

BULLETIN March 2013

Registered by Australia Post Publication No WBH 1240

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John Ewing [redacted]

V President 1:

Jay Steer [redacted]

V President 2:

Kim Hanson [redacted]

Secretary:

Tom Burbidge [redacted]

Treasurer:

Kim Hanson [redacted]

Committee:

1 Thea Hanson [redacted]

2 Russell Thomas

3 Margaret Petridis

4 Ramón Newman [redacted]



WANOSCG (INC) 1974 - 2013

Patron:

Prof. S Hopper

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Iain McLean

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Conservation Officer:

John Ewing [redacted]

Supper Coordinator:

Donna Wajon [redacted]

Auditor:

Phil Bunney [redacted]

Conservation Council Rep:

Editor: Urszula Kokosinska

E-mail- [redacted]

Dear All,

Hope the New Year 2013 will be a very happy and healthy to all our readers and will bring lots of exciting sightings and new discoveries on your trips into the bush.

I would like to start with beautiful photos of *Thelymitra jacksonii* (Jackson's Sun Orchid) sent by Trevor Cunningham from Albany who, as he wrote, was fortunate to be in the 'right place' on a good sunny day, just before Christmas. What a fantastic shots!





NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 11th April at 7.30 pm

| 2013 General Meetings | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| March 20 th | August 21 st |
| April 17 th | September 18 th |
| May 15 th | October 16 th |
| June 19 th | November 20 th |
| July 17 th | |

NEXT AGM & GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 20th March at 7.30 pm at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Admin. Office

organised by Kim and Thea Hanson. A huge amount of preparation meant that everyone was provided with a map of all the sites for all 3 days of the trip. While everyone gathered at the initial site to see *Caladenia nivalis*, they were also rewarded with the viewing of a couple of lovely tiger snakes. Members could then self navigate to other locations. The group thus split and then morphed in all kinds of combinations. It avoided traffic hazards of a large group all in one place, allowed people to stay longer without holding others up and meant that each person was responsible for staying in touch rather than the leader having to take sole responsibility for everyone. For that location (not being in a 'remote' place) this worked extremely well. It is a model for field trips that in my view should be adopted in some form or other in the future.

The other 'burnt area' field trip was organised by Margaret Petridis and Kevin Uhe to the Northcliffe area. While the initial trip was just a little early to see the comparatively rare *Pyrorchis forrestii* (Pink Beaks) Margaret and Kevin persisted and organised a number of repeat visits allowing many more members to see this delightful flower plus a huge range of all kinds of other species.

Our membership has continued to grow during the year. A warm welcome to all the new members.

Joan Biddle, a former member and conservationist passed away during the year and Betty Mumford, a current member, died in January of 2013. While we are saddened by these losses it is good to know that there are many others who will carry on the enthusiasm and commitment to preservation and study of flora and of orchids in particular.

We will all look forward to 2013 and what it might bring.

John Ewing

President's Report 2012

2012 has been another positive year for the Group. I want to thank the Committee members for their contributions in administering the Group's affairs. Tom Burbidge as Secretary and Kim Hanson as Treasurer have both done well in their new portfolios. Urszula Kokosinska has continued the excellent Bulletin production and I have received accolades not only from local members but also from members in the Eastern States. New committee member Margaret Petridis has been most active and creative on the committee and I thank her for all her constructive contributions.

Adopt an Orchid has still been under the watchful eye of Kim Hanson who has seen the project progress. We have been given some excellent feedback in meetings about what has been found and that has added to the impetus of this excellent project.

Early in the year the first award for meritorious service to the club was given to Don Ward. His long term commitment to the WANOSCG website was recognised in what will become an annual award. Don has provided news from the bulletin and included many of his own photos. His regular updating of the website has meant that new members have joined as a result of the attractiveness of the website.

There have been a number of very enjoyable field trips over the year with thanks to Iain McLean for his good organisation. A number of these have involved tramping through burnt bush, but they have been a source of great 'finds'. One of these included the Busselton/Margaret River trip

WANOSCG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 21st 2012

Meeting held at: BGPA Boardroom, Kings Park.

Meeting opened: 7:35 pm

ATTENDANCE: 34 members present 7 apologies 3 visitors

The meeting was chaired by Eddy Wajon who was standing in as President in the absence of John Ewing

1. 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 16th 2011.

Moved Jay Steer Seconded Matz Dahlkamp and carried

2. Presidents Report

- 2.1. Eddy Wajon read out the Presidents report as written by John Ewing.
- 2.2. Jay Steer moved a vote of support for the Presidents thank-you for the work that Christine Lock had done as the past President. Seconded by Donna Wajon and carried.
- 2.3. Eddy Wajon moved to thank Matz Dahlkamp, who was standing down as Treasurer, for the work she had done for the Group over the years. Seconded Ramón Newmann, and carried.

3. Treasurer's Report

- 3.1. The Treasurer's Report was presented by Matz Dahlkamp
- 3.2. Matz reported that it was becoming more difficult to get Insurance coverage for the Group and that the premiums had risen significantly (approx. \$1200 compared to approx. \$600 in previous years)
- 3.3. Matz stated that she personally hoped that the Group would keep the annual fees as they are and if necessary that they be subsidised by the Group's funds, and that she hoped that the Group would keep on doing well and would keep looking for orchids.
- 3.4. The net asset position of the Group is approx. \$65,000, which is held in investment, cash and cheque accounts.

3.5. Eddy Wajon reported that the Committee had decided to publish the Bulletin without limiting the number of pages due to postage. Hardcopies will be published in Black and White, to control the costs, and it is available as a full colour electronic version for members who elect to receive it by email. It is hoped that more members will move to electronic version of the Bulletin. Members who had not paid their annual subscription to the Group will not be receiving copies of the Bulletin.

3.6. Margaret Petridis noted that other clubs in the eastern states charge members extra for hard copies of their newsletters.

3.7. Don Ward noted that in the future the Bulletin could be published as a PDF document on the web page and the access to it could be restricted to members only.

4. 5 Year Plan

- 4.1. Eddy Wajon reported that 3 sets of comments had been received from Member of the 5 year plan as circulated by John Ewing – including a question on what is a Lucid Key.
- 4.2. A Lucid Key is an electronic way to identify orchids. Kevin Tilley has developed one for other species. It is identification by elimination, and measures various attributes. A big data base is required of observations of known samples.
- 4.3. The 5 year Plan needs the member's involvement in order to be effective.
- 4.4. Suggestions are welcome on what the Group should do with its funds.
- 4.5. The Adopt-an-Orchid program is running well and will not be changed by the 5 Year Plan.
- 4.6. Member's comments on the 5 Year Plan are welcome for the next Committee meeting.
- 4.7. Eddy asked members to show if they supported the 5 Year Plan by raising their hands – by way of a straw-poll. A clear majority of Members indicated their support.
- 4.8. Margaret Petridis stated that she would support a Kimberley Field Trip over a Group trip to the eastern states; however in the past Andrew Brown had indicated that it would be complicate, dangerous and expensive.

5. WANOSCG Award

- 5.1. As reported in the Bulletin, the Committee has agreed to present an annual WANOSCG Award – and to initiate it at this AGM. The procedures for the Award are in the Bulletin; however the Committee decided at the last Committee meeting to select the inaugural award winner and present the award at the 2012 AGM.
- 5.2. The 2012 Award will be presented to Don Ward for his work over the years on the Group's web page.
- 5.3. As the President is currently away, Eddy Wajon moved that the Award be signed by the immediate Past President, Christine Lock. Seconded Ramón Newmann and carried.
- 5.4. Christine Lock presented the Award and expressed her thanks on behalf of the Group for the great job that

Don Ward does in getting the field trip photos on to the web site within a day of the trips. A big thanks was also given for the fact that Don not only manages the web site but also pays the fees for the web page server.

- 5.5. Don Ward thanked everyone for the totally unexpected Award. He said that he enjoyed doing it. Last year a lot of interest was generated by having a web site providing information on the Group. A lot of dialogue on orchids can be generated and addressed through a web site.

6. ELECTIONS

Christine Lock was nominated as the Returning Officer and no Scrutineer was required for the Committee elections.

| | Nomination | Nominator | Secunder |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| President | John Ewing | Donna Wajon | Wayne Merritt |
| Vice President | Jay Steer | Donna Wajon | Sarah Atkinson |
| Secretary | Tom Burbidge | Donna Wajon | Kim Hanson |
| Treasurer | Kim Hanson | Thea Hanson | Iain McLean |
| Field Trip Coordinator | Ian McLean | Debbie Proudfoot | Margaret Petridis |
| Committee Member#1 | Margaret Petridis | Eddy Wajon | Thea Hanson |
| Committee Member#2 | Ramon Newmann | Donna Wajon | Bert Lynden |
| Registrar | Christine Lock | Donna Wajon | Tom Burbidge |
| Auditor | Phil Bunney | Christine Lock | Matz Dahlkamp |
| Supper Coordinator | Donna Wajon | Sarah Atkinson | Eva Smith |
| Librarian | Jay Steer | Matz Dahlkamp | Urszula Kokosinska |
| Conservation Officer | John Ewing | Eddy Wajon | Matz Dahlkamp |
| Editor | Urszula Kokosinska | Debbie Proudfoot | Matz Dahlkamp |

A Patron is still required for 2012. The Committee will discuss at the next Committee meeting who should be nominated and they will be asked to confirm if they will accept before being put to the vote of the Members. Potential nominees discussed at the AGM were Steve Hopper, Andrew Brown, and Noel Hoffman. Noel suggested that the Group should not go past the nomination of someone of the standing of Steve Hopper.

7. General Buissness

- 7.1. Mark Brundrett showed some of the Lotteries West Goldfields Orchid Research displays from the recent World Orchid congress held in Singapore in Oct 2011. The next one

will be in September 2012 at the Burswood in Perth. There will be an article in the next issue of the Australian Plant Conservation publication.

- 7.2. Mining companies have been contacted with regards the support of the development of a lucid key for orchids. Copies of the BHP funding application forms have been down loaded and will be reviewed by the Committee.
- 7.3. Don Ward stated that he would welcome other Members to become involved with the Group's web site. The maintenance needs to be shared. Jay Steer has started to help. One area needing attention is the accessing of emails that come through the website – Jay will help with this until it is more

officially discussed by the Committee. Paul Winthrop said that he was at the AGM tonight as a consequence of reading the web site.

AGM CLOSED: 8:38 pm
NEXT MEETING: 7:30 pm Wednesday
March 20th 2013

WANOSCG GENERAL MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, 21 November 2012

Meeting held at: BGPA Boardroom, Kings Park.
Meeting opened: 7:45 PM

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

ATTENDANCE: 30 members present 0 apologies 1 visitor

RAFFLE: Kindly donated by Kim & Thea Hanson

8. PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The General Meeting Minutes are a true and correct record of the meeting of 17 October 2012. Moved: Ross Fox and Seconded Jay Steer
Carried

9. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 1st Aid Training: John Ewing asked the meeting for those that want to do a 1st aid course which will be early next year to put their names on the tabled list as there was a need for ten participants and there was only six on the list so far. At the end of the meeting there was the required number on the list.

3 TREASURER'S REPORT

This was circulated to members and showed that income was \$4,404.34 plus the balance came to \$7,204.60 and an expenditure of \$1,064.96 giving a balance at the end of the period of \$6,139.64 With the 3 Term Deposits there is a balance of \$71,236.26.

4 CORRESPONDENCE

Bulletins from other orchid societies
Nil

5 FIELD TRIP REPORT:

Margaret Petridis: Northcliffe: Still some Pink Beaks (*Pyrorchis forrestii*) in flower

and some Babe-in-a-Cradle orchids (*Epiblema grandiflorum* var. *grandiflorum*).
Eddy Wajon: Jerramungup: Chingrup: 39 *Thelymitra* sp. 'Ongerup' (Orange Sun Orchid) but only 1 in flower, rest had died.
Margaret Fox: Hybrids of *Thelymitra benthamiana* (Leopard Orchid) and *Thelymitra macrophylla* (Scented Sun Orchid) and other hybrids of *Thelymitra* species had been seen near Busselton.
John Ewing: Qualen Rd: 1 shrivelled plant of *Caladenia longicauda* subsp. *redacta* (Tangled Spider Orchid).
Robinson Rd Woodanilling: *Pterostylis roensis* (Rufous Greenhood).
15km from York: Beard Orchids which were dug up and what were there had gone to seed. Also 20km before York a *Disa bracteata* (South African Orchid).

6. CONSERVATION REPORT:

There was no Conservation Report this month.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Tags: Andrew Brown has requested that members do not remove coloured ribbon tags in the bush as often they are marking research plots for DEC or Kings park staff. During field trips, if ribbon tags or other markers are put near orchids for members to see, the last person to see the orchid should remove the tag. It is thought that obvious tags left in the bush, particularly if visible from the road will alert other people to the presence of the orchids and there is a risk of damage or digging of the plants. Wire sticks with coloured plastic tops have been obtained by some ADORP groups to assist with their survey work. These markers are 500 mm high with fluorescent pink tops and are easily seen amongst vegetation, thus assisting with counting with counting plants and getting a visual on their range in the habitat. Margaret Petridis suggested that WANOSCG purchase a supply of these markers for ADORP groups to use. The Committee has approved the purchase of 1,000 markers. All members are requested to remove any form of tagging after field trips or survey work. As it is sometimes difficult to count every plant in a population during surveys, it was suggested that an approximation of numbers could be done by marking out a square within a population,

counting the plants within it and then estimating the total number of plants. Margaret Petridis suggested that all ADORP groups should meet before the start of the season to discuss this and other matters relating to the ADORP surveys.

7.2 **Pterostylis dixonii:** Margaret Petridis said members had visited a known site in October and counted 49 plants in bud a little further north, over 100 plants in bud were found and one in flower. On a return visit in November, over 140 plants were in flower.

7.3 **Pterostylis rufa:** There will be a field trip to go and see this orchid complex next year. Chris French and others have viewed this area which is a wilderness area. If members are considering going on this trip they will need to realise that they will be away for 1 week and that there will be no facilities at the site and so they will have to be prepared to camp out. Members are asked to please let the committee know if they are interested in going on this field trip. There are six members already interested. The precise date will be mentioned at the general meeting and put into the bulletin nearer the time. Andrew Brown will be available to lead this field trip. The trip will visit some sites from the 1993 expedition that found new species and we are hoping to see some of these. The trip will require 4WD vehicles, camping gear, self-sufficiency with food, water and fuel, and a sense of adventure.

7.4 **WANOSCG Award:** Last year Don Ward was awarded this. If members know of someone they feel should be awarded this award please let John Ewing know. The Committee will decide who is to get this award at their February meeting and the award will be given to the recipient at the March General Meeting.

7.5 **Christmas breakup:** This will constitute a barbecue and slide night on 8 December. Members were asked to bring a thumb peg with no more than 25 slides on it and has to have no more than 5 species of orchid.

7.6 **Eddy Wajon** asked about the 500 ha to be cleared in the Canna area. John Ewing has a list of 40 species of orchids in this area. This land is owned by an Aboriginal Corporation. John Ewing recommended that this area be

surveyed. He will send a personal letter to ask that 100 ha be kept for conservation purposes. There is also an area of 480 ha in the West Arthur Shire to be cleared. This is an unacceptable area due to the flowers and orchids that are in this area.

8 GROWERS TABLE

None

9. PRESENTATION

This was in the form of a photo competition and had to be 3 *Pterostylis* species each on 6 X 4 photo paper. Members were asked to put 2 red spots on the group of photos that they thought were the best ones. The winner was Noel Hoffman and he was given the winners shield. 2nd was Lyn Alcock and tied for 3rd was Margaret Petridis and Kevin Uhe.

10. RAFFLE DRAW

Drawn by Noel Hoffman – the winner being Ian Grieve

MEETING CLOSED: 8:45 pm

NEXT MEETING: Barbecue & members slides @ Kings Park 6:00pm BYO meat and salad, next General Meeting: 7:30 pm Wednesday 20 March 2013 at 7:30pm

February Committee Meeting Proceedings

1. A letter from Tom Blinco was tabled relating to the fact that the 'Honour Roll' for WANOSGC had not been published in the Bulletin for some time. This will be rectified as soon as possible.
2. Club Award for 2012 was discussed with more than 1 nomination having been received. The decision of the Committee will be announced at the March meeting.
3. The dates for the first aid course are to be in early April and the venue is yet to be decided.
4. Developments for Mark Brundrett's new book were tabled including an orchid recognition key. The book is due to be completed by about mid 2013.
5. Correspondence from Margaret Collins about the development of a Lucid Key for orchid identification was discussed and the recommendation that WANOSGC support Margaret's application for funding through LotteryWest was agreed. This proposal is to be put to the membership at the March meeting.
6. Speakers for the year were discussed and it was agreed to approach Southern Rivers to have

some report/s about Adopt an Orchid progress from the south coast areas.

7. Discussions about possible Committee positions covered a range of possibilities. These will be put forward at the AGM in March. Stephen Hopper is to be contacted to see if he will be willing to continue as the Group's patron.

8. Pink tags for use in field work are to be purchased before this orchid season begins.

9. Margaret Petridis outlined information about summer burns. Some of these may be possible field trip locations. Other possible locations for field trips were also discussed including the 'rufa' trip that was mentioned in 2012.

10. The website was discussed and some possible changes outlined. One of these might include submission of information and photographs where members may wish to have the flower identified. No final decision was made about how this might be done, but it was agreed that the idea has some merit.

11. The Group's Data base was discussed and John Ewing was to contact Christine Lock to consider the best way to arrange access and use of the Data base.

[Note – as a result of this contact Christine will present a brief report at the March meeting on the data base, its present use, and member access to it]

12. Priority 1 orchids were considered and since a number are not being currently studied under ADORP suggestions about how to improve this situation were considered. One possibility is to have a club field trip to explore areas in which these orchids are found.

WANOSCG HONOUR BOARD



The following was printed in the August 2000 BULLETIN (by Editor Noel Clarke).

“Bill Burton suggested the group initiate an Honour Board, but as we have no permanent place to display it I have included it in this Bulletin. Over the years some members have reached the end of their allotted span, and in memory of them I have made a list, some from past Bulletins and some from my fading memory. Most of the deceased were active members.

ANNA BRUNNBAUER 1995
GERHART BRUNNBAUER 1998
JOHN EMERY 1996
HERB FOOTE 1987 (founding member)
RON FOREMAN 1994
(Mrs) LAURINE (LAURIE) G1BB1NGS (1983)
HARRY GOODCH1LD (founding member)
LISA JACKSON 1994
KEN JONES 1978
PIERRE MILON 1991
DICK MUMFORD 1994
CRAWFORD NALDER 1994 (founding member)
EMMA SAUERACKER (1999)
LAL SHEPPARD 1979 (founding member)
GEORGE SPICE 1983

Names since added

KATIE WARD 2002
BILL JACKSON 2002
ROY HARGREAVES 2003
HARRY LODGE 2004
RON HEBERLE 2004
PAULINE HEBERLE 2006
BILL MANGINI 2007
ROSS WILTON 2009
BERYL YATES 2010
MARIE PICKERSGILL 2010
ERIC ALCOCK 2011
DON VOIGT 2011
JOAN BIDDLE 2012
BETTY MUMFORD 2013

W A N O S C G

HONOUR ROLL

LIFE MEMBERS

* * * * *

ANDREW BROWN
NOEL CLARKE
ALEX GEORGE
ROY HARGREAVES*
RON HEBERLE*
HARRY LODGE*
JEAN LONG
DON VOIGT*
BERYL YATES*
ROSS WILTON*
BILL BURTON
GLORIA JACKSON

John Ewing
President

VALE BETTY MUMFORD

In January this year we learnt of the passing of long time member Betty Mumford. Betty and her deceased husband Dick have been members since the early years of WANOSGC. Betty is survived by her 5 children and 12 grandchildren.

Betty and Dick were good friends of Bill and Gloria Jackson and spent many happy times exploring and camping with the Jacksons. They have originally met through the Wildflower Society and it was Bill who introduced the Mumfords to orchid hunting. Gloria says they were spoilt going camping with the Mumfords as they were always willing to go wherever the Jacksons wanted to go.

Over the time when Dick was ill in hospital, Betty visited him every day for 15 years. She was a faithful wife and that wonderful quality of character showed in all that she did. She had a great interest in embroidery and was a long time member of the CWA.

Betty's interest in orchids was strong to the end. Even when she could no longer get out, she was still a keen reader of the Bulletin, which she received in the Lodge in Denmark where she lived over the last few years.

New Diuris Named

In the October - November 2012 edition of the "Australian Orchid Review" David Jones and Chris French have formally named an early flowering *Diuris* which will be an addition to the known *Diuris* listings and does not appear in the latest H & B.

Diuris perialla has been named from the Greek "periallos" (before all others) in reference to its early flowering period. This species is found in a widespread area from Regan's Ford and Mogumber to Northampton and Mingenew growing on laterite breakways in dense low shrubby heath.

Diuris perialla has affinity to *Diuris brumalis* but has a shorter habit (15 -35 cm) and has fewer flowers (normally 4 whereas *Diuris brumalis* has up to 15) *Diuris perialla* is an early flowering donkey and was collected by Chris French on July 5 1998. It flowers from mid June to late July.

Kevin Uhe
Photos Margaret Petridis





ADOPT A BURN SURVEYS REPORT

The summer of 2011-2012 yielded approximately 50 burns of varying significance and size.

Major burns occurred in the Eneabba area around Beekeeper's Rd, west of Brand Highway; Margaret River; Northcliffe /Windy Harbour to Broke Inlet and Stewart Rd to Black Point south of Nannup.

These burns were all visited a number of times during 2012 and three were the locations for WANOSCG field trips in August, September and October.

In addition, members surveyed burns in their local areas in Koondoola Regional Open Space, Wundowie, Johnston Rd east of the Forrest Highway, Hunwick Rd North east of Denmark and Gull Rock Rd, east of Albany.

Data was collected from 9 burns during 2012.

The burn near Eneabba occurred on 7/03/2012 and the area was visited by a large group of members in mid-August during a 2 day field trip. It yielded some interesting finds and a large number of orchid species. (see report in the September Bulletin)

In late October/early November it was the area where significant numbers of *Paracaleana dixonii* (Sandplain Duck Orchid) were found in bud and flower.

The Margaret River burn was visited during a 3 day field trip over the long weekend at the end of September. An interesting find was a population of creamy yellow *Pyrorchis nigricans* (Red Beaks) - usually red and white striped. An extensive report with photos was published in the October Bulletin. This was an early summer burn on 1/11/2011.

The most frequently visited burn was the one south of Northcliffe, which was the focus for

a very productive field trip over 2 days in mid-October, and numerous other visits between August and December. Almost 60 species of orchids were seen on the October field trip where we visited many different habitats. A report was published in the November bulletin. Members enjoyed the guidance and local knowledge of Northcliffe resident Wendy who took us into Moore's Hut and Fish Creek track near the coast in a convoy of 4WD vehicles. Significant finds in this area were *Thelymitra uliginosa* (Southern Curly Locks) in August, *Caladenia gardneri* (Cherry Spider Orchid), *Caladenia interjacens* (Walpole Spider Orchid), *Caladenia X idiastes* (*Caladenia gardneri* X *Caladenia latifolia*), *Calochilus uliginosus* (Swamp Beard Orchid), *Prasophyllum odoratissimum* (Fragrant Leek Orchid), *Prasophyllum* sp. 'southern' (Southern Fringed Leek Orchid) in October and *Pyrorchis forrestii* (Pink Beaks) and *Eriochilus tenuis* (Slender Bunny Orchid) in November.

This large burn of over 35,000 HA occurred between 14th and 21st February 2012. It was amazing to see the regeneration of the bush during the year and to find so many beautiful orchids in the spring and summer following the fire. We plan to re-visit the burns at Eneabba and Northcliffe in 2013 and 2014 to monitor re-growth of the habitat and document the orchids that flower in the second and third year post-burn.

Thank you to all members who contributed time and information to the Burns Study in 2012.

Your assistance and enthusiasm was very much appreciated.

All data collected will be forwarded on to our Registrar for the database and to DEC.

Margaret Petridis.

**SOUTHERN RIVERS GROUP
FIELD TRIP REPORTS**

**Rufa Ramble
Saturday 17th November 2012**

Three enthusiastic club members headed out to the Pallinup River searching for members of the *Pterostylis rufa* complex. Trundling behind a harvester, chaser bin and silo close examination of the road verge was possible. The bush became noticeably drier and not one *Thelymitra* was sighted flowering along the road verge.

At the Pallinup River we first explored the slopes leading to the river finding many *Pterostylis leptochila* (Ravensthorpe Rufous Greenhood). Next, a moss covered granite area was searched without success. Further along the river beside



disturbed soil many plants of *Pterostylis roensis* (Rufous Greenhood), *Pterostylis picta* (Painted Rufous Greenhood) and *Pterostylis ciliata* (Hairy Rufous Greenhood) were found. The sheer number of orchids was very pleasing indeed.



As the temperature gauge and tripmeter were heading north at nearly the same rate whilst searching other nearby nature reserves, we





have pondered the possibility at this location. *Thelymitra crinita* (Blue Lady Orchid) was also found with some plants having a longer and narrower leaf.

Site two was in a sheoak grove with deep leaf litter. Here only one patch of eleven plants of *Gastrodia lacista* (Potato Orchid) was located. Some had formed immature fruit whilst others were still in tight bud.

Site three was in wet peaty soil where a few plants of *Thelymitra tigrina* (Tiger Orchid) were found, but not fully open, making photography a challenge.

On the way to our fourth stop we revisited a site in which we had found a number of plants with lime green buds and long narrow leaves about 7mm in width. Today large green seed pods were found on very robust stems with the sepals and petals still attached. Group consensus identified it as probably a *Thelymitra benthamiana* (Leopard Orchid), however, the leaf shape and size did not match the usual dimensions. Next year we will keep closer observations and see what eventuates when the plant is in flower.

decided it prudent to head south west back to a much cooler south coast. We did not sight another orchid on the way home, however enjoyed the satisfaction of watching the wheat harvest in full swing.

Anna de Haan

Walpole area Saturday 1st December 2012

Club members met at a swamp just out of Walpole on a calm sunny day. In standing water two distinctly coloured *Epiblema* were identified. The deeper blue of *Epiblema grandiflorum* var. *grandiflorum* (Babe- in-a-Cradle) had all been fertilised and were going to seed whilst a paler form were in full flower. Could these have been *Epiblema grandiflorum* var. *cyaneum* (Baby Blue Orchid)? It's not the first time that club members

Site four in the Mad Fish Bay area was extremely wet from last weeks storms. Only three different species were found today, *Caladenia corynephora* (Club-lipped Spider Orchid), *Diuris emarginata* (Late Donkey Orchid) and *Microtis albovidis* (Scented Mignonette Orchid) whilst last year there were ten. A number of *Diuris* were still in tight bud.

The final stop for some and the first for others was beside a river. Unfortunately the road verge had been sprayed wiping out a significant number of immature plants. Thus, limited numbers of *Microtis media* subsp. *densiflora* (Dense Mignonette Orchid), *Caladenia corynephora* (Club-lipped Spider Orchid) and *Diuris emarginata* (Late Donkey Orchid) which was in tight bud were found. After a week of extreme weather a very rewarding field trip was had by all.

Anna de Haan



Dr Eddy Wajon, FRACI, Comp IEAust, MAWA,
FAWWA, MWSWA, MECA
Director, Wajon and Associates
President, Wildflower Society of Western
Australia

There has been some discussion in the community recently, particularly in the rural and farming community, about so-called draconian laws prohibiting the clearing of farmland and road verges. There have been resolutions passed and calls made for these rules to be repealed and carte-blanche being given to clearing vegetation because roads are too narrow and farms are too small.

From the Wildflower Society of Western Australia's perspective, trees and other vegetation are important, valuable and necessary to our very existence. Without them, we would not exist on this planet. They provide a range of what are called ecosystem services and it is possible to put an economic value on these.

Benefits that trees (and shrubs) provide include the following:

- trees and shrubs are carbon sinks. As part of photosynthesis, trees absorb carbon dioxide and turn it into carbon that is stored in the wood, roots and leaves
- trees and shrubs produce and release oxygen. Without oxygen, we would not be able to breathe and survive
- trees and shrubs clean the air. Trees and shrubs intercept airborne particles and absorb pollutants such as carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide
- trees and shrubs fight soil erosion. Trees and shrubs intercept rainfall, their leaves breaking the force of wind and rain on soil. Roots bind the soil and reduce erosion
- trees and shrubs reduce and slow storm water runoff. Trees and shrubs intercept rainfall and some rainfall is held on the leaves where it evaporates. This reduces the amount of water that reaches the ground and becomes stormwater runoff

that needs to be channelled away in urban areas

- trees and shrubs clean water and the soil. Through a process called phytoremediation trees and shrubs absorb contaminants in the soil, and either store them or change them into less harmful forms. Trees and shrubs also take up nutrients and thus reduce the effects of fertilisers, animal wastes, and roadside spills that enter stormwater runoff
- trees moderate climate. Trees provide shade in summer which results in cooling thus reducing the need for air conditioning. In winter, trees break the force of winter winds, and lower heating costs. Studies have shown that parts of cities without shade from trees can literally be "heat islands" with temperatures as much as 5 degrees higher than surrounding areas. Trees can lower home heating bills by up to 30%
- trees act as windbreaks. A reduction in wind can prevent drying of soil and vegetation behind the windbreak and help keep precious topsoil in place
- trees provide habitat for birds and other animals. Many species such as cockatoos and phascogales use the hollows in very old trees to nest and rear young. Birds and other animals also eat the seeds and insects found on trees
- trees control noise pollution. Trees muffle urban noise. Trees, planted at strategic points in a neighbourhood or around a house, especially if in a diffraction pattern, can abate major noises from freeways and airports
- trees increase property values. Trees are aesthetic, and provide a sense of place and elegance. Real estate values increase when trees beautify a property or neighbourhood. Trees can increase the property value of a home by 15% or more.



These ecosystem, direct and aesthetic benefits can be converted into economic values.

The value of carbon sequestered in trees and other vegetation can be relatively easily calculated. An allometric equation is required that predicts the rate of growth of a tree and calculates the amount of biomass in the above-ground portion of the tree. Using the density of the wood, the fact that wood is approximately 50% carbon and that 30 - 40% of the carbon is stored in the roots, the amount of carbon stored by an individual tree can be calculated. It is more difficult to calculate how much carbon is stored in a forest or woodland, as this depends on the species composition and vegetation density, but estimates based on digging up representative individuals has resulted in values of 150 t carbon/hectare stored in a typical banksia woodland in Western Australia. The value of that carbon can then be computed using the market value of carbon dioxide, which is \$23/tonne in Australia through the emissions trading scheme which came into effect in July 2012. On this basis, the 1.9t of carbon (roots and all) in a large tree, say a Jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*), would be worth \$158 at the end of its life, while the 150t/ha of carbon in a banksia woodland would be worth \$12,650/ha after 70 years.

Other economic benefits of trees are more complicated to estimate. The amount of oxygen released by a tree can be calculated from the amount of carbon that is sequestered. However, what is the value of that oxygen? One value that could be used is the price of industrially-produced oxygen (which is actually separated from the atmosphere), which costs approximately \$1,700/tonne. This makes the production of oxygen the most valuable function of a tree, with each mature Jarrah tree producing oxygen worth about \$17,000 over its lifetime while a banksia woodland would produce oxygen worth approximately \$690,000/ha over 70 years.



Assessing the aesthetic value of an urban/amenity tree (or trees) is complex and there is no method (or methods) over which there is widespread agreement. The amenity value of a tree takes into account a number of intrinsic, aesthetic, historical, cultural and some environmental considerations. No formula has ever been accepted as an international standard for assessing all (or indeed any) of a tree's values. Assessing a tree's amenity and intrinsic value is especially contentious, so no Australian formula (or formulae) has ever been accepted as a standard for assessing this value. Nevertheless, there are several formulae that are in regular use by arboriculturists and others to estimate the amenity value of trees, and these have been supported by courts and insurance companies. The value of a tree increases with age, and a 40 year old eucalypt in an urban boulevard could have a value of the order of \$20,000 to \$40,000.

Calculating the value of other ecosystem services provided by trees and vegetation generally is much more difficult. Methods used have included the willingness to pay principle, in which surveys of a proportion of a community have been undertaken to determine what they would be prepared to pay to preserve or restore a particular ecosystem. Another method is to determine what it costs people to visit or go to particular areas of particular appeal such as a National Park. A third method is based upon land valuation in which the rated value of all rateable land in an area is calculated and assumed to equate to the total value of ecosystem services provided by that land. This can be converted to an annual value by using a capitalisation rate (a rate of return on the land, typically 5-9%).

These methods provide ecosystem services valuations on an areal basis which typically range between \$100 and \$400/ha/year. These

cost estimates are considerably lower than the world-wide value of approximately \$1,300/ha/year in a well-publicised study published in the journal Nature in 1997 which was criticised as an overestimate.

However, under particular circumstances, some specific ecosystem services can have considerably greater value than when lumped in with generic ecosystem services. For example, urban trees reduce storm water runoff volumes that need to be directed into stormwater drains and treated. Urban trees also moderate temperature extremes which reduce air conditioning and heating costs for nearby residences and businesses. This in turn reduces power consumption and reduces carbon dioxide emissions from power stations generating that power.

The avoided cost of infrastructure to manage urban storm water due to reduced volumes could be as much as \$1000-5000/tree, though this would only be realised if there was a sufficient number of mature trees to significantly reduce the size of the drainage pipe required. The savings in energy costs from the shade provided by a mature tree could be of the order of \$80-160/tree/year, which includes the value of carbon saved through reduced energy generation.

Assessing the economic benefits of a large area of natural vegetation on climate moderation and stormwater management is considerably more complicated and has typically been included in generic ecosystem benefits.

However, additional ecosystem benefits can be calculated if individual plant and animal species have a market value. For example, White-tailed and Red-tailed Black Cockatoos sell for \$1500 each from legal suppliers; their value from poaching may be higher. If Black Cockatoos nest in hollows in mature trees in a particular area, the value of that area could be calculated from the number of nest hollows and the annual breeding success rate.

The cost of revegetating an area (\$2000 – 5000/ha) could be used to estimate the value of the vegetation though this typically only accounts for the value of an area at the beginning of its growth. A truer estimate of the value of the vegetation could possibly be obtained by considering the replacement value of each individual plant, and estimating the



number of plants per hectare. The replacement cost could be the cost of transplanting the plants to a nearby location or of growing the plants in a nursery. This cost obviously depends upon the size and maturity of the plant. Young or small plants typically cost \$2-10 from a commercial nursery, while a street tree in a 45L pot may cost \$70 or more.

The commercial cost of replacing Threatened plants could also be substantially more (at least 2-3 times that of normal plants), especially if they are difficult to propagate. We still don't know how to propagate some plants, let alone ensure that they can successfully be returned to the environment over the long term. Transplanting is very expensive, and for some plants eg those with deep tap roots or complex ecological needs such as terrestrial orchids, is not possible with current knowledge and equipment. Thus, the value of some plants is impossible to calculate, but may be \$100,000s each if the cost of some current orchid translocation research projects is any guide.



Adding all these costs and values together, one can estimate the value of native vegetation as \$3,000 - \$5,000/ha based on generic ecosystem service values or the cost of revegetation, or \$85,000 - \$700,000/ha based on the sum of specific services supplied by individual plants and depending upon what services are included. Much more work is required to come to an agreement as to what trees are worth, but no matter what, it needs to be acknowledged that trees and other plant species are valuable, and once lost, are almost impossible to replace.

Clearing for more farming activities should no longer be seen as a right but as one to be balanced with broader biodiversity and land care objectives. The University of WA's Future Farm 2050 initiative recognises this, and is starting to put back vegetation on cleared agricultural land.

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2013

All members are reminded that annual subscriptions are now due. The annual single or family membership fee is **\$30**. Payment can be made in person to the Treasurer or by mail with cheques made out to WANOSCG and sent to: WANOSCG PO BOX 323, VICTORIA PARK, W.A. 6979 Or by electronic transfer to the club's bank account:

BSB: 306044

Bank name: Bankwest

Account number: 5492468

If you choose to send money electronically please advise Kim Hanson our Treasurer by e-mail [redacted] that you have done so. Please note that if the fees aren't paid by the end of May you will be a nonfinancial member and will not receive the Bulletin anymore.

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LUCID KEY

Please read the attachment on the Lucid Key of Western Australian Orchids before the March Meeting.

Only six months away!



**Register to come to the
7th Australasian Native Orchid Society
Conference & Show.
Held at Strathpine (Queensland, Australia).
Hosted by Kabi Group(Inc).
Full Conference - 22-25th August 2013
Public show days - 23-25th August**

**NOTE: Programme update
ANOS Gen. Meeting
for affiliated members 23rd Aug**

**For fuller details see
www.ourshopfront.com/kabi
and follow the Conference link.**

BULLETIN ARTICLES

Please email any Bulletin contributions to Urszula Kokosinska at [redacted] or call on [redacted]. Articles for the next Bulletin need to be submitted by 1st of April 2013

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

| 2013 | ROSTERS | | SPEAKERS 2013 |
|-------|--------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | Raffle | Supper | |
| MAR | Tom Burbidge | John Ewing Urszula Kokosinska | ADORP progress |
| APRIL | X X | X X | Eric McCrum |
| MAY | X X | X X | <i>Eriochilus</i> Photos from Members |
| JUNE | X X | X X | Mark Brundrett |
| JULY | X X | X X | Snails, Shells & Banded Orchids |
| AUG | X X | X X | Margaret Collins |
| SEPT | X X | X X | Bill Kosky – Victorian Spider Orchids |
| OCT | X X | X X | Etienne Delaroy |
| NOV | X X | X X | Photo competition. Members slides. |

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PROPOSED FIELD TRIPS

2013 field trips are being discussed. The time and direction of most of them will be advised in near future. Details of Southern Rivers Branch field trips will be distributed by e-mail as they become available. Our members will continue also on their own Adopt an Orchid projects from last year. If you would like to join ADORP please contact Project Coordinator Kim Hanson [REDACTED].

| Date | Place | Targeted species/Notes |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 11/12 May | Caves Rd, Augusta | Leafless Orchid |
| 25/26 May | | <i>Rhizanthella gardneri</i> |
| 1 st - 2 nd June | Corrigin | |
| 22 nd - 23 rd June | Regans Ford | Shell orchids |
| July | Johnson Rd and Australind | |
| 25 th August | Bulbarnet Reserve | |
| 28 th -30 th September | Bremer Bay | |
| October | | |
| November | | |
| December | | |

Please note:

- Field trip leaders are to be appointed for each separate field trip.
- The last person to arrive at meeting point of orchid field trip will write the trip report.