



# Native Orchid Checklist



Have you seen these floral gems in your local natural area?

Orchids are stunning, wonderful and weird! We ask that you carefully observe native orchids in their natural habitat from a distance, watch where you walk, never touch them and stay on designated paths to ensure their survival. Once an orchid flower is picked it can't produce seeds and no new orchids can grow.



**Carousel Spider** | *Caladenia arenicola*



**Common White Spider** | *Caladenia longicauda*



**Pink Fairy** | *Caladenia latifolia*



**Tall Mignonette** | *Microtis media*



**Banded Greenhood** | *Pterostylis vittata*



**White Bunny** | *Eriochilus dilatatus*



**Scented Sun** | *Thelymitra macrophylla*



**Blue Beard or Blue Fairy** | *Pheladenia deformis*



**Purple Enamel** | *Elythranthera brunonis*



**Leopard Sun** | *Thelymitra benthamiana*



**Common Donkey** | *Diuris corymbosa*



**Cowslip** | *Caladenia flava*

## Noongar Flowering Seasons

- Birak** (December – January)
- Bunuru** (February – March)
- Djeran** (April – May)
- Makuru** (June – July)
- Djilba** (August – September)
- Kambarang** (October – November)

Image credit: Bill Betts

## Native Orchids

Our endemic native orchids are both beautiful and intriguing. They are an essential part of the City's incredible natural environment and biodiversity. Their protection and conservation is vital for the orchids themselves, but also their natural environment, partnering pollinators and their fungal relationships.

Conservation is especially important as native orchid populations are one of the most threatened groups of flora due to threats such as urban development, climate change, trampling, poaching and invasive species like rabbits and weeds. Learning about native orchids and how to sustainably search for them is a great way to raise awareness and help protect them. They are often difficult to spot, which makes it a real treat to find one in the wild.

### Did you know?

Western Australia has an impressive number of orchid species with 470 known from 42 different genera and 120 of these orchids having a conservation listing.<sup>1</sup> Over 30 species of native orchids have been identified in the City's natural areas. You can find our gorgeous native orchids growing in a wide range of ecosystems from low lying wetland areas like Yellagonga Regional Park, forests and woodlands such as Warwick Bushland or Craigie Bushland and along our sandy coastal heath areas such as Iluka and Burns Beach Foreshore Reserves.

## Pollination and fungi interactions

Orchids rely on fascinating pollination services from native bees, native wasps, gnats and other pollinators, but unlike most flowers orchids employ a range of tricks to attract pollinators. For example, some orchids have scent producing glands that attract pollinators, while other orchids are designed to trap pollinators or mimic similar native wildflowers, fungi shapes, or colours in the area to attract pollinators.<sup>2</sup> All our native orchids rely on pollinators for their survival. Pollinators achieve this by moving pollen from one plant to another which allows the orchids to set seed. So, keep an eye out for pollinators when searching for orchids!

Our local orchids are unable to uptake soil nutrients independently, so they partner with a specific fungi to obtain soil nutrients. Once the orchid is established it thanks or rewards the fungi by providing them with carbon, making it a symbiotic relationship. This process happens annually when the native orchid rhizomes or tubers resprout after a period of dormancy. It is also essential for seed germination in some orchids.

Research scientists are still learning about these fascinating relationships between orchids and fungi and using the information to assist in the conservation of native orchids. There are some fascinating orchid conservation projects currently taking place in the City.

## Protecting orchids for future generations

You can help to protect our native orchids by doing the following:



Stick to pathways as much as possible to prevent trampling on unseen emerging orchids and other plants, or spreading plant pathogens.



Admire their beauty from a distance and never touch or pick orchids.



Photographing our native orchids is rewarding but consider using a long camera lens or zoom rather than getting too close.



Refrain from sharing the location of native orchids on social media and other people to prevent poaching.



Get involved in preserving and rehabilitating bushland near you by joining one of the [City of Joondalup Friends groups](#).

## Tips on how to find native orchids

Native orchids can be hard to spot as the majority of our orchids are geophytic, meaning their tubers or rhizomes lay dormant underground, and the plants are only visible when they resprout in Autumn (Bunuru-Djeran).<sup>2</sup>

Here are some tips to help you spot native orchids:

- Check the flowering season for the native orchids that you would like to find. The majority flower in Perth between June-October (Makuru-Kambarang).
- Visit one of the City's incredible natural areas.
- Walk on designated pathways and search low to the ground as most orchids on the Swan Coastal Plain are below 50cm in height.

There will also be an abundance of other wildflowers and potentially fungi for you to find and discover on your orchid adventure.

<sup>1</sup> Government of WA (2024)

<sup>2</sup> Brown et al. (2008)

## References

Brown, A., Dundas, P., Dixon, K., & Hopper, S., 2008, *Orchids of Western Australia*, Crawley, WA.

Government of Western Australia, 2024, [Orchid conservation program](#)



*Caladenia flava* and native bee pollinator - credit Mark Brundrett.