

married daughter (Aiona) and two grandchildren all living in Vladivostok.

Asked if he cherished any other aspirations, Dr Wilson confessed to a long-time empathy with indigenous people, not only Australian Aborigines, but others such as the Polynesian people he met some 20 years ago on Kapingimarangi, a remote Pacific atoll, where he was studying the Crown of Thorns starfish.

"These people are subject to the same rules of ecologically sustainable development as we are, but with much more limited resources available to them.

"The balancing act required of them just to survive is worthy of a closer look, which is what I'd like to do, and later complete a book on my findings.

# Forest walk for children

**PART of CALM's involvement in Children's Week, held in October, was a joint project with third year social work students from Curtin University.**

The pilot project, which involved CALM people from Mundaring District, was organised by Hills Forest Manager Stev Slavin, and was aimed at increasing the range of groups using the forest. The half-day event involved taking students from two schools for intellectually impaired children on a tour of the forest near Lesley Picnic Area off the Brookton

Highway.

The program began with a talk by Forest Ranger Glenn Willmott on the forest, its animals, and its conservation.

"A walk in the forest should be a stimulus for all our senses," he said. To emphasise this and allow the children to experience the forest fully, a number of stopping points were set up along nearby trails where the children performed various activities.

These included crushing eucalyptus leaves to smell the powerful oils, imitating the call of the kookaburra, and feeling the sharp points of zamia fronds.

The children enjoyed the experience and the five Curtin students, Liz Allison, Rebekah Cant, Jo Laufer, Sushil Singh and Kylie Mawdesley, were all pleased with the outcome.

Glenn Willmott was equally pleased and hoped that the pilot program could be utilised or adapted for the Hills Forest Program to give a wider range of groups the opportunity to experience the pleasures of the bush.

"We need to have a range of programs to cater for all groups. Currently, the forest is really only accessible to those who are fit and healthy," he said.



*Curtin University students share a little of the forest with their appreciative audience.*

*Photo by David Gough*



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