



2015 Camp Koolaree AGM

**Nov 28, 2015
Castlegar United Church
Castlegar, BC**

Camp Koolaree Society President's Report 2015

2015 was a great year for Koolaree, having seen our registration numbers and rentals increase from last year; our groundsman were definitely kept busy. We started the year in a good place financially and finished off in the black, thanks amazing community that we are surrounded by.

Our total number of camper nights increased from last year. Novice camp saw a great increase, thanks to our energetic director. Intergenerational camp was a roaring success, the most campers we have seen in many years and with lots of young children running around. We were ecstatic to have 7 booked rental groups this summer with 1 being a long time rental, 1 a return from previous years and unfortunately 1 had to cancel do to the severe fire activity throughout the province. We hope to increase these numbers with improved marketing and word of mouth.

The Board of Directors consisted of Peter Herd, Ray Lundquist, Robin Murray, Diana Plett, Julianna Marko, John Marko and we welcomed back Misty Soukochoff. It's an exciting group of people who come with eagerness, passion and a desire to help improve the camp for children.

Looking forward, we hope to continue to grow the numbers and abilities of the board members and continue to try and share the work to ensure burn out is not an issue. The sub-committee's that were implemented need clear job descriptions and lists of expectations. As our paid staff tend to change from year to year, we started creating job descriptions and daily check lists to ensure continuity for the camp users. We will continue to seek different grants and hold fundraisers to help with maintenance costs and offset the increasing number of camperships.

Personally, this was truly an enlightening year that was filled with many firsts. This being my 21st year at Koolaree I look forward to working with the Board of Directors again and growing the camp. Koolaree has a truly special place in my heart and it would take some soul searching if I didn't have the option of going to this truly amazing place. It's one of the few area's left that one can truly get away from the busy world and enjoy a rustic camp settling. It's nice to have a place to be still and know the lord.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Herd
Koolaree Society President

**Camp Koolaree AGM
March 7, 2015
Castlegar United Church**

Present: John Marko, Peter Herd, Julianna Marko, Deanne Steven, Misty Soukochoff, Norm Whitehouse, Theo Huitema, Ray Lundquist, Robin Murray and Diana Mack

Call to Order: 7:00

Opening Prayer: John Marko

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Agenda: (from previous year), Motioned by Julianna. Seconded by Robin

Approval of Minutes: Motioned by Deanne, Seconded by Misty

Correspondence: Nothing New

Overview of Reports, Chairperson, Financial, Presbytery, Registrar, Individual Committee and Camp Director Reports.

-Com/Fundraising –See Report

-Building/Boats-See Report

- (Brochures in School District #8- Robin #20-Julianna)

-Program/Operations/Staffing- Rates same as last year/ ages changed up by one year.

Approval of Reports as Amended. Motioned by Deanne, Seconded by Robin, All in favour
Financial. Motion to accept as circulated by Julianna, Seconded by Misty, All in favour

Open Question Period

-Julianna setting up tables at Garden Shows

-Canada Day in Nelson, table set up there by Robin

-Spring Fling in Castlegar – Misty?

-Robin can dig up seedlings of Oregano for garden shows.

Election of Board Members: Staying - Julianna, Peter, Ray, Robin, Diana. New – Misty and John. Deanne on fence – will stay on as volunteer to do Financials. Declined – Norm and Theo. Chuck and Aaron absent will leave them off list for now.

Motion to accept Board by Misty, Seconded by Julianna, All in favour

Adjournment: 8:15 by Ray

TREASURER'S REPORT NOVEMBER 1, 2014 - OCTOBER 31, 2015

When I took on the position of Treasurer in April I knew it would be a challenge, and was I ever right! In the words of one fellow board member to another: "I don't think John knows what he's getting into", proved to be very true.

With the help of Deanne Steven, the previous Treasurer, I was able to keep track of all the income and expenditures, but couldn't grasp the Quickbooks online bookkeeping system Deanne was using, so wound up using the old pencil and paper entry system I was used to.

I'd like to comment on a few items regarding this year's statements and projections for next year:

I moved money in the campership fund to operations as Camperships were needed. We did not receive enough donations in this fund (even with the \$1,042.20 remaining from last year) to cover all the campers requiring assistance. This is an area for specific fundraising attention next year. I also moved this fund from a Maximizer account requiring a \$500 monthly balance to avoid monthly service charges, to a Summit Savings account which actually pays interest without a monthly balance requirement. I also set up two new accounts as Summit Savings: one for our Dining Room Pole Fund and another for our Building Fund.

Our expenses for the year were just over \$10,000 more than our income. Fortunately we had close to \$13,000 as a surplus from last year, meaning we didn't have to go into our line of credit to cover expenditures. The major increases in expenditures were those related to the increase number of our campers (groceries, propane, canteen, crafts), those related to Rentals (propane, payroll), administration (advertising, financial fees). We also made some large purchases (2 new stoves and a chainsaw, and some plumbing supplies during our low water crises in September). The inclusion of financial fees charged by Paypal (2.9-4.1%) and Activeworks (4%) were not separated out from the on-line registrations and donations in previous years, so it looked like our income was less than it was, and the expense of the charges was not recorded. I felt the need to acknowledge the cost of this service, and wonder if there is a way to have more people pay by check or cash to avoid the fees. Maybe the convenience is the way of the future, though, and is just a cost of doing business.

Our income exceeded last years by \$11,685, primarily due to the increase in our Koolaree Camp registrations, Rentals and Fundraisers. These increases were obviously due to the many hours of volunteer work done by the Board and many other "Koolareeans", but primarily, I suspect all would agree, due the efforts of our volunteer Camp Manager.

Suggestions for next year: If a Camp Manager position is approved by the Board, I could see the elimination of one of the Groundsman positions, whose salary (\$5,000 or so), could be applied to the Camp Manager's salary. Making sure we hire a lifeguard who is returning to school will enable us to receive the Canada Summer Jobs Grant (\$1,400).

Incorporating the propane fee into the rental cost would ensure a fair reimbursement of the cost. Continuing to apply for grants, doing as much or more promotional work to increase our camps and rentals, and increasing fundraising will be critical to continuing success of our camp. I feel we've taken some major leaps this past year, but obviously, we'll have to come up with some major funding as a Society. In light of the proposed Rental Agreement with BC Conference, I can see that many of the building projects we used to do with volunteer labour will now have to be done by or supervised by licensed contractors. We will require a substantial increase in both finances and volunteers to continue to carry on our mission in the Kootenays.

Respectfully,

John D. Marko, Treasurer

**BALANCE SHEET
NOVEMBER 1, 2014 - OCTOBER 31, 2015**

Balance as of October 31, 2015:

Assets: KSCU:	
Membership Shares:	\$ 25.00
Checking:	2,340.92
Campership Fund:	2.31
Building Fund:	100.00
Pole Fund:	150.00
Paypal:	200.00
Total Assets:	\$2,818.23

Liabilities and Equity:

Current Liabilities:	
Accounts Payable: (BC Conf. Prop.Tx, etc.)	\$7,151.24
<u>Total Accounts Payable:</u>	<u>\$7,151.24</u>
Total Liabilities:	\$7,151.24

Equity

Total Assets:	\$2,818.23
<u>Total Liabilities:</u>	<u>7,151.24</u>
Total Equity:	-\$4,333.01

Cash Balance Year End Summary:

Balance as of November 1, 2014:	\$12,892.07
Income November 1, 2014 - October 31, 2015:	<u>52,245.01</u>
	\$65,137.08
Expenses Nov. 1, 2014 - Oct.31, 2015:	<u>- 62,318.85</u>
Balance as of October 31, 2015:	\$ 2,818.23

Please see attached Profit/Loss Sheet

Presbytery

Please see attached

Registrar's Report for 2015:

Teen CoEd	Paid	Sponsored	TOTALS
Male	4	2	6
Female	8	1	9
TOTAL	12	3	15

Jr Girls	Paid	Sponsored	TOTALS
TOTAL	18	5	23

Jr Boys	Paid	Sponsored	TOTALS
TOTAL	9	4	13

Novice	Paid	Sponsored	TOTALS
Male	9	1	10
Female	13	6	19
TOTAL	22	7	29

Family	Under 6-Free	Paid	Sponsored	Totals
Male	5	4	1	10
Female	6	13	2	21
Total	11	17	3	31

TOTAL CAMPERS: 111 up 54% from last year
 Church Affiliation: 48
 Campers By Location:
 Nelson: 35
 Trail: 20
 Castlegar: 16
 Fruitvale/Montrose: 8
 Rossland: 4
 Surrey: 4
 Alberta: 4

Bonnington: 4
 Salmo: 3
 Meadow Creek: 2
 Krestova: 2
 Grand Forks: 2
 Kimberly: 1
 Cranbrook: 1
 Pit Meadows: 1
 Duncan: 1

Rentals:
 (1) Private Rental: Birthday Party- Chanel Burgener (June 27)
 Term Days: 1
 Camper Days:15
 Additional Hours: 9
 Camper Fees: 326.25
 Propane/Extra Trips: 38.25
 Total: 364.50
 Deposit: -225.00
 Invoice Amount: 139.50
 (2) Private Rental: 50th Wedding Anniversary - Katherine Fawcet (August 9-13)
 Term Days: 4
 Camper Days: 73
 Camper Fees: 1095
 Propane:127.50
 Total: 1222.50
 Deposit:-225
 Invoice Amount: 997.50
 *owe \$0.50
 (3) Private Rental: Camp Franco (August 13-17)
 Term Days: 4
 Camper Days:60
 Additional Hours: 4
 Camper Fees:945
 Lifeguard Wage: 448
 Cook Wage: 560
 Assistant Cook Wage: 168
 Food:685.11
 Silent Auction:-450
 Propane: 102
 Total: 2458.11

Deposit:-225
 Invoice Amount: 2233.11
 (4) Dancers of Universal Peace (September 3-7)
 Term Days: 4
 Camper Days: 217
 Camper Fees: 3255.00
 Propane/Extra Trips: 388.90
 Total: 3643.90
 Deposit: -225.00
 Invoice Amount: 3418.90
 (5) Private Rental: Seven Summits (September 14-16)
 Term Days: 2
 Camper Days: 90
 Camper Fees: 1350.00
 Propane: 76.50
 Total: 1696.50
 Deposit: -225.00
 Invoice Amount: 1471.50
 (6) Private Rental: Wildflower School (September 24-26)
 Term Days: 2
 Camper Days: 75
 Camper Fees: 1125.00
 Propane: 127.50
 Total: 1252.50
 Deposit: -225.00
 Invoice Amount: 1027.50
 (7) Deep Water
 Deposit: 225.00
 Total Rental Income: \$10,863.01
 Rental Comparison:

	2014	2015	Increase
Rentals	2	6	200%
Term Days	7	17	143%
Camper Days	334	530	59%
Total Rental Income	\$5420.00	\$10,638.01	96%

Communications and Fundraising Team Report

In the spring of 2014, we submitted a proposal to the Touchstones Museum of Art and History in Nelson for an exhibit during their 2016 season in celebration of our 85th Anniversary. Staff at the museum are enthusiastic and we are scheduled for the summer of 2016.

For the 2015 camping season, we redesigned our colour print rack cards on VistaPrint. Circulation in the schools and local businesses was much higher this year.

The website continues to be maintained by Jody Dudley who has been keeping it up to date whenever the Board requests new information be posted. Juliana began concentrating more on our Facebook presence, and within 3 months increased our viewers from 112 to over 300. We are now sitting at 389 followers. The page is active weekly and has proved to boost our presence in the community. Facebook advertising has helped our registrations, rental numbers, fundraiser attendance and website views.

Deanne applied for and received the CBT Summer Works Grant last spring but we were unable to use that to pay our 2015 lifeguard as our only applicant was not returning to school. Peter has contacted Kootenay Career Development to apply for a wage subsidy program that would offset training costs for a camp manager starting January 1. The hope being that we will eventually be able to move from a working board to a policy board. Juliana has been working alongside Basin Business advisors creating a solid business plan for both the management position and the Kitchen and Dining Hall Project. Grant applications in progress include: CBT, Lions Club, Rotary Club, RDCK, RDKB, southern Interior Development and Kootenay Savings. These grants along with in kind labour and materials should cover the entire project.

In December 2014 Juliana planned and organized our first annual fundraiser at Trail United Church which was quite a success. For such a busy time of year and with only 29 people in attendance (not including volunteers), we had such a fun and relaxing evening. The Whisky Jacks of Rossland performed some acoustic music for us, accompanied by amazing footage of Camp Koolaree in the 1940's and 1950's. The menu was camp inspired with macaroni and cheese, hot dogs and potato salad just to name a few. The hot chocolate bar and Sweet Dreams Cakery cupcakes were a hit! We were lucky to have some amazing items donated for our silent auction including a Kindle, iPod Shuffle, Chocolate, Cupcakes, Artwork and much more. \$1780 was raised

In April we teamed up with The Royal Theatre and brought in the amazing documentary "Walking The Camino". 172 people joined us for the evening, which Lisa said was the best turnout she's seen for a fundraiser event like that. We also had an info table with all of our Summer Camp and Rental information. We sold a few t-shirts as well. \$468 was raised

Throughout the month of May we had tables at markets in Fruitvale, Trail, Rossland, Castlegar and Nelson. We had crafts for kids, information and t-shirts for sale. Many old campers came by to stop, as well as a lot of people who didn't know that we existed.

We held our first Annual Open House on August 1 and saw over 90 people at the camp throughout the afternoon. Attendees played at the beach, took a hike, played games and ate a fabulous dinner of BBQ Pulled Pork, Potato Salad, ColeSlaw and corn on the cob. Our Cook donated a cake for the event which was enjoyed by all. A fee stayed for some songs around the campfire along with some yummy s'more dip. We also introduced a new ongoing fundraiser for our Kitchen and Dining Hall as well. Donations of \$50 will get their name I graves on an existing beam that will be used in our deck railing in the new building. \$495 was raised.

We have also started marketing on Gift Certificates as the perfect Christmas Gift, as well as an opportunity for some to "Send a Kid to Camp"

2015 BUILDINGS & BOATS REPORT

BOATS & BOAT TRAILERS

Aroliner: Still chugging after many years of hard service, the Aroliner leaks a bit and the bilge pump doesn't work because the battery dies as the tiny solar panel cannot keep the battery charged. At least the new Yamaha 25 outboard has been trouble free this year. The boat is usually found with a substantial amount of water in the bilge and I have noticed that operators are not using the safety lanyard.

Starcraft Starchief: The Big Blue Cruiser has been available when needed. Since repairs and tune-up, the Merc 90 has run better than it has for many years. The canvas top was removed during the hot weather and has not been replaced as it needs to be re-stitched in places.

Starcraft Holiday 18: In spite of the shabby interior, this speedy boat runs well and has been the main people mover all summer. It needs a new top. While moored at the dock towards the end of the season, it was swamped during a storm and filled with water. After pumping the water out using the camp fire pump, the motor could not be started. Eventually, this boat was towed down to the boat launch at Nelson for haul out and brought back to Castlegar. Don Ellis and I were finally able to restart the motor before the boat was serviced and put away for the winter.

The Scow: This boat continues to see use as a hauler of baggage, garbage, propane, gas, grub, and even the odd passenger. I have heard that the Merc 20 may need attention again. This boat also leaks and is usually left in a mess. It will spend the winter upside down, high on the beach at the camp.

Voyageur Canoe: Nothing has been done on this for several months. Rotten wood has been replaced and glued in place but now needs to be covered with fibreglass. The wooden seats and trim have been sanded and await several coats of varnish.

Don Ellis started the process of removing a bent towing hitch on the Aroliner's boat trailer. But as it is welded on, that job was easier said than done and hasn't been finished. Don did install new safety chains, had a new spare tire mount fabricated, and did some modifications to the winch mount and to the hook on the winch cable.

I finally completed updates to the pleasure craft licences on our boats. I also had the associated boat trailer licences updated so they too are registered to the Camp Koolaree Society in Trail. Following that I went through more red tape to have four of our boats registered as Small Commercial Vessels and then had the pleasure craft licences cancelled. I temporarily marked the new registration numbers on the boats using a felt pen and later painted them on all but The Scow. By next year there will be some changes to the equipment required on board the boats and to the qualification of our boat operators to meet Transport Canada regulations. To our surprise, a letter arrived in October saying we owed a \$25 "Marine Navigation Services Fee" per vessel to offset a portion of the Canadian Coast Guard's costs of providing marine aids to navigation and Vessel Traffic Services to commercial vessels." If it isn't taxes, it's fees. What next?

I still have to get the trailer registration updated for 16K505, the green fibreglass boat that's been at Chuck Clarke's for about a decade. I finally found out through ICBC that it is actually still registered to the former owner, Tom Vernham of Fruitvale. Unfortunately Tom moved to Calgary years ago and that complicates the issue.

WATER SYSTEM

All season our water system has given us grief, and as a result we were under a Boil Water Advisory until the final few days. One of the problems was a damaged part in the Chemilizer bleach injector at the water treatment plant. Without proper disinfection, most of our weekly water samples showed coliform bacteria and some e-coli. I was able to get replacement parts for the injector and it is now working well again. Unfortunately, by the end of August the water level in Eight Mile Creek was so low we were unable to keep the inlet submerged and for several days there was not enough water to supply the camp. John Marko purchased a 100 foot length of two inch polyethylene pipe so we could extend the inlet to a more favourable location, but just in time, the weather changed, and with some much needed rain, the water flow in the creek increased just enough to keep our system supplied. The poly pipe has not been used but is stored in the WTP.

On September 9th I made a special trip to Koolaree to give Cory Chisham, the Environmental Health Officer, a tour of our water system and the kitchen, both of which are operated under permits. Cory suggested that we consider ultra violet treatment of our potable water if the camp ever becomes supplied with electricity. He also said in order to block any possible giardia cysts, we should make sure to specify one micron absolute water filters rather than just one micron nominal. Cory took a water sample with him that day and I got an e-mail the next week saying it had shown zero results for indicator bacteria. If the next test had been zero-zero too, we could have gone off the boil water advisory. Unfortunately, a later test came back with a positive result, and until we get two sequential tests showing zeros, we had to continue boiling drinking water. I believe the groundskeepers also need more training in order to run the WTP effectively.

As I have mentioned over the past few years, the contact tanks in the WTP need to be replaced. There now is a substantial leak from the bottom of tank #3. We may be able to plug this next spring. This would involve disconnecting the inlet and outlet pipes then tipping the tank on its side. It is also time to replace our final water filter cartridges at the kitchen, Hospital and drinking fountain so we are sure they are one micron absolute.

BUILDINGS & PROJECTS

We were directed by the gas inspector to secure all of our propane tanks. It has still not been done.

The urinal in the boy's washroom was cracked and needs to be replaced. A new fixture could be reused whenever the washroom is replaced.

The project to replace the floor in the Brick Shed is stalled for lack of material and competent workers.

There are many large, mature trees around the camp that I believe should be removed before a wind blows them over.

On August 17th the camp board met at Koolaree with Nathan Thompson of Home Building Centre Nelson and Wayne Woodward, a local contractor, to discuss and formulate a plan for replacing the kitchen and dining facilities at the camp. Preliminary estimates indicated that this project would cost over three quarters of a million dollars. Efforts are now underway to seek funding to make it happen.

SUMMARY

Between Mother Nature and general wear and tear, Camp Koolaree is suffering the aches and pains of old age. We have somehow managed to keep operating and have had a fairly successful camping season this year in spite of various problems. Unexpected repair expenses, as well as new rules and regulations have been a strain on our time, talents, and finances. Again a big thank-you to all those who make this camping ministry happen. Staff, volunteers, campers, former campers, and those who support the camp financially or in other ways are to be commended for their efforts.

Respectfully submitted,
Ray Lundquist, director
Camp Koolaree Society
Buildings & Boats Team

Program / Operation / Staffing

Koolaree welcomed back Jacob Plett as our primary Groundsman, Norman Whitehouse as our second. Waya Aeon-Berg was our lifeguard and brought much energy and many ideas. We were fortunate to have a locally trained cook repeat for a third year, Brettiney Voight. And our assistant cook position was primarily filled by a long time camper, Lynn Murray and Matt Campbell was out for a couple days to help as well.

There were some challenges at times with some of the staff, but on the overall, they were a welcomed part of the season. The lifeguard stepped up and helped with games, outings and first aid. The cooks made all of the meals from scratch and welcomed menus from the camp directors.

Our camp directors were Julianna Marko for teen camp, Robin Murraray for Jr girls camp, Peter Herd for Jr Boys camp, Erica Morgan for Novice. All directors were free to create their own programs and given support when asked for.

All of the staff paid and volunteer would benefit from templates that explain job duties and the expectations of the incumbent positions.

Sincerely,

Peter Herd
Program & Operations Committee and Staffing Committee

Teen Coed 2015

This year 12 girls and 3 boys explored the theme of "Down To Earth" at the Koolaree Teen Coed Camp. At the beginning of camp we announced that the use of electronics was not allowed (enforcing our agreement from the registration forms), and saw a week with no cell phones. The point of this week was to disconnect from the world, and connect with the community in front of us. Each group prepared and presented a chapel service lead by our Chaplain Keith Simmonds. All campers discovered roots in stories from the New and Old Testament. Each night before campfire we held a small discussion time that included topics such as Observation, Connection to Electronics, Water Consciousness and ways to get back to nature.

This year our craft time consisted of a scavenger hunt for things from our surrounding that would then be made into something.

Campers completed a few small service projects around camp such as starting a new bulletin board, cleaning up the beach and other parts of the grounds.

This year was completely contrary to last year. Last year was very active, and this year was more about spending time with each other. We played more wide games such as Kick the Can, Capture The Flag, Predator Vs. Prey and Mission Impossible.

Special events included Water Olympics, Hike to the Falls, Land Sports day, Clam Bay, and Kangaroo Court. Closing Ceremonies were beautiful despite the windy weather. We gathered at the Chapel by candlelight and shared stories from the week.

Excellent weather and fantastic staff really allowed campers to have a meaningful, fun filled week! Many thanks to my Assistant: Tim McTeer, the Counselors: Peter Herd, David Szchenkhousen and Toni McKellar, our First Aider: Don MacAuley, the Leaders: Josh Plett, Matt Campbell, Alex MacAuley and Natalie Plett, our Chaplain: Keith Simmonds and Lifeguard: Waya Aeon-Berg.

I am so thankful to the Camp Koolaree Board for allowing my continued service as Director at Camp this year and look forward to next summer!

Sincerely,

Juliana Marko

Jr. Girls 2015

We had 23 campers at this year's Junior Girls Camp, with six leaders, Laura Jean Cuthbert returning as lay Chaplain, and Natalie Plett spending her first summer not living in a cabin at Jr. Girls, but being a counsellor and beginning her training as an Assistant Director. Peter Herd and John Marko each took a turn as our First Aid Attendant. The food was great, waterfront safe, and the grounds ship-shape, thanks to our paid staff.

Our theme was "The Secret Garden" and the values of friendship and loyalty found in that story. We had lots of fun playing games, sports, making crafts, sewing, nature walks plus all the usual waterfront activities like swimming and canoeing. We also did our traditional hike up to the falls. Low water levels allowed a wonderful trip to Clam Bay, where we enjoyed our own private mud spa!

Two unusual things did happen. The first was the large forest fire burning right across the lake. We watched helicopters scoop buckets from the lake and got buzzed by a water bomber at the Dining Hall. Smoke was thick at times, but we were safe and sound across the water from the flames. The second, were the accreditation visits by the BC Camping Association on Wednesday and the United Church Camping Association on Thursday. Of course, with Peter and Juliana handling the actual inspections and showing the accreditors around, the camp passed both inspections with flying colours!

Traditions such as Monks Night, Fancy Dinner Night, Crazy Utensil Night, Kangaroo Court were faithfully observed and night gatherings around the fire pit carried on, in spite of a campfire ban. We had lots of candles instead of woodfires and the singing was as enthusiastic as ever. Oven-baked S'More Dip, a creation by our resourceful cooks, made sure everyone got their fill of marshmallows & graham crackers! A good time was had by all!

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Murray
Jr Girls Camp Director 2015

Jr Boys

My staff included Josh Mack, Matt Campbell and David Ermacora as Counsellors. My leaders were Austin Forry, Dakota Campbell, Noah Marshall Cody St Thomas, Hayden Jordahl, Liam Simmonds and Thomas Plett. I directed and guided chapel services that were created by Keith Simmonds and our lifeguard Waya Aeon-Berg assisted with first aid and most of the games.

Registrations were lower than last year with a total of 13 boys this year. The weather was beautiful and made our many swim times in cold Kootenay Lake enjoyable. My leaders were the best I have had in years and I am hopeful that it will help increase next years numbers.

We had many physical challenges for the boys and brought back Fear Factor as well. We also played games like capture the flag, Predator vs Prey and various wide games to channel the energy of the campers. We didn't get to many crafts, but the kids didn't mind.

This was a small size for a camp and makes it easier on me as a director to know where everyone is at all times. Saying that, I miss the organized chaos of years past when we had many more campers and almost didn't have enough staff. In years past, registration jumps in the two weeks before camp starts and unfortunately this didn't happen this year.

Thank you for such a rewarding and enlightening experience, I learn something about myself every year. It is always nice at Koolaree to have a place to be still and know the lord. I hope everyone will stay safe so we can enjoy many years to come and grow with the camp.

Sincerely,

Peter Herd

Director

Novice

Report not provided.

Family Camp Report, Aug. 3-8, 2015

Camp Demographics:

Family camp was a privilege to facilitate. It was exciting to have a great group of newcomers and seasoned campers of all ages. For majority of the camp we had around 30 campers with 12 of those being under 9. The kids brought much energy and entertainment to our week! There was a handful of grandparents and young adults to love up on the kids and encourage/support the 7 single moms. The lifeguard, Waya, was very accommodating and reliable for our beach time needs and his help with the children invaluable. Alex came as a support in child care for the sports, crafts and other camp activities. She and Waya were essential in providing moments of much needed breaks for the moms. I found the groundsman were mostly on hand when help was needed and were sufficiently knowledgeable/capable to meet the needs. The cooks were punctual with mealtimes and accommodating to the many dietary needs. Because mealtime is such a critical aspect of making a successful camp, I did have concerns with the quality of the meals and the dynamics between cook staff and campers. I feel a cook who values healthy meals with a good sense of flavour, presentation, cleanliness and quantities, (or at least erring on the side of having too much rather than not enough) and, just as important as the other four, has great relational skills, makes the ideal camp cook. I feel Brett did her best and has improved and the campers were very gracious, but the mealtime experience wasn't what it could be, should be. I realize too, what she had to work with, kitchen-wise, would be quite the challenge. I'm excited to hear about the fundraising efforts that are going on for a new kitchen facility. Which brings me to the last person I want to mention, Juliana. I highly appreciated having her there. She played a significant role in making this camp a success. I found her so helpful and resourceful, my go-to, when I had questions or needed assistance or needed a liaison between me and the staff. (very important). I feel she is what Camp Koolaree needs to make all the camps run smoothly and successfully. Her love and enthusiasm for Koolaree, her camper experience and her management, people skills makes her the perfect fit for a Camp Manager role. I hope this position, with her preferably in it, continues.

Camp Life:

With the wide range of demographics, it was a challenge to make sure each camper felt the camp was enjoyable and relevant for them. The theme of the week was, "What makes a good story?" At chapel we explored God's story, our own life as a story, and the two stories combined, which lead to sharing a few of our own "God stories". I had prepared crafts for preschoolers, school age and adults. The soapstone was a highlight for many. I tried to have kids activities set up so parents could have breaks. We had three campfires so the kids weren't kept up too late every night. On the nights we didn't have campfires we did a family activity and storytime before sending kids to bed. After kids bedtime there was always optional games/puzzle time for the adults, but most of the time everyone was ready for an early night. One of the areas I thought I could be better at was quiet time after lunch. The kids just needed a bit more reinforcement so there was actual quiet and kids were in their own cabins either resting or doing quiet activities. All in all, I think everyone enjoyed themselves enough to say they planned on coming back next year...which was encouraging to hear.

Concerns:

-the Bats! I can still see the 2 mom's faces when they discovered them and how many there were. I'm sure at that moment they were second guessing whether to stay.

-the kitchen/dining room cleanliness

-a more lit up walkway to the bathrooms at night

-maybe family camp canteen could be more granola bars, real fruit jujubes, fruit leather, fishy crackers and less candy/koolaid. I know a lot of it was leftover from other camps, but I think Moms were a bit concerned with the amount of sugar their little kids were eating. Just a thought.

Highlights:

-for the most part the weather was wonderful

-Clam Bay was beautiful. I wished we had gone there to swim more.

-we had great help, especially for the kids

-hike to the falls....the hike was rough but the kids were troopers!

-seeing people connect and enjoy themselves. I love people experiencing Koolaree and falling in love with the place!

-stargazing during the meteorite shower.

-waking up to coffee and hot chocolate at the lodge every morning.

-s'more dessert!

-glow in the dark items for bedtime

-craft time ...it was wonderful to see how creative people were..most everyone really got into it.

-paddle boats and canoes