



WANOSCG

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



ISSUE 1 - MARCH 2021

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Annual General Meeting followed by Next General Meeting:

Fox Lecture Hall, UWA, Crawley
17th March 2021
7:30-9:30PM

Top right corner of Car Park 3 as
you drive in off Hackett Drive –

[click here for a map](#)

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

Bulletin Editor – Ian Puddey

Changing of the guard

We have a changing of the guard editor-wise as Rachel Halls, who has been producing our Bulletin for the last couple of years (and doing an exceptional job), is now standing aside. Working fulltime plus study and demands of a young family mean Rachel can no longer devote time to editing the Bulletin. We thank her for giving us so much of her time over the past two years and wish her well in her ongoing endeavours.

Stepping into her shoes, and at the front of a very short line of volunteers for the role is me, her Dad, who earnestly hopes that she can bring me up to speed on what needs to be done to keep WANOSCG members fully informed and up to date with orchid and conservation news and activities during the coming year.

Although there are flowering orchids somewhere in Western Australia every month of the year, March has been traditionally the month that marks the beginning of the orchid season. We look forward to early offerings from the Leafless orchid (*Praecoxanthus aphyllus*) and the Pygmy orchid (*Corunastylis fuscoviridis*) (see images below), as well as the Hare orchid (*Leporella fimbriata*) and our wide range of Bunny orchids (*Eriochilus* sp.). We wish all members safe and happy times as they re-acquaint themselves with the great Western Australian bush and the many orchid treasures that we hope will be on show once again.



Orchid names Part IV - Species and subspecies named for their colour or markings. By Alex George

Sixty one names appear in this list.

The colour of an orchid often gives the first impression of the flower. While usually descriptive, only a few names referring to colour are useful in helping us to identify them. These used to include *Caladenia flava*, until recently our only bright yellow *Caladenia*—but now we also have *C. citrina* and *C. xantha*.



Caladenia xantha – Greek for ‘yellow’ – image by Ian Puddey



Caladenia flava subsp. flava – Latin for ‘yellow’ – image by Ian Puddey



Caladenia citrina – French for ‘lemon’ – image by Ian Puddey

A colour name may refer to the whole flower, e.g. *C. flava*, *Thelymitra tigrina*, or to part(s) of it, e.g. *Diuris ostrina* (the labellum). It rarely refers to the column but such is *Thelymitra xanthotricha*.



Diuris ostrina – Latin for ‘purple’ – image by Ian Puddey



Thelymitra tigrina – Latin for ‘of tigers’ (although tigers have stripes not spots!) – image by Ian Puddey



Thelymitra xanthotricha – xanthos meaning ‘yellow’ and trichos meaning ‘hair’, referring to the yellow hairs on the side lobes of the anther – image by Andrew Brown

Several epithets describe markings on the flower—spots or blotches, e.g. *Thelymitra variegata*, or stripes, *Pterostylis zebrina*. One indicates the negative state, *Diuris immaculata* having no such markings.



Thelymitra variegata - having patches, stripes, or marks of different colours – Images by Kevin Uhe and Andrew Brown



Pterostylis zebrina - Striped like a zebra - Image by Andrew Brown

An epithet ending in *-ans* or *-ens* denotes a change during flowering, e.g. *Pterostylis erubescens*, becoming red.



Pt. erubescens – Latin for ‘reddening’, ‘blushing’ - image by Ian Pudsey

Three are named for what happens when they are dried, most notably *Pyrorchis nigricans* which turns black. *Microtis atrata* can turn blackish, while *Paracaleana nigrita* sometimes does so. *Cyanicula caerulea* is almost a tautology, blue-flowered in a genus named for its blue flowers!



Pyrorchis nigricans – Latin for ‘blackish’ - image by Ian Pudsey



Paracaleana nigrita – black -- image by Ian Pudsey



Microtis atrata – Latin for ‘blackened’, ‘darkened’, ‘clothed in black’ - image by Ian Pudsey

Most colour epithets refer to the flowers but two, *Drakaea concolor* and *D. livida*, describe the leaf.



Drakaea concolor – Latin refers to the leaf which is uniform in colour – images by Kevin Uhe and Andrew Brown

Drakaea livida - Latin word meaning bluish, or lead-coloured – images by Kevin Uhe and Ian Puddey

Caladenia caesarea subsp. *transiens* ('merging, passing into') mingles colour with shape, referring to the colour as in typical *caesarea* but with the tip of the labellum resembling that of *C. filamentosa*.



Caladenia caesarea subsp. *transiens* - Latin for 'merging', 'passing into' – image by Andrew Brown



Caladenia ferruginea – a Latin word meaning rusty – image by Ian Puddey



Caladenia nivalis – Latin for 'snow' – image by Ian Puddey



Caladenia hirta subsp. *rosea* – Latin for 'rosy' or 'pink' – image by Ian Puddey



Caladenia leucochila - derived from the Greek *leuco* for 'white' and *chilus* for 'lipped', referring to the white labellum – image by Ian Puddey



Cyanicula ixiooides subsp. *Candida* – Latin for 'white' – image by Ian Puddey

Species and subspecies of SW Australian orchids named for their colour or markings

<i>Caladenia applanata</i> subsp. <i>erubescens</i>	<i>Caladenia straminichila</i>	<i>Drakaea concolor</i>
<i>Caladenia caesarea</i> subsp. <i>transiens</i>	<i>Caladenia uliginosa</i> subsp. <i>candicans</i>	<i>Drakaea livida</i>
<i>Caladenia citrina</i>	<i>Caladenia viridescens</i>	<i>Ericksonella saccharata</i>
<i>Caladenia denticulata</i> subsp. <i>albicans</i>	<i>Caladenia xantha</i>	<i>Microtis alba</i>
<i>Caladenia denticulata</i> subsp. <i>rubella</i>	<i>Calochilus caesius</i>	<i>Microtis alboviridis</i>
<i>Caladenia erythrochila</i>	<i>Corunastylis fuscoviridis</i>	<i>Microtis atrata</i>
<i>Caladenia erythronema</i>	<i>Corybas limpidus</i>	<i>Paracaleana nigrita</i>
<i>Caladenia ferruginea</i>	<i>Cyanicula caerulea</i>	<i>Pecteilis ochroleuca</i>
<i>Caladenia flava</i>	<i>Cyanicula ixiooides</i> subsp. <i>candida</i>	<i>Pterostylis atrosanguinea</i>
<i>Caladenia flava</i> subsp. <i>maculata</i>	<i>Didymoplexis pallens</i>	<i>Pterostylis brunneola</i>
<i>Caladenia hirta</i> subsp. <i>rosea</i>	<i>Diuris conspicillata</i>	<i>Pterostylis erubescens</i>
<i>Caladenia leucocilia</i>	<i>Diuris cruenta</i>	<i>Pterostylis fuliginosa</i>
<i>Caladenia longicauda</i> subsp. <i>albella</i>	<i>Diuris eburnea</i>	<i>Pterostylis perculta</i>
<i>Caladenia luteola</i>	<i>Diuris immaculata</i>	<i>Pterostylis sanguinea</i>
<i>Caladenia melanema</i>	<i>Diuris ostrina</i>	<i>Pterostylis virens</i>
<i>Caladenia nivalis</i>	<i>Diuris pallescens</i>	<i>Pterostylis xerampelinus</i>
<i>Caladenia polychroma</i>	<i>Diuris picta</i>	<i>Pterostylis zebra</i>
	<i>Diuris porphyrochila</i>	<i>Pyrorchis nigricans</i>
	<i>Diuris suffusa</i>	<i>Thelymitra fuscolutea</i>
	<i>Diuris tinctoria</i>	<i>Thelymitra maculata</i>
		<i>Thelymitra mucida</i>
		<i>Thelymitra tigrina</i>
		<i>Thelymitra variegata</i>
		<i>Thelymitra xanthotricha</i>

Treasurer's Statement

Overview of WANOSCG receipts and expenditures for 2020/21

	2020/21	2019/20
Receipts	5,139.31	7,193.48
Interest on Investments	1600.58	2036.65
Expenditure	5,062.81	4,432.96
Change in funds for year	+ 1677.08	+ 4,797.17

Above is a brief summary of WANOSCG's financial transactions and does not replace the audited accounts, they will be presented at the Annual General Meeting as per normal. Major influences on the positive balance for 2020/21 included:

- i) Reduced income from meetings (we only held 2 meetings in 2020).
- ii) Fewer members paying their annual fees in 2020/21
- iii) Lower interest rates in 2020/21

Jay Steer
WANOSCG Treasurer

ADOPR annual report 2020 - Kevin Uhe

Despite 2020 being a difficult year with an uncertain start due to COVID -19 it proved to be another successful year with new populations being located which helps to consolidate the populations of priority orchids.

Despite new populations being located a number of priority orchids continue to suffer from prescribed burning of their habitats, increasing salinity, climate change, weeds and feral animals to name a few. It is important that we continue to monitor populations to reflect the results of these threatening processes.

Once populations are noted to be in decline then much of the ADOPR data can be used to justify a nomination for Threatened status for those taxa under severe threat, either from population decline or severe threatening processes.

During 2020, ADOPR volunteers contributed a total of 5,735 volunteer hours during the year. The total hours logged since the project commenced is now a very impressive 23,384. Special mention to Bill Gaynor who achieved a cumulative total of 1,000 hours in 2020 whilst David Stevens and Peter McAvaney reached 500 cumulative hours in 2020. A record number of 256 Threatened and Priority Forms were received, with 52 of those being new populations or sub populations.

During 2021 it is hoped to expand on the surveys of Priority 4 orchids, in particular *Thelymitra apiculata*, *Corybas limpidus* and *Caladenia integra*. A number of ADOPR members spent time during 2020 locating old populations of these species and some new populations were also located.

As priority 4 orchids get very little survey work it is important that some up to date monitoring is performed in case there has been a decline in population numbers which may result in these species being upgraded to a higher priority level.

Many thanks to all those ADOPR members who committed their time during 2020 to help in surveys and reporting.



Thelymitra apiculata – image by Ian Pudsey



Caladenia integra – image by Ian Pudsey

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2020

What an extraordinary year 2020 was. Though WANOSCG and its Members faced many challenges throughout 2020, there were many positives to be found during the year.

We have managed to function as a Group through 2020 thanks to the perseverance of the Members and with a little technological help.

Due to the COVID-19 health restrictions, we could only hold 2 physical General Meetings throughout the whole year. However, with the aid of video conferencing software we managed to also provide two virtual presentations to all of our Members wherever they lived in Australia or overseas. Tobias Hyashi (Pollination of *Pterostylis*) and Ryan Philips (WA's remarkable hammer orchids) delivered two high quality and fascinating video presentations. The Committee also held all of its meetings using video conferencing software, so the Group could still be managed throughout the year as per normal.

The longer-term implication of this is that we have demonstrated that we can offer quality presentation to all of our far-flung members who have access to a computer and the internet. It also means that you do not have to be a Perth based Member to be on the Committee as you can now attend committee meetings virtually – which is great for allowing our country-based Members to directly participate in the running of WANOSCG. We already have one such Committee nomination from the Regions.

The 2020 Photo Competition was also open to all of our Members with a newly adopted format – entries and voting came in from all over the State. Following the success of the new format, it will be retained for the 2021 competition.

Whilst adhering to the various travel and meeting COVID-19 restrictions, field trips continued throughout the year for both the main Group and its regionally based branch, the Southern River Group. Many thanks to those who organised and attended the trips and provided trip report, which are such an important part of WANOSCG.

Another key part of WANOSCG is the fantastic conservation and study work, undertaken in conjunction with DBCA, through the Adopt-an-Orchid Project (ADORP). That project has continued to grow through the tireless work of those involved, especially through the efforts of its road-warrior leader, Kevin Uhe. A big thanks to Kevin and his team from all of us, including from the priority orchids covered by ADORP.

One casualty during 2020 was that we had no WANOSCG Award nomination for that year – however I am sure that we will have some for 2021.

A key part to keeping the Group cohesive, educational, and enjoyable has been the fantastic Bulletin put together by our Editor, Rachel Halls. Unfortunately, after 2 years in the role Rachel can no longer continue as Editor due to other workloads—however the editorship will be kept in the family and Rachel will continue to have an input in 2021 as Ian Pudsey has put his hand up to be Editor. A special thanks to Rachel from all our Members for producing and growing such an enjoyable, high quality and well-regarded Bulletin.



The other key aspect of WANOSCG is the great contribution from its volunteers, including from the Committee Members and Subsidiary Officers. They all do so much in the background to keep WANOSCG running and our orchids safe. Without them, there is no Group, so it is vital that Members continue to put their hands up to support the running of the show.

There are still some notable gaps in the 2021 nominations for Committee and Subsidiary positions that must be filled if WANOSCG is to continue as we know it.

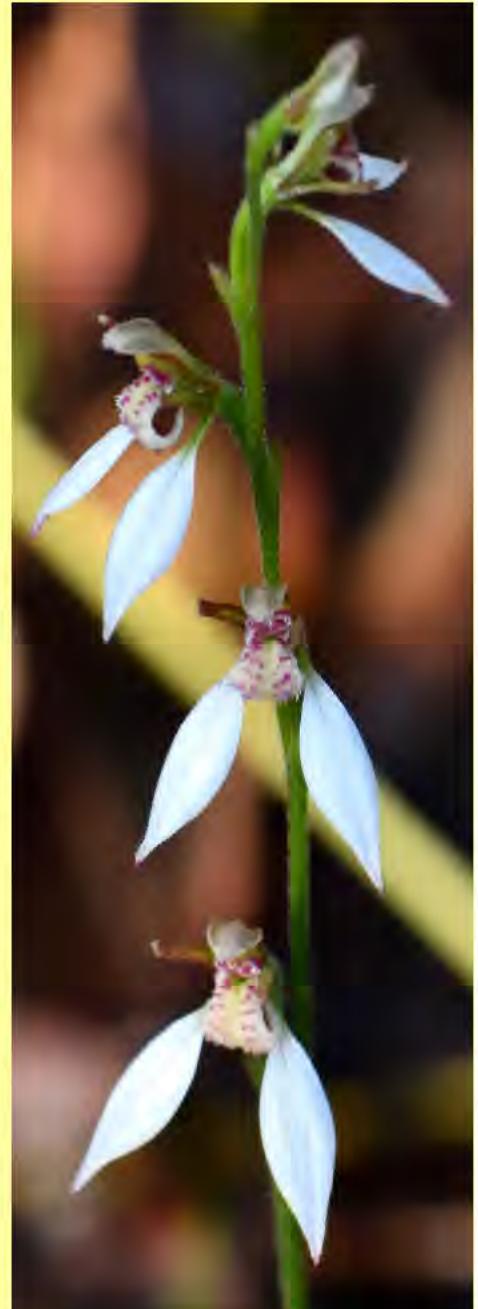
Two members of the 2020 Committee are stepping down, Ian Pudsey (though he is continuing as Bulletin Editor) and David Lawson. I would like to extend a sincere thank-you from all of the membership to Ian and David for the great contributions that they have both made over the past 3 years. As foreshadowed at the start of 2020, I am also stepping down from the President's role as is Pat Richards from the Secretary's role, after 4 and 5 years respectively – though we are both willing to continue to be on the Committee to help out where we can. I would like to express a sincere gratitude to Pat for the superb job she has done as Secretary over the past 5 years – it made my and Jay's life so much easier!

There are currently no nominations for the President's or Secretary's roles – and they must be filled. Nominations can still be received at the forthcoming March AGM, and I urge Members to stand up to take on those pivotal and rewarding roles.

I understand that taking on any role can be daunting, especially when those who have gone before have put in big efforts – however the shape and commitment to any of the roles is governed by those who come into them, so please do not hesitate to step up and make them your roles. This applies to the roles of Field Trip Coordinator and Conservation Officer as well as Secretary and President, which are all still vacant. So put your hands up and contribute to the running of a great Group.

After 4 years in the role, its time for me to step down as President and I would like to thank all of the Committee Members during that time for their support. It has been great working with you all. It has been a real privilege to help steer WANOSCG through the opportunities and challenges of those 4 years.

Ramón Newmann



2021 WANOSCG Photographic Competition – an early announcement

It's time to start thinking of the annual Photo Competition.

The 2020 Photo Comp was highly successful in allowing all of our Members to fully participate in the event by being able to enter, view and vote on the photos remotely rather than just being based around the Perth meetings. With this in mind, the decision has been made to repeat the format for 2021.

In summary:

- Photos must have been taken since November 2020 in WA by a Member.
- Entries to be submitted as 'jpeg' files for publishing in a special Oct/Nov Bulletin edition.
- All Members will be able to vote remotely.
- The subject will be WA native orchids named after WANOSCG or its Members.

The list of the eligible orchid species, including sample photographs, will be shown at the March General Meeting, followed by full details of the competition in the April Bulletin.

Get your camera's ready and start researching which orchids may be eligible subjects.

Registrar's Database Report March 2020

Though it was a somewhat disrupted year, the WANOSCG Database continued to grow through 2020 thanks to over 1,200 sightings reported over the past year. We now have 24,674 member sightings in the Database. Quite an achievement!

In the accompanying sightings map you can see the distribution of the sightings, and more importantly the gaps.

The 'validation checks' introduced at the start of 2020 (whereby sightings submissions are compared to known flowering times and locations) has now been rolled out to all of the sightings, and not just the threatened and priority orchids.

Some 91% of the sighting dates are within the published flowering range of the species. When compared to reference sighting locations, 27% are within 5km and 84% within 50km. This helps to identify sightings that would benefit from double checking of the reported identification and location (due to GPS errors, I have had to slip into my wetsuit and rescue a few underwater orchids from the Indian and Southern Oceans). It has also illustrated that some species have only limited reference records.

Members are asked to target and report on the named species that we still have no reported sightings for – as listed below (note that one of these may be in the 2021 Photo Comp!).

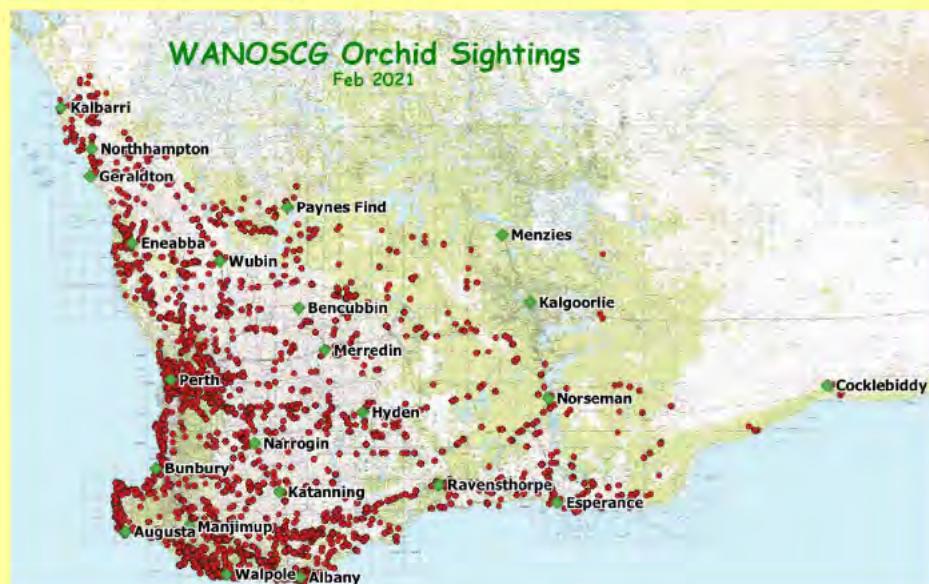
- *Drakaea andrewsiae*
- *Prasophyllum paulinae*
- *Pterostylis crebriflora*
- *Pterostylis hadra*
- *Pterostylis polyphylla*
- *Pterostylis saxum*
- *Pterostylis telmata*
- *xCyanthera glossodioides*

Please keep sending your sighting records to me – preferably in the 'standard' Excel based WANOSCG Species Sightings Template (as emailed to all Members) to make it simpler to enter the data into the main Database, however if you can't manage this, then in whatever form you have. In the past volunteers have helped to transfer the non-standard data sets into the standard form.

If any Member would like a data or map report (eg of a species or area) please email your request to me, bearing in mind that you will need to have previously contributed to the Database and that there are restrictions on access to the Threatened and Priority species data.

Looking forwards to your data!

Ramón Newmann



A Blast From the Past

Back issues of the WANOSCG Bulletin from Nov 1974 to Nov 2018 are now available for download from the WANOSCG website (<http://wanoscg.com/bulletin-back-issues/>). During the year we will publish historic articles from past Bulletins which may be of general interest to the group. The article below was written by one Andrew Brown and outlines the 12 known Western Australian Pterostylis species in a talk he delivered to the April General meeting of WANOSCG in 1977. Approximately 80-90 Pterostylis species are now current on the Florabase website (<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/search/advanced?family=&genus=Pterostylis&species=&infrasp=&author=&common=&constat=¤t=&alien=&ms=&id=&reference=&photo=&colour=&ftime=&habitat=&habit=&soiltype=&layer1=&obj1=&layer-op>)

The topic talk for April was given by Andrew Brown. This talk was supported by slides of the various species.

"Western Australian 'Pterostylis'

In W.A. we have 12 distinct species of Pterostylis or (Green-hoods) as they are commonly known. One of them 'Pterostylis rufa' requires some revision as W.A. Types do not quite match those found in the Eastern States.

Three variation of this orchid exist in W.A. The first being found in the North from Moora to Kalbarri and inland, the second I collected from the 67mp Brookton Highway and the third is common in the Esperance region. All three are found in the drier parts of W.A. and will not be seen in the lower South West. In a dry season the rosette of leaves will often be found in a withered condition during flowering.

There is also a species of Pterostylis found in the Stirling Ranges which could be given a distinctive name. Though it is similar to nana (snail orchid), it has larger flowers and no rosette of leaves, also it can be found blooming nearly two months before the typical nana which grows in the same area.

Of the W.A. species, only four flower from a basal rosette of leaves. They are Pterostylis nana, allantoidea, rufa and mutica. Although the rest have a flowering plant which appears above ground without a rosette, rosettes do appear from non flowering tubers.

Pterostylis are among the easiest of our terrestrials to grow. However, they can be divided into two groups, one of which forms a number of tubers from a single plant.

Examples are nana, robusta and angusta.

The second group does not multiply as well in this way and must therefore rely on seed dispersal.

Examples are barbata, recurva and rufa.

The latter group, is the hardest of the two to grow and therefore requires more care. I have had the most success in a well drained pot containing an open mixture that I have kept moist but not saturated. Feeding with a liquid fertilizer does seem to increase the size of the plant.

In W.A. *Pterostylis* can be found flowering from June to November.

The first one seen is often *Pterostylis vittata* var *vittata* (The Cockatoo Orchid)

Like many of the other *Pterostylis* it has an extremely irritable lip which instantly moves up if touched. An insect having landed on the labellum is pushed up against the column and can only escape by squeezing past the stigma thus ensuring fertilization. Within half an hour the lip comes down again and is ready for another capture. *Pterostylis vittata* can be found as early as June but will flower into October in the lower South West.

"*Pterostylis allantoidea* (Shy greenhood) late August to Oct

I have only seen this orchid at the one location near Ravensthorpe, where it was found growing near a creek in dense colonies under high scrub.

Apparently it is also found in a wide area of the inner Wheatbelt, growing at the base of granite outcrops. Under these conditions it receives a certain amount of runoff from the rocks.

Pterostylis plumosa

Plumosa can be found all along the South coast from Augusta to Esperance growing in a variety of conditions and at first glance, can easily be mistaken for *Pterostylis barbata*, however, it flowers much later (October to November) also the labellum is far more hairy.

Pterostylis rufa (September to December)

Rufa is common throughout the Wheatbelt ranging from Kalbarri in the north where it can often be found as early as September to Esperance in the South East. In the latter area, *rufa* can sometimes be seen as late as December."

..... A. Brown



Pterostylis vittata – image by Ian Pudsey



Pterostylis ectypha – image by Ian Pudsey



Pterostylis serotina – image by Ian Pudsey

Covers From WANSCOG Bulletin Back Issues

Compiled by Ramón Newmann



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