



Year 9

River Experience



26 - 30 October 2009

(Mrs Sketcher's & Mr Allison's Coresplore Classes)

Or

9 - 13 November 2009

(Mrs Delaney's & Mr Southwell's Coresplore Classes)

Student & Parent Information Booklet

Program Overview

Upper Yarra Field Trip:

A single day, bus based, field trip exploring the history, agriculture, tributaries, and water harvesting of the Upper Yarra River

Mid Yarra Canoeing Journey:

A two day, overnight camping, river journey exploring the connections and contrasts between nature and human civilisation.

Cycle Main Yarra Trail:

A single day, one way cycle journey downstream by the suburban Yarra River.

Cruise Port of Melbourne:

A half day educational boat cruise of the Port of Melbourne.



Aim and Learning Objectives

Aim

To build personal connections with our local catchment.

Learning Objectives

1. For students to gain an overview of the Yarra River and its water management from source to sea.
2. For students to connect the concepts of water harvesting, uses, quality, treatment, effluent, water supply management, water shortage environmental management, and to consider the use of science in all of these processes.
3. For students to perceive a close sense of proximity or connection between themselves and their local catchment.

Curriculum Perspectives

The Year 9 'River Experience' has been developed specifically for the Year 9 Curriculum. This experience is key to the 'Future Shock, Future Shift' unit.

Practical Matters

Student Groupings: Students will track through the program with their Coresplore class. They will break down into smaller groups of 13 within some activities.

Dates: Each Coresplore class will engage with the program for five days. These will be either 26th – 30st October or 9th -13th November 2009.

	Canoe Journey	Cycle	Cruise	Field Trip
Mr Sketcher	26 - 27 Oct	28 Oct	29 Oct	30 Oct
Mrs Allison	27 - 28 Oct	26 Oct	29 Oct	30 Oct
Mrs Southwell	9 – 10 Nov	11 Nov	12 Nov	13 Nov
Mrs Delaney	10 – 11 Nov	9 Nov	12 Nov	13 Nov

Hours: Canoe Journey Start 7:30am at DCC
Canoe Journey Finish 5:30pm at Warrandyte Bridge
Mel Ref 23 F11
Cycle, Cruise, Field Trip 8:30 – 3:15 daily.

Travel: Students will be transported to and from activities by use of charter coach and/or staff driven buses with the following exceptions:

- **Students will need to be picked up** from the Warrandyte Bridge at the conclusion of their canoe journey.
- **Students will need to catch a train** to Flinders Street station to meet staff at Federation Square by 8:45am on the Thursday of their cruise.

EISM Sport: Students will participate in EISM sport as usual, on the Thursday afternoon. Students will be transported from the cruise to the College in time for the departure of the EISM sport buses.

Cost: The cost of the course is included in the Year 9 levy. Additional costs will be incurred in the form of a single daily MET ticket and food.

Food: Students will be expected to provide food for all activities including the canoeing journey. For the day activities this includes a cut lunch, and recess as well as a drink. For the cycle the students will require 2L of water and additional high energy snacks. Students will be given food guidelines for the canoeing journey in class.

Staff: The program is staffed predominately by Donvale Christian College teachers with support from competent outdoor educators.

School Program: There will be two weeks where half of Year 9 are out of the College on the 'River Experience' Program. During this time a normal timetable will run and students not involved in the river program are expected to attend school. They will participate in core tasks that are significant in the Year 9 curriculum.

Clothing: Students will be expected to wear their Year 9 Uniform on all of the day trips and dress for the weather. They should remember to bring their EISM sport uniform to school on Thursday. Please see the attached list for an equipment list for the Canoe Journey.

Communications: It would be helpful for students to bring their mobile phones on the day of the Cruise so they can be contacted if they are running late.

Bikes: Students who want to use their own bike are welcome to, so long as it is fully serviceable and suitable for well made, sealed and gravel paths.

Wet weather plans The program will run, rain hail or shine. It would be prudent of students to check the forecast when considering the warmth of their clothing and to bring a raincoat on any given day. Some aspects of the program may be condensed due to wet weather, however, students should not expect to be indoors all day in such an event.

Forms Please have all forms completed and returned to Secondary Administration ASAP, definitely by the 19th October. The program is considered a compulsory component of the Year 9 curriculum and it is assumed that all students will attend.

In Emergency Parents will not be able to contact staff on the program directly. If there is an emergency at home, the College Office (9844 2471) or Chris Kay (0408 598 015) can be contacted. They will pass necessary messages on. If there is an emergency on the river, staff will contact parents directly.

Contact John Gardiner is the DCC contact regarding the Year 9 'River Experience' program. He is easily contactable via email (john.gardiner@donvale.vic.edu.au) or a message can be left for him at the DCC Office.



Basic Safety Rules

1. No student is to place themselves or other students at risk.
2. Students are to follow safety instructions at all times.

Behaviour Guidelines

1. Students should display common courtesy and good manners to all, staff students and members of the public.
2. Students should consider noise levels in various public places.
3. Students should conscientiously engage in the learning activities.
4. Students should represent the college well.
5. Students should follow all other instructions given in this pack, and by staff. They should generally be cooperative.

Equipment for Canoeing Journey

The school will supply all activity specific equipment, sleeping mats, shelters, and stoves. Students will need to pack their personal equipment into an overnight bag and a day bag. The overnight bag will be transported to the campsite, while the day bag will travel in the canoe with the student. Everything in the day bag should be packed well in plastic bags to avoid it getting wet. Nothing should be carried in the day bag that students are not willing to get wet. This includes mobile phones, IPODs and cameras. The school will provide cameras.

One of the items in Italics should placed in the day bag or worn to school on the first day of the canoeing journey.

Clothing

2 *Shorts* (preferably nylon)

2 *T-Shirts* (shoulder & middle covering)

2 *sets underwear*

Long sleeve thermal top (nylon, available at any outdoor store – NOT TARGET!)

Long leg thermal bottom (nylon, available at any outdoor store – NOT TARGET!)

1 set long pants. (no jeans)

2 pairs Socks

1 *Thick fleece or wool jumper*

2nd Warm Jumper

Full brim sun hat

Sunglasses

Beanie

Runners

Old enclosed footwear to wear on the water (old runners, water shoes, volleys, no thongs).

** No singlet tops

** Light natural colours highly recommended where possible.

Toiletries – Showers provided

Toothbrush & paste

Towel & soap

**No make-up or aerosol cans

Sleeping Stuff

Sleeping Bag

**No pillow

Cooking Stuff

Bowl, spoon, knife, mug (plastic where possible)

Food, packed to prevent leakages – more detail given at school.

Tea Towel

2L Full Water bottle/s

Plastic bags for waterproofing gear in day bag

** No matches or lighters. Knives must only be of a small utility kind. No hunting knives.

Accessories

Torch (head torch or small hand help with spare batteries)

Sunscreen

Insect repellent (highly recommended)

Asthma pump or medication (as needed).

** **No electrical equipment of any kind including Discmans, ipods, mobile phones, watches etc.**

Risk Management Summary:

If you would like to discuss the following table, or have any concerns, please contact Mr Gardiner prior to the activity.

<i>Danger</i>	<i>Potential Outcomes</i>	<i>Preventative Measures</i>
Heat, sun, cold and demanding exercise	Heatstroke/dehydration Sunburn Hypothermia	Students will be briefed on sun-smart behaviours. Water will be available or carried. Students clothing and sleeping equipment will be appropriate to the climate.
Lost Student	Undefined	The canoeing group will stay together and clear boundaries will be set when on land.
Wildlife	Animal bite Contamination of cooking gear or food	Students will be advised to watch where they step will be briefed on what to do in the event of a snake sighting. Students will not be allowed to feed animals or to leave food or cooking gear unattended. The group will camp in a cleared area of mown grass.
Lightweight Fuel Stoves	Burns Fire	Students are well practiced at using Trangia stoves and are familiar with relevant safety measures. Use of the stoves will be supervised.
Poor Hygiene	Gastroenteritis	Dish and hand washing facilities will be provided. Students will be briefed on how to dispose of waste.
Student Illness	Student is not able to participate effectively in the activity.	Students that have an illness that will prevent them participating effectively will not be allowed to attend the activity. Students contracting an illness will be collected by parents.
Equipment Failure	A student is unable to protect themselves from the elements or carry their equipment.	More than enough equipment is carried within the party. Where an item is critical, spare items will be carried.
River Hazards: Trees, Rocks, Hydrolics.	Entanglement, Entrapment, pinning or collision leading to drowning, flesh wounds or bone injury.	A thorough student briefing will include: - River hazards and avoidance techniques - What to do in the event of entanglement - White water float position and rapid swimming techniques Staff will be aware of hazards on the river and warn students of them in advance. All persons will wear a helmet and personal floatation device.
Slippery River Banks	Fall resulting in flesh or bone injury.	Students will be required to wear shoes at all times. PFDs and helmets will be worn when students are adjacent to the bank. Caution will be exercised and not running will be allowed when on the river bank.
Riding bikes at speed on well form bike trails.	Bike Crash – flesh wounds, bone/joint injuries, concussion, blunt injury trauma.	Warning students of dangers while on the ride, wearing of helmets, keeping speed down on long descents.

Parent Consent,

My son/daughter _____ has permission to participate in the Year 9 ‘River Experience’ Program.

In the event of accident or illness, where it is impractical to communicate with me, I authorise the teacher in charge to consent to my child receiving such medical, surgical or ambulance treatment as may be deemed necessary. I agree to meet any medical costs which may be incurred.

The medical and emergency contact information given to the college is up to date to the best of my knowledge. Any changes are noted overleaf and will also be forwarded to the College’s administrative office.

I authorise my child’s medical details to be disclosed to relevant Donvale Christian College staff, and any medical or first-aid personnel caring for my child.

I have read the informative details regarding the program supplied to me by Donvale Christian College and I am satisfied with its structure. If I have any questions or concerns regarding the program I will contact the college and resolve them before allowing my child to attend.

I will endeavour to make certain that my child is prepared with the correct equipment for the program.

I have discussed with my child the need for responsible behaviour in all aspects of this program. I agree to collect my child from anywhere on the Yarra River or to meet the cost of their taxi ride home should their behaviour be in breach of the basic safety rules noted in the student and parent information booklet.

PARENT/S SIGNATURE _____

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Student Commitment

I have read the supplied information and agree to conduct myself in a safe and responsible manner, be considerate of my peers, and follow the instructions of DCC staff. I understand that failure to do this may result in me not being allowed to participate in the program.

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

I plan to bring my own bike to cycle the Main Yarra Trail: Y / N

I feel comfortable cycling on relatively easy terrain: Y / N

Return to Year 9 Administration ASAP.