

MEMBERS' PAGE

AN UNUSUAL ORCHID



VERITY HARRIS of Cuballing and her eleven year old son Adam, are keen observers of orchids. Adam found a colony of fifty or so of this interesting plant around sheoaks on granitic sands. It is a pale lemon-yellow colour. Adam tried to identify the plant using Noel Hoffman and Andrew Brown's book *Orchids of South-West Australia* but there were no exact matches. He wondered if it could be the leopard orchid *Thelymitra benthamiana*, but without the spots, or was it a new and rare plant?

Andrew Brown, of the WA Threatened Species and Communities Unit, says: "It is indeed *Thelymitra benthamiana*. The species regularly produces 'lutea' forms that lack the brown blotches and spotting typical for the species. When this happens it often produces pure colonies where all plants lack markings. I have seen it near Frankland, Boyup Brook and Perth but this is a new location for the form."

Well spotted (or no-spotted) Adam!