

Musical family entertains crowd

IT was a real family affair.

The concert celebrated the International Year of the Family, the band on stage was one big family, entertaining members of bigger family of Christians.

About 200 people enjoyed the Marsh family's free concert at the Katanning Town Hall last week.

The Marsh's own brand of 'good news' music was performed by Nathaniel (13) on drums, Jonathan (11) on bass and Levi (9) on sax.

Mum and Dad, Alison and Warwick Marsh write and sing the songs. Alison also plays keyboards and Warwick the guitar.

Israel (7) is part of the road crew, and Melody (18 months), stars simply by being the only girl in the family.

The band was joined for the WA leg of the tour by former Katanning resident and Aboriginal pastor Peter Compton, who played backing guitar.

The Marsh family, from Wollongong, had spent six weeks on the road before arriving in

Katanning last week.

They live and travel in a converted bus which takes them all over Australia.

This tour, eight weeks in all, was a mere outing compared with a year-long venture the family undertook two years ago, but still managed to take in country New South Wales, Queensland, the Northern Territory, Kimberley, Pilbara, Gasgoyne, Geraldton, Perth, Katanning, Albany, Esperance, Laverton and South Australia.

The family plays in churches, but the majority of its performances are community concerts.

Alison and Warwick are professional musicians who live on the proceeds of writing and recording gospel songs.

Although their concerts are usually free, those who enjoy them generally make a donation in cash or kind to keep the family on the road.

Local concert organisers and Marsh family friend Brett Ward said the Katanning audience had responded generously when the hat was passed round after last week's show because it had been such a success.



FAMILY OF TALENT: The Marsh Family with 'roadie' Joanne Carfield (back left) and local organiser Brett Ward.