

## DO YOU KNOW THESE SUMMER FLOWERING ORCHIDS?

### *Caladenia congesta* Black-tongue Caladenia

This is an impressive orchid with its attractive, deep pink flowers and black labellum crowded with tightly packed, shiny, black calli. The plant may have up to 4 flowers on a thin hairy stem up to 30 cm tall.

It is only known from Coalmine Creek track at Eastern View, but it has not been sighted there for a few years.



Black-tongue Caladenia

### *Cryptostylis subulata* Large Tongue Orchid

This is an easily recognisable orchid growing from large leathery green leaves and bearing 4–6 yellowish-green flowers with a long, recurved labellum that points downwards. The yellowish red labellum is a feature of the flower, and needs to be viewed from underneath if you are to appreciate the beauty of the orchid.



Large Tongue Orchid

Only two sites for this particular species are recorded – at Red River, and at Moggs Creek, where there is a small colony that did not produce any flowers this year. A third colony was known to exist at the Tanners Road gravel pit area, but it seems to have been lost over the years.

### *Pterostylis atrans* Dark-tip Greenhood

This is the only species of Greenhood that should be flowering in the district during summer. The flower stem grows to about 20 cm tall, and has two to five leaves along it. The single, small flower is green with white stripes. The lateral sepals are erect, and protrude well above the hood, which ends with a dark brown fine pointed tip.

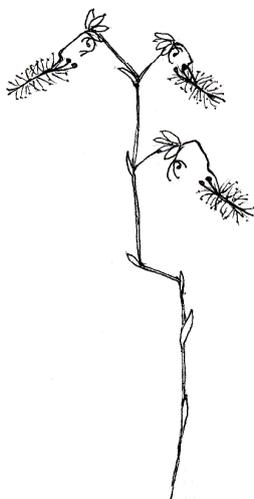


Dark-tip Greenhood

The only place where we have recorded this species is the Moggs Creek Picnic Ground

### *Thynninorchis huntianus* Elbow Orchid

This species is small and difficult to see, but once found cannot be confused with any other orchid, because of its distinctive and remarkable shape. It has a thin, wiry flower stem that bears 3–6 reddish green flowers. The petals and sepals are inconspicuous, lying back along the stem, but the hinged labellum is long and unique, and is covered with dark hairs that mimic the female of the pollinating wasp.



Elbow Orchid

This orchid has been found in a few sites. A large number have been seen in the gravel pits on Mt Ingoldsby Road, but not for a few years. They like the moist, drainage areas of gravel pits, or the sides of damp tracks.

*Margaret MacDonald  
Drawings by Ruth Hurst*

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