

ISSUE 2 - APRIL 2019



WANOSCG

Official Bulletin of the Western Australian
Native Orchid Study & Conservation Group



The 2018 WANOSCG Award

The 2018 award for commitment to the Conservation Group was presented to **Kevin Uhe**. Kevin has been a dedicated member of WANOSCG for many years and is currently responsible for the Adopt an Orchid Project (ADORP), personally monitoring four orchid species. He has spearheaded communication with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), clocking up more than 700 volunteer hours in the past year. His work has also included auditing the data and time sheets submitted by others, with a resultant improvement in the quality of data collected. Additionally, Kevin's contribution to the group has included increasing the number of orchid species being surveyed by ADORP as well as recruiting new members to help monitor these threatened species and keeping abreast of new taxa. To enable smooth data reporting, Kevin has set up spreadsheets for ease of data collection and assisted Ramón Newmann with database maintenance. Kevin is responsible for identifying GPS coordinates for locations of orchids in older descriptive data. Kevin is well deserving of this award and we thank him for his continued service.



Kevin Uhe receiving his award from Ramón Newmann

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Next General Meeting:

Kings Park Administration
Wednesday 17th April 2019

The Committee:

President – Ramón Newmann
Vice President 1 – Jon Warren
Vice President 2 – Ian Puddey
Secretary – Pat Richards
Treasurer – Jay Steer
Committee Members –
Margaret Petridis, David
Lawson, Kevin Uhe, Debbie
Proudfoot, Andrew Brown

“Your Orchid Story” with Kevin Uhe

As winner of the 2018 WANOSCG award, Kevin kindly agreed to be part of a new section of the bulletin to get to know our members.

How many years have you been a member of WANOSCG?

I joined in May 2009 so coming up for ten years.

How did you first become interested in orchids?

My mother always had an interest in orchids and would always point them out when we were out in the bush. My real interest came when my sister gave me an orchid book for my birthday in 2008 which rekindled my interest.

How did you get involved in ADORP?

Margaret Petridis and I joined the ADORP program when it was first formed in 2011 and adopted *Caladenia cristata* which I had never seen at that time. It was a very good chance to become involved in the conservation side of orchids and to learn about the populations, habitats and threats.

Which orchid is your favourite and why?

Very hard to pick just one out of the whole array but my favourite would be any of the snail (nana) complex. They are not as showy as many of the other orchids but they have a certain charm about them. It is an interesting challenge to find all the different ones and try to learn more about their habitats and study the different species. See Kevin's picture (right) of *Pterostylis glebosa*.

Are there any orchids left on your bucket list to find and if so, which ones?

I think I have around twenty-two still to find but that is quite subjective given that new orchid taxa are being named each year and others are awaiting detailed taxonomic study to see if they are different enough to be formally named.

What's the furthest distance you've driven in a day or on a trip to see an orchid?

The longest trip I have done is a toss-up between Toolina Cove and Eyre Bird Observatory which are both out on the Nullarbor and take over two days' driving to get there. But it was a good chance to see some of the more remote orchids in a completely different habitat.

Do you have a favourite memory from any field trip that you would like to share?

Many highlights over the years but if I had to pick one it would have to be the Northcliffe fire when the group hired a four-wheel drive bus to go to Fish Creek through a large burnt area. It was the chance to explore many areas that most people would not get to see, together with some special finds.

As a member of WANOSCG, what's your ultimate goal for the organization or is there anything in particular you hope to see achieved over time?

My goal for the organization would be to continue to support the ADORP program as I see this as a great opportunity to assist in the conservation of orchids. The program has proved to be of great benefit to date and enables members to become involved in front line surveying to see some of our rarer orchids in the wild.

Thanks to Kevin for being the first interviewee.

If you would like to help out and volunteer your orchid story for the next issue, please email your interest to wanoscg.newsletter@gmail.com



“What’s in a Name?” by Andrew Brown

Naming of new orchids:

At the last WANOSCG meeting, we were asked why it takes so long for new orchid species to be named and how the group can help facilitate and speed up the process. In this article I will attempt to answer both these questions but before I do, I would like to assure WANOSCG members that they are probably one of the best catered for groups in WA when it comes to the prompt naming of new plant species. In the last 20 years no less than 257 new orchid taxa (species and subspecies) have been formally named in WA, many of these discovered by WANOSCG members. This is over half of the 496 currently recognised WA orchid taxa and has been achieved by just ten researchers.

What is required to name an Orchid?

The naming of a new orchid species is not a simple matter of finding something that appears a bit different and then naming it. It requires research and careful consideration and is only possible following detailed literature, herbarium and field studies, these often taking many years to complete.

Before you can name an orchid, you must have a good working knowledge of all related named species along with any that have been reduced to synonymy. Without this knowledge you could inadvertently name something that has already been named.

You must then conduct herbarium studies to see if your new species is included in collections. Often, when specimens are collected and housed in herbaria, they are placed with species that they are most closely allied to. They are considered forms within the natural range of variation of that species. Specimens matching the new species may therefore be included with one of the named species. Knowing what your new species is related to will help you decide which specimen folders you will concentrate on. You will also need to check through all of the sp. folders. These are folders containing specimens that do not appear to match named species. Sometimes collections held in other States and even other countries need to be examined, though this is often not necessary.

You must undertake field trips, preferably over a number of years, to study your new species and obtain an understanding of its habitat, how widespread it is, when it flowers and when it sets seed, and any variation in morphology in and between populations. You will also need to research what your new species is related to and how it differs. You will notice I have not discussed using genetics to differentiate between species as this is the subject of an article in its own right and is not a prerequisite to naming new species.

The new species should be found in pure populations, preferably more than one, and should also occur over a reasonable geographic range. Though I do understand that this may not always be possible, particularly in highly cleared areas where much of its former habitat may have been removed. Nevertheless, finding a few plants with flowers that look a bit different in an otherwise relatively pure population of a named species is not enough to warrant naming them as a new species. Likewise, finding just one colony of plants is not generally considered enough evidence either. The colony may represent a clone of an unusual variant rather than a new species.

Article continues on next page...



"What's in a Name" by Andrew Brown continues...

Once you have done the above research and you are still confident that your orchid is worthy of naming, you will need to prepare a paper providing detailed information on the orchid. This must include a detailed description of the species followed by its diagnostic features, specimens examined, when it flowers and fruits, its distribution and habitat, its conservation status and affinities including how it differs from related species. As I am sure you understand it requires quite a bit of time and effort to put this together.

You then need to find a journal that will consider publishing your paper. There are really not that many to choose from in Australia and you will likely be competing with other people that are also presenting papers. This often delays the publication of your paper until the journal has a slot for it. Finally, before being accepted for publication, the paper must go through a rigorous referee process. Sometimes papers are rejected based on referee's reports while at other times they may be accepted with major revision. If you are lucky your paper will be accepted with only minor revision based on you addressing the referee's questions, comments and proposed edits, along with those of the journal's editor. To get a new species named you must not only convince yourself you must also convince the referees and the editor.

Of course, some taxonomic papers are published in non-refereed journals and you could use this option. It certainly can (potentially) speed up the process of naming plants but I personally recommend using refereed journals as papers are invariably improved following peer review.

So, in conclusion, publishing new orchid names is not as quick and easy as you may think. It can take many years of research to obtain enough detailed information to formally name a new species and, if there is any question as to its distinctiveness, it may take even longer or may never be named.

What can WANOSCG do to help facilitate the naming of new orchid species?

For some proposed new orchid species, the delay in their naming may be due to there being insufficient population and habitat information. In other words, we do not know how common or widespread the orchid is, do not have a feel for variation and do not have a complete understanding of its habitat or what other orchids it grows with. For orchids that fit this category, group members can facilitate the gathering of this information by conducting targeted field trips. This is essentially what is being done this year for the new *Corybas* species at Walpole. Perhaps more trips of this sort can be conducted for other taxa. Additionally, some undescribed species have been included in ADORP and using ADORP teams is another way of getting additional habitat and distributional information for these species.

Special Thanks...

The WANOSCG members would like to extend a special thanks to **Tim Hodgkins** who has tirelessly filled the role of Conservation Officer for the past five years. During this period of service, Tim has attended multiple meetings with government departments, councils and other organizations to promote the protection of native orchids in Western Australia. We thank Tim for all his hard work and hope the role of Conservation Officer (which still remains vacant) is filled by an equally enthusiastic and dedicated member in 2019.



“Exotic and Endangered”

by Kevin Uhe

Priority Orchid Change:

DBCA's Species and Communities Branch constantly review the priority status of orchids as new information is received for a number of reasons but can include perceived new threats, low populations, limited range and revision of taxonomy to name a few.

As a result of this ongoing process, *Caladenia nivalis* (Exotic Spider Orchid) has now been elevated to Priority 2 status. It is hoped that this species can be included in the ADORP program going forward so up-to-date population numbers and locations can be logged into the DBCA database.

Additionally, after review, *Pterostylis echinulata* has been downgraded to Priority 3.



Caladenia nivalis
Exotic Spider Orchid
Image courtesy of Kevin Uhe



WANOSCG Facebook Page

by Lyn Alcock

At the AGM I was officially made the new Facebook page Administrator, although I have been doing the job for some time.

At present there are 129 members on the page, however at most 10-12 of those regularly post photos. As the Administrator I can see that often there are 60-70 people who view each post, yet only a couple comment on each post and a few more 'like' the post. Sadly, this indicates a general apathy and lack of wanting to engage.

Please...a reminder.... this is YOUR page.

I will be meeting with the Committee at their next meeting to discuss some changes which I feel will make our page more relevant and more engaging.

We need to make WANOSCG a vibrant and valuable group in the WA orchid community.

So please engage, post photos and make comments.

If you have any suggestions or comments please feel free to contact me on or email me at

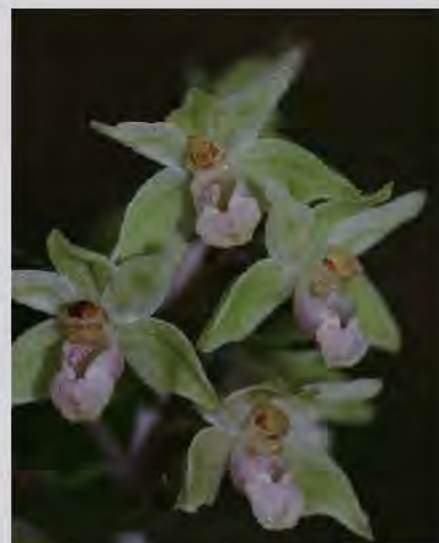
Looking forward to an exciting and engaging year!

"A Taste of the United Kingdom's Orchids"

By Marina Karyagina

Last year I spent a couple of months in UK. That is what happens when one's daughter marries an Englishman. I was there during the prime orchid time in WA – early August to mid-October. Naturally, I was keen to make amends by at least trying to find some local orchids. Over the years of visiting, I have seen a number of UK orchids – well, one even grows in my in-laws' front yard. I identified it for them as a Broad-leafed Helleborine.

I used a publication by the UK Wildlife Trust entitled '*40 Places Where to See Orchids*' as my guide and have been to a few reserves around where my daughter lives in Cheshire. Last year though was very hot and like orchids here, UK orchids did not like the warmer temperatures. Additionally, not many orchids flower in August. The hot conditions made sure that there wouldn't be many orchids left to see by the time we arrived. As a result, we had to cast the net much wider than Cheshire.



Violet Helleborine - Warburg reserve



Our first trip was to the Warburg Reserve near Henley-on-Thames. We drove from Reading and it was a rather hair-raising drive as closer to the reserve the road deteriorated into a narrow lane with many twists and turns and poor visibility of the incoming traffic. It was nice and peaceful in the reserve itself with hardly any visitors. It was very dry but we were partially successful as we managed to see the very last remaining violet helleborine on its last legs. Amazingly, these orchids grow in a very shaded area under large beech trees with little sunlight. There was hardly a blade of grass underneath and it was so dark under these trees that the use of flash was necessary.

Our further outings to Croydon (south of London) and Ufton Fields in Warwickshire were unsuccessful. We did find orchids, but all in seed. I did not expect much given that the majority of UK orchids flower in June-July. There is one UK orchid however, that flowers pretty late in the season, in September - the Autumn Lady's tresses (*Spiranthes spiralis*). So, this became the target orchid for this trip. We had to travel as far as Wales to find it.

The majority of UK orchids (or at least the ones I've seen) are pretty conspicuous – one can spot the stocks from 100 paces. All these large and colourful pyramidal orchids, common spotted, fragrant and violet, sometimes covering the fields in great numbers. The Autumn Lady's tresses is however, more akin to our orchids. It is small, the size of a pygmy orchid, and takes a trained eye to spot one. So, it was much more fun hunting for it and finally finding it in the middle of a heavily grazed area. I had to be careful where I lay down when taking photos or where I placed my camera to avoid the cow poo. I think it is quite beautiful though and one can see why it got its common name.



Autumn Lady's Tresses
(Left)

Kenfig Nature
Reserve, Wales (Right)



ADORP News by Kevin Uhe

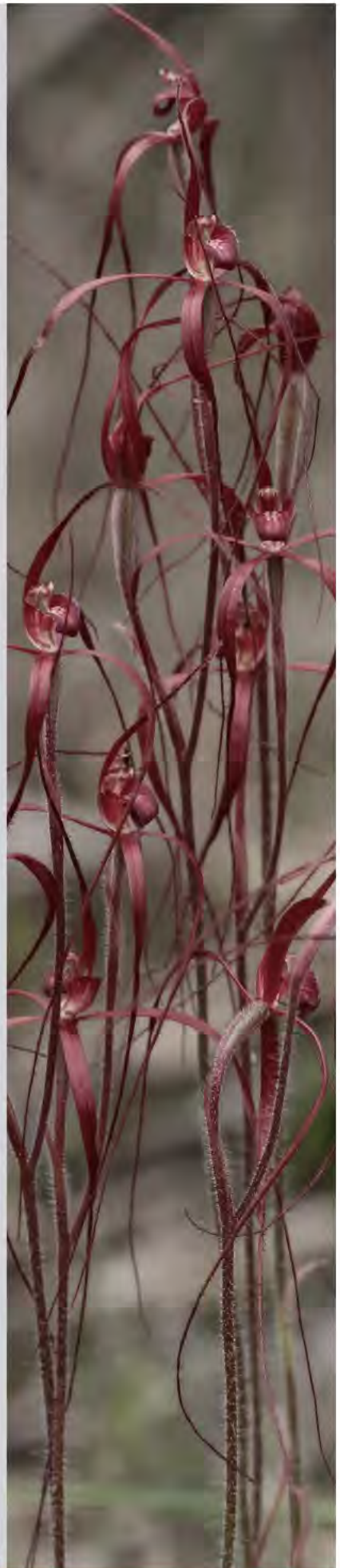
Welcome to Peter and Debbie Proudfoot, Anne Storrie and Sue Morrison who have all joined the ADORP program in the last few months.

Whilst the ADORP surveys are well and truly over for 2018 the amount of information received has been impressive and will provide many hours of work for DBCA to enter into their Threatened Priority Flora Listing (TPFL) database.

This database contains a listing of all Threatened and Priority taxa, including orchids, and is updated from Threatened and Priority Flora reports (TPRF) so there is an accurate record of population locations, plant numbers and threats.

Accurate submission of the TPRF's is crucial in maintaining the database and good location descriptions with accurate GPS readings help in locating the various populations. All TPRF's also need to be accompanied by good photos as these are used to verify the populations, especially for new locations.

Our information is helping to keep the TPFL listing up to date as far as orchids are concerned and this is very much appreciated by DBCA.



FIELD TRIPS 2019 by Margaret Petridis

Proposed trips for April to June are as follows:

APRIL 13th/14th: Corigin-Kondinin-Karlgarin

(Stay overnight in Kondinin on Saturday 13th)

FTL: Robin Campbell / Margaret Petridis

Target Orchid: *Corunastylis fuscoviridis* (Pygmy orchid)

MAY 11th/12th: Walpole

(Stay overnight in Walpole on Saturday 11th) ****NB Sunday 12th is Mother's Day**

FTL: Andrew Brown / David Edmonds

Target orchids: *Corybas* sp. 'peat', *Eriochilus valens* and other *Eriochilus* species
We will not be visiting the known location of the new Corybas, but will be searching other areas of similar habitat. Numbers are limited.

JUNE 1st – 3rd: Kondinin-Hyden

(Stay in Hyden on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd)

FTL: Margaret Petridis / Kevin Uhe

Target orchids: *Caladenia drummondii*, *Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp. *undulatus*

****NB due to this being a long weekend, we have been advised to book accommodation in Hyden ASAP. I will therefore be collecting names for this trip now.**

Wave Rock Caravan Park, Hyden

Phone: 9880 5022

Accommodation options: Ensuite powered sites, Cabins, Backpackers accommodation and Camping sites

Please note you need to organize your own accommodation on weekend trips

Register for field trips by text: or Email:

Proposed Metro Field Trips by Christine Lock

****NB This is a draft schedule and subject to updates as required**

DATE (Week beginning)	LOCATION	FIELD TRIP LEADER
Monday 3 rd June		
Monday 17 th June	Your local metro reserve, remnant bush, road verge	Members
Monday 8 th July	Pomeroy Road (burn area from September 2018)	
Monday 22 nd July	Underwood Avenue and Shenton bushland – Lemnos Street	
Monday 5 th August	Kenwick Wetlands – Alton Street and Brixton Street	M. Roepin
Monday 12 th August		
Monday 19 th August	Inglewood Triangle – 8 th Avenue	
Monday 26 th August	Helena Valley – Hudman Quarries (burn area January 2019)	Pat Richards
Monday 2 nd September	Hepburn Heights Conservation Area, Pinaroo Bushland – Shepherds Bush Drive (burn Woodvale 2018)	
Monday 9 th September	Landsdale Bushland (burn Spring 2018)	
Monday 16 th September	Winthrop – Piney Lakes	
Monday 7 th October	Caladenia huegelii	John Ewing
Monday 14 th October		
Monday 22 nd October	Thelymitra campanulata species	
Monday 5 th November	Yardarino Bushland	
Monday 7 th December	Spiculaea, Paracaleana brockmanii	

Images courtesy of Joanne Harley from Nine Mile Nature Reserve in early May 2018



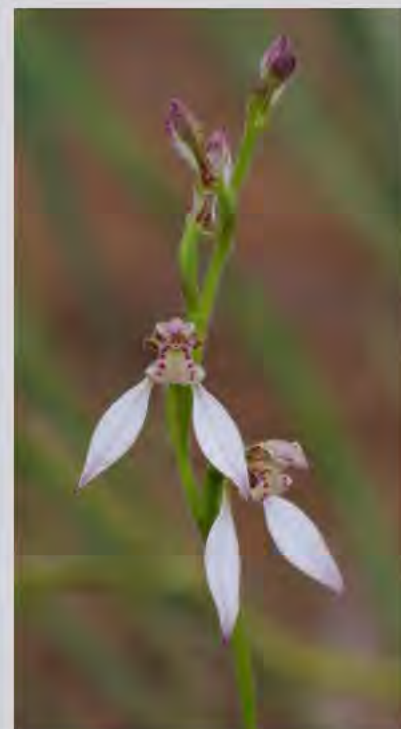
Praecoxanthus aphyllus
Leafless Orchid



Leporella fimbriata
Hare Orchid

April Flowering Orchids

<i>Caladenia drummondii</i>	Winter Spider Orchid
<i>Corunastylis tepperi</i>	Pygmy Orchid
<i>Cryptostylis ovata</i>	Slipper Orchid
<i>Eriochilus dilatatus</i>	Bunny Orchid
<i>Eriochilus dilatatus</i> subsp. <i>brevifolius</i>	Blunt-leaved Bunny Orchid
<i>Eriochilus dilatatus</i> subsp. <i>dilatatus</i>	White Bunny Orchid
<i>Eriochilus dilatatus</i> subsp. <i>magnus</i>	Easter Bunny Orchid
<i>Eriochilus dilatatus</i> subsp. <i>multiflorus</i>	Common Bunny Orchid
<i>Eriochilus dilatatus</i> subsp. <i>orientalis</i>	Eastern Bunny Orchid
<i>Eriochilus dilatatus</i> subsp. <i>undulatus</i>	Crinkle-leaved Bunny Orchid
<i>Eriochilus helonomos</i>	Swamp Bunny Orchid
<i>Eriochilus pulchellus</i>	Granite Bunny Orchid
<i>Eriochilus valens</i>	Red-lipped Bunny Orchid
<i>Leporella fimbriata</i>	Hare Orchid
<i>Praecoxanthus aphyllus</i>	Leafless Orchid
<i>Prasophyllum</i> sp. early	Scented Autumn Leek Orchid
<i>Pterostylis vittata</i>	Banded Greenhood



Eriochilus dilatatus subsp. *multiflorus*
Common Bunny Orchid
Perth North, early May 2018

Early Orchid Challenge

Members are encouraged to get out in the bush to look for the early orchids and to send their finds in to the Registrar for entry into the WANOSCG Database. It is particularly important to search new areas so we can expand the range and knowledge of all of the orchids we find. Please send information on all orchids seen to the Registrar, using the Input Spreadsheet.

The first 2019 Challenge is for members to find and record a new location for:

These are all April and May flowering species

- *Praecoxanthus aphyllus* (Leafless orchid)
- *Corunastylis fuscoviridis* (Pygmy orchid)
- *Eriochilus valens* (Red-lipped bunny orchid)
- *Eriochilus helonomos* (Swamp bunny)
- *Eriochilus pulchellus* (Granite bunny)

Please advise the Registrar if you have found a location for any of these species, by using the standard Input Template Spreadsheet if possible. Feel free to contact the Registrar if you have any questions or need assistance with this. If you have locations from other years, please send this information in as well.

Members will be advised of the success of this challenge in a future Bulletin, as entries will need to be checked against current information to see if any of the locations are new.

Registrar: Ramón Newmann **Email:**



Eriochilus pulchellus
Granite Bunny
Walpole area, late April 2018
Images on this page courtesy of M. Karyagina

Poetry and Images by Jack Eborall

Caladenia Anonymous

Distinctive Caladenias are we.
An impressive new species do you see?

Separate, different are our features.
Not like long trailing longicaudas.

Through countless seasons we bloomed, unseen.
Not of any other spidery clan.

Easy northward drive to our Midlands home.
Where boldly un-noticed, we do bloom.

Secure in nature reserved address,
Just one thing do we lack—we are nameless.

Very accessible, in good numbers.
Enough, enough of species anonymous!

Give us dignity.....THE NAME.



Thelymitra namelessii

Those beautiful, sky blue Thelymitras.
Distinctive sun orchids of our pictures.

Living not in woodland groves so shady.
Nor in cool margins of swamps nearby.

Home on sandy hillside, so high and dry.
With nothing to shade it, sun a-plenty.

Crackling high voltage lines string overhead.
Forest neighbours cleared and very dead.

Almost lost to suburbia— alas.
Clinging on poor nameless Thelymitras.

Bush Safety and Useful Phone Apps

As the orchid hunting season is now underway, it's a timely reminder for everyone in regards to basic bush safety when exploring on personal field trips and in groups. Here are some safety suggestions for members heading out into the field.

Safety tips:

- Research where you plan to travel before leaving home. Remember that many of the places worth exploring are black holes for phone reception.
 - Check websites for road closures, bushfire warnings and weather forecasts – heavy rains etc.
 - Download trail maps to your phone and check the level of expertise or equipment required for the trail
- Car safety – ensure you have a full tank of fuel, tyres are pumped and that the roads you travel on are suitable for your vehicle e.g. 4WD access only roads
- Clothing – wear a hat and loose clothing, preferably long sleeved to protect from sun and insects. Closed toe, comfortable shoes are a must and consider gaiters to protect your legs from harsh vegetation and snakes. High visible vests make it easier for people to find you if you happen to get lost in the bush
- Navigation equipment – carry physical maps and use GPS apps on your phone.
- Nourishment – make sure you carry adequate food and water for the amount of time you intend to spend in the bush and for the amount of people you are travelling with.
- Consider the time of day you are travelling. Will you have time to make it back to your car / camp before the sun has gone down?
- Communication – although we all do it, ideally you should never go bushwalking alone and always ensure you notify someone where you plan to travel and when to expect your return.
- First aid – for longer trips, consider carrying basic first aid kits and always use sunscreen and insect repellents.

A useful website for more detailed information can be found at <http://bushwalkingaustralia.org/>

Free Smart Phone Apps:

1. Apple smart phone Health App – this app comes already installed on the phone but it's worth taking a minute to access the medical ID tab and fill out the section on your pre-existing health conditions, allergies and emergency contacts. If 000 is dialled from your phone, then your listed contacts will automatically be notified of your call.
2. St John of God First Responder app – this app has a handy guides section on basic first aid for snake bites, asthma attacks etc and additionally can dial 000 through this app. If you allow it access to your current location then it can identify nearest medical centres for you.
3. Australian Bites and Stings App – more specific to venomous animals endemic to Australia but also provides plenty of information on basic first aid.
4. First Aid-Australian Red Cross App – another app that features quick guides to first aid approach to a number of conditions



Left to right: *Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp. *multiflorus* (Common bunny), *Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp. *magnus* (Easter Bunny), *Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp. *undulatus* (Crinkle leafed Bunny), *Eriochilus helonomos* (Swamp Bunny). Images courtesy of Rachel Halls

General Meeting Rosters

We are calling for volunteers to provide raffle prizes and supper at our general meetings. If you feel you can help out in this regard, a sheet (a sample of which is shown below) will be tabled for each general meeting next year and you are encouraged to put your name down.

Meeting	SUPPER ROSTER	RAFFLE PRIZE	Speakers
17-Apr-19	Urszula KOKOSINSKA	Ian Puddey	Margaret Petridis - ADORP: <i>Caladenia cristata</i>
15-May-19		Sarah Atkinson	Daniela Scaccabarozzi - <i>Diuris brumalis</i> pollination PhD study case
19-Jun-19			
17-Jul-19	Robyn Foley		
21-Aug-19		Bob Steer	Belinda Davis – King's Park research
18-Sep-19			President of the French Orchid Society Jean-Michel Hervouet
16-Oct-19		David & Janeanne Cumming	
20-Nov-19			Photo Comp

Bulletin Articles

Please send Bulletin contributions to the Editor at wanoscg.newsletter@gmail.com

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Praecoxanthus aphyllus
Leafless Orchid
Photo courtesy of Marina Karyagina