

**NPA Walk: Mirang Rd Fire Trail
October 1st 2025**

Party: Brian Everingham (i/c), Faye Bingham, Joan Kennedy, Colin Helmstedt, Paul Lofts and Elaine Yeoh

Grade: 2/3

Distance: 7km

Ascent: 300m

And as this was billed as a walk amidst the flowers, we shall walk on!



Native Broom - *Viminaria juncea*



Caladenia catenata



Gompholobium grandiflorum



Dampiera stricta



Thelymitra atronitida



Philotheca sp





Calochilus paludosus - Red Beard Orchid





Grevillea diffusa



Hakea dactyloides



Flying Duck Orchid - *Caleana major*

It may have struck everyone that there is an incredible variety on what is an orchid! Well, the type genus (i.e. the genus after which the family is named) is *Orchis*. The genus name comes from the Ancient Greek ὄρχις (*órkhis*), literally meaning "testicle", because of the shape of the twin tubers in some species of *Orchis*. And as per all flowers, we come down to sex!

Orchids are easily distinguished from other plants, as most of them share some very evident derived characteristics or synapomorphies. Among these are: bilateral symmetry of the flower (zygomorphism), many resupinate flowers, a nearly always highly modified middle petal (labellum), stamens and carpels fused into a column, and extremely small seeds.

Orchid flowers are very varied in form. But there is a logic to it! They have three sepals, three petals and a three-chambered ovary. The three sepals and two of the petals are often similar to each other but one petal is usually highly modified, forming a "lip" or labellum. It lies below the column and it functions to attract insects, and in resupinate flowers, also acts as a landing stage, or sometimes a trap. Yes, many orchids trick insects into thinking they are about to have sex with another insect and some plants even release a pheromone pretending to be that insect! I explained how that worked with the Flying Duck orchid when we (Elaine) found our field of ducks!



This is a flying duck orchid closed. It may have an insect trapped inside, doing its business!





Calochilus campestris - Copper beard orchid



Calytrix tetragona – Common Fringe Myrtle



Diuris aurea



Microtis parviflora



Pseudanthus pimeleoides



Heathcote Creek and lunch

