

Media Release

Monday 9 July 2012

Many hands make light work

The Mansfield based Parks Victoria team recently hosted five students and a teacher from Lauriston Girls School's Howqua Campus who assisted with a variety of Park management activities in Howqua Hills Historic Area and the Alpine National Park.

The program involves the students spending two days per week over the month of June undertaking a range of projects within the realm of a community service organisation within Mansfield and Jamieson. The group undertaking the community service project with Parks Victoria were given an insight into the life of a Park Ranger and what is required to keep areas open for the public.

The students and their teacher assisted Parks Victoria rangers in a number of activities including maintaining walking tracks, cleaning up campgrounds, clearing fallen branches off roads and carrying a sign into Ritchie's Hut. The girls gained skills in maintenance tasks, which required safety appraisal and using a number of hand tools. They had to supply some old fashioned muscle power and team work to get the job done.

Parks Victoria Ranger in Charge Mr Bart Smith said we always appreciate having extra hands on board to help with projects but it is also great to give the girls some insight into Park Management and to develop the relationship between the school and Parks Victoria.

Lauriston Girls School Principal Ms Susan Just added at Lauriston, we believe that the experience of contributing to the lives of others is essential learning.

"It is always a great thrill for the Howqua students to see the positive impact that their work has on our local community. It is an experience that students carry with them for the rest of their lives", said Ms Just.

The highlight of the program was the 12km return walk into Ritchie's Hut with several rangers carrying and putting in place an interpretation sign about the endangered Spotted Tree Frog.

However, one sad aspect the students were exposed to during the project was picking up rubbish left in and around camp sites in the Howqua Hills Historic area. It was disappointing for the students to have to do this but it provided a greater appreciation of the role rangers have making sure campers and visitors do the right thing when visiting parks.

As a future reminder, if visitors do notice any damage or suspicious activity undertaken by irresponsible campers, please report it directly to Parks Victoria on 13 1963.

Media enquiries

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