
ANTENNA

Snippets

From the editor

Hi all! I hope you've all recovered from Youth Anzaas (and if you weren't there, you should have been! This issue has been dedicated to Youth Anzaas - what we did, where we did it, and well... what fun we had!

For those of you who don't know, Antenna is Anzaas' youth newsletter - which means guys, that this is YOUR newsletter. Articles, poems, stories and pictures are always needed so what are you waiting for?

My address is:

Stephanie Looi

9 Benetti Close

Tingalpa Q 4173

looi-stephanie@powerup.com.au

Impressions of Youth Anzaas

What does youth ANZAAS offer?? A lot more than I thought!

In late 2000, I was lucky enough to be selected to go on the Youth ANZAAS trip. It was to be held in January 2001 in Adelaide. I initially went in thinking **WOW!!** I have won a free plane ride to Adelaide (as I come from down south).

After a while the initial excitement had worn off and I realised that I was going to a completely different state for five days and not knowing a single person. I was a bit reluctant to go, but I thought I couldn't throw an opportunity like this away.

So I went, thinking it would be interesting, but couldn't wait to get home. However as soon as I arrived there, I was greeted with a smile. Everyone was initially uneasy, but soon mixed with the other 30 people from different parts of Australia.

After a tiring first night we started our science excursions, which initially I thought would be a bore - thinking that everything they said would go straight over the top of my head. All we had been told about beforehand, was that we were going to listen to someone talk about "The potential for human spare parts", which raised some interesting questions in my head. Once I got in there I realised it was stuff that I had actually done at school and I was able to relate to and understand what they were talking about. The talk actually raised many moral and ethical issues that I had no idea how to answer if I ever came across them.

The next stop was at the Edinburgh Airforce Base, which I felt was the highlight of the trip. This is because I suppose I have always had an interest in aviation and this was a really good insight into the airforce and the mechanics of aviation. They explained how the engine and aeroplane works and what their sole purpose is at the base. They explained it in enough detail so that I could comprehend what happens, but not too much so I would get lost in it.

That evening we had planned to go out to an observatory, but because of bad weather conditions we went to the beach instead. I don't know if that was a bad thing or not, because we saw the sunset on the beach and there were fire works let off up at one end of the beach. It was a perfect evening at the beach and was lots of fun with the other 30 people that went on the trip.

The next day we saw and heard many other things including a tour of the ABC Broadcasting facilities, heard someone talk about the nuclear industry in Australia, viewed a scientific optical illusions show, visited the investigator centre (a hands on experience - heaps of stuff to play with and learn about, even for big kids) and a walk around some spectacular geological features of the Fleurieu Peninsula. To end the day we had a formal dinner, where it was good to see people dress and let their hair down. It was also funny to laugh at those people who wore outrageous things (like the boys in Board shorts - it was supposed to be formal??) After the dinner there was a very good disco.

The last day was spent down at the mouth of the Murray river looking at the diverse environmental and ecological habitats and how they were being affected by

the amount of water that is being pumped out of the Murray river for irrigation and other uses. In between the sand fights, sunburn and laughter it was a really great day.



The only disadvantage of the whole trip was the lack of sleep that I had, but I think it was well worth it. All in all, I had a great time and was actually disappointed to come home. (It was a different opinion from what I originally had) The chance to meet new people from all over Australia and coming together with a common interest in science, is just great. I have met people that I will never forget and made friends that I will probably never see again, but I had one of the best weeks in my life.

The organisation of the whole trip was fantastic and the fact that at any stage I could stop someone and say 'how does this work?', was just brilliant. It was excellent in that you could go in and learn about something really interesting that you thought you would never learn about. It was also great how all the people we talked to were so passionate about what they do and so inspiring.

I think that organisations like ANZAAS are very important to help youth explore the possibilities of science and how it could apply and interest them. There are just so many career paths that one could take, and it can often be difficult choosing a career path. Youth ANZAAS gives you an excellent opportunity to find out what you might want to pursue as a career and a chance to make lots of new friends. I know myself, I am going into first year engineering and I am still not sure if it is what I want to do, but it is the experience that helps you decide.

I would highly recommend to any student interested in science to pursue Youth ANZAAS, as I know I have gained a lot more out of it than I have put in.

Lyle



From the other side

Impressions from a staffie

'This is your seatbelt. To fasten it, insert the...' the hostesses voice droned, however I had much more on my mind. What would Youth Anzaas be like this year? I was lucky I suppose, as I had already experienced two YA's (one as student and one as staff), however no two YA's were ever the same. Thoughts whirled through my mind.

'What would the students be like...What if the students didn't get along... what if we had a few nasty children who insisted on drawing on me in Nikko? (sorry - permanent marker)

That night, I settled into a funfilled night of preparation - of stuffing satchels with various bits and pieces, of trying to get to know people via their application forms, and of making attendance lists for the all important roll calls.

Morning dawned, and the test began for this was the first day of airport pickups. Apart from briefly losing Sally and a delayed flight, we survived, and the introductions and silly games lasted well into the night. My butterflies finally began to abate when I walked into one of the girl's dorms, and they were all standing around introducing themselves. At that stage, I knew it would be a fantastic time.

From then on, it was non stop. It was a time of roll call after roll call, of silly games and no sleep (I think my best night was 3 hours). Oh yeah, the science part was pretty cool too. Aeroplane tours, beaches and spare body parts also made an appearance.

All too soon, the time was over, and the airport dropoffs began. I found this one harder than the pickups for it was time to say goodbye. However, when they too were done, and the boarding house was cleared, all that was left was for me to hop on the plane with only my memories and a bag full of dirty washing and go home...