

# Leaders in the making at secondary college

Six year nine Bairnsdale Secondary College students spent term one attending the School for Student Leadership Snowy River Campus, Marlo.

The team of Sam Fleming, Jordan Harrison, Isabella Chan, Georgie Campbell, Zoe Thompson and Shannon Bradley-Smith spent eight weeks at the Snowy Campus and had the opportunity to take part in a wide range of leadership and adventure activities.

The activities at the school included a three-day expedition and the development of a Community Learning Project (CLP).

The students canoed through the Marlo and Snowy River estuary system, and also did some hiking throughout the local area, including summiting Mount Raymond on the final day.

"The success of the trip was a credit to all the students, and I was very proud of how far they have all come both individually and as a group. The experiences and memories from this trip will help to create many ongoing friendships within our team," said Brendan Pfanner, the School for Student Leadership liaison teacher.

"The effect of completing the expedition created a large morale boost in all the students, and I can physically see the self belief and pride this experience created within each and every one of the team. I believe this enhanced resilience will put them in good stead to tackle many challenges."

The students have developed 'Bringing Generations Together' as their CLP. The students have completed a plan in conjunction with local nursing homes. The students will be attending the homes on a regular basis over the next 10 weeks.

They will be spending time on a range of activities and developing relationships with some of the more elderly members of our community. Activities will include games and helping the residents with computer skills such as creating email and Facebook accounts to help the elderly keep in

The School for Student Leadership is an Education Department initiative for year nine students from government schools. The school provides a wide range of activities that help young people from our schools develop personal and leadership skills and who will then be better equipped to take on leadership roles in the wider community.

Bairnsdale Secondary College had to submit an application to the School for Student Leadership outlining its concept and history in leadership and student involvement.

In a competitive process Bairnsdale Secondary College was successful in having student places allocated for term one, term two and term four 2010. This success was greater than any other college in the state reflecting the outstanding achievements of our students across a wide range of school life and activities.

Year nine students within the college were then required to complete an internal application process and rigorous competitive selection process to determine their suitability to participate.

The Snowy River group of six students returned to school last week and barely had time to be re-acquainted with the next group of students, which will leave to spend nine weeks at the Gnurad Gundidj Campus of the school for student leadership near Glenormiston in the Western District.

The team consists of Georgina Buckland, Marley Burns, Nicole Biggs, Nick Harris, Stephen Fletcher and Will Burnham.

"We are sure that they will acquit themselves very well and be exceptional ambassadors for Bairnsdale Secondary College and the Bairnsdale community," said assistant principal, Domenic Zappia.

"They have completed a number of team building activities at school and have already begun planning their Community Learning Project."

This team will work with school liaison teacher Gary LaRoche over the



Jordan Harrison, Isabella Chan, Georgie Campbell, Shannon Bradley-Smith, Zoe Thompson and Sam Fleming at the Snowy River Campus. (PS)



Gnurad Gundidj team members Will Burnham, Stephen Fletcher, Nick Harris, Marley Burns, Nicole Biggs and Georgina Buckland planning a ropes course team building activity prior to leaving for the Gnurad Gundidj Campus.