



Explorer Journey

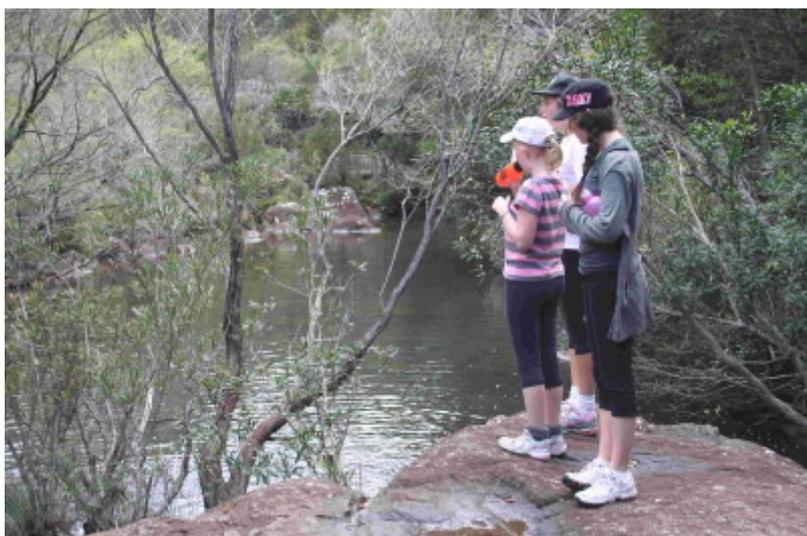
10/10/09-11/10/09

Hannah Stainlay

On Saturday 10th October 2009 five Scouts set off from Heathcote Railway Station on foot. Olivia, Elanna and Hannah were doing their blue journey, and Connor and Ally had offered to help make up the numbers. The first three Scouts carried all their gear in a backpack and Connor and Ally had a daypack.



We began our walk through the Heathcote Scout Camp and then proceeded onto the four-wheel drive track that followed the Woronora pipeline. On our walk we stopped for a break at Mirang Pool where we had a drink and a snack before we set off again.



We continued our walk with the two energetic scouts, Ally and Connor, climbing up and walking along the pipe with ease as the other three scouts trekked on with their big backpacks. When we got to a causeway the map-reader made the good choice of turning off onto a small track, which lead us to our final destination for the day.



To take the Scout's minds off the weight on their backs, and the cuts they had from being whipped by plants, we proceeded to play a number of a-z games as we walked. We stopped for lunch at about 12:45 and pulled out our squished sandwiches and rolls as Connor and Ally took out their mango neatly wrapped. As we neared Camp Coutts we all began to have a little more energy as we continued with the games, which became livelier as we hopped along in time to the beat of the song. LEFT. LEFT. LEFT RIGHT LEFT. When we reached the camp we set up our tents and made ourselves a hot cup-a-soup. We cooked dinner as night came and afterwards we had a game of cards before we went to bed for the next day of walking.



The next morning we woke up, made breakfast, packed up our gear and put everything back in our bags. We set off singing songs and jumping around, but that soon wore off. When we got to the bridge that crossed over the freeway we stopped for a break and waved to the passing cars and a truck, which honked as they went by.

When we continued our walk we started off down a big hill and then up another big hill. We got to a junction in the path and were puzzled over which to take, so we looked at the contours of the map, and given the fact we had already reached the top of a hill we were able to work out exactly where we were and which way we had to go. We followed the path that took a bend and sure enough this led us out onto a bridge over the Illawarra railway line. As we looked over the side a coal



train made its way around the corner. We looked eagerly over the side as the train was about to pass under us and as it did we copped the smoke from the engines in our faces and a blast from its horn.



After the bridge we were on easy street the rest of the way. We followed the directions from the map-reader who led us along a road and up a hill to find the train station calling us. As we sat on the train station waiting we called our parents' as we would be arriving home early. When the train pulled into the station we hopped on and enjoyed the ride back to Sutherland Station.