



St Leonard's College

An education for life.

February 2025

Dear Year 5 families,

During weeks 7 and 8 of Term 1 year 5 students will participate in an Outdoor Education Program at Camp Ibis. Owned by the College, Camp Ibis is located on the Banksia Peninsula in the Gippsland Lakes. This Outdoor Education camp is an integral part of the school curriculum for personal growth, development of interpersonal skills, language, and indigenous studies.

Students and their mentor will attend camp in their mentor groups.

Departure for all camps - please meet at the Kevin Wood Centre (KWC) no later than 8:20am.

Please note parents will not be allowed in the KWC, mentors will be available outside the KWC to collect any medication or last-minute concerns. Parents should say their goodbyes prior to the students loading on to the buses to allow for a smooth transition.

- Monday 17 March to Thursday 20 March – 5W & 5Y
- Monday 24 March to Thursday 28 March – 5X & 5Z

Return: All camps will return to St Leonard's College South Rd gates at approximately 3:30pm. Parents will be notified of any changes to this via text message.

Camp Ibis is located on the Banksia Peninsula, on the Gippsland Lakes, 20 kilometers from Bairnsdale. It has been developed under the conditions of the Barton Creeks Memorial Trust as a school camp for St Leonard's College since 1975. The trust land occupies a magnificent lake front peninsula on the Gippsland Lakes and the school's site has a boat jetty and immediate access to Duck Arm. Camp Ibis has a passenger boat, the Eucumbene II, with a carrying capacity of 40 and a runabout dinghy.

Whilst on camp students will spend three nights at Camp Ibis, sleeping in canvas tents. Throughout the program they will participate in activities such as: orienteering, initiative challenges, mountain bike riding around the Banksia Peninsula, canoeing and stand-up paddle boarding in Duck Arm and indigenous studies through stories, art and dance, flora and fauna studies. Students will journey on the Eucumbene II (our 40' motor yacht) around the Gippsland Lakes to 90 Mile beach and Raymond Island where many koalas are found.

Students should bring a small bag/day pack on the bus (with morning tea, water bottle, lunch, and any cards/games/books for the bus journey). All other personal belongings must be packed in one bag (eg. Backpack, suitcase or duffel bag). Please have all items inside the bag and it should not weigh more than 15kgs. Outdoor Education staff will run a preparation session with students prior to camp, ensuring they understand what to bring and



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expectations of the program. A copy of this presentation will be available to parents on [stl link](#).

Clothing / Equipment

Students should be well prepared for an exciting week of activities. Preparation and packing are worthwhile learning experiences for the students although it would be appreciated if you could supervise and help if needed. Your child should carefully check off the equipment against the attached list provided and pack it, ensuring their ability to repack each day while on camp.

The clothing and equipment list is attached. To make this as simple as possible, we have set up 3 options for you to purchase and / or hire your gear. You can choose to purchase or hire equipment as required (if you do not already own suitable items). To ensure the equipment meets our requirements and safety standards, OED staff have selected an approved range of specific items that families can choose from, to best suit their child and budget.

Online you can visit:

[Vast Outdoors](#)

[One Planet Camp List](#) - enter "St Leonards College", year 5 camps

Or if you prefer an in-person local shopping experience, please visit [Vast Outdoors](#) (880 Nepean Hwy, Hampton East). Vast Outdoors can also help with gear hire as an agent for One Planet.

Please follow the packing list precisely. Most items are essential pieces of safety equipment and will be used for several years in the core Outdoor Education program, CUE program and optional recreation camps throughout the children's' time at the college and beyond.

It is important for each student's active participation in all aspects of the program that they are in good health. Staff are required to supervise students during all aspects of the program and therefore adequate supervision of unwell children may not be possible. In these cases, parents may be required to collect their children from camp.

Medical details and parent consent are gathered via the College online excursion program, Consent 2 Go.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Woolhouse", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr Ben Woolhouse
Head of Outdoor and Experiential Education

Summary of Details

Aims and Objectives:

The focus of the program is to immerse students in the outdoors and for students to become comfortable being in the outdoors. Students are taken out of their comfort zone where they face challenges and must work together as a group supporting each other through the challenges of the week. They are encouraged to be independent, taking responsibility for their decisions and actions, which occur in real time, with real consequences. Students will explore aspects of the Banksia Peninsula and surrounding area, developing a sense of place. On completion of the program, the aim is for students to have improved their self-esteem, confidence, resilience and forged strong relationships with their peers.

Risk Management Strategies:

The College has in place policies and procedures that ensure the safety of students and staff is at the forefront of our processes. Risks will not be taken with your child's safety, at all times students will be supervised by a member of staff.

Camp coordinators advise local police and parks of our program, they regularly check weather conditions, forecasts and warnings – if conditions become unsafe, students are relocated to a suitable location. Outdoor Education staff are qualified and experienced in prevention, management and treatment of all physical and emotional conditions typically encountered by young people in this environment. Emergency services will be called in the event of emergency.

STL Link:

All documents and information relating to this program is available for download from STL Link via the [year 5 home page/Outdoor Education link](#). It may be helpful for parents and students to view the pictures here, to gain a better understanding on what the program looks like, to get a visual on gear/clothing and what Camp Ibis looks like.

Travel:

Students will travel by coach (with seatbelts) to and from the program.

Equipment:

Specialist gear provided. Please see attached gear list. Parents are asked to note that children are not allowed to take mobile phones or other electronic devices to camp (other than a camera).

On day one, students should wear their sports uniform for the bus trip, ready for action upon arrival at Camp Ibis.

Food:

All meals are catered -with the exception of lunch and morning tea on the first day. Outdoor Education staff will run a preparation session with students prior to camp, to explain food, the program and clothing requirements.

Anaphylaxis Policy:

The College Anaphylaxis policy is implemented to minimise the risk of students coming into contact with nuts and nut products. Students should not bring any products containing nuts or nut products to camp.

Distance from expert medical care:

All Outdoor Education Coordinators and Leaders hold current qualifications in Advanced Wilderness First Aid, or equivalent. Bairnsdale hospital is the closest medical centre, 20km (20 minutes) from Camp Ibis. Mobile phones used by staff are effective within the Gippsland Lakes areas. Whilst exploring the lakes by boat, the distance and response is increased. At our furthest point away, at Ocean Grange, we are accessible only by boat and response time could be several hours.

Accommodation:

Students will spend three nights at Camp Ibis, base camping in large canvas tents. They are 4 person tents, that we place 2 or 3 students in.

Cost:

Included in Year 5 consolidated charges.

Activities that may be undertaken during the program:

Canoeing, stand up paddle boarding, mountain biking, orienteering, initiative challenges and obstacle courses, travelling by boat, swimming in Duck Arm, Indigenous art and dance and spending time walking and exploring 90 Mile Beach and Raymond Island.

Staff:

The program is coordinated by College Outdoor Education staff and casual Outdoor Education staff are employed to facilitate the program. A year 5 classroom/mentor teacher also accompanies the students for the duration of the program.

Emergency contact details:

College	9909 9300
All hours emergency number	9909 9509

