

Band specialises in jailhouse rock

By GLEN HUMPHRIES

IT WAS impossible to buy tickets for most of the Marsh Family's latest concert tour.

Three of the four shows took place behind prison walls.

The Marsh Family, a seven-piece family rock band with most of its members under 15, previewed songs from their new album to select audiences in Parramatta, Cessnock and Long Bay jails.

Just for a change of pace, they included a gig at the Easter Show, on the same day as silverchair.

The band has made a reputation playing in jails, having done gigs at correctional centres in every State except South Australia.

Warwick Marsh, the band's dad and guitar player, explained why they took the unusual step of a prison tour to promote their album, *Straight From The Heart*.

"We always get a warm reception. The guys love to see the children, as that is one thing they miss most in prison.

"The inmates don't get a lot of music and this is our way of giving something back."

Their latest album has been played on more than 50 radio stations and the video for the song *Teach Your Children* has aired on the ABC's *Rage*.

The album's title track was written in memory of young *Ebony Simpson* and features an Australian country rock sound.

Other songs on the album cover a wide range of styles, from reggae through to the guitar-based rock of songs like *Nick Of Time* and *Devilution*.

The Marsh Family aim to tour Australia for the third time in July, covering more than 20,000km in their specially outfitted tour bus.



The Marsh Family, a seven-piece band with half its members under 15 years of age, will tour Australia in July, covering more than 20,000km in their specially outfitted tour bus. REPORT ON PAGE 25.