

**Police issue home safety advice**

REGION - Local police have offered advice to Fleurieu and Adelaide Hills residents about protecting their valuables following a number of break-ins in the area at the weekend.

Sometime between the afternoon of Friday, July 17, and the early hours of Saturday, July 18, a offender entered a residential property at Mount Barker Springs by forcing open a rear door. Nothing was stolen from the property.

Early Sunday morning, a thief entered a unlocked car shed at Bull Creek and stole an orange Stihl 14-inch chainsaw.

Police said there are a number of things people can do to protect their valuables and properties from opportunistic thieves. This includes fitting appropriate locks with keys to all doors and windows.

Police said that gates, garages and sheds should all be locked when they are not used.

Garden tools and ladders should all be locked away securely so they cannot be used to break into properties.

Anyone with information about either incident is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or report it online at sa.crimstoppers.com.au

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# Plan to control seals

By MICHAEL SIMMONS

REGION - An investment of \$100,000 for the management of long-nosed fur seals in the Coorong fishery has been supported by conservation groups, but local fishermen have expressed doubts.

The funding announcement was in response to a petition circulated by Member for Hammond Adrian Pedrick.

Mr Pedrick wanted ways to reduce the seal numbers in the Coorong and Lower Lakes region to be investigated.

Mr Pedrick said seals are responsible for the low number of fish catches in the region and that there have been reports of seals injuring bird life.

State environment minister Ian Hunter said Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA) and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) were each providing \$50,000 for the project.

"It's important that we help fishers find a way to co-exist with long-nosed fur seals, which are a natural part of our marine environment," Minister Hunter said.

"PIRSA and DEWNR have been working closely with the Southern Fishermen's

Association to address the impact of seals.

"The Coorong fishery is one of the oldest in the state and we are committed to working with the fishers to ensure its long-term, sustainable survival."

The funds will be used for research into fishing gear, methods and deterrent devices to reduce the impacts of seals. Humane, non-lethal deterrents such as small underwater crackers known as seal scarers will be trialed.

"The best science is showing that culling is not the answer to managing interactions between fur seals and fishers," Minister Hunter said.

Darren Hoad of Hoad Fisheries has been fishing in the Coorong for 40 years and is sceptical of the latest seal management plans.

"I would love to see it work, but unsure it will deter the seals from destroying the fishery," Mr Hoad said.

"They are too smart and will adapt to deterrents."

"The seals will work out that the crackers will go off once and it will not hurt them."

"It is a low deterrent, but I really hope it works."

The Conservation Council SA has strongly backed the move to set up a working group.

"I think most South Australians would want

and expect to see absolutely everything else tried well before a killing program is considered," chief executive of conservation SA Craig Wilkins said.

"What would also help is a short-run observer program to get more information about exactly what impact fur seals are having on the fishery and other wildlife in the Coorong."

"There are a lot of conflicting stories flying around - an observer program is standard in other fisheries to help authorities work out the best way to manage conflicting needs."

Mr Hunter said the seal numbers are at the level seen before European settlement.

"It is clear that long-nosed fur seals are having an impact on certain sectors, and that's why we're trialling these new measures," he said.

"Experience from overseas fisheries has shown selective culling is ineffective, as removing one seal means that another will simply move in to take advantage of the available food."

"Relocation has shown to be similarly ineffective, with experience from Tasmania showing seals return to their original locations within days, with some moved up to six times a year."

## Art creates a bond and trust

LANGHORNE CREEK - An eastern Fleurieu-born police officer is excited to launch an art exhibition in the town she was raised in.

It forms one of many exhibits that will be shown across the Fleurieu as part of the South Australian Living Artists (SALA) Festival next month.

Strathalbyn-born Senior Constable Ellie Scutchings is presenting *Malpa Rara Malpa Rara Tjunga (Friends Working Together)*, an art project developed by herself with Anangu elders Margaret Dagg, Imuna Kenta and Tjimpuna Dunn. The installation will include 17 sculptures that will be displayed at Bleasdale Vineyards at Langhorne Creek.

Senior Constable Scutchings is a fifth generation member of the Potts family, who were the vineyard's founders. She was raised in Langhorne Creek and is now based at Umwa at the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands, working in the Criminal Investigation Branch as a child abuse investigator.

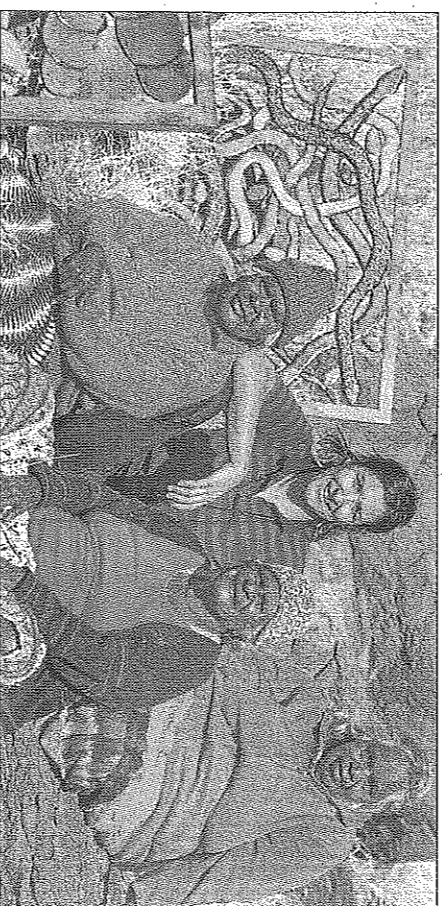
The project was born out of her posting to the APY Lands in 2013, when Senior Constable Scutchings met the women.

"We got talking one day and realised we all have a common interest and passion for art. This is how the art project began," Senior Constable Scutchings said.

"We spent days discussing the art and over many months, we completed 17 pieces which tell the stories of their lives and land."

She said the project has been worthwhile and rewarding for everyone involved.

"They have the opportunity to express



**GAINING TRUST:** Langhorne Creek-raised Senior Constable Ellie Scutchings (pictured in red) is looking forward to presenting an arts installation as part of the South Australian Living Artists Festival. She is pictured with Tjimpuna Dunn, Imuna Kenta and Margaret Dagg, who are the three Anangu women who worked with her on the project.

themselves in a different way and show the community and families what they have achieved. They are very proud and now I see them smiling a lot."

"I have established a rapport because I live in the Ernabella community, which helps in my role as a police officer."

"It has shown that no matter where we are from or what we do, we can come together to create an amazing thing: our art exhibition and a friendship."

"This bond, connection, trust that we have takes a long time to gain from the Anangu

people."

Senior Constable Scutchings said people from the Anangu tribe are very shy and reserved, gaining their trust is one thing, but forming a friendship is very special.

"The ladies now ring me not to talk about problems or issues in community, but to talk about our art, the journey that we have been on and the future," she said.

The exhibition starts on August 1.

For more information about SALA Festival events locally visit [www.salainc.com.au](http://www.salainc.com.au)

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6 - THE TIMES, Thursday, July 23, 2015