



# Western Australian Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group

## March 2015 Bulletin



*Paracaleana dixonii*—Sand plain Duck Orchid, Eneabba—2012



*Caladenia serotina* from the Xmas Trip by Kevin Uhe

### Welcome to 2015!

The year has been off to a busy start in the conservation field with WANOSCG members preparing submissions to the EPA defending the orchid's interest in the Eneabba Beekeeper Reserve where seismic testing is proposed in the search for gas and potentially a future fracking programme to extract it. It would be devastating for this fragile and unique area to be damaged in any way. Well done to Margaret Petridis and Eddy Wajon for managing to get on the ABC 7:30 to highlight the issue.

When issues like this surface it reinforces the importance of the survey work the members participate in, eg the Sandplain Duck Orchid survey that Margaret Petridis organised in 2012 provides documented survey work for a rare and endangered species that will be threatened by future exploration and development of the Eneabba area.

Several enormous summer burns will provide unique opportunities and access to areas in the Boddington and Northcliffe regions this year. The first trip to Northcliffe will be the 2nd/3rd of May

Attached to the bulletin is the updated Field Trip Procedure with an emphasis on safety in the bush and Dieback hygiene.

### Happy and SAFE Hunting!

Follow the link to an interesting article titled "The Southwest Australia Ecoregion—Jewel of the Australian Continent"

[http://awsassets.worldwildlife.org/downloads/wa006\\_swer\\_jewel\\_of\\_the\\_australian\\_continent\\_1apr06.pdf](http://awsassets.worldwildlife.org/downloads/wa006_swer_jewel_of_the_australian_continent_1apr06.pdf)

### INSIDE:

- President's Report
- Meeting Minutes
- AGM Minutes
- General Items
- Xmas Trip Report
- Trip List
- P. dixonii update

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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



## President's Report

Our 40<sup>th</sup> year began with great gusto. At the March AGM, Eddy Wajon was announced as the 2013 WANOSCG award winner. The much-anticipated 40<sup>th</sup> year book, encapsulating past and current members' thoughts and aspirations, was launched at the April meeting. The names of two club stalwarts, Christine Lock and Noel Hoffman, were added to our illustrious Hall of Life members at the May meeting.

During the business part of the year our appetites for all things orchid were satisfied by a superb programme of speakers and field trips that were befitting of our 40<sup>th</sup> year celebrations. Conservation starts with knowing what species we have and where they are located. So I am particularly pleased that in 2014 we participated in a number of orchid surveys that were above and beyond what we do in our ADORP groups.

2014 ended with a bang. Andrew Brown's fabulous October presentation, on late flowering orchids, was the perfect seg-way to the club's late November end of season field trip to the Mt Barker and Blue Lake area. This brought the Southern Rivers and Perth groups together to celebrate the year and the amazing orchids of that region. November also saw the publication of Mark Brundrett's much-awaited book, which has I'm sure provided food for thought and study over the summer period. In December, the year culminated with a highly successful orchid workshop run by Margaret Collins, Mark Brundrett and Catherine Clarke.

A year such as has just pasted only comes about because of the hard work that goes on behind the scenes. So I would like to thank a number of people. Firstly, I would like to thank you, the members of WANOSCG, who got behind the various club activities, as it is only because of your participation that we have a club. Secondly, I would like to thank the committee members and office bearers for their hard work and support in 2014. Additionally I would like to acknowledge the efforts of a number of individuals and groups. Special thanks must go to; Marina Karyagina and her band of helpers who worked tirelessly on the production of our 40<sup>th</sup> year book, Margaret Petridis who put together a sensational series of field trips, Paul Winthrop who produced the Bulletin under difficult circumstances, Tim Hodgkins who did an excellent job in his first year as Conservation officer, Margaret Collins for producing a great orchid workshop and to Andrew Brown for his ongoing advice to and support of our club. Finally I would like to thank everyone in the Southern Rivers Group who coordinated our efforts in the Blue Lake area in 2014 and organised and co-hosted the annual end of year field trip and function.

I hope that the orchid gods smile on us in 2015 and that you consider my rejigging of an old adage, "*don't just ask what WANOSCG can do for you but rather what you can do for WANOSCG*".

*Jay Steer*



*Thelymitra magnifica* and *Thelymitra stellata*



# WANOSCG GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

## Wednesday, 19th November 2014

Meeting held at: BGPA Boardroom, Kings Park.  
Meeting opened: 7:40 PM

**CIRCULATION OF REPORTS:** Attendance Book, Treasurer's Report and Conservation Officer's report were circulated to the members

**ATTENDANCE:** 38 members present, 10 apologies, 1 visitor

**RAFFLE:** Kindly donated by David Lawson

### 1. PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The General Meeting Minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> September 2014, as circulated to members on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014, are a true and correct record of that meeting.

Moved: Ross Fox and seconded David Lawson *Carried*

The General Meeting Minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014 as published in the November 2014 Bulletin are a true and correct record of that meeting.

Moved: Marina Karyagina and seconded Urszula Kokosinska

*Carried*

### 2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

**2.1 Noel Hoffman's suggestion to create a WANOSCG collection of validated digital images of WA Native orchids:** Noel and Justin are looking at establishing a web site for WANOSCG to display validated images. Ramon Newmann is keen to be involved in this project. A range of issues need to be addressed including details about to whom and in what format orchid images are to be submitted.

**2.2 Margaret Collins suggestion that WANOSCG runs an orchid identification workshop:** The workshop would cover basic plant identification skills and take place on a weekend in early to mid-December. Participants would carry out an artificial "keying out" exercise and then move on to an exercise involving orchid specimens. The cost to participants is likely to be in the order of \$25 a head and will cover the cost of venue and equipment hire, materials and tea and coffee. Margaret has contacted the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre and found the cost of hiring the facility to be \$22 per hour. She has contacted the Murdoch Wildflower Society to see whether she can hire their microscopes and data projector. The committee has agreed that Margaret receive payment for her time and effort.

**2.3 Five Year Plan:** The next phase of the review of the Five year plan will be discussed at the February Committee planning meeting and continue into the early part of 2015. Please direct any comments and or suggestions with regard to the revision of the club's Five year Plan to a committee member or to the club's email.

**2.4 Date and Location of the WANOSCG 40<sup>th</sup> Year Christmas Trip:** The WANOSCG Xmas Weekend will take place on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November. The Christmas function will be from 5pm on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> November at Frost Pavilion Mt Barker Racecourse. Field trip details and meeting places will only be available to those who have registered their attendance.

**2.5 Field trip rules and procedures:** Following discussion at the last general meeting, the Committee is currently reviewing Field trip Rules and Procedures. It is envisaged that early next year a revised version will be published in the Bulletin.

**2.6 2014 WANOSCG Awards:** Members were asked to think about candidates worthy of this award. Please forward nominations and accompanying comments to Jay Steer (officially due by the November general meeting but they will be accepted up to the end of February 2015).

### 3. TREASURER'S REPORT

For the period 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014

	For October	1 <sup>st</sup> Feb to 31 <sup>st</sup> October
<b>Income</b>	\$212.14	\$6925.50
<b>Expenditure</b>	\$540	\$10429.89

It was moved John Ewing and seconded Jeanette Wheatley that the Treasurer's report be accepted as a true record of the club's finances. *Carried*

#### 4. CORRESPONDENCE

Mail received for the period 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014 to 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014

##### Inward correspondence:

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

Date	Sender	Topic
17/10/14	Tim Hodgkins	Follow up HoneyMoon Rd
17/10/14	Tim Hodgkins/John Ewing	Clearing watsonia at Boyup Brook D. apmplissima site
17 to 20/10/14	Tim Hodgkins, John Ewing, Ramon Newmann, Eddy Wajon	Appeal against assessment 1530 - Norwest Energy NL Bee-keeper's Nature Reserve Seismic Testing for fracking
17 to 22/10/14	Tanya Barnett	Frost Park Pavilion
20/10/14	Margaret Collins	Orchid Workshop – organising a time
25/10/14 & 9/11/14	Marina Karyagina	club insurance matters - new certificate issued
29/10/14	Beth Teale	Any date for the Orchid ID workshop?
28/10/14	Tim Hodgkins	A more proactive stance on the reporting on reserves
31/10/14	Margaret Petridis	WANOSCG to provide supper for break up party?
1/11/14	Matthew Davie	Unknown Orchid found near Bunbury
1 to 5/11/14	Eddy Wajon	Banjup Orchids – follow up
4/11/14	Paul Winthrop	Michael Macpherson is interesting in joining the group
4/11/14	Melanie Rowley	Letter about inappropriate activity at Weam Nature Reserve
5 & 7/11/14	Christine Roll	Ferndale Primary Bushland – meeting 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov
7/11/14	David Banks	Re: copies of articles in Australian Orchid Review
12/11/14	Karen Warner from Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council	Murdoch run survey about transmission of parasitic diseases <i>from humans and domestic animals to wildlife</i>

##### Outwards correspondence and Business arising from correspondence:

- *Honeymoon Rd and clearing Watsonia from a D. amplissima site near Boyup Brook*: Matters discussed at Conservation Report 6.3.
- *Appeal against assessment 1530 – Norwest Energy NL Beekeeper's Nature Reserve Seismic Testing for fracking*: Reply to Tim Hodgkins (17/10/2014). Matters discussed at 6.4.
- *Insurance*: The premium has been paid and a new certificate has been issued.
- *A more proactive stance on the reporting on reserves*: Matter discussed at 6.1.
- *Unknown Orchid*: Matthew Davie's unknown orchid was *Caladenia pectinata* (King Spider Orchid)
- Banjup orchids*: Matter discussed this in the Conservation Report 6.5.
- *Inappropriate activities in the Weam Nature Reserve*: Following a letter from DPAW regarding several inappropriate occurrences in the Weam Nature Reserve it was decided that WANOSCG would publish this letter in the March Bulletin. This letter and our reply were tabled.
- *Christine Roll Ferndale*: Christine reported that the meeting with the shire went well and suggested that the shire were interested in managing the weeds and other problems in the reserve.
- *Australian Orchid Review*: Following a request from WANOSCG, the editor of the Australian Orchid Review, David Banks, has denied WANOSCG free access to articles on WA orchids. Subscription to the journal would be approximately \$65 per annum.
- *Survey about transmission of parasitic diseases from humans and domestic animals to wildlife*: Jay briefly summarised and tabled this document. He will complete the survey on behalf of WANOSCG. If members are interested in this matter please contact him.

#### 5. FIELD TRIPS

##### 5.1 Report on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3rd November trips to survey for *Thelymitra dedmaniarum*

Over the last few seasons *Thelymitra dedmaniarum* has not been flowering well, possibly as a result of low rainfall. To assess the current status of this orchid a number of small group surveys were organised. On the 1<sup>st</sup>

November a small group, headed by Andrew Brown, conducted a survey at a site north of Perth. A small number of flowering and finished plants were located. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> November another small group survey of the O'Brien Rd area failed to locate any flowering plants. One flowering plant was however seen at a nearby reserve. Additionally, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November a small group of members, who had not previously seen this species, met at private property in Gidgegannup and were shown a few yellow and brown flowering forms of this species.

## 5.2 Christmas Party 22/23 November:

About 40 members have registered for the WANOSCG Xmas Weekend Field trip. Margaret asked that if any further members intended going on this field trip that they should let her know tonight. Only those registered to attend the field trip will be given the details of meeting points. WANOSCG will be providing the supper at the Saturday night Christmas function. Steve Hopper has indicated that he is going to attend the Saturday night function at Frost Pavilion.

## PERSONAL FIELD TRIPS:

*John Ewing*: Qualen Rd: *Thelymitra yorkensis* (York Sun Orchid); *Andrew Brown*: Duke of Orleans Rd & Cape Le Grand Bay: *Epiblema grandiflorum* (Baby Blue Orchid); *Noel Hoffman*: Fitzgerald NP: Stayed at Tozer's Bush camp Bremer Bay (A caravan park on the edge of the beach, without any power and only open on the weekends). 41 Queen of Sheba orchids were seen there last year. 100's of *Diuris concinna* (Elegant Donkey Orchid) and *Diuris conspicillata* (Spectacled D O); *Marina Karyagina*: Donovan Reserve Augusta: *Caladenia pholcoidea subsp pholcoidea* (Albany Spider Orchid) and *C. longiclavata* (Clubbed S O); *Tom Burbidge*: Crooked Brook Forest near Dardanup: *Microtis media subsp media* (Common Mignonette Orchid), *Thelymitra sp* (Sun Orchid), *Thelymitra villosa* (Custard Orchid).

Members were reminded to fill out Personal field trip report forms to help the Secretary record their names and where and what they have found. Even more importantly members were reminded to fill out Orchid sighting sheets (created by Donna) and send them to the registrar.

## 6. CONSERVATION

The conservation report was circulated with the attendance book.

It was moved David Lawson and seconded Margaret Fox that the Conservation Report be accepted. Carried

- 6.1 *New reserve project and NRM funding in 2015*: Members can assist by noting the current condition of fencing, signage and any other matters at any of the reserves listed below. To this end a "state of reserve" form has been drawn up. Bakers Junction (Albany region), Hollywood Reserve, (Nedlands), Candy's Reserve (Moora), Voittii Compound (Esperance), Mondurup Reserve (opp. Mt Barker Hospital), Frankland Reserve (Frankland town site), Donovan St Reserve (Augusta) and any other reserve that members WANOSCG might be interested in.
- 6.2 *Myalup Pines and Treasure Road*: Tim reported that DPaW has confirmed that both areas were under their control.
- 6.3 *Reserve north of Boyup Brook*: John Ewing reported that the *Diuris amplissima* (Giant Donkey Orchid) at this site were being overrun by *Watsonia*. Following discussion between Tim Hodgkins, John Ewing and the local shire, John has painted *Watsonia* at this site with Glyphosate. To successfully kill *Watsonia* we believe that the Glyphosate treatment needs to be repeated in late winter or early spring over a three year period.
- 6.4 *Appeal against assessment 1530 – Norwest Energy NL Beekeeper's Nature Reserve Seismic Testing for fracking*: Tim has lodged an appeal on behalf of WANOSCG. It affirms that not only is this a relatively pristine sand plain habitat containing many viable flora and fauna populations but it also contained several populations of the threatened Sandplain Duck Orchid. Eddy Wajon informed the meeting that he has also sent in a submission opposing fracking at this site.
- 6.5 *Banjup Orchid Survey*: Eddy informed the meeting that it was two years since the orchid survey was conducted at Fraser Rd and although a vegetation plan had been made of the area it did not included all the located orchids including *Caladenia huegelii*. The vegetation plan needs to be amended to reflect the results of the survey. This is an ongoing matter.
- 6.6 Eddy Wajon informed the meeting that he is going to present a seminar entitled 'How to work with developers' on the weekend of the 14<sup>th</sup> November at the Albany Environmental Centre interested members should contact Eddy for details.

## 7. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 7.1 Database: Ramon Newmann is now the committee's representative with direct access to the database. The WANOSCG Registrar will send regular updated versions of the database to Ramon so that he can provide relevant up to date information at committee and Field trip planning meetings.
- 7.2 Mark Brundrett's book "Identification and Ecology of Southwest Australian Orchids - A User-friendly Guide" is

now available. Mark has books to sell tonight at \$45. Two boxes will be taken to Mt Barker by Margaret to sell to members over the Xmas weekend field trip.

7.3 Margaret Fox informed the meeting that the Honeymoon Rd area had been fenced last week.

**8. GROWER'S TABLE** No plants were tabled

## **9. PRESENTATION AND PHOTO COMPETITION**

To “bookend” the historical presentation that started the year in March, Ramon Newmann gave a presentation of images of WANOSCO members taken over the course of this our 40<sup>th</sup> year. This fabulous presentation was very well received by the members.

Following the presentation, sticky spots were distributed and members asked to vote with a red dot for the President's Award (for a photograph taken in 2015 of an orchid named in the first 10 years of the club) and a green dot for the 40<sup>th</sup> year Award (for a photograph taken in 2015 of a member or group of members). The President's Award was won by Andrew Brown in a closely run contest requiring the president's casting vote. The “40<sup>th</sup> Year Award”, was fittingly won by Ramon Newmann.

## **RAFFLE DRAW:**

The raffle was drawn by Ramon Newmann, the winner being Noel Hoffman

**MEETING CLOSED: 9:10 pm**

# **WANOSCG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES** **Wednesday, 19th March 2014**

Meeting held at: BGPA Boardroom, Kings Park.  
Meeting opened: 7:40 pm

**ATTENDANCE:** 42 members present, 5 apologies, 1 visitor

The meeting was chaired by Jay Steer

## **1. PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

Moved Eddy Wajon seconded Margaret Petridis: The minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013 Annual General Meeting as published in the March 2014 bulletin are a true and correct record of that meeting.

Carried

## **2. President's Report**

Jay Steer read his report stating that the full report was published in the March bulletin.

## **3. Southern Rivers Group – final report for 2013**

Anna de Haan's final report from the Southern Rivers Group for 2013, as published in the March bulletin, was read out by the president and accepted by all members present.

## **4. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer, Kim Hanson, delivered the audited statement of receipts and payments for the 2013 financial year [beginning 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013 and ending 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014].

Moved Margaret Fox seconded Ross Fox: That the Treasurer's report as circulated be accepted as a true record of the club's finances for the 2013 financial year.

Carried

## **5. WANOSCG Award**

The WANOSCG Award for 2013 was presented to Dr Eddy Wajon for his dedicated service to the club. The president said that,

“Ever since joining WANOSCG in 1996 Eddy has proved to be a very active member. Not only has Eddy been a tireless servant of conservation matters, serving as conservation officer 1999 to 2011 and conservation Council Representative 1999 to 2011, but he has also served the club on the committee (2000 to 2003) and as Vice President (2007 to 2011).

Eddy is a man of ideas and action. But above all else, Eddy is a man of principle. Few other members have put up their hand so regularly, often at short notice, to help with the day to day running of the club. Thankyou



Eddy, you truly deserve this award."

## 6. ELECTIONS

Christine Lock was nominated as the Returning Officer. No Scrutineer was required

	Nomination	Nominator	Seconder	Action
Patron	Steve Hopper	Christine Lock	Noel Clark	Elected
President	Jay Steer	Ramon Newmann	Paul Winthrop	Elected
Vice President 1 Year	Kim Hanson	Donna Wajon	Matz Dahlkamp	Elected
Vice President 2 Years	Ramon Newmann			1 Year left
Secretary	Tom Burbidge	Jay Steer	Thea Hanson	Elected
Treasurer	Marina Karyagina	Sarah Atkinson	Margaret Fox	Elected
Field Trip Coordinator	Margaret Petridis	Ross Fox	Matz Dahlkamp	Elected
Committee Member#1	Jeanette Wheatley	Trish Newmann	Donna Wajon	Elected
Committee Member#2	John Ewing			1 Year left
Committee Member#3	Thea Hanson	Sarah Atkinson	Eric Swarts	Elected
Committee Member#4	Peter Proudfoot			1 Year left
Registrar	Christine Lock	Matz Dahlkamp	Ian Greeve	Elected
Auditor	Phil Bunny	Matz Dahlkamp	Stuart Harris	Elected
Supper Coordinator	Urszula Kokosinska	Donna Wajon	Kim Hanson	Elected
Librarian	Jay Steer	Paul Winthrop	Ross Fox	Elected
Conservation Officer				
Editor	Paul Winthrop	Margaret Fox	David Lawson	Elected

The Motion "That WANOSCG has a Conservation Officer for 2014" was moved by Eddy Wajon and seconded Jay Steer.  
The motion was carried.

*Note added to AGM minutes: After the March meetings closed Tim Hodgkins offered to become the Conservation Officer for 2014. At the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2014 General meeting Eddy Wajon nominated Tim Hodgkins to fill the position of WANOSCG Conservation Officer for 2014. Kim Hanson seconded this proposal. There were no other nominations. The members accepted the proposal unanimously.*

## 7. Other Business

The president asked that a vote of thanks be recorded for Kim Hanson's hard work as the club's Treasurer during 2012 and 2013.

**AGM CLOSED:** 8:10 pm  
**NEXT MEETING:** 7:30 pm Wednesday 18 March 2015



*Thelymitra paludosa* from the Xmas Trip by Kevin Uhe

### Life Members

Andrew Brown  
Bill Burton  
Noel Clarke  
Herb Foote\*  
Alex George  
Roy Hargreaves\*  
Ron Heberle\*  
Noel Hoffman  
Gloria Jackson  
Christine Lock  
Harry Lodge\*  
Jean Long  
Don Voigt\*  
Ross Wilton\*  
Beryl Yates\*

### The effects of fire on *Paracaleana Dixonii*

In the summer of 2011/2012 a large fire occurred in the Eneabba area to the west of the Brand Highway in mainly sandplain country.

During discussions with the DEC (now DPaW) conservation officer at Jurien Bay it was discovered that an old record for the sandplain duck (*P dixonii*) existed within this fire footprint and we were asked to try and locate this population and see if we could locate any other populations.

A search of the original area revealed leaves of *P dixonii* (Population A) and further searches of similar habitat revealed another small discreet population further to the north (population C)

Due to the large size of the area reinforcements were required and Colin and Misha Rowan (who were visiting from Victoria) and Paul Winthrop volunteered to help us search over a bigger area.

We first started at the original population (A) and found more *dixonii* than originally located. A search of another close by area located one *dixonii* in an isolated area but the real joy was when another area in between population A and C revealed a large number of *dixonii* spread over a large area.

A concentrated search was made in rather warm conditions surrounded by a large number of flies and it was rewarding that a reasonable size population was recorded.

The object of the exercise was to find new populations which were achieved but in discussions it appeared that two trains of thought were around regarding the effects of fire on these orchids. One thought was they were fire stimulated and died out after two to three years and the other was that they flowered all the time.

As we had discovered three distinct populations we decided to spend the following two years recording each population to discover what effects the fire did have on these populations.

In order to achieve this we went back and discreetly tagged a number of areas within each population where a large concentration amount of *dixonii* were located. We also did a revised count to ensure we had the correct numbers as a starting point.

The following year we returned in early September to each population to see if leaves were present. As population C was in a very small defined area we decided to use that population to do an exact leaf count. This was then followed up in 2014 and the results are as follows:

2012	22
2013	22
2014	42

The first thing we noticed in 2013 at population C was that there were no leaves around our two tags in that area where there had been a large concentration of flowers the year before. However, the amount of leaves equalled the population we had seen the year before.

One bonus was that the year before we had found evidence of *Drakaea* leaves and thought they were just Warty Hammer (*D livida*) but during our hunt for leaves we found that were a small population of the rare Kneeling Hammer orchid (*D concolor*).

Due to the areas involved in the other two populations it was not realistic to count leaves so on a very hot weekend in November 2013 we returned to count flowering plants in each population.

The results of the count at population A and C were a very dramatic decline in the number of flowering plants whilst popu-



lation B recorded a decrease though smaller than the other two populations. (See table below) The common factor in each population was that of the twelve tags we put out the previous year only one tag had a flower near it.

Therefore none of the plants that had flowered after the fire had flowered the following year. Whilst population A and C were consistent with the lower numbers of flowering plants we thought that population B was a very much larger population and other plants had flowered in the second year thus causing the numbers to remain at a higher level..

We returned in September 2014 and were pleased to find an increase in the number of leaves at population C though once again very few leaves were noticed in the tagged areas.

It was with much anticipation that we returned in November 2014, together with Jeanette Wheatley, to do a count of each population again. This time all populations recorded a very low number of plants in flower despite a very thorough search. With this data we were able to surmise that this orchid is indeed enhanced by fire to greater flowering then flowering gradually reduces over the following years with only a small numbers of plants flowering each year. Obviously they are easier to find after fire but careful searching in the known area can locate flowering plants hiding amongst the grasses and low plants.

We can theorise that flowering is stimulated after fire as there is less competition from other plants, hence a mass flowering in undertaken. Once the vegetation grows up the plants tend to hide amongst the grasses and that may inhibit the ability of the pollinators to gain access to the plants.

It was interesting to observe these orchids in the conditions they grow in, especially in 2013 when it was 43 degrees the day were started our survey. It was trying enough for us, let alone a small orchid sitting in baking white sand.

We decided to do our survey over three years to establish a pattern and whilst we will not do further surveys of flowering plants we will monitor the leaves of population C for another two years to see if the number remains at the current level or either increases or decreases.

Once again we are indebted to Colin and Misha Rowan, Paul Winthrop and Jeanette Wheatley for giving up their time to assist us in our counts.

**Flowering plants at populations A to C**

Population	2012	2013	2014
A	16	1	2
B	150	107	34
C	22	6	7
Total	188	114	43

By Kevin Uhe and Margaret Petridis

Clockwise: Paracaleana dixonii in bud, plant and habitat





### Photo Competition

WANOSCG decided to run two photographic competitions in 2014.

Andrew Brown was the winner of the annual President's Trophy for 2014 for a photograph of an orchid described in the first 10 years of WANOSCG's existence.

Ramon Newmann was the winner of the 40<sup>th</sup> Year prize for the best photo of a WANOSCG member or members taken in the field in 2014.



*Jay Steer presenting President's Trophy to Andrew Brown*



*Jay Steer presenting certificate to Ramon Newmann*



### Orchid Identification Workshop

Following Margaret Collins's suggestion that WANOSCG members might enjoy and benefit from an educational workshop on orchid identification, nineteen eager members attended the Cockburn Wetland Centre on the 13th December 2014. The workshop began with Margaret covering some basic plant taxonomy and classification skills and then moved on to a practical "keying out" exercise. After a break for morning tea Mark Brundrett spoke about the rationale behind his new book and how it could be used in the identification of orchids. Following lunch participants had the opportunity to interact with a number of "hands on" work stations. These stations covered the use of a hand lens, the use of microscopes, Mark's image stacking setup and how to use the lucid key for Eucalyptus identification.

The workshop was excellent. Everyone had a great day and left with the feeling that their modest outlay (\$25) had been money well spent. We had all been given the opportunity to acquire new factual and practical skills in an enjoyable and non-threatening environment. It was clear that this format lends itself to a range of other orchid club related study workshops. WANOSCG would like to heartily thank Margaret for bringing the workshop to fruition and also to thank Mark Brundrett and Karen Clarke for their invaluable assistance in running the workshop .

By Jay Steer



## FIELD TRIP UPDATE

For any further information contact **Margaret Petridis**, Field Trip Co-ordinator , on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Tentative Field Trip List

**APRIL:** nothing planned....member suggestions??

**MAY 2nd/3rd:** Walpole - Northcliffe burn looking for *Eriochilus* species, *Praecoxanthus aphyllus*

**MAY 30th, 31st, JUNE 1st LONG WEEKEND:** Kalbarri area OR Merredin area looking for *Caladenia drummondii*, *Eriochilus* sps.

**JUNE 20th/21st:** Jurien area looking for *Thelymitra apiculata*, *Diuris perialla*. Camping or staying on Private property.

**JULY 25th/26th:** Pingelly Nature reserves, probably based at Pingelly.

**AUGUST 8th/9th:** Kalbarri area

**AUGUST 15th - 22nd: WEEK LONG CAMPING TRIP** to the east of Esperance focussing on *Pterostylis* sps (snails) with Andrew Brown.

Expressions of interest in attending are welcome to assist with planning.

## General Items

### NEW PTEROSTYLIS NAMINGS

David Jones and Chris French have continued their series of naming members of the Western Australian nana complex with another three named in the December/January edition of the Australian Orchid Review.

*Pterostylis* sp 'hairy leaf' now becomes *Pterostylis echinulata* which has been named after the latin *schinulatus* which means very small prickles. This is in relation to the impression the siliceous cells give on the leaves, scape and ovary. This orchid is found in a very restricted range in the Kulin area and flowers in June and July.

*Pterostylis* sp 'clubbed snail orchid' has been named *Pterostylis* sp 'glebosa' which comes from the latin *glebosus* which means lumpy in reference to the clubbed lateral sepals. The orchid ranges from Eneabba along the coastal strip to Albany with an inland range to Manjimup. This orchid is often found growing in water and high rainfall forests.

*Pterostylis* sp 'small rosette' now becomes *Pterostylis microphyllam* named after the Greek *micros* (small) and *phyllus* (leaved). This is in direct reference to the small pointed rosette leaves. This orchid is found between Walpole and Gull Rock growing in peaty swamps. In the Blue Lake burn in 2014 this orchid was found in good numbers in the Powley Rd swamp and surrounds.

In the February/March edition David and Chris named three members of the *rufa* taxa into the *Oligochaetochilus* complex. As mentioned in a previous article the W A Herbarium has not recognised *Oligochaetochilus* but for members interest the new names are as follows;

*O. exsertus* is the new name for *Pt* sp 'exserted labellum', *O. hadrus* is a little known species and is not listed in Florabase and *Pt* sp 'striped' becomes *O. zebrinus*.

Kevin Uhe



## 2014 Christmas Field Trip

The final trip of the year was held over the weekend of November 22 and 23. This was a combined trip with the Southern Rivers Group to the Blue Lake burn, a Christmas wind up at the Mt Barker race course pavilion with a trip along Muirs Highway on Sunday before members went their various ways home.

Over 40 members assembled at the meeting place on Blue Lake Road for the usual briefings before we set off in a large convoy to see what could be found.

Due to eagle eye Jeff the first stop was a few hundred metres up the road where several plants of the bristly donkey (*D setacea*) were located growing happily on the road verge.

A short detour was made at the beginning of the burn area to allow those members who had not seen the King Leek (*Pr regium*) the chance to take a photo. Also in the area were a couple of white mignonette orchids (*M alba*).

A rearrangement of cars to all four wheel drive vehicles then took place before the first stop along Blue Lake Rd was made to view numerous specimens of the Bristly Donkey. Good spotting by Debbie Proudfoot located a number of Thelymitra's in tight bud. The consensus was they were probably the Chestnut Sun (*T fuscolutea*)

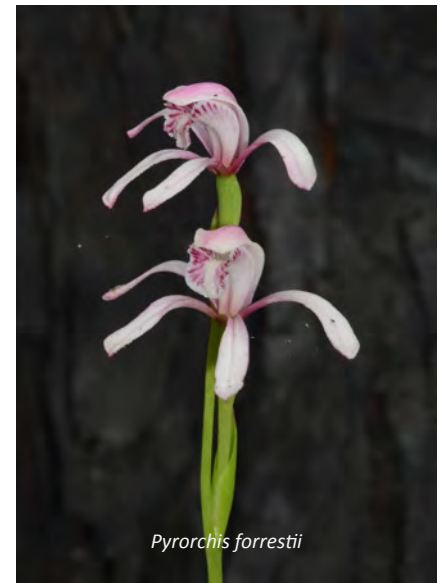
The next stop along the road provided one of the highlights with a field of pink beaks (*Pyrorchis forrestii*) scattered over the forest floor. The sheer number of forrestii provided numerous photo opportunities and it was a hard decision to decide which group of plants to photograph. The Blue Lake fire provided many areas of pink beaks with some very large populations in flower over many weeks.

Along Granite Road a stop was made to view a large group of *Microtis* which were of varying height with some very tall ones. Debate followed as to which *Microtis* taxa these were with *M alba* and *M albobiridis* the popular choices.

At the next stop members enjoyed lunch as they also admired a beautiful specimen of a Christmas leek (*Pr brownii*) which was growing on the unburnt side. A search of the swamp area turned up a number of Ray's spider (*C radiata*) and the swamp bee (*D pauciflora*). Good spotting by Bernie located the first few flowering club lipped spiders (*C corynephora*). A number of mignonette orchids were also located and identified as the sweet mignonette (*M brownii*) and the white mignonette (*M alba*). Further in amongst the paperbarks a number of late donkeys (*D emarginata*) were located.



*Caladenia corynephora*



*Pyrorchis forrestii*

Retracing our tracks the group viewed Blue Lake before stopping along Manos Road where a quick search revealed a few *Thelymitra*'s in bud or seed and nothing else so another stop further along was made and once again a lack of orchids were encountered though a tiger sun (*T tigrina*) was located in bud and a shy sun (*T graminea*) was eagerly photographed.

Last stop of the day was along Manos Road where a few ducks were located along the track and there were identified as the little duck (*P disjuncta*).

The racecourse pavilion provided a good venue to enjoy a dinner and chat whilst watching a side show put together by Maggie and Tanya to show the different orchids found over the months of studying the Blue Lake burn. It was especially pleasing that our patron, Dr Stephen Hopper, stopped off on his way to Albany to join us for a short while.





*Diuris drummondii*

Members were treated to a wonderful cheesecake provided by Anna and other sweets provided by Maggie and Tanya. A special presentation was made to Maggie, Tanya, June and Su for the extraordinary efforts they made to monitor the Blue Lake burn area over the season. It was a wonderful night and thanks go to Maggie and Tanya for organising the venue.

An early start on Sunday saw members gathering near Mt Barker for a briefing by Anna on the days' activities. Due to the large number of vehicles each car was provided with a sheet detailing the stops and members could make their own way to each stop thus avoiding a large convoy on Muir Highway.

At the Mt Barker site Christmas leeks greeted us on the side of the pull off and searching of the area located the Bristly Donkey. At the first stop along Muir Highway an impressive line up of Christmas leeks on a rotten log provided a talking point but soon after donkey bees were spotted thus provoking an intense debate

as to the ID's. A number of the tall donkeys (*D drummondii*) were easy to ID but others seemed to fit into the late donkey (*D emarginata*) better.

Next stop was south of the Muir Highway at a Southern Rivers site and soon excited shouts were heard as members located orchids. Many specimens of the swamp leek (*Pr drummondii*) were seen along with Ray's spider and a magnificent group of Albany spiders (*C pholcoidea subsp pholcoidea*). Also seen were the Tall bee (*D carinata*) and *Microtis media subsp media* and *Microtis orbicularis*.

A further stop off the highway was a sight to behold with a field of Tall donkeys and the plain sun (*Thelymitra paludosa*) which were unfortunately closed due to the cloudy day. On a sunny day to see a field of yellow and blue would have been a sight to behold.

A further stop along the highway had a number of colourful Christmas spiders (*C serotina*) before a lunch stop at Lake Muir. A number of donkey bees and *microtis* were seen but due to the late time most members headed to the final stop west of Thompson Road where a number of Christmas and Albany spiders were spotted in the bush.

Overall it was a wonderful weekend and so pleasing to see a large group of members supporting this trip. Special thanks go to the organisers of the weekend – Margaret Petridis, Maggie Whittle, Tanya Barnett and Anna de Haan who turned on a good trip and beautiful weather. A wonderful way to finish the orchid year!

By Kevin Uhe



*Caladenia pholcoidea subsp pholcoidea* and *Microtis globula* by Kevin Uhe





Paracaleana gracilicordata from granite rocks near Jarrahdale by Kevin Uhe

### MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2015

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](mailto: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. .

### BULLETIN ARTICLES

Please email any Bulletin contributions to Marina at [wanoscg.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wanoscg.newsletter@gmail.com) . Items for the next Bulletin need to be submitted by 4th April 2015

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### Upcoming Field Trip List

April		Suggestions?
May	2/3	Walpole - Northcliffe burn looking for Eriochilus species, Praecoxanthus aphyllus
May	30/31/1	Kalbarri or Merredin , Caladenia drummondii, Eriochilus sp
June	20/21	Jurien area looking for Thelymitra apiculata, Diuris perialla
July	25/26	Pingelly nature reserves
August	8/9	Kalbarri area
August	15-22	WEEK LONG CAMPING TRIP to the east of Esperance focussing on Pterostylis sps (snails) with Andrew Brown

2015	ROSTERS		SPEAKERS 2015
	Raffle	Supper	
MAR	Jay	Urszula & Jeanette	ADORP Presentation
APRIL			TBA
MAY			"Orchids of our eastern granites" by Andrew Brown
JUNE			TBA
JULY			"Diuris" by Chris French
AUG			TBA
SEPT			TBA
OCT			TBA
NOV			TBA