

# Geography's Big Week Out 2014

**Milton Brown**

The 2014 Big Week Out was held on Sydney's Northern Beaches from 28 September to 3 October. The 16 student participants were the highest-scoring male and female Year 10/11 students from each state and the combined territories, plus two other high-scoring students, based on the 2014 Australian Geography Competition.



*2014 Big Day Out participants at America Bay, Kuringai NP*

Following the pattern of previous Big Week Outs, the activities were largely the same as the previous year. The unifying theme of the activities was the impact of human development on catchment areas. The main focus was Narrabeen lagoon but students also carried out studies along Careel Creek in Avalon and America Bay in the Kuringai National Park. The surrounding areas of Ingleside and the Warriewood Valley all impact on Narrabeen lagoon and the feeder creeks and bushland areas are being affected by urban development. Water Quality analysis, flora and fauna studies, urban planning and environmental protection strategies were examined with the aim of equipping students to apply their knowledge to a culminating exam task. The main studies were lead by staff from the Coastal Environment Centre, Pittwater Council. A new activity for 2014 – looking at environmental change at Narrabeen Lagoon through the analysis of sediment cores, was led by Dr Tim Ralph from Macquarie University, the Competition's NSW sponsor. Mick Law and Rebecca Nicholas provided expert guidance in the practical use of Geospatial technologies.

Based on assessment completed during Big Week Out, the following four students have been selected to represent Australia at the International Geography Olympiad to be held in Tver, Russia, from 11 to 17 August 2015. They will be accompanied by Kath Berg and myself.

Sam Dixon-South,  
Ballajura Community College, Perth.WA

Canada Gavin,  
Kinross Wolaroi School, Orange. NSW

Esrom Leaman,  
Pembroke School, Adelaide. SA

Giselle Pickering,  
Wavell State High School, Brisbane. QLD.

The 2014 Big Week Out was another outstanding success and I thank the following teachers from GTAQ and GTANSW for their support over the two years:

Kath Berg

Mick Law

Rebecca Nicholas

Lorraine Chaffer (2013)

Kerry McEwan (2013)

Susan Caldis

Margaret McIvor

Steve Wiengarth

Brett Jackson (2013)



*Core sample sediment data.*



*Right: Warriewood Valley urban growth*



Surfing lessons



Play the blues – harmonica lessons



Leaf litter

### STUDENT LIST

James Abel, Shore School, Sydney  
Emily Alder, Canberra Girls Grammar School  
Jarrod Allen, Ormiston College, Brisbane  
Catriona Calantzis,  
Danebank Anglican School For Girls, Sydney  
Gigi Dadds, Pembroke School, Adelaide  
Miles Davis, Canberra Grammar School  
Samantha Dixon-South,  
Ballajura Community College, Perth  
Canada Gavin, Kinross Wolaroi School, Orange  
Jessie Horder-Geraghty,  
Launceston Church Grammar School  
Abraham Lawson, Ballarat and Clarendon College  
Esrom Leaman, Pembroke School, Adelaide  
Jason Michael, Perth Modern School  
Christine Nguyen,  
Loreto Mandeville Hall Toorak, Melbourne  
Samson O'Donahue-Summers,  
Marist Regional College, Burnie

Giselle Pickering,  
Wavell State High School, Brisbane  
Keita Richardson,  
Normanhurst Boys' High School, Sydney

### STUDENT FEEDBACK

*I learnt so much both in terms of content but also generally how broad Geography can be and how applicable it is to so many things. I have a far better appreciation of what a good subject it is now than I ever did just through school. I also enjoyed everything so much and I know a lot of that was down to your careful and considered planning. I think it was also down to your enthusiasm and passion in everything we did. I don't think I've ever seen a better example of what teaching should really be all about.*

Keita Richardson

Photo Credits: Kath Berg, Margaret McIvor and Bernard Fitzpatrick

Big Week Out Competition –<http://www.geographycompetition.org.au/geography%E2%80%99s-big-week-out>



# Enter the 2015 Geography Competition

See your geography teacher and  
[www.geographycompetition.org.au](http://www.geographycompetition.org.au)

 The Royal Geographical  
Society of Queensland Inc

 Australian Geography  
Teachers' Association Ltd

**See following page for details**

# NINE GOOD REASONS

to enter the Australian geography competition

23 MARCH – 1 APRIL 2015 Entries close 27 February 2015

**1** PUTS GEOGRAPHY  
IN THE SPOTLIGHT  
IN YOUR SCHOOL

**2** CHALLENGES YOUR  
STUDENTS TO DEMONSTRATE  
THEIR GEOGRAPHICAL  
KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

**3** GOOD PRACTICE FOR  
EXTERNAL MULTIPLE-  
CHOICE EXAMS

**4** LOW FEE OF \$3.00 PER  
STUDENT, WITH NO  
MINIMUM CHARGE

**5** FLEXIBLE TIMING  
BETWEEN 23 MARCH AND  
1 APRIL, TO SUIT YOUR  
SCHOOL'S NEEDS

**6** ACCORDING TO THEIR  
TEACHERS, STUDENTS  
ACTUALLY ENJOY IT!

**7** ALL STUDENTS GET  
RESULTS AND GRADED  
CERTIFICATES IN  
THREE AGE DIVISIONS

**8** REWARDS STUDENT  
EXCELLENCE WITH  
GREAT PRIZES

**9** FIRST STEP IN SELECTION  
FOR AUSTRALIA'S  
INTERNATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHY TEAMS

[www.geographycompetition.org.au](http://www.geographycompetition.org.au) [admin@rgsq.org.au](mailto:admin@rgsq.org.au) ph: (07) 3368 2066

## Australian Geography Competition 2015

### International team selection

Australian team members to the 2016 International Geography Olympiad in Beijing will be chosen from 16 to 18 year old students who excel in the 2015 Competition and via Geography's Big Week Out.

### Who can enter?

Students taking Geography, or an integrated social science which includes Geography, may enter. Students are graded at three levels depending on their age on 31 August 2015 – junior for students 13 and under; intermediate for students 14 and 15 years old; senior for students 16 to 18 years old.

### When do the important components happen during 2015?

Friday 27 February  
Monday 23 March – Wednesday 1 April  
Thursday 2 April  
Mid May  
Early June  
Sunday 27 September – Friday 2 October

Entry deadline  
Competition in schools  
Deadline to post answers  
Prizewinners notified  
Results returned  
Geography's Big Week Out