

## **Duke of Edinburgh students learning valuable life skills**

Through The Duke of Edinburgh's Award program at Winmalee high School, more than 100 students are gaining skills for life as they complete the physical recreation, community service, skills and expedition sections of The Award.

Team work, self reliance and commitment , sharing, adventure, co-operation and organisation skills are just some of the personal qualities developed through participation – skills which not only supporter their learning at school but also prepare them for work and study opportunities after school.

Expeditions are the most popular aspects of the program. Students learn bushwalking and navigation skills then put them to good use as they navigate their way through routes in the Blue Mountains, Snowy Mountains and other National parks.

Thirty bronze level students have just completed their first Award expedition in the National Park at Glenbrook. Students had to find their way around an off track route as well as show their camp craft and preparation skills as they camped overnight.

After bronze, many students choose the kayaking option for silver and after completing their training at the Penrith White Water Rafting Stadium, they get to enjoy the beauty and thrills of waterways across NSW.

The program is so popular, many ex students come back as additional leaders on expeditions and supper younger students as they walk or paddle their way to successfully completing The Award. Students apply for entry to the program in term four in Year 8 and commence their training in term one, Year 9.