

From the Mountain to the Reef



Class 8 has just returned from a camp that took us 1,500 km (one way!) from home: a journey indeed that took us into some of Australia's remarkable ecologies. Leaving Willoughby at 6 am on a Sunday morning, we travelled by bus to Mt Warning in northern NSW. There we climbed this 1100 metre peak, named by Captain Cook in 1770 as a warning to other mariners of the dangerous reef just off Cape Byron. This leg of the trip was actually a completion of our Class 6



Geology main lesson where we studied the geology of this remnant of a shield volcano:

the mountain is the solidified basalt core of an enormous volcano that is thought to have erupted some 20 million years ago, or thereabouts. The Tweed valley surrounding the core is the remnant of the volcano's active "caldera" (Spanish for dish). Climbing the mountain brought this earlier learning to life: unfortunately the mountain lived up to its indigenous name of Wollumbin the Cloud Catcher as we clambered up the chains on the last 100 metres of almost vertical rock face to be greeted by a total "white out" of cloud cover. Still, it was something to be in the middle of a cloud!

Next day we drove to Hervey Bay in Queensland from where we flew 80 km in small 8 and 13 seater planes to Lady Elliot Island, the southern most island in the Great Barrier Reef. For reef novices such as many of the students were, we spent the next 4 days in an underwater wonderland. Snorkelling over the reef put us among some of Nature's wonders: the iridescent colours of tropical fish, the mysterious manta rays, the shy reef sharks.

Then there was the life cycle of the turtles unfolding before our eyes: the little "hatchlings" breaking out of their sandy holes to struggle the 50 metres down the beach to the ocean edge. This poignant struggle was made all the more remarkable when our marine biologist guide told us that the turtles then spend 30 or more years away from the island off in the Pacific currents: they return all those years later, sometimes swimming from 2,000km away, to nest on exactly the same island where they did their 5 minute beach crawl on hatching. How they find exactly their "own" island is still one of Nature's mysteries. For us it was enough to witness this remarkable event, and to play with some adult turtles out over the reef: we found they like being stroked on the back!



The resident marine biologist helped us learn about the island's ecology as a coral cay, its history and land use as well as the life of the Reef as a whole: the camp was a real life exploration of Science, Geography and Art (lots of drawings of fish, birds and coral). We treated the camp as a mini main lesson and the students wrote up a journal as well as a main lesson book on the island and its natural history. We even used the trip for writing English reflections (see below).

We were also very lucky. After perfect weather, we flew out the day before the island was evacuated to avoid the wrath of Cyclone Hamish. Nature's wonders also have their terrors.

Andrew Hill and Donna Miller
Class 8 teachers

One memory from our trip that really stands out for me is snorkelling on our last day. Quite a few people were swimming around a beautiful, friendly turtle. Its shell was a browny orange colour with shreds of algae that were being brushed away by our hands as the turtle nudged us for a scratch. His underside was white with patches of green slime that tickled the turtle when we tried to rub it off. His head was firm and almost detached looking from the body, with dark, knowing, inset eyes gazing serenely out. His flippers beat up, down, up, down like the wings of a flying bird and occasionally flapping against us.

The part I remember the clearest was when the turtle came right up to me and, like a dog, rubbed his head along my hand. Under, above, along the side of his skull then, with a swish of his back flipper, he pushed off me and on to the next person.

Olivia B

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When I think back to our camp at the Great Barrier Reef one memory is quite clear in my mind. It is of the time when Patrick, Dhruv and I went snorkelling just after the tour on the glass bottomed boat. On this particular time however the three of us went extremely far out, determined to see the manta rays that we knew were out here somewhere. We had been told before that manta rays usually keep to the surface of the water and this helped us spot them. First, all we saw was a fin break the water about 20 metres away so we swam like mad in the direction and were rewarded by the image of a giant 2 – 3 metre wide manta ray swimming straight toward us with its mouth wide open, allowing us to see right into its body. Then suddenly it swerved to our left and glided majestically back into the gloom. For about 5 minutes after we just hung there in the cool water, not quite able to take in what we had seen.

Samuel B.D

Haiku:
Shallow lagoon –
Nearly touching the coral,
Trying to find deeper paths.
 Louisa

Hermit crab empire –
Scuttling-away little feet
Click against the coral.
 Jasper

Cloudbtown -
Above me, around me,
Never ending, never beginning.
 Liam

Mid-day Lagoon -
The sharp nip of a
tiger fish.
 Lincoln

P and F Dinner Dance

LAST CHANCE TO BOOK YOUR CLASS TABLES!

Look forward to seeing you all at the spectacular Glenaeon Jazz Club on Friday night, March 20, 7-10.30pm. Don't forget, this is a catered event, based on the acceptance numbers already received.

If you would like to add your name to the list, please contact us immediately at jacqui.landis@optusnet.com.au
 Cost \$30.00 per person.

Jacqui & Amanda, on behalf of your Class 9 hosts

School Calendar

Important dates to remember

March/April 2009	EVENT
16 th – 20 th March	Class 12 Mid-Course Exams
Friday, 20 th March	ISD Touch Football Championships
Friday, 20 th March	"All that Jazz - Glenaeon Jazz Club" P&F Dinner, 7.00pm – Sylvia Brose Hall
19-22 March	RSSA Conference, Middle Cove campus
Wednesday 25 th March	Kindergarten Harvest Festival, Castlecrag – 11am
Thursday, 26th March	Information Open Evening, CANCELLED
Friday, 27 th March	Harvest Festival, Castlecrag
Friday, 27 th March	Coffee Shop, Castlecrag, 2.30pm – 4.30pm
Saturday, 28 th March	Sydney Lyre Ensemble – 3.00pm, Christophorus House
Thursday, 2 nd April	Class 11 & 12 – Art Gallery NSW - ArtExpress Talk, 9am - 2pm
6-8 TH April	Class 12 camp
6-8 TH April	Class 10 Musical
8 th April	Term 1 ends
29 th April	Term 2 begins

Campus News

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROTOCOLS AT CASTLECRAG

As you know the school warmly welcomes parents onto the Castlecrag campus every morning and afternoon as they drop off and collect their children. Your presence contributes very positively to the

overall community environment. We do need to set a few ground rules though to avoid potential problems

and keep areas of responsibility clear for all. These are as follows:

- Can you please try to leave the campus by 9.30 in the mornings and 3.30 in the afternoons unless you have another reason

for being there such as meetings, classroom assistance or parent education;

- If you are on the campus in the afternoon for an extended time please keep a close watch over your own children – Martin & Elizabeth who supervise After School Care have their hands full with the children enrolled in this service and are not able to watch over extra children;
- Please take special care to be off campus by 3.30 on Wednesdays – this is because Lindsay does grounds maintenance involving lawn mowing and edge trimming on this day and we are very conscious of potential danger from these activities for young children. After School Care Staff manage this for the children in their care but again cannot supervise extra children.
- If you have to attend a meeting with a teacher we recommend enrolling in a casual session of After School Care for that time. That way you can rest assured your child is supervised. Please see Mary Heard at Castlecrag if you would like purchase some After School Care credits.

If you have any queries or concerns don't hesitate to contact me.

Sarah Sandberg
Daily Operations Manager

EFTPOS NOW AT CASTLECRAG

Please note that there are now EFTPOS facilities at Castlecrag. This means that you can quickly and easily settle accounts for school fees, after school care and playgroup right at the Castlecrag office. Please see Mary Heard to use this service.

Sarah Sandberg
Daily Operations Manager

RAVENTALES – STORY TELLERS

Last Friday we were treated to a feast of story telling by a pair of travelling English story tellers from Devon.

They began with the Kindergarten children, then classes 1 and 2 and followed with wonderful Celtic tales for classes 3, 4 and 5 at Middle Cove.

The children enjoyed Wendy and Michael Dacre's natural and lively style of telling stories and singing.

Wendy and Michael have been telling stories professionally for over twenty years and we are pleased to be able to help keep this important tradition alive.

Christian Lillicrap

APOLOGY

Glenaeon apologise for email sent in error regarding below item.

This was due to problems currently being investigated by our IT Consultant. My apologies again for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Annette Brian
Learning Support Coordinator
and German Volunteer Coordinator

Hans needs a HOME!

Hans, one of our German social year volunteers, who runs our school circus groups, is looking for a new host family. Hans has spent two terms with the Chapman family and we would like to thank Christina, Tony and David for generously opening their home to Hans and providing him with a wonderful experience of Australian family life. The school offers host families a weekly payment of \$150 towards board and accommodation and the Volunteer is also expected to do various tasks around the home as a contribution to the host family's hospitality. The expectation for stay is a minimum of 6 weeks but this may be extended or shortened depending on circumstances. If you are interested in hosting Hans or would like further information, please email annetteb@glenaeon.nsw.edu.au or leave a message at either school office.

Annette Brian
German Volunteer Coordinator

MARKET DAY AT GLENAEON CASTLECRAG

Friday 27th March 2.30-4.30pm

Dear Families and Friends,
Please come and join us at our March Market Day for a delightful afternoon of gorgeous stalls full of toys, clothes and wondrous things. The Coffee Shop will be selling delicious healthy cakes and slices, Frubi icypoles, popcorn and fresh coffee and tea.

Please bring along your friends to help us welcome Autumn and raise funds for the blossoming Glenaeon Preschool. We look forward to sharing the afternoon with you.

Hope Pitman
Glenaeon Preschool Parent Committee

STALLS AVAILABLE – MARKET DAY, CASTLECRAG – 27TH March 2009

If you would like to have a stall at this event please contact Hope Pitman on:
iandhpitman@gmail.com

2009
April

Life Story Work
Courses for Professional
and Personal Development

Biographical Keys and Life Phases

Drawing the Map and Finding Directions

Initiation through Life

Challenge and Enlightenment in the Social Realm Talk
Wed 22nd April, 7.00 - 9.00 pm

Foundation Seminar

Thu 23rd - Sun 26th April, 2009

Facilitated by Karl-Heinz Finke

Life
pathways

Parsifal College
Rudolf Steiner House
307 Sussex St, Sydney

Life
pathways

Biographical Keys and Life Phases

This is a foundation seminar leading into Life Story Work. It is designed for anybody intending to 'take charge' of their own life's journey, and offers a deeper understanding of the physical, social and spiritual developmental stages in one's life.

Participants take this course for personal and professional development; it has proved to be especially beneficial for individuals in social, therapeutic, educational, organisational development, personal development and training professions.

This initial four-day process provides the foundation for a possible series of training seminars.

While individual seminars of the proposed training process and the foundation seminar stand by themselves, they form part of an integrated course sequence that has been developed over the last 20 years. They lead from systematic work with one's own biographies to themes related to social interaction and inner growth. Each course is composed of a creative balance between a thematic focus, discussion groups and experiential learning including artistic work in support of the themes. No previous artistic experience is necessary.

Times (Workshop)

Thu, Fri, Sat: 9.30 am-6.30 pm/Sun: 8.30 am-4.30 pm

Fees

\$420 Including a non-refundable deposit of \$50 for the foundation and each subsequent four-day seminar. The course fee includes materials, copies, tea, coffee and snacks.

\$120 For each training day. The full training process comprises of 47 days (36 + 11 training days) over three years.

Contact

Parsifal College

307 Sussex Street
Sydney NSW 2000
(02) 9261 4001
admin@parsifalcollege.edu.au
www.parsifalcollege.edu.au

Karl-Heinz Finke

bg-syd@Living-way.org
(03) 9005 6905

www.Living-way.org



Performing

This performance based course is a journey to experience the nature of dramatic art, movement and speech. Students explore the inner life of the human being through character and language, as well as the outer elements in nature to create artistic performances that bring together a sense of beauty, a sense of truth and wholeness to the stage. The movement component of the course encourages us to find harmony by experiencing the invisible movements inherent in life and speech. This course is for people interested in the performing arts, however beginners are welcome.

This day includes the following modules

Speech &
Drama

Exploring the inner world of both actor and character through different forms of movement, improvisation, the hidden life and meaning in sounds and the forming of the spoken word. This module is experiential rather than lecture style; the psycho-physical techniques aim to unlock the higher creative individuality in the performer. Performance material will include monologue, dialogue and poetry in differing styles.



Eurythmy

Arts



In this module we explore how to bring sound and gesture alive through movement, and learning to bring the inner intention and gesture of the performer visibly to the stage. We aim to connect with one's inner experience, and to make it visible and audible to the audience.

Photography: Front Top, Angela Rivas
Front Bottom, Eurythmikum Stuttgart © Charlotte Fischer

Course Commencement
Course runs on Thursdays 9.30am - 3.30pm
Term 2 May 4th - July 2nd
Term 3 July 27th - September 25th
Term 4 October 19th - December 18th

We reserve the right not to run a course if student numbers are not adequate.

For enrolments and further information please contact Parsifal College:

E admin@parsifalcollege.edu.au Ph 02 9261 4001
Postal Address 307 Sussex St, Sydney NSW 2000

www.parsifalcollege.edu.au

Parsifal College