



WANOSCG

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



Issue 3 - May 2022

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Next General Meeting

Wednesday May 18 2022 7:30pm
Venue: Bayliss Lecture Theatre - UWA

Gondwana Link, remnant bushland and orchid gems.

Eddy and Donna Wajon (WANOSCG members for 26 years) own two bush blocks (Mondurup View and Chingarrup Sanctuary) in the south-west of Australia, which are actively managed for conservation.

Both are part of the Gondwana Link which has an aspiration of "Reconnected country, from the karri forests of the far southwest to the woodland and mallee bordering the Nullarbor, in which ecosystem function and biodiversity are restored and maintained".

At the next general meeting on May 18 Eddy will be sharing the how and why of the journey they have taken in purchasing and managing these two remnant bush blocks but with a bit of an orchid slant of course. Not to be missed!

WANOSCG Management Committee:

President:	Jon Warren	
Vice President:	Ramón Newmann	
Vice President:	Andrew Brown	<i>Ordinary Committee Members:</i>
Secretary:	Pat Richards	John Ewing, Debbie Proudfoot
Treasurer:	Jay Steer	Kevin Uhe, Graham Warren.

Subsidiary Positions:

Field Trip Coordinator:	Graham Warren
Metro Field Trip Coordinator:	Christine Lock
Conservation Officer:	John Ewing
Membership Officer:	Jay Steer
Branch Liaison Officer SRG:	Jon Warren
Bulletin Editor:	Annie Bowerman
Librarian:	John Ewing & Alison Higgins
Supper Coordinator:	Trish Newmann
Website Administrator:	Ramón Newmann
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Caladenia pendens subs. talbotii - Annie Bowerman

Do they say that the bush is all greyness and
gloom
Why, the rainbow has lent every thread from his
loom
To weave into flowers and schrubbs!
There are star-flowers blue as the deep winter
sky;
Here are "grandmothers Honeycups," humble
and shy;
And the purple of hovea bloom.

Half hiding, half peeping, the orchids appear,
The friendly and cheerful red runner creeps
near
Say, where are the greyness and gloom.

LILLIAN WOOSTER GREAVES

President's May Musings

As many of you will have garnered from my musings, I am keen to get a bit of change in the way WANOSCG operates. My mantra is "Everybody doing a little bit NOT a few doing everything."

So, it was very pleasing to see members sharing their orchid ventures via the bulletin and Facebook. A few photos and a bit of background including general locations is all that is needed for these stories to become valuable information for our members.

An added advantage is the building of camaraderie across the group as we get to know one another through these tales. A big thank you to those people who have contributed, and I look forward to others following suit.

Continuing with the contribution theme we have had a good number of possible field trips suggested which we will be keeping an eye on as the season develops. However, only a couple of volunteers to be field trips leaders.

Last bulletin listed some possible regional trips, and, in this bulletin, Christine has listed some possible metro trips. Christine and Graham are field trip coordinators and are not expected to be on and run field trips.

For trips to go ahead we need other members to monitor possible field trip sites and more importantly be prepared to lead a group on the trip.

Another highlight was the excellent and interesting Zoom presentation from Malcolm Wells on endemic Tasmanian orchids. Over 20 plus members logged in and enjoyed the talk but when you think we have about 200 members the numbers were a little disappointing.

I am currently trying to attract some overseas orchid experts to share their story and it will be difficult to encourage them to do so if the audience is a mere 20 or so folk.

The question the management committee is currently asking is it worth continuing with the Zoom/internet approach when so few members, (especially the regionally based one) don't seem to be interested in using the facility.

Any feedback from members on this topic would be welcomed especially if there are technical issues with using Zoom approaches in the regions.

Enjoy your autumnal orchid adventures, share your experiences and photos, do your little bit and watch your step.

Jon Warren - President

Tasmanian Endemic Orchids by Tasmanian member Malcolm Wells.

Of the approximately 220 native orchid species in Tasmania, 76 are endemic and more than a third of these are endangered, many critically endangered. Like other parts of Australia, our rarer orchids are often associated with native grasslands, both lowland and subalpine and it is no accident that their scarcity mirrors the dramatic loss of these grasslands. There are two different causes, but both are the result of changing land use. In the highlands, much of the land has been set aside in National Parks and World Heritage areas (covering more than 50 percent of Tas.), resulting in much of what was montane and subalpine native grassland being reclaimed by the growth of shrubs and woodland.

Prior to European settlement, the Aboriginal people had maintained the mountain grasslands by cultural burning practices for at least 60,000 years. This was to encourage browsing animals for food. This practice was also adopted by early European mountain cattlemen and women to provide summer pastures for their livestock. As an aside, one of the reasons there are so many heritage sandstone country homesteads in Tasmania is that the early settlers had cheap labour with convicts and Aboriginal cultural burning had cleared the land making cattle and sheep grazing relatively easy to establish.

Exceptions, are two large tracts of land near Cradle Mountain, one owned by a private conservation company and the other on land owned by a private forestry company. Both areas have endeavoured to retain some significant areas of the highland grassland habitat that are home to a number of rare plant and animal species. Species such as *Prasophyllum crebriflorum* and *Prasophyllum mimulum* are found in these areas.

The lowlands and coastal areas are a different story. It was not long before the use of fertilisers on farmland and spreading urbanisation saw dramatic reductions in lowland grassland. Now, while a small number of graziers have set aside tracts of native grassland, the few remaining areas exist in small, discontinuous parcels of land such as old churchyards and cemeteries and a few conservation reserves. Less than 10 percent of the native grassland that were present in the State at the time of European settlement remain and these are now listed as a *threatened ecological communities* under the EPBC Act of 1999.

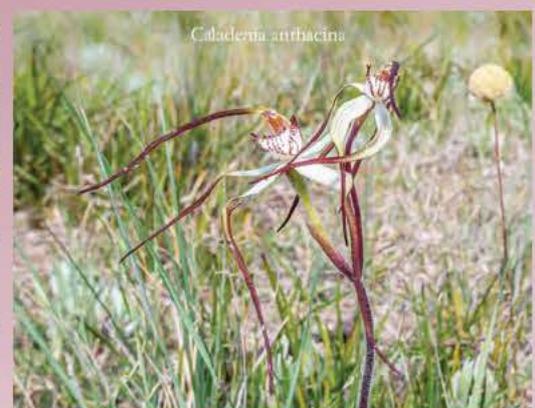
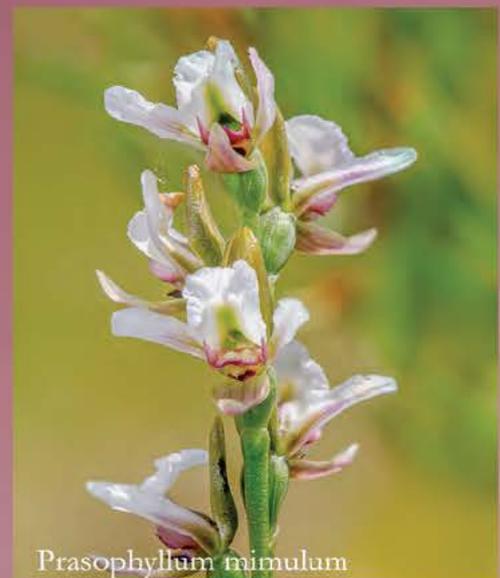
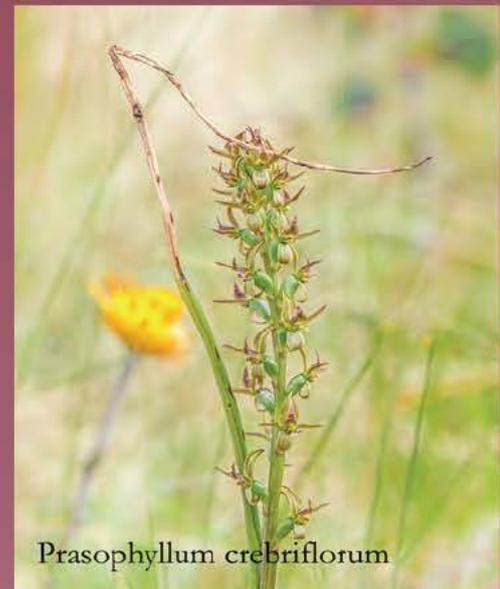
An example of this is Campbell Town Golf Course, in the broad-acre farming area of the Tasmanian midlands, where a number of threatened plant species exist, including five endangered native orchids.



These include a sun orchid (*Thelymitra imbricata*); a threatened spider orchid (*Caladenia anthracina*); two leek orchids (*Prasophyllum incorrectum* & *Prasophyllum olidum*) and a greenhood (*Pterostylis ziegeleri*). These all grow in the areas known to golfers as the "rough" and are managed by the Club under a conservation covenant.

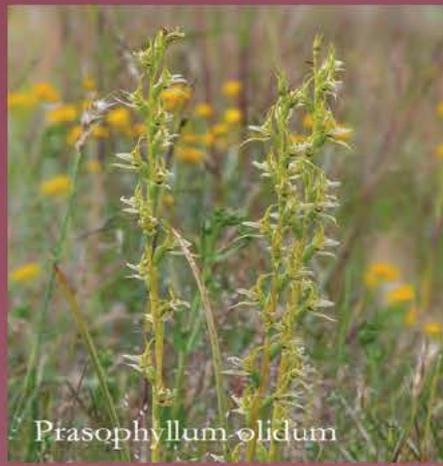
Across the road from the Golf Course lies the old Catholic cemetery, another site of a number of threatened plants, including what is arguably Tasmania's and perhaps Australia's rarest orchid, the tiny *Prasophyllum taphanyx*.

This delicate little leek orchid was first seen in 1996 and only three individual plants are known to exist.





Prasophyllum incorrectum



Prasophyllum olidum



Pterostylis ziegeleri



Prasophyllum taphanyx

They do not appear to flower every year. Although this area too is under a covenant, there is constant tension between the well-meaning group of volunteers who see their task to keep the graveyard closely manicured and the future of the orchid that has been mowed on some of the few occasions it has flowered!



Tunbridge Lagoon



Prasophyllum tunbridgense

Just further south down the highway, lies the township of Tunbridge where there is a lagoon surrounded by a salt pan and a remnant piece of native grassland that was once the site of the town rubbish tip.

Again, it is home to a number of rare plant species including *Prasophyllum tunbridgense*. It also hosts a few rare plants of *Pterostylis commutata*, a ruddy hood found in very small numbers in only three other locations nearby.

Maintaining the viability of all these species for future generations is likely to depend largely on a mixture of luck and goodwill!

Footnote: For members who would like to know more about Tasmanian native orchids and have either an Apple Ipad or Iphone, a free app ("*Orchids of Tasmania*") is available from the Apple Shop.



Pterostylis commutata



Old Catholic cemetery Campbell Town

All photos curtesy of Malcolm Wells



Vale of Selvor Conservation Area

Orchid of the Month – May

Thelymitra apiculata (A.S.George) M.A.Clem. & D.L.Jones (Cleopatra's Needles)

Thelymitra apiculata is the first of our sun orchids to flower each year, beginning near the end of May and, in seasons of good rainfall, continuing through to early July. It was named as a variety of the Queen of Sheba (*Thelymitra variegata*) by Alex George in 1984 from a collection he made southeast of Badgingarra homestead in June 1961 and in August 1989 was elevated to species status by Mark Clements and David Jones.

The generic name *Thelymitra*, from the Greek *thely* (female) and *-mitra* (hat), refers to the hooded column found in all Sun Orchid species, while the species name *apiculata*, from the Latin *apiculus* (short point), refers to the needle-like points to the lateral column lobes of this species.

Thelymitra apiculata has a narrow distribution between Mogumber and Eneabba, growing in dense low shrublands on the tops and slopes of low lateritic hills. The species is quite rare and, as such, is generally seen in low numbers in most of the known populations.

When Noel Hoffman and I began working on the first edition of our orchid book we had become aware that Alex George was about to formally name *Thelymitra apiculata* but had very scanty information on where it grew other than somewhere near Mogumber. So, in late May 1983 it was sheer luck that we found it on a rocky hill overlooking the Mogumber Mission. What a thrill that was and, even though we have subsequently found it in many other places, I still get excited when I see the species in the wild.

Thelymitra apiculata has a single narrow, green to reddish-green, curved or spirally twisted leaf 40–70 mm long by 5–10 mm wide at its widest point and up to seven (rarely to 12) attractive pink, mauve or purple, yellow marked flowers 25–30 mm across, characterised by their broad petals and sepals and distinctive column with a yellow, forward projecting midlobe and two erect, needle-pointed lateral lobes. The leaves of immature plants are prominently spirally twisted but in mature plants are often curved or only slightly twisted.

The species is distinguished from the related Queen of Sheba (*Thelymitra variegata*) by its smaller flowers, needle-pointed lateral column lobes, earlier flowering period and more northerly distribution.

Due to its rarity *Thelymitra apiculata* is listed as Priority Flora in Western Australia and, keeping this in mind, members should be especially careful when visiting sites to view the species. In addition, we should try to limit visits to just once in a while rather than make them an annual pilgrimage.



Andrew Brown



Captions

Photo 1 *Thelymitra apiculata* has up to seven (rarely to 12) beautiful pink, mauve or purple, yellow marked flowers.

Photo 2 The name *apiculata* is derived from the Latin *apiculus* (short point) and refers to the needle-like points to the lateral column lobes of the species.

Photo 3 *Thelymitra apiculata* grows in in dense low shrublands on the tops and slopes of low lateritic hills.

ADORP NEWS

Now that the new orchid season is getting underway, some teams are already doing preliminary planning for this year's surveys. The first ADORP surveys for the season commence in June and continue every month until December so early planning helps to identify possible locations to search during the season.

Three DBCA Conservation Officers have requested ADORP assistance for target surveys during the year and ongoing discussions are underway to work out the logistics for the species involved. Last year both ADORP and WANOSCG members were involved in some DBCA target surveys with very good results. This certainly assists with the ongoing co-operation with the DBCA officers and regional staff.

The last of the 2021 data has now been sent into DBCA and work has just commenced to enter the data into the DBCA database. This will update the database to reflect the latest data available and also record new locations.

Kevin Uhe

Orchid taxonomy – Kevin Uhe

In 2021 *Thelymitra variegata* was divided into two species, with the west coast species retaining the name *T. variegata*, while the Albany species were given the phrase name *Thelymitra* sp South Coast.

T. variegata was originally named by Lindley in 1839 from collections made by James Drummond from the Swan River area and at one time they were quite common on the Swan Coastal plain before urban development encroached on their habitat. The first of Drummond's collections were all around the Swan River area as it was a few years before he ventured further afield to other areas of the Colony.

In 1865 Mueller named collections from the Kalgan River area near Albany as *Thelymitra porphyrosticta* (from the Latin meaning spotted with purple). These were collected by G. Maxwell and Mueller considered them distinct from *T. variegata*. In 1873 George Bentham reduced *T. porphyrosticta* to synonymy with *T. variegata* as he considered it a form of that species.

The Albany populations have never quite fitted in to the concept of *T. variegata*, as they have different colour strains and occupy a different habitat compared to the sandy Banksia woodlands on the west coast. Following further research by Andrew Brown, Mueller's original name of *Thelymitra prophyrosticta* has been reinstated for the Albany populations.



Annie Bowerman

Gone “Remote”

A short story on our July 2021 trip to Lake King area. Melanie and I (Krystyna) booked in for a 3-day trip to Lake King and surrounds on the hunt for *Caladenia sigmoidea* and anything else out there.

Melanie being the expert in the area had me driving round in circles to granite outcrops, down dirt roads in remote area and salt lakes, etc, where we found one *Diuris brachyscapa* wheatbelt, (we think), *Pterostylis scabra*, lots of *Spiculaea ciliata* leaves, on a lovely massive granite outcrop east of Lake King.

Totally chuffed when we spotted *Pterostylis selutosa*, *Pterostylis sanguinea*, and especially *Caladenia dimidia* out Lake King Rd. Very old DRF makers were prominent in the



area and were inland more than on the roadside.

After covering hundreds of kilometres our target orchid was so close under our noses we didn't see it till last....

The *Caladenia sigmoidea* in family groups was abundant for our eyes to view. Also in the same area was *Pterostylis mutica* a great little orchid to photograph.

On the way closer to home we spotted *Pterostylis timothyi* and *Caladenia discoidea*,



Thelymitra speciosa and *Pterostylis* undescribed bird.

Our trip was done and time to go until the next hunt.

Krystyna and Melanie



A Year “plus” in Esperance – Varena Hardy

My husband, Geoff, and I have spent more than a year in Esperance, with the hope of seeing as many of the local orchids here as possible. Well, it was my hope, Geoff just tags along sometimes, and when he does he nearly always manages to find me something. It's great to have a second pair of eyes searching. We have had a brilliant time here, met some awesome people and got to know the area quite well.

We arrived mid-December 2020, so the orchids were just about all finished. But, I went out with a knowledgeable local, who had seen the *Epiblema grandiflora* (Babe-in-a-Cradle) growing in Cape Le Grand National Park in previous years. We were successful finding a few still going in the drying out swampy areas. My first Esperance orchid.

Through the summer I spent lots of days out reconnoitering sites for the coming season. My list of sites to return to grew and grew. I included areas up to roughly 150km east, north & west, as well as places in the Esperance area. The wait for the first signs seemed to go on forever, and seeing posts from the Albany region in early March made me keen to find something.

Not unexpectedly the first orchid that was seen flowering was the *Eriochilus dilatatus* ssp. *dilatatus* (White Bunny), which happened to be the first time I'd seen this one. I was well happy and off to a good start in Helms Arboretum. Helms Arboretum is a well known orchid hot spot, easily accessible, and I visited it many times over the year, seeing lots of orchids growing in the myriad of different habitats.



Some of the types seen here include, in no particular order:

Pterostylis vittata – Banded Greenhood, *Prasopphyllum* sp. ‘early’ – Scented Autumn Leek, *Pterostylis recurva* – Jug Orchid, *Leporella fimbriata* – Hare Orchid, *Praecoxanthus aphyllus* – Leafless Orchid, *Caladenia cairnisana* – Zebra Orchid, *Caladenia decora* – Esperance King Spider, *Caladenia flava* ssp. *flava* – Cowslips, *Caladenia graminifolia* – Grass-leafed Spider, *Caladenia heberleana* – Heberle’s Spider, *Caladenia crassa* – Esperance White Spider, *Caladenia latifolia* – Pink Fairy, *Cyanicula aperta* – Western Tiny Blue,



Diuris decremента – Common Bee and *Pyorchis nigricans* – Red Beaks. There are other easy to access places around town, such as along the Ocean Beach Drive area and the lookouts.

Further afield, and as the season progressed, I got to see some of the Esperance endemic orchids, including the very pretty *Diuris pulchella* – (rightly named) Beautiful Donkey (centre left), and the *Diuris conspicillata* – Spectacled Donkey (bottom left).

Also, what I think was the *Cyanicula nikulinskyae* – Esperance China, and *Caladenia exstans* – Pointing Spider (centre right).

There are many places to search over here, and I was very lucky to meet up with some very helpful and keen orchid hunters who were happy to show me places, but also willing to explore for new ones.

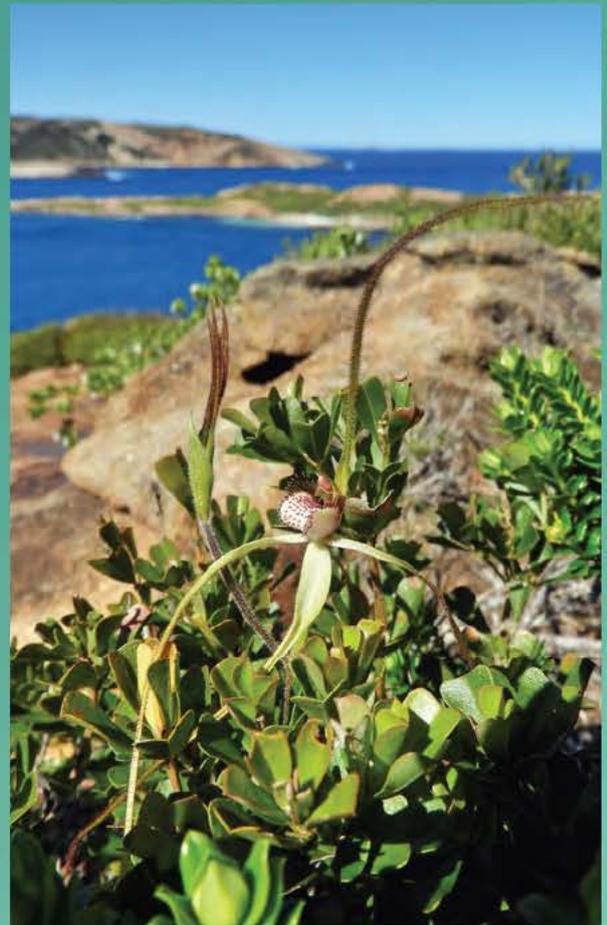
From the coast, to granite rocks, to Mallee woodlands, and salt lakes I was kept busy from around mid-March to Mid-December.

Geoff and I did have, as he calls it, many “dim wanderings in the bush”, but when we found things there was great excitement, well, from me at least.

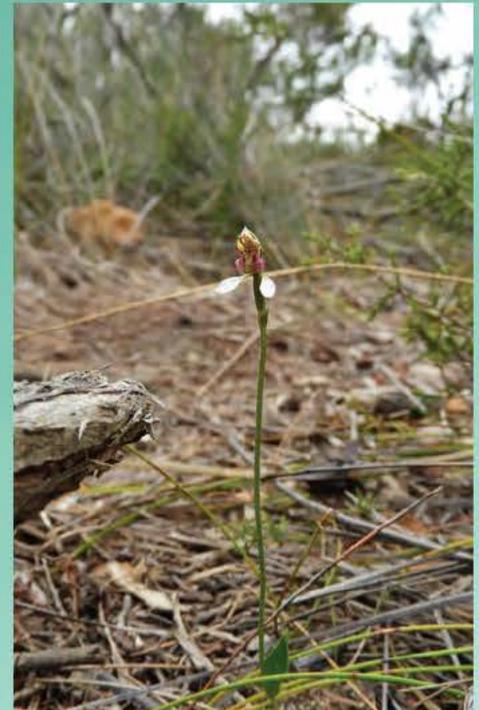
The first spider orchid for the area was quite early in the season, 28th June. I was told it is currently undescribed, but similar in appearance to the *Caladenia microchila* – Western Wispy Spider.

As we were based in Esperance for a while, I was able to do some ADORP counts for Kevin & DBCA, and was very happy to report on the *Caladenia longicauda* ssp. *insularis* – Island Spider (right), *Pterostylis faceta* – Plumed Bird (below left), and the *Paracaleana parvula* – Esperance Duck Orchid, with a couple of new populations found for 2 of them.

Another surprise find was the *Eriochilus valens* – Red-lipped Bunny (below right). They were seen in 2 new locations. I don't think they have been seen/documented this far east before.



We had several trips to the drier north throughout winter and spring. Some of the finds include; *Corunastylis fuscoviridis* – Pygmy Orchid, *Caladenia sigmoidea* – Sigmoid Spider, *Caladenia*



brevisura – Short-sepal Spider, *Caladenia pachychila* – Dwarf Spider, *Caladenia attingens* ssp. *effusa* – Granite Mantis (I think), *Caladenia attingens* ssp. *gracillima* – Small Mantis, *Caladenia longicauda* ssp. *rigidula* – Rigid White Spider, & *Caladenia cruscula* – Reclining Spider. Also, several *Pterostylis* sp; *P.brevichila* – Dwarf Shell, *P.scabra* – Green-veined Shell, *P.allantoidea* – Shy Shell, *Pterostylis mutica* – Midget Greenhood, *P.perculta* – Ruddy Hood, *P.zebrina* – Striped Rufous, *P. roensis* – Rufous Greenhood, *P. fuliginosa* – Sooty Rufous (I think).

And lots of suns including; *Thelymitra benthamiana* – Leopard Orchid, *Thelymitra occidentalis* (above centre), *Thelymitra graminea* – Shy Sun & *Thelymitra flexuosa* – Twisted Sun.

The lists of orchids seen above does not cover all that we saw over our “Year Plus” in Esperance, but it gives you an idea of what is over in this little bit of paradise, far away from everywhere.

And of course, the scenery is well worth the journey down here too!

MY EARLY ORCHID DAYS AND SOME FOND MEMORIES – John Ewing

My life before the age of 50 was, in 'native orchid terms', totally barren. I knew there were orchids but I thought they were only found in the tropics. Anyway, apart from family, the only things of importance then were golf and work, with golf definitely being first!!

I saw my first orchid on a walk when I was living in Darlington. My then wife, Kaye, showed me a bird orchid – beak, 2 legs poking out the front and I could even see the 'feathers' on its back.



I was absolutely enraptured and then on the same walk was shown a tiny white spider orchid. I then learned there were LOTS of different sorts of orchids and I was hooked.

A year or so later I learned there was a 'Native Orchid Society'. I also discovered that they took trips out to rural areas to see orchids. Who wouldn't want to take up that opportunity? So, I joined in the early 1990s and have been active ever since.

My first field trip was one organized by Gary Brockman and we went to the Culbin Nature Reserve on the corner of Hurley Road and the Williams-Darkin Road. I still recall seeing this big white spider orchid.

I was told it was *Caladenia longicauda* subspecies *redacta*. HUH??. Someone eventually took pity on me and said "Tangled Spider Orchid" – HUH?? – it didn't look too tangled to me.

After a very long time I learned that the LATIN "redactus" means diminished and that this (what seemed to me to be a BIG flower) was a species that is actually a smaller or diminished flower when COMPARED to other white spiders in the LONGICAUDA complex.

Of course, this does not mean it is small compared to ALL white spiders such as *vulgata* (Common White Spider Orchid), just the *longicaudas*.



In those early days I started with common names and didn't know any botanical names. I remember being on a field trip with my friend Eddie Wajon and having been told the botanic name for this flower I said, "But what is its common name?" The reply was "Oh I don't know. I've mostly forgotten many of those." What a snob I thought (apologies Eddie) but guess what – I have now forgotten lots of the common names, but by using botanic names I don't have to wonder which "bee orchid" is being referred to.

In those heady early days of seeing lots of new things I had never seen before, one day I came across a PINK sun orchid (next page). (See, I still remember that a 'Thelymitra' is a 'sun' orchid – or the other way round).

I was in Helm's Aboretum which is 20k or so north of Esperance. I immediately I looked Andrew Brown's bible – the second edition WITH supplement. Sure enough, there were NO pink sun orchids. I had discovered a NEW species.

At the next orchid meeting I took my photo (A print in those days) and showed it to Noel Clark saying excitedly "What is this? ... What is this?... Is it a new species? Noel took one quick look and dismissively said "Oh yes we know what this is" I was somewhat deflated when I found out, but that was another step along the way of learning more and more. Do you know what it was??



I really enjoy orchiding. Being in the bush in awe of the creation and all its diversity. My strong interest now as you would know from last month's article about study and conservation, is to do as much as we can to protect and enhance those beauties that provide us with so much pleasure.

As I said last month if you are new (or not so new) to WANOSCG and want to join in a conservation project come and have a chat, give me a call [redacted] or send an email [redacted] and we will see what might interest you. John

SEARCHING FOR *PRAECOXANTHUS APHYLLUS* (April 11 to 14) – Kevin Uhe and Margaret Petridis

With the opportunity to do a quick trip before Easter we decided to spend two full days around the Stirling Range area. The main target of the trip was to try and find the leafless orchid (*Praecoxanthus aphyllus*) to verify some old populations and to try and find some new areas for the WANOSCG database.

After leaving home we headed to Cranbrook and shortly after leaving there we stopped in an area of bush where we located the first group of our target orchid. Travelling further east we stopped at two more locations and found plants at both places, in low heathland with sand over laterite in the Stirling Range NP.

We then headed to the Stirling Range Retreat for our three-night stay. The next day we headed around the eastern end of the Stirling Ranges and stopped in some Mallee where we found a small number of Pygmy Orchids (*Corunstylis fuscoviridis*), along with a few Crinkle-leaf bunnies (*Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp *undulatus*) which were mainly in tight bud. Following some information from a Club member we found another small group of *C. fuscoviridis* before heading to our next stop. Due to roadworks in the area, we were unable to access the exact

location we wanted to look in, so we turned into a firebreak further along when we spotted one *P. aphyllus* out of the car window as soon as we entered the track. This proved to be a fortunate detour as we found over 150 plants in the area.

The late Noel Clarke had recorded plants on the southern edge of the Stirling Range National Park, and we headed east of Chester Pass Rd with little idea of where he had seen them many years ago.

We stopped at the first area that seemed to be suitable habitat and right next to the car was a leafless orchid. Further searches in the area revealed over 100 plants.

One last stop for the day along Chester Pass Rd again revealed one plant next to the car when we pulled up. A search of the area was undertaken with further plants being located, scattered over a large area.





The next day we headed back along Chester Pass Rd and stopped in an area that had been burnt in the 2020 wildfire. This was an area where we had seen many White China orchids (*Cyanicula ixioides* subsp *candida*) on a 2020 field trip.

The area did not seem a likely spot due to the very heavy lateritic ground but once again we found plants as soon as we got out of the car.

Some plants were growing out of hard rocky areas, and this made us realise that *P. aphyllus* grow in several different soil conditions and habitats.



The next two stops were in deep sand, the first one had the most amazing display of plants as we counted over 250 flowers in the area with many plants growing up through low bushes. The second stop was not as prolific, though we still managed to count nearly 100 plants over a much larger area.

Two more random stops revealed a small number of plants in each location, one in laterite and one in sand.

With rain setting in we retreated to our cabin and after a quick lunch, and a break in the weather, we headed back out to another spot where Margaret had seen plants on the road verge as we were driving past.

We found plants on both sides of the road in this location which was unusual as all the other locations had been confined to one side of a road only. A few stops had also revealed some nice displays of the Common Bunny Orchid (*Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp *multiflorus*) in the areas that had been burnt in 2020.

The following day, after packing the car to head home, we could not resist stopping at a further seven locations on the way, mainly along the northern edge of the Stirling Range National Park. Much to our surprise we found *P. aphyllus* at every location we stopped at, though being much drier on the northern edge, plant numbers were smaller and more scattered.

In total we counted 1162 plants of *P. aphyllus* over the four days in a variety of habitats over a wide area. It was pleasing to see that this species is flowering in such good numbers, and that they can survive in areas that endure a very hot summer fire. Possibly they flower in greater numbers when their habitat is more open in the few years following a fire event. It would be interesting to do some follow up surveys in the coming years to test this theory.

We have found several new locations, including GPS readings, for the Group database which will be forwarded to the Registrar along with updated plant numbers for a few known sites.

We enjoyed the opportunity to explore new areas looking for orchids in April, and were amazed at the number of *P. aphyllus* we found in and around the Stirling Range National Park area.

A recollection: first and last ...

At this time of the year I recall seeing the first orchid flower of one season and the last of the previous, almost on the same date. On 18 March 1961, a short way south of Northcliffe, I found *Praecoxanthus aphyllus* on a bottlebrush flat, and the next day, nearby on the bank of the Gardner River, found a *Cryptostylis ovata* with its very last flowers still open. Specimens of both are lodged in the Western Australian Herbarium.

For many years, *Cryptostylis* was known only from the far south-west, but our field work in the late 1950s and early 1960s extended its known range north to Perth (both in the hills and on the coastal plain) and, surprisingly, east along the south coast to East Mount Barren. With its distinctive perennial leaf it's our only orchid that can be spotted at any time.

Alex George

Clean up the bush....one bottle (or can) at a time

Marina Karyagina

I wrote the following piece for July 2016 edition of the WANOSC bulletin (see picture below). I still use the box for non-camera gear as that way I am less likely to forget something essential. All I do before each trip is (ask my hubby to) refill the metho spray bottle.

However, I have made a couple of editions to my box since then – rubbish bags and gloves. I despair of the state of some places and try to pick up at least some rubbish whenever I can. I know many other members do that too. I confess, I do not try to clean everything within my sight – some places are just beyond that – they need a truck and a busy bee with 50 people to make a difference.

Some stuff is too big or too dangerous or the wildlife has already made use of it, like ants – they love bottles, they make them into homes. And it is hard (and unhygienic) lugging all the camera gear and picking up bottles and cans at the same time. Not to mention, it cuts into the “orchid time”.

So, I do a quick sweep of the place either before or after I get into orchids (depends how desperate I am for an orchid fix 😊). Pick up what I can for a few minutes...but there is always plenty left over.

Dear members, now that there is not that much to see orchid-wise, it is a good time to have a go at cleaning the bush, one beer bottle or coke can at a time. So, pack a rubbish bag or two and gloves when you go orchid hunting.

Only pick up what is safe, pick up as much or as little as you like, every little bit counts!

Together we can make a bit of a dent.

I keep all my non-camera gear together in a box so that I can just chuck it in the car when ready to go.

This is what I have:



- ~ 70% Metho spray (for dieback prevention)
- ~ Brush (ditto, Christmas present)
- ~ Insect repellent
- ~ Mosquito net
- ~ Sunscreen & Hat
- ~ Knee pads
- ~ Overboot covers
- ~ Rain gear: Coat & waterproof pants

Searching for the tiny Pygmy orchid, *Corunastylis fuscoviridis*. **22nd & 23rd April**

Having heard that the Pygmies started flowering in this area in mid-April, we decided to head out to Corrigin and Kondinin to check out some known populations and to look for and record new ones.

We drove from Perth to the well-known site at Jubuk, west of Corrigin on Friday 22nd April and met local orchid enthusiast Robin Campbell there. We found several very robust plants 190 – 220mm tall, but mostly they were around 70 – 120mm.

Around 6 plants had been mysteriously eaten off at ground level and were found lying flat on the ground. We do not know what could have done this.

Several loose groups of 4 – 6 plants were found in the open woodland area to the west of the parking area. Most plants were a bright lime green with dark purple labellums, but several were a darker olive green suffused with purple and a few were purple overall. After careful searching, we recorded over 100 plants in this area.

Our next stop was south of the main road at Dilling Siding where we had previously only found one plant. Robin had recently found more in 2 different areas so we were excited to see them and we counted almost 20 plants at each site.

That night we met Robin at the Corrigin Hotel and enjoyed a delicious meal together. We had a very comfortable stay at the Windmill motel.



On Saturday morning we met Robin in Corrigin and headed out in convoy to Kondinin. We stopped to search in a known location east of the town, but in a different area to previous finds, following information from local member Nicole Ilich.

Here we found over 100 plants with some interesting colour variations, including a very dark purple flower. In the area we had previously found 100s of plants, we struggled to find 10.

We next headed to an area near the old oval where, after very careful searching, we located 60 plants with 26 in bud... even more difficult to see!



We met up with local wildflower expert Jean Sloan here and she came with us to 3 other locations to look for the Pygmies. In one area on Sloan Rd we found only 9 plants, but located 58 plants in two new areas at Gnarning.

In the latter location we saw some inviting mallee habitat that looks perfect for the Winter Spider, *Caladenia drummondii* and other species. We found some Crinkle-leafed bunnies, *Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp. *undulatus* just starting to flower. We are planning a return visit in about 4 weeks...

It was a very interesting trip, with good numbers of Pygmy orchids at some locations, fewer than previously at others and the discovery of new sub populations.

Margaret Petridis & Kevin Uhe



Regional Field Trips - Field Trip Plan for the Yallingup Region 21st to 23rd May

This trip will be the Orchid hunters equivalent to the Cape to Cape Trek; the only difference will be that we will use cars and roads to cover the area.

The trip will possibly cover an area from Dunsborough to Augusta with an added bonus of wineries to utilise if no Orchids. Possible Orchids to be found are *Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp. *Dilatatus*, *Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp. *multiflorus*, *Leporella fimbriata*, *Praecoxanthus aphyllus* and *Eriochilus helonomos*.

I have been given some areas from Andrew to assist those that would like to lead this trip down and he suggested to take the opportunity to check out the burn at Cape Naturalist and along Caves Road.

What we require from here is who would be interested in one being a Field Trip Leader (FTL) and who would be interested in participating.

Please note: if I do not get a Field Trip Leading then the trip cannot function. If you are interested in either attending or taking on the FTL role please email me, Graham Warren, at fieldtrips.wanoscg@gmail.com to register your interest for the **Cape to Cape Orchid Trek** by 8th May to give interested parties enough time to organise accommodation.

Field Trip plan for the Karlgarin-Hyden area 4th to 6th June

Margaret Petridis has offered to lead a field trip with Kevin Uhe on the June Long Weekend to the Karlgarin-Hyden area. The participants will be mostly be looking for *Caladenia drummondii* but would also likely see Crinkle-leafed bunnies (*Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp. *undulatus* and Green-veined shells (*Pterostylis scabra*).

Number of participants will be kept at 16 people so first registrations get the guernsey. Please email me, Graham Warren, at fieldtrips.wanoscg@gmail.com to register your interest for the **Karlgarin-Hyden Field Trip** by 8th May to give interested parties enough time to organise accommodation.

More information for the trips will be released once interest has been registered.

Last but not least, I have had only the one suggestion sent to me for Field Trips so if you have a favorite Orchid area to share with others, please let me know the roughly area and the number of members you would be happy leading on a trip. If I don't get suggestions and leaders then we won't be having many Regional Field Trips this year.

Perth Metro Field Trips

Our orchid season has begun and its time to get out and about to your local bushland, irrespective how big or small or how many orchid species reside in the space. I always enjoy seeing the changes over the season and years when one visits the same reserve. An outcome of your documentation you never know when it might be used, both for trends, Shire council or DBCA requests. It is a fun way of getting to know your local area and like minded people who love nature.

I will be away from June to mid-September and therefore I am asking for members to come forward to lead a trip into their local bushland. These trips will be short, usually about 2-3 hours.

Here are some on my wish list:

Buckland Hill

Landsdale Conservation Park

Lowlands Nature Reserve

Lake Goollelal

Kalamunda – (Leporella fimbria Hare Orchids are currently flowering)

Armadale Common

I always like Denis de Young Reserve, Star Swamp and Lightning Swamp for an orchid fix and one can't go past a walk in Kings Park.

I am hoping there will be a trip at least monthly. These trips can be on a day that suits you to lead.

If you are wishing to lead a wander in the bush for orchids with club members please email:

fieldtrips.wanoscg@gmail.com

Christine Lock

Caladenia drummondii Report 2021

Following excellent early rainfall in 2021, we headed north to Wongan Hills and Watheroo in the last week of May. After being notified by a member of a find of *Caladenia drummondii* in the Rogers NR, north of Wongan Hills, we looked carefully in suitable habitat and managed to find 4 flowers and record a new location for this species.

Near Watheroo we found flowering plants on Private Property to confirm the ID of plants found in August of a previous year. The property owner was delighted to see the photos.





Another site north of Watheroo was new for us, after also finding leaves there in August 2019. We found plants near Pithara and Mingenew in 2 sites new for us, after receiving information from another WANOSCG member. Only 1 plant was located at a historical site east of Kalbarri after extensive searching.

Two random searches along the Dowerin-Meckering Rd in suitable habitat located 1 plant in each, and recording 2 new sites. The habitat was very dry and would be worth another look in a better rainfall year in that area.

After finding leaves on the track into Sandford Rocks, north of Westonia in August 2019, we returned in May 2020 but were unable to find any plants due to the very dry habitat.

This year we returned and were delighted to find over 30 plants in one area and 12 plants in another, thus adding 2 new locations to our database.

At a new site for us west of Merredin, we managed to find 13 plants following information from a former member. Overall, we added 15 new locations to our database for *Caladenia drummondii*, 9 of which were previously found by other WANOSCG members and 6 completely new.

The excellent rainfall through most of the wheatbelt resulted in better numbers of flowering plants in many of our known locations.

We now have over 100 locations in our database for this beguiling and diminutive early flowering spider orchid. We plan to continue the search for new locations in late May/early June next year.

Margaret Petridis - (Co-ordinator of *Caladenia drummondii* Study Group)



What's flowering in May

Cons status	Common name	Species	Date Start	Date Finish	Distribution
	Winter spider orchid	<i>Caladenia drummondii</i>	30-Apr	30-Jun	Lake King to Nerren Nerren Station
	Pygmy orchid	<i>Corunastylis fuscoviridis</i>	15-Mar	31-May	Wagin to Eyre on the Great Australian Bight
P2	Peat helmet orchid	<i>Corybas autumnalis</i>	30-Apr	31-May	Under thick vegetation in peat swamps near Walpole
	Slipper orchid	<i>Cryptostylis ovata</i>	30-Sep	15-Jun	Perth to Albany with isolated populations east of Esperance
	Blunt-leaf bunny orchid	<i>Eriochilus dilatatus</i> subsp <i>brevifolius</i>	15-Apr	15-Jun	Cataby to Murchison River
	White bunny orchid	<i>Eriochilus dilatatus</i> subsp <i>dilatatus</i>	15-Mar	31-May	Dirk Hartog Island to Israelite Bay
	Easter bunny orchid	<i>Eriochilus dilatatus</i> subsp <i>magnus</i>	1-Apr	31-May	Perth to Porongorups
	Common bunny orchid	<i>Eriochilus dilatatus</i> subsp <i>multiflorus</i>	1-Mar	31-May	Perth to Albany
P3	Eastern bunny orchid	<i>Eriochilus dilatatus</i> subsp <i>orientalis</i>	1-Apr	31-May	Caiguna to Toolinna Cove
	Swamp bunny orchid	<i>Eriochilus helonomos</i>	1-Apr	1-Jun	Cataby to Cape Riche
	Granite bunny orchid	<i>Eriochilus pulchellus</i>	1-Apr	31-May	Northcliffe to Bremer Bay, also Esperance to Balladonia
	Red-lipped bunny orchid	<i>Eriochilus valens</i>	15-Mar	15-May	Walpole to Albany, also near Munglinup
	Hare orchid	<i>Leporella fimbriata</i>	15-Mar	15-Jun	Kalbarri (North of) to Israelite Bay
	Blue fairy orchid (Bluebeard)	<i>Pheladenia deformis</i>	31-May	31-Oct	Murchison River to Israelite bay
	Leafless orchid	<i>Praecoxanthus aphyllus</i>	1-Mar	31-May	Pinjarra to Esperance
	Scented autumn leek orchid	<i>Prasophyllum</i> sp 'early'	15-Apr	30-Jun	Bunbury to Israelite Bay
	Narrow-hooded shell orchid	<i>Pterostylis angusta</i>	15-May	31-Jul	Stirling Range to Brookton
	Brown-veined shell orchid	<i>Pterostylis aspera</i>	15-May	31-Jul	Dongara to Jerramungup
	Robust snail orchid	<i>Pterostylis dilatata</i>	15-May	31-Aug	Geraldton to Toolina Cove
	Red-veined shell orchid	<i>Pterostylis hamiltonii</i>	15-May	15-Aug	Toodyay to Stirling Range
	Green-veined shell orchid	<i>Pterostylis scabra</i>	1-May	31-Aug	Kalbarri to Esperance
	Northern banded greenhood	<i>Pterostylis</i> sp 'northern'	31-May	31-Jul	Cataby to Binnu
	Banded greenhood	<i>Pterostylis vittata</i>	15-Apr	30-Sep	Perth to Balladonia
T	Underground orchid	<i>Rhizanthella gardneri</i>	15-May	15-Jun	Babakin to Corrigin, central Wheatbelt
P4	Cleopatra's needles	<i>Thelymitra apiculata</i>	31-May	31-Jul	Mogumber to Eneabba



Elythranthera Brunonis - Annie Bowerman