



BULLETIN

OF THE

**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHID
STUDY AND CONSERVATION GROUP**

(INC)

(1974 – 1999)

OCTOBER 1999

Registered by Australia Post Publication No WBH 1240

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, 20 October 99 at 7.00 p.m. at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Administration Office.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 20 October 99 at 8.00 p.m. at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Administration Centre.

GUEST SPEAKER

Noel Hoffman – "My Early Orchid Days."

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

October 20	General Meeting
November 7	Gidgegannup & Chidlow
November 17	General Meeting
December 4-5	Northcliffe

ANNUAL GROUP MEMBERSHIP FEES

The Groups financial year commences on 1 February, so all membership fees are now due. The Group membership fees are as follows:

Single Membership \$20.00 pa.

Family Membership \$20.00 pa.

The digit after your name on the address label is the year for which you are financial and is updated to the last meeting. *If you have paid since then please make the allowance.*

Please send fees to The Treasurer, P.O. Box 323, Victoria Park, 6067.

NAME BADGES

Group name badges can be ordered from the Treasurer. The cost is \$9.25 each.

BULLETIN CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions are needed for every edition of the Bulletin. Articles should be sent to Noel Clarke [redacted]. The article submission deadline for the next issue is 1 November 1999.

SUPPER COST

Each month our supper is generously donated by group members (per list on the back of the Bulletin), while the group supplies the tea, coffee, sugar and milk. To recoup some of the cost of these supplies, a modest fee of 50 cents applies. This can be left on the supper table and will be collected by the Treasurer at the end of the evening.

Also please rinse out your cups when you have finished with them.

VALE ROSE BLINCO

The committee & members extend their sympathy to Tom & Glenys & family on the loss of Tom's mother.

FOR SALE

Rufa Trip Report \$10.00.
 Caladenia flava Badges \$4.00 members, \$5.00 non-members.
 Name Badges \$9.25.
 Orchids of WA (2nd Ed) \$9.00.
 Orchids of SW Australia \$45.00.
 Orchid Flowering Times \$5.00
 Car Stickers \$1.50.
 Pat Dundas Cards \$8.00.
 Bush Survival Kit \$4.00.

FIELD TRIPS

Please ensure you have sufficient fuel to get you through the field trips.

Please advise the Field Trip Coordinator, Don Smith; phone [redacted] if you intend participating.

FIELD TRIP 7TH NOVEMBER TO ORCHID PARK AND GIDGEGANNUP

Meet in Coast Rd near Beachborough Rd, Beachborough at 10 am.
 Wellies are essential as the *Epiblema* grows in water.

From the Orchid Park site we will proceed to O'Brien Rd, Gidgegannup to see *Spiculaea ciliata* & *T aff deadmaniarum* pg 243 in H&B.

NOTE – Field trip for 21st November is cancelled.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS**THE CHIDDARCOOPIN EXCURSION 29/29 AUGUST by BETH & RON KINSEY.**

Thankyou Don & Eva for leading us to some excellent orchid sites, in amongst some lovely bushland and big rocks. Some plants here were most unusual & beautiful. Orchid highlights for us were *C pachychila*, *radialis* & *roei*, *Cyan amplexans*, *Pras gracile* with dark margins, *Pt aff rufa* in bud.

The campfire was welcome as the sun set and was well attended after the evening meal. The group discussed a diverse range of topics while the stars shone on above in a crystal clear night sky. Eva told us "Chiddarcoopin" was an aboriginal name for the Willy wagtail – but I think it was probably named from teeth "chiddering" from the cold in the coop at night! Morning heralded by the birds was dewy damp. The group were packed and ready to go by 8.30 a.m.

We found another huge granite outcrop hidden in the midst of thick scrub to explore. More of the orchids found the day before, *Thelymitra* leaves & buds developing.

On our trip home we stopped at several bush road verges and at Nembudding & Namenclatching Nature Reserves, along the Wyalkatchem – Goomalling Rd. Some more groups of *C dimidia*, *saccharata* & *roei*, *Cyan amplexans*, *D aff recurva?*, *T aff rufa* (bud almost out), and yellow *Caladenia* were seen. When the light dimmed we headed for home with a camera full of orchids.

FIELD TRIP TO KALANNIE, BUNTINE & WATHEROO 8/9 SEPTEMBER by Beth & Ron Kinsey

Following the success of the Chiddarcoopin trip we ventured north as far as Kalannie before turning west back through Watheroo, Moora and home again.

Highlights of this trip were excellent displays of the more common orchid types of which *Diuris* & *C roei* were the most widespread. We found *Pt spathulata* in flower just west of Buntine, a second colony of rufus in bud and two *Paracaleana terminalis* in flower in the Watheroo area, and a small colony of *C douthiae* along the way to round off the day.

A few more sites.

Clinic Rd & Katanning-Broomehill Rd, 13/10/98. Some interesting *Diuris* that look like aff *magnifica* (small pansy) and another *D amplissima* (giant donkey). Also at this site cowslip x little pink fan (*C flava* x *C nana*), cowslip x white fairy (*C flava* x *C marginata*) and hordes of hungry skeeters.

Stirling Range – *C bryceana* ssp *bryceana* under wandoo near the road to Bluff Knoll within the enclosure with the information bay.

WANOSCG – MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 15th SEPTEMBER 1999

Meeting commenced 8.10 PM.

ATTENDANCE

33 members, no visitors and 8 apologies as per attendance book.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved Burton/ R.Fox that the minutes of the August meeting be confirmed (although Bill Burton thought there to be a discrepancy in the types of *Diuris* comparisons recorded but he couldn't be sure of the comparisons he made!).

CARRIED.

The President thanked Eva Smith for her production of the BULLETIN in the absence of the Editor.

MATTERS ARISING

Steve advised that some changes would be necessary to the Constitution to accommodate

suggested creation of position of Registrar but has yet to prepare draft.

Steve advised meeting that as many inaugural members as could be located would be invited to October meeting plus others thought appropriate including Graham Kierath MLA, Minister for Planning.

Steve asked that members communicate any ideas on award suggestions from Donna Wajon as per BULLETIN, to the Secretary.

CORRESPONDENCE

As per correspondence list.

Matters Arising - Nil

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report was circulated. No queries raised.

FIELD TRIPS

Don Smith thanked those who attended the Chiddarcoopin and York field trips, and sought an indication of numbers for the long weekend trip to Ongerup. There were no objections to his suggestion at last meeting that an invitation be extended to the ABC gardening programme to attend a Group field trip. The Xmas meeting may coincide with the Northcliffe field trip proposed for Dec 4-5 but visiting there may be inappropriate and will be further considered. Steve Phillips reported briefly on the New Norcia field trip, which had been productive from non-orchidaceae results but not so much for orchids, and he is waiting for feedback from CALM members on their findings before presenting a written trip report.

There were several comments on private field trips. Margaret Collins reported a new site for *C hoffmanii* on fenced private property in the Northampton area, found during a wildflower survey that she had attended. There were quite a few plants, the owner is interested in preservation, and may permit members to visit.

Eric Swarts drew attention to increasing invasion of a *C huegelii* site at Canning Vale by the expansion of a rubbish tip and will provide details.

PLANT TABLE

Bill Burton displayed two *Caladenia* and one *Drakea* species.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Steve thanked Sarah Atkinson for providing the supper and Kate Ward for the raffle prize. Eddy Wajon reported (1) on meeting Graham Kierath MLA with Wayne Merritt concerning the RFA and they had been well received (2) Gngangara Concept Plan, which contains some good ideas but he has some concerns. (3) Website idea had been raised and enthusiastically received at Conservation Council, and was seen as perhaps the start of

other societies doing the same. They will prepare some information.

Coates Nature Tours had sought help for a guide for a one week tour, but Bill Burton advised that he had already been approached and accepted.

The guest speaker was Gary Brockman on the subject of Orchid Hybrids – an excellent presentation supported with many colourful slides, which provoked lively discussion. The raffle was won by Donna Wajon. Meeting closed 9.45 pm.

REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT

There has been correspondence between the Group and the Government re the RFA. Eddy Wajon in his capacity of Conservation Officer did most of the work.

The correspondence is too long to include in the Bulletin. The minister's reply is two pages long.

Any member interested in seeing the correspondence can request a copy from the Secretary.

MALLEEFOWL EATING ORCHID TUBERS

The following article is taken from the Native Orchid Society of South Australia Journal which was adapted by the editors from a short paper by Whimpey Reichelt and Tom May.

"Whimpey has been watching malleefowl near Nhill in Victoria for many years and one wild pair have become so used to his presence that he can follow them filming their feeding.

On at least one occasion (Nov 1994) the birds were observed scratching up *Pterostylis 'nana'* and eating the tubers. Baker and Vestjens, The Food of Australian Birds (1989) recorded only one example of native birds eating orchids and these were pied currawongs. Curiously enough this was first reported in J Nat Orch Soc SA in 1987 when currawongs had been seen eating *Corybas* flowers at Mt Crawford. Since then your editor has seen this same bird species eating *Pterostylis 'nana'* and *P pedunculata* tubers at several locations, mostly in exotic forests from Kuitpo to Kapunda but only in the cooler months. Strangely enough the plants which had been scratched up and the tubers removed were in most cases able to regrow their roots and produce new tubers by the end of the season.

We would be pleased to hear from readers who have seen native birds eating any part of wild orchids."

Have any of our members seen the same thing happen in WA?

	SUPPER ROSTER	RAFFLE ROSTER
MARCH		
APRIL		
MAY		
JUNE		
JULY		
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER		
OCTOBER	Members plate	Ian & Joan Greeve
NOVEMBER	Scilla Stack	Noel Clarke

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FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS

7th November – Orchid Park & Gidgegannup.

4/5th December – Northcliffe. (Venue may be changed)