

Wednesday, 8 November 2017

Camp Sale Sold to Castlemaine

Dear Parents / Guardians / Unwilling Accomplices and Students,

As the year draws to a close we, once again, prepare to cleanse ourselves with sacred rituals. Initially we planned for the camp to be in Sale, but then we were reminded that Sale is cesspit populated with scurrilous windbags and despair. Thus, we petitioned Castlemaine, and they hastily passed local ordinance banning Alia College and all past, present and former students from entering their lands. Alia mustered troops, there was a short conflict conducted under black flag, which is the Alia College custom, and we are pleased to say that Alia has now annexed Castlemaine and is passing threatening letters to Sale. We will enter Castlemaine as "liberators" and we will be praised for our heroism. If any of the remaining locals, and there aren't really many, do not praise you for your heroism, please report them immediately to administration. Remember, have your robes pressed and cleaned before camp. As a rule, the more starch the better. You also need to have completed your ceremonial mask. Alia will provide fire. It is time to dance.

Departure from Alia:

Monday, 4 December 2017. 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 have their feet bound and their hands folded across their chest. They will then be wrapped in a calico shroud and asked to perform the songs of either Joseph Porter or Captain Corcoran. Those still unfamiliar with Arthur Sullivan and W. S. Gilbert should feel a crushing sense of inadequacy.

Location: Castlemaine Gardens Holiday Park: 1 Doran Avenue, Castlemaine VIC 3450

Return to Alia:

Thursday, 7 December, at approximately 2.30pm.

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. Also, please let Team Office know when you have confirmed you have a place to sleep and, if you are sharing, who will be in your tent. Also, provide a list of all valuables you will have in your tent, their approximate worth at Cash Converters and the times you will away from your tent. No reason.

Activities:

Cooking

Hiking

Quiet hiding

Heedlessness

Ghost Tour

Equivocations

Laser Tag

Movies

Swimming

Regards,
Sweet Sugar Sean (Camp sweetness)
Thomas Foody (Camptabulous)
S. Pearce (Camped)

Pack List

for Castlemaine

Necessary Items:

- Lunch and other food for the journey
- 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
- Water bottle
- An understanding that time does not pass you, you pass time.
- Sunglasses
- Backpack
- Toiletries (toothbrush, soap, a shovel, bleach and a bag of lime)
- 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:

- Creed
- Tent
- Annexe
- Rope
- Reading material
- Writing material
- Lots of money (there are shops and people selling things, things like tomorrow and sunshine and vanilla)
- 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
- Evils
- That melancholic grandparent that smells like stale urine

Alia will provide:

- Food
- First Aid Kit
- Transport
- Jollity
- Unanswerable questions that must be answered

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 what we have or have not achieved, 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?

A: No. Alia camps are, in the eyes of most people outside of the school, unconventional. There have been many 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 and recently I procured quality hash pipe and some quality stinkweed; is it okay to bring those things on camp?

A: No. 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. Comments like, "I've been at Alia for [insert number here] years, I've done a lot of things for this school," do not carry much weight. Your choices are statements. Please don't make choices on camp that are so bad it ruins things for everybody else and ends your time at Alia.

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 Thomas 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 help.

Q: I stopped working at Alia after the 2016 school year decided to go overseas to broaden my experience of the world. Recently I returned to the school and I have been helping with a few things here and there. Why has my head been shaved and my clothes replaced with a coarse hessian sack invested with lice? I would also like my passport returned.

A: It's called penance, Hagan. You don't get to leave me. Not now, not ever. Love me.

Camp Activities at Castlemaine

On camp there will be both optional activities that we will need to pay for and book in advance (they are outlined below), but there will also be opportunities for other less-rigidly scheduled activities, such as the movies (\$12.50-\$17.00), ten pin bowling (~\$13.50), and more, as well as lots of interesting shops. If your young person is interested in these, we suggest they bring some extra money along with them for the activities. Once bookings are made, further information (such as permission slips, clothing requirements, etc.) will be provided. Payments may be made by EFT, cash or cheque, payable to Alia College. Please return this form and payment to the office before Monday, 27 November 2017.

EFT details:

Acct Name: Alia College
Bank: Bank Australia
BSB: 313 140
Acct No.: 23161798

My young person by the name of _____ wishes to participate in (please indicate):

Activity		Cost
Castlemaine Gaol Ghost Tour (1.5 hours)		\$20.00
Laser Tag (45 minutes)		\$18.00

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____