



St Leonard's College
An education for life.

September 2025

Dear Year 6 Parents and Students

During Term 4 all Year 6 students will have the opportunity to participate in an amazing Outdoor Education Program at Camp Ibis on the Banksia Peninsula, Gippsland Lakes and at the Buchan Caves Reserve. This camp is part of the Outdoor Education Program for students and is an integral part of the school curriculum for personal growth, development of interpersonal skills, language, indigenous studies, and science.

Students will attend camp with their class and teachers, as follows:

Dates	Class	Teachers
13 – 17 October	6Y	Chloe Hicks
20 – 24 October	6V	Jordan Orr
	6W	John Alagappan
27 – 31 October	6X	Emma Pfeiffer
	6Z	Sam Haines

- o **Monday morning** students to meet in KWC at 8:30am
- o **Friday afternoon** students to be picked up from South Road at 4pm

Camp Ibis is located on the Banksia Peninsula, 20 kilometres from Bairnsdale. It has been developed under the conditions of the Barton Crees 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.

The program for the week is carefully structured to teach students a variety of outdoor skills that may include caving, stand up paddle boarding, orienteering, mountain bike riding, bush cooking, cooking on trangias, camping, and initiative activities. Whilst undertaking these activities students will also be learning about the local environment and history, including indigenous cultural sessions.



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All personal belongings must be packed in one bag weighing no more than 15kgs. Students may take a small bag / day pack on the bus. Outdoor Education staff will spend some time with each class prior to camp, ensuring they understand what to bring and expectations of the program. Students are learning to be self-sufficient, to be safe in the outdoors, and manage changes in the environment. It is therefore vital that the attached gear list is followed closely.

The gear list is very similar to the Year 5 camp gear list, but if you do need to purchase new equipment the Outdoor Education Department has established a detailed buying guide to ensure the equipment you purchase now will last your child right through the compulsory Outdoor Education Program and beyond. Before purchasing any outdoor clothing or equipment please consult the OED Buying Guide at <http://learn.stleonards.vic.edu.au/outdoored/outdoor-education-buying-guide/> Discounts are given to St Leonard's College students at Vast Outdoors, located on the Nepean Hwy, just south of South Rd.

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.

Parent online permission is required for your child's attendance. Please complete consent and medical details via 'Consent2Go'. In the event of difficulties with this process, please contact the Year 5 and 6 Administrator, Angela Norton on 9909 9533 or email Angela.Norton@stleonards.vic.edu.au.

Any queries about the program, please don't hesitate to contact myself via Benjamin.Woolhouse@stleonards.vic.edu.au , or the Year 6 Camp Program Coordinator, Stuart Walpole via Stuart.Walpole@stleonards.vic.edu.au

Kind regards

Mr Ben Woolhouse

Head of Outdoor and Experiential Education



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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 Buchan Caves. On completion of the program, we hope students will 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 son or daughter's safety; students will be supervised at all times by a member of staff. 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 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 6 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 and to get a visual on gear / clothing.

Staff:

The program is coordinated by College Outdoor Education staff. Mentors will attend camp with their group whenever possible. Please liaise with these staff for pastoral issues.

Travel:

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

Travel to Buchan from Camp Ibis and return will be in Minibus (with seat belts) and / or 4WD driven by College Outdoor Education staff.

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).



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Food:

All meals are catered for except for 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 seeks to minimise the risk of students encountering nuts and nut products. Students should not bring any products containing nuts or nut products to camp.

Distance from expert medical care:

All Outdoor Teachers/Leaders have Leaders Advanced Wilderness First Aid, or equivalent. Bairnsdale hospital is the closest medical centre, 20km (20 minutes) from Camp Ibis and 80km (65 minutes) from Buchan Caves. Staff carry mobile phones, which are effective within the Gippsland Lakes and Buchan Caves area.

Accommodation:

- ☐ 2 nights at Camp Ibis in canvas base camp tents
- ☐ 2 nights camping in light weight tents at Buchan Caves Campground

Cost:

Included in Year 6 consolidated charges.

Activities that may be undertaken during the program:

Canoeing, mountain biking, cooking on fires and/ or Trangias, initiative challenges and obstacle courses, orienteering, sailing, stand up paddle boarding, swimming in Duck Arm, exploring Buchan caves.

Emergency contact details:

College	9909 9300
All hours emergency number	9909 9509