

Glenrock Beach Camp



13 Scouts and 2 Leaders camped at Glenrock Scout Camp at the beginning of January for 5 days.

The Camp is 7kms south of Newcastle Train station, nestled in a valley deep enough to prevent mobile phone coverage, surrounded by Glenrock National Park with the bush ranging from coastal forest to temperate rainforest in parts, and next to the beach. Idyllic.

Most hiked in from Newcastle, walking along the beach.

On arrival we discovered that we had the Camp almost to ourselves. For a site which can comfortably take 600 campers, there were only 2 families at one end. We had the pick of the sites, and spread out near the beach end. Plenty of fresh air, with a view of the ocean waves breaking on the beach, and the lagoon in the front with fish continuously jumping.

We had a couple of days of sunshine, swimming in the lagoon or walking up to Merewether beach where there are lifeguards. There was a cool change on Wednesday night with a bit of rain and some thunder & lightning. Interestingly we saw mammatus clouds for the first time, and then about 15 minutes later were hit by a very strong gusting wind about 10 degrees warmer than the ambient. This lasted for 5 minutes or so, then the temperature dropped back down again. Most exciting at the time. A couple of guy ropes on our new (second-hand) marquee broke, so the marquee blew away. The dining fly was having trouble, so it had to be part dropped. And one of the Patrol Tents blew over. After collecting personal gear which had blown everywhere (there is a reason why the Scouts are asked to keep their tents tidy and their gear stowed - but usually learnt the hard way), and having no idea where the wind came from (nuclear bomb blast was the most popular suggestion) we put storm guys on the tents in case the wind came again.

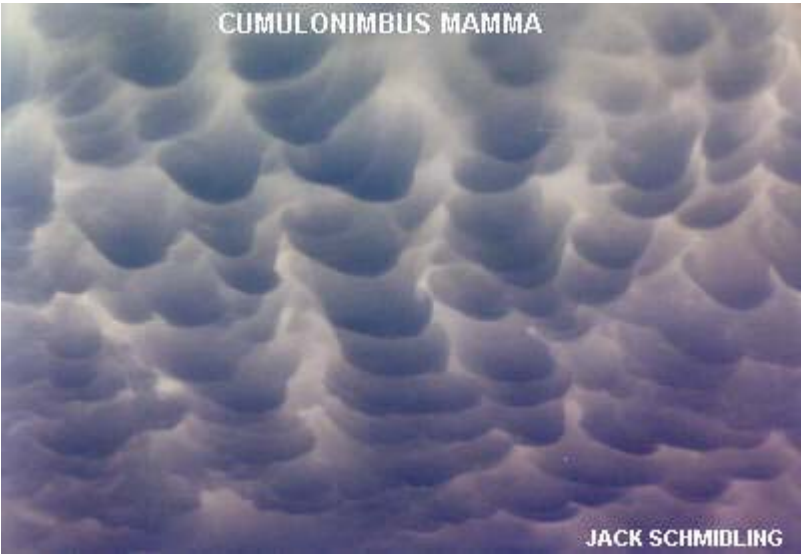
Socks did some research after the camp, and the wind was a “Heat Burst” caused by a collapsing thunderstorm. Normally hot air rises. When a thunder cloud collapses, the hot air comes down, hits the ground and flows out in a big rush. The temperature rise is typical, the mammatus cloud is indicative of a strong storm but not necessarily connected with heat burst. This is a rare event - we were just in the right place at the right time to experience a lovely freak of nature.

<http://www.srh.weather.gov/srh/jetstream/tstorms/wind.htm>

Thursday was overcast, and as most of the Scouts were tired/a bit kissed by the sun, it was spent at rest. A bit of fishing, and a short hike to look at the remnants of the coal mine and the nice bush and views. Friday some more swimming at Merewether, kite flying, and a walk back up to Merewether in the evening for a bought dinner.

Saturday most hiked out to Adamstown Station, an easy walk mostly along an old train line including a tunnel.





JACK SCHMIDLING