



Our Troop program - challenging; attractive; rewarding; useful.

'SURVIVOR' THEMED TROOP CAMP

25-27/May/2012

Leaders – Egil, John and Baghera. Scouts – 6.

This camp was an experiment planned by the Scouts themselves to see how they would go living out of a box of supplies where they had to devise their own menu and cooking. The Scouts divided into two Patrols with a supply box each and the Leaders had their own separate supplies. The contents of the two boxes was different and so an added challenge was that the Scouts could work together to barter and share supplies between the Patrols. Each Patrol also had two pots and some utensils.

On Friday night we met at the hall, loaded backpacks into the trailer and departed for camp under clear skies. We had three Leaders and six Scouts. The camp warden directed us to a nice large open camp site away from any work sites and the small tents were soon up. Surprisingly all the Scouts decided to retire for the night, so there was no supper or campfire. During the night I heard strong winds howling high up in the trees but in our sheltered position the tents hardly moved.

Saturday morning was clear and sunny and the search and rescue cargo plane dropped the two emergency supply boxes right on target before the Scouts were up. Opening the supply boxes was like Christmas time when you are eager to see what's inside the gift box. The Scouts sorted the supplies and soon decided what to use for breakfast and we sat around a warming campfire while we ate.



Cooking breakfast



Cookies for morning tea

The entire morning was spent in camp enjoying fires and working out what to do with the supplies. In fact the Scouts seemed to be grazing on food all day long. Bags of flour and oats and nuts were put to use to make cookies and damper and dessert pie. They bartered for chocolate and melted that over boiling water in the camp fire, then mixed in marshmallows and nuts to make rocky road. They made vegetable soup for a dinner entrée followed by different versions of spaghetti bolognese with either noodles or mountain bread.



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Melting chocolate



Making rocky road



Baked damper



Damper on a stick



Cooking dinner



Spag bol for dinner

We did lots of short walks to gather firewood and John kindly brought a load of cut logs that the Scouts enjoyed splitting. The Scouts also helped change a flat tyre on the trailer. It's great that they like that sort of physical activity, it saves the Leaders. By dinner time we had a large pile of wood beside the fireplace and after sharing the pie base with fruit and custard that the Scouts had made for dessert we settled around the fire.



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We did not have any planned or prepared camp fire program, we just talked and told jokes and stories and the time flew by as we enjoyed the fire and the company.



Enjoying the camp fire on Saturday night



Sunday morning around the camp fire



Sausage sizzle for lunch

Sunday morning was a cold clear morning and the Scouts were treated to a bacon and egg muffin for breakfast as reward for surviving so well on their supplies during Saturday. We had a Scouts Own around the campfire and did short walks to the creek and picked up fire wood on the way back and the camp fire remained a major attraction.



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Lunch was a sausage sizzle and then it was time to pack up. When everything was packed we had time for a walk and wide game in the bush.



Camp site



Wide game

We were lucky to have fine weather and a sheltered camp site and a great crew for this experimental camp. During this camp the Scouts made their own program, their own timetable, their own menu, their own activities, their own entertainment and determined their own training. The feedback from the Scouts was so positive about Patrol based camping because it empowered them to be responsible for themselves and make their own decisions. There were so many requests for more camps like this and even a request for longer camps like Monday to Friday. I am sure this experiment will have a significant influence on future camps as we pursue more Patrol based camping.



Thanks to Bagheera (Bronwyn Watson) from the Cub Pack for attending so that our female Scouts could attend.