



Two-bristle Greenhood Orchid
Pterostylis biseta
A native treasure of Moorunde

Natural History Society of South Australia Inc.

Wild Melon

Citrullus colocynthis



Wild melon prostrate form – note second plant in background

Native to South Africa, now found in most Australian states.

Description

A prostrate, perennial vine, with a thick tap-root, and sprawling, branched stems up to 6 metres long. Can produce tendrils at the nodes, and has a thick woody tap root.

Leaves grey-green, alternate, large, lobed, hairy, and rough. Single yellow flowers appear in the leaf axils.

Flowers are yellow, with five petals, male and female on the same plant on short stalks, growing from the leaf axils. Flowers in summer.

Fruit is dark green, dappled with yellow bands, spherical, about 10cms in diameter. Pulp has a bitter taste. Fruit is the most toxic part of the plant. (www.weeds.mangrovemountain.net)



Peter Collins demonstrates the effort required to remove... the very large tap root!



Seedling plants



Karen Collins bags fruit for disposal

