

HFNC Excursion to Lake Fyans and Deep Lead on 20th September 2025

Diane Luhrs and Pam Lehmann

Participants: Pam Lehmann, Leonie and Wayne Clayton, Glenys Cayley, Diane Luhrs & Rod Bird, Elizabeth Fenton, David Morrison, Virginia Keiller, Joe Logan.

Most of us left Hamilton at 9.00 am with Pam leading the convoy travelling via Dunkeld to Halls Gap then on the road to Stawell before turning south towards Lake Fyans and Kelley's Beach Road. We met our hosts for the day, Leonie and Wayne Clayton, as well as Virginia and Joe from Portland at the shelter near the jetty at Lake Fyans. Leonie has an association with orchid researchers at Latrobe University and the Royal Botanic Gardens and assists them in identifying and locating particular types of orchids.

We very much appreciated the morning tea of fresh scones served up by Leonie that greeted us as we arrived. As we enjoyed the scones, Leonie described a possible program for our day which included a quick walk in the nearby woodland to see the first of the many orchids we were to see on the day. Nearby were specimens of purple and white forms of the Wax-lip Orchids (*Glossodia/Caladenia Major*).



Glossodia/Caladenia major (recent name change) (PL)



Not seen were the Red Beaks *Pyrorchis nigricans* – they are in Grampians burn areas (PL)

Our next walk was not far but we decided to drive to a closer parking spot before walking along a path near the lake. On this walk we saw specimens of Golden Moth Orchids (*Diuris chryseopsis*), Hairy Spider Orchids (*Caladenia villosissima*), Brown-clubbed Spider Orchids (*C. parva*), Blue-beard Orchids (*C. deformis*) and Snail/Small Greenhood (*Pterostylis nana*).



Diuris Chryseopsis with *Caladenia villosissima* (DL)



D. chryseopsis (PL)



Caladenia villosissima (PL)



Caladenia parva (PL)



Pheladenia/Caladenia deformis (PL)



Pterostylis nana (DL)

From Lake Fyans, Leonie and Wayne led the convoy to the dam and Ironbark Walk in Deep Lead Nature Conservation Reserve. Here we met up with members of the Pea Study Group of the Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP) who were happy to accompany us on our walk in this area.

We followed Leonie and Wayne to various places in this Reserve to see flowering specimens of Eastern Blue Fairies (*Caladenia caerulea*), Tawny Spider Orchid (*C. fulva*), and a possible cross between the Tawny Spider Orchid and the Hard Hills/Dainty Spider Orchid (*C. fulva* X *C. ampla*).



Caladenia caerulea (PL)



C. caerulea (PL)



Caladenia fuscata (PL)



Caladenia fulva (so many variations) (PL)



C. fulva (PL)



Shingleback in the sun (DL)



C. fulva (PL)



C. fulva X *C. ampla* bud (DL)



C. fulva and *Caladenia ampla* cross (suspected) (DL)

In this section of Deep Lead, Leonie and Wayne led us to the orchid conservation plots set up by Latrobe University – a large fenced off area with multiple protected orchids representing orchids from the region that were also in flower. On the way to this large enclosure Reto and Yvonne found a patch of Small Gnat Orchids (*Cyrtostylis reniformis*).



(DL)



Leonie at protective orchid enclosure (DL)



A successful planting of orchid seed (DL)



Cyrtostylis reniformis (DL)

We drove back to a picnic park in Stawell to have our lunch under cover (rain looked imminent) and then after lunch we were led back to another section of the Deep Lead NCR to look for more specimens of the Dainty Spider Orchid *Caladenia ampla*. These we found not far from where we parked, and they were in an area with a deep open old gold shaft nearby reminding us that this reserve was a former gold mining area (hence the name Deep Lead). This was to be the last orchid viewing spot for the day.



Caladenia ampla X 2 (PL)



It had been a good day, and we were all grateful for Leonie and Wayne leading us to the different orchid places around Stawell. We were especially appreciative of Leonie's ability to find orchids and to identify the different orchid species which was the highlight of the day. And we did also enjoy other spring flowers that were present in these orchid rich areas.



Yam Daisy – *Microseris lanceolata* (DL)



Cut-leaf Daisy – perhaps *Brachyscome multifida* (DL)



Tall Sundew – *Drosera* sp. (DL)



Peach Heath – *Lissanthe strigosa* (DL)



HFNC members and others look for orchids at Deep Lead with hosts Wayne and Leonie Clayton (PL)



Wayne and Leonie Clayton (DL)