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## Reaching new heights through SACE Research Project

The South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) Research Project has given one Adelaide Year 12 student the opportunity to aim high and achieve one of his dreams.

The Research Project enables students to explore a topic of interest in depth, while developing planning, research, analytical and evaluation skills to better prepare them for life.

Eighteen-year-old Cardijn College student Jason Heinze used his Research Project to investigate the necessary preparation, training and equipment requirements to trek up Mount Everest.

“Without the knowledge I acquired through my research, I would not have been able to undertake such a journey at the end of Year 12,” said Jason.

Last month Jason flew to Nepal to make a solo ascent on camp one – just beyond Mount Everest’s base camp – and he’s just returned triumphant. He also climbed Island Peak in the Himalayas of eastern Nepal.

Jason had no qualms about his predominantly solo climbs – feeling confident that the depth of his research and his thorough preparation and training, had equipped him well.

His safe return, albeit with a sprained ankle and minor frost bite to one toe, is testament to this.

Through his Research Project Jason interviewed other Everest climbers, studied websites and online journals, gained a rock climbing certificate and practical climbing experience, purchased specialized gear and changed his diet to bulk up and build muscle.

“The Research Project gave me the opportunity to investigate things in depth. One of the most helpful things was finding out the best equipment to buy – that was vital.

“It’s been a great way to learn, and if I published my research as a book, it would be a complete guide to everything you need to know about preparing for a climb on Everest,” said Jason.

SACE Board Chief Executive Dr Paul Kilvert said, through the flexibility of the Research Project, Jason has been able to research a topic he is passionate about and also accomplish a personal goal.

“Jason is to be commended for illustrating how the Research Project provides students with the skills for work, life and learning in the twenty-first century – including thinking, planning, research and problem-solving skills - that also build a young person’s resilience, persistence and resourcefulness.”

Jason will shortly begin a holiday job with an outdoor adventure company before commencing studies next year for a Diploma in Outdoor Recreation and Tourism at TAFE.

***Please note:***

*Jason is available for interviews or photographs. He also has photos and video of his time in the Himalayas.*