

Wetlands Month event

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THE Working on Fire (WoF) celebrated Wetlands Month and clean-up campaign with pupils in Dewetsdorp last week.

The big celebration was held at Metsimaphodi Secondary School where pupils were told about the importance of wetlands and how they can preserve these areas and also how it relates to fire.

Various stakeholders such as the Community Work Programme, the department of health and the Mangaung metro municipality were present.

The WoF Free State Community Fire Awareness officer and the Fire Awareness facilitator Glodinah Mofokeng said the

international theme for the World Wetlands Month 2017 is "Wetlands for disaster risk reduction".

She said the wetlands played an important role in helping to provide communities with resilience to natural hazards such as flooding caused by storms, cyclones, storm surges and tsunamis.

"Under projected climate change scenarios, extreme climatic events, including floods, droughts and storms are expected to increase in frequency and intensity. We taught the Grade 10 pupils what wetlands were and their importance," Mofokeng said.

She said they also conducted a cleaning campaign at one of the wetlands in the Dewetsdorp area.

"The event was a success and

the children enjoyed cleaning the litter that was scattered across the wetland," Mofokeng said.

She said unfortunately, wetlands are often viewed as wasteland, and more than 64% of the world's wetlands have disappeared since 1900.

"World Wetlands Month is an annual opportunity to raise public awareness and promote the value of wetlands.

"We took the initiative to lead a cleaning campaign in one of the designated wetlands within the town and with the assistance of the Metsimaphodi Secondary School pupils, we managed to remove all the litter that polluted the area," Mofokeng said.

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