

College excels in challenge

GEOGRAPHY students from SCOTS PGC College took part recently in the highly regarded National Geographic Channel Australian Geography Competition.

SCOTS PGC College geography teacher Michael Keevers said students enjoyed the challenge of the annual competition and valued the perspective geography gave on the complex world around them.

Students were required to demonstrate their knowledge about global and local issues, with questions on the major flooding in Pakistan, the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, asylum seekers entering industrialised countries and regional trade.

"A number of student geographers at our school gained impressive results in the competition this year with eight gaining high distinctions, seven distinctions and twelve credits," said Mr Keevers.

The competition attracted students from all over Australia – around 80,000 of them each year – so it's a real indicator of how well our students are doing in this key subject," he said.

Competition co-ordinator



SUCCESS: Students from SCOTS PGC College took part in the highly regarded National Geographic Channel Australian Geography Competition.

Kath Berg said the importance of the study of geography in the 21st century could not be overestimated.

The spate of significant natural disasters here and around the world and the very complex issue of Australia's immigration policy are only the most recent examples of the importance of Australia's young people studying both the physical and human dimensions of such issues through the lens of

geography.

"I am speaking with students all the time who are hungry for knowledge and understanding about events currently taking place here and around the world – geography can provide a solid base for understanding," Ms Berg said.

National Geographic Channel managing director, Ms Karin Simoncini, said the study of geography assisted young people to make sense of their world

and provides an opportunity for them to think deeply about it.

"National Geographic Channel provides viewers with content that supports geographic learning and assists viewers to understand better the world around them," she said.

"As such we remain committed in our support of the Australian Geography Competition to promote awareness of the importance of the study of geography for young Australians."



Hair-raising fundraiser

Stanthorpe State School was ablaze with colour for one of their favourite fundraising events, Crazy Hair Day.

And crazy it was, from beginning to end, as kids big and small arrived for school on the final day of Term 2. Armed with heads full of weird and wonderful hairstyles and a gold coin donation, adventurous students displayed their marvelous creativity (and that of their talented parents) through a fabulous array of totally cool do's. Setting the standard, the teachers pulled out all stops to show what years of practice in the 'crazy' department can achieve. Long and luscious pink

locks, fantastically funky fluoro features, cool crimps and curls, even the fantastic 'fro and mind boggling mohawk made an illustrious comeback!

Adding to the chaos were the Preppers, who not only came sporting crazy new hairstyles, but they were also spotted wearing their most cosy and comfy attire – pj's!

There were plenty of laughs, lots of fun and a generous amount of money raised which will be going towards the purchase of a new washing machine for the school's SWAN room – a very handy appliance which will also be available for use throughout the school.

Open day hailed a success

LAST Wednesday Warwick TAFE held its first open day in I don't remember how long and what a success it was and how clever to hold it at the same time as Jumpers and Jazz in July.

They whole day had a gala atmosphere, with idyllic weather.

TAFE looked quite magnificent and it was good to be back being a showcase for the community.

The mover and shaker of this open day was David Taylor, head of Warwick TAFE, though he says it couldn't have happened without the support and enthusiasm of all his staff.

It was also great to have the support of Trevor Schwenke, head of SQIT.

About 600 attended with half parents and half students. It is always good to have the interest of the parents.

Every course at the college was represented – aged care, children's services, engineering, automotive, business and hi technology, all areas of rural such as shearing and classing in the shearing shed, machinery, horses and stock, creative media, access classes, numeracy and literacy, the library, hospitality in all areas including the kitchen, restaurant and

**TAFE
TALK**

With Claire Schnitzler

canteen.

I hope I haven't missed any courses.

The students and teachers were most helpful with information and directions while visitors were served hot chocolate all day.

To complement the Jumpers and Jazz Festival, TAFE had a large decorated marquee with about 18 exhibitors showing their specialties while jazz was played in the background.

There was also a jazz trio playing among the crowd.

Then there was an exciting competition where the winning student won an iPad.

Also the Australian finals of the World Skills Competition was held for students doing a trade.

Finalists from automotive and rural sections competed for the Australian title with a Scots PCG College student, Nathan Henry, training in shearing, being the winner. He will compete in the World Titles.

David said he proud of all staff and students for making the day a winner. We look forward to many more open days.

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