

CAMP CAPACITY 2011

This year's camp was one of sun, surf and magical moments. With many of the camper's ticking off Christmas Day as just another day before Camp began, the organisers were under the pump to make this the most fun and exciting camp to date.

This year's magical group was made up of 46 campers, 32 volunteer carers and 4 MDSA staff. Camp is a fun and exciting week where a great group of people spend 5 days and 4 nights at the Mylor Baptist Campsite in the Adelaide Hills. This year there was plenty of stories to tell...

DAY ONE: The war for the winners title begins as everyone is assigned to a team....

Past camps have seen some triumphs and great memories created and this year promised to be no different, with such a unique group of young and youngER people coming together. The 7 teams named after summery and magical things had been decided and you could see the fiery determination on the faces of the competitors that would put anyone to shame. The early afternoon started with some team games and challenges and from the start teams bonded together in hope of winning the coveted 1st place.

Further into the afternoon planning began for the title of the most fabulously decorated surfboard, and right from the word go, the client services team could see they would have a difficult time in choosing the winner. Come sun down the war faces had taken over as they all entered into what can only be described as a field of demolition! Otherwise know as the Laser Skirmish field! The competition saw the teams executing their plans of attack and implementing the take no mercy attitude. Part of the MDSA team even tried their skills only to be overpowered by the more experienced players! If it wasn't for night setting in, the rounds would have been never ending!



DAY TWO: A day of speed and adrenalin on land and in water...

The morning saw only the brave tackle the Big Swing and High Ropes Course, but not before tackling the monster of a hill at the Mylor Campsite! Campers and Carers worked together to hoist each other up to the top of the Big Swing, only the bravest going right to the top and pulling the string to swinging freedom. Others helped to spot a friend as they dared to walk the tight rope and take a leap of faith.

The afternoon was upon us and the competitive streak had once again been brought to the surface in our campers and even some of the carers. Over at ETSA Park Stadium the floors had been polished ready for the wheelchair sports athletes to burn rubber. The first half of the session saw a "friendly" game of Wheelchair Soccer take place, as the game continued everyone began to lose track of who was winning, mainly due to the amateur umpiring efforts of Richelle and Amber!

The last half of the session brought out the not so friendly streak in the campers and carers as they battled it out for the title of the quickest on wheels in circuit form. Last year Tim Holman had the edge over Sam Afrozis, but this year we saw the tides turn and the standings were reversed. The final and most entertaining circuit saw the campers competing in a grab the playdough (a twist on grab the flag) course with their carers and this was very funny to watch! After picking up the playdough and sticking it to the campers chair the carer then circled behind the chair before continuing to the next cone. The circuit had the makings to see some serious collisions between runner and driver however due to the sound control and poise by the competitors it resulted in them clocking some fantastic times! It was the campers who use manual wheelchairs and were pushed by their carers who took the all important 1st, 2nd & 3rd titles!!

Over on the wet side, campers and carers enjoyed a more refreshing kind of competitions, winding, zipping and racing each other down the slides at The Beach House. For those who preferred to stay dry the bumper cars were a great chance to release some stored up energy!

Night was upon us and there was excitement in the air for 'Camp's Enchanted Summer Fiesta'. The double doors opened to a summery wonderland and the campers and carers walked the purple runway in their best summer and magic attire. The night required you to put your thinking cap on as an assortment of questions and challenges had the minds ticking over. The night ended with some 'fishing' where the young captains put their skills to the test, all of them achieving a catch and scoring points for their teams' total.



DAY THREE: Magic can happen....

The morning started with another session of Big Swing and High Ropes, with those remaining dare devils tackling the heights, most with massive smiles on their faces. We even saw some friendly faces from the day before wanting another rush of adrenalin.

By early afternoon for anyone who didn't believe in magic certainly changed their tune after George from Adelaide Magic appeared from nowhere and stunned us all. By the end of the show it was a matter of picking jaws up off the ground as George had even the most unbelieving of people scratching their heads with his trickery.

After dinner a rumbling sound came over camp that could have been mistaken for a ferocious storm, luckily it was that sound that many campers look forward to hearing, the arrival of the Harley Owners Group. Excitement could not be contained and many were on their best behavior to try and secure that all important first ride! After about an hour you could see that almost everyone had felt the thrill of sitting on the back of one of the bikes as they were all sporting atrocious wind blown hairstyles! These selfless HOGs men and women have not missed a camp in nine years and they

always make sure each person has their fair share of rides, some clocking in 10 – 15 before the nights end.



DAY FOUR: Winter weather in January....

With the Client Services team prepared for sweltering heat and a possible emergency evacuation if the fire danger rating was extreme, they hadn't thought of preparing themselves for the unlikely event of rain... With this spanner thrown in the works, Sailability could not go ahead, but thankfully the pirates at the Maritime Museum came to the rescue with plenty of aaarrgghhh laughs in their school holiday performance. While down the road the other campers and carers tackled the wintery weather and surfing no waves at Glenelg! The young campers had all the glory putting their carers to shame with their skills. As the weather was not ideal for the beach some of the older campers and their carers opted for a nice walk down Jetty Road to see some sites.

Upon return to the campsite we were greeted by some friendly faced volunteers who were there to assist the teams with the manual labor needed to decorate their surfboards. After everyone had finished the client services team made an executive decision that they were not qualified enough to decide on the winner, as all the surfboards looked too incredible! So Janice from MDSA was brought in to use her trusty eye for craft to make the decision. It was the closest competition of the entire camp with first place being awarded to the Banana's in Pyjama's board, who scraped in by a banana peel!

The final night of camp meant a yummy buffet feast at The Old Mill for the older campers, and their carers, some going back for 5 or 6 serves... of dessert!! While the youngsters enjoyed a relaxing night watching movies on the big screen while munching on some treats and it seemed to be exactly what was needed.

DAY FIVE: The all mighty pack up and wind down...

You could see the sign of relief on the faces of the client services team as the final day was upon us and camp had been a success without any major glitches. With everyone well and truly worn out after such a fantastic week, it took some real soul searching to find the energy to undertake the huge task of packing up, it never ceases to amaze the MDSA staff with how much mess can be made!

A last minute swim was motivation for many to pack up promptly, while on dry land the nail-biting playstation final had many of us glued to the TV to see the outcome. Soon enough the truck arrived and the loading began, but not before the presentations were made with some very funny certificates being handed out! Finally... what everyone had been working towards all week... the 1st, 2nd & 3rd placed standings. Prizes were handed out and the last team was not forgotten, with each team member walking home with a plastic magic wand, much nicer than a wooden spoon!

THANK YOU

Months and months of planning goes into Camp Capacity every year and it would not be possible without the dedication of MDSA's fundraising team to come up with the \$21,300.00 of additional funds needed to run the camp. MDSA would specially like to thank the Crows Foundation who contributed an amazing \$3,000.00 to the activities portion of Camp Capacity and to Community Benefit SA who contributed \$11,700.00. MDSA can not run Camp Capacity without the generous support of its volunteer carers who so kindly give up a working week to participate in the great adventure. MDSA would also like to thank the following people for generously donating their time or services to Camp Capacity in 2011:

- *Crows Foundation* 
- *Brighton Surfing Club* 
- *SA Taxi Trucks* 
- *Harley Owners Group* 

MDSA would like to thank the following people for selflessly donating their time to Camp Capacity in 2011: .

- *Bow Tie Bears*
- *John Clements*
- *Janice Phillips*
- *Darryl McLean*

And last but not least MDSA would like to thank the following people for their support, in helping make Camp Capacity in 2011 such a success:

- *Surfing SA*
- *The Beach House*
- *Hahndorf Old Mill*
- *Adelaide Magic*
- *Kanga Coachlines*
- *Mylor Baptist Campsite*
- *Locked and Loaded Laser Skirmish*
- *BFO Hire*
- *ETSA Park Stadium*
- *Bluebus Commuters*
- *Barb and the nurses*

