



# Somers School Camp – Risk Assessment

Activity	BOATING
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 – Boat Shed, Merricks Creek

• **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 student/s are separated from the main group while on the river caused by inadequate supervision and /or hazardous river and/or weather conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SSC staff always carry a mobile phone and first aid kit to every boating lesson.</li> <li>The minimum staff -student ratio is 2 staff: 20 students</li> <li>A designated safe boating venue (Merricks Creek) has been selected to instruct students in.</li> <li>SSC staff to assess water conditions ie: tide, current, wind intensity etc. before/during every lesson.</li> <li>Students are made aware of the river currents, wind factors and submerged rocks prior to activity starting. If conditions are not suitable for boating lesson, SSC staff will re-assess lesson plan and modify lesson.</li> <li>Boundaries are defined for students through coloured triangles on bank and bridges.</li> <li>Students are taught a series of signals by SSC staff for water evacuation and to gain staff assistance if required.</li> <li>The SSC staff constantly supervise students during the lesson either from the riverbank, the Somers bridge or on the water.</li> </ul>	Satisfactory	Moderate	Rare	Low
A student is injured during a boating lesson caused by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorrect Lifting Technique</li> <li>Struck by paddle</li> <li>Fingers jammed by other boats</li> <li>Falling in boat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SSC staff always carry a mobile phone and first aid kit to every boating lesson.</li> <li>SSC staff deliver following instruction to prevent injuries occurring including- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>oars must be carried vertically with care</li> <li>no deliberate collisions and when heading for an un-avoidable collision with another boat, take hands off oars and ensure all parts of the body remain within the boat .</li> <li>students made aware of support cables for bridge and care taken when going under them.</li> <li>students instructed not to stand up in the boats, using 3 points of contact at all times when moving in/out of boats.</li> <li>when carrying boats, children need to work in teams of at least 6 using correct carrying technique</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Satisfactory	Moderate	Unlikely	Medium
A student falls overboard and drowns whilst boating caused by falling out of the boat or being knocked unconscious and falling into water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SSC Staff carry a rescue throw bag in their boat the assist in a rescue if required.</li> <li>SSC Staff hold current Level 2 First Aid and CPR/Defib qualification</li> <li>SSC Staff hold current Community Surf Rescue Qualifications.</li> <li>Students wear correctly fitted PFD's (type 2) throughout lesson.</li> <li>Students are instructed not to stand in boats and to keep centre of gravity low</li> <li>Students instructed to stay in boat unless instructed by a teacher.</li> <li>Students instructed not to swallow water if avoidable.</li> <li>Students are taught how to 'Ship' their oars when near other boats or if a collision with another boat is imminent.</li> <li>Students instructed to take care with their</li> </ul>	Satisfactory	Major	Rare	Medium



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	paddle whilst around others.															
A student suffers a first aid incident such as bee/ insect sting, asthma incident, anaphylaxis or seizure while boating leading to serious medical consequence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SSC staff always carry a mobile phone and first aid kit to every boating lesson.</li> <li>Students carry epi-pen and asthma puffer with them during boating session (if required)</li> <li>First aid Kit is located in the Boat Shed.</li> <li>Extra EpiPen is located on the Boat Shed.</li> <li>A Defoliator is located in the Boat Shed</li> </ul>	Satisfactory	Major	Rare	Medium											
Severe or unpredictable weather conditions or the river mouth opening unexpectedly causes unsafe boating conditions for students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S.S.C Staff assess weather conditions at the time of the activity. If lightening imminent, students will be cleared of the water immediately.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>S.S.C Staff to continually monitor weather throughout activity.</li> <li>SSC staff to assess likelihood of river mouth opening during lesson. If river mouth opening is imminent, SSC staff will re-assess lesson plan and modify lesson to ensure all children are safe.</li> </ul>	Satisfactory	Major	Rare	Medium											
Student become ill due to dehydration due to over exposure to sun and/or extreme heat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students are encouraged to drink plenty of liquids during boating lessons.</li> <li>Students are encouraged to apply sunscreen during boating lessons.</li> <li>All students wear a hat to protect them from the sun.</li> <li>Staff to continually monitor students for signs of distress.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>S.S.C Staff to continually monitor weather throughout activity.</li> </ul>	Satisfactory	Moderate	Rare	Low											
<p><b>Supervision-</b> 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">Boating</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 (Surf Rescue Qualification) 1 x Visiting Teacher</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Boating				Staff numbers	Total students	Student Ratio	Staffing	2	20	1 : 10	1 x SSC Staff (Surf Rescue Qualification) 1 x Visiting Teacher
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