

JANYARY 2015 FALLS CREEK CAMP

Out usual large group of young walkers (and not so young!) turned up at Falls Creek on Sunday 28th December 2014, ready to go with either 1 or 2 weeks of training and learning and fun. The camp team read as follows:

Staff : Simon, Alison and Elliot Baker, Terry and Darlene Swan, Graham and Sabrian George, Jim Leppik and Tim Erickson

Athletes: Adam Garganis (VIC), Alana Barber (NZ), Ally Durr (ACT), Anna Cross (SA), Brad Simpson (VIC), Courtney Rusk (NZ), Danny Hawksworth (VIC), Hayley George (VIC), Heather Lewis (UK). Jared Free (NZ), Jasmine Dighton (NSW), Jayde Hill (NSW), Jonathon Lord (NZ), Kirsty Klein (NSW), Kyle Swan (VIC), Lucas Taylor (VIC), Morgan Mitchell (VIC), Ross Darlow (VIC), Samantha Parkinson (NZ), Steph George (VIC) and Zoe Hunt (ACT)

The first few days were spent gradually building up the training sessions and adjusting to the 1600m altitude. And just to challenge us all, the weather was as cold as it gets for training – air temperature 4C and a bitter strong wind) but thank goodness the weather did improve as the camp proceeded.

Camp chef Sabby George kept us suitably satiated with her fantastic evening fare and entertainment engagement manager Brad Simpson had us up and about with his many camp activities. We also had an unexpected burst of excitement early in the camp, having to vacate the building after the fire alarm went off just before 11pm. It turned out to be a false alarm but it meant a slightly later night than normal for us.

Some walkers went home after week one and some joined us for week two so that our overall numbers stayed pretty much the same – 25 in the first week and 24 in the second week. The second week saw us schedule a solid 4 day block of walking, with everyone challenging themselves with big personal loads and great performances. Highlights during our second week included

- Fires started by lightning and burning within a few kilometres of the village – but quickly put out by the CFA
- More great training
- Our own version of The Amazing Race, coordinated by Sabby and Brad and held in conjunction with the Geelong runners.
- Heavy rain in our last couple of days – but nothing stops training
- Dinner at the Last Hoot restaurant on our last night



Alana, Jayde and Steph out for a morning walk



Kirsty leads the group



The walkers are excited to be heading off training



Brrr..why is it always cold in the reservoir



Bushwalk day



Training is such hard work!



Ahhh . dinner at last



Left: Like father, like son



Right: Ross, Lucas, Anna, Jared and Samantha