



The Tambourine Bay Venturer Unit kicked off the decade in the only way they know how, taking a trip to Tasmania to explore the deep wilderness of the Walls of Jerusalem area, discovering the challenges of learning to water ski, and learning about the historical importance of Tasmania.



Before the start of our hike, we had a day off, and the Tambourine Bay Venturers chose to spend it learning a new skill that nobody had done before. This skill was water skiing. If there is one thing we had heard about water skiing, it's that nobody gets up on their first try. However, we were all completely blown away by the teaching techniques of the people at the Horsehead Water Ski Club on Lake Barrington (who had very kindly agreed to let us stay at their club and teach us how to water ski). They rigged boom bars to the sides of their boats which you held onto when it was your first time. They helped with your

balance, and slowly, you progressed to a short rope on the end of the boom, and then onto the full-length rope behind the boat. Everything we had been told about water skiing was thrown out the window when almost everyone got up on their first try. We also spent time swimming at a beautiful waterfall as well as packing food and gear for our hike.



Many travellers to the most southern state in the country, hear about and visit the Cradle Mountain National Park area, famous for its stunning scenery and wildlife. But lesser known is the hidden gem we found ourselves in, called the Walls of Jerusalem. The group of 10 Venturers, planned and led the 5-day hike that took us through towering cliffs and dense pencil pine forests. The hike consisted of a challenging climb to reach 'The Walls', two exploration days in the area, then two days of walking out via a longer route where we slept on the shores of the picturesque Lake Adelaide. The two exploration days were spent ascending the towering peaks that surrounded our campsite at Wild Dog Creek where we had pitched our brand-new Mont tents. We learned the hard way that possums don't let a tent stand between themselves and food and they tore a hole in one of our new tents.

Whilst your average walker may enjoy sticking to the marked track to give the easiest passage up a peak, us Venturers (with care to step on rocks, not plants) found joy doing quite the opposite. Where a path went up one side of the peak, we went up another, and even ascended peak that had no paths just to get a new perspective of the beautiful place we had found ourselves in. All up, 5 peaks were climbed and only one (Mt Jerusalem) was climbed on a path. We would often find ourselves scrambling up rock scree to the tops of peaks such as King David's Peak, Zion Hill and the Temple. On our third night we found ourselves camped no more than 200 meters south of an area known as Dixon's Kingdom in a clearing surrounded by very old and enchanting pencil pines. As a group that has been to Milford Sound in New Zealand and also climbed Cradle Mountain, we found a 5-day hike to be well within our capabilities, but we certainly looked forward to sleeping under a solid roof at the 10th Hobart Scout Hall.



Our time in Hobart was spent doing activities in the city, meeting up with local Venturers and exploring the historical surrounds of Tasmania's capital city. During our time in the Walls of Jerusalem, we had run into a pair who turned out to be Venturer leaders of a group in Hobart. We organised to meet up with them in Hobart for some dinner. When we turned up to their house, we met four local Venturers. We played cards with them and ate a delicious feast of home-made food. We got quite friendly with the Venturers and planned to meet up again the next day so they could



take us to the top of Mt Wellington and then to a place called 'the soldier' which was a 15 metre high rock, 30 metres away from the coast. The more daring of the Venturers jumped from the top whilst others jumped from lower heights (which were still very high). After this outing, we parted ways with the Venturers from Hobart. On one of the days, we headed out to Bruny Island for what had been awarded the best attraction in Australia. We boarded a boat that took us around the island's rugged cliffs by water. We saw hundreds of beautiful seals and some members of the group even reported sightings of dolphins in the distance.

On one of the other days, we headed out to Port Arthur to educate ourselves about the history of convicts in Tasmania and how convicts were only sent there if they were repeat offenders. Back in Hobart, we visited Salamanca market on a Saturday to see it in full swing and Franklin Square on a Wednesday for a dose of live music. To keep up our levels of exercise, a few members of the group participated in the Hobart Parkrun and we all went mountain biking on Mt Wellington. We were dropped off approximately halfway up the mountain and we rode down on fire trails and single trails, stopping to look at views that showed us the evening sky above the beautiful city of Hobart. After all our adventures in the wilderness state of Tasmania had come to an end, we headed back to Sydney, ready to start another year of Venturing.



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