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|  | **Information for Parents** |

**THE CENTRE**

Kinchant Outdoor Education Centre is operated by the Department of Education and Training and is located within walking distance of Kinchant Dam, near Mirani, 40km west of Mackay.

Every Kinchant OEC experience has a core curriculum focus of either Teamwork, Leadership or Resilience. Each core curriculum focus has links with the Australian Curriculum, in particular, general capabilities. Students can expect to leave with an enriched sense of intra and inter personal skills. This relates to educational goals and also supplements learning in specific subject areas including HPE, Science, Design & Technology, Humanities and Social Sciences and Mathematics.

Schools are encouraged to think of Kinchant Outdoor Education Centre as an extension of their school campus or work place. The resources at the Centre are available for use in the manner that best meets the student’s needs.

**CLIENTELE**

All students and staff from Primary, Secondary and Special Education campuses as well as other Education Queensland personnel, can be catered for at our Centre.

**FACILITIES**

Students are accommodated in large, permanent on site tents complete with mattresses. Students must bring their own sheets, pillow, blankets and personal items (refer to the “Essential Clothing/Equipment List”). There is a dining hall, covered area, classroom and bunkhouse available to be utilised by all visitors.

**STAFFING**

The Department of Education employs registered teachers to run our Centre. We all possess a wide range of abilities and experience in Outdoor Education and its applications to the school curriculum and professional development programs.

**PROGRAMS**

Programs for school groups are developed through a consultative process involving the Centre’s Program Co-ordinator and the visiting school’s staff. Activities selected to achieve the aims of the camp are normally conducted in one to three hour sessions. Examples of the wide range of activities are listed below, although new activities are being continually developed.

**PROGRAM CONTENT**

Activities are chosen and sequenced to assist the students groups to meet the school’s stated aims and objectives. The range of activities offered by the Centre includes:

1. Archery
2. Adventure Games
3. Team Challenges
4. Canoeing and Kayaking
5. Trust activities
6. Group problem solving activities
7. High and Low Ropes
8. Mountain Biking
9. Orienteering and Navigation activities
10. Windsurfing
11. Pioneering (raft and catapult construction)
12. Rock climbing and Abseiling
13. Biscuiting
14. Giant Swing

**SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES**

Each activity is allocated a 1 ½ hour session per group. The degree to which each activity is developed depends upon the students’ abilities and the associated aims of the school. In either case, the emotional and physical safety of students is paramount. During all activities, students are supervised by staff, which are skilled in the activity and in current First Aid and advanced resuscitation practices. Student activity groups are supported by a safety network incorporating 2-way radios, mobile phones, power boats, four wheel drive vehicles and medical support from the nearby town of Mackay.

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Students will be responsible for their behaviour at all times whilst on site. As we are a Department of Education and Training facility, Behaviour Management practices at Kinchant OEC will be consistent with the visiting school Student Code of Conduct. If students demonstrate inappropriate behaviour by placing themselves or others at risk, parents/guardians will be contacted. Students who refuse to abide by these responsibilities may be returned to school with the students’ parents responsible for their transportation from the Centre to school/home.

**Medical and Parental Consent Forms**

Both Medical and Parental consent forms, which must be completed in detail, will be sent home by the school with this letter. The contents are treated confidentially. These are not used to exclude students from attending. This information may be crucially significant in times of medical emergency. **These forms must be completed and signed and dated by a Parent/Guardian.**

**General information**

Student mobile phones are not permitted to be used while at the Centre.

It is advisable not to bring expensive clothing or footwear because of the nature of the activities undertaken.