

# Woodvale Open Day

by Grant Pearson

Division and WA Threatened Species and Communities Unit carry out a variety of work programs including scientific research and conservation projects involving:

- the conservation of threatened animals such as the numbat, western swamp tortoise, quenda, chuditch and Shark Bay mouse;
- the conservation of threatened plants;
- the effects of different fire regimes on plants and animals in many parts of the State;
- the conservation of wetlands and waterbirds;
- studies aimed at conservation of marine turtles;
- the distribution and conservation status of plants and animals within national parks and other reserves and on other categories of land.

The public's response was so enthusiastic that another Open Day is planned for spring 1994.

Anyone wanting further information can telephone (09) 405 5100 during office hours.

Visitors were shown that, like the owl, many species of native birds, reptiles and mammals find refuge in the 39 hectares of largely undisturbed jarrah and banksia woodland on the Woodvale Reserve - a secure remnant of native vegetation in the northern metropolitan area.

## Guided tour

A guided tour showed visitors through one of the laboratories, the main purpose of which is to provide a work base for scientists working in the field throughout Western Australia.

No animals were being held for observation and study at the time and visitors learned that, apart from the laboratories for about 50 staff, there are offices, a seminar room, library and workshop.

Visitors also learnt how zoologists, botanists, ecologists and wildlife managers from CALM's Science and Information

PEOPLE living near CALM's Wildlife Research Centre at Woodvale were given a chance to see the Centre for themselves one Sunday early in December.

The Open Day saw about 100 people, representing 35 families, visit the Centre's Ocean Reef Road premises between 11.00am and 3.00pm — a mere four hours.

The visitors inspected the building and displays and learnt about research projects from Research Centre management and scientists.

Questions came thick and fast, and gave staff an indication of the high degree of interest their 'neighbours' had in the work being done by CALM and at Woodvale in particular.

An unscheduled visit from a young boobook owl, sheltering in the rafters of the Centre's verandah, to get away from the attentions of a gang of ravens, aroused great curiosity and raised comments on the importance of nature reserves such as Woodvale as habitat for wildlife.



Ranger Mike Churches shows visitors one of the Wildlife Research Centre's Open Day displays.

Photo by Verna Costello

## Doug wins Rotary award

ONE of CALM's most high-profile employees is well-known for such activities as rescuing beached dolphins, monitoring boating to ensure the State's unique whale sharks are not disturbed

works with the Department of Agriculture and liaises with Doug on a regular basis, was instrumental in bringing about the award.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the quality

wildlife is a challenging task which is characterised by many competing or conflicting demands.

"Doug liaises with members of the public, over a range of areas including whale and

award.

He had no prior knowledge of the nomination and was simply invited to a Rotary meeting to give a speech on managing wildlife.

