

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Team

On the weekend of 10th & 11th October 2015 a group of young Bronze Awardees, along with 2 adults, proceeded to Capertee National Park to embark on a 24 hour Rogaine. The Rogaine was the Australasian Championship with teams from all States of Australia as well as from New Zealand and Asia.

Those who competed for Umina SLSC were: Jasmine Darwin, Mimi Henderson, Harrison Whitney, James Bishop and Michael Paterson. They were watched over by two parent members Vanessa Henderson and Robyn Paterson.

Capertee National Park is situated about 40km west of Lithgow. So you can imagine the terrain. You guessed it, very hilly with some steep gorges. Competitors were given a map with numbers all over it and the object of the event is to find as many numbers as possible, using only the map given and a compass to reach the final outcome. The two parent ladies reported back to me that the kids compass work was spot on. They were given a few challenging numbers to find and they found all that they were seeking.

The task for the first day was over a time frame of 7 hours, and they then returned to the base camp before dark and provided with meals and a warm bed in preparation of a early rise for the next day activities. The second day would take duration of up to 5 hours and to the credit of the team there was not one grumble or complaint heard amongst them. The kids continually encouraged and supported each other even when they were exhausted. According to an experienced Rogaine "This was one of the toughest courses given".

I would particularly like to mention Sydney Healey who was also meant to take part in this experience but had recently injured her ankle whilst trekking the "Kokoda Trail" in PNG, a feat in itself for any young adult.

Well done to all these members and to their parents who have supported them on this trip and the journey they are taking to gaining their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award. They are a credit to their families and to Umina SLSC.

Tom Magurren

Duke of Edinburgh Leader

Umina SLSC