



# WANOSCG

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



Issue 1 - March 2023

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## WANOSCG Management Committee:

President:	Jon Warren
Vice president:	Ramón Newman
Vice President:	Andrew Brown
Secretary:	Pat Richards
Treasurer:	Jay Steer

### **Ordinary Committee Members:**

John Ewing, Debbie Proudfoot, Kevin Uhe, Graham Warren and Peter Proudfoot.

### **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
Facebook Administrator:	Graham Warren and Nathan Piesse

## President's Report

After the challenges of the previous couple of years, 2022 was a welcome return to some sort of normalcy for WANOSCG operations. The focus on new approaches to reduce administration processes and a culture of spreading the workload was relatively successful, although there is still plenty of work to be done. The informal meeting approach which lacked the usual formal processes seemed very well received with folk chatting about all things orchid well into the evening and giving very positive feedback.

It was also great to see members taking on the field trip leader role which enabled us to have many field trips with small groups minimising the impact on the orchids we were seeking. A big thanks to Graham Warren who coordinated field trips admirably while dealing with his own challenges.

Similarly, the contribution of members to the Bulletin and Facebook page sharing their adventures and finds was very much appreciated. Annie Bowerman has done a fantastic job in her first year as editor and fortunately has agreed to taking the role for another year so keep those articles coming.

Email: [wanoscg@gmail.com](mailto:wanoscg@gmail.com) Website: [www.wanoscg.com](http://www.wanoscg.com)

Postal: PO BOX 323 VICTORIA PARK WA 6979

On the conservation front our ADORP activity continues to be a significant force in building information on Threatened and Priority orchids with the input of the data being collected being extremely important. This information enables DBCA to provide essential information on orchid locations to land managers and developers, and make submissions to planners to ensure Threatened and Priority orchids can be protected. Kevin Uhe continues to do a fantastic job coordinating that activity.

But it isn't the only area in which we have been active with some WANOSCG members working with local government and other land managers to ensure they are aware of what orchids are present and are being managed appropriately. WANOSCG also provided support to DBCA on a couple of occasions surveying for endangered orchids as well as providing input into some land development proposals.

Getting speakers and Zooming meetings were the biggest challenge for the management committee. From feedback received and participation numbers it appears most members are not all that interested in using Zoom to access speakers or the meeting. We have heard a range of reasons and the only way we could improve the process to meet expectations was expensive and required folk to volunteer to assist with the process. No volunteers were forthcoming but there are still a few members who wish to have access to the presentations. Therefore, has been decided that only the presentations will be Zoomed which we can do adequately with the current equipment. For those folk who want to know what is happening at the meeting it is documented in the minutes which are sent to all members.

Despite the challenges, we were able to get some excellent speakers for some of the meetings but ran short on a couple of others. This year, to deal with the challenge of getting speakers for every meeting, we will be asking members to provide some short (5 -15 mins) anecdotes of an orchid adventure with accompanying photos if possible. So put on your thinking caps and come up with a tale or two to share. Also, if you know of anyone else who could provide a presentation on something relevant to the realm of orchids, please, please, please let the committee know.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the support and work done by the 2022 committee and thank them sincerely. It makes the President's job so much easier when you have a crew you know you can rely on. I would especially like to thank Pat Richards who has finally managed to relinquish the secretary role. Pat has done a superb job both in the past year and the preceding 5 years. Her outstanding efforts were rewarded at last year's AGM with a WANOSCG Award which recognises an outstanding contribution a member makes towards advancing the aims of the group. Put simply, Pat's contribution, as secretary, made it possible for the group to exist and function.

It appears, again, that I am the only nomination for President and therefore will be able to develop further those aspects of fun, facts, and fellowship that I started during 2022 by exploring different ways of running WANOSCG meetings and field trips. Looking forward to the orchid season and catching up with as many of you as possible.

Jon Warren



*Caladenia ferruginea* – Rusty Spider Orchid  
Photo – Annie Bowerman

## WANOSCG Membership 2023

There was an increase in membership in 2022 with both new and returning members swelling our numbers.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 WANOSCG had 239 registered members. This included 30 new members.

Membership Type	
Life Members	8
Ordinary Family Members	115
Associate Family Members	10
Ordinary single Members	99
Associate Members	7

Jay Steer  
WANOSCG Membership Officer

## Overview of WANOSCG Receipts and Expenditures for 2022/23

	2022/23	2021/22
<b>Receipts</b>	13288.14	6176.00
<b>Interest on Investments</b>	488.17	910.40
<b>Expenditure</b>	13175.01	7453.14
<b>Change in funds for year</b>	<b>601.30</b>	<b>-1277.14</b>

Above is a brief summary of WANOSCG's financial transactions and does not replace the audited accounts; these will be presented at the Annual General Meeting as per normal. The larger expenditure and receipts totals in 2022/23 reflect the prepurchase and subsequent sale of Andrew Brown's Orchid books to club members. Major influences on the balance for 2022/23 included:

- i) Reduced expenditure on meeting-venue hire with our return to Kings Park
- ii) Purchase of the Lucid Key and associated software
- iii) Lower interest rates in 2022

Jay Steer  
WANOSCG Treasurer

### Western Australian Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group (Inc) Objectives and Values

Welcome to the 2023 orchid season; wishing you all much enjoyment on your wanderings throughout the upcoming year. As you begin your journeys I'd like to remind you all of the important principles that guide & direct our actions when out and about. As outlined on the WANOSCG webpage - let us read, or again familiarise ourselves with WANOSCG's Values and Objectives to get the most out of who we are as a group.

WANOSCG (An incorporated Association) was established in 1974. WANOSCG and its members have been enjoying WA native orchids for nearly 50 years – by promoting the study and conservation of these unique and wonderful flora.

We are a group of people from diverse backgrounds who share the love of Western Australia's native orchids and their outstanding diversity. In addition to gaining satisfaction and increased knowledge from the study of these fascinating plants in their natural environment, we aim to promote interest in their conservation for the benefit of future generations.

#### WANOSCG's OBJECTIVES

The objectives of WANOSCG are:

1. To promote the interest in and preservation of Western Australian native orchids;
2. To learn the best means of their conservation and cultivation and to promote their conservation in their natural environment.
3. To learn their habitats and keep records of them in their natural environment;
4. To have field days and learn to recognise the different genera and species;
5. To hold meetings for the exchange of knowledge and furthering of the interest in Western Australian native orchids;
6. To affiliate with kindred organisations;
7. To make rules for the governing of the WANOSCG's affairs; and
8. To do all such other lawful things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objectives.

#### WANOSCG's VALUES

In pursuit of their objectives, WANOSCG's and its members' values are:

1. Act with integrity beyond reproach;
2. Respect the environment;
3. Respect fellow members and others, their communities and cultures; and
4. Strive for tangible, lasting outcomes.

Editor

# Registrar's Report

The WANOSCG Sightings Database continues to grow thanks to the contributions of some its more dedicated members. We now have 26,419 sightings in total, including 584 reporting sightings for 2022.

The more recent contributors include Kevin Uhe, Geoff Foley, Peter Gee and Anna de Haan (896 reported sightings from the Southern Rivers Group in total including 37 for 2022).

Many thanks to our sightings contributors and an emphatic call to the other members to also contribute their records of orchid sightings to the Database.

These sightings are critical for WANOSCG to be able to respond to queries from environmental authorities, developers and environmental consultants regarding sightings of native orchids on land being considered for various developments. Because of the sensitive nature of this data, its release is of course strictly controlled.

It is also important for you to try to also register the sightings of threatened and priority species with DBCA for their records, which are used for assessing land development or disturbance submissions.

The following resources will help members with these reports.

- WANOSCG Sightings Database Reporting Form – emailed out to members for all sightings.
- Threatened and Priority species DBCA report form can be downloaded:
  - <https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/threatened-species-and-communities/threatened-plants>
  - Includes the Report Form and a Field Manual
  - The link is also available on the WANOSCG website: <https://wanoscg.com/conservation>
- To help officially confirm the identity of the sightings to DBCA, please include photos with the DBCA Form where you can – where possible including of the whole plant, close ups of the flower showing the detail and of the surrounding habitat.
- Any Threatened or Priority species reported to the WANOSCG Database will be passed on to the WANOSCG/DBCA Adopt an Orchid project (ADORP) as they have dedicated teams studying some of our Priority orchids.
- Not all of the fields in these reports have to be completed – just provide whatever information you can.

Please help WANOSCG to conserve our wonderful and often threatened native orchids by reporting your sightings. If there are no records of them being there, how can we help save them?

If you would like more information on any of the above, please don't hesitate to contact me directly or through our email address: [wanoscg@gmail.com](mailto:wanoscg@gmail.com)

WANOSCG ORCHID SIGHTING REPORT ver. 37.02.23											
DATA INPUT					DATA OUTPUT						
Database WANOSCG or ADORP	Submitted by	Submission Date	Sighting Date	Nearest Town	Shire	Location Name	Location Description	GPS Co-ordinates Type	GPS Datum	GPS Latitude or Northing as recorded	GPS Longitude or Easting as recorded
Drop down list	Free Text Field	dd/mm/yyyy	dd/mm/yyyy	Drop down list	Drop down list	Free Text Field	Free Text Field	Drop down list	Drop down list	dd/mm/yyyy	dd/mm/yyyy
W	A. M...	20-01-20	25-08-19	Wongan Hills	Wongan-Bathurst	Wongan Hills Reserve	Grasslands Outcrop on north border	PHOS_B4	PHOS_B4	360 53.4250	1466 91.2032

## New Orchid Names

Over the last year or so there have been a number of changes to WA orchid names.

Below is a list of the recent changes to SW WA species names – including the moving of our beloved Helmet Orchids into 2 separate genera not previously used in WA. *Corybas* species has now been moved to either *Anzybas* or *Corysanthes*.

Some of the names are so recent that a couple of changes are not even included in the 2022 edition of Andrew Brown's new book, 'The Complete Orchids of Western Australia'.

Can you tell which ones, and can you pronounce the last one?

New Name	Previous Name
<i>Anzybas abditus</i>	<i>Corybas abditus</i>
<i>Caladenia lateritica</i>	Form of <i>C. flava</i> subsp. <i>sylvestris</i>
<i>Caladenia longicauda</i> subsp. 'Pallarup'	Was previously considered a form of <i>C. longicauda</i> subsp. <i>rigidula</i>
<i>Caladenia longicauda</i> subsp. <i>rigidulus</i>	<i>C. longicauda</i> subsp. <i>rigidula</i>
<i>Caladenia loreus</i>	<i>C. lorea</i>
<i>Caladenia rosea</i>	<i>C. flava</i> x <i>reptans</i> hybrid
<i>Corysanthes autumnalis</i>	<i>Corybas autumnalis</i>
<i>Corysanthes despectans</i>	<i>Corybas despectans</i>
<i>Corysanthes limpida</i>	<i>Corybas limpida</i>
<i>Corysanthes recurva</i>	<i>Corybas recurvus</i>
<i>Diuris carectum</i>	<i>D. sp.</i> 'Murchison River'
<i>Eriochilus glareosus</i>	<i>E. dilatatus</i> subsp. 'Darling Range'
<i>Pterostylis galgulus</i>	<i>P. sp.</i> 'dwarf'
<i>Pterostylis occulta</i>	Was previously considered a form of <i>P. sargentii</i>
<i>Thelymitra fasciculata</i>	Was previously considered a form of <i>T. cornicina</i>
<i>Thelymitra porphyrosticta</i>	Was previously considered a form of <i>T. variegata</i>

Kimberley native orchids have also had a revision – best found in the 2022 *Telopea* (Journal of Plant Systematics) paper – “A revision of Orchidaceae from the Kimberley region of Western Australia with new species of tropical *Calochilus* and *Dipodium*” by Russell L. Barrett, Matthew D. Barrett, and Mark A. Clements.

Ramón Newmann  
Registrar

*Corysanthes recurva*  
(Formerly *Corybas recurvus*)



Photo – Pat Richards

## ADORP Annual Report

2022 was another busy year with 290 Threatened and Priority Reports being received and submitted to DBCA, with 65 of those being either new populations or sub populations. A total of 49 different species were surveyed by the ADORP teams, either entirely or spot surveys.

In 2022 a total of 6,183 volunteer hours were recorded, compared with 6,637 in 2021 which brings the total hours since the project commenced to 36,266. The reduction in hours in 2022 was expected given that there were a number of special surveys undertaken in 2021 which were not required in 2022.

A very special mention to Graeme Walker and Bill Gaynor who each achieved a cumulative total of 1,500 volunteer hours and to Jon Warren, Peter Proudfoot, Bob Steer and Krystyna Rees who reached 500 hours respectively.

Work continued during the year to enter the ADORP reports into the DBCA database with most of the 2022 reports entered by the end of December. Work also included tidying up of the database and matching WA Herbarium records against the database.

In September 2022 *Thelymitra magnifica* was raised to Threatened (Critically Endangered) following a nomination prepared by Jay Steer from ADORP data collected over a number of years. A nomination for Threatened status for *Thelymitra variegata* is in the process of going through the formal procedures and it is hoped that this will be finalized during 2023.

Being able to proceed with Threatened nominations is only possible by a comprehensive set of data surveys, preferably over 10 years, to show what the populations are doing and getting a total understanding of any threatening processes. Nominations are, by their nature very thorough, so the more data on hand, the easier it is to prepare the nomination form.

Finally, my thanks go to all the ADORP participants who willingly give up many hours of their time to go out and monitor some of our most at risk priority orchids. It is their work that makes this project the success it has become.

Kevin Uhe  
ADORP Co-ordinator

### Crazy about Cowslips Or “A Fan of Flava”?

When the call went out for articles for the bulletin I decided I should talk about *Caladenia flava* - the Cowslip. They aren't everyone's "must see orchid" each season, but they are always mentioned one way or another: "I found the first Cowslip of my season", "Oh, just another Cowslip", "Wow, are the Cowslips still going" etc.

I saw my first Cowslip in August 2011 in Foxes Lair, Narrogin. Foxes Lair introduced me to the wonderful world of terrestrial Australian Orchids.

I had never heard, or to my knowledge at the time, ever seen Australian terrestrial orchids before.

Of course, there are many beautiful orchids in Western Australia, and I have been very fortunate to see a lot of them.

But, on seeing the humble little Cowslip it always brings a smile to my face, it brightens up the bush, and it is a very obvious orchid.



They can be seen as a single bright splash of colour, or more spectacularly, en masse, covering the ground in a yellow carpet. Whether it is *Caladenia flava* ssp. *flava*, ssp. *maculata*, ssp. *sylvestris* or 'late red' they

are all wonderful in my opinion.

The variety of spots, and lines, from the tiny five cent coin size to the large gangly legged ones, the multitude of shades and the odd mutant are fascinating too.

And, of course, there is the way they hybridise with quite a few other orchids, bringing out some amazing colours, but that is a whole other story.

My love of these little orchids seems to be of some amusement to people. When out in the field on surveys, field trips, or with other like-minded orchideers, I often get the call "Varena, there are Cowslips here", followed by a chuckle.



It doesn't bother me, as I have found some awesome coloured Cowslips; some with no red colouring at all, to pale cream in colour, to bright yellow with over half the flower coloured red. The dots and lines are often like miniature Aboriginal paintings, or a kid with red paint and a brush has gone mad, splashing red dots everywhere. I want to look at them all as you never know what unusual markings you will come across.

Also, the odd mutant one makes an interesting photo, only having three "petals" (if you know what I mean), or the labellum is elongated to look like an "extra petal". I went through my many thousands of photos of Cowslips, yes I have thousands, trying to find a few to show off the diversity of them, and of course founds hundreds of examples.

I have seen them from Kalbarri to Augusta and across to Esperance and everywhere in between. You can almost guarantee that there will be a Cowslip out somewhere when you head off exploring between July and November (well that's when I've seen them!).

So, with the new season approaching, I will once again be very happy to find the first bright yellow Cowslip and all the others that come after in Western Australia.

Varena Hardy





Photo – Varena Hardy

### Surprise Find In Denmark - Tim Hodgkins

*Thelymitra fuscolutea* (below) is well known as a late flowering species and generally has long finished in the Perth metro area by Christmas time.

It was a very pleasing, therefore, to see this orchid near Denmark on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023, during a walk along one of the many trails at Mt. Hallowell, not far from the Bibbulmun track.

Just the one was sighted!



*Thelymitra fuscolutea*  
– Chestnut Sun Orchid



Photo – Varena Hardy

## IDENTIFYING WEST AUSTRALIAN ERIOCHILUS SPECIES (BUNNY ORCHIDS)

By John Ewing

The following paper assumes that you know what an *Eriochilus* (Bunny Orchid) looks like. It also assumes that you know and can recognize each of the two complexes, the *E. dilatatus* complex (White Bunnies), and the *E. scaber* complex (Pink Bunnies), into which all the WA *Eriochilus* species have been divided.

When one looks at *Eriochilus*, it is difficult to ID the species by looking at the flowers alone. This paper is for those who care about correct IDs and are willing to ‘work at it a bit’. For the IDs use the spreadsheet of data as an extra help.

### Introductory notes:

**Measurements:** measuring one flower in a population is never enough to provide certainty. If you only find one or two flowers at a site you may be able to make a ‘best guess’ but you really need a population of at least 10 plants. Measurement data should ignore the largest and the smallest plants and try to get the ‘average’ sized plants.

Be wary of very small plants as they may be growing in an adverse environment which causes them to be smaller than the stated ‘usual minimum size’. For the purposes of this ID a small tape measure will do as absolute precision is rarely needed for these IDs.

**Firstly**, plant groupings are initially based on months from when flowering starts, with the early species of March/April for the 12 species/subspecies in the *E. dilatatus* complex. For the *E. scaber* complex (four species/subspecies) we then begin in July and continue onwards from there.

**Secondly**, all species are considered by geographical area with five divisions used. A proportion of the state is not included as essentially no *Eriochilus* of either complex would be growing there.

**The Five Areas:** with abbreviations used - Perth [Pth], North of Perth [NoP], Wheatbelt (north, central, south)[W/B N, W/B C, W/B S], Mandurah to Albany [Ma/Alb], South Coast East of Albany [Scst EoAlb]. The rest of the state is essentially ignored.



## **ERIOCHILUS DILATATUS COMPLEX - ID ANALYSIS**

### **March**

There are three members of the *Eriochilus dilatatus* complex flowering in March – *E. dilatatus* subsp. ‘northern coastal’, *E. dilatatus* subsp. *multiflorus* and *E. valens*. If you are in near coastal areas north of Perth (north of Lancelin up to Denham) in March it has to be ‘northern coastal’.

If you are in Perth and/or down as far as Augusta then it has to be *E. dilatatus* subsp. *multiflorus*.

(Between Walpole and to east of Albany and in later March your Bunny Orchid might now include *E. valens*. The distinction here is simple – height – *E. dilatatus* subsp. *multiflorus* is over 150 mm (av > 200 mm) whereas *E. valens* is less than 150 mm (Av about 100 mm)).

### **April**

By now 10 of the 12 species and subspecies in the *Eriochilus dilatatus* complex will be in flower or beginning to flower. On the basis of plant height all but *Eriochilus glareosus*, *E. belonomos* and *E. valens* are over 150 mm.

Of those over 150 mm *E. dilatatus* subsp. ‘eastern granites’ is separated on the basis of location being found only from Esperance and further east growing on granite outcrops. *E. dilatatus* subsp. *magnus* is found from Augusta to the Porongorups and so overlaps with *E. dilatatus* subsp. *multiflorus* over all of its range. Now the distinction is about leaf length and width.

*Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp. *magnus* has much larger leaves (15-75 mm long x 10-30 mm wide whereas *E. dilatatus* subsp. *multiflorus* has leaf dimensions of 5-40 mm x 5-11 mm). In the area of the south coast east of Albany five species/subsp. occur (*E. valens*, *E. belonomos*, *E. dilatatus* subsp. *orientalis*, *E. dilatatus* subsp. ‘eastern granites’ and *E. dilatatus* subsp. *dilatatus*). *Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp. *orientalis* is the easiest to separate as it is found only at and east of Toolina Cove (which is very remote and difficult to access.)

Next is distinguishing between *E. valens* and *E. belonomos*. This cannot be done using height (both 50-150 mm) but can be done on the basis of leaf width and labellum dimensions. The leaf of *E. belonomos* is much narrower (2-10 mm) whereas *E. valens* is 8-18 mm and the labellum of *E. belonomos* is 6-9 mm long by 2-4 mm wide whereas the labellum of *E. valens* is 8-11 mm long by 3-6 mm wide.

Both the other two taxa (*E. dilatatus* subsp. ‘eastern granites’ and *E. dilatatus* subsp. *dilatatus*) are considerably taller (growing to 350 mm) versus *E. valens* and *E. belonomos* (which grow only to 150 mm.) There is, of course, some overlap in plant height but, if there are a number of plants over 200 mm, it is clearly not either of the shorter growing species.

Again, leaf size separates *E. dilatatus* subsp. ‘eastern granites’ from *E. dilatatus* subsp. *dilatatus*. The latter is 35-100 mm long by 5-18 mm wide, whereas *E. sp.* ‘eastern granites’ is 20-55 mm long by 5-10 mm wide.

While overlap is present, difference can be established by measuring of 10 or so plants and, in particular, looking to see whether there are many over 50 mm long or over 10 mm wide and then this will enable definite ID. Habitat is also different between the two with *E. dilatatus* subsp. *dilatatus* growing in coastal sands and *E. dilatatus* subsp. eastern granites growing in soil pockets on mostly inland granite outcrops.

Now to the seven species and subspecies found in the Mandurah to Albany area. Of those mentioned previously, two are not in this area (*E. dilatatus* subsp. *orientalis* and *E. dilatatus* subsp. ‘eastern granites’). The ‘new’ additions not mentioned up until now are *E. dilatatus* subsp. *undulatus* and *E. pulchellus*. Using plant height as a guide *E. dilatatus* subsp. *magnus*, *E. dilatatus* subsp. *multiflorus* and perhaps *E. dilatatus* subsp. *dilatatus* grow taller than the other four.

*Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp. *multiflorus*  
– Photo Pat Richards



We have already sorted *E. dilatatus* subsp. *multiflorus* and *E. dilatatus* subsp. *magnus* on the basis of leaf size (see above) and we can include *E. dilatatus* subsp. *dilatatus* as it has the longest leaf of any of these *Eriochilus* species, growing to 100 mm long (35 mm-100 mm) whereas the second largest is *E. dilatatus* subsp. *magnus* growing to 75 mm (15-75 mm). Once you establish that you have one of these two, then go to leaf width with subsp. *dilatatus* being much narrower (5-18 mm wide) compared to subsp. *magnus* being 10—30 mm wide. This should allow these species to be accurately distinguished.

Of the remaining four, *E. dilatatus* subsp. *undulatus*, *E. belonomos*, *E. pulchellus* and *E. valens*, there is only one that ALWAYS has wavy leaf margins and that (not surprisingly) is *E. dilatatus* subsp. *undulatus*. The other three have either wavy leaf margins or smooth leaf margins. In addition, *E. dilatatus* subsp. *undulatus* is a bit taller (100-250 mm high) and has longer leaves (10-30 mm – all the other three have leaves that are generally less than 20 mm long).

Again the ‘overlapping’ problem can be resolved by looking at 10+ plants in a population and seeing what the average/range of sizes is that can be observed. We have previously sorted *E. valens* and *E. belonomos*, but when we add *E. pulchellus* we have to go back to leaf margins. *Eriochilus pulchellus* has ONLY smooth leaves. This should help to distinguish it from the other two which can often have wavy leaf margins. While *E. pulchellus* is slightly taller (growing to 200 mm (the others grow to 150 mm) this is a doubtful guide.

The better other feature is the number of flowers. Both *E. valens* and *E. belonomos* almost never have more than two (and mostly only one flower, but *E. pulchellus* can have as many as 10 flowers and very commonly more than two. Between leaf margins and number of flowers it should be easy enough to distinguish *E. pulchellus* from the other two.

The three Wheatbelt areas all have just one subspecies and that is *E. dilatatus* subsp. *undulatus*. For April (and for May) subsp. *undulatus* is the only subspecies found there.

Next for April, we come to the area north of Perth. There are three taxa in flower in this area in April (*E. dilatatus* subsp. *dilatatus*, *E. dilatatus* subsp. ‘northern coastal’ and *E. belonomos*). *Eriochilus belonomos* is shorter than the other two, growing only from 50 mm to 150 mm, whereas both the others grow from 100 mm to 250 mm in the case of *E. dilatatus* subsp. ‘northern coastal’ and to 350 mm in the case of *E. dilatatus* subsp. *dilatatus*. *Eriochilus belonomos* often has some plants with wavy leaf margins whereas both others have only smooth leaf margins. *E. dilatatus* subsp. *dilatatus* and *E. dilatatus* subsp. ‘northern coastal’ are separated on the basis of leaf length with those of *E. dilatatus* subsp. *dilatatus* being longer (35 mm to 100 mm) compared to those of *E. dilatatus* subsp. ‘northern coastal’ being 15 mm-50 mm.

Finally, we come to Perth. In April there are three species/subspecies in flower. Already discussed are *E. dilatatus* subsp. *dilatatus*, *E. dilatatus* subsp. *multiflorus* and *E. belonomos*. Leaf difference separates these three subspecies/species as discussed above.

## May

All twelve species/subspecies are in flower in May, but two have not yet been mentioned. These are *E. dilatatus* subsp. *brevifolius* and *E. glareosus*. *Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp. *brevifolius* is found north of Perth and is able to be separated from the other three species/subspecies growing in this area (discussed above).

It is separated from *E. dilatatus* subsp. *dilatatus* and *E. dilatatus* subsp. ‘northern coastal’ in terms of shorter plant height (40 mm to 200 mm) and also on the basis of shorter leaf length (10 mm to 20 mm). *E. glareosus* is also a short plant (60 mm to 120 mm) and is similar in height to *E. belonomos* (50 mm to 150 mm).

The distinguishing feature is the leaf. While *E. dilatatus* subsp. *brevifolius* ALWAYS has a wavy leaf margin, populations of *E. belonomos* have both wavy leaf margin plants and other plants in the same population with smooth leaf margins. On the other hand, *E. glareosus* ALWAYS has only smooth leaf margins. *Eriochilus glareosus* is also distinctive in that the back of the leaf is reddish. Finally, *E. glareosus* begins flowering in late May by which time many *E. belonomos* plants will be coming to the end of their flowering.

## June

Four species/subspecies flower into June. *Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp. *multiflorus* and *E. belonomos* only last until early June and by then are mostly finished. Only *E. glareosus* and *E. dilatatus* subsp. *brevifolius* continue well into June (having only started in May). *Eriochilus dilatatus* subsp. *brevifolius* is the only one of these four species/subspecies found in well drained woodland and shrubland areas north of Perth so cannot be mistaken for anything else if found in early June. *Eriochilus belonomos* also grows north of Perth but occupies seasonally wet areas.

Of the three species/subspecies found in the Perth area, *E. dilatatus* subsp. *multiflorus* is the tallest (to 350 mm). The other two grow to just 150 mm and also has a longer leaf (to 40 mm) compared to the other two (to 15 mm and to 17 mm). The distinction between *E. belonomos* and *E. glareosus* is discussed above.

**July**

There are two subspecies of *Eriochilus scaber* that begin flowering in July (*E. scaber* subsp. *scaber* and *E. scaber* subsp. *orbifolius*). The distinction is in the leaf shape with *E. scaber* subsp. *scaber* being elongated and cupped whereas *E. scaber* subsp. *orbifolius* is mostly flattish (slight cupping around stem) and circular. In addition, *E. scaber* subsp. *orbifolius* is found only in Walpole area and flowers only in the season after a summer fire. *Eriochilus scaber* subsp. *scaber* flowers best after a summer fire but some plants flower in unburnt bushland.

**August**

*Eriochilus* sp. 'Merivale' begins to flower in this month and is distinguished from *E. scaber* subsp. *orbifolius* by its location, being found on the coast east of Esperance. The other member of the *E. scaber* complex flowering in this area is *E. scaber* subsp. *scaber*, but *E. sp.* 'Merivale' is distinguished by having petals that are essentially white whereas *E. scaber* subsp. *scaber* has some pale pink in the petals. However, also of some importance is that this month is just the beginning of *E. sp.* 'Merivale' whereas *E. scaber* subsp. *scaber* will have been flowering for over a month. By mid-August *E. scaber* subsp. *scaber* will have some finished flowers whereas *E. sp.* 'Merivale', which flowers into September, will still have quite a few buds.

**September**

The species not previously mentioned is *Eriochilus tenuis*. *E. tenuis* does not start until late September but *E. scaber* subsp. *scaber* finishes flowering in early September. Thus, there is limited overlap between the two in terms of flowering times. While *E. sp.* 'Merivale' is the other species flowering in September its location does not overlap with *E. tenuis*. Thus, from late September onwards the only *Eriochilus* species flowering is *E. tenuis*. It is quite distinctive in having all pink flowers (petals and labellum).

**October** – only *E. tenuis* is flowering.

Please refer to Pg. 13 for the **full *Eriochilus dilatatus* Key by Species features** spreadsheet.

**Artificial Intelligence and Orchids: a binary match? – Jon Warren**

My technology savvy nephews were recently telling me about the artificial intelligence application ChatGPT. Naturally or possibly unnaturally they had the App on their phone and gave demonstrations on how it could write all sorts of material. They used it to find something nice to say in the wedding card they were writing at the time. Others are apparently using it to write essays for school academic assignments.

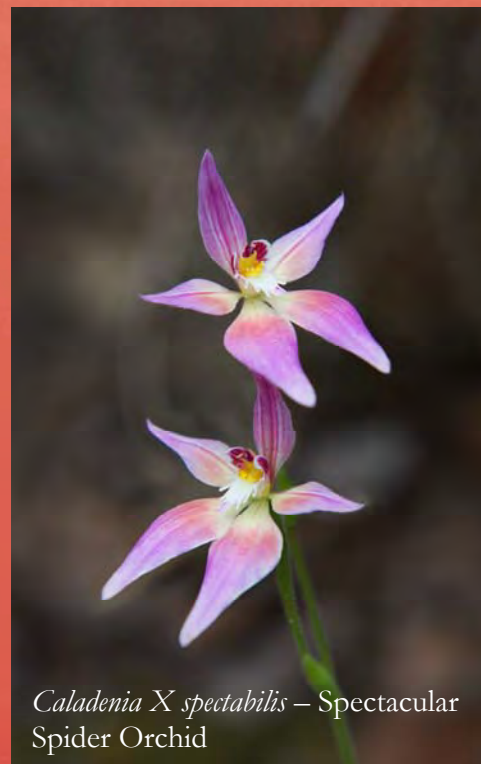
I was challenged to use the App so requested a supporting case for a certain individual who may be challenging for the next US president and was firmly told that the AI App did not provide commentary on contentious issues. A similar response was received to a request for a piece on the benefits of avoiding a certain much-used medical procedure. Stumped I resorted to asking it for a poem on 'The native orchids of Western Australia'. What more can I say?



*Caladenia birta* subsp. *birta* – Sugar Candy Orchid

In the land of the Western sun,  
Where beauty knows no bounds,  
A world of orchids bloom and run,  
Each petal like a crown.  
From the heart of nature's land,  
Where colours dance and sing,  
A tapestry of rare orchids stand,  
A precious, fragile thing.  
Orchids of pink and purple hues,  
A rare and wondrous sight,  
A jewel-like bloom that nature grew,  
With petals soft and bright.

From white and yellow, red and green,  
These orchids bring us joy,  
A stunning sight that must be seen,  
A treasure to enjoy.  
Western Australian native orchids,  
A gift for all to share,  
A rare and precious work of art,  
That nature chose to wear.



*Caladenia X spectabilis* – Spectacular Spider Orchid

## Unexpected Orchid Adventure in NSW

– Aberline Attwood

I, like many others, spent time with family and friends over the summer holidays. With the WA orchid season behind me I had no thoughts of orchid hunting while we quickly visited Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney over 8 days. So we filled our days with family, sightseeing and museums.

However, I do love the temperate rainforest of Sydney (I really miss them) after living there for 11 years so I made sure to take my 14 year old son on a couple of hikes while we were there.

On our first walk we marvelled at the huge eastern water dragons that were everywhere silently eyeballing us and as not much was flowering we also noticed this little purple spotted flower hiding beside the path. Upon closer examination we thought it could possibly be an orchid!



All the parts were there but it looked so different.

When we got back to our national park cabin (fully recommend Lane Cove Caravan Park for being in the forest but also close to the CBD) we looked up the flower and was excited to find out it was the *Diplodium variegatum* (hyacinth orchid) left and below left.

Well that was good and bad news really, as then I found out that orchids flower all year round over east and, in fact, there were several in the national park we were staying in, but also many in the surrounding parks north, south and west!

With limited time left and limited to no knowledge, we embarked on another hike in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park with my sister-in-law. We spotted *Cryptostylis erecta* (hooded or bonnet orchid) but not much else.

So, as it often happens on our last day we went on two more small walks trying to find some more but to no avail, we only saw the same two orchids.

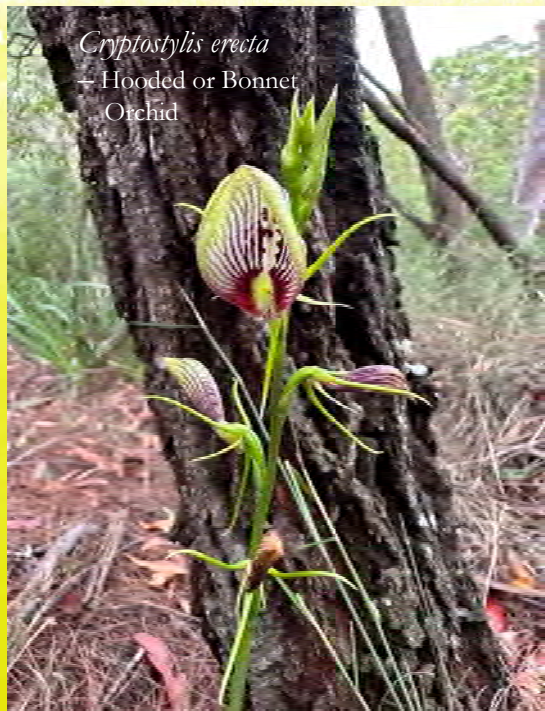
All I can say is next time I go anyway I'm going to be better prepared – what delights would there have been in Brisbane or Melbourne?



These 'over east' orchids are so different and while I've been smugly thinking WA had the orchid - indeed the wildflower—credentials cornered over here, it turns out that NSW has the richest orchid species in Australia – or is that just what they tell everyone?!



*Chiloglottis sylvestris* – Small Wasp Orchid  
Photo: Mark Carrington (with permission)  
Mark Carrington



*Cryptostylis erecta*  
- Hooded or Bonnet  
Orchid



*Caleana major*  
- (Large Duck Orchid)  
Photo - Friends of Lane Cove NP



*Dipodium roseum*  
Rosy Hyacinth Orchid  
Photo - Friends of Lane Cove NP



*Cryptostylis erecta*  
Hooded or Bonnet  
Orchid

The NSW guidebook that I am thinking of buying says that “this region covers the richest area for wild orchids in Australia and includes over 500 species of seasonal ground orchids and 62 species of evergreen tree and rock orchids. Orchids found in this region include the tallest, heaviest, smallest flowered, most numerous flowered and most bizarre orchids in Australia.”

Definitely I found that the locals distinguished the orchids as either ground/terrestrial orchids, rock orchids or tree orchids which was also quite disorientating (although literally obviously meant to do the opposite). It was like another language.

Fact checking against the 2019 WANOSCG checklist for Australian Orchids, NSW does indeed have more species of orchids 588 vs 501, but when you include the hybrids we win 739 vs 651. I'll leave you to make your own conclusions.

In case you are interested, here is a selection of orchids were flowering in January but we couldn't find...I hope you find this cautionary tale useful if next Christmas you go holidaying 'over east'. There are orchids everywhere for those who look!



*Cryptostylis subulata*  
- Large Tongue Orchid  
Photo: Mark Carrington (with permission)



*Calochilus gracillimus* - Late Beard Orchid  
Photo: Friends of Lane Cove NP

## 2022 Past Field Trips and Suggestions for Upcoming Field Trips for 2023

Personally, I say goodbye to 2022 with relief and joy. When it comes to the field trips held over 2022, I am happy to look back and say we had some good ones and to all the field trip leaders, I thank you for assisting me in setting these up and providing a service for all our members that attended the trips.

So please all, remember if we don't have volunteers to lead the trips, then we don't have them.

So let us review what we got up to last year for field trips and then put our hats on to assess where to next. This is my second year as the Field Trip Coordinator and, hopefully, you will all support me at the AGM to do the job for you in 2023 as well.

So, to start 2022 we had five official regional trips with groups travelling to;

- o Brookton Highway Area trip with Andrew Brown in October,
- o The Great Southern Hwy, Noel Clarke Memorial Field trip, led by Peter Gee in September,
- o Hyden Field Trip led by Mel George in September,
- o The Scarp Road Dwellingup Trip led by Andrew Brown in September, and
- o Wheatbelt Ashes tour led by Robin Campbell in August.

Moving onto the Metro Field Trips completed, we had four trips with groups exploring;

- o Armadale Settlers Common with Felix Nichols and family leading the way in August,
- o Wanneroo, Lake Adams and Viridian Reserve Trip led by Geoff and Robyn Foley in September,
- o Darlington Slip & Slide led by Pat Richards in October, and
- o The Korung National Park trip led by Peter and Deb Proudfoot in October.

Therefore, for the 2023 season we are currently reviewing sites for trips to the following areas.

These are not set yet and all other suggestions will be considered by the committee.

Please note we also like to have local knowledge of the area so all volunteers to lead the field trip are welcome and deeply appreciated. Some suggestions for potential field trips are;

- o Collie,
- o Walpole in November as end of year trip possible date we are looking at 18/19 November,
- o Denmark area (Scott River),
- o York, Talbot, Westdale and Brookton areas, The Noel Clarke Memorial Field Trip, Aug/Sept or Sept/Oct
- o Boranup,
- o Any Known burn sites (KU keeping track of burn areas) and,
- o More suggestions required from everyone.

### **Please note;**

The Field Trip Coordinator will not be taking any names for field trips until they have a Field Trip Leader and the trip will then announce open for members in the Bulletin and on Facebook.

We are trying to keep our group numbers low to preserve the habitat of the plants so, if we can have more trips happening with more people assisting to be field trip leaders, then we are participating in the conservation of our bushlands as per our WANOSCG principles.

Thank you to all our participants for 2022 and I look forward to a busy 2023.

Graham Warren

fieldtrips.wanoscg@gmail.com

# ***ERIOCHILUS DILATATUS* COMPLEX - ID ANALYSIS**

- John Ewing

*Eriochilus dilatatus*

**Key by Species Features**

Eriochilus	Flowering months				General location areas						Height variations			Leaf length			Leaf width			Leaf margin		Flower	
	March	April	May	June	Pth	N of Pth	Wh/BN	W/BC	W/BS	Ma/Alb	S cst E of Alb	min/max	<125 av	>250av	min/max	av <12	Av >30	min/max	av <7	av >11	sm/wavy	number	colour
dilatatus	x	x	x		x	x				x	x	100/350			35/100		x	5-18		x	sm	1-7(10)	
northern coastal'	x	x	x			x						100/250			15/50		x	3-10		x	sm	1-3(5)	
eastern granites'		x	x							x		150/350		x	20/55		x	5-10			sm	1-8	
multiflorus	x	x	x	x	E	x				x		150/350		x	5-40			5-11			sm	3-20	
magnus		x	x							x		250/450		x	15/75		x	10-30		x	sm	(3)4-25	
orientalis		x	x							x		100/250			15/40			7-15			sm/wavy	1-7	
undulatus		x	x				x	x	x	x		100/250			10-30			8-10			wavy	1-3	
brevifolius			x	x		x						40/200	x		10-20			4-6	x		wavy	1-3	
glareosus			x	L	x	x						60/120			8-15	x		4-8	x		sm red back	1-2	
pulchellus		x	x							x		50/200	x		5-15	x		3-8	x		sm	2-10	
helonomos		x	x	x	E	x	x			x	x	50/150	x		5-17	x		2-10	x		sm/wavy	1-2	
valens	x	L	x	x						x	x	50/150	x		10-20			8-18		x	sm/wavy	1-2(3)	
													if not then not	selected in range									
Eriochilus																							
scaber	July	Aug	Sept	O/N																	Leaf feature		
scaber	x	x	x	E		x	x			x		70/150			10-20			5-12			cupped	1-3	petals white
orbifolia	x	x								x		50/100			10-15			10-15			circular	1-3	
tenuis			x	L	x	x	x			x		50/150			10-30			5-15			sl cupped	1-2	fully pink
Merivale'		x	x							x		50/150			10-30			5-15			st cupped	1-2	petals white
																					sl = slightly		
																					st = strongly		

## Orchids Flowering in March

North South WA	Cons Status	Common Name	Species	Flowering Start	Flowering Finish	Feb	Mar	Apr	Distribution
N		Spinifex elbow orchid	Arthrochilus byrneseii	01-Jan	31-Mar	y	y		Waterfall Creek, NT, to Kimberley region, WA
S		Pygmy Orchid	Corunastylis fuscoviridis	15-Mar	31-May	y	y		Wagin to Eyre on the Great Australian Bight
S		Slipper Orchid	Cryptostylis ovata	30-Sep	15-Jun	y	y		Perth to Albany with isolated populations east of Esperance
N	P1	Lily of the valley orchid	Didymoplexis pallens	01-Feb	31-Mar	y	y		Kimberley region, Camp Creek, Mitchell Plateau and Edkins Range
N	P2	Common sphinx orchid	Empusa habenarina	01-Jan	31-Mar	y	y		Kimberley region, Edkins Range to King Edward River
S		White Bunny Orchid	Eriochilus dilatatus subsp. dilatatus	15-Mar	31-May	y	y		Dirk Hartog Island to Israelite Bay
S		Common Bunny Orchid	Eriochilus dilatatus subsp. multiflorus	01-Mar	31-May	y	y		Perth to Albany
S		Red-lipped Bunny Orchid	Eriochilus valens	15-Mar	15-May	y	y		Walpole to Albany, also near Munglinup
S		Hare Orchid	Leporella fimbriata	15-Mar	15-Jun	y	y		Kalbarri (North of) to Israelite Bay
S		Leafless Orchid	Præcoxanthus aphyllus	01-Mar	31-May	y	y		Pinjarra to Esperance

## Notice of WANOSCG Annual General Meeting 2023

We hereby give notice that the 2023 Annual General Meeting (“AGM”) of the Western Australian Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group Inc (“the Group”) will take place at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, 15 March 2023.

The location of the meeting will be in the Administration Building, 1 Kattidj Close, Kings Park WA 6005.

**Bulletin Articles** - Please send Bulletin contributions to the editor at [wanoscg@gmail.com](mailto:wanoscg@gmail.com).

Due date for articles for the April issue will be Friday, 31 March, 2023.

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