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Recovery of *Caladenia hastata*, A recipe for success

The Department of Sustainability and Environment is in charge with the implementation of recovery plans that have been written for a large number of Victoria's Threatened Orchids. One such species has been successfully recovered from the brink of extinction. Mellblom's Spider Orchid in South West Victoria reached critically low numbers during the late 1990's. Intensive in situ and ex situ recovery activities have enabled this species to be a "flagship" for orchid species recovery within Victoria. The species reached low numbers due to environmental conditions and through the intensive recovery actions has now reached numbers that enable new populations to be established via translocation of *in situ* and reintroduction of ex situ grown seedlings. By identifying the appropriate conditions that represent ideal recruitment opportunities we have been able to increase the numbers of plants from as low as 10 to over 700. Four new populations have been established via translocation methods and in situ sowing of seed has occurred at these new locations with germination events occurring annually. The aim of this recovery has been to enable this species to be able to survive in the long term without the intervention of human activity. This Paper will describe the processes that have enabled this species to be recovered to date and the direction that the future recovery actions will be directed.