



Education outside the classroom

In recent years, Friends' has begun to provide interested students with the opportunity to participate in its Outdoor Education Tassie ICON program.

The first Tassie ICON experience offered Year 10 students the opportunity to attend a four-day, three-night experience on Maria Island, located off Tasmania's east coast. The primary activity was snorkelling within the marine reserve, where students gained a hands-on understanding of marine life and climate change.

The second Tassie ICON experience incorporated sea kayaking around the coastline of Tasmania's stunning Freycinet National Park, which provided awareness and appreciation for the rich history and diverse range of flora and fauna.

All students provided positive and enthusiastic feedback about the Maria Island and Freycinet experiences, with comments such as: "...there wasn't anything that disappointed me" and "...the Tassie ICON trip gave me a great opportunity to have a fun and challenging week away."

Parents responded enthusiastically too: "This was an amazing opportunity ... it was a magical time, full of new experiences and challenges ..."

It was unanimously agreed the program met its objectives, which included providing students with authentic opportunities to make decisions, act and reflect on a regular basis.

Of course, it's not necessary to engage in adventurous outdoor activities to gain these skills. Many Friends' students gain these skills travelling interstate on, for example, Studies in Religion visits to Islamic and Jewish communities in Melbourne (Years 11 and 12), or visiting the many national monuments in Canberra and learning first-hand the history and stories that informed our modern democracy.

Friends' has a long history of looking beyond books for learning opportunities. For example, Service has been a strong element of a Friends' School education since it opened its doors in 1887, as it forms an integral component of the Quaker values that underpin everything that happens at the School. By providing service, students' experience the personal satisfaction of helping others.