

Swamp Savers Field Day a roaring success



John Gisham (Coolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association), primary school students Jack and Mitchell (Investigator College) and Jodie Sommeville (NRM Education Coordinator) at the Swamp Savers Field Day at Mount Compass.

In celebration of World Environment Day on 5 June 2015 more than 160 students and 20 teachers joined the School Swampfest at Mount Compass Area School.

Upper Primary students from three Fleurieu schools became teachers for the day, leading hands-on interactive workshops to teach each other about swamps.

Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin (Natural Resources SAMDB) event organiser Jodie Sommeville said it is hoped that students will be able to recognise

the value of swamps, appreciate their beauty, and therefore help protect and manage them in the future.

"This is the second year we have run the School Swampfest at the Mount Compass School Swamp," she said.

"It is a great venue to hold World Environment Day celebrations as it is a nationally endangered

ecosystem," said Ms Sommeville.

The Swamp Savers Field Day is part of the Swamp Savers Program run by the Natural Resources SAMDB Education team.

The program involves an introductory classroom session that looks at Fleurieu Swamps, biodiversity, groundwater and the role of wetlands.

This is followed by ongoing support for students to develop a workshop that is held at the Swamp Savers Field Day.

The workshops at this field day included a habitat game, froggy connections, plant ID, waterwatch, geocaching, clay seed balls and revegetation," said Ms Sommeville.

"The kids had loads of fun while also learning about swamps at the same time."

"Some people drive past the swamps their whole lives and never know the swamps are there and how important they are. Even one of the teachers admitted this," she said. Joining the Mount Compass Area School

Overabundant New Zealand Fur Seals require immediate management

Liberal Member for Hammond Adrian Pederrick has called on the Weatherill Labor Government to immediately prepare and implement an 'Overabundant Native Species Management Plan'.

In South Australia, the New Zealand Fur Seal population is over 100,000. Their rapidly increasing population is having serious effects on South Australian marine life, the environment and the fishing industry.

"They are taking over and these fur seals will have an environmental impact in the future if they get down to the Southern Lagoon and Pelican Island and take out the pelican breeding grounds," said Mr Pederrick. "The Acting District Ranger for the Coorong has advised that the amount of birds

33, licensed fishery fisherman, their income is being decimated by these New Zealand Fur Seals.

"I've had a not delivered to me and it was torn apart. I've been shown pictures of fish with their heads and tails torn off."

A June 2014 SARDI publication states the following: "There is a growing concern about how the increasing population of Fur Seals will impact the future and sustainability and production of key fisheries and the broader marine ecosystem as a

whole. As such, accurate information on the status and trends in abundance of the species is important for stakeholders, and essential to assist management agencies to make decisions."

In just one day the New Zealand Fur Seals can consume 400 tonnes of seafood. To put this in perspective, in three days these seals would have consumed the equivalent of a year's catch by commercial fishermen in the Lakes and Coorong fisheries. "Their population is growing at 5.5% a

year, causing havoc to commercial operators," said Mr Pederrick.

"We don't need to decimate the Fur Seal population, but we do need to put an Active Management Plan in place because the environment and fishing industry are suffering."

Petition

"I am starting a petition calling on the State Government to take action, which includes a sustainable harvest of the New Zealand Fur Seals as part of the Management Plan."

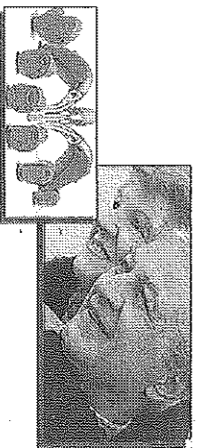
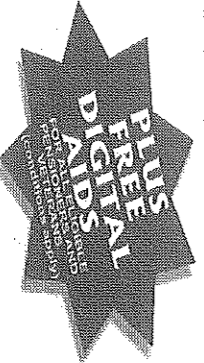
CPAP Correction

Strathalbyn Pharmacy would like to advise that incorrect information was printed in the Southern Argus Advertisement for The Sleep Health Awareness Day, held on 10/6/2015.

The Pharmacy is offering free CPAP machine PRESSURE TESTING and FILTER - not a free CPAP machine as the advertisement claimed.

We apologise for any confusion caused in regard to this advertisement.

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