

## 2020 Boab Network Mowanjum Perth Camp

On 17<sup>th</sup> of January 12 junior high school students and 2 adult chaperones were driven by John Tyrrell to Broome Beach.....Resort for an overnight stay preparatory to a Qantas flight on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> to Perth. This is the first Perth Camp to use air transport for the campers, a change brought about by a very difficult bus journey in 2019 infamous for breakdowns and extreme stress on all concerned on the road and in Perth. The additional cost of airfares was cushioned by reducing the number of campers (12 down from 15) and chaperones (2 down from 4). Savings in bus hire, fuel, food and accommodation resulted in an acceptable increase in expenditure.

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 3:30pm a happy and excited group arrived at Perth Airport and were met by Ross Gobby driving the PLC Perth 24 seat bus #1. The group was rested during the relatively short trip (2 ½ Hours vs 3 days by bus)and spirits were high.

On arrival at Ern Halliday Recreation Camp, Hillarys, another first! Boab Network made the decision in 2019 that the days of the very basic Windmills Campsite at Ern Halliday were over, and the relative luxury of the Spinnaker Campsite was booked, again at greater cost, but offering dormitory accommodation, a large commercial style kitchen, adjoining ablution block, lovely outdoor eating area, on site basketball hoop!, a recreation room and a laundry room. Wow ! What a great facility.

Campers claimed their beds in the dormitory and at 5:30, prior to a BBQ tea, Mitchell Garlett arrived and Welcomed to Country. It was a joy to hear Mitchell speak in fluent Noongar , telling of those who preceded this generation, living and protecting this land, and extending a welcome to these Wanjina people ( Worrorra as Wunambal and Ngarinyin people are collectively known). Mitchell and his family joined the campers and some Boab Network volunteers who came to welcome our guests in a BBQ tea. After tea, when visitors had left, we loaded the bus and visited Hillarys Marina.

Sunday morning saw us at Scarborough Surf Life Saving Club where what has become a tradition, we were welcomed by Youth Program Director Mickey G and a large team of Junior Qualified Lifesavers who took over our mob and set up a large inflatable mat beyond the breaker line and ferried kids out on a rubber ducky and later took the kids for rides on a ski doo jet ski. Great fun! When it was time to come in, the Surf Club turned on a great sausage in a roll and chilled melon BBQ morning tea. What a morning! So much appreciation for the welcome and hospitality of Mickey and SSLSC.

Sunday afternoon was a rest space; however, some went for a 'Sunday Bus Drive' and visited parts of the City and East Perth and saw the Optus Stadium. After the evening meal we headed into the city once again, this time to Kings Park and a look at the city lights and, what do you think? The Boab tree! Of course,a Kimberley friend now staying in Perth.

Monday saw us travel to nearby Joondalup Arena where a Joondalup Wolves coach , Charles, gave the kids a workout on the basketball courts and Nigel gave us complimentary entrance to the brilliant Joondalup swimming pool featuring a fantastic pipeline water slide, turbo pool and more. We had a picnic lunch at Neil Hawkins Reserve on the shore of Lake Joondalup. Richard and Claire Smith arriving precisely on time with Eskies full of delicious sandwiches and rolls and fruit drinks. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes to make the

weeklong camp a success – and catering is a huge task and so brilliantly done by folk like Claire, Richard, Marie Yuncken and others. Thank you!

A shopping trip to Innaloo rounded off a busy day. While waiting for the evening meal prepared by Trinity North Uniting Church Messy Church Catering Team, the campers met Simon and his son Luke, TNUC friends, who would be important later on in the week when Boab Network would command centre stage playing Hawaiian Half Time basketball at RAC Arena Stadium. Simon got to know the campers and practised a few lay ups and spectacular goal scoring at the Ern Halliday basketball courts.

On Tuesday we travelled by bus to Scitech where we spent a terrific few hours discovering the wonders of hands on science and physics. Many of us watched our universe unfold in spectacular fashion at the Scitech Planetarium. Thank you, Craig Bloxham and staff, at Scitech for your generosity inviting us to this world class attraction. Following the Scitech experience we travelled to Elizabeth Quay and made our way to the South Perth Ferry terminal. Using our TransPerth24Hr SmartRiders, generously made available by TransPerth we travelled across Perth Water to South Perth Esplanade where our friends at Wesley Church in the City supplied a very popular Subway lunch . After lunch we returned to Elizabeth Quay and walked up through London Court and the Hay St Mall. A retail smorgasbord entertained the campers who rendezvoused at Wesley Church and we were met by Helen from Wesley office and we quietly entered the church. In a week of unfolding 'Firsts' , this was maybe the first time most of our visitors will have entered a church other than a small country style church building . They were a little wide eyed, and we had pleasure in telling a little of the history of the church and showing the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Noongar School Memorial Window.



Outside Wesley Church

Another first was boarding the train at Perth Underground Station and travelling to Greenwood Station where Ross Gobby, our driver for the whole week, met us and returned us to Ern Halliday camp. Karen and Matthew Sloan provided a great evening meal, prepared, we understand by Matthew. And a carton of Trumpet ice-creams for dessert. Special thanks to Karen and Matthew who insisted on meeting their promise to cater, even as they were mourning the passing of Matthew's father, and Boab Network supporter, Alex.

Bunnings Homebase DIY, at the larger Innaloo store, was our first appointment on Wednesday. Dana and Holly had a woodcraft project which all campers (and volunteer helpers!) got stuck into. The kids made a storage box with a sliding lid designed to hold mobile phones, chargers, and other critical devices safely and neatly. Thanks Dana, Holly and Bunnings.



DIY at Bunnings

Into the bus and a short hop to Glendalough Train Station and a trip via Perth Central Station to Fremantle. Our bus magically appeared at the Fremantle Station entrance and spirited us to the Fremantle Esplanade. Our amazing 'lunch lady' Marie this time, with Andy, had arrived and secured a shady spot and provided us with another tasty homemade lunch. The Fremantle Tourist Wheel was like a magnet to our guests and the generous proprietors offered the kids a ride for free! Fantastic!



Fremantle Tourist Wheel

A brief tour of Fremantle and Harbour resulted in an invitation to board the recently arrived in port TS Leeuwin sailing ship. We all enjoyed inspecting this working museum before returning home to Ern Halliday Camp. We dropped off PLC student volunteer Karri at her home on our way up the coast – an early day for Karri. Karri helped us out every weekday of the camp and was joined most days by fellow PLC students who gave us one or two days of their holiday as a mentor/chaperon.

One of the most popular events of a week of great experiences is the Kayaking, generously sponsored by Matilda Bay Rotary Club. We travelled to Kent St Weir on the Canning River and the campers and the young volunteer leaders spent a beautiful morning paddling downstream - and then back upstream - under the watchful eyes of The River Gods kayaking experts.



Kayaking



Kayaking Team

A BBQ lunch cooked to perfection by MTRC members re-fuelled the hungry campers who had been sent off on their adventure with muffins for morning tea - the Rotarians seem to know a lot about kids and food ! We visited Clontarf College on our way home and we were given a tour of inspection of the college facilities (impressive) and some encouragement by the Deputy Principal to consider applying for entry to this Aboriginal boarding school - a number of our campers had siblings already at the school.

On Friday we made our way to Peak Trampoline, an elite sport level trampoline coaching centre where Nikki and her coaching staff taught a very receptive group some techniques and basic aerial turns - some talented bouncers enjoyed the experience.



Flying High at Peak Trampolines



Trampoline Team

Lunch at Perry Lakes- this time Marie, Claire and helpers at Floreat All Saints UC prepared the feast. Following lunch, we went to Wembley Public Golf Course for a round of Mini-Golf. Unfortunately, no potential Tiger Woods discovered at this activity. Generous private sponsorship covered the course fees and allowed us to cool down with soft drinks after the round. Many thanks friends.

### Dodgems at Hillaries

Friday night is an unwind night and we visited Hillarys Marina fun fair where the kids worked their way through a pocketful of money riding Dodgem Cars and hair raising (literally) rides on swing chairs.



Saturday morning was spent in the surf at the beach opposite the campsite with many volunteers returning to spend time with the kids. The afternoon was rest time and a little local retail therapy. The big and final event was to attend the Wildcats vs New Zealand, National Basketball League at RAC Arena Stadium with a truly awesome invitation to provide the talent for the Hawaiian Half Time demonstration match. As halftime of the game approached, our ten players tramped off with Joe and Hawaiian staff ready to run on once the players had left the court. If the kids were nervous, I was beyond help...our promised reserve bench players had failed to arrive and we only had one Umpire instead of the required 2 - But 15 year old Jordan, Joe's son, did a sterling job on his own. The Mowanjum kids supported by a few local boys, played like champions. The crowd clapped and cheered and five minutes and about 5 goals later, it was over. Great Job campers! What was I worried about? The main game was a nail biter - Wildcats winning 80 to 79. Our kids looked great - singlets compliment of the Hawaiian Group and shorts courtesy of the Joondalup Wolves. Thank you all. And Sports Fans, we have a basketball autographed by the Wildcats to auction at a forthcoming fundraiser. Start saving!



Wow ! Hawaiian Half Time



Stars All !!

Sunday morning and on the bus by 7:45 and camp's over...off to the airport and home.



Camp's Over – So Sad!

A very busy, exciting week with a group of young Mowanjum kids who were no trouble and who will take home memories of a special time in Perth.

Grateful thanks to all of our generous sponsors and supporters.

Special thanks to the student volunteers from PLC Perth; to all of our occasional volunteers who helped us load the same number of kids on the bus in the afternoon as we loaded in the morning; to our catering volunteers, our suppliers who made the invoices lighter or just donated food, supporters mentioned in the body of the report, Simon, Joe and their sons, Mitchell Garlett, Lenny Yarran and Noongar friends for their interest.

Thanks to major sponsor Wesley UCIC, Wembley Downs UC, All Saints Floreat UC , Trinity North UC Messy Church. Thanks to PLC Perth for the generous loan of their bus.

The decision to use the Spinnaker Site at Ern Halliday arose from the poor presentation and very basic amenities at the Windmill Camp Site, particularly the rudimentary kitchen and wash up facility and the remoteness of the toilets and ablution block. I think the improvement offered by the Spinnaker site was definitely of value. The improved kitchen enhanced our food hygiene capability and the accessible ablution block and dormitory sleeping arrangement were just some of the positive outcomes of the move.

Future camps utilising Spinnaker or similar facilities would benefit from an onsite volunteer Catering Manager to control all aspects of food service.

Geoff Schupp  
Camp Co-ordinator, for Boab Network  
February, 2020.