



# Patrol Camp to Koolandilly 8–10/April/2011

Story and pictures by Egil.

Two Scouts, four Cubs and two Leaders departed the Scout hall at 5pm on Friday 8/April heading south west towards the Southern Highlands. We stopped at McDonalds Mittagong for dinner around 6:30pm and it was dark and cold. Soon after Mittagong we were on the Wombeyan Caves Road that turned into a narrow winding dirt road that was interesting driving in the dark. We arrived at Koolandilly around 8:30pm, found a nice grassy level camp site with a fireplace and BBQ and set-up camp. A dining fly and five small tents later we went to bed.



**Mist shrouds the surrounding mountains on Saturday morning.**

Saturday morning was cool and misty and we had to have a camp fire to warm up and boil the kettle. A bacon and egg muffin for breakfast fuelled us for the day ahead.





**Boiling the kettle on the camp fire.**

After breakfast the Cubs and Scouts were able to participate in their favorite activity – digging up rocks. This clears the ground for mowers to get in and maintain the property. It is a task that the older club members find difficult, but our youth seem to enjoy it as they get to swing heavy tools.



**Removing rocks so mowers can maintain the property.**

The sun was out by mid-morning and we were soon in T-shirts and shorts enjoying the beautiful day.



At morning tea time we joined in a club tradition of getting together in the shed for a chat and sharing morning tea. We took a cake to share and the Scouts passed it around.



**Sharing morning tea in the shed with other club members; a club tradition.**

After morning tea break we moved the rocks by trailer and a ride in the trailer is always popular.



**The trailer gang.**

After the hot work of shifting the rocks the Scouts thought they needed to cool off with a swim in the icy cold Wollondilly River that borders the property.







The club provided a sausage sizzle lunch for everyone who was there to help with the working bee.



After lunch we explored the river and built dams until it started to cool off as the sun got lower. Then it was hot showers, collect fire wood and sit around the camp fire.

Dinner was a country treat with marinated kangaroo steaks with sweet potato mash and followed by Scout rice custard for dessert. It was great!

After dinner we sat around the camp fire telling scary, spooky stories. A club member came over and asked if the boys wanted to see a constellation visible in the southern sky before it set. Just as we were looking at it a massive meteor streaked over with a wide fiery head and broad long tail. It remained visible for several seconds and was the highlight of the night. What lucky timing.

Sunday morning was cool and cloudy with intermittent light rain. After breakfast the showers became more frequent and we sat under the dinning fly and did a Scouts Own and then did some training questions. Cameron put in an amazing effort and completed nine out of the ten questions required for his bronze boomerang award.

We enjoyed some hot toasted sandwiches for lunch and then had to pack up in the rain. That involves clearing up under the dinning fly and then bringing the tents under the fly one at a time to take them down under cover. Lucky the rain eased off as we took down the dinning fly.

The drive home seemed to pass quickly as we told weird stories about that character named Ralph. Afternoon tea stop was beside Lake Alexandra at Mittagong where we stood under a picnic shelter and watched the ducks as it rained again. We arrived back at the Scout hall just a few minutes after 5pm and quickly packed the gear away and spread the tents out to dry.

Our objective for this camp was to provide an opportunity for the Scouts to perform a 'service to others' task and have fun in a real bush setting. Thanks to all those who participated.

*There is considerable synergy between Scouting and the Toyota Land Cruiser Club of Australia (TLCC) who own Koolandilly. Both are not for profit organizations, are registered training organizations who encourage the development of their members, always put safety first, operate at the highest levels of integrity and provide significant support back to the communities in which they operate. Mike & Narelle Valentine are proud to be members of both organizations. Note that access to Koolandilly is restricted to TLCC members and their guests (by permission) and only trained TLCC members may drive on the property. The TLCC committee meeting in October 2007 granted permission for Bangor Scouts to visit Koolandilly.*