

Capacity building

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Discovering Spring's Hidden Treasures in Kindra State Forest

Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc



Spring into Orchids bought Coolamon Landcare and community members together for a guided walk in Kindra State Forest

The issue

Coolamon Landcare Group wanted to encourage the local community to reconnect with nature and rediscover the unique biodiversity of Kindra State Forest. The forest had always been well-loved, yet many people were unaware of its rich orchid population and the subtle seasonal changes that make it so special.

Driven by curiosity and care, the group also hoped to learn more about the orchids themselves — their diversity, ecology, and conservation needs — to find better ways to protect them. As they explored the forest, concerns grew over the threats of habitat disturbance, trampling, and invasive species — pressures that could harm not only the delicate orchids but the broader forest ecosystem that supports them.

The solution

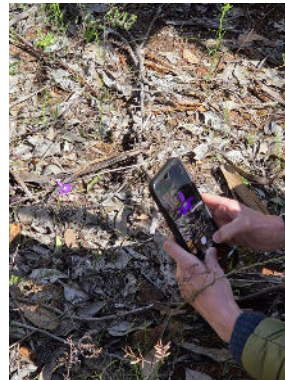
To spark greater interest and awareness, the group hosted Spring into Orchids on Saturday 20th September, combining a relaxed bushwalk with expert ecological guidance from Leigh Maloney, an experienced ecologist from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. Leigh was invited as the expert speaker to lead the walk, sharing her knowledge of local orchids and the broader forest ecosystem.

Participants explored Kindra State Forest together, learning to identify orchids and other native plants while gaining insights into how weather patterns and land management practices influence the health and diversity of the area.

The impact

Despite a relatively dry season, the Spring into Orchids walk successfully engaged participants from both the Landcare group and the wider community, fostering a deeper appreciation of Kindra State Forest's biodiversity. Many attendees were surprised by what they discovered once they started looking closely—some orchids are tiny and easily overlooked.

Guided by ecologist Leigh Maloney, participants observed a variety of orchid species and other native plants, learning about their ecological roles. Leigh also encouraged people to return later in the season to see different orchids as they emerged, making the experience both informative and motivating experience.



Key facts

- 16 people attended the Spring Orchid Walk
- 6 different Orchid species were identified
- Greater knowledge and awareness of Kindra Forest orchids

Project Partners



This initiative is made possible by the NSW Landcare Enabling Program, a collaboration between Local Land Services and Landcare NSW supported by the NSW Government.

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