

CAMP YARRAMUNDI WITH YEAR 9

The buses pulled out of the bus bay at a reasonable hour this time – 7.30am on Wednesday the 4th of April. Bags were packed under the buses, students and teachers alert as could be...and ready to go. It seemed like a few felt they were off for a week with the size of some suitcases (not mentioning any names of course!). You'll definitely need that hair straightener, ukulele and beauty products. We all fitted. A quick trip along the Bells Line of Road, the bus pulls into Camp Yarramundi at the base of the lower Blue Mountains. We met Ruth, the Camp Coordinator and our group instructors who showed us to our cabins to settle in quickly.

The first of many meals was lunch and then onto the first of our activities. Over the course of the 3 days we got to challenge ourselves as individuals, as well as facing challenges as a group, also challenging...and have I mentioned CHALLENGES? Did you have the confidence to try the 10 metre abseil? Were you challenged by the idea of the giant swing - being lifted 20 metres off the ground and then released over the bush? Did you find the high ropes course easy or did you have to overcome your fear of stepping out of your comfort zone? Did you manage to get to the top of the 15 metre high vertical challenge by helping your partner? What were some mental challenges? Working out how to detangle your friends and Miss McCleary in the initiatives activities? Or working out a way to get everyone through the multi group challenge obstacle course without having a team meltdown? Was it a mental challenge for us to give up our phones for 3 days? Or was it challenging sharing a room with your bestie who didn't bring her personal maid with her to clean up her mess? It was inspiring to see Year 9 having a go at all activities. The instructors were also impressed with your positive attitude, support of each other, and the fact that you would try everything.

Highlights of our evenings at camp were the jam session on the deck outside Lizard cabins on Wednesday night...ukelele's and garbage bin drums...thanks to Belle, Jenna and Zoey. Uno games, the facials taking place in Waterdragon 1 cabin, and of course the possums running over the roof of Wallaby cabin late at night. Organised night games on Wednesday added to an exhausting day and there wasn't much sound coming from cabins after about 11pm. Muso Trivia on Thursday night was a hit with a lot of screaming and general random running about, followed by more screaming, running, singing and of course the dance off.

I am sure everyone who went to camp has achieved something they didn't think was possible of themselves. The experiences we had at camp will give us confidence to try other new things, look at different ways of doing things, and help us work with others in a positive way. Thank you to all the teachers who joined Year 9 and looked after them with such care, making it a great 3 days; Mrs Champion, Miss McCleary, Mrs Lyne, Mrs Reid, Mrs McCrossin, and Mr Knight. A special thanks to Mr Knight for all his hard work in organising this camp as it couldn't have been so successful without his efforts. Thank you Year 9 for participating and behaving in such a positive way while we were away. It was a pleasure to share this experience with you. *Mrs Sullivan*



