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**BULLETIN**  
*OF THE*  
**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHID**  
**STUDY AND CONSERVATION GROUP**  
**(INC)**  
(1974 – 2004)

OCTOBER 2004

Registered by Australia Post Publication No WBH 1240

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CONSERVATION COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE (2)	Mike Harper	

### OBJECTIVES OF THE GROUP

- To promote interest in and preserve Western Australian indigenous orchids.
- To learn the best means of cultivation and do all things possible for the conservation of native orchids in their environment.
- To learn their habitats and keep records.
- To have field days and learn to recognise the different genera and species.
- To hold meetings for the exchange of knowledge and furthering of interest in Western Australian orchids.
- To affiliate with kindred organisations.
- To make rules for the governing of the Group's domestic affairs.
- 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,*

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### NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, 20 October 2004 at 7.00 p.m. at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Admin. Office.

### NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 20 October 2004 at 8.00pm at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Admin. Office.

**This is a night for member's slides and photographs.**

### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

<b>20 October</b>	<b>General meeting.</b>
24 October	Field trip Kalamunda
<b>17 November</b>	<b>General meeting.</b>
4/5 December	Field trip Albany and Xmas get together.

### BULLETIN CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions are needed for every edition of the Bulletin. Articles should be sent to Tom Blinco, [redacted] The article submission deadline for the next issue is **Monday 1st November 2004.**

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.

### \*\*\*\* EXTRA FIELD TRIP \*\*\*\*

#### KALAMUNDA AREA

#### SUNDAY 24 OCTOBER 2004

Meet at 10.00am in Watsonia Road near the corner of Gooseberry Hill Road, Maida Vale.

Note – this is for a half day only.

Please advise Noel Clarke, phone 9276 1235, if you are attending or if you change your mind.

#### FIELD TRIP ALBANY

#### SATURDAY/SUNDAY DECEMBER 4/5 2004

Meet at 9.30 am Saturday 4th December at Happy Days Caravan Park (suggested accommodation) in Millbrook Road, off Chester Pass Road - Ph 9844 3267, FAX 9844 3537.

Please advise Christine Lock, phone [redacted] if you are attending or if you change your mind.

### PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Don't forget your entry in the competition for the best photograph of *Caladenia flava ssp flava*.

**NOTE** – Digitally created photos will need to be submitted in postcard size print form.

Entries will be restricted to maximum of two per person and will be required to show on the

back the entrant's name, date the photo was taken, and location.

A display board will be provided with sheet protectors with pockets for placement of photos. Members will be provided with a coloured dot sticker to place on the photo of their choice. The photo showing the most dots on the protector sleeve will clearly be the most popular.

### SEPTEMBER MEETING SPEAKER

*Our speaker at the September meeting was Noel Clarke on the topic "Translocation of Orchids". Noel has kindly provided a copy of his notes, which follow -*

Translocation as the name suggests is digging up and replanting in a different location, ground or pot.

There are several factors to be considered between the thought and the action.

1. What is the motive for this action? The motive could be for personal reasons in which case that should be the end of the exercise. Another motive is to save the plant from destruction.
2. Would the action save or destroy the plant? It has been established that to grow and prosper orchids require an associated fungus that is contained in the top 10mm of the soil. No fungus, no orchid after a few years.
3. Are there any similar plants at the translocation site? If there are, then the fungus probably exists there. If no plants then the fungus might not exist there. Ascertaining the existence of fungus is beyond the capabilities of us lay people.
4. Will the plant survive the translocation shock? Like us when there is major disturbance to the body we need careful nursing. Similarly the plant requires tending. Can we give it that TLC?
5. When is the best time to do the translocation? Is it when the plant is growing or when it is dormant? If we wait till it is dormant it could be hard to find and the rains would be finished. If we rush in and translocate while its growing we stand a good chance of killing it through shock.
6. What is the best method to be used for digging the plant up? Orchids such as some *Pterostylis* and *Diuris* whose bulbs are just below the ground are easily dug up. *Caladenias* however have a string of bulbs that wander all over the place and are connected by a fine thread like root. On previous rescue missions conducted by our Group we carefully dug down to the first bulb and followed the thin, easily broken thread to

the next bulb till the last bulb was reached. The success rate was abysmal. Another method employed was to dig a fair way from the plant hoping to get most of the bulbs. This method was also not very successful. I have noted a site where CALM used a machine to build a barrier to stop off-road bikes using a track. On that mound grows a couple of *Caladenias*. This might be an option.

7. To where shall the plants be relocated? If the plants do not already exist in the location you will be guilty of introducing a foreign plant, not an ideal solution.
8. Is there die back in either the orchid or translocation site? If die back is at either site **do not** translocate.
9. Would seed germination be a better method? This is a slow method. Resultant plants can be placed near existing safe populations. The introduction of foreign plants is still an issue.

Now that these points have been considered and the decision is to go ahead, the first requirement is to obtain the necessary permit from CALM not only to remove it, but also to place it in the chosen location. An ordinary permit is not sufficient if a DRF plant is involved. A special permit that requires the agreement of the Minister is needed, and this takes some getting. If the plant is on private property the written permission of the owner is required. For DRF plants the special permit is also required.

***It does not matter if the DRF plants are to be decimated by the activity of the owner who must have had EPA & CALM approval; you still require the special approval that can only be given by the Minister on referral by CALM.***

Recently Nigel Swarts gave us a talk about the work he is doing on *C huegelii*. Would any work by us threaten his project?

Our Group has been involved in translocation of orchids in the past. Early in our life a plot in Karrakatta Cemetery, opposite the Bowling Club in Smythe Road, Nedlands, was set aside for our use.

The project was to transfer orchids into it. Members were to give time to keep the weeds under control. This project was a dismal failure. The weed control soon degenerated to one member. The chosen site became the burial ground for many orchids of which, the last time I looked, only *E brunonis* and *Pt vittata* survived.

Another project was a rescue dig at the current Metro Markets site. The only success I had was to keep a plant of *C pectinata* alive. I repotted it every year in sheoak needles, using some of the top layer in the repotted orchid. I finally lost this

plant at the Kings Park Show when I could not pick it up and it wasn't among the plants collected by Kings Park.

A recent translocation was in the Gracetown area. It was to save *C excelsa* when Caves Road was widened. I have since visited the site and have not seen any large display of this orchid. My conclusion is that it also was a failure.

My belief is that it is an exercise in futility to try translocating spider orchids to areas where they do not already grow and TLC cannot be provided.

## **FRASER ROAD, JANDAKOT- *C HUEGELII* WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING,**

**from Jeff and Wendy Spencer**

Since we first found these orchids in 1996, they have been under threat from a sand mining operation by ROCLA. The majority were on road verge and natural bush mine buffer strips near the road. We thought that they would be reasonably safe there – how mistaken we were.

During August this year, CSR, another miner on the opposite side of Fraser Road, decided it would like to mine the roadway verge including the buffers, and join up the two mines - with the probability of extinguishing up to half of the *C huegelii* population. Our Group and other conservationists made submissions to the City of Cockburn, CALM and the EPA to try and prevent the extended mining and get all the orchids properly reserved.

I think that CALM's previous count was about 60 but in response to the submissions they organised counting, and report finding around 200 plus 50 or so further northeast and some on CSR land to the west.

CSR, the proponent of the extended sand mine, has appointed its own environmental consultant to report on the presence of Declared Rare Flora. CALM have been liaising with this consultant.

In response to the writer referring the matter to EPA, its reply was that there was insufficient information and it had to refer the matter to CALM. CALM can be expected to provide EPA with their evidence.

Some members of the club assisted the club with tagging. They photographed, tagged and pinpointed the location of every *C huegelii* found.

We locals of the area are grateful for assistance from other group members including Margaret and Ross Fox in finding and tagging plants, and the professional conservation representations put together by Eddy Wajon.

Will these efforts increase our chance of swaying the decision makers to allow

conservation of the orchids in situ, rather than translocation? Against the big money only time will tell.

For members' information, following is the reply dated 21 September 2004 from the Director, EPA, to which reference was made above - "The information provided in your referral documentation is insufficient to determine the significance of the effect on the environment. Therefore, in order for the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to set an appropriate level of assessment, further information has been requested from the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the proponent. The information that the EPA requires includes issues with land clearing and the presence of declared rare flora.

Please note that, under the *Environmental Protection Act Environmental Impact Assessment Administrative Procedures 2002*, the legislated 28 day time frame for setting level of assessment on this referral will not commence until sufficient information has been received. You will be notified once the level of assessment has been determined.

Due to the presence of the "Grand Spider Orchid" (*Caladenia huegelii*) in the area the proponent may also need to refer the matter to the Commonwealth under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*."

#### HUMAN SCENT ON ORCHIDS

Noticed recently on the website of the Albany Branch of the Wildflower Society of WA, an item reproduced from the February 2004 issue of The Wildflower Society of Western Australia Newsletter, previously in the ASGAP Indigenous Orchid Study Group Newsletter September 2003.

It was stated that according to David Jones at the National Herbarium in Canberra and other orchidologists, research has shown that terrestrial orchids that have been handled by humans are more likely to be eaten by native animals.

The writer of the article had circumstantial evidence to back up the claim.

The point made was that this being so, perhaps steadying or examining orchids with a twig or other item to avoid leaving our scent at the scene could prevent loss of the flower, and consequent loss of seed dispersal.

Perhaps we all should take notice. (Ed)

#### GET WELL

I have heard of three members having undergone surgery recently. We wish them and any other members in ill health a speedy recovery.

#### FIELD TRIP REPORT NORTHAMPTON - KALBARRI 14-15-16 AUGUST 2004

from Mary and Stuart Harris

Eleven members met at Northampton on a fine but very cold Sunday, and headed for the Swamp road site where we found -

*Caladenia* - *elegans*, *longicauda* subsp *borealis*, *hoffmanii* subsp *hoffmanii*, *flava* subsp *maculata*: *Thelymitra* - *villosa* (in bud), *antennifera* and *macrophylla*; *Diuris recurva*; *Pras. gracile*.

Next area was Yerina Swamp Road, where we made three stops and saw *Caladenia* - *longicauda* ssp *borealis*, *footeana*, *flava* ssp *maculata*, *vulgata* and *reptans* ssp *impensa* and a *flava* x *impensa*;

*Diuris* - aff *magnifica* and aff *laxiflora*;

*Pterostylis* - *sanguinea*, aff *vittata* and aff *nana* (broad petalled snail).

*Thelymitra* - *macrophylla* and *antennifera*;

*Cyanicula gemmata*;

*Cyrtostylis huegelii*.

Last stop before Kalbarri was on George Grey Drive on the Park boundary. Here we found *Caladenia flava* ssp *maculata* and "White Spiders". Lengthy discussion left us with almost certainly *C. longicauda* ssp *borealis* and possibly ssp *calcigena*. *Cyrtostylis huegelii* was here also.

We had an excellent meal together at Finlay's and called it a day early.

Day 2 saw us at the Gorges. On the access Z Bend road we found a hybrid, almost certainly between *C. vulgata* and *C. wanosa*. *C. Reptans* was seen, also *Thelymitra campanulata* and *Pterostylis* aff *sanguinea*.

At the Z Bend we saw *Caladenia flava* ssp *maculata*, *C. impensa* and hybrids between the two giving a wide colour range. *C. wanosa* did not appear to be in as big a number as we had seen on other visits. However this was offset by the amazing array of *Paracaleana terminalis* and *Drakaea concolor*, which were both there in huge numbers, including many double headers. *Pt aff nana* (hairy stemmed snail) and a *Leporella fimbriata* still recognizable finished the list here.

At Galena Bridge we saw more *Caladenias* - *hirta*, *longicauda* ssp *borealis* and a *vulgata* type, floral perfume, no acrid smell. Lots of sniffing, lots of discussion, and no really clear decision! Also saw *Pterostylis aff nana* (broad petalled snail).

Just north of the bridge we saw *Cyanicular deformis* and *C. vulgata* type as at the bridge.

We finished the day with a drive onto the Warribano Chimney. This site is very degraded, with a lot of weeds, but we saw *C. vulgata*.

We stopped on the access road opposite the Chimney turnoff and the bush here was much better. We found *C roei*, *vulgata* and *hirta*, and *Pras gracile*.

The group split up on the third day, some returning to Perth. We did look along the coastal cliffs but didn't find anything. Late in the day *C bryceana* ssp *cracens* was found in the National Park - a great end to a pleasant weekend.

Thanks to those who made the trip, we hope you found it worthwhile.

## TOODYAY REGION REPORT

from Eva and Don Smith

Wongamine CALM Reserve, situated east of Toodyay, was our destination on 5 September 2004. It is Wandoo Woodland, with Salmon Gum and Brown Mallet scattered throughout ironstone ridges. With us were people representing various groups including CALM.

We were amazed at the number of *Caladenia saccharata*, especially one place where there were about 100 plants. Nearby that spot was another with about 50 *Pterostylis recurva*, all in that one small area.

There were numerous individual orchids scattered throughout including *C flava/flava*, *Cyanicula sericea*, *Pt. sanguinea* and *dilatata*. We saw *E brunonis* in bud, fertilized *Pterostylis vittata*, and at least one *Diuris* species, which I welcome someone to identify for me.

**Julimar forest near Bindoon-Dewars Pool Road.** On a quick visit there we sighted *Diuris* (guess again for species) and *Pterostylis* as above, *E brunonis* in bud and *C flava/flava*, *splendens*, *discoidea* and *pectinata*? – or maybe *pectinata* crossed with *macrostylis*?

**Dudley Chitty Reserve on Bindoon-Dewars Pool Road:** Some *Thelymitra macrophylla* are again in bud, but we cannot promise the spectacular quantity of over 1,000 plants as seen last year (ref Noel Clarke who lost count after that!).

## FIELD TRIP REPORT WOOROLOO

19 SEPTEMBER 2004 from Ross Fox

Since the burn in this area early this year we have been keeping an eye on the progress of the orchids, especially *Cyanicula ixioides* ssp *ixioides* (Yellow China Orchid). We spotted about 40 plants in late August but by the time of the field trip we decided there were around 60.

Also found from the *Cyanicula* family were *sericea* and *gemma*. Other sightings were *C longicauda/longicauda*, *longiclavata*, *denticulata*, *flava/flava*; *Pyrochis nigricans*;

*Pterostylis sanguinea* and *recurva*; *Diuris aff magnifica* pg 433, *aff corymbosa* pg 388; *Prasophyllum regium*, *hians*, *macrotyls*, and *elatum*;

We then proceeded to El Caballo Nature Reserve on Wariin Road and Great Eastern Highway. After a fruitless search we had lunch and decided to go to a burnt area in Greenmount NP near the lookout and found *C flava/flava*, *longicauda/longicauda*, *hirta/hirta*, and *hirta x longicauda*; *Thelymitra crinita* and *macrophylla* buds; *Diuris aff magnifica* pg 433; *Prasophyllum macrotyls* and others in bud.

## FIELD TRIP REPORT JOHN FORREST NATIONAL PARK 20 SEPTEMBER 2004

from Margaret and Ross Fox

On the scenic drive starting from near Bilgoman Pool on Great Eastern Highway we saw *Pterostylis barbata*, *recurva* and *sanguinea*; *Diuris* sp (seeded); *C macrostylis* and *flava/flava*; *Cyanicula sericea*.

At the picnic area, on the walkway to the Falls and at a burn north of the Falls we saw *Pterostylis barbata*, *recurva*; *C longicauda/longicauda*, *flava/flava*, and *reptans/reptans* (seeded); *Cyanicula gemmata* and *sericea*; *T macrophylla*, *aff macrophylla* and *crinita* in bud, *flexuosa* and *antennifera*; *Prasophyllum* sp in bud and possibly *hians* not quite open; *Spiculaea ciliata*, *E. brunonis*, *Microtis* sp all in bud.

## FIELD TRIP REPORT PERTH AREA 21 SEPTEMBER 2004

from Margaret and Ross Fox.

At Fraser Road Jandakot we met with Wendy Spencer to help discover how many *Caladenia huegelii* were outside the fenced area. We estimated there were over 40.

Also found were *Caladenia arenicola*, *discoidea*, *flava/flava*; *Prasophyllum ovale* and *hians*; *Thelymitra crinita* and *campanulata* buds; *Diuris magnifica* and *corymbosa*; *Pterostylis nana* and *sanguinea* (seeded).

At Armadale swamp in Forrest Road we saw *C latifolia*, *flava/flava*, *paludosa*; *Thelymitra flexuosa* (buds); *Diuris aff laxiflora*, and *Microtis* sp in bud.

At a burn in Canning Mills Road Roleystone there were *T crinita* and possibly *stellata* leaves and buds; *C flava/flava*, *macrostylis* and other buds; small and larger *Prasophyllums* in green and dark brown flowers and buds; *E brunonis*; *Microtis* sp in bud; *Cyanicula gemmata*.

## FIELD TRIP REPORT DALE AREA

from Aileen and Ken McKay

On the sunny Monday holiday 4 October 2004 we took a drive to Edison Mill Road (formerly Dale West Road) off Brookton Highway. This is a left turn 52km from the Brookton and Albany Highway turnoff.

Just under 1km along Edison Mill Road we took a left turn into a rocky outcrop area, which gently slopes down to wetter flats, and here we found *Diuris laxiflora* and *Thelymitra antennifera*, also *Prasophyllum (cyphochilum?)* – not sure).

Of the main orchid we had come to find we found only two *Thelymitra villosa* in full bloom and about another dozen in bud; smaller plants than usual but in good shape.

The only other orchid type found was a few *Caladenia flava* almost finished.

The area was much drier than in previous years; hence fewer and smaller orchids and fewer variety.

Going back to Edison Mill Road we continued further and turned into a track to a swampy area. This area was also drier than in previous years but we found a dozen or so possibly *Caladenia uliginosa ssp candicans* – they were very small plants, delicate and very pretty pale lime green and white.

We also found a few stunted *Caladenia falcata*, some *Caladenia flava* and *Cyanicula gemmata*. A little more prevalent were *Diuris laxiflora*, *Leptoceras menziesii* and several types of *Prasophyllum*. One small, greenish white and heavily scented *Prasophyllum*, possibly *ovale?* Also there was possible *Pras cyphochilum*, and again many *Thelymitra antennifera*.

We expected to find more varieties and bigger and better orchids but the beautiful day and the colour of the other wildflowers made the drive very worthwhile.

## MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 15 SEPTEMBER 2004

Meeting was declared open at 8.15 pm  
There were 33 members present, with five apologies. A warm welcome was extended to 3 visitors - Bostonians Ron and Janet Chabot (parents of Donna Wajon) and Andrew Batty.

**Supper and Raffle:** Supper tonight was donated by Wendy Spencer and the raffle was donated by Ian Greeve.

**Minutes:** Moved: Noel Clarke, Seconded: Stuart Harris that the Minutes of the General Meeting of 18 August 2004 as distributed at the meeting be confirmed. CARRIED.

## Business Arising from the Minutes:

- a) A submission had been made objecting to the sand mining of Fraser Road, Jandakot, but so far without response.
- b) Roe Highway stage 7: the appeals still to be determined, so there was no approval to the work proceeding, with the consequence that the salvage effort scheduled for 26 Sept was abandoned.

**Correspondence:** As per the list circulated with the attendance book, and dealt with by committee.

**Treasurer's Report:** A copy of the Treasurer's Report was circulated with the attendance book.

## Field Trip Report:

- a) Wireless Hill Open Trip of 22 August was a success with some 61 attending. It is likely to be repeated in years to come.
- b) The York trip attracted about 20 members and visitors in 13 cars and about 20 species were found.
- c) There will be a trip to Wooroloo on 19 September; a trip to Mt Barker on the October long weekend (2/3/4 Oct), and a trip to Hyden on 9/10 October. There will be a major group trip to Albany area on first weekend in December (3/4 Dec), which will be the Group's Christmas event.

## Plant Table:

Bill Burton tabled 4 different unmarked specimens of *Pterostylis aff. nana* and a pot of *Diuris micrantha*

## General Business:

- a) **The Photo Competition.** There was a reminder of the competition due at the November meeting, and discussion of the procedures to apply. The photographs were to be of *Caladenia flava subsp flava*, with the photographer's name, date of photo and approximate location shown on the back of the photo. There was to be a limit of two photos per person, and voting would be by members assessing the photos which would be mounted on display panels.

## Guest Speaker:

Noel Clarke spoke on the translocation of orchids, and a report on his presentation will be provided in the Bulletin.

President Mike Harper thanked Noel for his well prepared presentation and invited him to draw the raffle. It was won by Donna Wajon.

**Next Meeting Date:** The next General Meeting will be held 20 October, 2004.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

	<b>SUPPER ROSTER</b>	<b>RAFFLE ROSTER</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>
<b>MARCH</b>	Donna & Virginia	Gary Brockman	Members slides
<b>APRIL</b>	N/R	Stuart Harris	Noel Clarke
<b>MAY</b>	Margaret Fox	Eva & Don Smith	Joe Ward
<b>JUNE</b>	Matz Dahlkamp	Glenys Blinco	Regina Drummond
<b>JULY</b>	Mike and Del	Phil Bunney	Nigel Swarts
<b>AUGUST</b>	Noel Clarke	Scilla & Gerald Stack	Pat Dundas
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Wendy Spencer	Ian Greeve	Noel Clarke
<b>OCTOBER</b>	Sarah Atkinson	Joni Eaton	Members' slides
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Joni Eaton	Jim and Ruth Downes	

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#### **FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS**

Sunday 24 October – Kalamunda area

Saturday/Sunday 4/5/December - Albany