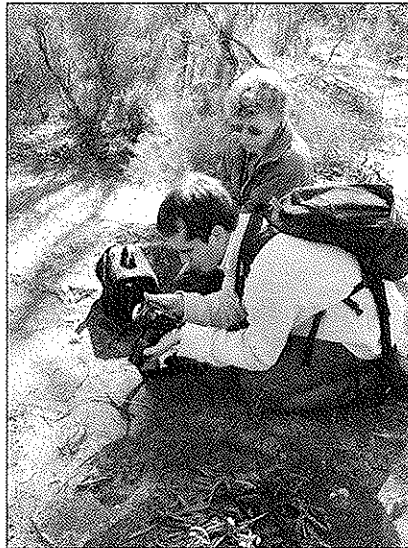


# MEMBERS PAGE

## THE GREAT ORCHID HUNT

*Christel Schrank*

Australian native orchids are small, delicate and elusive—unlike their flashy hothouse namesakes - and sometimes you need to get down on your hands and knees to fully appreciate their individual characteristics and beauty. It helps to have some experts around too, so the Friends of the Moora Woodlands invited members of the Western Australian Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group to help them search Candy's Bush Reserve in Moora for orchid gems. This reserve, which is registered with *LFW*, is in remarkably good condition for woodland within a township.



*Appreciating native orchids can appear to be a form of supplication; being small and delicate they are extremely vulnerable and need our protection for conservation.*

These small reserves are an important part of the heritage of rural towns, but they do need looking after. The Friends Group had conducted a

cleanup of the reserve in March, removing six truckloads of rubbish. Orchid hunters were invited to take a small bag with them while they were scouring the ground for flowers and pick up little pieces of rubbish. The hunt netted not only a large number of budding and flowering orchids, but also 10 bags of litter.

On the first Sunday of August, over 50 people from around the state converged on the site and local residents rubbed shoulders with people who had travelled from

Perth for the morning's activities. It was a very successful day, as participants shared their knowledge, experience and love of bushland plants. Everyone was very excited when a possible new variety of snail orchid was found, which was provisionally calling the 'Moora Snail Orchid' until final confirmation of identification is established.

Candy's Reserve has a wide range of native orchids – seventeen were found on the day. Native orchids flower throughout the year and so the reserve probably contains others as well. However, difficult questions such as how do we engage younger people in natural resource management and issues such as how do we effectively protect these valuable bushland remnants still remain to be addressed. Gone are the

days when we could pick a posy of native orchids to take home to our mothers - there just aren't enough orchids left! Perhaps we need more days like this, where we share knowledge and so raise enthusiasm and pride in our local bushland assets.

*Christel Schrank arranged this field day when a NRMO with the Moore Catchment Council before commencing duties as a Targeted Investment Implementation Officer with Northern Agricultural Catchments Council.*

## Interstate *LFW* News

### ALICE SPRINGS STARTS A 'GARDEN FOR WILDLIFE' SCHEME

*LFW* has been operating in the Alice Springs municipality since 2002 and is very popular with landholders. However, unlike us in WA, it does not have a guaranteed allocation of State funds to keep it operational, so unfortunately it has had some stop-start problems. Nevertheless, enthusiasm for the scheme continues unabated.

Because Alice Springs is essentially an urban community, a new scheme, 'Garden for Wildlife', was launched in March 2007. This programme will assist property owners create wildlife habitats in their back yards, hopefully enhancing existing wildlife corridors

and developing new ones for wildlife to move safely between town blocks. They are hoping soon to register whole streets as wildlife-friendly places!

For more information, contact the Coordinator, Heidi Groffen, on [LFW@lowecol.com.au](mailto:LFW@lowecol.com.au). And if you are visiting the Red Centre, why not see if you can arrange to meet some *LFWers* there?

*(Readers, are you interested in notes about what is happening in LFW around the nation? Please let me know if you would like this news item to continue. – Ed.)*