

# Our kids care for the earth

BEING introduced to a new friend - blindfolded, or making sugar inside a giant leaf may not appeal to adult tastes. But if you're a 10, 11 or 12-year-old set to become an Earth Caretaker, it certainly does!

The Earth Caretakers scheme is CALM's latest entree into environmental awareness programs. Activities with names such as Food Factory, Chain Gang and Lost Letters involve primary school students in the magic of learning about the natural world in which they live, and the first group of trainee Earth Caretakers from Deanmore Primary Extension and Challenge (PEAC) obviously enjoyed

by FIONA MARR

every minute.

Each participant in the program is given a booklet, *Earth Secrets*, which takes them along a path of discovery. At each stage in the program the children note down examples of what they have learnt along the way.

## Identify

At the end of the session they each identify a personal 'environmental bad habit' and write a plan to correct it.

The program is being piloted in bushland at Hollywood Reserve in Nedlands during second

term.

Earth Caretakers is one of several internationally successful Earth education programs developed by the Institute for Earth Education based in Illinois, USA.

CALM's Community Education Section sees the program as a powerful way to raise understanding of basic ecological concepts. The Earth Caretakers program is lead by contracted staff with considerable support from CALM's volunteer *Earth Carers*.

As with Bob Cooper's Outback Safety and Bushcraft course, this program shows how CALM can achieve its goals in tough times with the help of volunteers and contracts.

*Pupils from Deanmore PEAC getting to know their surroundings at a recent Earth Caretakers workshop. Photo - David Gough*



# Gra

**THE historic East Perth Cemetery is about to become the subject of a number of "in-depth" investigations.**

This unusual piece of CALM estate has been managed by the Metropolitan Region since it inherited the area from the National Parks Authority in

