WANOSCG

The Official Bulletin Of The Western Australian Native Orchid Study & Conservation Group

Issue 10 -Dec 2022

IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Musings

An unexpected December issue gives me the chance to again wish all members a joyful festive season and healthy and wise new year full of orchid surprises.

It also allows me to again thank the committee and subsidiary position folk for their efforts and support over the year. And another special thank you to those members who made the very valuable contributions of raffle prizes, meeting suppers, field trip leaders and, importantly, articles and photos for the Bulletin.

See you next year.
Jon

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Field trip report on our Great Granites Getaway 2022 around Hyden, Pingaring, and surrounds.

By Nathan Piesse

Base Camp - Wave Rock Caravan Park
Field Trip Leader - Melanie George
Field Trip Report - Nathan Piesse

Day 1 Adventures - Return trip east of Hyden along the Hyden-Norseman Road.

Weather - Cloudy for most of the day. Temperatures 18/19°C maximum

A nice group of 10 of us gathered around 8:45 am at the Wave Rock Caravan Park and headed off to our first stop that Mel had explored earlier in the season. There were a couple of *Caladenia* species still flowering but the *Pterostylis* found were mostly finished and *Thelymitra* were still in bud.

Our second stop was the iconic Breakaways with the majestically coloured rock formations which we visually admired whilst enjoying a scrumptious morning tea arranged by Mel. One of the highlights of the day was observing a small population of Mohawk Spider Orchid (*Caladenia voigtii*) which incredibly were nestled amongst the steep rock facade.

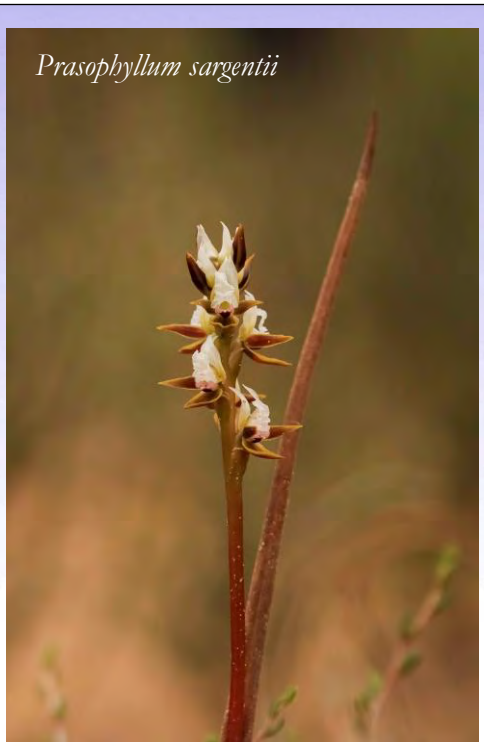
Stops 3 (leaving The Breakaways) and 4 (random stop in an old burn area) yielded small numbers of *Caladenias*, *Pterostylis* and *Prasophyllum* species. Stop 5 was at Bushfire Rock Nature Reserve with a series of large granite outcrops. There were some good variety and numbers of flowering orchids with some nice *Caladenia* hybrids.

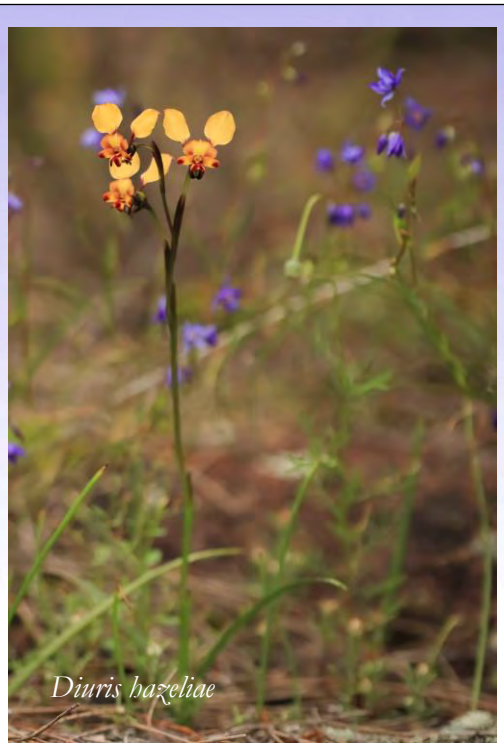
Our final stop on the way back to Hyden was a roadside parking zone where we observed a nice population of Dwarf Bird Orchid (*Pterostylis galgula*) with one specimen having a rare two flowers!

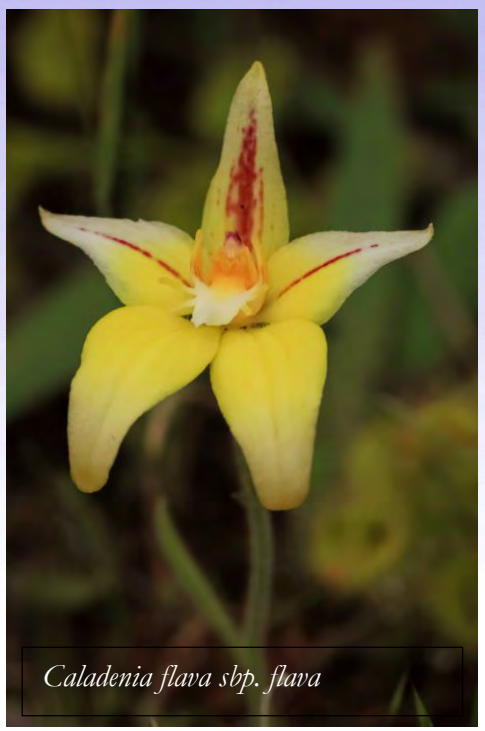
Arriving back at base camp after 5:30 pm, we all freshened up and headed down to the Wave Rock Hotel to satisfy our orchid hunting appetites with a delicious buffet dinner and dessert.


Caladenia microchila


Caladenia voigtii

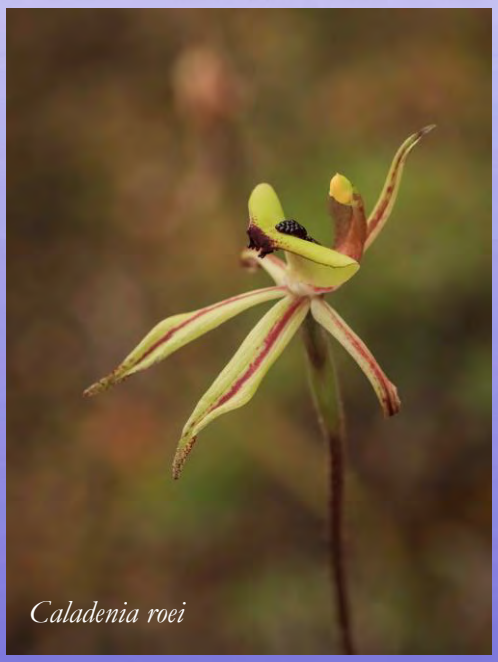

Prasophyllum sargentii


Diuris hazeliae


Caladenia flava sbp. flava

Field Trippers

Caladenia pachychila



Caladenia roei

Caladenia horistes x Caladenia roei

Day 2 Adventures - Survey Pingaring Spider Orchid (*Caladenia graniticola*) - Pingaring and surrounds.

Weather - Mostly sunny throughout the day. Temperatures in the low 20°s.
Our enthusiastic group of orchid hunters left the Wave Rock Caravan Park a little earlier with the potential of exploring a number of historical sites for our target species of *Caladenia graniticola*.

Stop 1 was a historical site of where it was originally recorded back in the mid-1980s and it took us a lot longer to explore than anticipated. Well done to eagle-eyed June Scott who found the only specimen in that area not far from its originally recorded location.

Stop 2 had us visit more historic sites around the Pingaring Golf Course with some small numbers of *C. graniticola* scattered around a handful of locations. *Caladenia radialis* was flowering nicely including a stunning hybrid between *C. radialis* and *C. roei*. A couple of *Diuris* sp. were also flowering well. We headed back to our cars for a well-earned tea break before heading off to our final stop.

Stop 3 was on private property where we were generously given access by the owner to explore their large granite outcrop areas. This was by far the largest population of *C. graniticola* with numbers close to 100. After a couple of hours of exploring and counting, we all headed back to the cars and back to our accommodation. Our evening get together was put on by Mel with a BBQ feast where we all got to enjoy recounting our adventures and discoveries over the past two days.

A massive thank you to Melanie George for organising the field trip and accommodation for us travellers.

Many of us got to observe a number of new species and wonderful landscape around Wave Rock.

Special thanks also Robyn Foley for recording the species list over the two days which are listed below.

Thanks everyone for making the field trip so enjoyable and fun!


Caladenia mesocera

Recorded species list - Flowering species

Caladenia dimidia (Chameleon Spider)
Caladenia erythronema (Nyabing Spider)
Caladenia falcata (Fringed Mantis)
Caladenia flava subsp. *flava* (Cowslip)
Caladenia graniticola (Pingaring Spider)
Caladenia latifolia (Pink Fairy)
Caladenia mesocera (Narrow-lipped Dragon)
Caladenia microchila (Western Wispy Spider)
Caladenia pachychila (Dwarf Zebra)
Caladenia radialis (Drooping Spider)
Caladenia roei (Clown Orchid)
Caladenia varians (Common Spider)
Caladenia voigtii (Mohawk Spider)
Cyanicula aperta (Western Tiny Blue)
Cyrtostylis huegelii (Midge Orchid)
Diuris brachyscapa (Western Wheatbelt Donkey)
Diuris hazeliae (Yellow Granite Donkey)
Ericksonella saccharata (Sugar Orchid)
Prasophyllum gracile (Little Laughing Leek)
Prasophyllum plumiforme (Dainty Leek)
Prasophyllum sargentii (Frilled Leek)
Pterostylis mutica (Midget Greenhood)
Pterostylis occulta (Small Frog Greenhood)
Pterostylis sargentii (Frog Greenhood)
Thelymitra antennifera (Lemon Scented Sun)

Finished and Bud species

Pterostylis recurva (Jug Orchid)
Caladenia hirta subsp *rosea* (Pink Candy Orchid)
Rufous Greenhood sp. buds
Thelymitra sp. buds
Spiculaea ciliata (Elbow)
Microtis sp. buds

Celebrating our extra senior members – The Octogenarians

In the last bulletin of the year we'd like to include a photo of WANOSCG members over 80 who traditionally meet at the October general meeting in celebration of their long and valued WANOSCG membership and continued contribution.

Left To Right :
Robin Moyle, Marj Moyle,
Jon Warren (President and not octogenarian),
Alex George, Matz Dahlkamp,
Noel Hoffman.

May you all enjoy good health and many more years of membership.

A brief story of three burns: Jerramungup, Meelup & Bremer Bay – Varena Hardy

I decided that I'd like to see what orchids had come up in some of the WA burns from last summer. I picked Jerramungup, Bremer Bay and Meelup. We had the chance to get to Meelup and Bremer Bay burns twice and three times to the Jerramungup area.

Starting with the three visits to Jerramungup, we headed here on the 5th June, 13th July and 26th September.

The early season visit to the Jerramungup burn yielded only a few flowering orchids, unsurprisingly. Hare orchids (*Leporella fimbriata*), Dark Banded Greenhoods (*Pterostylis sanguinea*) and Banded Greenhoods (*Pterostylis vittata*) were flowering.

There were Red Beaks (*Pyrorchis nigricans*), Jug Orchids (*Pterostylis recurva*) and Frog Greenhoods (*Pterostylis* sp), maybe, in bud. Also, leaves for Cowslip Orchids (*Caladenia flava* ssp. *Flava*), and other *Pterostylis* and *Diuris* species.

Above: Dark Banded Greenhood
Right: Centre: *Eriochilus scaber* ssp. *Scaber*
Right: Red Beaks

Geoff and I returned to Jerramungup in mid-July, meeting with other orchid hunters for a couple of days looking around the area. At the edges of the burnt areas were probably South Coast Donkey (*Diuris brockmanii*) flowering, lots of Pink Bunnies (*Eriochilus scaber* ssp. *Scaber*), Dark Banded Greenhood (*Pterostylis sanguinea*), and Brittle Snail (*Pterostylis timothyii*). There were a few Hares (*Leporella fimbriata*), but they were mostly fading by now. The Red Beaks were budding well.

We had a third and final return trip to Jerramungup on 26th September. As expected, we found more orchids flowering on this visit. I counted nine varieties: Dragon (*Caladenia barbarossa*), Cowslips (*Caladenia flava* ssp. *Flava*), Purple Enamels (*Elythranthera brunonis*), Lemon-scented Sun (*Thelymitra antennifera*), Blue China (*Cyanicula gemmata*), Fringed/Green Mantis (*Caladenia falcata*), White Mignonette (*Microtis alba*), Leek (*Prasophyllum* sp?), Clubbed Spider (*Caladenia longiclavata*), and Geoff's favourite, *Pyrorchis nigricans* (Red Beaks) – he complains that they "never flower!"

The second burn we visited was Meelup in mid-June, and again on the 21st September. On 16th June we found Common Bunny (*Eriochilus dilatatus* ssp. *Multiflorus*) in several areas, and buds and leaves for *Pterostylis* sp., *Cyrotstylis* sp., *Caladenia* sp. and *Prasophyllum* sp.


Diamond Spider


Pale China


Dunsborough Spider


Swamp Spider


Blue Fairy Orchid


Rose fairy


Caladenia microchila

On 21st September I was able to return to the Meelup burn to see what had come up since our first visit. As you would expect there were plenty of orchids flowering now.

At the two burnt locations we looked at, we saw: Diamond Spider (*Caladenia rhomoboidiformis*), Dunsborough Spider (*Caladenia viridescens*), Purple Enamels (*Elythranthera brunonis*), Pale China (*Cyanicula* sp?) possibly the Pale China?, Fringed Leek (*Prasophyllum sargentii*, Silky Blues (*Cyanicula sericea*), Cowslips (*Caladenia flava* ssp. *flava*), Swamp Spiders (*Caladenia paludosa*), Coastal White Spider (*Caladenia longicauda* ssp. *calcigena*), Pink Fairies (*Caladenia latifolia*), and a hybrid Diamond (I think!)

The final burn was near Bremer Bay.

We went here on 16th July and 28th September. I hoped to see a few more different orchids closer to the coast, and I was happy to find Western Wispy Spiders (*Caladenia microchila*) – I think, Blue Beard (*Pheladenia deformis*), Pink Bunnies (*Eriochilus scaber* ssp. *scaber*), all flowering in July. In bud were Rabbit Orchids (*Leptoceras menziesii*), and more Red Beaks. Leaves seen were Chinas, Spiders, Leeks, Leopards, Cowslips, Hares and Pink Fairies.

Our return visit to Bremer Bay was in peak flowering time, late September. Once again, we found more orchids this time than previously – not unexpectedly.

I am not certain of all the types, but will list them with their common names. Purple Enamels, King Spider, Frilled Leek, Fringed Leek, White Mignonette, Cowslips, Lemon-scented Sun, Rabbits, Donkey sp?, White Fairies, Zebras, Blue China, Common Bees, Esperance White Spider?, Scented Blue Sun, Silky Blues, Rose Fairy?, and possibly Slender Suns too.

I found the revisits to these spots interesting, seeing what flowered at the different times of the year. I have included a few of the 100's of photos that I took.

Thelymitra Sp.

Pyrorchis nigricans flowering without fire

Alex George

The orchid *Pyrorchis nigricans* (R.Br.) D.L.Jones & M.A.Clements (Red Beaks) is well known as one of a number of plants in the flora of south-western Western Australia that usually flower only in the first season after a bushfire. In other years they appear as leaves or, if ephemeral plants, lie as seed, and can do so for decades until another fire occurs.

It is thought that ethylene released during a fire stimulates flowering and germination. Holding a potted plant of Red Beaks in a plastic bag with a ripening banana for two days has also stimulated flowering. It is therefore of interest to record four instances of the orchid flowering without such intervention.

In two, whole populations were in flower but, in the others, it was a single plant. They were in very different types of vegetation. In all situations there was no sign of recent fire (probably for at least a decade) and it is known that there had been none at the site near Jurien for at least 20 years. Morphologically they matched other specimens of the species.

The species is widespread in the South-West and also occurs in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales.

On 1 August 1969, a population was found in flower in a dry, sandy-clay swamp near Hopetoun, growing through dense leaf litter beneath *Eucalyptus utilis* and shrubby *Melaleuca*.
On 9 August 1980 a single plant in bud was noted near Mt Ney, north-east of Esperance. This was in granitic soil near a small salt lake.
On 30 September 2004 a population was found on a granite outcrop near Lake King. This was growing among *Borya* in shallow gritty soil next to a group of tall shrubs of *Thryptomene*.
On 25 August 2014, inland from Jurien, a single plant was observed, growing among a clumped perennial sedge in low kwongan.

Reference

Brown, A., Dundas, P., Dixon, K. & Hopper, S. (2008), *Orchids of Western Australia*, University of Western Australia Press, Crawley.

Photo: *Pyrorchis nigricans* flowering in unburnt kwongan near Jurien, August 2014. Photo: Alex George

SEARCHING FOR 'RUFAS' IN OCTOBER

Author – John Ewing; Rufous Greenhood Photos – Jeremy Storey

A small group of club members (David Lawson, John and Alison Ewing, Jeanette Wheatley, Andrew Brown, Brian Trainer, Jeremy Storey and George Kokosinska, a day later joined by Joff and Joan Start), set out on a long range hunt for 'rufas' (*Pterostylis rufa* complex) on Sunday, 2 October. After meeting along Edson Mill Road, we were disappointed to find all the Custard Orchid (*Thelymitra villosa*) closed due to the cool afternoon. Our next stop in the Wandoo Conservation Park west of York resulted in us finding a large group of Smooth-lipped Spider Orchid (*Caladenia integra*) on a granite rock and, towards the crown of a nearby hill, the first rufa was found, this being Hairy Rufous Greenhood (*Pterostylis ciliata*).

We travelled on to Tammin where we camped overnight at the Tammin Railway Dam Nature Reserve. Early next morning searches revealed Granite Bee Orchid (*Diuris picta*), Drooping Spider Orchid (*Caladenia radialis*), and heaps of unopened sun orchids. We journeyed eastwards to some rocks along Echo Valley Road. Here we located, among other things, Powder-Blue China Orchid (*Cyanicula ashbyae*), Slender Mignonette Orchid (*Microtis eremaea*), Granite Sun Orchid (*Thelymitra petrophila*) and Rufous Greenhood (*Pterostylis roensis*).

We paid a quick visit to the nearby Chiddarcooping NR where Andrew showed us the rare *Eremophila complanata* (does not have a common name). It was growing in abundance at its only known location. It was here that Joff and Joan joined the group. While there, we also found Spoon-lipped Rufous Greenhood (*Pterostylis spathulata*). As we proceeded northwards on the Bullfinch-Evanston Road, we found further populations of *Pterostylis spathulata* together with our first sighting of Dainty Green Rufous Greenhood (*Pterostylis* sp. 'Dainty Green') and some neat little Clown Orchids (*Caladenia roei*).

Pterostylis spathulata

Pterostylis tryphera

Near the end of the day in the Die Hardy Ranges we found Dainty Brown Rufous Greenhood (*Pterostylis tryphera*).

Next morning, we continued north on the Bullfinch-Evanston Road and at our first two stops located more *Pterostylis tryphera* and our first Green Spoon-lipped Rufous Greenhood (*Pterostylis virens*). Further stops along the same road yielded more 'rufas' (all ones we had already seen). While we didn't see any other 'new' rufas that day, we saw a range of eremophilas and grevilleas (including the spectacular Orange Flowered Grevillea the Honeysuckle Grevillea (*Grevillea juncifolia*). We also saw plenty of Granite Sun Orchids (*Thelymitra petrophila*), though most were closed due to the cool, cloudy conditions. By now it was Wednesday and we embarked on the long drive to Cardunia Rocks. This site is located at Karonie. To get there one travels along the Trans Access Road for the Trans Australian Rail for about 90km east south-east from Kalgoorlie. It is truly a magnificent experience to be so far away from civilization, but quite safe as there are occasional users on the Access Road.

While we had hoped to find a range of other rufas at Cardunia rocks we only saw a single species, Rock-loving Rufous Greenhood (*Pterostylis xerampelina*). It was, however, a new rufa for the trip. Driving east on a little used track, while Alison and I were interested in the *Hakea* and *Eremophila* species, the others enjoyed the wide sweeping landscape. Some distance down the track we found a relatively rare eucalypt species, Book-leaf Mallee (*Eucalyptus kruseana*).

It was in beautiful flower with its rounded grey leaves. The rest of the group were focused on the next rufa treasure and, after quite a bit of a hunt, Andrew found the target species, the rare Fawn Rufous Greenhood (*Pterostylis* sp. 'Large Fawn'). Further east of Karonie we stopped at a rocky hill, the top of which was covered with many *Pterostylis xerampelina*; a great collection of 'rufas'. A long drive saw us at the end the day camping south of Coolgardie.

Pterostylis fuliginosa

Pterostylis roensis

Early next morning we visited Horse Rock where I found the first rufa of the day, *Pterostylis xerampelina*. Soon after I found *P. roensis*, also not new for the trip but another discovery for the day. We continued to make assorted stops on the Norseman Road finding more *P. xerampelina* and more *P. roensis* but no other new 'rufas'. Lunch at Norseman was very welcome.

After a bit of a break, we headed for Peak Charles where we set up camp and then drove round the eastern and southern side of the spectacular monolith to a track leading into the edge of the hill. A few metres up from the end of the track, Jeanette found Granite Mantis Orchid (*Caladenia attingens* subsp. *effusa*) …but it was 'rufas' which were the target, with us all quickly latching onto Sooty Rufous Greenhood (*Pterostylis fuliginosa*).

Other 'rufa' species were also found including *P. roensis* and one with long lateral sepals and a 'nodding' flower. Was this Slender Rufous Greenhood (*P. macroceles*)? The habitat was correct but does it grow at Peak Charles? We had to wait until a revisit next morning to confirm it was indeed that species.

Next morning while driving back around the base of Peak Charles, David saw more 'rufas' from the car. The first found was the common *Pterostylis roensis* again, but there were others. One turned out to be Insect-lipped Rufous Greenhood (*Pterostylis insectifera*), another Striped Rufous Greenhood (*P. zebrina*) and a third was Hairy Rufous Greenhood (*P. ciliata*), the same species that we had seen on the first day of the trip.

Pterostylis xerampelina

We left Peak Charles and made several stops on our way towards Hyden. Along the Hyden/Norseman Road we were treated to the most magnificent display of Freckled Sun Orchid (*Thelymitra sargentii*).

There were literally hundreds of plants in full flower. From here we drove to some tall, open woodland where, while not as common as in previous years, we located Elegant Rufous Greenhood (*Pterostylis elegantissima*) in early flower. After yet another wonderful camp fire, we turned in for the final sleep under the stars.

The next day, while heading home, we stopped near a salt lake and were delighted to locate what we think is an undescribed rufa species.

Thelymitra_sargentii
Photo John Ewing

Many plants were found over a wide area. Other 'rufas' were also there, as were some *Eremophila* species. The next stop of the day was at Lily McCarthy Rock where, to our delight, Alison and I heard George announce that he had found a tall pink flowered plant. (This was unlike many of his other announcements on the radios that he had found another rufa.) It turned out to be the relatively rare *Grevillea petrophiloides* subsp. *remota* (no common name). David in the meantime had found yet another undescribed rufa species. We also saw many *Diuris picta,* Granite Mignonette Orchid (*Microtis graniticola*) and *Thelymitra petrophila.*

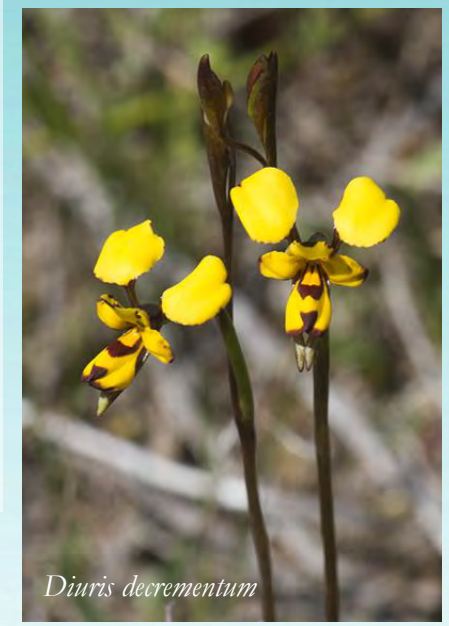
Three final 'rufa stops' were north of Jilakin Rock, where a quick walk through the bush led to Salt Lake Rufous Greenhood (*Pterostylis eremaea*). We then stopped at Kulin NR where *P spathulata* was seen in flower, while near Corrigin we saw Painted Rufous Greenhood (*P. picta*)

Over the period of 6 days, we were fortunate to see 16 'rufa' species, of which two are undescribed. It was a rare opportunity to see a range of species not normally enjoyed. We all enjoyed the shared privilege.

Darlington Field Trip – Pat Richards

On sunny Saturday, 15 October, four of us set out to look for orchids in Darlington on the escarpment. Having parked our vehicles on the edge of the village, we set off up through the trees with the intention of gaining the open slopes above. I have rarely seen orchids amongst those trees where the underlying rock is largely black dolerite.

In times past, the relatively fluid dolerite, an igneous rock, intruded into a crack in the granite and laterite deep underground before erosion over millennia exposed it at the surface. For the most part, orchids don't seem to like the soil derived from the dolerite, possibly because it is generally a "basic" rock, ie a bit more alkaline than the more acidic granitic environment loved by so many of our native orchids. Be that as it may, there were still a couple of shy sun orchids (*Thelymitra graminea*) beside the little drainage channel/path up which we were walking, as well as a common bee orchid (*Diuris decrementum*) right in the middle of the path. Continuing up the hill and having cleared the band of trees, we emerged on to open ground with a number of granite outcrops. Here we saw many more common bees (*D decrementum*) and a vast number of pristine pink enamel orchids (*Elythranthera emarginata*) – many more than I have seen in previous years. In a little spinney where there were a few trees to provide partial shade from the hot sun, a white spider (*Caladenia longicauda* subsp *longicauda*) and a scented sun (*Thelymitra macrophylla*) were still hanging on in the company of several shy suns (*Thelymitra graminea*) and a substantial number of blue ladies (*Thelymitra crinita*).



Diuris decrementum

Elythranthera emarginata

Over the top of the ridge now, with a view to checking out a reliable elbow orchid (*Spiculaea ciliata*) location, sharp eyes spotted a common mignonette orchid (*Microtis media* ssp *media*). Then before checking out the elbows, we tossed up as to whether we would venture down a relatively steep track a short distance to a place I think of as a hot spot, as I had seen several different species there over the seasons. In the end we decided to risk it and, with care, we made it in one piece.

We were glad we did as sharp eyes spotted a white fairy orchid (*Caladenia marginata*); it was absolutely tiny – far smaller than I had seen there in previous seasons. Now we had our eyes in, several more were spotted and all much smaller than usual. Maybe it was lack of spring rain causing them to be so undersized. On the other side of the track on a steep rocky slope leading down to a small creek bed below, were several thriving blue ladies (*Thelymitra crinita*) and a few scented sun orchids (*T macrophylla*), but the latter were well past their best and we didn't chance the climb down to examine them more closely.

Then it was back up the track again to the granite spot where we intended to check on potential elbows (*Spiculaea ciliata*). Pink enamels (*Elythranthera emarginata*) were in evidence all the way, but the elbows, although visible, were still only in the bud stage. We toiled back over the ridge and down to where we had parked the cars noting a few more elbows in bud and quite a smart little cowslip orchid (*Caladenia flava* ssp *flava*) still basking in the sun.


Caladenia marginata

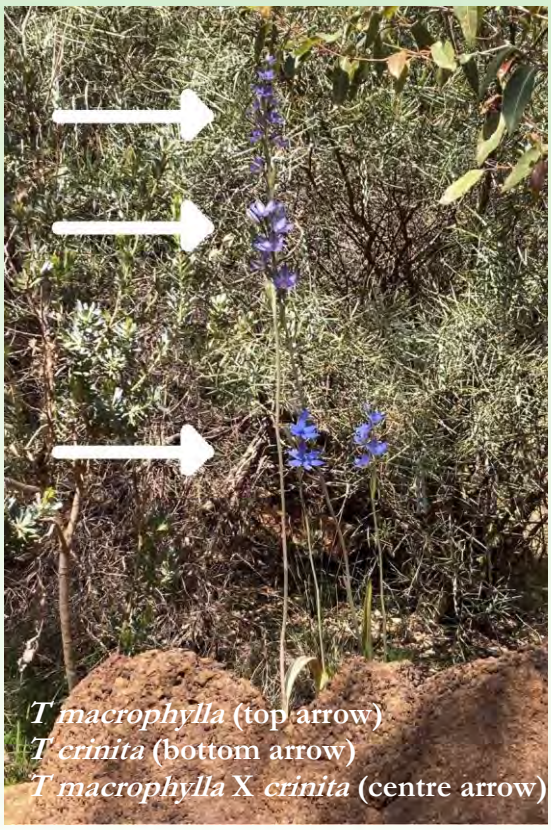

Microtis media subsp *media*


Caladenia flava subsp *flava*

A brief drive up to the top of the escarpment took us to a spot where we saw most of the species we had already seen plus a couple of rattlebeak plants (*Lyperanthus serratus*) in a little spinney. In past years, I had seen twisted sun orchids (*Thelymitra flexuosa*) in shallow soil on a flattish area on the nearby granite, but there was no sign of any this time.

The next location was over the boundary into Glen Forrest. Here, in the more-shady forested area on laterite, we saw considerably more scented suns (*Thelymitra macrophylla*) still very cheerful, along with the inevitable blue ladies (*T crinita*) and shy suns (*T graminea*), plus the odd cowslip (*C flava* ssp *flava*). At one point, we came across a laterite rock sticking up about shoulder height (see right-hand picture at right). It had a small hollow in the top and in the hollow were a scented sun (*T macrophylla*) (top arrow) and a couple of blue ladies (*T crinita*) (bottom arrow). In addition, between the blue ladies and the scented sun was another blue orchid (centre arrow) that did not match either species exactly but had a few features of each, so we had to conclude it was a hybrid *T macrophylla* X *crinita*, something none of us had seen before. (Photo above right courtesy of Geoff Foley.)


Lyperanthus serratus


T macrophylla **(top arrow)**
T crinita **(bottom arrow)**
T macrophylla* X *crinita **(centre arrow)**

T macrophylla X crinita – Photo Geoff Foley

Wandering further, we came to a spot where the Darling Scarp donkey orchid (*Diuris ostrina*) flowers reliably each year. There were fewer than I had seen in previous years but we saw at least half a dozen.

Back into the car again, we headed up to Greenmount NP, our final destination, where we saw a couple more white spiders (*C longicauda* ssp *longicauda*), blue ladies (*T crinita*), scented suns (*T macrophylla*) and a cowslip (*C flava* subsp *flava*), as well as a few more Darling Scarp donkeys (*D ostrina*).

All in all, it had been quite a successful day. Nothing rare but plenty of orchids and at least one hybrid that none of us had seen before.

Diuris ostrina

SOUTHERN RIVERS GROUP FIELD TRIP REPORT

SRG Christmas Windup November 12th, 2022

Wet Wet Wet

Everyone arriving in Mount Barker had driven through increasingly heavy showers of rain. At our meeting stop and first site the rain became intermittent mizzle, a mere nuisance. To our delight the last two Butterfly Orchids (*Caladenia lobata*) were still flowering as well as the odd Purple Enamel (*Elythranthera brunonis*), Cowslip (*Caladenia flava* subsp. *Flava*), Common Mignonette (*Microtis media* subsp. *Media*) and the ever-increasing populations of *Disa bracteata* (South African). Dozens of Leopard (*Thelymitra benthamiana*), Blue Lady (*Thelymitra crinita*) except for one flower, were all tightly closed. A nearby burn did not have a *Prasophyllum*.

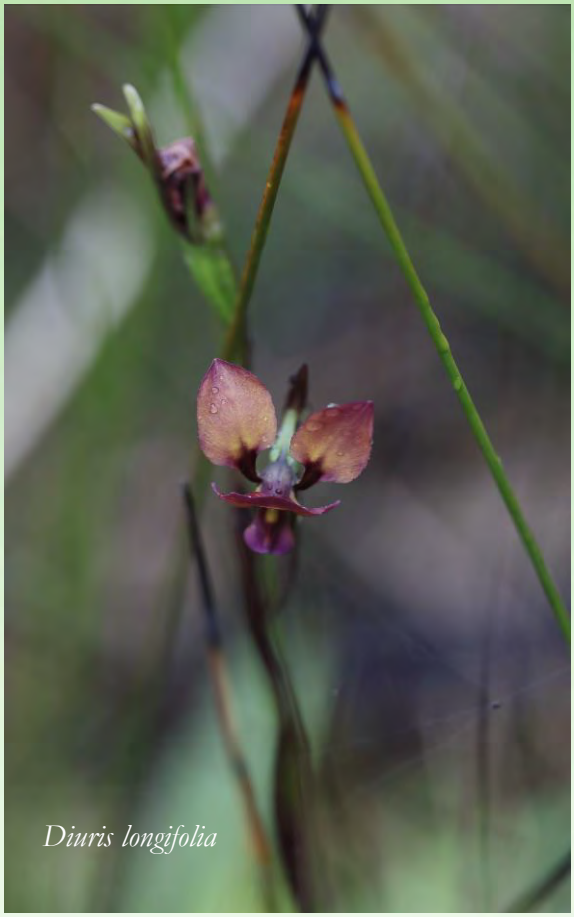
On to the Denmark-Mount Barker road for our third stop. Continuous showers kept us in our wet-weather gear and beanies whilst the photographers were happy with rain drops to enhance their photos. It became obvious at this site that the weather of the last months had slowed down the season more than expected. We were finding many mid-season flowers still in full bloom whilst a few intrepid later-season flowers were still in bud. Here we added Karri Spider (*Caladenia brownii*), Scented Mignonette (*Microtis alboviridis*) and Purple Pansy (*Diuris longifolia*), Bristly Donkey (*D. setacea*), King-in-his-carriage, *Drakaea glyptodon*) and Flying Ducks (*Paracaleana nigrita*) to our list. The bush was soaking wet, and the increasingly strong winds dictated we break for lunch. Off we went to a carefully selected newly clad and renovated tennis club "pavilion" … only to find the gate had been securely locked and it started to rain again.

Caladenia lobata


Caladenia flava subsp. *flava*


Caladenia brownii


Microtis alboviridis


Diuris longifolia

Jeff and Wendy very generously offered to open their home to us all for our traditional shared lunch. The wood heater was lit "to add ambiance" and much appreciated warmth. Two hours later, warm, dry and revived we headed towards Albany. Our first stop was in a swamp. Here we found Tiger (*Thelymitra tigrine*) in bud and dozens of other *Thelymitra* in tight bud. Further along the highway we foundClub-Lipped Spider (*Caladenia corynephora*), also in bud.

Finally, we called it a day as the rain had set in again and the wind helped drop the temperature. Many *Thelymitra* sighted today were closed due to the weather, however, we could identify Blue Lady (*T crinita*), Scented Sun (T *macrophylla*), Slender Sun (*T vulgaris*), Shy Sun (*T graminea*) and Plain Sun (*T paludosa*). Who would have thought the end of the year could be so wet and cold?

I wish to thank all the new trip leaders for their excellent work in organising field trips and writing up field trip reports throughout the year as well as everyone who forwarded photographs to support the reports.

Thank you also to everyone for their support throughout the year and adding to the strength of the collective knowledge of the branch.

Anna de Haan
SRG Convenor


Paracaleana nigrita


SRG Wind up group

WA Orchids Flowering In December

North South WA	Cons Status	Common Name	Species	Flowering Start	Flowering Finish	Nov	Dec	Distribution
S	P3	Coastal Spider Orchid	Caladenia abbreviata	15-Oct	01-Dec	y	y	Yallingup to William Bay, coastal
S		Karri Spider Orchid	Caladenia brownii	01-Oct	15-Dec	y	y	Dunsborough to Albany
S		Club-lipped Spider Orchid	Caladenia corynephora	30-Nov	01-Feb	y	y	Dunsborough to Albany
S		Cowslip Orchid	Caladenia flava subsp. flava	01-Jul	01-Dec	y	y	Geraldton to Israelite Bay
S		Karri Cowslip Orchid	Caladenia flava subsp. sylvestris	01-Oct	15-Dec	y	y	Bunbury to Albany
S	T	Lodge's Spider Orchid	Caladenia lodgeana	31-Oct	01-Dec	y	y	Augusta to Margaret River
S		Swamp Spider Orchid	Caladenia paludosa	01-Sep	01-Dec	y	y	Gingin to Gracetown, coastal plain
S	P1	Augusta Spider Orchid	Caladenia pholcoidea subsp. augustensis	01-Nov	01-Dec	y	y	Near Augusta
S		Albany Spider Orchid	Caladenia pholcoidea subsp. pholcoidea	15-Nov	01-Jan	y	y	Albany (East of) to Augusta
S		Ray Spider Orchid	Caladenia radiata	01-Oct	01-Dec	y	y	Yarloop to Albany
S		Christmas Spider Orchid	Caladenia serotina	30-Oct	01-Jan	y	y	Perth to Bremer Bay
S	P2	Late Spider Orchid	Caladenia ultima	01-Nov	01-Dec	y	y	Lake Muir-Stirling Range area
S		Summer Spider Orchid	Caladenia x aestantha	30-Nov	31-Jan	y	y	Albany to Augusta, south coast
N		Tall beard orchid	Calochilus holtzei	01-Dec	28-Feb		y	Kimberley region. King Leopold Range to the Mitchell Plateau and east to the Carson River
S		Slipper Orchid	Cryptostylis ovata	30-Sep	15-Jun	y	y	Perth to Albany with isolated populations east of Esperance
N		Basalt hyacinth orchid	Dipodium sp. 'basalt woodland'	01-Dec	28-Feb		y	Kimberley region, King Edward River, Mitchell Plateau to Beverley Springs.
N		Sanstone hyacinth orchid	Dipodium sp. 'sandstone'	01-Dec	28-Feb		y	Kimberley region, Kalumburu to Edkins Range
S		Elegant Donkey Orchid	Diuris concinna	15-Sep	01-Dec	y	y	Cape Arid to Fitzgerald River National Park
S	T	Tall Donkey Orchid	Diuris drummondii	30-Nov	01-Jan	y	y	Perth to Walpole, scattered poulations to Northampton
S		Late Donkey Orchid	Diuris emarginata	01-Nov	01-Jan	y	y	Augusta to Albany
S	P2	Heberle's Donkey Orchid	Diuris heberlei	01-Dec	15-Feb		y	Albany (East of) to Augusta
S		Purple Pansy Orchid	Diuris longifolia	01-Sep	15-Dec	y	y	Albany to Peth
S		Swamp Bee Orchid	Diuris pauciflora	15-Oct	15-Dec	y	y	Augusta to Esperance
S		Bristly Donkey Orchid	Diuris setacea	15-Sep	01-Jan	y	y	Esperance to Kalbarri
S		Augusta Bee Orchid	Diuris sp. 'Augusta'	01-Oct	01-Dec	y	y	Augusta
S		Pink Enamel Orchid	Elythranthera emarginata	15-Sep	15-Dec	y	y	Jurien Bay to Ravensthorpe
S		Babe-in-a-Cradle	Epiblema grandiflorum	01-Nov	31-Jan	y	y	Gingin to Esperance
S		Slender Bunny Orchid	Eriochilus tenuis	01-Sep	01-Dec	y	y	Perth to Albany
N	P3	Kimberley grass orchid	Eulophia bicallosa	01-Aug	31-Dec	y	y	Kimberley region, King Leopold Range to Kalumburu
S		Potato Orchid	Gastrodia lacista	15-Nov	15-Jan	y	y	Bunbury to Albany
N		Bent orchid	Geodorum densiflorum	01-Dec	28-Feb		y	Isdell River to Kalumburu
S		White Mignonette Orchid	Microtis alba	01-Oct	15-Jan	y	y	Dongara to Israelite Bay
S		Scented Mignonette Orchid	Microtis alboviridis	01-Nov	31-Dec	y	y	Bunbury to Esperance
S		Sweet Mignonette Orchid	Microtis brownii	01-Nov	15-Jan	y	y	Perth to Esperance
S		Coastal Mignonette Orchid	Microtis familiaris	01-Dec	31-Jan		y	Augusta to Esperance, coastal areas
S	T	Globular Mignonette Orchid	Microtis globula	01-Dec	31-Jan		y	Albany to Northcliffe
S		Dense Mignonette Orchid	Microtis media subsp. densiflora	01-Oct	31-Jan	y	y	Perth to Albany
S		Common Mignonette Orchid	Microtis media subsp. media	30-Aug	31-Jan	y	y	Shark Bay to Eyre
S		Dark Mignonette Orchid	Microtis orbicularis	31-Aug	31-Dec	y	y	Dongara to Cape le Grand, east of Esperance
S	P4	Beautiful Mignonette Orchid	Microtis pulchella	01-Nov	31-Jan	y	y	Augusta to Mt Manypeaks
S	P4	South Coast Mignonette Orchid	Microtis quadrata	01-Dec	31-Jan		y	Albany to Augusta
S		Late Cupped Mignonette Orchid	Microtis sp. 'Windy Harbour'	01-Dec	31-Dec		y	Northcliffe to Windy Harbour
N		Ribbed shield orchid	Nervilia holochila	01-Dec	31-Dec		y	Kimberley region
S		Brockman's Duck Orchid	Paracaleana brockmanii	15-Oct	15-Jan	y	y	Perth to Albany
S		Little Duck Orchid	Paracaleana disjuncta	01-Oct	01-Dec	y	y	Margaret River to Israelite Bay
S	T	Sandplain Duck Orchid	Paracaleana dixonii	31-Oct	01-Dec	y	y	Moore River National Park to Dongara
N		Smith's habenaria	Pecteilis eurystoma	01-Dec	31-Jan		y	Kimberley region,, Beverley Springs Station to Theda Station
S		Christmas Leek Orchid	Prasophyllum brownii	01-Nov	15-Jan	y	y	Perth to Esperance
S		Swamp Leek Orchid	Prasophyllum drummondii	01-Oct	31-Dec	y	y	Three Springs to Israelite bay
S		Humped Leek Orchid	Prasophyllum gibbosum	30-Sep	15-Jan	y	y	Bunbury to Esperance
S		Laughing Leek Orchid	Prasophyllum macrostachyum	15-Sep	31-Jan	y	y	Dongara to Cape le Grand
S		King Leek Orchid	Prasophyllum regium	15-Oct	31-Dec	y	y	Perth to Albany
S		Late Swamp Leek Orchid	Prasophyllum sp. 'late swamps'	01-Nov	31-Dec	y	y	Augusta to Israelite Bay
S		South Coast Leek Orchid	Prasophyllum sp. 'south coast'	30-Sep	15-Dec	y	y	Broke Inlet to Israelite Bay
S		Southern Fringed Leek Orchid	Prasophyllum sp. 'southern'	01-Nov	31-Dec	y	y	Augusta to Albany
S	P2	Tuart Rufous Greenhood	Pterostylis frenchii	31-Oct	01-Dec	y	y	Mandurah to Capel
S		Painted Rufous Greenhood	Pterostylis picta	15-Sep	15-Dec	y	y	Between Moora, Woodanilling and Esperance
S		Pink Beaks	Pyrorchis forrestii	30-Oct	15-Dec	y	y	Augusta to Albany
S		Elbow Orchid	Spiculaea ciliata	01-Oct	31-Jan	y	y	Kalbarri to Grasspatch
S		Blue Sun Orchid	Thelymitra canaliculata	31-Oct	31-Dec	y	y	Augusta to Albany
S		Blue Lady Orchid	Thelymitra crinita	01-Sep	31-Dec	y	y	Bindoon to Esperance
S		Chestnut Sun Orchid	Thelymitra fuscolutea	01-Nov	28-Feb	y	y	Perth to Mt Ragged
S	P3	Jackson's Sun Orchid	Thelymitra jacksonii	01-Dec	15-Jan		y	Broke Inlet area
S		Plain Sun Orchid	Thelymitra paludosa	01-Nov	31-Jan	y	y	Bunbury to Esperance
S	P3	York Sun Orchid	Thelymitra yorkensis	01-Nov	15-Dec	y	y	York (SW of) to Beverley, scattered populations

Orchid hunting etiquette and the impact on WANOSCG's reputation.

WANOSCG received two pieces of correspondence recently relating to orchid hunter's behaviour.

The first was a non-specific letter from a farmer up towards Brookton who was concerned about orchid hunting folk parking inappropriately on the road that provides access to a number of farms. He nicely pointed out the dangers of not parking right off the road when large farm machinery and, in particular, grain carting trucks are in action. The worst case was one couple who parked in the middle of the road and were sitting there having a cup of tea. Whilst he did not mention WANOSCG specifically it was a timely reminder in regard to safety and consideration of others when out looking for orchids.

Sadly, the second reminder may relate directly to WANOSCG. A couple of cars bearing the WANOSCG sticker parked on a road near South Kooljerrenup Nature Reserve were seen by the local DBCA officer. Thinking they may be a person who had been granted permission to do some collecting, the security cameras were checked and a person was seen. The DBCA officer went to see the person but realized it wasn't the person granted the permission. Unfortunately, when the officer tried to find out more about what this person was doing in the area the person behaved inappropriately towards the officer.

I have spoken with the DBCA officer involved and their main concern is that there are threatened orchids in the area, they are trying to keep dieback out of the area and they are trying to trap some pigs that were causing considerable damage in the area. Now, while it is not illegal to go into these areas, one is supposed to stick to the tracks but, above all, one should be civil with the DBCA officers.

Many of us in WANOSCG have been working with regional DBCA people and are steadily building relationships that add value to both organizations' abilities to conserve our beloved orchids. So, if you do bump into DBCA staff when out and about, be civil, and why not make an effort to get involved or, at the very least, learn about the conservation work WANOSCG undertakes so you further develop the relationship?

Jon Warren, President

Bulletin Articles

Please send Bulletin contributions to the editor at wanoscg@gmail.com.
Due date for articles for the March issue will be Friday, 24th February, 2023.