Yookamurra Sanctuary

During the last week of term 2 and for 3 weeks early in term 3, the whole Year 9 cohort attended the annual Science Camp. The camp is a 2 day program in which students go out in class groups and participate in a range of activities. The first day started with a drive from Adelaide to Mannum along Gorge Road, during which the geological profile was observed and discussed. Students visited the Mannum Quarry and looked at fossils in the cliff walls at Mannum. After lunch they headed out to do some community service to help establish native bush gardens for the Mid Murray Local Action Planning group.

After a couple of hours of hard work they went to Yookamurra, which is a nature sanctuary run by Australian Wildlife Conservancy. Yookamurra is a unique area that contains old-growth mallee habitat in an enclosure free of feral animals. The students went on a walk in which the special adaptations of the indigenous flora were explained, and they were told about the history of the area and the setting up of the sanctuary. One of the highlights of the trip was the nocturnal walk. Here, the students got to see endangered species such as bettongs and bilbies, which have been reintroduced to the wild, in their natural habitat. The following morning the students worked in groups to analyse animal scats collected from a quadrat inside the sanctuary. After presenting their finds to the group, they headed off to Ngaut Ngaut, an Aboriginal site where they were guided on a tour and experienced Aboriginal culture in the ancestral home of the Nganguraku People. Ngaut Ngaut was the last stop on the camp and from there the bus took them back to School. The Year 9 Science Camp is a busy and engaging educational experience and a highlight in the Year 9 calendar.

Mr Duffy
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