

1. Objectives

I aimed to complete by the end of the blue hike my

- Explorer journey
- Explorer badge
- Blue cord

To achieve this I had to walk 15 km carrying food, water, tent and anything else that I needed to camp. I also needed to write report on the journey.

2. Hike prep

2.1 Planning and practice

- 🌀 15/Feb- first planning meeting
- 🌀 8/May-set a date for hike
- 🌀 26/Jun-second planning meeting
- 🌀 9/Aug – practice hike on Still Creek fire trail
- 🌀 4/Sep-third meeting and pack weigh in
- 🌀 13/Sep-all day practice hike with full weight
- 🌀 25/Sep-fourth meeting
- 🌀 15/Oct-last meeting and full pack weigh in

2.2 Personal food

	Friday	Saturday
Breakfast		Porridge, water
Morning tea	Muesli bar, fruit, water	Trail mix
Lunch	Sandwich, fruit, water	Vita wheats and cheese
Afternoon Tea	Trail mix	Muesli bar
Dinner	Macaroni and cheese	

2.3 Personal gear list

Clothes - 2 shirts, 1 pants, 4 socks, 3 undies, jacket, hat and shoes.

Pillow, sleeping bag and sleeping sheet.

Toiletries-soap, towel, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, wash cloth, toilet paper and tissues.

Mess kit - bowl, plate, cup, fork, knife, spoon and tea towel.

Extras - first aid kit, pad and pen, green book, sunscreen, fly repellent, 3 L water.

2.4 Patrol gear

3 man lightweight hiking tent- split 3 ways between Jack, Lachlan and myself

2 Billies

Tongs

Matches

Serving spoon

2.4 Weight

Name	Body weight	20% safe weight	Safe all up	Actual all up
Lach D	58	11.6	69.6	68
Lach H	53	10.6	63.9	64
Jack	43	8.6	51.6	54
Josh	41	8.2	49.2	50
Dan	49	10	59	60

3. Notes

Friday 16/Oct

08:00-arrived at Sutherland station and bought our tickets

08:23-Caught train heading for Heathcote

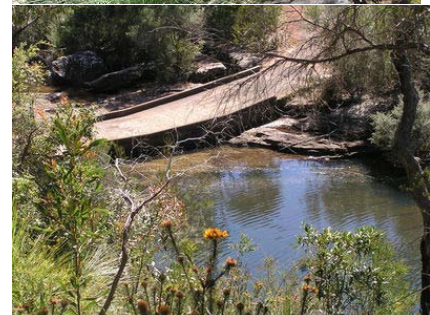
08:35-Arrived at Heathcote and headed to the Heathcote scout camp (Lachlan and I got lost)

08:56-Found the 'Friendly' track and decided to break into our trail mix.

09:40-reached Mirang Pool where we climbed on giant water pipe to walk along it.

10:00-arrived at Battery Causeway for morning tea and had little adventure around the creek

10:30- left causeway and followed rough over grown track up mountain (Bullawarring Track)



11:30-Met some people doing their Duke of Edinburgh hike



12:25- found great place for lunch (Minda Pools) where we took our shoes off and tried to catch water-skimming bugs. Josh volunteered to participate in a manhunt.



13:50-finished lunch break and continued our quest to finish the blue hike. We travelled south following the track, which turned east before we joined another track and headed south again.



14:30-we found ourselves at King Fisher pools where we explored the under ground caves. We had plenty of perfect picture opportunities.



14:40- we have to leave the caves to continue our hike.



15:10-we arrived at a wide fire trail and turned south for Camp Coutts. We followed the shore of Lake Toolooma.



15:35-we arrived at Camp Coutts with sore legs and backs.

16:20-tents were put up and the cooking fire started. Mostly fine with a breeze expected.

16:45-we all enjoyed some nice hot, hearty soup

17:00-started dinner, which was Mac, and cheese. Josh thought it failed but it thickened up by the time we started eating so Hahahahahahaha..... Ha

20:00-went to bed after a long day walking.

Saturday 17/Oct

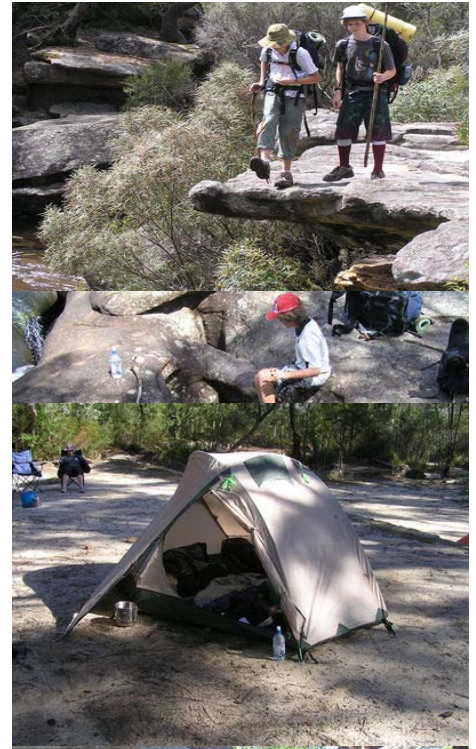
07:00-up nice and early too cook breakfast and pack up tents.

10:45- left Coutts to continue hike and headed south.

11:20-reached Princess Hwy where I tossed my Gandalf staff for my Yoda staff.

11:25-turned west down Hwy to find wide fire trail.

11:40-reached bridge crossing over freeway.



12:10-stopped for lunch along the road in a shady spot where an epic battle broke out between Jack and Lach D(Jack lost).



13:00-we were happy that the hike was nearly over and talked happily, relieved that we had almost made it.



13:25-we reached Wilson's Creek where we enjoyed exploring the surrounding Jungle like bush and found a dog as a playmate. I accidentally got us all lost on a little track and Lachlan stranded me on a rock in the middle of a small lake at the bottom of a waterfall.



13:55-left the creek and the dog to finish the final stretch of the hike.



14:00-arrived at Helensburgh station where we all collapsed and had a debriefing about what we thought of the hike.



14:22-left Helensburgh station for the relaxing journey home.



4. Assessment

3.1 Lessons learned

- Read the recipes on ready-made meals (ours failed).
- Read maps carefully, tracks that you see may not be on the map.
- Organize your time wisely (we spent too much time mucking around).

3.2 Things that worked

- Our porridge in sachets was awesome
- Lightweight tents were a lifesaver when it came to weight.
- We were all up to the challenge of carrying the weight.
- We all cooperated and had a good time.

Report by Daniel Murphy

Photos by Egil

