

BULLETIN OCTOBER 2010

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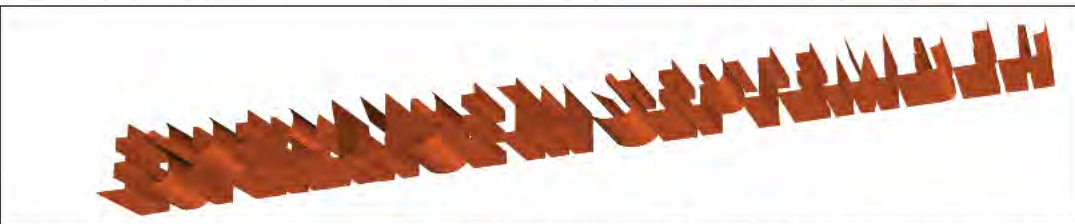
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Eddy Wajon

Christine Lock



A very small group of members gathered on Saturday 25th September at Esperance. Having driven the 700+ kilometres to get there we travelled another 100+ to get to Boyatup Hill. On the way we stopped at a couple of burnt areas on Fisheries Road and were rewarded with some spectacular finds. Most notable were some brilliantly coloured Esperance King Spider Orchids (*C. decora*). As often happens with fire colours become more vibrant, and there were flowers with multicoloured tepals (This is the term for petals and sepals when describing them as a group). In addition there were dozens of Hooded Leek Orchids (*Pras. cucullatum*) and after some discussion, it was agreed that the Leek Orchid found was indeed the Frilled Leek Orchid (*Pras. sargentii*). We all thought this was a good decision as none of us had seen this species, and so we could add it to our 'newly discovered' list. We also found the Esperance White Spider Orchid (*C. longicauda* subsp *crassa*) which was identified both by location and its short labellum fringes. The issue was that we had seen other *C. longicauda* type flowers in the area which had long fringes and hence were probably not the Esperance White Spider,

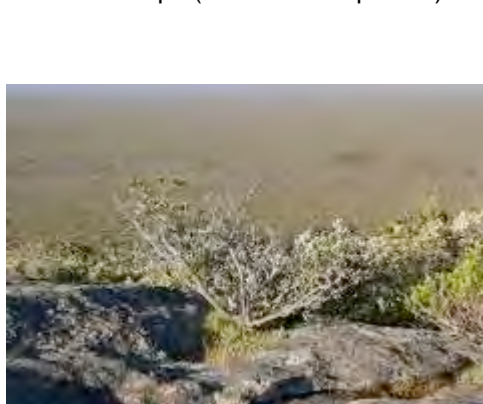
but that is the only *C. longicauda* supposed to be growing nearly 100 km east of Esperance. Once again, it is a shame the orchids don't read the book. We carried on the remaining 20km to Boyatup Hill. When we reached our destination we were not alone as already there were some folks from NSW who happily showed us some of the things they had found. The first thing was the Pointing Spider Orchid (*C. extans*). It was both right on the edge of the track and a few metres further on, growing in the middle of the track, having happily survived being driven over. Exploring the bush found a range of other species including more Esperance King Spiders (*C. decora*) and even Rabbit Orchids (*Leptoceras menziesii*).



Led by the energetic David Lawson, the group elected to climb to the peak of Boyatup Hill just to see what was there. What we found were hundreds, yes hundreds of these.



What was even more remarkable was at the summit. In a testimony to survival we found these Cowslips (*C. flava* subsp *flava*) that were living in a tiny pocket on the rock face.



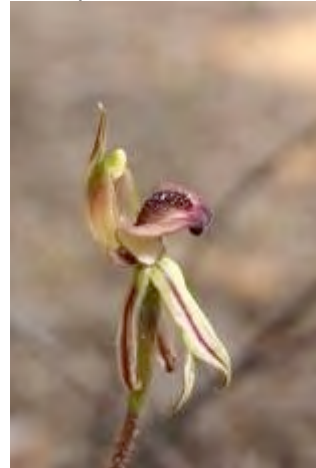
As an encouragement, several of us scooped up handfuls of water from a nearby hollow and gave them a drink to go on with. We hope they are now flowering. They deserve to!!!

Sunday saw us joined by Don Voigt from Esperance and we set out northwards, stopping first at Helm's Aboretum. Led by Gary McDonald we saw more *C. decoras*, more White Spiders,

many, many Bee Orchids (*D. laxiflora*) and the Swamp Mignonette (*Microtis atrata*). The real treat was discovering the hybrid named the Shy Spider Orchid (*C. x triangularis*)



The group proceeded further north and led by Don Voigt eventually arrived north of Salmon Gums at the 'Cristata Compound'. This is a fenced area on private property where Don found what is now known as the Mohawk Spider Orchid (*C. voightii*). At first it was thought to be the Crested Spider Orchid (*C. cristate*), hence the naming of the compound. Further study found it to be a new species and so it was named after Don. Despite very dry conditions and evidence of many rabbits within the compound, more than a dozen plants were discovered.



The day was extended by searching river crossings of the Lort River, including one site reported to the group by Wayne Merritt and Louise Little who were travelling separately. They had seen the Western Sun Orchid (*T. azurea*). We did find a somewhat closed flower, but open enough to identify it.

Monday was the final exploration and it began at Dempster Head where the Rotary Lookout is. While almost finished the Spectacled Donkey Orchid (*D. conspicillata*) was found, and also hiding under bushes was the tiny Granite Snail Orchid (*Pt. sp* 'Esperance granite'). We had been joined that morning by the Thomas family and the eagle-eyed Christine found a Pointing Spider Orchid (*C. extans*). Before the morning was out two other flowers had been found. The group then drove on to the Esperance Wind Farm at Eleven Mile Beach. Here we found the Esperance Bird Orchid (*Pt. sp* 'Esperance'), The Limestone Leek Orchid (*Pras. calcicola*) and just hanging on the Dwarf Shell Orchid (*Pt. sp* 'dwarf shell'). We continued to drive along the spectacular coastline until we were nearly at Pink Lake. Here we made one further stop to see if we could find the elusive Sandhill Spider Orchid (*C. bicalliata* subsp *cleistogama*). Frustratingly, all we could find were leaves of finished flowers. Maybe they were the Limestone Spider (*C. bicalliata* subsp *bicalliata*), but we couldn't tell. All agreed that it had been an excellent weekend and that we had seen many new things.

BANJUP FIELD TRIP 10TH September

A cool blustery afternoon with the possibility of showers greeted a small group of members who visited two sites in Banjup. The first site was a burn on the corner of Taylor and Armadale Roads. This appeared to have been too intense and too recent to allow regeneration. The only thing of interest was a small colony of Donkey Orchids which had shortish, brightly coloured, very rounded petals, a short labellum and dark stems. (Ed. These were possibly the Slender Donkey Orchid (*D. sp 'slender'*)

Next was Denis De Young Reserve on Liddelow and Oxley Roads. This has banksia woodland and kunzia thickets. There were more of the same Donkey Orchid plus the Wallflower Orchid (*D. corymbosa*), Little Pink Fans (*C. reptans* subsp *nana*), Bee Orchids (*C. discoidia*) and some unknown *caladenias* in bud. This reserve had provided the last sighting of the Queen of Sheba (*T. variegata*) in the metropolitan area several years ago. No sign of it this time.

Jack Eborall

At the September meeting of the group concerns were expressed by a number of members about potential damage to the environment when we visit orchid sites. The information below has been published before in one form or another, but members are requested to review this again in the interests of long term preservation of orchids in the bush.

ORCHID TRIP GUIDELINES

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 and 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.

WANOSCG 2010 PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION RULES

To ensure clarity and uniformity the following rules will apply for this year's competition.

1. The WANOSCG Photographic Competition will be held on :
 - November 17th, 2010
 - At the time and location of the General Meeting (8pm at the King's Park Administration building)
2. All entries must be of Western Australian native orchids in their natural settings.
3. There are 2 Categories
 - I. Best overall Portfolio
 - II. Best overall Photograph
4. The Members at the Competition night General Meeting will vote on the entries for the 2 Categories, Best overall Photograph which will be awarded the President's Prize. The President's decision shall be final if there are any disputes.
5. The President's Trophy will be awarded for the Best overall Photograph. A certificate will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, 3rd position for Best overall Portfolio winners and the Best overall Photograph winner.
6. Only photographic prints can be submitted, of size 6inchesX4inches (152mmX102mm) in colour or mono (black & white), un-mounted and un-framed.
7. Each entrant can submit up to three prints, which constitutes a portfolio and from which the Best overall Photograph will be picked.
8. The back of each print submitted must bear, in the top left-hand corner, the entrant's name and entry number (numbers 1 to 3).
9. To be eligible to enter, entrants must be WANOSCG members, financial at the time of entry.
10. The entrants must have taken the original photograph and done so during the 12 month period of November 1st 2009 and October 31st 2010.
11. The entry must be an original photograph and not a copy of any image.
12. Any manipulation or modification of the original photograph must be limited to only minor retouching including cropping, removal of blemishes, tonal corrections and sharpening, but excludes any major modifications including the removal of any significant objects or any form of composite images.
13. All entries must be submitted to the Competition Organiser at the start of the General Meeting on the night of the Competition.
14. All entries, or copies thereof, must be freely available for any of WANOSCG's publications or promotional material.
15. Whilst reasonable care will be taken with entries submitted, WANOSCG will not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage to any of the entries.

WANOSCG GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, 15th Sep, 2010

Meeting held at: BGPA Boardroom, Kings Park.

Meeting opened: 8:07 pm

CIRCULATION OF REPORTS:

Attendance Book and Treasurer's Report were circulated to the members

ATTENDANCE: 34 members present, 5 apologies, 2 visitors

RAFFLE : Kindly donated by Stuart Harris

1. PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES Amendments: None

The General Meeting Minutes as distributed are a true and correct record of the meeting of 18th Aug 2010.

Moved David Lawson and Seconded Gary McDonald and carried

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING None

3. CORRESPONDENCE The Correspondence list was circulated.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

Scilla Stack sent a letter to the committee dated September 1st, 2010 with the idea of having markers for the orchids on Group trips was discussed. The idea being that this would help Members locate the orchids found on the trip and it could potentially reduce the amount of 'trampling' that the bush suffered as the movement of Members would be more 'directed'. Though this is a good idea in principle, Eddy Wajon noted that at the last

trip to Julimar Forest Donna Wajon did carry markers as per Scilla's suggestion, however it was found to be impractical to put them out as the orchids were too widely spread, and someone would then have the responsibility of going back to pick them all up again at the end of the visit. Some more thinking is needed on the idea.

5. FIELD TRIP REPORT:

- 5.1. At the Julimar Forest trip over 20 plants that may be the undescribed *Caladenia denticulata* subsp Julimar were found- some in bud and none in flower. However Stuart Harris and Wayne Merritt reported that most of these have now been eaten off, and other plants in buds have been found in the area. The question was raised as to whether there is a connection between human scent being left on and around orchids and animals being subsequently attracted to eat the plants.
- 5.2. Christine Lock strongly emphasised the important need for Members to register their plans to join a Group Trip with the Trip Co-ordinator, as otherwise this creates serious management and organisational problems for the Trip Co-ordinator. At the Eneabba trip approx. twice the number of people who registered turned up creating logistics and management issues at the time.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 6.1. Ramón Newmann outlined the changes made by the Committee to the November Photographic Competition, which will be published in the next Bulletin. The changes are about times allowed for photos, winning categories and prizes, and photo sizes.
- 6.2. The Southern Rivers sub-group will be officially launched at the Albany Xmas trip – place and date yet to be determined, but it is likely to be late November.
- 6.3. The Survey results are currently being reviewed by the Committee, and a number of actions are already being taken, mainly around the request to help Members with the identification of orchids:
 - Field trips and/or workshops with qualified botanist will be sought
 - Sets of notes and comparative checklists will be drawn up for different genera by volunteers. This will first be discussed with Andrew Brown and Mark Brundrett to get their expert advice.
 - At the next General Meeting John Ewing will lead a discussion and identification session on *Thelymitra* (sun orchids). On this point, John Ewing asked Members to submit photos of sun orchids that they can not identify to him asap for the Meeting (including location and date)
- 6.4. Jack Eborall noted that the weeds are winning the metropolitan reserve war. Weeds are taking over many areas, and indiscriminate weed-spraying is also causing a lot of damage to orchids. Jack asked if we could have a study, or a speaker, on the best way to control weeds, as they are probably the biggest danger to native orchids. A scientific approach is required, as pulling them out by hand only has a very limited impact.

7. PRESENTATION

Carmel Wallace – Victorian Orchid society “Illuminated by Fire”, a Regional Arts Victoria project.

8. GROWERS TABLE

Phil Bunney brought in a pot with several flowering plants of a hybrid : *Caladenia splendens X latifolia*

9. RAFFLE DRAW Drawn by Carmel Wallace: winner of the raffle: Peter Gee.

MEETING CLOSED: 9:15 pm

NEXT MEETING: 8.00 pm Wednesday October 20th, 2010

COMMITTEE MEETING PROCEDURES

1. There was further discussion about the survey. Key aspects were
 - a) Promote further research with members writing comparative tables together with some help from the professional botanists
 - b) *Thelymitras* to be studied at next meeting
 - c) Botanists to conduct workshops for better orchid identification
2. Next meeting to look at issues about the database, membership promotion and financial support for other conservation groups.
3. Discussion of Photo Competition rules (see published rules above)
4. Field Trips – issue of members not notifying their intentions to attend has led to problems. Next year procedures to be printed (again) in bulletin. A suggestion is

that the meeting place not be published and will be made available to those who contact the field trip co-ordinator about their intention to attend (even if tentative).

VALE BERYL YATES

Honorary Life Member Beryl Yates passed away on Friday 17th September after losing her fight with cancer in the bones.

Beryl joined our group in November 1984, was Vice President in 1987 and 1988 and a Committee person in 1992.

In approximately 2000 she was diagnosed with cancer external to the bones and immediately stopped smoking, sending WD&HO Wills shares plunging. She was in remission for the better part of 10 years until in December 2009 she was diagnosed with cancer in the bones.

Beryl's favourite orchid was *C. flava* with all its markings and hybrid colour forms. She rarely walked past one without taking a photo. Beryl was one of a septet who wandered far and wide looking for orchids. The rest were Gloria, Bill & Lisa Jackson, Dave Parker, and Nancy & Noel Clarke. Doubtless Bill Jackson is showing Beryl around his new favourite spots.

Farewell Beryl & thanks for sharing part of your life with us. Noel Clarke

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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WEB MASTER: Don Ward email: [REDACTED]

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 15th September at 7.00pm at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Admin. Office.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 15th September 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 1 of next month.

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PROPOSED FIELD TRIPS

******* THIS IS A CHANGE TO PREVIOUS BULLETINS *******

Collie trip is cancelled – due to dry conditions

OCTOBER 23&24th ALBANY – meet at DEC office in Albany Highway, Albany at 11am. We will visit the Herbarium. Accommodation is to be at Happy Days Caravan Park – ring and make your own booking. Bring dinner for Saturday night – the Christmas Party (which may be at a venue other than the Caravan Park and will NOT be a BBQ – we will have at least microwave heating available.) Bring electronic slides to show. This is also the official launch of the Southern Rivers branch of WANOSCG. The trip is a one day trip; return on Sunday.

	Raffle Roster	SPEAKERS 2010
MAR	Ramon Newmann	Andrew Brown - New Caladenia species
APR	Donna Wajon	Ramon Newmann – slides from 2009
MAY	Bill Burton and Sarah Atkinson	Kingsley Dixon Conservation ‘in situ’
JUNE	Christine Lock	Mark Brundrett Wheatbelt Orchid Rescue programme 2009/10
JULY	Jeremy Storey	John Ewing – Orchids of South Australia
AUG	Kevin Uhe	Members’ Slides
SEPT	Stuart Harris	Carmel Wallace – Victorian Orchid society
OCT	Scilla and Gerald Stack	Identifying <i>thelymitras</i> using members’ slides
NOV	David Lawson	Photo competition and members slides

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FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS
October 23&24th Albany

EXTRA PHOTOS
From Stephen Buckle



From Gail Reed



From Keith Lightbody



From William Gye



