



*Wildlife officer Bouydan Yarran goes over finer points of plant identification with students who attended the careers seminar.
Story and photo by Verna Costello*

Aboriginal students visit CALM

CHILDHOOD lessons in the Nyoongar culture, a colour slide show on bush foods and medicines and the activities of the Wagyl were a few of the topics that received an enthusiastic response from 45 Aboriginal students and their five supervisors recently.

The students in years 10, 11 and 12 were from the Cannington-Armadale area and were attending a two-hour session organised by CALM wildlife officer Trevor Walley at the Como Training Centre.

Trevor also spoke on his training and experiences as a district wildlife officer, and one of about 20 Aboriginal people employed by CALM across a broad range of occupations

such as research scientist, technical officer, liaison officer, rangers, wildlife officers and clerical.

The session was part of a week-long, residential Careers-1992 Seminar at the Ministry of Sport and Recreation's Point Walter Conference Centre in Bicton where the students were shown a wide range of education, employment and training opportunities available to them.

An important aim of the seminar was to develop a sense of identity and community between the students and Aboriginal people who organised, supervised and took part in it, and to meet and hear the experiences of Aboriginal role models out in the wider community.

The students also participated in self-esteem workshops, visited other government departments and took part in social and cultural activities.

Feed back from students on the session at Como was positive, typical comments being:

"It was great."

"It should've been longer to include time out in the bush."

"Can't wait 'til next year."

The seminar was an initiative of the Department of Employment, Education and Training, Youth Access Centre in Armadale, liaising with the Centre for Aboriginal Programs at the University of WA to coordinate the seminar on its behalf.

