



Reg No. A0001683Y

ISSN 1033-6966

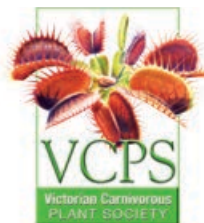
Victorian Carnivorous PLANT SOCIETY INC.

MARCH 2024

VCPS Newsletter No. 18



Drosera schizandra



Victorian Carnivorous PLANT SOCIETY INC.

Newsletter No. 18

March 2024

Office Bearers: July 2023 – June 2024

President

Stephen Fretwell – Tel: 0403 004 177
email: stevefretwell24@gmail.com

Vice President

Sean Spence – Tel: (03) 9743 5809
email: spence06@bigpond.com

General/Member Secretary

Peter Bloem – Tel: 0407 839 750
email: pbloem@bigpond.net.au

Minutes Secretary

Andrew Gibbons
email: a.s.gibbons@bigpond.com

Journal Editor

David Petch
email: dpetch60@gmail.com

Art Director

Stephen Fretwell – Tel: 0403 004 177
email: stevefretwell24@gmail.com

Internet Co-ordinator

Andrew Gibbons
email: a.s.gibbons@bigpond.com

Treasurer

Ken Neal – Tel: 0424 567 095
email: ken.neal255@gmail.com

Librarian

David Petch
email: dpetch60@gmail.com

Seedbank Administrator

Ron Abernethy – Tel: (03) 9879 0908
email: rab31451@bigpond.net.au

Other Publications & Journal distributor

Brendan Bok
email: brendanb1212@yahoo.com.au

Hardware Co-ordinator

Andre Cleghorn – Tel: (03) 9584 2087
email: andrecleg@optusnet.com.au

Event Co-ordinators

Stephen Fretwell – Tel: 0403 004 177
email: stevefretwell24@gmail.com

Open Day Liaison Officer

Stephen Fretwell – Tel: 0403 004 177
email: stevefretwell24@gmail.com

Field Trips Organiser

Sean Spence – Tel: (03) 9743 5809
email: spence06@bigpond.com

Sales Administrator

Ron Abernethy – Tel: (03) 9879 0908
email: rab31451@bigpond.net.au



MEETING TOPICS & DATES for 2024

VICTORIAN CARNIVOROUS PLANT SOCIETY

This year we have scheduled the following discussion topics, and events:

January	(20 th)	New Year BBQ (Contact for details)
February	(28 th)	<i>Sarracenia</i> , <i>Dionaea</i> (VFT), beginners info
March	(27 th)	<i>Nepenthes</i> & <i>Heliamphora</i> .
April	(24 th)	<i>Drosera</i> and information night.
May	(22 nd)	Growing conditions, 'Best' and 'Worst' plants, pygmy <i>Drosera</i> gemmae swap and <i>Nepenthes</i> cutting demonstration.
June	(26 th)	AGM, plant give-away , any CPs.
July	(24 th)	Rosetted tuberous <i>Drosera</i> judging, Propagation – seed growing, division and cuttings. <i>Sarracenia</i> rhizome plant sale.
August	(28 th)	Upright tuberous/Winter growing <i>Drosera</i> , show preparation, displays, and companion planting.
September	(25 th)	<i>Cephalotus</i> , <i>Brocchinia</i> , <i>Catopsis</i> and swap night.
October	(23 rd)	<i>Byblis</i> , pygmy <i>Drosera</i> , <i>Drosera binata</i> , <i>Drosophyllum</i> , <i>Genlisea</i> , <i>Pinguicula</i> , <i>Roridula</i> , <i>Utricularia</i> , any carnivorous plant, show preparation.
November	(Sunday, 24 th)	Triffid Park Open Day.
December	(TBA)	VCPS Annual show at Collectors Corner.

Please note: All meetings, other than those where a specific venue is given, will be on the FOURTH WEDNESDAY of the month in the hall of the Pilgrim Uniting Church in Yarraville. Corner Bayview Road and Montague Street, Melway Map Reference 41K7.

Contents



Nepenthes ampullaria growing amongst thick leaf litter at Kent Ridge Park, Singapore. Photo: Stephen Fretwell

VCPS Growers photos

If you'd like to publish a photo that you took of your plant in the VCPS journal. Please email it to Stephen Fretwell the VCPS designer at: stevefretwell24@gmail.com

- VCPS News 5
- The Smith Family trek to find the elusive *Drosera schizandra* 6
- A fourth *Nepenthes* species native to Singapore? 12
- Meetings highlights & Plants of the night 18

Seed Bank

We now have a huge collection of NEW fresh CP seed available, and our seed list has become quite extensive.

With over 250 varieties of CP's, we are now providing the list in PDF format on our website, www.vcps.org

For inquiries or to order seeds, please contact the VCPS Seedbank Officer.

The articles that are found within are copyright but can be copied freely if the author and source are acknowledged. The views are of the authors and are open to review and debate. Please send all material to the editor for consideration to be included in our quarterly journal.



FRONT COVER:

Drosera schizandra.
Mt Bartle Frere, QLD.

Photo: Donna Smith

BACK COVER:

Clockwise from top left:

■ *Nepenthes gracilis* lower pitcher from Kent Ridge Park, Singapore.
Photo: Stephen Fretwell

■ *Nepenthes mirabilis* lower pitchers from Rifle Range Nature Park, Singapore.
Photo: Stephen Fretwell

■ *Nepenthes ampullaria* lower pitchers from Kent Ridge Park, Singapore.
Photo: Stephen Fretwell

■ *Nepenthes rafflesiana* lower pitcher from Kent Ridge Park, Singapore.
Photo: Stephen Fretwell

■ *Drosera schizandra*.
Mt Bartle Frere, QLD.
Photo: Donna Smith

■ *Drosera schizandra*.
Mt Bartle Frere, QLD.
Photo: Donna Smith

■ *Nepenthes rafflesiana* upper pitcher from Kent Ridge Park, Singapore.
Photo: Stephen Fretwell

■ *Cephalotus follicularis*.
(centre) from the National Orchid Gardens, Singapore.
Photo: Stephen Fretwell

Design: Stephen Fretwell

VCPS News

New *Nepenthes* species from the Philippines

A new *Nepenthes* species has recently been described that grows in the limestone karst bonsai forest of the eastern Mindanao biodiversity corridor in the Philippines.

N. kampilii is considered critically endangered due to the threats from poaching and habitat loss.

N. kampilii is slightly similar to *N. peltata*, but differs by having apically attached tendril to leave (vvs. peltate tendril-leaf attachment), hairy ground pitchers (vs. glabrous) and sometimes has 2 pitcher spurs arising from the midsection of the peristome neck posterior.



Photos: N. Lagunday

Articles needed for VCPS journal

Have you ever wanted to contribute and publish an article about cultivating, propagating or seeing carnivorous plants in the wild. Do you experience any issues growing particular species?

The VCPS is looking for articles, whether they're short ones or long ones to add more diversity and to help share information to its members and readers.

If you need any ideas or you're not sure what to write about, please contact David Petch or Stephen Fretwell.

Please email it to the editor
David Petch at:
dpetch60@gmail.com

And also to Stephen Fretwell at:
stevefretwell24@gmail.com





Drosera schizandra
Photo: Donna Smith



Barron Falls in Kuranda.



Photos: Donna Smith Donna with a large patch of *Drosera schizandra*.

The Smith Family trek to find the elusive *Drosera schizandra*

BY DONNA SMITH

Jason, Donna and our older son Kyle left home in Melbourne on Tuesday 26th March to fly to Townsville for Kyle's University graduation ceremony on Wednesday 27th March. He had completed his 3 year Bachelor of Marine Science degree.

Our younger son Ryan flew from Perth, where he is studying a Bachelor of Science – Botany, to meet us in Townsville.

We had hired a Kia Carnival, so there was enough room for 4 suitcases and our family of 4 to drive around in. The day after the graduation ceremony, we headed to Cairns with no particular agenda, except for scuba diving on the Great Barrier Reef on Easter Monday 1st April, and no accommodation booked.

Just before we left home, I remembered an article that I had recently read in the Victorian Carnivorous Plant Society journal from June 2023 about President Steve Fretwell trekking to find *Drosera schizandra*. So I went through my library of past journals and found 3 more with articles on this elusive plant – September 2010, December 2013 and September 2014. Taking



The Smith family at Lake Eacham.

these 4 journals with me on the journey, I reread them all and decided that our family needed to find these plants that grow on a single mountain in the tropical rainforest of Far North Queensland.

On the car ride north from Townsville to Cairns, we decided to head inland through the Atherton Tablelands for a couple of days. On the way, I messaged Steve to get some more accurate directions on where to find the plants. He sent me some great information and so our path was set. On Thursday we drove to a town called Malanda and decided to stay the night there, as it was quite



Kyle's Marine Science graduation in Townsville.



A flooded creek crossing along Davies Creek Road.



Ryan with *Nepenthes* at the Cairns Botanical Gardens.



A Curtain Fig Tree at the Yungaburra Atherton Tablelands.

close to where we needed to access Mount Bartle Frere where the *D. schizandra* grow. It was getting a bit late in the day to start the trek to find *D. schizandra*, so instead we chose to visit Lake Eacham, an extinct volcano crater, that has filled with water making a beautiful lake that you can swim and canoe on. We walked the 3km circuit track around it, marveling at the gorgeous rain forest that surrounds it.

The next morning was to be our adventure to Mount Bartle Frere, however we woke to heavy rain fall, and found out that Malanda had had 60mm of rain overnight and still counting. This was not the kind of weather that we wanted to go trekking in, so made the decision to continue on through the Atherton Tablelands, down through Kuranda to Cairns, with the possibility of driving back this way on Easter Tuesday for a last chance effort of finding *D. schizandra*.

Steve had mentioned to me that on the way down from Kuranda to Cairns, we might want to call past Davies Creek in the Dinden West Forest Reserve, as

there are a number of carnivorous plants that grow there. So after viewing the Barron Falls at Kuranda in full flow after a night of heavy rain, we continued to find the road into Davies Creek. However not far along this road, there was a creek that crossed the road, and watching the 4 wheel drives on the other side wondering how they were going to get across, we decided that our Kia Carnival, was definitely not going to make it across the fast flowing water way. A quick family meeting and we gave up on that idea and headed into Cairns where we found some accommodation for the next 5 nights.

We enjoyed warm rainy weather over the Easter break in Cairns, walked along the ocean boardwalk and marina, visited the Cairns Botanical Gardens where there are a few baskets of assorted *Nepenthes* growing in the Conservatory, and did a road trip up to Port Douglas and the small beachside towns along the way. The sun came out for our 3 scuba dives off the Quicksilver boat, "Silverswift" on Easter Monday, where we all really enjoyed looking at the lovely coral and some beautiful marine life.



Donna and Jason at the entrance to Wooroonooran NP.



The closed dirt track to the main car park due to it being too wet.



A large Carpet python found by the side of the dirt track.



Red bellied black snake.



Hiking along the muddy trail to the *Drosera schizandra*.



Spikes of the Rattan Palm.

We woke on Tuesday morning, ready to tackle Mount Bartle Frere no matter what. We drove up the Gillies Highway, from Gordonvale, Cairns, through the Gillies Range where one section of 19km of road has 263 corners, making it a very windy road indeed. Then turned off just near Lake Eacham,.

From Steve's instructions, and Google maps, we found the carpark to Windin Falls. Steve had told me that if we were lucky, the gate would be open and we would be able to drive all the way to the bottom car park. But as it has been one of the wettest wet seasons in a long time, and the area was still suffering the after effects of Cyclone Megan, unfortunately the gates were closed and we had to walk 1.9km to the bottom carpark.

This walk was no mean feat, walking along a dirt clay road that obviously hadn't been used or mowed over the wet season, so we were walking through long wet grass in our runners (sneakers/sports shoes). The long grass also had other disadvantages, such as hiding snakes. Kyle walked straight past a large python laid out on the side of the track. It was a gorgeous looking black and brown marbled snake who paid no attention to us. Less than half a kilometre later, Jason nearly jumped out of his skin when he almost stood on a very black shiny snake. This one was stunning looking, with no other colorations on it, but a lot more sinister looking.

Just over 20 minutes from parking the car, we arrived at the bottom carpark where the real fun began. Steve had given us great instructions on where to begin the



Ryan photographing *Drosera schizandra*.



Drosera schizandra growing on an embankment.



Jason with *Drosera schizandra*.

trek, and we found this track very easily. It was now about a 3 kilometre walk to where the *D. schizandra* should be found. However this track was a lot slower going for us, as it was very wet, slippery clay mud and bogs, which did not suit our ordinary runners. After a while of trying to dodge the wet mud, we finally gave up and just walked straight through the wet ground, deciding that we would just throw our runners in the washing machine back at the accommodation.

We had to dodge the very vicious spikes of the rattan palms, ducking under them and carefully sidestepping around them. The rough vines that hung from trees were another danger that you had to beware of, these clung to your clothes, or as I found, my skin, ripping it open and causing my arm to bleed. And then there were the leeches. We were constantly flicking them off each other. I had taken Rid (a form of mosquito repellent) away with us, however had not thought to bring it on the hike. I had thought of it for mosquitos at night, not leeches. We had lathered ourselves in sunscreen prior to the hike, hoping that this might have deterred them a bit, however they must have been waiting all summer for some nice warm blood to come their way, and they weren't going to give up too easily. Everything in this rainforest seemed to want to kill you – or maybe they were the protectors of the *schizandra*!!!

At one point, the track seemed to disappear into a collapsed mudslide, and we thought we might not be able to get through and weren't really sure where the track went from there. Then we climbed around the edge through some trees, and picked up the track again, with the help of some pink tape that a previous hiker, or maybe carnivorous enthusiast, had obviously left behind to mark the track.

The 3 kilometres took us around 45 minutes to walk, much slower going than our usual pace. After about half an hour, we kept stopping to search the embankments for the *Drosera*, as we really didn't know how far along they would be. Then finally we spotted our first one. We gave a mighty cheer, as we were starting to wonder if we were on the right trail and how much further would we have to search.

So here they were – *D. schizandra* – in all their beauty. There was no dew on them because of the heavy rainfall over summer, and we watched small spiders walking right across them with no fear of being caught. Not a flower bud remnant was to be seen. However, we were thrilled to have found this amazing plant. We almost felt the change in vegetation as we approached them. The undergrowth thinned out, and the rattan palms disappeared. The clay base changed to a lighter color and there was a layer of leaf litter covering the ground. The sunlight filtered through the trees, it was a bit lighter here than the rest of the rainforest that we had walked through. The plants were growing in an area of about 50 metres long in large groups up the side of the embankments, and as we walked further along, they were also in patches on the forest floor. Quite a remarkable effort for the plant to live in such a small area populated quite heavily with healthy looking specimens. The largest plants that we saw were about 18-20cm in diameter.



A huge plant of *Drosera schizandra*.



Drosera schizandra saturated by the rain.

The temperature was in the mid 20's and humidity was low, so it made for quite a pleasant hike through the rain forest.

Several years ago we found *Drosera adaelae* on a rock wall of a waterfall allowing almost year round moisture. *D. schizandra* was not near any permanent water course and Steve told me when he saw them at the end of November, the clay was dry and crumbly. On our visit it was wet and guggy.

After about an hour of looking and taking photos, we started the trek back to the lower car park, this was slightly faster than on the way in, as by now we did not worry about keeping our runners dry, and we did not have to keep stopping to inspect the embankments



Jason and Donna with a large colony of *Drosera schizandra*.



Ryan with *Drosera schizandra*.

for our find. Once we retraced our steps and covered the 3 kilometres back to the lower carpark, we then continued on the remaining 1.9km to the locked gate. There was no sign of the black snake on the way back, however the python was still there, but curled up more in a ball to keep warm from the rain that had started to drizzle.

Arriving back at the car, after a 10 kilometre round trip hike, we rid ourselves of our very wet and muddy shoes and socks, checked for leeches, of which we found a few more, and headed back to Cairns very elated with our day in the rain forest and the elusive *D. schizandra*.

Donna Smith
Owner – Triffid Park (Aust) Pty Ltd.



Nepenthes rafflesiana upper pitchers
at Kent Ridge Park, Singapore.
Photo: Stephen Fretwell



The stunning panoramic view from the ColugoDeck lookout at Rifle Range Park.

Photos: Stephen Fretwell

A fourth *Nepenthes* species native to Singapore?

BY STEPHEN FRETWELL

Last October my family and I spent a week in Singapore on holiday. And while I was there, not only did I check out some of the amazing plants at Gardens by the Bay and the Singapore Botanic Gardens, but I also managed to check out a couple of sites where the endemic *Nepenthes* occur in their natural habitat.

After doing a bit of research I found some information that there's a few *Nepenthes* species that occur at the Rifle Range Nature Park, including *Nepenthes mirabilis* which isn't supposed to be endemic to Singapore. This intrigued me, so I made it a priority to investigate this site. The second natural site I decided to visit afterwards was Kent Ridge Park, one that I'd previously where all three native *Nepenthes* occur.

The weather in Singapore was hotter than usual while we were there, due to smoke haze blown in from fires in Sumatra. This had trapped the heat making daytime temperatures 34-35°C, which was extremely hot and quite uncomfortable.

After a few days in Singapore I chose a day that looked like the weather would be suitable to go hiking and looking for plants. After the morning peak hour rush, I arrived at the Rifle Range Nature Park. I started my exploration from around the middle of the park which was located halfway up

a hill. This way I figured that I could start at the top and work my way down to the bottom of the park where a new information centre had been constructed at the main entrance.

As I walked along the trail the vegetation became extremely thick with large trees and other plants. Several hundred metres in, there were records for *N. ampullaria* but the terrain was extremely steep and I could see no sign of *Nepenthes* leaves so I kept following the trail until I came to a turn off that led up to a lookout called Colugo Deck.

The path was short up to the Colugo Deck and once I'd climbed up the steps, I came to a newly built lookout that gave way to spectacular panoramic views down over the quarry below and to the city buildings beyond the park.

After enjoying the views, reading the information and taking some photos I headed back along the trail and to my amazement I found a few a small *Nepenthes* plants alongside it.

The soil was still bare on the surface and it looked like the *Nepenthes* had been planted there after the construction of the lookout was completed. Most of the plants had no pitchers and just broad, thin, soft leaves. So, I kept looking and finally found a couple of small lower pitchers which confirmed their identity that it was indeed *N. mirabilis*, the plant I was hoping to find.

After taking a few photos I kept following the



N. mirabilis plants possibly planted at Rifle Range Nature Park.



The new information centre at Rifle Range Park.



Wild *N. gracilis* plants vining over other vegetation at Rifle Range Nature Park.



Grammatophyllum speciosum.



Spathoglottis plicata.



A large plant of *Arundina graminifolia*.



The pond in the quarry at Rifle Range Nature Park.



N. gracilis upper pitcher at Rifle Range Nature Park.

trail which lead down into an old quarry which had been redeveloped into a large pond filled with grasses and reeds. Large Tiger lily orchids *Grammatophyllum speciosum* had been planted on large boulders at the entrance to the swamp where a boardwalk was built for people to view the habitat and to protect it from being trampled.

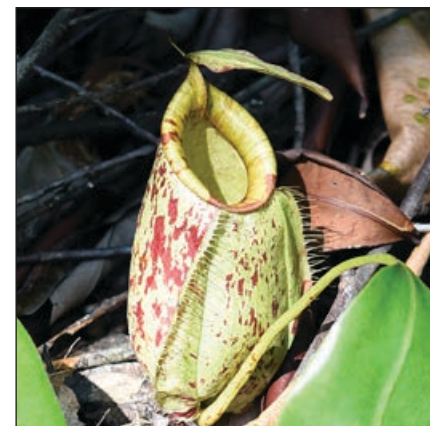
On one side of the boardwalk there was water and reeds, but on the other side was the shoreline and dry land. And this was where I discovered more *Nepenthes*. But this time it was large *N. gracilis* plants sprawling over its supporting vegetation. These plants were growing out in the open in full sun and even though they were large they didn't have many pitchers on them.

As I walked along the boardwalk, I came across more *N. mirabilis* plants that again were still small in size and

looked like they had also been planted there. These plants had a few more, lower pitchers that were a bit bigger, 12-15cm in size, but nowhere near as big as they can get. After taking some more photos I kept moving as the temperature was pretty extreme out in the open down around the swampy area.

Further along the boardwalk I found more *N. gracilis* which looked like they had always been there but no more *N. mirabilis* or *N. ampullaria* which I was also hoping to see around the area.

Once the boardwalk had left the swamp it continued on through to a dense habitat with large trees, then crossed over the top of the road that I came in on to a newly built Park information centre, complete with video information about the park.



A natural hybrid *N. x hookeriana* lower pitcher at Kent Ridge Park.



A colourful *N. gracilis* upper pitcher at Kent Ridge Park.



A natural hybrid *N. x hookeriana* upper pitcher at Kent Ridge Park.



N. rafflesiana lower pitcher at Kent Ridge Park.



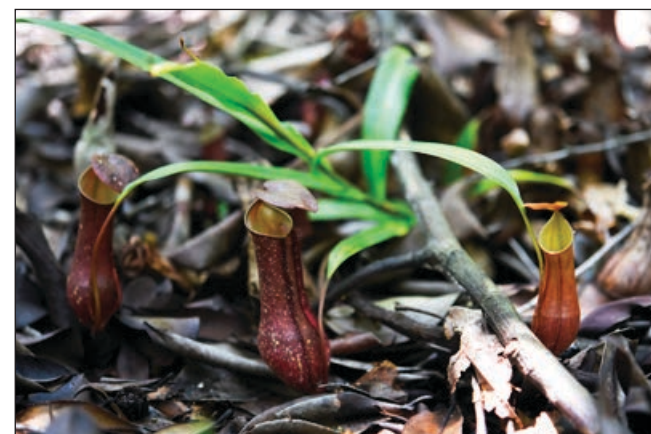
N. rafflesiana growing beside the path at Kent Ridge Park.



N. rafflesiana upper pitcher at Kent Ridge Park.



N. ampullaria at Kent Ridge Park.



A dark pitching *N. gracilis* at Kent Ridge Park.

There was still a lot of areas that I would've like to explore at the Rifle Range Nature park, but I had another location to go to that day and this area was so large that I'd have to return another time.

The next location I visited was Kent Ridge Park, a place that I'd visited once before in 2019. After getting dropped off by a Grab car I immediately headed off to where I saw the plants last time. When I reached the area where I found the plants, I discovered the area to be extremely dry and the first few plants that I found of *N. gracilis* had no pitchers on them.

I kept following the track until I came across my first *N. rafflesiana* plants. Again, the area was dry here too, but I did manage to find a few lower pitchers on plants beside

the track. As I explored further into the habitat, I found a few upper pitchers, but they were still quite scarce. Further along I found a spot where dozens of plants were growing together on a thick 20cm deep, dry leaf litter. It was here that I found a natural hybrid between *N. rafflesiana* and *N. ampullaria* called *N. x hookeriana*. The lower pitchers on this hybrid were quite short and oval shaped and at first glance looked like *N. rafflesiana* due to the colouration. The upper pitcher also initially resembles *N. rafflesiana*, but they had a narrow pitcher with a round peristome.

Also, around this area was some nice dark pitched *N. gracilis*. The pitchers were quite small at approximately 5-6cm, but considering the plant was growing in a quite shaded area, its dark red pitchers were very impressive.



A huge water inside the Cloud Dome.



A large flowering *N. glandulifera*.



Aerial boardwalks inside the Cloud Dome.



Various carnivorous plants inside the Cloud Dome.



Nepenthes and *Paphiopedilum* inside the Cloud Dome.

After taking as many photos that I could of the few plants that good pitchers on them in the area I then moved on to look for *N. ampullaria*.

I followed the trail around and down to where I thought the plants were, but I must have missed a path as the habitat didn't look right and I the path I was on soon came out into an open exposed area near a road. I hadn't been to this part of the park before so kept exploring and found a lot more *N. gracilis* growing out in the open and then just off the trail in more shaded areas were dozens more plants of *N. rafflesiana*, but with no pitchers.

Eventually I came to a fork in the trail with one path leading back up and the other continuing alongside the road. I started heading up the trail and before too long was rewarded by finding my first *N. ampullaria* plants.

The first few plants that I found had clusters of 5-8 all green egg sized lower pitchers on them. The plants seemed to follow a shallow trench, possibly carved out from water erosion coming down the hillside. *N. ampullaria* is often found around wet areas, so it was no surprise to find them in this spot.

Around the area I also found plants forming aerial rosettes with short leaves and pitchers and some plants also had nice red speckled green pitchers. Shortly after the trench finished there was only a few more *N. ampullaria* plants and then as the soil dried out again only *N. gracilis* plants could be found. Once I got back to the original trail at the top, I took some more photos of

some nice *N. rafflesiana* plants with upper pitchers then decided to call it quits as I was now drenched in sweat and just about out of water.

In the next couple of days, I visited Gardens by the Bay, which I highly recommend going to as it's absolutely amazing what they've built. If you pay to go inside the Cloud Dome, right at the top just after you exit the elevator you can find a variety of Carnivorous plants there, including some large *Nepenthes*, *Sarracenia*, *Dionaea*, *Drosera* and *Pinguicula*, along with various orchids and *Rhododendron*'s in flower. *N. truncata* was the centre piece plant when we were there, but they do seem to change their displays around periodically as this display was different to the last time I visited in 2019.

Another fantastic place to visit is the National Orchid Garden which is situated within the Royal Botanical Gardens. You also have to pay to get into the orchid gardens, but it's well worth it, as inside there's hundreds of orchids in flower all growing outside either in the open or in shaded areas in the tropical conditions.

In early 2023 they opened a brand new air, conditioned extremely large solar panelled glasshouse called The Sembcorp Cool House.

Inside they have curated the orchid collection in the according to five biogeographical regions – Malesia, Continental Southeast Asia and South Asia, Australasia, Afrotropics and the Neotropics.

The Sembcorp Cool House is designed to emulate a



The Sembcorp Cool House at the National Orchid Garden.



Dazzling displays of various orchids in flower.



N. robcantleyi and *N. hamata*.



Stunning orchids at the entrance.



N. hamata inside the cool house.



Cephalotus growing on a moss mound.



The unusual flower of *Stelis flexuosa*.



Various *Heliamphora*'s.

high elevation montane forest, which exists at altitudes of 1,000m to 2,000m, and with a surrounding temperature of 16 to 23° C.

Approximately 1,000 orchid species and hybrids are exhibited in the Cool House, together with new varieties from other plant families such as *Nepenthes*, *Heliamphora*, *Sarracenia*, *Cephalotus*, *Drosera*, *Rhododendrons* and begonias that have characteristic shimmering leaves.

The *Nepenthes* there varied between hybrids and species, of which there's a few nice large plants of species such as *N. glandulifera*, *N. robcantleyi* and *N. hamata*. As you keep following the path around there's also some large *Heliamphora* plants growing out of a large sphagnum moss mound and oddly enough, also growing

alongside them is some *Sarracenia*, *Cephalotus*, *Drosera capensis* and *D. adelae*.

Plus, there's hundreds of stunning orchids in flower in the Cool house ranging from large *Phalenopsis* plants, to *Paphiopedilum*'s and miniature orchids. It's a fantastic place to visit if you're into orchids as you never know what rare and usual orchids will be in flower in there, plus it's nice and cool and an enjoyable break from the heat outside.

Overall Singapore has so many amazing and fantastic places to visit if you go there, but for me finding wild *Nepenthes* is always such a rewarding experience and well worth the effort. Even though the fourth species that I was looking for, had been planted and most likely doesn't naturally occur there.



Dionaea muscipula and *Sarracenia* plants brought to the February meeting VCPS meeting.



February 28th VCPS meeting

SARRACENIA, DIONAEA MUSCIPULA

The February meeting was devoted to *Sarracenia* and *Dionaea*. Both genera grow well under Melbourne conditions and are excellent plants for both beginners and experienced growers. Jason's *S. x mitchelliana x flava* was voted *Sarracenia* of the night.

This plant had nice red, upright pitchers with white fenestrations. Florian brought in a large planter filled with *S. rubra* which was voted runner up while third place went the Steve's *S. purpurea ssp. venosa var. montana*, a very attractive purp with striking venation in the lid.

Dionaea muscipula is an iconic carnivorous plant

which exhibits a considerable amount of variation for a single species and several different cultivars were benched at the meeting. Ron's *D. muscipula* 'Red Bristle Tooth' and *D. muscipula* 'Angel Wings?' were voted 1st and 2nd place VFT of the night.

As the name suggests, *D. muscipula* 'Red Bristletooth' is an all red dentate form while 'Angel Wings' normally produces strongly convexed traps although this trait wasn't prominent on the plant that was benched. 3rd place went to Steve's *D. muscipula* 'Coquillage', an unusual prostrate form where the teeth are reduced to small nubs.

The species benched at the February meeting included:

Dionaea 'Angel Wings?'

Dionaea 'Australian Red Rosetted'

Dionaea 'Big Tomato'

Dionaea 'Bimbo'

Dionaea 'B52'

Dionaea 'Carboni Ardent'

Dionaea 'Carolina State Park'

Dionaea 'Coquillage'

Dionaea 'Crossteeth'

Dionaea 'DCXL'

Dionaea 'Eyelash'

Dionaea 'Fake Dracula'

Dionaea 'Fang'

Dionaea 'Freaky Star'

Dionaea 'Funnel Trap'

Dionaea 'G16 x G14 - SS Clone 10'

Dionaea 'Olive Green'

Dionaea 'Phalanx'

Dionaea 'Red Bristle Tooth'

Dionaea 'Red Line'

Dionaea 'Red Piranha'

Dionaea 'Rouge Sombre'

Dionaea 'Schuppenstiel'

Dionaea 'Sharks Teeth' x 'Royal Red'

Dionaea 'Shell'

Dionaea 'Slacks Giant'

Dionaea 'South West Giant'

Dionaea 'Spider'

Dionaea 'Tall'

Dionaea 'Whacky Traps'

Nepenthes diabolica

Nepenthes edwardsiana

Nepenthes hamata

Nepenthes x harryana

Nepenthes ((lowii x veitchii) x boschiana)

x ((veitchii x maxima) x veitchii)

Sarracenia alata

Sarracenia alata var. rubrioperculata

Sarracenia flava hybrid

Sarracenia flava var ornata

Sarracenia leucophylla

Sarracenia minor var okefenokeensis

Sarracenia x mitchelliana x flava

Sarracenia x popei

Sarracenia purpurea var montana

Sarracenia psittacina

Sarracenia psittacina var okefenokeensis f. luteoviridis

Sarracenia rubra

Sarracenia rubra gulfensis 'Antho free'

Sarracenia rubra var wherryi

February Plant of the Night: *Dionaea muscipula*



DIONAEA PLANT OF THE NIGHT: 1st place: 'Red Bristle Tooth'



DIONAEA PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
2nd place: 'Angel Wings' (?)



DIONAEA PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
3rd place: 'Coquillage'

Other noteworthy *Dionaeae* benched at the February VCPS meeting.



D. muscipula 'DCXL'.



D. muscipula 'Angel Wings'.



D. muscipula 'Funnel Trap'.

February Plant of the Night: Best *Sarracenia*



SARRACENIA PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
1st place: *Sarracenia x mitchelliana x flava*



SARRACENIA PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
2nd place: *Sarracenia rubra*



SARRACENIA PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
3rd place: *Sarracenia purpurea var. montana*

February Plant of the Night: Best Non topic plant



BEST NON TOPIC PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
1st place: *Nepenthes x harryana*



BEST NON TOPIC PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
2nd place: *Nepenthes hamata*



BEST NON TOPIC PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
3rd place: *Nepenthes edwardsiana*



Nepenthes, *Heliamphora* and other non topics plants brought to the March VCPS meeting.



March 27th VCPS meeting
NEPENTHES & *HELIAMPHORA*

The topic plants for the February meeting were *Nepenthes* and *Heliamphora*. *Nepenthes* are tropical carnivorous plants, however, many of the highland species experience cool temperatures in the wild and can be grown in an unheated greenhouse in Melbourne. Similarly, most *Heliamphora* grow on the tepui of the Guiana Highlands in South America where temperatures are mild during the day with nightly drops into the single digits and will also grow well in Melbourne; if anything our hot summers present more of a problem for them. The *Nepenthes* and *Heliamphora* were judged separately for plant of the night with Kelly's *Nepenthes bicalcarata* being voted *Nepenthes* of the night and Justin's *Heliamphora folliculata x ionasi* being voted *Heliamphora* of the night.

Nepenthes bicalcarata is a tropical species that likes warm conditions and, for this reason, can be challenging to grow in Melbourne without additional heat. The *Heliamphora folliculata x ionasi* was one of Justin's own crosses that he made about 8 years ago. Runners up for *Nepenthes* of the night were Ron's *Nepenthes rajah* and Justin's *Nepenthes edwardsiana*. Runners up for *Heliamphora* of the night were Steve's *Heliamphora folliculata* and Ron's *folliculata x ionasi* with Peter's *Pinguicula gypsicola x moctezumae* voted non-topic plant of the night.

The species benched at the March meeting included:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <i>Cephalotus follicularis</i> 'Edwards Giant' | <i>Nepenthes khasiana</i> |
| <i>Heliamphora collina</i> | <i>Nepenthes lowii x zakriana</i> |
| <i>Heliamphora elongata</i> | <i>Nepenthes maxima</i> |
| <i>Heliamphora folliculata</i> | <i>Nepenthes minima</i> |
| <i>Heliamphora folliculata x ionasi</i> | <i>Nepenthes</i> 'Predator' |
| <i>Heliamphora heterodoxa x folliculata</i> | <i>Nepenthes rajah</i> |
| <i>Heliamphora hispida</i> | <i>Nepenthes rigidifolia</i> |
| <i>Heliamphora nutans x heterodoxa</i> | <i>Nepenthes singalana</i> |
| <i>Heliamphora ionasi x folliculata</i> | <i>Nepenthes tentaculata</i> |
| <i>Heliamphora pulchella</i> | <i>Nepenthes talangensis</i> |
| <i>Heliamphora</i> 'Tequila' | <i>Nepenthes tobaica</i> |
| <i>Nepenthes alba</i> | <i>Nepenthes truncata</i> |
| <i>Nepenthes albomarginata</i> | <i>Nepenthes veitchii</i> |
| <i>Nepenthes attenboroughii</i> | <i>Nepenthes veitchii x burbidgae</i> |
| <i>Nepenthes bicalcarata</i> | <i>Nepenthes ventricosa x sibuyanensis x merrilliana</i> |
| <i>Nepenthes edwardsiana</i> | <i>Pinguicula gypsicola x moctezumae</i> |
| <i>Nepenthes ephippiata</i> | <i>Sarracenia alata</i> 'Red Throat' x <i>flava</i> |
| <i>Nepenthes flava</i> | <i>Sarracenia flava var. ornata</i> hybrid |
| <i>Nepenthes glabrata</i> | <i>Sarracenia leucophylla</i> |

March Plant of the Night: Best *Nepenthes*



NEPENTHES PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
1st place: *Nepenthes bicalcarata*



NEPENTHES PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
2nd place: *Nepenthes rajah*



NEPENTHES PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
3rd place: *Nepenthes edwardsiana*

Other noteworthy *Nepenthes* benched at the March VCPS meeting.



N. glabrata.



N. veitchii x burbidgeae.



N. ridigifolia.

March Plant of the Night: Best *Heliamphora*



HELIAMPHORA PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
1st place: *Heliamphora folliculata x ionasi*



HELIAMPHORA PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
2nd place: *Heliamphora folliculata*



HELIAMPHORA PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
3rd place: *Heliamphora folliculata*

March Plant of the Night: Best non topic plant



BEST NON TOPIC PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
1st place: *Pinguicula gypsicola x moctezumae*



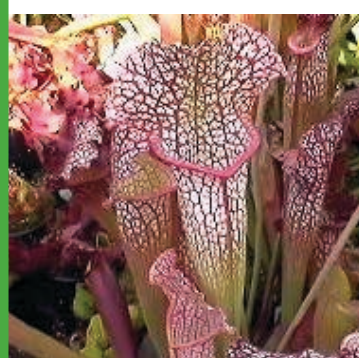
BEST NON TOPIC PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
2nd place: *Sarracenia leucophylla*, Ben's Bog



BEST NON TOPIC PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
3rd place: *Cephalotus follicularis*



Collectors Corner Gardenworld



***Cephalotus, Dionaea, Drosera, Heliamphora,
Nepenthes, Pinguicula & Sarracenia***

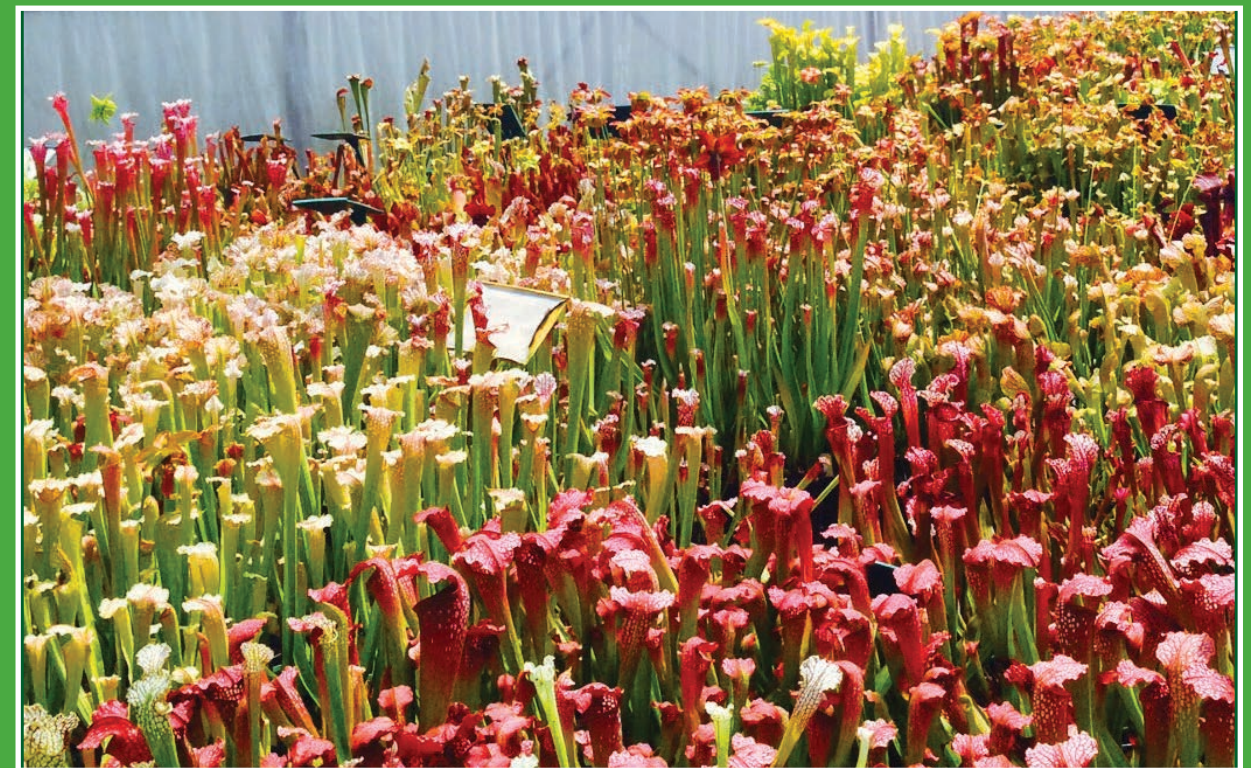
Also specialising in:

- bromeliads • bonsai • cactus • orchids
- succulents • tillandsias • books
- gemstones • meteorites • fossils



Garden World, 810 Springvale Road,
Keysborough, Victoria

Phone: 61 3 9798 5845
www.collectorscorner.com.au



TRIFFID PARK 2024 OPEN DAY

Sunday, November 24th.

FOR ALL YOUR CARNIVOROUS PLANT REQUIREMENTS INCLUDING:
PLANTS, POTS, LABELS, BOOKS, SEEDS, SPHAGNUM MOSS AND PEAT MOSS.

Owned and operated by Jason and Donna Smith

103 DANDENONG-HASTINGS ROAD, SOMERVILLE, VIC, 3912, AUSTRALIA

EMAIL: triffids@triffidpark.com.au WEB: www.triffidpark.com.au

There's also a 10% discount for VCPS members that show their membership card.



REDFERN ADVENTURES

Redfern Adventures organises carefully planned, specialist eco-tours to unusual and exciting destinations where few other travel companies operate.

Offering travellers the opportunity to experience and observe amazing *carnivorous plants and orchids, exotic wildlife, unusual cultures and outstanding landscapes* in distant corners of the globe.

Visit our website to see our full portfolio of adventure destinations

 www.redfernadventures.com

 sales@redfernadventures.com



Australia



Malaysia



Indonesia



South America



North America



Victorian Carnivorous **PLANT SOCIETY** INC.

Annual Subscriptions

Australian mail & electronic membership	\$30.00
Overseas mail & electronic membership	\$30.00
Electronic membership	\$18.00

All cheques or money orders should be made payable to the Victorian Carnivorous Plant Society Inc (VCPS). Payment can be made by Cheque, Money Orders, Direct deposit and Paypal. Payment from overseas must be in Australian dollars. (Payment by Credit card is also available for international members only.) Please visit vcps.org for further details

Correspondence

Please forward all correspondence regarding subscription, change of address, articles for the journal and back issues to:

The Secretary VCPS
1 Pollard Place,
Sunbury, Victoria 3429.
AUSTRALIA

Journal articles, in MS-Word, ready for publication, may be Emailed to the Editor or Secretary.

Meetings

Most VCPS meetings are held in the hall at the rear of the Pilgrim Uniting Church on the corner of Bayview Road and Montague Street, Yarraville – Melway map reference 41K7. These meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 8 PM.

However, some meetings may be at the home of members during a weekend. Details of meeting dates and topics are listed in each journal.

If unsure of the location or date of any meeting, please ring a committee person for details.

The VCPS Annual General Meeting, usually held at Yarraville in June, provides substantial benefits for each and every member able to attend.



Nepenthes gracilis



Nepenthes mirabilis



Nepenthes ampullaria



Nepenthes rafflesiana



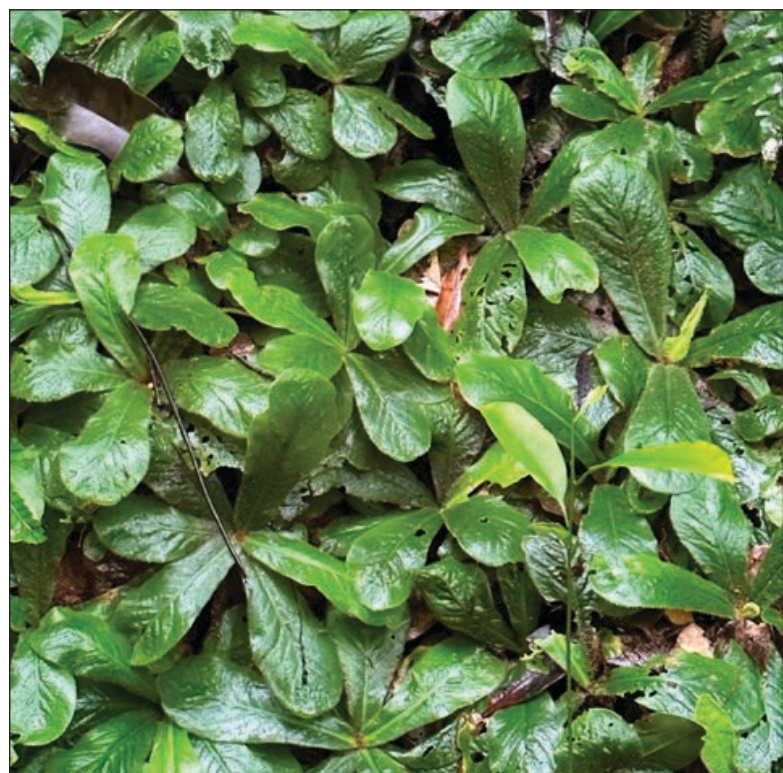
Cephalotus follicularis



Nepenthes rafflesiana



Drosera schizandra



Drosera schizandra