

Att no Rex 2622006

Alcohol Consumption While Travelling Around The South Island

Date: 31st March – 29th April

Number of students 18 years or older: 9

Number of students under 18 years old: 3

Introduction

Before leaving for our trip around the South Island we had a group discussion regarding drug and alcohol use while travelling.

Though it was agreed that there was a no-tolerance policy regarding drug use, all students requested that there be opportunities to relax and drink a few beers after hours. The majority of the students frequently drank alcohol in their free time and felt that a complete ban was extreme.

As a compromise I said that I would provide an opportunity, in a controlled environment where I could supervise them, where they could as a group, purchase some beers and have a small party half way through the trip.

It was agreed that this day would be while we were in Queenstown, over Easter Weekend, and would involve buying a small quantity of beer and some "luxury food" e.g. pizza, chips 'n' dips ect. to be taken back to the DOC campsite where we were staying.

I agreed to this because I knew it would be very hard for me to monitor what students did in the evening. I preferred to have one organised evening where I would be present to supervise the situation and monitor what was consumed, instead of the chance of a student trying to smuggle a small bottle of liquor onto the trip.

Monday 3rd April

First day on D'Urville Island. On arrival students discovered the beer fridge and got excited. After work a student approached Gus and Maryann and asked if he could have a bottle of beer. Maryann was happy to give a beer to each of the students, but asked my permission first. I said they were trying their luck, and told her what we had agreed on as a group before we'd left. I felt it was inappropriate for students to be drinking beer in front of rangers or host farmers. I declined their generous offer for beer that night, but agreed that if we all worked hard during the week, on the last night it would be ok for the students to have a few beers.

Tuesday 4th April

Very long hard day on the track, we started work at 8:30am and didn't finish until gone 6pm. Students were offered a beer at the end of the day for the huge effort they all put in. I said this was all right, but didn't drink one myself.

Thursday 6th April

Last day on the island. Maryann placed a beer and soft drink order with the shop on the mainland. She ordered 2 boxes of Lion Red (48 bottles in total) and 12 litres of fizzy drink. There were the remains of the other box of beers in the fridge plus a small selection of novelty beers and 1 bottle of white wine. There were enough beers in total for about 5 each. Gus and Maryann only had a couple, while I had two glasses of wine mixed with lemonade. Some of the students only had a couple so the remaining students finished off what was left.

Friday 7th April

Spent the night in Christchurch. Deviated from the original plan because a student was flying home the following day. The house we were staying at belonged to a conservation group. A couple of the conservationists who lived in the house bought some beer and shared it with a group of students. The two sixteen year olds didn't drink, nor did a couple of the other students.

Friday 14th April

Easter Weekend. Queenstown. Students couldn't buy a box of beers to take to the DOC campsite because of the public holiday, so rescheduled for Monday night instead. Went out to an Italian restaurant for pizza, some students ordered beer with the meal.

Saturday 15th April

Students bought some beer to be drunk at the Bluff campsite on Monday night. Beer was bought on this day because Sunday and Monday were public holidays.

Sunday 16th April

Staying at Organic Farm. Unknown to me until the following morning, a couple of students drank a beer each from a box that was being saved for Monday. This happened in the evening when most of the other students had gone to bed. I found the bottles the following morning and spoke them about it.

Monday 17 April

Bluff campsite. After dinner the students were allowed some free time to relax and have some beer (that had been bought that Saturday). They stayed within the campsite and were supervised by myself.

Thursday 20th April

Spoke to **[redacted]**'s mum regarding her son drinking alcohol on the tip. We had a long talk where **[redacted]** expressed her concern regarding her son drinking. She said she was disappointed that I had not spoken to her myself to ask for permission first. She said she was happy for rangers/farmers to give **[redacted]** a beer as a reward for a hard days work, but didn't want him drinking lots and putting himself in danger. I apologised, and advised **[redacted]** that the rangers on Stewart Island were hosting a BBQ for us, as a thank you, and that there would be discounted beer available through the social

committee. [redacted] gave her permission for [redacted] to have a couple of beers at the BBQ, and asked if I could lend him the money.

Friday 21st April

BBQ hosted by DOC rangers as a thank you. Dave Boland (the DOC ranger who had organised our visit to Stewart Island) had bought the students a box of beers, enough for 2 each. Once that beer was finished then students would then have to buy beer from the social committee at \$2 a bottle. This was an organised event, to give us an opportunity to meet all the other rangers. I did not drink for I was supervising the students. After the BBQ a number of students were invited to the pub to play pool with the rangers.

Summary

Students had one bottle of beer each after a long days work on D'Urville Island, and then had a party on the last night as a thank you for all the work we had done. Beer supplied by Gus and Maryann.

Some students had a few beers when we were staying at a house in Christchurch.

During Easter weekend we went out to a restaurant for dinner, and some of the students ordered beer with their meal.

A couple of students had a beer each in private when we were staying on an organic farm in Otago. They were cautioned afterwards.

Students bought themselves some beers to drink at the campsite in Bluff. This was organised and well supervised.

DOC rangers on Stewart Island provided a BBQ for us to say thank you for all the work we had done for them. Some students were then invited to the local pub to play pool with the rangers.