

BIG WEEK OUT 2013



Sydney's Northern Beaches, Bilgola Beach . Photograph (John Bliss)

The Australian Geography Competition winners will undertake their week long fieldwork activities on Sydney's northern beaches from September 29th until October 4th. They will be based at the Elanora conference centre and fieldwork will take place in the surrounding suburbs.

Context and overview

All terrestrial activity ultimately impacts on the sea. The water cycle is the mechanism that translates and transfers the plethora of land-based actions that find their final resting place in our waterways. Awareness of the anthropogenic impacts on the planet have risen exponentially in the past fifty years and since we live in a closed system, any learning directed at a deep understanding of human impacts on our biosphere is valuable.

One of the most basic impacts we have on the biosphere is on the place where we settle. It could be a cave, a Bedouin tent or a house made of palm fronds. Once humans settle, they start changing the space they inhabit.

During the Big Week Out, students will be looking at the impacts of human settlement on a special part of Sydney that continues to experience the changes associated with an increasing level of human habitation.

The study will focus on water catchment management issues and the impact of human activity on streams, lagoons, estuaries and the ocean. The Hawkesbury River, Pittwater estuary and beaches north of Narrabeen provide a perfect environment for the week's activities.

Milton Brown NSWGTA Councillor Organiser Big Day Out

Students will learn about effective catchment management through a series of studies and apply their knowledge and skills to a task involving the planning of a new land release.

The specific study areas will include Narrabeen Lagoon and parts of its catchment area, Careel Bay and the surrounding catchment and America Bay in the Kuring-gai National Park.

Australian Geography Competition

The 2013 Geography's Big Week Out is an event is a mix of stimulating and hands-on geography activities designed to challenge and extend high-performing senior students. Costs (airfares, accommodation, meals, entertainment) of participation in the Big Week Out are met by the organisers. The four members of Australia's team to the 2014 International Geography Olympiad in Krakow, Poland, will be selected based on students' performances during the Big Week Out. Australia's team to the 2013 Olympiad in Kyoto, Japan, has been selected from participants in the 2012 Big Week Out. Geography's Big Week Out and Australia's participation in the International Geography Olympiads are supported by the Australian Government.

For further information go to: <http://www.geographycompetition.org.au/faq> and <http://www.geographycompetition.org.au/>

