

ISSUE 1 - MARCH 2020



WANOSCG

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



It's a New Year, Let's Get Involved!

Every year, many of us may set New Year's resolutions with the best of intentions only to find our hopes to get fit and healthy in 2020 for example, ended 3 days into January with a demolished family block of chocolate on the couch in front of Netflix. As the new orchid season is almost underway, it is time to think of how we as part of a group can continue to contribute to the conservation of native orchids in Western Australia by setting ourselves attainable goals. Not many of us have the time to dedicate to filling senior positions however there are many smaller ways we can contribute to the running of WANOSCG from providing supper at the general meetings, donating a raffle prize or buying tickets, sitting on the committee as a member, participating in a survey, leading a field trip, reporting clearing, being the local representative for conservation issues in your area to submitting your personal finds to the database. Every small contribution is valued and enables the efficient running of WANOSCG. So this year, make your goal attainable and get involved!



Aly Molica receiving her Photography award from Ramón Newmann

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Next General Meeting:

Kings Park Administration
Building
Wednesday 18th March 2020

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

2019 WANOSCG PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

The tradition for the end of year General Meeting has long been a battle for the much-coveted photography award and this time was no different. The theme for last year's photography competition was all about the habitat. Members were challenged by the Committee to provide two images that showcased the orchid's finer details up close and another that displayed the flower within its natural habitat. This proved to be a great subject idea with each submission demonstrating a different take on various orchid environments from untouched bushland to the outer fringes of urban development. Our winner for the second year in a row was Aly Mollica with a stunning *Thelymitra* hybrid featured in her images below. Congratulations and thanks to Aly for sharing these images. Looks like the award plaque is now full so I guess Aly gets to keep it!!



If you have any ideas for a theme for the 2020 photography competition then please feel free to share them with the Committee as I'm sure any suggestions are welcome.

WANOSCG Database

Ramón Newmann has noted that there still remains to be a number of orchid species with no reported sightings listed in the WANOSCG database. It would be useful to know what populations currently exist in order to provide evidence for conservation if these populations become threatened by development plans or scheduled burns. Members are encouraged to report any sightings of the following orchids if they come across them this season.

Genus	Species with No Sightings @ Feb 2020	Common Name
Caladenia	longicauda subsp. 'Pallarup Rock'	Pallarup White Spider Orchid
Diuris	sp. 'Scaddan'	Rock-Loving Donkey Orchid
Diuris	sp. 'Williams'	Little Williams Donkey Orchid
Drakaea	andrewsiae	Lost Hammer Orchid
Drakaea	sp. 'coastal plain'	
Eriochilus	dilatatus subsp. 'Roleystone'	Roleystone White Bunny Orchid
Prasophyllum	paulineae	Pauline's Laughing Leek Orchid
Pterostylis	crebriflora	Darling Range Banded Greenhood
Pterostylis	hadra	Elusive Rufous Greenhood
Pterostylis	polyphylla	Mount Many Peaks snail
Pterostylis	saxum	
Pterostylis	sp. 'chocolate'	Chocolate Flowered Rufous Greenhood
Pterostylis	sp. 'Nullarbor'	Nullabor Rufous Greenhood
Pterostylis	telmata	Eastern Swamp Snail Orchid
Thelymitra	sp. 'Denmark'	Yellow Sun Orchid
Thelymitra	sp. 'late northern'	Late Northern Scented Sun Orchid
Thelymitra	sp. 'northern swamps'	Northern Swamp Scented Sun Orchid
Thelymitra	sp. 'south coast'	South Coast Sun Orchid
xCyanthera	glossodiodes	Mauve Rare Orchid

The President's Report by Ramón Newmann

Well, 2020 has arrived! With any luck, the roll of the weather dice will be kinder to us this year compared to 2019 and we'll get some timely rains across the State. Though we cannot complain too much when you look at what has happened in the eastern States where there has been such devastation to lives, property, flora and fauna.

Notwithstanding the fact that it was so dry in parts of our State, WANOSCG had another great year – thanks to the tireless efforts of all of those members who have worked so hard throughout the year around WA helping to study and conserve orchids as well as helping others to enjoy the pleasures of our unique orchids. Many thanks to those unsung orchid heroes, who are too many to list here – but you know who you are!

The Adopt an Orchid Project (ADORP) continues to be WANOSCG's premier conservation initiative. It has grown in 2019 through the hard work of its members and Kevin Uhe's leadership. Last year we heard how it has now reached the national stage and through the work of Jay and Bob Steer, one species, *Thelymitra magnifica*, is now due to receive legislative protection as a threatened species. You can read more about ADORP in Kevin's 2019 report.

Another key successful conservation and study project has been the pilot 2018 WANOSCG Grant project – the building and deployment of protective cages for the threatened *Drakaea elastica* in Carrabungup Reserve by Ron Fautleroy. 2019 saw the consolidation of this great project - with DBCA increasing its involvement by bringing in more scientific rigour and helping us to expand the scope by using the surplus cages to protect other threatened orchid species. A review of the 2018 Grant process and the project itself will inform the 2020 Committee's consideration of a new Grant this year.

2019 saw top quality speakers at the General Meeting – from Members presenting their studies of specific orchids or areas, through to scientists presenting their orchid research from Kings Park to as far as Madagascar. We'll see what 2020 brings us!

The Bulletin continued to be a high-quality newsletter for the Group under the excellent editorship of Rachel Halls, who has brought in some great innovations. A synopsis of the great General Meeting presentations is now included in the Bulletin as well as scientific articles, thereby bringing this material to the full Membership and not only to those who can attend the Perth based meetings. Other innovations have included Your Orchid Story, Question Time, Spotlights and even some poetry from one of our Members. And the Member photographs are stunning!

During 2019 the Southern River's Group had their 10th Anniversary of their first field trip. Congratulations to those Members in the south of the State who have organised field trips, conservation projects and meetings over those 10 years, and many thanks to Anna de Haan for leading that group over all of that time (and for providing their Sightings Reports for the Database!).

Report continued over page...



President's Report Continued...

Though one of the first jobs of the 2020 Committee will be to set a focus and direction for this year (a 2020 vision?), there are some early indicators for some directions. The roles of a couple of key positions that no one has as yet nominated for may have to be spread across various Members – Conservation Officer and Field Trip Co-ordinator. There has been a heavy workload associated with these roles in the past, which has probably put some people off from applying for the positions. Going forwards, this workload will need to be spread – something that has already happened during 2019 with the Conservation Officer role whereby various Members have been active in specific areas across the State. We will also be looking to have more 'exploratory' field trips to areas that we will not know what we will find. Maybe nothing or maybe a surprise! Hopefully some Members will put their hands up at the AGM to help co-ordinate these role's more distributed workload.

Talking of the 2019 Committee, I would like to express the Committee's special thanks for the hard work and dedication shown by the outgoing Committee Members and Subsidiary Officers – Jon Warren, Vice President and Membership Officer; Margaret Petridis, Committee Member and Field Trip Coordinator; Christine Lock, Metro Field Trip Coordinator; and Lyn Alcock, Facebook Administrator. All have done great jobs, for which we are most grateful. I would also like to add a personal thank-you to the continuing Committee Members and Subsidiary Officers for their hard work and support that enables this great Group to function. As I flagged late in 2019, my intention was to step down from the President's role, however as no one else has nominated I am willing to continue for one more year to ensure that the Group is properly supported through 2020.

The AGM on March 18th is the opportunity for Members to put up their hands to take on the roles that are still vacant. I've already mentioned a couple of roles that are still vacant. Please think hard as to how you can step up to help with the running and enjoyment of this great Group.

I hope that you all have fun during 2020 and get involved – I certainly plan to!

Ramón Newmann - President

Update on Warwick Bushland by Tim Hodgkins



The last orchid to flower each season in Warwick Bushland is the very beautiful sun orchid *Thelymitra fuscolutea*, the Chestnut Sun Orchid. It occurs in the vicinity of grass trees in banksia woodland at two main locations within the Reserve. During November, I was privileged to join Mark Brundrett in a two-day survey of plants that were mostly in flower. The attached photo taken on November 21 2019, shows one of the best of the flowers with another in the background. Around this particular grasstree, a further plant grew on the other side. What a beautiful display! I haven't seen Mark's final count of the survey but I suspect that we have better numbers than in previous counts.



ADORP News by Kevin Uhe

It is hard to believe that 2020 will be the tenth year since the formation of ADORP and from a small beginning, members have contributed a total of 17,649 volunteer hours to date and generated many hundreds of reports and located many new populations.

It is a tribute to all those involved over this time that ADORP has flourished and whilst there have been many achievements over that time, there is still much work to be done as new orchids are being added to the Priority lists each year and changing dynamics in orchid populations present new challenges.

It is quite an achievement that ADORP members volunteered a total of 5,585 hours during 2019 which is a reflection on the dedication and enthusiasm of everyone involved. Special mention to Margaret Petridis and Rob van Oosten who achieved cumulative totals of 1,500 and 500 respectively during the year.

After a number of years as Team Leader of the Granite duck team, Bill Gaynor has handed over the reins to David Stevens and whilst Bill will still be involved in the team, his contribution in organising the team and reports has been very much appreciated.

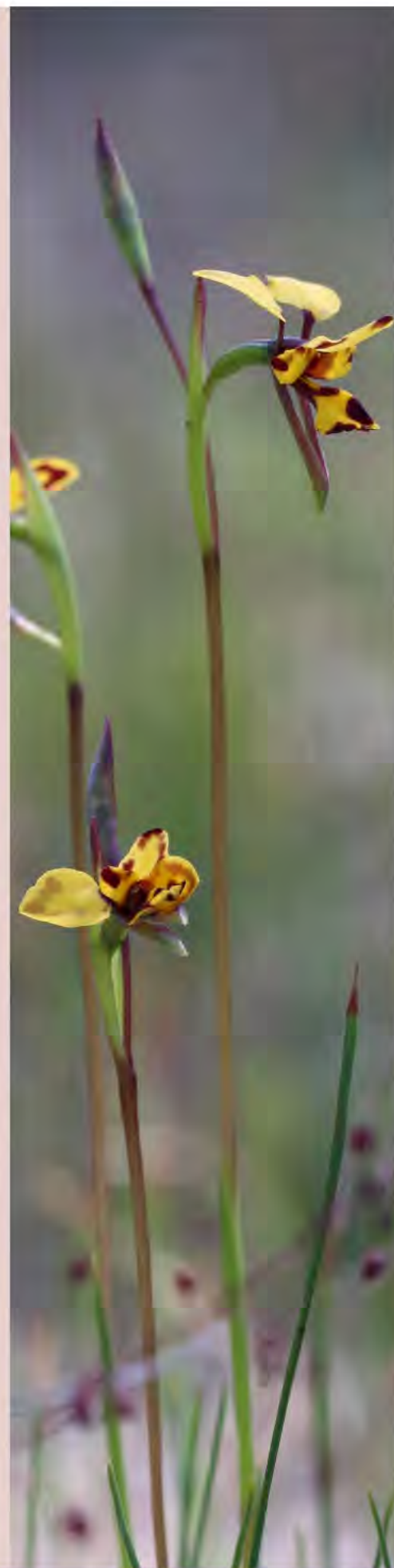
Nathan Piesse joined ADORP in late November and is very keen to be involved in *Caladenias* and will be helping David Cumming with *Caladenia nivalis*, as well as helping in other groups as required.

There are a number of priority 4 orchids that have not had any surveys for many years and possibly one of these might be target for ad hoc surveys during the year. Final details of which orchid would be appropriate is being discussed with DBCA.

2020 Proposed Field Trips

For the last few years, we have been very lucky to have the dedication of Margaret Petridis fulfilling the role of Field Trip Coordinator. Margaret has spent countless hours in reconnaissance to ensure everyone gets the most out of these trips as well as building up a network of relationships with farmers and local contacts with knowledge of orchids throughout the state. We are very thankful to Margaret for volunteering so much of her time in this role and thank her for all the hard work that it involved.

As the role of Field Trip Coordinator is yet to be filled, there are currently no proposed destinations or dates for field trips for this season. This year we hope to explore more areas of bush that have not been thoroughly surveyed to see what discoveries can be made as well as surveying some of the lower priority orchids. If you have any suggestions for destinations or would like to put your hand up to lead a field trip either metro or rural, then please get in touch with the committee.



New Names and Nomenclatural Shenanigans

By Andrew Brown

In papers recently published in the Western Australian Herbarium journal *Nuytsia* (see links at the end of this article) a new species of duck orchid, *Paracaleana* is described and a new name is provided for the previously described common spider orchid, *Caladenia vulgata*.

Paracaleana ferricola

In November 2005 Fred and Jean Hort and Garry Brockman collected an unusual late flowering duck orchid in the Darling Range above Kelmscott, noting it grew with two other species of duck orchid *Paracaleana nigrita* and *P. brockmanii* but flowered later than *P. nigrita* and earlier than *P. brockmanii*. At first it was thought it may be a hybrid between those two species but it grew in pure populations and showed none of the morphological variation usually associated with hybrids. Interestingly, it grew in heavy lateritic soils containing an unusually high amount of Haematite, quite unlike the habitat of most *Paracaleana* species which grow in deep sandy soil. In formally describing the species in 2019, Garry Brockman and I named it *ferricola*, from the Latin *ferrum* (iron) and the suffix *-cola* (dweller or inhabitant), reflecting on its preference for this unusual habitat. Prior to being formally described it was known as *P. sp. 'Darling Range'*

The species is extremely rare and field surveys conducted since its discovery have resulted in just one additional population being found. When combined, the two known populations comprise just 30 flowering plants making it easily the rarest of our *Paracaleana* species.

If you think you have found this late flowering species growing in heavy lateritic soils in the Darling Range (or elsewhere) we would love to hear from you.

Caladenia varians

When Steve Hopper and I named *Caladenia vulgata* in 2001 we inadvertently, chose a holotype that clearly belonged to *C. incensum*. This essentially meant the species had been named twice, first as *C. incensum* and then as *C. vulgata*. As *incensum* was the first name published it took precedence and *vulgata* was reduced to synonymy. However, doing this left us with a problem. The orchid previously known as *vulgata* was in fact good species, it was just that the wrong type had been selected when it was named. In order to rectify this mistake it was necessary to select a new type for the species and provide it with a new name. Complicated shenanigans I know but under the auspices of the "International Code of Botanical Nomenclature" it was necessary to do this in order to validate the species.

This means of course that the species formerly known as *Caladenia vulgata* is now *C. varians*.

In the same paper Steve and I argue for the retention of a number of genera that had been recently submerged into *Caladenia* and *Caleana*. Take a read and see if you agree or disagree with our view.

Download links for the two papers: <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/nuytsia/article/916> and <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/nuytsia/article/919> . Happy reading.



“SRG Christmas Windup” by Anna de Haan

FIELD TRIP REPORT: SOUTHERN RIVERS GROUP – NOVEMBER 20th

Many reconnoitres by SRG members continued to deliver very few orchids. Plan “B” was put into operation by revisiting a previous Christmas windup site, this year a whole month earlier than in 2013. What had been a handful of flowers and dozens of buds a week ago had today matured into hundreds of flowering plants. A real Christmas treat indeed.

On the outskirts of town under the Sheoaks between fairways we found over a hundred plants each of *Caladenia corynephora* (Club Lipped Spider), *Cal. serotina* (Christmas Spider) and *Gastrodia lacista* (Potato Orchid). Adding more colour to this spectacle were *Thelymitra crinita* (Blue Lady), *Thely. paludosa* (Plain Sun), the last of *Thely. graminea* (Shy Sun) and a huge patch of *Cal flava* of the “late” subspecies (Cowslip). A few *Disa bracteata* (South African), *Microtis media* subsp. *media* (Common Mignonette) and the very last *Lyperanthus serratus* (Rattle Beak) finished off the colourful palette.

Local markets at stop two made parking a challenge. Careful searching on the walk into the main site found the first specimens of *Paracaleana brockmanii* (Brockman’s Duck). Although there is a “dot” over this area in the orchid book, for us, this was a new sighting locally.

Under the shade of gnarly trees on the shores of Oyster Harbour a shared lunch was enjoyed by all. Good friendship, good food and many stories were shared. The field trip program for the year had come to an earlier than expected conclusion.

I wish to thank everyone for their support throughout the year and adding to the strength of the collective knowledge of the branch.

Orchid Taxonomy by Kevin Uhe

New *Pterostylis* combinations:

In the December January edition of the Australian Orchid Review a paper was published to formally recognize in the genus *Pterostylis*, a number of snails that were previously described during 2019 in the genus *Diplodium*, a genus which is not recognized by the WA Herbarium. The new names are listed below with the phrase names or unofficial names in brackets where applicable.

Pterostylis actites (*Pterostylis* sp. coastal clubbed sepals)

Pterostylis brevisepala (*Pterostylis* sp. short sepals)

Pterostylis crispula (*Pterostylis* sp. crinkle leaf or slender)

Pterostylis gracillima (*Pterostylis* sp. long sepals)

Pterostylis grossa (*Pterostylis* sp. Ravensthorpe)

Pterostylis polyphylla (no phrase name)

Pterostylis saxum (no phrase name)

Pterostylis scabrella (no phrase name)

Pterostylis setulosa (*Pterostylis* sp. inland)

Pterostylis tylosa (*Pterostylis* sp. Chudalup)

Details of the above were printed in the March 2019 and July 2019 bulletins.

The December January edition of the Australian Orchid Review is also the final one as the editor has decided that due to falling sales and support to cease publication of this magazine. It is a sign of the times with the digital age that many of these types of specialist magazines will sadly cease to exist.



Image by Rachel Halls - *Diuris emarginata*

“Break-up Trip to Walpole” by Margaret Petridis

FIELD TRIP REPORT: WALPOLE – NOVEMBER 23rd-24th

An enthusiastic group of 34 members and 3 visitors met in central Walpole on the morning of Saturday 23rd November to embark on the final WANOSCG field trip for the year.

Anna de Haan had spent many hours out in the large burnt area north of Broke Inlet over the previous two weeks to determine some interesting locations to visit, and was our field trip leader for the day.

Our first stop was at a burnt swampy area along Broke Inlet Rd where we found the delicate white *Microtis pulchella* (Beautiful mignonette), *Thelymitra canaliculata* (Blue sun) and *Epiblema grandiflorum* (Babe-in-a-cradle) in good numbers. A few specimens of *Prasophyllum regium* (King leek) were also found along the roadside.

We had several stops along Chesapeake Rd in the burn. At the first we found around 15 plants of *Thelymitra tigrina* (Tiger sun) and at the second, a good-sized population of *Diuris pauciflora* (Swamp bee). We added *Prasophyllum gibbosum* (Humped leek), then *Microtis alba* (White mignonette) and *Microtis brownii* (Sweet mignonette), *Elythranthera emarginata* (Pink enamel), *Cryptostylis ovata* (Slipper) and *Thelymitra crinita* (Blue lady) to our growing list. At our final stop for the day we saw *Caladenia serotina* (Christmas spider) in flower and bud, and a few previously seen species.



Images by Kevin Uhe (clockwise from left) – *Microtis alba*, two different colour forms of *Thelymitra canaliculata*

On the Saturday night we all met at the recreation centre in the Coalmine Beach Caravan Park for a shared BBQ meal. It was, as usual, a very enjoyable evening.



Images from left – *Caladenia serotina* by Kevin Uhe, *Caladenia corynephora* and *Caladenia pholcoidea* subsp. *pholcoidea* by Rachel Halls

On Sunday morning we met near the Coalmine Beach CP and local orchid enthusiast Karen Mathews led us to some locations on the knoll to see good numbers of *Caladenia corynephora* (Club-lipped spider) in fresh flower. We then visited the Transfer station area and saw both *Gastrodia lacista* (Potato orchid) and *Thelymitra paludosa* (Plain sun) in flower.

After discussions, we decided to head approximately 80kms north to the Muir Highway where the late flowering *Diuris* trio, *Diuris pauciflora*, *D. emarginata* and *D. drummondii* were found. *Prasophyllum drummondii* (Swamp leek) was also seen in both brown and green forms and we added *Microtis media* subsp. *densiflora* (Dense mignonette) to our list. A few flowering plants of *Thelymitra paludosa*, *Elythranthera emarginata* and *Microtis media* subsp. *media* were seen at the second location.

Some people headed home from here but others who were staying a little longer headed back south again. Along Thompson Rd we stopped at a dried out swampy area with melaleuca trees and found a couple of late flowering snail orchids, *Pterostylis* sp. 'Caldyanup', a surprising bonus, as well as *Prasophyllum regium*, *Caladenia brownii* (Karri spider) and some small buds, thought to most probably be *Caladenia corynephora*.

Karen then took us into Mt Frankland and showed us some beautiful specimens of *Caladenia pholcoidea* subsp. *pholcoidea* (Albany spider) and the location of *Pyrorchis forrestii* (Pink beaks) that flowered in abundance after fire in 2018. This year there was a profusion of leaves only.

It was a great finish to a fabulous weekend of orchid hunting. We found almost 30 species, with 24 in flower over the two days and it was a wonderful way to end the field trips for the year.

Thank you to Anna and Karen for your knowledge sharing, planning and leadership over the weekend and to all members and friends who attended.

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 will be tabled for each general meeting this year and you are encouraged to put your name down.

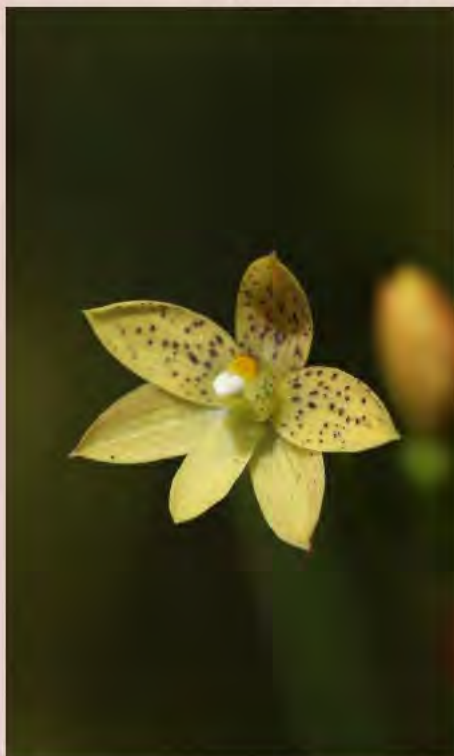
Question Time!

This section is for any burning questions members may have in regards to Western Australia's native orchids. I'm eagerly awaiting submissions from members again this year and will do my best to provide as accurate answers as possible with help from the experts as required. To get the ball rolling, I've come up with a question for this month to be answered in the next edition of the bulletin.

This month's question:

True blue pigmentation in flowers is a rare colour to find so how do the *Thelymitra* species display such brilliant blue colours?

Please send any questions / responses to wanoscg.newsletter@gmail.com. Looking forward to your contributions!



Images by Rachel Halls – *Thelymitra tigrina*, *Prasophyllum drummondii*, *Thelymitra paludosa* from the final field trip to Walpole in 2019

Bulletin Articles

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

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