Year Twelve students from the Benalla P-12 College Outdoor and Environmental Studies Class enjoyed snow camping at Mount Stirling recently. Outdoors Teacher Phil Hunter said “From a camping perspective, nothing is quite like exploring an alpine environment blanketed with pristine snow. Viewing the same trails walked the previous year in a completely different light. For Outdoor Education students, camping in the snow is a culmination of all their skills potentially learned from Year Eight all the way through to Year Twelve. The weeks leading up to the camp included daily weather updates, very concerned that our ski adventure would turn into ‘another bushwalk’. Fortunately, the night before we left, the sky considerately dumped 30cm of snow on the mountain down to Telephone Box Junction (our starting point).”

Weather is always unpredictable in an alpine environment, often a day which starts out beautiful can turn into something far less desirable. However, the students were extremely lucky with the weather during their camp. They could have not have timed the camp better; and with the appropriate gear for the snow, students were able to hone their Cross Country ski skills on the gentle slope nearby before skiing to the Razorback Hut.

Razorback Hut is particularly relevant to the student’s learning because until recently it has been used by Alpine Cattlemen on their annual muster. Students have to learn about at least two conflicts in a natural environment and cattle grazing in National Parks is one such example.

Teacher Phil Hunter said “As always, Benalla P-12 College students represented the school and Benalla admirably. Students should be commended on their preparation and resilience throughout the camp. Also, thanks to Jake Pallpratt and Narelle McInnes for attending the camp.”