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.

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)

Kath Berg
Susan Caldis
Mick Law
Margaret McIvor
Rebecca Nicholas
Steve Wiengarth
Lorraine Chaffer (2013)
Brett Jackson (2013)
Geography’s Big Week Out 2014

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


Enter the 2015 Geography Competition

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www.geographycompetition.org.au

See following page for details
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?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entry deadline</td>
<td>Friday 27 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competition in schools</td>
<td>Monday 23 March – Wednesday 1 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline to post answers</td>
<td>Thursday 2 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prizewinners notified</td>
<td>Mid May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results returned</td>
<td>Early June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography’s Big Week Out</td>
<td>Sunday 27 September – Friday 2 October</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**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

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