

School invitation a big success

TRIBAL Trevor and Ranger Myles made a big impact on 30 eight-year-olds at Leda Primary School recently.

They teamed up to give a double-act presentation about CALM and the Aboriginal significance of plants, animals and culture to an energetic Year four class.

District wildlife officer Trevor Walley and Perth District nature conservation officer Myles Mulvay arrived with plants, kangaroo skins, digging sticks, a mya mya (Aboriginal tee-pee home), a bobtail lizard, spears and other artefacts.

Quick questions from inquisitive minds came fast but were easily

answered by Trevor and Myles.

The question about what the word CALM meant had the class stumped. One wag said: "I thought it stood for CALM down!!"

Trevor and Myles held their audience captive by telling them what plants were found where and the cultural significance of the Leda Nature Reserve behind the school.

Eating sap from an acacia branch, Tribal Trevor delighted the class by telling them about plants that could be used as lollies, how to build a bush home, the best plant for catching prawns, the best plants to eat and plants to be used as medicine

for upset stomachs and infections.

Tribal Trevor, who grew up in the area and is familiar with the region's Aboriginal camps, brought a banksia fire stick to welcome the spirit of the bush to the school, told Dreamtime stories, taught Aboriginal songs and brought ochre paint.

Later the children daubed each other's faces with the ochre and became engrossed with traditional 'splatter painting' of hands and leaves on paper that they hung in their classroom as reminders of the visit.

The presentation came at the request of teacher Sandy Tasker.



Trevor Walley shows a bobtail lizard to Leda Primary School's Year four pupils Megan Kellerman and Kieran Donnelly. Story and photo by Sue McKenna



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Leda Primary School CALM talk -
"Tribal Trever" (wildlife officer Trever Wadley) and
Ranger Nyles (nature conservation officer Nyles
Mulvey), March 2001