



Wildlife officer Trevor Walley looks on while daughter Helen operates the badge-making machine. With them is Charmaine Champion. Photo by Penny Walsh

Aboriginal and Islander Week

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Special events were held throughout the week, and Trevor estimated that thousands of people would have made their way into the marquee to see what was on display.

"WA was the focus State this year, which means there were some high profile Aborigines in attendance, including Charles Perkins and Lois O'Donohue, National Chairperson of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission

(ATSIC).

"I think it was good that CALM had a presence in the marquee—to show that we are involved in the Aboriginal scene here in WA," Trevor said.

Both Maxine and Trevor agreed that having a hands-on activity was much better than just giving out written material on CALM to the adults.

"We wanted to get people involved and give them the opportunity to be creative. It was amazing to see

the variety of designs and colours they came up with for their badges."

The aim of National Aboriginal and Islander Week 1995 was to create an awareness, recognition and understanding of Aboriginal society and culture. In so doing, bridge the gap of understanding and respect between Aboriginal and other Australian people.

Maxine Chi and Trevor Walley say they look forward to being involved again next year.

CALM celebrates Aboriginal and Islander Week

by Penny Walsh

CALM marked National Aboriginal and Islander Week 1995 with a week-long display in Forrest Place, Perth.

Along with staff from other government departments, Aboriginal agencies and community groups, Trevor Walley, Maxine Chi, Noel Nannup, Naomi Ogilvie and Neila Penny were on hand to provide information and first hand experience of how their work and their culture interrelate.

As well as demonstrating the many ways CALM seeks to reflect Aboriginal heritage in its day-to-day activities, they unearthed a great little money spinner — do-it-yourself badge making.

It seems the idea of setting up the office badge making machine on-site, and supplying Aboriginal themes and paints and pencils for decoration, proved a winner with the kids.

The badges promoted Nyoongar Aboriginal Dreaming stories about the chuditch, echidna, blue tongue lizard and emu. Children were encouraged to colour in their badges and given handouts of the stories relating to these animals.

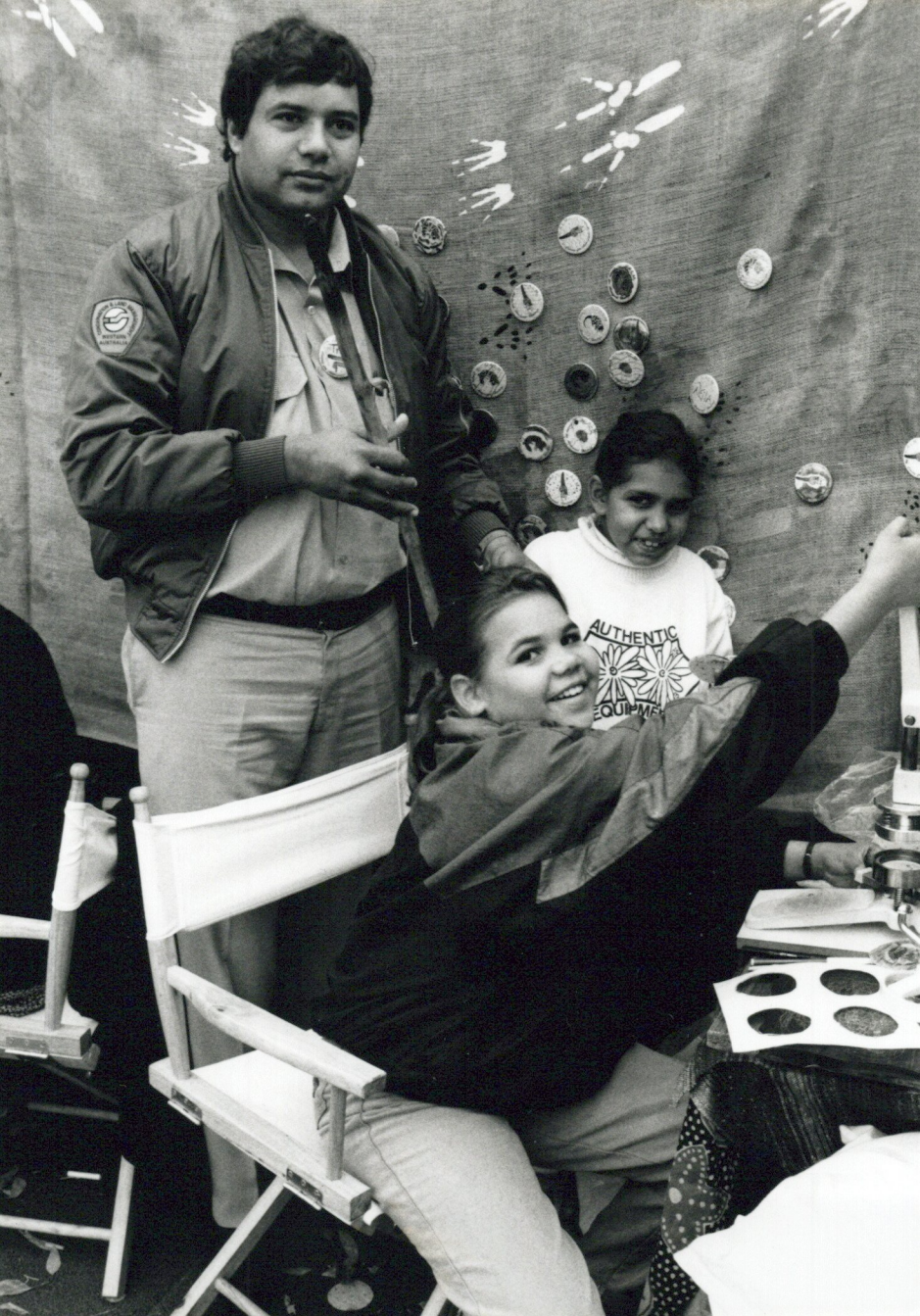
While the aim wasn't really to make money through badge sales, the activity certainly generated some interest. CALM was one of the most popular exhibitors, and next year the organisers plan to give the Department more space in which to work.

Maxine and Trevor said afterwards that the week was a great success.

"Having the marquee set up in Forrest Place, and bringing everyone together was an excellent idea. It allowed Aboriginal people to have maximum positive exposure during Aboriginal & Islander week, with a focus right in the centre of Perth," said Maxine.

"The atmosphere created was one of great celebration and social interaction, with a real sense of pride."

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*In July, CALM's presence at the **WA launch of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Week** draws an impressive response. Yanchep National Park ranger Hardy Derschow gives schoolchildren advice on the nutritional values of witchetty grubs.*