

Western Australian Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group



JULY 2017 Bulletin

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JULY GENERAL MEETING SPEAKER

Katie Elder

Subject:

Incongruences within the evolutionary development and history of the subtribe *Caladeniinae*

Dearest Members, I wish to apologise for printing JUNE's edition of the newsletter without the information provided by Rob Van Oosten on the Merredin Field Trip. Please see below details of the trip and imagery from the weekend June 3-5.

Merredin Field Trip 3rd to 5th June 2017 – By Rob Van Oosten.

A really good turnout for this field trip. 19 people attended. The weather was very kind to us with picture perfect days. We were mainly targeting *Caladenia drummondii* (Winter Spider) and anything else we could find. Most of us stayed at the Merredin Tourist Camp Ground. BBQ dinner at the Apex Park.

Some of us had visited some of these sites last year and found quite larger numbers of *C. drummondii* and associated *Pterostylis scabra* (Green Veined Shell Orchid). Our aim this year was to find new habitats for *C. drummondii*. Unfortunately dry conditions earlier on in the year limited the amount of flowers found. Pictures below are typical of the habitat in this part of the wheat belt North East and South East of Merredin we found *C. drummondii*. (Mallee woodland and Gimlet woodland)

Day 1: 3 sites visited

SE of Merredin. Over 20 *C. drummondii* flowers and some buds. Over 10 *Pterostylis scabra* in bud and leaf.

The *C. drummondii* flowers at all sites were very stunted and small.

Kumminin area. *Pterostylis scabra* in reasonable numbers and *Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp. *undulatus* flowers seeded. Over 20 *C. drummondii* in a different location to last year. Some spots we visited last year were plentiful with no flowers this year. Interesting enough the accompanying plants were also fewer.

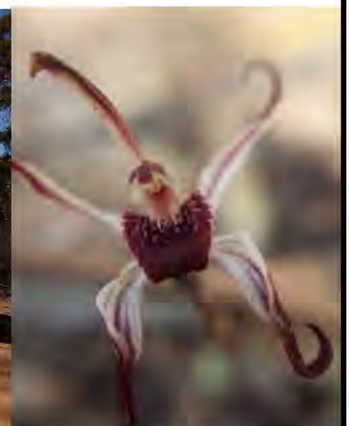
Day 2: 2 sites visited

Billyacatting Area. NE Merredin. *Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp. *Undulatus*, *Pterostylis scabra*, *E. dilatatus* subsp. *undulatus* mainly seeded with some flowers hanging on. *Thelymitra* sp. leaves in reasonable numbers with *Diuris* sp. leaves

Day 3: Merredin Mallee woodland and private property. We mainly made random stops at likely habitat.

Pterostylis scabra in good numbers. Some flowers but mainly buds and leaf. *Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp. *undulatus* all seeded. Over 20 *Pterostylis recurva* and *Pterostylis sargentii* buds. Some *Diuris* sp. leaves.

Thank you Heather for your help.





Previous Page: Left & Right – *C. drummondii* Centre – Group Convoy
 ABOVE & BELOW LEFT: Gimlet Woodlands
 RIGHT TOP: *Pt. Scabra*
 BELOW RIGHT: Mallee Woodlands



ABOVE LEFT: Group in action searching
 ABOVE RIGHT: Well-deserved Ice-Cream Break

The Banded Greenhood complex in Western Australia

By Andrew Brown

Members of this complex grow 150 to 450 mm high and have up to 20 green, brown or reddish-brown white banded flowers characterised by their, short, broad lateral sepals which are joined at the base and a small, insect-like labellum which flicks up when touched. In all species flowering plants lack a basal rosette of leaves while non-flowering plants have a flattened, ground hugging, rosette of leaves.

Banded greenhoods are found over a wide geographic range between Binu north of Geraldton and Eyre on the Great Australia Bight, growing in shrublands, woodlands, forests and shallow soil pockets on granite outcrops.

There are ten Western Australian species in this complex, seven of which are formally named. However, as two were named as species of *Urochilus*, a genus not recognised in Western Australia, only five of these names are currently recognised here. In Western Australia, all member of the complex are considered to be in the genus *Pterostylis*.

All are winter flowering.

Pterostylis concava

Distinguished from other members of the complex by its prominently cupped lateral sepals and the upturned projection near the base of the labellum. Found between Bindoon and Mt Barker.



Pterostylis crebriflora

Pterostylis crebriflora

Distinguished from the similar *Pterostylis sanguinea* by its often shorter stature and slightly larger flowers which are crowded in a dense spike near the top of the stem. Found on the Darling Scarp near Perth.

Pterostylis sanguinea

A very common species that is also found in South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria. It was named from specimens collected in South Australia. The species is similar to *Pterostylis crebriflora* but is usually taller with smaller, more widely spaced flowers. Flower colour is variable and it is not uncommon to find brown and green flowered forms growing alongside one another. Found over a wide area between Mullewa and Eyre on the Great Australian Bight.



Pterostylis concava
Image Credit – Garry Brockman



Pterostylis sanguinea

***Pterostylis sanguinea*
(Mallee form)**

An unnamed member of the complex distinguished from *Pterostylis sanguinea* by its short stature and few flowered inflorescence. Found over a wide range from the Stirling Range to the north of Esperance.



Pterostylis sanguinea
(Mallee form)



Pterostylis sargentii

Pterostylis sargentii

A common, widespread species, distinguished from other members of the complex by its smaller flowers and fleshy, tri-lobed, frog-like labellum. Found over a huge geographic range between Northampton and Mt Ney, north of Esperance.

***Pterostylis* sp. Coastal**

Some consider this to be a form of *Pterostylis* sp. small bands but it is usually taller with more widely spaced flowers. The sepals are also narrower and often slightly cupped. Found mostly in near coastal areas between Dongara and Bunbury. Similar looking plants have also been found further inland between Brookton and Mt Barker.



Pterostylis sp. Coastal

***Pterostylis* sp. crowded**

A widespread species named *Urochilus atrosanguineus* in June 2017. Distinguished from the similar *Pterostylis sanguinea* by its more robust habit and larger dark reddish-brown flowers. It is also similar to *Pterostylis crebriflora* but generally flowers earlier and has more widely spaced flowers in a longer spike. Found between Wongan Hills and Katanning with rare, scattered populations on the Swan Coastal Plain.



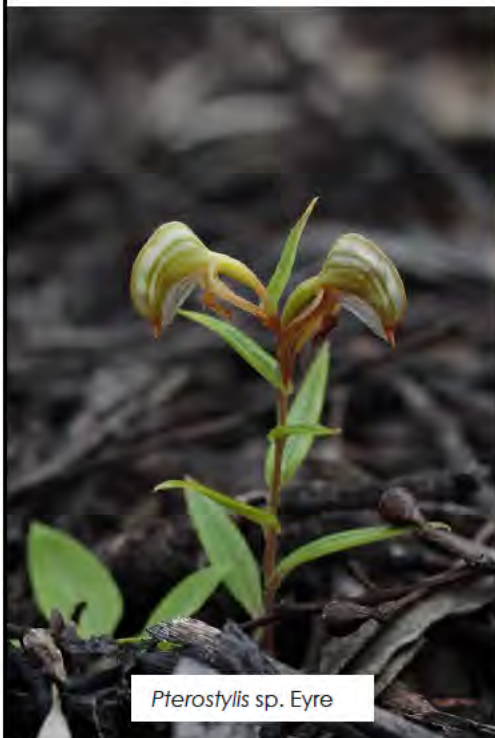
Pterostylis sp. crowded



Pterostylis sanguinea (green
flowered form)

***Pterostylis* sp. Eyre**

A distinctive member of the complex distinguished from others by its pale coloured flowers. Like *Pterostylis sanguinea* (mallee form) it has a short stature and few flowered inflorescence. Found along the coast between Toolinna Cove and Eyre on the on the Great Australian Bight.



Pterostylis sp. Eyre



Pterostylis sp. small bands Image
Credit – Garry Brockman

***Pterostylis* sp. small bands**

A northern species named *Urochilus orbiculatus* in June 2017. It is regarded by some researchers to be a form of *Pterostylis* sp. coastal but is usually shorter with a more densely crowded spike of flowers. Its sepals are also broader, more rounded and flattened rather than slightly cupped. Found north of Perth between Cataby and Binnu.

Pterostylis vittata

A widespread species distinguished from other members of the complex by its less fleshy, paler coloured, predominantly green flowers and narrower, elongated, slightly cupped sepals. The flowers also have a more translucent appearance. The typical form is found between Bindoon and Balladonia. There is a northern form with a shorter spike of often fawn coloured flowers found between Cataby and Binnu.



Pterostylis vittata

Through the eyes of a photographer – Member's photography



Above left: *Pterostylis microglossa* (David Lawson)

Above Centre: *Diuris perialla* (David Lawson)

Above Right: Blue Fairy Orchid *Pheladenia deformis* (Mary Ball)



Above left: *Pterostylis sanguinea* **Above right:** lutea (yellow) form of *Diuris brumalis* - Don Ward



Above left: *Cyrtostylis huegelii* - Midge Orchid Robyn Parsons **Above centre:** Pink Bunny *Eriochilus scaber* subsp. *Scaber* - Graeme Walker. **Above right:** Undescribed donkey orchid currently phrase named: *Diuris* sp. Jerdacuttup - Graeme Walker

UPCOMING CLUB FIELD TRIPS –

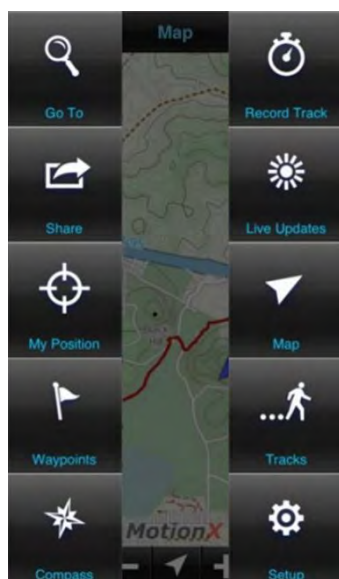
JULY	Metro trips will probably be held during the week, possibly a weekend half day trip will be done after the Kalamunda trip if <i>Caladenia hiemalis</i> is found. It is suggested if you are going out to your favourite areas and wish to conduct a small group tour, post to Facebook or advice at the next General Meeting.
AUGUST	The August trips are looking decidedly unsure with the lack of rain, and will be decided on by end of July. We may have to focus mainly down south this year if the rainfall around Perth and further east and north does not happen."
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

Motion X GPS App for iPhone and iPad. Great features for field trips

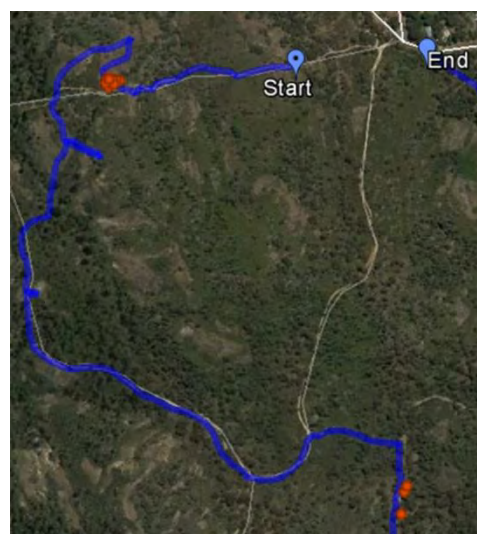
By Pat Richards

This is a paid app but it's only around a couple of dollars or so. It not only enables you to guard against getting lost, but can help you locate that special orchid patch again at a later time.

1. Record an initial Waypoint for your car before you get carried away chasing orchids.
2. Record Track from your wandering from start to finish.
3. If you are by yourself (mmm...) set your phone to email a trusted friend or partner at 15 minute intervals to Share your GPS location or set your tracking with Live Updates to allow them to see where you are continuously. This will allow the cavalry to locate you promptly in the unfortunate event you come to grief.
4. Record Map coordinates and annotate waypoints for orchids for your reference and later submission to the database.
5. If you get carried away and lose your orientation, check My Position and Go To and you can be guided back to your initially recorded waypoint at your car. The Compass screen displays the straight-line path between your current position and your car, giving your walking speed and estimated time of arrival.
6. When you've found all those stunning orchids and have your wandering track recorded and saved you can Share it by emailing the recording to yourself (and maybe your trusted friends). The recording is in the form of a file that can be opened in Google Earth. It allows you to see your track as well as the waypoints for those special orchids you found.
7. Retrace your steps when revisiting locations at a later date through previous Tracks recorded.



Main Menu – MotionX GPS



Part of a track exported for viewing in Google Earth (on which I subsequently plotted GPS locations of hare orchids I had photographed)



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Jon Warren



New Members

No new members to report this month but did you know WANOSCG currently has 119 paid memberships representing 162 people.

However there are also 43 memberships from 2016 that haven't renewed as yet for 2017.

If you are one of those folk who haven't renewed and wish to remain members you must get your payments in before the end of July 2017, otherwise it will be assumed you no longer wish to be a member and access to club services such as the Bulletin and Facebook will end.

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

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.

If you wish to be a mentor or be mentored send an email to wanoscg@gmail.com with Attention Jon Warren - mentoring in the subject line.

Photo competition

After excellent feedback from the members at the last general meeting the management committee has decided that the 2017 photographic competition theme will be 'orchid with an arthropod'.

Arthropod broadly means any insect, spider, mite, tick, centipede etc. and technically does include crustaceans and one would imagine anybody who can naturally get a lobster and an orchid into a photo will be in the running for a prize or an investigation.

A more serious aspect of this criteria is to obtain more information on possible pollinators.

Photographs must be taken in 2017 under natural circumstances and not be the result of cut and pasting photographs together.

To even up the competition a little more the photographs can only be 6" x 8" (15 x 20cm) without mounting or backing and members can enter up to three photographs.

July's Speaker - Katie Elder

This month's speaker is Katie Elder who is currently doing her Masters of Biological Science specialising in conservation biology at UWA. Prior to this Katie completed an undergraduate studies in wildlife conservation biology and environmental science at Murdoch and then went onto undertake a graduate diploma in Botany at UWA.

With Mark Brundrett and Ian Small (ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Energy Biology at UWA) as supervisors Katie is currently addressing a number of incongruences within the phylogeny of the subtribe Caladeniinae as highlighted by Clements and others in a 2015 paper. The study is considering chloroplast capture as possible explanation as to why the plasid (chloroplast) derived phylogeny does not reflect the ITS (Internal Transcribed Spacer) phylogeny.

The genera Katie is most concerned with are *Cyanicula*, *Ericksonella* and *Elythranthera*. So far they have produced an entire chloroplast genome and a large portion of the ITS genome for *Cyanicula gemmata*, *Ericksonella saccharata* and *Caladenia flava* (as an out group).

So if, like me, you are wondering just what this all means in the world of our orchids then you must come and find out. With my limited understanding I think the research outcomes could help in determining the clumping and splitting of orchid genera.

Orchid Taxonomy – New combinations in *Pterostylis*

By Kevin Uhe

In the latest Australian Orchid Review David Jones and Chris French have published a paper on new combinations of *Pterostylis*. When these were initially described they were placed in a genus which was not recognised by the WA Herbarium. By placing these combinations into the *Pterostylis* the WA herbarium can now recognise these taxa.

The new combinations are as follows;

Pterostylis crebriflora relates to a localised banded greenhood that is only found in the Roleystone area and is most closely related to *P* sp 'crowded'. *P* sp 'crowded' has been recently named but is yet to be placed into the *Pterostylis* genus.

Pterostylis eremaea, *Pterostylis fuliginosa* and *P xerampelina* are all members of the rufa complex and like *P crebriflora* do not appear in any of the current orchid books. They are all restricted to small areas in a variety of habitats. These have been described in more details in previous bulletins.

Pterostylis tryphera is also a member of the rufa complex and is the new name for *P* sp 'dainty brown'. This orchid mainly occurs rocky hills and salt lake margins between Kalbarri and Eyre.

Pterostylis virens is another member of the rufa complex and is formerly *P* sp 'green flowers'. This taxon flowered in good numbers last year around the Hospital Rocks area.

Pterostylis heberlei is the new name for the bird orchid *P. sp.* 'Gull Rock'. This was named after the late Ron Heberle who discovered many orchids around the Albany area.

Northern Orchids Report – By Gail Reed

Since the last Bulletin there has been some progress with a few orchids.

June 10th - Found *Diuris perialla* just starting to flower at the known location on Allanooka Springs Road and Green Veined Shell Orchids in bud.

June 15th - I decided to explore a new area around the Casuarina area and found a location of *Diuris perialla* in full flower, very healthy plants and I gave up counting at 180 flowering plants. Also a few Greenhood plants showing.

June 17th - I found a few Green veined Shell Orchids in flower in the Eneabba area. A lot in bud however the buds are shrivelling and dyeing off from lack of rain.

June 30th - I called into Grigson's Station of Greenhead to the known spot for Kalbarri Shell Orchids and to my joy I found quite a lot open. Some gone over already others still in bud. Plants are very small and certainly not jumping out at me like they were last year. A second area further to the North I found a lot of buds and a few flowers. These looked much healthier plants and I think most of these buds will flower.

July 6th - I put my Sherlock Holmes hat on and went searching for Greenhoods and Green Veined Shells in the Eneabba and Eganu areas. Success at last. I found quite a few nice healthy Greenhoods in the Eneabba Area and Eganu has numerous shell orchid buds with some in flower.

An update on the Eurardy survey in August is that it will go ahead regardless of what rainfall the station has as Bush Heritage want to monitor for the dryer years as well and are hoping that people will support the survey. They are doing transects and a general look-see. It's my understanding that the station has had some rainfall and as these orchids are used to Arid conditions they will probably still flower it may just be harder to find them and they could be smaller plants.

Kalbarri has also had a bit of rain.

Here in the Midwest we have had good rainfalls over the past 2 weeks and when I was out July 6th the countryside certainly looks 100% healthier than it did this time last month.

July 7th I had to travel down to Jurien Bay for a meeting and drove through torrential rain in the general Leeman to Sth Greenhead area.





WANOSCG

General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 21st June 2017

Meeting held at: BGPA Boardroom, Kings Park

Meeting opens: 7:30 pm

ATTENDANCE: Visitors: 0 Number of members present: 36
Welcome to new members:

APOLOGIES: Ramón Newmann, Margaret Petridis, Stuart Gayle, Tom Burbidge, Eddy Wajon, Donna Wajon, Mary Hoffman, Cheryl Gee, Bill Gaynor, George Kokosinski, Heather Hills

CIRCULATION OF REPORTS: The Attendance Book, a copy of the audited WANOSCG accounts for 2016 and a copy of the Treasurer's Report for 1 February 2017 to 31 May 2017 were circulated to the members.

1. PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Members were asked if they had any amendments to the minutes of 17 May 2017 General Meeting that appeared in the June bulletin.

Moved by Marina Karyagina and seconded by Kevin Uhe that the General Meeting Minutes of 17 May 2017, as published in the June 2017 bulletin are a true and accurate record of that meeting. *Carried*

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 2.1 A call was made for volunteers to fill the remaining committee position, anyone wishing to volunteer to make their interest known to the committee.
- 2.2 Volunteers for the supper roster were invited for the meetings August to November 2017. (It is noted that the cost of providing the food can be claimed back from the treasurer.)
- 2.3 First aid training as mentioned in the May general meeting will be revisited at the end of the year as insufficient interest was expressed at the last meeting.
- 2.4 Volunteers with considerable depth of experience of our native orchids are being sought to mentor newer members who are keen to broaden their knowledge. A sheet was made available at the meeting for potential mentors to volunteer their services and a second sheet was there for the newer members to note their interest in being mentored.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

The audit of the 2016 finances was reported to have been completed and signed off by Phil Bunney. A copy of the audited accounts was circulated.

Reports for the months of February, March, April and May were circulated to members.

For the period 1 May to 31 May 2017:

	May 2017	February 2017 to May 2017
Income (operating account)	\$1,163.15	\$3,507.70
Expenditure	\$855.90	\$1,643.30

It was moved by Urszula Kokosinska and seconded by Margaretha Roepen that the individual Treasurer's reports for February, March, April and May covering 1 February 2017 to 31 May 2017 be accepted as a true record of the club's finances. *Carried*

- It was indicated that, once Ramón Newmann had returned from his vacation, the designated signatories on the WANOSCG bank accounts would be updated to reflect the current office bearers.

4. CORRESPONDENCE 18 May 2017 – 20 June 2017

Electronic or hard copies of Newsletters and Bulletins have been received over the period from: OSWA, ANOS Macarthur, Orchidophile, NOSSA, ANOS Illawarra, Orchid Society of NSW, EMRC, ANOS Sydney. Correspondence covered a range of topics.

Inward emails to the WANOSCG Web site and members [of the committee](#):

Date	Sender	Topic
27-May-17	Rick Brook	Native Orchids of Western Australia "Unusual Pterostylis"
2-Jun-17	Conservation Council of Western Australia	Meeting at Parliament House with new Labor Members of Parliament
5-Jun-17	Cathy Hurst	Interested in membership
7-Jun-17	Invasive Species Council	Fire Ant Eradication
8-Jun-17	Urban Bushland Council	Banksia Woodland Management Workshop
8-Jun-17	Department of Environment Regulation (via Tim Hodgkins)	Bowelling curves – Collie Lake King road (CPS 7499/1)
15-Jun-17	Tony Watkinson, WA Orchid Society	Endorsement of bid for World Orchid Conference & Show in Perth 2023
20-Jun-17	Timothy Hodgkins copy of email to Department of Mines and Petroleum	State Explosives Facility at McClarty WA

Business arising from Correspondence:

- Margaret Petridis offered to follow up on Rick Brook's query regarding his sighting of an unusual Pterostylis.
- Timothy Hodgkins will follow up on the matter of the State Explosives Facility at McClarty, WA. It was suggested, however, that the location was likely to be a "no-go" area that could possibly have the effect of protecting any orchids within its boundaries.

5. FIELD TRIPS

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

Upcoming Field trips

July

Margaret Petridis is away until 9 July and the remainder of the month is expected to be difficult with the lack of rain until recently but individuals are being encouraged to offer to host small groups to local metropolitan reserves if there are orchids to be seen. The contact for this purpose is Christine Lock.

19-23 August

Potentially an extended trip to the Perenjori/Charles Darwin reserve/Wubin area but very dependent on rainfall prior (area to the north and east of Perth is very dry indeed), FTL Ian Greeve.

19 August	Potential visit to Brookton Highway (<i>Prasophyllum</i> sp Brookton Highway), FTL Kevin Uhe.
26 August	Potential trip to Kemerton, FTL Graeme Walker (mainly snail orchids).

Personal Field Trips: (Please use common names and full names)

Members are requested to fill out the personal field trip report form on the front table and send electronic Orchid Sighting sheets to the Registrar (Ramon Newmann -

██████████). If you don't have a copy of the report or sighting sheet then send an email to the Secretary (Pat Richards – ██████████) and she will provide you with an electronic copy.

- Eric Swarts reported having seen *Corunastylis tepperi* and a pygmy orchid in South Australia
- Urszula Kokosinska had seen several *Pterostylis* species
- Margaret Fox reported having seen *Pterostylis vittata*
- Swamp bunny orchids had been seen at the Anstey reserve
- Tim Hodgkins indicated that there had been lots of common bunny orchids around Augusta and along Caves Road. In addition he saw them along the new walk path constructed between the Flinders Bay settlement and the Augusta Boat Harbour, the construction having been so careful that flora right next to the path had not been disturbed.
- Pat Richards reported seeing in Darlington
 - bunny orchids (*Eriochilus dilatatus*), hare orchids (*Leporella fimbriata*) and banded greenhoods (both *Pterostylis sanguinea* and *P vittata*) in flower
 - shoots of jug orchids (*P recurva*) and bird orchids (*P barbata*)
 - Leaves of redbeaks (*Pyrorchis nigricans*), very many leaves of cowslip orchids (*Caladenia flava*) and a snail orchid rosette.

6. CONSERVATION

Moved by Tim Hodgkins and seconded by Geoff Foley that the Conservation Report as included in the June Bulletin be accepted. Carried.

In addition the following conservation issues are raised:

- It was noted that a *Thelymitra apiculata* location visited on the Mullering Road reserve on a 2016 WANOSCG field trip had been graded. Tim requested feedback from members.
- The works previously mentioned in relation to the Great Northern Highway were reported to have missed most of the orchids, including hare orchids (*Leporella fimbriata*), dark banded greenhoods (*Pterostylis sanguinea*) and bunny orchids (*Eriochilus dilatatus*).
- As regards the residential development of the Bushmead site, Bob Steer expects to carry out an inspection in the next couple of weeks, given that sale of the land has started and there is another round of clearing being undertaken.
- A bulletin from the Urban Bushland Council was tabled.
- There has been a submission in relation to the Great Northern Highway – Muchea to Chittering – anyone who is interested can obtain a copy from Tim Hodgkins.
- In relation to potential works along Toodyay Road Tim Hodgkins indicated he would ask Ramón Newmann to run a search of the database to see if there might be any threatened orchids that would be affected.
- Similarly, in relation to Johnston Road, Tim indicated he would follow up on whether there were any threatened orchids likely to be affected by potential development.

7. GROWER'S TABLE

- Peter Gee tabled a specimen of *Pterostylis aspera* that had been obtained as a club rescue in 1991 from Spinnaker Drive, Australind. It has flowered off and on ever since with minimal attention.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 8.1 *Speakers are still being sought* – for meetings later in the year. For the September meeting we may seek feedback from members about their personal field trips and for October we may canvass a few newer members to give short talks on what stimulated them to develop their interest in native orchids.
- 8.2 *Hard copy Bulletin delivery* – Apologies were made to those members who require hard copies of the Bulletin; action has been taken to rectify non-delivery.
- 8.3 *Review of the Strategic plan 2016 - 2020:*
We see a need to encourage some younger members to join the group. We are therefore developing procedures to support new members and develop policies to support members over the next five years.
- We are intending to develop materials to promote club activities.
 - All enrolments will go through Jon Warren who will ring the applicants and talk to them.
 - We shall develop a package to pass out initially to new members including appropriate explanations regarding the aims and operations of the group.
 - We intend to carry out a member satisfaction survey at a suitable time.
 - In the longer term we may potentially form a sub-committee to facilitate the participation of more children and young people.
- 8.4 *WANOSCG Photographic Competition for 2017:* Meeting attendees were asked to split into groups to make suggestions for the theme for the competition. The suggestions were passed to Jon Warren for consideration by the committee.
- 8.5 *Any fees outstanding remain due* – membership of the group and WANOSCG Facebook access will be cancelled imminently if non-financial.
- 8.6 *Current Website:* Many more hits have been received since the upgrade. Any feedback will be welcomed by Stuart Gale. Orchid photos for the website should be submitted to Noel Hoffman including the date taken and the general (rather than specific) location.
- 8.7 *Small expenditure* – it was suggested that the treasurer maintain a petty cash facility for small items of expenditure. This will be considered by the committee at its next meeting.
- 8.8 *Database* – Jay Steer reported that he had been introduced to a French interactive online orchid database by Etienne Delannoy. It was suggested that adopting similar software might allow members to have a greater degree of interaction with our database without compromising security. The matter will be considered at the next committee meeting.

PRESENTATION: Hans Lambers - Professor of Plant Biology at University of Western Australia, and representative of Kwongan Foundation presented on orchids and their habitat, especially **aspects of our terrestrial orchids' reliance on their symbiotic relationships with mycorrhizal fungi.**

RAFFLE: Prize donated by Pat Richards

RAFFLE DRAW: Hans Lambers drew the raffle with the prize being won by Urszula Kokosinska.

MEETING CLOSE: 9:35 pm

NEXT MEETING: 7:30 pm Wednesday 19 July 2017 BGPA Boardroom, Kings Park



Conservation Officer Report

Tim Hodgkins – July 2017 General Meeting

1. **Clearing Notices:** Two recent applications have been examined and we are supporting the submissions made by the Wildflower Society that highlight the possible damage to orchid populations. The sites are Gt Northern Hwy, Muchea-Chittering and North Walpole Rd (south end).
2. **Warwick Bushland:** A recent suggestion to construct a 'Bush playground' in the bushland was opposed strongly by the Friends group and supported by WANOSCG resulting in the withdrawal of the idea and the placement of the playground to a more suitable site in Kingsley.
3. **Bushmead development (former Rifle Range):** The likely date of the proposed site meeting will be early-mid August 2017.
4. **Investigation of expansion of Kemerton Buffer Zone:** Further action after the upcoming field trip gives a better idea of the area.
5. **State Explosives Facility, McLarty:** Contact with the Mines Dept has confirmed that clearing and construction will commence in early August. A site meeting has been arranged for the morning of July 18th and we will be represented by Eric Swarts. The purpose of the meeting is to inform the operators of the location of orchids so that they can be avoided by clearing if possible.
6. **Mullering Road, Cataby:** This is the site, as per our data base, of several endangered *Thelymitra* species namely *stellata* – rare flora T (EN), *apiculata* – Priority flora P4 and *pulcherrima* – Priority flora P2.
Significant damage has been caused by graders during spoon drain construction along the roadside. We have written to the Shire of Dandaragan and received a positive response about increased diligence in the future. Bob Steer is also in touch with the local DPaW officer about installation of markers in this and other critical locations in the Shire.
7. **Yilliminning Rock:** This site is under the control of Shire of Narrogin and as Lyn Alcock reports it is under threat from vandalism and careless FWD driving:
"Then there were 4WD vehicles driving up onto the rock for the Blue Moon...and driving right next to the population of white Shell orchids...the ONLY known population of these.
Recently it was noticed that virtually all the loose granite shale on the rock had been removed...almost looked like a commercial, well-orchestrated job. I have talked to DPaW Manager Greg Durrell. He tells me Yilliminning is totally Shire responsibility. DPaW did help out a few years ago to put huge logs at the 2 entrances. But they got burnt. Apparently, no chance of it becoming a Reserve or DPaW taking over. Try do not want it as they simply do not have either manpower or financial resource to do so."
We will write to and visit the Council to highlight the issues and see if we can assist them with fencing and signage grant applications. This is an important first step to protect the area from further damage.

Tim Hodgkins – Conservation officer

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 5th August 2017.

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