

---

---

Friday, 18 December 2015

Dear Parents and Guardians,

## Phillip Island Initiation Ceremony

When the 2016 school year begins there will be a camp. The camp celebrates the beginning of the new year, and is a pleasant way to renew acquaintances and compare the broken hopes and dreams we carried with us into the previous Christmas break. As usual, the camp will be at Phillip Island because the Australian Government has no legal authority over happenings on Phillip Island. This gives us opportunity to find some locals, willing or otherwise, that will fill our wicker man. It is also a time when each student is asked to make a square for the 2016 Alia quilt. Students must sew and stitch their square from their deepest fears and anxieties. Once finished, the quilt will be consumed by the Alia staff and then we will all be forever bound to each other.

### Departure from Alia:

Tuesday, 2 February 2016, at 9.00am. You will need to be at Alia College, 405 Tooronga Road, Hawthorn East, at 8.30am ready to leave by coach at 9.00am. Anyone arriving after 8.30am will be asked to leave and return earlier. Anyone refusing to do this will be seen as hostile and dangerous. Such students will be served warm sand for each meal while on camp to cleanse them of their unreasonable attitude. The sand will be collected from public showers and warmed in my shoes.

### Location:

Cowes Caravan Park  
164 Church Street  
Cowes VIC 3922

### Return to Alia:

Friday, 5 February 2016, at 4.00pm(ish)

**Sleeping arrangements:** Tents. If you do not have a tent and cannot find someone to share with please speak to your Homeroom teacher and they will try and help, but they will also secretly be judging you. Maybe it will be a positive judgement, maybe not. You will never know unless you make a written application on the *Outcome of Judgement* form available in the office. Also, please let Team Office know when you have confirmed you have a place to sleep. On occasion Tomer and I like to take a sleeping child from one tent and place them in another tent, knowing exactly where you are when you fall asleep makes the process easier.

### Activities:

Cooking	Uncertainty	Sunburn, tiredness and hunger
Hiking	Wicker man construction	Sleeping
Horse Riding	Eating	Giggling
Movies	Profound regret	

### Contacts:

Bob's Mobile: 0404 019 882	Alia's Mobile #1: 0488 030 446
Scott's Mobile: 0412 808 767	Alia's Mobile #2: 0458 162 135

Regards,  
Mikaela Goulding (Camp organiser and Alia College sketch artist)  
Jeremy Warren- Foody (Camp)  
S. Pearce (Camper)

# Pack List

## for Phillip Island

### Necessary Items:

- Lunch and other food for the journey there
- Strong waterproof tent (or arrange to sleep in another person's tent) and all its parts
- Sleeping bag
- Pillow
- Mattress or Lilo
- Plate, bowl, cup, tea towel and a spoon. These items will be melted down and forged into new plates, bowls, cups, tea towels and spoons.
- Water bottle
- A black cloak and poorly-fashioned black hood that obscures your face.
- Sunglasses
- Backpack
- Toiletries (toothbrush, soap, Band-Aids and USA for Africas)
- Clothes for 4 days; underwear, jumpers, shirts, shorts, night wear, socks, hat, old shoes, bathers,
- Towel
- Hiking boots or rugged shoes
- Jacket
- Lots of sunscreen

### Optional Items:

- A realisation that this too shall pass
- Tent
- Annexe
- Rope
- Reading material
- Writing material
- Lots of money (there are shops and deals to be made)
- Sweets, Chips, Chocolate
- Sporting equipment
- Board games, cards or musical instruments

### Please do not bring:

- Drugs, alcohol, cigarettes.
- An unwillingness to show consideration for others
- Nightmares
- Difficulty

### Alia will provide:

- Food
- First Aid Kit
- Transport
- Entertainment
- An answer to a question you have not asked and are unlikely to ever ask.

**Note:** Anything you bring is your responsibility; please do not bring anything that you are not prepared to take responsibility for.

## **Camp Q &A**

**Q: I am new to Alia College and I have always hated school camps. They are so regimented and boring, do I have to go on camp?**

A: No you don't have to go but Alia camps are very different. Yes, there are activities but they are not compulsory. There are set times for breakfast, lunch and dinner but you do not need to partake in each meal. If you want to sleep all day then you can do that. The camp serves as an opportunity for the community to come together, celebrate the year and build relationships with each other. This is part of what makes Alia different. If you want to make the most of your time at Alia, and you want it to be better or different to your previous experiences, please involve yourself in the community.

**Q: Can I do as I please and show a determined disregard for the school's reputation and Phillip Island in general?**

A: No. Alia camps are, in the eyes of most people outside of the school, unconventional. There have been a number of times in the past when the owner of a site has expressed some initial concern at the lack formal rules on Alia camps. There has even been an occasion when a park owner reported students were in the camp kitchen making a cake without supervision. The camp owner reported the students were polite, accommodating to other campers and kept the kitchen clean, but there was no adult watching their every move. Alia students need to work almost twice as hard as students at other schools to show people they are not dangerous and destructive. Thankfully staff do not have to prove this.

**Q: I am a current student at Alia, recently I procured several litres of cheap wine and some hash, is it okay to bring it on camp?**

A: No it is not. Alia camps give students a lot of freedom but in doing so teachers put themselves at professional risk. If a student decides to do something really unsatisfactory on a camp, so unsatisfactory that other people get really upset about it then the teachers on the camp can find themselves in trouble. During the time you are on camp the teachers have a duty of care to make sure you are safe. If you take advantage of the freedom and trust given to you then you can put yourself at risk, but you also put the school at risk and the teachers on the camp at risk of serious professional consequences. People make mistakes, they make poor choices, and generally we cope with this. Sometimes we do not cope with this. Sometimes when a person decides they do not want to help out on camp, that they are okay with other people needing to work harder and for longer to cover their absence, sometimes that means that person is not a good fit for Alia. Your choices are statements. Please don't make choices on camp that are so bad it ruins things for everybody else.

**Q: I don't have a tent and I don't know anybody. What should I do?**

A: Please tell your Homeroom teacher or go to the office and speak with Jeremy or Tomer. These people will be able to give you some helpful advice. This does not mean they will solve the problem for you, but they will definitely help.

**Q: I went on the start-of-year camp last year. On the second night as I was walking to my tent I was hit in the back of the head and I lost consciousness. When I woke up I found that I had been sold to a fanatical cult. I suffered unspeakable horrors. Eventually I escaped and returned to Alia, but it took months when I got back other staff were living in my home, wearing my clothes and dating my girlfriend. Is this likely to happen again?**

A: Here we go. Every time there is a camp Hagan has to complain about something. He doesn't like it when he is beaten or sold for \$15 so Tomer and I can buy lentil burgers. Look, you got most of your things back and you got them back at a reasonable price. I mean they were in really poor shape; no one took care of them. I can't make any promises it won't happen again, but maybe if you had a different attitude about it wouldn't be such an issue.