

Camp Koolaree Society Annual Report 2019



Camp Koolaree Society President's Report

2019 was a very busy year where we were able to reach more individuals. We only went from 119 in 2018 to 120 in 2019, but our rentals went up. We had 3 rentals run and 3 bookings cancel. We started the year in a good place financially and finished off better. A large part of that was the grant for our lifeguard and a large donation from the closing of Beaver Valley United Church.

Our total number of campers increased from last year. Novice, Girls, Boys and Outpost camps saw an increase, Teen unfortunately saw decreases. Intergenerational camp was canceled due to lack of registrations. We hope to increase these numbers with improved marketing and word of mouth for 2020.

The Board of Directors consisted of Peter Herd, Ray Lundquist, Robin Murray, Misty Souckochoff, John Marko, Bill Furey, Natalie Plett, Juliana Marko, Nicole Cameron, Toni Lynn McKellar and Linda Gregory. It was an exciting group of people who come with eagerness, passion and a desire to help improve the camp for all.

Looking forward, we hope to continue to grow the numbers and abilities of the board members and continue to try and share the workload to ensure burn out is not an issue. The sub-committee's need clear job descriptions and a list of expectations, they would benefit from a Board member chairing the committee and having community members who were not necessarily Society members, but have an interest or experience in the given group. As our paid staff tends to change from year to year, we need to develop daily check lists to ensure continuity for the camps. We worked on the check lists for the Groundsmen this year which proved very effective. We need to continue to seek different grants and hold fundraisers to help with raising maintenance costs and offset the increasing number of camperships.

Personally, this was truly a fulfilling year because I was blessed to attend five of the camps we ran. This was my 25th 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 deep soul searching if I didn't have the option of going to this truly amazing place. It's one of the few areas 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

CAMP KOOLAREE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 19, 2018

Call to order 6:05

Opening prayer Robin Murray

Introductions: Peter Herd, Linda Gregory, Bill Furey, Irene Furey, Don Elis, Terri Burg, John Marko, Ray Lundquist, Robin Murray, Juliana Marko, Natalie Plett.

Robin moved to approve Julianna approved. Carried

Robin moved, Julianna seconded that we extend voting privileges to all present. Carried

Peter reviewed his report

Financial Report: Last 2 years we have been in the black but this year we did better. talk about saving from registrations. Canada summer jobs helped. Closing of Beaver Valley United is complicated because it is joint owned by the Anglican Church. Funds go to pacific mountain region.

Peter will add Johns Report

Presbytery: Peter relayed for Toni. Presbytery is disbanded. being transferred to Pacific mountain region. Window of opportunity. This will be a benefit Us greatly.

Registrar: Juliana reviewed her Report. Overall good Registration only one down was Jr. boys Smoke was really bad. The t-p camp has closed. We have had a couple people contact due to that.

Communications/Fundraising & Grants: Robin Reviewed. Reported Muriel Is not doing well. CBT grant was missed. Leroi Grant 1500 Grant for the Solar Lighting Panels on the brick shed. Robin talked about the beginning of the Capital Projects. We will be Launching and asking people to help go to business. Natalie is working on a script. Once 75% of funds needed are raised before announcing.

Building and Boats: Ray Reviewed his report. Thank you bill. Talked About the Malibu as a Passenger Boat. Big thank you to a lot of People. Water Pressure was fixed.

Program/Operations/Staffing: peter Reviewed His Report

Outpost: Was Cancelled due to lack of registration

Teen CO-Ed: Juliana reviewed her Report

Junior Girls: Natalie reviewed her Report

Jr. Boys: Peter reviewed his Report

Novice: Peter reviewed Julie Popoffs report.

Intergenerational: Terri Reviewed her Report

Constitution and By Laws: Robin, we just changed now we need to file new. couple of things moved from constitution to bylaws. Copied word for word from the modeled bylaws.

Robin Moved that it is accepted John Seconded. Carried

Election of Board members: Toni, Misty, and Natalie put their Names forward, Peter, Bill, John, Ray, Robin, Juliana all agreed to remain on the board for the coming year. If Troy says no Linda will put her name forward.

Open Forum: Nothing

Ray moved the meeting be adjourned at 8 pm.

TREASURER'S REPORT

It was with great sadness that the Beaver Valley United Church closed its doors on December 31st, 2018. The folk there were a major support with their time, talents and financial assistance to Koolaree since the mid 1970s. In a very generous gesture, they left us over \$105,000! Their Thrift Shop continues to support us through the Communities In Faith folk. We are using the funds for a variety of needs, but the primary use is to help us in applying for capital building project grants. We have never been in such a fortunate position before and are very grateful to the Beaver Valley congregation who see Koolaree as an ongoing mission of the United Church as do the other congregations in Castlegar, Nelson, Trail and Rossland.

We also received a \$5,000 donation from the Kootenay Presbytery which dissolved in 2018, and a \$1,800 donation from the National A.O.T.S. which dissolved in 2019. We received a grant from the LeRoi foundation which helped with the solar lighting project of the Brick Shed, and a grant from the Canada Summer Jobs Project to augment the Recreation Coordinator's position.

As a cost saving measure, we changed our camper/rental registration payment system from Active Works to Direct Deposits through the Kootenay Savings Credit Union. Although this required our Registrar and Treasurer to do allot more work, it saved us about \$800 over the year. We also dropped our line of credit through KSCU which was costing us \$150 a year.

Our income dropped this year in camper registrations but increased in rentals bringing in about \$450 more this year between the two. We gave out 25 full and 20 partial Camperships totalling \$11,275, and our 3 full and 2 partial "Sustainable Fees" netted us \$300. Our staffing costs saw a major increase primarily due to the increases in the minimum wages, but also in trying to pay salaries which would both reward long-time employees and attract highly qualified staff. We spent more on construction projects but accomplished a lot in this area with minimum expense thanks to many, many volunteer hours and donated materials.

There were two changes in bookkeeping this year: separating out the Building Fund and Dining room Pole Fund from the Profit/Loss Statement; and summarizing the Profit/Loss statement for the Annual Report. These changes should allow for more clarity. Our 2017/18 financial records were reviewed by Bill VanBeek, Treasurer for the Communities In Faith, and were found to be accurate, except for some issues around payroll, which were addressed prior to the 2019 payroll.

Although challenging, I continue to be honored to serve Camp Koolaree in the position of Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Marko, Treasurer

BALANCE SHEET

	<u>October 31,2019</u>		<u>October 31,2018</u>	
ASSETS				
<u>KSCU Accounts</u>				
Maximizer	\$ 47,148.68		\$14,559.37	
Campership	3.54		3.08	
Building Fund	85,661.62		4,101.49	
Dining Room Pole	500.94		500.70	
Shares	<u>25.00</u>	<u>\$133,339.78</u>	<u>25.00</u>	<u>\$19,189.64</u>
 <u>Accts Receivable</u>				
GST	\$ 547.41		\$ 327.05	
PayPal	339.29		300.28	
Miscellaneous	<u>-</u>	<u>886.70</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>627.33</u>
 <u>Total Assets</u>		 <u><u>\$134,226.48</u></u>	 <u><u>\$19,816.97</u></u>	
 LIABILITES				
<u>Accounts Payable</u>				
Revenue Canada	\$ -		\$ -	
Miscellaneous	<u>-</u>	\$ -	<u>-</u>	\$ -
 <u>Funds Held in Advance</u>				
Building Fund	\$ 85,661.62		\$ 4,101.49	
Dining Room Pole	<u>500.94</u>	86,162.56	<u>500.70</u>	4,602.19
 <u>OPERATING EQUITY</u>				
Opening Balance	\$ 15,214.78		\$ -	
Current Year	<u>32,849.14</u>	<u>48,063.92</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,214.78</u>
 <u>Total Liabilities and Equity</u>		 <u><u>\$134,226.48</u></u>	 <u><u>\$19,816.97</u></u>	

Profit & Loss Statement

	<u>2019</u>		<u>2018</u>	
Income:				
Camper Registration:		\$ 28,071.50	\$30,137.50	
Donations:				
General	\$ 41,313.71		\$15,283.17	
Camperships	\$ 8,434.06		\$2,800.42	
Grants	<u>2,541.00</u>	52,288.77	\$0.00	\$48,221.09
Other Income:				
Misc. Income	\$ 1,900.00		\$0.00	
Rental Camps	7,949.00		\$5,444.00	
Investment Income	28.32		\$7.93	
T-Shirt Sales	<u>110.00</u>	<u>9,987.32</u>	\$1,505.20	\$6,957.13
Total Revenue		<u>\$ 90,347.59</u>		<u>\$55,178.22</u>
EXPENSES:				
Camp Operations	\$ 10,250.72		\$10,285.13	
Financial Fees	301.53		\$1,242.07	
Staffing Costs	27,926.66		\$21,343.37	
Total Utilities	2,554.03		\$1,716.87	
Operations:				
Maintenance	3,483.69		\$2,699.64	
Other Operations	3,145.93		\$1,205.10	
Taxes/Insurance/Fees:				
Total Taxes/Ins./Fees	4,467.85		\$4,603.81	
Transportation:				
Total Fuels/Oils	1,491.87		\$1,037.93	
Total Boats	1,891.62		\$3,252.47	
Mileage	1,984.55		\$1,948.90	
Total Costs		<u>\$57,498.45</u>		<u>\$49,335.29</u>
Profit/Loss :		<u>\$ 32,849.14</u>		<u>\$5,842.93</u>

CAMP KOOLAREE
Funds Held in Advance Analyses
October 31, 2019

Dining Room Pole Fund

Balance - October 31,2018		\$ 500.70
Donation's		-
Interest Income - YTD		0.24
Total Balance and Income		<u>500.94</u>
Expenditures		-
Total Expenditures		<u>0</u>
Balance - October 31,2018		<u><u>\$ 500.94</u></u>

Building Fund

Balance - October 31,2018		\$ 4,101.49
Donation's		-
LeRoi	\$ 1,500.00	
BVUC	85,000.00	
AOTS	<u>1,800.00</u>	88,300.00
Interest Income - YTD		515.44
Total Balance and Income YTD		<u>92,916.93</u>
Expenditures		
July	\$ 3,929.04	
August	151.52	
September	<u>3,174.75</u>	7,255.31
Total Expenditures YTD		7,255.31
Balance - October 31,2018		<u><u>\$85,661.62</u></u>

REGION REPORT

This was a big year of changes within the United Church of Canada. All Presbyteries, including Kootenay Presbytery, as well as all Conferences, including BC Conference, officially disbanded on Dec. 31, 2018. Beginning Jan. 1, 2019, the new United Church governance model took effect. In our area, that meant the forming of a new governing body called the “Pacific Mountain Regional Council.” This is now the governing body to which the Camp Koolaree property title is held and to whom the camp is accountable. The geographic area governed by this body is similar to the previous BC Conference boundaries, with the addition of a congregation and camp in/near Whitehorse, Yukon, and a congregation in Banff, Alberta.

Beginning Feb. 1st, Camp Koolaree Board member Robin Murray accepted a new position with the new Pacific Mountain Region as Youth and Young Adult Minister for the North and Interior of the Region. The new Region took over some of the larger youth gatherings formerly held by BC Conference, including the Young Adult Retreat, May Retreat and the Evolve Youth Conference. There were Camp Koolaree youth and young adults in attendance at all these events, although without Presbytery to pay the travel and registration costs, it was a challenge to finance the trip. A fund in the South Okanagan held in trust from the former Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery generously paid the travel costs for two Koolaree Campers to attend Evolve as no Okanagan youth had applied to the fund this year.

As far as the governance of United Church Camps in the Region, there is some confusion still about how to effectively support the camps, like Koolaree, who were formerly supervised by Presbyteries versus those who opted into Camp Futures about a decade ago and were under BC Conference supervision. Looking forward into the future, there is a movement at the executive level to address this challenge effectively. It is hoped that all United Church Camps in the new Region can view themselves as allies to one another as opposed to competing camps, and that we can develop a collegial network of support for one another, perhaps sharing program resources and staff training where practical. The Region has also scheduled a Mental Health First Aid training course for April of 2019 in Nelson, which Koolaree Program Staff are encouraged to attend.

Respectfully submitted

Robin Murray, outgoing Board Vice President

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

This year we tried the new registration platform Google Forms. Overall this way of collecting registrations was effective (and FREE) but there are still a few kinks to work out for next year. The biggest thing is the communication between the treasurer (who is receiving all payments) and the registrar (who is receiving all of the forms). This year we had a total of 120 campers over 5 camps with 44 boys, 71 girls and 6 who do not associate with gender. Intergenerational Camp did not run this year. As you can see we had quite a few camperships this year which meant 44 kids were able to come to camp that would otherwise not have been able to afford camp. Most payments came through e-transfer which is the easiest for us and NO FEES! I also added a place for people to sign up for email updates and had 69 people say yes! This means for our next season we have a huge list to send out volunteer pleas to.

	JR BOYS	JR GIRLS	NOVICE	OUTPOST	TEEN	TOTALS
BOYS	19	0	16	2	7	44
GIRLS	0	40	14	5	12	71
OTHER	0	0	1	2	3	6
TOTAL CAMPERS	19	40	31	9	21	120
NEW CAMPERS	9	23	21	7	2	62
PARTIAL CAMBERSHIP	5	8	4	1	1	19
FULL CAMBERSHIP	4	7	7	3	4	25
PAYPAL	2	9	5	1	3	20
ETRANSFER	10	17	12	4	10	53
CASH/CHEQUE	3	5	4	1	4	17
SIGNED UP FOR EMAIL LIST	14	24	15	3	13	69

RENTALS

This year Gabriel Kazhan had booked 2 weeks to run his camps that he previously ran through the TEEPEE Camp. Unfortunately he did not have enough registrations to run his camps so he ended up cancelling both. Our three rentals were Clubhouse, Castlegar United Church's UNCHURCH Retreat and Dances of Universal Peace. We also had a retreat booked in September that ended up cancelling due to low registration.

COMMUNICATION & FUNDRAISING

Team members: Robin Murray, Natalie Plett and Nicole Cameron

Grants

We were greatly saddened by the closure of Beaver Valley United Church, who has been long time generous supporters of Camp Koolaree. They continued their generosity right up until the end, gifting Camp Koolaree with \$80,000 of the proceeds from the sale of their church building, a gift that has enabled us to seriously begin some needed capital improvements and have inspired others to donate as well, including \$5000 USD from a former camper. Having such a substantial input of cash from the United Church should also help us secure further grant funding, as we can now demonstrate financial support from the property owners.

Once again, we were happy to be selected for a LeRoi Community Foundation grant of \$1500 for a solar lighting system, this time for the Wash House. We also received a \$1800 from the United Church AOTS Men's Club for the purchase of wash house fixtures. Grant proposals were submitted to the Columbia Basin Trust, however as of this report, we have not heard back from them.

Capital Campaign

The Team continues working on plans for an ambitious Capital Campaign which would span the next five years and raise a total of \$1.5 million for improvements to the camp facilities. As stated last year, the improvements are beginning project by project as funds become available and we are not waiting for the entire campaign amount. We are currently in the "quiet phase" of the campaign, as experts recommend having 70% of money pledged before launching a public campaign. Money is being sought from individuals, groups, businesses, foundations, and the United Church of Canada. These donations are made in addition to our regular campership fundraising.

Communications

We continue to maintain a website, Facebook page and Instagram account. We owe a debt of gratitude to Jody Dudley and Juliana Marko for being the lead volunteers for our online presence. Volunteers have also hosted Koolaree booths at the Beaver Valley May Days and Rossland Golden City Days, getting the word out about Koolaree, doing face painting with kids, handing out balloons and selling surplus T-shirts. Thank you to John Marko for coordinating these volunteers.

BOATS & BUILDINGS TEAM REPORT

Over the past twelve months I have managed to fill many pages in my notebook. From that I ended up with four typewritten pages that I have tried to edit and condense into a smaller volume. In the process I have had to skip many details on who to credit for their help.

PEOPLE: In the spring we lost two Koolarians; Bill Lees, and Libbie Greenwood. Several board members were able to attend their memorial services. On a happier note, in the fall after camping season, John Marko and I were privileged to meet and take former camper and flunky, Bob Rowlands out to Koolaree for a visit. Bob had returned to Trail all the way from Wisconsin to attend the 63rd anniversary reunion of his JL Crowe grad class.

MISCELLANEOUS: In July we were requested by Interior Health to get a series of tests done on the camp's drinking water. The "Drinking Water Sources Package" covered almost every element from arsenic to uranium. In addition there were tests for various toxic chemicals and the usual checks for coliform and e-coli bacteria. CARO Analytical provided a cooler full of sample bottles which I filled and returned to the Kelowna laboratory by courier. Ten days later we received the results which all looked good. It cost us nearly \$600 to discover there was nothing wrong with the water in Eight Mile Creek!

During the accreditation visit by the BC Camping Association, the inspectors noticed that we had not had our fire extinguishers recertified annually. So to correct that deficiency, I had them checked by West Kootenay Fire Safety and also bought several new ones to replace those that were too old to recertify.

BOATS: During the year, several of us recertified our Standard First Aid & CPR/AED Level C qualification. The two day course is a requirement for operating our commercial vessels.

A notice came from Transport Canada Marine indicating that all commercial passenger carrying vessels required a minimum of \$250,000 liability insurance per passenger. A check with our insurance provider confirmed that we were covered.

Of course we had a few problems with the boats. When we installed the Merc 20 on The Scow we found that the forward and reverse control was not working. Scott McLean was able to quickly fix that.

In April we sold both the old Aroliner and the Starcraft Holiday 18 during a garage sale at Castlegar United. We had decided to get rid of these boats as the Aroliner was leaking badly and the Starcraft had a blown engine and was in rather sad shape. It was also an opportunity to get rid of the old green fiberglass boat that had been sitting in the field for many years at Clarke's outside of Fruitvale. No one wanted to take the old clunker even though it had a sign on it saying, "Free" so we eventually salvaged a few good parts and towed what was left of the boat to the dump to be crushed. However, we did keep the trailer which may see further use.

Again we received written permission from the RDCK to leave camp boats parked at McDonalds Landing.

The Malibu 162 started the season well, but then had an issue with one of the carburetors. After that was dealt with, it wasn't long afterwards that I received a call saying the engine had died. After I had towed it back to Castlegar, Scott McLean had a look and found that the gears in the lower unit had broken. The cost for repairs couldn't be justified so we are still looking for a replacement motor.

In August I had a phone call from Jacob who said he couldn't get the Merc 90 on the Starcraft into either forward or reverse. I towed the boat back to town and Scott McLean installed a set of new control cables. That fixed one problem but later that month the boat needed a new battery.

BUILDINGS: After some initial plumbing issues were dealt with, we held several very productive work parties starting on Friday May 31. That day The Brick Shed was cleared out and auxiliary supports were installed to allow the posts holding up the roof to be trimmed off and their bottoms replaced. The next day all the rotten floor planks and joists were removed and a start was made to replace them. That Sunday the floor replacement was completed and on Friday June 7 a crew returned to build a workbench and a series of shelves. At day's end the workers got doused in a downpour on the way across the lake.

In July a new lifejacket shed was constructed by Steve MacLeod and our groundsmen. A pretty mural was then painted on one of the walls.

August was a busy month. Cal Him came out to Koolaree and repaired the brickwork along the back side of the Brick Shed foundation and also replaced a number of bricks around the windows.

On Tuesday August 6 I had a text from Patrick who said he was unable to unplug one of the toilets. Two weeks later, John Marko, Patrick, and I removed the three toilets in the boy's washroom then put down a layer of pre-painted plywood that John had brought. No matter what we tried, we were unable to

clear the plugged toilet, so just covered the hole and put a "Out of Order" sign on the door. The plywood has strengthened the floor considerably. Later we found out that the toilet had been plugged with a stone!

Also in August, Mo Barry, Clay Jones, and BC Land Surveyor, Jerome Hango, made several trips to the camp in preparation for a new washroom.

In September a small crew completed the installation of a solar powered lighting system in The Brick Shed. As well, Glenn Erickson came over and cut down a number of trees. Later that month, Bill gathered a crew to frame up two new boat shelters at Castlegar United Church.

On Saturday October 12 I joined Bill and his son Darryl for a trip to Koolaree. Darryl, a geotechnical engineer, spent all day hiking around the camp and climbed far up the mountain; measuring, sketching, taking photos and making pages of notes.

I had an email from Glenn Erickson on Tuesday October 15 saying he and his sons had cut down the big cottonwood beside the Brick Shed and that they would return the next day to finish up.

On October 24 Thomas and I went to Koolaree to winterize the plumbing. Unfortunately, we ran out of RV antifreeze and the piping under the washroom sinks and at the south end of the kitchen didn't get done.

The weather had been unusually cold, but five days later Don and I went to Koolaree with more antifreeze. It was too late though as we found that the water in those pipes had frozen. With more cold weather forecast we hauled out the Starcraft at Lakeside Park and dropped it at Don's.

On November 8 a crew covered the second boat shelter and the Malibu, Scow, and utility trailer were stored inside later that day. Finally, on Wednesday November 13 Don towed the Starchief to the church and with help from Bill and Cheryl Swedburg, we built a wooden support frame and covered the boat with a tarp.

In addition to professional help which we pay for, as usual there are many people who volunteer their time for the camp. A special thanks to Bill Furey who cajoled, phoned, and twisted arms to get people out. I have not indicated who did what to save a bit of space, but the following list contains the names of the people I noted who must be thanked for their contribution. My apologies if I've missed anyone:

Tim Affolter, Mike Balahura, Mo Barry, Dennis Bezaire, Rick Bolton, Nick Briar, Larry Brown, Ken Brownlie, Cheryl Ellis, Daniel Ellis, Don Ellis, Glenn Erickson, Matti Erickson, Mitchell Erickson, Terry Fleet, Chris Foster, Bill Furey, Darryl Furey, Jim Gourley, Richard Gregory, Cal Him, Hayden Jordahl, Len Lippa, Jacob Mack, Thomas Mack, Steve MacLeod, Herman Manarin, John Marko, Gord McTeer, Tim McTeer, Jon Nesmith, Greg Powell, Patrick Sanders, Gordon Soukoreff, Cody St. Thomas, Cheryl Swedburg, John Thompson, Todd Vankosky, and James York.

Respectfully submitted,
Ray Lundquist, director

PROGRAM / OPERATION / STAFFING

Koolaree welcomed back Jacob Plett as our primary Groundsman and longtime Koolarean Patrick Sanders as our second. We were blessed with Aloe Harris as a Lifeguard, she responded to a Facebook post and was an amazing addition to our team. Linn Murray came back as our head cook with many ideas that he came up with Thomas Plett, our assistant cook. They met before our camps started and planned out a menu by researching prices at Wholesale Club.

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

Our camp directors were Juliana Marko for Teen, Robin Murray and Natalie Plett for Junior Girls, Josh Plett for Junior Boys and Julie Popoff for Novice. Natalie and Nicole Cameron directed our first Outpost camp, we only had 9 campers, but they had a blast and most hoped to come back next year with friends. All directors were free to create their own programs and given support when asked.

All of the staff paid and volunteer would benefit from templates that explain job duties and the expectations of the incumbent positions. The Groundskeepers did very well with lists that were provided and updated constantly.

Sincerely,

Peter Herd

On behalf of the Program & Operations Committee and the Staffing Committee

TEEN COED

This year 22 teens explored the theme of “Stranded” at the Koolaree Teen Camp. We decided to once again enforce a week with no cell phones, and continued to see the difference this made in everyone’s experience. Our theme was woven throughout the week in crafts, service projects, discussions and games. Each group prepared and presented a chapel service lead by our Chaplain Robin Murray.

Campers helped paint the mural on the new Lifeguard Hut which definitely turned out beautifully. They also re-applied our glow in the dark paint on rocks lining the pathway to chapel beach.

Special events this week included a hike up to the falls, a canoe trip to McDonald’s Landing where we ate lunch and swam off the dock, Water Sports, Monks Night, and Kangaroo Court.

Kangaroo Court saw the leaders dressed as plane crash victims. Closing Ceremonies were made beautiful this year with lit balloons and glowsticks throughout chapel beach by our first aid attendant Don and our Junior Leader Yvie. We gathered at the Chapel by candlelight and shared stories from the week.

Many thanks to my Assistant: Tim McTeer, the Counselors: Peter Herd, Natalie Plett, our First Aider: Don McCauly, the Leaders: Yvie Gregory, Kim Button, our Chaplain: Robin Murray and Lifeguard: Aloe Harris.

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

Jr. Girls 2019! WOW What a year! This year I am very thankful to report we had a significant increase in registration! 42? campers!!! This year the dynamic of the camp was a bit off because of the huge maturity gap between having 9 year olds and anxy 13 year olds. Camp ran very smoothly then that. This year we had an excessive amount of leaders for the first time in quite a few years. My Junior leaders included, Sophie, Tsupporah, Matilda, Celes and Abby! None of them new to camp but Everyone new t o being a leader! They were fabulous! My Senior Leaders included Hailey, Cierra, Mariah, Charley and Tessa! A couple of new Senior leader and a couple returning! Taking on new Jr's was difficult for a few of them but everyone was really cheerful and had a really successful week! My Adult staff included of Natalie and Robin (who again doubled as chaplain cause she rocks) as Co- Directors. Peter as the Nurse, Linda as a Counselor and we welcomed the amazing Kathleen to the bunch as a councilor this year as well! Our theme this year was SOAR! We mainly focused on things we can do to better the air quality and eliminate the negative outputs we have on the world. The big craft we did this year was Kites! There is no better time to make them! The hike was successful mostly everyone went up this year and everyone came back WITHOUT injuries! Closing Ceremonies were very special this year, we had a lot of girls who were really upset about having to leave and they were some of the best campers we have had! Everyone is excited to come back next year and have an amazing time at camp and snuggle a new baby! I am extremely proud of everyone who came out to support Junior Girls 2019! Here I go again with the "This year was the best year by far"! but it truly was! I am so lucky to be a part of the Koolaree team!! I am Beyond excited to see what journeys next year will bring!

Natalie

JR BOYS

Boys camp 2019 a brief overview by Joshua Mack

Sunday - This was my first year directing camp and I am pleasantly surprised with the outcome of the week. I tried some new things, stuck to a lot of old tradition and had a lot of fun. I learned a lot that I will carry with me for next year. I had many first time leaders, and our training reflected that new faces. We had a lot to cover, but I think it went smoothly, and all of my leaders I feel confident in their return.

Monday - On the first day kids arrived and all was well. We had one camper show up about a half hour late, with an unexpected extra, but a last minute cancel kept our number similar. First things first we made name tags, Met cabin groups and made team flags. We started our weekly activities with a Nature Walk to find some enjoyable rocks and examine the camps natural beauty, while another group learned some basic Canoeing techniques. The theme for the camp is Right Here; Right now. We had a minor incident with an extremely adamant homesick child, although after a couple phone calls to dad and midday nap, all issues were resolved and the young boy finished the camp without any further issues.

Tuesday - Day Two was possibly the best day, in my opinion. I tried to bring back daily discussions to the camp atmosphere, with our daily themes involving Nature, Our impact in past/present/future, Animal impact, roles, patterns, plants, with the goal being to get the kids paying more attention to their surroundings, or to take an interest in their surroundings. Although the conversation didn't always evolve in the way I intended, each discussion went along with a hike to a unique location around camp, and I think the intended purpose was fulfilled.

Today we also put our rocks found from the previous days hike to use, with our rock polishing craft, which was a huge success. Thomas led the kids through a basic process of start to finish, of hand polishing rocks. What a joy it was to see kids for the rest of the week, with all types of rocks and miscellaneous rusty metal polishing away, and some of the results were astonishing.

Wednesday - There was a lot on the plate today. We jiggled our schedule around to start the hike a bit earlier so as to stop and have our discussion halfway. That was a bit of a fail, as once the hike started kids were anxious to keep going, and the loud water made for a difficult conversation location. Everyone made it up and down successfully, and there was a lot of people braving the waterfall, which was awesome. We found some pretty unique mushrooms, one I had never seen before! After our hike we came back for a Scavenger hunt, which was again mostly nature objects, some to retrieve, and some to create / draw. Many senses were involved both in the scavenger hunt and in our other activities for the day, which included a new one I found, and a personal favorite. The new one being Cold Toes, a game where kids must fish marbles out of a bin full of ice water, most pull only a handful in 30 seconds, however one kid got over 30! My personal favorite, Scream Run, involves shouting and running as long as you can on one single breath. Clearly I have not been practicing, as I was beaten on several accounts. We finish off the day with a delish Turkey Dinner.

Thursday - We had a bit less on the plate today but it was still go, go, go. We had a new craft today, Puffy Paint. The idea was to create a fun textured painting to bring home, and the paint was a blast to work with, however most paintings dried and exposed my incorrect portions that ruined the textures. It was hard to get the kids to do this craft as many were still polishing, or had found new things to polish by this point. We also went on another Nature walk, this time to discover all of the edible plants around the camp, as well as talking about safe practices when it comes to eating wild plants. We had another discussion on the rocks of chapel beach after having a cookout at the campfire, and before heading down to Clam Bay for some mud fights. Low water meant the mud was slightly lacking, but I got some Punching Balloons for the kids to goof around with, and there was plenty of fun to be had with those, although the wind picked up and we lost a couple. (They are biodegradable!) We had a successful Monks Night, maybe one of the most successful I have seen, I was happy to not have to cancel it due to complete and utter madness, which can become the norm when the adults shut their mouths for half an hour. The night was finished with Kangaroo Court! My leaders dressed up as Fairies and blessed the kids with some epic punishments, as well as a fair dose of glitter and laughs.

Friday - Homestretch! The last full day is upon us. Like previous days, we started the day with our discussion hike, we finished by hiking the tracks out to see the caves. I did this so we could talk about our impact on the earth, as we walked along the glaring environmental disaster that is the train tracks. This hike was made a bit long because I wanted to stop and visit all of the caves along the way. The discussion part ran short. Our daily activities were replaced today with Water Sports, and as luck would have it, the worst weather of the week greeted us as we walked down to the beach. Despite this, we had a blast with a bunch of old, and a couple familiar Water games. We had an issue of a few kids not getting along, so after a quiet ten minutes of cleaning up and thinking about how others deserved to be treated, we all got our new camp shirts and tie dyed them quickly before dinner. We had our last dinner together, it was Mystery Utensil night, finally! The kids have been asking all week. There is nothing quite comparable to watching everybody struggle to shove giant spoons in their mouths, to balance food on a single chopstick up to their mouth, it was a blast! We had our closing circle at campfire, and I successfully shed no tears, although emotions were running high. The long awaited final night had arrived, which meant it was time for Mission Impossible!! We played for just over an hour, I had one homesick child sit with me in chapel while everybody else played.

Saturday - I forgot that tie dye needs to dry, so I had my super awesome counselor support team up at 6am to help me rinse and set up 30 some odd shirts to dry in the lodge. We unfortunately had a few errors in missed shirts, or not properly rinsed, but by the time it was shirt signing time, they were all mostly dry and wearable. We packed up the kids and sent them on their way! I did it. Somehow the week I stressed for months over had passed, without incident, and the kids seemed to enjoy! I can't wait to see how many return, and bring friends next year! :)

NOVICE

Our Team Director: Myself, Julie
Camp Counsellors: Mary Clarke, Mary Audia, Peter Herd, Stephanie Seufert
Boys Cabin Leaders: Cabin 1 Sr- Josh Mack, Jr- Garreth Totten-Prime, Jr-in-training- Presley Martens
Cabin 2 Sr- Ryan, Jr- Ezra Clarke
Cabin 3 Cedar and Bly Kikosewin-Holden
Girls Cabin Leaders: Cabin 1 Sr-Avril Clarke, Jr- Elyssa Clarke, Ruby Anne Popoff
Cabin 2 Sr-Shanti Woolcock and Sloane
Camp Nurse: Peter Herd

Campers: Boys- 17 Girls- 14

We had a great team who interacted with the kids well and each other. There were a few times I had to remind them they were here for the kids.

Our Theme I had been reading "The Last Child in the Woods" and I was appreciative of being connected to a camp that so naturally, powerfully allows us to experience the principles and wonders of nature that this book implores us to do and to instill in kids those principles and wonders for the sake of their and our planet's health and survival. My favourite quote from the book by Thomas Huxley was "To a person uninstructed in natural history (the study of animals or plants, especially as concerned with observation), his country or seaside stroll is a walk through a gallery filled with wonderful works of art, nine-tenths of which have their faces turned to the wall." So our chance as leaders was to help our campers turn face nature's works of art at the Koolaree Gallery! That being said, the theme chosen for this year was 'Fostering Fascination in Nature'.

This theme was captured through a bunch of activities like: Scavenger hunt, a dig for Geodes, learning about the Douglas Fir/Ant Lions/Bats, reading "The Lost Words", gold panning, hike, the Fascinating Finds display table, learning of 5 different edible plants that grow at Koolaree... Mary Audia wrote a camp theme song with actions that reflected the natural beauty and activities of Koolaree. I think it should be taught to all camps and added to songbook! I've included it at the end. It was very rewarding to see kids be willing to immerse themselves in these and other activities, becoming more aware of and in touch with their natural surroundings, filling up the 'fascinating finds' display table and, once again, each camper making it all the way up to the falls and back!

Crafts Stephanie did a great job leading the campers in crafts this year. She had them do air dry clay projects, decorated Glow in the Dark name tags, lots of options for secret pal gift with beads and paint, decorating found objects (rocks, chunks of wood) for cabin. We split the campers up so half did crafts and half did activity then switch. Seemed to work well. It was critical for her to have cabin leaders help, of which we had to remind them.

Beach time despite the weather we managed to get in a few beach times. The kids loved the big blue/yellow mat. The lifeguard did an excellent job supervising the kids swimming and running the water sports. We pushed through doing the water sports despite the cold and rain and the kids, though

resistant at first, didn't take long to get into it. We had to unfortunately cancel our clam bay excursion due to weather.

Campfire Kids loved campfire. The groundsman graciously made perfect fires for us. Two cabins were responsible each night to facilitate the campfire by choosing songs, maybe jokes, story and/or talents. Kids were eager to get up and sing a special song, probably inspired by watching America's Got Talent. We did have a small snack of watermelon each night and cookies the last night. Due to weather, campfire was held in lodge the last night. It was nice and cozy.

Food Once again Linn did a great job nourishing us and keeping the kids happy. Great portions. I think there was just once there was a miscalculation leading to a shortage of pancakes so we ended up doing Chapel and then coming back to eat more. I still miss the desserts, like the chocolate pudding with fake whip cream or apple crumble with fake whip cream or Jello with fake whip cream...sigh.

Safety Concerns and Injuries None that I can think of and just a few minor scrapes. Concerns Firstly, is there a way the dish cupboards can be more mouse proofed? Maybe better tighter latches? The second one has to do with the leadership training guide. The content is good, thorough and important. I wonder if there is a way it can be presented/written in a more engaging/interactive way for the teenage leaders? More discussion based so they own the answers more? (Maybe this is more on the Director?) The part on imploring appropriate behavior with campers and the severe consequences of any violation is very important but seemed to go over their heads. I'm wondering if it could be simplified/clarified more for them? It would be interesting to know other camps leader's training process. Just a thought.

Lastly, for the most part the parents were very gracious with waiting for their child to be brought over on departure day. Some had to wait 3 hours! The windy weather that led to using only one boat didn't help. Is there a better system that could be put in place?... maybe assigning a time to parents for pick up? Maybe alphabetically? Eg. A-H between 11-11:30, I-P 11:30-12, Q-Z 12- 12:30... unless parent beforehand makes request for specific pickup time.

In Closing THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO ONCE AGAIN LEAD NOVICE CAMP! WE DID HAVE A GREAT TEAM OF CABIN LEADERS AND COUNSELLORS. EAGER TO SEE THE FUTURE RENOVATIONS/IMPROVEMENTS! AND SPECIAL THANKS TO YOU FOR ALL YOUR WORK AND DEDICATION TO KEEPING KOOLAREE'S HEART TICKIN'!

Julie Popoff

INTERGENERATIONAL

Canceled due to lack of registration.

OUTPOST

Outpost 2019! What can I say? For the fact of it only being 8 campers what an amazing group of inclusive and fun kids! I am so incredibly proud of what we had to offer with this camp! We decided our theme would be Camp Koolaree! For such a new camp with no experience in what is good and what isn't for the LGBTQ youth community we decided to run a normal camp and let the kids decide what was the best way to do things and we learned ALOT! The camp was Co-Directed by Natalie and Nicole who doubled as chaplain. The leaders were Angela and Callum and they were absolutely amazing with encouraging creativity and trust with their campers. Peter was our Nurse and was fabulous as always. The camp ran very smoothly. We had 1 cabin with everyone in it. We were a bit nervous about how it would go but it honestly made camp that much better. We had designated changing cabins for anyone who was uncomfortable changing in the cabin. There was no expectation put on anyone to share who they are but everyone was very upfront and willing to let people in on their lives. Our goal was to create a safe space for these teens to be themselves and not feel judged for doing so and I believed we did a really good job doing that. I can't wait for next year!

Natalie