

EASTER AT NEWNES



Trip Participants

Sweetnam's (Fill in trip leaders)
Groth's, Khor's, Lucas's, Sharma's, Kevin Chigney,
Ward's, Plazonic's, Dale's, Boland's, Ellis's, Lyttle's

We had 5 families head up Thur night after work, with Lenny & I taking approx. 4 hrs to do the 2/12 hour drive spending most of the delay between McGraths Hill Mc D's and the Pittown Rd turnoff (approx. 500m took nearly an hour).... But getting up Friday morning at camp and a lazy breakfast was still worth it. The other 7 families rolled in over the course of Good Friday and went through the set up ritual, some (most) under the expert guidance of those already set up and happy to offer plenty of expert advice.

Some took the chance for walks to the shale ruins, others tinkering in camp while others again just relaxed

with a good book. Taps our fire marshal lit the fire Thur night and maintained it through to Monday when we left with a conservative yet appropriate attempt (not a Brassiere type fire).

Saturday sore a couple opt for a drive, either in to town for supplies or down to the start of the Glow Worm tunnel walk, while others chose Saturday to visit the ruins - everyone chose their own way to relax and enjoy what Newnes had to offer. The kids took care of themselves with Lucas Plazonic the latest of a long list of kids to remove their training wheels at Newnes.... Sticky wicket cricket was a regular with different sessions over the 4 days along with trips to the creek for a dip, or a ride to the hotel to hang out and play. Sunday saw the world famous Easter Egg hunt, with 23 kids hunting down eggs hidden all over the camp. This year the Groth's narrowly missed the 23 kid wake up alarm with the only rule - no one starts till everyone is



up..... The only thing missing from this organised chaos of the hunt was the organised bit....

Kids tore through the camp on the chocolate hunt, turning in their findings to the communal collection tub for sorting and dispersing later. This year's theme was quantity over quality with every kid (regardless of size) getting approx. 45 eggs including a large rabbit. Surprisingly there were no sugar meltdowns or chocolate hangovers so I think parents stepped in for some rationing after the hunt was over. I will have to try harder next year...

Next came the communal Sunday breakfast. All the tables were lined up through the centre of camp, meals prepared and everyone came together for a huge Easter Sunday breakfast. With 44 people it was epic with bacon, eggs, pancakes, savoury and sweet dishes to choose from - We had a fantastic morning meal. The rest of Sunday was a relaxing affair with people

choosing different options for their entertainment. By the afternoon there were a number of generators in action to top up some depleted batteries with our winner – 11.2v on a house battery starting the theme off. Overall there were no issues and everything worked out but at least we could stand around with a bonnet up and talk some rubbish as we moved from car to car discussing nothing in particular.

After dinner Taps built up the fire and we all came together for the last night – our large circle talked away for a couple of hours, again about nothing in particular until one by one people drifted off to bed. Monday saw the pack up and drive home go as smoothly as you could hope with the last of us out of there by 11 and home by about 2ish with no holiday traffic – great finish to a great Easter.

Thanks again to everyone for another fantastic Newnes and making everything so easy...