

Western Australian Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group



June 2018 Bulletin

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NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

20th June

Management Committee:

Ramón Newmann – President
Jon Warren – Vice President
Ian Puddey – Vice President
Jay Steer – Treasurer
Pat Richards – Secretary
Margaret Petridis –
Field Trip Coordinator
Committee Member#1– Kim Hanson
Committee Member#2 Marina
Karyagina
Committee Member#3 David Lawson
Committee Member#4 Kevin Uhe

Members are reminded that Membership Fees are now OVERDUE if you haven't already paid, payment methods are on the back page.

On *Rhizanthella johnstonii* by Alex George

Members will be aware that Kingsley Dixon and co-author Maarten Christenhusz have described the southern populations of our underground orchid as a new species, *Rhizanthella johnstonii*. As the type specimen they used my collection (no. 15717) from Munglinup, gathered on 1 June 1979. Its discovery by farmer John McGuinness came after years of searching and publicity through the media. A few days after he brought a specimen to the WA Herbarium a group visited his property and we made the first deliberate excavation of the orchid. What an exciting day that was! Here are photos showing an exposed plant, the type collection in hand, and a close-up of one specimen.

Reference

Dixon, K.W. & Christenhusz, M.J.M. (2018), Flowering in darkness: a new species of subterranean orchid *Rhizanthella* (Orchidaceae; Orchidoideae; Diurideae) from Western Australia, *Phytotaxa* 334 (1): 75–79. <https://doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.334.1.12>



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New Helmet Orchid

New Helmet Orchid (*Corybas* sp.) found in the lower Southwest

Just when you think there cannot possibly be any more surprises in Western Australian native orchids, along comes someone to prove you wrong. This happened in early May this year when I received an email from David Edmonds, who lives near Walpole, stating “Had a bit of a surprise today, finding some helmet orchids - it seems very early in the season and they don’t look typical. Wondering whether you had any ideas as to what they could be?”

The earliest flowering species of helmet orchid in WA is *Corybas recurvus* which starts at the end of June but does not reach peak flowering until mid July–August. So, what had David found? Fortunately, he had included some photos and as soon as I viewed them I realised that he had made a significant discovery, a brand new helmet orchid for WA. It was morphologically unlike any other species found here. Plants had a tiny leaf, smaller than the flower, and the flower, unlike that of *Corybas recurvus*, stood upright rather than leaning backwards. Each flower had a broad, cream, pink tinged dorsal sepal and a pinkish-red labellum with a prominent cream boss (the central part of the labellum). It was also flowering in early May, several months before *Corybas recurvus*.



Wow, what a discovery! I just had to see it in the wild and arranged to meet David a week later.

On the 15th May a small group comprising David Edmonds, Anna de Haan, Jackie Manning (DBCA Conservation Officer from Walpole) and myself met at David’s house and, after a brief chat, proceeded to the location where he had found the orchid. David explained that he, Ros Burnside and Katie Syme (the well-known fungus expert and illustrator) had been out mapping peat as volunteers for the Walpole-Nornalup National Parks Association and looking for fungi when he spotted a small white circular blob on the ground that he at first thought may have been a fungus. On closer examination he realised that what he had in fact found was a helmet orchid and, searching around, found four more.



The habitat was a peaty swamp that had been burnt 6 months previously, the sort of place where you might find *Corybas abditus* much later in the year. It was quite unlike the habitat of other *Corybas* species found in WA.

On arriving at the location we worked our way through thick, regenerating (from fire) scrub to the site about 600 metres from the road. Here, David showed us the helmet orchid which was in full flower, growing as scattered individuals over about a 30m area under regenerating *Callistemon*, *Homalospermum* and *Taxandria* species. What an extraordinary discovery made in habitat that would not normally be searched for orchids at this time of year, perhaps explaining why it had remained undiscovered for so long. If David, Ros and Katie had not been mapping peat and looking for fungi the orchid may have remained undiscovered for many more years.

After about an hour of searching we had found 19 flowering plants and seven immature leaves. A very successful morning much enjoyed by all. I personally had not been that excited for years. Thank you so much David for kindly taking us to see this amazing new orchid species made even more remarkable by its flowering period which is so early in the season. A voucher collection of two flowering plants and one vegetative plant was made for the WA Herbarium. Once they are

New Helmet Orchid—continued

housed in the collection a phrase name will be erected for the species and it will appear on Florabase.

Given its distinctiveness, David and I will be preparing a paper formally naming the helmet orchid as a new species. However, before we do this David will be making regular trips to the population to gather the detailed morphological, ecological and biological information required for our paper. We are also planning to undertake further surveys in May next year.

Hopefully, further populations will be found and, in due course, members will be provided the opportunity to see the orchid in the wild. In the meantime, and I am sure you understand the reasons why, the location remains confidential.

By **Andrew Brown**

ADORP NEWS

Welcome to those members who have joined the ADORP program in the last few months and hope you enjoy being part of this important initiative. We now have a total of 63 members in the ADORP program, including a number who have joined from the Southern Rivers Group which will increase the number of taxa being monitored in the Southern area.

With the infusion of new members, the number of taxa being studied under ADORP will grow which will provide much needed data on more orchid species going forward. This is a positive way in which WANOSCG can assist in providing valuable data to DBCA so that decisions can be made on the status of the orchids under review.

In a change this year some non priority taxa will be surveyed to evaluate whether they need to be upgraded to priority status. By expanding the focus of the ADORP project it will ensure a greater understanding of some of these poorly known species and provide better protection should they prove to be rare or subject to threatening processes.

It is also pleasing to report that after the third quarter timesheets were received that the project has broken the previous record of hours recorded for a financial year and for the first time we have achieved over 2,000 volunteer hours in a reporting year.

By **Kevin Uhe**

ORCHID TAXONOMY

In the January 2018 edition of Phytotaxa, Kingsley Dixon and Maarten Christenhusz published a paper describing the southern form of the underground orchid which has been named *Rhizanthella johnstonii*. It was previously known by the same manuscript name and the paper has been formerly accepted by the WA Herbarium so the name can be officially used. The Augusta Bee Orchid which was known as *Diuris* sp 'Augusta' is now considered to be a form of the Swamp Bee Orchid *Diuris pauciflora* as there are not enough morphological differences to describe it as different species.

Priority taxa additions

Caladenia applanata subsp *erubescens* and *Diuris brevis* have now been upgraded to Priority 2. These two taxa are poorly known and will be part of the ADORP program in 2018 to determine their population sizes and range.

By **Kevin Uhe**

Orchids of South Australia

There is a free download of the 1990 "Orchids of South Australia". Although a bit dated it is full of interesting information and much of it is still relevant.
Go to

<https://data.environment.sa.gov.au/Content/Publications/Orchids%20of%20South%20Australia%20WEB%20300dpi.pdf>

By **Andrew Brown**

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, 16th May 2018

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

ATTENDANCE: Visitors: Nil Number of members present: 38
Welcome to new members: N/A – none present

APOLOGIES: Ramón Newmann, Tim Hodgkins, Trish Newmann, Jon Warren, Rachel Halls, Heather Hills, Lyn Alcock, Andrew Simpson, Alison Higgins, George Kokosinski, Andrew Brown, Jeanette Wheatley, Bill Gaynor, Donna Wajon, Graeme Walker

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

RAFFLE: Prize donated by Kevin Uhe.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

Members were asked if they had any amendments to the minutes of 18 April 2018 general meeting that appeared in the May Bulletin.

Moved by Tom Burbidge and seconded by Kevin Uhe that the General Meeting Minutes of 18 April 2018, as published in the May Bulletin 2018 are a true and accurate record of that meeting. *Carried*

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Submissions for grant: Four expressions of interest received, two of which have been selected by the committee to provide detailed submissions with a view to award to the successful applicant by July 2018 at the latest.

Web page development: Stuart Gale has been updating the web page and has included having the menu on every page and implemented suggestions made by the committee. Further input is still being sought. If any member has suggestions as to potential improvements, they should send them to Pat Richards who will forward them to Stuart. Volunteers are being called for to take ownership of content of various pages.

Margaret Petridis has volunteered to act as custodian for the pages on field trips and study groups.

Speakers for 2018 meetings: We have some suggestions that are being followed up by the committee but topics and speakers for the remainder of 2018 are still being sought.

So far:

June – Database mapping report

July – Tobias Hayashi – Pterostylis pollination research

Aug- Ryan Phillips – Caladenia pollination recent discoveries

Associations incorporation: See 8.1 in general business.

ADORP: See 8.2 in general business.

Volunteers: Raffle prize donors have now volunteered for the remainder of 2018, but speakers are still being sought for September and October and supper volunteers for September, October and November.

TREASURER'S REPORT

For the period 1 April to 30 April 2018:

	1-Apr-18 to 30-Apr-18	1-Feb-18 to 30-Apr-18
Income (operating account)	1,226.20	2,173.10
Expenditure	482.62	1,436.42

It was noted that there are still approximately 40 membership subscriptions outstanding for the current year. Expenditure related substantially to printing and postage of the Bulletin for those who could not receive electronic copies, PO box renewal and first aid kits.

Moved by John Ewing and seconded by Margaret Petridis that the Treasurer's report to April 2018 be accepted as a true record of the club's finances. *Carried*

CORRESPONDENCE

19 April 2018 to 16 May 2018

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

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

Date	Sender	Topic
28-Apr-18	Bill Dear, Phil Bunney, Brian Trainer, Michelle Tollos	Resubmission of Expression of Interest for WANOSCG Grant
1-May-18	Ron Fauntleroy	Resubmission of Expression of Interest for WANOSCG Grant
2-May-18	Paul Winthrop	Expression of Interest for WANOSCG Grant
2-May-18	Christopher French	Expression of Interest for WANOSCG Grant
8-May-18	Ron Fauntleroy	Detailed proposal for conservation project relating to application for WANOSCG Grant
9-May-18	Ron Fauntleroy	Further details relating to project for application for WANOSCG Grant
9-May-18	Tim Hodgkins fwd email from Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	Zone of land for conservation purposes

Business arising from Correspondence:

Detailed proposals being sought from grant proponents Bill Dear et al and Ron Fauntleroy. Paul Winthrop's proposal for development of app for recording orchids in the field is being considered for use in conjunction with the proposed Lucid Key app for identification of WA orchids.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips through until June have been proposed as follows:

Field trip leaders: Volunteers are being sought to lead trips along with suggestions for mid-August trip. Although tentative volunteers had been found for a May trip in the Bunbury area, it was felt that the lack of rain so far this season would not have produced enough orchids of interest to warrant such a trip until mid-June. It is suggested that members should continue with their own private trips during May, reporting any species of interest to the group. The next official field trip will be to Wongan Hills over the long weekend at the beginning June.

2 – 4 June Wongan Hills

FTL: Margaret Petridis

Target orchids: Winter spider orchid (*Caladenia drummondii*).

Some historical sites for the winter spider will be visited to see if they are still there, while new sites where they might occur will be examined.

To Register for a Field Trip

1. Contact the Field Trip Co-ordinator: Margaret Petridis on [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED]
2. Names for the trips will be accepted 4 weeks prior to the trip and no later than 2 days before.

We will aim to limit numbers to around 20, so if more people register, we will probably split the group and stagger the start, as long as another field trip leader is available.

Please think about volunteering to lead a trip this year. We are looking for a trip leader for the Bunbury area in late May. Please note that if nobody volunteers, the trip will not go ahead. If any members have information to assist the FTL on any of the trips, please advise the FT Coordinator. (as above)

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

Leif Jamvold had visited Keysbrook where he had seen several hare orchids (*Leporella fimbriata*), a few common bunny orchids (*Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp *multiflorus*) and a single specimen (possibly) of a white bunny orchid (*Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp *dilatatus*).

Margaret Petridis and Kevin Uhe had undertaken a field trip to the east of WA near Balladonia looking for the eastern bunny orchid (*Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp *orientalis*) a few of which they found. In addition, they found some pygmy orchids (*Corunastylis tepperi*) and looked for winter spiders (*Caladenia drummondii*).

John Ewing had seen two types of bunny orchid, the common bunny (*E dilatatus* subsp *multiflorus*) and the crinkle-leafed bunny (*E dilatatus* subsp *undulatus*) in the Welshpool Road/Pomeroy Road area in the Perth hills.

Pat Richards had revisited an area near Darlington where she had previously seen 20+ bunny orchids (*Eriochilus dilatatus*) to examine the leaf type in order to identify the sub-species. Leaf shapes and sizes were highly variable within the same very limited area and it was concluded that there were probably both common bunny and crinkle-leafed types (subsp *multiflorus* and subsp *undulatus*) present and possibly some hybrids.

Members are encouraged to look for the following orchids in May and June:

Corunastylis tepperi, *Praecoxanthus aphyllus*, *Eriochilus*, *Leporella fimbriata*.

Caladenia drummondii and *Diuris*, *Prasophyllum*, *Pterostylis* and early *Thelymitra* species.

Please look in new areas.

Members are requested to fill out the personal field trip report form on the front table and send electronic Orchid Sightings sheets to the registrar (Ramón 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.

CONSERVATION

Conservation issues

Tim Hodgkins sent his apologies for this meeting but advised that he is currently working on the following matters in which good progress has been made:

Manea Park – zone to protect the remaining *Thelymitra variegata*

Johnston Road McLarty – conservation area re-zoning with SPC and DPCA

Shire of Irwin – Burma South Road clearing during the month of April 2018. This action has damaged flora in this area, particularly the blunt leaved bunny orchid (*Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp *brevifolius*)

There will be a full report in June on these and other matters.

GROWER'S TABLE

Nothing was tabled

GENERAL BUSINESS

Associations Incorporation – A subcommittee has been formed to continue to work on the adaptation of the pro forma model for the new conforming WANOSCG constitution, acceptance of which will be put to formal vote by members by the end of November.

ADORP

Kevin Uhe reported that 65 members have now signed up for the ADORP program and it is intended to expand the program to start looking at some taxa that are not priority.

Attempts are being made to have some species upgraded. This has been successfully achieved with the rose spider orchid (*Caladenia applanata* subsp *erubescens*), the short-nosed donkey orchid (*Diuris brevis*) and Heberle's bird orchid (*Pterostylis heberlei*). (It was noted that the procedure to upgrade "Priority" is considerably simpler and quicker than upgrade to "Threatened" but the experience of putting together the priority upgrade submissions to DBCA was felt to have been valuable.)

Library

Librarian, John Ewing, is proposing to make the library more accessible to members and had brought into the meeting a range of books and booklets currently stored at his home. The intention was to make such material available to members to borrow for short periods and he committed to bringing in several such publications to

each meeting for this purpose. Anyone wishing to borrow an item was requested to give their name to John before taking it.

John drew attention to remaining copies of books originally obtained for purchase by members and now available for purchase at reduced prices:

"Spider, Fairy and Dragon Orchids of Western Australia," Hopper, S D, and Brown, A P, *Nuytsia*. 14(1/2):27-314.

"Orchids of South-West Australia," Hoffman, N, and Brown, A

"Orchids of Western Australia," Hopper, Stephen, et al, illustrated by Pat Dundas

In addition, John is proposing that general correspondence would be discarded after seven years unless member has a particular reason to keep any particular item such as might refer to a significant matter relating to WANOSCG history. John is also proposing to look through boxes of past hard copy WANOSCG Bulletins to identify which may have significant content that might need to be retained.

John is intending to look through the hard copies of bulletins issued by other orchid organisations with a view to extracting and retaining any articles of current relevance to WANOSCG with remaining outdated material to be discarded.

WANOSCG Database:

Can now produce output plotted on to maps.

Members were reminded to submit their orchid data for entry into the WANOSCG Database.

Orchid ID key project – Paul Winthrop will lead the development of a Lucid Key app in consultation with Ramón Newmann and will present at the general meeting in June.

2018 Photo Competition – consideration of subjects for this year's competition is ongoing.

Facebook post – It was noted that there had been a recent post with a photo of destruction of orchid habitat.. Robert van Oosten proposed that certain officers of DBCA be given access to the closed WANOSCG Facebook group so that DBCA could respond to such occurrences in a timely fashion. This suggestion will be considered by the WANOSCG committee.

Robert van Oosten indicated that he and some other members were interested in the propagation of some native orchids with a view to having them planted out in the wild. He noted that they did not have the necessary knowledge and skill, especially given the need for the presence of symbiotic soil fungus for this to be successful, and asked for suggestions as to a knowledgeable contact in this regard. This matter will be considered by the committee.

SPEAKER: Eddy Wajon presented on roadside vegetation conservation.

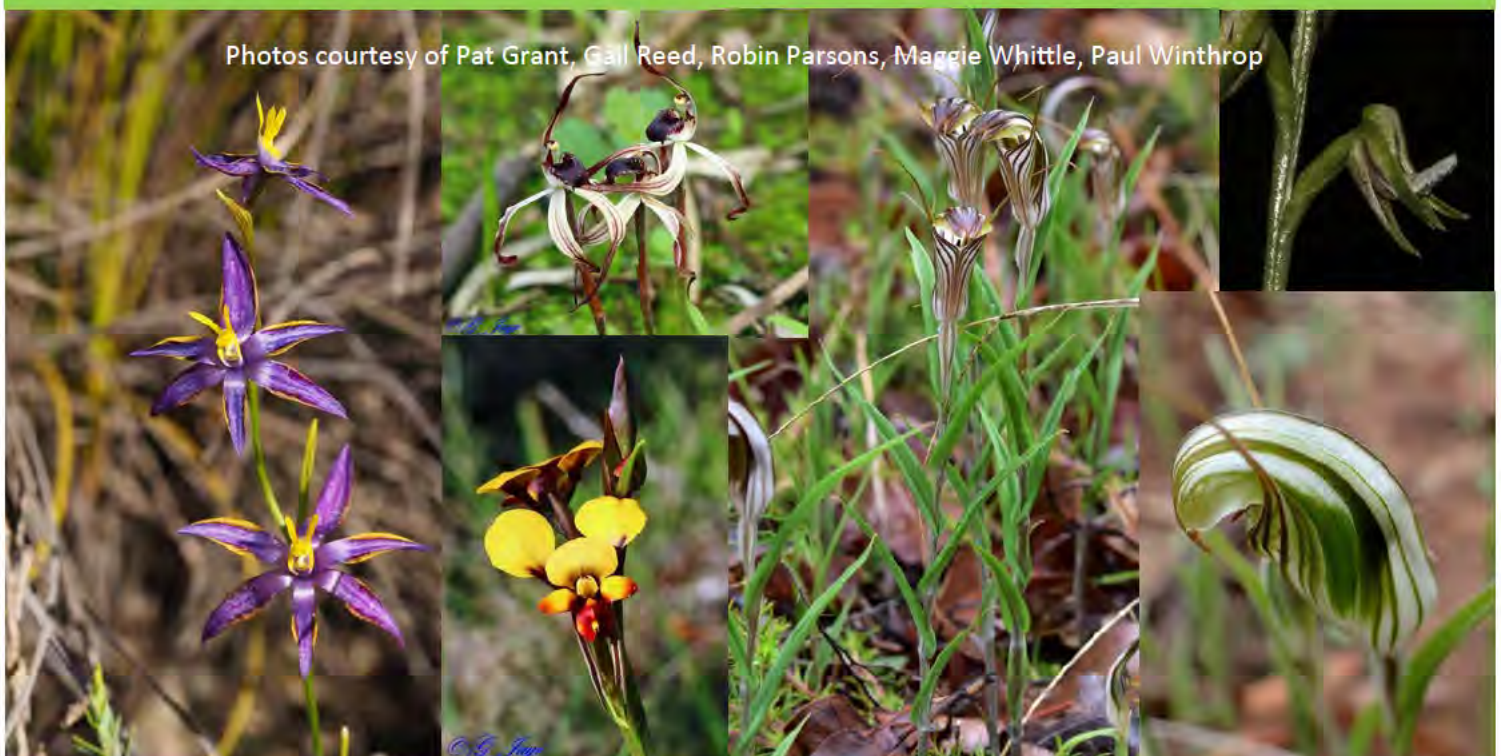
RAFFLE DRAW: Eddy Wajon drew the raffle with the prize being won by David Cumming.

MEETING CLOSE: 9:15 pm

NEXT MEETING: 20 June 2018, 7:30 pm, BGPA Boardroom, Kings Park

Recent Facebook Photos

Photos courtesy of Pat Grant, Gail Reed, Robin Parsons, Maggie Whittle, Paul Winthrop



CONSERVATION OFFICER REPORT

Clearing notices:

These are monitored daily and there is an alarming amount of good quality remnant banksia and other woodland continuously under threat from clearing. A letter to the Minister is being prepared to bring this issue to his attention. Members are requested to provide immediate feedback if they observe clearing that appears to be illegal or unwarranted.

Projects:

Queen of Sheba (*Thelymitra variegata*) complex – plans to upgrade the protection status will continue within the ADORP program with the target of listing in January 2020.

Reserve Status for Johnston Road – A positive response has been received from the State Planning Commission “Further to your enquiry about establishing a nature reserve for protection of Orchids around the Johnson Road area in Myalup, I advise as follows:

Your enquiry was referred to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) for comment, and they have requested additional information to help assess the significance of the area to determine whether establishing a nature reserve is feasible.

If you can provide an Orchid species list from the area to DBCA officers, this will assist with determining what further investigations are required in response to your enquiry.”

This information has been forwarded and I am planning a further follow up meeting with DBCA to explore the possibilities and time line.

Appeal against clearing - CPS 7559 MRWA Boonanarring Road and Brand Hwy, Beermullah – our appeal was successful and the proponent (MRD) is now required to carry out specific flora survey/s and consider changes to the road design to protect native species particularly orchids. Thanks to Eddy & WA Wildflower Society who provided vital support for appeal process and subsequent meeting.

Shire of Irwin, grader damage – A complaint was lodged with the Shire after reports of excessive clearing on road verges in the shire. A verbal acknowledgement was received admitting that the Shire did not have a Clearing Permit, but this has not been confirmed in writing after a further written request to do so. This Shire reportedly does not have a good track record in these matters.

Oldfield River NR & adjacent private property – This is a site for the Underground orchid (*Rhizanthella gardeneri*). I am following up a request for information from a member about the status of this reserve and the near property, where there is a possibility of land acquisition to enlarge the reserve.

Frankland Reserve, Frankland River townsite – This area 55 ha reserve was highlighted in a 2007 article in the media where the claim was made that there were 87 orchids species in the reserve. Protection status does need to be investigated and if possible upgraded to Nature Reserve. The process will include a search of WANOSCG records and enquiry through DBCA regional office, Albany.

Site Watch:

Caves Road upgrade

Qualen Road, Wandoo NP, grader damage, await report from DBCA

Urban Bushland Council – Autumn newsletter tabled

Thanks to Club members for their ongoing support & input.

Tim Hodgkins – Conservation officer - [REDACTED]

FIELD TRIP UPDATE

FIELD TRIP UPDATE: JULY, AUGUST and SEPTEMBER

JULY 15th: GILLINGARRA Day trip starting from Bindoon

FTL: K Uhe and M Petridis

Registration open 15th June

AUGUST 18th or 19th: WAMBYN NR (west of York) **Day Trip suggestion**

FTL: **Volunteer needed**

AUGUST 25th – 31st: PERENJORI-CHARLES DARWIN-NINGHAN STATION

FTL: Ian Greeve

Camping trip staying 2 nights in each place.

Maximum of 8 vehicles.

Camper trailers, caravans, tents and swags.

Register for this trip from 1st July.

SEPTEMBER 15th – 16th: WONGAN HILLS (Suggestion)

FTL: **Volunteer needed**

SEPTEMBER 21st – 24th: JERRAMUNGUP

FTL: TBD

Attendees to make their own way to Jerramungup by Friday 21st evening or Saturday 22nd morning.

Register now with FT Co-ordinator by text or email and advise when you are arriving. (Early registration to book accommodation)

FTC Margaret Petridis

FIELD TRIP REPORTS—Wongan Hills 2-4th June

The group gathered at the visitor centre and we welcomed 3 locals who participated in our trip over the next 3 days. The weather was kind to us although a bit chilly in the mornings. Rain stayed away until our return trip home.

Day 1: Saturday

We headed out of town in search of suitable habitat for *Caladenia drummondii* and didn't stay long at the first stop on Waddington Rd. It was then onto Elphin Nature Reserve. With 18 of us, we were able to spread out and explore different sections of the reserve. We located reasonable numbers of the winter spider orchid (*Caladenia drummondii*) considering the poor rainfall; many crinkle leaf bunny orchids (*Eriochilus dilatatus subsp. undulatus*) and Pat spotted a lone hare orchid (*Leporella fimbriata*).

Craig Rd Nature Reserve also failed to produce any of the target species. It was then off to an area of bush on a private property known to Peter, however we did not find anything of note there apart from rock formations that pre-dated white settlement of the area.

We met in the communal meals area at the Wongan Hills Caravan Park for an enjoyable evening.

Day 2: Sunday

Margaret had plans to check out an area of bush on Manmanning Rd, however this was abandoned due to the fence that indicated private property. Landowner permission may be sought for a future trip. Our next stop was Cullimbin Well Nature Reserve for a well-deserved morning tea. We were mainly looking for suitable habitat and failed to find anything flowering, but this spot has potential for spring flowering orchids. We did search an area on Ward Rd but only managed to find a few bunnies. It is thought this may be a suitable habitat for spring flowering species or *Caladenia drummondii* in a better rainfall year.

Robyn and Geoff had been up early Sunday morning and obviously couldn't wait till 9.30 to get started. Robyn had found a *Caladenia drummondii* in the Christmas Rock area. With this incentive, we searched the area and were successful and located a sizable number of target species as



well as *Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp. *undulatus*. All in all, a successful day with 1 new habitat area found with flowering winter spiders.

The evening saw us head to the Wongan Hills Hotel for a meal. Kevin continued to recruit ADORP participants.



Day 3: Monday

A warmer start to the day was appreciated and we headed out along Waddington Rd to check for suitable habitat, but no flowering species were found. It was then on to Mount Matilda for a bit of a walk along the trail and search of the rocky incline to no avail. It was then time to head home via Bejording Rd, Toodyay to check out a well-known area for *Caladenia drummondii*. It did not let us down, although not as prolific as in previous years. We found the target species with good populations right in the parking area, and plenty of *Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp. *undulatus*. Luckily, we were able to lunch in clear weather, the rain coming in on our return trip to Perth

By Jan Howie

Photos courtesy of Ramon Newmann

Field trips take a fair amount of effort to organise and are much appreciated by the members. A Thank You note from Gail Reed:

"I would just like to make the comment that the organisation of the field trip was excellent with excellent communication while out and about.

The one thing I was very impressed with was the out and about communication when both walking and driving. I was very pleased to see this in place.

The dinner at the Hotel was most enjoyable with everyone being very chatty and friendly and it was a very pleasant night out to end the weekend with.

All in all the whole weekend was very enjoyable and the organiser (Margaret Petridis) is to be commended for their effort.



Bunbury Field trip – Sunday June 10 2018

After meeting at a cold, wet and windy carpark at Kingston Robin Parsons lead the group to view specimens of the brown-veined shell orchid (*Pterostylis aspera*). Whilst mainly scattered in small groups a large colony of flowering plants were seen on the road reserve. Banded greenhoods (*Pterostylis vittata*) were spotted in bud and early flower and a small number of Hare orchids (*Leporella fimbriata*) were still bravely hanging on.

The rain had decided to head inland and blue sky appeared as we headed to our next stop at Eaton where a good number of narrow-hooded shell orchids were found in the grass, together with good populations of the brown-veined shell and banded greenhoods.

Despite the heavy incursion of grass it was pleasing to see the number of narrow-hooded shells in flower and it is a pity that the area has become very overgrown in recent years.

The group then made its way to Manea Park where a couple of scented autumn leeks (*Prasophyllum sp. early*) were photographed. A burnt area provided plenty of interest with a number of orchid leaves seen which should provide an impressive display later in the season. A number of banded greenhoods were in flower with a number of jug ,snails and midge orchids in early bud.

The lunch stop at Dalyellup provided a pleasant surprise with Taryn providing a much welcomed cup of hot pea soup which was appreciated by all on a reasonably cold day.

Final stop of the day was also in Dalyellup where an impressive display of brown-veined shells greeted the group. It is always a great sight to see large numbers of shells flowering in small areas.

Many thanks to Robin & Taryn Parsons for organising the trip which was appreciated by all those who attended.

By Kevin Uhe



RHIZANTHELLA GARDNERI FIELD TRIP

In late May Andrew Brown organised a private field trip to view and search for the critically endangered Underground Orchid, *Rhizanthella gardneri* near Corrigin, with permission from DBCA.

As we already had 8 members who had never seen this orchid on a waiting list, we did not notify the general membership about this trip. On the trip Andrew demonstrated the method of carefully searching for the orchid and sent everyone out to look under the nearby *Melaleucas*.

Only 2 flowers were found, and that was by Andrew near known locations. He carefully uncovered them so we could see the inside of the flowers and take photos, and then carefully covered them again.

Everyone who attended appreciated having the opportunity to see and photograph this rare orchid.

Thank you Andrew for the opportunity.

WAITING LIST

For any WANOSCG members who have not seen the Underground orchids and would like to, we are compiling two separate waiting lists:

one for the northern *Rhizanthella gardneri* near Corrigin (late May) and the other for the southern *Rhizanthella johnstonii* near Munglinup (early July).

Opportunities to participate in surveys for these orchids may arise every 2 or 3 years when DBCA staff are checking the populations. If they require assistance, DBCA staff will contact WANOSCG.

To register for the surveys please contact

Margaret Petridis [redacted] for *Rhizanthella gardneri* and/or

Kevin Uhe [redacted] for *Rhizanthella johnstonii*.



CALADENIA DRUMMONDII HUNT IN MAY:...a big search for a little orchid

Our first sighting of *Caladenia drummondii* for this year was at Karlgarin Hill NR on the way to Toolina Cove in mid-May. We extended our usual search area south of the road and found over 40 plants.

On the way back from the Cove we called into the Wave Rock Caravan Park east of Hyden and found a population of 50 plants nearby. I had been alerted to their presence last year by a former staff member at the Caravan Park, so it was great to find them and add the location to my growing list.

We also made a quick stop at two known locations south of Corrigin where 11 plants were found at the first (22 there in 2016) and only 2 plants at the second after looking for a long time (13 plants in 2016).

A week later we went out to Kukerin and found 2 plants in a new location east of the town, went up to Kulin and Kondinin and found none at two known locations, before finding (at last) 28 plants with 17 in flower at a third location east of Corrigin. In these areas in particular, the plants were generally very short (4-6cm) and doing it tough in the extremely dry conditions.

Following information from a WANOSCG member, we visited an area east of Narrogin where we managed to find 4 flowers and add another new location to the database.

At the end of May we were again in Corrigin and visited two locations in the Kunjin NR, finding 22 plants in the open Blackbutt woodland and 19 plants in the mallee woodland north of the track. Three plants in the mallee were a very pale colour form with apricot/yellow labellums and we were lucky that one was still in flower for us.

Robin, our local Corrigin orchid enthusiast had arranged for us to re-visit a private property south west of the town where we found 15 plants in a new location and 3 in the previous location. (2014 we found 15)

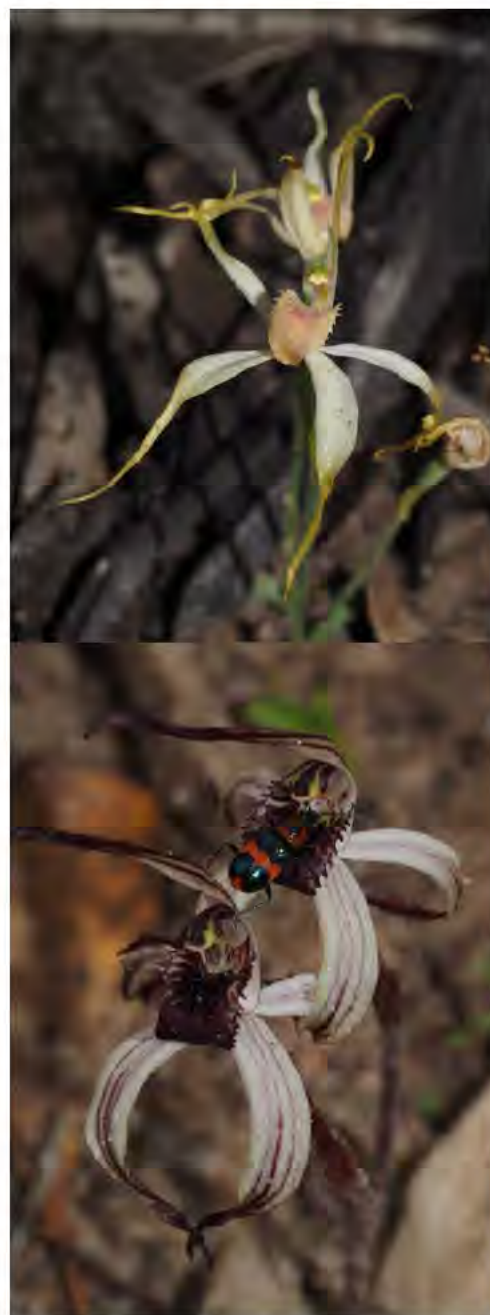
Heading further east to Narembreen we struck very dry habitat and found numbers at known populations were way down on previous years. At two locations we found only one plant in flower, where previously we had found around 16 at each.

Despite the very dry conditions this year, we recorded over 260 plants for the month of May with many kms of driving and walking done.

Thanks to Kevin for his ever present support and assistance with the searches.

Margaret Petridis

(*Caladenia drummondii* Study Group Co-ordinator)



THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE DIURIS CORYMBOSA COMPLEX – PART 2

By John Ewing

This article assumes you have read and absorbed the content and methodology suggested in the May Bulletin. Now the fun starts as there are 8 additional species to consider.

SPECIES that begin flowering in JULY

D. brachyscapa (Sp 'Western Wheatbelt') – the previous manuscript name suggests the general location for this very pale species. This is one of only 2 very pale flowering species to be found in July around the Perth latitude and to the south. Other species covered so far are generally not found in the southern part of the wheatbelt. The other species that does nearly overlap is *D. porrifolia* (once called Sp 'Slender'). Albany highway is an approximate dividing line with *D. brachyscapa* to the east and as far south as Tenterden and *D. porrifolia* to the west of Albany Highway and south as far as Boyup Brook. However, *D. porrifolia* may be found in areas in the east of the metropolitan area, including on or near the Darling Scarp. Comparison features between these two species does not use scape height as both grow to about 350mm. Leaf length is a marginal guide with *D. brachyscapa* being slightly longer (120-250 = average of about 175mm+) as compared to *D. porrifolia* (100-150 = average 125mm). Also the flower width for *D. brachyscapa* is slightly larger (20-30mm) vs *D. porrifolia* (15-25mm). Such a small difference could only really be established by measuring a larger sample of say 10 plants. It would be important to measure plants with similar number of flowers (say 2 or 3) and measuring the top flower in each case. This is because flower size on the SAME plant will often vary from top to bottom. Also it may be important to try and use flowers in a similar condition since comparing newly opened flowers with those that are almost finished may not give reliable conclusions. Another option which is 'less objective' is to consider labellum mid-lobe colour (as distinct from the petals). In general *D. brachyscapa* is less colourful (pale yellow and dull brown, with little colour on the labellum side lobes) than *D. porrifolia* (brighter yellow, stronger brown and colourful tips on the labellum side lobes).

D. porrifolia (formerly Sp 'Slender') – begins flowering in late July. Location and key features are described in the above comparison. Location should be carefully considered when comparing with *D. brachyscapa*. If you find a population of a Diuris which has a moderate height scape and pale flowers that is east of Perth in early to mid-July it will be *D. brachyscapa*. Some *D. porrifolia* flowers, especially in or near Perth are not very pale and may possibly be confused with BRUMALIS (if it is bright yellow and taller it will be *D. brumalis*). The average scape of the population and the average leaf size are the key distinguishing features.

D. refracta (Sp 'North-western Wheatbelt') – another late July flowerer which is variably coloured from rather pale to some plants which have a brighter labellum midlobe. Its name arise from the reflexed dorsal sepal which is also quite broad. Flowers are fairly small being 18-25mm across. Unlike the above two species *D. refracta* is found only to the north and north-west of Perth and thus should not be confused with the other two. It does flower into September so the main identification issues arise with species beginning in August (see July Bulletin for this and other comparisons). If found in late July or very early August then the only comparison is with *D. recurva*. By later in August then *D. refracta* needs to be separated from *D. pallescens* (Sp 'Mid-north') and perhaps *D. suffusa* (Sp 'Wyalcatchem') and maybe others also. More of that in later bulletins.

D. recurva – while overlapping strongly with the location of *D. refracta* this species is very distinctive due to its very small flowers (10-15mm wide and hence its common name of the Mini Donkey Orchid – *D. recurva* is 10-15mm), its smaller labellum midlobe (4-5mm long whereas *D. refracta* is 6-9mm) and smaller labellum side lobes (4-5mm whereas *D. refracta* is 8-10mm). The lateral sepals are generally very strongly recurved and are often so pronounced that they almost form a 'circle' with the tips showing above the where the stem joins the petals.



D. refracta does have recurved lateral sepals but the average degree is not as great as *D. recurva*. What you need to do is look at enough populations to get a 'feel' for which is which. While not all *D. recurva* flowers have the very pronounced recurvature, if quite a number in a population do have this feature, then you can be quite certain that this is the species. Some flowers may be slightly larger (not quite so 'mini' when measured) but this is more likely to be a variant rather than a different species. Leaf width is also a distinguishing characteristic. *D. recurva* is 10-15mm wide (length is average 150mm) while *D. refracta* is 7-10mm wide (length is average 175mm).

D. littoralis (Sp 'Green Range') – another species located near the south coast (although mostly not on the coastal margins). It begins flowering later than *D. Sp 'SOUTH COAST'* but overlaps strongly both in location (almost identical, although *D. littoralis* is also found further east) and time of flowering. Generally the scape height is lower (250-300mm = average 275mm) whereas *D. Sp 'SOUTH COAST'* is 250-500mm = 350+mm. If plants are being examined in mid to late July then average scape heights is a useful start. Neither leaves nor flower size are much different although *D. littoralis* is slightly larger (25-35mm vs 25-30mm – the problem as always is that width is often affected by the degree to which the petals are 'splayed out' rather than being held in a more compacted way. Hence flower width may not be a very good guide). The next feature is the dorsal sepal which is much less strongly recurved in *D. littoralis* (usually not recurved much at all in a fresh plant – usually erect) whereas this is a common feature of *D. Sp 'SOUTH COAST'*. In a similar way the petals on *D. littoralis* are held more stiffly and more uprightly whereas *D. Sp 'SOUTH COAST'* is often more splayed, more reclining and more recurved (bent at the tip of the petal). This distinction needs to be treated with care as it may be quite variable especially as flowers age. Another aspect is colour. In general, *D. littoralis* is more brightly coloured than *D. Sp 'SOUTH COAST'* especially in relation to the petals and to some extent the labellum mid lobe. *D. littoralis* also has some mauve/purplish colour on the mid-lobe whereas *D. Sp 'SOUTH COAST'* does not show this coloration. Since both these species are quite common and widespread, taking photo comparisons and data comparisons will allow you over time to develop a 'feel' for which is which and then establishing which species is which should become quite clear.

D. pulchella – bearing the common name of the 'Beautiful Donkey Orchid' this species is found in Esperance and the areas to the east. Its clearly distinctive feature is the magnificent bright purple mid-lobe standing in stark contrast to the soft paler petals. In its location, during July, the only other Diuris actually at Esperance is *D. littoralis*. Once again scape size is a differential with *D. pulchella* being taller (200-500mm vs 250-300mm). Populations with a number of flowers over 400mm will be *D. pulchella* (that is if the bright purple mid-lobe does not already make it clear).

D. tinkerii (Sp Eneabba) – This large flowering species (25-30mm across) is found from the north of the Perth metro area in coastal and near coastal locations up to Geraldton. It is generally quite colourful and flower size distinguishes it from *D. recurva* and *D. refracta*. In addition it is a much taller scape (250-500mm = average 350+mm). The most obvious other feature is the lateral sepals which are fairly straight, hang down and are often crossed whereas in both the others the lateral sepals are quite recurved. In Late July and early August in its location (such as the corner of Mullering Road and the Brand Highway) it is fairly unmistakable.

D. oraria (Sp ZYTORG CLIFFS) – this species is found north of Geraldton and so location separates it from TINKERII. In addition flowers are smaller (20-25mm) and less colourful (generally little colour on the side lobes of the labellum). Lateral sepals of *D. oraria* are brown in colour and have green tips and are shortish (13-18mm), quite wide (2.5-3mm) and often falcate (curved) in shape. In late July it is the only Diuris found north of Geraldton. The other Diuris in the area (*D. carecta* – Sp Murchison River) does not begin flowering until late August. See July Bulletin for this comparison. If you think this month was a step up on May then you just wait for the July instalment!

DIURIS CORYMBOSA COMPLEX continued

The table below has selected information solely for the purposes of comparisons so that one species can be distinguished from another. Use the text for locations which is sometimes a key distinguishing feature

SPECIES by MONTH	Height	Leaf length	Leaf Width	Flower colour	Flower width	Dorsal Sepal recurved	Mid lobe length	Mid lobe tip colour
MAY/JUNE								
<i>D. perrialla</i>	200-400	100-150	8-10	bright	25-30	Slight- not		
Difference	smaller	shorter	wider		wider			
<i>D. brumalis</i>	200-500	140-200	5-10	bright	20-25	Strong - slight		
<i>D. sp 'South Coast'</i>	250-500	100-150	5-10					No purple
JULY								
<i>D. brachyscapa</i>		120-250		pale	20-30			
Difference		longer		Vs	wider			
<i>D. porrifolia</i>		100-150		brighter	15-25			
<i>D. refracta</i>		7-10			18-25	Quite strong	6-9	
difference		narrower			wider	vs	longer	
<i>D. recurva</i>		8-15			10-15	Very strong	4-5	
<i>D. littoralis</i>	250-300							Some ppl
difference	smaller							vs
<i>D. pulchella</i>	200-500							Bright ppl
<i>D. tinkerii</i>	250-500							
<i>D. oraria</i>	150-300							

2018 Photo Competition

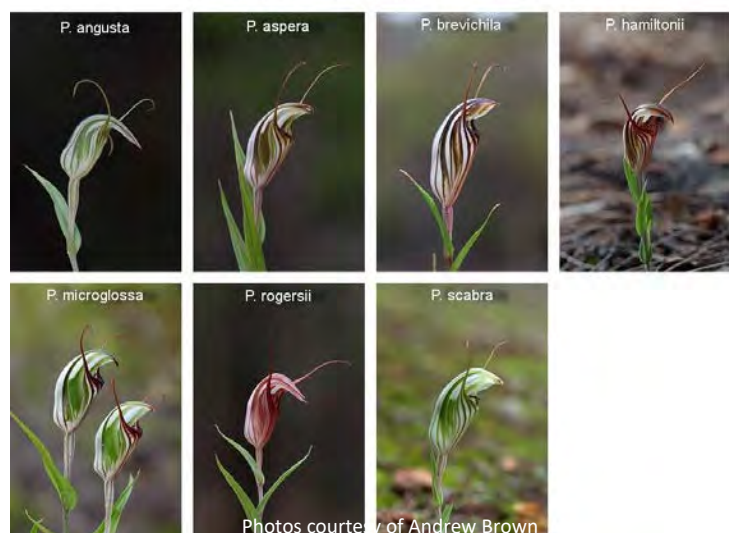
The subject for this year's competition will be *Caladenia flava* and that printed entries should be up to A4 in size and neither mounted nor framed.

Voting will take place at the November meeting in the same way as in the past.

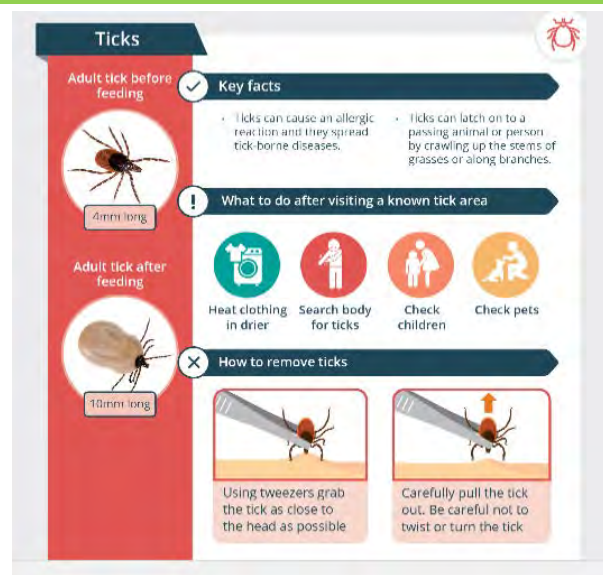


The Back Page

Seven members of the Shell Orchid complex found in Western Australia



Photos courtesy of Andrew Brown



MEMBERSHIP

We welcome Ben Vrieling from down Bunbury way, in fact from the depths of the Wellington Forest.

To date we have had 107 memberships representing 168 people paid meaning 58 memberships (representing 81 people) have not been paid to date.

If you are one of those folk who haven't yet paid and wish to remain members you must get your payments in before the end of July 2018, otherwise it will be assumed you no longer wish to be a member and access to club services such as the Bulletin will end.

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2018

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:

BSB: 306044 Bank name: Bankwest

Account number: 5492468

If you choose to send money electronically please identify what the payment is for (eg "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) Please note that if the fees aren't paid by the end of May you will be a non-financial member and not receive the Bulletin anymore. .

2018	ROSTERS		SPEAKERS 2018
	Raffle	Supper	
MAR	Christine Lock	Trish Newmann	AGM
APRIL	Marina Karyagina	Lubomir&Katerina Hnedrovsky	Jay Steer
MAY	Jeanette Wheatly		Eddy Wajon
JUNE		Robyn Foley	Paul Winthrop
JULY		Donna Wajon	TBA
AUG			TBA
SEPT	Jay Steer		TBA
OCT	Jeanne & David Cumming		TBA
NOV			TBA