

# GOOGA OUTDOOR EDUCATION & CHRISTIAN RETREAT CENTRE

2019/2020



GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
COLLEGE  
EST. 1978

## GOOGA OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

### SECONDARY SCHOOLS' INFORMATION BOOKLET

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

General Information	2
Short History	2&3
Major Goals	3
General Objectives, Outcomes and Learning Experiences	3
Specific Aims & Objectives	4&5
Sample Daily Program	6
Sample Four Week Program	6&7
Medical Forms (Tear out)	Annexure A & B
Staffing	7
Parents' Responsibilities	7
General Principles	7&8
Items not to be brought	8
Family Day	9
Googa Gear List	10&11
Dates and times for 2018/2019 Camps	12
Costs	12
Road Directions to Googa (Map)	13

**Postal Address :** Googa Outdoor Education and Christian Centre  
571 Nukku Rd  
Googa Creek QLD 4314

**Telephone :** (07) 4163 0266  
(The phone is not for the personal use of either students or visiting staff.  
Students may receive a call from parents, on their birthday, at 7:30am)

**Facsimile :** (07) 4163 0709  
(The FAX and email are for emergencies only - please do not use for  
personal letters)

**Email :** [googaoc@bigpond.com](mailto:googaoc@bigpond.com)

We trust this information will meet your needs. For any further communication contact Mrs Kylie Duyzer, Head of Senior School, Mr Peter Miles, Head of Middle School or, Mrs Emma Podlich, Year 9/Year 10 Coordinator (3203 0066), for Caboolture Campus, Mrs Judith Barnes, Senior School Pastoral Care Coordinator (5495 2444) or the Director of the Googa Outdoor Education Centre [(07) 41 630 266] but first please check this Information Booklet thoroughly.

### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Googa Outdoor Education Centre is owned and operated by three Lutheran Schools: Grace Lutheran College, Rothwell; Good Shepherd Lutheran College, Noosa; Grace Lutheran Primary School, Clontarf.

The Centre is a former forestry camp set in the beautiful Blackbutt Ranges and is located nine kilometres from the township of Blackbutt which is on the Kilcoy-Yarraman Road. The Centre has a lease over six hectares of land adjacent to a further 120 hectares owned and managed by Googa. The centre also has access to large areas of State Forests and private land for hiking and camping.

Facilities at the camp are deliberately simple, giving visiting students a taste of yesteryear. There are six dormitories consisting of three cabins, a kitchen and a cookhouse in each. Each cabin sleeps four, giving a total of twelve per dorm.

Kitchens are fully equipped with the basics - crockery, cutlery, pots, pans and other utensils. Cooking takes place over an open fire in the cookhouse. Wood fired ovens are also operational in all cookhouses. The site has a central food preparation area equipped with a stainless steel kitchen and appliances. This area is the central food handling and distribution facility for our students.

Other facilities on the property include the high ropes course, pamper pole, dingaling, multi-purpose hall and maintenance workshops. The camp area and surrounding forest have been mapped for orienteering and many small group activities are scattered around the property.

The Centre has laying hens, cattle, sheep, a vegetable garden and an avocado plantation. Students are involved in working in these areas under the supervision of staff in addition to being rostered on the daily operation of a dairy. Googa is accredited with Safe Food Queensland as a dairy producer and processor enabling the centre to provide pasteurized milk to students.

As far as possible, the physical environment has been left as it was in the days of the forestry camp. No electrical appliances, apart from refrigerators, are used in the dormitories.

A major emphasis of the program is to experience a simple, old fashioned lifestyle sampling bush life, a sense of remote living and making your own entertainment. Part of the experience is gained by leaving behind many of modern life's facilities and by not allowing the use of radios, CD players, MP3 players, Ipods, magazines, mobile phones, computer games, digital cameras, hair dryers etc. or the consumption of soft drinks, sweets and chewing gum.

Life at Googa always includes daily chores and each participant is expected to look after both their own basic needs and their share of the groups responsibilities. There is an emphasis on both working as part of a group and on accepting individual responsibility. Each participant should expect to be extended physically, mentally, socially and spiritually.

### 2. SHORT HISTORY

Following the example of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and Outward Bound and drawing heavily on the experience of other Queensland Lutheran Schools, it was felt by staff at Grace College that students could benefit greatly from an extended, residential, out of the classroom experience. As time at the existing centres was limited, it was decided to pursue the possibility of another centre.

Through the co-operation of Lutheran Schools and the Forestry Service, Googa became available in late 1988. After many working bees and weekend visits, the old camp was transformed from a single men's camp into a centre capable of accommodating a co-educational group of up to 48 students.

## GOOGA OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

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Four extra buildings were moved in. They were the hall, staff building, a fourth dormitory and a new dormitory fitted out for students with special needs requirements. In addition, an extra male and female dormitory have been added to cater for the school's increase in size.

A Director was appointed in September 1989 and the first Grace students began their four week course in January, 1990.

### 3. MAJOR GOALS

The stated major goals of the Centre are:-

1. To develop in participants an understanding of human being's relationship to the physical and biological aspects of God's creation as expressed in the Australian countryside.
2. To promote initiative and self-reliance to students by presenting a challenge beyond that presented in the usual academic and sporting areas of the schools.
3. To increase the opportunity for participants to develop a sense of co-operation, interdependence and community spirit and to encourage self expression.
4. To deepen the participants' spiritual life and to encourage interest in the work of the schools and the church.

### GENERAL OBJECTIVES, OUTCOMES AND LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Not all experiences can be offered to all students due to varying circumstances. In all situations all program variations will be in accordance with the stated 'Major Goals'.

SPECIFIC AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVES

1. To give all students the opportunity to:
  - a) acquire basic information on the nature of their physical and biological environment;
  - b) acquire an understanding of their dependence on the environment;
  - c) come to value the Australian countryside.
2. Acquire basic information and practical skills necessary for successful hiking, camping and bush survival.

Develop independent living skills.

Develop a sense of initiative, self-esteem, self-confidence and self-reliance based on this knowledge and these skills.

Accept and overcome personal challenges.

OUTCOMES

- Understand:
- Forestry concept
  - Forestry history
  - Rural lifestyle
  - Old fashioned lifestyle

Experience: Isolated living  
 Bush camping  
 Make own entertainment  
 Farm work  
 Hard work

Appreciate: God's creation  
 Environmental  
 Interrelationships

Increase: Personal initiative  
 Personal self-reliance  
 Personal self-image  
 Personal self-esteem

Promote: Feelings of personal satisfaction from successful completion of challenge activities

Perseverance: Understand and appreciate imitations of self and others

SAMPLE LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Basic first aid  
 Group initiative games  
 Hiking in groups  
 Cooking and eating in small groups  
 Sharing facilities, rooms and equipment  
 Taking turns at all jobs  
 Relying on others  
 Planning assembly and devotions (in random groups)

Daily tasks (in random groups)  
 Helping neighbours and local farmers where possible  
 Caring for hiking country  
 Concerts / Skits  
 Games  
 Simulation games  
 Sing-a-longs  
 Worship times  
 Meditation and prayer  
 Daily devotions  
 Voluntary singing, prayer and praise times  
 Discussions  
 Hiking and camping in the countryside  
 Debriefing challenge activities

OBJECTIVES

3. Realise the need for community service.

Develop the ability to co-operate with other students and staff under conditions other than those dictated by the classroom situation.

Work as a member of an interdependent community.

Develop the ability to use leisure time profitably.

4. Better integrate their spiritual and temporal life.

OUTCOMES

SAMPLE LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Understand: The need to work together.  
 Range of abilities and interests  
 Group decision making processes  
 Interdependence

Develop: Co-operation, tolerance  
 Community Spirit  
 Class group bonding

Increase: Commitment to others  
 Motivation to be a constructive,  
 valuable member of society  
 Preparedness to be an individual  
 within a group

Appreciate: God's physical creation -  
 its complexity, diversity and simplicity  
 God's personal creation  
 Individual uniqueness  
 God's love

Understand: God's love for all of His creation  
 God's personal relationship with  
 individuals  
 His redemptive work

Living in the country  
 Isolated from:

- civilisation
- junk food
- modern appliances
- modern communication
- packaged entertainment

Hiking through forestry and across farms  
 Camping with basic / essential facilities  
 Pioneering  
 Visiting farms  
 Environmental awareness activities  
 Bush art  
 Meditation  
 Campfires and Sing-a-longs  
 Caring for a vegetable garden and site  
 beautification  
 Initiative games  
 Orienteering exercises  
 Map and compass use  
 Woodchopping and firelighting  
 Cooking for self and others  
 Handling small animals  
 Challenge Ropes Course  
 Climbing activities  
 Other challenge activities  
 Leading assembly and devotions  
 Involvement in worship services  
 Hiking and camping  
 Building and construction projects  
 Maintenance tasks/Vegetable gardening  
 Food Safety and Hygiene  
 Responding to an emergency

## 5. SAMPLE DAILY PROGRAM

6:00am	Morning Run
6:30am	Meditation and Cooking
7:30am	Breakfast
7:50am	Medication
8:00am	Clean up, free time
9:00am	Day Program begins
12:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm	Day Program continues
3:30pm	Jobs
4:45pm	Medication
5:30pm	Dinner Preparation
6:00pm	Clean up
6:30pm	Showers
7:30pm	Evening program
8:45pm	Devotions
9:00pm	Bed time
9:15pm	Lights out

## 6. SAMPLE FOUR WEEK PROGRAM

**Week 1** – The major focus of the first week is to begin building ‘the Googa’ community. Students are involved in a variety of group initiatives, projects and other activities to assist with the process of establishing a cohesive working community. Students settle into the responsibility of managing their working and living conditions and are involved in many decision making processes. Towards the end of the first week students start preparing their navigation skills and participate in an orienteering activity.

During this week, night activities continue to foster team responsibility and also focus on emergency procedures and strategies to be used throughout the Googa experience. Staff are assessing the group for their ability to be indirectly supervised (unaccompanied ) during hikes, pioneering and solo. This is a privilege which can enhance learning outcomes and is given to students who are trustworthy and responsible.

**Week 2 & 3** - Over the course of the next two weeks students will be involved in pioneering, hiking and high adventure activities. The Pioneering experience is designed to give the students an appreciation of the very basic, simple living style of the early settlers to this area. Emphasis is on group cooperation and personal responsibility in a bush setting. Through the hiking program students learn many new skills such as menu planning for bush cooking, navigation, managing first aid requirements, sustainable environmental practices to respect the use of private land and an appreciation of simple luxuries like comfortable warm beds! Family day is generally held at the end of week 3 and students look forward to sharing their experiences and achievements with their parents.

**Week 4** – During the last week of Googa, students are given the opportunity to reflect on their experiences through an overnight solo activity. During this week they also participate in final high adventure activities such as the high ropes or tree climb. Special evening events this week include a large bonfire, a hungi meal prepared by staff and the viewing of the class video as a final overview of their Googa experience.

On a daily basis students are responsible for the maintenance of the camp and participate in a variety of jobs to ensure the smooth running of each day. Some of these activities include feeding animals and preparing food for students, preparing devotions, cleaning living areas, chopping wood, washing clothes, journal and letter writing and some free time.

## GOOGA OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

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At all times the emphasis is on community living, students making their own entertainment, doing as much as possible for themselves and being responsible for their own actions.

### 7. STAFF

At present there are 10 full time staff at Googa with three additional part time staff employed to help with the programs. The staff come with varied areas of expertise, some from an educational background, some from a rural background, others may be part way through a degree. All staff are trained for Googa specific activities and are dedicated to encouraging and nurturing a caring Christian community with the students in their care. The number of staff employed may change from year to year.

All staff from the College are encouraged to visit the Centre where appropriate. Home class teachers generally spend one or two nights visiting their class and other teachers with particular interest or expertise sometimes visit to assist in the program.

### 8. PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Parents are expected to support the compulsory attendance of students to Googa.
2. Exemption on serious medical/disability grounds may be granted, supported by information from a registered medical practitioner who is able to discuss relevant medical conditions preventing Googa attendance with Grace leadership.
3. Requests for students to temporarily take leave from Googa are restricted to emergency/compassionate family needs, should they arise, and through discussions with Year Level Coordinators. Leave **may** be granted for participation in State and or national representation for sporting, academic and performing arts events. Should such a request be granted, off site training/practise from Googa will not be supported.
4. If a student needs exemption from a specific part of the program, this must be discussed with the relevant Year Level Coordinator well before the student attends Googa. Typically such exemptions are only granted on the basis of a serious health issue (qualified by a registered medical practitioner who has discussed the matter with relevant Grace staff) and or physical disability preventing participation.
5. Please write one or two letters per week.
6. Attend the family day (dates listed below). Please keep the amount of food you bring to a consumable level and limit the amount of 'junk food'.
7. Do not send parcels of food. **(If your student has special food requirements please ring 2 weeks prior to their arrival).**
8. Make sure your student does not bring items that are not required.
9. Encourage your students to participate fully in all aspects of the program.
10. Please ensure that an **adequate medical history** of your student is provided. This is done by completing the appropriate form, attaching additional notes and/or medical certificates where necessary. Medical forms are to be filled in by the Parent, not the student and are to be handed in to Mrs Allen in the Senior School Hub for Rothwell and Student Reception for Caboolture **two (2) weeks prior to departure**
11. **It is very important** to have your student's **tetanus** and **dental** needs up to date.
12. Hand student's medication along with any pocket money to staff member on day of departure.

If a student needs exemption from any part of the program, this must be discussed with the relevant Year Level Coordinator before the student arrives and confirmed in writing.

### 9. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

#### **Necessary gear/clothing etc. (see list below)**

In all things let common sense prevail. Warm, light, robust, protective clothing and footwear should be worn. As space is at a premium, what you bring should fit into one port plus sleeping gear. Woollen gear is far warmer than synthetics. Multiple layers of clothing e.g. t-shirts, skivvies, singlets are more effective insulators than one bulky outer garment, take up less space and weigh less. (On the overnight hike and camp-out, students carry their own needs.) All gear must be labelled clearly with student's name. See checklist for specifics.



### Pocket Money

Students will need pocket money to cover emergency expenditure (e.g. prescribed medicine) and as a deposit on equipment used at the Centre. This money should be given to the Year Level Coordinator on departure. Googa staff will then bank it. Students are not to keep money in their dormitories. All unused money will be returned on the last day when the buildings and site are clean. The deposit will be retained to employ cleaners if necessary or replace equipment which has been carelessly damaged. Students are invited to donate some or all of their remaining pocket money to a local or overseas aid project. This invitation is consistent with one of the learning outcomes of the program, that is, we are truly blessed. However this is completely voluntary and subject to parents advice.

Emergency expenditure includes medication (if they become ill), personal toiletry supplies and films. Films should be sent home for processing.

An amount of \$80.00 should be adequate. Should your student wish to purchase a Googa Polo shirt or bucket hat, you may need to include a little more pocket money.

The deposit for gear includes all hike gear and general camp equipment. Students are expected to be responsible for all the gear they use.

### Rules and Discipline

The usual school rules apply.

Serious infringements will result in a student being sent home, at parents' expense. The fees for the Googa program contributed by the parents are forfeited. Other infringements or issues are usually handled through restorative processes or by giving the students extra 'practical' tasks during their free time.

Above all, common sense, respect, co-operation and consideration are the principles which help create a positive community. Students are challenged to create a group culture which accepts diversity and encourages initiative. We have every confidence that each group is up to the challenge.

## 10. ITEMS NOT TO BE BROUGHT

An 'Authentic' Googa experience is 4 weeks of going without simple luxuries and devices – phones, magazines, make-up, music etc. Googa staff strongly encourage all students to fully participate in this once in a life-time challenge.

These articles will be confiscated:

Digital cameras, Ipods, Electronic video games, Radios and cassette players, Mobile Telephones, CD players, make-up, magazines, aerosol cans, cigarette lighters, clock radios. All sweets, chewing gum etc. There is no need for bandaids, they can be provided if necessary.

No flick knives, camping knives, hunting knives, pocket knives or utility knives.

There is no need for food or drink of any kind.

### Musical Instruments

Small robust musical instruments are encouraged (e.g. guitars, violin, clarinet, flute). There is an old piano in the hall for student use.

## 11. FAMILY DAY

Family Day will generally be the weekend before students return home for each House Group.

**Please note:** Immediate family members only (ie parents, siblings and grandparents) are invited to visit their child on Family Day.

Parents are asked to arrive between 9:30am and 10:30am (no earlier please) for morning tea. There will be a worship service at 11:00am followed by lunch. Everyone is asked to bring enough lunch to cover your group plus your student at Googa. Hot tea and coffee will be available. Fold up chairs or blankets to sit on are recommended. Vehicles are to park in the designated parking area only. Cars are only to be driven through the campus after discussion with the Googa Director.

After lunch there will be a demonstration of some of the activities.

Please do not bring large quantities of 'food' to be left behind. Students are not permitted to have any food that's not supplied by Googa left after 5:00 pm Sunday night.

You are welcome to stay until 5:00pm on the Sunday.

There are motels and Caravan Parks in Blackbutt and Yarraman if you wish to make a weekend of it.

Please do not bring the family pet as they may interfere with Googa animals.

Please note that smoking and alcohol are not permitted on site.

## 11. GOOGA GEAR LIST

The Googa staff reserve the right to request students to display the contents of their dorms and bags without notice.

**Hygiene:** Deodorant – (roll on, stick or pump action only)  
Toothbrush and toothpaste  
Nail brush  
Towel  
Old teatowel (to leave at Googa)  
Soap  
Hairbrush and comb  
Shampoo  
Heavy duty washing powder/Sard soap  
Pegs (approximately 10 is sufficient)  
\*Hairgel, make-up etc. - not required  
\*NOTE - No aerosols of any kind are permitted

**Sleeping:** Good quality sleeping bag for hikes, especially for winter groups  
Bags to be opened up and used as quilt or doona whilst in cabins  
PLUS  
Sheets and blankets  
Pillow and 2 pillow cases  
Winter classes should have an inner sheet for their sleeping bags for hikes and may wish to bring a doona also. Take an old sheet and sew it to form a bag - this doubles the warmth of the sleeping bag.

**Clothing:** 7 sets underclothes  
7 pairs socks - wool or cotton (minimum)  
2 to 3 pairs shoes:  
track shoes or boots - 1 pair that is comfortable to hike in  
7 sets of robust clothing including jeans, shorts, (Girls to wear long respectable shorts), shirts, jumpers  
T Shirts to have sleeves and collar (no strappy or singlet tops or bare midriffs)  
1 set of respectable clothing  
1 tracksuit for sleeping  
Gaiters (sock protectors) can be made at home or purchased at Googa  
Bike pants (handy to prevent chaffing while hiking)  
Gumboots or rubber boots – (optional)

\*In autumn/winter students will need to wear a long sleeved shirt, jumper and long trousers all day.

**Hot weather**

Hat - an absolute requirement - broad brimmed (not a cap or sun visor)

**Wet weather**

Rain coat or poncho

**First Aid**

15+ sunscreen, Curash Powder. ( No Band aids )

Any personal medication - named - to be kept in the dispensary - must be listed on the medical form, and must be handed to the teacher on the day of departure.

**Extra gear**

2 garbage bags  
1 torch + 2 sets batteries (head torches are useful)  
Letter writing materials  
Stamped envelopes  
2 pens, 2 pencils, rubber  
Bible  
Needle & thread – (optional)  
Alarm clock (not electric) – one per cabin  
1 set of old cutlery for campouts (could be left at Googa to replace losses)  
1 enamel mug  
Water bottles – Total 4litre carrying capacity (MUST)  
e.g. 2 x 2 litres or 4 x 1 litre  
Washing powder  
Baby wipes  
Mosquito Repellant

N.B. White shoes and clothes will be ruined by the red mud at Googa. Don't send any items that you cannot afford to be ruined.

Jewellery and fashion items are not required.

**Medication-** Please ensure any medication sent with your student is clearly labelled with their name and is in the original packaging.

DATES AND TIMES FOR 2018/2019 CAMPS

All groups are to assemble at the College 45 minutes before departure time at the MPC. For return from Googa, we ask that parents arrive at the Bus Turnaround on Mewes Road at 12:45pm ready for the return of students at approximately 1:00pm on the dates listed below:

CLASS	DEPART	RETURN	FAMILY DAY
ROTHWELL COMBINED GROUP	Monday 11.11.19 8:30am for 9:00am	Friday 6.12.19 1:00pm	Sunday 1.12.19
ANTARES	Monday 27.1.20 8:30am for 9:00am	Friday 21.2.20 1:00pm	Sunday 16.2.20
ORION	Monday 24.2.20 8:30am for 9:00am	Friday 20.3.20 1:00pm	Sunday 15.3.20
PEGASUS (Refer Note below)	Monday 23.3.20 8:30am for 9:00am	Friday 17.4.20 1:00pm	Sunday 12.4.20
CABOOLTURE	Monday 20.4.20 8:30am for 9:00am	Friday 15.5.20 1:00pm	Sunday 10.5.20

*Pegasus students have two weeks of school holidays prior to attending Googa, being 9.3.20 to 20.3.20*

Students are expected to attend Googa with their House groups.

Rothwell Combined 1 is comprised of students who cannot attend with their House group because of sporting, musical, family commitments etc.

The House groups rotate their departure times each year.

COSTS

The Googa Outdoor Education levy contributes to the cost of board, lodging and outdoor programs at the Googa Outdoor Education Centre. The levy is in addition to tuition fees.

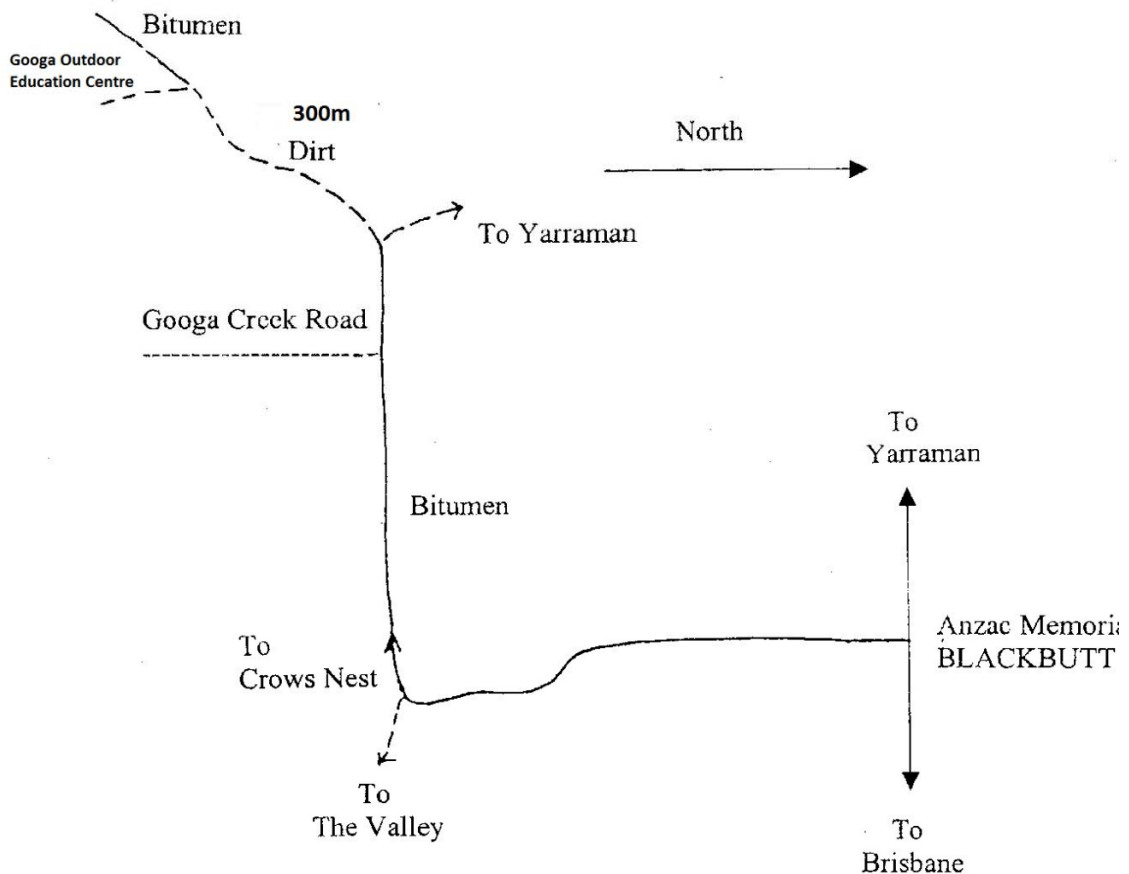
For Students attending Googa Outdoor Education Centre in 2020 (and in the last term of 2019) the Googa Levy will be allocated across Year 9 and Year 10 in eight equal instalments of \$210 per term to spread the cost to parents and because some students attend Googa in Year 9.

From Blackbutt

At the Anzac Memorial (in the middle of the road), turn left.  
(This is the back road to Crows Nest)

Follow this road without taking any major turnoffs for  
9 kilometres past Blackbutt and you will come to Googa  
Forestry Camp on your left - **DO NOT** turn down "Googa  
Creek Road".

N.B. 7 kilometres past Blackbutt the sealed road changes  
to dirt - when you reach a short sealed section again you  
are at Googa.





Googa Outdoor Education & Christian Retreat Centre

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