



Mail Address

Mt Binga OEC, MS 2161, Blackbutt Qld 4306
Mail is delivered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

PHONE (07) 4163 0352

FAX (07) 4163 0665

The phone and fax are not for student use.

Students are encouraged to write letters and enjoy receiving mail from their family and friends.

Students need to bring their own stationery, envelopes and stamps.

Letters and parcels from parents, family and friends are not to contain any foodstuffs (including gum) or other items that have been requested to be left at home.



F A I T H

Faith Lutheran College Redlands



The Mt Binga Experience



Philosophy

Mt Binga Christian Retreat Centre is committed to providing a distinctive Christian education based on the unconditional love of Jesus Christ.

All who participate in the Mt Binga program are challenged to grow in their lives in Christ. The challenge is stimulated by experiencing a life closer to Creation and developing a deeper understanding of living with God and all that He created.

The Mt Binga program is designed to enable personal and spiritual growth. By experiencing a lifestyle reliant on community effort, individual strengths and gifts are brought to the forefront, allowing each person to build confidence and self-esteem. Such an opportunity also enables the development of new life skills.

Mt Binga provides an opportunity for spiritual growth and expression.

Learning and living together in 'God's Great Outdoors' enables prayer and worship to take place in unique places, a reminder that God walks alongside us at all times.

How it all began

Mt Binga was established by St Peter's Lutheran College as part of its outdoor education program during the early 1980's. Immanuel College had always realised the importance of outdoor education to its students

and in 1984, it was able to acquire one week of Mt Binga time for each of its first two Year 10 classes. Immanuel Lutheran College took over management of the site in 1996 and now offers a full month long outdoor education experience.

The aim of this handbook is to introduce you to Mt Binga, its location and lifestyle and to inform you of its aims and the learning experiences that students will enjoy.

Expectation about Attendance

The Mt Binga experience is a compulsory part of the Year 9 program. All students are required to attend for the full 4 weeks of their designated camp.

While camps are generally organised by House group, in the case of extenuating circumstances, students may apply to have their camp date moved to accommodate personal commitments outside the College. In order to maintain the integrity of the program, temporary release from camp is only considered if students have Faith LC,R, State or National representation for cultural or sporting responsibilities. Parents are encouraged to call the Head of Middle School to discuss any concerns regarding attendance dates during Semester 1, prior to finalising the camp groups.

Where is Mt Binga?

Mt Binga is a former forestry camp set in the beautiful and forested Blackbutt Ranges. It is located some twenty kilometres from the township of Blackbutt, which is on the Kilcoy-Yarraman Road.

Mt Binga Outdoor Education Centre
13 Mt Binga Rd
Mt Binga Qld 4306

The trip to Mt Binga takes approximately 2 hours 40 minutes. Take the road to Esk, travel towards Ipswich, and take the Warrego Highway and then the Brisbane Valley Highway.

Continue on the Brisbane Valley Highway past the Toogoolawah turnoff and through Harlin. 3 km past Harlin turn left at the 'T' intersection onto the Dagular Highway and continue on past Moore and then to Blackbutt.

At Blackbutt turn LEFT at the hotel into Hart Street and follow the road towards Crows Nest.

Travel approximately 22 kilometres from Blackbutt (7 km bitumen, 7.5 km gravel with a little bit of bitumen in the middle and another 7.5 bitumen). Turn RIGHT into Cooyar/Mt Binga Road (dirt road). Signpost (on left) says Mt Binga 2.

Proceed along the drive 1 km to the campsite.

Please exercise care on the Blackbutt - Mt Binga road. Logging trucks travel on this road (even on Sundays) and the road is quite slippery when it is wet.

Who is going when?

Camp 1 – 9A Weeks 3 - 6 Term 3
Monday, 27 July – Friday, 21 August (Family Day Sunday, 9 August)

Camp 2 – 9B Weeks 7 - 10 Term 3
Monday, 24 August – Friday, 18 September (Family Day Sunday, 6 September)

Camp 3 – 9C Weeks 1 – 4 Term 4
Monday, 5 October – Friday, 30 October (Family Day Sunday, 18 October)



Camp Information

All food is provided, but students will be expected to assist in the preparation of meals, setting tables and cleanup. Special Dietary requirements can be catered for.

A feature of the camp for many is the fact that it is based on natural aspects of daily living. NO RADIOS, IPODS, COMPUTER GAMES, SOFT DRINKS, CHEWING GUM OR SWEETS ARE ALLOWED. The emphasis is on camp and bush life and making your own entertainment.

Students will be required to pay for any wilful damage that they cause while they are at Mt Binga.

It is strongly recommended that students bring NO MONEY with them, as there is nothing to buy at Mt Binga, except for \$15 which covers the cost of their T-Shirt. Students should ensure that they bring a sufficient amount of consumable items such as batteries, stationery and stamps to last them for the whole camp.

Aims and Objectives of the Mt Binga Experience

Mt Binga provides an opportunity for personal growth, while students participate in activities they may never otherwise have had the chance to do, or do again.

Independence, self reliance and self sufficiency:

This means students do their own cooking, washing and preparation of camping rations.

Social interaction and group dynamics:

Essentially, the students work together and live together. They generally begin to depend upon and appreciate each other far more than in the normal school setting and routine.

Manual work:

Students participate in a variety of manual activities and learn to appreciate what results can be achieved through physical application to daily tasks and projects during the course.

Self reflection and thinking about other people:

Through quiet times and writing journals, students learn a little more about themselves as well as having time to think about other people.

Spiritual needs:

Through morning and evening devotions, solo and the very solitude and natural wonder of Mt Binga, there is a constant reminder of God's presence.

Facing challenges:

The solo hikes, survival, abseiling and other outdoor activities are but a few of the challenges put before students.

Appreciation of the bush:

Students interact with rural folk working at or around Mt Binga. They learn to think practically about country matters, from the necessity of opening and shutting gates for stock protection, to the vital part water plays in the lives of everyone living away from the Coastal strip.

The value of family and friends:

As the students work towards building family and community at Mt Binga they come to value family relationships and friends in their home environment.



A Typical Day in Camp

6:00 am	Wake up call
6:15 am	Morning Jobs
7:30 am	Breakfast
8:45 am	Assembly
9:00 am	Program Activities
10:30 am	Morning Tea
11:00 am	Program Activities
12:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm	Journal Writing
2:00 pm	Program Activities
3:30 pm	Afternoon Tea
4:00 pm	Afternoon Jobs
5:30 pm	Showers (3 minutes)
6:00 pm	Dinner
7:30 pm	Free Time
9:00 pm	Evening Devotion
9:30 pm	Bed Time
9:45 pm	Lights Out



Other Experiences

Apart from the normal day-to-day program, students will have an opportunity to experience the following (not all experiences will be the same for all student groups):

- Learn about dry forest ecology;
- Examine the geology of the Mt Binga area;
- Learn about the historical significance of the area when visiting local sites;
- Examine forestry management techniques;
- Visit the fire tower;
- Participate in service projects on site;
- Experience rock climbing and abseiling;
- Participate in horse riding program;
- Participate in low and high rope adventure courses;
- Learn basic mapping and orienteering skills and
- Learn bush camping and survival skills.

All students experience the preparation for, and execution of, an accompanied hike early in the program and a student planned hike later in the course. Both hikes are through countryside surrounding Mt Binga. Students undergo mapping and compass work prior to the hike, as well as preparing food and camping equipment for their treks. Time is also spent developing survival skills in the bush, including building shelters, knowledge of the use of vegetation, food, water conservation, fire fighting and first aid.

In addition to the hikes, students have an opportunity to experience a twenty-four hour solo in the bush adjacent to the camp. The solo takes place during the latter part of the course once the students have become familiar with the bush and gained confidence in their survival skills. Staff are in close proximity at all times.

Living and Learning

The challenge of living together and learning to cook, clean, wash, chop wood and endure the strengths and weaknesses of other students are valuable experiences for our Year 9 students.

Mt Binga makes every attempt to foster trust and understanding through personal relationships and hence build a community spirit.

The fostering of Christian ideals is an important part of the community life of Mt Binga and students participate in morning and evening devotions on a daily basis. They are encouraged to take some leading part in these services and regular Sunday services are held with members of the wider community around Mt Binga. God's presence at Mt Binga is deeply felt.



What to take:

- ✓ Pillow and pillow case
- ✓ 2 Sleeping bags (to zero plus in winter), sleeping bag liner, 2 sheets, blankets
- ✓ 2 towels and a face washer
- ✓ Personal toiletries - toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, non-aerosol deodorant and insect repellent
- ✓ Pyjamas
- ✓ Washing powder - environmentally friendly brands please (students have the opportunity to wash their clothes once a week - using cold water)
- ✓ Boots – buy at least a month before and wear them every chance you get.
- ✓ Slip-on boots with a heel or school shoes. Large lace-up boots or sneakers are not suitable for horse-riding.
- ✓ Bring your own riding helmet if you have one
- ✓ Track shoes/sports shoes x 2 pair
- ✓ Raincoat - a poncho is preferable
- ✓ Underwear, socks (6-8 pairs)
- ✓ Jumper, tracksuits, shorts, jeans, swimming togs
- ✓ Shirts with collars and sleeves
- ✓ Bible
- ✓ Books/novels
- ✓ Torch and spare batteries and bulbs
- ✓ Pens, coloured pencils and two exercise books: 1 for assembly entries and 1 for Journal
- ✓ Musical instruments (optional)
- ✓ Stationery, stamps and envelopes for correspondence
- ✓ Wide-brimmed hat (not a sunshade or cap)
- ✓ Sunscreen
- ✓ Garbage bags for dirty clothes
- ✓ Sock protectors
- ✓ Own enamel/plastic mug, plate, bowl, cutlery - clearly named
- ✓ Good hand cream and lip protector
- ✓ Rubber boots (if you have them)
- ✓ Water bottle (2 litre bottle with strap) or (2 x 1 litre (durable) containers)
- ✓ Pegs
- ✓ Medication that you may need (packaged and labelled with name and dosage) (to be signed in at Mt Binga)
- ✓ \$15.00 for Mt Binga T-Shirt
- ✓ Sleeping mat
- ✓ Fabric shopping bag

Leave Behind:

radios, computer games, ipods, mobile phones, sweets/lollies, chewing gum, chocolates, soft drink, junk food, chips, ALL aerosol packs - only pump action deodorants, knives and other potentially dangerous implements (other than staff approved camping knives), inappropriate magazines.

Please note:

- Normal school rules apply to students found with cigarettes, alcohol or illegal substances whilst at the Mt Binga campus. A serious breach of rules will see students sent home from Mt Binga.
- The Mt Binga staff members are not able to take responsibility for valuable items that are on the LEAVE BEHIND list. While every effort will be made to safely store and return them at the completion of camp any loss or damage is the student's liability. Do not expect consumables to be returned. PLEASE LEAVE THEM AT HOME.
- Please bring OLD clothes as they can get very dirty. White T-shirts are NOT recommended. Clothes and belongings need to be named.
- Wilful damage to property and equipment will be charged for.
- Medical Issues - Every student will receive a medical form to fill out and a permission slip to cover the camp and solos prior to leaving for Mt Binga. It is important that the medical information is current, the Medicare number has been filled in, that dental check, tetanus shots and other immunisations are in order before students leave for Mt Binga. All Mt Binga staff hold current first aid certificates. All other medical needs are attended to by doctors at The Timbertown Medical Centre, Blackbutt or the Toowoomba Base Hospital. Please be specific and clear about the supply and dispensing of all medication, pain relief and prescription drugs. These will be held in the First Aid room and dispensed in compliance with Workplace Health and Safety requirements.

Family Day

Family Day is held on the middle weekend of camp, two weeks after the camp begins. The day is intended for immediate family to share in the Mt Binga experience. It begins at Mt Binga from 10:30am onwards on the Sunday.

Parents will need to bring a picnic lunch to share with their child on the day, allowing families, students and Mt Binga staff to interact in a relaxed atmosphere. There will also be time throughout the afternoon to experience what life at Mt Binga is like with tours of the site and visits to some nearby sites. Since the day has been designed as a family occasion, parents are encouraged to bring along only immediate members of the family.

Parents may bring a few treats for their child but they must be consumed on Family Day.

Binga Blog

Families can stay up to date with students at Mt Binga by reading the Binga Blog. It is updated when information is received from Mt Binga and is accessible from the College website.

