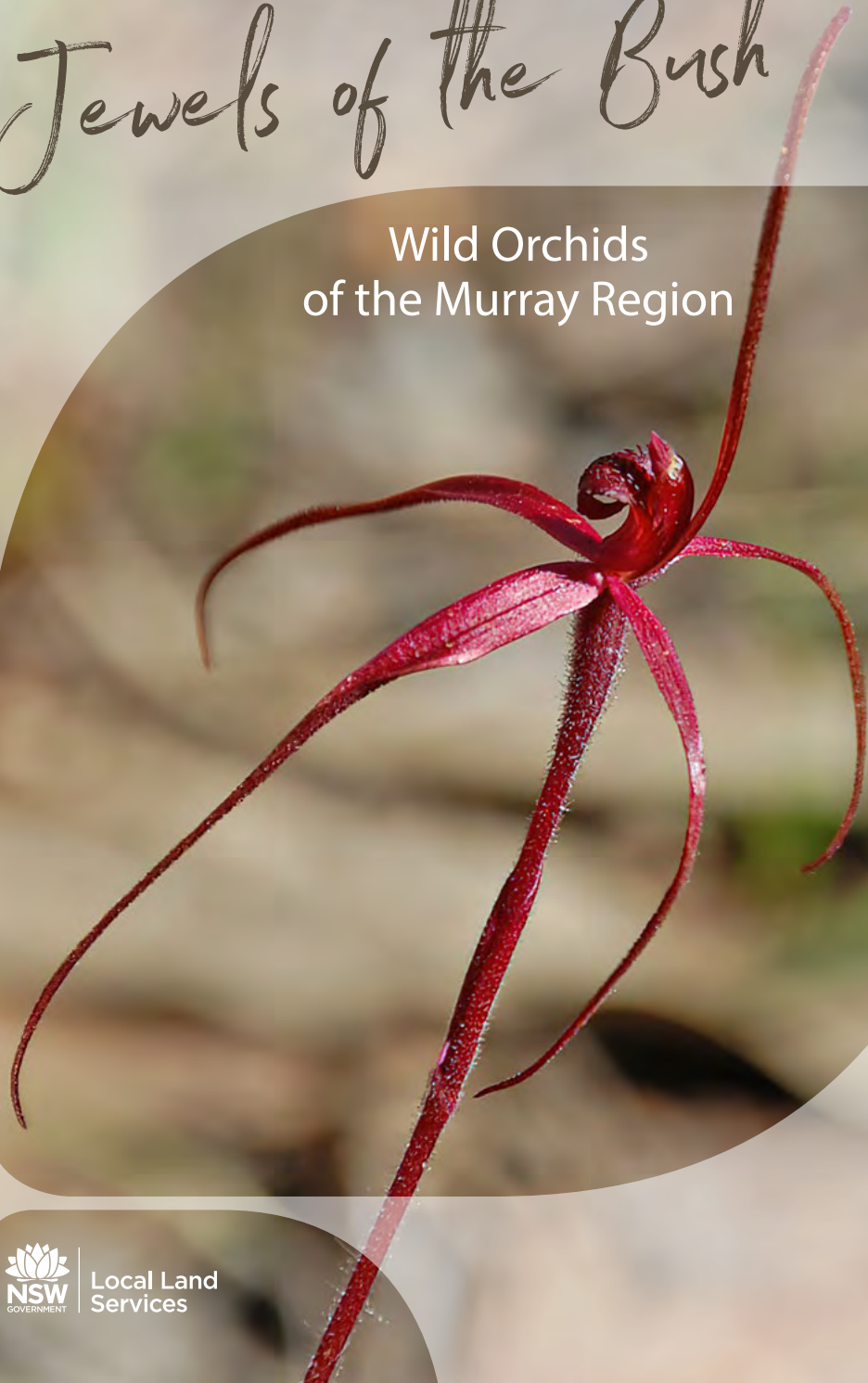


# Jewels of the Bush

Wild Orchids  
of the Murray Region



Local Land  
Services

## **Acknowledgements**

This project is supported by Murray Local Land Services, through funding from the NSW Environmental Trust. This publication was compiled with input from Murray Local Land Services, Noushka Reiter - Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Geoff Robertson – NSW Dept. Planning, Industry and Environment and Parklands Albury Wodonga. Graphic design by PeeKdesigns.

## **Wild Orchids Consortium**

The Wild Orchids Project is delivered in collaboration with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Conservation and Biodiversity Division, NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Crown Lands, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Australian Network for Plant Conservation Inc., Forestry Corporation of NSW, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Federation Council, Parklands Albury Wodonga, Corowa and District Landcare, Woomargama National Park Volunteers, landholders.

## **Photography**

All photographs have been generously provided by Neil Blair, Matt Cameron, Rhiannon Caynes, Lachlan Copeland, Eileen Collins, Friends of Chiltern Mt Pilot National Park, Jeff Jeanes, Richard Andrews, Reiner Richter, Geoff Robertson, Colin and Mischa Rowan, Paul Scannell, Kelly Coleman, Elisa Tack, Helen Waudby and Creative Commons photos by Kim Nicholson and Tim Rudman.

## **Disclaimer**

© State of New South Wales through Local Land Services 2021

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (August 2021) and may not be accurate, current or complete. The State of New South Wales (including Local Land Services), the author and the publisher take no responsibility, and will accept no liability, for the accuracy, currency, reliability or correctness of any information included in the document (including material provided by third parties). Readers should make their own inquiries and rely on their own advice when making decisions related to material contained in this publication.

# Jewels of the Bush

## Wild Orchids of the Murray Region

### Contents

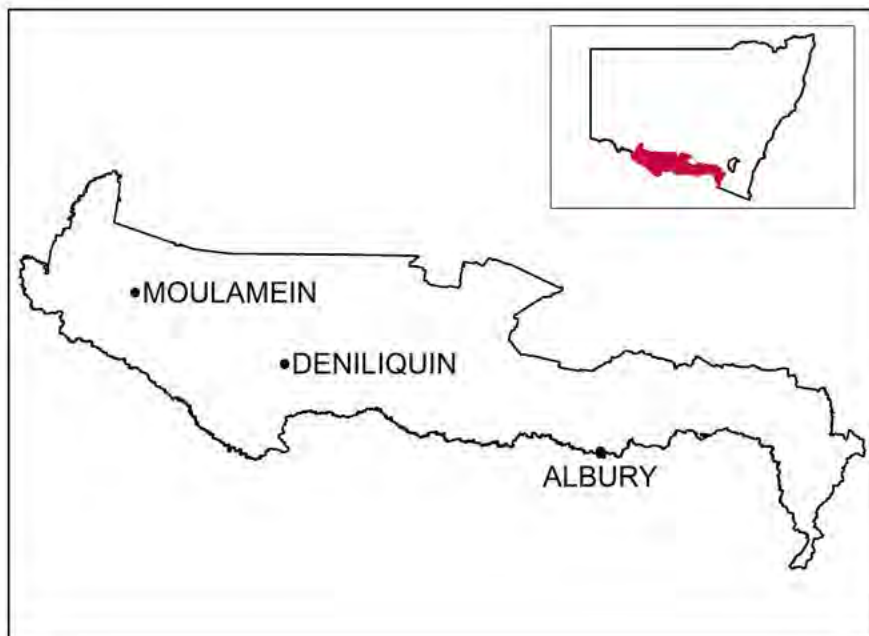
Wild Orchids of the NSW Murray Region	2
Wild Orchids Project an overview	4
Feature Orchids	5
Our Orchids	15
What can you do to help wild orchids and their habitat?	79
Further information	79
Index	80

# Wild Orchids of the NSW Murray Region

This booklet has been prepared to aid identification of a selection of native orchids in the NSW Murray region.

This booklet is not an exhaustive list, it provides a general overview of the various types of orchids found in our region based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing.

Please see the references and websites listed at the end of this booklet for further information and more detailed species identification field guides.





# Wild Orchids Project

## an overview

Orchids are among the most beautiful and mysterious of all Australian native flowering plants. These jewels of the bush are important and striking additions to local biodiversity. Australia hosts over 1,700 species, but many face extinction without adequate conservation management.

The Wild Orchids Project will contribute to the long-term viability of three endangered orchid species: the sand-hill spider orchid (*Caladenia arenaria*), crimson spider orchid (*Caladenia concolor*), and Oaklands donkey orchid (*Diuris callitrophila*).

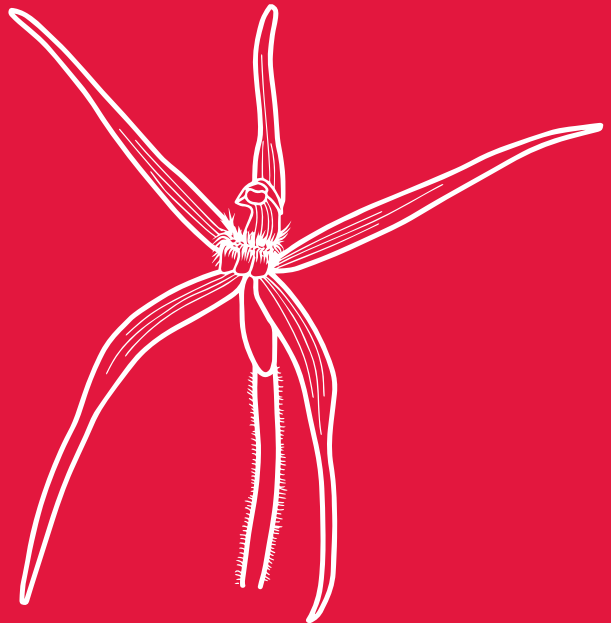
Monitoring in 2014 indicated that there were less than 2000 sand-hill spider orchids, less than 75 crimson spider orchids and less than 1000 Oaklands donkey orchids left in the wild. This project aims to increase the population sizes of all three orchids species to 3000 plants each.

The Wild Orchids Consortium is working together to save these species. Project activities include:

- establishing new populations of orchids by propagating seed from the remaining remnant populations and planting into new secured sites
- controlling invasive grasses and weeds at all known remnant sites.
- thinning of cypress pine at some remnant sites
- installing and maintaining rabbit and stock proof fencing to prevent grazing of orchids
- monitoring all known remnant sites and new trans-location sites
- research into key pollinators and orchid propagation methods.

# Feature Orchids

Sand-hill spider orchid ( <i>Caladenia arenaria</i> )	6
Crimson spider orchid ( <i>Caladenia concolor</i> )	9
Oaklands donkey orchid ( <i>Diuris callitrophila</i> )	12



# Sand-hill spider orchid

*Caladenia arenaria*

The sand-hill spider orchid is classified as Endangered in both NSW and nationally. Fewer than 2,000 plants are believed to exist in the wild.

## Characteristics

- Five long spreading petals around a broad down-curved labellum (or 'lip').
- Single densely hairy leaf, reddish at the base, up to 10 cm long and 6 mm wide.
- A flower stem up to 40 cm tall.
- Usually one but occasionally 2 pale yellow flowers, up to 80 mm across.



MC



CMR

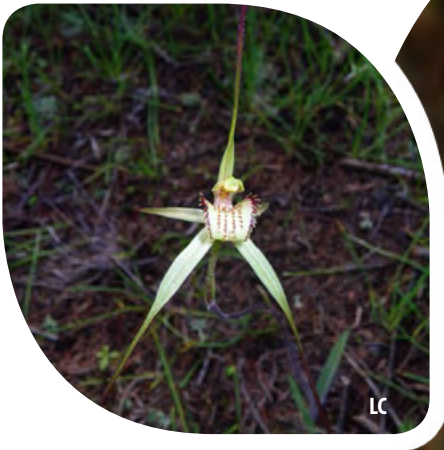


## Ecology and life cycle

- Single leaf emerges in autumn-early winter.
- Flowering occurs between August and September, although flowering may not occur every year.
- Pollination occurs by male thynnine wasps.
- Seed only germinates symbiotically in the presence of a fungal partner.
- The plant survives summer underground, as a dormant tuber.

## Habitat

The sand-hill spider orchid occurs in woodland with sandy soil, particularly at sites dominated by white cypress pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*).



## Distribution

Historically, the sand-hill spider orchid was scattered along the Edward, Columbo, Yanco and Murrumbidgee rivers in the Riverina region. Its past distribution may have been even wider and encompassed a greater variety of habitats.

The species has undergone a substantial decline in range over the past century. Currently its distribution is highly localised and rare, restricted to NSW, mostly on the south west plains and western south west slopes, including locations near Narrandera and Urana.



## Threats

- Small population size.
- Hybridisation with other orchid species, which may reduce genetic viability.
- Grazing pressure from livestock and feral herbivores.
- Limited ecological knowledge.
- Competition with dense white cypress pine regrowth.
- Human interference and forestry operations.



LC

# Crimson spider orchid

*Caladenia concolor*

The crimson spider orchid is listed as Endangered in NSW and Vulnerable nationally.

## Characteristics

- Flowers 50–70 mm across.
- Dorsal sepal erect, lateral sepals and petals spreading.
- Flower stem up to 30 cm tall, densely hairy.
- Single, rarely two, dark red to crimson flowers.
- Single hairy leaf 8–15 cm long and 10 mm wide.
- Some have reported that the flowers have a strong “hot motor” odour.



MC



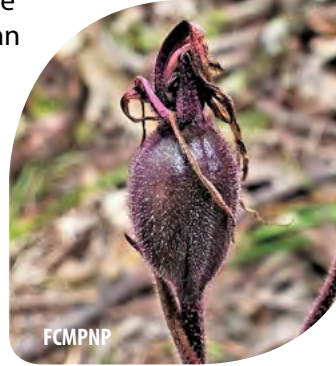
FCMPNP

## Ecology and life cycle

- Single leaf emerges during autumn or winter.
- Flowers in spring (September to November), although flowering may not occur every year.
- Pollination occurs by male thynnine wasps.
- If pollination is successful, a seed pod forms and the seed is shed 4 to 6 weeks after pollination, often by early December.
- The plant survives summer underground, as a dormant tuber.

## Habitat

The crimson spider orchid is found on stony granite ridges and slopes in grassy or shrubby woodland. At sites where it is currently found the ground flora is relatively diverse and other orchid species are present. These orchids grow in an interdependent relationship with a mycorrhizal fungus.



## Distribution

Historically, the crimson spider orchid was scattered across southern NSW, and north-eastern and southern central Victoria.

The current known distribution of the species includes northern Victoria, in the Beechworth and Chiltern areas, the outskirts of Melbourne in box-ironbark remnant, and near Albury at Nail Can Hill Crown Reserve and Benambra National Park in NSW.



## Threats

- Small population size.
- Restricted distribution.
- Drying climate.
- Inappropriate fire regimes and management activities.
- Damage from recreational users.
- Competition with exotic grasses, such as *Briza* spp.
- Human interference.
- Track maintenance activities.



# Oaklands donkey orchid

*Diuris callitrophila*

The Oaklands diuris or Oaklands donkey orchid is listed as Endangered in NSW. Fewer than 1,000 plants are believed to exist in the wild.

## Characteristics

- White, mauve or purple flowers with some darker markings.
- Up to 9 flowers per stem. The stem is stout, green and up to 50 cm tall.
- Slightly fragrant flowers that look like 'donkey' ears, characteristic of the genus, and two long, green, narrow downward turned sepals up to 120 mm long.
- Typically, two narrow, green, folded basal leaves up to 35 cm long.



MC



CMR

## Ecology and life cycle

- Leaves produced during autumn.
- Flowers in November, although flowering may not occur every year.
- Pollination occurs via food deception, with native blue-banded bees (*Amegilla* sp.) attracted to the flowers because of their superficial resemblance to other nearby plants that provide nectar and pollen.
- If pollination is successful, seed pods form and the seed is shed by late December.
- The plant survives the hot summer underground as a dormant tuber.

## Habitat

The Oaklands donkey orchid occurs in open grassy woodlands, usually in light sandy soils, particularly those dominated by white cypress pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*).



## Distribution

The species is currently believed to be restricted to four sites between Oaklands and Urana in southern NSW.

Three other small populations in that area have gone extinct in recent times.



## Threats

- Small population size.
- Highly restricted distribution.
- Competition with invasive grasses and herbaceous weeds.
- Competition with dense white cypress pine regrowth.
- Browsing by rabbits and kangaroos.
- Inappropriate fire and grazing regimes.

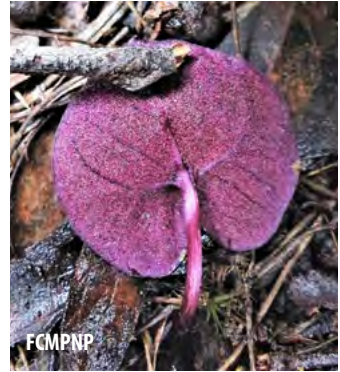
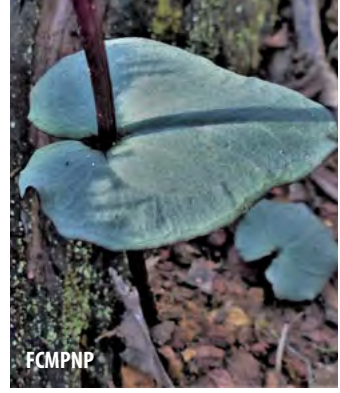


# Our Orchids

Acianthus	16
Caladenia	17
Calochilus	34
Chiloglottis	36
Corybas	37
Cyrtostylis	38
Dipodium	39
Diuris	41
Eriochilus	49
Glossodia	50
Microtis	52
Prasophyllum	54
Pterostylis	60
Thelymitra	69



# Acianthus



## Mosquito orchid

*Acianthus exertus*



Grows on sheltered slopes and gullies in moist forest and woodland. Most common in foothill and mountain areas, in well drained soil.

Up to 25 small flowers.



MARCH to AUGUST

Caladenia



## Blue fairy

*Caladenia caerulea*

Widespread and common from inland areas to mountain regions, growing in a variety of drier habitats including heathland, callitris forest and woodland often on ridges or slopes with shallow, stony soils.

SYNONYM: *Cyanicula caerulea*

JULY to SEPTEMBER



Caladenia



## Berrigan spider orchid

*Caladenia callitophila*



Rare, occurs in small, scattered populations near Berrigan where it grows among shrubs and tussocks in callitris woodland.



SEPTEMBER to OCTOBER

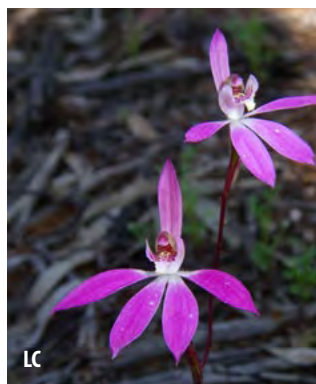


## Pink fingers

*Caladenia carnea*

Widespread common species, extending from coastal regions to inland areas. Grows in a wide range of habitats including heath, open forest, woodland and mallee vegetation, often surviving land disturbance.

Some variability in flower shape, colour and size, up to five flowers.



AUGUST to NOVEMBER

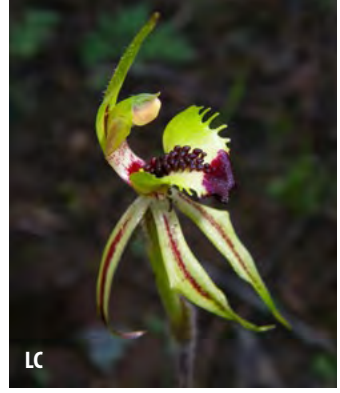


Similar to *C. fuscata*, which has a single flower.

Caladenia



CMR



LC



CMR

## Neat spider orchid

*Caladenia concinna*



HW



LC



AUGUST to OCTOBER



Caladenia

## Hooded caladenia

*Caladenia cucullata*

Common in inland areas, rare close to the coast. Grows on ridges and slopes in shallow stony soils.

Up to seven citrus scented flowers.



SEPTEMBER to NOVEMBER 

# Caladenia



## Daddy long legs

*Caladenia filamentosa*



Widespread but rarely common, growing in a range of habitats, mostly inland drier sites including open forest, heathy forest and mallee shrubland.

Sometimes grows in dense clumps.



SEPTEMBER to NOVEMBER





LC

## Flaccid spider orchid

*Caladenia flaccida*

Highly localised in inland areas, grows amongst sparse shrubs in callitris woodland and open forest in free draining soils.



LC

AUGUST to OCTOBER



# Caladenia



## Dusky fingers

*Caladenia fuscata*



Widespread and common, prefers drier inland forests with shallow soil, but does extend into coastal regions.

Variable flower colour from white to pink, single flower.

Similar to *C. carnea*, which has up to five flowers.



SEPTEMBER to OCTOBER



Caladenia

## Musky caladenia

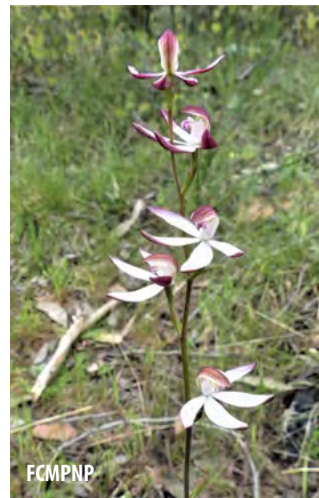
*Caladenia moschata*

Grows among tussocks and shrubs on ridges and slopes in open drier forest, occurring inland on the ranges and tablelands. Extends into rain-shadow areas among snow gums.

Flowers have a strong musky scent especially on hot days.

SYNONYM: *Caladenia gracilis*

SEPTEMBER to NOVEMBER



## Caladenia



# Mountain spider orchid

*Caladenia montana*



Restricted to higher foothills, ranges and sub-alpine areas 700–1,000 m above sea level, where it grows in well drained loam soil on slopes and ridges of montane forest.



OCTOBER to JANUARY

## Caladenia



# Brown-clubbed spider orchid

*Caladenia parva*

Grows in a range of habitats including open forest, woodland, and mallee communities in well drained soil.

Flowering is enhanced by summer fires.

SYNONYM: *Caladenia phaeoclavia*

SEPTEMBER to NOVEMBER



## Caladenia



LC



CMR



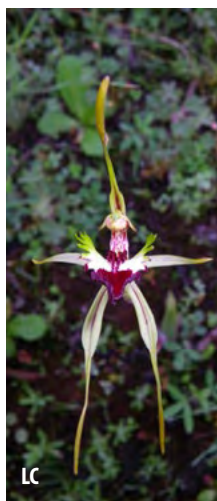
CMR

# Gillenbah spider orchid

*Caladenia rileyi*



CMR



LC

Rare and very localised to areas near Narrandera, possibly extending towards Jerilderie. Grows in woodland dominated by callitris with a sparse understorey of grasses and forbs. Often grows in thickets of callitris seedling regrowth.



SEPTEMBER to OCTOBER



LC



CMR



Caladenia

CMR

## Rosella spider orchid

*Caladenia rosella*

The single NSW collection of the rosella spider orchid (located in Albury) is estimated to have been collected before 1896. Today, fewer than 200 plants exist near Melbourne.

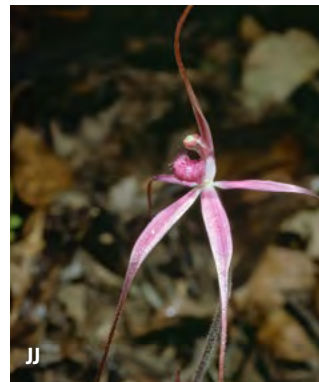
Grows in woodlands on dry slopes with shallow well drained soil.

Flowers have a sweet musky scent.

JULY to SEPTEMBER



LC



JJ

**Presumed Extinct in NSW,  
Endangered nationally.**

Caladenia



## Star spider orchid

*Caladenia stellata*



Found in inland areas in callitris dominated woodland amongst scattered shrubs and grass tussocks in gravelly free draining soil.



AUGUST to OCTOBER



## Caladenia



## Green comb

### *Caladenia tentaculata*

Grows in a wide range of habitats from coastal regions to inland foothills and lower ranges, including heath, woodland and open forest on well drained soil.

Pollinated by male thynnine wasps. Flowering enhanced by summer fires.

SEPTEMBER to DECEMBER



# Caladenia



## Honey caps

*Caladenia testacea*



Mainly coastal areas but extends inland to the tablelands where it grows in open forest. Flowering enhanced by bushfire.

Generally unscented, however flowers in some areas have a sweet honey scent.



OCTOBER to NOVEMBER

Caladenia

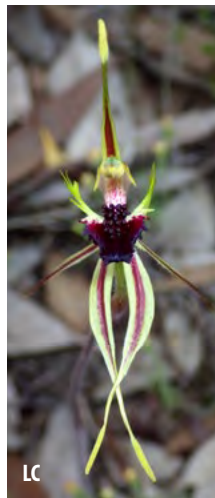


## Mallee spider orchid

*Caladenia verrucosa*

Grows in semi-arid areas among tussocks and shrubs in sparse woodland, mallee and callitris forests on deep sandy soils.

AUGUST to OCTOBER



## Calochilus



# Copper beard orchid

*Calochilus campestris*



Grows in a range of habitats including mallee scrub, montane forests, wet forests, swampy sites and coastal heath.

Pollinated by male scoliid wasps with flowers lasting only 2–4 days.



SEPTEMBER to JANUARY



Calochilus

## Purplish beard orchid

*Calochilus robertsonii*

Widespread and common from the coast to mountain regions in a range of habitats including heath, woodland and tall wet forests. Occasionally found on margins of swamps.

Flowers only lasting 3–5 days.

AUGUST to DECEMBER



## Chiloglottis



## Broad-lip bird orchid

*Chiloglottis trapeziformis*

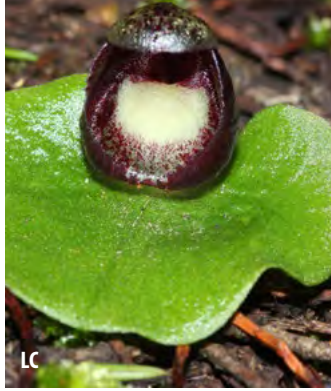


Widespread and common in sheltered sites in a range of habitats from the coast to the ranges.

Pollinated by male thynnine wasps attracted to the flowers and deceived into believing they are mating with a female wasp.



AUGUST to NOVEMBER

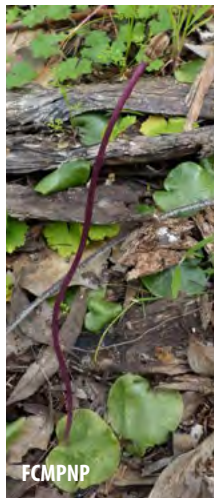


## Slaty helmet orchid

*Corybas incurvus*

Widespread and common from coastal regions to inland ranges. Found in heath, scrub, woodland and open forest in well drained soil. Can form extensive colonies.

JUNE to OCTOBER



## Cyrtostylis



## Gnat orchid

*Cyrtostylis reniformis*

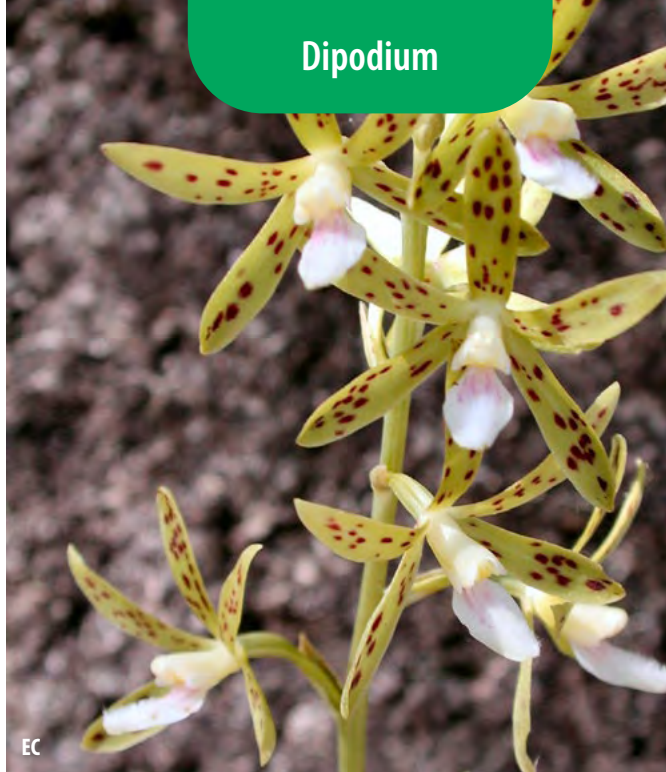


Widespread from coastal to inland districts in a range of habitats including heath, open forest and woodlands in free draining soil. Can form extensive dense colonies.



MAY to OCTOBER





Dipodium

## Inland hyacinth-orchid

*Dipodium interaneum*

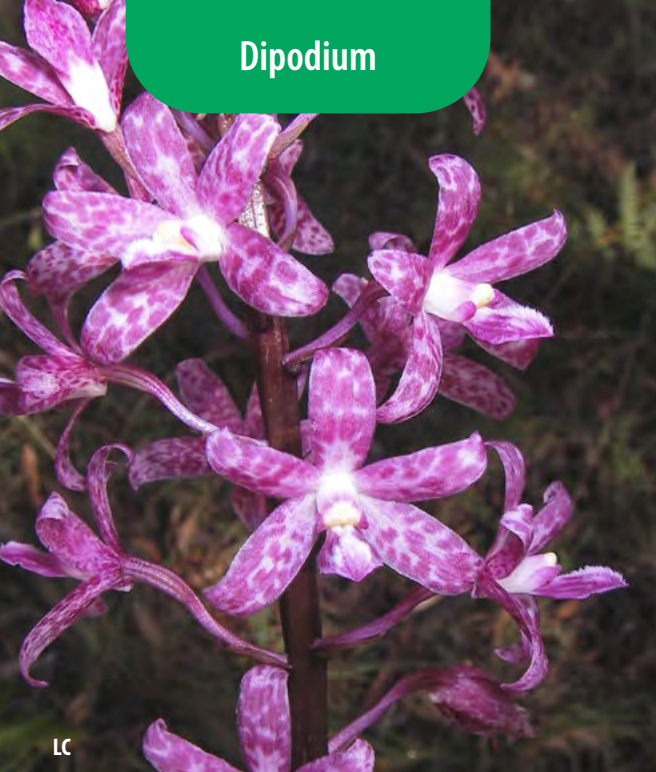
Rare, found on the western slopes in open sparse forest and woodland in drier sites and areas of rain shadow on ridges, slopes and rocky sites, in free draining soil. Up to 30 flowers with small dark red speckles and spots. Flower stem up to 900 mm tall.

SYNONYM: *Dipodium hamiltonianum*

NOVEMBER to MARCH



## Dipodium



LC



FCMPNP



FCMPNP

## Rosy hyacinth-orchid

*Dipodium roseum*



FCMPNP

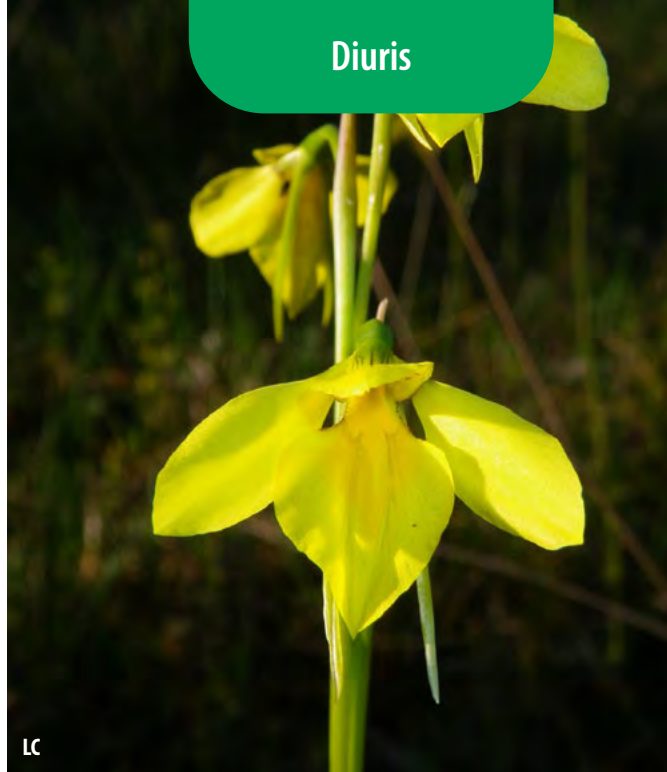
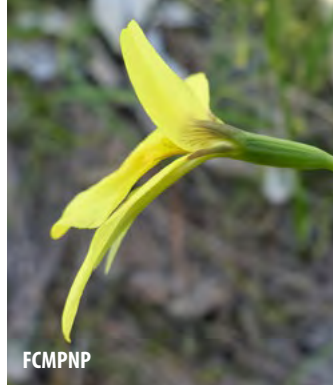


FCMPNP

Widespread and common growing in a range of habitats from dry woodlands to wet forests, from coastal regions to the ranges. Less common west of the divide in inland areas.



NOVEMBER to MARCH



## Golden cowslips

*Diuris amabilis*

Grows in grassland and open woodland areas on the slopes and tablelands of NSW.

Up to 4 drooping bright yellow flowers on a flower stem up to 500 mm tall.

SYNONYM: *Diuris behrii*

AUGUST to DECEMBER



Diuris



PS



FCMPNP



FCMPNP

## Common golden moth

*Diuris chryseopsis*



FCMPNP



FCMPNP

Common and widespread species growing in grassland, grassy forest and woodland, often in damp depressions.

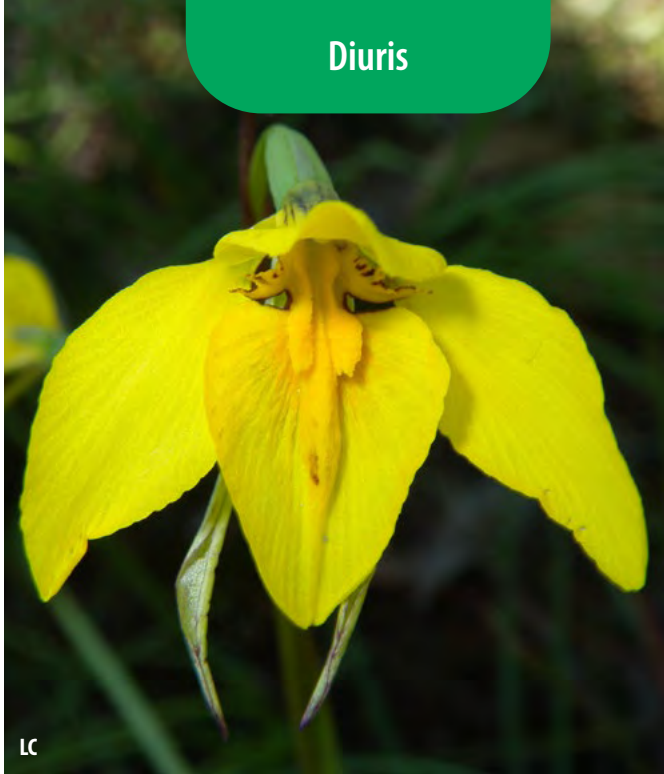
1-4 drooping lemon-yellow flowers with dark internal streaks.



AUGUST to OCTOBER



Diuris



## Stained golden moths

*Diuris fucosa*

Known from only a few localities between Urana and Narrandera, growing in callitris woodland among low shrubs and tussocks.

**Classed as extinct in Victoria.**



AUGUST to SEPTEMBER



## Diuris



FCMPNP



LC



FCMPNP

## Leopard orchid

*Diuris pardina*



FCMPNP



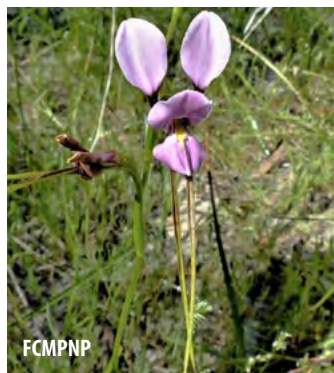
FCMPNP

Grows in heathlands and shrubby open drier forest. Can hybridise with a number of other *Diuris* species.

Up to 10 flowers, heavily blotched and spotted like a leopard, hence its common name.



AUGUST to OCTOBER



## Purple donkey orchid

*Diuris punctata*

Grows in a range of habitats including woodlands and drier forests on ridges and slopes but also in moist, wet grassland areas, often forming extensive colonies.

Some variation in flower colour depending on locality, ranging from pale to dark purple.

AUGUST to DECEMBER



Diuris



## Small snake orchid

*Diuris subalpina*



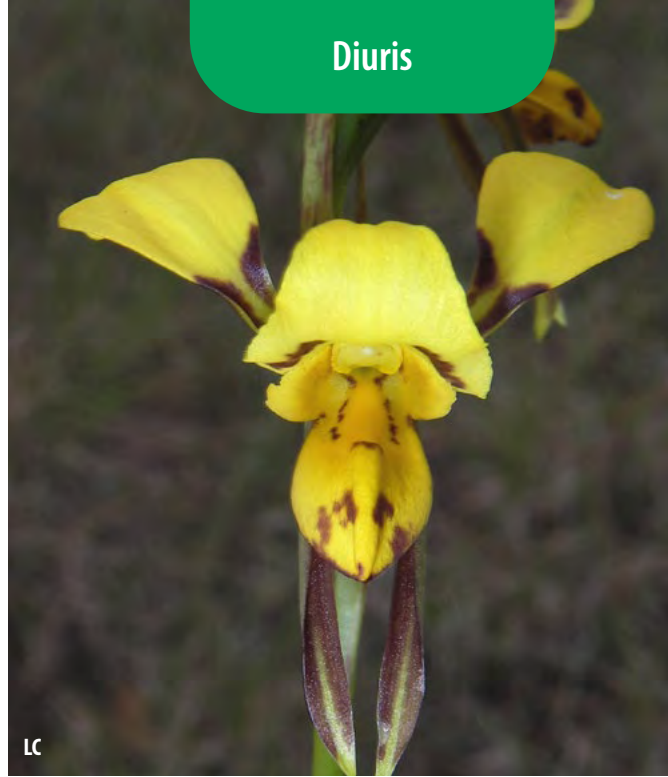
Often grows in subalpine and montane areas between 800 and 1500 m altitude, in moist clay loams and peaty loams. Can grow in small to large colonies.

1-2 nodding flowers.



OCTOBER to SEPTEMBER





## Tiger orchid

*Diuris sulphurea*

Widespread, growing in a range of habitats from coastal areas to semi-arid inland sites in woodland, open forest, tall wet forest, heathland and less commonly grassland.

Up to 7 bright yellow flowers with prominent dark brown markings.

AUGUST to NOVEMBER



Diuris



CMR



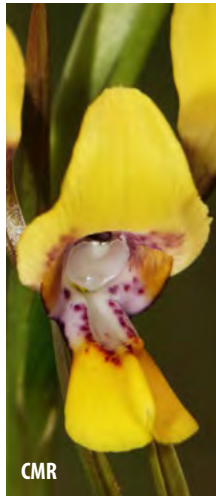
CMR

## Pine donkey-orchid

*Diuris tricolor*



CMR



CMR

Grows in sclerophyll forest among grass tussocks and scattered shrubs, often with callitris pine. Occurs mostly west of the dividing range. Can grow in large colonies; also singularly or in small groups.

Up to 6 flowers from yellow to orange and speckled with red, white and purple marks.



SEPTEMBER to NOVEMBER



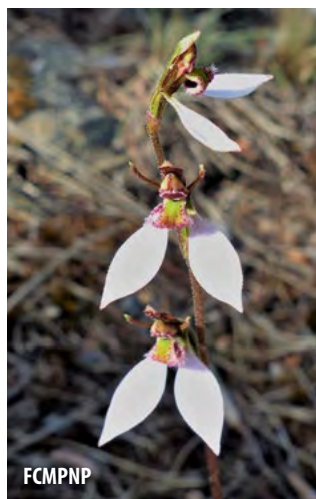
## Parson's band

*Eriochilus cucullatus*

Widespread and common growing among shrubs and tussocks in coastal scrub, grasslands, heath, woodland and montane forests.

Pollinated by small native bees attracted to light but sweet floral fragrance.

DECEMBER to MAY



## Glossodia



## Waxlip orchid

*Glossodia major*



Widespread and common from coastal regions to inland areas growing in a range of habitats including open forest, woodland and coastal heath.

Lightly scented flowers ranging from mauve to purple, rarely all white. Mass flowering is common after fires.



AUGUST to NOVEMBER



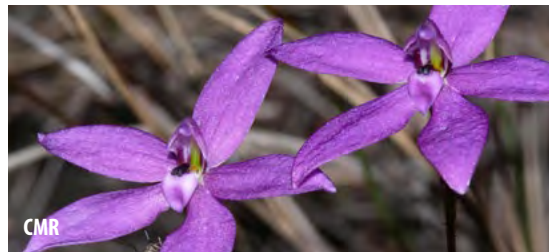
Glossodia

## Small waxlip orchid

*Glossodia minor*

Mainly found along the eastern coastline in coastal heath, extending inland into some areas of the Riverina. Grows in free draining sandy soils.

Pollinated by small native bees.



JULY to OCTOBER



Microtis



LC



FCMPNP



FCMPNP

## Slender onion orchid

*Microtis parviflora*



FCMPNP



FCMPNP

Common and widespread in a range of habitats including open forest, woodlands and grassy areas in dry to moist soils.

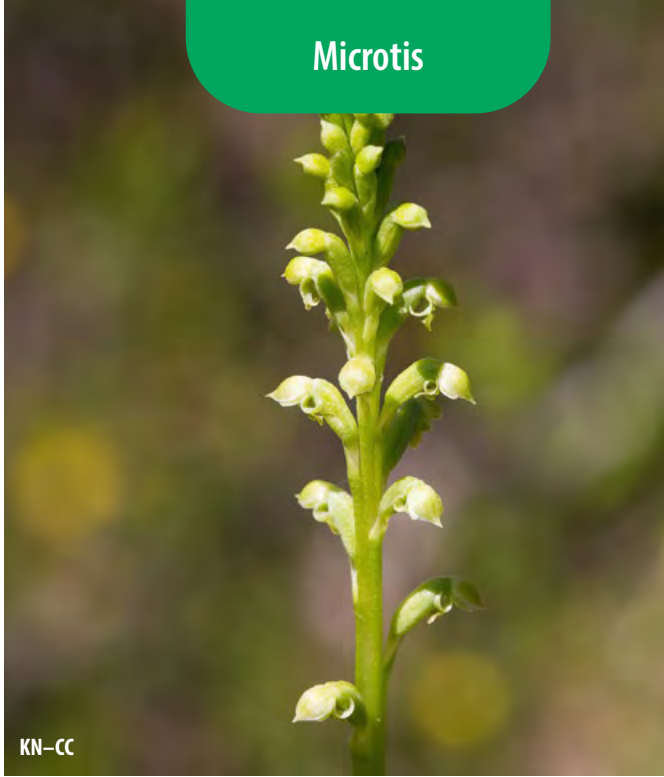
Flowers frequently pollinated by small ants.



OCTOBER to FEBRUARY



Microtis



## Common onion orchid

*Microtis unifolia*

Widespread and common, grows in a wide variety of habitats from coastal swamps to rocky outcrops in semi-arid areas. Can colonise gardens and lawns.

Up to 100 small, green crowded flowers.

OCTOBER to JANUARY



## Prasophyllum



# Bago leek orchid

*Prasophyllum bagoense*



Grows in sub-alpine grassy plains and wetlands in moist to wet shallow soils between 900 to 1100 m altitude. Known from a single population in State Forest near Tumbarumba.

Up to 30 crowded, fragrant flowers, tawny green to brown in colour.

**Critically Endangered in NSW.**



SEPTEMBER to JANUARY





CMR



Prasophyllum

LC

## Marung leek orchid

*Prasophyllum beatrix*

Grows in grassy woodland and vegetation dominated by callitris pine with a sparse understorey.

Up to 35 lightly scented crowded flowers.



CMR

SEPTEMBER to OCTOBER



## Prasophyllum



CMR



CMR

# Brandy Mary's leek orchid

*Prasophyllum innubum*



CMR

Known from a single population in the Tumbarumba Local Government Area. Restricted to montane areas, streamside habitat and sphagnum moss sites at altitudes of 1150-1180 m.

Up to 20 self-pollinating flowers that lack any scent.

**Critically Endangered in NSW.**



JANUARY to FEBRUARY



## Kelton's leek orchid

*Prasophyllum keltonii*

Known from a single population in the Tumbarumba Local Government Area, growing in grassland at an altitude of 1100 m.

Up to 22 fragrant flowers that are red, green, brownish-red or purplish with green tinges. Flowers open on warm days.

**Critically Endangered in NSW.**

DECEMBER to JANUARY



## Prasophyllum



## Scented leek orchid

*Prasophyllum odoratum*



Grows in a wide range of habitats including slopes and ridges in dry woodland and heathy woodland.

Up to 50 flowers, often strongly fragrant.



OCTOBER to JANUARY

## Prasophyllum



# Subalpine leek orchid

*Prasophyllum sphacelatum*

Grows in sub-alpine meadows, tussock grassland, alpine herbfields and snow gum woodland, often in moist wet areas among tussock grasses.

Up to 18 strongly fragrant flowers, green to reddish brown in colour.

DECEMBER to FEBRUARY



## Pterostylis



## Alpine greenhood

*Pterostylis alpina*



Grows in moist forests on the foothills and ranges, extending to some montane areas but not alpine regions. Often on sheltered slopes, gullies and stream banks in moist tall forest, wet sclerophyll forest and fern gullies.

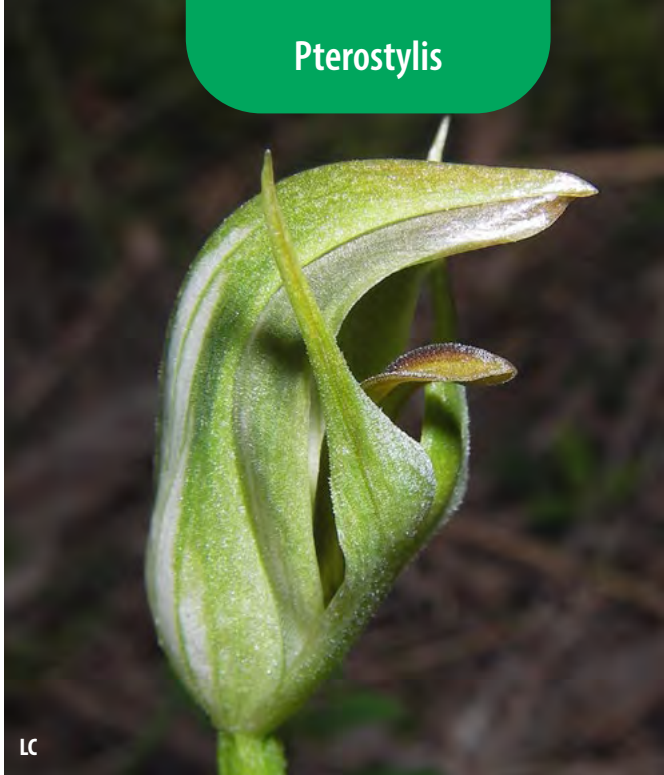
**Vulnerable in NSW.**



AUGUST to OCTOBER



# Pterostylis



## Blunt greenhood

*Pterostylis curta*

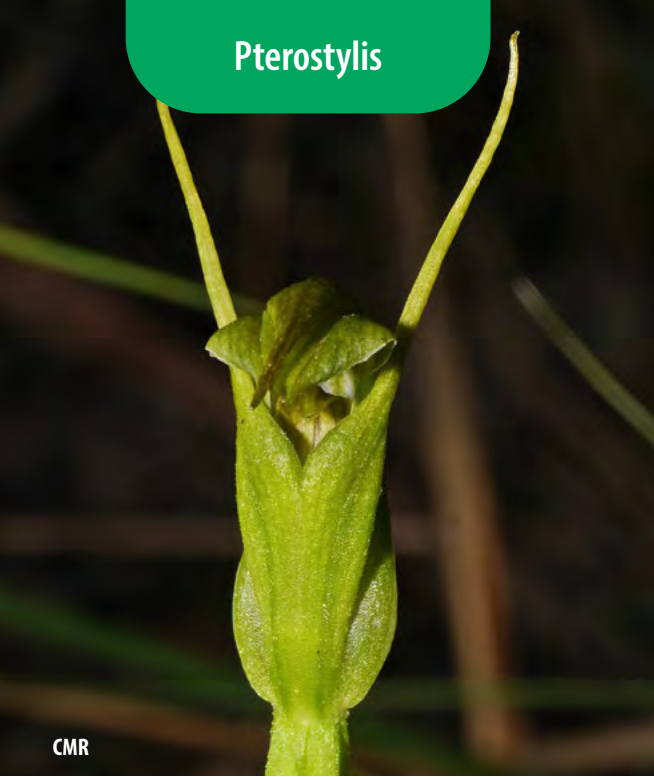
Widespread and common from coastal regions to inland areas west of the dividing range, in a large variety of sheltered habitats including heath, grassy forest, wet sclerophyll forest and woodland. Sometimes grows in extensive colonies.

Semi-nodding flower.

JULY to OCTOBER 



## Pterostylis



# Slender greenhood

*Pterostylis foliata*



Grows in moist soils from lowlands to hilly montane areas in wet bogs, springs, grassy patches and swamp margins. In NSW the species occurs mainly in the Southern Tablelands south from Batlow.

Flower stiffly erect.

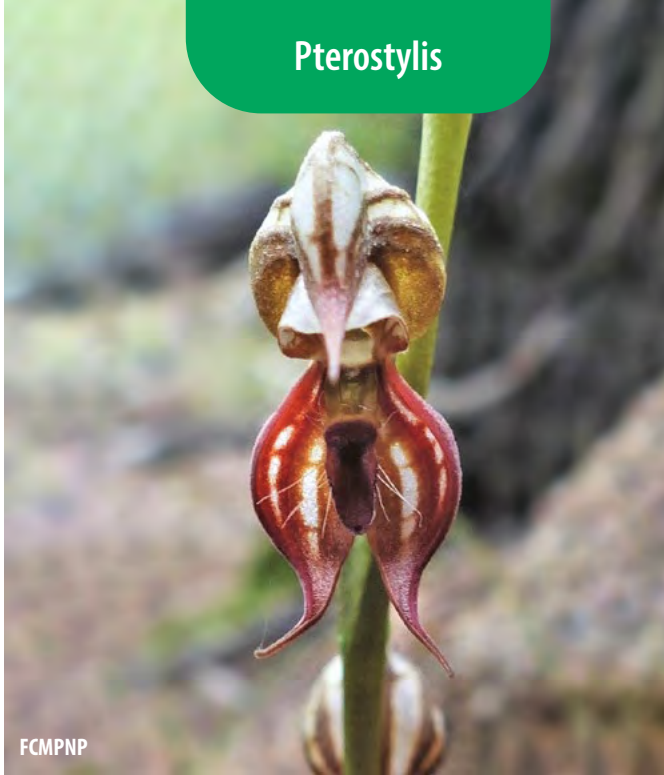


AUGUST to JANUARY





Pterostylis



## Southern hooked rustyhood

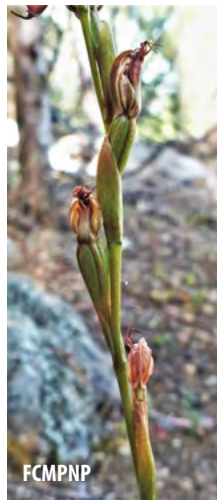
*Pterostylis hamata*

Grows among shrubs, grasses and rocks on ridges and slopes in dry open forest, woodland and callitris forest often on rocky outcrops.

Up to 12 greenish brown flowers.

SYNONYM: *Oligochaetochilus hamatus*

SEPTEMBER to NOVEMBER 



## Pterostylis



# Midget greenhood

*Pterostylis mutica*



Widespread from mountain regions to inland plains. Grows in a variety of habitats, including grassy forest, callitris forest, mallee, woodland and grassland. Tolerant of dry conditions.

Up to 22 flowers, well-spaced along stem.

SYNONYM: *Hymenochilus muticus*



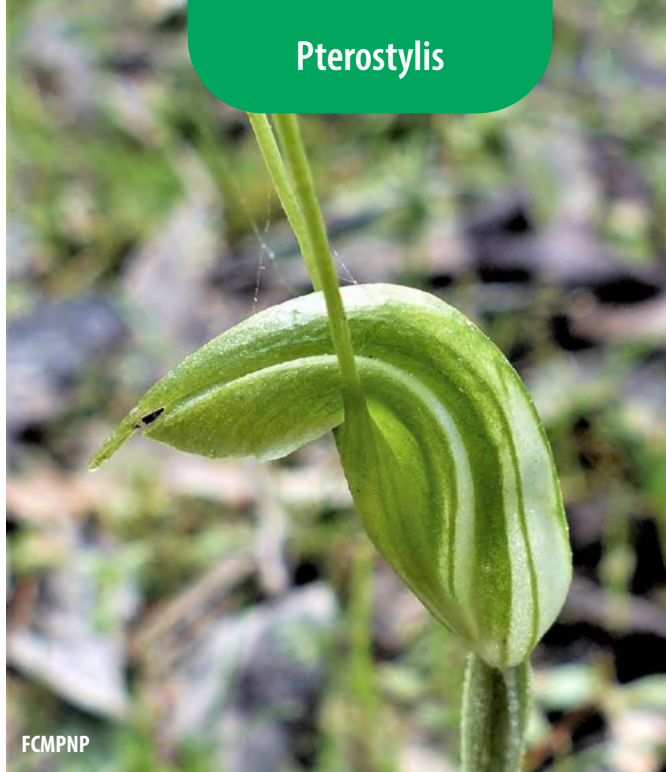
AUGUST to NOVEMBER



FCMPNP



FCMPNP



Pterostylis

FCMPNP

## Dwarf greenhood

*Pterostylis nana*

Grows mainly in sheltered sites from coastal areas to wetter inland regions in heath, open forest, woodland and mallee communities on well drained soils.

Flowers stiffly erect, short flower stem up to 150 mm tall.

SYNONYM: *Diplodium nanum*

JULY to OCTOBER



FCMPNP



FCMPNP

## Pterostylis



## Nodding greenhood

*Pterostylis nutans*



Wide distribution from coastal areas to inland regions growing in a variety of habitats including heath, grassy forest, wet sclerophyll forest, open forest and woodland, often in moist shaded areas. May form extensive colonies.

Flower is strongly nodding.



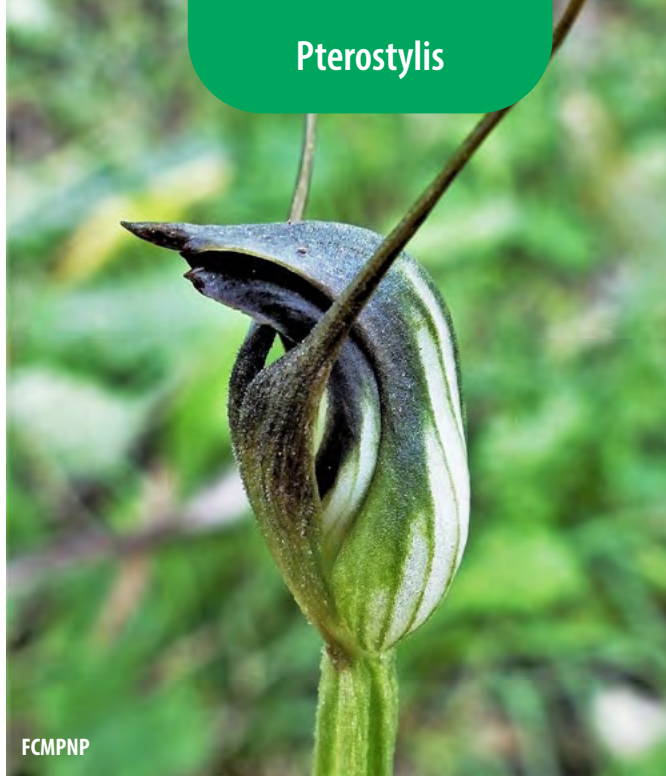
APRIL to OCTOBER



FCMPNP



FCMPNP



Pterostylis

FCMPNP

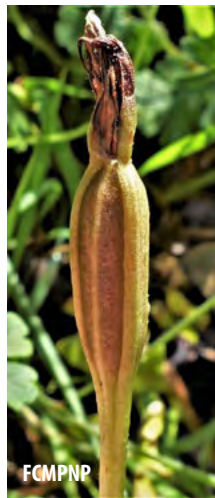
## Maroonhood

*Pterostylis pedunculata*

Widespread and common from coast to ranges and montane areas. Favours moist conditions in sheltered, cool, shady sites such as slopes, gullies and riparian areas. Can be found in drier open sites. Can form dense colonies.

Single flower, green and white at base with tip tinged reddish brown to black.

JULY to NOVEMBER

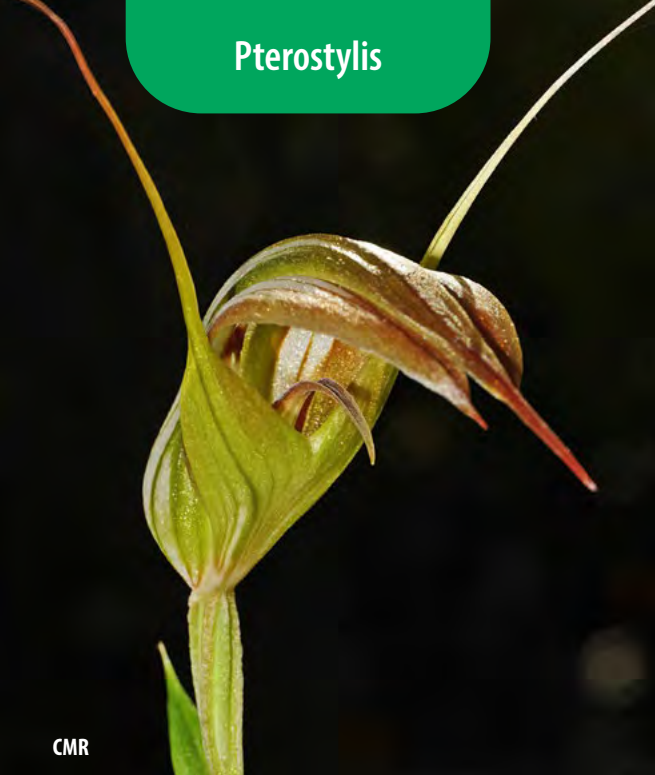


FCMPNP



FCMPNP

## Pterostylis



# Large autumn greenhood

*Pterostylis revoluta*



Grows on sheltered slopes from coastal regions to some inland sites in forest, coastal scrub and heathy forest.

Single flowers lean forward in a sickle shape.

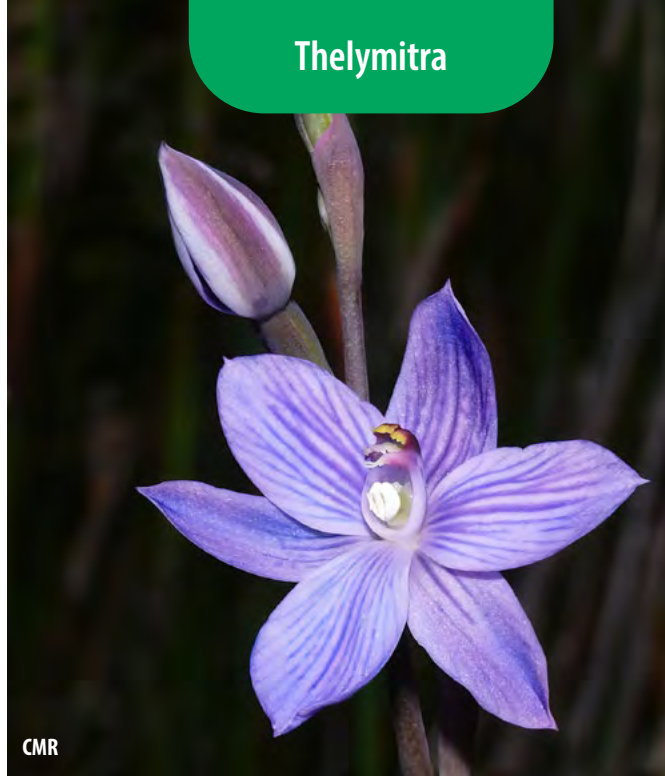
SYNONYM: *Diplodium revolutum*



FEBRUARY to JUNE



MR



CMR

Thelymitra

# Alpine sun orchid

*Thelymitra alpicola*

Grows in moist to wet sites in alpine and montane heathland, around edges of sphagnum bogs, drainage lines or in soaks and swamps. Mainly found at high altitude 1000-1500 m above sea level.

**Vulnerable in NSW.**

OCTOBER to JANUARY



CMR



LC

Thelymitra



LC



LC

## Peppertop sun orchid

*Thelymitra brevifolia*



CMR



SEPTEMBER to DECEMBER





Thelymitra

## Dotted sun orchid

*Thelymitra ixioides*

Widespread, extending from coastal areas to inland regions, growing in a range of habitats including open forest, woodland, heathland and swamp margins.

Flower size and degree of spotting can vary. Up to 15 short-lived flowers opening on hot days. Similar to *T. juncifolia*, which has smaller and fewer flowers.

SEPTEMBER to DECEMBER

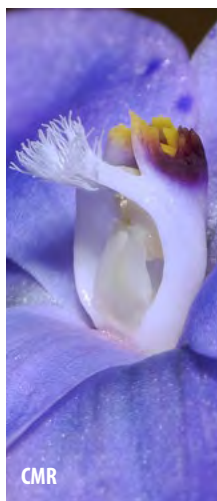


## Thelymitra



# Large-spotted sun orchid

*Thelymitra juncifolia*



Widespread, grows in a range of habitats including woodland, open forest, heathy forest and grasslands.

Up to 5 short-lived flowers, opening on hot days. Similar to *T. ixioides* but has fewer, smaller flowers with larger dark blue spots.



SEPTEMBER to DECEMBER



Thelymitra

## Scented sun orchid

*Thelymitra megcalyptra*

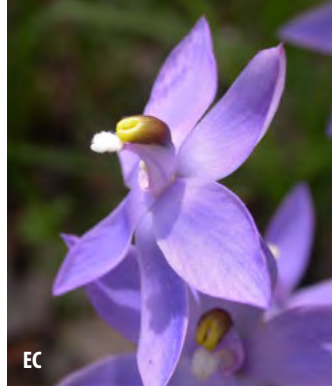
Grows mostly in drier inland habitats such as grassy woodland, box-ironbark forest and mallee shrubland on well drained soils, often forming large colonies.

Long-lived, insect pollinated flowers that are often scented.

AUGUST to NOVEMBER



## Thelymitra



## Plain sun orchid

*Thelymitra nuda*



Widespread and common from coastal regions where it grows in heathland and moist forests, to inland areas in grassy woodland. Sometimes forming extensive colonies.

Long-lived flowers opening on warm sunny days. Flowers sometimes scented.



OCTOBER to DECEMBER



Thelymitra



## Slender sun orchid

*Thelymitra pauciflora*

Widespread and growing in a variety of habitats including open forest, woodland, grassland and heathland.

Short-lived, self-pollinating flowers that tend to only open on hot humid days.

AUGUST to NOVEMBER



## Thelymitra



## Trim sun orchid

*Thelymitra peniculata*

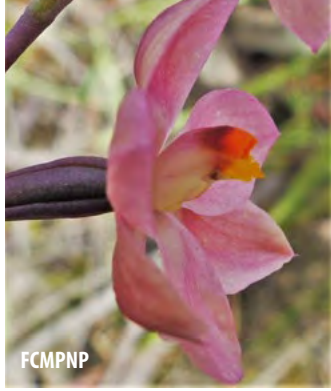


Widespread, grows in a range of habitats including woodland, open forest, heathland and grassland in free draining soil.

Self-pollinating flowers only open for a few hours on hot days.



SEPTEMBER to NOVEMBER



Thelymitra



## Salmon sun orchid

*Thelymitra rubra*

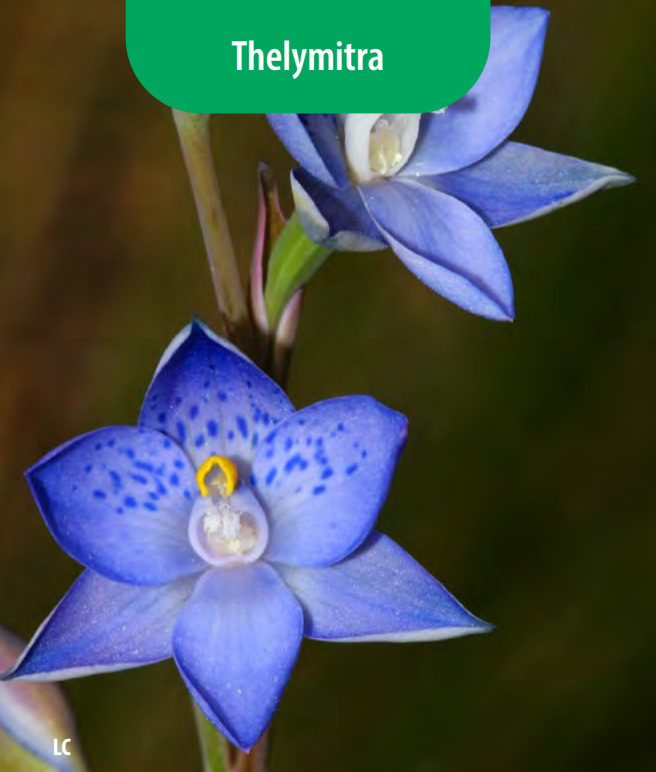
Grows in a range of habitats including open forest, woodland, heathland and coastal scrub.

Flowers open on sunny, humid days.



AUGUST to DECEMBER 

**Thelymitra**



LC



CMR



CMR

## Collared sun orchid

*Thelymitra simulata*



CMR

Grows in montane to subalpine areas on free draining soils between 800-1400m altitude.

Flowers may not open during cool cloudy weather.



**NOVEMBER to JANUARY**



## What can you do to help wild orchids and their habitat?

- **Avoid soil disturbance** – a key threat to orchids is inadvertent damage from track maintenance (vehicle, bike and walking tracks).
- **Weed control** – annual exotic grasses, St John's wort and gazania will out-compete native orchids.
- **Manage herbivores** – newly germinated orchids are easily grazed out by native and introduced herbivores (rabbits, feral goats, kangaroos, livestock).
- **Avoid collecting wild orchid flowers or plant material** – please admire and take photos of wild orchids without picking flowers, digging up tubers or disturbing orchids and their habitat.

## Further information

This booklet provides a general overview of the various types of orchids found in the Murray region. The books and websites listed below may assist with providing further information for species identification.

### Websites and contacts of interest

- Atlas of Living Australia: [ala.org.au](http://ala.org.au)
- PlantNet: [plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au](http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au)
- iNaturalist: [inaturalist.org](http://inaturalist.org)
- Dept. of Planning, Industry and Environment: [environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants](http://environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants)
- Australian Network for Plant Conservation: [anpc.asn.au](http://anpc.asn.au)
- Australasian Native Orchid Society Inc.: [anos.org.au](http://anos.org.au)
- Friends of Chiltern Mt Pilot National Park: [friendsofchiltern.org.au](http://friendsofchiltern.org.au)

### Reference books

Jones DL (2021) *A Complete Guide to Native Orchids of Australia*, 3rd ed, Reed New Holland Publishers Pty Ltd, Sydney.

Bishop A (2000) *Field Guide to the Orchids of New South Wales and Victoria*, UNSW Press, Sydney.

# Index

## A

Acianthus	16
<i>Acianthus exsertus</i>	16
Alpine greenhood	60
Alpine sun orchid	69

## B

Bago leek orchid	54
Berrigan spider orchid	18
Blue-banded bees	13
Blue fairy	17
Blunt greenhood	61
Brandy Mary's leek orchid	56
Broad-lip bird orchid	36
Brown-clubbed spider orchid	27

## C

Caladenia	
<i>Caladenia arenaria</i>	6
<i>Caladenia caerulea</i>	17
<i>Caladenia callitrophila</i>	18
<i>Caladenia carnea</i>	19
<i>Caladenia concinna</i>	20
<i>Caladenia concolor</i>	9
<i>Caladenia cucullata</i>	21
<i>Caladenia filamentosa</i>	22
<i>Caladenia flaccida</i>	23
<i>Caladenia fuscata</i>	19, 24
<i>Caladenia gracilis</i>	25
<i>Caladenia montana</i>	26
<i>Caladenia moschata</i>	25
<i>Caladenia parva</i>	27
<i>Caladenia phaeoclavia</i>	27
<i>Caladenia rileyi</i>	28
<i>Caladenia rosella</i>	29
<i>Caladenia stellata</i>	30
<i>Caladenia tentaculata</i>	31
<i>Caladenia testacea</i>	32
<i>Caladenia verrucosa</i>	33
Calochilus	
<i>Calochilus campestris</i>	34
<i>Calochilus robertsonii</i>	35
Chiloglottis	
<i>Chiloglottis trapeziformis</i>	36
Collared sun orchid	78
Common golden moth	42
Common onion orchid	53
Copper beard orchid	34

## Corybas

<i>Corybas incurvus</i>	37
Crimson spider orchid	9
Cyanicula	
<i>Cyanicula caerulea</i>	17
Cyrtostylis	
<i>Cyrtostylis reniformis</i>	38

## D

Daddy long legs	22
Diplodium	
<i>Diplodium nanum</i>	65
<i>Diplodium revolutum</i>	68
Dipodium	
<i>Dipodium hamiltonianum</i>	39
<i>Dipodium interaneum</i>	39
<i>Dipodium roseum</i>	40
Diuris	
<i>Diuris amabilis</i>	41
<i>Diuris behrii</i>	41
<i>Diuris callitrophila</i>	12
<i>Diuris chryseopsis</i>	42
<i>Diuris fucosa</i>	43
<i>Diuris pardina</i>	44
<i>Diuris punctata</i>	45
<i>Diuris subalpina</i>	46
<i>Diuris sulphurea</i>	47
<i>Diuris tricolor</i>	48
Dotted sun orchid	71
Dusky fingers	24
Dwarf greenhood	65

## E

Eriochilus	
<i>Eriochilus cucullatus</i>	49

## F

Flaccid spider orchid	23
-----------------------	----

## G

Gillenbah spider orchid	28
Glossodia	
<i>Glossodia major</i>	50
<i>Glossodia minor</i>	51
Gnat orchid	38
Golden cowslips	41
Green comb	31





Local Land  
Services

## Jewels of the Bush Wild Orchids of the Murray Region