MT FEATHERTOP BUSHWALK

At the end of March, students from Benalla P-12 College year eleven Vet Sport and Recreation class started the annual pilgrimage to the top of Mt Feathertop.

The class was dropped off by bus at the Harrietville, which is at the base of Mt Feathertop. From there, students loaded on their backpacks and headed up a steep track called the Bungalow Spur. Students saw first hand how the recent bushfires in the area had devastated not only the local flora and fauna but also the wildlife. After hiking an exhausting 12km (4hrs) up the mountain, the class made it to the top of Mt Feathertop. With perfect weather conditions students were rewarded with magical views across the Alpine National Park and saw just how close the fires came to the towns of both Mt Hotham Central and Harrietville.

As heavy rain was forecast to arrive later that night students set up their camp site early and braced themself for bad weather. Heavy rain hit the camp at about 10pm and didn’t stop for 12hrs. Luckily, most students remained dry throughout the night. All up, Mt Hotham received around 2-3 inches of rain which made for a wet and slippery descent down the mountain the next day.

Teacher Luke Elkington said “Even though the rain made conditions tough, a great trip was had by all, however, everyone was looking forward to a well-deserved rest, and a hot shower when they got home”.