



ADORP 2011-2020

The beginning

- Kim & Thea Hanson were the architects of WA's Adopt an Orchid Project (ADORP) in 2010 with their wish that WA Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group (Inc.) (WANOSCG) become more involved with the conservation of orchids. They spent considerable time from 2010 to the launch of ADORP in 2011 to set up the project in collaboration with Andrew Brown who took on the role of the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) coordinator until his retirement.
- DBCA did not and still do not have the resources to devote to surveying priority orchids and it was this void that ADORP was formed to fill.
- ADORP's mission statement is to obtain better knowledge of the ecology, biology and status of Priority orchid flora in order to gain information needed to improve their conservation in the wild.
- ADORP has grown from this small beginning to involve many members including many regional members with teams based in Albany, Bunbury, the Capes region, Narrogin and until recently Kalbarri.

How does ADORP work?

- Teams of up to six people select a priority orchid to “adopt” and are supplied with an information pack which includes location information, habitat information, species descriptions with photographs and reporting sheets.
- Teams monitor known populations and after learning the habitats try and locate new populations.
- Threatened and Priority Flora reports (TPRF’s) are filled out including location description, GPS readings, plant numbers, threats and habitat information. These are forwarded to the WANOSCG co-ordinator for checking prior to sending to the DBCA co-ordinator for entering into their corporate database.
- All ADORP members are registered DBCA volunteers which covers them under the DBCA volunteer insurance.

Achievements 2011- 2020

- Total of 23,384 volunteer hours to 31/12/2020.
- Involved over 90 volunteers (currently 69 active volunteers)
- Started with 10 species in 2011, in 2020 now 39 species plus others on ad hoc surveys.
- 2 species upgraded to Threatened with one in progress.
- 2 species added to Priority list.
- 2 species downgraded on the Priority list.
- In 2020 prepared and submitted 265 TPRF's.
- In 2020 found 58 new populations/sub populations.

Taxa under survey

- *Caladenia abbreviata*
- *Caladenia ambusta*
- *Caladenia applanata* subsp *erubescens*
- *Caladenia bigeminata*
- *Caladenia caesarea* subsp *maritima*
- *Caladenia caesarea* subsp *tranisens*
- *Caladenia cristata*
- *Caladenia denticulata* subsp *albicans*
- *Caladenia dundasiae*
- *Caladenia erythrochila*
- *Caladenia exilis* subsp *vanleeuwenii*
- *Caladenia granitora*
- *Caladenia luteola*
- *Caladenia nivalis*
- *Caladenia perangusta*
- *Caladenia pholcoidea* subsp *augustensis*
- *Caladenia postea*
- *Caladenia startiorum*

Caladenia swatsiorum
Caladenia uliginosa subsp *patulens*
Caladenia validinervia
Caloshilus sp Boyup Brook
Diuris brevis
Diuris eburnea
Diuris oraria
Diuris heberlei
Drakaea elastica
Paracaleana alcockii
Paracaleana gracilicordata
Paracaleana granitica
Prasophyllum paulinea
Prasophyllum paulinea
Pterostylis frenchii
Pterostylis hadra
Pterostylis heberlei
Thelymitra dedmaniarum

Thelymitra jacksonii
Thelymitra magnifica
Thelymitra sp Ongerup
Thelymitra stellata
Thelymitra variegata
Thelymitra yorkensis

Ad hoc Surveys

Caladenia integra
Corybas limpidus
Diuris recurva
Thelymitra apiculata
Thelymitra pulcherrima

Remote country taxa

Other fire stimulated taxa

Caladenia abbreviata

Found 13 new populations.

Currently over 25 populations.

Most populations small.

Two very large populations on private property found since 2018.

Could be downgraded to Priority 4 in the future if more locations found.

Large areas of suitable habitat remain.



Caladenia cristata

One new population found

3 new sub populations found

Eastern Populations very small and affected by salinity

Previous large population declining due to salinity

Another population expanding into new areas and greater numbers

Possible future upgrade to Threatened



Caladenia dundasiae

Found 2 new populations

4 populations on private property and 1 in a reserve.

Plant numbers are very good after early winter rain

Stable populations but stay as Priority 1 given only one population on land managed for conservation

Survey every 2 years and look for new populations in the other years



Caladenia postea

4 new populations found

Restricted habitat

Severe damage to area by pigs in 2019 and 2020 to a number of populations

Other threats – off road vehicles, over visitation, inappropriate fire practices.

Possible upgrade to Threatened in future



Caladenia startiorum

3 new populations found

Limited distribution and small number of populations

Despite extensive searches no new populations found outside the current known locations

Flowers in greater number after fire

Possible upgrade to Threatened with more data



Caladenia swartziorum

4 new populations found

Downgraded to Priority 2

Secure tenure, one on shire land, one on a DBCA Reserve and three populations on DBCA managed lands

Threats includes weed competition and off road activities at two of the larger sites plus prescribed burning activities



Caladenia uliginosa subsp. patulens

3 new populations found

Most populations very small

Most populations under threat from fires and weed incursion.

One population now secured behind fencing which has stopped rubbish dumping in the area

Should be considered for Threatened going forward



Paracaleana gracilicordata & granitica

4 new populations found

Many granite rocks in the area have been surveyed

Good numbers of plants in right seasons

Some populations are threatened with off road vehicles

Drying climate could affect moss beds

Resolution of taxonomic issues due to intermediate forms



Thelymitra yorkensis

5 new populations found

Most populations are small in number and quite isolated from each other

Threats include over enthusiastic orchid hunters, habitat incursion by pigs, inappropriate fire regimes and low pollination rates

Limited habitat

Possible upgrade to Threatened as further data is gathered



Pterostylis frenchii

6 new populations/sub populations found

Mixture of road reserves, National Parks and Government land

Some populations suffering from a fungal disease, weed competition and habitat clearing

Late flowering and often overlooked by most people

Some populations have not reappeared since the large Waroona fires



Thelymitra variegata

Bunbury population very low numbers and declining

Albany numbers in contrast are increasing

Over visitation at both Bunbury and Albany sites is becoming a big issue

Old populations along west coast either extinct or not seen for many years

Work being done to propagate seeds from both populations by Kings Park

Are Bunbury and Albany populations the same?



Thelymitra magnifica

One new sub population found & one new population found by others

Under 100 plants known

Nominated for Threatened in 2019 round and being progressed under the new Biodiversity Act

Limited habitat

Many threats including frequent fires, urban pressures, weeds and illegal track jumps being established near orchids

Visitation pressures on the most popular populations having an impact on surrounding vegetation



Thelymitra sp. Ongerup

22 new populations/sub populations found

Downgraded to Priority 3 from Priority 2

Mixture of road reserves and nature reserves

Expansion of flowering areas outside of
Ongerup

Flowering heavily dependant on good spring
rainfall. Some areas suffering from recent
drought in the Jerramungup area

Resolution of taxonomy to enable species to
be formally described



Thelymitra jacksonii

14 new populations/sub populations found plus relocating 2 old locations.

Mixture of road reserves and National Parks

Individual population numbers in most cases very low (less than 5 plants)

4 largest populations have 64% of the plants

Fragmented populations and low total overall plant numbers (less than 250)

Resolution of habitat preferences

Possible nomination for Threatened once further surveys undertaken



Where to from here?

- Important to keep monitoring going forward in case population dynamics change. A number of populations having ongoing threatening processes
- Ongoing data will assist in preparation of future Threatened nominations and Priority listing changes
- Species will continue to be added to Priority list which will require surveys to ascertain population sizes/ threats.
- Important to record other Priority species that are not currently under active survey – mainly Priority 4 to ascertain current status
- Investigating orchid populations that could be added to Priority lists



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