

Western Australian Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group



August 2017 Bulletin

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NEXT GENERAL MEETING SPEAKER

Jay Steer

Subject:
The Fuscolutea Complex

Management Committee:

Ramón Newmann – President
Kim Hanson – Vice-President
Jon Warren – Vice President
Jay Steer – Treasurer
Margaret Petridis – Field Trip Coordinator
Pat Richards – Secretary
Robert van Oosten – Committee
Ian Puddey – Committee
Marina Karyagina – Committee

WANOSCG Database Submissions

Some members have asked about what sort of data should be submitted to the WANOSCG Database.

The Database is used to keep a record of orchid sightings that can be used not only by WANOSCG and its members to plan field trips, but also to provide historical information on what orchids have been seen where and when for study and conservation purposes (e.g. for submissions regarding clearings etc.)

The current 17,500 records are not only made up of sightings with precise GPS locations but also more general locations – such as the name of a reserve. It includes common and endangered species.

All of this information can be useful to record where orchids have been found, and how the sightings at any given location have changed over time.

Hence it can be beneficial to receive a wide range of sightings – common or rare species, precise and general locations. It is really up to the members to decide what data they would like to make the effort to record and then submit to the Database – the more information the better, however, if the same orchid is seen at the same spot every week then there is no need to record it every week.

Submissions would ideally be made by way of the standard Excel based submissions report previously circulated, but if this is not possible then they can be submitted in whatever form you have the data. The standard submissions report illustrates what data is sought if available (location, nearest town, date, genus, species, etc.), however if it is not all available the information that was recorded can still be useful. It also has useful information such as the current and previous species names and where and when each species is normally found – this can be helpful for identification purposes.

As the name of the person submitting the data is also recorded, a copy of your submissions to date can be provided back to you in the standard Excel spreadsheet format.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me when you see me, or by email [REDACTED]

Looking forwards to your submissions!

Ramón Newmann

From the outgoing Editor – Stuart Gale

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the membership base for your kind article submissions and imagery for this year's bulletins to date.

This is a bulletin for the group and more so, a communication piece for native orchid related information. A place to share tips, tricks and even knowledge. I urge you as an individual, and a group to keep submitting so that the knowledge is continued well into the next generation of orchid hunters.

This will be my last edition for WANOSCG Bulletin and I would really like to thank the kind support of the WANOSCG committee, and also key contributors – Andrew Brown and Mark Brundrett, Kevin Uhe and Margaret Petridis. Your knowledge of Western Australian Native Orchids, and the contribution you provide is truly appreciated.



FIELD TRIPS

Sunday 20-Aug	Brookton Highway in the Christmas Tree Well/Yarra Rd general area.	FTL: Kevin Uhe	TARGET: <i>Prasophyllum</i> sp. 'Brookton Highway'	NUMBER: 20 - 25
Sunday 20-Aug – 24-Aug	CONTACT BEN Parkhurst Bush Heritage Australia Eurardy Reserve ben.parkhurst@bushheritage.org.au www.bushheritage.org.au M: +61(0)448 999 948 T: +61(0)8 9936 1038	Eurardy Station for Bush Heritage. Completing surveys for threatened orchid species from 21st to 23rd August, suggesting people arrive on 20th and depart on 24th. Accommodation available, rooms may have to be shared if we get a large group. If you have a caravan or campervan you are welcome to bring it, we have several powered sites. Members are also welcome to camp if you prefer.		
Saturday 26-Aug	Preston Beach Rd and Kemerton areas along the Forrest Highway.	FTL: Graeme Walker	<i>Pterostylis</i> (snails and birds), <i>Caladenia</i>	NUMBER: Limited 20
Mid-September	Narrogin area (to be confirmed)	FTL: Ian Greeve	Overnight stay in Narrogin. Visiting various reserves in the area.	NUMBER: Limited 20
Long Weekend 23 – 25-Sep	Walpole	FTL: Maggie Whittle, Margaret Petridis	burnt areas north and east of Walpole	NUMBER: Not Limited
October	No Field Trips planned as yet for October. Suggestions welcomed. We may be doing some survey work with Mark Brundrett for Threatened species. Members to be advised when this is organised.			

Details for the mid-September trip will be sent out to members ASAP. Any other suggestions welcome.
Contact FTC Margaret Petridis by text on [REDACTED]
If you would like to attend any of these trips.

FIELD TRIP REPORT: Margaret Petridis Goodale Sanctuary 6th August 2017

On Sunday, 6th August, 17 members joined Bob and Lynette Goodale on their property South West of Pinjarra to look for and record orchids. Bob welcomed us and told us some of the history and trials of the property over the past 30 years.

The property is approximately 100 acres of bushland and has a variety of habitats including lakes and swamps, mixed Jarrah/Banksia open woodland, and areas of Casuarina and Kunzea in deep sand.

Lynette and Bob took us on a guided walk to the main orchid areas on the property where, over a few hours, we identified 24 orchid species, with 8 in flower. We found two species of snails in flower: the Slender snail and a Short-eared snail, and three species of banded greenhoods: the dark, the coastal and the crowded. The first flowers of a donkey, a duck and a jug orchid were also seen.

The duck was thought to be *Paracaleana hortiorum*, as it looked different to the Flying duck, *P. nigrita* that has been
(Cont. page 3)

IMAGES COURTESY Margaret Petridis

Top Left Clockwise: Slender Snail, Short Eared Snail, Possible duck hybrid, *Pterostylis* sp. coastal



recorded on the property. On closer inspection of photos later that day, it did not look like that species either and we think it may be a hybrid between the two of them. More study of this is needed.

The donkey has been ID as probably *Diuris porrifolia* but further photos and study is needed when more are out to verify this.

It was exciting to see a substantial population of 3 different hammer orchids: the Glossy-leaved, the Warty and the King-in-his-Carriage in both leaf and bud. Lynette was also able to show us a non-flowering leaf of the Leafless orchid, *Praecoxanthus aphyllus*.

Apart from orchid hunting, members took time to look over and admire the substantial and well set- up vegetable garden and other facilities on the property.

It was a very interesting and informative day with warm sunny weather, so all enjoyed the visit.

Bob and Lynette were wonderful hosts and have invited us to contact them to arrange further visits later in the season. Thank you to Bob and Lynette for a great day.



Images Courtesy Margaret Petridis: Left *Drakaea glyptodon* leaves and eaten stems, Right: Glossy leaved hammers.

Northern Orchids Report –

Midwest from Gail Reed & Kalbarri from Gary McDonald

Kalbarri

Gary has been out and about and found snail orchids, dwarf zebra and blue fairies, north coastal donkeys and some spider orchids. He also reports some rain from over the weekend. August 2nd - Cowslips are starting to come out and saw heaps of leaves at various sites. Donkeys and bees are starting to come out and managed to find a few spider buds so it looks like we may have a fair season up this way after all even if it is a bit late. Found some red beak leaves and one zebra.

Midwest report

Warradarge area and South Eneabba	<i>D. perialla</i> on its last legs <i>D. sp.</i> north-western wheat belt	Wongan Hills to Bookara	Hybrids of <i>Diuris</i> (Photos attached) in the general Piawanning to Moora area
Casuarinas area	<i>Diuris sp.</i> North-western wheatbelt Hairy stemmed snails Rosettes both snails and rufous with tiny buds Banded greenhoods Green-veined shells	Moora district	Moora donkey orchids <i>D. recurva</i> Shell orchids Elegant snails (2 in flower – multiple buds)
Sth Eneabba	<i>Diuris</i>	Badgingarra area	Banded greenhoods Snails Autumn leeks <i>T. apiculata</i> Cleopatra's needles
Moora and surrounds	Moora spider orchids Green-veined shells <i>Diuris</i> one of the <i>recurva</i> species		
Wongan_Ballidu area	Banded greenhoods, <i>D. brumalis</i> <i>D. sp.</i> north-western wheatbelt Frog greenhoods in profusion Jug orchid buds and rufous rosettes with tiny buds Blue fairy orchids	Jurien Bay / Greenhead	Autumn leeks Scented leeks Kalbarri shells
Victoria Plains Area	Broad petal snails Rufus rosettes with tiny buds <i>Diuris brumalis</i>	Around Mingenew and Casuarina areas	<i>C. vulgata</i> in flower now Blue and pink Fairies Cowslip <i>Diuris</i>



IMAGERY COURTESY – GAIL REED

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: C. VULGATA, D. RECURVA – MOORA DONKEY, BLOOD SPIDER, DIURIS HYBRID FORM

South West Orchid Report - Taryn and Rob Parsons.

We have been blessed with a great start to our orchiding year! A lot of orchids seem to be well on their way to flowering this season. Some of our favourite spots are showing a lot of promise and will have an abundance of orchids in the near future but for now we have action at:

Manea Park, Bunbury

So far this year there has been an abundance of leafless orchids *Praecoxanthus aphyllus*, banded greenhood orchids *Pterostylis vittata*, and scented autumn leeks (*Prasophyllum* sp. early), slender snails (*Pterostylis* sp. crinkled leaf), brown veined shells (*Pterostylis aspera*), hare orchids *Leporella fimbriata* and midge orchids *Cyrtostylis huegeli*.



In a section of burn area this last month we have been lucky enough to also spot little pink fairies *Caladenia reptans*, pink bunnies (*Eriochilus scaber*) and numerous red beaks, *Pyrorchis nigricans*, in flower. The abundance of leaves in this area is amazing and there appears to be everything from *Drakaea* leaves through to *Caladenia* leaves. Looks to be an even more amazing year in Manea Park.

On a sad note the small population of *Thelymitra variegata* appears to have dwindled this year with only a few plants currently being found in this location. We also were very upset to see dig out marks within the location that have been made by human collection and have spoken to Graeme Walker regarding our concerns. Unfortunately more needs to be done to protect this population. (Image above)

Dunsborough

Rob was lucky enough to get down to the cape spiders *Caladenia caesarea* sp. *maritima* (Image Left) on Monday 7th. He was pleased to report that they are doing extremely well this year and the habitat appears to be intact. Seems to be well above previous years. Stuart Gale, Rob van Oosten and Adrienne Saunders had also visited the site on the Sunday before and also reported good numbers and have discovered a new unrecorded location. Well done guys!



IMAGES
Courtesy of
Robin Parsons.
Left: *Pyrorchis
nigricans*
Right:
*Caladenia
caesarea* sp.
maritima



Snail Orchid Study Group Update

Kevin Uhe

Many thanks to those members who have forwarded details of snail orchids found over the last few months. After a slow start due to the late rains there seems to be a flurry of snails budding up or flowering. It is pleasing that members are taking the time to study these orchids in greater detail and forward excellent photos of the rosettes and flowers as it helps to provide better identification.

It was interesting to note in early July at a couple of locations in the middle wheatbelt where there are known snail populations that not a single rosette was to be seen. A return visit three weeks later saw a large number of rosettes appearing. It is amazing what a bit of rain will do!!

Continuing studies into the hairy leaf snail (*Pterostylis echinulata*) have proved difficult due to the late rains but it was pleasing to locate at least three new populations of this taxon recently. It appears that this species is more widespread than first thought and of interest was that it was also growing with other members of the snail complex.

When it was first named it was considered that it did not grow sympatrically with other members of the snail complex, therefore it was surprising to find it growing with both the brittle snail (*Pterostylis timothyi*) and the hairy-stemmed snail (*Pterostylis* sp. 'inland') at two of these locations.

Another feature of this orchid is that it seems to grow in isolated small numbers, unlike other members that produce large colonies of both flowering and non-flowering plants.

It is quite common to find these orchids hiding under bushes in groups of three to 10. Many more snail orchids will be in flower over the next few weeks and I encourage members to seek out these interesting little orchids as they do provide many hours of fascinating debate as to which species they are.



Imagery Courtesy Kevin Uhe

Left: *Pt. timothyi* and Right: *Pt. echinulata*

Bottom: the unique rosette showing the pattern leaves of *Pt. timothyi*



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Jon Warren – Vice President / Membership Coordinator

One new member this month. Tobias Hayashi who is based in Canberra and is at the Australian National University doing a PhD on orchid pollination - more specifically pollinators of Greenhoods and the possible pollination mechanisms.

He occasionally comes to WA for field work for his PhD and will let us know when he next is over. Even better he is willing to come along to a meeting and tell us about his work.

The gentle prod to those who had forgotten renew their membership saw WANOSCG membership rise to 141 paid memberships representing 213 people plus our 10 life members and one patron.

Sadly there are 20 memberships representing 28 people not renewed but the non-arrival of the Bulletin may prod some of those into payment action.



General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 19th July 2017

Meeting held at: BGPA Boardroom, Kings Park

Meeting opened: 7:30 pm

ATTENDANCE: Visitors: 0

Number of members present: 42

Welcome to new members: No new members

APOLOGIES: David Cumming, Tom Burbidge, Jack Eborall, Brian Trainor, Lyn Alcock, Bill Gaynor, George Kokosinski, Kim Hanson, Noel Hoffman, Andrew Simpson

CIRCULATION OF REPORTS: The Attendance Book and Treasurer's Report were circulated to the members.

RAFFLE: Prize donated by Peter and Debbie Proudfoot

1. PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Members were asked if they had any amendments to the minutes of 21 June 2017 General Meeting that appeared in the July Bulletin.

Moved by Margaretha Roepen and seconded by Matz Dahlkamp that the General Meeting Minutes of 21 June 2017, as published in the July 2017 Bulletin, are a true and accurate record of that meeting. *Carried*

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 2.1 The remaining vacant position on the committee has now been filled by Marina Karyagina.
- 2.2 Volunteers for the supper roster are still being sought 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 Volunteers with reasonable depth of experience of our native orchids are still being sought to mentor newer members who are keen to broaden their knowledge. Volunteer mentors and potential mentees should contact Jon Warren.
- 2.4 *WANOSCG photography competition 2017:* From the many suggestions submitted following discussion at the June meeting, it was agreed by the committee that:
 - The theme for this year's completion would be "Orchid with pollinator." In the case of the pollinator this could be any suitable arthropod (insect, spider, etc) photographed on the orchid.
 - The size of entries is to be limited to 6 inches x 8 inches (152.4 mm x 203.2 mm).
- 2.5 *Hard copy Bulletin delivery:* Given the cost of colour printing and postage, those who have elected to receive a hard copy by mail will receive a black and white copy.
- 2.6 *Outstanding fees:* A reminder has been sent out to those members who have not yet paid their fees for 2017 that fees are due. It will be assumed that those who remain non-financial after the end of July no longer wish to retain membership.
- 2.7 *Database:* The functionality of French interactive online orchid database is still under consideration by the committee.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

For the month of June 2017:

	June 2017	1 Feb 2017 to 30 June 2017
Income (operating account)	\$1,099.50	\$4,607.20
Expenditure	\$0.00	\$932.30

Moved by Jay Steer and seconded by Tim Hodgkins that the Treasurer's report for June 2017 be accepted as a true record of the club's finances. *Carried*

4. CORRESPONDENCE 21 June 2017 to 19 July 2017

Electronic or hard copies of newsletters and bulletins have been received over the period from: NOSSA, ANOS Illawarra, WA Orchid Spectacular, ANOS Sydney, Invasive Species Council, Correspondence covered a range of topics.

Inward emails to the WANOSCG Web site and members of the committee:

Date	Sender	Topic
26-Jun-17	WA Orchid Society	Information on the WA Orchid Spectacular Conference & Show in Scarborough in August 2017
26-Jun-17	Andrew Brown	Orchid Spectacular photo competition
27-Jun-17	Associations and Charities Branch, Department of Commerce	Associations Info Issue 20 – All about AGMs and accounts
2-Jul-17	Jon Warren	Email to Marina Karyagina re committee membership
7-Jul-17	Robert van Oosten	Opportunity to promote WANOSCG at the Orchid Spectacular Conference in early August
7-Jul-17	Timothy Hodgkins	Copy of email to Shire of Dandaragan re Mullering Road east of Brand Highway and markers to protect flora assets
10-Jul-17	Shire of Dandaragan	Acknowledging receipt of email of 7 July from Tim Hodgkins and indicating cooperation to protect flora
10-Jul-17	Tim Hodgkins	Copy of letter to Shire of Narrogin relating to damage to rare flora habitat at Yilliminning Rock conservation area.
12-Jul-17	Freedom of Information and Projects Officer, Office of the Director General Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	Requesting WANOSCG consent to release a copy of a letter dated 5-Feb-1977 from WANOSCG to the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife in relation to the Bakers Junction Reserve under the Freedom of Information legislation.
13-Jul-17	Freedom of Information and Projects Officer, Office of the Director General Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	Enclosing Fol requested document, ie letter dated 5 February 1977 from WANOSCG to the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife concerning Bakers Junction Reserve.
14-Jul-17	WANOSCG to Fol Projects Officer	Indicating that WANOSCG had no objection to release of the document under Fol as mentioned above.
15-Jul-17	Robert Lawrence	Wild Orchid Watch
17-Jul-17	Jay Steer to Robert Lawrence	Wild Orchid Watch

Business arising from Correspondence:

- Orchid Spectacular
 - Robert van Oosten is entering a display at the Orchid Spectacular and is also entering the photographic competition. He will be attending and handing out WANOSCG brochures and extended a suggestion that other members might like to attend and do likewise.
 - John Ewing is scheduled to speak twice at the Orchid Spectacular, once to the general public on the underground orchid and red wispy spiders and once to registrants in relation to the ADORP initiative.
 - There is both free and paid parking in the vicinity of the venue in Scarborough.
- The committee unanimously accepted Marina Karyagina's offer to serve on the committee.
- The committee agreed to arrange for a further print run of the brochure to enable copies to be handed out at the WA Orchid Spectacular.
- Tim Hodgkins will continue to follow up on the matter of Mullering Road east of Brand Highway.
- Tim Hodgkins will continue to follow up on the damage to rare flora habitat at Yilliminning Rock.

5. FIELD TRIPS

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

Upcoming Field trips

July	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	The plans for the potential trip to the Perenjori/Charles Darwin reserve/Wubin area were abandoned due to lack of rainfall in the area.
9 August	Visit to an area south of Pinjarra to a private sanctuary run by WANOSCG members, Goodales.
19 August	Potential visit to Brookton Highway (Prasophyllum sp Brookton Highway), FTL Kevin Uhe
26 August	Potential trip to Kemerton, FTL Graeme Walker (mainly snail orchids)
23 – 25 September	Long weekend trip to Walpole likely to centre on Denmark rather than Walpole. <i>(NB this was in error being subsequently amended back to be centred on Walpole and members were notified the following day.)</i>

Ian Greeve indicated he would call off a potential trip to White Wells because there had been no rain.

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

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

- Marina Karyagina had found the red veined shell orchid *Pterostylis hamiltonii* at Yilliminning Rock. It was actually red rather than brown (or green).
- Eric Swarts had found the narrow hooded shell orchid (*Pterostylis angusta*), the mosquito orchid (*Cyrtostylis robusta*) and *P hamiltonii* in the Stirling Range and, at Bluff Knoll, the eastern Queen of Sheba (*Thelymitra speciosa*). Eric indicated that the QoS place was slashed last year so it was good to see the orchids this year.

- Justin Brown had found the Kalbarri shell orchid (*Pterostylis microglossa*) near Jurien Bay.
- Ron Fauntleroy had visited several locations in the Shires of Murray, Harvey and Waroona and the City of Mandurah. He had found in flower a couple of species of leek orchids (*Prasophyllum*), bluebeard (*Pheladenia deformis*) and several species of *Pterostylis*. In addition he had found many in bud or leaf, including Redbeaks (*Pyrorchis nigricans*) and several species of *Pterostylis*, *Caladenia*, *Thelymitra*, *Drakaea*, *Cyrtostylis* and *Prasophyllum*.
- Tim Hodgkins had seen lots of snail orchids along the verge in Hepburn Road.
- Margaret Petridis had seen crowded banded greenhood (*Pterostylis sp crowded*)
- Geoff Foley had seen brown veined shell orchid in Yanchep National Park.
- John Ewing had visited the Zig Zag (with WANOSCG members as part of the day field trip) but they found no orchids in flower, then he had visited the reserve at Pomeroy Road and seen the winter donkey orchid (*Diuris brumalis*) and the autumn leek orchid (*Prasophyllum parvifolium*). He has noted that donkey orchids are now coming out in increasing numbers. While on holiday in Europe he had seen around 60 different species in Spain.
- Mark Brundrett had seen bluebeard orchids (*Pheladenia deformis*) in Warwick bushland in several places.
- Pat Richards had seen a bluebeard orchid (*Pheladenia deformis*) and a donkey orchid (*Diuris brumalis*) in Darlington.

6. CONSERVATION

Moved by Tim Hodgkins and seconded by Marina Karyagina that the Conservation report as circulated in the July Bulletin be accepted. *Carried.*

In addition the following conservation issues are raised:

- Tim Hodgkins, along with Bob Steer and Noel Hoffman are scheduled to meet with the developer at Bushmead on 15 August.
- Following a meeting with an Orica representative, it has been established that the State Explosives Facility development at McClarty will not affect the orchids in Johnston Road, but is located very close to the orchid site, in fact immediately to the west of it. Tim will try to get some protection for the orchids from the shire.
- As regards Mullering Road and threats to *Thelymitras* in the area, Bob Steer will follow the matter up.
- Lyn Alcock will liaise with a representative of the Shire of Narrogin in relation to Yilliminning Rock and the threats posed by 4WD activity in the area. Tim will assist as required.
- Jay Steer will follow through in relation to renewal of WANOSCG membership of the Conservation Council.
- Clearing notices are no longer appearing in the West Australian with a general move to publish such material on line. Tim Hodgkins can provide a web link to those who are interested.
- Eddy Wajon carried out the following activities in his capacity of member of both WANOSCG and the Wild Flower Society:
 - Representative in lobby groups for both the York-Quairading Road and Toodyay Road clearing issues.
 - Made submissions regarding the Great Northern Highway and *Thelymitra stellata*, and North Walpole Road where there are known to be 47 species of orchid within 10 km, including some threatened.
 - Appeals in relation to Ridgeland Road, Condingup, for threatened flora, possibly including orchids, and to MRWA for roads at Toodyay, Williams, Pinjarra and Narrogin.
 - Attended meetings with WALGA, Minister for Road Safety and Minister for Transport in relation to the road widening for the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight network, currently 4,000 km of country gravel and single lane roads.
 - Is looking into illegal/excessive clearing on the Northam-Chindanning Road and Wongan Hills Craig Road, including a DRF marker.

Eddy's upcoming activities include meetings with:

- DG, DWER
- Minister for Environment
- MRWA South West Region.

7. GROWER'S TABLE

- Mark Brundrett displayed pots with healthy specimens of the brown veined shell orchid (*Pterostylis aspera*), the red veined shell orchid (*Pterostylis hamiltonii*), the green veined shell orchid (*Pterostylis scabra*), and a donkey orchid (*Diuris sp.*).

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 8.1 *Speakers are still being sought* – for meetings later in the year. For one meeting we may canvass a few newer members to give short talks on what stimulated them to develop their interest in native orchids.
- 8.2 *Current Website:* More than 3000 extra hits have been received since the upgrade. Stuart Gale invited further feedback.
- 8.3 *Bulletin:* Anyone still not receiving the Bulletin should advise Stuart Gale. It was also suggested that additional contact details, eg website, email address, should be noted somewhere on the Bulletin.
- 8.4 *Registrar's report:*
- We currently have over 16,700 entries in the Database, plus a further 600 entries currently being processed. In 2017 11 members have made 17 submissions, with a total of over 1500 entries. 5 sightings reports have been requested and provided to members for Field Trips and for conservation submissions.
 - These submissions to the Database are important and members are encouraged to submit their sightings to the Registrar (Ramón - newmann@bigpond.net.au) – ideally on the standard Sightings Report Excel spreadsheet (previously emailed out), but other formats will be also be acceptable thanks to the help of some members who help with transcribing the non-standard ones into the standard form.
- 8.5 *Review of the Strategic plan 2016 - 2020:* Part of the plan involves fostering relations with custodians of orchid habitat, including communication with land holders in addition to the work we have been doing with the local government liaison. Jon Warren will be requesting reports on the local government initiative shortly. These latter have covered 9 reserves in seven local government areas. Jon has been keeping a consolidated list of council contacts. Tim Hodgkins will forward a copy of his list of recent council contacts to Jon.
- 8.6 *Use of the Group's funds:* The committee is currently working on a process for consideration of use of the group's funds.
- 8.7 *Insurance:* The committee is continuing to evaluate needs and options.
- 8.8 *New Rules of Association:* An information document regarding our expenditure, receipts and bank balance needs to be lodged with the government department concerned by the end of July. We have that available for lodgement as a result of our audit. Other requirements are in hand.

PRESENTATION: Katie Elder spoke on incongruences within the evolutionary development and history of the subtribe Caladeniae.

RAFFLE DRAW: Katie Elder drew the raffle and the winning ticket was held by Jay Steer.

MEETING CLOSE: 8:56 pm

NEXT MEETING: 7:30 pm Wednesday 16 August 2017 BGPA Boardroom, Kings Park



CONSERVATION REPORT

Tim Hodgkins – Conservation Officer

1. *Clearing Notices*: One recent application has been examined and I am suggesting that a Flora survey be a condition of the license. It is the clearing of 4.6 Ha in the Shire of Ravensthorpe for a proposed campsite at a beach near Hopetoun.

2. *ANOS*: At the suggestion of our president Ramon, I have taken out membership of ANOS and contacted their Conservation Officer Roslyn Capell but yet to receive a reply. A productive liaison with this society should be beneficial to both Groups.

3. *Bushmead development (former Rifle Range)*: The date of the proposed site meeting is Monday 21st 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*: Whilst the threat to native orchids of this projects is minimal the suggestion remains of greater protection of the orchid rich area east of this site along Johnston road. Communication with the Shire of Waroona and an application for Reserve status is on the agenda for later in the year.

6. *Mulling 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 awaiting contact with the local DPaW officer about installation of markers in this and other critical locations in the Shire.

7. *Yilliminning Rock*: A site meeting has been arranged with the Shire of Narrogin for Monday August 14th and I will report verbally to the meeting about this. This site is home for the white Shell orchids...the ONLY known population of these. (*Pterostylis hamiltonii*)

8. *Rare Orchids survey 2017*: Mark Brundrett and Karen Clarke have provided the following information:

"The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions through the Banksia Woodland Restoration (BWR) Project would like to conduct surveys of both *Drakaea elastica* and *Caladenia huegelii* this year to support conservation actions for these species. We would greatly appreciate the support of volunteers from the WA Native Orchid Conservation and Study Group in undertaking these surveys. We would also appreciate support from several volunteers to monitor an experiment assessing grazing effects and pollination success.

"The *Drakaea elastica* surveys are part of a small grant received by the Department through the Commonwealth's "30 plants by 2020" program. As part of the Threatened Species Strategy the Commonwealth aims to improve the trajectories of 30 threatened plants by 2020. The glossy-leaved hammer orchid is one of these 30 species, see <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/30-plants-by-2020> we aim to survey 10 populations this year and run the grazing and pollination study."

The *Caladenia huegelii* surveys are part of on-going conservation actions being undertaken for urban development offsets.

Mark Brundrett, coordinator of the Banksia Woodland Restoration Project, will work in conjunction with other members of the Department to run this work and I will provide support to coordinate the volunteers. Mark already has a list of potential volunteers from WANOSCG from discussions at the last general meeting.

It is my recommendation that we support this project with volunteers and time in any way we can.

9. *Manea Park*: Graeme Anderson has advised that DFES has conducted burning clearing and mulching in the Park within 500m of the known population of *T. variegata* and there now

remain less than 15 plants from the nearly double that number three years ago when another burn was conducted.

I have been in contact with the District officer of DFES Greg Hamlyn and received an account of the most recent incident together with an offer to use our data base in future activities of this sort. The City of Bunbury and SWDC were also not aware of this damage until after the event.

Graeme and I plan to meet with the DFES officers later in the year.

The other issue that is raised by this action is the potential disappearance of *T. variegata* from the Swan/Peel/Bunbury region and the action we should take to ensure that this does not happen. Options like seed collection and transplanting should be explored. If members know of other populations on the coastal plain I would appreciate some advice without specifics if necessary.

This area is also known for another threatened orchid *C. speciosa* and there is little doubt that some of these have also been destroyed.

Editorial note:

Members are advised that it is **not acceptable** to visit Threatened orchid species unless they are accompanied by Threatened Species officers from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) or are conducting surveys at their request.

If members have already seen a Threatened species before, we request that they do not visit to see it every year. The regular visits will affect the habitat and ultimately adversely affect the threatened orchid.

Rosters:

	Speaker	Topic	Raffle Prize	Supper
16-Aug	Jay Steer	The Fuscolutea Complex	Mary & Noel Hoffman	Trish Newman
20-Sept	TBA	TBA	Bob Steer	Robyn Foley
18-Oct	Selected members	"How I became interested in Orchids"	David & Janeanne Cumming	
15-Nov	Photo competition	Member Photo Competition	Marina Karyagina	

Thank you for
reading.
Until next month,
Happy Orchid
Hunting

BULLETIN ARTICLES

Please email any Bulletin contributions to the Editor at wanoscg@gmail.com Items for the next Bulletin need to be submitted by 13th September 2017.

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