



A picture tells a thousand words

A pictorial record of ACRO Out-Of-School Youth Holiday Camps at Stradbroke Island

September/December 2016



With enthusiasm we pack our camping gear and eight young people into the mini-van, onto the barge and eventually we landed on Stradbroke Island. Some of us have never been camping before while others have never been without reception for their phones! Each experience was a challenge which the young people took in their strides over the four days and three nights we spent together. Glad to have had comfortable sleeping bags generously donated by Sarah and Rachel Green!

To begin with we set up our tents and began to build a community between us by discussing a working agreement. This sets out a series of expectations around behaviour and values to share while we are in each other's company. We find this works much better than rules we impose on young people but rather they think of things that are important to each of them in order for everyone to have a good time. With a little prompting we cover bases such as safety, care for property, equal distribution of jobs, respect, conflict resolution and challenge by choice. During our time together we came back to the working agreement to add things or take things off that weren't working. Any amendments were agreed upon by the group. At the end of the time we reflected back on the working agreement and each person shared one thing they thought the group did well and one thing we could have improved on.

During the time we spent together we swam in either the ocean or the lake everyday. We communally cooked and cleaned for and with each other. We played basketball, threw frisbees and played alot of UNO. We laughed, discussed memes, sang songs, shared knowledge, conquered fears and shared phone chargers.

A big highlight of the camp was the surfing lesson that everyone received from Straddie Surfing School. They were able to provide us with a very large discount which enabled us to give surfing a go. Everyone participated in this and by the end of the lesson, everyone had caught at least a couple of waves. This was a big deal and the buzz from this stayed with us until the end.

Another stand out was the night we went to the Amity Point Jetty to go fishing at dusk. We were standing on the Jetty when we were joined by two dolphins swimming and playing so close to us that the young people could almost touch them. None of them had ever seen dolphins before so it was a really special event.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank **CRAqld** who provided the funds for us to go on these camps. We all got a lot out of the camp as evidenced by the young people all indicating their wish to participate in any future program.

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"Surfing is GREAT"





“Swimming in salty water was great!”



“An exciting adventure”



“Seeing the Dolphins was the best”

