

1st

B
A
N
G
O
R

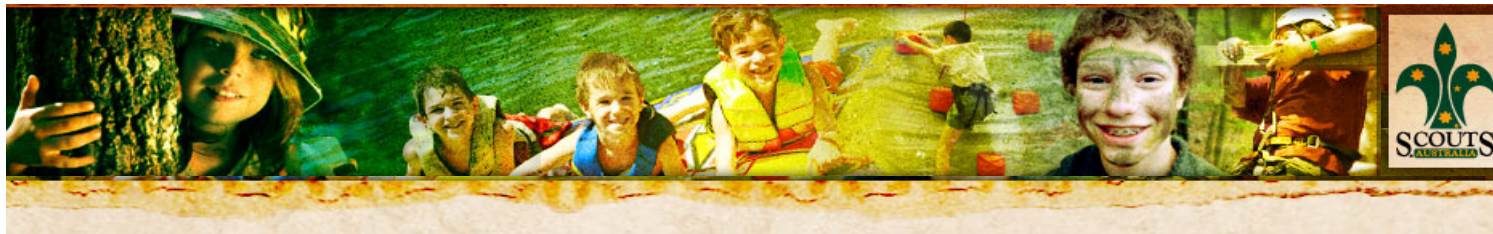
S
C
O
U
T
T
R
O
O
P

Scout Troop Easter Camp

Scouts from 1st Bangor and Alford's Point Menai met at Bangor Scout hall on the morning of Good Friday to pack the trailers and head to Camp Kariong for an Easter Weekend camp. Our meeting time was 9am, and we were all pretty much there on time. Our plan for taking one trailer away with us for some reason did not quite work out and an emergency trip to Angus's place to collect another trailer was made. With the cars and trailers packed, we left the hall at about 10.30am with the thought of a long journey ahead of us. All our calculations had us with a journey time of approximately 2.00 hours but we were so very wrong. The traffic getting out of Sydney and onto the freeway was terrible. After a painful 3.5 hours later, our three cars and two trailers turned off Woy Woy Road onto a dirt track that resembled something like Camp Coutts. We approached a fork in the road directing us to a Scout camp in one direction and a Rifle range in the other, and with Fluffy's great navigation skills, we took the Scout Camp sign and soon arrived in a really remote yet somewhat beautiful place called camp Kariong.

Andrew, the Camp Warden met us in the car park and took us to check out our camp site and explain the layout of the camp. A short stretch of the legs and we were pushing trolleys from the trailers to camp as we slowly unpacked the trailers. Given that it was now about 2pm, our stomachs were telling us that we really needed some lunch. We located the wraps and got straight into some tucker eating half of Sunday's lunch on Friday. After a short period letting the food settle in, we set up our camp and went to explore the camp ground. It was amazing. Located just behind one of our tents and down the bush a little, was a water hole that we could swim in and all these tracks to explore. There was a glide rail and imitative course, waterfall and ball games and a huge campfire circle. As it started to get dark, we returned to set up our little camp fire and get some more grub. Dinner was some Wild Atlantic Salmon fish cakes and salad and dinner rolls which was delicious. Some of us went back in for seconds and thirds, but maybe that was due to a late lunch. We started to settle down around the fire before turning in for bed.

When we woke up on Saturday morning, we could hear birds singing and the sound of the crackling fire. Someone had gotten up early to get the fires going again and it was a great way to start to warm up from a cool night. Because we had been so good the night before, Fluffy, Toomi and Rickki let us eat breakfast around the fire. In traditional Scouting style, we had bacon and eggs with Milo cereal. With the Scouts instructions to relax for the weekend, breakfast was soon finished and some headed out to explore the surrounding bush and some chose to stay at camp and do some badge work. The two way radios were running hot as small groups of Scouts weaved in and out of the bush and a check-in time of 1 hour was given. Lunch was soon upon us and given the exercise we did in the morning, we were looking forward to our chicken burgers. Some more exploring and it was time to brave the water and go for a dip. We all headed down to the water hole with most getting in for a quick swim. The deeper we went the colder the water became. A clay hole was discovered and very quickly we started making clay patties to see how far we could throw them. Some moved on to skimming rocks whilst others started to get cold and returned for a hot shower. To cover off some green badge work Josh, Owain and Tim put together a two course meal using camp ovens. Main meal was a beef roast that was simply the best! The beef melted in your mouth, and the vegetables were just right. Desert, although not a great success tasted really good and went from being brownies, to somewhat of a self saucing really rich chocolate pudding. Great work in the kitchen guys! Angus shared his marshmallows around the camp fire and told some lame horror stories whilst fluffy fell asleep in his chair.



1st

B
A
N
G
O
R
S
C
U
O
T
T
R
O
O
P

Sunday morning came and we realised that it was Easter. We thought the Easter Bunny had missed us, and after speaking to Fluffy and Angus, we were correct. The bunny had not found us in Camp Kariong. We determined that we would make up for the lack of Easter Eggs and got stuck into the pancakes and catering size jar of Nutella. After filling up with hazelnut chocolate, the leaders remembered that the bunny had not been, but the Bilby had made a visit during the night and left its droppings everywhere for us to collect. After breakfast we jumped up and raced around having a fantastic Bilby Dropping hunt, with something like 600 eggs that had been left. Once all the droppings has been picked up and distributed evenly amongst us all, we all partnered up did some badge work, where we all achieved something towards part of a badge at our level.

Out of the esky came the left over baked dinner and wraps with a selection of condiments on the menu. Fluffy heated up and mashed up the leftover baked dinner and we all devoured what was left. We prepared our stew to enable a slow cook to get the meat soft and tender. Into the coals the ovens went and we went off for a swim in the water hole. It was so cold in there but was a lot of fun. As we returned back from our swim, we found two resident goannas had eaten the second half of our banana bread. Maybe this is because Fluffy gave them a little bit to try in the morning, or maybe there was some other reason, but we all think it was the taste Fluffy gave them. Our clean up began, as they had put Banana cake everywhere! As we settled down after our swim and had some hot showers, we were sitting around when David fell back on his chair and hit his head on a little retaining wall. The back of his head was split wide open and we put the first aid skills of Angus and Fluffy into action. Some of us helped and experienced a real emergency, something that we never want to experience again. David took a trip to Gosford hospital with Rikki to get a check up. Rikki messaged us to let us know he would be there for a few hours, so we decided to have our dinner and ensure we left some for their return. Our stew, which had beef and veggies was just delicious, but did not look so good. Lucky we were able to eat around the fire in an almost dark environment so we did not have to look at what we were eating. David and Rikki got back at about 10pm and the rest of us were around the fire waiting for them. David had a small part of his head shaved and the doctor told him to go easy on his head for a while. Rikki and David had some dinner and we all piled into bed knowing that Rikki needed to wake David at about 3:30am to make sure he was still ok.

The weekend came and the weekend went and before we knew it, it was Monday; the last day already. With Eggy Bread and cereal our bellies were full for a day of packing and cleaning and moving tents to try and get them as dry as we could from the little bit of rain from last night. We packed our bags and put them under the shelter allowing us to clean out the insides of the tent. We were surprised at the amount of stuff still in the tents from the Jamboree. As some pulled down the tents and cleaned our site, others started to prepare lunch. Lunch was a hit with sausages and a homemade salsa. After demolishing lunch we packed up the kitchen, loaded all the gear back onto the trolleys and took everything down to the trailers. With trailers hitched and loaded, we began the long trek back to Bangor. We beat the traffic and had a really good run home getting back to the hall in about 1 hour 40 min. Unpacking the trailers and hanging the tents in the hall to dry became a huge task as did ensuring that everything went back in its place for next camp.

A great weekend was had by all and we would definitely head back there for another camp!