

Spot the changes at Reedy Swamp caused by people



Use these clues and look around.....
how many can you find?????

<p>Time for lunch</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>Wet roots.... No leaves</p> <p>.....</p>
<p>No wandering off</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>Keep out</p> <p>.....</p>
<p>Lazy people</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>Replacing ones that have gone</p> <p>.....</p>
<p>Unwanted four legged visitors</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>New homes</p> <p>.....</p>
<p>Invasion by seeds</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>Off road vandals</p> <p>.....</p>



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<p>Time for lunch</p> <p><i>Picnic Table</i></p> <p>(Built by Notre Dame VCAL students as part of their community project)</p>	<p>Wet roots.... No leaves</p> <p><i>Dead trees in swamp</i></p> <p>(From extra water being drained into the swamp)</p>
<p>No wandering off</p> <p><i>walking tracks and roads</i></p> <p>(To limit the damage done by vehicles and people walking.)</p>	<p>Keep out</p> <p><i>Fences</i></p> <p>(To stop cars from driving off road and damaging land and plants and to stop people dumping rubbish around the corners.)</p>
<p>Lazy people</p> <p><i>Litter</i></p> <p>(Includes garden rubbish and household waste that people dump here rather than take it to the Transfer Station.)</p>	<p>Replacing ones that have gone</p> <p><i>Revegetation</i></p> <p>(Planting by members of the Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group and Notre Dame VCAL students.)</p>
<p>Unwanted four legged visitors</p> <p><i>Introduced animals e.g. foxes, rabbit, dogs, cats</i></p> <p>(May not see any evidence but possibly may see some scats.)</p>	<p>New homes</p> <p><i>Nesting boxes</i></p> <p>(Field and Game association have put nesting boxes in the Swamp for birds.)</p>
<p>Invasion by seeds</p> <p><i>Weeds</i></p> <p>(There are many different weeds at reedy Swamp.)</p>	<p>Off road vandals</p> <p><i>Vehicle tracks not on the roads</i></p> <p>(May see evidence where vehicles have gone bush.. this happens a lot in the sand dunes to the north of Reedy Swamp and along tracks when there are big water holes etc.)</p>



Problems at Reedy Swamp.

People have decided that Reedy Swamp is a great place to put waste water from the nearby farms. This water has lots of nutrients in it which pollute the water and can cause toxic blue green algae to grow in the water. This also means that the Swamp has water in it more often which the aquatic plants and animals don't like.

Bindii seeds have come into the Reedy Swamp area and now it is growing everywhere and stopping native plants from growing and causing damage to animals' feet. It also gets in people's shoes and causes punctures in bike riders' tyres.

People are coming to Reedy Swamp and walking all over the place. They are damaging the plants (including some very rare ones) and some of the land is becoming bare in places so that when it rains the topsoil runs into the swamp.

People are coming to Reedy Swamp and just dumping their cans and food packaging in the bush.

People are not wanting to pay to take their garden clippings and household waste to the Transfer Station so come to Reedy Swamp and dump it around the corner.

People are driving their four wheel drives down the sand dunes at Reedy Swamp and knocking over and killing the plants that Notre Dame VCAL students have planted.

People are coming into Reedy Swamp and shooting naïve birds

People come into Reedy Swamp to have camp fires and party. They chop down the trees for their campfire and they don't bother to put out their camp fire when they leave.

Trail bike riders come into Reedy Swamp and ride their bikes all over the place, knocking down plants and young trees and digging up soft soil. Eroded soil flows into the swamp.

People are bringing their dogs into Reedy Swamp and letting them run off into the bush where they chase the native birds and animals and leave their waste to pollute the area and the swamp water.





Reedy Swamp Visitors' Code

Task:

Students are to develop a Visitors' code suggesting how people are to behave so they can enjoy the area and have fun and at the same time look after the environment.

HINT: Try and make your code as positive as possible. Make sure you include what people can do and how to do it carefully, rather than simply making up a list of don'ts.

This code can be used as a way to prepare all the St Brendan's students before they visit their reach.... "Reedy Swamp" . It could also be shared with the Notre Dame VCAL students who work at Reedy each week.

Resources:

1. The list of solutions the students developed for the problems they mimed when at Reedy Swamp.
2. The Wetland Visitors' code cartoon sheet.
3. The Lower Goulburn River National Park Visitor Guide brochure.
4. Internet e.g. www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Presentation:

- To sell the idea to people try and make it eye catching and fun.
- It could be presented as a poster, cartoon, PowerPoint etc.
- It could include a slogan, jingle, song, and/or logo.

