



Edition 1 – Tuesday 14 February 2012

National Youth Science Forum

The national Youth Science Forum was held in Canberra from 1 to 12 January. With assistance from local Rotary Clubs, two TCS students, Ashley Twigger and Alek Yerbury attended. The following is an excerpt from Ashlee's report to the Gawler Light Rotary Club.

"The National Youth Science Forum was such an insightful experience because it enabled us to learn about current research being carried out in specialised and restricted science laboratories. Being part of the Biomedical Group enabled me to understand the aspects and requirements for a career in Biomedicine and how little we truly understand about human biology. As part of the science programme, I had the opportunity to visit the Australian National University laboratories including the Chemistry, Nuclear Physics, Earth Sciences and Medical Research centres. I also visited the University of Canberra, and received insight into the lives of medical professionals such as pharmacists, occupational therapists, psychologists and physiotherapists. Throughout the science programme I also visited the Australian Institute of Sport and the Canberra Hospital. At the hospital we learnt about the role of pathologists within a hospital and how we can gain vital information about diseases through pathology. As part of the science programme we were exposed to some of Australia's best scientists and their work. To be able to meet them was a rare and amazing experience, and one which has inspired me to pursue my own passion for science.

Through the National Youth Science Forum I met 150 amazing people with similar interests, goals, passions and aspirations and formed life-long friendships in a few short weeks. The National Youth Science Forum's purpose was beyond science itself, it was about learning from others to better improve ourselves. Through social events such as discos and dinners I got to know people of diverse backgrounds, with different life experiences to my own. I was so fortunate to get to know these beautiful people in the twelve days at the Forum, and they became like family. They are part of the reason that the National Youth Science Forum is such a success." - Ashley Twigger, Year 12 Trinity College Senior