

# Bavaria trip a hit for dancers



*Members of Bund der Bayern in Germany*

*by Sarah Martin*

Two years of hard legwork has paid off for the dancers of Bund der Bayern.

The troupe has returned from a two week tour of Bavaria, the homeland of their chosen dance style, where 14 children and 13 adults stayed with host families and participated in an unprecedented dance exchange program.

In Germany the dancers took part in dance and cultural workshops that culminated in a Trachtenparade - a parade of about 3,000 people in traditional Bavarian costumes.

Group leader and Crafers resident Reinhard Struve said the program was exhausting with some very long days but was very rewarding.

"Everyone in our group played along really well, even the children, and we're coming back home to Adelaide with a huge range of new impressions and experiences," Reinhard said.

"It has been a great learning

opportunity for our group and I am confident that there will be another trip to Bavaria in the pipeline one day."

The Adelaide-based group proved to their Bavarian counterparts that they are serious about their dance and left the experience with firm new friendships and the promise that some of the troupes they visited will try to traverse to our part of the world in the future.

Young members of Bund der Bayern were provided with financial support for the trip through the Australian Federal Government's Creative Young Stars program, which encourages cultural and artistic development of children and young people.

Daniel Potter, 10, from Stirling who went to Bavaria with his sister Sophia, 8, and parents Andrea and Graham said he learned a great deal from the cultural exchange.

"Our trip to Bavaria has been an eye opener," Daniel said.

"We have learned so many things about Bavarian dancing, culture and language"

"We even danced in front of a crowd of 400 Bavarian spectators.

"That was a bit scary, because they can all dance so well and know all the stuff, but everyone congratulated us afterwards and told us that we were doing really well."

Bund der Bayern will resume rehearsal with a new suite of skills under their belts and hope to perfect the art of Goasslschnoizen, whip cracking to music.

They aim to present the new dance form in 2015 when they host the biennial Australian-wide 'Volkstanzfest' which will see some 200 German dancers from all over Australia come to Adelaide for a weekend of dancing and music.