

**BULLETIN MARCH 2011**

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**President:**

Christine Lock [redacted]

**V President 1:**

Eddy Wajon [redacted]

**V President 2:**

Eric Swartz [redacted]

**Secretary:**

Ramon Newmann  
[redacted]

**Treasurer:**

Matz Dahlkamp [redacted]

**Committee:**

1 Kim Hansen [redacted]

2 Jay Steer [redacted]

3 Jeremy Storey [redacted]

4 Thea Hansen [redacted]

**Editor:**

John Ewing [redacted]



**WANOSCG (INC) 1974 - 2011**

**Patron:**

Prof. S Hopper

**Registrar:**

Christine Lock [redacted]

**Librarian:**

Bill Burton [redacted]

**Field Trip Coordinator:**

Iain McLean  
or [redacted]

**Conservation Officer:**

Eddy Wajon [redacted]

**Supper Coordinator:**

Donna Wajon [redacted]

**Auditor:**

Phil Bunney [redacted]

**Conservation Council**

**Rep:**

Eddy Wajon

Christine Lock

# From the USA

Dear Western Australia Native Orchid Society Friends:



Happy New Year to you all! Dr. Peter Bernhardt and I gave a presentation to your group during October 2009 about our orchid research. I just want to thank you again for your warm welcome. Your enthusiasm and passion for orchids was absolutely delightful. When I first arrived in Australia, people would talk about the "Australian bush". It did not take long to understand what made the Australian bush so unique and wonderful. We travelled to different sites and discovered such floral diversity. In addition, the colours of Australia are absolutely beautiful - from the bright orange soil to the rich green hues that I haven't seen anywhere else. Some of my photographs actually look like an artist took a brush and painted them!

Just to let you know what Peter and I have been up to, I thought I would send you a few photographs. We have been working on *Cypripedium parviflorum* (the above photo of Yellow Lady's Slippers) for a number of years. Last spring (our April and May), we began studying two sites that present plants with two different sizes of flowers. Pollinators of these two varieties are being compared to determine if they attract the same or different bees. This is a lovely site nestled in a cool, woodland habitat. It's actually very enjoyable to sit in the woods and enjoy nature while waiting for the pollinators to show up.

I also still enjoy the lovely wine glasses that you presented to me so graciously following our presentation. I will treasure them forever!

Warmest Regards,  
Retha M. Edens-Meier

### **President's Report 2010**

Last year I ended my report '... looking forward to 2010 with good rains, lots of orchids ...' which was not the case. Where the rains have been the orchids were bountiful but for the rest it has been another story. Club members have traveled afar for few sightings and this is reflected in the lower number of sightings added to the database.

The Wheatbelt Orchid Rescue Project with Lotteryswest funding is coming to a close in March 2011. Mark Brundrett spoke to the club updating members on the progress. Friends of Kings Park were more involved in this later part of the project.

The photographic competition was a great success. Many members entered fantastic photos and it was difficult to nominate winners. The best overall photograph was won by Jeremy Storey. Jay Steer came first for best portfolio, second by Joan Start and third (President's decision as it was a draw) went to Eric Swarts. Well done everyone! This was a grand way to end 2010. Thanks to Ramon and Gerald for organizing the certificates.

WANOSCG became a little bigger in October. The Southern Rivers Branch was formally launched on October 23 at the Herbarium in Albany. Many thanks to all who contributed to the formation of the Branch. Congratulations to the inaugural officials, Anna de Haan as the Branch Convener of the Group, Julie McKenzie as Assistant Branch Convener and Trevor Cunningham as the Field Trip Co-ordinator. We look forward in this new chapter of the Group.

The Southern Rivers Branch ensured our end of year Christmas celebration was a success at Gomm Park Hall. It will become the venue for future Christmas celebrations.

Everyone has contributed in making this a great club and an interesting year. Having put this report together the club has been busy, traveled much and gathered new friends and members. Thank you to all and I am looking forward to 2011 with good rains, new places, lots of orchids and burns to explore!

Christine

### **Database Report**

There were 182 orchid species sighted and a total of 594 individual sightings entered for 2009, and in 2010 122 species from 285 sightings from 75 locations. The SRG members were the most supportive group in sending in their sighting reports from their trips. The database has been used in helping the Conservation Officer and individual members. A talk will be given to the Group this year on the database.

Very few sightings from reserves/parks are documented within the metropolitan area. Last year I requested sightings from member's local parks and I received a few. Many thanks to all who contributed to this request.

## **WANOSCG GENERAL MEETING MINUTES Wednesday 17 November 2010**

Meeting held at: BGPA Boardroom, Kings Park.

Meeting opened: 8:00 pm

**CIRCULATION OF REPORTS:** Attendance Book and Treasurers Report were circulated.

**ATTENDANCE:** 36 members present and 5 apologies

**RAFFLE:** Kindly donated by David Lawson.

### **1. PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

The Minutes of the General Meeting on 20 October 2010 as distributed are a true and correct record of the meeting.

Moved Kevin Uhe Seconded John Ewing Carried.

### **2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 2.1. Eddy Wajon to provide a copy of the article "Chemical Trickery: a clue to endangered Australian orchids" published in the Oct 2010 edition of "Chemistry in Australia" (magazine of The Royal Australian Chemical Institute Inc.) to Bill Burton to be placed in the library.

### **3. CORRESPONDENCE**

- 3.1. The general correspondence list was circulated to Members present.

### **4. MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE**

4.1. Eddy Wajon indicated that he had responded to an email from Maggie Whittle in Albany requesting assistance with opposing development of Emu Point because of the presence of orchids and other high quality vegetation. Eddy Wajon indicated that he had also responded to an email from Di Becker requesting assistance with opposing development of the Peel Challenger TAFE site because of the presence of orchids and other high quality vegetation. Eddy Wajon indicated he may have been too late in responding to the request for help from Maggie Whittle in Albany, but offered to assist in writing a letter or submission if there was still an opportunity

**5. TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer's report was circulated. Matz Dahlkamp indicated that the Group was very financial and that fixed term deposit funds had been moved to Police and Nurse Credit Union to obtain the best interest.

**6. FIELD TRIP REPORT**

6.1. The field trip to Albany on 23 October 2010 was very successful with many different species and numbers of orchids seen in appropriate locations (see November 2010 Bulletin for details).

**7. GROWERS TABLE**

7.1. Bill Burton displayed a tall, slender flowering *Diuris pauciflora*. Several members questioned the identity of the orchid since it was such a large specimen with large flowers and it was apparently collected from Dunsborough which is outside the known range of the orchid reported in Hoffman and Brown.

**8. GENERAL BUSINESS**

8.1. Christine Lock reported that the Southern Rivers Branch of the Group was successfully and joyously launched in the Herbarium during the field trip to Albany on 23 October 2010. The launch was marked by the display of a collage of photos of orchids found in the area.

8.2. Kim Hanson reported on the status of the Adopt an Orchid Project and indicated that the Management Committee had endorsed the proposal and agreed to participate under DEC's conditions which included that the participants were not to divulge the location of any orchids found during the project to anyone, and they were not to be recorded on the Group's orchid sighting database.

8.3. 2010 Photo competition

The winners of the Photo Competition as judged by the members present were as follows:

- best individual photo: Jeremy Storey for a close up of *Paracaleana dixonii* with a fly on the flower
- 1<sup>st</sup> prize for portfolio: Jay Steer
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for portfolio: Joan Start
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for portfolio: Eric Swarts

**9. RAFFLE DRAW** Christine Lock drew the raffle and the winner was John Hill.

**MEETING CLOSED: 10.00 pm**

**NEXT MEETING: 8.00 pm Wednesday 16 March 2011**

**WANOSCG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, March 17th 2010**

Meeting held at: BGPA Boardroom, Kings Park. Meeting opened: 8:12 pm

**CIRCULATION OF REPORTS:** Attendance Book and Treasurers Report were circulated to the members

**ATTENDANCE:** 36 members present 5 apologies 2 visitors

**10. PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

Amendments: - None

The Annual General Meeting Minutes as distributed are a true and correct record of the meeting of March 18th 2009.

Moved: Ross Fox, Seconded Kim Hansen and carried

**11. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The President's report was published in the March Bulletin. Christine Lock added thanks to all the members and committee members, including Margaret & Ross Fox and Stuart Harris who are resigning this year, for their support over the year

**12. TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer's report and the Auditor's report were circulate around the AGM. Christine Lock moved that the meeting accept the 2009 Accounts and the Auditor's Report as true and accurate records of the Group's financial status – seconded Margaret Fox and carried.

**13. ELECTIONS**

Tom Blinco was nominated at the Returning Officer and Noel Clarke as Scrutineer for the Committee elections.

Position	Nominee	Moved	Seconded	Action
Patron	Steve Hopper	C.Lock	Sarah Atkinson	Continuing
President	Christine Lock	R.Fox	M. Fox	Elected
Vice President- 2 years	Eric Swarts	Sarah Atkinson	E. Wajon	Elected
Vice President- 1 year	Eddy Wajon			Continuing

Secretary	Ramón Newmann			Continuing
Treasurer	Matz Dahlkamp			Continuing
Committee	Kim Hansen			Continuing
Committee	Jay Steer	E. Wajon	Noel Clarke	Elected
Committee	Jeremy Story			Continuing
Committee	Thea Hansen			Continuing
Editor	John Ewing	Tom Blinco	Margaret Petridis	Elected
Field Trip Coordinator	Iain McLean	E. Wajon	C. Lock	Elected
Conservation Officer	Eddy Wajon	C. Lock	Matz Dahlkamp	Elected
Registrar	Christine Lock	Margaret Petridis	Matz Dahlkamp	Elected
Librarian	Bill Burton	Kim Hansen	Ian Greeve	Elected
Auditor	Phil Bunney	Donna Wajon	Eva Smith	Elected
Supper Coordinator	Donna Wajon	Eddy Wajon	Russel Thomas	Elected

**AGM CLOSED: 8:26 pm**  
**NEXT MEETING: 8.00 pm Wednesday March 16<sup>th</sup> 2011**

**ETIENNE DELANOY'S WORK ON the UNDERGROUND ORCHID (*Rhizanthella gardneri*)**

A number of members who are on the club's email list for the bulletin have read the recently released study on *Rhizanthella garnerii* that Etienne Delanoy participated in. This study is not available in print form but if anyone still wishes to have an electronic copy, contact the editor at his email address (see front cover of this bulletin). Printed below is one of the public press releases about this study.

**Western Australia's Incredible Underground Orchid**

*ScienceDaily (Feb. 9, 2011) — Rhizanthella gardneri* is a cute, quirky and critically endangered orchid that lives all its life underground. It even blooms underground, making it virtually unique amongst plants.

Last year, using radioactive tracers, scientists at The University of Western Australia showed that the orchid gets all its nutrients by parasitising fungi associated with the roots of broom bush, a woody shrub of the WA outback. Now, with less than 50 individuals left in the wild, scientists have made a timely and remarkable discovery about its genome.

Despite the fact that this fully subterranean orchid cannot photosynthesise and has no green parts at all, it still retains chloroplasts -- the site of photosynthesis in plants.

"We found that compared with normal plants, 70 per cent of the genes in the chloroplast have been lost," said Dr Etienne Delanoy, of the ARC Centre for Excellence in Plant Energy Biology, the lead researcher of a study published in *Molecular Biology and Evolution*. "With only 37 genes, this makes it the smallest of all known plant chloroplast genomes."

"The chloroplast genome was known to code for functions other than photosynthesis, but in normal plants, these functions are hard to study," said ARC Centre Director Professor Ian Small.

"In *Rhizanthella*, everything that isn't essential for its parasitic lifestyle has gone. We discovered that it has retained a chloroplast genome to make only four crucial proteins.

Our results are relevant to understanding gene loss in other parasites, for example, the *Plasmodium* parasite that causes malaria."

Associate Professor Mark Brundrett from the Wheatbelt Orchid Rescue Project describes *Rhizanthella* as one of the most beautiful, strange and iconic orchids in the world.

"Combining on-the-ground conservation efforts with cutting edge laboratory technologies has led to a great discovery with impacts for both science and conservation. The genome sequence is a very valuable resource, as it makes it possible to estimate the genetic diversity of this Declared Rare plant."

Professor Brundrett has been working with the Department of Environment and Conservation and volunteers from the West Australian Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group to locate these unique orchids.

"We needed all the help we could get since it often took hours of searching under shrubs on hands and knees to find just one underground orchid!"

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For those who have internet connection you can see this article and another plus photos at the following links  
<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/02/110208101337.htm>

<http://www.cosmosmagazine.com/news/4036/rare-underground-orchid-genome-unlocked>

### **NEW SUB-GROUPS within the Group**

At the Committee meeting in February (full outline of procedures in next bulletin) there was discussion about forming two new sub-groups which would be called 'The Conservation Activities Group' and 'The Study and Research Activities Group'. This issue will be raised at the March meeting. Members will be asked whether they would like to join one or both of the following new sub-groups of WANOSGC

### **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.*

**POSTAL ADDRESS: PO BOX 323, VICTORIA PARK, W.A. 6979**

**EMAIL ADDRESS: [wanoscg@gmail.com](mailto:wanoscg@gmail.com)**

**WEB ADDRESS:** [REDACTED]

**WEB MASTER:** Don Ward email: [REDACTED]

**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING** Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00pm at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Admin. Office.

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING** following AGM

### **BULLETIN ARTICLES**

Please email any Bulletin contributions to John Ewing at [REDACTED] Articles for the next Bulletin need to be submitted by 1<sup>st</sup> of next month.

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### **PROPOSED FIELD TRIPS**

\*\*\*\* **Still to be decided** \*\*\*\*\* any preliminary suggestions to Iain McLean

### Summer Orchid Hunting (from 2010)

After a very dry winter orchid hunting was a very hard enterprise at the end of October and even the annual Christmas trip was bought forward to October on account of the expectation of an early finish to the season. The Group's November meeting heralded the end of official activities for the year so maybe it was time to hang up the camera for the year.... or was it??

Together with a small group of members a number of trips were made to the south coast which revealed all was not lost in the world of orchids. Considering the dry winter it was remarkable that we saw so many.

The weekend after the last general meeting a visit was made to Augusta to search for *C.abbreviata* (Coastal Spider) and whilst this was unsuccessful we managed to find *T. benthamiana* (Leopard Sun), *C. lodgeana* (Lodge's Spider), *C. serotina* (Christmas Spider), *C. pholcoidea* subsp *pholcoidea* (Albany Spider), *M. media* subsp *media* (Common Mignonette) and *Pr. brownii* (Christmas Leek) in bud.

The following weekend a trip to the burn at Cheynes Beach Road found a number of *T. paludosa* (Plain Sun) but unfortunately the weather conspired against us and they were not out, neither was *T. canaliculata* (Blue Sun). Also found were *Pr. brownii*, *M. media* subsp *media*, *M. brownii* (Sweet Mignonette), *M. alboviridis* (Scented Mignonette) and a quite incredible display of *Epiblema grandiflorum* (Babe in the Cradle). A quick visit to Scott River on the return journey found a number of *M. alboviridis*, *M. media* subsp *densiflora* (Dense Mignonette), and *M. media* subsp *media*.

The burn at Cheyne's Beach was visited a number of times over the season and proved to be a very good source of orchids with something different each on each visit.

A few weeks later a visit to the Walpole area was quite successful with a number of *T. tigrina* (Tiger Sun), a *Pr. brownii* happily growing on a fallen tree trunk, *Epiblema grandiflorum*, *Pr. gibbosum* (Humped Leek) and a display of *Microtis* at Peaceful Bay which are still the subject of debate as to which ones they were.

The next day at Hay River saw a display of *C. corynephora* (Club-lipped Spider), *D. emarginata* (Late Donkey) and *D. pauciflora* (Swamp Donkey), together with *M. media* subsp *densiflora* and *M. media* subsp *media*. It was amazing to see the number of plants in the area despite the drier season.

A trip after Christmas to the Walpole area again found a number of *T. fuscolutea* (Chestnut Sun) a few *Pr. brownii* and a few *Cryptostylis ovata* (Slipper Orchid). A journey into the D'Entrecasteaux National Park was an endurance test of the highest level with the heat off the consolidated dunes proving to be energy sapping. However, a large display of *Cryptostylis ovata* proved that orchids are made of hardy stuff.

A trip straight after New Year to Scott River revealed a number of *Microtis* still hanging on with a number of *M. media* subsp *densiflora*, *M. alboviridis* and *M. quadrata* (South Coast Mignonette) in flower. Upon exploring one interesting track a remarkable sight was to be seen with a wonderful patch of *D. emarginata* and *D. heberlei* (Heberle's Donkey) which were just coming into flower. To see this display in the middle of summer in a hot dry area was a fitting way to round off what had been an interesting summer of orchid hunting.



*M. alboviridis*



*Pr. gibbosum*



*D. heberlei*

**From David James in Queensland** (David is a WANOSCG member)

#### 28 November 2010 Bellthorpe Orchid Ramble Report

Six Kabi Group members met outside the Woodford Police Station a bit after 9:00 am on Sunday 28 November 2010. It could have been a while after 9:00 am as one car load of ramblers had firstly taken a wrong turn (driver that forgot they were going to Woodford not Mt Mee) and was then catch out by the changed off-ramp from the Bruce Highway to the D'Aguilar Highway (had to take the Pumicestone Road to get back on the D'Aguilar Highway at the Old Bruce Highway). The plan for the day was to look for flowering *Calochilus* species. Therefore the vehicles travelled into the southern Conondale Ranges around Bellthorpe stopping at six likely ridge top areas. No

flowering *Calochilus* were seen at any of the locations. At one location one plant of split seed capsules was located that may have been a *Calochilus*. But all was not lost as quantities of non-target flowering orchids were seen at a number of the stops.

Despite not finding any *Calochilus* in flower representatives of a flowering *Microtis* species that had not been seen before were found, some very health *Cryptostylis subulate*, a lovely greener colour form of *Cymbidium suave* and early flowered *Chiloglottis sylvestris* (not normally seen until December).



*Cymbidium suave*



*Cryptostylis subulate*



*Chiloglottis sylvestris*

The ramble concluded with a late BYO lunch at the picnic table adjacent to the tennis court in the township of Bellthorpe.

David James

**OTHER REPORTS**

The committee has decided that the electronic version of the Bulletin is to be the same as the print version. The print version of the Bulletin can't be any more than 8 pages as it will nearly double the cost of postage.

As a result of this decision, other articles both from David Jones and from ANOS Newcastle (an article by Colin Rowan who is also a member of WANOSCG) can no longer be part of this bulletin. If you wish to be put on a list to receive these, and any other future extra articles and/or photos, please advise the Editor by return email. These articles are only available in electronic form.



This is Colin Rowan's *Sarcochilus hillii*, which he found near Nowra in NSW in January this year. You have to look up to this orchid as it is an epiphyte. (Reproduced with permission from ANOS Newcastle)



Photo by Ramon Newman taken December 30 at Warren National Park

**SPECIAL NOTE**

Procedures of the November 2010 Committee Meeting and the February 2011 Committee Meeting will be published in the next bulletin. ED

[Editor's comment – We needed more about orchids rather than filling the bulletin with meeting procedures]

What orchid is this?

	<b>Raffle Roster</b>	<b>SPEAKERS 2011</b>
<b>MAR</b>	John Hills	Mark Brundrett – Final Report on Wheatbelt Orchid Rescue Project that has been funded by a Lotterywest grant
<b>APR</b>	John Ewing	Rod Peakall
<b>MAY</b>		
<b>JUNE</b>		
<b>JULY</b>		
<b>AUG</b>		
<b>SEPT</b>		
<b>OCT</b>		
<b>NOV</b>		Photo competition and members' slides

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**PROPOSED FIELD TRIPS**  
 To be advised