



Year 8 Camp 2008

Beginning on 22 June, the Yr8 camp was, to say the least, quite a memorable experience. We all have our opinions of camp and whether we look upon them as positive moments in the school calendar or negative ones, we as students are open to them and I'm sure that I speak on behalf of the majority of Year 8 when I say this year's camp was quite an experience.

The bus trip was a challenging four hours. Upon arrival, my group, accompanied by our teacher representative Mr White and instructor Paul, were taken directly to the shore of the lake where before us lay a long line of two-man canoes. At the conclusion of the moaning and groaning, the arduous three kilometer canoeing trip only strengthened my hopes that this was going to be an unforgettable camp.

More of the activities that lay ahead contributed to this feeling. It made me realise something significant; the activities organised by Knox and Land's Edge showed me that much could be accomplished with the most powerful weapon at my disposal: focus and determination. We fought the activities head on – as others did – and we ultimately enjoyed the process. Never would we have imagined that a long canoeing trip would be both achievable and somewhat satisfying, as well. Nor would we have thought that an arduous 12 kilometer hike would quickly become the highlight of the camp, or that surfing amongst the icy swells of the beach would open the doors to an environment previously unexplored. The activities were limited (as was the food) but full to capacity with satisfaction, despite the required effort. Stubbing at each activity with a strong sense of mind was mandatory to uncover the best of the camp, but it was a rewarding process. Having said this, sleeping for three out of the four bitterly cold nights in a pitched tent was difficult, but having the enjoyment of recreating with others in a cabin room for a night was a major highlight.

To all Yr8 2009, should you be fortunate enough to experience the same opportunity, you really have something to look forward too. I am able to enlighten everyone that enduring challenges with fellow school mates can bring those who would not normally associate closer together. On top of this, the instructors were excellent and it makes you feel as though anything is achievable. Camp was a golden experience!

Oliver Hartnell (Yr8)