



BULLETIN
OF THE
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHID
STUDY AND CONSERVATION GROUP
(INC)
(1974 – 2004)

NOVEMBER 2004

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OBJECTIVES OF THE GROUP

- To promote interest in and preserve Western Australian indigenous orchids.
- To learn the best means of cultivation and do all things possible for the conservation of native orchids in their environment.
- To learn their habitats and keep records.
- To have field days and learn to recognise the different genera and species.
- To hold meetings for the exchange of knowledge and furthering of interest in Western Australian orchids.
- To affiliate with kindred organisations.
- To make rules for the governing of the Group's domestic affairs.
- To do all such other lawful things as are incidental to or conducive to the attainment of the above objectives.

Note: The opinions expressed by contributors to this Bulletin are not specifically endorsed by this Group.

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NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, 17 November 2004 at 7.00 p.m.
at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Admin.
Office.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 17 November 2004 at 8.00pm at
the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Admin.
Office.

Don't forget your entry in the competition
for the best photograph of *Caladenia flava*
ssp flava at the final general meeting for this
year.

FIELD TRIP ALBANY SATURDAY and SUNDAY DECEMBER 4/5 2004

Meet at 9.30 am Saturday 4th December at
Happy Days Caravan Park in Millbrook
Road, off Chester Pass Road.

Please advise Christine Lock, phone
[redacted] if you are attending or if you
change your mind.

Note - this trip is a definite go-ahead.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

**Your committee extends to all
members and friends, best wishes for
a safe and
VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND ALL THE BEST
FOR THE NEW YEAR**

BULLETIN CONTRIBUTIONS

Even though this is the last *Bulletin* for year
2004, contributions are still needed to start
off 2005. No matter how short or how long
your report may be, please send it to Tom
Blinco, [redacted]
I'm also happy to receive telephone reports of
anything relevant.

Something from country members would
be especially welcome.

The article submission deadline for the
next issue is **Tuesday 1st March 2005.**

FIELD TRIP REPORT MT BARKER

2/3/4 OCTOBER 2004

Saturday hailed bright and sunny with a cold
breeze. A convoy of seven cars left the
Porongurup shop on the way to Twin Creeks
Conservation Reserve just north of the town.

What a treasure. Our cars were parked beside
a few grand eucalyptus trees that became
shelter for a very late lunch.

The highlight of this Reserve was its
undisturbed state and relatively damp
condition; thus, many typical orchids of the
area were seen. Maybe next time we will see
Drakaea confluens.

The club would like to thank Matz for
organizing the trip with the Friends of the
Porongurups. This enthusiastic group
purchased this Reserve with the view of
conservation for future generations. Any club
member who wishes to walk through the
Reserve can seek permission at the
Porongurup shop for a small fee that further
supports the purchase of the Reserve.

Needless to say we were all legless by
lunchtime, but rejuvenated by lollies we
ignored our stomachs and explored another
area of the reserve. A Range Rover conveyed
us back to our lunch stop.

Next stop was a burn just east of the
Porongurups Caravan Park, where we
enthusiastically discussed *Prasophyllum*
elatum vs *Pras* aff. *elatum*. *Caladenia plicata*
was still visible after three weeks of
flowering.

At the last stop of the day our trusty
President rose to the occasion and drew
members around his finding of *Diuris laevis*
(Nanny Goat Orchid).

Sunday was cold and windy as we headed
to Tenterden Reserve. This Reserve was a
devastating sight (after last year's fire),
however regeneration prevails. Orchids by
the hundreds were rising from a rich ash bed
to create a patchwork of colour. *Pyrorchis*
nigricans, *Cyanicula gemmata*, *D laxiflora*
and *longifolia*, *C longicauda* ssp *eminens* and
Leptoceras menziesii were prominent, whilst
Prasophyllum hians and *plumiforme* were the
only single specimens to be found.

Fortunately for us the Tenterden Reserve
area was seen at its best, as many wildflowers
and orchids had withered when visited by a
club member a week later. *Prasophyllum*
gracillimum was then found to be flowering.

A site where *T antenniferi* usually
hybridizes with *T macrophylla* did not
disappoint, with a rich variety of colours
found in the hybrids.

Onwards to a burn near Red Gum Springs picnic area, where *Prasophyllum cucullatum*, *C flava* x *C nana* and white form *C nana* ssp *nana* were found, amongst others.

It was noted that the Stirlings was again very dry, resulting in a poor showing of orchids especially around the Ranger Station. *C bryceana* ssp *bryceana* was located and a couple of specimens were enthusiastically photographed. A week later these had withered away in the strong dry winds. An early finish to the day for an extra early start on Monday.

Heading home along Muirs Highway a tight schedule was maintained to visit four sites and to be at Frosty Road by lunch, these being a burn 10km south of Rocky Gully, Lake Muir, Thomson Road and Frosty Road.

These three days culminated in sightings of at least 56 different orchids plus hybrids. A fabulous trip and thanks to all who participated.

Anna de Haan and Christine Lock.

FIELD TRIP REPORT HYDEN

9/10 OCTOBER 2004

What a change in direction – not south or north BUT EAST! Had never been further than Brookton on an orchid trip so I was curious what we could and would see.

Whilst I was made Trip Leader I didn't have any idea where to look for orchids. I'd been to Hyden but only to show relatives from overseas Wave Rock and that was my knowledge of Hyden. But I got help, that is, Noel and Tom were the "driving force" behind where to find what.

On our way to Hyden on Friday we stopped at several places and found *Caladenia uliginosa* ssp *candicans*, *falcata*, *flava* ssp *flava*, *doutchiae*, *roei*; *P gracile*; *Pt* aff. *spathulata*; *E emarginata*; *Diuris laxiflora*, *picta*; *T antennifera*, *macrophylla*, *pauciflora*, also *T villosa* in bud and a hybrid *T antennifera* x *pauciflora*.

By the time we arrived at our overnight stop – Wave Rock Caravan Park – more members of the club had arrived. Not having seen enough, some decided to go for a walk from the Park to Hippos Yawn, sighting only a few *C flava/flava* and *T aff macrophylla*. However some members felt energetic and

decided to walk around the Rock. When they returned they were full of what they had seen, which included a population of many *Diuris picta* (Granite Donkey Orchid).

Saturday. Members who had arrived yesterday went shortly after 8 a.m. to Graham Rocks Nature Reserve. Found the area very dry and not many orchids to be seen but still saw a few *Caladenia falcata*, *flava* ssp *flava*, *roei*; *Cyanicular gemmata*; *Diuris picta*; *Pras gracile*; *T aff macrophylla*; *Spiculaea ciliata* in bud, AND a large brownish snake running away when Tom went closer; a Gould goanna not running away as we drove past very slowly, and a number of Bobtails.

Back to the Caravan Park to welcome the Saturday arrivers. Noel gathered the folks around (15 in all) and explained where he wanted to take us – along the Hyden – Norseman Road to about 15km past Lake Cronin, looking for Rufa types mainly, but would be happy with anything else. We saw *Thelymitra pauciflora* and *T aff. macrophylla*, also *Pterostylis* aff. *rufa* in bud. The ground was very dry everywhere.

On our way back to the Caravan Park we stopped to look for *Thelymitra sargentii* (Freckled Sun Orchid) but no luck, so we called it a day. Half an hour later David, who had returned independently, came in and informed us that he'd seen *T sargentii*. Where, where?? On the Hyden – Norseman Road was his reply but they were closing up already. "Bad luck" for us.

Sunday. Departure was set for 8 a.m. but half an hour before then Jack came and asked why we had travelled so far yesterday to see "Rufa" when we have perfect flowering ones in front of the wildflower shop (wouldn't you know it!).

So after talking and photographing *Pt roensis* we left for Holt Rock. There, *Caladenia mesocera*, *roei*; *Thelymitra* aff. *macrophylla*; *Pras gracile*; *Pt roensis*; *Microtis media/media* and perhaps another *Microtis* type; were the result of our search.

We then went to Lily McCarthy Rock. There we saw *Caladenia mesocera* and *roei*, *Thelymitra pauciflora*, *T aff. macrophylla*, *Microtis media* ssp *media*, *Spiculaea ciliata*, *Diuris picta*, and *Prasophyllum gracile*.

After that investigation the group broke up – some went on their way home, whilst others went back to the Hyden–Norseman Road to look for, and found, *T sargentii*. From there we drove via Hyden to Pingaring, where *Caladenia roei*, *hoffmanii* ssp *graniticola*; *T macrophylla* and aff *macrophylla*; and *P gracile* were seen and that was the conclusion of a lovely weekend.

My sincere thanks to Noel and Tom for all they did and to the others for their participation. **Matz Dahlkamp**

Comment further to the above report.

The Hyden – Norseman Road, recently made more suitable for the family car and caravans than it has been in the past, has about 31km of bitumen then becomes gravel for 260km.

An article in a recent edition of *The West Australian* newspaper extols the alleged virtues of this route, including tourism and reduced travel distance to the Nullarbor and parts of the Goldfields.

However, the drivers of most vehicles we encountered on the gravel showed little courtesy in slowing down to reduce the amount of dust (not good for orchiding, either) or to minimize flying stones, and I have written to the newspaper and other authorities appropriately on our experiences. (Ed).

ORCHID ODDITIES

Jeff Spencer has sent me an image from a photo of a *Caladenia huegelii* that has unusual fringe-like growth on the petals, which he describes as “petals trying to become labellums”. There is also apparently unusual fringe formation.

Although we sometimes do see freakish forms in orchids, whatever the cause, I have not heard of this before.

Others that I have seen include - earlier this year a *Caladenia flava* ssp *maculata* (Kalbarri Cowslip Orchid) with eight petals and sepals; several years ago a *Thelymitra macrophylla* type with four petals/sepals, also an *Elythranthera brunonis* (Purple Enamel Orchid) with the spots on top of the petals/sepals rather than behind. On a September 2003 field trip a *Caladenia saccharata* (Sugar Orchid) with double labellum was seen. (Ed).

IMAGES FROM THIS SEASON



Don Ward lines up a shot whilst Christine Lock and Jack Eborall wait their turn.

Photo Noel Clarke.



Noel Clarke has some problem with his u-beaut digital. Tom Blinco was no help.

Photo Matz Dahlkamp

Thanks to Noel Clarke for his assistance in reproduction of this page. (Ed).

THELYMITRA REVISION

The CALM web site has another ten manuscript names listed.

Some can be identified under an "aff" name already there, e.g. *T* aff. *dedmaniarum* H & B pg 243. Others give names to the different *T* aff. *variegata*, *T* aff. *spiralis* and *T* aff. *macrophylla*.

Unfortunately we have to wait for that rare commodity - money - for these to be published.

It is up to the reader to accept or reject changes. In practice the peers decide with or without a referee.

Good hunting.

Noel Clarke

FLOWER POWER IN HOLLYWOOD WA

A friend has shown me a cutting from an October issue of a suburban newspaper, *The Subiaco Post* that depicts in colour a double-headed spider orchid.

The orchid was not identified and it seemed to me to be *Caladenia arenicola*, but as Noel Clarke points out, the sepals appear to have some clubbing.

Perhaps not an unusual find, except that the sighting in Hollywood Reserve by two local enthusiasts was reportedly the first by them of this orchid in the 6.8ha reserve for more than 20 years.

Comments attributed to a bush care officer were that the orchid had probably been suppressed by weeds but was now flourishing because of the good work of the Friends of Hollywood Reserve.

However, he since tells me that mention of the Nedlands City Council in a statement to the paper was omitted from the published report. The Council is taking an active approach to weed control, being recipient of an Innovation Award for Biodiversity Management in 2001, and a Best Practice Award in 2002 concerned with weed eradication.

I understand from the persons concerned that they have found several other orchid species, but none in the area allocated to our Group years ago for translocation of orchids, mentioned by Noel Clarke in his address to our September meeting. (Ed)

FIELD TRIP REPORT PERTH AREA

SUNDAY 22 OCTOBER 2004

About 20 members and friends gathered just before 10am at the appointed meeting place in Maida Vale to start the day.

After a short amount of searching we were greeted with the sight of the magnificent Crystal Brook Star Orchid (*Thelymitra* aff. *stellata*). More than a dozen plants were found, some with a deeper brown coloring, but all looking most spectacular.

A smaller group proceeded to Armadale Swamp and after much trekking found *Caladenia paludosa* (Swamp Spider Orchid), *Thelymitra mucida* (Plum Orchid), *Microtis media* ssp *media* (Common Mignonette Orchid), *Prasophyllum drummondii* (with both colour forms), *Diuris* aff. *laxiflora* (Canning Vale Bee Orchid, with some plants over 60 cm tall), and *Diuris laxiflora* (Bee Orchid). This part of the trip involved much exploring with limited results.

A hardy twosome then stopped in at Kelvin Road where more than fifty *Thelymitra benthamiana* (Leopard Orchid) were located. Also found was *Caladenia arenicola* (Carousel Spider Orchid) and some *C arenicola* hybrids.

There were also two plants of an unknown *Caladenia*. Unlike the other hybrids these plants had light yellow petals and sepals without the reddish tinges of the *C arenicola* hybrids. Photographs may bring some enlightenment (and probably disappointment) to the two enthusiasts. (Perhaps these *Caladenias* are really *Caladenia serotina*, which from my experience has a number of colour forms, rather than *C arenicola* - Ed).

John Ewing

CONDOLENCES

It is with sadness that we hear that Don Ward's father has recently passed away in Queensland.

To Don and his family we extend our sincere condolences.

Also, as advised at the last General Meeting, Don has been in hospital in Brisbane. It is understood at this time that Don is still not well but should return to Perth soon. We wish him a speedy return to good health.

**MINUTES OF
GENERAL MEETING 20 OCTOBER 2004**

The meeting was declared open at 8.12 PM
There were 23 members present, with 8
apologies. A warm welcome was extended to
our visitor, Janet Chabot.

Supper and Raffle: Supper was donated by
Sarah Atkinson, and the raffle was donated
by Joni Eaton.

Minutes: Moved: Noel Clarke and
Seconded: Bill Burton, that the Minutes of
the General Meeting of 15 September 2004 as
published in the Bulletin be confirmed.
CARRIED.

Business arising from the Minutes: Nil

Correspondence: As per the list circulated
with the attendance book and dealt with by
the Committee.

Treasurer's Report: A copy of the
Treasurer's Report (8/10/04) was circulated
with the attendance book

Field Trips: The Field Trip Coordinator
tabled sighting forms and reported,

- Recent trips have seen plenty of good
examples of orchids
- Albany: (4/5 Dec) The early onset of dry
weather caused a rethink of plans. Trip
will proceed but may venture more to Mt
Barker
- Kalamunda trip 24 October will search for
the Star Orchid (*Thelymitra stellata*).
- Hyden trip of (9/10 October) was well
attended and found plenty of Sun Orchids,
but the *Rufus* were still in bud.
- Beth Kinsey reported on a trip to Walpole,
which found lots of orchids.

Plant Table:

Bill Burton tabled specimens of *Thelymitra
macrophylla*, *pauciflora*, *aff holmesii*, and
Prasophyllum drummondii.

General Business:

(a) Noel Clarke reported on members
recently in hospital; John Eaton, Ross Fox,

Don Ward (in Brisbane) and Ken McKay.
The Group wished them a speedy recovery.
(b) Jim Downes advised that the recent report
in the *West Australian* of wildflowers around
Calingiri was overstated, but he did find
Enamel Orchids on Old Plains Road.
(c) The President advised that WANOSCG
resolved to submit to the Lotteries
Commission of WA an application jointly
with UWA for grant funds for research into
threatened and endangered species of orchids.
(d) The President reminded all that the
Group's Photography competition (*Caladenia
flava*) will be held next meeting, and the
President will provide a prize for the winner.

Members' Slides. Noel Clarke and David
Lawson exhibited some of their slides with
commentary.

Noel Clarke then drew the winning ticket
and Jim Downes won the hand painted clock
provided by Joni Eaton.

Next Meeting Date: The next General
Meeting will be 17 November 2004.

The meeting closed at 9.21 pm.

W A N O S C G

HONOUR BOARD

* * * * *

LIFE MEMBERS

* * * * *

**ANDREW BROWN
NOEL CLARKE
ALEX GEORGE
ROY HARGREAVES
RON HEBERLE
HARRY LODGE
JEAN LONG
DON VOIGT
BERYL YATES**

THANKS

Thank you to everyone for your field trip reports,
telephone calls and provision of items of interest for the
BULLETIN this year.

All contributions have been much appreciated.

Tom Blinco

	SUPPER ROSTER	RAFFLE ROSTER	SPEAKER
MARCH	Donna & Virginia	Gary Brockman	Members slides
APRIL	N/R	Stuart Harris	Noel Clarke
MAY	Margaret Fox	Eva & Don Smith	Joe Ward
JUNE	Matz Dahlkamp	Glenys Blinco	Regina Drummond
JULY	Mike and Del	Phil Bunney	Nigel Swarts
AUGUST	Noel Clarke	Scilla & Gerald Stack	Pat Dundas
SEPTEMBER	Wendy Spencer	Ian Greeve	Noel Clarke
OCTOBER	Sarah Atkinson	Joni Eaton	Members' slides
NOVEMBER	Joni Eaton	Jim and Ruth Downes	Choose the photo

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FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday/Sunday 4/5/December - Albany