



clontarf
foundation

Bound for Success

Being offered the opportunity to learn something new every day is the right of every student.

But some Karabar Academy members hadn't made the most of this opportunity in Term 1 and so were offered a different opportunity to learn in a different way to kick off Term 2.

The Outward Bound program offers an opportunity for experiential learning in outdoor settings. Outward Bound integrates intensive experience and skill-building, centred on the belief that education should place equal emphasis on the development of character and intellect. Seven specifically identified academy members and two academy members who had previously attended the Outward Bound program met at Tharwa Outward Bound HQ, got a crash course in packing their packs and then set off into the wilderness of the Namadgi National Park.

Over the next five days the boys would trek 40kms, up mountains and down valleys, carrying at least 10 to 15 kgs on their backs with everything they needed to survive the five days. Along the way they were faced with physical and mental challenges, opportunities to learn, overcome fears and take charge of situations. But also engaged in fun and exciting activities along the way.

Academy members took responsibility for setting up camps, leading the group through the trails, preparing meals, and ensuring the impact on the environment was minimal. Along the way the group also undertook abseiling challenges, caving experiences and high ropes courses, testing their limits and revealing to themselves how they are capable of being resilient and overcoming obstacles.

Through the experience the group were also, unwittingly, undertaking all sorts of formal learning. Geography through topographic map reading, identifying landmarks, math through use of compasses and maps to find directions, food tech through food and meal prep and hygiene, physics through the application of opposing forces to set up their bivouacs each night, biology through being introduced to new plants and their uses, history in exploring the history of the area both before and after colonisation.

The experience was one that provided both challenges and great memories for the group and there was obvious personal growth in everyone over the week. A huge thank you to the Outward Bound team, especially Gus our group leader and Ian who helped us set up the experience. The Outward Bound team provided a perfect opportunity for the academy members involved to develop and mature and now they have all the tools to help them be more successful in school. We all hope they are able to pick these tools up and use them over Term 2 to engage and thrive.

