



LE FEVRE HIGH SCHOOL

90 Hart Street
SEMAPHORE SOUTH SA 5019
Phone: 8449 7004
Website: www.lefevrehsa.sa.edu.au

23rd June 2021

Dear Katie

I wanted to formally thank you and the Nature Foundation for your hard work and generosity in providing such an invaluable learning opportunity at Hiltaba Nature Reserve for our Aboriginal students at Le Fevre High school this year. We continue to feel very fortunate to be part of such a wonderful program, one which has so many on-going benefits for many of our students.

The educational benefits of the camp are far reaching. The students enjoy the many practical activities which take them out into nature for observations and real- life learning. The clearing of the rock pools, fence removal, geo-caching, walks, and photo trapping were all great examples of the learning experiences enjoyed by the students. Learning about the ecology and geology of the area increased their understanding about the environmental issues facing our communities as well as giving them examples of how we can all make a difference. It was clear to the participating staff members from Le Fevre High, that the students involved, gained a lot of knowledge and enjoyment through the dynamic and interesting program delivered by experts in the field.

In addition to this, the stories and Aboriginal cultural perspectives provided by Warren Milera, and the valuable time spent with him, deepened the students' respect for culture and strengthened their own sense of identity and pride.

Apart from all the valuable learning, the camp also had so many social and emotional benefits for many of our students. The relationships developed during their five days together have certainly helped the students with their sense of belonging to the community of Aboriginal learners at our school. The camp supported new students to the school form good relationships with other participants helping them feel accepted into their new school community. It enabled the students to have access to caring adults who had plenty of time to listen and chat with them, contributing to an increased sense of belonging and connection with staff. As a result, I believe that many of the students returned to school feeling more confident in themselves, feeling that their relationships had grown much stronger with each other and with the staff at the school.

In my opinion, the stronger relationships developed with staff have resulted in students being more willing to ask for support with their studies and to work with staff if there are emotional concerns they feel they need to discuss. The positive social and emotional impact on the students has been quite evident with many of the participants regularly checking in with me about when the next camp will be held. Quite a few of our students commented that they felt like we were all part of a family out there. This is a testament to the capacity of the Nature Foundation Staff to create a warm, friendly yet educational experience.

In short, a fantastic experience for all of us. It was very rewarding for me to watch the students' engagement and enthusiasm during the camp and then experience their positivity on our return. The students thought that the program was great and they can't wait to go on another camp.

A wonderful experience made possible because of your hard work and commitment Katie!

Thank you so much for all that you do.

Lina Ruggiero
Aboriginal Education Teacher

Kirri Minnican
Principal

