

Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc.

BUSHWALKING

Bushwalk Locations

- 🐨 Wombat State Forest
- 🐨 Lerderderg State Forest
- 🐨 Werribee State Gorge
- 🐨 Mount Buffalo National Park (Alpine Ride Bushwalk Only)

Bushwalk Descriptions

- 🐨 The Department of Education & Early Childhood Development (DEECD) identifies Bushwalking as a specialised activity.
- 🐨 All Bushwalks conducted by Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc. Staff follow clearly defined paths.
- 🐨 A lot of the walks are along narrow water races from the 1800's Gold Rush high above the Lerderderg River.
- 🐨 Some bushwalks follow 4WD tracks.
- 🐨 A lot of the walks cross many walking and 4WD Tracks & Roads.
- 🐨 Most of the Bushwalks are loops - starting & finishing at the same destination.
- 🐨 Some walks require a vehicle shuttle prior to the walk as they start & finish at different destinations.
- 🐨 Carrying of water and snacks on all Bushwalks is essential
- 🐨 Walks are not weather dependent however in periods of high fire danger or rough, wet weather groups are advised to select another activity.

Age Suitability

- 🐨 All ages.
- 🐨 At Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc. there is a large variety of Bushwalking Experiencing - offering Group Leaders the opportunity to choose age & fitness appropriate Bushwalks for their Groups.

Staff Ratio

(Remember Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc. Staff cannot be considered as part of your Staff : Student Ratio at any stage during your Blackwood Experience.)

- 🐨 1:10 - leaders/teachers/adults to campers (a minimum of 2 Visiting Staff must be on any Bushwalk)

Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc. Staff Experience

- 🐨 Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc. Staff have previous experience in leading walking groups through the Wombat & Lerderderg State Forests, Werribee Gorge & Mount Buffalo National Park.
- 🐨 They are confident of their own ability and fitness to complete the walk.
- 🐨 Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc. Staff have experience in search, rescue and Emergency Procedures appropriate to the level of all Bushwalks implemented at the Centre.
- 🐨 Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc. Staff are aware of the intricacies of all Bushwalks implemented at the Centre including, but not limited to:-
 - 🐨 Start & Finish Destinations
 - 🐨 Escape Routes
 - 🐨 Water Points
 - 🐨 Campsites
 - 🐨 Risk Management & Emergency Procedures
- 🐨 All other Logistical requirements for each Bushwalks implemented at the Centre

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Group Leaders Experience

- 👤 Must be confident of their ability and fitness to complete the walk.
- 👤 Must have previous experience in supervising groups in outdoor recreation activities.

Student Participant Experience

- 👤 Fitness level to complete the walk selected.

Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc. Responsibilities

- 👤 To ensure the selected walk is appropriate for the age, ability & experience of the visiting students.
- 👤 To safely & confidently guide the selected walk.
- 👤 Take responsibility for the technical and related safety of participants engaged in the activity.
- 👤 Confirming Weather conditions with Group Leaders prior to preparing for a Bushwalk.
- 👤 Ensuring the group remains in verbal contact and that a lead and whip are appointed.
- 👤 Familiarization with the route.
- 👤 Briefing participants about the nature and purpose of the activity, about potential hazards and appropriate safety procedures, and instruction in procedures to be followed if participants become lost.

Group Leaders Responsibilities

- 👤 The Group Leader will be responsible for the supervision and behaviour of campers on the activity, at all rest stops, at the destination and for first aid.
- 👤 Assessing first aid requirements, identifying campers at risk
e.g. asthma and appointing the first aider
- 👤 Notifying Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc. Staff at the commencement and end of their Bushwalk - if they are leading the walk without Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc. Staff assistance.
- 👤 Informing other Visiting Staff of their roles in the behaviour, supervision and instruction of campers.
- 👤 Monitoring the welfare and fitness of Campers and other Visiting Staff.
- 👤 Checking the suitability of clothing and equipment carried by Campers and other Visiting Staff.
- 👤 Undertaking a head count prior to, during and after the Bushwalk.
- 👤 Implementing sun safe strategies for all Campers & Visiting Staff.
- 👤 Recording all incidents - including near misses - on the Incident Notification Form and / or patient Care Report and advising the Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre inc. Staff and their School Principals.
- 👤 Assuming all Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc. Staff Responsibilities - as listed above - if leading the walk without Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc. Staff support.

Visiting Staff Responsibilities

- 👤 To carry out tasks as directed by the Group Leader and / or Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc. Staff.
- 👤 These may include - but are not limited to:-
 - 👤 Monitoring the welfare and fitness of campers;
 - 👤 Assisting the Group Leader and Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc. Staff;
 - 👤 First aid responsibility;
 - 👤 Route finding;
 - 👤 The supervision and behaviour of campers;
 - 👤 Assessing slow or injured campers; and
 - 👤 Adhering to the safety rules.

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Participant Responsibilities

- 🐼 Adhering to the safety rules and directions of:-
 - 🐼 Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc. Staff
 - 🐼 Group Leader
 - 🐼 Visiting Staff

Safety Equipment, Inventory & Clothing Requirements

Blackwood Staff	Group Leader	Visiting Staff	Participants
🐼 Whistles	🐼 1 st Aid Kit	🐼 Sunscreen	🐼 Hats
🐼 Day Packs	🐼 All Medical Details	🐼 Snacks	🐼 Appropriate Clothing
🐼 Wet Weather Coats	🐼 Water	🐼 Water	🐼 Water
🐼 Maps	🐼 Appropriate Clothing	🐼 Appropriate Clothing	🐼 Solid Footwear
🐼 Everyone should wear solid footwear at all times eg. sandals/runners - Thongs, Sandals & Gumboots are NOT appropriate			

First Aid Requirements

- 🐼 The Group Leader **MUST** carry a first aid kit at all times.
- 🐼 There **MUST** be a qualified first aider within the visiting staff - not necessarily the Group Leader.
- 🐼 Insect repellent and stingoes is a good idea.

Safety Briefing & Emergency Response

- 🐼 Whistles are issued to everyone in the group
- 🐼 If you get lost you:-
 - 🐼 STOP
 - 🐼 SIT DOWN
 - 🐼 BLOW YOUR WHISTLE 3 TIMES
 - 🐼 LISTEN FOR A RESPONSE FROM A STAFF MEMBER
 - 🐼 BLOW YOUR WHISTLE 3 TIMES
 - 🐼 LISTEN
 - 🐼 REPEAT THIS UNTIL A STAFF MEMBER FINDS YOU
 - 🐼 DO NOT MOVE UNLESS YOU ARE INSTRUCTED BY A STAFF MEMBER
- 🐼 Do not walk off the Tracks. Due to the Gold History of the Blackwood Area it is very unsafe to walk of the tracks in Blackwood
- 🐼 There is always a LEADER & a WHIP in every Bushwalking group
- 🐼 NO - ONE is to walk in front of the Leader & NO-ONE is to walk behind the Whip
- 🐼 If you need a rest, food, water or to tie up your shoe lace - let the Leader know & we will stop the entire group
- 🐼 IF THERE IS AN EMERGENCY SITUATION EVERYONE MUST STOP AND FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS OF BLACKWOOD SPECIAL SCHOOLS OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE Inc. STAFF / GROUP LEADER / EMERGENCY SERVICES

Activity Notes

- 🐼 Anyone Leading a Bushwalk through Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc **MUST BE**:-
 - 🐼 Familiar with the walk - ie Have walked the route a minimum of 3 times
 - 🐼 Familiar with Escape Routes
 - 🐼 Familiar with Emergency & Risk Management Plans
 - 🐼 Currently 1st Aid Level 2 Qualified

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- 🐾 Whistles **MUST BE** issued to every walker - students & staff
- 🐾 Everyone **MUST BE** checked to ensure they have appropriate gear for Bushwalking
- 🐾 Issue Wet Weather Jackets - if required
- 🐾 Issue day packs - if required
- 🐾 Ensure the selected walk is appropriate to the fitness levels of the entire group - students & staff
- 🐾 Keep the group together at all times throughout the walk
- 🐾 Constantly check the health and wellbeing of all members of the group throughout the walk

Environmental Considerations

- 🐾 Groups **MUST** implement Minimal Impact Bushwalking Practices throughout every Bushwalk
- 🐾 These include but are not limited to:-
 - 🐾 Pack to minimise rubbish
 - 🐾 Don't burn or bury rubbish
 - 🐾 If you carried it in, you carry it out
 - 🐾 Don't feed or leave food for the animals
 - 🐾 Don't wash in the streams or lakes
 - 🐾 Leave campsites & visited sites better than you found them
 - 🐾 Keep fires small
 - 🐾 Be absolutely sure the fire is out before leaving your campsite
 - 🐾 Always walk on the tracks and established paths

Maps used at Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc.

MAP	TRENTHAM	TRENTHAM	GREENDALE	ASHBOURNE	DAYLESFORD	LERDERBERG & WERRIBEE GORGES
Map No.	7723 - 2 - 3	7723 - S	7722 -1 - 4	7723 - 2 - 2	7723 - 3 - 1	Meridian Map
Scale	1 : 25,000	1 : 50,000	1 : 25,000	1 : 25,000	1 : 25,000	1 : 20,000
Edition	1st (1994)	1st (2007)	1 st (1994)	1st (1994)	1 st (1993)	3rd (2005)
Contour Intervals	10 m	10 or 20 m	10 m	10 m	10 m	10 m

Suggested Blackwood Bushwalks & Ratings

Walk	Start	Location	Distance	Track	Rating
Forest Track	BSSOEC Tent Shelter	Wombat State Forest	1.5 km	Walking Track / 4WD Tracks	Easy
Crown Dam Walk	Garden of St Erth	Wombat State Forest	9 km	Old Goldmining Water Races	Easy
Crown Dam Loop	Lerderderg Road	Wombat State Forest	2.5 km	Water Races / Steps / 4WD	Easy
Full Crown Dam	BSSOEC Tent Shelter	Wombat State Forest	11 km	4WD / Steps / Water Races	Medium
Garden of St Erth Walk	BSSOEC Tent Shelter	Wombat State Forest	6 km	Walking Track / Steps/ 4WD Tracks	Medium
St Erth Hut Loop	Garden of St Erth	Wombat State Forest	1.8 km	4WD / Water Races	Difficult
Full Back Creek & St Erth Loop	BSSOEC Tent Shelter	Wombat State Forest	6km	Water Races / 4WD / Very Steep Descents & Ascents	Medium
Shaw's Lake & Moonlight Gully	Mineral Springs	Lerderderg State Forest	3.2 km	4WD Track (Steep)	Easy
Shaw's Lake Loop	Mineral Springs	Lerderderg State Forest	3.6 km	4WD (Steep) / Water Races	Medium
Byers Back Track	Cameron's Gully	Lerderderg State Forest	11km	Old Goldmining Water Races	Medium
Easter Monday Mine	New Sultan Track	Wombat State Forest	3.5 km	4WD Tracks (Steep)	Medium
Werribee Gorge	Quarry Picnic Area	Werribee State Forest	10km	Walking Tracks (Steep)	Difficult

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