

PURPOSE of FIELD TRIPS

- Enjoy, with other like-minded people, orchids in the wild
- Learning and education
 - identification, learning the fragility & difficulty of growing, orchid/bushland etiquette, normal growing condition, training for Wild Orchid Watch
- Photograph
 - opportunities, photographic competition
- Conservation
 - develop an understanding of orchid conservation, how they fit into the environment, scientific information gathering, recording orchid distribution & phenology.

People interested in protecting the rarer orchids, need to contact the Conservation Officer for information on how they can help.

PRINCIPLES of FIELD TRIPS

- It is illegal to collect any part of an orchid
- Avoid sensitive sites
 - Field trips will **not** be planned to sites known to have threatened orchids for which knowledge of the location places the orchids at increased risk of harm/extinction.
- Respect environment and people
 - Avoid damage to the surrounding bush/plants
 - Minimal impact – as much as is possible, leave the site as found
- Minimize spread of phytophthora



Bushland Etiquette

- Look for orchids along the roadsides
 - interesting orchid finds are often made in gutters or roadside verges
- Follow marked trails or well-pounded kangaroo tracks
- Endeavour to walk in single file
 - to minimise damage to soil structure, plant life, leaf litter and animal inhabitants.
- Watch where you put your feet
 - avoid treading on plants

Handling orchids

- Weeding around the orchid is not recommended.
- Avoid handling orchids or disturbing the surrounding soil and vegetation
 - Remember that prickly vegetation, branches and leaf litter all help survival by fertilizing, keeping kangaroos at bay and or preventing sun damage.
- To ensure the safety of the orchid, ensure that only a few people gather around it at any one time.
- Do not interfere with, or remove, cages or tags of orchids

Photograph Etiquette

When taking photographs

- Watch where you step
 - do not rush to an orchid but look first before stepping
- Avoid lying on the surrounding vegetation
- Have someone to gently hold back any vegetation in the way of your photograph.
- Show respect to others when taking photographs by-
 - Not rushing others
 - Waiting until others have finished should you want to take some time to get your perfect photo (competition winner perhaps)

DO NOT remove cages for orchid photography or interfere with any tagged plants.

PREVENTION OF SPREAD OF PHYTOPHTHORA

(Die Back)

- Before entering and leaving a site or changing site
 - Brush or use horse hoof cleaner to clean mud from shoes
 - Spray with Phytoclean (or 70% Methylated Spirits & 30% Water)
 - Footwear
 - Any equipment likely to touch the ground such as camera bags
- Avoid walking on tracks when they are muddy
- Avoid known dieback areas

