

Young visitors absorbed in the wetlands component of Swan Region's Perth Outdoors shopping centre display. Photo by Larisa Vanstien

## Wetlands wonderland

THE wonders of our coastal wetlands can now be explored in an exciting new interactive component of Swan Region's Perth Outdoors display.

The new wetland component is a 6m x 3m interactive display that is designed to involve children in the discovery of the many natural eleents in a wetland.

It comprises a tunnel, exhibiting a cross-section through a lake. Outside the tunnel is a swamp, at one end of which a small pond has been created, complete with tree, reeds,

## by Larisa Vanstien

live tadpoles, water beetles and aquatic spiders. Scattered throughout the display are replicas of frogs, lizards and ducks—the kind of creatures one would find in a wetland.

The new wetland display makes use of new and improved materials, that ensure its safety and strength; and allow easy transport and simple maintenance.

The 'Perth Outdoors' Shopping Centre Display has been put together to encourage people to get outdoors and enjoy nature, to increase public awareness about CALM, and to promote awareness, appreciation and enthusiasm for our urban wildlife and their habitats.

The four major natural habitats of the area around Perth are woodlands, wetlands, forest and marine. These are represented in the display in a number of exciting ways—all designed to encourage people to discover, explore and appreciate their wonders.

The public has re-

sponded to the 'Perth Outdoors' display with interest, enthusiasm and obvious enjoyment, and it is proving to be a popular attraction for young and old.

The display is also an ideal avenue for CALM staff and volunteers to develop and practice skills in dealing with the public.

We invite all interested parties to come along and experience the display. For further details on display venues and dates, please contact Marie McDonald or myself on 390 5977.





