

# Wise men from the east look to CALM

**THE application of DNA fingerprinting techniques carried out by CALM, in conjunction with Curtin University, has aroused keen interest among wildlife authorities throughout Australia.**

Of particular interest, is the use of these techniques in wildlife industry management.

For example, two South Australian wildlife officers visited WA late last year to evaluate the new technology.

This visit has already been followed up by the despatch to WA of blood samples taken from Major

Mitchell cockatoos and mulga parrots for DNA fingerprinting.

From this a data base will be established to enable determination of parent-progeny relationships.

The species, which need special management, are sometimes taken illegally from the wild and claimed by breeders to have been bred in captivity from licensed birds.

Peter Dickinson, a wildlife protection officer with the Victorian Government Department of Conservation and Environment, was CALM's most recent visitor.

He, too, was in WA

to study DNA fingerprinting techniques, particularly in relation to investigations into the illegal taking of cockatoo species, including many that are rare.

Peter was shown by Professor Wetherall and David Groth how the scientific analysis of DNA genetic fingerprinting is carried out at Curtin University.

Meeting aviculturists, with whom CALM continues to work closely to ensure wild stocks of birds do not enter the industry illegally, was another highlight of Peter's visit.



*Peter Dickinson (centre) shares a light moment with special investigations officer Kingsley Miller, (right), and wildlife officer Lyle Gilbert. Photo by Doug Coughran*

