



BULLETIN

OF THE

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHID
STUDY AND CONSERVATION GROUP
(INC)

MAY 1988

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHID STUDY & CONSERVATION GROUP

OFFICE BEARERS 1988

Patron:	Mrs J Holmes a'Court
President:	Kingslev Dixon
Vice President:	Beryl Yates
Immediate Past President:	Bevan Buirchell
Secretary:	Stephen Van Leeuwen
Treasurer:	Lionel Johnston
Field Trip Co-Ordinator:	Sid Gibbings
Editor:	Ray Stanledon
Librarian:	Wayne Merritt
Committee Members:	Denis Burdinat
	Chris French
	Ian Greeve
	Eric Swarts
Postal Address of Group:	PO Box 323 Victoria Park 6100.

OBJECTS OF THE GROUP

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

NOTE: Opinions expressed by contributors to this Bulletin are not specifically endorsed by the Group.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 18th May, 1988 at 7.00 pm, King's Park Administration Centre.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 18th May, 1988 at 8.00 pm, King's Park Administration Centre.

Topic: Ms Penney Hussey, Executive Officer, Road Verge Committee, will speak on road verge conservation in Western Australia. Members should come armed with their experiences (good and bad!) of road verge management.

BULLETIN

Contributions wanted for Bulletin editions. Copy deadline 1st of the month.

FIELD TRIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Committee has compiled the following programme as a suggested basis for the new season.

* * * * *

Next Field Trip

Saturday and Sunday 11th-12th June - 'Underground Orchid' - A weekend trip to check up on our old faithful Rhizanthella gardneri. Some of our newer members may not have seen this orchid yet so here's your chance. Accommodation Ardath Hotel - 5 twin rooms (\$25/room), 2 double rooms (\$25/room), 2 single rooms (\$20/room) (breakfast extra \$5/head). The Group has bulk booked all the rooms for Saturday 11th June so please inform Sid Gibbings [redacted] if you want to book a room. Once full, members will have to either bush camp or come to private arrangements.

Special 'Aussie' Evening Meal - Saturday 11th June, \$13/head. For 3 course roast meal book in with Sid. Come along and join the fun of a night out on the town at the Ardath Pub.

* * * * *

Sunday 19th June - 'Cleopatra's Needles' - This one day trip is to seek out another old friend Thelymitra apiculata. Meet at Reagan's Ford Roadhouse at 10.00 am. This place is about 1 kilometre north of the Moore River on Brand Highway.

From there we travel via Mogumber West Road to the orchid site, and if time permits we will carry on to Mogumber where a colony of Leporella fimbriata exists.

During July some one day trips will be made to the area of the "Gnangara Mound". This is a Water Supply project and maps will be provided.

August 20th and 21st - There was some talk of a trip to Kalbarri as Beryl and Dave are going up there, but nothing official was decided. Members wishing to check on the orchids in Kalbarri should see Vice-President Beryl Yates for details.

August 27th and 28th - 'Northern Heathland Orchids' - Leeman - On site vans may be available in the caravan park but no more details are available yet.

September 3rd - 4th, September 10th - 11th (All dates are tentative, will be confirmed.) Pithara-Miling area for an intensive survey for Caladenia cristata. A bus to be provided at no cost. Accommodation to be subsidised by grant to Society from World Wildlife Fund.

September 17th or 18th, October 1st or 2nd, October 8th or 9th, November 5th or 6th (All dates are tentative, will be confirmed.) Gnangara Mound to conduct a survey for Thelymitra carnea and other rare and geographically restricted orchid species that occur in this area. The Water Authority may provide a large four wheel drive vehicle to assist with transport in the areas to the west of Gingin and Muchea. Will visit Twin Swamps and Ellen Brook Nature Reserves which were burnt this summer.

September 24th to 26th - 'South Coast Orchids' - This is a long weekend to Ravens-thorpe to investigate the large summer burns in the area. As yet no details on accommodation but watch this space.

Early September - Any free days here will be used for further checks on the 'Gnangara Mound' project.

The Kings Park Plant Display will be on from 23rd to 30th September. This clashes with a field trip but it caters for those of us who can't make the field day. Please keep dates free if you can help and get those plants growing.

Saturday October 15th - 'Purdie's Donkey Orchid' - A trip to the Ranford Road area to look for Diuris purdiei.

October 22nd and 23rd - A weekender to the Frankland River area. A prolific orchid area and we seek Caladenia filimentosa var. dorrienii. Accommodation still in the pipeline.

November (Date to be confirmed) - Walyunga-Gidgegannup areas to search for Thelymitra benthamiana. This taxon was lumped with Thelymitra fuscolutea var. stellata but since its rediscovery two years ago by a local property owner it has been recognised as a separate taxon. Literature searches by Andrew Brown revealed that this species had been described previously as T. benthamiana. The difference between it and T. fuscolutea var. stellata are quite marked and therefore it deserves recognition as a separate species. This field trip will be conducted in conjunction with the Eastern Hills Wildflower Society. Their members will be joining us on this field trip. The aim of the trip will be to discover new populations of this species which at present appear to be rare and geographically restricted.

From then on the trips are a little vague as yet, but one has been suggested to Forresteria on November 5th and 6th for Pterostylis rubra and "extinct species"!!

Another trip on the drawing board is one to the Kimberley area, or even the Mitchell Plateau. This one is due for November or December.

December 3rd and 4th - 'Late Flowering Diuris' - This will be a weekend trip to Walpole to look for late Diurus species. Accommodation will probably be in the Forestry Department's quarters again.

FEES: Fees of \$10 are due now for the year to 31 January, 1989.

BADGES: Anyone requiring a badge please contact L Johnston by the next meeting. Last price was \$5.50?

A GROWER'S DIARY!

All my pots have been stored in a dry cool cellar since November. Once during January the pots were watered, but otherwise have been completely dry. Repotting of some was carried out in late February.

On the 15th February, it was noticed that 3 pots had started to shoot - Diurus Punctata (NSW), Pterostylis Vittata and a Thelymitra Crinita. The first two were white in colour, but following gradual exposure to the sun, they are now normal in colour. Regular watering of these 3 pots was then commenced and all other pots were again watered; once during February and March. In early April a closer inspection of all pots was carried out and now (24th April) nearly all Diurus specimens are shooting. Other pots also shooting contain Thelymitra Nuda and Antennifera, Pterostylis Baptistii, Caladenia Patersonii, Caladenia Huegelii and Caladenia Filamentosa.

Ray Stapledon

INCORRECT ADVICE

It was incorrectly reported in the April edition of the Bulletin that Lorraine Marshall of [redacted] was willing to exchange or sell tubers of eastern states Pterostylis species to members of the group who might be interested. Instead Lorraine will donate tubers to the group when they are ready to be distributed.

TUBERS AVAILABLE

Mr John Roberts of 'Tangara' Queensland has tubers from the following orchid species to give to members of the society if they are interested. The species of orchid for which tubers are available are:

- Acianthus exertus
- A. fornicatus
- Arthrochilus irritabilis (formerly Spiculaea irritabilis)
- Calanthe triplicata
- Corybas aconitiflorus (white form)
- Diuris sulphurea (get from subdivision)
- Geodorum densiflorum (pictum)
- Phaius australis (self pollinating)
- Pterostylis baptistii
- P. curta
- P. glandiflora
- P. nutans (large coloured form)
- P. obtusa
- P. ophioglossa
- P. pedunculata
- Spiranthes sinensis

If you are interested in obtaining tubers from any of the above species please contact John at 'Tangara', [redacted]

Reinstatement of *Caladenia gertrudae* Ostenf

by S D Hopper

In 1914, the eminent Danish botanist Carl Emil Ostenfeld (1873-1931) visited Western Australia between August and October and travelled from Perth to Busselton, Bridgetown, Albany, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton and ports further north on his departure (Smith 1985). Professor Ostenfeld was especially interested in sea grasses, plant speciation and phytogeography, but also made important contributions in naming plants new to science.

His Western Australian flora collection included 1300 separate numbers. Among these was *Caladenia gertrudae*, a species Professor Ostenfeld named in honour of his daughter and botanical artist Gertrud from a collection made "in open forest, Yallingup Cave, 26 Sept. 1914".

The description was published in a Danish journal in 1921 in a publication titled "Contributions to Western Australian Botany, Part III - Additions and Notes to the flora of extra-tropical West Australia". The work included Gertrud Ostenfeld's fine drawings of *C. gertrudae*, here reproduced as Figure 1. Professor Ostenfeld noted that his new species was similar to *C. gemmata* Lindley, but differed in having a larger labellum and more pointed sepals and petals. My own research indicates several other differences as follows:



	<u><i>Caladenia gertrudae</i></u>	<u><i>Caladenia gemmata</i></u>
<u>Odour</u>	strong, sweetly perfumed	faintly putrid
<u>Petals & sepals</u>		
colour	pale aqua blue	pale to royal blue
width	slender (4-7mm)	broad (5-10mm)
apex	pointed	usually rounded
<u>Labellum</u>		
length	8-10mm	5-8mm
width	5-7mm	4-5mm
shape		
- fresh	parallel sided	flanged outwards towards apex
- flattened	arrow-headed	orbicular
colouration		
- on top	8-10 parallel longitudinal blue stripes separated by a median white stripe; no different near base	a few blue dots, rarely aligned into discontinuous longitudinal stripes; medium basal area golden yellow
- beneath	uniformly creamy white	white with few to several large dark blue spots
<u>Calli</u>	capitate with pale yellow heads in taller central paired rows, taller towards labellum base; sparse, non capitate and white between blue stripes elsewhere	uniformly capitate with golden yellow heads across labellum; central rows same height as elsewhere, becoming taller and crowded towards base
<u>Column spots</u>	scarce, confined to upper half	common over entire column
<u>Anther</u>	dark purplish-blue	pale greenish yellow with occasional spots

Emily Pelloe (1930 in her privately published book "West Australian Orchids" included a brief mention of *C. gertrudae*, and noted that it "has been joined to *C. gemmata* by Dr Rogers" (the eminent South Australian orchidologist of the day). No mention of *C. gertrudae* appeared in subsequent works until 1971 when Alex George listed it without comment as a synonym (different name for the same species) of *C. gemmata* in his checklist of the Orchidaceae of Western Australia (George 1971).

Alex made the second and third known collections of the species from Yallingup and Broke Inlet in 1967 and 1969. On a trip with Andrew Brown and Lynne Farrel (a visiting botanist from the Nature Conservancy of Great Britain) in October 1986, I was delighted to observe *C. gertrudae* for the first time in Walpole-Nornalup National Park. At the time I believed it to be a new species as it clearly differed from *C. gemmata*. Subsequent field work in 1987 confirmed that this "new" species extended as far west as Augusta.

On returning from 1987 field work I searched through the literature in the library at the Western Australia Herbarium, checking descriptions of all plants regarded as synonyms of C. gemmata. In so doing, Professor Ostenfeld's description of C. gertrudae came to light. There is little doubt that his species was the same as my "new" one from Walpole.

We now know that C. gemmata and C. gertrudae grow together in Walpole Nornalup National Park in coastal heath. C. gemmata extends eastwards to Albany in pure populations along the south coast, while C. gertrudae extends westwards as far as Augusta and Yallingup.

References:

- George, A S (1971). A checklist of the Orchidaceae of Western Australia. Nuytsia 1:166-196.
- Ostenfeld, C E (1921). Contributions to Western Australian Botany, Part III - Additions and Notes to the flora of extra-tropical West Australia. Dansk. Vidensk. Selsk. Biol. Medd. 3.
- Pellöe, E (1930). West Australian Orchids. (Published by the author, Perth.)
- Smith, G G (1985). C E H Ostenfeld (1873-1931): A Danish botanist's contribution to Western Australian Botany. Western Australian Naturalist 16:25-28.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

The committee would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr Terry Holtfreter of Leeman to the society. On behalf of the committee and members we wish Terry and his family a very enjoyable and rewarding association with the society.

Terry is the manager of the Snag Island Caravan Park in Leeman and has a very good knowledge of the local wildflowers, especially the orchids. The group will visit Terry and his surrounds on the 27th and 28th of August. This should be a very interesting and rewarding trip so plan to come along.

ORCHID CONSERVATION IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

In September 1987, 34 orchids were declared as rare and endangered flora under subsection (2) of section 23 F of the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950-1979. All are confined to the South West Botanical Province, between Israelite Bay and Kalbarri. There is an urgent need for further studies on the conservation status, biology, and cultivation requirements of most of these orchids. Members of WANOSCG are actively involved in the latter too, but very little information on new populations has filtered through to Department files. It is with this in mind that members are urged to use Rare Flora Field Report Forms whenever the opportunity arises.

The Act

Section 23F of the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950-1979, gives the Minister for Conservation and Land Management authority to confer legislative protection upon plants considered likely to become extinct, rare, or otherwise in need of special protection. Such protection is achieved by declaring plants to be rare flora throughout the State by notices published in the Government Gazette.

Plants declared as rare flora cannot be taken or destroyed in the wild, either on Crown land or private land, without the special written consent of the Minister. Because the Act binds the Crown, this requirement applies to Government Officers as well as private citizens. A fine of up to \$10,000 may be imposed on persons who destroy rare flora without written ministerial permission. Private landowners may apply for

19 MAY 1988

PLEASE TYPE

little is known about the

While all 34 rare & endangered orchids are consigned to the

~~PLEASE TYPE~~

compensation if they are refused permission by the minister to take gazetted rare flora.

To be declared as rare flora a taxon (species, subspecies or variety) must be well defined, readily identified and represented by a voucher specimen in a State or National Herbarium, have been searched for thoroughly in the wild by competent botanists during the past 5 years in most likely habitats, according to guidelines approved by the Executive Director, and searches have established that the plant is either - rare, in danger of extinction, or deemed to be threatened and in need of special protection.

Declared Rare Orchids

In ~~September 1987~~, 34 orchids were declared as rare and endangered flora under subsection (2) of section 23 F of the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950-1979. ~~Of these~~ 27 have been added and 4 deleted from the previous schedule. 3 of those deleted, Caladenia x triangularis, C x lavandulacea and Thelymitra x macmillanii are now considered to be of hybrid origin, while the fourth, Prasophyllum lanceolatum is regarded as being con - specific with P. triangulare.
(the same species)

The Department hopes to illustrate all 34 orchids in a forthcoming publication on the "Declared Rare Flora of Western Australia". In the meantime members can refer to "Orchids of South-West Australia" by Noel Hoffman and Andrew Brown where 18 are illustrated (see species list for page numbers). For information on the others please feel free to contact committee members.

Rare Flora Field Report Forms (RFFRF) Members Participation

With members of WANOSCG ranging widely throughout the state, it is likely that new populations of Declared Rare Orchids will be located. ~~To date this information has not filtered through to Departmental files, and until it does, these populations will unfortunately remain unprotected.~~

With your cooperation I hope ~~this~~ ^{the above} situation can be remedied. Members are urged to fill out a RFFRF whenever the opportunity arises and then send it to one of the following:

The Senior Clark/Flora
Department of CALM

Como

or

Andrew Brown
Department of CALM

These forms are designed to be easy to use, and can contain as little or as much information as you can provide. The minimum requisite being - your name, name of the orchid, survey date, locality and number of plants sighted. Of course, the more information you can provide, the better. Note: Lat and long information can be obtained from the ~~maps in~~ the 'Travellers Atlas (WA)'. If you are unsure of the identity of the orchid you have found, a photograph would also be invaluable. The Department can duplicate any photos sent in and return the original to you.

Andrew Brown

*Although endangered
all 34 orchids are confined to the S.W. Botanical
Province, between Israelite Bay and Kalbarri, little
is known about their conservation requirements,
biology, and ecology. While members of WANOSCG
are actively involved in these areas, little information
on new populations has filtered through to Department
files, and until it does, these populations will
unfortunately remain unprotected.*

SUPPER ROSTER 1988

May M FRENCH
June J EATON
July Joy ST JACK

RAFFLE ROSTER 1988

May Ken JONES
June Margaret ADAMSON
July Wayne MERRITT

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PUBLICATION NO. WBH1240

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Next Field Trip:

June 11th-12th - A weekend trip. Underground orchid - Rhizanthella gardneri.

Group to meet at the Babakin Store at 12.00 noon on Saturday 11th June.