Senior Leadership Retreat

On the 16 -17th February 2012, the senior student leaders went to Taracoonee on the Hawksbury River for the senior leadership retreat. Taracoonee is a turn of the century river home owned by the extended Vicars family represented by John Laurie and his daughter Georgina. This is the third Senior leadership retreat at Taracoonee. Apart from the absolute beauty of the surroundings our students leaders from the SRC, Social Justice and the Prefect body conducted a number of interesting leadership sessions. These sessions focused on decision making, awareness of self and others as leaders and asked driving questions that were both ethical and moral in their nature. Discussions were thought provoking and deep and required the students to consider a wide number of leadership issues. We are very grateful to the extended Vicars family for their generosity in sharing this beautiful family home with Cheltenham Girls High School.

View from the front of Taracoonee looking North and the view back, showing the boatshed and house

Upcoming Events

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<tr>
<td>15.03.12</td>
<td>Year 7 Badge Ceremony</td>
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<td>12.03.12 to 16.03.12</td>
<td>Spirit week - hosted by the SRC</td>
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The weather was sensational and the girls were able to have some “down time” to enjoy the river. They were also very good at making a fire and cooking the evening meal. Mud seems to be a recurring theme at school camps and retreats.....
Year 7 Camp - Morisset

Year 7 camp was held at Outdoor Education Experience at Morisset from the 22nd to the 24th February. Over the 3 days, the girls participated in a range of activities including; canoeing, archery, initiatives, climbing, high ropes and the famous mud challenge. Many staff and students got stuck into fun in the mud which has created many memorable photographs and laughs.

The various activities taught the girls about pushing themselves out of their comfort zone, teamwork and encouraging one another, self determination and the value of friendship.
On a miserable, wet and humid February 29th, the year 11 PDHPE campers, plus Miss Harriman and Miss Davie were set and ready for three days and two nights of camping at YMCA Yarramundi. This camp was for our unit Outdoor Recreation which we had just completed. When we arrived, we were greeted by Mark, also called Funky, who explained to us that we would be spending our first night outdoors, cooking our own food, and abseiling. The forty-one of us packed our food and essential items into an overnight bag and carried a day-bag filled with drink bottles, hats, sunscreen and Aerogard. We loaded our bags and pillows into a truck that would meet us at the overnight campsite, while the rest of us trekked up muddy and slippery roads.

An hour passed when we finally reached the offsite-campsite, stomachs grumbling. Luckily, bread rolls and orange juice met us when we arrived. There was silence as we devoured our food. Not long after, Funky taught us how to assemble our tents. In groups of four, we got to work, setting up our tents. Later, another instructor, Karina, nicknamed Coco, was introduced to us. She became group 2 (Meatballs) leader for Day Activities, while Funky was group 1’s leader. Group 1 took the abseiling course first, while Meatballs got to know each other with team initiative games, where communication and teamwork skills were vital. We also had to use our problem solving abilities to cross over 'raging rivers' and 'huge canyons' by using wooden planks and magic slippers. It was patience and encouragement that allowed for either team to win, with lots of laughter.

A couple of hours later, the two groups swapped. After a tiring descend to the cliff face where we were to perform our abseil down, nearly everybody was excited at the prospect of conquering what was to be one of the most daunting, yet thrilling, activities at camp. Moving down the cliff face was terrifying, but those who achieved it knew that it was worth it. To cook our meals, we were supplied with
small Trangia cooking stoves. Each person was in a group of four, and had brought along food ranging from two minute noodles to dinosaur-shaped pasta with a variety of meats, vegetables and sauces to give it some nutrition and taste.

By the time we headed to our tents to get some well needed rest, it was nearing 9pm. When we got up at 7am the next morning, the rain had thankfully stopped, but our clothes remained as drenched eating breakfast, Funky told us our eering. Using a map and a compass to find different coloured markers located all around one had regrouped back at the campsite. Coco taught us to disassemble the tents, and pack away the tents, and picked up any ground.

The trek back was another hour, and by the time we arrived back, we were tired, sore, starving and getting eaten alive by mosquitoes. Everyone rushed down to the dining hall to have some lunch. We ate lunch hurriedly, as we were looking forward to the next activity. Then, the most horrible news hit us. Camp was cut short, and everyone was to be evacuated that day. Due to the large amount of rain, the council had to release some water from Warragamba Dam. When this happened, it would flood the bridge, blocking off our only way of getting home. Begrudgingly, we headed back to our cabins and packed our belongings. Whilst waiting for the bus, Coco and Funky decided that we could squeeze in one more activity, rock climbing! To save time, we had six climbers going at once and nearly everyone reached the top.

Although it only lasted for one and a half days, camping at YMCA Yarramundi was tremendously fun, and worth it. On behalf Yr 11 PHDPE, we would like to thank both Miss Harriman and Miss Davie for coming on camp and putting up with us, and not to mention the hours of paperwork that went in to organise this camp. Also, we would like to thank Mark and Karina for showing us the ropes of outdoor camping. It was truly a fantastic experience. We’ve learnt a lot from you, particularly to never ever ask “What is in the brown paper bag?” Jeanne Ooi