

ICEP Australia 2011



Daily Report

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DAILY REPORT

July 8, 2011

The leaders greeted the campers at the Chimney barn at 10 am. After heading over to Becket to settle into Gibson Hall the group started the rounds of icebreakers and name games. After lunch where the whole camp yelled the Aussie cheer to welcome us, the group repacked for the trip and then had a swim test before dinner. After dinner everyone worked together through some low rope challenges and then had cabin chat before an early bed time at 9:30.

July 9, 2011

The group woke up for breakfast at 8:15 and put together a pack lunch. Afterwards the group gathered the luggage for the trip and played games until 11:30 when they met the bus at Moose Field. The bus ride took four and a half hours to get the group to JFK where there was plenty of time to get through customs and to the gate. After two long flights with a layover in Los Angeles the group finally landed in Sydney!

July 10, 2011

This day did not exist because of the time change.

July 11, 2011

The group landed in Sydney at 7:40 am and met Corina, our program partner at the gate. The group took a quick train ride into the city to catch a bus to Camp Yarramundi. The bus was picking up other campers as well so it was a great way to meet some of the kids that would be spending the week at camp. The bus pulled into camp around 11 and the group showered and got ready for lunch. After lunch the ICEP group met the Australian campers and instructors that would join them for the rest of the week. The whole group decided on the team name the “Ameristralicans” and then jumped right in to camp activities. The group tried rock climbing and then after dinner, the Flying Fox. The Flying Fox was a zip line, that when done in the dark, is sure to wake anyone up from being jetlagged. After the zip line, with most of the group half asleep, everyone went straight to bed.

July 12, 2011

Woke up for breakfast at 7:45 and then packed for a 10K hike and camping expedition. The group hiked through the Blue Mountains, stopping at a beautiful lookout for lunch. After arriving at the campsite, everyone set up tents and collected firewood. The group enjoyed dinner around the campfire and spent the rest of the night playing games and teaching the Australians different camp songs and traditions. Everyone was exhausted from the hike and still being jetlagged and went to bed around 9:30.

July 13, 2011

The group slowly started waking up around 7:30 and had breakfast around the campfire. The Australian campers then taught the Americans how to use GPS devices for an orienteering game like geocaching where you had to find different boxes at specific locations. After the orienteering activity the group walked back to the camp for quick showers and then lunch. After lunch the group moved on to the “vertical playpen”, a structure that was similar to the activities on the Alpine tower at Chimney. The group was pretty tired after all of the excitement so the Americans

taught Apples to Apples and Bananagrams to all of the Australian campers. After dinner everyone watched The Man From Snowy River, a classic Australian film and then had cabin chat. After cabin chat everyone headed to bed around 10.

July 14, 2011

Woke up for breakfast at 7:45 for a busy day ahead. After breakfast the group went over to the high ropes course, which was different from the BCCYMCA course but still had the same challenges of height and endurance. The group recovered from the high ropes over morning tea and then headed over to the giant swing. Almost everyone took a turn on the giant swing and then it was time for lunch. During lunch everyone was getting pumped for the color wars! Before the wars the Ameristralicans were in charge of decorating the dining hall for the disco. The group was assigned green and spent a good amount of time painting their body, hair and clothing green. After everyone was fully prepared for war and had a cheer ready, they headed to the field to meet the rest of the groups. The color wars started with a cheer competition, then a couple intense games of zorb soccer, and then ended with some epic tug o' wars. Needless to say, the green team dominated. After the color wars the group showered and got ready for the disco. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the disco, exchanging dance moves with the Australians. After the disco was the last cabin chat with the whole Ameristralican group and then a quick pep talk for homestays the next day. Everyone was in bed by 10.

July 15, 2011

Everyone woke up for a 7:45 breakfast, the last at Camp Yarramundi. After breakfast everyone packed for their homestays and went in groups into town to exchange money and buy some necessities. After everyone was packed and ready the camp had an outdoor cookout lunch. At lunch the group presented BCCYMCA presents to Tom, Corina, and BJ as thanks for letting us stay at Camp Yarramundi. After lunch everyone brought their bags up to the front of camp and either got on a bus to their homestays or got picked up by their families. The last campers were picked up around 5 except for three boys who spent an extra night at camp and were picked up the next day at 4 after sleeping in, watching movies, and some reading.

July 16, 2011

Homestays

July 17, 2011

Homestays

July 18, 2011

Homestays where campers went to school with their homestay siblings.

July 19, 2011

Homestays where campers went to school with their homestay siblings.

July 20, 2011

Homestays where campers went to school with their homestay siblings.

July 21, 2011

Homestays where campers went to school with their homestay siblings.

July 22, 2011

Homestays where campers went to school with their homestay siblings.

July 23, 2011

Today the group finally all met up together as the homestays came to an end. ICEP Australia was finally reunited by around 9:30 at the NCIE, where everyone got settled and spent some time catching up with one another. By around 11 the group took the train down to the Circular Quay and started a day full of sight seeing. Everyone ate lunch at Sydney Harbor, over looking the Harbor Bridge and the Opera House. After lunch the group had about an hour to explore The Rocks, the oldest section of Sydney where Australian settlements all began. After that everyone walked to the Harbor Bridge and had a great view back at the city. Then the group took a ferry to Darling Harbor, and walked to the Power House Museum. The group left the museum when it closed at 5 PM and went quickly to a shopping center so people could get some more toiletries and other various necessities. Finally after a long day out, everyone made it back to NCIE for a beef stew dinner. Following dinner some people watched the Australia v. South Africa rugby match, while most watched a movie before ending the night with cabin chat.

July 24, 2011

Today ICEP Australia woke up and had a breakfast at 8. Then the group got ready and went out for a beach day. Everyone travelled to Bronte Beach and enjoyed watching the huge surf of the Pacific Ocean crash against the shore. The group then went on an hour-long walk up the rocky coast to Bondi Beach, where everyone had some free time to explore a weekend market, walk on the beach and take in the sights and sounds. Everyone then had some time to do some laundry and get totally packed up for the early departure for the train to Broken Hill tomorrow morning. After dinner at NCIE was a walk/ferry ride around Sydney to get a view of the city at night. The group finished the night with a cabin chat and then went to bed pretty early to prepare for a big upcoming travel day.

July 25, 2011

ICEP Australia woke up at 5:30 in the morning to get to the train station with plenty of time to spare. The train departed from Sydney at 6:20 AM. It was cool to see the passing landscape change from mountains, to bush and desert. Everyone saw lots of wildlife from the train like kangaroos, wallabies, emus, and lots of cows and sheep. The group finally made it to Broken Hill around 7:40 or so and were met by Wendy and Des, the owners of Klingy's Place, the accommodation for the week. Everyone was pleasantly surprised by how cool of a place it was; it was an old pub from the 1800's turned into a hostel of sorts. The group played some pool, cards and hung out by a fire before having cabin chat and calling it a night.

July 26, 2011

During the morning ICEP Australia helped out at the local Meals on Wheels. The leaders split the group up into two groups. Team Meals took the early shift and got into the kitchen at 7:30 to help prepare the meal. They helped cut vegetables for a beef stew, prepared a pea soup and made a pastry dessert. Team Wheels came into the center at 10:30 to help delivery the meals to the over 30 clients in Broken Hills. After that everyone met back up at Klingy's Place and made

themselves a lunch of kangaroo sausages with peppers, onions, mash potatoes and scrambled eggs. Following lunch the group all went to the grocery store so that everyone could get the materials for dinners for the next week. The campers were paired up into groups of two and took control of what meals the group would have each day. Following the return to Klingy's Place some of the group went to the local YMCA to play some soccer and basketball, while others stayed behind to play some pool and scatagories. Everyone had a delicious coconut curry chicken dinner prepared by the first cooks of the day and then finished off the night with cabin chat.

July 27, 2011

This morning the meals and wheels team switched, so the group that got to sleep in the day before had to get up early to help prepare the meals at 7:30. They helped make a roast and were once again really helpful in the kitchen. After the wheels group finished up delivering the meals to the clients around Broken Hill, everyone quickly made themselves some sandwiches and headed over to Life Line, a local second hand store whose proceeds are reinvested back into the community, specifically a 24 hour call line for those in need of someone to talk to. The group sorted toys for them, throwing away what was broken and dividing the rest up into different categories. Although the group made a lot of progress by closing time, at 3:00, there were still heaps of toys to sort through in the days to come. After leaving Life Line, the group went to a near by park and took some time to work on leadership paperwork and then had some time to explore around the town before a dinner of pasta, peas and chicken in a cheese sauce with some kangaroo kabob appetizers. ICEP Australia finished off the night by watching an Australian comedy that Corina picked out and then had an early chat because everyone was exhausted.

July 28, 2011

Half of ICEP Australia woke up early this morning to once again help out preparing the food for Meals on Wheels. By 9:30 the entire group met back up together at Life Line where everyone continued organizing toys. There was a great Aussie BBQ for lunch provided to the group as a thank you from the Life Line folks and then finished the huge task of organizing the toys by 3:00. The kids were also really excited to hear that Trevor, the Life Line manager had given ICEP a shout out on the public radio, calling the group a "Mob of helpful students." The group had a bit of a siesta period back at Klingy's Place and then was off to an Aussie Rules Football training session. ICEP Australia learned the rules of the game and were taught some basic skills and techniques of the game. Everyone had good fun practicing and having our own, unorganized and frantic scrimmage. After the training session there was a sausage sizzle with the club that the group joined in with for the practice. It had been a long day and the group hung around Klingy's place and took it easy until the group had chat and then went off to bed.

July 29, 2011

Once again half of ICEP Australia woke up early to help out at Meals on Wheels. Unfortunately they weren't needed, so they went to Life Line and sorted clothes instead. The other half of the group went to St. Vincent's a local soup kitchen. They helped prepare the meal and serve those that came. They really enjoyed interacting with some of the old men who had plenty of stories to share about Broken Hill. The groups reunited again around 1:00 and had some time to shop around at Life Line, where there were tons of thrift store gems to be found. At 2:00 the group went to a local lawn bowling club, where we were given a proper lesson and then played each

other until around 5:00. Then the group headed back to the accommodation where everyone had dinner and then watched a powerful Australian movie titled Samson and Delilah that focused on the hardships of life for aboriginal youth. After the movie the group had chat and went to sleep.

July 30, 2011

This morning ICEP Australia had a much-needed sleep in until around 9:30. The cooks of the day made a pancake breakfast, and then the group made pack lunches and left a bit before noon to go and tour the Royal Flying Doctors Service base just outside of the town of Broken Hill. The group toured the museum, watched a short documentary and then got to see the hanger where the ambulance planes are kept. Then the group went to the top of a lookout and had lunches overlooking the entire town. At 2:00 everyone went to watch an Aussie Rules football game between the best players in North and South Broken Hill. The group really enjoyed watching the game and was recognized by most of the locals as the American kids that were featured on the front page of the newspaper that same day. Following the game the group went back to Klingy's place and prepared themselves for the talent show that night. There was a stir-fry dinner and then the talent show that was full of laughter and good fun. To end the night everyone watched Mad Max 2, a film shot in Silverton, the ghost town that the group would be going to the following morning, and then had a quick cabin chat and went off to bed.

July 31, 2011

ICEP Australia headed out around 10:30 to go and explore the historic ghost town, Silverton, about a 30-minute drive from Broken Hill. The group explored the town's historic jail that had been turned into a museum and then went and had lunch at the Mundi Mundi outlook just outside of the town. Everyone ate their pack lunches with a breathtaking view of the outback, just miles and miles of desolate land. After lunch the group drove over to Daydream Mine, an old silver mine, and had an awesome tour down underground through the mineshafts. Following the mine tour, the group stopped by the Silverton Hotel and pub, some in the group bought some snacks and everyone got to see Mad Max's car from the movie. One of the highlights of the day for most people in the group was getting to watch the sun set from the Living Sculptures located on a big hill just outside of Broken Hill. The group all took about 30-minutes to themselves to watch the sunset, reflect on all that we have done and take in the still beauty and quiet of the outback. After the sun had set, ICEP Australia returned to Klingy's place, had dinner, watched a bit of an Aussie rules game on TV, played Apples to Apples and just hung out until chat followed by bed time.

August 1, 2011

Today ICEP Australia left early in order to tour the Broken Hill School of Air, a school broadcasted over the radio to children who live far out in the outback. The group sat in on a kindergarten class and learned the 2 different ways to pronounce "th." After the tour and class session, everyone split up into 2 groups and half of ICEP Australia went to St. Vincent's to help out with the soup kitchen, while the other half went to Life Line to sort through clothes and shoes. The group reunited at Life Line around 1:00 and had a delicious barbeque. Following lunch everyone had a look around the GEO Center, it had samples of all the minerals found in the mines of Broken Hill and explained the geological occurrences that created the valuable load line of minerals. At around 2:30 the group went to the YMCA and had some time to use the facilities. People played squash and ping-pong. The group was also able to thank Carrie, a

YMCA employee who had helped set up many of the service projects. After some fun at the Y, the group went to a famous old fashion milk bar in South Broken Hill for some milkshakes. To close out the day the group went to the top of the Broken Hill and watched the sun set on the town. The group then went back to Klingy's place, packed up, had dinner and chat before calling it a night.

August 2, 2011

The group woke up this morning at 6:15 to have a quick breakfast and prepare for our long journey back to Camp Yarramundi. The train left Broken Hill at 7:45 AM and ICEP Australia arrived at the Penrith Train Station around 8:50 PM. The group took a quick bus ride to Camp Yarramundi and then went and had a late pizza dinner. After a late chat, the group settled down for bed around 11:45.

August 3, 2011

Today was a restful day for ICEP Australia. The group had a sleep in until a 10:00 AM breakfast. Following breakfast, the group made sandwiches for lunch and headed out to go to a local YMCA with an indoor pool. ICEP Australia stayed at the pool until 3:00 PM. On return to Camp Yarraamundi, Aliza led a group yoga session for the entire group. They got really into it and it was lots of fun. The campers then played mafia with one another until dinnertime. Three kids helped prepare a delicious veggie stir-fry. After dinner, Corina taught ICEP Australia how to play Net Ball, a popular Australian game that was sort of a mixture of Basketball and Ultimate Frisbee. After getting down the rules it was a pretty intense game. The group took showers and cleaned up before a chat and bed by 10:30.

August 4, 2011

Today ICEP Australia went on an amazing sight seeing tour of the Blue Mountains. The group left camp at 8:45 and made it to Kotumba by around 10:00. ICEP Australia went on a hike that included seeing the beautiful and iconic Three Sisters, three pinnacles of rock reaching out from the cliff face into a vast canyon. After taking in the amazing views from the top of the Canyon, the group hiked down the Giant Staircase to towards the canyon bottom, there were over 800 stairs in total, all right up against the cliff face the entire time. ICEP Australia had lunch by Kotumba falls and then took the worlds steepest train back up the canyon to the top. The entire time the group was hiking, ICEP Australia was picking up any trash they saw along the way. Following a quick stop at the gift shop at the top of Kotuma falls the group had a chance to explore the rest of the town of Kotumba until we left for another beautiful water fall view at Lumnis. The group was back at camp exhausted form a long day by 5:15. Shepherds pie was for dinner and then the group voted on watching a movie because they were too tired to do much else. After the movie the group had chat and called it a night by 10:15.

August 5, 2011

ICEP Australia had a full day of doing community service around Camp Yarrimundi. The group woke up and had breakfast at 8:00 and started working around 9. Half the group helped repaint a fence surrounding the garden, while the other half helped fix up old garden beds and created a new garden bed that was shaped like an I for ICEP. Also during the day, ICEP Australia picked up over 1,000 pieces of trash around camp. The group logged about 7 hours of community service in total during the day. To finish off the day the group had a campfire.

August 6, 2011

ICEP Australia had breakfast at 9:30 and then started another day of community service at Camp Yarrimundi. The group raked leaves and disposed of them, swept up the basketball court and mulched around the high ropes course.

They also moved some logs to be used later to create another garden and re-pebbled the entranceway to the office. At 4:00 the group was done with the work and had a bit of time to rest and prepare themselves for dinner with the homestay families in Sydney. The group took a bus ride in for the dinner at 5:30 and made it to the YMCA by 7, or so. The kids really enjoyed meeting back up with their homestay families and had a great meal on a rooftop balcony overlooking the city. The group was even lucky enough to see some pretty spectacular fireworks down by Darling Harbor. ICEP Australia made it back to camp, had chat and we're in bed by 11:30.

August 7, 2011

Today the group had woke up and had a breakfast at 8:00. ICEP Australia had a lovely day at the beach. The group took a train into the city from Yarrimundi and then took a thirty-minute ferry ride to Manly Beach. ICEP Australia finally arrived at the beach around 12:00. Corina went and got the group a traditional hot chip lunch that was eaten on the beach. Some of the homestay kids met up with the group at the beach to spend the day with everyone. A couple kids went swimming, but didn't last long in the cold water. The rest of the group played in the sand and buried each other. It started to rain, so the group decided to leave the beach and explore the shops around Manly. ICEP Australia caught a 3:15 ferry ride back to Central Sydney and then caught a train back to Yarrimundi. Arriving back at Camp Yarrimundi by 6:00, the group quickly took showers, packed up their belongings for a departure the next day and then made personal pizzas for dinner. After dinner, the group went into the "caves" and then had chat before bed.

August 8, 2011

ICEP Australia woke up early this morning to make one of the first trains into the city. The group parted on a 7:45 train and made it to NCIE by 9:30. After a quick preparation for our day at the beach, the group departed for Bondi Beach. The surfing lesson started at 12:00 and the group arrived with a bit of time before hand to hang out and enjoy the beach. The weather was much nicer than the day before. The surfing lesson was really fun and everyone enjoyed themselves thoroughly. After the two-hour lesson was finished, the group went to Bondi Junction and did a bit of souvenir shopping. ICEP Australia then went back to NCIE, making it with about an hour before the 6:00 dinner. Following the meal the campers worked on their camper conference paperwork and then most took part in a group yoga session taught by Aliza. Then we had chat and went to bed early after a tiresome day.

August 9, 2011

After breakfast this morning the group departed for the Turanga Zoo. After taking a subway to the Circular Quay, the group embarked on a ferry that would take us to the zoo. ICEP Australia got to the zoo a bit before 11:00 and stayed until around 3:00. After returning to NCIE, everyone packed up their belongings for our departure back to the USA the next morning. The group had dinner around 6:00 and then hung out until chat and bed by 10:00.

August 10, 2011

The group woke up at 5:45 to be able to grab a pack breakfast and leave NCIE by 6:30 by shuttle bus. The bus got the group to the airport in time for their 10:15 flight to LAX. The flight was delayed but got there in time for everyone to make the connection in LAX to the plane that would take them to JFK. The plane landed around 5:45 and the group had a bus waiting for them. After getting dinner on the road the group headed back to camp and arrived at Chimney at 10:45, had a quick chat, and then went to bed.

August 11, 2011

ICEP Australia woke up at 7:20 for the last full day of the program. After an 8:15 breakfast the group put together the slide show for the parents and had an ending health check. After lunch the campers had a debriefing session with Nat and then met back up with the leaders to finish camper conferences and to write bus notes. Bus notes took a while and the group worked on them until a 6:00 dinner. After dinner the group had a final campfire and then a surprise candlelight cabin chat.

August 12, 2011

The group woke up for an 8:15 breakfast and then brought their bags to the Barn to wait for their parents. Parents started showing up around 9:40 and all of the campers were reunited with their families by around 10:15. Then the campers and their families proceeded into the Barn for the slideshow and final farewell.

SERVICE PROJECTS

July 13, 2011

The group completed one hour of community service painting a fence at Camp Yarramundi.

July 26, 2011

The group completed three hours of community service at Meals on Wheels in Broken Hill. Half of the group prepared the meals and the other half delivered them.

July 27, 2011

The group completed three hours at Meals on Wheels and then two hours at Life Line. Life Line is a local mental health phone service that is funded partially by a community thrift store. It was at this store that the group worked to sort through and organize donated toys.

July 28, 2011

The group spent an hour at Meals on Wheels and then five hours at Life Line.

July 29, 2011

Half of the group spent four hours at Life Line while the other half spent four hours at St. Vincent's. St. Vincent's is a soup kitchen that provides two-dollar hot lunches for the community. The campers helped to prepare and serve the meal. That morning half of the group was meant to work at Meals on Wheels for an hour but were told when they got there that they were not needed.

August 1, 2011

The groups switched at half worked for four hours at Life Line and the other half worked for four hours at St. Vincents.

August 5, 2011

The group spent seven hours painting a fence and working on the garden at Camp Yarramundi.

August 6, 2011

The group spent five hours spreading mulch, raking leaves, and working on other maintenance projects around Yarramundi.

Total Hours: 42