Ocean advocates finding their voice

MARTINA SIMOS

YEAR 3 students from Mercedes College this term conducted an investigation on the ocean as part of a unit of inquiry called Sharing the Planet. Students researched the rights and responsibilities in the struggle to share finite resources with other people and other living things.

One of the investigations included changes in the ocean environment and people’s role in protecting the seas’ health. Students gathered information from newspapers, books and television and from speaking to their families, holding class discussions and through the internet.

Topics they researched included the three zones of the ocean, creatures and plants of those zones and the interconnectedness of these creatures. The class also wrote letters to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, Federal Water Resources Minister Barnaby Joyce and South Australian Fisheries Minister Leon Bigginnell, outlining why super trawlers, capable of catching thousands of tonnes of fish, should not be allowed to resume fishing in the nation’s waters.

Teacher Natasha Berri said the students had displayed a passion for making a difference in the community and discovered there was a way to be heard. “They were upset that super trawlers didn’t discriminate between what they caught and they got cross (and) they got cross that super trawlers did not catch what they needed .. and very concerned that there was a chance that super trawlers would be allowed back in Australian waters,” she said.

“This kind of action shows that they do have a voice and that they can try and make a difference in issues that they are passionate about.”

“The students realised they had a voice, and age was no barrier to speaking up.”

What they said

Wesley Booth Super Sleuth
Author: Adam Cece
Publisher: Omnibus Books
RRP: $15.99

Super Sleuth is a funny, intriguing book written by Adam Cece. Wesley Booth is a child Super Sleuth (Detective). He is about to solve the biggest crime ever committed at Hub Hills that moved me emotionally. I would definitely recommend this book to any book lover who is 8-10 years old. You won’t be able to put this book down when it’s bedtime.

Reviewer: Phoenix, 12, Year 7, Linden Park
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