



BULLETIN

OF THE

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHID
STUDY AND CONSERVATION GROUP
(INC)

JULY 1989

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHID STUDY & CONSERVATION GROUP

OFFICE BEARERS 1989

Patron:	Mrs J Holmes a'Court
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Vice President:	Kerry Pickles
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Minutes Secretary:	Margaret Adamson
Treasurer:	Chris French
Field Trip Coordinator:	Ian Greeve
Editor:	Stephen van Leeuwen
Librarian:	Eric Swarts
Committee Members:	Juliet Revnolds
	Dave Bright
	Stuart Harris

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 environments.
 - c. To learn their habitats and keep records.
 - d. To have field days and learn to recognize the different genera and species.
 - e. To hold meetings for the exchange 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 other on them.
- NOTE:** Opinions expressed by contributors to this Bulletin are not specifically endorsed by the group.

An Open Letter to Members of The Western Australian Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group (Inc)

It is under the most difficult of circumstances and with deep regret that I write to you as members of the Group.

You may be aware that in early June an underground orchid trip was organised as part of the normal field excursion schedule of the Group to search and prove a comparatively new location for the orchid. Altogether over 40 members and guests from other conservation minded groups attended and were successful in proving the resource of underground orchids at the reserve (30+ plants in flower).

However, unnoticed a person(s), without authority removed three capitula (flowering heads) from a colony of eight. The theft was discovered the following morning by Kingsley Dixon who on close inspection of the site was convinced that the capitula had not been removed by animals.

To all who attended a special meeting held in Corrigin after the grim discovery there was a unanimous sense of disgust and dismay at the theft of the plants.

This act is even more suprising given the repeated warnings of the rarity and vulnerability of plants and the confidentiality of the location. The trust of the members and of the Group was clearly and arrogantly betrayed on this occasion.

The committee has therefore decided that to maintain the Group's high ethical standing the following will be implemented.....

- * Setting up of a working party to develop a policy for field exercises involving declared rare flora.
- * No further Rhizanthella trips are to be undertaken in the foreseeable future unless requested by CALM or other authority.
- * All possible measures to be taken to apprehend the offender in this case.
- * Removal of declared rare flora by unauthorised members will result in **immediate and life expulsion** from the Group and reporting of the same to the flora protection authorities.

Naturally it is the responsibility of all members to inform the committee of any member who, without authority, knowingly removes, takes or in any way disturbs rare flora.

As regretful as they are these actions are necessary to maintain the high conservation ethos of the Group in dealing with the orchid flora we treasure so much.

Yours faithfully,

Dennis Burdinat
President, WANOSCG

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, 19th July, 1989 at 7.00pm at the Kings Park Board Administration Centre.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 19th July, 1989 at 8.00pm at the Kings Park Board Administration Centre.

TOPIC FOR EVENING

Ted Griffin talking on 'The Conservation Value and Future of Mt Lesueur'. Ted has spent many years studying the flora of the Mt Lesueur area. He is leading a band of supporters fighting for the conservation of this area. CRA are planning to mine for coal near Mt Lesueur and use such in a local power station.

BULLETIN CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions are needed for every edition of the Bulletin. Articles should be sent to Bevan Buirchell [redacted]. The article submission deadline for the next issue of the Bulletin is 31st July.

FIELD TRIPS

August 19-20th Dryandra State Forest

Participants are to meet outside the cottages in Dryandra at 10.00am on the 19th. Costs are \$4.50 per person per night payable to Ian Greeve on Saturday 19th. Four cottages have been booked, each cottage has a gas stove, fridge, a wood fire in the lounge, beds and mattresses and bathroom. A reasonable supply of crockery and kitchen hardware is supplied but you may bring your own if required. Please bring your own bedding (e.g. blankets, pillows or sleeping bag) and enough food for the weekend. Dryandra Village is set in the heart of the Dryandra Forest and all Forestry Department rules are to be observed as well as Lions Dryandra rules. Those people who put their names on the list earlier on, please confirm your intentions of going, by phoning Ian Greeve [redacted], before Friday 11th August.

August 27th Sunday family picnic in Kings Park to search the burnt areas.

2-3rd September **Moora area.** A weekend camp on private property about 15km east of Marchagee to look for orchids in that area. Accommodation is available in a shearer's cottage or camping in the adjacent paddock. The drive takes about 4.5hr and a map will appear in the August Bulletin. Juliet Reynolds will lead the trip and **needs to know final numbers by July 31st (Limit 25 people)**. If interested call her on [redacted].

9-10th September **Dalwallinu.** To continue the search for *Caladenia cristata*. A weekend trip which will be coordinated by Steve. People interested in going to inform Ian Greeve before 26th August (Limit 25).

17th September Sunday trip to **Page Road Reserve** and **Tutanning Reserve**. To meet at 8.00am at the intersection of Canning Road and Brookton Highway.

N.B. Due to the huge response from members and visitors attending the Corrigin Trip, it has been decided that future weekends and day trips will be restricted to a limit of 25 people.

Field trip Report - Corrigin

We arrived at the Roadhouse in Corrigin at 9.45am, and by 10.15am there were 15 vehicles and a total of forty three people!! A lot more than expected. Out of this total, 30 were members and 13 were visitors. Kingsley gave a talk about *Rhizanthella* and how to locate the plants without damaging them. Then we all left in convoy to the specific area near Corrigin.

We planned to search a certain part of this area during the morning and then meet for lunch at 12.30pm. During the morning several finds of *Rhizanthella* were made including a lovely group of eight underground orchids in a clump which were photographed by most people. I think most people enjoyed searching for this lovely orchid and were thrilled to make a find. After lunch, some people searched the same area and others switched to the York gum areas. A total of 38 *Rhizanthella gardnerii* were found during the day. Also found in flower were *Leporella fimbriata*, *Eriochilus dilatata*, *Pterostylis vittata*, *Pt. vittata* with a rosette, *Pt. scabra* var. *scabra*, *Pt. recurva* in bud, *Prasophyllum nigricans* in seed and a solitary *Caladenia drummondii*.

Everyone commented on the large amount of fungi present in the bush, in fact some people, I believe, made a tasty meal out of some huge Agarics growing there.

At around 4.45pm most people made their way to the Hotel or Caravan Park, and at 6.30 pm met at the Roadhouse for a tasty 3-course meal. The next morning we awoke to pouring rain which put a damper on the weekend. As the rain looked like settling in, the Group decided to call it a day with everyone going their own way, some home, some to Boyagin Rock and some to Hyden. We eventually arrived home at 7.20pm after having spent quite a pleasant weekend.

Joan and Ian Greeve.

ORCHIDS OF KINGS PARK

Ten genera are represented in the 24 species of orchid found in the bushland of Kings Park. Peak flowering of these orchids is from late August till late October. The convenient summer burn will stimulate flowering for most of these species and the Park this spring should be a paradise for orchid lovers.

The following orchids have been recorded in the park:-

Caladenia menziesii, *C. macrostylis*, *C. patersonii*, *C. huegelii*, *C. reptans*, *C. latifolia*, *C. hirta*, *C. deformis*, *C. flava*, *C. discoidia*, *Leporella fimbriata*, *Paracaleana nigrita*, *Lyperanthus nigricans*, *Thelymitra pauciflora*, *T. fusciculata* var. *fusciculata*, *Prasophyllum elatum*, *Microtis unifolia*, *Elythranthera brunonis*, *Pterostylis nana*, *Pt. barbata*, *Pt. recurva*, *Pt. scabra* var. *robusta*, *Pt. vittata* var. *vittata*, and *Diuris longifolia*.

Four of these orchids - *Caladenia macrostylis*, *C. reptans*, *Paracaleana nigrita* and *Pterostylis barbata* - have not been seen in the park for 5-20 years. The Groups visit to the Park on August 27th will endeavour to scour the burnt area to see if we can re find these orchids.

Kings Park is basically a Banksia woodlands area with some Casuarina groves and yet a number of orchids typical to this type of habitat are not found here. For example, *Caladenia filametosa denticulata*, which I have seen growing over near the Agriculture Department, is absent. No *Drakaeas* have been found and yet there is suitable white sand habitats. On the other hand there are orchids which are generally found in a Jarrah-Marri woodland like *C. macrostylis* and *Pt. barbata*. If one could look at the original vegetation of Kings Park, before white settlement, one would find that the area was in fact a Jarrah-Marri woodland with some Banksia and Casuarina. However, due to logging practises in the early days, a lot of the Jarrah-Marri has disappeared and allowed the Banksia to take over. This is the basic reason for the incongruous orchid types growing in the Park.

CONSERVATION OF DIURIS PURDIEI

Overleaf are two letters, in reply to letters I wrote on behalf of the Group, from the Ministers responsible for the conservation of Western Australia's unique flora. In my view, conservation is in a sorry state if these are the attitudes of this Government towards Rare and Endangered plants. The fight is not over. In the near future there will be a campaign to make the general population aware of the Government's attitudes and calling upon the Premier Mr Dowding to make an executive decision to protect the habitat of *Diuris purdiei*, instead of the sham that is currently planned by CALM and the Developer. Please continue to make friends, workmates, neighbours, local members of Parliament - anyone - aware of the plight of *Diuris purdiei*. People power can win the day - there is no Tenamin Square in Perth, yet!!!!



MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES;
CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT; WATERWAYS

em225lbui

Dr B Buirchell
Western Australian Native Orchid
Study and Conservation Group
PO Box 323
VICTORIA PARK WA 6100

25 MAY 1989

Dear Dr Buirchell

Thank you for your letter about development proposals at Nicholson-Ranford Roads, Canningvale, and the presence on the site of certain species of gazetted rare flora. As discussed at our recent meeting there has been extended discussion on this matter between our officers of the Department of Conservation and Land Management, the State Planning Commission and the developers concerned.

Agreement has been reached to carry out a research programme on the biology of Diuris purdiei, the most seriously endangered species, with a view to developing cultivation techniques. Even if the small area where the plant occurs were to be reserved, it is most unlikely that it could survive there in the long-term given the nature of the surrounding urban development. Therefore it is proposed to attempt to both translocate the existing plants to another, secure reserved site, as well as to establish colonies "in captivity".

The developers have agreed to take no action on the areas in question during the research period, and to meet the costs of the proposed research programme. This agreement will be formalised shortly, so that the research programme can begin forthwith. In this way I believe we can ensure that this species is guaranteed long-term survival.

It is my view that the best possible measures are to be set in place to ensure the plants survival. The views that you expressed to the Canning Melville Times following our meeting convey the impression that the Government and CALM are not acting responsibly. As explained above, the establishment of a nature reserve would not solve the problem as it would be small, have boundary problems and would not guarantee the species survival. Burning of the area occurred to promote flowering this spring to enable the research programme to commence in a meaningful way.

The link between the plant and fungi in the soil is acknowledged and this will obviously be a major part of the research. It was encouraging to note during a recent visit to Kings Park research laboratories that they have managed to grow Diuris purdiei.

Yours sincerely

IAN TAYLOR M.L.A.



MINISTER FOR PLANNING
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

29 MAY 1989

Dr Bevan Buirchell
Western Australian Nature Orchid Study
and Conservation Group
PO Box 323
VICTORIA PARK WA 6100

Dear Dr Buirchell

Thank you for your submission concerning the Declared Rare Flora in Canning Vale.


The State Planning Commission has received and considered the advice of the Department of Conservation and Land Management concerning the flora, and I understand the Department itself has in turn received advice from both the experts to whom you have referred. While there appears to be some diversity of opinion regarding the practicability of translocation of the *Diuris purdiei*, there is also a degree of uncertainty as to the prospects for long term survival of the species in its present location.

As you will appreciate, there are numerous matters which need to be considered in the planning of Perth, and the cost of land acquisition for public purposes, such as conservation, is a significant consideration. The 'swapping' of land, in no way diminishes the cost to the community of such acquisition, and in some instances may in fact increase that cost. A conservation reserve such as you have suggested, will not perform the same functions as the Public Open Space for which the standard 10% contribution is required, and would therefore need to be acquired at public cost.

As you will be aware, the taking of declared rare flora is subject to control by the Minister for Conservation and Land Management, and such control may also limit interference with the environment within which the flora exists. The Minister is aware of the concerns you have raised and is in a position to monitor the situation in terms of the requirements of the Conservation and Land Management Act.

I have noted your concerns, and shall bear them in mind together with advice from the Department of Conservation and Land Management, when the proposed rezoning is forwarded to me for determination.

Yours sincerely


Pam Beggs, J.P., M.L.A.
MINISTER FOR PLANNING.

SUPPER ROSTER 1989

July Joy St Jack
Aug Juliet Reynolds
Sept Ray Stapledon

RAFFLE ROSTER 1989

July Joan Biddle
Aug Joan & Ian Greeve
Sept Terry Wilson

WANOSCG

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MR & MRS A BROWN



Forthcoming Field Trips :

July 15th	Gnangara Pine Plantation - Red Hill area , <i>Pterostylis</i> and <i>Diuris</i> species .
August 19th-20th	Dryandra State Forrest
August 27th	Kings Park - search of burnt areas and picnic