



WAVES OF EXCITEMENT- WHEN THE OUTBACK MEETS THE OCEAN.

A group of kids from the Aboriginal community of Brewarrina enjoyed a weekend to remember recently, when they travelled to Sydney's northern beaches for a special trip organised by the South Narrabeen Surf Life Saving Club (SNSLSC) and the Variety Club of NSW.

Twenty-nine children, accompanied by community leaders Joyce and Les Doole and Sandra Murphy, took the 800 kilometre trip from Brewarrina in northern NSW to South Narrabeen in a mini bus donated by Variety the Children's Charity to the Brewarrina community.

"Most of the kids had never seen the ocean before," says Jack Cannons, national Deputy Chairman of Variety NSW. "They had their first swim on the evening they arrived. The smiles on their faces as they ran down to the surf were priceless."

Jack, together with SNSLSC life member Peter Clarke, came up with the idea for the trip. Together with a group of other club members and a host of sponsors, they arranged accommodation, food, outings, gift packs and a surf carnival.

"The sponsors were amazingly generous," Peter says. "They provided everything from food and outings to presents. It was an unbelievable response – everybody chucked in."

The weekend was one of non-stop action, as the group were taken on a whirlwind tour of Sydney, including surfing lessons, a harbour cruise and trips to the Sydney Fish Markets and Manly Ocean World.

The group also met with Liberal MP Bronwyn Bishop and competed in a surf carnival, in which they got to show off their newly learned skills.

"The natural athletic and sporting ability of many of the kids was outstanding," Jack says. "When it came time for them to leave on Sunday afternoon, it was hard to get them out of the water."

The club hopes to make the weekend trip an annual event.

"The kids were a fantastic, well-mannered group of young Australians who experienced many new and exciting things over the weekend," Jack says. "They wanted to learn about life outside Brewarrina and they asked so many questions."

SNSLSC members donated their time and energy to running the weekend, and Jack says that they all felt it was an extremely worthwhile experience.

"The smiles and thank-yous from the kids were the greatest reward we could receive."



ACTIVITY 1: READING FOR MEANING

Circle the correct answer:

1. What is the main idea of this article?

- a. Kids from Brewarrina NSW travelled to Sydney for a special trip.
- b. South Narrabeen Surf Life Saving Club and Variety the Children's Charity arranged the trip.
- c. A group of kids took part in a special trip to Sydney where they experienced many exciting activities that were very different to their usual life in Brewarrina.

2. This clause, "accompanied by community leaders" means

- a. the community leaders helped the children
- b. the children listened to the community leaders
- c. community leaders travelled with the children

True or false?

4. The Brewarrina kids' trip to Sydney lasted for a weekend.

TRUE

FALSE

5. It is 1200km from Brewarrina to Sydney.

TRUE

FALSE

6. All of the Brewarrina kids had seen the ocean before.

TRUE

FALSE

7. In what order did these things happen? Write numbers in the boxes.

- Jack Cannons and Peter Clarke came up with the idea for the trip .
- The organisers hope to make the weekend trip an annual event.
- Twenty-nine Brewarrina kids travelled 800km to Sydney for a weekend.



ACTIVITY 2: UNDERSTANDING WORDS IN CONTEXT

Write in your own meaning for the statements from the article in the boxes below.

Words	Meaning
"Waves of excitement – when the outback meets the ocean".	
The mini bus was "donated by Variety the Children's Charity".	
"The smiles on their faces as they ran down the surf were priceless".	
... "the group were taken on a whirlwind tour of Sydney".	
"The smiles and thank-yous from the kids were the greatest reward we could receive".	



ACTIVITY 3: REVERSE LISTING

Name 10 things that you would not find at the beach.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

ACTIVITY 4: THE ALPHABET KEY

Think of words about the beach for every letter of the alphabet.

Write them in the boxes below.

A	J	S
B	K	T
C	L	U
D	M	V
E	N	W
F	O	X
G	P	Y
H	Q	Z
I	R	

ACTIVITY 5: SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

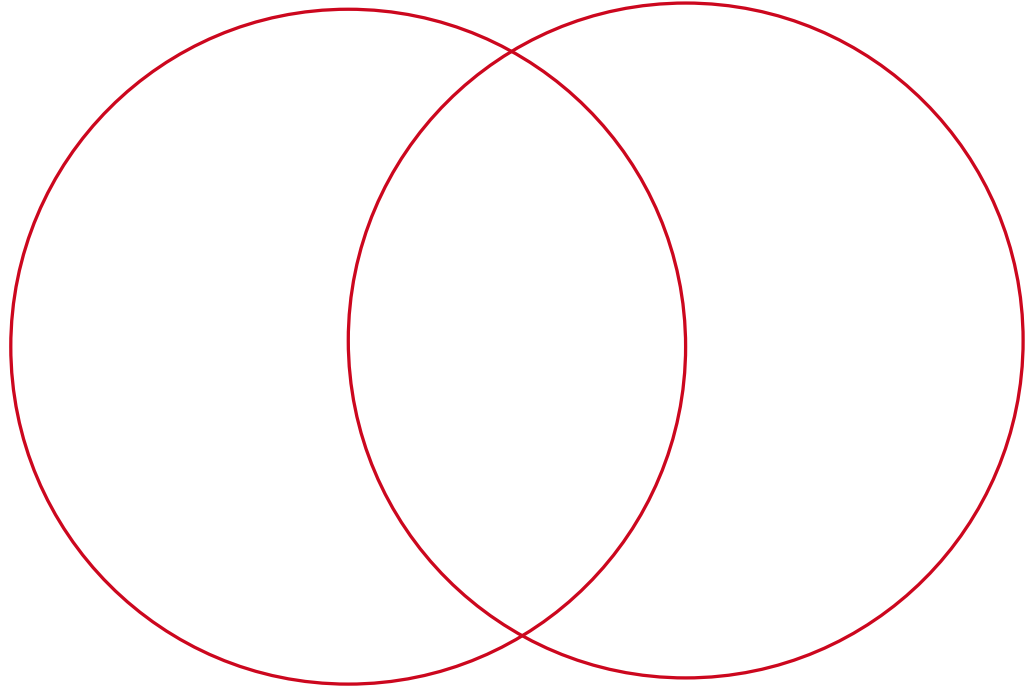
Use a Venn diagram to compare the activities that kids can experience in a rural area and at the beach.

In the left circle, write all the things you can only do in the country.

In the right circle, write all the things you can only do at the beach.

Where the circles overlap, write all the things that you can do in both locations.

VENN DIAGRAM



JUST FOR FUN!

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