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## Icecap journey to inspire local school children

As part of the lead-up to an adventurous and potentially perilous journey across the icecaps of Patagonia, Bendigo expedition leader Linda Beilharz - along with local students and expedition supporter Bendigo Community Telco – will tomorrow launch the 'Journeys for Learning' lesson guides that will be used in local schools during the expedition.

Thanks to a specialised communication kit provided by Bendigo Community Telco, students will receive messages from the expedition while using the lesson guides and resources to explore the themes of resilience, team work and environmental sustainability.

Ms Beilharz said, "Thanks to the technology supplied by Bendigo Community Telco, we will be able to convey emails, photos and voice messages from the expedition tent, deep within the mountains of Patagonia in South America."

Bendigo Community Telco CEO Phil Lazenby said, "It's a real thrill to be able to help Linda bring her messages of resilience, team work and sustainability to school children here in Bendigo. The lessons learned by the students via the 'Journeys for Learning' program will be invaluable."

Mr Lazenby went on to say, "It's inspirational to see a Bendigo local such as Linda take on such amazing challenges."

The launch event at Bendigo Community Telco's McLaren St office, gives students the chance to showcase some of their early work for the program, by screening clips from movies they have created about the preparation for the icecap expedition.

Ends.

### **Launch Event / photo and interview opportunity:**

- Linda Beilharz, Expedition Leader
- Phil Lazenby, Bendigo Community Telco CEO
- Bendigo school children

Thursday May 21, 10.30am  
Bendigo Community Telco Boardroom  
23 McLaren St Bendigo

For further information contact Linda Beilharz: 0409 940 184 [beilharz@iinet.net.au](mailto:beilharz@iinet.net.au)

Background information follows....

MEDIA RELEASE

## Background 1.

### Expedition summary

Australian Patagonia Expedition

July 1 to 25, 2009

Linda Beilharz and Rob Rigato

Nestled within the Andes mountain range in the southern Chilean area of Patagonia lie two icecaps - Hielo Nord (north) and Hielo Sur (south). These icecaps are fed by high levels of rain or snow as the wind brings moisture up from the Atlantic Ocean and dumps it on the Andes.

Our expedition will be on the Hielo Sur, an icecap that meanders between mountain peaks from the fiords of Chile, down almost 400 kilometers, to the area well known to backpackers and climbers – the Torre de Paine.

We are intending to ascend the Jorge Montt Glacier, traverse the icecap in a south easterly direction and descend the Upsala Glacier to Lago Argentino. Jorge Montt Glacier needs to be reached by boat and will take a large proportion of our time to climb as we pick our way up the heavily crevassed glacier.

The route across the icecap will take us past Vulcan Lautoro and the Viedma Glacier, providing glimpses of the magnificent Mont Fitzroy. The descent of the Upsala Glacier will again take time and may involve portage of our sleds over the rocks beside the glacier and down to the lake where we will be met by a boat.

We are going in winter to avoid the gale force winds that the icecap is renowned for and to minimize exposure to rain. We've been warned to expect large snow falls instead and will be reinforcing our tent with double poles as a precaution. Day length will be short and the temperatures will drop to below -30° at night.

We are expecting a challenging trip that will test our stamina and skills in a setting that will be spectacularly beautiful.

**This expedition is the third of four icecap expeditions being undertaken by Linda Beilharz. Linda has already achieved a significant journey in Antarctica and Greenland and after this expedition will have one remaining the hardest of all – to the North Pole.**

## Background 2.

**Journeys for Learning** is a company that has been established to link these expeditions to schools and communities by bringing the stories of expeditions to classrooms and community halls.



Schools are following the expedition and using the preparation and actual expedition to learn about resilience, team work and environmental sustainability. Lesson guides have been developed by some teachers and Linda has visited 7 schools in the Bendigo region to talk about the coming expedition.

With the support of Bendigo Community Telco Linda and Rob will send messages from the expedition to schools where students will track progress and will compare the challenges and achievements of the expedition to life back home.

The communication kit is a specialized kit that enables communication in sub zero temperatures from a very remote part of the world. Bendigo Community Telco has used their expertise to ensure that the system will convey emails, photos and voice messages from the expedition tent, deep within the mountains of Patagonia.

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