

Trials, Challenges and Highlights – A Eleven Camp Report

On Wednesday 25th June, Year 11 students attended the Emu Gully leadership camp in the Lockyer Valley. With a sighting of an emu, and more confusingly a donkey, there was not much else besides green sheds, acres of flat, dry landscape, and one huge dam with diving boards, to the distress of some due to violent winds. The cohort had many mixed emotions upon leaving the bus, but they were optimistic; a value continually displayed throughout the 3 days.



Slight lethargy trailed Year 11 for the first couple of activities, but nevertheless when it came to running around the room, quite literally like a headless chicken, the group proved to be very enthusiastic for the day ahead. Whether it be manoeuvring through hoops, being boosted over walls or climbing through tight spaces, with many squashed fingers as a result of bad timing, the Year

11s encouraged their peers to participate in all activities, helping one another overcome their fears to get the job done as a whole team.

Thanks to the heaters inside the cabins the group awoke more defrosted than usual, which was helpful to get ready quickly and begin the activities immediately. The day ahead included more tight spaces, icy water, sweat, mud, more water and even more mud and sweat- a delightful combination when working shoulder to shoulder. Much determination and courage was exhibited throughout the morning when venturing through tunnels and travelling over narrow bridges, right through to the evening when battling, at times, neck-high mud, all the while carrying the unfortunate Zoe Kay on a stretcher, who rattled from the cold during the whole 1 hour and 13 minutes they were in the mud.

After diving into the dam and taking a much craved hot shower (some of



which may have initiated another drought) and then getting a marvellous feed, the Year 11's were back outside at 7:30pm. This time it was Annica Putzulo who was the victim of the stretcher, but they kept her cosy in blankets and beanies throughout the whole night walk. They heaved her up, what felt like mountains, and said goodbye to whatever tread remained on their shoes, but most importantly the



students worked together hand in hand, foot locked in foot, and persevered contently until they arrived back at the cabins at 9:30pm rather frozen, but very proud.

It was the last day at Emu Gully, but one that had been anticipated to be the best, because it was time for paintball. The journey to the site was an activity in itself: bumping up and down and sliding across the seats just managing to stay inside the back of the truck. Owing to many of the boys experience in 'Call of Duty', they were confident in annihilating the girls, but did this happen? Well of course not! The girls raged, ambushing the boys with anger and fortitude in order to retrieve the flag and bring it back to base. From this, the girls won the other two challenges, leaving the boys in aches of welts and bruises.



Every challenge the students faced they assumed to be humanely impossible, but each time the group came together as a unified team, they achieved every goal within the time frame given. All students demonstrated vast leadership qualities, some of which came unexpectedly. They should all be pleased of their successes, because from the Emu Gully camp, the Year 11's have become equipped with strong leadership skills to carry through to 2015.

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