

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY DRAWS A CROWD IN MT GAMBIER

Over two thousand people braved the chilly conditions to join in the fun at the launch of World Environmental Month at the Mount Gambier Library on Sunday June 5th. The usual stall holders for the library's Sunday markets, with their fresh produce, handicrafts and more were joined by two local performers, transforming our verandah into a vibrant community space.

Inside the library, children were entertained by Roberto D'Andrea from *The Connies*, a group of tram conductor educators, who distributed a range of beautifully crafted collectable swap cards depicting native wildlife. Roberto had the children entranced as he described the habitat and had the children answering an assortment of questions about each different animal.

On the other side of the library David Miles and his family were educating people about snakes and reptiles of the South East, paying particular attention to some of the deadliest snakes in the world. Eleven year old Mitchell Hunter, who entered the library afraid of snakes, changed his mind (although he learnt to be careful), thanks to a very friendly python called Jessie. Jessie helped many children overcome their fears and educated them about our precious native wildlife.

The Department of Environment and Heritage was on hand to show a much different side of water bugs, with the microscopic vision of some very common water insects and creatures from the local wetlands, and later in the day

Cape Jaffa Vineyards conducted a workshop on biodynamic farming and winemaking.

Activities continued throughout the month with a photography exhibition by Justin McManus from *The Age* and workshops on climate change, native revegetation and caves, and the launch of the CAS Recycling Directory.

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Connie Roberto D'Andrea
with Laura Harris, Joshua
Harris and Mitchell Hunter

David Miles with an
Unbanded Tiger Snake

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