

Club Activities are Recommencing!

This last month has brought the long-awaited change of recommencement of some of our official WANOSCG activities. The first member outing of the year occurred to the Corrigin area as led by Margaret Petridis. From all reports, it was a wonderful day out with lots of beautiful discoveries. We are also now able to announce our first presentation of the year which will be conducted online so members in any location can 'attend' this talk. We hope members take advantage of this event and are patient as we foray into the world of technology. If these online events are successful then there is the future possibility that our rural members will be able to be more involved in the general meetings by attending streamed presentations. Lastly, there are a couple of field trips announced for September with more details listed later in this bulletin. Hope everyone is enjoying the orchid season.

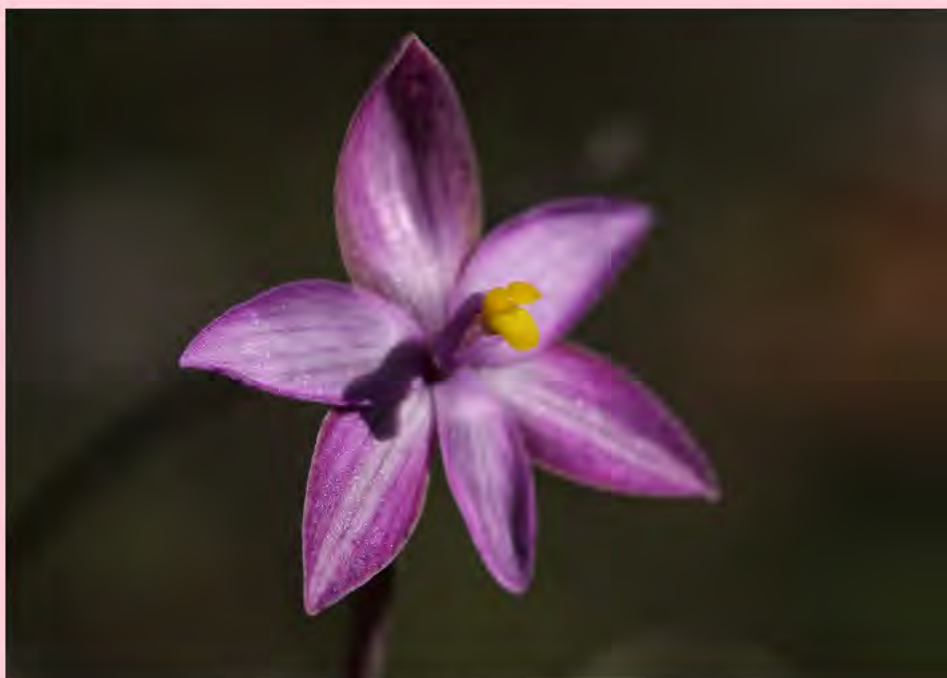


Image by Rachel Halls – *Thelymitra maculata*

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Next General Meeting:

Kings Park Administration
Building
Next date to be advised

The Committee:

President – Ramón Newmann
Vice President – Ian Puddey
Secretary – Pat Richards
Treasurer – Jay Steer
Committee Members – David
Lawson, Kevin Uhe, Debbie
Proudfoot, Andrew Brown, Bill
Gaynor

“From the President” by Ramón Newmann

WANOSCG Slide Collection

WANOSCG is fortunate enough to have a collection of WA native orchid 35mm slides from the early sixties through to 1980 - photographed and donated by its Members. A few of these images are included in this Bulletin. The photographers include some well-known names – Stonar, Bramley, Voigt, Emery, Foote, Lodge, Gibbings and Brown. There are around 2500 slides, including 1500 from Sid Gibbings.

Amongst the slides there are some shots taken on WANOSCG field trips which provide a very interesting historical connection to the start of the Group in 1974. They include a shot taken on the very first WANOSCG field trip see image below from the 23rd June 1974.

The collection was housed by Bill Burton whilst he was the Librarian and transferred to Jay Steer when he took over the Library. I now look after them as the Registrar.

In order to make the slides more accessible and useful, William Gye kindly donated many hours of his time to scan and catalogue these slides. Many thanks to William for taking that key and time-consuming step. I am now in the process of updating the catalogue (identifications, people's names etc) and looking to put them to some good use – starting by roping in Hoffman & Brown!

Andrew Brown has been through the scans to review and update the identifications, so many thanks to Andrew for that invaluable input. Noel Hoffman has started to upload some of these historic photographs on to the WANOSCG website's photo database. Some of you may have noticed the recently added photos in the 'Scientific Names' and 'Common Names' tabs which have some early dates- e.g. the 1974 and 1979 shots in <http://wanoscg.com/thelymitra/thelymitra-apiculata/>. These early shots are from the slide collection. Great idea, Noel.



If there are any other suggestions as to how to put this important collection to work, please send your ideas to our email address (wanoscg@gmail.com). Also, if you have any historical photographs of the Group that we could add to the collection, please let me know.

"From the President" continued...



Historical slides from the WANOSCG Collection:
Clockwise from top left

Caladenia lobata 1978

Thelymitra variegata 1986

Group at Mt Chudalup 1974

L. Sheppard & D. Voigt at Salmon Gums in 1978



“From the President” continued...

Engraved WANOSCG Presentation Glasses

As a small gift to external speakers at our General Meetings we have been presenting them with a glass engraved with a stylised orchid (the Butterfly Orchid, *Caladenia lobata*). We have had to re-stock those glasses and have added the WANOSCG name to the engraving. The idea was floated that Members may like to buy those engraved glasses for their own use. Depending on the number bought, the engraved glasses cost around \$20 each. Please see the photo of one the new engraved stemless glasses.

To decide whether we should follow the idea up, we would like to gauge the interest. If you are interested, please send an email to wanoscg@gmail.com expressing this interest with the potential number that you may be interested in. More details about price etc. will be provided once we know if there is enough interest to keep the cost down to around the \$20 mark.

The orchids are beginning to emerge from their summer break, and I trust that you are getting out yonder and enjoying them and supporting local businesses.

I would like to thank the Committee Members for ‘hanging in there’ throughout the current situation and continuing to support WANOSCG through the on-line Committee Meetings.

Historical slides:

Middle right – Millstream Rd Albany 1976

Bottom image – Members at Tidor Bodrogai’s home 1976



“Ellis Brook Valley Reserve” by Tom Burbidge

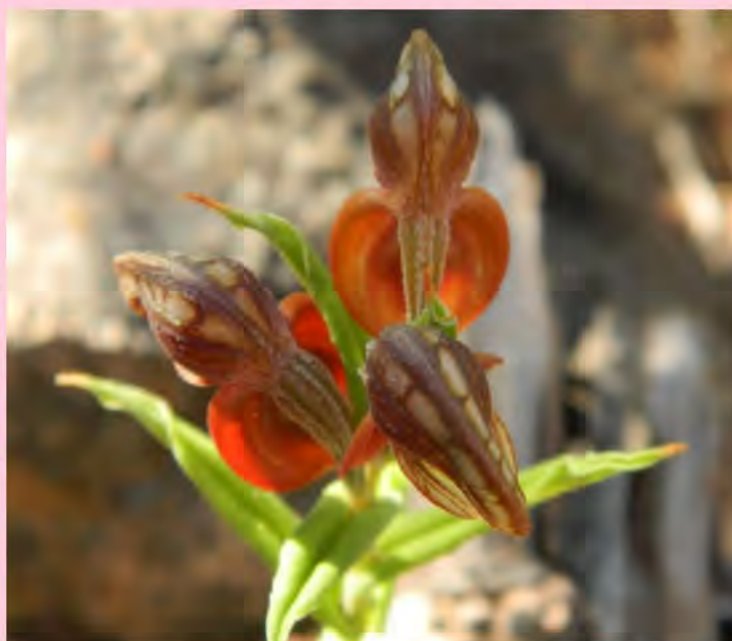
Yesterday, 20th July, my brother Andrew and his wife Marilyn, took Chris and I to the Sixty Foot falls at Ellis Brook Valley Reserve and we had a lovely walk in the sun. We went on the track that takes one up over the falls and loops down again on the other side. We saw up to 18 species of wildflowers flowering which included 3 flowering orchids. There were some leaves of another orchid which was not flowering. The three orchids that were flowering are Winter Donkey Orchid (*Diuris brumalis*), Dark banded Greenhood (*Pterostylis sanguinea*) and Blue Fairy Orchid (*Pheladenia deformis*). The leaves are likely to be of a snail orchid; as to which species of snail orchid it is, is yet to be determined.



Images top left and right by Andrew Burbidge – *Diuris brumalis* and *Prasophyllum parvifolium* from Bungendore



Images by Tom Burbidge – top centre *Pterostylis* rosettes, bottom left *Pheladenia deformis* and bottom right *Pterostylis sanguinea*



Roads & Tracks by Tanya Barnett

Quality Publishing Australia is a Western Australian mapping company that endeavours to provide accurate and up to date information on their maps.

I have recently been talking to Wayne Oakley (Director) and Eric Logan (Graphics Designer) regarding tracks and items of interest to add to their "Road & Tracks" map book. During our discussion it was mentioned that they would welcome amendments, additions or suggestions regarding their maps and books. They are not constrained by waiting for new releases from government mapping unlike other mapping companies, so they are able to release upgraded maps every year.

I know quite a few of the orchid enthusiasts use this book in their travels. If you would like to join in upgrading and creating a product more suitable to your/our needs then please forward any changes, suggestions, or errors to Eric graphics@qualitypublishing.com.au

Let's get on board to help develop a better tool for us to use.

Quality Publishing Contact Details:

Orders@qualitypublishing.com.au

Graphics@qualitypublishing.com.au

Phone: 93871279

General Meeting Rosters

Unfortunately, we are still not able to hold our normal General Meetings (as the meeting room is currently restricted to 15 attendees), however on August 12th we have lined up a great speaker, Tobias Hayashi, to give an on-line talk to our Members.

As it will be on-line, our Members from across the State, Country and World will be able to attend.

Our first foray into this Brave New World will be on **Wednesday 12 August at 7pm**. Please note that it's not the usual Wednesday of the month or usual time slot.

Tobias Hayashi is a PhD student at the Australian National University and has volunteered to be our inaugural on-line speaker that evening – streaming all the way from Canberra. The topic will be "It's all about the sexual chemistry: pollination of *Pterostylis* by male fungus gnats". This is a follow up to his enthralling 2018 presentation on the subject.

In due course, full details of how to log-in and be part of this on-line presentation will be sent out to all current Members who responded to the presentation invitation emailed out recently.



Conservation Update by Ramón Newmann

The conservation activities of the Group have continued throughout the lockdowns. Our Members have been working hard on various projects (including Adopt-an-Orchid, ADORP) and the Committee has also been active in following up on the work started by Members.

- Eric Swarts alerted the Committee of an opportunity to make a submission to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment regarding a City of Mandurah proposal to carry out experimental burns in a number of reserves – including the Island Point reserve which has populations of Critically Endangered native orchids. A WANOSCG submission has been sent into the Department in question asking to not carry out these ‘experiments’ in these critical reserves. We have yet to hear back on the results of the submission.
- There had been a proposal for a fuel reduction burn through the Weam Nature Reserve this year, which has populations of a Critically Endangered native orchid, *Caladenia williamsiae*. Though the burn has been postponed this year, a submission was sent to DBCA asking that they ensure that this Critically Endangered orchid is protected from such burns now and in the future. A very positive response was received from the Narrogin Regional Manager.
- Lyn Alcock and Maggie Whittle alerted the Committee that DBCA has erected new Horse Trail markers through the area known to have a population of an iconic Priority orchid, Queen of Sheba (*Thelymitra variegata*), in Gull Rock National Park – even though just last year they were apologetic about allowing the known areas to be dug up by a bob-cat digger and undertook at the time to work more closely with WANOSCG on risks to these rare orchids. A letter was written by WANOSCG to the Minister for Environment and Director General of DBCA asking for the trail markers to be removed and for DBCA’s communications processes to be reviewed. We have yet to hear back so a follow up letter has been sent.
- The Denmark Environment Centre invited WANOSCG to endorse a Statement calling for a review of the current prescribed burning practices in WA. As these practices are putting native orchids, as well as other flora and fauna, at risk, WANOSCG endorsed the calling for a review.

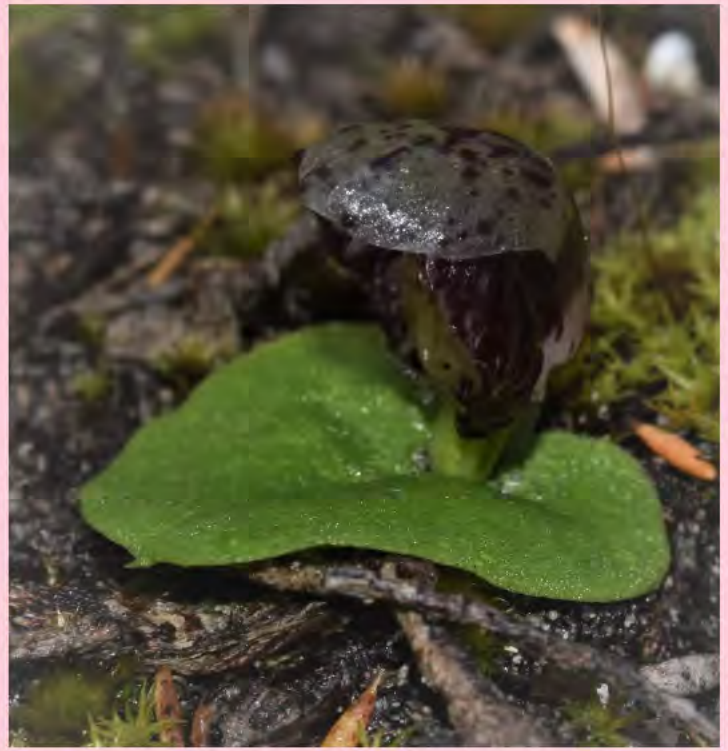
A lot of other important conservation work been undertaken by Members, which we would all love to hear about – so please send in details of this work, often by silent-achievers, to the Bulletin and or Committee (wanoscg@gmail.com) so that it can be acknowledged as it may inspire some Members to make their own contributions, however small, to the conservation of our wonderful native orchids.

Many thanks to Kevin Uhe and his team of dedicated ADORP Members for the incredible work they continue to undertake in conjunction with DBCA. There is an update from Kevin in this bulletin



Image of the iconic Queen of Sheba orchid *Thelymitra variegata* supplied by Maggie Whittle who has been working hard to protect this orchid in Gull Rock National Park

Wanted: Sightings of *Caladenia integra* and *Corybas limpidus*



Images by Kevin Uhe: *Caladenia integra* and *Corybas limpidus*

Both the above orchids are currently listed as Priority 4 and most populations have not been surveyed for many years. Current DBCA resources and ADORP activities generally do not cover Priority 4 orchids but in order to ascertain how these orchids are faring any sightings during the current season would be greatly appreciated.

Caladenia integra (Smooth Lipped Spider Orchid) is found between Clackline to the Stirling Range and east to Ravensthorpe, mainly found around granite in Sheoak woodlands. *Corybas limpidus* is found in coastal areas from Parry Beach to Thomas River in Sand dune swales and can have very large populations.

With up to date information it will provide the opportunity to reassess the appropriate priority levels for these two species. Any sightings please report to Kevin Uhe our ADORP Coordinator please.



Images by Robin Parsons – *Cyanicula sericea* and *Caladenia caesarea* subsp. *maritima*

2020 Proposed Field Trips

We are very excited to finally announce our first official proposed field trips for the year organized but some of our Committee volunteers. These field trips of course are subject to change with any Covid-19 restrictions that may be imposed.

Sunday September 13th: Serpentine-Jarrahdale Area

Field Trip Leaders: Andrew Brown and Kevin Uhe

The first official WANOSCG field trip for the year will be to the Serpentine-Jarrahdale area on September 13th. Instead of targeting particular orchid species it will be a bit of a magical mystery tour checking out forest and granite areas to see what we can find.

Lunch will be at a picnic area near Jarrahdale.

Register from the 3rd August to Andrew Brown

Note: The trip will be limited to the first 20 to register. Once registered a meeting place and time will be sent to you

Saturday September 26th to Monday September 28th: Blue Lake and Stirling Ranges Long Weekend

Field Trip Leaders: Kevin Uhe

Advance notice that a field trip is planned over the September long weekend to visit two burn areas, one around Blue Lake and the Stirling Ranges. This will give the opportunity to view a prescribed burn area and compare against a summer wildfire.

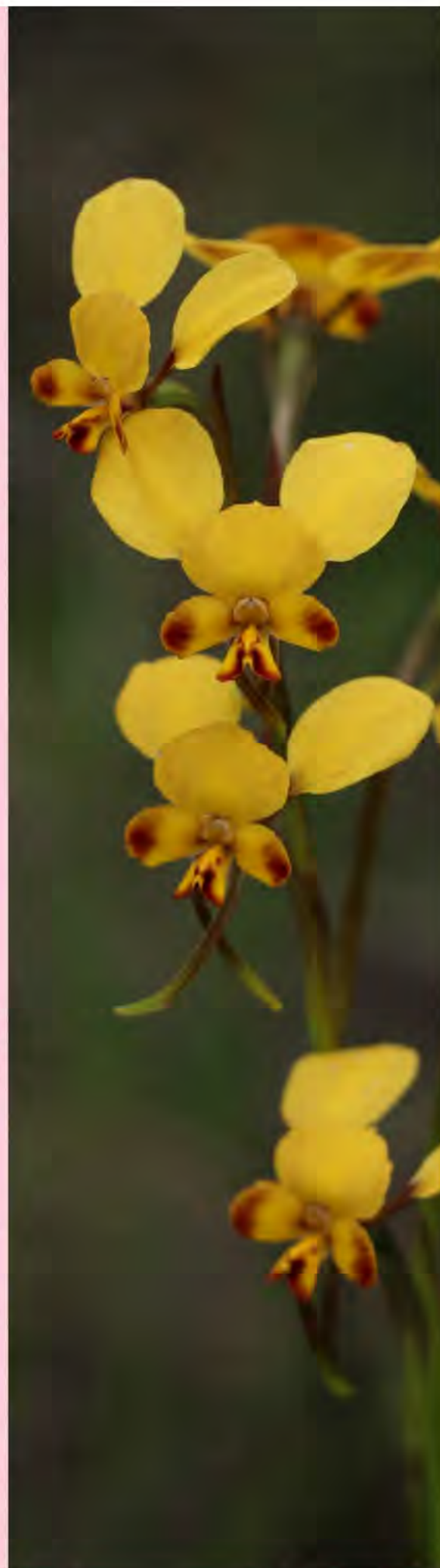
Accommodation is available at:

- Mt Barker Caravan Park (Caravans, Chalets, Cabins) Ph 98511691
- Stirling Range Retreat (Caravans, chalets, cabins, on site caravans) Ph 98279229
- Mt Trio Bush Camp (Caravans and Camping only) Ph 0419751801

As this is the beginning of the school holidays and is in the peak season members are encouraged to book accommodation options early.

Register from 24th August to Kevin Uhe

Note: As we will have the ability to split the group into two there will not be a limit on numbers attending.



“Walpole Trip” by Anna de Haan

FIELD TRIP REPORT: SOUTHERN RIVERS GROUP – JULY 19th

As we left early in the morning it was drizzling in Albany, however further west the skies cleared to become a calm, warm and sunny day. Good rains had fallen over the previous few days making all the sandy tracks quite firm to walk on.

No sooner had we parked our cars when the first orchid *Corybas recurvus* (Common Helmet) was sighted. The first of dozens more found beside the 4WD tracks we followed through the dunes. At the beginning of the first 4WD track many *Pterostylis actites* (Coastal short-eared snail) were discovered under low bushes. Further along only the remnants of one small colony of *Pterostylis rogersii* (Curled-tongue shell) and *Prasophyllum parvifolium* (Autumn Leek) remained, this being the end for their flowering season here. Sometime later many *Cyrtostylis huegelii* (Midge orchids) were sighted.

Finally, although unexpected at this location, the first sighted *Caladenia meridionalis* (South Coast Spider) was happily flowering just beside the edge of wheel ruts at a major intersection. Will it survive....? Our next sighting was much closer to the coast well hidden within low bushes and another down the track embankment.

Pt. pyramidalis (Tall Snail Orchid) were just starting to flower as most were still in a vegetative state. On our return, *Prasophyllum parvifolium* (Autumn Leek) was sighted. The steeply undulating Bibbulmun Track did present the healthiest specimens of the Midge Orchid. Very conveniently growing at eye level, they were tall, solid and plentiful in number. Lunch was enjoyed at the lookout with its grand 270-degree views out to sea and over the coastal dunes.

Due west of Denmark, we stopped at a small parking bay beside thick bush. Here we found many tall *Pt. vittata* (Banded Greenhood), one *Pt. barbata* complex plant and *Drakaea* in bud. The colourful *Pt. erubescens* (Red Sepaled Snail) colony was sighted and noted to have increased in size. Unlike our previous trips, we arrived home in daylight and with the sun shining brightly.



Photos by Mick Hurdus: *Caladenia meridionalis* (left and right), *Pterostylis actites* (centre)

ADORP News by Kevin Uhe

With the close of the DBCA financial year on 30 June, 5,232 volunteer hours were recorded for ADORP over the past twelve months. This compares favourably with 5,244 hours the previous financial year despite a few activities being restricted by COVID -19 lock downs. The cumulative effort since the commencement of ADORP in 2011 is now 18,376 hours.

DBCA offer a small range of rewards over a tiered scale starting at 20 hours and they offer these as a small thanks for the efforts put in by DBCA volunteers over the many various volunteer projects that the Department run.

Overall, 43 ADORP members have qualified to receive one of the yearly volunteer rewards with 8 of those receiving the yearly volunteer badge, having achieved over 150 hours for the year. All of the rewards are normally sent out in August each year.

A pleasing part of the ADORP program is the increasing interest by members of the public who have assisted a number of groups with location details and in a few cases are happy to monitor local populations and report numbers to the groups involved.

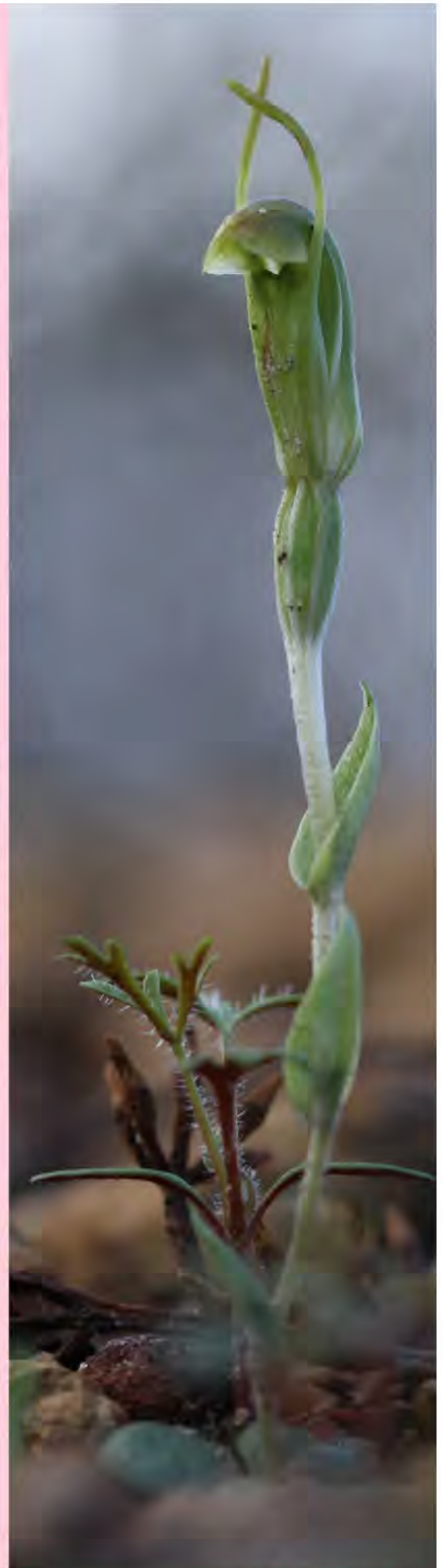
It seems more people are becoming aware of the need to protect and conserve our native orchids and having access to local knowledge only serves to broaden our monitoring and potential to discover new populations.

The task of surveying and reporting on Priority orchids is becoming increasingly important given the threats that are confronting many of our orchids from prescribed burning, habitat degradation and climate change. The information collected is vital when upgrading the priority status or preparing a Threatened nomination.

Finally, a reminder to please remember to fill in timesheets as it is important to record the effort that WANOSCG is contributing to this project.



Image by Nathan Piesse – *Pterostylis sargentii*



“Corrigin Trip” by Nathan Piesse

FIELD TRIP REPORT: AUGUST 2nd

Field Trip organised by Margaret Petridis, Kevin Uhe and Robin Campbell.

10am start with mostly sunny conditions, light winds and temperature reaching the high teens.

Participating member total: 20 (17 WANOSCG members, 1 honorary member and 2 guests)

Estimated time of observations: 5 hours

Locations: 3 sites near the town of Corrigin

A fantastic day of hunting in excellent conditions within a variety of habitats such as Mallee and Wandoo Woodlands with the highlights being a possible new *Pterostylis* sp. (Snail Orchid).

A great number of freshly opened stunning hybrids between *Caladenia flava* subsp. *flava* (Cowslip Orchid) and *Caladenia reptans* subsp. *reptans* (Little Pink Fairy Orchid). Other highlights included some amazing colour variations of *Caladenia erythronema* (Nyabing Spider Orchid) and *Caladenia dimidia* (Chameleon Spider Orchid) and a new *Caladenia drummondii* site.

Images clockwise from left – *Caladenia* hybrids, *Pterostylis arbuscula*, an unnamed *Pterostylis* and *Pterostylis setulosa*



Corrigin Field Trip continued...

A wonderful day had by all that participated with some excellent finds and it was great to meet some new members on their first field trip. We were treated to a variety of 17 flowering species.

Flowering Orchids observed

Pterostylis sp. unknown (new)
Pterostylis sargentii (Frog Greenhood Orchid)
Pterostylis scabra (Green-veined Shell Orchid)
Pterostylis timothyi (Brittle Snail Orchid)
Pterostylis arbuscula (Mallee Greenhood Orchid)
Pterostylis recurva (Jug Orchid)
Pterostylis sanguinea (Dark Banded Greenhood Orchid)
Pterostylis setulosa (Hairy-stemmed Snail Orchid)
Pterostylis echinulata (Hairy leafed Snail Orchid)
Caladenia reptans subsp. *reptans* (Little Pink Fairy Orchid) - image right
Caladenia flava subsp. *flava* (Cowslip Orchid)
Caladenia dimidia (Chameleon Spider Orchid) – image lower left
Caladenia erythronema (Nyabing Spider Orchid)
Caladenia flava x *Caladenia reptans* hybrids
Caladenia longicauda subsp. *eminens* (Stark White Spider Orchid)
Caladenia x cala (Wheatbelt Spider Orchid)
Pheladenia deformis (Bluebeard or Blue Fairy Orchid)
Ericksonella saccharata (Sugar Orchid) - image lower right
Possible *Diuris brachyscarpa* (Western Wheatbelt Donkey Orchid)



Question Time!

This section is for any burning questions members may have in regards to Western Australia's native orchids. Questions can be simple or complex, there is no minimum standard and the authors are kept anonymous. Answers will be published in the next edition of the bulletin.

Last month's question:

Some orchids have hairs on their stems and / or leaves. What purpose do these little hairs serve?

Hairs on orchids are thought to protect the plant from grazing insects as they are less likely to climb up hair stems. In addition, hairs can assist in plant temperature control by reducing evaporation and protecting from wind and frost. Lastly the hairs are thought to trap in water droplets and moisture to allow a water source to trickle down to the base of the plant.

This month's question:

Plenty of wildflowers grow in the mid-west north of Kalbarri to the Pilbara regions but what is it about the habitat that results in minimal orchid species growing?

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



Images left by Nathan Piesse – *Caladenia erythronema*
Image right by Robin Parsons – *Caladenia caesarea* subsp. *maritima*

Bulletin Articles

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

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