

**BULLETIN NOVEMBER 2010**

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# SOUTHERN RIVERS LAUNCH



It was an historic morning on October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010 when the official launch of the Southern Rivers Branch of the West Australian Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group was held. There were 26 members from the group who joined in the celebratory meeting at the Albany Herbarium to proclaim the inauguration of the new branch. This is the culmination of a lengthy process which included altering the group's constitution, checking out operating procedures and the appointment of officials for the new branch. Anna De Haan, who has done a lot of work up to now, was elected to keep working and is the Convenor of the new group. Jeff Spencer is the Field Trip Co-ordinator. The group has about 20 people from Albany, Denmark, Walpole and Frankland who are active. The Perth based members have already

been hosted many a time by Southern Rivers and look forward to many more happy times together.

# CHRISTMAS PARTY at ALBANY



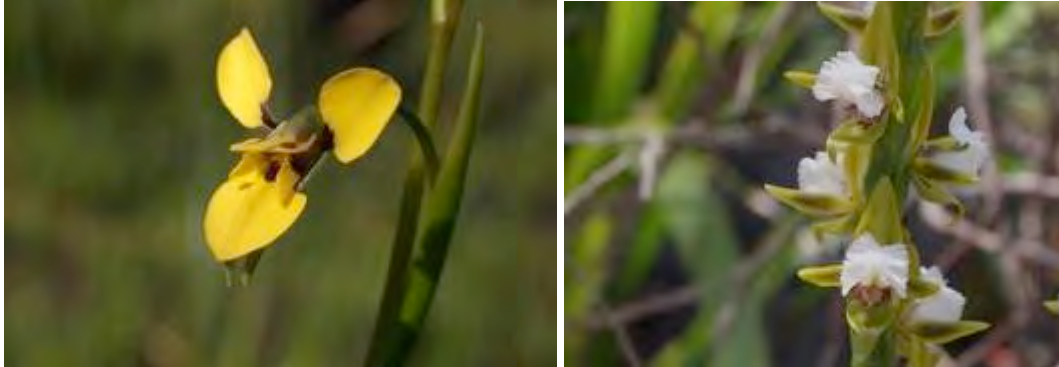
After the launch club members drove to a burn just off the South Coast Highway. Lunch was quickly eaten before descending into the damp swamp. Along the edge Purple Enamel (*Elythranthera brunonis*), Tall Leek (*Prasophyllum elatum*), Leopard (*Thelymitra benthamiana*), Late Bird (*Pterostylis* aff. *turfosa*) and many Hooded Leeks (*Pras. cucullatum*) were found. In the damp lake itself dozens of Laughing Leek (*Pras. macrostachyum*), Plum Sun (*Th. mucida*), Twisted sun (*Th. flexuosa*) and Red Capped Microtis (*Microtis cupularis*) were eagerly photographed. Two days later under sunny skies a patch of Swamp Sun (*Th. cucullata*) were located.



We went onto the next location for the much anticipated Granite Spider (*C. granitora*) (see above). We were not disappointed. To the delight of all, the first fully open Leopard orchids (*Thelymitra benthamiana*) were also found. The late Cowslip (*Caladenia flava* subsp. *flava*) was in flower as was the Late Bird (*Pterostylis* aff. *turfosa*).

Back towards Albany in the burn along Gull Rock Road we found a delightful range of orchids which had only opened after rains earlier in the week. A small colony of Little Pink Fairy (*C. reptans* subsp. *reptans*), Little Pink Fan (*C. nana* subsp. *nana*) and the Pink Fan (*C. nana* subsp. *unita*) had us reaching for the book to correctly identify all three were present.

A few Purple Enamel (*Elythranthera brunonis*) were in seed. The brightly coloured Nanny Goat (*Diuris laevis*) was there in good numbers whilst the Yawning Leeks (*Pras. hians*) were few in number. Along the road verge the Scented Leek (*Pras. odoratissimum*) and Tall Leek (*Prasophyllum elatum*) were located.



Back to Albany for a cuppa and clean clothes before arriving at the Gomm Park Croquet Hall in Lower King for a barbecue. Orchid photos from the Cunninghams' travels entertained us whilst eating. Afterwards John Ewing gave us a slide show on Thelymitras and the myriad of variations possible. No wonder orchid identification is so difficult. All in attendance agreed the Gomm Park Hall should be the venue for future Christmas BBQ's held in Albany as it suited our needs perfectly (no power or gas failures tonight).

Sunday morning had us in a spin around the "big" roundabout as one club member turned off into the wrong road .... only to beat us to the rendezvous at the wind farm turn off. In the burn beside the prison club members trudged up and down the consolidated dunes. The steepness of the sides was soon forgotten as increasing numbers of orchids were found and photographed. Christmas Leek (*Pras. brownii*) dark form, Tall Leek (*Prasophyllum elatum*), White Mignonette (*Microtis alba*), Fringed Leek (*Pras. fimbria*), Leopard (*Th. benthamiana*) including one yellow form, Scented Leek (*Pras. odoratissimum*) and Slender Sun (*Th. vulgaris*). Unfortunately a few club members had to return to Perth and left at this stage. The remaining members continued onto Stony Hill. Here five Swamp Sun (*Th. cucullata*) orchids were located as well as the Late Bird (*Pterostylis* aff. *turfosa*). A tiny microtis was also found. As long as you were literally within sight of the sea quite a range of orchids were found over the weekend. Dry and difficult seasons only strengthened members' determination to find new locations and orchid habitats.

I wish to thank all the club members who have tirelessly worked over a period of two years to help make the formation of branches possible. Thank you to all who participated in the events over the weekend making the launch a memorable occasion for all and the beginning of a new chapter in the growth of WANOSCG.

Anna de Haan

## PAST FIELD REPORTS

For a variety of reasons some field reports had not made it into the bulletin. Here they are.

**ENEABBA** 27&28 August– For a list of orchids found see the electronic version of the bulletin. There are also some photos in the electronic version of a few of the species found.

## SOUTHERN RIVERS GROUP - FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### SOME LOCAL ALBANY BURNS

#### Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August: Gull Rock area

Time to check out the local burns. As so often happens, six members eagerly set out into the burnt bush only to find the best range of orchids within steps of the parked cars. *Caladenia latifolia* (Pink Fairy), *Eriochilus scaber* subsp. *scaber* (Pink Bunny), *Prasophyllum gracile* (Little Laughing Leek), *Pterostylis* sp 'limestone' (Limestone Snail) and *Pras. parvifolium* (Autumn Leek) were found at the first stop. Walking up the burnt hill gave increasingly better views of the nearby coast, but fewer orchids.

A nearby gravelly area surrounded by Sheoaks added *Pterostylis recurva* (Jug) to the list. A leisurely lunch gave us a chance to catch up with the plans of club members heading north in search of more orchids. Off to another damp spot, and under the cover of trees *Corybas recurvus* (Helmet) and *Pterostylis vittata* (Banded Greenhood) were found. A short day with plenty of variety.

#### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August: Hassell Highway and Cheynes Beach Road

Another warm and sunny day found seven members ready to tackle another section of burnt bush. The burn was not a hot one, thus we had quite a struggle fighting our way through a tangle of wispy shrubs across the profile of the hill to the top where the soil type is very different to that of the road verge. *Caladenia reptans* subsp. *reptans* (Little Pink Fairies), *Thelymitra spiralis* (Curly-Locks), *Eriochilus scaber* subsp. *scaber* (Pink Bunny) and *Prasophyllum fimbria* (Fringed Leek) were found at road verge level. In an unburnt scrub protected ditch, a large colony of *Caladenia pectinata* (King Spider) were happily flowering, much to the delight of photographers.

Further up the hillside *Pyrorchis nigricans* (Red Beaks) were well camouflaged into their surroundings, whilst at the top of the hill plenty of *Thelymitra spiralis* (Curly-Locks) were to be seen. We were glad to be wearing black today.

Along the Hassell Highway in a burn from 2009 *Kennedia prostrate* (Running Postman) was smothering the burnt area, however, *Caladenia flava* subsp. *flava* (Cowslip), *Caladenia reptans* subsp. *reptans* (Little Pink Fairies), *Diuris corymbosa* (Common Donkey) and *Thelymitra spiralis* (Curly-Locks) were able to rise above the bright red flowers. Many *Caladenia pectinata* (King Spider) were in bud.

#### **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September**

With many local members heading north or preparing to set up for the Albany Wildflower show two members set off early for the big loop due east.

The *Caladenia pectinata* (King Spider) were still in bud along the Hassell Highway.

Along the dusty gravel roads towards Cape Riche we were greeted by warm sunshine and gloriously blue seas, however, the whales were further north at Groper Bluff.

The walk trail along the cliff edge was a treat. *Caladenia flava* subsp. *flava* (Cowslip) were plentiful as was *Diuris laxiflora* (Bee), *D. corymbosa* (Common Donkey) and *Pterostylis* aff. *nana* (sp 'Cape Riche'?) I do not even want to hazard a guess for a name. Then the prize for the day; *C. longicauda* subsp. *australora* (Southern White Spider). Up the more arduous track over the local peak only added one *Ericksonella saccharata* (Sugar Orchid) to the list. Out on the river flats two *C. fuscolutescens* (Ochre Spider) were hanging onto life.

Back through the sand dunes many more *C. longicauda* subsp. *australora* (Southern White Spider) were seen swaying in the onshore breeze. In the camp grounds *Caladenia latifolia* (Pink Fairy) added colour to the green vegetation.

Out to the Pallinup River Bridge. *Caladenia longicauda* subsp. *eminens* (Stark White), *C. attingens* subsp. *attingens* (Forest mantis), *C. polychroma* (Joseph's) and *Pheladenia deformis* (Blue Beard) were added.

Many more spots were visited on our return to Albany with no additions to the findings list. The dry season is becoming very evident with the low numbers of orchids and the limited number of species being found.

Anna de Haan

#### **FROM DAVID JAMES IN BRISBANE**

#### **26 September 2010 Main Range National Park Goomburra Section Orchid Field Trip Report**

Six Kabi Group members and two family members of one of the Kabi Group members' met at the Kurrajong picnic area a bit after 8:30 am on Sunday 26 September 2010.

These reports are normally titled orchid ramble reports because what the group normally does I cannot class as walking. I would think that even walking would have to achieve at least 3-4 km/hr. With looking for and photographing flowering orchids (and fungi), if flowering orchids are found, the typical orchid ramble is lucky to make 1 km/hr. Therefore high fitness levels are not required. However this field trip did not even require much walking. The group drove along Lookout Road and stopped at locations known to Graham Corbin, locations flowering orchids could be seen from the vehicle or likely locations. Even driving between stops only achieved a progress of 1.2 km/hr. Yes it took us about 4 hrs to make the Sylvesters lookout track which is about 4.7 km from the Kurrajong picnic area. To find out the laziness of this field trip (it gets worse) you will have to read on.

For those that drove from Brisbane via the Cunningham Highway, the orchid spotting started at the Kurrajong picnic area. *Cymbidium canaliculatum* plants were seen in the roadside trees in the Willowbank, Mutdapilly and Warrill View area. The *Dendrobium speciosum* var. *hillii* on the cliff faces above the roadway at Cunningham's Gap were in flower (not full flower yet but would open in the next couple of days). It is interesting the impact a small difference in temperature can have on the flowering time. The *D. speciosum* var. *hillii* from around Brisbane had finished flowering weeks ago.

Both the group travelling from Toowoomba and at least one of the groups travelling from Brisbane also stopped at one of the many crossings of Darlymple Creek to check out the flowering *Dockrillia linguiformis* and *Sarcochilus falcatus*. The flowers on the *D. linguiformis* were just starting to open. The odd inflorescences with just less than half the flowers open. However many hundreds on inflorescences were still yet to open.

The first official stop was a roadside cutting. This cutting extended over a length of about 360 m and the roadway rose about 60 m over this length. One vehicle was left at the bottom of the section and the other vehicles were parked at the top. The driver of the left vehicle was given a lift to the top in one of the other vehicles. The group then walked down-hill looking for terrestrials and the bottom vehicle was used to ferry walkers back up the hill to their parked vehicles. How strenuous!

This area rewarded with 30+ flowering plants of *Pterostylis curta* and seven *Caladenia fuscata*. The identification *C. fuscata* was by a process of elimination (going through what it could not be) however the flowers did not fully match *C. fuscata* as some of the flowers had labellum calli with red stalks and one flower had a red underside to the column with darker red strips but most of the characteristics of *C. fuscata* were present.



*Caladenia fuscata*

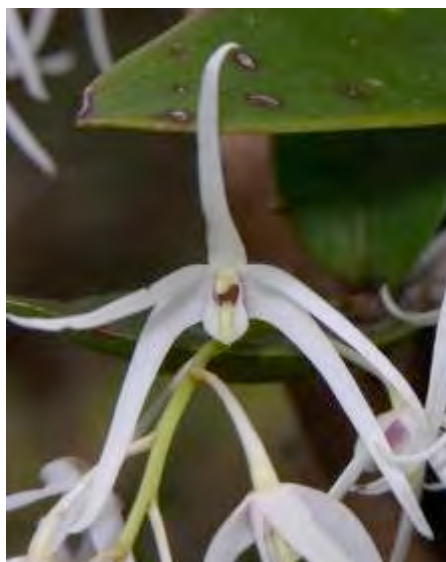


*Pterostylis curta*

The next stop, resulting from Jon Cara's eagle eyes, produced what most of us would call *Dendrobium aemulum* and a couple more flowering *Pterostylis curta*. The group noted that the *D. aemulum* were generally growing on some sort of oak. The forest in the area included brush box type trees but only one small (non-flowering) *D. aemulum* plant was seen on the brush box type trees. These plants were also flowering much later than the ones around Brisbane. Most *D. aemulum* around Brisbane flower in late August to early September. These were flowering a month later. David L. Jones and Mark A. Clements have described *Tropilis angusta*, as part of the *Tropilis aemula* group, which occurs in south-eastern Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales from 600-900 m altitude growing nearly exclusively on *Allocasuarina torulosa* (Forest She-oak).



*Dendrobium aemulum*



*Dendrobium aemulum*

(To read the rest of this report and view the other photos see the electronic version.)

### **WANOSCG GENERAL MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> Sep, 2010**

Meeting held at: BGPA Boardroom, Kings Park.

Meeting opened: 8:07 pm

#### **CIRCULATION OF REPORTS:**

Attendance Book and Treasurer's Report were circulated to the members

**ATTENDANCE:** 27 members present 7 apologies 1 visitor

**RAFFLE :** Kindly donated by Scilla and Gerald Stack

**1. PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES** Amendments: None

The General Meeting Minutes as distributed are a true and correct record of the meeting of September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Moved: Eric Swarts and Seconded Scilla Stack and carried

**2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING** None

**3. CORRESPONDENCE** Correspondence list was circulated to the Members

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**5. FIELD TRIP REPORT:** The Group Christmas outing has been brought forward to this coming week-end in Albany, in lieu of it being too dry to go as scheduled to Collie

#### **6. GENERAL BUSINESS**

1. Noel Clarke indicated that in the Bulletin a bird orchid has been incorrectly identified as being *Pterostylis barbata*, when it should be *Pterostylis* sp. 'dwarf'. The sighting report will also need to be corrected accordingly.
2. Noel Clarke said a few words about Beryl Yates who has recently passed away. A card has been sent by the Group to Beryl's family, and a number of Members attended her funeral.
3. A copy of "Wild Orchids Across North America" has been donated to the Group by David and Janet Dobak during their recent trip to WA.
4. Eddy Wajon showed the meeting a copy of an article "Chemical Trickery: a clue to endangered Australian orchids" published in the Oct 2010 edition of "Chemistry in Australia" (magazine of The Royal Australian Chemical Institute Inc.)
5. The Treasurer proposed to open a new Term Deposit account in order to attract some competitive interest to the Group funds. It was further proposed to do so with the Police and Nurseries Credit Society as they offered a competitive rate. Christine Lock moved to open up such an account and transfer \$25,000 of the Group's funds from the GSMA account - Seconded: Gary McDonald and carried.
6. Keith Lightbody reported that *Thelymitra variegata* plants have been dug up from the Mt Trio area of the Stirling Ranges. Christine Lock reiterated that the Group strongly condemns such actions.

7. Christine Lock reminded the meeting that it is the Photographic Competition next month, and that certificates have been printed by Gerald Stack, and designed by Ramón Newmann.
8. As part of the Committee's ongoing actions from the recent Members' survey, Christine Lock, as the Registrar, undertook to produce an annual article on the Group's database in the Bulletin and to give a talk on what has gone into it, and what it can do. Priority classifications will also now be added to the entries as appropriate.
9. Kim Hanson reported that the orchids found at the Julimar Forest, following the Group outing there, have been identified as *Caladenia denticulata* by Andrew Brown, and not *Caladenia denticulata* subsp. "Julimar".

#### **7. PRESENTATION**

John Ewing led a session on the identification of *Thelymitra* sun orchids. The first part of the presentation was an Australia Wide Tour of some sun orchids from other states, followed by a quiz on WA's brown/orange sun orchids. The identifying of 'unknowns' proved to be an interesting time with good discussion. Many of the members learned better techniques about identifying 'blue sun orchids'. Even so there were still some 'unknowns' at the end of the evening.

**8. GROWERS TABLE** No specimens were brought to the meeting

**9. RAFFLE DRAW** Winner of the raffle: Glenys Blinco (drawn by John Ewing)

**MEETING CLOSED: 9:15 pm**

**NEXT MEETING: 8.00 pm Wednesday November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

#### **COMMITTEE MEETING PROCEEDINGS**

1. Discussion about the photo competition finalised organisational details.
2. Discussion about the club's database led to a resolution to publish an article about both use and access to the data base in the first bulletin for 2011.
3. Treasurer put forward a proposal to shift term deposit funds into a higher yielding account and this to be put to the General Meeting
4. Discussion continued about some concerns of an individual member, with the President and Vice-President to follow up if anything further needs to be done.

#### **Vale Marie Pickersgill**

Another member from the 1980s passed away on 29th October. Marie served on the Committee as librarian in 1982 & 1983. She is survived by her husband, children & 14 grandchildren

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE GROUP**

- a) To promote interest in and preserve Western Australian indigenous orchids.
- b) To learn the best means of cultivation and do all things possible for the conservation of native orchids in their environment.
- c) To learn their habits and keep records.
- d) To have field days and learn to recognize the different genera and species.
- e) To hold meetings for the exchange of knowledge and furthering of interest in W.A. orchids.
- f) To affiliate with kindred organizations.
- g) To make rules for the governing of the Group's domestic affairs.
- h) To do all such lawful things as are incidental to or conducive to the attainment of the above objectives.

*Note: The opinions expressed by contributors to this Bulletin are not specifically endorsed by this Group.*

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#### **NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Admin. Office.

#### **NEXT GENERAL MEETING**

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November at 8.00pm at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Admin. Office.

### **BULLETIN ARTICLES**

Please email any Bulletin contributions to John Ewing at [REDACTED] or call on [REDACTED]. Articles for the next Bulletin need to be submitted by 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2011.

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### **PROPOSED FIELD TRIPS**

\*\*\*\*\* No further trips are planned for this year \*\*\*\*\*

	<b>Raffle Roster</b>	<b>SPEAKERS 2010</b>
<b>MAR</b>	Ramon Newman	Andrew Brown - New Caladenia species
<b>APR</b>	Donna Wajon	Ramon Newmann – slides from 2009
<b>MAY</b>	Bill Burton and Sarah Atkinson	Kingsley Dixon Conservation 'in situ'
<b>JUNE</b>	Christine Lock	Mark Brundrett Wheatbelt Orchid Rescue programme 2009/10
<b>JULY</b>	Jeremy Storey	John Ewing – Orchids of South Australia
<b>AUG</b>	Kevin Uhe	Members' Slides
<b>SEPT</b>	Stuart Harris	Carmel Wallace – Victorian Orchid society
<b>OCT</b>	Scilla and Gerald Stack	Identifying <i>thelymitras</i> using members' slides
<b>NOV</b>	David Lawson	Photo competition and members' slides

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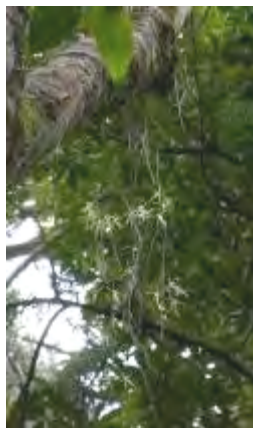
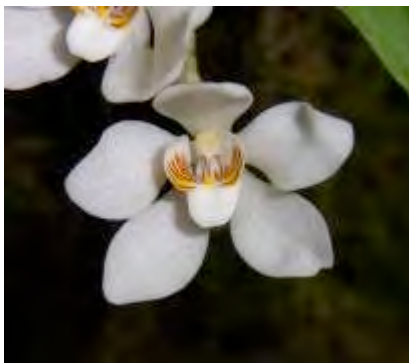
**DAVID JAMES' REPORT (CONT)**

The next stop was at the prompting of John Hutchinson who had seen a plant of *Dendrobium speciosum* var. *hillii* on a tree on the edge of the roadway. At the stop we saw *D. speciosum* var. *hillii* plants and *Sarcophilus falcatus* in flower. Some of these *S. falcatus* flowers were as big as fifty cent piece.

A number of stops followed with more sightings of flowering plants of *Sarcophilus falcatus* together with flowering plants of *Dockrillia pugioniformis*, *Dockrillia dolichophylla*

(*Dendrobium teretifolium* var. *aureum*) and *Sarcophilus spathulatus* and *Dendrobium speciosum* var. *hillii* in bud very close to flowering. At least one of the *Dockrillia dolichophylla* had flowers with sepals and petals about 2 inches (50 mm) in length.

A number of non-flowering species were seen but this report will only deal with the flowering species seen.



*Sarcophilus falcatus*

*Dockrillia dolichophylla*

*Sarcophilus spathulatus*

The last stop for the official part of the day was at the Sylvesters lookout track. The group walked the 940 m return track to the lookout platform on the edge of the Main Range overlooking the coastal plains. *Dendrobium speciosum* var. *hillii* could be seen in flower on the cliff faces together with numerous giant spear lilies (*Doryanthes palmeri*) with their red flowers.

This area also had *Dockrillia pugioniformis*, *Dockrillia dolichophylla* and *Sarcoshilus falcatus* in flower.

At one of the stops some of the group also saw a female Regent Bowerbird (similar to a female Satin Bowerbird but pale brown to brown).

Goomburra was an interesting area with numerous habitats which had a varying range of orchids.

David James

### ENEABBA SPECIES LIST

Members wishing to know details of specific sites should contact the editor

#### Day 1.

**Site 1.** *Thelymitra pulcherrima* x5

**Site 2.** *Diuris* sp x2 (Arrowsmith)

*Diuris* sp x2

*T variegata* x3

*Caladenia radialis* x2 (pair)

*C radialis* subsp *alba* x1

**Site 3.** *C radialis* x38 on road verge

**Site 4. Depot Hill NR**

*C. denticulata* x many (incl. 1 *alba*)

*C. chapmanii* (*denticulata* or similar)

*D. recurva* (or similar) x many

*Thelymitra antennifera* x many

*T. benthamianna* x2 (in bud)

*Caladenia longicauda albella* x2 “doubleheaders”

*C. footeana* x1

**Site 6. Un-named track**

*Caladenia flava* (1-5)

*C. crebra* (6-20)

*C. crebra* hybrids

*Prasophyllum fimbria* (light & dark) (6-20)

*P. giganteum* (x1)

*P. hians* (x1)

*Caladenia longicauda* subsp *albella*

*C. longicauda* subsp *borealis*

*Diuris* aff. *magnifica* (Arrowsmith pansy)

Many white *Caladenia* hybrids with either 4, 6, or 8 rows of calli, possibly between

*C. longicauda* subsp *albella/borealis/crebra*

We thought we saw a *C. lorea*, but it weren't (it had more red colouring than the other hybrids)

*Pterostylis vitata* (x1)

*Pyrorchis nigricans* (x100)

#### Day 2

**Site 1.** *Paracaleana nigrita* x hundreds

*Leporella fimbriata* leaves x 50+

*Thelymitra pauciflora* (?) in bud x1

**Site 2**

*Caladenia crebra* x 1 (x2 opp. side road)

*C. crebra lutea* x1

*C. longicauda* subsp *albella* x 1 (2 flowers)

*C. flava* x1

*C. longicauda* x3

*C. bicalliata* (Limestone spider) x1

*Prasophyllum calcicola* (Limestone leek)

**Site 3 “Kombi Korner”**

*Caladenia longicauda* x4

*C. flava* x20+

*Prasophyllum fimbria* x2

*P. elatum* x 1

*Pyrorchis nigra* x50+

**Site 4**

*Caladenia footeana* x5

*C. lorea* x6

*C. longicauda* subsp *albella* x3

*C. hirta* subsp *hirta* x20

*C. flava* x lots

*C. longicauda* subsp *borealis* x6

*C. lorea* hybrids x3

*Cyanicula gemmata* x3

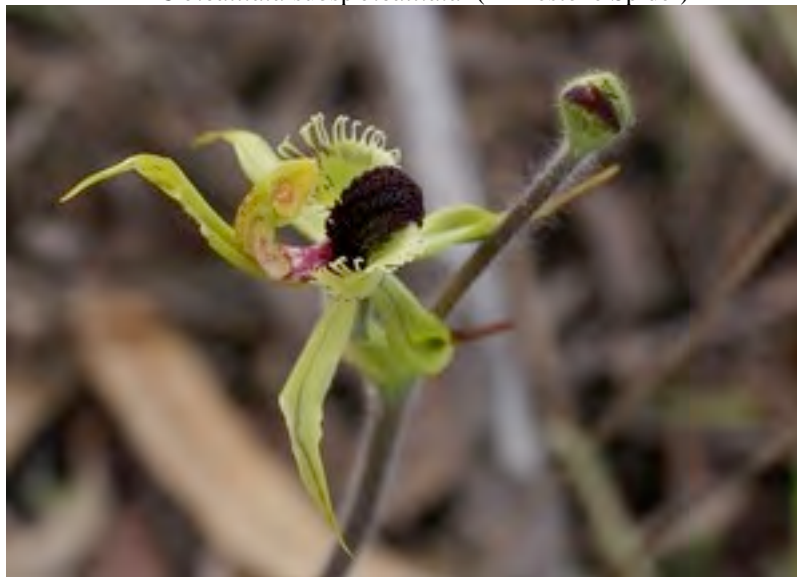
*Pterostylis sanguinea* x1

*C. longicauda* (?) hybrid x1 that was HUGE!

Here are some of the flowers from this trip



*C bicalliata* subsp *bicalliata* ( Limestone Spider)



*C crebra* (Arrowsmith Spider)



*Pras calcicola* (limestone Leek)



*T pulcherrima* (Northern Queen of Sheba)

**AND FINALLY THE EDITOR'S SKITE**



This is 2 of the triple headed flower that was more than 60 cms tall. Do you know what it is?  
Good finish to the bulletin (Ed)