GOOD SHEPHERD Mums

ISOBEL COLEMAN

It was the adventure of a lifetime – made all the better by knowing it was for a great cause.

Good Shepherd Lutheran College mums Karen Murray and Anita Bain have just returned from an incredible trek through the mountains and forests of Bhutan, to deliver educational supplies to school children in remote villages.

Karen and Anita trekked with Coast locals Heather McNeil and Krista Waddell – co-chairs of the Australian Himalayan Foundation (AHF) Queenstown hiking committee – and others.

Heather and Krista make the trip annually and have helped raise over $60,000 for the charity.

It was an amazing adventure in terms of the hike, and so worthwhile with regards to helping these children,” Karen told YLM.

Karen said she was excited and nervous when she reached her destination, but day one of the trek was relatively easy.

“We hiked up to a monastery, about 3000m, and it took about half a day. It was a good try out for everyone, and a good way for our guides to assess our abilities.”

But after that, things got tougher!

“We went up to 4220m and then hiked for five days at that altitude from Thimpu (capital) to Paro. The trek is called Drak Path,” Karen said.

“Over those few days, we hiked in glorious sunshine, hail and rain.

The last leg of the journey to the school at Bhutan included a long bus ride up a steep hill.

“Most of the students have to walk up there and back every day to go to school. There is a hostel there, like a boarding school, but not many can afford to stay there.”

Karen said the students were excited and overwhelmed by their visitors.

GSLC in the News

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