

VICTORIAN YOUNG LEADERS TO INDIA PROGRAM

Live, learn, explore



Welcome to the Victorian Young Leaders to India pilot program newsletter no. 7

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Updates from the VYL India team



The Bengaluru group are being spoilt here at the Jain International Residential School (JIRS), our buddies are so friendly and enthusiastic - spending time with us from morning to night. The accommodation, meals, and facilities at JIRS are just wonderful, including golf, horse riding, and tenpin bowling! The study program is full with fresh perspectives and learning from JIRS teachers and external expert presentations. We had a wonderful excursion to Mysore on the weekend to visit the Sera and Namdroling Tibetan Monasteries which was unforgettable. We enjoyed time hitting the streets and visiting local markets. We're back 'home' at JIRS for the week and looking forward to our next adventure to the sustainable and alternative living community of Auroville next weekend.

Ben Walta, CERES Global (from India)

I am so impressed by the students and teachers that I have been travelling with on VYL India. They are all wonderful people displaying really thoughtful leadership in a variety of ways, every day. I was especially impressed by Lachlan from Mount Waverly helping his classmates, the students from Lyndhurst, donating extra food to local people in need and Isabella from Doncaster helping an old woman in the



rain.

The teachers have been exemplifying positive leadership and are providing top-class care for all students with kindness and patience and making my job very easy.

I have arrived safely in Bengaluru for the second half of the program and am already missing the Delhi Group. I can still see their faces and hear their voices ringing in my ears (in a good way). I'm looking forward to working with the equally enthusiastic bunch in Bengaluru for the remainder of the program

Abi Vilvanathan, Department of Education and Training (from India)



I can't believe we've hit the halfway mark already, it seems to be speeding by! I am very pleased to report that everything is going really well in India. Both groups are safe and well (despite a few bouts of Delhi belly here and there) and really enjoying their experience.

The Department is incredibly proud of both cohorts, who are conducting themselves with so much positivity, getting involved in all the activities with great enthusiasm, maturity and a willingness to give everything a go. True leaders. I will let the students speak about their experiences for themselves in the links below and can share a handful of my favourite photos that have been coming through from the group. I have no doubt you will be seeing many more of these in the coming weeks.

Tracy Collins, Department of Education and Training

Update from the Bengaluru Group

Our wonderful social media lead teacher, Trish Dower has been coordinating daily reflections from our young leaders. You can now:

- read the reflections, see: [Bengaluru daily reflections](#)
- view photos, see: [Bengaluru photo album](#)
- watch the video of students arriving, see: [Arriving at schools](#)





Update from the Delhi Group

Our wonderful social media lead teacher, Dan Rogers has been coordinating daily reflections from the students in the New Delhi blog. You can sign up to the blog to receive regular updates. To read the blog and view the photos, see: [Delhi daily blog](#)





Deputy Premier's visit

Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, The Hon. James Merlino MP, visited our young leaders in India this week. On Sunday he joined the Delhi Group on a visit to the Bangala Sahib Gurudwara (a Sikh place of worship and community, which includes a kitchen that provides free meals) to volunteer by serving food in the dining hall.

On Sunday night, the official showcase event and dinner was hosted at the Oberoi hotel to formally acknowledge and thank program partners and participants. The event included speeches, performances, videos, networking and food and served as an incredible opportunity to celebrate the commencement of this powerful initiative with some of the many people who have been instrumental in making it happen.

On Monday morning, he joined our students at Springdales School for a welcome ceremony where our Victorian young leaders performed a song and dance alongside their Indian peers. The Minister gave a speech and took a tour of the school to see the students learning arts and science together. The Minister, like everyone else, has been impressed by our young leaders who continue to do us proud.



CERES Global VYL India closed Facebook group

CERES Global has set up a closed Facebook page for VYL India that can be shared with family and friends of participants.

To access the Facebook page, see: [CERES Global VYL India Facebook](#)

We're in the Indian newspapers!

Our wonderful host school, Springdales School has provided a media release to some national newspapers about VYL India and today we hit the news!

To read the article in English, see: [Students, teachers from Australia visit city school](#)



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