

# SCHOOL PROFILE

*Arndell Anglican College*



**Arndell**  
Anglican College

## ABOUT

Since our establishment in the early 1980's Somerset has worked with many Schools and developed a long history and association with several. This is certainly the case with Arndell Anglican College. Located in the Hawkesbury suburb of Oakville, Arndell began in 1990 and since that time has developed into a School of over 800 from K-12.

## HISTORY WITH SOMERSET

Arndell first came to Somerset in 2003 and during our partnership, we have facilitated camps for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 at different times. For the last five years, Somerset has been arranging a Year 7 Camp in Term 1 and a Year 9 Camp in Term 3 when the majority of their School is away on a camp experience. Also during this time, our sister organisation, The Urban Challenge, facilitates the Year 10 program.

In 2015, as an extension of the Year 7 program, Arndell introduced a Father / Child Camp to enable Fathers who were new to the School the opportunity to get to know other Dads, as well as provide everyone the opportunity for time with their son or daughter separate to the home routine. Fathers arrive on the Friday afternoon and stay over until Saturday. After an initial welcome and get to know you, the dad's enjoy dinner with their child followed by a guest speaker arranged by the school, typically on "Fatherhood" or "Parenting". The Saturday allows for the Dad's and their child to participate in some of Somerset's signature activities followed by lunch before departing mid-afternoon.

## WHY DOES ARNDELL CHOOSE SOMERSET?

Michael Refalo, the Head of Outdoor Education at Arndell, oversees all school camps. The opportunity to take students away is really important at Arndell. Michael believes that the students have a different mindset and they are open to new thoughts. It provides an opportunity to recalibrate relationships, be it with their peers (or Fathers on the Year 7 program) and the development of tolerance as students learn to work closely and be present with other students for an extended period of time. In a recent review meeting, Michael said "It always gets better at Somerset. The infrastructure is always improving and the activities are changing, re-vamped or re-done."

Arndell appreciates the "authentic" camp experience for their students provided at Somerset where they are sleeping in tents and involved in the food preparation whilst at all times being fully supported by "quality" Somerset leaders. They are also thankful of Somerset's proximity to Sydney, yet despite the ease of this, there exists the feeling of being remote; especially given there is no mobile coverage. The school is pleased that Somerset has an understanding of Arndell's requirements specifically around the school's Christian ethos. Unhappy with a previous camp experience with another provider, Arndell was able to discuss with Somerset the need to incorporate Christian reflection periods throughout their program. Having now been implemented, we are able to provide a model which can be used for other Christian based schools that visit Somerset.

For schools, such as Arndell, where students have two camp experiences with Somerset, we are able to sequence the programs accordingly. This ensures that students have new experiences, rather than a repeat of activities. In sequencing between year groups, previous programs are built with an extension into longer and more challenging expedition journey style programs, as well as different base camp activities. This ensures students remain engaged and are provided a platform for new outcomes depending on the specific school requirements.



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## PHOTOS OF ARNDELL STUDENTS AT SOMERSET

