



Earth Carer volunteer Leonie Monks (rear left) and guest Vanessa Holton appear to be listening intently to Perth Outdoors Volunteer Co-ordinator Michael Phillips at the thank you to volunteers function. Photo by Larisa Vanstien

Volunteers thanked

SWAN Region staff kept more than 100 CALM volunteers guessing recently about the content of a special event being held in their honour—until five minutes before it was due to start.

The surprise event, Aboriginal Dreaming stories related by wildlife officer Trevor Walley, was the culmination of a highly successful day held in appreciation of the work carried out by volunteers during 1995, and to coincide with International Volunteers' Day.

The 'vollies' had been treated to an afternoon of adventure caving, a tour of the park's latest developments, and a sausage sizzle, all leading up to the surprise event.

Trevor's storytelling in Cabaret Cave at Yanchep National Park was dramatically enhanced by his use of the cave wall as a backdrop for his colour slide presentation.

"The audience was mesmerised," said CALM regional volunteer co-ordinator Marie McDonald, "and all agreed it was a fitting finale to an enjoyable day that celebrated a successful year of high achievement.

"We would like to hold this kind of appreciation function annually, as we believe it is important to acknowledge, in a tangible way, the high degree of commitment and hard work by our volunteers.

"By the end of 1995,

Swan Region volunteers had contributed more than 5200 hours, the equivalent of 690 working days," she said.

Echoing the sentiments expressed by Marie, Acting Director of Parks, Planning, Recreation and Tourism Jim Sharp, presented volunteers with Certificates of Appreciation, and pointed out that volunteers enabled CALM to extend its programs and activities further into the community.

As the sun set over Loch McNess, the sounds of birds mingled with that of sizzling sausages, and volunteers yarned and swapped stories of their experiences with fellow volunteers from different districts of the Swan Region.

