

Role playing reinforces learning

INTERCEPTING and apprehending a 'baddie' was the most popular role-playing component of a recently held Law Enforcement Training Course at Yanchep National Park.

This was despite some of the participants being a tad nervous about making their 'film debut' before a video camera, according to wildlife officers Kevin Morrison and Peter Pennings, who conducted the course.

"For those who had experienced little, if any, difficult encounters, the role-playing provided an opportunity to apply the theory learnt earlier in the course, and to become familiar with some of the devious and obstructive behaviour of a typically difficult baddie," said Kevin.

There was a healthily democratic mix of working backgrounds represented by the eleven CALM field staff taking part in the four-day course—including three forest officers, two operations officers, a reserves officer, a CALM field officer, a national park ranger and the three wildlife officers.

"The course was enthusiastically received by those taking part, with most agreeing that it was highly pertinent to the circumstances in which they might find themselves. They also appreciated the opportunity to see their role-playing on video, so they could check how appropriate their own behaviour was in the face of difficult clients, whose behaviour might be considerably less than civilised."



Course participants at the conclusion of a successful course. Left to right, standing: Ken Borland, Ben Tannock, John Webb, Rod Martyn, Matt Dowling, Lyndon Mutter, Keith Tressider, Darren Graham and Luke Bouwman. Kneeling, Nigel Sercombe and Kevin Morrison. Photos by Peter Pennings



Trainee wildlife officer Ben Tannock identifies himself to a 'baddie' while the action is captured on video by Matt Dowling for later review.



"What have we here?" Ben Tannock removes a bundle of illegally picked Stirlingia latifolia from 'baddie' Kevin Morrison's vehicle.





