

## Phaius Australis Orchid



Phaius tankervilleae

Known as the swamp orchid and named by F Mueller in 1858.  
From the Greek Phaino, to shine.

Possibly Bribie's earliest recording was made by Allan Cunningham on Saturday afternoon, 11th September, 1824. He was collecting plants in the area of the RSL bordering what is now Webster Street and Williams Creek , even describes going from bushland to the drop off to the swamp land.

He described this orchid growing on the edge of the swamp but only the one plant. He called this orchid a 'Cymbidium' It was growing in peaty sand and could not be a Cymbidium. Ken Scaife and I believe Ernie (Mac) McKinnon, one of our founding members, found Phaius growing on this site of Cunningham's.

Ern McKinnon was another keen native orchid man before me, he too like me pushed his bike along bush tracks looking for orchids. At Webster Street, I have not seen any Phaius orchids now. There are still other sites at Bongaree and the National Park.

By Ron Powell

These notes have been used at our Cultural and New Grower's Meetings. They are from various sources and we thank the authors. All articles are supplied in good faith and the Bribie Island Orchid Society and its members will not be held responsible for any loss or damage.