

Zach

The first three days of camp were at Emu Gully. They were great because it was outdoor and challenging. Some activities were hard for others and easy for some. The best activity was the night walk because there was a big slide, we also got to swing on a rope across a creek. I learnt about the ANZAC's, leadership, mateship, sacrifice, perseverance and courage. On the fourth day we went to Dreamworld; for me the rides were disappointing as they weren't thrilling enough.

However, I will remember this camp for years.

Taralee

The development of one's character is measured in the way we handle pressure and difficult circumstances, and let me just say for those who weren't there, Emu Gully was no walk in the park. Courage, Mateship, Perseverance and Sacrifice are the core character values displayed by the ANZAC's and without these there was no way we would have made it. The bravery shown by some on this camp was commendable to say the least, and I'm sure the rest of the campers would agree with me in saying that the thing we will remember the most from this camp won't be the Dreamworld or the paintball, but rather the fears we faced, the friends we made, the lessons we learnt, and the discoveries we made about ourselves. "Attitude not ability, determines destiny".

Natalie

We all began the camp with little self-confidence, communication, problem-solving and teamwork skills. Our main goal was to have a good knowledge of what leadership is – that's why we chose to go to Emu Gully Adventure Education Centre. We went to gain leadership skills, to get to know each other more and to find out more about our selves. We also went to gain more respect for each other and face our fears.

Everyone thought that camp would be fun – yes it was fun, but not the fun everyone was thinking of. Over the three days the activities started off easy and then gradually got a lot harder. Some of the activities we did were night walk, tunnels, charge, paintball, buggies, and we walked a makeshift Kokoda track.

Everyone put their all into the activities – no one gave up! Do you know who helped us make it through the activities? Our teams; our group. We supported each other no matter what. We all put our ideas together to see which one would work. We encouraged each other to go over the finish line. If you fell down, we helped you get back up again; if you were scared or terrified, we were all there for you, to help you through it. We also learnt more about the ANZAC's and our group leaders, Laury and Sham, told us about their stories and what happened. I think everyone felt their pain and sadness; I know I did.

The Emu Gully staff had a mirror which said "Mateship, Courage, Perseverance and Sacrifice". At the end of our camp, we looked at our reflection and saw how much we had changed and bonded.

I can say that everyone deserves a round of applause because everyone gained these skills and knowledge and has successfully become more of a leader.

Lynlee

Year 11 leadership camp will be burned into our minds for life! Helping and supporting each other through the tough and fun times has never been sooo rewarding!

The activities at Emu Gully were a blast! We all enjoyed ourselves immensely! Paintball, the night trek and the thick muddy 'Kokoda track' were the highlights. We all came out with some fantastic stories and pretty sweet injuries...definitely ones to show off to our parents! I'm sure that the 46 of us all learnt something valuable about team work, courage, mateship, sacrifice, encouragement and perseverance which we can apply to our daily school lives. And although the activities were great, it was the people we shared them with that truly made them enjoyable!

Thank you to our four devoted teachers, Mr McGrath, Mrs Sinnamon, Miss Wood and Mr Delley for sharing this amazing journey with us as we grew in friendship and leadership together over this week.

Kurt

The twist of a key and the roar of an engine - the start to our year 11 leadership camp and eight hour drive down to Toowoomba. The drive was filled with long conversations on nothing in particular and Wayman, confined to a tight space, wriggling and moving continually. Once we arrived at Emu Gully we got straight into activities. We started by carrying our 'wounded' friends to a medical centre where they got straight back up and ran away just to get wounded again.

Later we broke into two teams, Bravo and the superior Alpha. The next challenge was one of cooperation and thinking outside our regular 'thought boxes'. We had to get our team through a hoop as fast as possible while we were linked together! After other numerous tasks and challenges, we had to cross a plank less than a foot wide with a partner trying to go in the opposite direction at the same time. Although challenging, it was not the hardest thing we would do that hour.

The group lined up in front of an opening in the ground with the words 'feet first' displayed next to it; always an assuring gesture. One by one we descended into the tunnel before us. It wasn't that dark but it was cramped and wet, but moving through the tunnel was not the hard part. About halfway through the tunnel was a vertical climb to get out. It was over head height by a good distance so one person had to lift another for them to get out. Then after escaping that tunnel we went head first into another. After crawling into and climbing out of a water tank at the end of the tunnel that particular challenge was finally over.

That night we trekked through the bush carrying a person on a stretcher and a metal plank. We climbed through thick mud to get up and down hills, crossed flowing water using the plank and came across many other obstacles in our pitch black, several hour hike. The next morning we arose to face a challenge we had all been looking forward to; a fifty metre, neck deep mud track; our own personal Kokoda Trail. After we finished our Kokoda Trail we got into the more adrenaline fuelled games. We tore up a track in twister buggies (Alexa did most of the tearing!), then we got into paintball. That short session left us all with our share of bruises, some more than others. After a quick clean up, our all too short time at Emu Gully was over.

The next day we ventured to Dreamworld where the time was filled with roller coasters, giant drops, skirmish and racing at Bathurst. That night we all got up to some kind of activity whether it was running laps, working out in the gym, playing footy or volleyball or just participating in a game of cards. The early start the next morning signalled the end of our Year 11 leadership camp and the start of another arduous bus trip home.