66 excited students boarded two buses at 9am from the hall. They were bright-eyed, chirpy, enthusiastic and ready to rock and roll. We arrived shortly after 11am to explore our new home for the next three days. Cabin groups unpacked and got ready for lunch. The food was amazing; tasty, hot and just like home. We all got into our activities groups and headed off to our designated areas. Over the next three days students would get up at 5.30am for a magical walk along the beach, watching the sun rise and complete various activities.

The “Alpine Rescue” challenge called for teams to transport “magical water” from one end of the obstacle course to the other with the winning team having the most water by the end. Sounds easy doesn’t it, but the students had to travel over the “voids of the Alpine mountains” (they were not allowed to touch the soft fall on the ground or they had to pour out half their “magical water” from their cup), fly on a flying fox, transport two planks to help them over crevasses and crawl through tunnels. Each team showed great problem solving, communication and team skills. Well done!

“Team Challenge” consisted of numerous team games. Students would play the game then reassess the “rules” and change them to make the game fairer or clearer. Some games they weren’t allowed to speak until the leader told us to. He commented that we were the only group that didn’t talk when we were allowed to and upon asking the students why they stayed silent they responded
with “when you are quite the person can concentrate and are not distracted by people shouting at them”. He was very impressed.

“Body Boarding” was enjoyed by all, teachers and students alike. We had a quick lesson on the grass then got to practise our new skills in the surf. Some students were afraid they would “fail” and were very surprised when they got into the water and found how skilled they were in the surf. I had a chat to my group about the word “fail” and asked them to change their thinking to “challenging” not “fail”. Some students commented later that changing their thinking changed their behaviour as well. Good on you guys!

“Catapult” saw the students construct a catapult from limited resources. They then had to shoot balls from their catapults at a target. Points were given if you hit your target and if your team member caught it on the full. Mr Mitchell and I were lucky that we were not the targets. I heard that other teachers were nominated by the students as targets!

“High Ropes” was a test of strength, agility and trust. Your team mates took up the slack while you were climbing and then slowly let you down when you were ready. It was fantastic to see the amazing trust and communication going on between team members, some of which had never met before the camp.
“Giant Swing” saw many students, and teachers, test their fear of heights. Your harness was connected to the giant swing by two carabina clips and the rest of your team hoisted you up 20 metres into the air. The view was amazing, for those able to actually open their eyes and look around. I did not see the view, I was hard pressed breathing let alone taking in the sights! The most challenging part was having to release yourself. Credit to all the Legends (my activity group) as each and every one of us went on the swing and went to the top. Well done to every student in each group for having a go as this was a very challenging activity and needed the support and encouragement of each team member.

The “Pool Games” were very competitive but also very fun. The pool was heated which made swimming very comfortable BUT those lovely EKKA westerly winds were vicious whenever your body rose above the water’s surface. Brrrrrrrr!

The evening performances by the students and teachers were very entertaining to say the least. Who knew that Sydney was a dog who gave us lemonade? Who knew that Emma and Alex could sing so beautifully? And who knew that the teachers were such badly behaved, disobedient students????? Poor Mr Pavitt.

At 1pm on Friday we had cabins spotless, luggage packed and still had 66 students! The students re-boarded the same two buses with weary eyes, tired bodies and wonderful memories that will stay with them for years to come. The trip home was much quieter than the trip there, some students even having a sleep. On behalf of all the teachers I would like to congratulate the students on their amazing behaviour, great attitudes and their willingness to give everything a go. Well done everyone!

Written by Mrs Holly Hough