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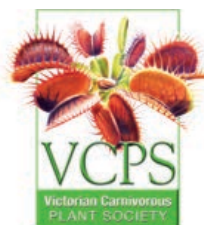
Victorian Carnivorous PLANT SOCIETY INC.

SEPTEMBER 2023

VCPS Newsletter No. 17



Drosera whittakeri



Victorian Carnivorous PLANT SOCIETY INC.

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September 2023

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MEETING TOPICS & DATES for 2023

VICTORIAN CARNIVOROUS PLANT SOCIETY

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

January	(28th)	New Year BBQ (Contact for details)
February	(22nd)	<i>Sarracenia</i> , <i>Dionaea</i> (VFT), beginners info
March	(22nd)	<i>Nepenthes</i> , <i>Heliamphora</i> .
April	(26th)	<i>Nepenthes</i> , <i>Heliamphora</i> , <i>Drosera</i> and information night.
May	(24th)	Growing conditions, 'Best' and 'Worst' plants, pygmy <i>Drosera</i> gemmae swap and <i>Nepenthes</i> cutting demonstration.
June	(28th)	AGM, plant give-away, any CPs.
July	(26th)	Rosetted tuberous <i>Drosera</i> judging, Propagation – seed growing and potting demonstration.
August	(23rd)	Upright tuberous/Winter growing <i>Drosera</i> , displays, and companion planting.
September	(27th)	<i>Cephalotus</i> , <i>Brocchinia</i> , <i>Catopsis</i> and swap night.
October	(25th)	<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	(26th)	Triffid Park Open Day.
December	(2-3rd)	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.

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A maturing plant of *D. glanduligera* from Potters Scrub, Coorong National Park, SA.
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

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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 whittakeri.
Coorong National Park, SA.
Photo: Stephen Fretwell

BACK COVER:
Clockwise from top left:

- *Nepenthes limiana* lower pitcher, Malaysia.
Photo: François Mey
- *Nepenthes graciliflora*.
Cairns Botanic Gardens.
Photo: Peter Bloem
- *Nepenthes limiana*, upper pitcher, Malaysia.
Photo: François Mey
- *Drosera glanduligera*,
Coorong National Park, SA.
Photo: Stephen Fretwell
- *Drosera praefolia*,
Talisker CP, SA.
Photo: Stephen Fretwell
- *Drosera whittakeri*,
Talisker CP, SA.
Photo: Stephen Fretwell
- *Drosera whittakeri*,
(Green form) Talisker CP, SA.
Photo: Stephen Fretwell
- *Drosera planchonii*. (centre)
Coorong National Park, SA.
Photo: Stephen Fretwell

Design: Stephen Fretwell

VCPS News

Anther new *Nepenthes* described from peninsula Malaysia

Further adding to the other new species recently described from peninula Malaysia is another new species by the name of *Nepenthes limiana*, named after Gideon Lim who discovered the first plants. *N. limiana* is also related to the species found in the *Nepenthes macfarlanei* group, by having a common feature, hairs under the lid, approximatel 2mm long. *N. limiana* can also be distinguished by other characteristics too. It boasts a flared peristome in younger pitchers (much wider than other members of the group), that folds back as the pitcher matures. The concentration of its hairs are denser near the part where the lid attaches to the neck of the peristome. It has slightly decurrent, lanceolate or almost linear leaves in matured specimens, and produces much taller, narrower, and overall larger upper pitchers of any member of the group. It has thick roots, much like the pyrophytic *Nepenthes* species of Indochina, giving it the ability to adapt in seasonally dry environments. And its type locality, is restricted to the Northern regions of the Titiwangsa Mountain Range where no other *Nepenthes* species are found near its elevation.



N. limiana lower pitcher.
Photos: François Mey

The distinctive pale short hairs under the lid of *N liminana*.

N. limiana lower pitchers.

VCPS News

Seeing red

Earlier this year a carnivorous plant enthusiast from Portugal discovered a small and unusual population of *Drosophyllum lusitanicum* that turns red!

Approximately 30 plants all displayed this trait at one location and were found growing alongside the typical green form.

It seems that the leaves, flower stems and spent flower buds all commonly turn red as the plant matures.

Whether it's a genetic and stable trait, growing conditions or something to do with the soil they're growing in is unknown at the moment. However further studies of the unique group of red plants has been planned to be undertaken at different times of the year and will hopefully reveal some of it's secrets.

Photos: Werds Carnivoras/Facebook



A mature *Drosophyllum lusitanicum* plant displaying red flower buds and stems.



A top view of the *D. lusitanicum* with red leaves.



A close up of *D. lusitanicum* red flower buds.



A mature *D. lusitanicum* plant in its natural habitat..



A mature *D. lusitanicum* plant with red flower buds.



Nepenthes and orchids growing in hanging pots at the Cairns Botanic Gardens.

Nepenthes at Cairns Botanical Gardens

BY PETER BLOEM.

In early August my wife and I flew up to Cairns for 8 days to escape the winter cold of Melbourne. Unfortunately for us Cairns had an unusually wet and windy weather pattern before and during our holiday. We hired a car for a few days and managed to dodge the worst of the weather while sight seeing.

One of our stops was at the Cairns Botanic Gardens where we spent most of the day wandering around and admiring the many plants and trees.

We came across the Watkins Munro Martin Conservatory. A large building built in 2015 with mainly shade cloth over it. It housed many exotic tropical plants and butterflies. Inside were bromeliads, tillandsias, aroids, cycads, ferns, orchids, tassel ferns and a large display of *Nepenthes*. Which was a nice surprise! There were about a dozen *Nepenthes*, mainly hybrids, on display growing in large hanging baskets, lined with coir fibre. The potting mix looked like it was a mix of orchid bark with acadama/ hydro clay pebbles and perlite/pumice. I didn't notice any other species of carnivorous plants though.

It was well worth a visit if anyone is in the area.



Possibly a *N. alata* hybrid.



N. veitchii x *eymae*.



Another nice *Nepenthes* hybrid with large pitchers.



D. planchonii after the rain at
Bullock Hill Conservation Park, SA.
Photo: Stephen Fretwell



D. whittakeri in flower at Talikser CP, SA.

Photos: Stephen Fretwell

A winter trip to South Australia

BY STEPHEN FRETWELL

IN August a couple of friends, Sean Kyrill and I took a short 3 day trip to South Australia to see some tuberous *Drosera* and native orchids in flower.

Kyrill and I live south east of Melbourne, so we elected to stay the night at Sean's house which is west of Melbourne so that we could get an early start and not have to worry about any city traffic.

To make the most of the limited winter daylight, we decided to head off at 4am on the Friday morning and keep driving until we'd reached the first stop near Keith, which was a location by the side of the road where we hoping to see a particular native orchid in flower. We searched for about 30 minutes in the area where it grows but after unfortunately had no luck, so we decided to head back to the car.

On the way back we took the opportunity to take a closer look and photograph some of the *Drosera aberrans* and *Drosera planchonii* that were growing in a very sandy soil. The first plants that we saw were *D. planchonii* and they were looking at their peak of growth between 40-50cm tall and beginning to flower. However the recent dry conditions and warm weather had affected the *D. aberrans* and while some dark red plants were looking good with lots



D. aberrans plants near Keith, SA changing to a yellow-orange colouration as they start to die back in preparation for dormancy..

of dew, others were showing signs of stress and their leaves had changed to vibrant yellow's and orange's as they started to die back to their tuber and prepare for summer dormancy.

Just over half an hour's drive down the road we stopped again to look for a stunning Orchid near Sherlock. Again we found more *D. aberrans* in the area and before too long we started finding some nice flowers of the orchid *Pterostylis erythroconcha*.



Small dark red *D. aberrans* plants found growing in a very sandy soil by the side of the road near Kieth in SA.



D. aberrans sending out a long adventitious stolon to produce new plants asexually from it, near Kieth, SA.



The Red Shell orchid *Pterostylis erythroconcha* found near Sherlock, SA.



Drosera planchonii beginning to flower, Potters Scrub, Coorong NP, SA.



Swamp Doubletail orchid, *Diuris palustris*, Potters Scrub, Coorong National Park, SA.

After taking photos of the flowers we then headed off to get some lunch at Meningie, before then heading onto Potters Scrub in Coorong National Park, SA.

Potters Scrub is a very sandy area, but the soil was still moist underneath the surface so we had high expectations of seeing some nice plants. Before too long we found an a couple of Sandhill Rustyhood Orchids, *Pterostylis arenicola* in flower, but the flowers were slightly deformed which was disappointing, so we searched for some other plants around the area.

While looking we found a few small patches of red plants of *D. aberrans* which was interesting as it doesn't occur in many parts of SA and only in the eastern part of the state. Growing nearby them, we also saw quite a few plants of *D. glanduligera*, but they were very spaced out and were only growing where the conditions were favourable. Throughout the area we also managed to find a lot of *D. planchonii*, but no plants with open flowers which was a bit disappointing given that the weather was only partly cloudy and quite warm at times.

As we explored further away from the car we started to find a few large 6-7cm sized *D. whittakeri* plants for the first time there. Most of the plants it seemed had already finished flowering which we could see from the numerous

spent flower buds that draped over their leaves.

Not far away from the *D. whittakeri* was a few large clumps of the stunning Swamp Doubletail orchid, *Diuris palustris* in flower. With one of the nicest clumps having 5 open flowers on it, which looked spectacular. Then nearby we found another clump with 9 open flowers which was also amazing, but looked too busy in comparison to make a great photo.

As we'd searched a fair amount of this area of Potters Scrub, we were starting to see the same plants again and again, so we decided to head back to the car and try the far end of Potters Scrub which looked like it had different vegetation there. The second spot that we visited had some small short Eucalypts throughout it, but still had some open areas too, which seemed to favour *D. whittakeri* a lot more as we found them to be fairly common throughout the area. Some specimens that we found of *D. whittakeri* were also extremely large with rosette up to 8-9cm, and some with 20-30 spent flowers. Fortunately we also managed to see some plants with open flowers at this location too which was great to see.

Alongside the *D. whittakeri*, we also found more typical looking *D. glanduligera* and *D. planchonii* plants. Unfortunately for the *D. glanduligera* it was still a little



A maturing plant of *D. glanduligera* from Potters Scrub, Coorong National Park, Site 1, SA.



The sandy habitat at the second site that we visited at Potters Scrub, Coorong National Park in SA.



Bright red plants of *D. aberrans* growing in a very sandy substrate at Potters Scrub, Coorong National Park Site 1, SA.



Two different colour variants of *Drosera whittakeri* from Potters Scrub, Coorong National Park Site 1, SA.



Drosera whittakeri in flower found at Potters Scrub, Coorong National Park, SA, Site 2, SA.



A large *Drosera whittakeri* with 29 spent flowers at Potters Scrub, Coorong National Park, Site 2, SA.

too early for them to be flowering and we only saw a couple of plants with flower scapes starting to grow. But we did see some *D. planchonii* plants with their elegant flowers open and even a 4 petalled flower on one of them. After a good look around we then headed back to the car and decided to have a quick look at Ferries McDonald Conservation Park which was just over an hours drive away.

Once we arrived at Ferries McDonald CP, we immediately again started to see *D. whittakeri*, and *D. planchonii* plants, however the later were well past their best. It was now getting late in the day and light was

fading fast. But we did see a lot of stunning Blue beard orchids, *Pheladenia deformis* in flower, along with the Starry Spider orchid, *Caladenia stellata*, and Wispy Spider orchid *Caladenia capillata* which were amazing to see.

Unfortunately time had beaten us and the sun had now set, and even though we managed to get a few good photos of the orchid flowers in the dim light, we decided that it was best to return on Sunday, our last day before we headed back home.

It was now dark and after half an hours drive we reached the Caravan Park in Murray Bridge where we'd booked a small holiday cabin overlooking the Murray



A rare sighting of *D. gunniana* at Bullock Hill Conservation Park, SA.



A dark red plant of *D. whittakeri* at Bullock Hill Conservation Park, SA.



D. auriculata, Bullock Hill Conservation Park, SA.



The unique open habitat with orange clay, laterite and gravel at Talisker Conservation Park, SA.



A large plant of *D. whittakeri* in flower at Talisker Conservation Park, SA.

River, which was the perfect central base to explore from. The next day we had originally planned on driving south to Talisker CP which is near Cape Jervis where you catch the ferry over to Kangaroo Island. But there was early rain forecast with it clearing about lunch time so we thought that we'd have a look at somewhere else on the way first that we'd never been to, to give the rain a chance to clear.

There was several options for us to visit on the way to Talisker CP, but in the end we decided to go to Bullock Hill CP which looked like it could have some interesting habitats and possibly plants. It was only a one hour drive from Murray Bridge and it also didn't take us very far out of the way while heading to Talisker.

Once we arrived at Bullock Hill CP it was still drizzling with rain, but it wasn't too heavy so we headed up the main path from the car park. The soil at this location was also very sandy and gravelly, but had a thick layer of broken down detritus on top. We'd only walked 15m before we saw our first sundew *D. whittakeri* which was then followed by *D. glanduligera*, *D. planchonii* and *D. auriculata* all growing on both sides of the path. And then to our surprise we also spotted a few *D. gunniana* plants which don't grow in many parts of South Australia, and seem to be quite rare compared to in Victoria. As it

was only August, both *D. gunniana* and *D. auriculata* were only about 10cm tall and a long way off from flowering.

When we got to the top of the hill the path branched, you could either keep going straight or turn right. So we went right and stated to look a bit further into the bush there as there'd been a fire in that part a few months prior and the vegetation was just starting to grow back. In these areas *D. whittakeri* and *D. planchonii* were still common, and we also managed to see some Leopard orchids – *Diuris pardina*, Gnat orchids – *Cyrtostylis robusta*, Dwarf Greenhood orchids – *Pterostylis nana* and some Nodding Greenhood orchids – *Pterostylis nutans* in flower. Apart from these orchids we also saw leaves of several other orchids species in the area too. After taking photos of the plants we then headed back to car so that we could continue on our way to Talisker CP.

After grabbing some lunch we drove down to Talisker CP and arrived just after 12.30pm. Near the carpark we were greeted by a couple of orchids in flower, *Diuris pardina*, the Leopard orchid, and the Red-banded Greenhood orchid – *Pterostylis sanguinea* which was a great start. This was my third visit to Talisker CP and it is one of my favourites sites due to the unique and open area which has a orange clay, laterite and gravel substrate where, *D. praefolia*, *D. whittakeri* and *D. planchonii* all grow together and their



D. planchonii scrambling over grass at Talisker Conservation Park, SA.



Pterostylis sanguinea in flower at Talisker Conservation Park, SA.



Yellow-green *D. whittakeri* plants at Talisker Conservation Park, SA.



D. praefolia plants growing together at Talisker Conservation Park, SA.



A large *D. praefolia* plant with a secondary set of centre leaves at Talisker Conservation Park, SA.

leaves can turn into an intense dark red to burgundy colour.

For this site, we'd also found some information about *D. schmutzii* growing at this location too. *D. schmutzii* only occurs on Kangaroo Island, but as Talisker CP is the closest part of the mainland, we thought that it was possible that it could occur at Talisker too.

Once we'd reached the main area where the plants grow, we started searching intensely for *D. schmutzii* and searched the area fairly thoroughly for quite a while, but unfortunately had no luck. It is possible that the plant that someone saw there was just a variant of *D. whittakeri* with elongated petioles and just looked a bit like *D. schmutzii*.

Never the less we still saw some fantastic plants of *D. praefolia* there, along with some unusual yellow-green variants plants of *D. whittakeri*. Around the same area, red plants of *D. planchonii* could be seen scrambling over the bare soil, grasses or short vegetation and we also saw a few plants of *D. auriculata* near the tree line, but they were not very common.

After an hour and a half of searching and photographing the plants at Talisker, we decided to move on and go and visit some giant forms of *D. praefolia* that occur at a site at Happy Valley.

It took a couple of hours to drive back along the coast and then into the Adelaide hills to reach the next site

at Happy Valley. Again this was my 3rd visit and it had changed a lot since we were there in 2016. As some parts had been severely damaged by locals that ride bmx and mountain bikes down the steep trail for their entertainment.

At the start of the trail and a short way along it, most of the large *D. whittakeri* plants that we found previously had all disappeared or were small and damaged and we didn't see any *D. praefolia* plants at all. After a disappointing search 50m down the trail, we soon decided to head back up to the car and look around at the start where the vegetation was thinner and it wasn't as damaged. Fortunately in these areas we managed to find a few good *D. praefolia* and *D. whittakeri* plants that were still extremely large and impressive at around 7-8cm in diameter. Once again the colours of both species varied quite a bit and ranged from green to dark red in colouration.

We also managed to see a few small *D. glanduligera* and *D. planchonii* plants at this site too, but again there was not as many and they were not as big as last time either. After half an hour we'd seen the best of what we could find, so we headed off to Onkaparinga National Park to try and see a few other plants while we were in the area before it got too dark.



A large and stunning dark red plant of *D. praefolia* with round leaves at Happy Valley, SA.



D. whittakeri and *D. praefolia* growing together at a site at Happy Valley, SA.



D. praefolia, Onkaparinga NP, SA.



D. whittakeri and *D. praefolia* at Onkaparinga NP, SA.



A green form of *D. whittakeri* at Onkaparinga NP, SA.



The habitat where the *Drosera* grow at Onkaparinga NP, SA.

It was almost 5.30pm by the time that we reached the entrance to Onkaparinga NP, so we grabbed our cameras and quickly followed the trail in. Before too long we were greeted by a few *D. praefolia* and *D. whittakeri* plants also in various colours growing right next to the trail and then as we searched further along we also saw some *D. planchonii* about to flower and some small *D. glanduligera* plants also along the trail too. After a few hundred metres we came to a fork in the trail and saw some *D. auriculata* plants about 15cm tall, but they were quite scare around the area compared to all of the other species.

We also had a look for some native orchids in flower there too, but only managed to find leaves and developing flower scapes. Once again time and light had

eluded us, so we headed back to the car and then drove back to our accommodation in Murray River.

On our last day after we checked out, we decided to head back to Ferries McDonald CP to have a good look around and to take some better photos in better light, or so we hoped. Unfortunately once again there was light rain around and conditions were dim and overcast. But that didn't deter us and we made the best of the situation and found some more stunning Blue beard orchids *Pheladenia deformis* and both spider orchids *Caladenia stellata*, and *Caladenia capillata* in flower along the path.

This time we ventured further in along the path and began to explore other nearby areas where we again found more *D. whittakeri* plants. Some looked good,



Several large *D. planchonii* plants growing together at Ferries McDonald CP, SA.



A interesting form of *D. whittakeri* with dark red petioles found at Ferries McDonald CP, SA.



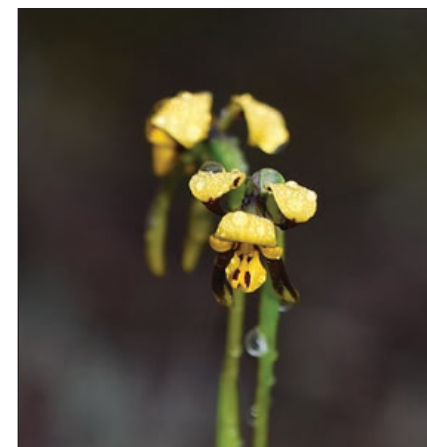
Caladenia stellata, Ferries McDonald CP, SA.



Blue beard orchid, *Pheladenia deformis*, Ferries McDonald CP, SA.



Caladenia capillata, Ferries McDonald CP, SA.



Swamp Doubletail orchid, *Diuris palustris*, Ferries McDonald CP, SA.



D. glanduligera seedlings, Ferries McDonald CP, SA.



The sandy habitat at Ferries McDonald CP, SA.

while others were starting to die back in preparation for the summer dormancy. We also saw lots of large, mature 40-50cm tall *D. planchonii* with flower buds, that had just finished flowering or were waiting for good weather to open too, but no open flowers.

Most of the areas that we explored were very similar throughout this part of the Conservation Park which had a very sandy soil base, covered in a thin layer of organic matter and moss. Further into the scrub we did manage to find several small patches of *Diuris palustris* and *Cyrtostylis robusta* in flower and some medium sized

plants of *D. glanduligera*. After getting a bit lost from the trail, we circled back and headed in the direction of the car, finding more of the same species along the way until we finally came out onto the main road.

We didn't think that there was too much else to see at Ferries McDonald CP in August, so we decided to call it a day and start heading back to Sean's which was going to take 6.5 to 7 hours. After an epic 3 days of driving and exploring parts of SA, we were extremely happy with the plants that we saw and would definitely visit them again.

July 26th VCPS meeting

TUBEROUS ROSETTED DROSERA JUDGING

Propagation and repotting were the discussion topics for the July meeting. Most carnivorous plants can be propagated relatively easily using a variety of methods. Seed is generally a good way to propagate a range of carnivorous plants, especially for *Drosera* as many species can reach maturity within one or two years.

Even for genera that mature more slowly, such as *Sarracenia*, *Dionaea* and *Nepenthes*, growing from seed can produce seedlings with a lot of unique and interesting variation. The VCPS has an extensive list of species and hybrid seed available from its Seedbank and is a great resource for both new and experienced members.

For several species seed can be short-lived, difficult to produce or difficult to germinate so vegetative propagation is often an easier way to produce more plants. Furthermore, many varieties don't breed true from seed so vegetative methods are the only way to produce more plants.

Division probably the easiest method for plants that produce multiple growing points, such as the *Sarracenaceae* family of pitcher plants and *Dionaea* and for genera like *Utricularia* which form dense mats of stolons. Leaf and heel cuttings are usually easy ways to propagate many *Pinguicula*, *Drosera*, *Cephalotus* and *Dionaea* and generally large numbers of plants can be produced this way compared to division.

Pygmy *Drosera* essentially reproduce by themselves by producing gemmae, which are modified leaf buds. Root cuttings can also be used for *Cephalotus* and many *Drosera* and can produce mature plants faster than leaf cuttings.

For *Nepenthes* the most common method of propagation is via stem cuttings. While this can be done with varying levels of success depending on the species, cuttings with produce mature plants much faster than seed.

For the potting demonstration, Andrew repotted a large pot of *Darlingtonia californica*. This pitcher plant produces long stolons that form new plants at the end and when cut into pieces a few inches long can produce new plants from



Drosera whittakeri (Talisker, SA)

each cutting. Those people that attended the July meeting were given stolon cuttings to take home and pot up.

Show judging was also held for rosetted tuberous *Drosera* at the July meeting. Steve's *Drosera browniana* won first place. This is a pink flowered, Western Australian species that grows in shallow loam soils on granitic rock outcrops along the greenstone belt from Mt Holland to Hatters Hill.

2nd place went to Peter's *Drosera aberrans*, a plant that originated from a single tuber collected several decades ago from a private property in the Macedon area and has since multiplied to fill several pots.

Steve's *Drosera schmutzii* was awarded 3rd place. This relative of *Drosera whittakeri* comes from Kangaroo Is. and produces leaf blades with long petioles compared to that species.

The species benched at the July meeting included:

Drosera aberrans
Drosera browniana
Drosera erythrorhiza
Drosera macrophylla
Drosera praefolia
Drosera schmutzii
Drosera squamosa
Drosera whittakeri
Heliamphora pulchella

Nepenthes attenboroughii
Nepenthes burkei
Nepenthes nebularum
Nepenthes villosa
Pinguicula emarginata x *Weser*
Sarracenia alata var *atrorubra*
Sarracenia leucophylla
Utricularia alpina
Utricularia fulva

July Plant of the Night: Best rosetted tuberous *Drosera*



ROSETTED TUBEROUS DROSERA PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
1st place: *Drosera browniana*



ROSETTED TUBEROUS DROSERA PLANT OF THE NIGHT: 2nd place: *Drosera aberrans*



ROSETTED TUBEROUS DROSERA PLANT OF THE NIGHT: 3rd place: *Drosera schmutzii*

July Plant of the Night: Best Non topic plant



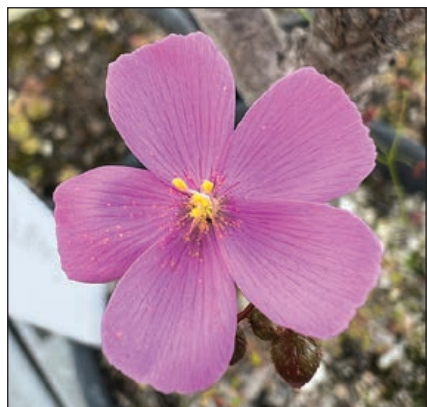
BEST NON TOPIC PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
1st place: *Nepenthes villosa*



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



BEST NON TOPIC PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
3rd place: *Utricularia alpina*



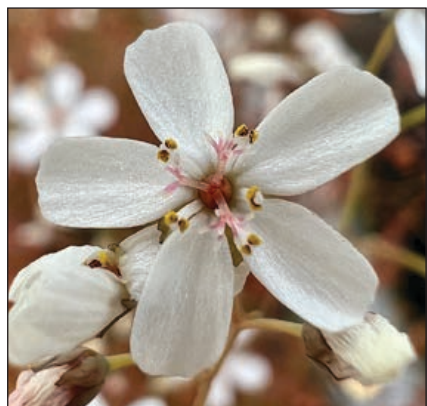
Drosera menziesii



Drosera gigantea



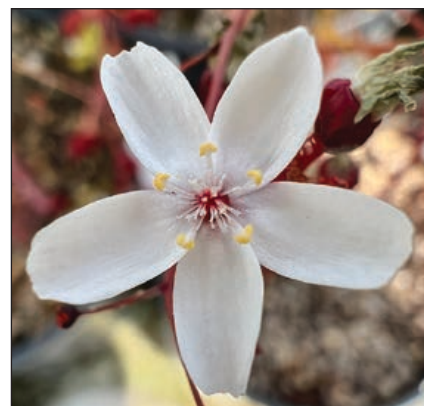
Drosera indumenta



Drosera graniticola



Drosera moorei



Drosera rupicola

August 23rd VCPS meeting

UPRIGHT TUBEROUS/WINTER GROWING DROSERA JUDGING

Show judging for the upright tuberous and winter growing *Drosera* was held at the August meeting.

This judging category covers a very diverse group of tuberous sundews including those with erect, self-supporting stems, those with a climbing or scrambling habit and the fan-leaved sundews and as well as the summer-dormant southern African species, which die down to fleshy roots to survive the hot dry summers. These species are mostly dormant in December when we hold our annual show so judging these plants at the August meeting allows us to see them at their best.

First place was awarded to Steve's *Drosera cistiflora* from Stellenbosch in South Africa. This species produces lanceolate leaves along an upright stem and quite large flowers for the size of the plant.

Steve's *Drosera rupicola* won second place. This

is one of the fan leaved tuberous *Drosera*. Steve's pot contained a mixture of red and green plants that grow from seed that was produced by crossing the burgundy form of this species with one of the green forms.

Third place went to Steve's *Drosera graniticola*. This species grown on rocky outcrops in the Western Australia's Western Mallee region. Interestingly its flowers stay open at night.

Amongst the non-topic plants brought into the August meeting, Justin's *Nepenthes edwardsiana* was voted non-topic plant of the night. This spectacular pitcher plant is endemic to Mount Kinabalu and Mount Tambuyukon in Borneo. Justin said it was quite slow growing. Second place went to Justin's *Nepenthes singulana* with Steve's *Sarracenia alata* var. *nigropurpurea* coming in third place.

The species benched at the August meeting included:

Dionaea muscipula
Drosera auriculata
Drosera cistiflora
Drosera eremaea
Drosera gigantea
Drosera graniticola
Drosera indumenta
Drosera intricata
Drosera peltata

Drosera playtopoda
Drosera rupicola
Drosera ramellosa
Drosera macrantha
Nepenthes tobaica
Nepenthes edwardsiana
Nepenthes singulana
Sarracenia alata var. *nigropurpurea*
Utricularia warburgii

August Plant of the Night: Best upright/winter growing *Drosera*



UPRIGHT TUBEROUS/WINTER DROSERA
 PLANT OF THE NIGHT: 1st place: *Drosera cistiflora*



UPRIGHT TUBEROUS/WINTER DROSERA
 PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
 2nd place: *Drosera rupicola*



UPRIGHT TUBEROUS/WINTER DROSERA
 PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
 3rd place: *Drosera graniticola*

August Plant of the Night: Best non topic plant



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



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



BEST NON TOPIC PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
 3rd place: *Sarracenia alata* var. *nigropurpurea*

September Plant of the Night: Best *Brocchinia/Catopsis*



BROCCHINIA/CATOPSIS PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
=1st place: *Puya chilensis*



BROCCHINIA/CATOPSIS PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
=1st place: *Brocchinia reducta*



BROCCHINIA/CATOPSIS PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
3rd place: *Catopsis berteroniana*

September 27th VCPS meeting

CEPHALOTUS, BROCCHINIA & CATOPSIS

The topic plants for the September meeting were *Cephalotus follicularis* and the sub-carnivorous members of the bromeliad family. *Cephalotus* is a monotypic genus of pitcher plants that is restricted to the south west corner of Western Australia between Augusta and Cheynes Beach. They can be a challenging plant to grow well for people, often dying back for unexplained reasons.

Ron's *Cephalotus follicularis* from Ledge Bay was voted *Cephalotus* of the night with another of his Ledge Bay plants getting 2nd place. Ron is growing these plants in a terrarium within a solarweave house. 3rd place went to Beryl's plant, which originally came from Collectors Corner.

Bromeliads are a very large family of predominantly New World plants. While not typically thought of as carnivorous, there are a few species that are considered protocarnivorous and are able to catch insects within their tanks to feed the plants. Donna's *Brocchinia reducta* and Andrew's *Puya chilensis* received the same number of votes for Bromeliad of the night.

Brocchinia reducta is found in equatorial South America from Columbia to Guyana where populations are found growing on the Tepuis as well as lowland areas. Donna's *Brocchinia* was over twenty years old and the plant had several large growing points in it, a number of which were flowering.

Puya chilensis comes from the Andes and has earned the nickname the sheep-eating plant as anecdotes suggest the hook-lined leaves snag and entangle sheep and other animals, which then become trapped, die and then fertilise the plant. Actual evidence for these anecdotes is scant and these stories mainly seem to be perpetuated whenever a botanical garden is publicising one in their plants in coming into flower. Andrew said this plant likes to be kept on the dry side and that it's very slow growing.

3rd place went to Peter's *Catopsis berteroniana*. Whereas the previous two species are terrestrial bromeliads, *Catopsis berteroniana* is epiphytic. Peter is growing this plant mounted on a tree branch reflecting its epiphytic habit and his plant is growing very well.

The species benched at the September meeting included:

Brocchinia reducta
Catopsis berteroniana
Catopsis lutea
Cephalotus follicularis
Dionaea muscipula
Drosera porrecta
Drosera stolonifera
Drosera stricticaulis
Nepenthes izumiae
Nepenthes minima

Nepenthes talengensis
Pinguicula laeana
Puya chilensis
Sarracenia flava
Sarracenia flava var. *atropurpurea*? (Orange flowers)
Sarracenia psittacina var. *okefenokeensis* f. *luteoviridis*
Utricularia dichotoma ssp. *fontana*
Utricularia dichotoma var. *oppositiflora*
Utricularia livida

September Plant of the Night: Best *Cephalotus*



CEPHALOTUS PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
1st place: *Cephalotus follicularis*, Ledge Bay, WA. (Maroon/Black)



CEPHALOTUS PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
2nd place: *Cephalotus follicularis*, Ledge Bay, WA.



CEPHALOTUS PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
3rd place: *Cephalotus follicularis*

September Plant of the Night: Best non topic plant



BEST NON TOPIC PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
1st place: *Sarracenia flava* var. *atropurpurea*? (Orange flowers)



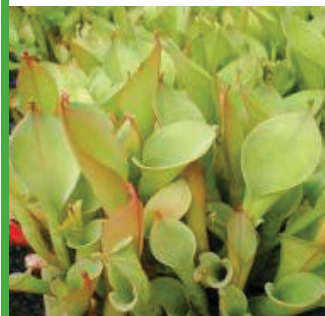
BEST NON TOPIC PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
2nd place: *Nepenthes izumiae*



BEST NON TOPIC PLANT OF THE NIGHT:
3rd place: *Drosera stolonifera*



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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.



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Nepenthes limiana



Nepenthes graciliflora



Nepenthes limiana



Drosera whittakeri



Drosera planchonii



Drosera glanduligera



Drosera whittakeri



Drosera praefolia