

Green crusade reaches Myponga

By **DREW EVERS**

MYPONGA - Myponga Primary School students had a unique opportunity to hear about climate change last week from a family of environmental activists who have been travelling the world promoting the cause.

Dario and Sabine Schwoerer from Switzerland lead a global climate change expedition called ToptoTop, which visits schools all over the world promoting active lifestyle and climate change.

Dario and Sabine said that the Myponga students met them with great enthusiasm.

"There were a lot of good questions," Sabine said.

"We try to motivate the children, if you are talking about climate change, you need to promote active lifestyle," Sabine added.

The couple talked about their experi-

ences and explained to the students how they can do their bit to deal with climate change.

"We encouraged them to try and take their bikes and walk sometimes," Sabine said.

Although they have lobbied for the environment for seven years through the ToptoTop expedition, Sabine and Dario do not see themselves as environmentalists.

"We define ourselves more as sportsmen rather than greenies."

"It's more an attitude like sportsmanship toward nature," Dario said.

The ToptoTop expedition is the first one of its kind, travelling to the seven summits to connect global climate zones in seven continents around the world using only human power.

Seven years into the expedition the Schwoerer family and the ToptoTop team

have reached their halfway mark, having climbed three and a half summits, the half coming from a failed attempt to climb the highest peak in Antarctica.

After climbing Mt Kosciusko, the Schwoerer family will stay in the country raising awareness for climate change until August next year. Their stay may include participating in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race.

Dario and Sabine would like to thank the Yankalilla Rotary Club for their donation. They hope to visit our region one more time before leaving Australia.

For more information on ToptoTop visit the website at www.toptotop.org.

FAMILY AFFAIR ... Andri, Sabine, Salina and Dario Schwoerer, pictured at right, enjoyed their stay in our region.



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Whale frenzy- first Humpbacks spotted

VICTOR HARBOR - The South Coast waters enjoyed a hive of activity over the past week, including the sighting of the first Humpback whales for the season.

The first calf sighting for the year at Port Elliot on Tuesday morning kicked off a big day for whale watchers, with seven individual whales spotted along the coast.

Following the unconfirmed sighting of a Humpback whale off the Bluff at 10:30am, two of the same species were later confirmed between Victor Harbor and Port Elliot.

The acrobatic Humpbacks put on a spectacular show, exposing their full bodies while breaching, something uncommon to the Southern Right Whales.

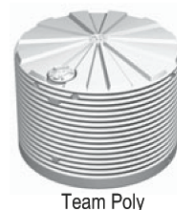
SA Whale Centre coordinator, Tori Williams, said Humpback whales rarely come close to shore and are often just passing through, meaning sightings can be uncommon.

Whale spotters at Oliver's Reef at noon were treated to the spectacular sight of two Southern Right whales accompanied by 20 active dolphins.

"It was almost like the whales decided to come in one hit (on Tuesday) and it was a great sign to see the Humpbacks; we do get them but you have to be lucky," Mrs Williams said.

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