



# Troop Camp at Bonnie Vale

## 2 – 4/Dec/2011

Pictures and story by Egil

The coldest start to summer in 50 years didn't detract from our summer beach camp because we always take the weather with us. We arrived at the campsite by 7:15pm and had light to setup the tents on the huge grassy sites. The ranger checked in and kindly wrote guest passes for the cars. Later we walked over the dune to the beach, had some supper and walked into the water that felt mild in the cold evening air. The Scouts talked excitedly for some time before falling asleep.

The dawn chorus woke me early but amazingly the Scouts slept through all the noise. First job in the morning light was to erect the dinning fly and with team work it was soon up. A hearty breakfast fuelled them up for the day and then we started work on the Water Safety elective target badge. The PLs ran activity bases on the beach covering the knowledge aspects for the badge.



**Emergencies knowledge for blue level**



**Safety knowledge for red level**



We also covered off the Rescue question with reaching and throwing assists. The PLs did an excellent job of sharing their knowledge.

After lunch we constructed the raft and had to carry it a long way across the sand flats to the river as high tide wasn't very high.



Much to the Scouts delight the raft came apart and sank.



The ropes and bottles from the raft made a great game in the swift tidal current running into the lagoon.



We used the calm waters of the lagoon to finish the practical aspects of the Water Safety badge, like safe entry and swim tasks, remove clothes in water, tread water, approach and rescue a conscious patient, tow a patient, and the huddle position.

After hot showers and dinner we formed a campfire circle (without the fire) and had planning discussions and jokes and stories until late.



Sunday morning was cool and windy and no one wanted to go back in the water. We had a 'Scouts own' where all the Scouts did a great job of expressing what they were thankful for and then we spent time on training questions and tasks and several Scouts finished the requirements for their red cord awards. We got the dry tents packed away in the morning sun and by lunch time the sky was dark with clouds. After lunch we were lowering the large dining fly when the rain started and Scouts ducked under one side of the fly that was still up. The heavy shower and thunder passed quickly and we finished packing up and drove home.

Thanks to the parent helpers for assisting with transport; thanks to the PLs for the great job they did and thanks to the Scouts for participating in the training tasks and completing lots questions.