

What an absolute joy to be a parent volunteer on this year's Grade 5/6 visit to Camp Rumbug along with Kayla's dad Carmine.

We knew we were in for a lively weekend with the chants about *anything* starting up moments after the bus left Cooper Street on Wednesday morning. My favourite was "Tunnel, Tunnel" as we went through the Eastlink tunnel.

Our rowdiness was challenged as our kids were just "being kids" at a playground in Koo Wee Rup, when we later found out there was a VCE Physics exam being held there at exactly the same time!

More cheers when we arrived at Camp Rumbug. Camp attendees no doubt feared the upcoming time without family or wi-fi, minimal sleep and more exercise than usual. I dare say the kids held these fears as well!

One highlight was the faces the children made during different activities. Such as when on the giant swing, where the children were clipped in, then hoisted about ten metres in the air before being released for their swing. These faces were only slightly different from the faces they made when they found out what food was being served for dinner.

More great faces I witnessed were before, during and after the Flying Fox activity. Also, whilst being forced to shelter during a snap thunderstorm, which was quite frightening. The fashion show and "robot wars" were highlights as well.

Bonus points go to the lengths Carmine and Mr Howard went through to try and find reception to watch the dying stages of the Australia vs Honduras soccer match on Wednesday night. Bonus points have to be deducted for the smell of rooms 9, 14 and 16. Boys, there's only so much that Rexona can hide!

But my favourite faces were when we got on the bus on the way home. Looking down the rows of seats, there was a healthy mix of fatigue, excitement and relief. We made it home safely, driving through fierce thunderstorms and strange odours emanating from the back rows of the bus.

I want to most of all thank the teachers who organised and supervised this camp. Parents – they worked tirelessly, relentlessly for 55 hours between when you dropped off and picked up your little darlings. They were at times teachers, nurses, orienteers, prison wardens, nutritionists, friends, confidants, but ALWAYS on duty. And let's not forget they are parents themselves. The camp facilities are top quality, the food was excellent, and the staff, including our host, Dylan, simply the best.

If the children had even half the fun us adults had, they have had a ball.

Camp Rumbug 2017 – a fantastic success.