



Kingston High School

Lessons of a lifetime

NINE Kingston High School students had the adventure of a lifetime earlier this year as part of a tour of Thailand and Singapore.

Kingston High initiated the Thailand Exchange Program in 2003 and a group of Kingston High students was very interested in being part of the program this year.

The students had to write an application, including a resumé, and have an interview with Miss Graham, Mr Nichols and a student who had gone to Thailand the previous year.

Nine students were selected from this group and they were excited to be chosen to go.

On August 25 the students jetted off to Melbourne and then on to Singapore.

They stayed in Singapore for two days and during that time went to the zoo, on a night safari, to Suntek city and enjoyed a river cruise.

Although everyone was really eager to get to Thailand to see their billets they enjoyed visiting Singapore.

At Bangkok International Airport there was a huge crowd of people waiting to greet them with Australian flags, fluffy toys and big hugs.

The students were stunned by the heat, the smell and their tiredness, but were still very excited about arriving.

It took about two hours to reach the Sa-nguan Ying School, in the centre of Suphanburi. Most people's billeting families were there and they had a meal together, followed by a presentation.

During the next two weeks the students went to Bangkok, visited various temples,



BIG ADVENTURE: Kingston High students enjoy an elephant ride during their recent visit to Thailand.

went elephant riding, saw giant goldfish and attended a few classes.

All of the students benefited from the program. Some of them described it as the best two weeks of their lives.

They had fun with their new Thai friends to the point where some did not want to leave Thailand and return to Tasmania.

Kingston High School has signed a formal sister school relationship with Sa-nguan Ying School and plans are under way to ensure that the exchange program continues.

The program has, of course,

seen students travelling in both directions. In late March, nine Thai girls arrived here, very tired, cold and uncertain about what Tasmania would be like.

Over the next two weeks they learned about Tasmania and participated in activities such as the Tahune Air Walk, indoor rock-climbing and the Peppermint Bay cruise.

Teachers from Thailand are also interested in coming to Kingston High to learn from our teachers and observe our educational program.



WARM WELCOME: Students from Sa-nguan Ying School greet their visitors at Bangkok International Airport.

news in brief

Weed-wise

WHEN is a weed a weed? Grade 7 students from Kingston High and Grade 3/4 students from Illawarra Primary now know the answer after their involvement in the *Lord of the Weeds* competition, run by the Weeds CRC in Armidale, New South Wales.

Students identified local weeds, researched their damaging effects and developed useful management strategies.

Maths whizzes

STUDENTS from Kingston High demonstrated a high level of mathematical skills when they participated in the recent Australian Mathematics Competition.

Kingston students achieved one high distinction, nine distinctions and 24 credits.

Phone art

ART plays an important role in Kingston High School students' development.

One Kingston High student, Kyle Holmstrom, was amongst the 10 finalists in the Telstra "Paint a Payphone" competition.

There were more than 1500 entries Australia-wide. Kyle's entry can be viewed on the website www.payphone.telstra.com.au

This page was produced by the students of Kingston High School's 9/10 Creative Writing class

School embraces no-blame conflict resolution

KINGSTON High has had great success resolving conflict with a process known as restorative conferencing.

Restorative conferencing is based on a no-blame concept where people are encouraged to reflect on what they were

thinking when an issue arose and empathise with those who may have been hurt by their actions.

The process at Kingston High allows students to put their own side of the story and together find a solution

that benefits everyone.

Conferences are held between students with a teacher facilitator.

All students at the conference have the chance to describe, without interruption, their thoughts at the time

and since about what happened.

The facilitator assists those involved sort out arrangements that satisfy everyone and prevent the problem from happening again.

The introduction of restor-

ative conferencing has made Kingston High a very positive and accepting place to be.

Students like to know that everyone has an equal say and staff support it as it encourages students to be responsible for their actions.

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