

LOCAL STUDENTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN CHILDREN'S LIVES

Last month students from Australian Catholic University (ACU) spent a weekend at Adekate Forest Lodge with more than forty children from the Ballarat region, as part of the biggest ever Aquinas Young Vinnies Kids Camp. The camp was aimed at providing a weekend away for children who would not otherwise have this opportunity; it also assists children to have fun and enjoy recreational experiences, while developing good social and physical skills.

Aquinas Young Vinnies is a social justice group, sponsored by St Vincent de Paul Society and United Way Ballarat Community Fund, and has been running at the ACU Ballarat Campus for over sixteen years. Up to fifteen ACU student leaders get involved in each of the camps. These students are studying teaching, nursing or paramedicine at the ACU Ballarat campus.

Campus Pastoral Associate Tanya Kehoe said that ACU students who participate in Young Vinnies have a passion for making a difference in the lives of all children and are enthusiastic about being involved in community outreach activities. “It is a weekend of fun and friendship for ACU students, and the 8-12-year-old children involved,” she said. “ACU is committed to social justice and community engagement, and Young Vinnies is a classic example of this.”

Throughout the weekend, the children were encouraged to participate in many different activities including a scavenger hunt, games, a minute to win it competition, orienteering, a disco, an obstacle course, giant swing and various craft activities.



Pictured above: Keith Maloney, Sarah Constable and Chloe Van Der Ploeg