

# Bogong Future Makers

By RACHEAL WILLETT

**Driving rain, sleet, 100km per hour winds and snow on a five-day expedition at Mt Bogong and still the Yarrowonga College P-12 year 9 students tell the story with smiles on their faces.**

They admit it was tough going, they admit there were days they thought they couldn't get through it, but just weeks after returning from the Bogong Future Makers experience they were all happy and very, very proud.

Yarrowonga College P-12 incorporated the Bogong Outdoor Experience into the Year 9 curriculum for the first time in 2014.

The learning experience begins with class work centred on leadership skills and environmental sustainability before students travel to Mt Bogong for a 12 day experience at the Outdoor Education Centre.

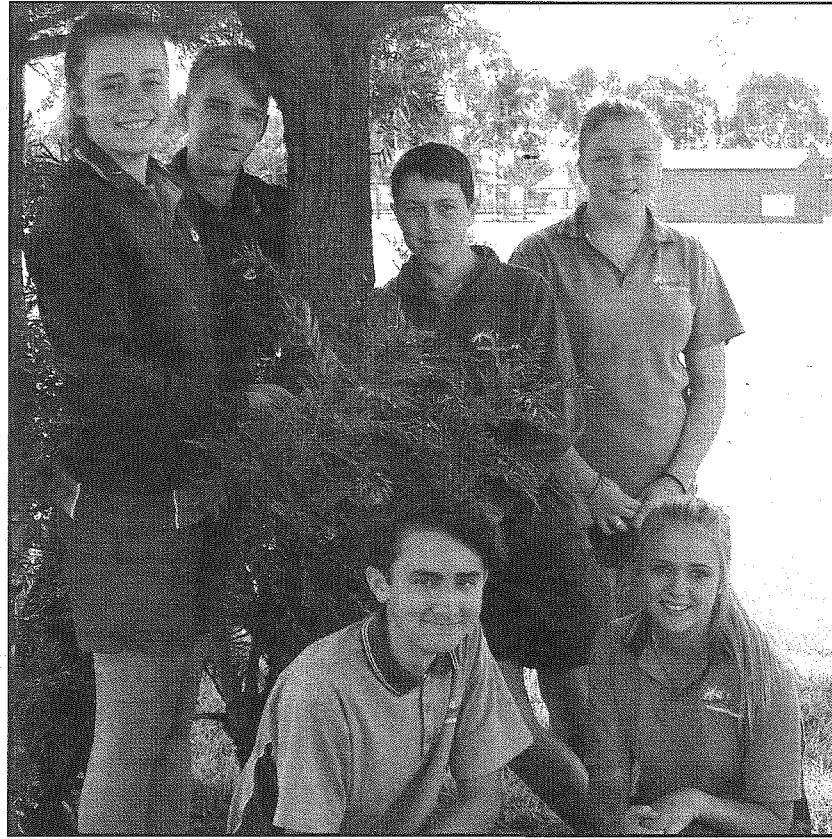
There they learn about the environment, develop personal skills, learn self-awareness and responsibility, leadership skills and how to work as part of a team.

These skills are ultimately tested in a five-day student-led 'expo' where students set off on a journey of discovery. They carry their own gear, cook their own meals, set their own course and are ultimately responsible for their own welfare and that of their group.

This year two year 9 groups were challenged with the Bogong Experience and, now having completed their journeys, returned with stories to share.

"First I was excited to go," said Gabby Hasell, "but after I heard about the five day hike I was less excited and feeling pretty nervous.

"The terrain was the hardest part, uphill then downhill and I ended up with blisters and sore knees. "It was hard to get along with everyone when we had to spend all day every day together, but I learned that I have to deal with other people and find ways to make things work."



Six of the YC P-12 Bogong group – Jordy, Brock, Corey, Gabby, Nathan and Amy.

Self-confessed 'indoors-person' Brock Orsnby was very apprehensive about the Bogong experience.

"I don't like to go outside of my room," he said. "I never wanted to do anything outdoors and I thought about not wanting to go but my parents said I had to.

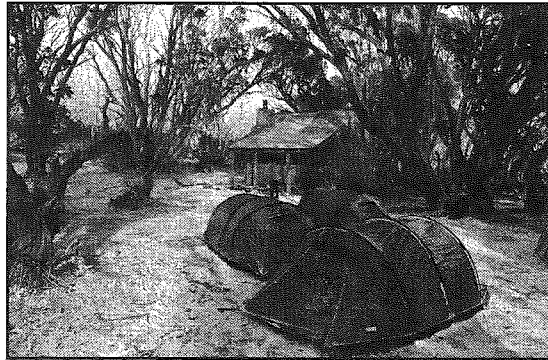
"I got through it. It was really hard but I'm happy I did it. It made me get out and socialise and make new friends and enjoy being outside.

"Since I've come back I feel more confident around friends and trying new things."

For Amy Nunn and Jordy McCarthy the outdoors challenge was exciting, particularly for Jordy when group two woke to find their boots frozen in the snow.

"I'm an outdoorsy-type person anyway so I was really looking forward to it," said Amy Nunn. "It was still hard though and it was hard dealing with all the different personalities, particularly if people didn't get along."

"For me, I got the most out the environmental studies we did. Learning about global warming and climate change was



The students camped out in the snow, rain and wind during their five day expedition.

really interesting," said Jordy McCarthy.

Nathan Tabain and Corey McIntosh said the expo and weather conditions were challenging along with the more domestic side of camp life.

"I had to clean up everyone else's mess," said Nathan. "And more than once I had to pack up people's tents. But you just have to get in and get it done."

"A lot of the time you have to just figure out a way to cope with stuff – the weather and the others in the group and just encourage everyone to get through it."

A show of hands revealed all six of the Bo-

gong returnees had at least one moment on their 12 day adventure when they thought they couldn't get through it and wanted to come home.

A second show of hands then revealed they were all pleased they went and proud of themselves for conquering their Bogong adventure.

The students will now work on a community-based project to share their learning with the school and wider community at Bogong Experience Expo to be held later in the year.

Seeking community representatives for Goulburn Valley and other drug services.

Nominations are sought for two positions on the Goulburn Valley Network for Alcohol and Other Drugs.

The Advisory Network will provide alcohol and other drug service support and making recommendations to improve the quality and experience of services.

To submit an expression of interest form and include a brief resume.

#### Information Pack

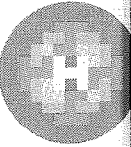
An information pack including selection criteria, terms of reference and nomination form from [www.navigatinglife.com.au](http://www.navigatinglife.com.au).  
Crosbie phone: (03) 5823 7974 or [gvhealth.org.au](http://www.gvhealth.org.au).

#### Closing Date

Closing date for nominations is 31st October 2014.

#### Questions?

Call Christine Nunn, Catchment Partnership Manager on 0418 106 199 or email: [chris.nunn@gvhealth.org.au](mailto:chris.nunn@gvhealth.org.au)



Graham Street

