

Camp Koolaree AGM 2022



Dec 10, 2022
Castlegar United Church
Castlegar, BC

**Camp Koolaree Annual General Meeting
December 4th, 2021
Castlegar United Church / Zoom Hybrid**

Call to Order: 1:11pm

Board Members Present: Peter Herd, Bill Furey, Ray Lundquist, Nicole Cameron, Robin Murray, Linda Gregory

Board Members Present on Zoom: Juliana Marko, John Marko, Linn Murray, Natalie Plett

Guests: Don Ellis

All in-person attendees have proof of vaccination and are distancing/taking all required precautions.

Link to our AGM Report can be found here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/11Un1rZGgltxcH6mFK2v2NCXO5tTe_tch/edit?usp=sharing&oid=106155181614895293502&rtpof=true&sd=true

Motion to adopt previous AGM minutes: John Second, Robin. All in favour.

President's Report: Reviewed aloud by Peter Herd

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed aloud by John Marko

Regional Report: Reviewed aloud by Robin Murray

Registrar's Report: Reviewed aloud by Juliana Marko

Communication and Fundraising Report: Reviewed aloud by Nicole Cameron

Boats and Maintenance Report: Reviewed aloud by Ray Lundquist

Program and Operation Report: Reviewed aloud by Juliana Marko

Staffing and Hiring Report: Reviewed aloud by John Marko

Junior Girls Camp Report: Reviewed aloud by Natalie Plett

Outpost Camp Report: Reviewed aloud by Natalie Plett

Teen Camp Report: Reviewed aloud by Juliana Marko

Junior Boys Camp: Reviewed aloud by Peter Herd

Novice Camp Report: Reviewed aloud by Peter Herd

2021 Board Members declined for 2021:

Natalie Plett

Juliana Marko

Joining of the Board of Directors:

Ray Lundquist

Peter Herd

Bill Furey

John Marko

Nicole Cameron

Robin Murray

Linn Murray

Linda Gregory

Election of Officers and Signing authorities will take place at our next board meeting in January 2022.

Benediction: Robin Murray

Ray Moves to adjourn: 2:47pm

Camp Koolaree Society President's Report

2022 was a very busy year where we were able to reach more individuals. We started the year in a good place financially and finished off better. A large part of that was the grants our Fundraising committee was able to secure.

The Board of Directors consisted of Peter Herd, Ray Lundquist, Robin Murray, Linn Murray, John Marko, Bill Furey, Natalie Plett, Nicole Cameron, Linda Gregory and Michelle Holm. It was an diverse 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 are interested or have 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 need to continue to seek different grants and hold fundraisers to help with raising maintenance costs and offset the increasing number of camperships.

This was truly a fulfilling year because I was blessed to attend three of the camps we ran. This was my 28th 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 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

TREASURER'S REPORT

There's a lot to report regarding finances this past year. Our camper numbers were the highest we've had in the past several years, boosting our camper registration revenue up \$10,500 over last year. The Dances of Universal Peace rented their usual Labour Day weekend slot, so our rental revenue was up by \$4,400 from last year when we had no rentals. We also received a \$31,188 Canada Summer Jobs Grant which covered the bulk of our \$40,000 payroll. This enabled us to hire three Recreation Camp Attendants (formerly volunteer Cabin Leaders), a cook and assistant cook, a Recreation Coordinator and a Groundskeeper. So we actually spent about \$10,700 less for staff this year than last year, and we had three additional staff! Thank you Government of Canada!

We received \$3,410 in donations to our Campership Fund this year, which was added to the \$4,000 we had left from last year's Fund. But we handed out even more than that in Camperships, completely depleting the Fund and then some. We're hoping to put out a special plea for donations to this Fund next year, so we can continue our policy of turning no one away for financial reasons.

Raising money for a new boat was a major fundraising project this year. At a cost of over \$160,000 our new boat is expected to be in operation for the 2023 camping season. We have received \$17,300 in individual donations, \$3,800 from local United Churches and Thrift Shops, \$500 from the Trail Rotary, and \$6,021 from our own Fundraisers. We have added \$64,000 to those donations from our Operating account for a total of over \$91,000. We are still plugging along trying to reach our goal by the spring when the boat's construction will commence, but

the Pacific Mountain Region (PMR) of the United Church of Canada has committed up to \$70,000 to help us achieve our goal if need be.

We spent about \$91,000 on the construction of the new washhouse this year, and have about \$106,000 left from the grant for the project we received last year from the PMR. Our contractor, Mo Barry, is planning on using that to complete the construction next spring along with an additional \$35,000 from the PMR.

Our financial records have been reviewed this year by Bill VanBeek, Treasurer at Trail United Church, and found to be accurate and transactions properly recorded. At the suggestion of the PMR we are actively seeking a bookkeeper who can use an acceptable accounting program. This would be a huge relief to me, as the job of Treasurer has grown dramatically since I took it on eight or so years ago.

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Marko, Treasurer

**CAMP KOOLAREE
2021/2022 BALANCE SHEET**

	<u>October 31, 2022</u>	<u>October 31, 2021</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>		
<u>KSCU Accounts</u>		
Maximizer	\$ 21,012.03	\$ 4,720.89
Campership	0.34	3,932.51
Building Fund	106,084.58	66.62
Dining Room Pole	503.75	502.67
Reserve Fund	205.56	80,120.17
Gaming Account	-	300.00
Shares	25.00	25.00
	\$ 219,162.13	\$ 89,667.86
<u>Accts Receivable</u>		
GST	\$ 2,311.55	\$ 3,795.23
PayPal	1,034.95	346.28
Miscellaneous	203.98	203.98
	3,550.48	4,345.49
Total Assets	\$ 222,712.61	\$ 94,013.35
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
<u>Accounts Payable</u>		
EI:	\$ 118.59	\$ 1,296.78
CPP:	325.78	-
Taxes:	361.05	1296.78
	805.42	1296.78
<u>OPERATING EQUITY</u>		
Opening Balance	\$ 92,716.57	\$ 37,477.00
Current Year	129,190.62	55,239.57
	221,907.19	92,716.57
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 222,712.61	\$ 94,013.35

REGION REPORT

Camp Koolaree Annual Report 2022: Pacific Mountain Regional Council Report
Submitted by Robin Murray

The Pacific Mountain Regional Council held its Annual Meeting at the beginning of June in a hybrid online and in-person in Prince George, BC. Nicole Cameron attended the meeting online on behalf of Camp Koolaree.

Robin Murray attended most of the Outdoor Ministries Institute (OMI) monthly Zoom gatherings. OMI is the national United Church Camps group offering education and collegial support to camp paid and volunteer administrators and Board members. Topics for education included guest speakers on topics such as effective fundraising, staff recruitment, and Covid policies.

The Regional Minister in charge of Faith Formation at camps, Rev. Mary Nichol requested to serve as Chaplain for one of our 2022 camps so as to better get to know us. Unfortunately, in the end, the camps happening during the weeks that she was available were already staffed with returning Chaplains. She will try to come in 2023.

Bill Furey, Mo Barry, and John Marko spent quite a bit of time in discussions with the Regional Camping Minister, Ian Fraser, regarding facilities and building up our relationship there. This culminated in a meeting with the Koolaree Board in November of 2022 to discuss long range strategic planning. It was suggested at that meeting that we should request the Region appoint a new representative to our Board. That position has been vacant since Robin Murray left her position on the Regional Council staff and returned to being a regular member of the Camp Koolaree Board of Directors.

Robin Murray also attended the first online meeting of the newly formed PMR Camping Network in November. This network, led by Rev. Mary Nichol, is designed to connect the seven United Church Camps within the Pacific Mountain Region to one another for collegial support and resource sharing. Some of the areas of concern identified at the first meeting were rising insurance costs and staff recruitment & training.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

After many years of not being able to run at full capacity we were allowed to this year! We seen a 36 camper increase. Being at full capacity. See below for numbers.

OutPost was cancelled due to low enrollment

Novice : 32

Jr. Boys : 35

Jr. Girls : 41

Teen : 25

Intergenerational : 18

Total: 151 campers!

Registrar

Natalie Plett

RENTALS

We only had one rental this year, the Dances of Universal Peace. They always have a large group who pop up tents all over the camp and dance multiple times a day. There are usually about 60 individuals and it runs like a well-oiled machine.

COMMUNICATION & FUNDRAISING

It has been a really full year for this committee working on raising funds toward the purchase of the new boat for camp! We have done fundraisers in the community such as Golden City Days with the city of Rosland, and partnering with Ferraro Foods in their gift card fundraising program. We also had a great turnout of sponsors for our silent auctions at our 90th anniversary Gala, from individual community members and businesses from Nelson, Castlegar, and Trail. While construction on the new wash house continues, camp Koolaree was able to secure \$5,000 of funding for the sinks in 2021 thanks to the generosity of the Kootenay Savings Credit Union. This year, we put those funds to use with the installation of 2 custom trough-style sinks with the interior plumbing. We were able to secure a grant from the RDCK of over \$13,000. We'd like to thank the Marko family for holding an estate sale and donating the proceeds to Koolaree.

We have also been working hard applying for grants this year, and working hard to keep our Facebook page up to date. Throughout 2022 the board has initiated several large communications campaigns to raise awareness of our events and fundraisers. This has included getting published upwards of 10 times in local papers, several radio interviews, and purchasing ads in newspapers and social media. Our social media campaigns this year have seen continued growth in both followership and interactions. This growth has been particularly noticeable on Facebook where our official page has gained 93 new followers and an increase of 43.7% in people our posts are reaching in 2022 according to Meta statistics.

We partnered with Canada Summer Jobs for most of our employees at camp this summer, and due to this grant we were able to create four new paid positions at the camp for local youth. So far this year with everyone's efforts we are nearly halfway toward the purchase cost of the new boat, but there is still lots of work to do. With some new resources for the new year in hand, the communications and fundraising team plan to spend the next year continuing with our hard work.

Respectfully, Nicole Cameron

BOATS & BUILDINGS TEAM REPORT

We started the year with a team meeting on January 10 that involved a phone call to Jon Wise of Munson Boats in Burlington, Washington. We needed to clarify a few details regarding the new landing craft which will be custom built for us.

March was not a particularly good month. We received the disappointing news that we would not be receiving any funding from Lotto BC and one of our two boat shelters collapsed on top of The Scow and the utility trailer. And if that wasn't bad enough, someone tried to steal the Yamaha 50 and controls off the Starchief while it was parked at the church in Castlegar. On March 30, Bill Furey and I started to dismantle the buckled boat shelter while Don Ellis re-installed the engine mounting bolts so we could tow the boat to his place. That month I took in the first of five webinars concerning small water systems put on by Thompson Rivers University, "Protecting Source Water and Importance of Source Protection Plans".

On April 1 we towed the Starchief to Kootenay Boat Works in Balfour where Grant Carlisle replaced leaking carburetor floats and reinstalled the controls for the Yamaha 50. He managed to find a part to replace the missing steering linkage, but was unable to remove the hydraulic tilt/trim system due to bad corrosion. Two weeks later we brought the boat back to Castlegar. While the boat was gone, we finished dismantling the wrecked boat shelter and took the bent framework parts to the dump.

Sunday April 24 was Camping Sunday. Board members John Marko and Nicole Cameron led the services at Castlegar and Trail United Churches respectively. Both presentations were well received.

On Thursday April 28, Don Ellis volunteered to take Ken Kowalyshyn and Lori Finch to Koolaree to pick up the rest of their gear, and while at camp, he found a broken pipe and fittings at the water intake.

In May there was a silent auction fundraiser at Castlegar United. Mid month I took in another TRU webinar "Wildfires and their Effects on Drinking Water Systems".

During the Koolaree Board Zoom meeting on Sunday May 29, I informed the others that due to health issues, I probably wouldn't be much help this year. Nevertheless, two days later I went down to Don's to help him, Bill, Margaret, and Cheryl turn over The Scow. They say, "Many hands make light work" and so I didn't strain myself.

The following week Bill, Don, and I used grinders equipped with wire cup wheels to prepare areas on The Scow's hull to be TIG welded by Carson Barnsher.

On the afternoon of June 7, I took in another free webinar; this one about wildfires was put on by the UBC Faculty of Forestry and moderated by CBC's Johanna Wagstaffe. That evening Bill and I were back at Don's working on The Scow. The stern joints of the boat were sprayed with Leak Seal and with help from Margaret and Cheryl, we turned the boat upright and put it onto Don's boat trailer.

With the level of Kootenay Lake rising, Don made a visit to the camp on June 9 to work on the damaged water intake. The following week Don and I got the Starchief cleaned and ready to go. Lights, horn, and bilge pump were all checked and working.

Don and Carson Barnsher launched The Scow at McDonalds Landing on June 15 and managed to repair the water intake. Meanwhile Peter Herd, Jacob Plett and I launched the Starchief at Lakeside Park in Nelson. That Saturday a small work party arrived to clean the washrooms and kitchen. Two days later a bear showed up and did some damage to a propane line. Before the end of June the propane line had been repaired, new oars purchased for The Scow, Richard Gregory had bucked up the logs that were near the fire pit, chains were installed between some sections of the dock, Jacob and I brought in a load of propane from Taghum Shell, and I was able to take in another TRU webinar; "Chlorine & UV Disinfection Applications for Small Water Systems".

July was another hectic month. Bill, Don, and I had another Zoom session with Munson Boats to confirm a few details on the landing craft and later received a cost estimate for an optional bimini for \$3,700 USD. Just in time for Novice Camp, Don delivered a brand new hot water tank for the kitchen and that was installed by Kessler. Jacob and I brought in more gasoline and propane on July 15. The following week I received an email from the new health inspector saying that the water sample on July 19 was unacceptable and that the system needed disinfection and he would like to make a site visit soon. He didn't and fortunately the water quality improved.

On Wednesday August 17 I brought out another four cylinders of propane, this time from CanGas in Castlegar as one cylinder had required recertification. Jacob arrived at Nichawa and took them over to Koolaree in The Scow.

Don and I drove to McDonalds Landing on Friday September 2 prepared to haul out the Starchief and change the oil in the lower unit. Unfortunately we found the parking lot full of Dances of Universal Peace vehicles so could not do the job that day. Returning on the sixth, we hauled the boat up into the parking lot to do some maintenance. We were disappointed to see no oil showing on the dipstick before we drained the crankcase oil, but happily found no evidence of chipped gear teeth when we drained the lower unit gear oil through a fine screen. With a new oil filter, a full crankcase, and a lower unit filled with fresh oil, the Starchief was put back in the lake.

Jacob's last day was September 16. He sent me a text explaining that he had drained most of the water system. He added that the upgrades to the washroom solar system had not been done but that Stu Schmidt had been out and had painted the interior walls in that building.

I managed to take in another TRU webinar "Water Loss and Water Aging" in September, and a few days later Jean and I drove to McDonalds Landing to check on the Starchief and because the boat leaks a bit, run the bilge pump. On Thursday September 29 the Koolaree Board met at Castlegar United for the first in-person meeting since COVID-19 struck two years ago.

On Sunday October 2, Jean and I made another trip to McDonalds Landing to check on Starchief and pump out the bilge.

Following an appointment at Kootenay Lake Hospital on October 11, I went to McDonalds Landing to once again check on the Starchief. After pumping the bilge, I started the Yamaha 50 and tried selecting forward and reverse while still tied to the dock. The idle speed was still too high and each shift went in with a "bang". I believe that the shifting mechanism is not set up correctly. In addition, the effort to turn the steering wheel is way too high and that issue needs to be investigated.

I made a trip to Koolaree myself on October 20 and found the camp in pretty good shape. While there I drained the kitchen hot water tank and also the two hot water tanks for the portable washrooms. I also put antifreeze in the kitchen and dining room sink drains and infused some into the cooler line.

Towards the end of the month, we had a team meeting at Furey's to review a number of issues and on October 29, Don, Bill, and I made a final trip to Koolaree. We often find beer cans and trash in the parking lot, but were certainly impressed to see somebody's junked lawn mower and snow blower sitting there with our boat trailer. At the camp, Don made a final check on the water intake while Bill and I finished winterizing the staff bathroom, Hospital and the four portable washrooms. We hauled out the Starchief and the Scow and towed them to Don's place.

With winter just around the corner, we met again at Don's on Saturday November 5, and with help from Margaret and Cheryl Ellis we framed up a boat cover for the Starchief and draped it with Don's big white tarp. The Scow was propped up against the shed, Bill took the life jackets, Don put away the fuel tanks and ropes, and I left with the boat's battery and safety kits. Another year was done.

Koolaree would not function without the work done by many volunteers. My sincerest thanks to those people I have mentioned and to those others whom I have missed.

Ray Lundquist

STAFFING

Koolaree welcomed back Jacob Plett as our only Groundsman for his 9th year I believe. We were blessed with Logan Armstrong as our Lifeguard, he was a light hearted breath of fresh air, who brought a lot of energy and music and dances moves to not just the water. Apollo Johnston and Cory Jones were our cooks, they brought new ideas to the kitchen and rose to the challenge of learning to cook at camp. For the first time we had paid Recreation Assistants: Hannah Sanders, Kate Friesen and Chrysaylia Lightburn. They were utilized at the various Directors discretion.

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.

PROGRAM / OPERATION

Our camp directors were Juliana Marko for Teen, Natalie Plett for Jr girls, Josh Mack for Jr Boys, Julie Popoff for Novice and Tim Totten for Intergenerational. All directors were free to create their own programs and given support when asked. Numbers were up from years past and some camps had wait lists. We found that a higher than average number of kids were sent home due to behavioral issues and then in the Fall learnt that it was a common thread nationally.

Sincerely,

Peter Herd
On behalf of the Program & Operations Committee

TEEN CO-ED

This year 28 teens explored the theme of “Outer Space to Inner Space” at the Koolaree Teen Camp. We explored the idea of space in all areas of our lives. Our theme was woven throughout the week in crafts, service projects, discussions and games. Each group prepared and presented a chapel service led by our Chaplain Keith Simmons. This was our first year having a gender-neutral cabin, and it was a complete success. It was so great to see the openness of our campers this year.

This is the first year since I began directing that I have had to send campers home. An unfortunate event, but lots learned. 2 campers were caught smoking pot in the bathrooms before bed, and were picked up first thing on Thursday morning.

Campers spent a bit more time at the beach this year to cool off from the heat, but also helped clean up the camp a bit. Each camper was able to tie-dye their camp t-shirts and also got to paint “space” rocks which they placed around the camp.

Special events this week included a hike up to the falls, Water Sports, Monks Night, Kangaroo Court and a morning at Clam Bay.

Closing Ceremonies were made beautiful this year with lights strung up to make a tent-like space at chapel beach by Don and Yvie. We gathered at the Chapel by candlelight and shared stories from the week. After we sent our candlelight cross into the water we spent time together dancing and having lots of fun on our last night together.

We made our way back to the dining hall for hot chocolate, marshmallows, graham crackers and a closing circle!

Many thanks to my Assistant: Tim McTeer, the Counselors: Peter Herd, Jill Foley, our Rec Assistants/Cabin Leaders: Chrysalia Lightburn, Kate Friesan, Hannah Sanders, Yvie Gregory, Sarah Conn, Patrick Sanders and Aiden

Armstrong, our First Aider: Don McCauley, our

Chaplain: Keith Simmons and Lifeguard: Logan Armstrong. It was so great to have a full staff!

We were all able to take lots of breaks so we could be at full energy for the campers.

I am so thankful to the Camp Koolaree Board for allowing my continued service as Director at Camp!

Sincerely,

Juliana Marko

JR GIRLS

Jr. Girls 2022! WOW What a year!

We had a full camp at 41 campers!!! This year the theme was Celebrate! This was how the week was laid out.

MON- Celebrate Yourself

TUES - Celebrate Others

WED - Celebrate Your Surroundings

THURS - Celebrate Community

FRI - CELEBRATE

SAT - Celebrate Your Family

During the days we Did several activities that correlated with the thing we were celebrating. My leadership team this year did great,I hope to see all the campers and staff again next year.

Natalie Plett

JR BOYS

A Year in Review

This year was hard, both inside and outside of the camp I encountered obstacles towards my emotional health. Despite the staffing issues, heat, boil water, wildlife, we managed to put out a fun year that I think is my best yet.

Our theme this year was Life is Unfair. I came to this theme throughout the month leading up to camp, as I extensively reviewed Fairness with my students at my regular job.

The goal of this theme was to promote Resiliency, because life isn't fair! Sometimes what you want isn't what you get. Sometimes the obstacles in front of you feel insurmountable, and sometimes the only way out is through. The boys had their determination tested at every corner.

I implemented an extra challenge layer in all of our daily objectives, giving punishments to the best teams, not only to make it easier for everyone else, but also to inspire those rising above and beyond to push even further. This worked out well, although I think that given more time and hands it would have been more prominent, and could have been better.

On Monday, we met all of our campers, our cabin groups, and leaders, of which we had many doing double duties (Nurse/Groundskeeper/Director + Leader/Councilor), and Day 1 we suffered a little as we tried to figure out how to manage everything. It was immediately evident that we were underprepared for a boil water advisory, and made adjustments the next day to ensure a consistent supply of water was available to the kids.

The activities for the day included designing our Cabin Flags, although they were never put on cabins, the campers had fun designing them. We also met our Team groups, and started the overarching event of the week, our Treasure Hunt. This event would continue for 3 days, with teams being given an array of photos to find by meticulously searching the camp.

On Tuesday the heat started to ramp up, and while we did achieve all of our activities, campers were mostly interested in being in the lake. At this point a few campers were getting very restless to the heat, and morale was difficult to keep up.

Our craft of the week, which campers would continue to work on throughout their free time all week, was colouring our Camp T-shirts. With a multitude of different colours, the goal was shirts whose colours were themed between teams, although I could have found a better way to do it, as a week of free range with sharpies left some shirts more desirable than others. We also had Day 2 of our Treasure Hunt, as well as Canoe Lessons, which was much needed, and we saw an increase of canoers throughout the remainder of the week.

On Wednesday we did our hike, which was a much needed break from the heat as we made our way into the valley. Lots of kids had fun staying in the waterfall as long as possible, it was pretty strong this year, and it was the weight of the water, rather than the temperature that limited their resolve.

We did another "Craft" with our teams, venturing into the bushes of camp to build a secret base, which we used during wide games to play what I dubbed Base Raid, a sort of 6 team take on capture the flag. It went over as expected, no group is ever fully engaged in one activity.

Thursday saw a bit of a cooler day, in that there was an occasional cloud to cool us between bursts of sun. Many of our activities were riddled with unfairness. Those who questioned rules and thought outside of the box often had advantages over other teams, and I kept it fair internally by alternating when teams went, so that they may see other perspectives.

A brown bear was spotted several times throughout the day, starting by breaking into the kitchen overnight, a spotting at Flag Raising, another attempted break in twice at lunch time, and a beach chase shortly before Wide Games cause us to opt for Field Games and free time instead.

It was Mystery Utensil night tonight, and the strangest thing happened. In my 21 years at Boys camp I have never seen an entire table of boys leave the kitchen in disgust due to the eating habits of another.

The busy day concluded with Kangaroo Court, and going along in our Theme, we were unable to find mountain spirits to come and punish us, so our graceful helpers took on another responsibility, and with our Double/Triple Duties, we gave the campers double duties “punishments” as well.

Everything started to come to a peace resolution on Friday. We were very nearly graced with a thunderstorm on Friday as we began Water Sports, although it never graced us past a few droplets.

Water Sports was coordinated to get campers in the lake as often as possible, and I tried a few new games or new takes on old games. I think they all went well, and I know how to streamline them for next year.

Monks Night was another weird one. There was no shortage of talking, and campers eating in the woods, however campers were very respectful of others choices, and for the first time in years I was not forced to end early to avoid conflict.

It was with sadness of the campers, and sighs of relief from the staff that we were forced to cancel our Mission Impossible night, with the fear of wildlife still strong. Instead we played with our leftover water balloons, had a water fight, and finished the night with some free time before campfire.

Saturday came and went and we were done before we knew it! The end of camp went pretty cleanly, with the few hiccups that are to be expected having minor effects on our morale.

Overall this was definitely the hardest week of camp I have personally endured, and if not for the amazing staff that came out and helped (out of the 8, 5 were first time leaders at Boys camp, 3 of which having never even been to Koolaree) I would probably not have made it, but we managed to pull off a crazy fun week, and I have never had more campers afterwards talking about coming back to help out in the future.

I have big ideas for the future of boys camp, and I left feeling burned out, but inspired for the future.

Cheers!
Joshua Mack

NOVICE

Once again we had a wonderful Novice Camp. 35 campers! I, Hillary and Christine co-directed the camp. We had a great team of cabin leaders, counsellors, (Malann and Linda May) and camp nurse who worked well together to provide a safe, fun and caring experience for the campers. Our theme was “Woven Together” and we learned about being connected to and the impact we have on each other and nature.

We had beautiful weather all week. The sunshine and the new dock made beachtime a highlight. We did miss going to Clam Bay as the water was too high.

Health and safety wise we did pretty good. We had only minor injuries. Lori, our camp nurse was excellent with the kids. We had two kids go home due to being homesick. I’m always so amazed that these brave little ones come and sleep 3 nights at camp and some of them have never slept away from home! Our team works hard to ensure these campers are taken care of. This year we tried something new with the counsellors taking over bedtime for the cabin leaders once the kids were in bed. I think we found the campers settled better.

I’d say the food was a bit of a challenge. The kitchen staff were wonderfully friendly and worked hard, but the quality of the cooking was lacking and so the kids struggled to eat enough.

The other challenge we had was with the recreational assistants. We had enough help with the team we already had and felt like the extra helpers actually made it more of a challenge for us in some ways. Communication about this team ahead of time would have been helpful in finding ways to involve them and so that all members of the team could use their specific skill sets to add value to the camp.

Once again I am thankful for the Koolaree experience that we all shared; the beautiful immersion in nature, the friendships made and adventures had.

Thanks again to Jake and the board for all the work you do in allowing Koolaree to touch many lives.

INTERGENERATIONAL

For one week in August, a mixed group of adults and kids explored the interconnected nature of all things in a theme we called **Connected Creation**. Robin put together a fantastic series of chapel services that masterfully covered the topic; being on a level easily understood by the kids, while also offering deeper insights to the adult campers.

While my co-director Nancy may not have made it out to camp in person this year, she was definitely there in spirit. The wide assortment of arts and crafts activities she'd put together were greatly enjoyed by all. The *dish-soap resist painting* was particularly well received, and gave the campers a physical piece of art to bring home that will be a reminder of the week of fun and fellowship we all had at camp.

She also prepared a full set of *paper bag skits*; one for each of the four camper groups. Each group got a day where they would be assigned a random paper bag. During the chore time on that day, the skit group would meet at the campfire, look in their paper bag, and put together a quick skit using the items in the bag. At the start of Campfire in the evening, the group would perform their skit. It was a blast, and will be back next year!

This year's service project was also spearheaded by Nancy. She supplied paint, brushes, and rollers to repaint the checker-board outside the lodge. The groundskeepers filled a bunch of the holes with new cement on Sunday so it was ready for repainting during the week. The end result was lovely, and was celebrated by playing a game of chess on the board once it was dry.

We hiked to the waterfall on Wednesday, which was a nice cool break from the heat of the day. We had a mid-afternoon trip to Clam Bay on Thursday, and it was so well-liked that several campers asked if we could go again the next day. Given the fairly fluid nature of my camp activity schedule, that's exactly what we did! For special meals, we had Mystery Utensil night and Monks' Night; both were a lot of fun!

Things went pretty smoothly for the most part. Only one camper had to unexpectedly leave early due to a family emergency; in the rushed packing she forgot a few things at camp which I got back to her after camp as she lives not far from me.

A world of thanks goes out to our wonderful chaplain Robin Murray, the talented Logan who served double duty as lifeguard and first-aid, the cooks, the recreational assistants, the groundskeepers, my son Gareth who helped out a lot, and my partner and co-director Nancy Prime without whom I would not have been able to do any of this!

Despite the boatload of anxiety that came with being the sole on-site director this year, it ended up being a really wonderful week, and I'm greatly looking forward to returning next year!

Tim Totten

OUTPOST

Canceled due to lack of registration