



West Australian Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group

May 2014 Bulletin

Rain finally arrives!

After one of the driest summers on record, good rain falls have been recorded recently from Kalbarri across to Paynes Find. This is good news for several planned field trips to the northern and north east regions to Kalbarri, North East Wheatbelt extended trip and Mukinbudin area after last year's poor rains

The first field trips for the year along the south coast have found various *Eriochilus* sub species and other early flowering orchids with numbers down reflecting poor early rainfall this year.

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There are several interesting burns to visit this year. A huge area between Mt Barker and Denmark (over 13,000Ha), several prescribed burns near Walpole and an area in Banjup in the southern suburbs of Perth amongst others.

Jay has written an informative article outlining the different GPS co-ordinate systems. I now know why I have found spots 200m away from where I thought they should be!

We also have a great selection of members photos this month featuring insects on orchids.

At this month's meeting Eric Swarts will give a presentation on the "Orchids of Tasmania".

The 40 Year Anniversary Book will be on sale at the meeting. For members that can't attend meetings, the Book can be posted out to you. Call Marina Karyagina on 0409 461 150 or send an email to wanoscg@gmail.com to request this.

The Orchid Sighting Sheet has been updated to reflect several new species and is attached to the bulletin.

Forward any suggestions for field trips to our Field Trip Co-ordinator, Margaret Petridis petridis@wanoscg.com.au

Happy Hunting!

Flowering in May

- *Caladenia drummondii*
- *Praecoxanthus aphyllus*
- Various *Eriochilus* species
- *Corunastylis tepperi*
- *Prasophyllum* sp. 'early'
- Various *Pterostylis* 'Shell' species
- *Thelymitra apiculata*

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General Meetings are held 7:30pm the 3rd Wednesday of the month, March through November, at the BGPA Boardroom, Kings Park

WANOSCG GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, 16th April 2014

Meeting held at: BGPA Boardroom, Kings Park.
Meeting opened: 7:30 PM

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

ATTENDANCE: 43 members present 2 apologies 1 visitor

RAFFLE: Kindly donated by Ramon and Trish Newmann

1. PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Moved: Eddy Wajon Seconded: Margaret Fox That the minutes of the 19th March 2014 General Meeting, as published in the April 2014 Bulletin, are a true and correct record of that meeting.
Carried

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 *The election of a Conservation Officer for 2014:* Eddy Wajon nominated Tim Hodgkins to fill the position of WANOSCG Conservation Officer. Kim Hanson seconded this proposal. There were no other nominations. [Tim Hodgkins had offered to accept nomination for the position of Conservation Officer shortly after the March meetings.] The members accepted the proposal unanimously.

2.2 *40th Year Book:* Marina Karyagina informed the meeting that the 40th year book had been successfully printed and was available for sale after the meeting. Special thanks were directed to Andrew Brown, Alex George and the 40th Year Publication Committee. Marina also thanked all members who had submitted material for the book and those who had helped in preparing and proof reading the material. The president took the opportunity to thank Marina for the tremendous amount of "blood, sweat and tears" that she put into every aspect of the book. The members gave Marina a resounding applause for delivering such a fantastic publication. Marina was presented with some flowers as a small token of WANOSCG's appreciation.

2.3 *Jandakot Airport Holdings application to clear additional land, namely precincts 6 & 6A:* A letter was tabled outlining WANOSCG's support for The Friends of Ken Hurst Park submission on this matter.

2.4 *Geoff Hook's email about the success or otherwise of the "offsets associated with Jandakot Airport":* The email has been forwarded to Eddy Wajon and Mark Brundrett.

2.5 *Request for assistance from Vanessa Westcott with an orchid survey at Eurardy Station:* the likely time

for this survey is the last week in August. Details to follow as available.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

For the period 1st Feb 2014 to 31st March 2014

	1 st Feb to 31 st March
Income	\$1410.00
Expenditure	\$1619.40

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Mail received for the period 20th March 2014 to 16th April 2014

Inward correspondence:

Various electronic and hardcopies of newsletters and bulletins from other Orchids groups

Payment of membership fees and for the 40th year book – cheques and electronic receipts

4.1 *William Gye (20/3/14) Re: the "use of recreational hunters to control feral animals along the Bibbulmun Track"* – A submission was sent to Hon Liz Behjat MLC [Member for North Metropolitan Region] which she passed on to Lauren Mesiti the Committee Clerk for the parliamentary Inquiry into Recreational Hunting Systems in WA.

4.2 *Donna Wajon (26/3/14) Re: Updating of Orchid Sighting Report sheets-* in light of the recent revision of orchid names Donna has updated her sighting sheets,. The Sighting sheets that were emailed out with the April Bulletin have been further updated (14/4/14).

4.3 *Andrew Brown Re: Orchid name change - Prasophyllum aff. parvifolium (scented autumn leek orchid).* It is now officially *Prasophyllum* sp. Early

4.4 *Christine Lock 25/3/14 Re: reviewing the first aid boxes-* The committee support Christine Lock's suggestion that a list of items and their expiry dates be included in the First Aid Boxes.

4.5 *Eddy Wajon 21/3/14 Re: WANOSCG 40th year conservation initiative* – nominating places that are rich in orchids and worthy of elevation to Nature Reserve status

4.6 *Andrew Brown 21/3/14 Re: Encourage members to donate digital orchid photos and possibility of having all the WA taxa illustrated on the WANOSCG Website*

4.7 *William Gye 29/3/14 6 & 7/4/14 Re: Scanning club slides and storing digitized slides, library and copyright issues*

5. FIELD TRIPS:

5.1 *3rd and 4th May to Walpole area:* Members wishing to confirm details for this trip were asked to contact Margaret Petridis after the meeting.

5.2 *June trip to the Badgingarra area to locate new orchid flowering locations:* Rather than having one large group searching for new orchid locations on a single date it was suggested that a number of small groups survey likely habitat over a number of

dates in June. Please forward any useful information to Kim Hanson [REDACTED]

who has offered to coordinate our efforts in this matter. Members interested in participating in these surveys are asked to contact Kim Hanson.

- 5.3 *Eurardy Station*: The survey is likely to take place during the last week of August. Only a limited number of members will be able to participate (about 10). Accommodation will be made available to participating members. Margaret is going to suggest that WANOSCG could help Bush Heritage Australia survey for other significant orchid species known to flower at other times.

Personal Field Trips:

A request was made to members to complete personal field trip report forms and give them to the secretary so as to help him record where and what orchids you have seen. Further to this members were reminded to complete Donna's Orchid sighting report forms and forward them to the Registrar.

6. WHAT WILL BE FLOWERING IN THE COMING MONTH:

Margaret Petridis gave an excellent short photographic presentation of the orchids that might be found flowering in April and May. This provided a great introduction to the coming May field trip.

CONSERVATION REPORT:

The President presented Tim Hodgkin's report outlining proposed roadside clearings and the possibility of identifying bushland containing significant or rich orchid populations to be nominated for elevation to the status of a nature reserve.

- 7.1 It was the consensus of the meeting that we should contact DPaW with respect to any potential damage that might occur to orchid populations along the Mullewa Wubin Rd.
- 7.2 There was general consensus, "That it would be a good idea to proceed with trying to identify bushland with significant or rich orchid populations with the view of nominating them as a nature reserve at some point in the future".
- 7.3 The meeting was informed about Gail Reid's concerns that fracking may damage water tables in the Dongara region and hence impacting on ecosystems endangering fragile flora including orchids. It was acknowledged that this was likely too big a task for WANOSCG to undertake on its own and that a better strategy might be to raise the matter with the CCWA who might have more resources and expertise in mounting a campaign.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- 8.1 *WANOSCG Photo Competition for 2014*: The committee put forward two suggestions:
Donna Wajon - photos of club members in action as a record of the 40th year.
ii) Margaret Petridis - photos of orchids formally described in the first 10 years of the group.

Members agreed that these were both good ideas and WANOSCG should have two separate categories for 2014. Details of the competitions are to be finalized at a later date.

- 8.2 *ADORP*: Kim Hanson alerted ADORP groups that in 2014 they needed to give special attention to the timely completion and submission of DPaW forms outlining time spent surveying for their adopted orchid(s). An electronic version of the form will be emailed to ADORP group members. Kim Hanson also asked for help from members in searching new likely habitat for his ADORP orchid, *C. caesarea* subsp. *transiens*. Please contact Kim for further details.
- 8.3 *Raffle and supper rosters* – members were urged to volunteer for these rosters.
- 8.4 *Membership fees are due as of 1st February 2014*: Members were reminded that, "If membership fees were not received by the end of May then you will not receive a bulletin in June".
- 8.5 *Potential Rhizanthella gardneri habitat near Ravensthorpe*: Eddy Wajon brought to the member's attention that Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA) has investigated a number of options for the Ravensthorpe Heavy Haulage Bypass Route. In one section near the eastern end of the route, just before the bypass re-connects with South Coast Highway, there is about 2 ha of what has been identified as a *Melaleuca hamata* thicket will be cleared. From Eddy's understanding, *Rhizanthella gardneri* has previously been identified as being always found in association with the root system of broom honey myrtle (*Melaleuca uncinata*). However, with the recent re-examination and re-classification of species in the *Melaleuca uncinata* complex, he understands that many old records of *Melaleuca uncinata* are in fact of *Melaleuca hamata*. Thus, *Rhizanthella gardneri* may exist in the *Melaleuca hamata* thickets proposed to be cleared for the Ravensthorpe Heavy Haulage route. Eddy will contact Andrew Brown about this matter.

GROWER'S TABLE: No orchids were tabled this month

PRESENTATION

Chris French gave an enlightening presentation covering the current state of the *Pterostylis nana* complex. It was very well received by members and Chris was kept busy answering questions well after the meeting closed.

Raffle: Chris French drew the raffle after his talk the winner being Eric Swarts.

MEETING CLOSED: 9:37pm

NEXT MEETING:

7:30 pm Wednesday 21st May 2014

2014 WANOSCG Photo Competition

To celebrate our 40th Year we will have two categories. The Annual President's Trophy. For the best photography of a Western Australian orchid that was formally described in the first 10 years of the clubs existence.

The 40th year prize. For the best photograph of a club member or members take in the field.

Photographs must be taken in 2014. Members may enter either or both categories.

Western Australian orchids named by Alex George during the first 10 years of WANOSCG :

Cyanicula amplexans (as *Caladenia amplexans*)

Caladenia corynephora

Caladenia crebra

Caladenia graminifolia

Caladenia infundibularis

Caladenia uliginosa subsp. *uliginosa* (as *Caladenia uliginosa*)

Caladenia wanosa

Drakaea thynniphila

Pterostylis angusta

Pterostylis dilatata

Thelymitra apiculata (as *Thelymitra variegata* var. *apiculata*)

An Alignment of Western Australian Diuris and Pterostylis names

by Andrew Brown

The article has been updated to include three recently named Pterostylis attached to the bulletin separately.

Orchid name information is available at

Australian Plant Name Index (APNI): <https://www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/databases/apni-search-full.html>

New Conservation Officer—Tim Hodgkins



I have been a member of WANOSCG for a relatively short period so some quick personal facts will help members know a little more about me. I have had a keen interest in

orchids for many years heightened about 8 years ago with the publication of the Liddelow Guide to Native Orchids that enabled me to visit many new sites and see new varieties of orchids.

Since taking on semi-retirement 5 years ago I have been able to expand my interest, joining WANOSCG and enjoying some field trips in the last two years

My other activities include Kingsley Probus Club, Greenwood Uniting church coupled with part time work for an Israeli manufacturing company. Prior to that during my working career I was involved in the Farm Water, Irrigation and Water Treatment industries. In that time I have served local and national voluntary roles with Irrigation Australia including two years as National Chairman and five years in the National Training portfolio.

GPS coordinate systems and WANOSCG recording sheets

By Jay Steer

Please state which GPS coordinate system you used when you report your GPS data to the club registrar. The DPaW "Threatened and Priority Flora Report Form" gives four choices for GPS systems when reporting GPS locations: GDA94/ MGA94, AGD84/AMG84, WGS84 and other. Since the GDA94 coordinate system supersedes the AGD84 and older coordinate systems our club has agreed, where ever possible, to report our GPS findings using the **GDA94** coordinate system.

So what are these coordinate systems and why does it matter?

The **GDA94** (Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994) system is an Earth-centred system of coordinates that is corrected for local Australian tectonic plate movements. The standard map projection associated with GDA94 is the Map Grid of Australia 1994 (MGA94) and hence the following GDA94/ MGA94 reference is often seen as a choice of GPS coordinate system on forms such as the DPaW "Threatened and Priority Flora Report Form".

It should be noted that most GPS receivers compute and store coordinates in terms of the **WGS84** system (the World Geodetic System 1984) and then transform them to other forms when they display this information. The WGS84 is a system of coordinates which like GDA94 is based on the earth's centre of mass. WGS84 reference frames are very closely aligned with the International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF) used by GDA94 and thus for most practical purposes GDA94 and WGS84 coordinates can be considered the same. The disparity between the two coordinate systems is currently about 1m and is primarily due to the tectonic motion of approximately 70 mm per year in a NNE direction since the original models diverged.

Another commonly used coordinate system is the

General Items

AGD84 coordinate system (Australian Geodetic Datum of 1984). It uses the Australian National Spheroid (ANS) model which is offset from the Earth's centre of mass by about 200 metres. Since the GDA94 system is Earth-centred this means that AGD84 and GDA94 positions differ by about 200 metres.

Ravensthorpe Heavy Haulage Route Survey

By Eddy Wajon

Main Roads WA is proposing to construct the Ravensthorpe Heavy Haulage Route. The preferred route goes north of the town of Ravensthorpe through Salmon Gum woodland. Part of the route passes through *Melaleuca hamata* thicket on shallow soils overlying granite.

The threatened Western Underground Orchid, *Rhizanthella gardneri*, is found in association with the root system of broom honey myrtle *Melaleuca uncinata* and *Melaleuca hamata* which is a member of the *Melaleuca uncinata* group. Thus, *Rhizanthella gardneri* may exist in the *Melaleuca hamata* thickets along the Ravensthorpe Heavy Haulage Route. *Rhizanthella gardneri* has not previously been reported from the Ravensthorpe region, but this may be because it is very cryptic and there have been no systematic searches for it in the region. However, it is known from Corrigin/Babakin and Munglinup. Ravensthorpe is between these two locations, so it is possible that this orchid is present in the Ravensthorpe region and possibly along the route of the proposed road.

With the support of Andrew Brown and Mark Brundrett, Eddy Wajon is offering to led a trip to Ravensthorpe to undertake a survey of the *Melaleuca hamata* thicket in and near the proposed route of the road to determine whether any *Rhizanthella gardneri* are present in the area.

Expressions of interest are sought from WANOSCG members to participate in this survey. The date of the trip is Saturday and Sunday 5 and 6 July 2014. Members interested in participating are asked to contact Eddy Wajon on [redacted] or [redacted]

Note that there is no guarantee that any *Rhizanthella gardneri* will be found. However, there has been some good rains in the Ravensthorpe area recently, so that the conditions are possibly right. It is also hard work examining the area around each *Melaleuca hamata* shrub. However, there may be other orchids present in the area, and this is an opportunity to search for (and possibly find) *Rhizanthella gardneri* in an area where it is currently not known to exist, and thus extend the range of this orchid.

Please get in touch with Eddy Wajon to discuss logistics if

you are interested. There may be opportunities to stay at Chingarrup Sanctuary, 2/3 of the way to Ravensthorpe on the Friday night.

Member's Photos

Top: *Thelymitra antennifera*—Andrew Brown

Bottom: *Caladenia barbarossa*—Pamela Hill



FIELD TRIP REPORTS

The current field trip list is on the last page. For any further information contact Margaret Petridis, Field Trip Coordinator, on [redacted]

Southern Rivers Group

Gull Rock Road 12th April 2014

On a rather warm and sunny morning, 10 enthusiastic club members eagerly awaited the first field trip for the season. A season which had started hot and dry.

Using 4WD tracks off Gull Rock Road we were able to walk easily through the bush which had been burnt three years ago. Dozens of *Praecoxanthus aphyllus* (Leafless orchid) were found, from the very colourful to the pale delicate shades. All flowers were in good condition with very few eaten by insects.

A shout from an eagle eyed member brought us all round to see the first *Leporella fimbriata* (Hare orchid). This find made us all look harder with only a few more flowers and buds being located. The 2014 orchid season had begun.

Anna de Haan



Perth Group Field Trip Plan for 2014

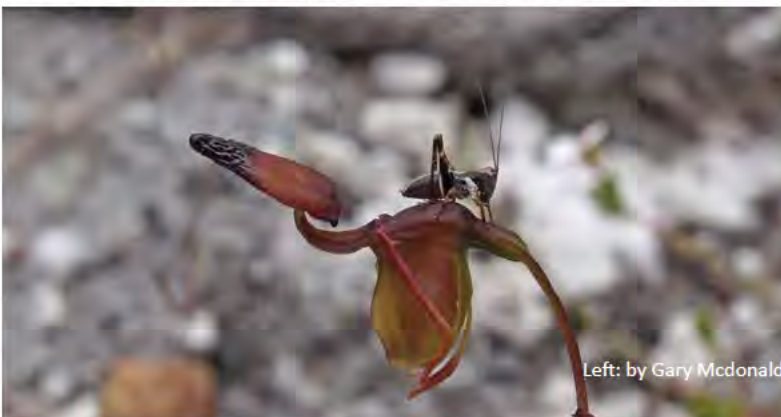


The Perth group visited the south coast over the weekend 3/4th May, a trip report will be in the June Bulletin



Member's Photos

A selection of member's photos of orchids with an insect.



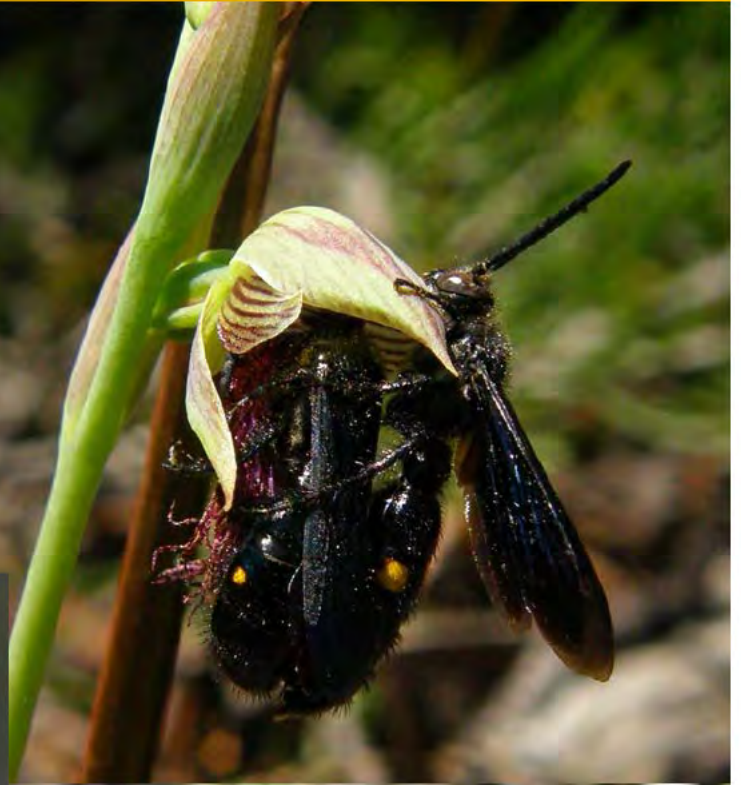
Left: by Gary McDonald; Right: by Bernie Sangster

Member's Photos

Clockwise from top right: *Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp. *undulatus*— Andrew Brown; *Caladenia longicauda* subsp. *redacta*—Jeremy Storey; White Spider— Pamela Hill; *Thelymitra*—Lyn Alcock



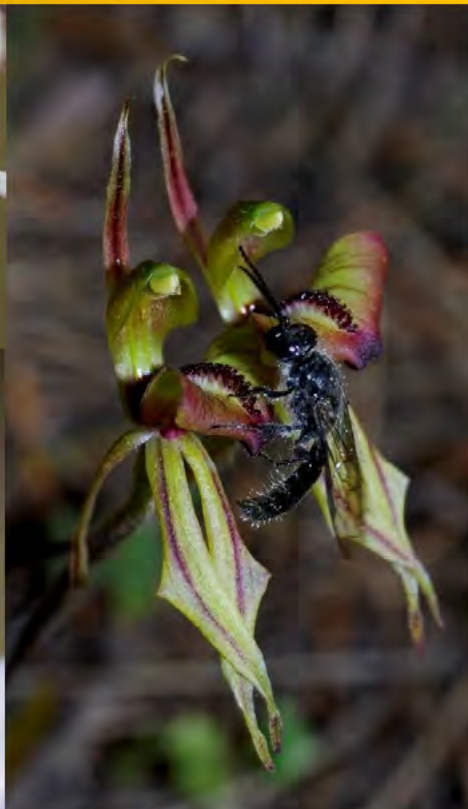
Member's Photos



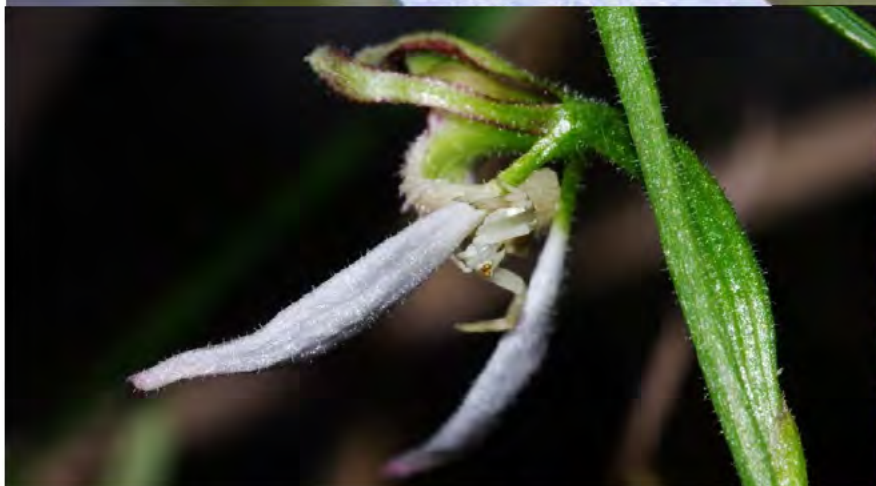
Clockwise from top right: Wandoo Beard — Jeremy Storey; Jeanette Wheatley; *Corunastylus tepperi*—Terry Cunningham ;Hybrid Sandplain white spider —Jeremy Storey, Bernie Sangster; Gary McDonald



Member's Photos



Centre: *Thelymitra*—Lyn Alcock. Clockwise from top right: *Caladenia brevisura* — Margaret Petridas; Fragrant Leek — Marina Karyagina; Common Bunny— Marina Karyagina; *Thelymitra xanthotricha* —Margaret Petridas; White spider—Paul Winthrop





Unusual form of *Leporella fimbriata* May 2014, Walpole, by Don Ward

BULLETIN ARTICLES

Please email any Bulletin contributions to Paul Winthrop at wanoscg.newsletter@gmail.com Articles for the next Bulletin need to be submitted by 9th June 2014

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Tentative Field Trip List for 2014

May	3/4th	Wapole/Denmark -Eriochilus, Leporella, Praecoxanthus. Andrew Brown to lead trip
June	21/22nd	Badgingarra area
July	21/22nd	Bunbury/Eaton, Busselton, Preston Point -Shell orchids and Greenhoods
August	9/10th	Kalbarri - depending on rainfall
August	16/23rd	North Eastern Wheatbelt. Extended camping trip.
August	30/31st	Mukinbudin/Chiddarcooping NR
September	13/14th	Boyup Brook
October	18/19th	Muir Highway/Frankland area

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2014

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" or "40th year Book") 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. Additionally only financial members will be eligible to purchase a copy of the 40th year publication at the subsidised price of \$10.

2014	ROSTERS		SPEAKERS 2013
	Raffle	Supper	
MAR	Jay	Urszula	Historical Club slides
APRIL	Ramon & Trish Newmann	Margaret Fox	Chris French - An overview of the <i>Pterostylis nana</i> complex
MAY	George and Urszula Kosinski		Eric Swarts - Orchids of Tasmania
JUNE	Jeanette Wheatley	Jeanette Wheatley	Ian Small - DNA and plant classification
JULY	Peter and Debbie Proudfoot	Donna Wajon	Kevin Thiele—The Western Australian Herbarium
AUG			Ryan Phillips - Orchid pollinator research
SEPT		Trish and Ramon Newmann	TBA
OCT	Bob Steer		Andrew Brown - Our December/January flowering orchids
NOV	David Lawson		Photo Competition & Members slides