

## Real alternatives

Why not spend your schoolies making a difference in someone else's life?



Jake and his mates opted for the road less travelled

### Service projects overseas



"I had the privilege of joining a team on a short term trip to Thailand and Cambodia with Destiny Rescue. We spent time with poor and disadvantaged children and young people and saw how life is for those much less fortunate than ourselves."



There are plenty of programs like Projects Abroad that offer school leavers the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of volunteering in local communities in countries such as Nepal, Ghana and Cambodia. - See more at:

<http://theunderage.com.au/2013/04/08/not-the-average-schoolies-trip/#sthash.vydMBOBA.dpuf>. See also Volunteer Abroad and Intern Abroad Programs: <http://www.projects-abroad.com.au/projects/?from=may13>



**Schoolies Revolution** is an initiative of HopeBuilders International, a not-for-profit working to break the cycle of poverty. It "challenges young people to step out of their comfort zone and do something radical. By turning away from the traditional "schoolies" young people are given the opportunity to give back to world's poor". In one project students helped build a school, visited slums, visited prisons and looked after orphans in Uganda.



Kalamunda schools (W.A) join a team to engage in community building activities in a small East Timorese village in **Operation Timor-Leste associated with the Rotary Club of Kerang**. The aim is to help young people think and act as global citizens, develop mutual cross cultural awareness and achieve personal challenges.



In the De La Salle '**Coolies' Program** Year 12 school leavers work as unskilled labourers in rural villages seeking to improve the lives of the poor. Students have built a new primary school classroom and toilet block.



Catholic Mission's Getting Involved Globally (GIG) program offers immersion in Fiji or Kiribati.

### Service projects in Australia



**Schoolies with a Cause** gives you the chance to volunteer in an Aboriginal community in Cape York or lend a hand in environmental projects in Halls Gap in Victoria. Volunteering is sure to be an opportunity that will not only leave you with some incredible memories, but you'll gain a new perspective on life and learn something new about yourself and another culture. - See more at: <http://theunderage.com.au/2013/04/08/not-the-average-schoolies-trip/#sthash.vydMBOBA.dpuf>



**Crossroads** is a two-week pilgrimage for Year 12 school leavers from the Melbourne, run by the Melbourne Catholic Archdiocese. Students engage with remote communities, where they do volunteer work.



**STORM Co.** is a youth initiative of the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It sends teams of trained young people to work for, learn from, and encourage individual communities, especially in remote parts of Australia.

# Think Laterally.

## Rough it



Camp in a National Park. Two suggestions: Soldiers Point, Port Stephens or Warrumbungle National Park.

## Get a job



"Ever wanted to work on the Canadian ski slopes? Or intern with a human rights organisation? Well, now you can.

Each year hundreds of Australians head overseas with companies like Projects Abroad and intern with organisations involved in anything from journalism, medicine and human rights to business and law. International internships not only allow you to gain experience in your particular field, but also learn from and experience another culture. - See more at:

<http://theunderage.com.au/2013/04/08/not-the-average-schoolies-trip/#sthash.vydMBOBA.dpuf>

## Get off the beaten track



"We just rented a house on the NSW north coast. Never had any intentions of going to schoolies on the gold coast. Other people must have had the same idea as we were not the only ones. Beach across the road, nice town, 10 minutes drive in. I went dolphin watching and got to swim with them."



"Our family's cultural background played a key role in our plans.

Our parents obviously had a chat to us about going to the Gold Coast, as the drinking culture didn't sit well with our family's values. We teamed up with some friends and hired a cabin down the coast."

## See Australia



"I've thought about a Great Ocean Road trip with friends at the end of this year."



"School leavers have the option of exploring their own backyard.

Travellers will find much to see and do if they head to Tasmania and sample the amazing, pristine wilderness experiences, such as trekking the famous Overland Track, kayaking in the Freycinet Peninsula or taking on the one of the world's final true expedition rafting journeys along the Franklin River."

## Sources

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## Teens to walk the Kokoda Track

Liberal MP Dom Perrottet, 31, has spent years formulating the program, which will be officially launched on Friday.

One of the youngest members of the NSW Parliament, he said the idea came to him while he walked the Kokoda Track as a 20-year-old.

The most confronting sight was encountering a row of gravestones at Bomana War Cemetery, each one with the name of an 18-year-old Australian who had fought and died for this country.

"There is no starker contrast between the sacrifice these 18-year-olds made for the freedoms we enjoy today and how that freedom is celebrated when students graduate from school," Mr Perrottet, who himself took part in Schoolies as a youngster, said.

He said studies showed school leavers generally consume more than 10 drinks every night, with one in four males reportedly smoke marijuana every day.

Tellingly, the vast majority of students look back on the experience with a "strong sense of negativity", the studies showed.

"We need to send a message to school leavers that there is a range of constructive ways to spend your holiday," Mr Perrottet said.

"There are better and more fulfilling ways in which we can celebrate our graduation from school ... You don't have to follow the crowd."

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