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Icy Cuts every Friday from next week 50c

Special - Snack Packs from $5

Home Bake Choc Chip Muffins $2

Please read the newsletter carefully and bring it home.

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**Final fortnightly edition**

9 October 2016

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We checked out the Golden Gobombi at Tully... arrived at Mungalli and started washing up. I was sitting on a table surrounded by children sitting themselves out when I am coolly and calmly told me... Mrs Storey there is a snake in our bathroom, (there was no panic, normal for a child of 9 / 10) so high-pitched death's head, normal for a girl, the warning sirens that the world is coming to an end.

Day 2: We wake up early as usual. We climb the lake, birdwings, cows over the fences surrounding Mungalli Falls and 20% yard animals. The kids. Paradise Down to brekkie and up again, into the bus to... Lake Eacham - a crater lake. That's right: a crater of a volcano full of beautiful clear water. From the kids: "Where's the volcano?" Teacher: "We are walking on it." On the rim of the crater. Kids: "Ooh! Will it explode?" Teacher: "Maybe." Sometimes it is fun just to mess with them. (They get the truth eventually.)

We go walking. Four groups go on the 750m interactive kids walk. We get back to the bus to go to the Crystal Caves and our D's group. We search. We postulate. We hypothesise. We hear faint voices drifting on the breeze from the other side of the lake. The kids have gone on the 3km around the lake walk with their group. Mr Johns does the marina raft around the lake to find them. They appear out of the mist; the tangle of vines, overgrown trees, snags, horns, crooks, twist and branches - safe and happy. We get to the Crystal Caves. We don bare feet with lights. Kids were blown away by the displays of stones and crystals and the "cave" where touching was allowed and encouraged. We get to our stones.

On to Herberton Historical Village. School life of days was the first experience for some children. A huge and very well displayed collection of bats, lizards, snakes, and plants from ancient days is the Village. "The houses are really little." How do you get on a Penny Farthing? "What's this funny money?" (Pounds, shillings, and pence) "That's a telephone?" (bigger than children's leg)

**WOW!** What a fantastic camp we had. Getting up to leave at 7am may not have been ideal for many, but we did have a full 5 days at our venue. As good as most kid's camps...... eventually. Adult, not so much.

The first day, we arrived at Mungalli and started washing up. I was sitting on a table surrounded by children sitting themselves out when I am coolly and calmly told me... Mrs Storey there is a snake in our bathroom, (there was no panic, normal for a child of 9 / 10) so high-pitched death's head, normal for a girl, the warning sirens that the world is coming to an end. It is on the bench near the soap. I thought it was a pretend one. I looked really hard. But the snake is at me so I knew it was real. I can only think this poor child is going to be a zombie land - deep depression. Mathew from Mungalli was outside so the call went out for HELP! The snake charmer came - a little old lady with frizzy, grey hair and glasses comes and walks out with a white bag wriggling like a skink. The Night Tiger that is not poisonous, but can be really aggressive, according to Matthew, goes for a holiday of his own. We walk over the way-o - down the hill around a corner...... down the hill a bit more - down some stairs - over the fig tree roots (yippee) to the trip the unwary... over the wooden bridge and... across the falls for breakfast. Do the reverse to go clean the tent. We get straight into the activities of archery (close by) with Justin Bieber and Miller Cricket. No! We didn't discover any Robin Hood or William Tell, but Mr Hopewell, Seth M and Rohan came close.

We pack up at the steps to walk a 1km Decathlon Loop. It's 1km and then a way (100 meters) down the hill to Low rope. It's not even easy. But they were very happy. Mr W says it is all about. We learned a terrific new drink - Chik-Chikie. All about.

We then walked down to the bottom of the falls - another couple of hundred metres and very impressive - with about 360 degrees at the spectacle of falling water. Going up, the whippings came out. - What, do we have to walk all the way back up again? Are we there yet? How far is it? Whyyyyy do we have to walk so much?

Lunch - YAAAY! Thank goodness it is an All You Can Eat sort of deal with lots of side dishes and some sides. The afternoon program was a swap over from the morning - more walking again, up and down and up and down and... Night time and some very tired kids and adults were chased out by 9 pm, not so the lightening of running water, but to 200 years kids from a school in Cairns.

Day 3 - We wake to a lazy walk on the hill for brekkie and back up again to catch the bus before the final days activities of Boomerang Throwing and Obstactle Course. Mr Hopewell shone again, but Fasidy was the final winner of throwing a boomerang. The Obstacle Course consisted of walking as a team to move through several stations.

Mum's Rainbow Canopy Walk.
Phil was our guide. We learned a little about some bush Tucker, walked out on the carrieville viewing platform sitting as people jumped up and down. It's scary. "Phil told us to jump!" Running out of time, we had to make a decision for the Tower - 35 metres high and 150 steps up. What a view. Returning to the bus, we set off for Ingham and for some, a highlight - Mackays. Before full we set off for home. Lots of talking - not much sleeping, but lots of happy faces and great experiences. We need to go for longer to see and experience more next time... The Undara lava tubes are really something!

A huge thank you.

To the kids for their fantastic behaviour (even though I growl a lot, they really were good) to parents for trusting us with your children when it was a long way away.

To the box (Mr Daniels) for allowing and encouraging this experience. To teachers for being a great support.

To Ms Scaigna and the helpers who provided a fantastic program to a large group back at school. To Mr Hopewell and Mr Johns for sharing our experiences of children and assisting us with supervision and organisation and last but not least, to Neil the bus driver who transported us safely. A special thank you to Mr Lathwell who joined us and spoiled us with treats.

**Stephen Kendall, Winds Storey - Teacher**

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**MACKAY REGIONAL JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST**

The annual Mackay Regional Japanese Speech Contest will be held on Thursday 21st October at Central Queensland University. A number of schools in the Mackay and Sarina areas will participate. The contest is open to students in Years 1 and 2. However, primary schools are unfortunately limited to only 15 entries each. The Year 6 division proved very popular with 9 students indicating they would like to participate in the competition. Sensei held auditions during the lunch time to select the top five Japanese speaking candidates to represent our school in the year 6 division. This was a very difficult decision. All students put so very hard work and spoke very confidently and fluently. Sensei was very proud of all of them.

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to represent Mackay State High School in the regional competition:

Year 6: Dorothy Gano, Saya Mohammed, Kaitlyn Petersen, Brooke Allen, Vione Crouse

Year 7: Rockelle Weston, Emma Reeves, Shae Robinson, Chloe Thompson

We wish you all the very best at the Regional Contest. Speech practice will be every Tuesday, first break, in the LOTE room! We only have three more Tuesday left to practice before the competition.

Senssei (Tina Macquitty)