

# Rise And Shine

Without warning Mr Wilson (our school principal) came into our tent, singing strange tunes. Awkward really. Please don't go onto Australia's got Talent, I thought to myself. Surprisingly Jacqui, Alannah, Jess and I had a fabulous sleep. We were all so excited to see what we were up to for the day!

Wet and soggy was how it felt. A cow's mouth. It felt kind of nice like sand paper (I know its a weird felling but I enjoyed it!). It was super interesting when the cows got milked. Joke time, why did the cow go across the ocean? To get to the Udder side! Haha

There was a girl in the milking station who would stand and attach the milk suckers to the utters (I'm a poet and didn't know it!). Weird but interesting job. Trust me I will never end up doing it for a living!

Teamwork was the theme of camp. My finger is still sore from this particular task! It was terribly hard. It was quite challenging, but fun to work together and see what people do in group activities. We did an activity where we had 2 planks of wood and we had to get 12 people over it. Sound easy? It's not. I was frustrated, annoyed and angry at times.

What did I learn from Camp Toonalook? I learnt a lot of things including: appreciation of beauty and the environment, teamwork and leadership. And also, that Mr Wilson's voice isn't so bad after all!

By Matilda

# What A Brilliant Night

Walking. In the glistening night  
Listening. So we don't get a fright  
Seeing. What a beautiful sight  
Believing. What a brilliant night

In the darkness of Toona, we walked  
Thinking of all of our interesting thoughts  
As we strolled along the pier, quietly  
We could feel the boats were near, silently

Dawdling towards our cosy tents  
Aimlessly roaming, like the walking dead  
Soon we walked dazedly into our tents  
And snuggled inside of our soft and warm beds

Without a doubt the morning came  
With the sun and its light  
And when we awoke we thought to ourselves  
What a brilliant night

By Ethan

# Challenge Excepted

I heard this strange noise. Followed by people shouting. It was the sound of a gong. Everyone ran to the table. I knew then that would be the start of a very fun camp. I wasn't wrong. We were at Camp Toonalook on the Gippsland Lakes. Camp Toonalook is surrounded by a lot of trees, bushes and stones, let me just say if you walk outside with bare feet it really hurts.

At camp we did a lot of fun things but my two favourites were bike riding and kayaking. Have you ever heard a person say Koalas sleep a lot because they get drunk on gum leaves? Well that is not true. Koalas sleep a lot because they need a lot of energy to digest their toxic, fibrous, low-nutrition diet. Sleeping is the way Koalas conserve energy. As one of our camp challenges we went bike riding around Raymond Island. Fact, we saw 24 Koalas in the wild. Fuzzy, Plump, Round.

That same day we went fishing which was fun my but fishing line got stuck on a muscle and snapped. There were no fish for dinner that night! Fortunately, I'm vegetarian.

Kayaking, that was the best . The challenge was to try to get the drink bottle out of a kayak. Sounds easy but it's harder than you think. We could hear the sound of the other teams yelling. This made us feel nervous. Reflecting back now, we realise it was only a game.

That night, after a medium spicy curry, it was time for the shoe game. Who would think a game involving someone's smelly old runner could entertain 25 eleven year olds for 2 hours. Crazy. I don't think I've ever laughed so hard in my life. It was the best game ever. I went to bed afterwards feeling tired but wanting more, it felt strange.

**Camp Toonalook** was definitely a camp I will always remember. It challenged me to do things that I haven't done before. At first I didn't want to try things, like the scavenger hunt, but once I started I wanted to do more.

By Alannah



# The Drink Bottle battle



All I had to do was paddle, grab and go. I was in a kayak with Arielle. Adam (our instructor) had his favourite drink bottle at hand and our aim was to try and kayak to get the bottle of water. We were on the Gippsland Lakes at Camp Toonalook.

Interestingly, a thought crossed my mind as we were told it was the kayaking challenge today. Did you know that the world record for the highest waterfall drop in a kayak is 189 feet? Luckily I don't think that would ever happen on Lake Victoria, it is as calm and flat as a squashed sandwich. The kayak drink bottle battle quickly arrived. We were paddling as fast as we could to grab the drink bottle, the aim was to grab it right out of Adam's tightly gripped hands. Amazingly we did it! His face was shocked. I was proud. I quickly threw about half of the water onto his face (to wipe away his shocked look, ha!). I paddled away quickly, just in case he scooped up some water and threw it at me. As soon as he said we had to go to put our kayaks back I dunked my head in to the water. Now all I had to do was put down the paddle, drop the drink bottle and **GO!**

I really enjoyed Camp Toonalook. I thought I was going to be really challenged with the bike riding but I actually found it pretty easy. The thing that I did find challenging was the photo rally (even though my team won). I learnt a lot about team work and creative thinking on camp. I now know what to expect on adventure camps in the future.

Chloe

# The Tipping Kayak

Wet, soggy, damp, Camp Toona was not what I expected. As the mosquitos attached themselves to my legs the kayak was tipping, turning, swaying. This is officially the best camp ever!

My stomach felt like it had been flipped. Mr Wilson, our school principal, reported in the morning the lake was calm, he was wrong! Waves tumbled and smashed, Sabienne and I struggled to turn the kayak. The Bok-choy Fighters were screaming, chanting and singing. We turned the kayak around to Adam, so close now! The other team was only just getting in the water. I'm excited. I start to paddle with all my might.

We got out of the kayak, but the other team was close behind. I don't understand? They were so far behind but we were running to the shed. We pulled the kayak out, it was heavy. Even Aron said he had never seen a kayak move so fast on land! I pushed my jacket in the freezing water and fled to the tree to complete the challenge with my teammates.

So why is Toona the best camp ever? It's different to every other camp. Tents for one thing. Mine was positioned at the very back of the property. Scary but fun. I cannot wait for the year 6 camp expo in 2018.

By Jessi

# Intruders in the night

They were here, on a private property, undetected. My heart sank as Cathy, our Chinese teacher, told us she had spotted a father, a daughter and a son the night before, near the boat shed. We were on our year 5 camp, on the Gippsland Lakes. The outcome was unknown.

Someone had intruded one of the girls cabins and no-one knew who. No one confessed. Someone else also heard heavy breathing outside the boys toilets. Mysteriously, my tent's bags had been left scattered at the cabin veranda. My friends were scared out of their minds, and the camp instructors wouldn't listen. "Pennywise the dancing clown won't be there, Tom." I whispered to reassure myself. Pennywise wasn't there, but much worse things awaited me.

I mean call me anti climactic, but we established that there was no creepy family, but a nearby caretaker and his family. In case you were wondering, the worse thing that happened was the other cabin flashed torches into my face. Camp Toonalook is not THAT scary. But what it is, is fun. Highlights include: For the first time in my life I went fishing, and then I went on a speedboat for the first time in my life too. Kayaking was certainly a huge highlight, and the dairy farm was very interesting, The Toona Challenge was a mini triathlon that tested the endurance and skills of all participants. I felt disappointed at the outcome as my teams best wasn't enough on the day.

With the ups and downs, I took it in my stride and made the most of Camp Toonalook. I wonder if any nearby camping groups have seen this elusive man, with his son and daughter? When year 6 camp comes knocking, the answer will be as clear as mud.

Tom