

CENTRAL AND COASTAL REGION NEWS

INFERNO NZ VENTURE

Scouting in Central and Coastal Region has had an exciting and adventurous start with, seven Venturer Scouts and a Rover Scout attending NZ Venture “Inferno” The most Awesome Adventure I have ever been on was one comment, we partook in death defying activities such as the Giant Swing and Jet Boating, was another’s comments. New Zealand Venture 2016 was an incredible experience which I will never forget and if I am given the opportunity again I would do it in a heartbeat, commented a Rover.

Five days of the Pre-tour activities were at Queenstown in the South Island and then on to Auckland for three days. Activities that we experienced were Ziptrekking at Queenstown gliding through the pine forests on a zip line, adrenalin pumping white water rafting on the Shot-over River, bike riding around Lake Wakatipu and through Queenstown Botanic Gardens which was a great extra option to do. Going up on the Queenstown gondola and did 5 luge rides starting on the beginner course and working your way up to the advanced, becoming airborne was a thrill on its own.



Milford Sound Cruise where we took an underwater Observatory tour and a kayaking activity, we enjoyed a great meal, got soaked to the bone under a waterfall and had the opportunity to observe a group of New Zealand Fur Seals. Another activity was an amazing adrenaline free fall swing called the Nevis Swing which had a 70 metre free fall and a 300 metre arc. Hiking on Ben Lomond at Queenstown was another activity however the summit wasn’t reached due to bad weather settling in.

Off to Auckland and a visit to Snow Planet to learn how to ski and New Years Party with an Olympic Theme. Unfortunately, due to extreme bad weather and torrential wind and rain our planned trip to the Coromandel coast had to be cancelled but the contingent activities team did an amazing job at organising a bunch of indoor activities to keep us occupied including indoor paint ball, A Lord of the Rings Movie Marathon, Lazer Tag and Games Zone and Ice Skating.

The following day bought our Auckland visit to an end as we were all bussed to Waitomo for a quick tour of a Glow Worm Cave before continuing to Rotorua and our Accommodation at Lakes Ranch. It was here that we met up with the 300 New Zealand Venturer Scouts and the 200 Australian Venturer Scouts who did not join us on Pre-tour. Phase One of the Tour began with the opening Ceremony for New Zealand Venture Inferno 2016 went off with a bang.

For the following six days on Caving Expedition in Waitomo we spent more time underground than we did above. We went through a total of 3 caves Ruakuri, Gardners Gut and Urenui visiting Ruakuri twice. Rakuri is a tourist Glow worm cave which we had the opportunity to explore with Black Water Rafting Co. We took part in Black Water Odyssey which is a cave with zip lines, abseiling and edge climbing on metal footholds 8 metres above the river churning below us. It is a very interesting cave and I recommend it to any International explorer for caving in New Zealand. Gardeners Gut was the last cave that we explored. In this cave we followed the river line and at times the water line was up to our chest.





Our favourite area in Gardeners Gut was the Water Crawl where we crawled in a passage that was 30 cm high in places and spanning across the length of a football field. The expedition was an amazing experience and would not have been the same if we did not have the great guides and cooks who looked after the 80 Venturers in The Underground Expedition.

Now for Phase Two, we were bussed off to the next campsite with our very own beach. The whole five days we were there, activities were available on and offsite. We could play dodgeball with new and old mates, ride a greasy pig or a crazy bull, play a game of playful Zorb Soccer, watch movies at the theatre, swim in the pool, play tennis and mega Chess. That was just onsite. Off site you could dare the heights and climb high in Adrenalin Forest High Ropes, explore Rotorua, trek the mountainous landscape on bike, luge like never before or go karting. All these activities filled up our long days, but our nights were catered for as well. Every night, the DJ was standing on the stage pumping out tunes new and old pleasing all age groups.

Venture ended with many long goodbyes, hugs and tears as we left our newly made New Zealand friends behind. Their adventure had ended, but the Australian Contingent's hadn't. We enjoyed a day at Agroventure where we partook in death defying activities such as the Giant Swing and Jet Boating. To end our day, we learned the ways of the Maori People. We also lived in the footsteps of Hobbits in Hobbiton. However all good things must eventually come to an end. Many tears and farewells were exchanged, friendships were forged and will be remembered for years to come. This Inferno was an outstanding experience and I recommend to any youth member to take part in the next Inferno.

To top it off the Mackay Venturer Scouts spent an extra day in Brisbane and went to Movie World before returning home.

Compiled by M Wallace from stories written by Venturer Scouts Conrad Lamb and Riley Simpson, and Rover Scout Alex Cinelli.

