

SAVING OUR SPECIES

# Buttercup doubletail

*Diuris aequalis*  
Endangered



The buttercup doubletail is an endangered, terrestrial orchid found in forests and woodlands near the Great Dividing Range on the NSW Southern and Central tablelands. Only a few small, scattered populations remain in the wild.

The buttercup doubletail grows to 45 cm high. It has golden-yellow flowers but, unlike similar orchids, it does not have dots or stripes on the petals.

The species is known as a 'donkey orchid' for its two widely-spaced ear-like petals at the top of the flower. The term 'doubletail' refers to the two long, green leaf-like sepals found at the base of the flower, which often curve across each other. The buttercup doubletail flowers between mid-October and mid-November in the southern part of its range, and between mid-November and early December in populations north of the Abercrombie River.

The Office of Environment and Heritage is working with private landholders to locate new populations

and help them protect the species on their properties.

If you think you have found a buttercup doubletail, we would love to hear from you! You can notify us by taking a photograph of it and sending it through to the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) at: [buttercup.doubletail@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:buttercup.doubletail@environment.nsw.gov.au)

**Since 2016 seven new populations of the buttercup doubletail orchid have been discovered.**

**Several of these populations were found by private landholders, on uncleared sites that had avoided heavy grazing.**

**The orchid is extremely cryptic, losing its' leaves in the non-flowering season. Spring flowering time is the best time to discover it.**

# Support local action and help save the buttercup doubletail



The buttercup doubletail emerging from a grassy understorey. Photo: Anna Murphy/OEH



Typical buttercup doubletail habitat. Photo: Anna Murphy/OEH

Private landholders on the NSW Southern and Central tablelands are playing a crucial role in helping to save this species by actively surveying their forests and woodlands for this rare plant.

When populations are located, OEH officers assist landholders in fencing off orchid sites to exclude browsing animals. OEH monitors the populations to determine if other protective measures are required. Fencing remaining patches of vegetation and encouraging natural regeneration helps to save this beautiful plant.

The buttercup doubletail has been found in very small populations in Kanangra Boyd National Park and OEH encourages bushwalkers to report any sightings. Discovering new populations helps us to protect this species within conservation areas.

The NSW government's Biodiversity Conservation Trust encourages and supports landholders to conserve and manage biodiversity on private land. Landholders who wish to protect the buttercup doubletail on their properties can find out more about private land conservation options here: [www.bct.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bct.nsw.gov.au).

Additional grants that can assist landholders to protect native vegetation on their private land may also be available through Local Land Services and Landcare organisations.



*Diuris semilunulata* (left) and *Diuris sulphurea* (right) have dark markings on their petals. Photo: Anna Murphy/OEH



*Diuris chryseopsis* does not have the tell-tale 'donkey' ears. Photo: Anna Murphy/OEH

**Saving our Species is a NSW Government flagship program targeting on-ground action to secure threatened plants and animals from extinction. The program aims to increase the number of species that can survive securely in the wild.**

**Saving our Species can only succeed if we work together. We need your support to ensure that today's actions help to secure the future of NSW's threatened species.**

**To find out more about threatened species in NSW and the Saving our Species program: [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/SOS](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/SOS)**