



## Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc

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### Plant of the month: Pink Fairies *Caladenia latifolia*



Pink Fairies *Caladenia latifolia* one of many dainty terrestrial orchids in the large *Caladenia* genus. It has a single, distinctly hairy basal leaf, 3-15 cm long and 3-20 mm wide, with an erect, hairy stem to 40 cm tall. The flowers (1-4) are terminal on the stem and usually bright pink, arranged in a 5-pointed star shape, with the white or pink labellum in the centre; its lateral lobes barred pink with yellow club calli near the base. Flowering occurs from August to November. It is common on coastal or near coastal sands and is often found forming colonies under tea-tree thickets at Venus Bay. It is also found along the coast from WA to NSW.

Pink Fingers, like all native orchids, are protected in the wild. They grow in well drained sandy soil in full sun to semi-shade, often in large colonies. This species is pollinated by bees and may also spread vegetatively by tuberoids. If you are fortunate to have native orchids on your property it is important to maintain the indigenous vegetation as they can easily be overcome by other vegetation and grassy weeds.

All orchids belong in the Orchidaceae family. The genus *Caladenia* comes from the Greek *kalos*, beautiful and *aden*, gland. The genus *latifolia* means wide leaves, relative to the other *Caladenia* species. Photo: Lorraine Norden. For more

information visit [www.friendsofvenusbaypeninsula.org.au](http://www.friendsofvenusbaypeninsula.org.au)

