



# WANOSCG

The Official Bulletin  
Of The Western Australian  
Native Orchid Study &  
Conservation Group  
Issue 6 - August 2023



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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:

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Conservation Officer	Vacant
Membership Officer	Jay Steer
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Perth Metro Field Trip Coordinator	Vacant
Registrar	Ramón Newmann
ADORP Coordinator	Kevin Uhe

## Vale Gail Reed

News has been received that Gail Reed, a former member of WANOSCG and a well-known orchid enthusiast, passed away in July. During Gail's time as a WANOSCG member she helped on field trips around the Eneabba, Arrowsmith and Wongan Hills area, readily providing interesting locations to look at. Gail also was a member of ADORP and assisted in a number of surveys for Priority and Threatened orchids.

Due to Gail's effort, a population of *Caladenia cristata* was protected from a road upgrade and she was actively involved in searching and locating many new populations of orchids and other rare plant species. Gail was also a keen photographer and posted many photos on Facebook for all to enjoy as well as contributing photographs to the WANOSCG website.

Jon Warren

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## President's Musing August

I have been reflecting on the wonderful and varied presentations we have been lucky enough to have this year and wondering how we can match it next year. If you have any ideas or contacts, please let the committee know.

We have a couple of wonderful volunteers for the September 'have an orchid chat, but need some more'. Please consider it as it only needs to be 5-10 minutes long and can be on any orchid related topic.

A reminder that, if you find or think you have found a Threatened or Priority orchid, drop us a line on [wanoscg@gmail.com](mailto:wanoscg@gmail.com). You don't have to give details but just alert us to the finding and we will get in touch with you to take the necessary steps to report formally.

Remember it is this information that is vital in our conservation work because, if these species' locations are not listed in the databases, then there is no way they can be protected should some development activity be mooted in the location.

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

Jon Warren - President



*Drakaea glyptodon* - King In His Carriage  
Photo – Annie Bowerman

### Official Speaker for the August Meeting – Dr Jacopo Calevo

#### Title: Is climate change the major threat to orchid persistence?

With this presentation we will explore the major threats to orchids with a particular focus on the effect of climate change on orchids' distribution (in particular Western Australian Spider Orchids) from Mediterranean-like environments.

Brief bio: Dr. Jacopo Calevo

Jacopo Calevo did his PhD at the University of Turin (Italy) in collaboration with the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (UK).

He is now a Marie-Curie global postdoctoral fellow at the royal Botanic Gardens Kew and associate at Curtin University, where he is mainly exploring the effect of climate change on orchids and their mycorrhizal fungi, with particular focus on the orchid genus *Caladenia*.

His research has particularly focused on Orchidaceae and their association with mycorrhizal fungi from Mediterranean climatic regions to better understand ecological drivers of orchid rarity and distribution, and to better address conservation efforts.

Since 2022 he is co-chair of the *in-situ* subgroup of the IUCN Orchid Specialist Group and he took part in several conservation projects including the 5-years European LIFEorchids project, for which he is now scientific advisor, aimed at conserving orchids and their habitats from Italy and the Czech Republic.



## ADORP NEWS

Welcome to Chris Gostelow who has become the latest member to join ADORP and it is pleasing that new members are still keen to participate in the project.

With the recent completion of the 2022/2023 financial year ADORP volunteers recorded a total of 6,470 hours for the twelve months, for a progressive total since the project commenced in 2011 of 37,509 hours.

Even though we are a small project compared to many other DBCA volunteer projects, it still reflects the huge effort put in by volunteers who regularly give up time to survey some of our most at-risk orchids. A total of 49 ADORP volunteers will be eligible for the various DBCA volunteer awards which should be mailed out in August.

Surveys for *Thelymitra apiculata* have been completed with fewer recorded plants this year. Surveying for this species has been hampered by a very wet and cold June and the flowering of many populations.

Surveys for other early flowering species will start over the month of August with teams starting to organise survey dates and possible new locations to investigate.

Kevin Uhe



### ESPERANCE IN JULY – Varena Hardy

Geoff and I are back in Esperance for about 6 weeks, so the orchids have been searched out high & low!

This time around I have a long list of places to visit, as I now know the area after we spent nearly 18 months here from late 2020 to April 2022. The weather so far has been a mixed bag, but the locals are saying it seems to be much wetter this year. Some of my "target" spots are currently closed due to flooded roads.

Still, I have 100+ more places to look in; I won't run out of spots and, of course, checking out new areas is high on my agenda too.

Esperance is on the cusp of blooming madly and most orchids will be in their full glory just after we leave. Isn't that the way it goes...you are either too early or too late. But still, I have been very happy with the finds so far and have everything crossed for more before we leave.

We, that is Geoff, my "eyes," and Kathy, my "local" guru, have searched granites, sand, limestone, mallee, and *casuarina*, both coastal and inland. We have had some success and a lot of "not much".

Here are a few photos of our finds since late June.





*Pterostylis mutica*  
Midget Greenhood



*Pterostylis rogersii* - Curled-tongue Shell



*Pterostylis timothyi* - Brittle Snail



*Pterostylis sanguinea* -  
Dark Banded Greenhood



*Diuris littoralis* -  
Green Range Donkey Orchid



*Pterostylis brevichila* -  
Dwarf Shell Orchid

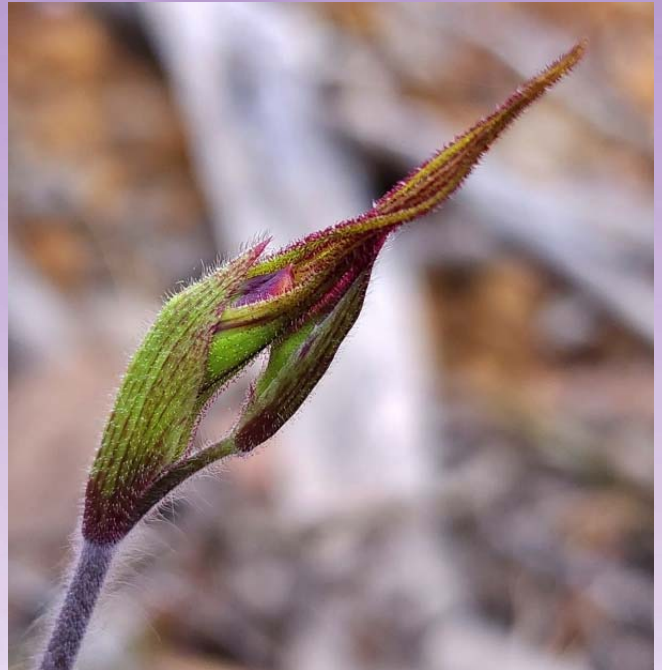
The greenhoods are everywhere, as too are the hare and red beak leaves (no surprise there). We have started seeing other orchids coming on, some donkeys, snails, and the spiders are SO close to “popping” open.

I was surprised at finding the midget greenhood out, and rattle beak buds already.

This part of WA is a beautiful location and well worth a visit for many other reasons than orchids. Yes, there is life other than these beauties - I keeping telling myself this!

Varena.





Esperance in July,  
continued.....

Above left,  
*Lyperanthus serratus* –  
Rattle Beak

Above centre,  
*Pterostylis parva* –  
Fawn Snail Orchid

Above right,  
*Caladenia sigmoidea* –  
Sigmoid Spider buds

Left,  
*Diuris brockmanii* –  
South Coast Donkey

Right - *Caladenia* Sp.

### Bill Burton...Continued – Andrew Brown

Further to the Editor's short article on Bill Burton in the July 2023 Bulletin (incorrectly attributed to Ramón Newmann), many of you are probably not aware that Bill was in fact the first to discover *Paracaleana lyonsii*. This occurred several years prior to Mike Lyons (after whom the orchid is named) collecting the species in flower and showing it to Steve and me. Bill found the species in early bud and took a specimen which he placed in a vase. When he showed it to me several days after he had collected it, I could recognise the small buds as belonging to a *Paracaleana* species but it was like nothing I had seen before. There were five buds on a long scape, quite different from the other *Paracaleana* species found in WA, which had just one or two flowers on a short scape. It was obviously a new species, but I need more information, including open flowers and a location.

Unfortunately, Bill could not recall where he had collected it, thinking it may have been near Eneabba or somewhere north of the Murchison River, and the buds did not develop fully before the specimen shrivelled and died.

When Mike Lyons showed me a flowering specimen several years later, I immediately recognised it as being the same species Bill had shown me and, given Mike had collected it north of the Murchison River, it is likely that was the same general area where Bill had seen it.

So, a mystery partly solved. I say partly as, although Bill most likely collected it north of the Murchison River, I guess it is still possible, although unlikely, he found it near Eneabba.



## DISA BRACTEATA – PHENOLOGY, USES AND ABUSES

As some of you would know, we (Donna and Eddy Wajon) own two bush blocks, Mondurup View (46 ha) in Tenterden and Chingarrup Sanctuary (572 ha) in Boxwood Hill. These are conservation-covenanted blocks purchased specifically for the conservation of native flora and fauna. We survey and manage these blocks to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the species of flora and fauna present on the properties, and to eradicate non-native, alien species of flora and fauna. We also plant locally native vegetation to revegetate degraded or cleared parts of the land.

In the 20 years we have owned the two properties, we have documented and/or identified about 390 species of flora and 250 species of fauna at Mondurup View, and about 660 species of flora and 840 species of fauna at Chingarrup Sanctuary. This includes 56 orchid species at Mondurup View and 48 orchid species at Chingarrup Sanctuary. In addition to this, we have a number of alien flora and fauna (including cats, foxes and rabbits). One of the alien flora species we have is *Disa bracteata*, the South African Orchid; another is Bridal Creeper.

Donna loves to hate *Disa bracteata*. *Disa bracteata* is the most common orchid on both of our properties, so Donna spends a lot of time digging them up. She is now expert at removing them completely, and collects the entire plant, tuber and all, in a bucket for offsite disposal.

Between July and November 2022, Donna dug up more than 4,000 *Disa bracteata* tubers at Mondurup View and about 1,000 at Chingarrup Sanctuary. As an experiment, we separated the tubers from about 300 plants at Chingarrup Sanctuary at the end October and washed them (Photo 372) and dried them (Photo 374). The tubers were obovoid in shape (ie upside down egg-shaped) and varied in size from 10 mm to 35 mm long (Photo 375). We separated 10 or so of the biggest tubers from the others.

We roasted about 100 of the smaller tubers in butter and chicken stock powder in a frying pan (Photo 376), and boiled about 100 of them in water. Eddy directly ate a number of the roasted and boiled tubers with his dinner, and ate some mixed with other cooked vegetables. The tubers were palatable, but very bland and unappetising. Frying them with lots of spices might improve the taste.

The 10 big tubers and the remainder of the smaller tubers were put in two separate plastic zip-lock bags and brought home, where they were left undisturbed and unopened on the top of a bench.



Image 372



Image 374



Image 375



Image 376



Image 5647



Image 5649



Image 5693



Image 5799



In April 2023, the tubers in the plastic zip-lock bags began to sprout (Photos 5647 and 5649). By June 2023, long shoots had appeared at the top of the tubers while they were still in the zip-lock bags (Photos 5693 and 5799). This surprised us greatly, considering the plants were not in contact with, or beneath, any soil or fungi. We wondered what factors had stimulated germination. Noting that we have a passive solar home that has a relatively uniform temperature, was it temperature? Bearing in mind that we close our curtains before dusk and don't re-open them until 0700 every morning, was it daylight hours?

Given that Jay Steer is investigating the life and times of orchids, particularly to determine factors that influence flowering, we have given him the entire batch of germinating tubers. He plans to plant them and see what happens. Where else can you get that many orchid tubers to experiment on but from alien orchids that nobody wants in the bush anyway?

*Disa* is a big orchid genus. Most of the species are indigenous to tropical and southern Africa, with a few more in the Arabian Peninsula and Madagascar (this and following information from Wikipedia). Some *Disa* species are very attractive, not at all like the very unattractive *Disa bracteata*. *Disa uniflora* is well known as an ornamental. It is a spectacular red orchid known as "The Pride of Table Mountain." Other commonly cultivated *Disa* species include *D. aurata*, *D. cardinalis*, *D. crassicornis*, *D. racemosa*, *D. sagittalis* and *D. tripetaloides*.

In some parts of the world, particularly Turkey, tubers of some Orchis and other orchid species are ground into a flour which is included in drinks and sweet foods. An extract from these tubers is also mixed with ice cream to produce tough and stretchy elasticised ice cream called salep, Sahlep or sahlab.

Unfortunately, all wild ground orchid populations in many parts of Turkey have suffered through over-harvesting and are becoming rare due to unsustainable harvesting for salep. The product is now banned for export from that region. To meet the demand within Turkey, collecting has extended into neighbouring countries with potentially similar results.

Indigenous people in Australia also harvested native orchid tubers as a source of starch, though this is now illegal or strongly discouraged.

We look forward to the results of Jay's studies. We will also keep experimenting with making *Disa bracteata* more appetising to eat. That way we won't have any compunction and a good reason to drive this alien orchid to extinction on our properties.

Eddy and Donna Wajon

## Regional Field Trips

The upcoming field trips are;

### 1. *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. A separate article was attached to the May Bulletin detailing the four trips he has proposed. Some dates have been set for the trips (other dates to be confirmed) once numbers of interested participants are known. Register with possible dates suiting your attendance.

- a) To be on 9<sup>th</sup> August as a 1-day trip to Moora, including a couple of side roads, **Fully Booked.**
- b) Early September (2<sup>nd</sup> week) – 3-day trip up as far as Kalbarri – this will mean 2 overnights, spaces available.
- c) Late September (4<sup>th</sup> week) – 2-day trip to Augusta and returning via the Wheatbelt one overnight, spaces available.
- d) Mid-October (2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week) – 3-day via Albany and a winding route home – 2 overnights, spaces available.

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

### 2. Noel Clarke Memorial Field Trips

We are trying a different approach to the commemorative field trips that targets orchid conservation and information under a mutual obligation process. The process is simple:

For this year WANOSCG obligation is to provide a member with a package of sites that Noel had visited in and around the Wandoo National Park east of Perth.

The member’s obligation is as follows:

- Let the Field Trip Coordinator know of your interest.
- Take on the role as field trip leader.
- We have put together five packages to date, with data to assist those that would like to participate either with a group or on your own to retrace Noel’s footsteps.
- Round up 2-10 fellow members to join you.
- Car-pool to limit number of vehicles.
- Visit the sites and record orchids found.
- If not confident with the identification use photos and appropriate measurements.
- After the visit prepare a short report, with photographs, for the WANOSCG bulletin.
- Report orchid finds information via the WANOSCG database spreadsheet.
- Both reports to be submitted to the Field Trip Coordinator.

Once you have the package then you can visit the site whenever you and your fellow members wish but packages are best around September to November.

We will leave it to the Group to go whenever suits them.

To date we have three people and possibly a fourth to be confirmed to complete some of these trips, a big thank you to:

- a) Peter Gee, 3<sup>rd</sup> September, and
- b) Ric Woodland on 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> August,
- c) Paul Armstrong, date to be confirmed,
- d) Still room for others to participate or register to attend with Peter or Paul.

### 3. End of Year Trip

Andrew Brown will lead an End of Year Trip to Albany and Walpole on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Please add the dates to your diaries and remember accommodation availability at that time of year can be scarce, so book early.

The plan is:

- a) Meet at Bakers Junction Reserve at 10:45 a.m. 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 6 p.m., location to be decided.
- c) Sunday, meet north of Walpole on Thompson Road in the morning and spend several hours in the burn area. More detail will be supplied closer to the date.



#### 4. Eddy Wajon's 70th Birthday

Eddy has kindly invited the club to attend his 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration over the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 as a Field Trip. For this I will need a Field Trip Leader (FTL) to lead the trip over the three days or three FTL to take a day each.

Below is a copy of the invitation with RSVP details to Eddy and Donna re your attendance at the Birthday Celebration and you will also need to register your attendance as well using the Field Trip Co-Ordinator's email address at the end of this bulletin article. Once you have registered with me, I will pass on the amazing program that Eddy and Donna have set up for the three days. Contact me for the accommodation information.

(In need of a Field Trip Leader for this trip.)

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Eddy and Donna Wajon request the pleasure of your company to celebrate Eddy's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 643 Boxwood Hill-Ongerup Road, Boxwood Hill.

Indigenous-themed BBQ Birthday Lunch served on Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 12:00 noon.

Please bring your own picnic table, chair, plate, cutlery and glassware. Unlimited free accommodation is available on the property in your own fully self-catered caravan or campsite around/near the shed.

A camper's kitchen, rainwater tank, wood stove, gas barbeque, gas stove, cold-water shower and three chemical toilets available at the shed. Electricity is available in the shed for appliances.

Telstra mobile phone reception available. Guided drives and walks and other activities on the property planned.

RSVP: 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023

Phone 9310 2936 or 0428 345 231 OR email: [wajonpub@bigpond.com](mailto:wajonpub@bigpond.com)

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#### 5. Walpole Wilderness BioBlitz 2023



- a. We have been notified that the WWBB 2023 registrations now open.
- b. Registrations are now open for the WWBB 2023 to be held on the 30th September and 1st October 2023. You can register by clicking here [Register for the WWBB 2023 here](#).
- c. You also need to contact me and register your interest as well.
- d. Below is some info on what they are doing; much more info on the web page, noted above.

*This year we will be focusing on the Ranges Tangle and Red Flowering Gum forests of the Soho Hills area, about a 50-minute drive from Walpole.*

*The format will be similar to previous years with surveys conducted over 3 sessions (Saturday morning/afternoon and Sunday morning) with a briefing on the Friday evening and a dinner on the Saturday night.*

*The area is accessible only by 4WD vehicles so we will be organising car-pooling for those of you without a 4WD. The road has some pot-holes, rocky areas and a small patch of sand but is a relatively easy drive.*

*The timetable and maps will be sent out to registrants in the lead-up to the event.*

*We look forward to seeing you in Spring.*



So it's great we have some field trips on the go and have started to complete some, but don't let this stop you from volunteering to be an FTL in your own area; I am sure others would like to share your local knowledge. If you are interested in attending or leading a trip, then email me at [fieldtrips.wanoscg@gmail.com](mailto: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 interested.

**Note:**

Just a quick note asking for help. When emailing me your interest to attend a field trip, please include the **Trip Name in the Subject** of the email and include your **Full name and Contact Number** with an **Emergency Contact Name and Phone Number** in the email.

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

Graham W.

Field Trip Coordinator

## THE 2023 WANOSCG PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION (Reminder)

### A. Topic

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

### B. Submissions

- Any member whose membership 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, approximate 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](mailto:wanoscg@gmail.com), or handed to a WANOSCG committee member.
- Submission due date: Entries must be received by 16th October 2023 (Monday before October GM due date).

### C. Voting

- All valid entries will be placed in the October/November 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](mailto:wanoscg@gmail.com)
- All votes due on 13th November 2022 (Monday before November GM due date).
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### 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, 15th November 2023.

### E. Displays

- All valid entries are to be displayed at the October GM and October/November Bulletin.
- Winning photo and runners-up are to be displayed at the November GM and posted in the Bulletin, WANOSCG 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.



## Notice of WANOSCG August 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, 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

The official speaker for the August meeting is Dr Jacopo Calevo.  
Topic: Is Climate Change the major threat to orchid persistence?

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

### WHAT’S FLOWERING THIS MONTH

**UPDATED FLOWERING CHARTS – 2023.** including updated species names in the Members Only area.

<https://wanoscg.com/flowering-this-month/>



*Cyanicula sericea* - Silky Blue Orchid Photo: Annie Bowerman

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

Due date for articles for the September issue will be Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023.

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