


BULLETIN AUGUST 2006

Registered by Australia Post Publication No WBH 1240

President: Mike Harper [redacted] V President 1: Noel Clarke [redacted] V President 2: Christine Lock [redacted] Secretary: Gerald Stack [redacted] Treasurer: Matz Dahlkamp [redacted] Committee: 1 Vacant 2 Margaret Fox [redacted] 3 Ian Greeve [redacted] 4 Tom Blinco [redacted] Editor: Noel Clarke [redacted]	 Patron: Dr S Hopper	Registrar: Ross Fox [redacted] Librarian: Bill Burton [redacted] Field Trip Coordinator: Ross Fox [redacted] Conservation Officer: Eddy Wajon [redacted] Supper Coordinator: Donna Wajon [redacted] Auditor: Ross Wilton [redacted] Conservation Council Rep: Eddy Wajon Mike Harper
---	--	---

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 habits and keep records.
- To have field days and learn to recognize the different genera and species.
- To hold meetings for the exchange of knowledge and furthering of interest in W.A. orchids.
- To affiliate with kindred organizations.
- To make rules for the governing of the Group's domestic affairs.
- To do all such 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.

POSTAL ADDRESS: PO BOX 323, VICTORIA PARK, W.A. 6979

EMAIL ADDRESS: [redacted]

WEB ADDRESS: [redacted]

WEB MASTER: Don Ward email: [redacted]

REGISTRAR: Ross Fox [redacted]

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 16th August 2006 at 7.00pm at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Admin. Office.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meeting will be on Wednesday 16th August 2006 at 8.00pm at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park. The speaker is Gary Brockman and his topic is "Genus *Prasophyllum*".

MEETING MINUTES

General & Committee minutes are not included in this newsletter because I have not received them.

BULLETIN ARTICLES

Please send Bulletin contributions by email to [redacted]

by post to [redacted], or by

phone to [redacted]

The deadline for the September issue is 1st September. Any articles received after then will be carried over to the next Bulletin.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Wednesday August 16 – General meeting

Wednesday September 20 – Gen. Meeting

September 30/October 2 (Long Weekend) - Field trip Manjimup area.

Oct 14/15 – Field trip Boyup Brook

Wednesday November 15 - General Meeting.

FIELD TRIPS

MANJIMUP AREA LONG WEEKEND 30 Sep to 2 Oct

Meet at Bridgetown Park approx 500 metres passed the bridge at 10 am. We will be staying at the KinKin Retreat 25 km from Manjimup, 16 km along Muir Hwy turn right into Wheatley Coast Rd for 4 km then left into Cutting Rd approx 4 km. There is accommodation for 30 people, 2 to an ensuite cabin with a mix of single, QS & KS beds. Tariff is \$85 per night less 10% for seniors, which includes a continental breakfast, tea & coffee making, bedding & linen. Food can be cooked in the kitchen/dining room. For bookings contact Sandi or Pete Cook on (08) 9773 1268. It is a long weekend & start of the school holidays **so book early.**

Ross will be away so please advise Christine Lock on [REDACTED] if you intend coming.

SEE PAGE 7 FOR MAP

FIELD TRIP 14 - 15 OCTOBER TO BODDINGTON, KOJONUP & BOYUP BROOK AREA.

Meet at Boddington Council Chambers on 14 Oct at 9.30 am. We will overnight at Kojonup. The Commercial Motel has 18 units, phone (08) 9831 1044.

Please advise Ross Fox on [REDACTED] if you intend coming.

Note - Ross has a mobile number for field trips - [REDACTED]

NEW LIBRARY ACQUISITION

Margaret Collins has donated a special issue of *Selbyana* - the Journal of the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens of Sarasota, Florida, USA, which deals with the Second International Orchid Conservation Congress. There are 12 articles dealing with Australian terrestrial orchids, the rest are for epiphytes.

ORCHID BOOKS

Noel Hoffman has advised me that he hopes to have a new edition of *Orchids of Southwestern Australia* printed before Xmas.

The paper on the revision of *Paracaleana* has been published as "Australia's wasp-pollinated flying duck orchids revised" in *Australian Systematic Botany* **19**, 211-244 by CSIRO www.publish.csiro.au/journals/asb

David Jones is producing a new book "A Compact Guide to Native Orchids of Australia". It is expected to be available in September from Australian Orchid Foundation for \$75 including postage & packaging in Australia. Prepublication order forms are available from AOF, 107 Roberts Rd, Essendon, Vic 3040.

MY 33 YEARS WITH ORCHIDS A TALK by DR STEPHEN HOPPER

The talk was illustrated using a PowerPoint presentation.

Steve's original interest was kangaroo paws. While working on them in Gingin cemetery he was introduced to orchids by Kingsley Dixon. As orchid buffs know, once bitten that's the end. When he started there were 12 genera with 17 species in the SW of WA, now there are 29 genera with 330 species & 33 subspecies & growing (if my notes are correct). Interest of other botanists, students, fellow orchid enthusiasts & members of WANOSCG have brought about this growth, along with changing identification concepts.

The study of orchids has been facilitated by David Jones who introduced us to storing specimens by dissecting the parts and using clear tape to stick them to a card. This made it easier to compare specimens.

Warren Stoutamire, an American botanist, conducted experiments here to determine the pollinators of orchids. There have been 3 main methods used over the years to determine the genera or specie.

The early concept was basically looking at the form. This resulted in many orchids being lumped together; hence the increase in specie numbers today. Steve illustrated this with the type specimen card for *C huegelii* that contained 3 different species that we recognise today.

The next concept was to use the pollinator to separate the species. Obviously look-alike plants that use different pollinators should be different species.

The current phase is to use DNA. Steve illustrated this with a DNA tree similar to page 7 in Nuytsia Vol 14 that included a section showing how the earlier authors dealt with *Caladenia*. Using the DNA tree Steve explained why there are different concepts current that will be finally resolved by usage over time.

Finally he told us that the new *Paracaleana* review has been published; the *Eriochilus* review is being printed & the *Drakaea* review is in the pipeline. He is too chicken to attempt *Pterostylis* & *Diuris*.

What Steve did not tell us is that he was our Secretary in 1982 & 1983 and our Patron from 1995 to date.

We wish him all the best in his new post of Director at Kew Gardens.

C HUEGELII ARTICLE by EDDY WAJON

Community involvement in the design and construction of Roe Highway Stage 7

Johannes E. Wajon, Convenor,
Friends of Ken Hurst Park,

Presented at Enviro 06,
Melbourne, 8-11 May 2006

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Roe Highway Stage 7 in Perth, WA, was delivered using an Alliance approach because of the complex and contentious social and environmental issues, which included the presence of the Grand Spider Orchid, a Declared Rare Plant, in the road reserve. The community, including the Friends of Ken Hurst Park and the WA Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group, was closely involved with the project team during the planning, design and construction of the road and associated facilities, through meetings, site visits, design reviews, workshops and audits on almost a monthly basis. As a result, the area of vegetation cleared was reduced from 62 ha to 55.4 ha, a program of research into the Grand Spider Orchid was implemented, areas of vulnerable Grand Spider Orchid habitat were transferred to the conservation estate, and plants were salvaged for translocation into protected areas. Unfortunately, more could have been done to further reduce the area cleared, revegetation criteria should have been raised, and there should have been more rapid protection and management of those areas transferred to the conservation estate. There were also several issues where there were difficulties in simultaneously achieving positive social and environmental outcomes. These included access into Ken Hurst Park, the proximity of the road to residences, and the recovery of topsoil.

IMPACT ON GRAND SPIDER ORCHID

The following actions were implemented to reduce the impact on *Caladenia huegelii*:
... moving the road further north in the area near an old landfill. While this did not reduce the absolute area

required for the road, it reduced the area of remnant vegetation that was cleared and reduced by 20 the number of *C. huegelii* directly impacted ... reducing the width of the median between the east and west set of lanes from 15 m to 10.5 m, and then to 6 m. This reduced clearing by about 2.4 ha. Concerns about safety were addressed by installing a wire rope safety barrier in the median ... following the contour as much as possible in areas where *C. huegelii* was present. This action resulted in less earthworks being required for the road (cut and fill) which reduced the amount of remnant vegetation cleared. This reduced clearing by about 0.6 ha. It also minimised visual and noise impacts ... moving the Path away from the shoulder of the road to directly behind residents' back fences (with 3.2 m high noise walls) alongside Ken Hurst Park to minimise the impacts on *C. huegelii* close to the road ... delaying clearing in specific areas within the construction footprint to allow direct translocation of tubers of the 22 positively confirmed *C. huegelii* during February 2005, when the tuber was dormant, into areas in Ken Hurst Park found by soil fungal baiting to have the required symbiotic fungi. Translocation of many of Western Australia's terrestrial orchids is not documented to be highly successful, with less than 50% of translocated

Spider Orchids known to have survived in the past.

However, translocation using the best techniques currently available was deemed to be one of several measures to minimise the impact on the population. It was nevertheless acknowledged that this would be a controlled experiment. To further improve the long-term survival of *C. huegelii*, a

\$200,000, 5-year program of research was commissioned, which included the following components:

- ... monitoring of survival and flowering of the 22 translocated *C. huegelii*.
- ... germinating, propagating, growing and translocating *C. huegelii* in the laboratory and in Ken Hurst Park.
- ... undertaking genetic analysis of *C. huegelii* adjacent to Roe Highway Stage 7.
- ... pollinating and collecting and storing seed from *C. huegelii*.
- ... collecting and maintaining fungal isolates from the underground stem of mature individuals of *C. huegelii*.
- ... assessing the suitability of habitat for translocation of *C. huegelii* using fungal baiting.
- ... determining the pollination biology of *C. huegelii* including the general biology of the Thynnid wasp pollinator.

ORCHID PHOTOGRAPHY BY GLIN REED.

I read with interest Noel's July bulletin item on Orchid Photography.

I also have experienced difficulty in focussing with my digital camera but have solved the problem in a different manner. I observed that, when a subject is well highlighted against a darkish background the subject comes immediately into sharp automatic focus when the shutter release button is pressed half way down. I now use a cardboard sheet painted with matt black to avoid reflection which, when placed behind the subject, enables the camera to immediately perfectly focus. A button on the camera holds the focus whilst the shutter release button is released and the background removed. The photo taken is then in perfect focus and with correct background and exposure. (The five available focus points are also the exposure points).

Noel has referred to flash photography. I found that my 35mm

Nikon ring flash on the digital camera overexposed the subject so some adjustment was required. To overcome this difficulty the digital Camera was set as follows: -
Manual operation mode: -
Aperture F8 (Maximum available).
Speed 500Sec.
Camera flash Off.
External flash On.
The flash controller is set to Manual operation to secure a uniform flash output.

The ring flash is set to left or right flash according to shadow contrast required (both flashes can be used if required) and can be placed at any of the 360 degrees. The ring flash has three settings, full flash, one quarter flash, and one sixteenth flash. The ring flash diffuser softens the light and also enables subjects to be photographed as close as one inch from the lens. I have found that the one sixteenth setting is suitable for many orchid photographs. If the subject is over exposed I merely pull the camera back from the subject and use the zoom facility to retain subject size until the desired exposure is obtained. If the subject is under exposed I simply use a higher intensity flash setting and proceed in the same manner until the desired photo is obtained.

This procedure is not adopted on field trips because of time constraints and the need to keep moving on. Here the camera is set to Aperture priority mode and the aperture adjusted as required to hopefully obtain a satisfactory speed according to lighting conditions.

GENERAL MEETING 21 JUNE 2006
OPENED: The meeting opened at 8.20 pm

President Mike Harper commenced proceedings with Best Wishes for Bill Burton's 84th birthday that day.

ATTENDANCE BOOK: The Attendance Book recorded those Present and any Apologies.

RAFFLE TONIGHT: Donated by Gerald and Scilla Stack.

MINUTES TO THE MEETING: 17 May 2006.

As printed in the Bulletin.

Moved: Ross Fox

Seconded: Noel Clarke that these were a true record of the meeting **CARRIED**

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence has been attended by committee, and a list of the correspondence circulated with the Attendance Book.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer's report for the previous months had been tabled and matters dealt with by Committee.

A copy of that report was circulated with the attendance book for members' perusal.

FIELD TRIP REPORT:

The Field Trip Coordinator reported that trips would proceed as per the Bulletin list. Members' report of private trips started with Wayne Merritt who advised of trip to the Ruabon and Wonnerup area in April, finding *Eriochilus dilatatus* ssp *multifloris* and *Eriochilus dilatatus* ssp *dilatatus*. He took part in a CALM expedition surveying *Rhizanthella gardneri*, successful in the Corrigin sites (7 specimens), Babakin and Sorensen Reserve. A winter trip to Moora and Wongan Hills revealed the impact of the drought, where very little was to be found, even in sites which had been lively on previous visits.

Ross Fox reported on a field trip to Toodyay, where over 100 *Caladenia drummondii* were found with plentiful (but gone over) *Eriochilus dilatatus* ssp *undulatus*, but he also reported on the very dry state of the area and that little was to be found.

Bill Burton reported on a successful fortnight in Quindalup in that he was introduced to a block scheduled for development, and managed to recover many species of orchids for potting on. CALM had written requesting members' support for the 2006 Spring orchid surveys. Further details will be provided closer to the event.

The Field Trip Coordinator invited suggestions for trips. Mention was made of a big fire patch at Dwellingup, but access was difficult because the area was blocked by mine fencing.

PLANT TABLE: Bill Burton tabled three specimens of *Pterostylis*, *P. hamiltonii*, *P. aff sanguinea* and *P. aff vittata*.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. The resignation of John Ewing meant that another raffle donor was required, and President Mike volunteered to fill the need.
2. Another effect of the resignation was to leave an Editor, a Registrar and a committee vacancy. Ross Fox volunteered to fill the Registrar position. Noel Clarke offered to do the Editing if he had help. Tom Blinco and Bill Burton undertook to help Noel with the production of the Bulletin.
3. Don Ward (webmaster) reported on the website. He had added a page on conservation issues with aid from Eddy Wajon and Andrew Brown. He invited other input to the website. New material will be checked with the committee before posting to the site.
4. Don also reported on the current ISP, iinet. iinet had offered a deal for the Group to shift to broadband, but Don recommended the status quo. The dial-up service gives all members access from anywhere in Australia. Tom Blinco requested help as he was having difficulty accessing the website, but Don could not help at this time. Members should type in the full address, as some search engines did not locate the website. Don advised that members should link to the site from related sites, as this will assist in making our website more visible.
5. Members were advised of the new Member Badges, which are available for \$12.00 each plus GST. Members wishing badges should contact the Treasurer. The Group will pay any postage.

There was a rendition of Happy Birthday and applause for Bill Burton's birthday.

Guest Presentation: Noel Clarke then presented a lively and interesting talk on the *C. longicauda* complex.

Wayne Merritt used the data projector to show pictures he had taken of *Rhizanthella*. He had captured pictures of a tiny gnat carrying a pollen ball, and this

is thought to be one of the methods used by the plant for cross fertilisation.

RAFFLE DRAW: The raffle, donated by Scilla and Gerald Stack, was drawn by Guest Speaker, Noel Clarke, and it was won by Frank O'Connor.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next general meeting will be held on 19 July 2006.

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

MOORA AREA - 30 JULY 2006 by DON WARD

An enthusiastic group of more than a dozen orchid hunters gathered at Moora together with a few locals. The group headed out to the northwest of town and looked at some open bush areas burnt a few years ago.

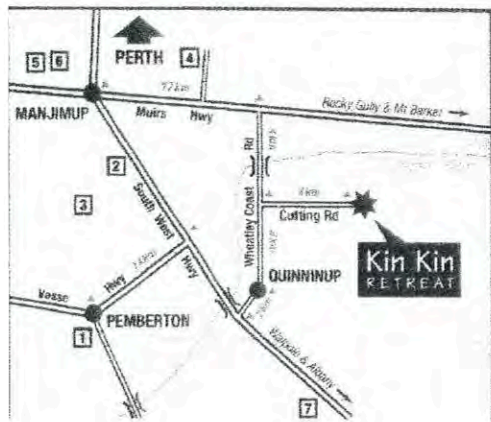
Not a lot to be seen except *Pt sanguinea* and some leaves possibly *Diuris* or *Leporella*.

Next the group checked out the usual place out of town. It was not long before quite a few *Pt scabra* were discovered - some a little past peak. Further in the white and reddish forms of the Moora spider orchid (*C exilis* ssp *vanleeuwenii*) were found along with isolated *D recurva* and some rufous buds. Several other spots were visited but nothing was found except some orchid leaves.

On the way home some of the group stopped at a spot where a few *C exilis* ssp *vanleeuwenii* and *D recurva* were found.

A pleasant day but the dry season seems to have taken its toll in terms of the profusion of orchids.

KINKIN LOCATION MAP

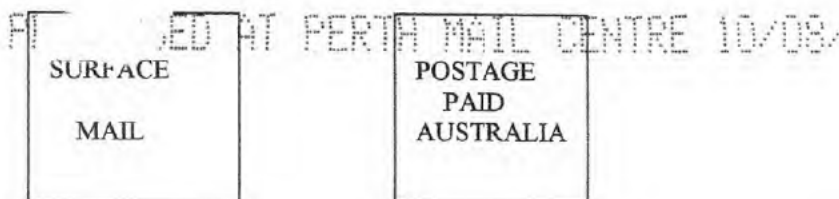


	RAFFLE ROSTER 2006	SPEAKER 2006
MARCH	G & T Blinco	Noel Clarke - "Orchids of South Australia" courtesy of Barb and Ken Bayley
APRIL	Donna Wajon	Noel Clarke - The <i>Caladenia magniclavata</i> complex
MAY	Ross Fox	Nigel Swarts - <i>Caladenia huegelii</i>
JUNE	G & S Stack	Noel Clarke - The <i>Caladenia longicauda</i> complex
JULY	Wayne Merritt	Dr Stephen Hopper - WA Orchids in Retrospect
AUGUST	Mike Harper	Garry Brockman - Prasophyllums.
SEPTEMBER	Sarah Atkinson	Jan & Dave Dobak - American orchids.
OCTOBER	Noel Clarke	Andy Brown
NOVEMBER	Christine Lock	Photo competition

Any takers for the August raffle? Please advise the Secretary. —

If undeliverable return to
WANOSCG
PO Box 323
Victoria Park 6979

Print Post Approved
PP630205/00007



BROWN MR A (L)



FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Long Weekend 30 September/2 October - Manjimup area

Saturday/Sunday 14/15 October - Boddington/Kojonup overnight/Boyup Brook

Other field trips to be arranged.