

MACKILLOP BARRY YEAR 8 CAMP, 2006.

February 15, 2006.

Dear Parents,

The Mackillop Barry Year 8 camp for this year will be held at Arm River. This is a camp facility set up and run by the Forest Education Foundation and located on the Arm River near its junction with the Mersey River.

The camp will take place from Wednesday March 29 to Friday March 31. At this stage, House Head Mrs Bron Stow and other House staff will accompany the students.

The camp program includes a range of recreational, educational and social activities including bushwalking, abseiling, team games and orienteering. Potentially, the bush walk will be a reasonably demanding activity on day two of the camp program. It is important that students are adequately equipped for all activities. Equipment should include sturdy footwear (but not new), a waterproof coat, wide brimmed hat, drink bottle and a daypack that can be shared between two or three students. A full gear checklist will accompany this letter.

Students are responsible for organising their own food. Cooking is to be conducted on fuel stoves (eg: Trangia) as gas bottles are no longer transported by the bus companies. There are also outside barbeques available for use. Students are encouraged to organise their food in small groups (usually their tent groups) to minimise waste. A suggested menu plan will also accompany this letter. **A cut lunch is required for the first day.** Students are discouraged from bringing snack foods such as chips and lollies that offer no nutritional value and occupy valuable luggage space.

Students will be in tents for this camp, and they need to organise their own tent groups – normally 3 people. They will have time to do this during a camp meeting at school. Some dormitory style accommodation is available at the campsite should weather conditions become unfavourable. Toilets and showers are available. Students are to bring minimal gear. **Each student is restricted to bringing three items – a tent, a sleeping bag and ONE bag containing clothes and food. Students are also able to bring one small esky per tent group for perishable food items,** then a limited amount of fridge and freezer space is available for use once at camp.

Parents are requested to check that their son/daughter is properly prepared, has suitable food and is equipped for all weather conditions. **A broad rimmed hat (college hat is OK), a waterproof coat, a water bottle and sunscreen are all compulsory items for every student.** Items that are banned from this camp are Mobile Phones, Discmans / Walkmans / MP3's, portable DVD players and Electronic games.

The success of the camp is dependent upon the good will of each participant. Students have had indicated to them the importance of maximising the opportunity to demonstrate good inter-personal relationships and good common sense in regard to the safety and well being of themselves and each other. Should it be the case that any one student is unable to meet this expectation or demonstrate this shared understanding, a telephone call home will indicate this lack of good will and require that parents come to collect their son/daughter from camp. We trust that such a course of action will not be necessary.

Should any parent find it necessary to contact their son/daughter in an emergency situation, the campsite number for the phone is **64921048**, however, this telephone is not constantly monitored, so unless the group were within the campsite area, the phone would not be answered. Students are not able to ring out from this telephone.

We are looking forward to a happy and successful camp. We require the prompt return of the parent advice form accompanying this letter. Thank you for your support in this period of preparation. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your House Head or the Camps Coordinator at school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs B Stow,
House Head Mackillop Barry

Miss C McQuie,
Camps Coordinator