



GOOGA OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

Postal Address:

Googa Outdoor Education Centre
M/S 2161
BLACKBUTT QLD 4314

Telephone:

(07) 4163 0266
(The phone is not for the personal use of either students or visiting staff. Students may receive a call from parents on their birthday. Parents should liaise with Googa staff to arrange a suitable time for this call)

Facsimile:

(07) 4163 0709
(The FAX and EMAIL is for emergencies only - please do not use for personal letters)

Email:

googaoec@bigpond.com

We trust this information will meet your needs. For additional information contact Mr David Palmer, Good Shepherd Googa Co-ordinator on 5455 8600 or the Director of Googa Outdoor Education Centre, Brad Teakle on 07 4163 0266.

GOOGA OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE
SECONDARY SCHOOLS' INFORMATION BOOKLET
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1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Googa Outdoor Education Centre is owned and operated by three Lutheran Schools: Grace Lutheran College, Rothwell; Good Shepherd Lutheran College, Noosa and Grace Lutheran Primary School, Clontarf.

The Centre is a former forestry camp set in the beautiful Blackbutt Ranges and is located nine kilometres from the township of Blackbutt which is on the Kilcoy-Yarraman Road. Googa OEC is located on a forestry lease of 11 hectares adjacent to a further 120 hectares owned by the centre and it has access to large areas of State Forests for hiking and camping.

Facilities at the camp are deliberately simple, giving visiting students a taste of yesteryear. There are six dormitories consisting of three cabins, a kitchen and a cookhouse in each. Each cabin sleeps four, giving a total of twelve per dorm.

Kitchens are fully equipped with the basics - crockery, cutlery, pots, pans and other utensils. Cooking takes place over an open fire in the cookhouse. Wood fired ovens are also operational in the cookhouses.

Other facilities on the property include the high ropes course, pamper pole, ding-a-ling, multi-purpose hall and maintenance workshops. The camp area and surrounding forest have been mapped for orienteering and many small group activities are scattered around the property. Students also have the opportunity to be involved in the farming operation of the centre which includes sheep, cattle and avocado production.

As far as possible the physical environment has been left as it was in the days of the forestry camp. Previously, hot water was produced through a wood fire powered heater, which required the students to chop the necessary wood in order to have a hot shower. Technology has now encroached into this area of Googa, with the water being heated by electricity/gas. However, no electrical appliances, apart from refrigerators, are used in the dormitories.

A major emphasis of the program is to experience a simple, old-fashioned lifestyle sampling bush life, a sense of remote living and making your own entertainment. Part of the experience is gained by leaving behind many of modern life's facilities and by not allowing the use of mobile phones, iPods, digital cameras, radios, CD players, magazines, computer games, hair dryers etc., or the consumption of soft drinks, sweets/lollies and chewing gum.

Life at Googa always includes daily chores and each participant is expected to look after both their own basic needs and their share of the groups' responsibilities. There is an emphasis on both working as part of a group and on accepting individual responsibility. Each participant should expect to be extended physically, mentally, socially and spiritually.



2. SHORT HISTORY

Following the example of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and Outward Bound and drawing heavily on the experience of other Queensland Lutheran Schools, it was felt by staff at Good Shepherd Lutheran College that students could benefit greatly from an extended, residential, out of the classroom experience.

Through the co-operation of the three Lutheran Schools and the Forestry Service, Googa became available in late 1988. After many working bees and weekend visits, the old camp was transformed from a single men's camp into a centre capable of accommodating a co-educational group of up to 48 students.

Four extra buildings have been moved in. They are the hall, staff building, a fourth dormitory and now a new dormitory fitted out for students with special needs requirements.

A Director was appointed in September 1989 and the first students began their four week course in January, 1990. GSLC sent its first group of year 10 students in 1994 and started the process of becoming a joint owner in 1997.

Late in 2009 an additional two dormitories were constructed, increasing capacity to 72 students.



3. MAJOR GOALS

The stated major goals of the Centre are:-

1. To develop in participants an understanding of an individual's relationship to the physical and biological aspects of God's creation as expressed in the Australian countryside.
2. To promote initiative and self-reliance to students by presenting a challenge beyond that presented in the usual academic and sporting areas of the college.
3. To increase the opportunity for participants to develop a sense of co-operation, interdependence and community spirit and to encourage self-expression.
4. To deepen the participants' spiritual life and to encourage interest in the work of the college and the church.

4. GENERAL OBJECTIVES, OUTCOMES AND LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Not all experiences can be offered to all students due to varying circumstances. In all situations all program variations will be in accordance with the stated 'Major Goals'.

5. SPECIFIC AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Objectives	Outcomes	Sample Learning Experiences
<p>To give all students the opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquire basic information on the nature of their physical and biological environment • Acquire an understanding of their dependence on the environment • Come to value the Australian countryside 	<p>Understand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry concept • Forestry history • Rural lifestyle • Old fashioned lifestyle <p>Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolated living • Bush camping • Making own environment • Farm work • Hard work <p>Appreciate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's creation • Environmental inter-relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic first aid • Group initiative games • Cooking and eating in small groups • Sharing facilities, rooms and equipment • Taking turns at all jobs • Relying on others • Planning assembly and devotions (in random groups) • Helping neighbours and local farmers where possible • Caring for hiking country • Concerts / Skits • Games
<p>To give all students the opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquire basic information and practical skills necessary for successful hiking, camping and bush survival • Develop independent living skills • Develop a sense of initiative, self-esteem, self-confidence and self-reliance based on this knowledge and these skills. 	<p>Increase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal initiative • Personal self-reliance • Personal self-image • Personal self-esteem <p>Promote</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feelings of personal satisfaction from successful completion of challenging activities <p>Perseverance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand and appreciate limitations of self and others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simulation games • Worship times • Daily devotions • Voluntary singing, prayer and praise times • Discussions • Debriefing challenge activities • Living in the country and being isolated from: civilisation, junk food, modern appliances, modern communication, and packaged entertainment. • Hiking through forestry and across farms • Camping with basic/essential facilities • Pioneering • Visiting farms • Environmental awareness • Activities
<p>To give all students the opportunity to:</p>	<p>Understand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to work together 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bush art • Meditation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realise the need for community service • Develop the ability to co-operate with other students and staff under conditions other than those dictated by the classroom situation • Develop the ability to use leisure time profitably. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range of abilities and interests • Group decision making processes • Interdependence <p>Develop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-operation and tolerance • Community Spirit • Class group bonding <p>Increase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to others • Motivation to be a constructive, valuable member of society • Preparedness to be an individual within a group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campfires and Sing-a-longs • Caring for a vegetable garden and site beautification • Initiative games • Orienteering exercises • Map and compass use • Wood chopping and fire lighting • Cooking for self and others • Handling large and small animals • High and low ropes course • Abseiling and climbing activities • Other challenging activities • Leading assembly and devotions • Involvement in worship services • Building and construction projects • Maintenance tasks
<p>To give all students the opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better integrate their spiritual and temporal life. 	<p>Appreciate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's physical creation: His complexity, diversity and simplicity • God's personal creation • Individual uniqueness • God's love <p>Understand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's love for all of His creation • God's personal relationship with individuals • God's redemptive work 	



6. SAMPLE DAILY PROGRAM

- 6.00 Meet and morning run
- 6.30 Meditation and jobs (cooking, fire lighting, animals, gardening, wood chopping, preparing assembly)
- 7.30 Breakfast
- 8.00 Dispensary
- 8.30 Letter and journal writing
- 8.50 Assembly (devotions, news report, science report, jokes, announcements) and inspection
- 9.00 Session 1
- 10.45 Session 2
- 12.00 Lunch
- 1.00 Session 3
- 2.15 Session 4
- 3.30 Jobs
- 4.30 Recreation
- 5.00 Showers
- 5.45 Dispensary
- 6.00 Tea
- 7.15 Inspection
- 7.30 Evening program
- 8.45 Devotions
- 9.00 Ready for bed
- 9.30 Lights out



7. SAMPLE FOUR WEEK PROGRAM

Week 1

The major focus of the first week is to begin building 'the Googa' community. Students are involved in a variety of group initiatives, projects and other activities to assist with the process of establishing a cohesive working community. Students settle into the responsibility of managing their working and living conditions and are involved in many decision making processes. Towards the end of the first week students start preparing their



navigation skills and participate in an orienteering activity. During this week, night activities continue to foster team responsibility and also focus on emergency procedures and strategies to be used throughout the Googa experience. Staff assess the progress of the students during the first week and begin the process of determining whether it will be appropriate for them to be indirectly supervised in off-site activities for the remainder of the program. Indirect supervision involves

staff monitoring students through activities without being present at all times. This privilege often enhances learning outcomes.

Weeks 2 & 3

Over the course of the next two weeks students will be involved in pioneering, hiking and high adventure activities. The pioneering experience is designed to give the students an appreciation of the very basic, simple living style of the early settlers to this area. Emphasis is on group co-operation and personal responsibility in a bush setting. Through the hiking program students learn many new skills such as menu planning for bush cooking, navigation, managing first aid requirements, sustainable environmental practices to respect the use of private land and an appreciation of simple luxuries like comfortable warm beds! Visitors' day is generally held at the end of week 3 and students look forward to sharing their experiences and achievements with their parents.



Week 4



During the last week of Googa, students are given the opportunity to reflect on their experiences through an overnight solo activity. During this week they also participate in final high adventure activities such as the high ropes or tree climb. Special evening events this week include a large bonfire, a hangi meal prepared by staff and the viewing of the class DVD as a final debrief of their Googa experience.

On a daily basis students are responsible for the maintenance of the camp and participate in a variety of jobs to ensure the smooth running of each day. Some of these activities include feeding animals and preparing food for students, preparing devotions, cleaning living areas, chopping wood, washing clothes, journal and letter writing and some free time.

At all times the emphasis is on community living, students making their own entertainment, doing as much as possible for themselves and being responsible for their own actions.

8. STAFF

At present, there are eleven full time staff at Googa with four additional part time staff employed to help with the programs. The staff come with varied areas of expertise, some from an educational background, some from a rural background, others may be part way through a degree. All staff are trained for Googa specific activities and are dedicated to encouraging and nurturing a caring Christian community with the students in their care. The number of staff employed may change from year to year.

All staff from the College are encouraged to visit the Centre where appropriate. Pastoral Care teachers and other teachers with particular interest or expertise sometimes visit to assist in the program.

9. PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Please write one or two letters per week. Do not underestimate the importance of regular communication with your child.
2. Attend the visitor's day (dates listed on page 14).
3. Do not send parcels of food. **(If your child has special food requirements please contact the Googa coordinator at GSLC as soon as possible).**
4. Make sure your child does not bring items that are not required. This should include their mobile phone and any personal music device such as an iPod. Previous student reviews all confirm that these types of items would have spoiled their Googa experience.
5. Encourage your child to participate fully in all aspects of the program. Please inform the College coordinator if you feel that your child is overly worried about any aspect of Googa. Some apprehension is to be expected.
6. Please ensure that an **adequate medical history** of your child is provided. This is done by completing the appropriate form, attaching additional notes and/or medical certificates where necessary. Medical forms are to be filled in by the Parent, not the child, and returned to the College office at least two weeks prior to your child's departure.
7. **Please have your child's tetanus and dental needs up to date.**
8. Hand child's medication, the \$80 Emergency Money, and a written explanation of any last minute alterations to your child's medical details and/or requirements to GSLC Googa supervising staff on the day of departure. **Please ensure the \$80 is in an envelope with your child's name clearly marked on the front, and that any medication, including health supplements, natural oils and creams, is in a separate container with ALL items clearly labelled with the students name and recommended dosage.**

It is not necessary to send Band-Aid's as Googa will supply these. This necessitates the student seeing a staff person for minor cuts and abrasions to ensure proper treatment and management.

If a student needs exemption from any part of the program, this must be discussed with the Googa coordinator at the college at the earliest possible opportunity.

10. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Necessary gear/clothing etc. (see list below)

In all things let common sense prevail. Warm, light, robust, protective clothing and footwear should be worn. As space is at a premium, what you bring should fit into one port plus sleeping gear. Woollen gear is far warmer than synthetics. Multiple layers of clothing e.g. t-shirts, skivvies, singlets are more effective insulators than one bulky outer garment, take up less space and weigh less. (On the overnight hike and camp-out, students carry their own needs.) All gear must be labelled clearly with student's name. See checklist for specifics.



Emergency Money

Students will need emergency money to cover unexpected expenditure (e.g. prescribed medicine) and as a deposit on equipment used at the Centre. **This money should be given to the Googa coordinator, Mr David Palmer, at the College on the morning of departure.** Googa staff will then bank it. Students are not to keep money in their dormitories. All unused money will be returned on the last day when the buildings and site are clean. Students are invited to donate some or all of their remaining pocket money to a local or overseas aid project. This invitation is consistent with one of the learning outcomes of the program, that is, we are truly blessed. However this is completely voluntary and subject to parent's advice. The deposit will be retained to employ cleaners if necessary.

Emergency expenditure includes medication (if they become ill), personal toiletry supplies and films/disposable cameras. Films/disposable cameras should be sent home for processing. Please note, digital cameras are NOT permitted.

An amount of \$80.00 should be adequate - \$40.00 for pocket money and \$40.00 for a deposit for camp equipment if lost or damaged.

The deposit for gear includes all hike gear and general camp equipment. Students are expected to be responsible for all the gear they use.

Rules and Discipline

The usual College rules apply, including hair styles/colours and piercings.

Serious infringements will result in a student being sent home, at parents' expense. Minor infringements are usually handled by giving the students extra 'practical' tasks during their free time.

Above all, common sense, respect, co-operation and consideration are the principles we expect of our young people in the camp situation and we are confident that this group is up to the challenge.

Change in diet

One of the many aspects of the Googa experience that your child will have to manage (with guidance from the Googa staff) is their diet. The diet students follow while at Googa is carefully planned. With a new cold room and food preparation room available we have been able to update the overall diet. The dietary needs of growing adolescents is considered along with the availability of foods, the amount of physical activity students do each day, likes and dislikes and specific dietary needs. For example on returning from pioneering a hearty meal of protein and carbohydrates is planned. We are conscious that boys will need a greater quantity of food. We cater for this. It is not our intention for students to be hungry. Students have open access to fresh fruit and other foods in their pantry or refrigerator. The types of fruit on offer will be dependent on seasonal variations. There are usually bananas, apples and a citrus fruit available. The basic food items students eat are chosen based on their role in their total diet. For example we have bread without 282, an additive known to cause health problems. We don't offer white bread routinely as an option. We recognise the value of wholemeal and wholegrain bread due to their fibre content and low Glycaemic Index (GI). The brands of breakfast cereals are chosen due to their low salt and sugar content.

The pantry is well stocked with basic items. For example flour, sugar and honey. Students can cook dessert each night and bake over the weekend. There is a cook book with recipes for students in their pantry.

Students are briefed on fire lighting protocols and food safety and hygiene. Food preparation and cooking is monitored. The kitchens and dorms are checked daily for cleanliness.

As indicated earlier in the booklet, please inform the GSLC Googa coordinator if you son or daughter has any specific dietary requirements. He will liaise with the Googa Director and advise you of how best to proceed.



11. ITEMS NOT TO BE BROUGHT TO GOOGA

An 'Authentic' Googa experience is 4 weeks of going without simple luxuries – magazines, make-up, and music etc. Googa staff strongly encourage all students to fully participate in this once in a lifetime challenge.

These articles will be confiscated:

- Mobile Telephones
- Digital cameras/digital video cameras
- iPods, MP3 players, iPads, net or note books etc.
- Radios and any other form of electronic music players
- Video games,
- Magazines
- Aerosol cans
- Cigarette lighters
- Clock radios
- Make-up/hair gel
- Knives



There is no need for food or drink of any kind to be brought from home. A meal will be provided upon the student's arrival at Googa.

Musical Instruments

Small robust musical instruments are encouraged (e.g. guitars, violin, clarinet, flute). There is an old piano in the hall for student use.

12. GOOGA GEAR LIST

The Googa staff reserve the right to request students to display the contents of their dorms and bags without notice.

Hygiene:

- Deodorant – (roll on, stick or pump action only)
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Hairbrush, comb and nail brush
- Towel
- Old tea towel (to leave at Googa)
- Soap/shower set
- Shampoo
- Heavy duty washing powder, pegs
- **Hair gel, make-up etc. - not required (will be confiscated)**

***NOTE - No aerosols of any kind are permitted**

Sleeping:

- Good quality sleeping bag for hikes, pioneering and solo- to be opened up and used as a quilt or doona whilst in the dormitories.

WITH

- Sheets and blankets
- Pillow and 2 pillow cases
- **Winter classes** should have an inner sheet/sleeping bag liner for their sleeping bags for hikes. Take an old sheet and sew it to form a bag - this doubles the warmth of the sleeping bag.



***NOTE – winter temperatures in the Blackbutt ranges are very cool compared to coast temperatures.**

Clothing:

- 7 sets underclothes
- 7 pairs socks - wool or cotton (many students have included hiking socks as well)
- 2 to 3 pairs shoes: track shoes or boots - 1 pair that is comfortable to hike in. While hiking boots are not compulsory, they are recommended. Also, 1 pair of good running shoes, **NOT** thin soled 'volleys'.
- 7 sets of robust clothing including jeans, shorts (Girls to wear long respectable shorts), shirts, jumpers
- T Shirts to have sleeves & collar (no strappy or singlet tops or bare midriffs)
- 1 tracksuit/PJ's for sleeping
- Gaiters (sock protectors) can be taken (Googa provide the larger ones for hiking)
- Gumboots – optional, but useful around the Googa site
- Bike pants (handy to prevent chaffing while hiking)
- Leggings. If girls choose to wear leggings, they must also wear shorts over the top
- Thongs (to wear to and from the showers)

***NOTE: In autumn/winter students will need to wear a long sleeved shirt, jumper and long trousers all day. They should also have summer gear e.g. shorts, t-shirt.**

Sun safety

- Hat - an absolute requirement - broad brimmed (not a baseball style cap or sun visor). If a hat isn't taken your child will have to purchase one from the Googa staff.

Wet weather

- Rain coat or poncho, water proof not shower proof, pair of rubber boots (handy)

First Aid

- 30+/50+ sunscreen
- Any personal medication - named - to be kept in the dispensary - must be listed on the medical form. Do not bring band aids



Extra gear

- 2 garbage bags
- 1 torch + 2 sets spare batteries
- Head torch (optional) very useful for hiking and pioneering
- 'film' camera, disposable or 'traditional' + spare films
- Letter writing materials
- Stamped and addressed envelopes
- 2 pens, 2 pencils, eraser
- Bible
- Alarm clock (battery powered)
- Watch (could double up as an alarm clock)
- 1 set of old cutlery for campouts (could be left at Googa to replace losses)
- 1 'unbreakable' mug
- 1 or 2 water bottles. Please allow for 3-4 litre capacity in total and ensure they are made of robust material. (Not normal spring water bottles from the super market)
- Hydro bladder, worn on the back, with an over the shoulder drinking tube is an alternative to bottles. Needs to be in your own 'bag' for day based activities.
- Small back pack (could be a hydro bladder carry pack) for day based activities
- Ziploc freezer bags (great for keeping important items dry and/or together)



Please note:

- White shoes and light coloured Clothes will be ruined by the red mud at Googa.
- Don't send any items that you cannot afford to be ruined.
- Jewellery and fashion items are not required.



13. DATES AND TIMES FOR 2018 CAMPS**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN COLLEGE**

Groups are to assemble at the College by 8.00am as various administrative procedures will require completion prior to departure. Groups will return to the College at approximately the times specified.

GROUP	DEPART	RETURN	PARENTS VISITING DAY
GROUP 1	Monday 15 July Meet at 8am	Friday 9 August 2:30 pm	Sunday 4 August
GROUP 2	Monday 12 August Meet at 8am	Friday 6 September 2:30 pm	Sunday 1 September

14. PARENTS' VISITING DAY

Visitor's Day will be the weekend before students return home for each Group.

Please note

Immediate family members only (i.e. parents, siblings and grandparents) are invited to visit their child on Visitor's Day. No boy/girlfriends please.

- Parents are more than welcome to arrive from 9.00am onwards, but do need to be onsite by 10.30am as students will need to prepare for the community service in the forest chapel. Morning tea will be served from 10.00am. Please bring a plate to share.
- There will be a worship service at 11.00am followed by a community lunch. Everyone is asked to bring enough lunch to cover your group plus your child at Googa.
- Hot Tea and Coffee will be available.
- Fold up chairs or blankets to sit on are recommended.
- Vehicles are to park in the designated parking area only.
- Cars are only to be driven through the campus after discussion with the Googa Director.
- After lunch there will be a demonstration of some of the activities.
- Please do not bring large supplies of 'junk' food to be left behind. Students are not permitted to have any 'supplies' left behind.
- You are welcome to stay until 5.00pm on the Sunday.
- There are motels and Caravan Parks in Blackbutt and Yarraman if you wish to stay over.
- Please do not bring the family pet as they may disturb the Googa animals.
- **Smoking and/or alcohol consumption is not permitted.**



15. COSTS

The charge for each student attending Googa is built into the College fee structure. The amount goes towards the cost of accommodation, food and transport. Funds from the College's general budget heavily subsidise other costs related to Googa.

16. ROAD DIRECTIONS TO GOOGA

The trip to Googa takes approximately 2.5 hours depending on traffic. It is a picturesque and reasonably relaxing drive in the country.

From Noosa:

- Drive down the Bruce Highway towards Brisbane.
- Take the Landsborough turn off to the left (just after the Caloundra turn off) and follow the signs past Landsborough to Beerwah.
- At the traffic lights, turn right onto the Kilcoy-Beerwah Road. This will connect you with the Peachester Road. Continue onto Peachester.
- Follow this main highway until a T junction and turn right to Kilcoy on the Daguilar Highway. (Left is back to Woodford and Caboolture).
- As you go into Kilcoy, turn left into the main street and then right at the end of this street.
- Follow signs to Yarraman and Nanango.
- **Do not take the left turn to Esk and Toogoolawah.**
- The town of Moore is next and then Blackbutt.
- In Blackbutt: At the ANZAC Memorial in the middle of the road and the Blackbutt Hotel on the left - turn left into Hart Street. (This is the road to Crow's Nest)
- Follow this road without taking any major turn-offs for approx. 9 kilometres.
- **Do not turn down Googa Creek Road.**
- Shortly before Googa the sealed road changes to gravel (for approximately 300m), when you reach a short sealed section again you are at Googa Outdoor Education Centre.
- Alternatively, go to the Google maps website and enter Googa Outdoor Education & Christian Retreat Centre, Queensland into the search box at the top of the page.

