

1 September 2025

YEAR 10 OUTDOOR EDUCATION - ALPINE HIKE 2025

Dear Parents and students

The culmination of the compulsory Outdoor Education Program at the College is the Year 10 Hike. The hike involves a six day adventure in the Alpine National Park, through the Howqua Valley. In 2025, all students will be hiking in week 6 of term 4 in addition to the preparation day on Saturday 8 November from 10:00am until approximately 3:00pm on the College campus. Departure for the hike will be at 8:00am on Sunday 9 November, returning at approximately 4:00pm on Friday 14 November.

If there is any legitimate reason your child is unable to fully participate in this program, please advise us as soon as possible, so we can look at alternative arrangements.

Please take the time to start organising equipment in the coming weeks. The College supplies specialist equipment such as backpacks, rain wear, tents and stoves. Families are asked to provide students with their own hiking boots (runners are not appropriate for walking in mountainous terrain), sleeping bag, sleeping mat and other personal effects, as per the attached gear list.

Hiking boots form an integral part of providing safety to students for hiking in the mountains. They should be waterproof, provide ankle protection and have good traction. The terrain can be rough, rocky, uneven and may be wet or even covered in snow. Many students may have purchased suitable boots last year for their Year 9 camp. Please check these boots still meet all the necessary requirements described above. If you determine that the pair you have is not sufficient, or if you don't own a pair, please ensure that you purchase a pair of boots as soon as possible. Hiking boots require a 'breaking in' process. If this process is overlooked there is a good chance students will develop hot spots and/or blisters, which makes walking unnecessarily painful. It is strongly recommended that the new boots are worn extensively during term breaks and on weekends, hence the advanced notice we are providing now. During Term 4 in the weeks leading up to the hike students are permitted and encouraged to wear their hiking boots to school with the school uniform.

The College recommends the 'One Planet Cobbler' hiking boot, and has arranged for a special deal for St Leonard's students to purchase these at our local outdoor store *Vast Outdoors*, located at 880 Nepean Highway, Moorabbin (9555 7811) for \$140 (rrp \$199). *One Planet* is an Australian company and the boot is named after one of the peaks in the Howqua area that students may hike over.

Throughout late term 3 and early in term 4 College Outdoor Education staff will spend time with students, providing detailed information and demonstrations on clothing, equipment and food suitable for the hike. All of this information will be available for parents and students through STL Link.

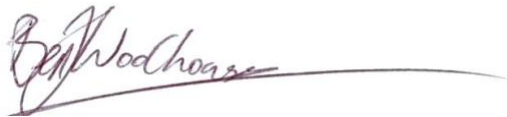
To ensure you have plenty of time to organise other essential clothing and equipment, an equipment list is attached. Some of these items can be borrowed, or purchased from secondhand/opportunity shops. If you wish to purchase new items, *Vast Outdoors* offer discounts

to students of St Leonard's College upon presentation of a valid Student ID Card. Please consult the [St Leonard's College OED buying guide](#) to ensure your purchases are suitable.

If you would like to hire: hiking boots, sleeping bag, sleeping matt and / or gaitors, we have set up a special deal with our friends at [One Planet and Vast Outdoors](#). There are also options to purchase gear and clothing online via this link.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via Benjamin.Woolhouse@stleonards.vic.edu.au or on 9909 9487.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ben Woolhouse', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr Ben Woolhouse
Head of Outdoor and Experiential Education

