

Wild Orchids Project

The Wild Orchids Project is a NSW Environmental Trust Saving our Species Partnership Grants Project between Murray Local Land Services, Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), Department of Primary Industries - Lands, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Australian Network for Plant Conservation, Forestry Corporation of NSW, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, and landholders.

The Crimson spider orchid (*Caladenia concolor*), the Sandhill spider orchid (*Caladenia arenaria*) and the Oaklands diuris (*Diuris callitrophila*) are all highly threatened in NSW. These species now only occur in very small numbers in the wild, and are at considerable risk of extinction from natural events or human-induced disturbances.



L-R: Crimson spider orchid (*Caladenia concolor*), Sandhill spider orchid (*Caladenia arenaria*), Oaklands diuris (*Diuris callitrophila*). Photos: Matt Cameron, OEH.

Conservation and management of threatened wild orchids

The Wild Orchids Project will contribute to the long-term viability of three endangered orchid species: the Sandhill spider orchid (*Caladenia arenaria*), Crimson spider orchid (*Caladenia concolor*), and Oaklands diuris (*Diuris callitrophila*). 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 800 species, but many face extinction without proper management. The Wild Orchids Consortium is working together to save these species.

Achievements

This project builds on work completed for these species already by Murray Local Land Services, OEH, and community, including:

- targeted weed control for all known populations
- fencing of key populations for strategic grazing management
- augmentation of important populations with orchid seedlings.

Planned activities

Over the next ten years the project will be undertaking management activities for all three orchid species, including:

- targeted weed and pest control
- monitoring of the abundance and condition of populations of all three species
- augmentation of existing populations and the establishment of new ones
- improving knowledge of reproduction requirements through pollinator surveys (to identify the insects needed for pollination of each species).

More information

Murray Local Land Services, 1300 795 299

or visit <http://murray.ils.nsw.gov.au/our-region/programs-and-projects/orchid-recovery-project>

Acknowledgments:



The Wild Orchids Project is a NSW Environmental Trust Saving our Species Partnership Grants Project between Murray Local Land Services, the Office of Environment and Heritage, Forestry Corporation of NSW, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Primary Industries - Lands, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Australian Network for Plant Conservation, and private landholders.

The NSW Government's Environmental Trust is a key financial contributor to the Wild Orchids Project.