



Somers School Camp – Risk Assessment

Activity	BUSHCRAFT
School	Somers School Camp
Supervising Staff	All qualified teaching staff
Program	9 Day Network Program
Year Level	Year 5 & 6
Dates	February 2026 to February 2027
Location(s)	Somers School Camp – Somers Campus – Bushcraft Area

• **Duty of care - Duty of care obligations require that school personnel take all reasonable steps to protect students from risks likely to cause personal injury that could reasonably have been for-seen.**

Risk Description	Existing Controls	Risk Assessment – with existing controls			
		Effectiveness of existing controls	Risk Consequences	Risk Likelihood	Risk Rating
Describe the risk event, cause/s and consequence/s. For example, <i>Something occurs ... caused by ... leading to ...</i>	Describe any existing policy, procedure, practice or device that acts to minimise the risk				
A participant receives a burn or scald caused by flame, heat, water or steam leading to injury.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants are instructed at the start of the Bushcraft lesson on strategies to prevent receiving a burn injury during the lesson. Students are instructed not to step over the fire. When lighting the fire, students are instructed to strike the match away from themselves. When removing hot utensils from the fire, students are instructed to use some insulation. Students are not allowed to swing the billy Participants are informed of closest water source and first aid procedure if a burn occurs. All SSC staff have current Level 2 First Aid Certificate and carry a first aid kit with them. The staff -student ratio is never greater than 2 staff: 20 students Students are instructed to wear appropriate clothing and footwear Students are instructed not to wear loose fitting or flammable garments. 	Satisfactory	Moderate	Possible	Medium
A participant gets poked in the eye by a stick causing injury.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants are instructed at the start of the Bushcraft lesson not to poke sticks in and out of the fire. All SSC staff have current Level 2 First Aid Certificate and carry a first aid kit with them. 	Satisfactory	Major	Rare	Medium
A student is bitten or stung by a venomous animal or insect leading to injury whilst collecting wood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are instructed to be aware when turning logs and collecting firewood for any insects or reptiles. 	Satisfactory	Major	Rare	Medium
Unsafe conditions during lesson caused by severe weather elements or high fire danger leading to serious injury to participants or causing fire to get out of control.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S.S.C Staff assess weather conditions at the time of the activity. If lightening, high winds or total fire ban day imminent, students will not participate in the Bushcraft lesson. Assessment of weather conditions by S.S.C staff will be considered following protocols including -DEECD weather warning, SES warning the School Principal instruction and S.S.C staff weather assessment. S.S.C Staff to continually monitor weather throughout activity. <p>During high fire danger period</p> <p>The lesson can only run under the following circumstances-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the wind is not more than 10km/h (this can be observed if leaves and small twigs are in constant motion) the fire is lit in a properly-constructed fireplace or in a trench at least 30 centimetres deep 	Satisfactory	Major	Unlikely	Medium



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the area within a distance of 3 metres from the outer perimeters of the fire and the uppermost point of the fire is clear of flammable material the fire does not occupy an area in excess of 1 square metre and the size and dimensions of solid fuel used are the minimum necessary for the purpose A person is in attendance at all times while the fire is alight and has the capacity and means to extinguish the fire the fire is completely 															
A participant falls to the ground or into the fire caused by an unstable seat leading to injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are given correct instruction on how to behave around fire Students instructed to sit on bench seats not on the ground. Seats are placed at a safe distance from the fire. 	Satisfactory	Minor	Rare	Low											
A participant develops breathing difficulties caused by smoke from the camp-fire leading to an asthma attack or restricted airway.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants are instructed to take note of wind direction and stand/sit with wind at their backs to reduce smoke inhalation Students who suffer from asthma should carry Ventolin inhaler with them. A first aid kit with a Ventolin inhaler is carried by staff. 	Satisfactory	Major	Unlikely	Medium											
A participant has an anaphylactic reaction caused by intake of certain food leading to serious medical emergency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSC Staff will identify any students with food allergies prior to lesson. Students who are risk of anaphylactic shock should carry an epi-pen with them. Back-up EpiPen is located in the Kitchen Staff have been trained in administering epi-pen to patient. Participants are made aware of the food and beverages that will be consumed in the bushcraft session. 	Satisfactory	Minor	Rare	Low											
A participant becomes ill after the bushcraft session caused by poor personal hygiene leading to sickness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants are expected to demonstrate adequate personal hygiene habits and food handling techniques during bush-craft. Staff wear rubber gloves when distributing and preparing damper etc. 	Satisfactory	Minor	Unlikely	Low											
A participant is hurt caused by improper use of bushcraft tools leading to serious injury.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are supervised constantly by staff during the bushcraft session. Students are given correct instruction into proper usage of bushcraft tools. Students are not allowed to use the axe /hatchet to cut wood. 	Satisfactory	Major	Unlikely	Medium											
The ash dump catches alight caused by incorrect extinguishing of the fire leading to fire getting out of control and endangering people and buildings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff ensure that all fire are fires are safely extinguished at the end of session Staff ensure all coals and ash are disposed correctly in the ash dump. 	Satisfactory	Moderate	Rare	Low											
<p>Supervision- The following table shows the minimum staff-to-student ratios that must be met based on the Adventure Activity Safety Guidelines</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">Bushcraft</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Staff numbers</th> <th>Total students</th> <th>Student Ratio</th> <th>Staffing</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>20</td> <td>1 : 10</td> <td>1 x SSC Staff 1 x Visting Teacher</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Bushcraft				Staff numbers	Total students	Student Ratio	Staffing	2	20	1 : 10	1 x SSC Staff 1 x Visting Teacher
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