



**BULLETIN**

*OF THE*

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

**(INC)**

(1974 – 2000)

***AUGUST 2000***

Registered by Australia Post Publication No WBH 1240

OFFICE BEARER	ADDRESS	PHONE
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AUDITOR	Ross Wilton	
SUPPER COORDINATOR	Donna Wajon	
CONSERVATION COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE (1)	Eddy Wajon	
CONSERVATION COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE (2)	Wayne Merritt	

#### OBJECTIVES 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 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 exchange of knowledge and furthering of interest in Western Australian orchids.
- f) To affiliate with kindred organisations.
- g) To make rules 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 objectives.

Note: The opinions expressed by contributors to this Bulletin are not specifically endorsed by this group.

POSTAL ADDRESS OF GROUP: PO Box 323  
Vic Park 6979



**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday, 16 August 2000 at 7.00 p.m. at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Administration Office.

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING**

Wednesday, 16 August at 8.00 p.m. at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Administration Office.

**GUEST SPEAKER**

Ron Heberle – "Musings of an older member"

**FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

16 August	General Meeting
20 August	Trip to Brookton Hwy
3 September	Trip to Martin
17 September	Trip to Tutanning Reserve
20 September	General Meeting
30/1/2 October	Trip to Peaceful Bay
18 October	General Meeting
21/22 October	Trip to Frankland
15 November	General Meeting
19 November	Trip to Casuarina
2 December	Xmas Party at Kings Park

**ANNUAL GROUP MEMBERSHIP FEES**  
**MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE**

*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, 6979.**

**RED DOT ON YOUR BULLETIN**

**Do you have a red dot on your Bulletin?**

**This means that you are unfinancial and as such you cannot vote at meetings.** If you have paid since the last meeting please ignore the red dot.

**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 September 2000. Country members we would love to share your orchid adventures (or misadventures). Many private field trips are

undertaken, how about sharing them with the membership via the Bulletin.

**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.***

**WANOSCG ORCHID SIGHTING FORMS**

These forms are now available from the Secretary. Steve Phillips is eagerly awaiting your sighting reports.

Please help get our database off and running.

**FOR SALE**

Rufa Trip Report \$10.00.

Caladenia flava Badges \$4.00 members, \$5.00 non-members.

Name Badges \$9.25.

Orchids of WA (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed) \$9.00.

Orchids of SW Australia \$45.00.

Orchid Flowering Times \$5.00

Wildflowers of WA Pt 1 \$ 17.95 (Eddy's Book)

2001 Orchid Calendars (Eddy's) - Large \$9.00, Small \$3.50.

Car Stickers \$1.50.

Pat Dundas Cards \$8.00.

Bush Survival Kit \$4.00.

History of WANOSCG \$3.00.

**FIELD TRIPS**

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

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

The field trips listed are proposed and are subject to change if needed.

**FIELD TRIP 20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST TO BROOKTON HWY**

Meet at Brookton Hwy near Warradale Rd at 10 a.m.

We hope to see *C. xantha*, *chapmanii*, *saccharata* & *reptans*, *Cyan. deformis*, *D. hrumalis*, *aff recurva* & *porrifolia*, *Pt. aspera*, *sargentii* and *sanguinea*.

**FIELD TRIP 3 SEPTEMBER TO MARTIN**

Meet at the corner of Mills Rd and Foxley Place (just past Cahoona Park) at 10 a.m.

There was a summer fire in the area.

### FIELD TRIP 17 SEPTEMBER TO TUTANNING RESERVE

Meet at Brookton Sports Ground at 10 a.m. We hope to find 12 *Caladenias* and some *Cyaniculas*, *Diuris* and *Pterostylis*.

### FIELD TRIP 30/1/2 OCTOBER TO PEACEFUL BAY

Meet at Peaceful Bay Rd and South Coast Hwy at 11 a.m.

You have a choice of two caravan parks. Committee preferred site is Peaceful Bay C.P. Peaceful Bay Caravan Park has 6 on site vans and 60 power sites and 60 non-powered sites, phone (08) 98408060.

Valley of the Giants Ecopark has limited on site accommodation and nature based facilities for camping & caravanning, phone (08) 98401313.

The W.A. Nat's will be camping here.

### FIELD TRIP 21/22 OCTOBER TO FRANKLAND

The Frankland caravan park is a small park with only 9 sites, phone (08) 98552354.

Our members Eve & Jim Parry live next to the caravan park owner. We might have to use long cords!

**25<sup>th</sup> June – only one power site is still available. Some camping or unpowered sites are available & the rest invade Eve & Jim.**

### NEW GENERA

Stephen Hopper and Andrew Brown have published a paper entitled "New Genera, Subgenera, Combinations, and Species in the Caladenia Alliance (Orchidaceae: Diurideae) in Lindleyana 15(2): 120-126. 2000.

They formally describe new genera *Cyanicula* and *Praecoxanthus*. *Caladenia* is divided into 5 subgenera, *C.* subgen *Caladenia*, *C.* subgen *Calonema*, *C.* subgen *Drakonorchis*, *C.* subgen *Elevata* and *C.* subgen *Phlebochila*.

*Leptoceras* is reinstated.

They also describe three new species *C. ashbyae*, *C. fragrans* and *C. nikulinskyae* (*Cyanicula* aff *gemmata* page 427 in H & B).

Members are familiar with *Cyanicula* and *Praecoxanthus*.

*Caladenia* subgenus *Caladenia* contains *C. carnea* types.

*Caladenia* subgenus *Calonema* contains *C. patersonii* types.

*Caladenia* subgenus *Drakonorchis* contains *C. barbarossa* types.

*Caladenia* subgenus *Elevata* contains five species, *C. flava*, *C. marginata*, *C. nana*, *C. reptans* and *C. latifolia*.

*Caladenia* subgenus *Phlebochila* contains *C. cairnsiana* types.

Andrew Brown had copies of the paper at the July meeting.

There is a copy of the paper in the library.

### NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Roy Hargreaves, a member of both our group and the Native Orchid Society of South Australia has sent me some information on the start of NOSSA 3 years after us.

While in Perth in July 1976 he was visiting Nell and Herb Foote when a WANOSCG member rang to advise Herb that a tract of land was to be cleared for housing and could something be done about rescuing the native orchids. This set Roy thinking about the situation in South Australia. At that time there was nowhere to turn for assistance.

When he returned to SA he discussed the situation with Les Nesbitt and the result was the formation of NOSSA. The history of NOSSA's first 25 years in 2002 should be interesting reading.

Roy was also involved with the original site for the R S Rogers Orchid House built at the Adelaide Botanic Gardens in 1982. It was moved to the Black Hill Flora Research Centre in 1992. He put in one day a week for 7 years at this site. Roy served on the committee of NOSSA for 23 years.

Roy was awarded the OAM in 1997 for his service to the conservation of native orchids and to the Native Orchid Society of South Australia, of which he is a life member.

### FIELD TRIP REPORT TO MT. COOKE BY BETH & RON KINSEY

We departed from home under scudding clouds and showers, wondering if any other "orchiders" were as optimistic as we were? On arrival at the designated meeting spot we found the Moyles waiting and a blue-sky patch appearing.

We took a walk in amongst the pine plantation here, where Robin soon found some *Prasopphyllum parvifolium*, and then Ron found some on the opposite side of the road.

Two more vehicles arrived to make up a small convoy to Mt. Cooke. Robin took us along a track to see some *Pt recurva* in bud, before beginning the climb up hill in search of *Pt aff vittata* (grey banded). Some *Pt vittata* and more *Pras parvifolium* were seen but grey banded eluded us. *T. crinita* leaves were widespread and some smooth edged leaf *Pt aff nana* rosettes. The terrain was slippery and in dense heath and by mutual consent the search was abandoned.

Don & Eva remembered seeing some *Cyrtostylis* at a site near Canning Dam which



sounded interesting, so we were off on another quest. Vehicles got another wash as we travelled to Canning Dam Rd. First stop at a sheoak patch produced *Pt recurva* (bud), *Pras parvifolium* & *Pt vittata*. After lunch at Canning Dam we backtracked to the *Cyrtostylis* site, to find their little leaves under many of the blackboy fronds, and some in leaf litter. Also there were little *Pt aff namas* in bud. They had crinkly edged rosette leaves – slender snail perhaps?

Despite the showers we had an enjoyable day. Maybe we will find the grey banded next year?

#### TALK BY ALEX GEORGE

Alex spoke of his first 40 years till 1981 when he went to Canberra. He illustrated his talk with slides of the areas, some of the members & visitors and a few special orchids.

His childhood home was near Canning Hwy at Alfred Cove where he and his younger brother enjoyed wandering through the bush round Melville, which in those days was nearly all bush. Alex learnt the common orchid names, whereas his brother learnt the botanical names. During school holidays the family travelled to distant parts such as Narrogin & even Wongan Hills looking for orchids. On one holiday trip as a 7 year old he got talking to a Bolgart farmer about orchids. The farmer suggested he should meet his wife who was interested in orchid. The wife was Rica Erickson the author of "Orchids of the West". Incidentally Rica was more interested in trigger plants.

Literature was very sparse in those early days. Books available were "Orchids of the West" by Rica Erickson and "West Australian Orchids" by Emily Pelloe. The Western Mail, a now defunct newspaper, published some colour plates.

As a youth Alex visited the Herbarium to identify some orchids. Charles Gardner who had done a lot of work on WA orchids in the 1930s was in charge. By this time he had lost interest in orchids. He passed Alex on to a new assistant who knew next to nothing about orchids. Little did Alex know that he would eventually work there himself.

In his mid-teens Alex lost interest in orchids. It was rekindled again when he met John Tonkinson.

In his first car, a Ford Prefect (or Defect as it was sometimes referred to), he wandered around. The favourite areas were Jandakot and a large swamp area near Bartram & Lyons Rd where they found 45 varieties including *Calochilus aff robertsonii*, the swamp variety. The latter area is now under the Kwinana Freeway. They found lots of *C patersonii* v *longicauda* (*C longicauda* ssp *calcigena*) with

4 flowers and one with 9 flowers, which is in the W.A. Herbarium.

On a trip to the Ravensthorpe Ranges they found *Genoplesium nigricans*. At that time the botanists in the East were arguing about its name, liking it to various Eastern State *Prasophyllums*. If they had looked at the type specimen they would have got the answer; it came from the Eyre Peninsular in South Australia.

He and John Tonkinson found *C graminifolia*, a new species, on a trip to East Mt Barren, near Hopetoun.

Alex went to UWA. He wanted to get a degree in botany but had to settle for an arts course with a second string in botany.

In 1956 Alex went to work at the W.A. Herbarium. Orchids were being found further afield. *T sargentii* was found at Victoria Springs in the Great Victorian Desert. In 1965 orchids were found just south of Sharks Bay. *Eriochilus* was found on Dirk Hartog Island. At Gingin Brook *Corybas dilatatus* (*C recurvus*) was found. This extended its range north.

A Geraldton farmer took a *Caladenia* flower, locally common, into the herbarium for identification. It was new to the herbarium and became *C crebra*.

In 1979 an ex Kimberley mine site bulldozer driver who stayed on as caretaker, discovered several orchid species, more than doubling the then known Kimberley species.

In 1967 Alex was posted to Kew for a year. Naturally he looked at the Australian orchid specimens amongst the 6,000,000 specimens housed there. He also looked at the John Lindley collection housed nearby.

Back in Perth it was discovered that the Muir Hwy was to be realigned with a new bridge that would decimate a good orchid area that contained *C lobata* amongst others. After a trip to the site with Main Roads personnel the alignment was altered to miss the orchids. This was the first remembered time that a conservation representation had been made to the Main Roads Department.

The holy grail was to find *Rhizanthella gardneri*. Descriptions were placed in newspapers and sent to schools with a request to contact Alex at the W.A. Herbarium. He had several calls and using a questionnaire most turned out to be various types of fungi. One call was from a Munglinup farmer. His answers pointed to *R gardneri*. As he was coming up to Perth that day he brought the specimen with him. It was positively identified. Rica Erickson happened to visit the Herbarium at the time and quickly did a pencil sketch. Dom Serventy, then a newspaper

reporter, rang Alex for background information for an article on the underground orchid. Alex invited him to see and photograph the real thing. Subsequently a field trip was organised to the area and several more plants were found. It took a long time to identify the pollinator. When the flower is cut off the plant exudes a strong formaldehyde scent. This might be its defence against predators. Incidentally the farmer was not interested in orchids. Alex's talk was punctuated with slides flying out of the projector – reminiscent of the old magic lantern shows.

#### **WANOSCG – MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 19<sup>th</sup> JULY 2000**

Meeting commenced 8.05 PM.

Meeting chaired by President Mike Harper, who advised the meeting that unfinancial members were not permitted to speak or vote on any motion.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

44 members as per attendance book. There were no apologies.

#### **VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS** - Nil.

#### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Moved D. Smith/D. Manners that the June meeting minutes be confirmed.

CARRIED.

#### **MATTERS ARISING**

Christmas meeting – There were no further suggestions for the Christmas meeting, which will be held at King's Park on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

As per correspondence list.

#### **Matters Arising**

From Steve Hopper enclosing for the Group library a reprint of a recent paper by himself and Andrew Brown that formally publishes *Praecoxanthus* and *Cyanicula* as genera. Their treatment of *Caladenia* is close to final submission for publication. Steve's letter also thanked members of the Group for their help in many ways on this long research project.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer's Report was circulated. No queries were raised.

#### **FIELD TRIPS**

Robin Moyle reported on the Mt. Cooke field trip on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, and drew attention to the meeting place at Regan's Ford for the Cataby trip next week. The proposed trip to Busselton on 20<sup>th</sup> August has been cancelled, instead there will be a trip to areas along Brookton Highway, meet as shown in the July BULLETIN (Warradale Road is the same as Warra Road as shown in *The West Australian Traveller's Atlas*).

Noel Clarke advised of telephone call from a Mrs Chapman of Mandurah concerning threat to location of *Drakea elastica* by construction of Mandurah by-pass road, and suggested a rescue dig. Andrew Brown confirmed this species is still DRF.

#### **PLANT TABLE**

Bill Burton tabled *D. brumalis*, *Cy. deformis*, *Pt. aff. nana* (page 353) and *Pt. aff. sanguinea* (p. 360).

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

President advised the meeting that CALM district offices will be advised of future field trips.

Eddy Wajon advised details of his year 2001 calendars, now available to members at cost of \$9 for the large size and \$3.50 for the small, of which the Group will receive \$2 and \$1 respectively.

Mark Brundrett drew attention to bumper stickers for Bush Plan at cost of \$2.00, proceeds of which go to the Urban Bushlands Council.

Eddy Wajon and Sarah Atkinson have had responses from Graham Kierath advising that it is not considered worth spending money on Urban Bushland. Members were urged to take a card and advise the Government of their concern.

Eddy Wajon showed a photo board that he has on loan from his employer.

The guest speaker was Alex George, who reminisced in a most entertaining way through his early years learning about orchids, the people he worked with and locations that are no longer the same with the spread of development.

The supper was donated by Joan Greeve.

The raffle was donated by Kate and Joe Ward and was won by Derek Mead-Hunter.

A photo board was provided by Beth and Ron Kinsey.

Meeting closed 9.35pm.

**WANOSCG HONOUR BOARD**

Bill Burton suggested the group initiate an Honour Board, but as we have no permanent place to display it I have included it in this Bulletin.

Over the years some members have reached the end of their allotted span, and in memory of them I have made a list, some from past Bulletins and some from my fading memory. Most of the deceased were active members.

**HONOUR BOARD**

ANNA BRUNNBAVER 1995  
GERHART BRUNNBAVER  
JOHN EMERY  
HERB FOOTE  
RON FOREMAN 1994  
LAURIE GIBBINGS  
HARRY GOODCHILD  
LISA JACKSON  
KEN JONES 1978  
PIERRE MILON 1991  
DICK MUMFORD  
CRAWFORD NALDER 1994  
EMMA SAVERACKER  
LAL SHEPPARD 1979  
GEORGE SPICE



	SUPPER ROSTER	RAFFLE ROSTER	SPEAKER
<b>MARCH</b>			
<b>APRIL</b>			
<b>MAY</b>			
<b>JUNE</b>			
<b>JULY</b>			
<b>AUGUST</b>		Don & Eva Smith	Ron Heberle
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Scilla Stack	Wendy Spencer	Noel Hoffman
<b>OCTOBER</b>		Sarah Atkinson	Don Manners
<b>NOVEMBER</b>		V & G Brockman	

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**FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS**  
 20 August – Brookton Hwy  
 3 September – Martin  
 17 September – Tutanning Reserve