found plenty of cowslips, *Ericksonella saccharata* and blue beards. Looked like good orchid territory, I thought, but nothing special, just check out these she-oaks and go. Wait, what are these, or dear, blood spiders. Quite a number of clumps. I had seen the blood spiders before, but these were the first ones I found myself!

Another wrong turn I took was near Augusta last year. Many members would know the shell orchids spots off the Hillview road from Bob Liddlelow's book. One would normally go there at the end of May or early June. I was there in early December. Thinking about checking the spots for what they might deliver at that time of the year, I accidentally turned too early into a cleared track. Oh, well, let's check it out. Strolling along the track, fighting mosquitos the size of bumblebees, I saw something out of the corner of my eye. Oh dear, a family of potato orchids! I'd been looking, unsuccessfully, for potato orchids for a while, always too late or too early, and here they were, quite a few of them together, so conspicuous and tall that at first I did not think they were orchids.

Oh what about the time when I was driving from a highly successful hunt with Jeannette Wheatley and Sue O'Halloran near Jerramungup. We saw some many wonderful orchids that for a short time (while I was rather high on endorphins) I did not think I wanted to see another orchid. Having said 'goodbye' to the good ladies, I headed back to the Stirling Range retreat via Corackerup Rd. This was deliberate as the map shows a reserve along the road of a very thin long shape. I thought there must be a reason this piece of bush was set aside as a reserve. Yet, the first stop was very disappointing, not even a single cowslip to be found. Oh, well, I thought, you can't be hitting a jackpot all the time. Still, with endorphins subsiding, I stopped to make another check.

Poor clay soil greeted me but what's that? Western tiny blue! The orchid I have not seen before and the one, I thought, I had to drive to Esperance for! What a good fortune, being accidentally lost or stopping randomly just at the right spot!

Pictured right: Potato Orchid and Western Tiny Blue Orchid



ORCHID RELOACTION PROJECT – Tim Cross



Relocation of orchids: From the Flynn Drive site project, Mark Brundrett had some tubers and seeds from the spider orchid *C. arenicola* that were available for planting. A suitable site has been identified in the Landsdale NR and with the cooperation of Dave Pike, site supervisor, several members have completed planting on Saturday morning April 22nd. A transect was set up of around 30m where tubers and seeds could be located by GPS and marked with permanent steel makers. Thanks to all involved in this morning.

CLUB FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Noble RD Reserve Field Trip 23 April – Lyn Alcock

18 keen orchid enthusiasts met at the Noble Rd Reserve, south-west of Wagin all ready to enjoy the first Field Trip of the season.

The plan was to do as complete a survey of the L-shaped reserve as possible, to verify 2 previous siting areas and look for new occurrences of the Leafless orchid.

Praecoxanthus aphyllus. Members were sent out in pairs, all with two-ways and GPS locators to ensure safety in this large reserve. A period of 3 hours was allocated to give plenty of time to explore.

Orchids were soon found at the previously identified sites and several new areas were identified. Interestingly the long section of the L-shape produced no orchids whatsoever, although it is possible habitat for orchids later in the season.

A total of 78 Leafless plants were found with 3 already finished, as well as a considerable mass of Hare orchids...*Leporella fimbriata*. I visit this reserve every year and this patch of Hare orchids always produces a nice number, some years better than others. Crinkle-leaved Bunny orchid, *Eriochilus dilatatus undulata* and Red Beak leaves. *Pyrorchis nigricans* were also noted.

After some of the group had to leave at 2pm a few of us moved on to a very old recorded site near Highbury, but after extensive searching, absolutely no orchids were found and it was felt that the habitat was not at all likely for Leafless orchids. The day concluded with everyone very satisfied with the efforts and finds. I would like to commend everyone on adherence to constant communication and safety procedures followed. It made my job as leader much easier, and ensured safety for all. One point I feel I must make is that when signing on and off to the field Trip, it is NOT appropriate to copy off anyone else's contact details...this is an invasion of privacy. If you wish these details, ask the person themselves.

As an aside, I took Justin Brown and his brother out to my East Yornaning site 2 days later and we counted exactly 100 Leafless orchids. more than I have noted there for the last 2 years, but less than the 148 I identified with Judith Williams the year previously.

A fabulous start to the orchid year.

Walpole Field Trip Report 6th & 7th May – David Edmonds

A wonderful start to the season.

With 2 days of near perfect weather – low 20s and little wind – 8 members of the group first headed out along the Deep River on Saturday morning. There were plenty of bunnies to be seen with *Eriochilus dilatatus subsp. multiflorus* (Common Bunny Orchid) found at nearly every location that we stopped at. We were also lucky enough to find *E. helonomus* (Swamp Bunny), *E. pulchellus* (Granite Bunny) and *E. valens* (Red-lipped Bunny) (thanks to Maggie for giving us the heads up). Initial excitement at finding a *Prasophyllum* sp 'early' (Scented Autumn Leek) with 3 flowers was followed with some striking specimens with more than 15 flowers. *Pterostylis vittata* (Banded Greenhood) was common, but only a handful of flowers were open. We finished the day with some lovely specimens of *Leporella fimbriata* (Hare Orchid).

Our second day took us through a range of habitats north of Bow Bridge and up to the burn at Hiker/Gully. At a small granite outcrop we found plenty of Granite Bunnies and a handful of *Praecoxanthus aphyllus* (Leafless Orchid). We finished the day with the discovery of a single *E. valens* just near the granite.

With so many burns around the Walpole area in the last year, there is an almost unlimited choice of locations for orchid hunting. There were lots of leaves at many locations, but conditions are relatively dry, so some good rains are needed to ensure the rest of the season lives up to our first trip. Image Below: *E. pulchellus* (Granite Bunny) David



NORTHERN WA ORCHIDS, 4th May – Gail Reed

Today was my first orchid outing around home and it was a short trip only as I have some health issues.

Found a few Bunny Orchids including the minute Blunt leaf and a couple of others smaller in the same species. If we get some rain I am sure more will appear.

No sign of any Winter Spiders.

I think we need a few mm of rain before much will happen up this way, the country is unbelievably dry considering the amount of summer rain there has been.

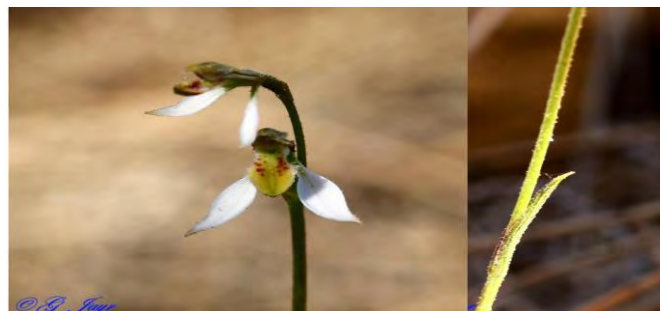
Checked on *Diuris perialla* no sign of any leaves yet which leaves me thinking they will be late flowering this year.

Normally last week in May sees them in flower.

Around the Eneabba area found some Hare Orchids in bud.

I notice on the burn list that Allanonoka springs to Tabletop has a mention. That burn was all on private property. Just a little bit roadside that is not worth even looking at.

There was a big burn down around Tootbardi on the edge of Alexander Morrison around Christmas time that might be worth a look.



Top Right: *E. brevifolius*

Bottom Right: *Eriochilus sp undulatus*

UPCOMING CLUB FIELD TRIPS –

JUNE 3 – 5 NOW FULL	Caladenia drummondii and Eriochilus dilatatus subsp. undulatus	Merredin FTL: Margaret Petridis [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
JULY	Metro trips will probably be held during the week, possibly a weekend half day trip will be done after the Kalamunda trip if Caladenia hiemalis is found. Please see attached for proposed Metro Field Trips and also seeking Volunteers to be Field Trip Leaders for these trips. You can designate the group size you are comfortable to lead. The attached list will be available at the General Meetings in May, June to nominate as a volunteer.	
AUGUST	4 Trips are proposed – Please see attached flyer	
SEPTEMBER	There is potential to extend the long weekend trip over a week or so if members want to go down to the Walpole/Denmark area during the week before or stay a few days afterwards. Please advise Margaret Petridis	

IMAGE GALLERY CORNER – Members Photo's (April)



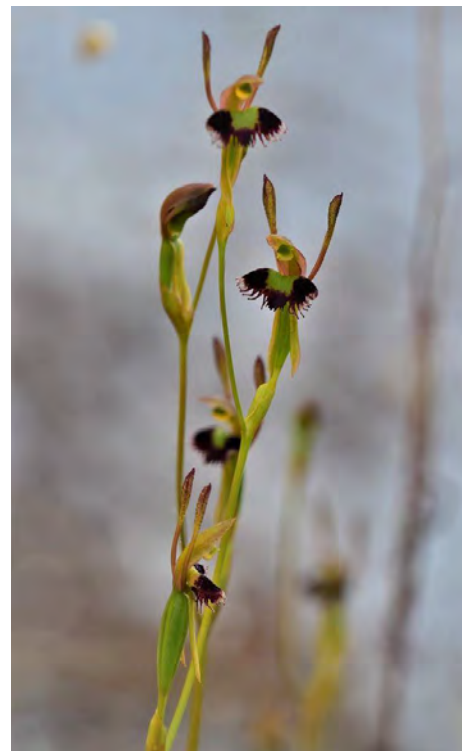
Don Ward – Leafless Orchid



Justin Brown – Leafless Orchid



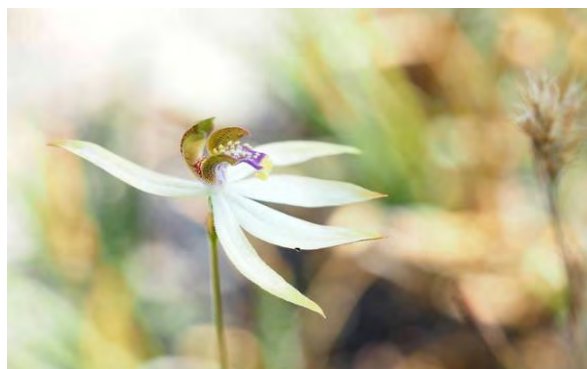
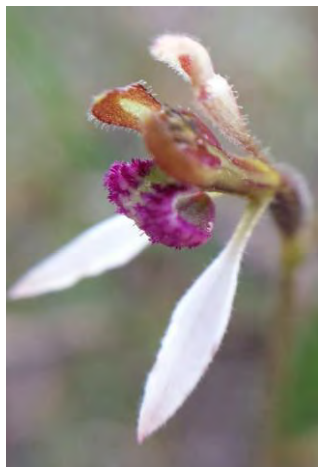
Lyn Alcock – Granite Bunny Orchid



Robin Parsons – Hare Orchid



Lyn Alcock – Red Lipped Bunny Orchid



Left: E.valens – Rob van Oosten Above: Ally Mollica – Leafless Orchid

White Bunny Orchids – Andrew Brown

The white bunny orchids in Western Australia are a closely related group of four species, one of which, *Eriochilus dilatatus*, comprises six subspecies. They are found over a huge range from Dirk Hartog Island in the north to Toolinna Cove in the east, growing in a range of habitats from forests and woodlands to coastal heath and granite outcrops. Members of this group are early flowerers and reach their peak in April and May.

During a recent trip to the south coast I was able to see all four species and four of the six subspecies. I did not see Blunt-leaved Bunny Orchid (*E. dilatatus subsp. brevifolius*) which occurs north of Perth and Eastern Bunny Orchid (*E. dilatatus subsp. orientalis*) which occurs between Caiguna and Toolinna Cove.

In this article I have included photos of the flowers and leaves of each of the species and subspecies I saw during the trip and I discuss some of the morphological features that separate them. The white bunnies are distinguished from one another by a combination of leaf shape, flower number and floral morphology. Note, however, that some of the subspecies in particular have overlapping distributions and habitats and, when this occurs, often produce intermediate forms that are hard to ascribe to named subspecies. I saw this in several places during this recent trip. Near Margaret River, for instance, populations of *E. dilatatus subsp. dilatatus* and *E. dilatatus subsp. multiflorus* occur near one another. In between these populations numerous plants were found that were intermediate in form. Species/subspecies seen during the trip are as follows.

Easter Bunny (*E. dilatatus subsp. magnus*) is predominantly found in the high rainfall lower south-west, often in areas of Karri forest. It is distinguished by its broad, flattened, curved sided (not parallel sided) leaf with entire (not wavy) margins. A healthy plant may have up to 25 flowers but it should be noted that many plants will have fewer flowers than that. It does not require a fire to flower but does flower in greater numbers following fire.

Left: Easter Bunny (*E. dilatatus subsp. magnus*)
Right: The leaf of Easter Bunny Orchid



White Bunny (*E. dilatatus subsp. dilatatus*) is confined mainly to coastal areas (calcareous sands) and is distinguished by its often relatively pale flowers and long, flattened, parallel or near parallel sided leaf with entire (not wavy) margins. It usually has between three and seven flowers. It is not as floriferous as the subspecies multiflorus and magnus, both of which can have 20 or more flowers. It does not require a fire to flower but does flower in greater numbers following fire.

Left: White Bunny (*E. dilatatus subsp. dilatatus*)
Right: The leaf of White Bunny Orchid



Common Bunny Orchid (*E. dilatatus subsp. multiflorus*) is generally found inland of the coast, growing in Jarrah forest and Banksia woodlands. It is distinguished by its often small, relatively short leaf with entire (not wavy) margins. Like the subspecies *magnus* the leaf margins are curved. Note: plants in unburnt areas will often have a larger leaf than those found in burnt areas where the leaf may sometimes be almost bract-like. A healthy plant may have up to 20 flowers but, like the subsp. *magnus*, will often have fewer flowers than that. Although scattered plants may be found in unburnt bushland it responds particularly well to summer fire after which it flowers in abundance.

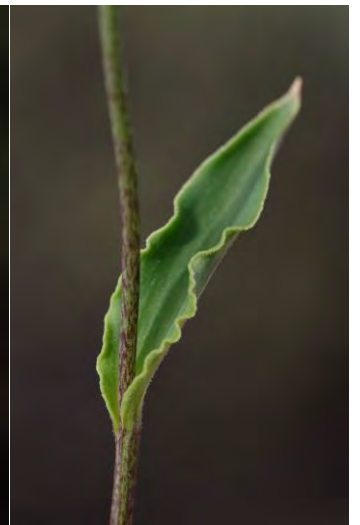
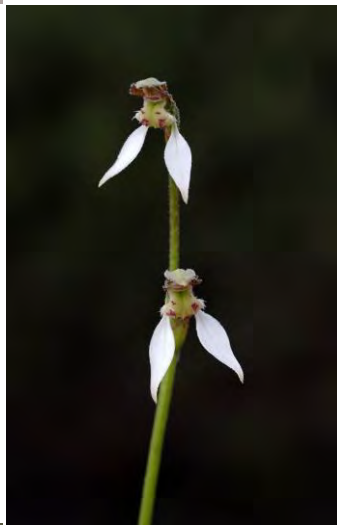
Left: Common Bunny Orchid (*E. dilatatus subsp. multiflorus*)

Right: The leaf of Common Bunny Orchid growing in an unburnt area

Crinkle-leafed Bunny (*E. dilatatus subsp. undulatus*) is a common inland white bunny orchid, growing in woodlands and shallow soil pockets on granite outcrops. It is distinguished by its usually incurved (rather than flattened), wavy margined leaf and few flowered inflorescence. Plants may have up to three flowers but one or two flowers is more common. While the subspecies *dilatatus*, *magnus* and *multiflorus* usually have splayed petals, the subsp. *undulatus* often has petals that clasp the column, a feature shared by *E. helonomos* and *E. valens*. The subspecies does not require fire to flower.

Left: Crinkle-leafed Bunny (*E. dilatatus subsp. undulatus*)

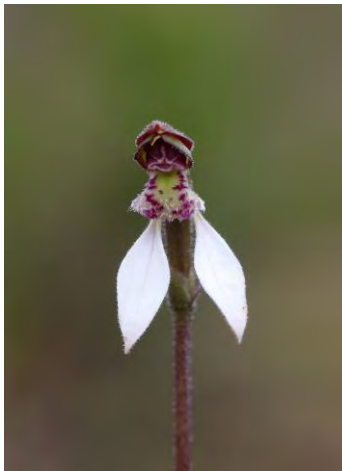
Right: The leaf of Crinkle-leafed Bunny Orchid



Swamp Bunny (*E. helonomos*), as both its common and scientific names imply, usually grows in seasonally wet areas. It is distinguished by its short, broad leaf which may have entire or wavy margins. The leaf may also be incurved or flattened. Plants usually have one or two flowers. Like *E. dilatatus subsp. undulatus* the petals usually (but not always) clasp the column. The species does not require fire to flower.

Left: Swamp Bunny (*E. helonomos*)

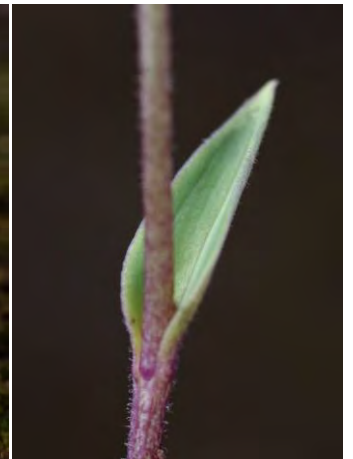
Right: Leaf of Swamp Bunny Orchid with entire margins



Granite Bunny (*E. pulchellus*) is confined to granite outcrops in two disjunct areas – the lower south-west and north-east of Esperance. It is distinguished by its relatively narrow, often incurved leaf, often short inflorescence and usually colourful flowers. It usually begins flowering a little later than *E. dilatatus* in areas where the two taxa grow near one another. The species does not require fire to flower.

Left: Granite Bunny (*E. pulchellus*)

Right: The leaf of Granite Bunny Orchid





Red-lipped Bunny (*E. valens*) is a rarely seen species predominantly confined to swampy habitat between Walpole and Albany but also recently found south of Ongerup. It is distinguished by its short, rounded leaf with entire or wavy margins and flowers with a comparatively large colourful labellum, usually with a pale green stripe down the middle. Like *E. helonemos* the petals often (but not always) clasp the column. Plants are usually few flowered with one or two being the norm but may occasionally have up to seven flowers. The species flowers in very low numbers in unburnt bushland but responds well to summer fire after which it may flower in abundance.

Below: Red-lipped Bunny (E. valens)

Left: The leaf of Red-lipped Bunny Orchid



FIRST AID TRAINING COURSE – Jon Warren

Following the high level of interest First Aid training expressed at a recent general meeting, the management committee has made arrangements for the training to go ahead.

Cost to members will be a substantially discounted \$60 per person.

The course is a day long (9:30 - 4:30) with about an hour of on-line or book work prior to the course so the day can focus on practical elements. Two days in June are proposed being Sunday the 11th or Sunday 18th of June. It is an accredited course with accreditation lasting 3 years.

The current plan is to hold at least one course at Roleystone Family Centre, which is our preferred delivery site and possibly another course in the northern suburbs depending on numbers and someone offering a large enough space to hold the course. Should any country members wish to get a group of at least 6 or more together in their area please contact me to see what can be arranged. We now need firm numbers to book the course.

To book can you please email me on [REDACTED] stating what date you can attend and preferred venue being Roleystone or northern suburb.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER – Jon Warren

WANOSCG warmly welcomes the following new members

Ron, Helen and Sally Oliver	- South Metro
David Rees	- Albany
Helen and Eric Criddle	- Busselton
Julia Harwood	- Busselton
Sue Morrison	- Dunsborough
Jenny and Rob Pauley	- Victor Harbor SA

Please make them feel welcome if you come across them at our meetings or field trips. Jenny and Rob will be visiting WA this winter/spring hoping to hit Kalbarri around August after trekking through the Kimberley. They visited last year but were a bit early so coming to hit the peak flowering times this year. They will keep us posted on their whereabouts via Facebook so you may have a chance to show them your patch.

Mentoring of new members

In order to assist new and not so new members learn about the club function and our beautiful terrestrial orchids it has been decided to trial a mentoring program to connect these folk with more experienced members. You don't have to be an expert to mentor just have some experience at locating orchids and their likely habitats as well as some basic understanding of identification processes plus be prepared to share a few personal trips and your knowledge.

A list will be provided at the meeting for members to nominate to be mentored or be a mentor or you can send an email to wanoscg@gmail.com with Attention Jon Warren - mentoring in the subject line.

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2017

All members are reminded that annual subscriptions are now due.

The annual single or family membership fee is **\$30**. Payment can be made:

- **to the Treasurer** in person
- **by mail** with cheques made out to WANOSCG and sent to: WANOSCG PO BOX 323, VICTORIA PARK, W.A. 6979
- **by electronic transfer** to the club's bank account:
Bank name: Bankwest
BSB: 306044
Account number: 5492468

If you choose to send money electronically please identify what the payment is for (e.g. "Annual Fees" and send a copy of your receipt of electronic transfer with your name on it to the club's email account (wanoscg@gmail.com))





WANOSCG

General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 19th April 2017

Meeting held at: BGPA Boardroom, Kings Park
Meeting opened: 7:30 pm

ATTENDANCE:

Visitors: Mary-Ann Oliver
Number of members present: 37
New members were welcomed

APOLOGIES: Ian Puddey, Rachel Halls, Jay Steer, Heather Hills, Jerzy Kokosinski, Margaret Petridis, Kevin Uhe, Jeanette Wheatley

CIRCULATION OF REPORTS: The Attendance Book and copies of the Conservation Report (Attachment A), Treasurer's Report (Attachment B) and Registrar's Report (Attachment C) were circulated to the members.

RAFFLE: Prize donated by Urszula & George Kokosinski

1. PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Members were asked if they had any amendments to the minutes of 15 March 2017 General Meeting that appeared in the April bulletin.

- It was noted that the date of the minutes of the previous general meeting should have read "16 November 2016" not 16 March 2016 and that the date of the forthcoming April general meeting should have read "19 April 2017" not "19 April 2018".

Subject to the aforementioned amendments it was moved by Sarah Atkinson and seconded by Ross Fox that the General Meeting Minutes of 15 March 2017, as published in the April 2017 bulletin are a true and accurate record of that meeting. Carried

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 Stuart Gale has now been set up as a web site administrator. Any suggestions for inclusions on the web site should be passed to him.

2.2 Suggestions will be being sought for projects to receive funding support from WANOSCG. A sub-committee is drawing up the criteria and process (Jay Steer, Kim Hanson and Jon Warren).

2.3 Ramón Newmann presented Andrew Brown with the WANOSCG Award for 2016 reiterating Andrew's ongoing dedicated service to the club as summarised at the Annual General Meeting of 15 March 2017.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

3.1 The Treasurer's Report for 2016 is still in the process of been audited

3.2 For the period 16 March 2017 to 19 April 2017:

	16-Mar-17 to 19-Apr-17	1 Feb 2017 to 19-Apr-17
	\$	\$
Income (operating account)	1,718.55	1,744.55
Expenditure	756.00	787.40

A term deposit with BankWest is scheduled to mature on 16 October 2017 and of two term deposits with Police & Nurses one is scheduled to mature on 19 May 2017 and the other on 25 October 2017. It was moved by Tom Burbidge and seconded by Urszula Kokosinska that the Treasurer's Report for March 2017 be accepted as a true record of the club's finances. Carried

4. FIELD TRIPS

An outline for field trips in 2017 was published in the April 2017 Bulletin.

Upcoming Field trips

23 April - Narrogin/Wagin

targeting *Praecoxanthus aphyllus* and *Corunastylis tepperi*

FTL: Lyn Alcock, Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

6-7 May - Walpole/Denmark

targeting *Eriochilus valens*

FTL: David Edmonds: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

3-4 June - Merredin

targeting *Caladenia drummondii* and *Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp. *undulatus*

FTL: Margaret Petridis: [REDACTED]

Personal Field Trips:

- Members were reminded to fill out the personal field trip report form on the front table and send electronic Orchid Sighting sheets to the Registrar (Ramón Newmann [REDACTED]). Those who didn't have a copy of the report or sighting sheet were advised to send an email to the Secretary (Pat Richards – [REDACTED]) who would provide an electronic copy.

- Members were requested to use common names or both common and full botanical names where possible when reporting orally to the meeting.

- Andrew Brown indicated that, following good rain in the Esperance region, the following were in flower:

- *Corunastylis tepperi*
- *Eriochilus pulchellus*
- *Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp. *undulatus*
- *Leporella fimbriata*.

- Rob van Oosten reported having seen:

- Leafless orchid at Narrogin
- Red-lipped bunny orchid (*Eriochilus Valens*) at Gull Rock.

- Lyn Alcock reported:

- A patch of red-lipped bunny orchids
- Many leafless orchids
- Many hare orchids.

5. CONSERVATION

Moved by Tim Hodgkins (TH) and seconded by Margaret Fox that the Conservation Report as circulated and published in the April Bulletin be accepted. Carried.

5.1 In addition the following conservation issues were raised:

- WANOSCG membership of the Urban Bushland Council has been renewed.
- Two new matters were listed in the clearing notices in the current week, including road curves about to be straightened.
 - It was noted that straightening of the road in one instance affects about 15 ha of road verge and railway reserve plus a little bit of green land.
 - There is quite a comprehensive listing of orchids in the area.
 - Members interested should contact TH, who will be making a submission to MRWA, using some of Eddy Wajon's experience in the argument.
- There is a proposed burning near Esperance that includes peat land.
 - Anyone with any knowledge or expertise in the matter of peat land that they can contribute to DPaW should contact TH.

- In relation to the orchids that might be affected, DPaW has guidelines and Andrew Brown was requested to provide his guidelines.
- A survey was carried out last year in the Stirling Ranges relating to a proposed camp site at Bluff Knoll. Stuart Gale should have received the results but did not. It was noted that *Caladenia bryceana* is present in the vicinity. It was proposed to send a letter to follow up on the matter.
- Further to the matter of clearing at Jerramungup that has the potential to threaten orchids, Eddy Wajon (EW) has continued to follow the matter up vigorously and the shire is now reported to be listening to the arguments and undertaking some revegetation.
- In general, MRWA is following due process, however, the shires are not.
- Following a meeting with EW, MRWA is reconsidering some of its clearing on the York-Quairading road. It is noted that verge clearing is not the only way to make roads safer and EW indicated that he has support from RACWA in relation to this.
- EW reported that there has been clearing of some karri trees in Walpole in spite of opposition from the local people.
- EW has been asked to comment on matters for the Shire of Plantagenet.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Committee member: A volunteer is being sought to serve as a committee member for 2017. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Ramón Newmann or any Committee Member.

6.2 Southern Rivers Group - Jay Steer has agreed to be the liaison contact for this.

6.3 Rosters for 2017: The supper roster was tabled and members asked to sign up for the remaining unfilled meetings. It was noted that the cost of food for the supper can be claimed back from the Treasurer.

6.4 Speakers for 2017 are still being sought (Aug, Sep, and Oct)

6.5 Fees are due.

6.6 WANOSCG Photographic Competition for 2017: Members were requested to let the committee know of any suggestions they may have for the 2017 competition.

6.7 Review of the Strategic plan 2016 - 2020 (for the forthcoming 5-year period with review after first year): Ramón Newmann gave an overview of the concept and will follow up with an update at subsequent meetings.

- We have 6 programs:
 - Field trips, headed by Margaret Petridis
 - Conservation with a conservation officer appointed yearly
 - Development and use of the database in conjunction with photographs of orchid species on the web site
 - Growing, developing and fostering the Group's membership led by Jon Warren
 - Developing and supporting study and special interest groups
 - Fostering relationships with the custodians of orchid habitat and encouraging people to look after the habitats.
- Any ideas or questions should be addressed to Ramón Newmann.

6.8 ADORP has been so successful that DPaW is considering using it for non-orchid species.

PRESENTATION: Ursula Kokosinska gave a presentation on New Zealand orchids.

RAFFLE DRAW: Ursula Kokosinska drew the raffle, the winner being Ross Fox.

MEETING CLOSED: 9:15 pm

NEXT MEETING: 7:30 pm Wednesday 17 May 2017 BGPA Boardroom, Kings Park



Western Australian Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group Conservation Officer Report

Tim Hodgkins – May 2017 General Meeting

1. Clearing Notices: From the last month's notices in the West Australian newspaper, there has been one issue that we have taken up:
MRD, Bowelling curves: This matter would involve clearing about 35 Ha potentially with threatened orchids and other flora. A level 2 Flora survey has been carried out. We have written to the DER lodging our objection to the works and proposing our assistance if needed to identify and locate/re-locate orchids.
2. New site reported by members: Residential development is taking place at Bushmead on the site of the former Rifle range. The Developer is Cedar Woods Ltd. The plan of the area in question shows that about 60% will be retained as bushland and this has been confirmed by Project Manager Nick Wheeler, who has stated that there are strict environmental conditions that his Company are working through at the moment with the assistance of DPaW. He welcomes the input of WANOSCG and has extended an invitation to members to meet him on site as a start of cooperation together. The likely date of this meeting will be June 2017.
3. Relocation of orchids: From the Flynn Drive site project, Mark Brundrett had some tubers and seeds from the spider orchid *C. arenicola* that were available for planting. A suitable site has been identified in the Landsdale NR and with the cooperation of Dave Pike, site supervisor, several members have completed planting on Saturday morning April 22nd. A transect was set up of around 30m where tubers and seeds could be located by GPS and marked with permanent steel makers. Thanks to all involved in this morning.
4. Investigation of Kemerton Buffer Zone: thanks to member input we now have more detailed maps of the area and overview plan for future development. Further conversations with local members of WANOSCG and possibly DPaW will follow to determine the best way forward.
5. Issue raised at the April meeting: proposed Rangers House to be built in the Bluff Knoll road. A report and comments have been received from Sarah Barrett DPaW Albany as follows:
"Yes! Surveys were completed, primarily targeting *Caladenia bryceana*, last September. One new small sub-population was located adjacent to Ongerup Track (the track that goes to Ongerup creek). No other new sub-populations were located within the proposed project area (a new sub-population was located further south outside the project area).
Areas of suitable habitat for *C. bryceana* were mapped i.e. areas of appropriate soil type under Wandoo woodland.
Based on this, the project has been modified to minimise impact on Wandoo habitat.
Building envelopes will not directly impact optimal *Caladenia bryceana* habitat.
Potential disturbance (for a water pipe) on Ongerup Track will not impact the new-sub-population.

(cont.)

There will still be an obvious visual and physical impact on areas of heath and Mallee heath that will be disturbed. However, I believe there will be no impact on potential and known sub- populations of *C. bryceana* (which are currently already subject to very high levels of foot traffic and visitation).

Construction to commence soon.”

6. Hillview Park, Alexander Heights: From discussions at the planting morning at Landsdale NR the issue of weed control at Hillview was raised by Rob Van Oosten. Subsequent contact with the City of Wanneroo has brought a positive response to survey and try to deal with the problem. On this site are facilities such as a football oval as well as native bushland and weed invasion is threatening native flora including orchids.
7. Projects under watch:
Meelup Regional Reserve – Mountain Bike Trail.

Tim Hodgkins – Conservation officer

BURNS STUDY GROUP – Kevin Uhe

Although it is early in the season a number of areas have been explored by Club members over the past month. Most of this activity has centred around the Walpole area where number of prescribed burns have taken place since October 2016.

Whilst it is too early to predict the likely outcome of spring flowering orchids some of the areas may have been burnt too early to stimulate a plethora of orchids. However, some of the areas are looking very promising with one area showing signs of *Pyrorchis forrestii* (Pink Beaks) leaves.

Due to the dry start to Autumn there have been a number of prescribed burns taking place and these areas will be of particular interest to see what effects these late fires have on the orchid flowering later in the season.

Thanks to those members who have provided information on burns visited to date and look forward to some interesting finds as the year unfolds.

BULLETIN ARTICLES

Please email any Bulletin contributions to the Editor at

wanoscg.newsletter@gmail.com Items for the next Bulletin need to be submitted by 8th June 2017.

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*Thank You for reading,
Until next month.
Happy Orchid Hunting*