

2022 Geography's Big Week Out

I'm grateful I had the opportunity to attend Geography's Big Week Out. It was sensational. Bryant

The 2022 Geography's Big Week Out (GBWO) was held from 3 to 7 July in Darwin and Litchfield National Park. Sixteen Year 11 students from around Australia were invited to participate, based on their outstanding performances in the Australian Geography Competition:

Student	School	State/Territory
Jamie Blackburn	Trinity Grammar School	Victoria
Jordan Conis	Citipointe Christian College	Queensland
Charlene Du	Glenunga International High School	South Australia
Liam Dufty	Shenton College	Western Australia
Nivedita Gawarikar	Canberra Grammar School	Combined Territories
Michaela Graham	McKinnon Secondary College	Victoria
Ruby Harding	Roseville College	New South Wales
Marcus Len	Normanhurst Boys High School	New South Wales
Thomas Lin	Canberra Grammar School	Combined Territories
Adit Mahidadia	Sydney Boys High School	New South Wales
Michael Reid	The Friends' School	Tasmania
James Richards	The Hutchins School	Tasmania
Cate Ward	Loreto College	Queensland
Jessica Warren	Lumen Christi College	Western Australia
Bryant Wu	Glenunga International High School	South Australia
Jasmine Ye	Meriden School	New South Wales

The activities were led by Steve Hawkins and Julie Hearnden, from the **Geography** and History Teachers' Association of the Northern Territory, and Shane Albertson and Kath Berg, from the Australian Geography Competition Committee.



Students at Litchfield National Park



Larrakia dancers at the Darwin flag-raising ceremony for NAIDOC Week

GBWO was held in a week when more than half of all domestic flights were delayed or cancelled! However, we managed to get all the students there by midnight and were relieved that we had not planned to travel to Litchfield National Park until the following day. GBWO was held in NAIDOC Week so before leaving Darwin we attended a ceremony to mark the start of the week.

The NAIDOC week ceremony has been instrumental to my understanding and appreciation of Indigenous Australians and has inspired me to advocate for their livelihoods and recognition more meaningfully within my own community. Jasmine



Stream measurements in Litchfield National Park

Students spent two days carrying out fieldwork in Litchfield National Park. They were investigating whether Litchfield NP was being managed sustainably as a tourist attraction while still maintaining the values

of a national park. Activities included: taking various stream measurements to assess popular swimming sites; recording numbers and demographics of visitors; interviewing visitors; mapping tourist infrastructure; and, discussing park values and threats to sustainability with a national park ranger.



Interviewing a visitor to Litchfield National Park

One area of geography which I was able to explore better was measuring stream efficiency and river discharge - something that I had read about in textbooks and memorised formulas for, but had never had the opportunity to conduct in real life. The actual experience of taking stream measurements was far from tedious – the combination of warm air, a cool flowing stream of water and nice company made for an all-around enjoyable experience. Thomas

The tourist surveys allowed us to learn more about different people's experiences in the different sites. It also led to some really fulfilling interactions with tourists from all around Australia who were normally more than happy to have a chat with us. Cate

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There was also time for fun activities, such as swimming under waterfalls and a campfire with marshmallows.

I really appreciated the swimming; it was great to cool off and have fun with everyone else. Jessica



Enjoying Buley Rockhole

Returning to Darwin, the students investigated whether Darwin Esplanade and the Waterfront Precinct met the principles of good design for urban public spaces. This involved some of the same activities as the students had carried out in Litchfield NP: recording numbers and demographics of visitors; interviewing visitors; mapping infrastructure – and experiencing the wave pool first-hand.



Students had to work in the evenings as well



Sitting the test at the Michael Long Learning and Leadership Centre

Throughout GBWO students worked in groups, splitting tasks between the groups and then sharing their data and uploading it to a common website.

On the last day the students sat a test from which we selected the team to represent Australia at the 2023 International Geography Olympiad to be held in Bandung, Indonesia.

Congratulations to:

Marcus Len	Normanhurst Boys High School
Thomas Lin	Canberra Grammar School
Adit Mahidadia	Sydney Boys High School
Jasmine Ye	Meriden School

Students participating in the 2023 Australian Geography Competition will have the chance to represent their state/territory at the next Geography's Big Week Out and their country at the 2024 International Geography Olympiad in Dublin.

Geography's Big Week Out and Australia's participation in the Olympiad are supported by the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment, the University of Melbourne, and the University of New South Wales.

For more information on the Competition, see the website at www.geographycompetition.org.au or email competition@rgsq.org.au.

AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Watch for news about the 2023 competition

Website <https://geographycompetition.org.au> and Facebook.

