

Conservation Group Report

With Winter now upon us and snow falling in Namadgi, group activities have been more limited, with some members involving themselves with smaller scale unofficial visits to areas of interest while there are still autumn orchids to be found in flower. It is always interesting at this time of year to find many of the spring flowering species already in leaf with sometimes early buds forming. So, it is about time to start discussing and planning our spring activities. We are also collecting photos for future identification purpose. The early leaf stages of some species and in particular the different leaves of those often difficult to identify, *Thelymitra* species.



1 *Acianthus exsertus*



2 *Acianthus collinus*

I have recently been in consultation with the ACT Environment Department regarding how best to protect location data within ACT orchid records and how to protect from grazing some species recorded during our survey work at Goorooyarroo Sanctuary.

We have submitted an application for a grant from The ACT Government Environment Department and if successful we would conduct a baseline orchid survey of Bluetts Block – Piney Ridge area. This is a patch of remnant bush adjacent to Denman Prospect in the new Molonglo Urban development, and in part was a previous Soldier Settler block held by somebody named Bluett. It would appear Bluett did little if any clearing and left the bush basically intact. This area currently contains an interesting diversity and density of orchids possibly in a combination not represented elsewhere in the Canberra Urban landscape. The Conservation Group has previously made a submission regarding a developer's application for a change of management to an adjacent area

The long-term future for this area of remnant bush is not currently clear and is under pressure from development, with many interested people expressing concern it could be permanently lost. A petition to get Bluetts Block – Piney Ridge on the agenda for debate at the ACT legislative assembly is out and can be found and signed at: <http://epetitions.act.gov.au/CurrentEPetition.aspx?PetId> .

If you thought ensuring this area was preserved as a part of the Canberra Nature Park, you may wish to log into this site and sign this online petition, for which we would be pleased in receiving your support.



3 *Thelymitra* leaf

4 *Caladenia* leaf