

Lake Pupuke

When we went to lake Pupuke, this was my first trip with my outdoor class as I arrived in the middle of term 1. I was relatively worried at first because the class members all seemed very close apart from me. I knew only half the class members and didn't know the rest. NH was a good friend of mine because she is in my tutor class so I tried to work with her most of the times.I felt quite isolated and didn't want to share my opinions because I wasn't comfortable with one of the boys I had to work with. I think according to Tuckman's group theory, I was at the "forming" stage because I was driven by a desire to be accepted by my group members and avoided any conflict or feelings that occurred with the group.I realised the girls were more focused than the boys. We maintained on task more whereas the boys just sat there and talked, they would always be talking about irrelevant things to the task. However, we all contributed in our share of opinions and ideas during discussions. The behaviours that I observed were that the boys joked around a lot, which made us all laugh and have a fun time which rather helped our group get friendlier and get to know each other better. I think we are at the polite stage at this moment (Coggs ladder) because we are still getting to know each other and ideas given were simple. At the lake, my class was put as one group when we were kayaking. During this, our group had effective listening by staying quiet and focusing on what our instructors were telling us to do. This ensured everyone was aware of the instructions. ...I saw Jason and Anthony do the T-rescue and I was able to get an idea of how to do it. They did very slowly so that I was able to learn.when I did it I got some help from group members who saw that I was struggling. Quinton got assigned to help me and he was very helpful showed me clearly what to do. I failed a few times, but we worked co-operatively. He gave me some feedback on what I was doing wrong and I considered all of this and I was able to do this in the end. He also helped me in a positive way because he kept saying "try again, you can do it" and had a smile on this face. Giving me feedback helped me to improve the skill which is one of the benefits of working and learning with others in the group.

I feel much more comfortable around my classmates. I have made new friends with some of my group members which has helped me gain a bit more confidence.I am more comfortable talking to some of the boys and asking them for help.I believe that we weren't working cooperatively as a group as well as we should have. I think that the group needs to use more effective communication by using loud voices, having active listening skills and giving feedback so the group can function much better.

Ponui

..... We got assigned to decide what food to bring for our overnight trip.

Hunua Tramp

On this tramp, the behaviours that I observed to start with were that me and my group members were all quite shy as we had Year 13 outdoor student join us in our groups. None of my group members know the Year 13's so we were all getting to know each other better as we started our tramp. According to the idea of cogs ladder, we are at the "polite stage" because ideas were simple and we were still getting to know everyone in the group. Also there was a limit to self-disclosure because every member of the group wasn't confident enough to share their ideas publicly or be dominant

around the others. This was like starting all over again with other group members as we had moved on to the “why we are here” stage of Cog’s Ladder with the other members of the class as we had been working together in the kayaking and the overnight trip. We had started to form cliques and were questioning each other about decisions..... They had effective communication and kept the group together. They gave some rest stops if people were struggling at the back and used good map skills to direct us in the right direction. Since our group was quite big, it was important that we stayed at the same pace and made sure no one was lacking behind.....I think that by the 2nd day, the dynamics of the group had changed in a positive way. We have become friendlier with every member in the group from socialising to working together as a group. We were starting to walk together as a group more and were able to include every member...as a result of socialising with the group it made it much easier to work together when we had to make decisions such as when we came across a fork we straight away stopped and gathered as a group to discuss where we were on the map. Once we had established where we were it was easy to find out which way to go as everyone was involved in looking at the map and therefore this meant that whatever direction that we took the group was happy with as we were all a part of the decision making process.I think that the last two days we were at the “Cooperation Stage” of Cogs ladder because we had a good team spirit building up and our groups productivity increased. Also if new individuals were introduced to our group at this point, they would be viewed as outsiders because our group has formed a strong team bond with the original group members. These points are what the “Cooperative Stage’ states for the idea of Cogs ladder.

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Woodhill Mountain Biking

For this mountain biking trip....With just the girls. I was already friends with them and had been involved with them in the previous activities, so it helped us to work together more easily without any awkwardness or conflict.....I think that we are at the stage of “Why we’re here stage”. This is when group members want to know why they have been called to together for this mountain biking trip, we were put together because we all had the same ability and confidence in mountain biking...we worked together by helping each other adjust the helmet correctly and making sure that bikes that we were riding were suitable that breaks and gear worked correctly. ...every member of our group stayed at a slow pace so that our group were able to ride safely....making sure everyone was alright....when one person would lag behind we would stop and wait for them to catch up....we made positive comments like “Are you alright and?” and “it’s okay!”. This resulted in a more positive environment and helped the group to function more positively...we all stayed together gave each other support and kept positive at all times. So we were able to learn how to mountain bike with more ease and confidence and feel safe while doing it at the same time. Working together and communicating positively were the most important group processes I thought as it made the trip more enjoyable and fun to be involved with.

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Rotorua Redwood

.....When TH fell during one of the sharp corners very member of the group got off the bike and went to see if she was okay and helped her up....I believe this made our group dynamics more positive because we knew that every member was supported by the group and we will stay together and work together at all times...According to Tuckman’s theory I think that my group was at the ‘performing’ stage because we.....