



30 January 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians and students of year 7

The College very proudly owns and runs Camp Ibis, located in the Gippsland Lakes area, which is where the year 7 Outdoor Education program will be hosted. The Outdoor Education program is an integral part of the school curriculum, and it is a wonderful experiential education opportunity for students' personal development as they start high school and begin another journey of self-discovery. Our Outdoor Education staff are passionate and knowledgeable educators, committed to ensuring a positive and rewarding experience for all our students.

Camp Ibis is located on the Banksia Peninsula, 20 kilometres from Bairnsdale. It has been developed under the conditions of the Barton Creees 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. Ibis has a passenger boat, the Eucumbene II, with a carrying capacity of 40, and a runabout dinghy.

The program for the week is specifically structured to teach students a variety of outdoor skills, in several fun activities that may include bush and beach walking, orienteering, adventure racing / obstacle courses, sailing, stand up paddle boarding, canoeing, bush cooking, camping and mountain biking. Whilst undertaking these activities students will also be learning about the local environment and historical aspects of the land and people. Throughout the week students will be challenged in various ways, taking on leadership roles, being an active team member, solving problems, taking on responsibilities and showing independence; all the while having a great time and sharing much fun and laughter with their Mentor teacher and peers.

Students will travel to and from Camp Ibis by coach:

- **Monday** students to meet in KWC, St Leonard's College, 8.30am.

*Please note that parents are not allowed inside the KWC, mentors will be available out the front to collect any medication and / or any last-minute updates. All the students gear should be packed inside their hiking pack. Their day pack they take on the bus should contain morning tea and lunch for Monday, a full water bottle, and any card games / travel games they may like to bring.*

*Students should come dressed ready to get straight into activities, wearing the PE polo top and shorts, and their fleece or wool jumper, as per the packing list.*

- **Friday** students to be picked up from St Leonard's College, South Road at 4.30pm

Students will be attending camp with their Mentor and class on the following dates:

10 -14 February	7X, 7Y, 7Z
24 - 28 February	7R, 7S, 7T
3- 7 March	7U, 7V, 7W

Accommodation for the week is as follows:

- 2 nights at Camp Ibis in tents
- 1 night camping in light weight tents at Bunga arm (90 Mile beach), Gippsland Lakes National Park
- 1 night sleeping in tee pee style tents at the Camp Ibis bush camp site

### **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 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 7 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.

In the future, if your child outgrows any of the approved equipment, we will offer opportunities for re-sale through the St Leonard's College second hand uniform sales.

### **Mobile phones / Communication**

Students are not allowed to take mobile phones or other electronic devices to camp (other than a camera). Any necessary communication from parents can be made by first contacting the school via St Leonard's College Reception, 9909 9300. Should you need to contact the camp outside of normal school business hours please call the Camp Emergency Line 9909 9509.

Note - We will not be providing any updates / communications from camp, unless any issues arise. The priority of our focus whilst on camp is looking after the students.

### **Food**

All meals are catered for, with the exception of lunch and morning tea on the first day. As we start teaching students about appropriate food for the outdoors, we also ask students to bring their own scroggin (a snack mix made up low and high GI foods). Outdoor Education staff will run a preparation session with students prior to camp, to explain scroggin and food, the program and clothing requirements.

Students are asked not to take any nuts or any foods containing nuts or nut products on camp. This is to ensure the wellbeing and safety of all our students. For further information on our Anaphylaxis policy please contact the College.

Please support your child in preparing for what I am sure will be an exciting week, and please contact me at [Benjamin.woolhouse@stleonards.vic.edu.au](mailto:Benjamin.woolhouse@stleonards.vic.edu.au) should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Woolhouse". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line that extends to the right.

Mr Ben Woolhouse  
**Head of Outdoor and Experiential Education**

