

Colo Bulletin

9 Colo 2

March 21, 2016



High Ropes Course

We arrived at Colo for the third and very last time with high expectations, with this one being the ‘challenge camp’. After a quick introduction we made our way to the top shed where Mr. Candy helped us with our harnesses and we were straight to the ropes course.

The boys were pumped with doing all new courses. Mr. Brackenreg took the “Crate Stack” where we had two boys working together to balance and stack crates one after the other. Mr. Bolding was in charge of the “Leap of Faith” where some boys really went out of their comfort zone. Many boys managed to hold on to the handle. Mr. Bryant was doing the “Giants Ladder” which involved two boys helping each other up each rung. Mr. Candy was helping the boys do the “Giant Swing” with many boys encouraging others to help them jump off the ledge.

Overall the session really helped with our individual, social and maturity challenges as the boys stepped out of their comfort zones. We really enjoyed our time and it was a great way to kick off of our shortened week. ☺☺☺

By Luke O’Shannessy

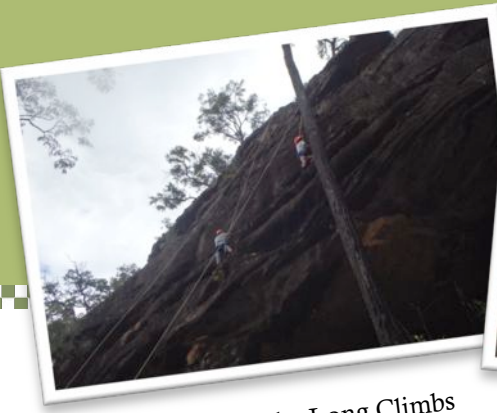


Top Right: Expedition group 1 pause for a photo

Top Left: Jack Ghattas on the Giants Ladder

Middle Left: A great example of team work on the “Crate Stack”

Bottom Left: Harrison Marr, Jack Duffy, Angus Houston and Luke O’Shannessy belaying on the Giant’s Ladder



Boys climbing at the Long Climbs



Jack Duffy and Angus Houston belaying



Jack Duffy climbing

Rock Climbing

The challenges and excitement of rock climbing!

After our small group of only seven finished up an exhausting session of mountain biking, we hit the cliffs for some rock climbing!

We started by receiving our harnesses alongside our helmets and then we began trekking up the knoll towards the big rock faces up ahead.

Some of us were nervous, some of us were excited, but we all knew we would give climbing everything we could a good go and to the best of our ability.

We arrived at our first climbing sight where there were two, twenty-meter climbs. Now the nerves kicked in.

We were all willing to give them a go and we watched as Angus Houston volunteered to demonstrate a climb while Mr. Candy walked us through how to belay and some strategies for climbing. Angus had finally found his home as an outstanding climber!

We all gave these two climbs a good crack and were prepared for

the next sight which we had been told was harder.

A three-minute walk away was the next sight of three climbs.

Again, Angus Houston was first to climb and finished Colo's hardest climb in roughly a minute!

There were also some incredible efforts by all the other boys finishing the climbs as well.

By Harrison Marr

Cooking on Fires

Angus Houston, Robert Matchet, Lachlan Saar and Angus Dermody prepare Colo

We arrived at the bottom of the hill to the fire pits. There were six groups, two groups of five and four groups of four. Some people went out to search for kindling and wood to get the night started. Others dug out the fire pit to the recommended size.

Some groups were ready to light the fire and get cooking, while others were still on the search for wood so that they could fuel their fire for the night. The menu tonight was carbonara, a Colo specialty, seasoned with the

finest twigs, bark and smoke. Everyone had their menus out and was making sure everything was perfect before diving into the exciting meal on the first night.

Later the fires died down, a few groups had toast, and then everyone left and headed up to the dining hall for some ice cream and free time.

The night was good fun and a good experience for everyone who participated. This is because it gave us



the chance to do something that we usually wouldn't do at home and teach us skills that may come in handy in the future.

By Jack Ghattas



Stopping for lunch



Edward Benjamin and Cullum Downs powering in a kayak



William Dyster and Lachlan Burgess with fine canoeing skills

Canoeing

Canoeing was very fun and challenging. We started off the day when it was raining, so we all had our wet weather gear on. The first leg was pretty easy and we reached the recess site after a short amount of time. Once we got there the weather started to clear up and it warmed up a bit.

On the leg to the lunch spot many people started to struggle as people had swapped from canoes to sit-on kayaks. I saw plenty of wildlife including water dragons, some fish, birds and also plenty of bugs.

When we arrived at the lunch spot we

decided how long we would stay and then started eating. After that we had a swim in the Colo River.

The final stretch was a lot harder than the others because the tide was against us and the wind was blowing us side to side. We had to take an emergency break to give our arms a rest and to regain some energy. When we finally got to the finish I think everyone felt that they had accomplished something and pushed themselves to the max.



The Colo flotilla heading downstream

Overall it was a great challenge that was difficult for most of the boys.

By Callum Downs.

Fishing

Apart from the traditional activities, we have had a huge amount of free time. During these periods we have been allowed to play games inside, footy on the grass or fish on the pontoon down at the lagoon.

One muggy afternoon we journeyed down to the pontoon, with no real expectation to catch anything at all. We were armed with state of the art fishing gear that consisted of a hand reel, an old hook, a tiny sinker and top of the line bait...bread!

As the evening sun dipped under the horizon our once faint chance of

victory felt far from reach, but to our amazement the world went quiet and our line went taunt as a ferocious beast zoomed from one side to the other.

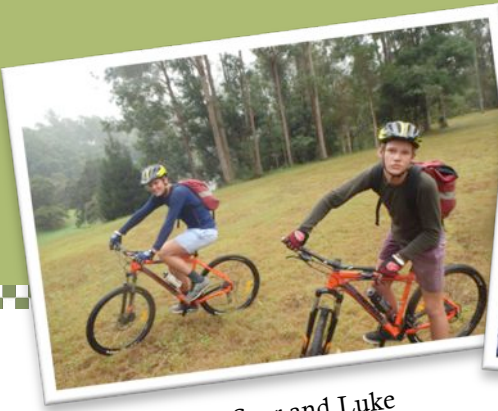
We struggled under the enormous weight as the line dug into our palms but after what seemed like a lifetime the beast fell and we claimed our victory.

By Curtis Fricot

Note: Zachary Lawler and I caught the biggest fish in the class, period.



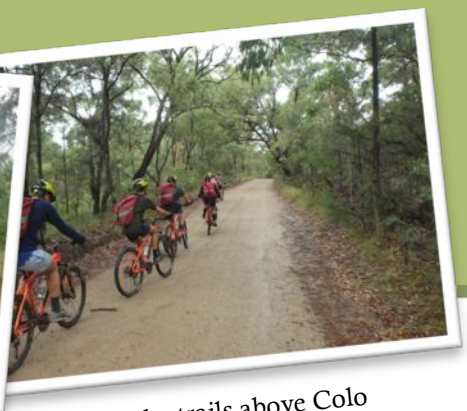
Angus Houston and Luke O'Shannessy with their catch



Lachlan Saar and Luke O'Shannessy



Thumbs up from the boys



On the trails above Colo

Mountain Biking

Mountain Biking through the National Park and COLO tracks !!

A small group consisting of seven boys and Mr. Candy all volunteered to complete Mountain Biking as an activity over canoeing. At the start of our day, we had a quick re-cap on how a bike works and how we can use the 'Attack Position' to provide us with a better biking experience.

After our lesson, we headed up to the top shed where we were given our gear and bikes. We started off with a few of the Colo tracks including Bunny Run, S Bend and the Skills Park. We all then decided

that we wanted to ride off the property and through the Wollomi National Park.

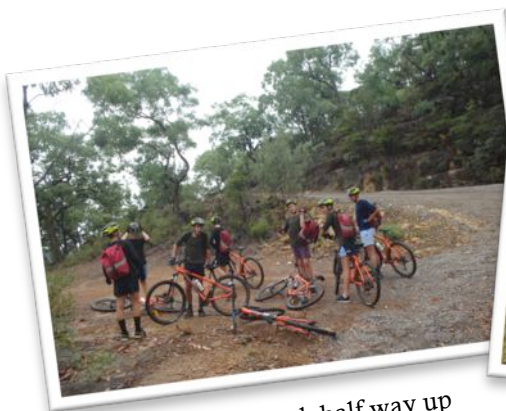
The first part of the ride was extremely challenging!! Having to ride around 1.8 kilometers up a very steep hill. It pushed us all to our limits but it was worth it once we reached the top of the knoll.

We had a small drink break then we rode on a four-wheel drive track. This took around 20 minutes to reach the end where Mr. Candy told us to turn around and ride back to the start of the track.

This led to the best part of the trip. We were going to go down the mountain the same way we went up! This was very fun as we were all going at full speed, enjoying the breeze and the view that the ride provided us with.

One thing that we all learnt from Mountain Biking was that we get out what we put in. Knowing that we rode all the way to the top and across the ridge of the knoll was a very good feeling that we all enjoyed.

By Emmanuel Rimagmos



Stopping for a break half way up the hill



Jack Ghattas in the Skills Park



Harrison Marr cornering



Charlie Lawler leads the charge across the Colo River



Some of the boys celebrating on top of Mt Colo



Continuing on through the Wollomi Wilderness

Overnight Campout

A rewarding hike through the Wollomi National Park

On our second last day at Colo for year 9 we set out on a hike to the campsite for the night. The hike was seven kilometers long with some very rough terrain and steep inclines and declines.

The class was divided up into two groups. The first group left half an hour earlier with Mr. Candy, than the second group left with Mr. Bolding and Mrs. Candy. The most important thing about this hike was that we got to lead the group at certain stages.

On the hike we had to find ten orienteering markers and stamp them onto our group's card. Two leaders at a time would lead the group to the next marker. They needed to use their compass and map to work out where we were and where we had to be.

To get past the first few markers we crossed the paddocks on the school property until we reached the Colo River. Here we had to take off our shoes and carry our packs to the other side. It felt good being in the water again. We then headed to the road, following it until we reached

a small track that would lead us up the spur to the top of the knoll. Once we had reached the top we stopped at a beautiful lookout to have lunch that we had packed earlier that day.

After about a forty-minute break we continued our walk. By the next marker we had reached the top of the knoll and were heading into a saddle. Our descent started at the top of the next knoll where we headed down and into a gully.

This was by far the steepest part of the journey with many people slipping on loose leaves and mossy rocks. In the gully there were so many massive spiders, forcing us to change our path.

Finally at the end of the gully was open grass and our campsite. After six hours of hiking we could finally take our packs off and get ready for the night.

Each camping group was assigned an area for their campsite. First, we set up our tents and then we assigned each other roles such as collecting firewood, digging the fire

pit and collecting water. Once this was done we could start boiling water and cooking pasta for our dinner. For desert we roasted mars bars on toast. It was pretty nice.

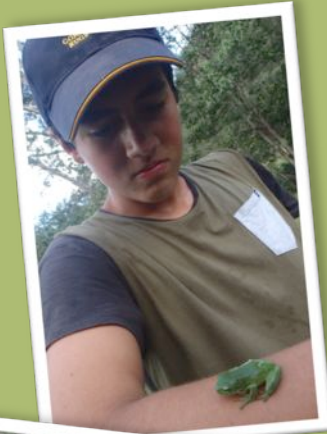
In the morning we woke up at around seven and started packing up. Once everyone was ready we filled in the fire pit and made breakfast. Our group forgot to pack the peanut butter and jam so we had to have milo sandwiches. It was very interesting.

After this, all the groups met with the teachers for a reflection on the campout. We all learned something from this experience such as how to light a fire or how to work as a team, which will be very rewarding in the future. This was by far my favorite part of the camp.

By Nicholas Rath

What the Students of 9 Colo 2 said about their experiences at camp

At the end of each camp the students reflect on their experiences at camp in a brief written review. Here are some of their comments:



Above Left: Angus Houston made a friend

Bottom Left: Harry Skinner contemplates his next move, while the boys look on.

'I have made new friends and better friends with others'

'Stay positive and think about what you say before you say it'

'I really enjoyed the overnight campout as we had so much freedom'

'Everyone impressed me as when something went wrong, no one, pointed the finger, they just accepted it and moved on'

'We functioned very well as a group because we understood that if we wanted things to work we needed to trust each other and use teamwork'

'I was very supportive to all other students and felt proud when they pushed themselves to the max'

'It was challenging to make 'above the line' choices this week, especially as I got more tired during the walk. An example of this was trying to work as a team at the campout'

'I made some 'below the line' choices by blaming others. I could change these to 'above the line' choices by accepting the consequences of my actions'

'On the 'Leap of Faith' I didn't think I would jump but I pushed myself and made the jump surprising myself'

'The expedition was pretty good as we all showed a lot of teamwork and positivity'

'The most challenging part was the canoeing which I dealt with by having a positive outlook'

'It was easy at the start of the day to be positive and encouraging but it got harder as the day went on'

'I have become a lot closer to my friends and other people in my class'

'I think I was great towards others. I was proud of myself when I helped someone keep going higher on the 'Crate Stack''

'The walking was pretty good and when our group got to the campsite it was easy because we all communicated and

cooperated'

'I loved the overnight expedition. Our group worked well while having fun. We also found a green frog'

'I think our group went really well because we were always positive and considerate of other boys'

'The hike was the best because it was just us leading the way'

'I believe I showed kindness to those who needed it especially in during the ropes course'



Heading through the forest