

BULLETIN MARCH 2007

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3 Ian Greeve

4 Tom Blinco

Editor:

Noel Clarke



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Registrar:

Ross Fox

Librarian:

Bill Burton

Field Trip Coordinator:

Ross Fox

Conservation Officer:

Eddy Wajon

Supper Coordinator:

Donna Wajon

Auditor:

Ross Wilton

Conservation Council

Rep:

Eddy Wajon

Mike Harper

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 habits 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 W.A. orchids.
- f) To affiliate with kindred organizations.
- g) To make rules for the governing of the Group's domestic affairs.
- h) To do all such lawful things as are incidental to or conducive to the attainment of the above objectives.

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

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WEB MASTER: Don Ward email:

REGISTRAR: Ross Fox

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 21st March 2007 at 7.00pm at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Admin Office.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meeting will be on Wednesday 21st March 2007 at 8.00pm at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park. The speaker is Mark Brundrett, his topic is The Current Status of Orchid Conservation and Science/Threatened Wheatbelt Orchids and the Lotterywest funded project.

BULLETIN ARTICLES

Please send Bulletin contributions by email to by post to

The deadline for the April issue is 1st April 2007. Later items will be carried over.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

21 March - Annual & General meeting
18 April - General meeting
16 May - General meeting
20 June - General meeting
18 July - General meeting
15 August - General meeting
19 September - General meeting
17 October - General meeting
21 November - General meeting

CONSERVATION WEEK

Conservation week is from 17 to 25 March 2007. 2007 is the 40th anniversary for the Conservation Council who is looking for persons or groups to participate in or initiate activities during this week. To find out more visit www.conservation.asn.au or contact Jessie Cochrane on [REDACTED]

WESTERN AUSTRALIA ERIOCHILUS REVISION

The revision of genus *Eriochilus* in W A has been published in Nuytsia Vol 16 pages 29 - 61. All species & subspecies in Hoffman & Brown are described, an *E dilatatus* ssp *brevifolius* named by Bentham in 1873 has been reinstated & described and a new subspecies *E dilatatus* ssp *orientalis* from the Toolina cave area has been described.

THELYMITRA FUSCOLUTEA COMPLEX

Hot off the press is an article entitled "Resolution of the *Thelymitra fuscolutea* R. Br (Orchidaceae) complex of southern Australia" by Jeff Jeanes in Mulleria Volume 24.

The paper resolves the *T fuscolutea* & *T stellata* anomalies as well as *T dedmaniarum*. It also describes *T jacksonii*, *magnifica* & *yorkensis*. *T jacksonii* is illustrated on page 245 of H&B (1998).

T magnifica is illustrated on page 454 of H&B (1998) as *T aff stellata*.

T dedmaniarum is illustrated on page 243 of H&B (1998) as *T aff dedmaniarum*.

Thelymitra yorkensis (new name) is illustrated on page 451 of H&B (1998) as *T dedmaniarum*.

FIELD TRIP 15th OCTOBER REPORT by Anna de Haan

Continues on from Ross Fox's report in the November 2006 Bulletin.

From Boyup Brook south to Tonebridge.

A group of five members headed south along the Boyup Brook Kojonup Road. In a swamp south of Six Mile Road we found *T flexuosa*, *antennifera*, *macrophylla* and *Microtis orbicularis*.

Further south between Parsons Swamp Road and Jayes Road in a burn we found *T crinita*, *graminea* and *macrophylla*. Here we met a very enthusiastic photographer and nearby farmer. Needless to say we gleaned as much information as possible including a nearby site from Bob Liddel's orchid book "Guide to Native Orchids from the South West". We proceeded to a site on Westbourne Road to find *C caesarea* ssp *caesarea* and *lobata*. Due south to Tonebridge, but this time further into the swamp beside the Tone River (on the previous club trip we stayed too close to the river and missed this excellent site) *C uliginosa* ssp *uliginosa*, *longicauda* ssp *eminens*, *caesarea* ssp *caesarea*, *rhomboidiformis*; *Elythranthera brunonis*; *Diuris aff laxiflora*; *T antennifera*, *flexuosa*; *Prasophyllum cyphochilum*, *regium* and *Microtis orbicularis*. A *Pterostylis aff nana* with long fine sepals and basal rosette was also seen but could not be further identified. Hybrids were a challenge to identify; however, our final conclusions were *C longicauda* ssp *eminens* X *C caesarea* and *C longicauda* ssp *eminens* X *C uliginosa* ssp *uliginosa*. A pure yellow *Diuris longifolia* was also found.

From here the two cars went their separate way home after a very interesting and successful weekend.

WANOSCG

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

15 MARCH 2006

Meeting opened: 8.15 pm

ATTENDANCE: 20 members and 10 apologies as per the Attendance Book

MINUTES The Minutes of the 2005 AGM were printed in the Bulletin distributed to all members. Moved Noel Clarke and seconded Donna Wajon, that the minutes of the 2005 AGM from the 16th March 2005 be accepted as a true record of that meeting. CARRIED

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President presented his verbal report for 2005, highlighting increased membership, and the move for the Group to register for GST as preparation for a Lotterywest grant application. He thanked all members of the committee, with special reference to Eddy Wajon for his successful work as Conservation Officer.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer presented the accounts for 2005 and the Auditor's report, which had been circulated to members attending.

Moved Noel Clarke and seconded Christine Lock that the meeting endorse the Auditor's report as presented to the meeting. CARRIED.

ELECTIONS

The President declared all positions vacant except for the continuing positions of Patron, Christine Lock, Ian Greeve and John Ewing. Tom Blinco

agreed to be the Returning Officer and took the place of the President, who stood aside for the elections.

Position	Nominee	Moved	Seconder	Action
Patron	Steve Hopper			(continuing)
President	Mike Harper	Matz Dahlkamp	Gerald Stack	CARRIED
Vice President - 1 year	Christine Lock			(continuing)
Vice President - 2 year	Noel Clarke	Matz Dahlkamp	Christine Lock	CARRIED
Secretary	Gerald Stack	John Ewing	Mike Harper	CARRIED
Treasurer	Matz Dahlkamp	Donna Wajon	Sarah Atkinson	CARRIED
Committee (2 yr)	Tom Blinco	Matz Dahlkamp	Noel Clarke	CARRIED
Committee (2 yr)	Margaret Fox	Gerald Stack	Matz Dahlkamp	CARRIED
Committee (1 yr)	Ian Greeve			(continuing)
Committee (1 yr)	John Ewing			(continuing)
Editor	John Ewing	Tom Blinco	Mike Harper	CARRIED
Field Trip Coord	Ross Fox	Tom Blinco	Christine Lock	CARRIED
Conservation Officer	Eddy Wajon	Eva Smith	Donna Wajon	CARRIED
Registrar	John Ewing	Eddy Wajon	Bill Burton	CARRIED
Librarian	Bill Burton	Noel Clarke	Ian Greeve	CARRIED
Supper Coord	Donna Wajon	Glenys Blinco	Matz Dahlkamp	CARRIED
Auditor	Ross Winton	Matz Dahlkamp	Wayne Merritt	CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. There was a belated award of Most Improved Photographer presented by the President to Bill Burton.
 2. Suggestions from the floor were for the Group to advertise for memberships on community media as Access 31 and 100.1FM.
- The meeting closed at 8.35 pm

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 15 NOVEMBER 2006

Meeting opened at 8.20 pm.
In the absence of Gerald Stack, Tom Blinco acted as Secretary.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance was 17 members, plus one visitor per the Attendance Book.
Thea and Kim Hanson were welcomed as new members.
There were seven apologies.

MINUTES of PREVIOUS MEETING.

Moved Ross Fox and seconded Donna Wajon, that the Minutes of meeting of 18 October 2006 as published in the Bulletin were a true record of the meeting. CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES Nil

CORRESPONDENCE and TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Correspondence was tabled and the Treasurer's Report was circulated with the Attendance Book. No queries were raised.

FIELD TRIP REPORT:

1. Ross Fox advised that the field trip scheduled for next Sunday to the Dale area has been cancelled due to very few orchids found to be still flowering on the previous weekend.
2. Ross also reported on a recent visit with CALM officers to the Mangini property in the Gidgegannup area to survey *Thelymitra dedmaniarum*, during which only a few plants were seen in flower. Mr Mangini thought that the season was two weeks earlier this year.
3. Members were requested to advise if attending the Albany field trip.

PLANT TABLE

Bill Burton tabled a pot containing one flowering *Prasophyllum brownii*, and two other leaves, successfully saved from private property near Quindalup.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Lotterywest Project. The President advised that there was a successful ceremony to mark the cheque presentation to him and the launch of the project by Hon Louise Pratt MLC at King's Park on 24 October. Attended by representatives of the stakeholder groups, there were short speeches by Louise Pratt and Clyde Bevan, Chairman of Lotterywest, followed by refreshments. Several members had attended. There were two references to the event in the community papers in the area and the Secretary had been requested to obtain copies. The symbolic cheque will be framed. Applications were invited from researchers to take up the key position on the project, and the selection process should be completed in November. The initial steering group meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Wednesday 29 November to establish the initial programme for the project, appoint the research officer and determine the processes for managing funding.
2. Eric Swarts referred to the report in the previous Bulletin about flagging of orchids in the Frankland area. This practice is in connection with an International Millennium Seed Bank Project, with a big priority for orchids, on which he had been providing some recent assistance in other areas. King's Park had been funded for 3 years and the project is in the second year – it may need to be extended due to some tags having been removed and so disrupting the seed collection.
3. Eddy Wajon reported on country road verge clearing. There had been items in the Toodyay Herald and the West Australian Newspaper. He had researched Declared and Rare Flora in the area and the Department of Environment and Conservation

had been requested to not approve clearing applications until a flora survey had been undertaken. As a result of discussion with Hon Louise Pratt MLC at the Lotterywest presentation project as previously reported, a petition to each House of Parliament had been started and members were invited to participate.

4. Etienne Delannoy said that he wanted to thank those in the Group who had assisted him in his first year as a member, and in recognition of this he donated a book titled "Orchids of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East" to the Group library. Thanks, Etienne.

5. Attention was drawn to a news item supplied by Noel Clarke from The West Australian of 9 November 2006, reporting on a function at King's Park to recognise "The 100 who made a difference" – an official list compiled by eminent historians and journalist Paul Murray of those chosen to have made a contribution to WA's evolution. Included was Rica Erickson, who is well known for her work with flora (including orchids) and fauna, and is a leading historian, botanical artist and genealogist.

6. A short PowerPoint presentation prepared by Noel Clarke and titled "A tale of two orchids" was shown to compare the *Thelymitra* species from the Gidgegannup area now known as *T. dedmaniarum* (previously *T. stellata* – pre 1985, *T. dedmaniarum* – 1985, *T. manginiorum* (ms) – 1998, *T. dedmaniarum* – 2006) with *T. yorkensis* (ms) (previously *T. dedmaniarum* - 1995) from the Dale (Gunapin) area. The presentation carried a reminder that in H & B (2nd edition with Supplement) the pages to be amended are page 243 (now *T. dedmaniarum*) and page 451 - now *T. yorkensis* J Jeanes ms. (Don't forget the Supplement Index on page 415 and main index at the back of the book – TB).

Thanks Noel (who was unable to attend due to a severe viral infection).

7. Bill Burton drew attention to a *T. villosa* x *T. crinita* hybrid found by Sarah Atkinson during a recent trip to the Quindalup area, and Sarah showed the photographic evidence.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION:

Members' photographs of *Diuris longifolia* were displayed and each member was assigned two dots to vote for their favourite photograph. The most popular was by Jean Cunningham, and her prize will be presented at the Albany field trip.

RAFFLE DRAW: The raffle was donated by Christine Lock and was won by Ross Fox. Thanks Christine.

NEXT MEETING: The next general meeting will be held on 21 March 2007, following the Annual General Meeting.

SECRETARY'S NOTE: Noel Clarke had prepared two awards for this year and they will be presented at the Albany field trip. They will go to Ross Fox, "For exceptional courage in volunteering for the position of

Registrar while being computer illiterate", and to Anna DeHaan "For furthering the awareness of native orchids in the Albany and adjacent areas and leading our Group for several tramps in the woods". Meeting closed 9.30 pm.

THANKYOU from NOEL CLARKE

I take this opportunity with my last Bulletin to thank all members, past & present, of WANOS and other native orchid societies both in W A and other States who have helped me to learn & understand our bush orchids over the 28 years I have been a member. The numbers are too numerous to list. Though the spirit is willing unfortunately the body is succumbing to years of good living. The senior moments are getting more frequent and its thanks to Tom Blinco's eagle eye more have not shown up in the newsletters. I hope to be around for a few more years & if I can help any members feel free to contact me.

TOODYAY ROAD VERGE CLEARING

Two of our members, Don and Eva Smith, requested WANOSCG assist in trying to protect orchids in the road verges in the Shire of Toodyay from the road verge clearing program proposed by the Shire of Toodyay, a total of 71 ha. In fact, they had already started doing so, under the (possibly mistaken) belief that a permit to clear was not required and that the clearing was exempt. This was at the same time as they submitted an Application to Clear. The implied purpose of the clearing was to improve the safety of the narrow country roads in the Shire by preventing death or injury through trees hitting cars.

The clearing was undertaken in a very environmentally-insensitive manner. The results of the clearing were horrific with trees cut halfway up the trunk and churned up earth. Orchids, including Declared Rare Orchids and large populations of *Thelymitra*, were known to exist along some of the sections of the roads in question.

The following actions were taken by WANOSCG (with substantial assistance from the Toodyay Roadside Group):

- a submission was made to the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) opposing the Application to Clear
- letters were written to the Toodyay Herald, the West Australian, the Premier, the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Local Government complaining about the clearing that had occurred to date and requesting more environmentally friendly strategies to address road safety
- letters were written to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and the DEC stating that it appeared that clearing had already started, under the (possibly mistaken) belief that a permit to clear was not required, and indicating that it was likely that several species of Declared Rare Flora and priority flora were present in the road verge. It was requested that action be taken to survey the road and ensure any clearing

was undertaken in an environmentally approved manner

- a petition and submission was circulated and tabled in the Legislative Council by Louise Pratt, the MLC who officially launched our Threatened Wheatbelt Orchids project, requesting a review of road verge clearing policies and practices in the Shire of Toodyay and throughout WA
- questions were asked at the Shire of Toodyay Council meeting on 15 February 2007 regarding proposed policies and practices and the outcome of a visit by DEC officers.

The outcome of these activities and approaches has been as follows:

- the letter was published in full in the Toodyay Herald
- an article was published in the West Australian mentioning WANOSCG and canvassing opposing points of view
- the DEC sent an officer to speak with CEO of the Shire of Toodyay and told him to cease clearing other than in the 5 m wide previously cleared verge and to not clear previously uncleared areas unless a Clearing Permit was approved
- the EPA indicated they had decided not to assess the proposal to clear, which would be managed under the Clearing permit system, but that public advice would be given. The EPA also advised the Shire of Toodyay that no more clearing could be undertaken until the results of the clearing permit application, including any decision on an appeal, was determined
- the Minister for the Environment, Tony McRae, indicated concern at the current approach to clearing being undertaken in a number of shires, not just Toodyay. He also indicated that the DEC were investigating the situation in the Shire of Toodyay to determine whether illegal clearing had occurred, and to make recommendations on appropriate management practices if current practices of local government are found to be deficient. DEC are also preparing a guide to clarify the policies and processes relating to exemptions.

As a consequence, it appears that large scale, over-zealous clearing by the Shire of Toodyay has ceased. No decision has yet been advertised on the Clearing Permit, but we have been advised by the DEC that a Clearing Permit is likely to be given, but with significant conditions such as undertaking flora surveys (at the right time of year ie at least Spring) before undertaking any further clearing, to not remove trees that contain nesting fauna, and to restore un-authorised cleared areas and that offsets and revegetation may be required.

All in all, it appears that our efforts have paid off, not only in the Shire of Toodyay, but also more widely. Nevertheless, all members are asked to keep their eyes out for clearing that appears to be excessive and/or threatens populations of orchids.

Eddy Wajon, Conservation Officer,
WANOSCG

	RAFFLE ROSTER 2007	SPEAKER 2007
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JUNE		
JULY		
AUGUST		
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FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS

None have been organised at this time. There is going to be a number of field trips arranged by Andrew Brown and Mark Brundrett to survey the wheatbelt orchids. Pray for rain this year even though we have been told El Nino is over. More when we are advised about the details of the trips.