

BULLETIN AUGUST 2009

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

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NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 19TH August 2009 at 7.00pm at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Admin. Office.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 19th August 2009 at 8.00pm at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Admin. Office.

BULLETIN ARTICLES

Please email any Bulletin contributions to John Ewing at [redacted] or call on [redacted]. Articles for the next Bulletin need to be submitted by 1st of the next month.

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PLANNED FIELD TRIPS

August 21 (Friday) - 23 Field trip and survey to Mt Gibson (south of Paynes Find) Must be fit, lots of walking, max 20 people, Accommodation in single dongas (5 available, but 4 taken as at Aug 25 – contact Ross) and a shearing shed & un-powered camping. Camp kitchen available. Trip will be cancelled if rain a few days before. Meeting place is at Campsite at Mt Gibson station in early afternoon.

Sept 6th, Weam Nature Reserve – to see *Caladenia williamsii*. Meet at 9.15 at Robinson Rd. near railway station in Brookton. Strict viewing procedures apply to viewing.

Sept 13 &/or 20 trips to the burns at Yanchep National Park or Greenmount are cancelled as there is very little to see, but replaced by.....

Sept 20th along the York Rd - meet at 10am on the corner of Inkpen and York Rds.

Sept 26 - 28 long W/E. Meet at Jerramungup Caravan Park (ph 98351174) @ 11 am Sat. 26th. Cabins available.

Oct 4th Jarrahdale - *Thelymitra frenchii* – date may be changed depending on flowering. Meet at the corner on Jarrahdale Rd and Albany Hwy, at 10am

Oct 10 - 11 Frankland - meet at caravan park at 11 am Sat 10th. The only accommodation available in the area is at the following-

Alkoomi Wines Wingebellup Rd
(ph 98552229)

Ferngrove Winery Ferngrove Rd
(ph 98552365)

Osbourn Lodge B & B Yarnup Rd
(ph 98566287)

Oct 18th - Brookton Hwy. Meet at Edison Mills Rd corner Brookton Hwy at 10 am.

WANOSCG MINUTES WEDNESDAY 15th July 2009

Meeting at: BGPA Boardroom.
Wednesday July 15th 2009. Commencing 8:15 pm

ATTENDANCE: 25 members present, 8 apologies, as per Attendance book.

VISITORS: 0

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

19 August General Meeting
16 September General Meeting
21 October General Meeting
18 November General Meeting

MEETING CHAIR: VP EDDY WAJON

(apologies from President Christine Lock)

RAFFLE: Kindly donated by Glenys Blinko

MINUTES TO THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The following corrections on the 17th June 2009 General Meeting minutes as published in the Bulletin were noted:

- General Business Item 1 should be in the Matters Arising section.
- Eddy Wajon drew the raffle prize, not Noel Clarke.

Noel Clarke Moved and Seconded by Tom Blinco that the minutes as distributed are a true and correct record of the meeting of 17th June 2009.

FIELD TRIPS: John Ewing outlined the trips as printed in the Bulletin:

- Yillimining Rock on July 26th at 10 AM: the meeting place will be a lay-by on the Williams –Narrogin Road approx 16km from Williams. Contact person for booking – Ross Fox or John Ewing
- Mount Gibson: Meeting on Friday PM August 21st on site at the homestead. Saturday all day and Sunday morning will be searching for orchids, with Sunday night accommodation available if required. The trip will only be stopped if there is too much rain leading up to the week-end, because of restrictions on the use of the dirt roads in the wet. There are 7 spaces left (1 'donga' left)- bookings through Wayne Merritt.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Copies of the new Sighting Report and Field Trip Protocol were available on the display table. The Trip Guidelines will be published in the next Bulletin
2. Photo Competition: Ramón Newmann reported that Camera Electronic have offered to sponsor the competition with a voucher. Camera Electronic is holding a Pentax Camera workshop on July 26th – information available for anyone interested.

3. Matz Dahlkamp proposed to nominate Eddy Wajon for the DEC 2009 WA Environment Award. The meeting unanimously voted in support of the proposal.
4. Eddy Wajon reported on the key Conservation activities during the previous month:
 - a) Shire of Woodanilling regarding road works along Robertson Rd – following Eddy's queries, DEC are now investigating the road side clearing as a potential un-approved clearing. On Monday July 20th Eddy will be attending a site meeting with the CEO of the shire – other Group members would also be welcome.
 - b) Toodyay- Offset proposal – a letter from the Toodyay Naturalist Club was read out – congratulating WANOSCG for the exhaustive, comprehensive and highly detailed submission it made regarding the offset proposal – done by Eddy.
 - c) Jandakot Airport – no significant developments to report
5. John Ewing reported on some developments at Candy's Reserve, Moora:
 - a) A 40 m wire fence has been erected at the front of the reserve, however because it is so short it is totally ineffective (see photo below).



John recommended that the shire be contacted to increase the fencing.

- b) Members are asked to help with any cleaning up of the reserve that they can manage if visiting the area.

PRESENTATION Etienne Delannoy spoke on some of the genetic work he has been doing as part of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Plant Energy Biology. This work includes studies on how plants

operate to gain, store and convert energy. Etienne has applied this to the Underground Orchid (*Rhizanthella gardneri*). His work has shown that the populations in the north at Corrigin, and the ones in the south at Munglinup are genetically very different and thus it is important that both areas are carefully conserved.

At the end of the talk, John Ewing presented Etienne with farewell card from the Group, as he is soon to return to France.

RAFFLE DRAW:

- Etienne drew the raffle which was claimed by: Mischa Rowan

GROWERS TABLE :

- Mark Brundrett displayed 3 plants : *Prasophyllum Parvifolium*, *Pterostylis sanguinea*, *Pterostylis aspera*. Mark also had some seedlings of *Caladenia graniticola* that were collected during last year's field trip and are now emerging (lots of them, which is encouraging).

NEXT MEETING DATE: 8.00 pm Wednesday August 19th 2009

MEETING CLOSED at 10:00pm

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

CLUB TRIP

On Sunday 26TH July we met at the layby about 18km along the Williams to Narrogin Rd. where we promptly found *Pterostylis hamiltonii* (Red-veined Shell Orchid), *Pterostylis sanguinea* (Dark-banded Greenhood) and *Pterostylis* sp 'hairy' (Hairy –stemmed Snail Orchid). From there a convoy of 19 cars set out for Foxes Lair Nature Reserve in Narrogin where we found *Pterostylis concave* (Cupped Banded Greenhood), *Pterostylis sanguinea* and possible hybrids between the two. Also there were *Caladenia reptans* sp *reptans* (Little pink Fairy Orchid) and leaves of *Caladenia xantha* (Primrose Spider Orchid). At Yilliminning Rock we had lunch, then everyone scattered in the surrounding bush and up on the Rock, where we found the pterostylis species of *sanguinea*, *hamiltonii* and sp 'hairy' There was also what looked like *Pterostylis scabra* (Green-veined Shell Orchid) but in a lutea form, together with possible hybrids between *Pt. angusta* (Narrow-hooded Shell Orchid) and *Pt. scabra*. A number of large caladenia leaves held some promise for the future. On our way home we went to the Williams Nature Reserve and found more of the previously sited pterostylis species as well as many *Pterostylis sargentii* (Frog Greenhood) and various caladenia leaves. Our last stop was approx 22km N of Williams

where there were lots of *Pterostylis hamiltonii* and large *Caladenia* leaves.

Ross Fox

A WEEKEND DOWN SOUTH

On Tuesday 21st July Etienne and I headed south to Walpole where, with Gloria Jackson, we met up with Julie McKenzie and her friend George Endacott from Denmark. We drove out to the Banksia Track which runs out from Mandalay Beach Road and after a fair hike and quite a lot of searching Gloria found *Caladenia meridionalis* (South Coast Spider Orchid). Two GPS readings from previous trips were of no use as the orchids had 'moved' as they do. The other find were some quite green coloured *Pterostylis rogersii* (Curl-tongued Shell Orchid). At first glance almost liked *Pterostylis scabra* (Green-venied Shell Orchid) but on closer inspection, despite not being pink in colour, they were quite unmistakable with the distinctive 'curl tongue'.

We went from there to Mazalotti Beach track that runs off William Bay Road and there located *Cryptostylis huegelii* (Midge Orchid) and then George led us to a lovely patch of *Cryptostylis robusta* (Gnat Orchid).

Stop three was at Sinkers Bay which is at the end of Ocean Beach Road in Denmark. Down the track we found more *Pt. Rogersii* and a very large number of *Corbus recurvus* (Common Helmet Orchid).

A 'helpful' phone call from Anna De Haan from Albany assured us there was quote 'nothing new to see yet' saw us take off the next day to inspect the site opposite the Mt Barker hospital. While this yielded nothing beyond the occasional *Pterostylis vittata* (Banded greenhood), this area, which has been burnt will have many *Caladenias* by September. The burnt area is quite large and should provide a feast with many happy hours of exploring.

Our trip home yield a most magnificent specimen of *Pterostylis concava* (Cupped Banded Greenhood) at the Kojonup Nature Reserve. This will also be good by September.



We did stop at Hurley Road, but only found *Caladenia reptans* subsp *reptans* (Little Pink Fairy Orchid) in bud and nothing else. The other stops at Williams Nature Reserve and at the parking area 20Km north of Williams have been described by Ross Fox in the club trip report.

John Ewing

Field trip report Perth and Great Southern, July 18-23 2009

Victorian member Mike Duncan made a flying visit to WA on the above dates, hoping to see some orchids not seen on trips at other times of the year.

A scouting trip around the Perth area earlier in the week was disappointing, with nothing at all seen at the Kalamunda zig-zag or in Pomeroy Road Lesmurdie, only one very small *Pterostylis sanguinea* (Dark Banded Greenhood) at the National Park entrance, and a few *Diuris brumalis* (Winter Donkey Orchid) at Roleystone, with *Prasophyllum parvifolium* (Autumn Leek Orchid) in bud. Perhaps the legacy of a dry Autumn?

By the time Saturday arrived, and with an extra pair of eyes on the lookout, a few more *Pt sanguinea* and *D brumalis* were seen as well as *P parvifolium* now flowering, plus some *Pheladenia deformis* (Blue Fairy Orchid) at a burn in Stock Road mentioned by Russell Thomas at the July meeting. Whether some of the *Pt sanguinea* were either the 'Coastal' or 'Crowded' sub-species was discussed and not really resolved!!

In the next five days we covered a lot of territory along Brookton Highway, thence to Yilliminning Rock, Narrogin, Corrigin, Hyden, Munglinup, Albany, thence Mt Barker to Perth on the last day in time for Mike to catch the 1815 hours flight to Melbourne.

In that time we found most on the wish list, and sightings included *Pt allantoidea* (Shy Greenhood), *Pt hamiltonii* (Red-veined Shell Orchid), *Pt rogersii* (Curled-tongue Shell Orchid), *Pt sp. 'dwarf'* (Dwarf Shell Orchid), *Pt sp. 'hairy'* (Hairy-stemmed Snail Orchid), *Pt vittata* (Banded Greenhood), *Corybas limpidus* (Crystal Helmet Orchid), and *Corybas recurvus* (Helmet Orchid). At Lake King, a few *Caladenia sigmoidea* (Sigmoid Spider Orchid) were in flower, and that means that I have seen it there on various visits between 20th July and 10th September. At Albany some *Thelymitra variegata* (Queen of Sheba) were seen in bud, one of which would have flowered within a couple of days. But we missed out

completely on *Pt angusta* (Narrow-hooded Shell Orchid), *Pt dilatata* (Robust Snail Orchid) and *Pt sargentii* (Frog Greenhood - only seen in bud). We did see something that looked a bit like *Pt angusta* at Yilliminning Rock, but didn't think that it was the full deal. Likewise with those Greenhoods at Narrogin - we didn't think that we saw a real *Pt concava* (Cupped Banded Greenhood).

Of interest was a little white *Caladenia* sp. that we saw at Fitzgerald River picnic stop. There were several flowers and numerous buds and we thought that they were *Caladenia hiemalis* (Dwarf Common Spider Orchid), which by my latest reference (Orchids of Western Australia 2008 - Andrew Brown, Pat Dundas, et al.) has only been recorded as far south as Broomehill. And along the wind farm viewing path at Albany we found a *Pt nana* type (Snail Orchid) that initially looked like *Pt* sp. 'broad petals' (Broad-petalled Snail Orchid); however, the sepals were relatively strong and thick, a dark brown colour for most of their medium length, and were erect whilst slightly splayed. It seems that this could be an undescribed species.

The weather was "interesting", and whilst there was some sunshine, at several places our orchiding was curtailed by rain. Often the thermometer in the car showed outside temperature of 9 or 10 degrees, and it had been only about 10 whilst we had lunch at Hyden, rising to 14 whilst the car was standing in the sun but dropping again once we were moving. My hand knitted woollen balaclava was quite useful on more than one day!!

Tom Blinco

ORCHID TRIP GUIDELINES

Before going on your next field trip /photography excursion please take the time to carefully consider these guidelines that are from your committee. Please take special note of the items in **bold**

1. Stick to the roadside wherever possible. The best orchids are often seen in gutters or along roadsides.
2. If leaving the roadside and going into the bush, follow marked trails.
3. If there are no marked trails follow well-pounded kangaroo trails.
4. Use the same trails at every visit to a certain flower spot and avoid creating new ones.
5. Make people aware that walking in single file is the best way to avoid damage to soil structure and flora. By sacrificing the area

of one narrow trail we save the surrounding plant life, leaf litter and its inhabitants.

6. Inconspicuously mark trails if necessary with twigs, stones, taking note of logs etc
7. **Watch your feet. Be careful what you're stepping on in your enthusiasm to see an orchid.**
8. Don't step on fragile soil.
9. Help save plants' lives by not treading on anything green.
10. Don't all rush to a spotted orchid.
11. Maximum of three people at a time to a rare orchid, one looking, one spotting dangers to plant and habitat and one photographing.
12. **NO "gardening", clearing around an orchid to get a better picture. Get someone to hold back vegetation if necessary.** Prickly vegetation, branches, litter help survival by keeping kangaroos at bay, fertilizing plant and protecting from sun damage.
13. Tag found orchid, take picture then move away to allow someone else to see it and photograph it. Last person takes tag away. Take GPS if necessary.
14. Remove unmarked tags from the bush.
15. Minimise handling of orchids and disturbance of soil around orchids as this seems to encourage herbivores.
16. Do not collect any orchid specimens unless you have a license from DEC.
17. Even if you have a license to collect specimens, do not collect more than 5 specimens of any one individual species.
18. Split large groups if necessary. Go to different spots and then swap over.
19. Restrict number of people on some trips especially to fragile areas and rare orchids.
20. Don't bring dogs on orchid trips. If you need to bring a dog then it should be on a leash. It could trample orchids and other flora and stress or kill fauna by chasing it.
21. Teach children in your care to be careful as they are the next generation's teachers.
22. **Remove mud from boots and spray with methylated spirits before leaving the roadside to help prevent spread of dieback.**
23. Check for mud on car tyres, wheel arches, side steps and suspension, even bumper bar attachments and remove if necessary to help prevent dieback.
24. Do not go to restricted areas without a DEC person present.
25. Hone skills that enable us to search, find, photograph and observe without disturbing

the orchids or the habitat that produces them.

26. Work together to remind each other of trip procedures while on trips.
27. Reduce impact by educating people of possible consequences of their behaviour.
28. Collect rubbish at sites visited.

SITING REPORTS

Last month a copy of the siting report was included in your bulletin. To help build the data base for the club it will help if members fill in a report for species they find. This is important if you have your own places, or if in the process of 'exploring' you find a site that is interesting. You don't have to carry the form with you, as you can fill it in at home. Bring it to the meeting and give it to Christine Lock. If you did one per month that will be appreciated and you will be upholding the objectives of the group in being a 'study and conservation' group.

MEMBER PROFILE - JACK EBBORALL



Jack Ebborall has been 'into orchids' ever since he was a boy growing up first in Bibra Lake and then in South Perth. As a schoolboy, he did like many others and picked orchids for his collection, pressing them between newspaper and blotting paper. Jack can remember when all of Applecross was bush and orchids were plentiful.

Jack was born in 1931 and married Mary. She still comes on some of the field trips, as she too is still a long time wildflower lover. They have 4 children.

Jack's working career was as a teacher and he went to Teachers' College with Noel Hoffman, author of the field guide book. Jack started as a headmaster at the one teacher Watheroo Primary, moved on to Kalannie, and then with a mind sharp as a tack, listed all the schools right up to his last school which was Kent Street Senior High School. With a laugh, Jack was able to say 'that he had never worked under anyone else as right from day one to the last, he was always the headmaster.'

Jack recalls that when he was at Yallingup Primary School in the 1950s, the schools in the local area held an annual competition for a display of wildflowers. The Parents and Citizens (P&Cs) of the schools ran the competition, and the students would gather armfuls of flowers including LARGE numbers of orchids (it was not illegal back then). In his conservationist mode, Jack would require his children to pick (not dig or pull up) and always leave some behind. Jack was a little diffident about this competition, but he felt that at least it cultivated knowledge, even if at great cost to the flowers.

Jack joined the WANOSCG in 2004 and his first field trip was to Ferndale with Eric Swartz being the leader. His favourite flower is *Prasophyllum giganteum* (Bronze Leek Orchid). As Jack says it has a 'stunning scent'. Jack's wife Mary grew up in Wellard and despite many outings over 30 years, she had never seen this orchid in her own area. About 7 years ago the area was burnt, and there were thousands in flower. They had been dormant for all that 30 years and probably much longer.

If you come on club field trips you will still see Jack, with his tripod slung over his shoulder, as enthusiastic and cheerful as ever. It's great to have him as a member of our club.

CONSERVATION ISSUES

1. WIRELESS HILL PARK

In a letter dated 24th June our Conservation Officer Eddy Wajon wrote to the Melville City Council on behalf of WANOSCG, endorsing the vision for Wireless Hill Park. Eddy expressed the view that "We generally support the Wireless Hill Vision 2020, and support the Theme and Objective on Environment which includes the conservation, protection, enhancement and rehabilitation of the bushland. Certainly, to achieve one of the other visions of Wireless Hill as a "regional destination of world significance" the City of Melville needs to proactively manage the bushland." And that "We support the promotion of the Wireless Hill park and do not object to seeking commercial opportunities to offset the management and maintenance of the park, provided it does not result in the construction of facilities that lead to clearing of bushland and loss of orchids. In fact, greater promotion of the natural values and orchid richness of the park should result in a greater respect for the park and greater involvement of the residents of the City of Melville in its management, through such activities as weeding days,

planting, prevention of bushfires and degradation."

Did you know that all the following species are found at Wireless Hill Park

Caladenia *arenicola*, *discoidea*
 flava subsp. *flava*, *georgei*
 hirta subsp. *rosea*, *latifolia*
 longicauda subsp. *calcigena*
 reptans subsp. *reptans*
 vulgata
Cyanicula *gemmata*, *sericea*
Cyrtostylis *huegelii*
Diuris *corymbose*, *magnifica*
Elythranthera *brunonis*
Eriochilus *dilatatus* subsp. *undulatus*
Leporella *fimbriata*
Leptoceras *menziessii*
Lyperanthus *serratus*
Microtis *media* subsp. *media*
Paracalena *nigrita*
Pheladenia *deformis*
Prasophyllum *elatum*, *hians*, *plumiforme*
Pterostylis *recurve*, *sanguinea*
 sp 'short sepals'
Pyrorchis *nigricans*
Thelymitra *campanulate*, *crinita*
 macrophylla

2. ROBINSON ROAD CLEARING

The initial meeting with an officer from the Woodanilling Shire that was to have taken place last month did not eventuate because of inclement weather. Eddy is not letting the matter rest and will be meeting with Shire representatives in the near future. If you are visiting Robinson Road and find orchids (especially ones such as *C. luteola* or others), can you ring Eddy (phone number on front page) and let him know.

3. TOODYAY SHIRE ROAD VERGE CLEARING

During the July meeting, our conservation Officer, Eddy Wajon made reference to the communication he has written, in collaboration with club President Christine, to the Shire of Toodyay. The Shire has done some sort of a survey about road side vegetation, but it is Eddy's view that this was totally inadequate. While he has referred to many species other than orchids in a most comprehensive communication here is a little of what he has said about the orchids

We don't believe the flora survey complies with Condition 14 (a) of the Clearing Permit which stipulates that the Species Composition, Structure and Density of the Cleared Area must be determined. Compiling a Keighery

*(1994) vegetation description, including dominant species, structure (habit) density and Keighery (1994) Bushland Condition Scale rating (as stated in the Flora and Fauna Survey report) is not adequate. The intent of the condition was to obtain a comprehensive species list for representative quadrats of all areas of remnant vegetation. There are many orchids, some recorded, many not, that grow along these road verges that would be affected by the proposed clearing. For example, we have recorded more than 1000 Scented Sun Orchids, *Thelymitra macrophylla*, in the road verge near the Dudley Chitty Reserve on Bindoon-Dewars Pool Rd. A comprehensive and adequate flora survey could identify other significant species, especially orchids, that need to be protected.*

*We question the adequacy of the Flora Survey for *Thelymitra stellata*. Although the Flora and Fauna survey acknowledges that the survey was not undertaken during the recognised flowering time for this orchid (Oct-Nov), it justifies the survey as being adequate on the basis that the leaves of this orchid would have been seen even if flowers were not present. This is questionable in weedy road reserves as the leaves could easily be overlooked, especially during driving along areas where this orchid may not have been expected on the basis of previous recorded sightings. A survey during the peak flowering time of this orchid needs to be undertaken to confidently establish its presence or absence.*

There is much more to this report. If you are on email and would like me to send you a copy then send me a request. Editor.

A LATE INCLUSION

This flower was found at Candy's Bush Reserve on August 10th. It was 25cm tall and 12cm across. What do you think it is?



	Raffle Roster	Welcomer	SPEAKERS 2009
MAR	Gerald Stack		Mark Brundrett – Wheatbelt Orchid Rescue Project
APR	Glenys Salter	Tom Burbridge	Ramon Newmann – How I started orchids
MAY	Etienne Delannoy	John Ewing	Tony Lock – WANOSCG data base
JUNE	Noel Clarke	Tom Blinco	Eddy Wajon – flowers of the Pilbara
JULY	Tom Blinco	John Ewing	Etienne Delannoy – Underground Orchid research
AUG	Louise Little	John Ewing	Ian Colquhoun, Chair of the Dieback Working Group 'Phytophthora Dieback – Could you be spreading it?'
SEPT	Jay Steer		
OCT	David Lawson		
NOV	Gary McDonald		Photo competition and members slides

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FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS
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SEPTEMBER 13TH and/or 20TH – YANCHEP/GREENMOUNT
SEPTEMBER 26-28TH JERRAMUNGUP
OCTOBER 4TH – JARRAHDAL
OCTOBER 10-11TH FRANKLAND
OCTOBER 18TH BROOKTON HIGHWAY