



UWA School of Computer Science Manager Jay Jay Jegatheva demonstrates all the tricks you can do with the latest model of AIBO the robotic dog to Esperance Senior High School year ten students Hailee Blackburn and Phoebe Spencer during the Science Awareness Festival.

Science careers expo

ESPERANCE Senior High School students' scientific interest was engaged by interactive demonstrations recently when the school played host to the Scitech Science Awareness Festival.

The festival was effectively a two-day careers expo with displays from 14 organisations aiming to boost students' interest in science careers.

Head of the ESHS Science Department Denis Smith said the festival was well received by all students.

"The students were very positive to all aspects, although the interactive displays in the Recreation Shed were more popular."

The annual festival is held in a different regional location each year and is organised by the Kids' Science State program, a joint initiative of Scitech and the Rio Tinto WA Future Fund.

Mr Smith said developing local students' knowledge of science and technology is considered important as science affects every aspect of our lives.

"One of the aims of the science festival was to show not only that, but how science is involved in many careers.

"We do have a brain drain with our students leaving Esperance and studying at university, TAFE, etcetera in Perth and most do not return.

"It is important that they

know that there are many science based jobs available in rural areas."

University of Western Australia School of Computer Science and Software Engineering Manager Jay Jay Jegatheva manned a booth at the festival, providing information about computer science careers.

"The great thing about science degrees is that the industry is calling out to people with them – the number of positions have doubled since last year," Mr Jegatheva said.

The school also promoted their soccer-playing robot dogs, set to compete at an upcoming International Robot Soccer Competition.