Senior Ski Trip

Overseas, Over Mountains and onto the Slopes!

The lead-up to any trip is always exciting and the inaugural Senior School New Zealand ski trip was no different, with 50 keen participants ready to hit the slopes. Shiny new ski jackets were purchased in this season’s hottest new colours and fitness regimes were bumped up in preparation for ‘Operation NZ’. We were determined to hit the slopes looking and feeling great and most importantly, remain injury-free. On Friday 6 July Adelaide airport was abuzz with ski trippers from Pembroke, as well as Loreto girls who were also off to NZ. After a delayed flight, lost luggage and the obligatory Maccas stop, we eventually arrived in the quiet little town of Methvern, which was to be our base for the next few days. The students were impressive in the way they coped with these early dramas and this helped set the tone for the rest of the trip.

After minimal sleep we were all up, fed, showered and on the bus ready for our first early lesson. The skiing/snowboarding rivalry started early—obviously the skiers were all just jealous about how cool the snowboarders looked! We spent the first 2 days at Mount Hutt, where the beginners quickly picked up all the necessary skills and those with more experience refined their techniques. We had our first and only casualty of the trip here at Mount Hutt during the very first lesson; unfortunately, Robbie prematurely ended his ski trip after a spectacular stack off a jump resulted in a dislocated shoulder.

We left the sleepy town of Methvern and headed for the bright lights of Wanaka. This was a spectacular drive—we stopped along the way to take in the sights of Lake Tekapo and Lake Pukaki and we even caught a glimpse of Mt Cook through the clouds. Wanaka was a great base from which to explore the nearby ski fields of Cardrona and Treble Cone. Cardrona provided us with a plethora of runs to explore and really did cater to every skier’s and snowboarder’s needs with jumps, moguls, steep quick runs and long winding runs. After Cardrona it was time to step it up and we hit the steep slopes of Treble Cone. The super steep runs in the Saddle Basin provided a real challenge for the more daring among us. Our time in Wanaka was not entirely about skiing, as we also had a great night out at one of the coolest cinemas in the world. Where else can you watch the movie from a Morris Minor and get served warm cookies fresh from the oven during the interval!

After Wanaka we headed to Queenstown, where we had to say goodbye to our favourite bus drivers, who had entertained us, skied with us and safely navigated some particularly tricky NZ roads. We had a great time in Queenstown—skiing at Coronet Peak and The Remarkables, jetboating the Shotover River, going to the movies, dining out and generally exploring. Spare moments were filled with shopping, coffees and card games at the hostel.

We were so fortunate to experience great weather, good snow conditions and the best of New Zealand hospitality. Not only did we improve our skiing and snowboarding skills, but we also formed friendships, learned about NZ culture and most importantly, had loads of fun. Thank you to Mrs Crowhurst for doing an outstanding job organising this trip and to everyone involved for making it such a positive and enjoyable experience.

Miss Tannerbring
Outdoor Education Teacher

Senior Ski group at Mt Hutt, New Zealand