



CAMPING OUT

Camps have long been part of the school curriculum. They are seen as providing an opportunity to measure leadership potential, a way of developing teamwork and often as an extension of what has been taught in a certain subject.

The first record of a school camp was in the 1977 school magazine. It was a week long, 'social' camp for both Years 11 and 12. The idea was to improve relationships between the various groups with some shopping, movies, dancing, sport and the odd meal of baked beans. I'm sure that meal brought students closer together. An unusual aspect of these early camps was that they covered weekends. Rarely would students or staff venture out into the wide blue yonder for a school excursion in the 21st century.

Maroon Dam was a popular venue for camping with it becoming the principal Year 9 Camp destination for many, many years. In 1981 a cohort enjoyed the Maroon wilderness commenting on long and dangerous hikes, midnight snores, the dig-a-loo and one student remarked that their legs were complaining ' I can carry you (rucksack) but not your fat friend!' One of the aspects of the camp that divided most was the CAMP OUT! There were complaints about powdered milk, haunted camp sites, torrential rain, green slime and more rain. The 1987 group actually seemed to enjoy themselves, even Mr Presneill's jokes, and murmured about a longer stay when it was time to go home.

In 1987, the first leadership camp was held for Year 11 students amongst fears of teachers 'prattling on about responsibilities'. The venue was Perseverance Dam and over the 3 days the students (and the teachers) were put through their paces as all discovered how they coped under often trying circumstances like having to wash up! In 1988 the students were tested with activities like aerobics (how 80s), bushwalking and pushing a golf ball along the ground with one's nose. They were also given an insight into leadership roles by the current crop of Prefects. Later that night 7 of the girls were found jammed into a broom closet clearly having a close conversation about those very demanding roles.

In 2017 the Year 7 students have just returned from a camp at the Gold Coast where surfing is usually on the agenda with not a tent in sight.