

WANOSCG FIELD TRIP Conditions Procedures & Guidelines (Oct 2021)

1. Purpose of WANOSCG Field Trips

WANOSCG holds field trips for the study and conservation of WA's native orchids by its Members.

2. Conditions of WANOSCG Field Trips

- a) During a field trip all attendees must conform to WANOSCG Objectives, Values and these Field Trip Conditions, Procedures and Guidelines.
- b) All attendees must
 - register with and be accepted by the Field Trip Co-ordinator (FTC) ahead of the field trip and
 - follow the directions and instructions of the FTC for the field trip.
 - At the discretion of the FTC, non WANOSCG Members may be permitted on the field trips.
- c) The number of attendees for any given field trip may be limited, with priority given to current WANOSCG Members.
- d) Any field trip designated by the WANOSCG Committee as a **Restricted Field Trip** may have additional restrictions placed on it by the Committee.
 - For example, field trips to survey Threatened species may be restricted to the following attendees:
 - WANOSCG Members,
 - registered ADORP Members for the target species, and
 - employees of Government Departments, such as the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).
 - Other specific personnel, such as landowners or managers.
- e) Collection Of Plant Specimens during field trips
 - The collection of plant material or orchid specimens without a licence from DBCA is against the law and is forbidden.
 - If a licence holder wishes to collect plant specimens on a WANOSCG field trip they must notify the FTC.

3. Field Trip Procedure

- a) Contact Field Trip Co-ordinator (FTC) or Field Trip Leader (FTL) if you want to attend a field trip, as per the communicated instructions for that field trip.
 - Please give them your contact details, preferably a mobile phone number and an emergency contact number for family or a friend not on the trip.
- b) If later you are unable to attend, notify the FTC/FTL ASAP.
- c) Notify a friend or family member of location/itinerary and expected return date/time
- d) What to bring on the field trip
 - Suitable bush-walking attire including
 - Hat, insect repellent, high visibility gear, whistle.
 - Water and food (e.g., snacks, lunch etc depending on the trip).
 - Handheld 2-way CB radio (UHF channel 13). If no Radio let FTC or FTL know they may be able to organise loan radio.
 - A spray bottle of 70% methylated spirits/30% water for dieback protection.
 - Use this to spray your boots, camera bag and anything else that comes in contact with the soil before and after walking in the bush.
 - Other suggested equipment.
 - WANOSCG car sticker to help identification in a convoy.
 - GPS tracking device is advisable for personal safety.
 - Personal first aid kit (the FTL has a WANOSCG first aid kit in their vehicle).
 - On more remote trips, a Personal Locator Beacon with GPS or similar.
<http://beacons.amsa.gov.au/about/beacon-types.asp>
- e) Dogs are not allowed on any WANOSCG field trips.
- f) **Your Safety is Your Responsibility**

On Arrival at the Meeting Place (as notified by Field Trip Co-ordinator/Leader prior to trip)

- Register with FTL and sign attendance sheet, including an emergency contact.
- Notify FTL of any health issues or concerns you may have.
- Wait for instructions before leaving meeting place.
- Spray boots and equipment with meth/water mix.

Vehicle Convoy Procedure (when travelling with the group to locations)

The road safety and the normal road rules for your vehicle is of prime importance and take precedence at all times.

Follow the following convoy procedure if and when it is safe to do so.

- Note registration and make of the car in front of you.
- Keep the car behind you in view at all times where possible.
- Slow down or stop if the car behind is not visible, until it is.
- At a turn off, ensure the car behind you is indicating before you turn the corner.
- Use two-way radios on UHF Channel 13 to communicate with others (in convoy and out in the field).
- Use WANOSCG car sticker to assist with vehicle identification.

During the Field Trip

- Follow directions of FTL to ensure protection of habitat and orchids.
- Try to split groups into smaller numbers to minimise time for access to Orchid finds and taking of photographs.
- Follow trails and walk carefully through the bush to minimise habitat damage.
- Watch out for hazards and snakes; be mindful and careful where you walk.
- Look for orchids along tracks and roadsides.
- Do not collect plant material or orchids unless you have a licence from DBCA, and it is deemed necessary in order to record a new location for a species.
- Avoid disturbing soil where possible, especially in wet areas or creek lines.
- Share orchid finds and keep in contact with others via two-way radios (Channel 13).
- Keep other attendees in view at all times, where possible.
- Proceed to orchids in an orderly manner and wait your turn to see/photograph them.
- Do not damage protecting shrubs to get a better photo, ask for help to hold them away.
- Tag an orchid if necessary, so that others may see it, but remove tag before leaving the area.
- Monitor time at each location and return to the cars as instructed by FTL.
- Report any safety concerns or issues to the Trip Leader.

On Completion of the Field Trip

- Return to the meeting point/cars:
 - at the time designated by FTL; or
 - when asked to return by the FTL; or
 - you hear short successive blasts of a car horn.
- Notify the FTL when you are leaving the trip, especially if it is earlier than others.
- Spray boots and equipment that touched the ground with the Metho / Water mix, especially if you have been in a known dieback or susceptible area.

Field Trip Report

- Person designated to record orchids seen compiles a list or spreadsheet and sends it to the person designated to write the report.
- Person designated to write the report uses the orchid list and own experiences to write a report for the WANOSCG Bulletin and sends it to the Bulletin Editor, along with photos.
- Data from the field trip to be sent to the Registrar for inclusion in database, using the Database input spreadsheet (newmann@bigpond.net.au).

Other Notes

- Your mobile phone contact number is useful in case we have to contact you with a change of plans, or if you are late arriving or get lost during the trip.
- The FTC or FTL will contact you via email with details of meeting time and place before the trip.
- Participating in field trips gives you great opportunities to learn about orchids, find new areas to explore and to get to know other WANOSCG members...and it is fun!

Personal Field Trips

- Note the above 'During the Field Trip' procedures.
- Record what you see with photos and a list, using books and field guides to help with ID.
- Send data to Registrar (as above) to add to the database.
- Notify other members of your finds at meetings, via WANOSCG Facebook site or via an article in the Bulletin, if you want to – noting that threatened species locations should be kept confidential.
- Bring photos to meetings or post on the WANOSCG Face book site for help with ID if you need to.

4. Field Trip Guidelines

To Reduce the Risk of Getting Lost

There is always potential for getting lost in the bush. The following will assist you keeping safe: -

- Use a GPS and mark your vehicle and an entry waypoint when commencing a walk.
- Use a portable two-way radio tuned to UHF channel 13
- Carry spare batteries for GPS. Ensure radio is charged or has spare batteries.
- Wear hi visibility clothing.
- Carry a whistle.
- Stay within eye contact of the group.
- Search with a partner (buddy).
- Return to the vehicles when notified or at the allotted time or if you hear car horns

To Help Prevent the Spread of Die Back

- Carry a spray bottle containing 70% Methylated Spirits 30% water in your vehicle.
- Spray footwear and equipment when entering and leaving susceptible areas.
- Do not enter dieback areas when it is wet

Threatened Orchid Field Trips

- WANOSCG trips to see Threatened orchids will only proceed after consultation with DBCA staff.
- WANOSCG members should respect the privilege of visiting orchid sites that are not generally known or accessible to the general public. They should not disclose or mark the location of rare, threatened or priority taxa to non-members, or visit these sites unnecessarily.
- Large groups should be split up to minimise impact when visiting sensitive orchids.
- In order to protect rare and threatened orchids and their habitat, restrictions may be imposed on the number of members attending such field trips.
- Field trips to Threatened orchids will be designated as Restricted Field Trips which may have additional restrictions.

Minimization of Environmental Impact

- Look for orchids along tracks and roadsides as they often grow in these areas
- Follow existing trails in the bush, if possible, to avoid unnecessary damage to the undergrowth.
- Avoid disturbing vegetation and soil, especially in wet areas and creek lines.
- Walk and kneel carefully when photographing orchids to minimise habitat impact.
- Regulate members going in to photograph an orchid, one at a time, to minimise damage.
- DO NOT break or damage protective vegetation to get a clearer photo. Ask for assistance from another person to hold back vegetation. Prickly vegetation, branches and plant litter assist orchid survival in many ways including keeping grazing animals at bay.
- If accessing bush tracks by vehicle always attempt to make minimum impact on the bush and try to stay off the sides of tracks as orchids often grow in these areas.

First Aid and Emergencies

- A First Aid Kit is carried by the Field Trip Leader or in a designated vehicle.
- Instruction on Emergency Procedures is carried in each First Aid Kit.
- On more remote trips, a Personal Locator Beacon with GPS (<http://beacons.amsa.gov.au/about/beacon-types.asp>), satellite telephones or similar is advisable