



Learning in London

By **ALICE DEMPSTER**

VICTOR HARBOR - Two Fleurieu Peninsula high school students flew more than 16,000 kilometres to advance their scientific know-how in December 2014.

Victor Harbor High School's (VHHS) Chloe Ditton and Leela White were part of a 10-student cohort from South Australia that attended the Royal Institute of Great Britain (RiGB) Christmas Lectures on December 11, 13 and 16.

The Christmas Lectures have been held since 1825 and are presented by eminent scientists. Chloe and Leela and the eight other students were accompanied by VHHS teacher Fiona Haselgrove and Millicent

High School teacher Aaron Brown.

The opportunity was made available through the Maurice de Rohan Scholarships, which are part of the Spirit of Science Program, an initiative for young people from low socio-economic communities.

The scholarships are geared toward students with a strong interest in science and mathematics.

The 12-day study trip to London saw the students attend three lectures. Leela said one focused on the first working light bulb, another looked at how far the telephone has come since it was invented, and one was about the world's first motor.

"They were based around 'how to hack your home', so innovative

technology," she said.

Department of Education and Child Development Teaching and Learning Services executive director Deonne Smith said the Christmas Lectures are a popular science series which is broadcast on UK television.

"It's all about presenting the science behind everyday items in a fun and interactive way for young people," she said.

"We hope this inspires them to see science as a possible pathway for their own learning and careers."

The Spirit of Science Program has seen 79 public school students from years 10 and 11 across the state travel to the Christmas Lectures since 2005.



SCIENCE STUDENTS: Ten students and two teachers from South Australia attended the Royal Institute of Great Britain (RiGB) Christmas Lectures in London during December. Pictured are (back) Millicent High School teacher Aaron Brown, Jye Dodd, Tre Collins, Skye Watkins, Jaylon Newchurch, Katrina Creoney, Victor Harbor High School teacher Fiona Haselgrove, (front) Rosheen Blumson, Chloe Ditton (Victor Harbor High School), Leela White (Victor Harbor High School), Gemma Carlson and Sariah Howell.