

Canyoning Capers

Wolgan View (Dry) and River Caves Canyon - 22 Scouts and 12 Leaders and Scouts from all over the Region joined together on a cold and overcast Sunday at the beginning of March to get a taste of canyoning. Lots of rain during the week made the trip out



along the Glow Worm Tunnel road a bit slippery. There were quite a lot of kangaroos along the track especially one big male that stood around 5-6 foot high!! After donning our helmets and heading down to the lovely little campsite we assembled for our briefing and to spend a little time remembering "Mighty" Rick Jamieson. Lachlan Hibbard (1st Hazelbrook) led us off along the trail through the moss covered pagodas and the increasingly dense rain forest into the depths of the aptly named Dry Canyon. Even after all the recent rain in the area, the floor of the canyon was only just moist. As a first canyon experience this is perfect, as the walking is easy and the walls close

in gradually until you are surrounded by high moss covered walls up to 30m high on both sides. The quality of the canyon is really quite high and really made an impression on the scouts. When asked what they thought of the canyon one young lady, Krystal Neely (1st St Marys) said – **"Amazing... this is so much better than sitting in front of my computer playing games"**. Wow!!!

Morning tea was had at the end of the tunnel whilst a few scouts and leaders went off to find the nearby geocache and get a fabulous view of the Wolgan Valley. Everyone got a second taste of the canyon as it needs to be reversed, and after a leisurely walk back we stopped for lunch at the campsite before making the journey to River Caves Canyon



After finding the normal road in cut by high water, we navigated our way around to Natural Bridge through lots of deep puddles. The walk into the start of River Caves Canyon was a bit a trudge as the track is very overgrown and very wet, which meant we arrived at the canyon entrance already somewhat sodden – little did we know how much more sodden we would become. The real fun started here as the canyon is deep and dark and quite constricted, it is also required creek walking and lots of scrambling. The recent rain had also raised the water level a little so the normal knee high water was up to most people's waist in a number of the pools. There were lots of squeals and yells about cold water and getting really wet, but there also lots of smiling faces emerging from each section of the canyon. It was also great watching many of the senior scouts waiting and assisting the younger ones through some of the trickier obstacles such as scrambles up mini waterfalls. The canyon is really quite lovely as it comprises of a long series of caves and slots cut through the sandstone,



resulting in some good quality and challenging sections. The exit involved a scramble up a steep and mossy gulley and then a pleasant walk

along the ridge back to the cars. River Caves Canyon certainly provided everyone with a "step up" in canyoning difficulty but all the scouts did a fantastic job, and appeared that they really enjoy their day.



Many thanks to all the leaders and parents who volunteered their time and

vehicles and helped to make the day a real success.

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