



Left to right Michelle Widmer, Des Donnelly, John Clark, Greg Lange and Mike Bucton inspect marri slabs at Bunnings Sawmill in Collie. Photo by Graeme Gardner

Hard yakka at end of day

FACING an exam at the end of a day's solid training may not be everyone's favourite way of spending the remains of the day.

Doing so while enduring cold, wet, squally conditions puts the experience on quite another threshold of pain.

CALM's hardwood utilisation staff bore this pain heroically when they spent a two-

by Graeme
Gardner

day course (including the exam) in a 'classroom' made of canvas.

The classroom was a tent supplied by Forest Industries Training Service (FITS), and was erected in Mangee Millings Sawmill Yard in Bunbury.

The course was run by FITS training officer Bob

Jenkins and was a mix of practical and theory, its aim being to instruct participants in the characteristics permissible when grading structural timbers.

Armed with this additional knowledge, CALM staff can be instrumental in exploiting more fully the number of uses for log products, leading to less wastage at the forest harvesting stage, and to in-

creased royalties.

The second day's class was conducted by Des Donnelly, CALM's chief utilisation officer and began at Koppers yard in Bunbury, where sleepers were inspected for overseas and local use.

The afternoon was spent at sawmills in the Collie area looking at sawmilling techniques and assessing timbers cut by the mills.

