

Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc.

NIGHT WALK

Night Walk Locations

- 🐨 Wombat State Forest
- 🐨 The Imagination Trail
- 🐨 Back Creek Walking Track

Night Walk Descriptions

- 🐨 The Department of Education & Early Childhood Development (DEECD) identifies Bushwalking as a specialised activity - therefore Night Walks are also in the same classification.
- 🐨 All Night Walks conducted by Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc. Staff follow clearly defined paths.
- 🐨 A lot of the Night Walk Routes are along narrow water races or narrow Walking Tracks.
- 🐨 Sections of the Night Walk Routes follow 4WD tracks.
- 🐨 Most of the Night Walk Routes are loops - starting & finishing at the same destination.
- 🐨 Night 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.

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.)

- 🐨 1:8 - leaders/teachers/adults to campers (a minimum of 2 Visiting Staff must be on any Night Walk)

Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc. Staff Experience

- 🐨 Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc. Staff have previous experience in preparing, implementing, leading and reviewing Night Walks.
- 🐨 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 Night Walks implemented at the Centre.
- 🐨 Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc. Staff are aware of the intricacies of all Night Walks 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 Night Walk implemented at the Centre

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.

A destination for exploration

Student Participant Experience

- 👤 Fitness level to complete the Night Walk Route 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 Night 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 Night Walk.
- 👤 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 Night 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 Night Walk.
- 👤 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.

A destination for exploration

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
🐼 Glow Sticks	🐼 1 st Aid Kit	🐼 Torches	🐼 Torches
🐼 Whistles	🐼 All Medical Details	🐼 Snacks	🐼 Appropriate Clothing
🐼 Wet Weather Coats	🐼 Torches	🐼 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

- 🐼 Glow Sticks are issued to everyone - different colours for Students & Staff
 - 🐼 Throughout the Night Walk the group is regularly stopped & everyone is asked to place their Glow Sticks on their heads to safely & accurately to a Head Count without shining Touches in people's eyes
- 🐼 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 Night Walk 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

A destination for exploration

Activity Notes

- 🐼 Anyone Leading a Night Walk through Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc MUST BE:-
 - 🐼 Familiar with the Night Walk Route - 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
- 🐼 Whistles MUST BE issued to every walker - students & staff
- 🐼 Everyone MUST BE checked to ensure they have appropriate gear for a Night Walk Experience
- 🐼 Issue Wet Weather Jackets - 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 Night Walk Experience
- 🐼 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
 - 🐼 Leave Night Walk Routes & visited sites better than you found them
 - 🐼 Always walk on the tracks and established paths

Maps used at Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc.

MAP	TRENTHAM	TRENTHAM
Map No.	7723 - 2 - 3	7723 - 5
Scale	1 : 25,000	1 : 50,000
Edition	1st (1994)	1st (2007)
Contour Intervals	10 m	10 or 20 m

Suggested Blackwood Night Walk & Ratings

Walk	Start	Location	Distance	Track	Rating
Back Creek Track	BSSOEC	Wombat State Forest	Up to 2km	Water Races / 4WD	Medium

A destination for exploration