

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

## HUNTING ORCHIDS IN ROYAL NATIONAL PARK

**Party:** Brian Everingham, Ken Griffiths, Suzanne Wicks, Elaine Yeoh, David Noble  
Valerie Atkinson, Sue Bosdyk, Paul Loftus, and Helen Zammitt

**With Guests:** Lisa Yeoh, Tanya Sutton, and Helen Hongyan Wang

**Apologies:** Vivienne Connolly

And with that we set off, on part thereof of the Forest Path.



*Pterostylis nutans* (Nodding Greenhood)

We saw lots of them. Indeed, I thought at one stage that we would see just this species. *P. nutans*, or the Nodding greenhoods, have flowers which "nod" or lean forwards strongly, have a deeply notched sinus and a curved, hairy labellum.

"This greenhood is pollinated by a particular species of fungus gnat, attracted by a kairomone produced by the flower's labellum. The labellum tips the insect into the flower, and in attempting to escape, it comes into contact with the sexual organs of the flower and pollination occur"<sup>1</sup>

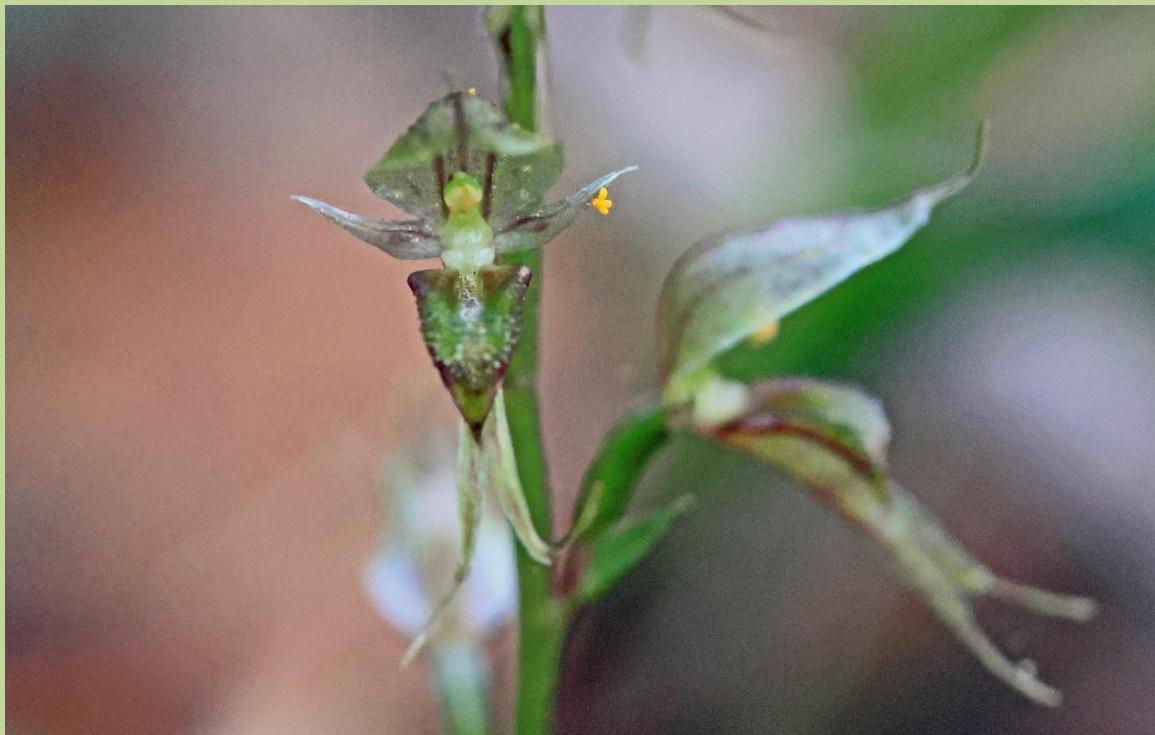
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<sup>1</sup> [Pterostylis nutans - Wikipedia](#)

There were no Corybas that anyone found but soon enough we found Acianthus.



*Acianthus fornicatus* - commonly known as bristly mosquito orchid or pixie caps



We were too early for the *Acianthus caudatus*! Can we count it?



It might be worth going back late next week!



*Pterostylis grandiflora*

Later, we saw some very old P grandiflora that were so tried to convince ourselves that they were P pedunculata. Nah! They have a rosette of flowers!



Helen outdid herself in describing this bird: quickly identified and it stayed for all of us to enjoy this Australasian Ground Thrush (also known as Bassian Thrush)

We then headed to Garawarra Farm car park for the next part of the day; a meander along the fire trail. And, yes, we found another orchid!



*Pterostylis longifolia* - Common leafy greenhood

Flowering plants have up to seven flowers which are green, partly transparent and which have a labellum which is pale green and hairy with a blackish central stripe. Non-flowering plants have a rosette of leaves but flowering plants lack the rosette, instead having five to eight stem leaves.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> [Pterostylis longifolia - Wikipedia](#)



Photo courtesy of Helen Zammit



Morning tea time





Cymbidium suave – look for the flowers in October/November



*Hibbertia dentata*



*Dockrillia striolata* – Streaked Rock Orchid (flowers in October)





*Dendrobium speciosum* – a lithophyte



Seedheads of the Turpentine Tree (*Syncarpia glomulifera*)



With that, we headed back to the cars, drove down to Audley and visited Reids Flat! One more excitement prior to afternoon tea!



*Chiloglottis formicifera* – Common Ant Orchid!

And a blast from the past (OK, earlier today)



Afternoon tea was also a delight and I must say that my cheesecake was most enjoyable!!!!

So was the company!!!!

And if our guests are interested to come on more NPA walks, go to  
<https://npansw.org.au/npa/join/annual-member/>

*Brian Everingham*