



# Somerseet

## Outdoor Learning Centre

Newsletter #34 Term 1 2014



### Your outdoor experience starts here.....

Somerseet Outdoor Learning Centre has been offering outdoor involvement to **school students** and **Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme participants** since 1980. As an industry leader with over **30 years of experience**, we offer a unique blend of learning experiences and outdoor facilities and activities delivered in a professionally managed outdoor education programme.

Somerseet offers the **distinctive experience of tent camping**, we do not accommodate students in dormitories or cabins, as a Somerseet programme is designed to present ample opportunity for **students to engage with their natural surroundings**. We provide a **fun and supportive** framework for students to **appreciate** the value of friendship and teamwork, to **develop** leadership abilities, to **extend** their physical and emotional capabilities, to **explore** the wonder of the out-of-doors, to **enhance** self-confidence and self-reliance and to **express** their spirit of adventure under the supervision of **skilled and qualified outdoor educators**.

Somerseet owns over 500 acres of land in the picturesque Colo River Valley with expeditions extending into the adjacent Wollemi National Park.



**Outdoor Days** – Enjoy the splendour of the outdoors on a bushwalk, a canoe, a rock-climb or a chat around the campfire. Provide your students with a fun and rewarding camp experience.

## What's New At Somerseet

### Campfire Circles

We have upgraded our campfire circles. We have put in sandstone circle pits and new smooth logs for seating. These improvements are in line with our commitment to continually update, add to and make better the outdoor education experience for students and teachers. Each time a school returns to Somerseet there is something extra, something fresh or something enriched.

This season we believe in getting back to some camping basics – a marshmallow on a stick and camaraderie around a glowing fire, a bushwalk with time to smell and enjoy the flora or a group effort to serve up a tasty and filling meal.



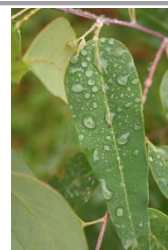
### Senior Group Leader

This Season we welcome Jake into his new role as Senior Group Leader. Jake has been group leading at Somerseet for over 2 years and is now involved in the mentoring and training of our new staff. Jake brings a charisma, a love of the outdoors and years of leading school groups to his lessons and workshops. Our new Group Leaders are eager to learn not only the hard skills required to run an abseil site or canoeing session etc but the soft skills necessary for working with children – skills such as time management, rapport and engagement with students.....



### New Staff Accommodation

Every year we have a growing number of staff who wish to live in one of our onsite staff cabins. Many of our Group Leaders choose to embrace the lifestyle and immerse themselves in the Colo Valley - a definite plus for staff teambuilding and mentoring as well as be able to pass on their first-hand knowledge, passion and enthusiasm of the area to students. On days off our staff head to the Blue Mountains for climbing, up the coast for a surf or into the CBD for a night out. We have just completed building a new cabin to accommodate 5 more full-timers.



For more pictures and articles please visit [www.campsomerseet.com.au](http://www.campsomerseet.com.au)



# The Outdoors – crucial to an adolescent's growth.

**Somerset recognises and promotes outdoor education as a vital cog in the holistic nurturing of young adults.** Programmes at Somerset provide the opportunity for students to extend their physical and emotional capabilities, to enhance self-confidence and self-reliance and to embark on positive initiatives which are crucial to their development as they emerge from adolescence to adulthood.

Somerset aims to develop the students' relationships with others in an environment which requires **teamwork, adaptability, perseverance and a sense of responsibility.** Somerset also acknowledges and actively advocates that the outdoors is **good for the soul** – it relaxes, calms, revitalises and energises - even after only a short period of time.

**'I wish we could go to Somerset at least once a Term' – Josh (Yr 7)**

**'I gained a new perspective on aspects of life and what's important to me' – Lily (Yr 9)**



## NARTA Accreditation



Our General Manager Paul Colagiuri receiving the NARTA documentation from ORIC President Rohan Reynolds



### **Somerset Outdoor Learning Centre is accredited under the NARTA Accreditation Process.**

Somerset is committed to ensuring it runs at **industry best practice level** and that it is operating under **NSW-recognised standards.** The NARTA Accreditation is a programme administered by the Outdoor Recreation Industry Council **ORIC** – ORIC is the NSW peak body, of which Somerset is a member. The accreditation is a thorough process of external audit and inspection of camp processes, procedures and activities from our abseil site and our gear logs - to our food handling procedures and safety management plans.

Somerset also continues to hold a Premium 10 year National Parks and Wildlife Gold **Eco-Pass Licence** and the Hire and Drive registration of our canoes under **Australian Maritime Safety Authority.**

Somerset recognises **the importance** for outdoor providers to undergo and maintain the validation and certification of their programmes in conjunction with their own internal policies, to ensure that their practices are safe and in line with industry approved and accepted standards.



Australian Government  
Australian Maritime Safety Authority



## 2015 Camp Dates

**Somerset is starting to lock-in dates for 2015. Get in quick –don't miss out**  
**For 1–7 day camps or a Duke of Ed weekend we would love to have you here!**



Interested in an outdoor experience for your students? –please contact Gen for more information



**Somerset Outdoor Learning Centre**  
**PO Box 7457 Wilberforce, 2756**  
**Tel: 4575 5319**  
**Email: [schools@campsomerset.com.au](mailto:schools@campsomerset.com.au)**



## Staff Profile

### April



April is one of our 'newbies' and joins us as a junior Group Leader. April received a Diploma of Outdoor Recreation from Christchurch Polytech and has gained additional competencies in abseiling, canoeing and bushwalking. Since arriving at Somerset April has completed our new staff Familiarisation Programme – a real-time and actual programme experience covering Somerset practices and procedures from roping and hiking to meal preparation.

April has also been involved in our Induction Day, activity workshops, bushwalking and navigation recces and went out on a 3 day camp to 'shadow' one of our experienced Group Leaders to see how it's done and to cement her learnings from the previous weeks of training.

We welcome April and look forward to her continued development and her contribution to our Team.

