

Bush Ranger instructors attend workshop



CALM Bush Ranger instructors with Esperance Senior High School 'pause for a pic' with Gary Paul (far right). They are Stewart Barker, Melissa Walker and, in front, Dave Thompson. Gary is a Bush Ranger instructor at the Christian Aboriginal Parent-directed School at Wongatha. Photo by Verna Costello

ONE aim of the CALM Bush Ranger Instructors' recent two-day workshop at Point Walter Conference Centre was that they discover the importance of networking with each other to achieve a cross-fertilisation of ideas.

And network they did! CALM Bush Ranger instructors from country units such as Waroona District High School forged strong links with instructors from city units such as Duncraig Senior High School.

One of the many positive outcomes of this networking has seen new unit instructors invited by the more experienced to work with them on nature conservation and land management projects throughout the State.

The 45 instructors also met their counterparts from the two pilot schools Duncraig and John Forrest Senior High Schools, and community groups such as Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre and the

Moore River Rehabilitation Centre at Guilderton.

The 19 CALM Bush Ranger school units can be found right across Western Australia, from Tardin in the north to Esperance in the south, all offering a diversity of expertise and experience, which is recognised as a significant strength of the program.

There are currently more than 800 students taking part in the program.

The school-based instructors represent a variety of curricula. There are teachers from science, society and the environment, English, outdoor education, home economics, maths, drama, and woodwork.

A principal and deputy principal, a chaplain, school-based youth workers and CALM staff have also taken on the role as instructors for the school units.

Another aim of the recent workshop was to show instructors the many

resources available in CALM and the local community.

One major resource to become available in the near future is a Bush Rangers page on CALM's website *NatureBase*, where they will be able to exchange ideas and organise joint projects.

Instructors were treated to a demonstration of *NatureBase*, and encouraged to signify interest in taking part.

The success of the workshop was reflected by the John Septimus Roe Unit's leader Carleen Edwards, the day after the conclusion of the inservice, when she told CALM's State co-ordinator Bronwyn Goble:

"Today, I've booked a campsite at The Hills Forest, organised my unit to participate in the workshop on CALM's Marine Community Monitoring Program, and have liaised with CALM staff to develop our unit's first nature conservation and land management project."

