



WANOSCG

The Official Bulletin
Of The Western Australian
Native Orchid Study

& Conservation Group Issue 3 - May 2023



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President's Musings May 2023

They're back. Reports are trickling in across social media that the orchid season has well and truly started. Feel free to share your photos on our Facebook site or even pull together a bit of a story for the Bulletin.

Regional Eyes - As there was no nomination for a Conservation Coordinator, we have decided to take a different approach with the management committee generally, with Ramón and myself specifically responding when possible, to orchid conservation issues. However, we need some support, especially to be able to identify issues and threats as they arise in regional areas. We are looking for some members who can be our regional contacts, alerting us to emerging issues so that, where appropriate, we can respond to and build an influence with local government and land managers to try to ensure best possible orchid conservation practices are used to conserve our beloved species. If you are interested drop me line via wanoscg@gmail.com.

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
Librarians	John Ewing and Alison Higgins
Supper Coordinator	Trish Newmann
Webpage Administrator	Ramón Newmann
Facebook Page Administrators	Graham Warren & Nathan Piesse
Perth Metro Field Trip Coordinator	Vacant
Registrar	Ramón Newmann
ADORP Coordinator	Kevin Uhe

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Hidden gems

As I have stated in previous Bulletins, I would like to highlight the breadth and depth of the orchid conservation work many of our members do without any fanfare. I am pleased to say I have already been made aware of a couple of examples where member action has resulted in some excellent orchid conservation outcomes.

However, I am keen to hear more and even if it is a message saying “call me, I have a tale to tell,” then I can chat to you and gather the information for use in the future article.

Metro Field Trip Coordinator

There were no nominations received so the position is still open. There is no obligation to organize field trips around the metro area but rather to ensure that anyone leading a trip is up to speed with the requirements of a trip leader and that attendees’ names and contact information are gathered before the excursion for safety and insurance purposes.

The other reason is to spread the workload under my ongoing mantra that many members making small contributions is the key to the success for our group.

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

Jon Warren
President

Speaker for WANOSCG May 17th Meeting

Title: ‘Orchid Conservation after Eastern Australia’s 2020 Megafires’.

Dr Ryan Phillips – La Trobe University

Ryan Phillips did his PhD at UWA/Kings Park and Botanic Gardens but is now a Senior Lecturer in ecology at La Trobe University in Melbourne. His primary area of research is the ecology, evolution and conservation of species with specialised biotic interactions.

In particular, his research has sought to understand the role of pollinators and mycorrhiza in plant species rarity, and the processes underpinning plant diversification and floral evolution.

His research has a particular focus on the Orchidaceae, including projects in south-western and south-eastern Australia.

Together with the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, he has developed projects on preventing extinction in bushfire affected orchids, and optimising reintroductions of rare species based on knowledge of pollination biology.



Photograph of *Glossodia major* from after the fires. It’s not rare, but it’s a lovely orchid.

2023 WANOSCG MEETING PROGRAM AND ROSTER

As you can see your committee has been busy setting up a program for the year. We are fortunate to have been able to attract some really top-quality speakers, so we encourage all members to value the speakers' contributions by making an effort to get along to the meeting or join us on Zoom.

As previously mentioned, we are making only the presentations available via Zoom, not the general meeting.

If you wish to join us via Zoom you do need to let us know (wanoscg@gmail.com).

Those folk who can attend meetings will also notice there are still some blanks in the raffle prize and supper section so again you can volunteer either via the email or at the meeting. All roster volunteers will be in a draw for a prize at the end of the year.

MONTH	MEETING DATE	MEETING TYPE	SPEAKER/S-TOPIC	SUPPER ROSTER	RAFFLE PRIZE
MARCH	15 TH	AGM	Ramón Newmann (WANOSCG Member). Topic: <i>Lucid Key development progress report.</i>	Pat Richards	Jay Steer
APRIL	19 TH	FORMAL	Jay Steer (WANOSCG Member). Topic: <i>Why orchids flower when they do.</i>	Robyn Foley	Lyn de Ruyter
MAY	17 TH	INFORMAL	Dr Ryan Phillips (Senior Lecturer, La Trobe University). Topic: <i>Orchid Conservation after Eastern Australia's 2020 Megafires. (via Zoom)</i>	Cheryl Gee	David Lawson
JUNE	21 ST	FORMAL	Dr Noushka Reiter (Research Scientist, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria). Topic: <i>to be notified. (via Zoom)</i>	Lyn de Ruyter & Sarah Atkinson	Sarah Atkinson
JULY	19 th	PENDING	Katie and Leanne White (Orchid lovers and artists, Esperance and Nannup). Topic: <i>"Speaking of Orchids" (via Zoom)</i>	David Lawson	Debbie Proudfoot
AUGUST	16 th	INFORMAL	Dr Jacopo Calevo (Adjunct Research Associate, Curtin University). Topic: <i>to be notified.</i>		
AUGUST	23 rd	Special Event	Dr Belinda Davis (Research Scientist, Orchid Conservation) Tour of Kings Park orchid conservation facilities 10.30am	N/A	N/A
SEPTEMBER	20 th	PENDING	Need speaker/s. Current plan is members giving short talks (5-15 minutes) with a few photos.		Ric Woodland
OCTOBER	18 th	PENDING	Octogenarian Evening, celebrating our members who are 80 and over. <i>Orchid quiz night.</i>		Graham Warren
NOVEMBER	15 th	FORMAL	Photo competition results and a short presentation. Eddy Wajon (WANOSCG Member). Topic: <i>Orchids of Lord Howe Island</i>		Cheryl Gee
DECEMBER	2 nd &3 rd	EOY Field trip & Christmas do.	Andrew Brown Leader – Baker's Junction 2 nd Dec Walpole 3 rd Dec. Dinner on Saturday night at Walpole Hotel as Christmas party.	N/A	N/A

Orchid Hub Project – An Orchid Conservation Solution?

Over the past few months, members of the WANOSCG Management Committee have been liaising with Orchids Western Australia (OWA) regarding an innovative orchid conservation project to see if there is a role for WANOSCG and its members.

OWA is made up of various orchid societies and clubs across WA and is working with Dr Kingsley Dixon in the development of the project. The Orchid Hub Project (OHP) is aiming to develop community capacity to propagate our terrestrial native orchids with the view of using the propagated orchids to replenish orchid stocks in bushland.

The project is built on a transitioning science to practice capacity approach. The science of propagating Australia's somewhat fickle terrestrial orchids has made significant advances in recent times and appears to be at the stage where, with the right equipment and training, it could be able to be done in community-based nurseries.

The Orchid Hub Project plans to set up three community-based orchid propagation hubs at key locations in southwest WA to progress this approach. The equipment and project management will not come cheaply but there has already been considerable interest in the project from other organizations.

Central to this interest, and the key to the project going forward, is the involvement of Lotterywest WA. When hearing of the concept, Lotterywest showed enthusiasm for the approach and requested a funding submission, which they are currently assessing. A response is expected over the next 3-4 months.

We are aware that some of our members already know of the project and are keen to be involved. However, in our discussions with OWA, some issues have been identified that will need to be addressed before we believe the project can be successfully implemented.

WANOSCG will continue to fully assess the project and is awaiting further information and progress, particularly funding from Lotterywest, but will keep members informed of any developments.

WANOSCG Management Committee

Pterostylis scabra Green Veined Shell Orchid
Photo – Annie Bowerman



Regional Field Trips

Upcoming Field Trips:

We have had some volunteers to lead field trips in the winter months and I am sure we will have more to add to the next bulletin issue next month. The upcoming Field Trips are:

1. **Ravensthorpe Area; June:**

Mel George has proposed a visit to the Ravensthorpe burn area during the weekdays.

2. **Hyden Area; July/Aug:**

Mel again has offered to organise a trip to see the *Thelymitra speciosa* and *maculata* around the Hyden area. Dates to be confirmed for both trips once numbers of interested participants are known. Register with possible dates suiting your attendance.

3. ***Diuris* ID Field Trips x 4:**

John Ewing has done a great job at setting up a Field Trip and Educational moment for those wishing to identify the *Diuris* genus.

I have attached a separate article detailing the four trips he has proposed. Again, dates to be confirmed for both trips once numbers of interested participants are known. Register with possible dates suiting your attendance.

4. **End of Year Trip:**

Andrew Brown has suggested we have an End of Year Trip to the Albany and Walpole areas on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd December. Please add the dates to your diaries.

The suggested plan is:

- a. Meet at Bakers Junction Reserve at 11 am on the Saturday morning and search the burn.
- b. Stay in the Walpole area that night (just over an hour and a half's drive) and meet for dinner at the Pub.
- c. Sunday, meet north of Walpole on Thompson Road in the morning and spend several hours in the burn area. More detail and accommodation options will be supplied closer to the date.

Potential Day Field Trips and Field Trip Leaders (FTL) Needed:

Noel Clarke Memorial Field Trips:

We still have an opportunity for more field trips using the information from some of Noel Clarke's records and information and we are looking for people to lead a number of small trips to be organised retracing his treks in memory of him and to see if the interesting range of orchids found at those sites are still there. The area to be covered will be:

- 1.1. Shires of York, Beverley, and Brookton
- 1.2. Can be held in the months of August/September/October with more than one trip possible here
- 1.3. Details of the area with GPS data, etc. will be supplied to the Field Trip Leader.

But don't let this stop others from volunteering to be an FTL of your own area that you would like to share. If you are interested, then email me at fieldtrips.wanoscg@gmail.com with dates you would like to participate in one of the trips, or lead a trip, and I will confirm these with you once we have some numbers of interest.

Happy orchid hunting, stay safe and keep those field trip ideas rolling in.

Graham Warren
Field Trip Co-ordinator

Diuris ID Field Trip with John Ewing

There are a total 53 *Diuris* species noted in recent WA Field Guides. There are 31 species in the *corymbosa* complex, 20 in the *laxiflora* complex and two in the *laevis* complex. John Ewing is proposing to lead four main field trips and some supplementary Perth region trips to enable members who wish to learn more about identifying each of the *Diuris* species.

The field trips are designed mostly for newer members, but anyone who would like to join in is invited to come. Depending on who and how many sign up, e.g., if some can only come on weekends and not midweek, depending on the weather, the proposed times and places for trips are:

1. Late July (3rd week) – 1-day trip to Moora, including a couple of side roads
2. Early September (2nd week) – 3-day trip up as far as Kalbarri – this will mean two overnights
3. Late September (4th week) – 2-day trip to Augusta and returning via the wheatbelt one overnight
4. Mid-October (2nd or 3rd week) – 3-day trip via Albany and a winding route home – two overnights.

All dates to be confirmed one month before actual trip once interested party numbers are verified.

The Field Trip Leader will assume that participants have read and studied the three documents listed below that will be supplied upon registration:

- *Diuris* of WA ID
- *Diuris corymbosa* key by species features
- *Diuris laxiflora* key by species features
- Field Data Sheet to record information gathered.

These documents will be provided to participants along with instructions on the day about how to fill in the data sheet. Depending on numbers, all participants will work in pairs or threes and, for each population of each species seen, they will then analyse the data measured. From this they should be able to conclude which species it is and be able to discuss with others why that is their conclusion.

While other species of orchids are sure to be seen on the trips, the focus will be on *Diuris* ID. In addition, a few other *Diuris* species will not fit into our timetable and locations. However, altogether, it is expected that over 40 of the *Diuris* species will be seen, studied and identified.

If you think you would be interested in coming along to one or more of these studies, please contact Graham Warren as soon as you can. Email fieldtrips.wanoscg@gmail.com to register your interest. Once that is done you will be put in touch with John Ewing to be sent the documents for reading and to discuss any questions re the trips with John.

Graham



Orchids Flowering This Month

North South WA	Cons Status	Common Name	Species	Flowering Start	Flowering Finish	Distribution
S		Winter Spider Orchid	<i>Caladenia drummondii</i>	30-Apr	30-Jun	Lake King to Nerren Nerren Station
S		Pygmy Orchid	<i>Corunastylis fuscoviridis</i>	15-Mar	31-May	Wagin to Eyre on the Great Australian Bight
S	P2	Peat Helmet Orchid	<i>Corysanthes autumnalis</i>	30-Apr	31-May	Under thick vegetation in peat swamps near Walpole
S		Slipper Orchid	<i>Cryptostylis ovata</i>	30-Sep	15-Jun	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	Cataby to Murchison River
S		White Bunny Orchid	<i>Eriochilus dilatatus</i> subsp. <i>dilatatus</i>	15-Mar	31-May	Dirk Hartog Island to Israelite Bay
S		Easter Bunny Orchid	<i>Eriochilus dilatatus</i> subsp. <i>magnus</i>	1-Apr	31-May	Perth to Porongorups
S		Common Bunny Orchid	<i>Eriochilus dilatatus</i> subsp. <i>multiflorus</i>	1-Mar	31-May	Perth to Albany
S	P3	Eastern Bunny Orchid	<i>Eriochilus dilatatus</i> subsp. <i>orientalis</i>	1-Apr	31-May	Caiguna to Toolinna Cove
S		Swamp Bunny Orchid	<i>Eriochilus belonomos</i>	1-Apr	1-Jun	Cataby to Cape Riche
S		Granite Bunny Orchid	<i>Eriochilus pulchellus</i>	1-Apr	31-May	Northcliffe to Bremer Bay, also Esperance to Balladonia
S		Red-lipped Bunny Orchid	<i>Eriochilus valens</i>	15-Mar	15-May	Walpole to Albany, also near Munglinup
S		Hare Orchid	<i>Leporella fimbriata</i>	15-Mar	15-Jun	Kalbarri (North of) to Israelite Bay
S		Blue Fairy Orchid	<i>Pheladenia deformis</i>	31-May	31-Oct	Murchison River to Israelite bay
S		Leafless Orchid	<i>Praecoxanthus aphyllus</i>	1-Mar	31-May	Pinjarra to Esperance
S		Scented Autumn Leek Orchid	<i>Prasophyllum</i> sp. 'early'	15-Apr	30-Jun	Bunbury to Israelite Bay
S		Narrow Hooded Shell Orchid	<i>Pterostylis angusta</i>	15-May	31-Jul	Stirling Range to Brookton
S		Brown-veined Shell Orchid	<i>Pterostylis aspera</i>	15-May	31-Jul	Dongara to Jerramungup
S		Robust Snail Orchid	<i>Pterostylis dilatata</i>	15-May	31-Aug	Geraldton to Toolinna Cove
S		Red-veined Shell Orchid	<i>Pterostylis hamiltonii</i>	15-May	15-Aug	Toodyay to Stirling Range
S		Green-veined Shell Orchid	<i>Pterostylis scabra</i>	1-May	31-Aug	Kalbarri to Esperance
S		Northern Banded Greenhood	<i>Pterostylis</i> sp. 'northern'	31-May	31-Jul	Cataby to Binu
S		Banded Greenhood	<i>Pterostylis vittata</i>	15-Apr	30-Sep	Perth to Balladonia
S	T	Underground Orchid	<i>Rhizanthella gardneri</i>	15-May	15-Jun	Babakin to Corrigin, Central Wheatbelt
S	P4	Cleopatra's Needles	<i>Thelymitra apiculata</i>	31-May	31-Jul	Mogumber to Encabba

2023 Membership Subscription Fees now due

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

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



Caladenia nana subsp. *nana* Little Pink Fan Orchid - Photo Annie Bowerman

Notice of WANOSCG May 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, May 17th 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.

Due date for articles for the June issue will be Friday, June 2nd 2023.

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