

Teacher's new challenge: climb every mountain

WHERE do you start a challenge as wide as a continent and as high as eight cloud-capped mountains?

A challenge as vast as the Gulf Savannah and as intimidating as a hungry salty? Campbell Street Primary School, that's where.

For "8in8in8" — the latest expeditionclass.com adventure learning project — I'll attempt to take students on an online journey around the eight highest peaks in the eight states and territories, in eight months.

In these grim economic times I can't justify the expense of petrol. So using only human-powered transport it means lots of bike riding, a fair bit of walking and a couple of laps across Bass Strait in my trusty sea kayak.

Beginning in Hobart, I'll ride north to Little Musselroe Bay and

Tasmanian teacher ANDREW HUGHES previews his next learning adventure

island-hop past Flinders Island to Port Welshpool in Victoria.

After collecting the bike I'll be aiming to do over 100km each day as I head for the next mountain on the list. It will take me over the Australian Alps, through outback New South Wales and into the tropical north.

After traversing the Savannah Way I'll swoop down to the gold-fields of Western Australia and take the Great Central Road into the very heart of the country.

With all the mainland peaks summited it'll be a dash back to the kayak for return to Tasmania.

That's the plan anyway. The reality might unfold differently.

The ambition in adventure is matched only by the ambition to share these travels with students around Australia, but particularly here in Tasmania.

As with the paddle around Papua New Guinea last year, students can follow the dots on the maps and read the reports fresh each day from the website.

Lessons following an Australian geography theme will be available for teachers to use in class, and a new online forum is being developed.

It's going to be lonely at times, and I might not always choose the best road, so I'll use the forum to get advice and stay connected.

Up to 10 schools have an opportunity to bring this journey even

deeper into their classrooms with the "Plugged into Adventure" learning package. For \$500, with pre-departure and post-return visits to schools, students will get as close to the adventure as possible without having the blisters and sunburnt hands.

Campbell Street Primary has signed up and the journey will start from there on March 10, so there's no time to lose. Adventure and learning: the two go together like rhubarb and ice cream. Mmm.

This project is being supported by Australian Geographic and the University of Tasmania faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology. The *Mercury* Learning page will follow the journey from start to finish.

www.expeditionclass.com