

Volunteer farmers help ensure future of two species

THE hard work and dedication of two Cranbrook farmers and a grant from World Wide Fund for Nature Australia (WWF) have provided the means for recovery of two rare species—*Adenanthos velutinos* and *A. pungens subsp. pungens*.

Just over a year ago, staff from CALM's Threatened Flora Seed Centre (TFSC) and the Australian Trust for

by Anne Cochran

Conservation Volunteers (ATCV), secured the grant for community involvement in the conservation of threatened species.

The farmers—David Preston of Geekabee Hill and Lucy Skipsey of Chinocup—agreed to help collect the seed from the traps on a fortnightly basis.

The first site, west of Cranbrook, straddled private property and CALM-managed land, and is the only known location for *A. velutinos*.

The second location was on an A Class Nature Reserve at Lake Chinocup, where one of the two known populations of *A. pungens subsp. pungens* occurs. This site is under pressure from gypsum mining.

The project included the

design and erection of traps for collecting seed from the two rare *Adenanthos* species for long-term storage for future recovery programs.

Over four days, 20 traps were erected at each site by TFSC technical officer Kate Brown, CALM volunteer Carolyn Harding, with ATCV team leader Greg Starke and four ATCV volunteers.

At Geekabee Hill, rocky

ground required the use of heavy, six-foot-long, iron star pickets to support the traps.

At Lake Chinocup, plants were old and large, and a number of new innovations in trap design and construction were required. The traps were spread over a 2 to 3-km radius around the lake.

Because the highly time-consuming task of seed collection coincided with crop harvesting,

David and Lucy called on their families to ensure that the traps were cleared on a regular basis.

Thanks to Lucy, David and their families, large numbers of seed of both species were collected for long-term storage.

Their part in conserving our rare and threatened native flora, and the immense amount of time they devoted to a rather onerous task, is gratefully acknowledged.