



URUNGA PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS, L: Hayley Kelly, Bronte Connell-Bartolo, Phoenix Smith and Julian Flynn with NSW Rural Fire Service's John Allen.

Looking out for wildlife

URUNGA Public School recognised National Threatened Species Day commemorating the death of the last Tasmanian Tiger in Hobart Zoo, 1936.

On hand to present information to Stage 3 students were NSW Rural Fire Service's John Allen and BirdLife Australia's Mandy Wright.

They told students how to identify local threatened species and what actions can be undertaken to protect them.

Some of Urunga's threatened species include the Powerful Owl, Beach Stone Curlew, Osprey, Koala, Grey-headed Flying Fox, the Little Forest Bat, Stephen's Banded Snake, the Giant Barred Frog and the Newry Golden Wattle.

Not only did the students learn to identify these species by observation but also learnt their calls, habitat requirements and main threats to their survival.

Mr Allen spoke of the Hotspots Program run by the

Rural Fire Service and the NSW Nature Conservation Council which is a training program about responsible fire management addressing reducing bush fire risk and at the same time protecting biodiversity, including threatened species.

He said the key element of the program is having communities working together with government agencies such as National Parks and Wildlife Service, Forestry Corporation and local councils.

Future initiatives involving Urunga Public School will include a bird watching excursion, involvement with the newly established Urunga Land Care and a visit from the Urunga Rural Fire Brigade.

The school thanks Marie-Carmen and Michael Bell, via the Alternatives Bookshop Bellingen, for the beautiful photo of Urunga's Beach Stone Curlew at Urunga.

This will be held in trust by the Urunga Land Care.