

The time of their lives

Happy campers pick up leadership skills and create frog bog

Schools | Deborah Morris

SIX students recently experienced "the adventure of a lifetime" at a leadership camp.

Frankston High School's year 9 students Michael, Dirkje, Brett, Carly, Darcy and Elliott spent nine weeks at a state government-run School for Student Leadership.

They went to the Gnurad Gundidj campus near Camperdown in Victoria's Western District from April 18-June 19.

Gnurad Gundidj focuses on personal development and projects to help local communities.

Frankston High School teacher Lisa Pieropan said the students were selected from applications and interviews.

"They learn about leadership, independence and life skills," she said.

"The students always returned saying it was the best thing they had ever done and that it was life changing."

The camp takes 45 students from around Victoria twice a year.

Apart from one weekend visit, there is no communication with family or friends, although they can write or email. There are no televisions, mobile phones, junk food or shopping. And they loved it.



Frankston High School students Brett 15, Elliott 14, Dirkje 15, Carly 15, Michael 15 and Darcy 14 have returned from a leadership camp. Picture: IAN COOK. N52FS407

Michael said the group chose to make a frog pond as its community learning project.

"The frog bog will be built by the end of the year at the indigenous nursery in Frankston or at our school," he said. "We thought it would help our local community learn about frogs and how some species help the human race."

Elliott thought the camp was really good.

"We do so many activities. You learn a lot of things like presentation skills, and you gain self-confidence," he said.

Dirkje said, "I went to gain self-confidence and to be able to speak up in discussions. I would do it again, any day."

We do so many activities. You learn a lot of things, like presentation skills, and you gain self-confidence

ELLIOTT, year 9



Mt Erin Secondary College's class of '96 is holding a reunion in October.

College reunion for class of '96

ARE you part of Mt Erin Secondary College's class of '96? If so, Martina Surridge is looking for you.

The Class of '96 is holding a reunion in October and the organising committee is hoping all former students will be able to attend.

"Students who attended Mt Erin Secondary College from 1991-1996, are invited to the reunion at the Frankston RSL on Saturday, October 23 at 7.30pm," committee member Ms Surridge said.

Details: mterinreunion96@hotmail.com or find the Mt Erin reunion site on Facebook.

Education move

MONTEREY Secondary College plans to introduce an innovative alternative year 9 education program at the beginning of 2011.

An information evening will be held at the college on August 3. Details: 9781 7700.