Prince Alfred College

2014 Year 7 Community Perspective Program

Scotts Creek Outdoor Centre
February 2014

Dear Parents,

Your son will soon be taking part in the year 7 Eco-Adventure: Community perspective program at Scotts Creek.

This year the boys will engage in a unique ‘landcare’ project which incorporates aspects of leadership, teamwork and develops a sense of pride in participating in community service. The boys will also be introduced to communal cooking and continue to develop other outdoor skills such as navigation and camp-craft.

Scotts Creek Outdoor Centre is located 7km South of Morgan on an anabranch of the Murray River. It provides a wonderful opportunity for outdoor and environmental activities. We hope that your son’s experience at Scotts Creek is both enjoyable and valuable.

To help your son prepare for this program, please note the following:

**Clothing** – see the attached sheet for a list of clothing. Make sure clothing is included which can get wet or dirty. Please see that all things listed are brought along and suitably named.

**Medical & Consent Forms** – Please fill in the consent form and return it to the class teacher as soon as possible. Please log onto the PAC website to ensure your son’s medical information is correct and inform the class teacher of any current medication or special concerns. Medication required on program must be clearly named and instructions stated specifically.

Please do not allow your son to bring mobile phones, MP3 players, electronic games, lollies or money. We would like to get away from our normal high-tech style of living for a couple of days. We encourage your child to bring a musical instrument.

Our Outdoor Education Staff are looking forward to working with your son. We believe the program is an exciting learning experience that will be enjoyed by all. We trust that boys will take this opportunity to strengthen existing friendships and establish new social networks. Cooperation, consideration and respect for others and our environment are central to the success of this program.

If you require any further information please feel free to contact me on 0439 803 000 or mjensen@staff.pac.edu.au

Yours sincerely,

Micha Jensen
Coordinator Scotts Creek Outdoor Centre
Outdoor Education at Prince Alfred College

Outdoor education in the MYP is concerned with more than just participating in recreational activities and games. Its primary aims are to encourage the development of “intelligent performers” and to encourage students to understand the importance of a balanced, healthy lifestyle. Throughout the five years of the MYP, students should develop knowledge, critical thinking and reflection skills, and a sense of responsibility, as well as interpersonal and self-motivational skills. This should encourage choices that will contribute to long term healthy lifestyles.

Outdoor education will bring the unique perspective of learning through the physical, which can greatly contribute to students’ approaches to learning (ATL) skills, and is transferable across other subject groups.

The learning and development associated with outdoor education should contribute to students developing the qualities of the IB learner profile and engaging with the fundamental concepts of the MYP—holistic learning, intercultural awareness and communication.

When the curriculums of outdoor education and other MYP subject groups are developed according to these principles, students will be given the opportunity to:

- Develop a combination of transferable skills promoting physical, intellectual, emotional and social development
- Engage with units of enquiry from other subject areas through outdoor education experiences and vice versa
- See the areas of interaction as relevant to outdoor education and contributing to holistic learning
- Consider new, differing and contrasting ideas to their own and use them in the learning process
- Develop abilities to communicate their knowledge, skills and reflections in a variety of situations
- Understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance
- Give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience
- Develop their understanding of the natural environment and their relationship within it to make informed decisions that promote an environmentally sustainable future
- Discover their personal strengths and areas for improvement to become more resilient and independent individuals
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.00am</td>
<td>Wake up</td>
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<td>7.15am</td>
<td>Fishing</td>
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<td>7.45am</td>
<td>Duties</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.00am</td>
<td>8.45am depart Capper Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00am</td>
<td>A) Rock Climbing</td>
<td>B) SCOC Project</td>
<td>C) Rowing</td>
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<td>10.00am</td>
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<td>11.00am</td>
<td>Arrive SCOC</td>
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<td>12.00pm</td>
<td>Settle into dorms</td>
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<td>12.30pm</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
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<td>1.00pm</td>
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<td>2.00pm</td>
<td>Canoeing</td>
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<td>A) Rowing</td>
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<td>3.00pm</td>
<td>Paddling Strokes and Skills</td>
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<td>B) Rock Climbing</td>
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<td>4.00pm</td>
<td>Games</td>
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<td>C) SCOC Project</td>
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<td>4.30pm</td>
<td>Free Time</td>
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<td>Orientereering</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.30pm</td>
<td>Duties</td>
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<td>Team Games</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.45pm</td>
<td>DINNER</td>
<td>Dinner on a</td>
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<td>Team Challenge Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>Indoor Bouldering</td>
<td>lightweight stove</td>
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<td>7.00pm</td>
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<td>Masterchef</td>
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<td>Challenge</td>
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<td>8.00pm</td>
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<td>Team Challenge</td>
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<td>8.30pm</td>
<td>Journals</td>
<td>Campfire</td>
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<td>Damer</td>
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<td>9.00pm</td>
<td>Ready for Bed</td>
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<td>Ready for Bed</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.30pm</td>
<td>Lights Out</td>
<td>Lights Out</td>
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<td>Torches Out</td>
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**Dates & Times**

The bus will depart from Capper Street at 8.45am. Students are asked to arrive by 8.30am. The bus will return to PAC from Scotts Creek at 3.00pm Friday.

The following dates are intended for Year 7 programs:

1) **7 Harrison**  
   Tuesday 3 June – Friday 6 June

2) **7 Hunt**  
   Tuesday 29 July – Friday 1 August

3) **7 Jenkinson**  
   Tuesday 19 August – Friday 22 August

4) **7 Harford**  
   Tuesday 26 August – Friday 29 August
Medical Information

It is essential that the PAC Outdoor Education staff have up-to-date medical information for your son. Please follow the steps below to ensure that all medical information has been checked and updated prior to returning your son’s consent form. Alternatively you can phone the PAC Health Centre on 8334 1205.

1. Log on to the College web site (www.pac.edu.au)
2. Select the ‘login’ option at the top right of the home page
3. Click on the ‘Online Forms – click here to update family information’ link
4. Log in using your parent code & password (the user name is usually your parent code – as found on your accounts, your initials – first name & surname, then the letter F or M depending on if you are the father or mother e.g. Fred Smith would be: 12345FSF. Your password is usually your surname with a capital at the beginning e.g. Smith
5. Once logged in please read & agree to the privacy statement
6. Click on the ‘Family Information’ tab in the top bar and select ‘Student Information’ from the drop down menu
7. Click on & check all the sub headings on the left hand side – please update this if necessary

Catering

Active Catering provide a great service for the boys on program. The menu is well balanced, nutritional and most importantly attractive to children. Please outline any specific dietary requirements on the consent form. If you have any further questions regarding catering please contact our caterer Sue O’Brien on 0417 860 889 or activecatering1@gmail.com

Accommodation

Scotts Creek Outdoor Centre contains facilities that consist of three sub-divided dormitories, each containing 20 beds. Beds are bunk style with comfortable mattresses. During expedition students will be accommodated in lightweight camping tents that provide protection against insects and inclement weather. It is important to respect the privacy of others. This means that the dormitories or tents of other boys must not be entered at any time and that others’ personal equipment must not be tampered with.

Communication Systems

Scotts Creek Outdoor Centre has a direct phone line for emergency communication. On trips away from the residential site, Next G mobile phones are used for emergency communication.
Mosquitoes and Ross River Fever

Living and working near a body of water such as Scotts Creek and the Murray River always brings the possibility of mosquitoes being present around the campsite. There is no effective way of ensuring a mosquito free environment and therefore, as there is no guaranteed safe means of co-habiting with mosquitoes, it is recommended to staff and students that they take as many practical preventative measures as possible. We recommend the following:

- Wear long sleeve shirts and pants particularly at dusk
- Use tropical strength repellent

Staff

PAC Outdoor Education Staff are highly qualified and experienced Outdoor Education teachers and instructors. Staff are trained in Wilderness First Aid and are familiar with the Scotts Creek environment. If you require contact with a PAC staff member during the program please contact Micha Jensen on 0439 803 000 or (08) 8540 2231.

Micha Jensen – Coordinator of Scotts Creek Outdoor Centre  
Dave Walker – Outdoor Education Teacher  
Sally Porter – Outdoor Education Instructor

Daily Duties

One of the many activities that students participate in whilst on program is the care and maintenance of the space in which we live. Students come to realise that these jobs are not chores, but activities that are vital to the care and wellbeing of the site and the people we are living with.

Initially, individuals are responsible for the tidiness and cleanliness of their own bed and personal gear. The members of each dormitory are responsible for sweeping and cleaning their room and surrounds. This includes emptying bins and ensuring that the lawn areas are free of litter.

During the program, boys will be expected to complete individual duties. These tasks are completed on a rotational basis, ensuring everyone gets a fair and equal opportunity to have input into the smooth running of the program. At Scotts Creek, the old proverb “Many hands make light work” is evident.
Safety Considerations

The staff at Scotts Creek consider safety a top priority at all times. Students can aid the staff and be responsible for their own wellbeing by following these "common-sense" rules. The Murray River represents a unique, wild environment in which to adventure. There are however dangers inherent with this area. The river tends to be slightly cooler than the sea and swimming pools, has a fluctuating water depth and has numerous underwater obstructions. All of these can aid in injuring swimmers. With this in mind, the following rules have been developed

- Boys will be expected to wear Personal Floatation Devices in the water at all times
- Boys will be expected to wear shoes whilst involved in all aquatic activities and around SCOC
- Boys can only go down to the landing and water front area if a SC staff member, or a supervising teacher accompanies them
- Boys must never dive from the bank

Boundaries

One of the features of Scotts Creek is its open areas. This area is sufficient for all of the Centre's activities. There should be no reason for students to leave the Centre, unless under the direct supervision of a staff member.

General Program Expectations

We want the program to be fun enjoyable and safe for everyone. Therefore all school rules apply. We ask boys to:

1. Listen carefully to and follow instructions given by all staff
2. Be courteous to all adults and peers
3. Allow everyone to feel safe
4. Respect other people’s property
5. Be responsible for your own belongings
6. Stay on the site property unless directed otherwise by a staff member
7. Take care of the natural environment

Fire Extinguishers

Fire Extinguishers are an important and expensive piece of safety equipment. The Centre has numerous fire extinguishers, placed strategically in case of emergency. Students must not tamper with these devices. Boys involved in tampering or improper use of the fire extinguishers will be billed for their repair or replacement.
Emergency Procedures

In the unlikely event of a serious accident or incident the Centre has an extensive and detailed Emergency Management Plan.

In the event of a fire at the Centre, a long and continuous siren will be sounded. Students and staff are expected to move to the meeting area immediately. A roll will be called to account for every member on the property. Once this has been completed the staff of Scotts Creek have specialised tasks to bring the emergency under control quickly.

The staff at Scotts Creek have developed expeditions that match the boys’ level of experience. The Staff are trained and qualified in all outdoor activities, and have means to evacuate students if the need arises.

Living Lightly at Scotts Creek

- Turn off the light when you are the last one to leave
- Have short showers
- Use the rainwater tanks for drinking only
- Turn the water off when brushing your teeth

All these help us to use less energy and materials that lessen our impact on the earth.

ACT LOCAL

THINK GLOBAL

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE
Gear and Equipment List

**Around the centre...**
- Broad brimmed hat
- Two pairs of shoes
  - An old pair for aquatics
  - A comfortable dry pair
- Three sets of underwear
- Three sets of socks
- Two pairs of shorts
- Old clothes (to wear while painting)
- Three T-shirts
- Bathers / board shorts
- Track pants
- Warm polar fleece or wool jumper
- Towel
- Sunscreen, lip balm

**At night...**
- Small, compact torch **with spare batteries**
- A compact, warm sleeping bag (bring extra blankets if you don't think yours is warm enough)
- Beanie
- Insect repellent (Tropical Strength Rid / Aeroguard)
- Pillow & Pillowcase
- Toiletries (Toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant)

**Out on expedition...**
- Waterproof jacket (parachute style material not appropriate)
- Knife, Fork, Spoon
- Bowl, Plate and Cup (plastic or enamel)
- Tea Towel
- 1 L Water bottle
- Personal First Aid Kit*
- Warm woolen or polar fleece jumper

*Personal first aid kit includes band-aids, adhesive tape, insect repellent. Personal medication can be carried and administered by the students (asthma puffer), or by the staff (antibiotics), at the parents' discretion and should be noted on the consent form.

**Items we encourage you to bring...**
- Fishing Gear (hand reels are more manageable for students)
- Camera

**Items to leave at home...**
- Electronic equipment: MP3 players, mobile phones, games etc.
- Extra junk food (chips, soft drink, lollies etc)
- No pocket money is required while you are at the Centre (there is nowhere to spend it)