



# WANOSCG

The Official Bulletin

Of The

Western Australian Native Orchid  
Study & Conservation Group

Issue 2 - April 2023



## IN THIS ISSUE:

- President's Report
- Registrar's Report
- New & Updated Orchid Names
- ADORP News
- Orchid Taxonomy
- WANOSCG LUCID KEY Update
- The Flowering Conundrum: Leafless & Hare Orchids
- Last Year's Trip To Wave Rock
- Evolution Of The Adopt An Orchid Project (ADORP)
- Early Orchids At Chingarrup Sanctuary
- Endangered Orchids Of The SW Capes Region
- Orchidelirium – 'madness' behind orchid black market
- Field Trip Report
- 2023 WANOSCG Photographic Competition
- Orchids Flowering This Month
- 2023 Membership Subscriptions Due
- Notice Of Annual General Meeting
- Copyright and Disclaimers

## WANOSCG Management Committee:

President:	Jon Warren
Vice President:	Ramón Newmann
Vice President:	Andrew Brown
Secretary:	Martina Fleischer
Treasurer:	Jay Steer

## Ordinary committee members:

Peter Gee  
Debbie Proudfoot  
Peter Proudfoot  
Kevin Uhe  
Graham Warren

## Subsidiary Positions:

Field trip coordinator	Graham Warren
Conservation officer	Vacant
Membership officer	Jay Steer
Branch liaison officer SRG	Jon Warren
Bulletin editor	Annie Bowerman
Librarian	John Ewing and Alison Higgins
Supper coordinator	Trish Newmann
Web site administrator	Ramón Newmann
Facebook page administrator	Graham Warren & Nathan Piesse
Perth metro field trip coordinator	Vacant
Registrar	Ramón Newmann
ADORP coordinator	Kevin Uhe

## President's Musings - What's in store for 2023

First a welcome and huge thankyou to the 15 members who have given their time to volunteer to take on committee and subsidiary positions to run your group. The updated 2023 list is provided above and further on in the bulletin.

I want to give members a heads up of what to expect in 2023 but first want to reiterate my strong belief that many members making small contributions is the key to the success for our group.

What is going to be your contribution?

The committee has been busy planning out a year of activities but still have a way to go to get the program finalized.

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

Postal: PO BOX 323 VICTORIA PARK WA 6979

## Meetings

Like last year we are looking at running some informal meetings so the collective we (but more importantly the secretary) don't have to go through the convoluted administration processes required for a formal general meeting. We have a couple of different meetings in the pipe line so keep tuned to find out just what they involve.

## Speakers

We have lined up some speakers but still need more. If you have any ideas or know of someone who could enlighten the meeting with an orchid themed presentation, please let me know. One idea being considered is to have an evening of member's orchid adventure anecdotes accompanied by a few photographs.

Have a think if you have an interesting 10-15minute tale to share, as I will be asking for volunteers in the first instance and press-ganging in the latter. Another idea is to have an evening of short presentations from the various ADORP groups so the broader membership can gain a better understanding of what the program involves.

## Fair notice

This year we have decided to give an indication of possible end of year dates early so members can plan ahead. At present the plan is to have the end of year field trip combined with the end of year function dinner. Proposed date for this event is the weekend of December 2nd and 3rd down Albany/Walpole way. Pop it in your diaries and more details will be coming later in the year. A program for the year will be in the next bulletin once we bed down a few arrangements.

## Conservation

This year the management committee want WANOSCG to have a focus on adding value to the work our members do through ADORP. The approach is to encourage greater input from all members reporting Threatened and Priority species finds to the ADORP coordinator, Kevin Uhe or the database registrar, Ramón Newmann.

It is acknowledged that the reporting forms can be a bit onerous so if you think you have come across Threatened or Priority orchid, a quick email to [wanoscg@gmail.com](mailto:wanoscg@gmail.com) with photos, the date and location will enable follow up to see if it is new find.

One way of checking which orchids are Threatened or Priority is via Florabase. Simply open **Florabase**, click on **Find**, to get to **Search the Western Australia Flora**.

Then type **Orchidaceae** in the Family Field and, under **Conservation Code**, select one of the following: **Any** for all conservation listed species or one of the six conservation codes for those species listed under it.

You may ask why this focus on reporting. The answer is this information has and will continue enabling WANOSCG to contribute significantly to the conservation of orchids by being able to provide information that can be used to trigger legislation and strategies to protect Threatened and Priority orchid species.

During the year I would like to highlight the breadth and depth of the orchid conservation work many of members do without any fanfare. To do this I would be very appreciative if those who are doing or those who know of folk who are doing could drop me a line so I can put the information together.

Happy if folk want to remain anonymous but would like to highlight the activities. Let me know you are interested via [wanoscg@gmail.com](mailto:wanoscg@gmail.com) email and I will give you a call.

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

Jon Warren  
President



*Caladenia citrina* x *C. rhomboideiformis* Margaret  
River Spider X Diamond Spider Orchid3-  
Photo Annie Bowerman

## Your new committee of volunteers for 2023

### OFFICE

### OFFICE BEARER 2023

#### Executive

President	Jon Warren
Vice President	Ramón Newmann
Vice President	Andrew Brown
Secretary	Martina Fleisher
Treasurer	Jay Steer

#### Ordinary committee members

Peter Gee  
Debbie Proudfoot  
Peter Proudfoot  
Kevin Uhe  
Graham Warren



*Caladenia drummondii* Winter Spider –  
Photo Annie Bowerman

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Registrar*	Ramón Newmann
ADORP coordinator *	Kevin Uhe

\* Appointed by the Management Committee

## What orchid is that?

At the recent AGM Noel Hoffman again pleaded with folk to send him orchid photos for our web site.

Many people have commented how useful having a range of photographs is in aiding identification and giving an understanding of the variations within a species. So let us improve another valuable WANOSCG asset by contributing even more photos.

While we welcome any orchid photos, we are especially interested species that are poorly represented.

There is a list of these species on the WANOSCG web. Go into scientific names and at the top is 'click here for species needing photos' which, upon doing as instructed, will give a full run down on what to do.

Send any photos to Noel either on a thumb drive when you see him or by email to [marynoelh@bigpond.com](mailto:marynoelh@bigpond.com)

Noel is also looking for someone to give him a hand managing the photos so if you are interested drop him a line.

Jon Warren - President

## ADORP NEWS

Welcome to Ric Woodland who joined the ADORP project late last year and was able to assist in the final survey of the season for *Thelymitra jacksonii*.

Whilst this time of the year is very quiet, a small number of ADORP members are undertaking some research and planning for this coming season. It is always a good time of the year to reflect on the previous season and work out target areas for the new season.

In addition, behind the scenes, work has been ongoing over the off season to incorporate all the ADORP data into the DBCA database. This involves allocating official population numbers for all currently known locations which will assist in reporting and enable a better tracking of possible new locations.

DBCA are currently trialling a new database to replace the current mainly manual system which will negate much of the current time-consuming processes currently undertaken. It is hoped this system will be implemented later this year.

Kevin Uhe



*Caladenia exilis* Subsp. *van Leeuwenii* Moora Spider  
– Photo Annie Bowerman

## Orchid taxonomy

The *Pterostylis sargentii* (Frog Greenhood) alliance has had another species added with Garry Brockman and Chris French recently naming *Pterostylis segregata* (Shy Frog Greenhood).

This new species is morphologically similar to both *P. sargentii* and *P. occulta* and has a similar labellum structure to *P. occulta*, but that species has a densely hairy (ciliate) labellum compared to a non-ciliate labellum in *P. segregata* and has smaller flowers than the other two.

It has been named from the Latin 'segregatus' (set apart, or separated) given that this species is widely separated from both *P. sargentii* and *P. occulta* and only occurs in the high rainfall area of the SW.

It is currently known from only two small populations and, given its rarity, will most probably be listed as Priority 1.

Kevin Uhe

## WANOSCG LUCID KEY Update

Good progress has been maintained on the development of the WANOSCG Lucid Key over the summer months when field trips have been thin on the ground.

The primary aim of the WANOSCG Lucid Key is to aid in the identification of WA native orchids based on the entry of flowering plants features. It will also be very useful for the listing of species found with specified attributes – for example species found in any given shire, in a given month, on granite outcrops, with predominantly red, yellow, blue, or other coloured flowers, above a certain height, or with 'inverted' flowers, and can also be used to show which orchid species are Threatened or Priority listed.

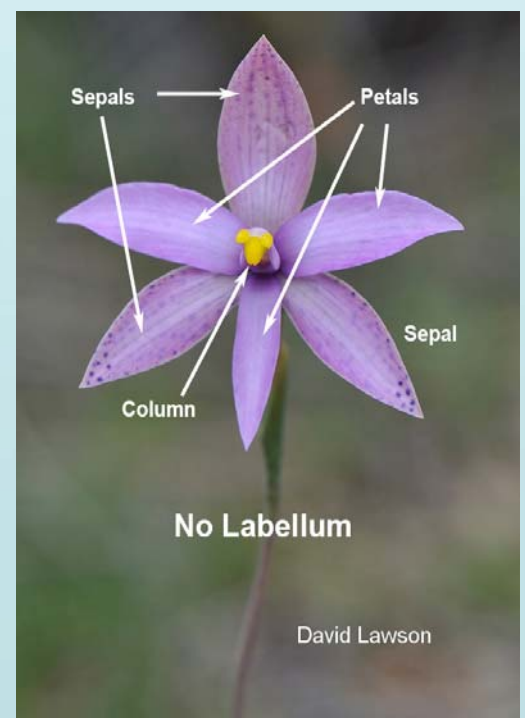
The project is on target to be available as a computer version, typically run from our website, by late 2023. If, based on feedback, it is successful, it will then be converted to a standalone mobile phone App that does not require reception and can be used in the field – hopefully available sometime during 2024, our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year.

The Lucid Key is based on a software package developed and very well supported by an Australian based team at Lucidcentral (<https://www.lucidcentral.org/>).

With the help of the dedicated Members on the project team, most of the data for each and every WA native orchid taxon has now been entered into the key. These data have come from not only the scientific literature and current books but also from field experience and expert knowledge.

The team so far:

- Myself: Driving the Lucid Key design and development specific for WA's native orchids and running of the software for final data entry and deployment.
- Andrew Brown:
  - Botanical technical guidance and overview.
  - Input for features design and data on taxa – e.g. heights, locations, colours, flowering dates and other characteristics based on extensive infield experience.
  - Lucid Key operation – user interface, logic, integrity.
- Jay Steer: Location data analysis – conversion of GPS to Shires.
- Katie White & John Ewing: Helping to transcribe the data from papers and books into a summary form that can be used for the final data entry into the Key.
- More recently Sally Page has been trialling a recent version of the Key providing very useful feedback.



So far, the Key contains over 500 orchid taxa (forever changing!) with over 100 plant/flower features that have over 400 different states. This results in over 250,000 possible combinations!

To operate the key, the user selects fields and enters in whatever relevant data they have in order to get a list of the conforming, or remaining, candidates along with their photos and noted differences. Depending on the data provided, this may bring it down to a single candidate or to at least a group in the ballpark.

Current list of Feature headings:

- Genus and Complex
- Flowering Month
- Location (region or shire)
- Plant, Flower & Leaf Features (e.g. height, width, colours)
- Growing Environment (e.g. Forest, sandy soil)
- Conservation Code (e.g. Priority)

Ideally the input data is from an available specimen in the field that can be measured, but it can also be from a photo, though just a photo without additional information may limit the achievable identification level.

Further help is needed to trial the current draft Key on computers and provide as much detailed feedback as possible. This user testing will involve inputting data from photos, books or papers to test the Key's current effectiveness and useability.

If you are able and willing to be part of test driving this exciting Key, please let me know and I will provide the required information and help (eg email: [wanoscg@gmail.com](mailto:wanoscg@gmail.com)).

I would like to thank those dedicated members who have helped with this project so far, along with the supportive team at Lucid Central. It's looking very promising!

Ramón Newmann



## Field Trip Report – Graham Warren

As this is the first report of the year since the AGM, I won't list any Field trips yet, but we are working on a couple of ideas and I thank the field trip leaders who have volunteered to lead the trips already. As these trips are a distance away, I won't be announcing them till two months before the dates. If you feel there are not enough field trips happening, then I ask you to step up with ideas of where you would like to hold and lead a trip to.

I am looking for someone or people to lead the Noel Clarke Memorial field trip in the areas between the York Road and Brookton Highway. If you are interested, please contact me and I can assist you with information to assist your field trip planning. I look forward to coordinating lots of trips this year and working with many new field trip leaders, as well as those that have done it previously.

Please remember, if there are no Field Trip Leaders, we don't have Field Trips and we do not want that to happen do we?

Contact me on [fieldtrips.wanoscg@gmail.com](mailto:fieldtrips.wanoscg@gmail.com) and start a discussion on what your ideas are. Ph: 0499 276 560

## The flowering conundrum: Leafless and Hare Orchids, will they flower, when will they flower, and what causes flowering? - Patrick Prevett May 2022

Orchids such as *Praecoxanthus aphyllus*, Leafless Orchid, *Leporella fimbriata*, Hare orchid, *Prasophyllum parvifolium* Autumn leek, and *Eriochilus*, Bunny orchids, flowering in March, April and May leading into winter from summer had always struck me as a somewhat unusual pattern. Leaning heavily on my schoolboy days and experiments with chrysanthemums, we understood that day length played a prominent role in the flowering process. One reference in the New Scientist in 2007 described the search for a flowering stimulating auxin as “the Holy Grail of plant biology” – and great excitement accompanied the discovery of florigen.

However, orchids such as Leafless and Hares have underground tubers so that eliminates daylength. Florigen and similar auxins I suspect would be more applicable to woody plants with actively differentiating apical meristems. Daffodils, crocuses and snowdrops have underground storage organs from which flowers famously emerge to herald spring in the northern hemisphere, presumably in response to warmth and moisture. That does not help our understanding of flowering mechanisms because the botanical origin of bulbs is differently from our tuberous bearing orchids that flower in the autumn. Autumn in our part of the world is generally associated with falling temperatures and a substantial increase in rainfall and moisture in the soil. The soil itself in Autumn is also cooling down rather than warming up so there are no obvious indicators as to why leafless orchids should commence flowering at the end of a hot dry summer.

So, has the long hot summer taken a toll on the Leafless orchids out at Blythe Road, or has the geophytic habitat protected them from temperature extremes? I don't think anyone has the answer to the question, but one thing is clear, numbers are down compared to previous years at least since 2015 when I started monitoring them. My observations and those of other interested parties suggest the Blythe Road population in Yelverton NP was disappointing this year (2022). Most years we have found a small number of flowering stems on the hillside off Blythe Road, but several man-hours searching in mid-April to the end of April produced only two blooms at the time of the visits. Since 2015 at Blythe Road Leafless orchids have never been prolific, but never disappointing. They seem to manage precise timing for flowering in mid-April. Once again, I question the nature of the trigger.

My recent trips to Ruabon in May 2022 revealed vast numbers of basal leaves of Hare orchids but proportionately only a very small number with flowering stems. This is symptomatic of many species in the *Orchidaceae*. It would be interesting to know why the number of flowering stems is seriously limited. If there is an answer, I wonder whether it has been backed by experimental evidence. It certainly is frustrating to see the ground covered with leaves of hare orchids and only a few blooms dotting the landscape!

Perhaps they are not flowering for our pleasure and are simply satisfied with a successful existence based on colonisation and proliferation by vegetative means!!

Emphasis on vegetation propagation could explain why Hare orchids (and other species) appear to have such a patchy distribution. Species with a patchy distribution are at risk when inappropriate land use usurps the area they occupy, (housing, agriculture, or mining) and the result is most likely elimination of the patch. At least flowering tactics based on wind dispersal of fine seeds should enable widespread dissemination and the capacity to colonise new, but suitable habitats.

As we all know, growth, development and flowering in orchids is a complex affair and must consider the presence of appropriate pollinators and soil fungi.



Presumably the absence of these would result in a declining population. Monitoring should therefore record not only the timing of flowering and population numbers but in addition the extent, (spread), of the population from year to year. Also, single plants may indicate that their origin is from seed, whereas patches indicate the presence of established colonies reproducing by tubers.

The Ruabon sire is close to a proposed sand mining site and conservation is not exactly top of the government's agenda. Let us hope the orchids persist so interested persons can continue to collect valuable data on this species.

Whilst Hare orchids are not endangered, we could learn a lot about orchids by careful observation of them and using them as a model. This population is conveniently situated just fifteen minutes from Busselton and therefore they provide a great opportunity for close monitoring and seeking answers to some of the questions posed.

**Patrick Prett**



*Leporella fimbriata* Hare Orchid

\*This article originally appeared in the SW Capes Branch of the Wildflower Society Inc. May 2022 newsletter.

All photos provided by Patrick Prett.

We are including it here again with Patrick's permission. Minor changes have been made for editing purposes.



*Praecoxanthus aphyllus* Leafless Orchid

### Last year's trip to Wave Rock

The three musketeers, Matz Dahlkamp, Juliet McKenzie and myself set off on 28 August 2022. Thanks to me being so lucky to have won two nights' accommodation at the Wave Rock resort! We stopped everywhere, of course, as I need my cuppa on time, but always at orchid spots!

First big stop was the Flora drive through reserve before Corrigin. Always a wonderful spot. Then more stops until we finally arrived at the resort. Booked in and got our Keys, number 31 between 12 and 14!!! Set off every day early as we wanted to cover all the rock areas around there! Of course, we had to book another night as we still had not even looked at the Rock!

The list of orchids we saw and maybe missed some: *Caladenia roei*, *C. flava*, *C. radialis*, *C. falcata*, *C. hirta* subsp. *rosea*, *C. microchila*, *C. dimidia*, *C. varians*, *Diuris porrifolia*, *D. brachyscapa*, *D. corymbosa*, and *Pheladenia deformis*. *Pterostylis recurva*, *P. setulosa*, *P. timothyi*. Several different hybrids. On our last day home, we managed to stop on Wambyn reserve in pouring rain, walked into Observation Road and found even more but had to give up because of the rain!

So, thanks once again for the stay at Wave Rock resort! - Margaret Fox



*Diuris* sp.



*Caladenia dimidia*



*Caladenia roei*



*Caladenia radialis*



### Ode To Orchids

Orchids, alien and other worldly.

Beauty, bordering the grotesque and bizarre, strangely exhilarating.

Variations, wild and uninhibited, even orgiastic, of a mind, as if, not of this world; shapes and sizes, folds and spirals, colour and colourations.

At times, more animal or insect, than flower.

If a rose is Mozart, and orchid, Stravinsky.

Written by Ylzm May 2019 Hellopoetry.com



## Evolution of the Adopt an Orchid Project (ADORP) - Kevin Uhe

From humble beginnings in 2011, ADORP has grown into the main WANOSCG conservation project and over the years has provided many members with a new and interesting challenge to assist in the conservation of some of our most rare and at-risk orchids.

Founded in 2011 by Kim Hansen and Andrew Brown, ADORP was initially set up to assist DBCA to monitor a number of Priority orchids, given that scarce DBCA resources are primarily aimed towards Threatened species. Most Priority species had not been surveyed at all or at most only had very limited information, mainly from many old WA Herbarium records. The aim of ADORP was to provide up-to-date survey information so that the current status of many Priority orchids could be reassessed to get a better idea of their conservation status. Small teams were allocated a Priority orchid or two (mainly Priority one or two with an occasional priority three), given information on known locations, habitat and plant descriptions, flowering times and the necessary DBCA reporting forms.

The teams then monitored and surveyed their species each year to record plant numbers, threats and hopefully try and locate new populations. A few of the initial 2011 teams are still surveying their original chosen orchids, whilst others have changed hands over the years and other species have been picked up as more people have become involved in the project. A number of teams have adopted more than one species of orchid and many spend a major part of the season involved in ADORP surveying and reporting. A number of our country members have been able to form teams in their areas which has expanded the number of species that can be monitored.

As the amount of survey information increased it became apparent that some of our Priority orchids were rarer than first thought and using ADORP information, DBCA were able to upgrade *Caladenia granitora* and *Caladenia luteola* to Threatened status. Following on from this, ADORP members were able to successfully nominate *Thelymitra magnifica* for Threatened with a further nomination for *Thelymitra variegata* currently in process.

As teams have gained knowledge of the habitat requirements over the years many new populations have been located by careful searching in similar habitats and this has ensured that some of our species with limited populations are more widespread and are more numerous than first thought. Some of the species were known from only a few locations so being able to locate new populations away from the known heavily visited areas has helped in the conservation of these species. ADORP teams are required to keep locations confidential so as to protect these areas further.

Not content with just surveying their orchids, many ADORP members are getting involved with assisting in orchid taxonomy with hours spent on measuring plants, noting differences between populations and this information will assist in potentially helping to name some of our yet to be named species or prove they are just a variation of a current species. Many ADORP members have also undertaken opportunistic surveys of both Priority and Threatened species that they encounter whilst out in the field and many of these sightings have proved to be new locations.



*Caladenia cristata*

The value of these opportunistic surveys has proved to be very important with new locations found for three critically endangered orchids in 2022. This has also included surveys for a number of species in remote locations which rarely get visited, let alone surveyed.

In the last two years nearly 600 DBCA Threatened and Priority Reports have been generated and, overall, since ADORP commenced, over 1000 forms have been submitted to DBCA. ADORP is by far and away the biggest provider of survey information for orchids with a result that DBCA requested help to enter the ADORP data into their system.

This provided an opportunity to get all the orchid data held at DBCA into their database so that current up to date information is available for their staff to use for a number of management issues including fire planning, clearing permits and recreation planning.

Over the last few years, a number of Priority four orchids have been picked up by a few teams given that these orchids have the least amount of information in the DBCA system. This has proved an interesting challenge given the lack of information which is mainly restricted to old WA Herbarium records which have inaccurate GPS readings. Both *Thelymitra apiculata* and *Caladenia integra* have had a number of new locations added into the database and old locations have been found and updated with GPS readings.

ADORP teams have been able to work in with local DBCA Conservation Officers to undertake special surveys for other orchid species, which has proved to be a beneficial exercise, and also work alongside various other volunteers and consultants and by using local contacts, have been able to access private property.

ADORP has been an outstanding success, its achievements over the years being beyond what was originally expected and have provided an incredible amount of information to DBCA, which will allow a more accurate picture of how many of our Priority orchids are faring.

That ADORP has gone from strength to strength is a credit to Kim Hansen's original vision and also to all the ADORP members, past and present, who have embraced being part of the project and are continuing to expand the project into new areas of research.



*Thelymitra apiculata*



*Thelymitra pulcherrima*



*Thelymitra* sp 'Ongerup'

### EARLY ORCHIDS AT CHINGARRUP SANCTUARY – Eddy Wajon

You would have thought that after owning Chingarrup Sanctuary in Boxwood Hill for 20 years, we would have seen every different species of plant on the property. Well, Chingarrup Sanctuary is 572ha, or 5,720,000m<sup>2</sup>, and we have not exactly stepped on every square metre of the property. However, we have identified more than 600 species of plants in the property, including 42 species of orchids.

Nevertheless, we found a new species of orchid on the property last year in September 2022. There were several along a short section of one of our tracks but they had long gone to seed, and were barely visible let alone recognisable. They appeared to have been *Corunastylis fuscoviridis*, so we marked them with tape, but confirmation would need to wait until they flowered again in 2023.

Well, we were at Chingarrup Sanctuary on 24-28 March 2023, and on 27 March we went back to the site where we had seen them. We looked for quite a while, but considering how tiny Pygmy Orchids are, especially when just budding, and they have a leaf appressed to the stem, it was no surprise that we had a great deal of difficulty seeing anything. However, we looked more closely at the four places where we had put our pink tape, and sure enough at three of those places, there were a total of eight *Corunastylis fuscoviridis*. Of these, three were in part flower, and the other five were very small and only in bud.

The site where we found the *Corunastylis fuscoviridis* was in an open area just above a laterite breakaway, in gravelly soil under *Eucalyptus ecostata*, or Silver Coastal Mallee. We have other areas on the property where we have similar vegetation associations, so we need to have a closer look at these areas on our next visit.

There are 68 records of *Corinastylis fuscoviridis* on Florabase, and it has been reported from 15 km west of Corrigin to the South Australian border, and in South Australia as well. This finding at Chingarrup Sanctuary is near the most south-western record of this orchid, reported on Florabase by Ken Newbey in the late 1960s and mid-1970s near Chinninup, which is about 10 km south west of Chingarrup Sanctuary.

The next closest recorded sighting is from nine miles west of Ongerup, 50 km northwest of Chingarrup Sanctuary, by Alex George in 1969.

This orchid is one of the earliest orchids to flower. The earliest report sighting of this orchid in flower on Florabase is 6 March at Cocklebiddy. In the southwest, the earliest reported sighting of this orchid in flower on Florabase is 3 April at Karlgarin.



### **Endangered Orchids of the Southwest Capes region. – Brian Trainer**

*A photographic record of their response to the 2022 summer wildfires in Meelup Regional Park and the Boranup Forest.*

The following is a synopsis of a talk held in Cowaramup on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 organised through the SW Capes Branch of the Wildflower Society Inc.. A grateful thank you to Brian who provided the following summary of his talk:

The 2022 summer fires that blazed in the Meelup Regional Park and the Boranup Forest provided an opportunity to appreciate the response of some of WA's terrestrial orchids to very hot fires.

In “normal years” a large area of the Meelup and Boranup bush is difficult to access, but already, with the degree to which regrowth has been stimulated, accessibility is again becoming restricted. However, following the fires, with reduced vegetation, a lot of useful information on the rarer orchid species was possible.

Of the threatened orchids *Caladenia viridescens*, the Dunsborough Spider, responded to the fire with vigour and individual plant sites have been tagged by Ben Lullfitz (DBCA) and Dr Belinda Davis (Kings Park). The orchids will be surveyed in the ensuing years for leaf emergence, flowering and seed set. Further efforts will be made to record the pollinators of the threatened species in Meelup, with the information assisting the growing of these orchids in the laboratory and relocating into suitable habitats.

It wasn't all about the rarer orchid species. *Cyanicula gemmata* (Blue China Orchid), and *Cyanicula sericea* (Silky Blue Orchid) flowered profusely in Meelup, as did *Cyanicula gertrudae*, (Pale Blue China Orchid), and *Thelymitra benthamiana*, (Leopard Orchid) in the Boranup Burn.

The ADORP ([Adopt an Orchid Project](#)) project is a WANOSCG and DBCA initiative initially overseen by Kim Hanson and Andrew Brown and, more recently by Kevin Uhe, in which certain Priority orchids are selected for ongoing surveys. The information provides invaluable science-based data which assists DBCA in the management of our native orchids. The people who do the annual surveys are volunteers and are supported by DBCA. Major volunteer interest and input comes from WANOSCG ([Western Australian Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group](#)) but also from members of wildflower organisations and volunteers in general.

A team of Ann Storrie, Sue Morrison, Lindsay Cahill, Roj Jones, Matt Jones, Graeme Howie and I were kept busy in 2022 surveying and logging three ADORP orchids or Priority (WA State listed) orchids. Fortunately, we had the extra assistance of Andrew Brown, Ben Lullfitz, Kevin Uhe, Greg Bussell and Graham Walker on the 2 occasions we did surveys in the Boranup burn. There are always orchid ID issues and the extra presence of these people added further accuracy to our recordings.

Starting in Meelup our first ADORP survey was *Caladenia caesarea* subsp. *maritima*, the Cape Mustard Orchid. We have data going back several years, but none post burn. There were no Cape Mustards seen in the hotter parts of the burn, but an average number were seen in an area of low heath, where the burn would have been of a lower intensity. In the adjacent non-burnt areas, the numbers counted and logged were similar to a “normal season”.



Our second ADORP survey was quite extraordinary. *Caladenia ambusta*, Boranup spider, named in reference to burns, was prolific and a new population was recorded.

Our third ADORP survey was *Caladenia abbreviata*, the Coastal Spider. Once again, the prolific response to fire was amazing.

As nearly all of these were new populations, photos were needed to confirm their ID, GPS points to confirm location, and numerous TPRF forms to be filled in.

Regrowth within the Boranup Forest has been vigorous and will limit our access for surveys in 2023.

There were some other interesting finds.

*Eriochilus scaber* subsp. *scaber*, the Pink Bunny Orchid was no surprise, but there were some leaves seen in Meelup that resembled a rare form of the pink Bunny, *Eriochilus scaber* subsp. *orbifolius*, the Rounded Leaf Bunny Orchid. Opinion as to whether this was the rare form was divided.

*Diuris setacea*, the Bristly Donkey, was a treat to see in large numbers. A rarer form, *Diuris filifolia*, characterised by a straight leaf was perhaps present, but once again, opinion was divided.

The Mauve Rare Orchid was seen at the margin of the Boranup burn. A delightful sight, being an intergeneric cross of a *Cyanicula sericea* and an *Elythranthera brunonis* resulting in a named hybrid × *Cyanthera glossodioides*. It boasted an open flower and a bud, but by next morning the kangaroos had moved in and it could only boast a stem and leaf.

Whilst it was a lot of fun to see the amazing response to fire, including orchids not mentioned, the very sad issue of STOLEN orchids in Kings Park was highlighted. Everyone is disappointed this happens, but it is wonderful that so many people care and are so affronted by this behaviour.

All photos provided by Brian Trainer



*Cyanicula sericea*  
Silky Blue Orchid



ADORP PROJECT

*Caladenia canara*  
ssp. *maillata*  
Cape mustard orchid



*C. ambusta*  
Boranup spider  
Thynnid wasp

Please zoom in for details – (scale at bottom right of PDF).



*Cyanicula gemmata*  
Pale China Orchid



*Cyanicula gemmata*  
Blue China Orchid



*Caladenia marginata*  
White Fairy orchid

## Orchidelirium

The news of the theft of 900 critically endangered orchid tubers from King's park in early February has travelled widely. Here is a link to the Canberra Times reporting on this shocking theft. Below is a screen shot; the active link is as follows.

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/8090532/flower-driven-madness-behind-rare-orchid-black-market/?cs=14264&fbclid=IwAR39s97cCZyR-yP4poe03eSHdkG6wvKokyWjDGtOLM9cyQtMkyV0SX55dF4>

Editor

### The Canberra Times

#### Flower-driven 'madness' behind rare orchid black market



Carbanup King Spider Orchid with pollinator : Belinda Davis

**Orchidelirium - a kind of flower-driven madness - is thought to have been behind the recent theft of 900 rare orchids from Kings Park. This article looks at this theft and the dangers to our wild orchids that have been created by this need of some to own rare flora. Read the article [here](#).**

## THE 2023 WANOSCG PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

### A. Topic

Topic: "Your best shot of WA Native Orchid in the field in 2022 or 2023".

### B. Submissions

- Any Member who is current on the Submission Due Date is eligible to enter and/or vote.
- Only electronic submissions permitted:
  1. 'jpeg' file format
  2. File size: MIN: 150 Kbytes MAX: 5 Mbytes
- Two photos may be submitted per eligible member.
- Author's name, subject's species name, approx. location taken, and date taken must be provided with each submission.
- All entrants give consent to have their entry published in the WANOSCG Bulletin, Website and/or Facebook Page.
- Submission may have been taken during calendar years 2022 or 2023.
- Submissions must be emailed to wanoscg@gmail.com, or handed to a Committee Member.
- Submission Due Date: Entries must be received by 16 Oct 2023 (Mon before Oct GM due date).

### C. Voting

- All valid entries will be placed in the Oct/Nov 2023 Bulletin for voting on.
- Eligible Members are permitted a single vote, stating the selected photograph's reference number by email to wanoscg@gmail.com
- All votes due on 13 Nov 2022 (Mon before Nov GM due date).

### D. Winner

- The Winner will be determined by the WANOSCG Committee (who may appoint adjudicators) based on the valid votes.
- Winner declared and prize presented at the November General Meeting due date, 15 November 2023.

### E. Displays

- All valid entries are to be displayed at the Oct GM and Oct/Nov Bulletin.
- Winning photo and runners-up are to be displayed at the Nov GM and posted in the Bulletin, Website and/or Facebook page.

### F. Orchid Conservation and Protection Rule

- Due to the potential to damage habitat and plants, populations of orchids listed as Threatened should not be visited for the sole reason of taking photos for this Photo Competition. If you otherwise happen upon populations during your travels, as part of an ADORP team monitoring these plants or have another official reason to visit populations you may submit photos of these species.

## Orchids Flowering this Month

North South WA	Cons Status	Common Name	Species	Flowering Start	Flowering Finish	Mar	Apr	May	Distribution
S		Winter Spider Orchid	<i>Caladenia drummondii</i>	30-Apr	30-Jun		y	y	Lake King to Nerren Nerren Station
S		Pygmy Orchid	<i>Corunastylis fuscoviridis</i>	15-Mar	31-May	y	y	y	Wagin to Eyre on the Great Australian Bight
S	P2	Peat Helmet Orchid	<i>Corvsanthes autumnalis</i>	30-Apr	31-May		y	y	Under thick vegetation in peat swamps near Walpole
S		Slipper Orchid	<i>Cryptostylis ovata</i>	30-Sep	15-Jun		y	y	Perth to Albany with isolated populations east of Esperance
S		Blunt-leaf Bunny Orchid	<i>Eriochilus dilatatus</i> subsp. <i>brevifolius</i>	15-Apr	15-Jun		y	y	Cataby to Murchison River
S		White Bunny Orchid	<i>Eriochilus dilatatus</i> subsp. <i>dilatatus</i>	15-Mar	31-May	y	y	y	Dirk Hartog Island to Israelite Bay
S		Easter Bunny Orchid	<i>Eriochilus dilatatus</i> subsp. <i>magnus</i>	01-Apr	31-May	y	y	y	Perth to Porongorups
S		Common Bunny Orchid	<i>Eriochilus dilatatus</i> subsp. <i>multiflorus</i>	01-Mar	31-May	y	y	y	Perth to Albany
S	P3	Eastern Bunny Orchid	<i>Eriochilus dilatatus</i> subsp. <i>orientalis</i>	01-Apr	31-May		y	y	Caiguna to Toolinna Cove
S		Swamp Bunny Orchid	<i>Eriochilus helonomos</i>	01-Apr	01-Jun		y	y	Cataby to Cape Riche
S		Granite Bunny Orchid	<i>Eriochilus pulchellus</i>	01-Apr	31-May	y	y	y	Northcliffe to Bremer Bay, also Esperance to Balladonia
S		Red-lipped Bunny Orchid	<i>Eriochilus valens</i>	15-Mar	15-May	y	y	y	Walpole to Albany, also near Munglinup
S		Hare Orchid	<i>Leporella fimbriata</i>	15-Mar	15-Jun	y	y	y	Kalbarri (North of) to Israelite Bay
S		Leafless Orchid	<i>Praecoxanthus aphyllus</i>	01-Mar	31-May	y	y	y	Pinjarra to Esperance
S		Scented Autumn Leek Orchid	<i>Prasophyllum</i> sp. 'early'	15-Apr	30-Jun		y	y	Bunbury to Israelite Bay
S		Banded Greenhood	<i>Pterostylis vittata</i>	15-Apr	30-Sep		y	y	Perth to Balladonia

### 2023 Membership Subscriptions Fees Now Due

This is a reminder as the due date for payment of the annual fees was 31 March 2023.

Options to pay as shown below:

- in person to the Treasurer at a General Meeting, or
- by mail with cheques made out to Western Australian Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group and sent to WANOSCG, PO Box 323, VICTORIA PARK WA 6979, or
- by electronic transfer to the WANOSCG bank account:
  - BSB: 066-173
  - bank name: Commonwealth Bank of Australia
  - account number: 1051 0903

Payment may be made, as noted above, to OUR NEW BANK ACCOUNT AT THE COMMONWEALTH BANK. (Please DO NOT PAY to our superseded Bankwest account.)

If you choose to send money electronically, please identify what the payment is for (e.g. annual fees, nomination fee...) and send a copy of your electronic receipt to [wanoscg@gmail.com](mailto:wanoscg@gmail.com).

**Please Note:** By the end of June all non-paying members will be denied access to correspondence, minutes, Bulletin, Facebook and website.

### Notice of WANOSCG April 2023 General Meeting

We hereby give notice that the next General Meeting of the Western Australian Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group Inc (“the Group”) will take place at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, 19 April 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, 28 April 2023.

### Copyright and Disclaimers

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