



Media Release



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Rare Spiral Sun Orchid found in Penola forest

A rare species of native Australian orchid has been found growing in ForestrySA's Penola forest.

The Spiral Sun Orchid was located by members of the Native Orchid Society of South Australia earlier this year, when carrying out a vegetation survey for ForestrySA.

Hundreds of orchids were found at the site, making it the largest known population of the Spiral Sun Orchid in Australia.

ForestrySA Conservation and Recreation Planner Mr Troy Horn said the orchid was very distinctive, due to its spiral leaf and purple flower.

"The orchid is classed as nationally vulnerable, which means it is threatened. So it is very important," he said.

"The orchid has been found on Kangaroo Island and in coastal areas of South Australia, through to the New South Wales border, but this population at Penola is the biggest."

ForestrySA is now working on ways to protect the orchid, including placing it on the significant plant register within ForestrySA's GIS system.

Mr Horn reminded members of the community that ForestrySA's Native Forest Reserves were there for people to enjoy.

"They are a great place for people to enjoy bushwalking or photography," he said.

"Just remember to follow the Native Forest Reserve Code: 'Take nothing but pictures, and leave nothing but footprints'."

Forest reserves are protected areas, and regulations and restrictions apply. For further information call ForestrySA's on 8724 2876 or visit www.forestrysa.sa.gov.au.

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Photographs attached: The Spiral Sun Orchid is distinctive due to its spiral leaf and purple flower. Photographs courtesy of ForestrySA.

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