

BULLETIN NOVEMBER 2009

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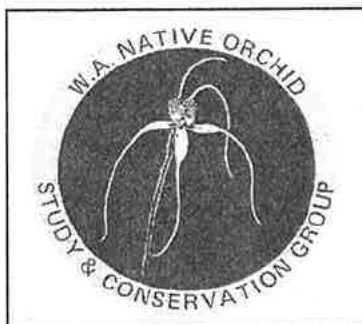
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OBJECTIVES OF THE GROUP

- 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 18TH October 2009 at 7.00pm at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Admin. Office.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 18th October 2009 at 8.00pm at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Admin. Office.

BULLETIN ARTICLES

Please email any Bulletin contributions to John Ewing at or

Articles for the next Bulletin need to be submitted by 1st of the next month.

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PLANNED FIELD TRIPS

**** CHANGED DATE ****

Dec 12-13th Christmas Weekend – Denmark
Meet at layby on Muir Hwy just past the hospital in Mt. Barker at 11am on Saturday. We will be staying in Denmark overnight with a BBQ to be held at Jeff and Wendy Spencer's, on Sat evening, bring own chairs etc.
Caravan parks in Denmark - Rivermouth-Ph 98481262. Riverbend-Ph 98481107. Ocean Beach-Ph 98481105.

WANOSCG GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 21st October, 2009

ATTENDANCE: 36 members present, 2 apologies, 6 visitor as per Attendance book.

RAFFLE: Kindly donated by David Lawson

MINUTES TO THE MEETING:

There were no corrections to the 16th Sep, 2009 General Meeting minutes as published in the Bulletin

John Ewing Moved and Eric Swarts Seconded -that the minutes as distributed are a true and correct record of meeting of 16th Sep 2009.

FIELD TRIPS: Ross outlined the trips as printed in the Bulletin

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. John Ewing read out an email from Etienne Delannoy, who has recently returned to France, and is missing WA
2. Eddy Wajon is a finalist in the DEC Conservation Awards. Christine Lock said that members were welcome to attend the award night, at their own expense. If anyone is interested they are to see CL to co-ordinate a table.
3. Comments from Jim Parry, living in Frankland, were passed on to the General Meeting:-
 - a. there are clear signs that orchids are being taken from the Frankland area, and members should be alert to any unusual activity, including taking photographs of such activity.
 - b. The burn area by Mt Barker has had a bulldozer and heavy equipment removing logs –

cause damage to the bush land.

4. Xmas trip to Denmark – a request to move the trip by one week to the week-end of Dec 12/13 was put to the meeting – with a focus on the wishes of those actually planning to attend the trip. There were no objections, subject to bookings being able to be changed, and it was decided to ask the hosts if they would like to move it. Members were asked to give names for the trip to the Trip Co-coordinator, Ross.
5. Bill Slater brought in the President's prize plaque for the photographic competition that he had made, and was shown to the group. Members were encouraged to enter in to the competition in next months meeting.
6. A card from Berry Yates to the Group was read out. *"I do enjoy reading about your trips and finds. Sorry I cant attend the meeting any longer. Best wishes to all, especially us 80 yo's. Keep up with your conservation efforts. Kindest regards, Beryl Yates"*
7. Noel Clarke proposed that any monies left over from the Lotteries West grant be used for the conservation of orchids – seconded by Eva Smith, and carried by the General Meeting. The Treasurer reported that the Group still had payments to make to UWA, and that if there is any money left over, it will be reported to the members to discuss how to best use it.

PRESENTATION BY:

Dr Peter Bernhart and Dr Ritha Meira of the St Louis University, USA.

Our two presenters talked about Slipper Orchids of the USA and the research into propagation of various species. It was interesting to see a very different orchid from anything in WA and to share about conservation efforts happening elsewhere in the world.

RAFFLE DRAW:

Drawn by Dr Peter Bernhart and claimed by Tom Burbidge

GROWERS TABLE

Bill Burton presented a long lived *Prasophyllum macrostachyum* plant.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

8.00 pm Wednesday Nov 18th 2009

MEETING CLOSED: at 9:45 pm

PASSING OF RICA ERICKSON

It is with sadness that last month, the death of Rica Erickson at the age of 101, was noted. Rica made a wonderful conservation to our knowledge and understanding of the natural world, and of orchids in particular. The club extends our condolences to family and her many friends.

To see Rica's lifetime contributions, members can view a website dedicated to her. It is <http://www.liswa.wa.gov.au/erickson>

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

From the Southern Rivers group PORONGURUPS RESERVE and MT BARKER 20th September 2009

Early Sunday morning three club members and a visitor met along Chester Pass Road. It was bright sun shine, but with a nip in the air. In the nearby bush and open wet area *Lyperanthus serratus* (Rattle beaks), *Pterostylis vittata* (Banded greenhood) and *Thelymitra antennifera* (Vanilla sun orchid) were in full bloom.

Next stop along the road we found *Thelymitra uliginosa* (Swamp curly locks) had gone to seed. In the bush *Caladenia flava* subsp *flava* (Cowslip), *Caladenia macrostylis* (Leaping spider orchid), *Caladenia reptans* subsp *reptans* (Little pink fairies), *Cyanicula sericea* (Silky blue orchid), *Pterostylis* sp 'karri' (Karri snail orchid) and *Pterostylis* sp 'Boyup' (Boyup bird orchid) were battling against the regrowth of vegetation after the hot burns of two years ago.

At the reserve other species included *C. vulgata* (Common spider orchid), *C. splendens* (Splendid spider orchid), *C. polychroma* (Josephs' spider orchid), and *Thelymitra flexuosa* (Twisted sun orchid). The Wandoo bush had a particularly wide range of orchids and wildflowers in bloom. Lunch was eaten in the lee of a log as the wind had picked up a few knots and the heavy grey rain clouds were building up on the horizon. On the way to Mt Barker a quick stop was made. *Caladenia pectinata* (king spider) and a single *Caladenia longicauda* subsp *redacta*

(Tangled spider orchid) were found. Return visits will be made later in the season as there were many *Thelymitra* leaves with buds. We proceeded onto the burn at Mt Barker. By now the rain clouds had developed into storm clouds and the wind was blowing a gale. In the bush in the old burn *Caladenia arrecta* (Reaching spider orchid), *Caladenia cairnsiana* (Zebra orchid), *Caladenia discoidea* (Bee spider orchid), and *Caladenia magniclavata* (Big clubbed spider orchid), *Diuris corymbosa* (Common donkey orchid), *Pyrorchis nigricans* (Red beaks), *Pterostylis recurva* (Jug orchid), and *Prasophyllum gracillimum* (Slender leek orchid - both green and dark forms) were found. Along with these were a wide range of orchids seen earlier in the day. In the burn from earlier this year *Cyanicula sericea* were prolific. By this stage we ran to the cars before getting drenched as the heavens unleashed their fury.

Those travelling back to Denmark had a light drizzle for a few minutes, whilst those heading south to Albany drove straight into the teeth of the storm with thunder, lightening, blinding rain and hail for good measure. Safely back in Albany the sun was shining through a watery sky. A successful day of orchid hunting was had by all.

Anna De Haan

October 18th Brookton Highway

Club members met at Edison Mill Road and proceeded to the first site where hundreds of *Elythranthera emarginata* (Pink enamel orchid) were found over a wide area. *E. brunonis* (Purple enamel orchid) was also present. A range of other species included *Cyanicula gemmata* (Blue china orchid), *D. sp* 'Brookton Highway' (Brookton Highway bee orchid), *Prasophyllum gracile* (Little laughing leek orchid), *Pras cyphochilum* (Pouched leek orchid), *Thelymitra villosa* (Custard orchid) *T. crinita* (Blue lady orchid), *T. macrophylla* (Scented sun orchid), *T. antennifera* (Lemon-scented sun orchid) and in bud *T. benthamiana* (Leopard orchid), *C. sp* 'Brookton Highway' (Brookton Highway cowslip) and *Leptoceras menziesii* (Rabbit orchid).

The group proceeded to Warridale Road where many of the above species were also found, but there was also there were two of the subspecies of *C. uliginosa* (*uliginosa*) (Darting spider orchid) and *candicans* (Northern darting spider orchid). In addition was *C. barbarossa* (Common dragon orchid), *Microtis obicularis* (Dark mignonette orchid) and other

Thelymitras (sun orchids). These included *T. vulgaris* [previously called *T. pauciflora*] (Slender sun orchid) and *T. xanthotricha* (Yellow tufted sun orchid)

The last stop was further east along the Brookton highway where *T. benthamiana* was found in flower. Other previously sighted species also occurred, but there was an interesting group of *E. brunonis* that had 2 coloured petals and sepals (part purple and part white).

Ross Fox

October 10 & 11 – Frankland

This trip was the club's last major field trip for the 'peak' season. There was plenty of interest and quite a number of members were able to make the trip on Friday. Some members stopped at Robinson Road and found *C. luteola* (Lemon spider orchid), even though it was in a rather battered condition. There were other spider orchids at this site including at least 6 large creamy white *longicauda* type plants that had no labellums.

At other places on Robinson Road other members found *C. uliginosa* subsp *uliginosa* (Darting spider orchid) and a variety of blue sun orchids, which as usual produced some debate as to which species they were.

Ross Fox's group stopped near Capella road where several white and one very pale blue *Cy gemmata* (Blue china orchid) were seen.

Near Kojonup, at Farrar Reserve and at Jingalup Reserve there were a range of white spider orchids including *C. splendens* (Splendid spider orchid) and *C. longicauda* subsp *redacta* (Tangled spider orchid), together with what seemed like *C. polychroma* (Joseph's spider orchid). Other species included *Cy serecia* (Silky blue orchid) plus donkey orchids, enamel orchids and sun orchids, although some of the latter were still just in bud. There were even some of the early greenhoods still hanging on. Saturday morning saw the Friday arrivals poking around early in the day and quite a few people looked in the bush just next to the caravan park at Frankland. Gary McDonald had begun counting the number of *C. barbarossa* (Common dragon orchids) he had found, but after a short while with more pairs of eyes looking, it became obvious why this is called the COMMON dragon orchid. When we got to over 50, we stopped counting. John Ewing, an ex-golfer, thought there might be a better use for the bush than losing your golf ball and so he and some others went off to the club which was just up the road. There were hundreds and hundreds of white spiders and a

range of other things including donkey orchids and you guessed it, more dragon orchids. The eagle eyed Tom Blinco also found *C. dorrienii* (Cossack spider orchid).

The trip proper, which was being led by local orchidologist and conservationist Jim Parry, set off at 11am for Frankland River bridge. A very yellow *C. polychroma* type flower initiated some debate, but it was generally agreed that it was *C. sp* 'Tenterden' (Tenterden yellow spider orchid). In the middle of a pathway was a stand of the most magnificent *D. longifolia* (Purple pansy orchid). These plants stood over 60cm in height, and they clearly haven't 'read the book' which says they are only allowed to be 35cm high. [Note – the editor has also seen them this high at Dunsborough]. Another interesting find was *C. harringtoniae* (Pink spider orchid). Debate also ensued as to whether other caladenias that were found were *ensata* (Stumpy spider orchid), *magniclavata* (Big clubbed spider orchid) or *longiclavata* (Clubbed spider orchid). Most agreed that at least some were *C. ensata*. The sun orchids included *T. flexuosa* (Twisted sun orchid), *T. antennifera* (Vanilla sun orchid) and *T. macrophylla* (Scented sun orchid)

The group moved on after lunch to Nornalup road. At one sandy patch, a number of duck orchids and hammer orchids were found.

Paracaleana nigrita (Flying duck orchid), and the *drakaea* species *Dk. Glyptodon* (King-in-his-carriage), *thiniphila* (Narrow-lipped hammer orchid) were identified and possibly *gracilis* (Slender hammer orchid). A single plant of *T. cornicina* (Lilac sun orchid) was almost out and after a little help it opened enough for some photos to be taken.

Further along the road other stops yielded a variety of orchids including *C. plicata* (Crab-lipped spider orchid), *C. brownii* (Karri spider orchid), *C. macrostylis* (Leaping spider orchid) and the *pterostylis* species *Pt sp* 'bloated' (Bloated bird orchid), *Pt sp* 'slender' (Slender snail orchid) and *Pt sp* 'karri' (Karri snail orchid).

Saturday evening saw a gathering at Jim Parry's place for a most pleasant barbeque. Sunday morning found the group heading to the Frankland Nature Reserve. Jim Parry has fought a long campaign to have this reserve fully protected and over the years he has recorded 84 different species in the reserve. The most significant orchid is *C. dorrienii* (Cossack spider orchid). The reserve has the largest known population, numbering hundreds of plants. While walking to the main site sharp eyes saw other plants as we walked along the

path. Other species were seen including *D. longifolia* (Purple pansy orchid) and many enamel orchids. The club thanked Jim Parry both for his leadership of the trip and the hospitality.

Sunday afternoon saw people return via different routes, but some went via Southfield road where the bush had been burnt last summer. There were many orchids there including large numbers of *C. nana* subsp *nana* (Little pink fan orchid), some *C. nana* subsp *unita* (Pink fan orchid) and a number of plants of the elusive *C. erythrochila* (Lake Muir blood spider). In addition were many *C. sp* 'Tenterden' (Tenterden yellow spider orchid) and others that looked like *C. luteola* (Lemon spider orchid) but were rather too pale in colour. These may be a new species and for the moment are called "sp 'Tonebridge'". John Ewing and David James went home via Boddington and called into a site to see *C. sp* 'Boddington' (Boddington spider orchid). This orchid is very similar to the Cossack spider orchid, but is more of a greenish/creamy colour. During the brief visit more than 40 plants were found, together with hundreds of *M. obicularis* (Dark mignonette orchid). Overall it was an excellent weekend.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

WANOSCG Database is in dire need of current sighting reports for metropolitan reserves. If you have visited your local remnant bushland this year, could you please send in a sighting report to Christine. You can send in your sighting report by mail to the club's POBox or by email. I have listed a few reserves below. Many thanks for your input.

Lake Walyungup and Lake Coo loongup Flora and Fauna Reserve
The Spectacles (Little Eye and Big Eye);
Thomas Road Nature reserve

Marri Park, Modong Nature Reserve, Cardup Nature Reserve

Thomsons Lake, Yangebup Lake, Woodman Point, De Young Reserve

Armadale Swamp, Bungendore Park, Armadale Common, Canning Dam

Wireless Hill, Piney Lakes, Ken Hurst Park

Yule Brook/60 foot falls, Brixton Street Nature Reserve, Queens Park Nature Reserve

Canning River Regional Park, Bickley Dam, Foxley Place

Jorgensen Park, Zig Zag, Watsonia Road, Pomeroy Road

John Forrest National Park, Lake Leschenaultia

Kings Park – one sighting of a *Caladenia latifolia* in 1985!

Bold Park, Herdsman Lake, Underwood Ave - bushland

Coral Berry – Verbena reserve, Lightning Swamp, Star Swamp, Big Carine Swamp

Whiteman Park, Yellagonga Regional Park, Neerabup National Park, Yanchep National Park

Walyunga National Park, Gangarra Pine Plantation

CONSERVATION ISSUES

1. John Ewing has been nominated as the liaison Conservation Representative for WAROO (Western Australian Regional Orchid Organisation). WAROO has a number of affiliated orchid clubs, most of whom are cultivators of orchids. They have a general interest in native orchids and are supportive of conservation of native orchids. Meetings are held quarterly and the next meeting is in November.
2. Eddy Wajon's 'final'. We wish Eddy success in the final of the Conservation Awards to be held at the end of this month.

PHOTO COMPETITION

Members are reminded to have your entries for the photo competition in the three categories of

- I. Genus *Thelymitra*
- II. Hybrids
- III. Mutations

Only photographic prints can be submitted, of size A4, 10"x8" or 12"x8" in colour or mono (black & white), un-mounted and un-framed.

All the rules for the competition were printed in the September bulletin. It will be great if we have many entries for the terrific array of prizes that can be won.

	Raffle Roster	Welcomer	SPEAKERS 2009
MAR	Gerald Stack		Mark Brundrett – Wheatbelt Orchid Rescue Project
APR	Glenys Salter	Tom Berbridge	Ramon Newman – How I started orchids
MAY	Etienne Delannoy	John Ewing	Tony Lock – WANOSCG data base
JUNE	Noel Clarke	John Ewing	Eddy Wajon – flowers of the Pilbara
JULY	Tom Blinco	John Ewing	Etienne Delannoy
AUG	Louise Little	John Ewing	Ian Colquhoun, Chair of the Dieback Working Group 'Phytophthora Dieback – Could you be spreading it?
SEPT	Jay Steer	John Ewing	Lesley Wall – Perth Zoo
OCT	David Lawson		Dr Peter Bernhart and Dr Ritha Meier - Slipper Orchids in USA
NOV	Gary McDonald		Photo competition and members slides

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FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS
DECEMBER 12-13TH DENMARK