

# Farming Activity Plan

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## **1 OUTCOMES**

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- To introduce students to daily farm life
- Give participants an opportunity to participate in daily tasks and contribute to the running of camp
- Give them a greater knowledge of where their food comes from
- Familiarise students with different farm animals

## **2 ACTIVITY**

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### **2.1 OUTLINE**

A farming session is held throughout the paddocks of the farm not more than 400 metres from the campsite and in the dairy, shearing shed and animal yards about 100 metres from the Dining Hall. Each session may include these elements and follow a similar outline:

- Introduction to farm life, the tasks involved in running a farm and the different animals at Coolamatong
- Using information cards to allow students to 'be the expert' by reading questions and information aloud to the group
- Identifying the different types of cattle and discussing what they are used for
- Identifying different types of poultry and discussing what they are used for
- Identifying different types of sheep and discussing what they are used for
- Learning about the shearing shed, dairy and different farming equipment
- Collecting eggs
- Feeding and holding chickens
- Meeting the donkeys, horse and pig

### **2.2 EQUIPMENT**

All Camp Coolamatong instructors are familiar with the activity specific and safety equipment required for each activity. Each session the instructor will ensure:

- All equipment is set up, in working order and safe to use
- All first aid equipment is in working order and taken on the activity
- All communications are in working order, ample for use in an emergency and taken on the activity
- All participants, including school staff, have appropriate footwear and clothing
- All participants have been checked that their safety equipment is fitted correctly, and they know how to use it appropriately.

Instructor's Kit: Each instructor will also carry the following safety equipment:

- Whistle
- Mobile phone
- First Aid Kit
- Briefing cards for the locations around the farm

Participant Clothing: This will vary depending on the weather but needs to include the following:

- Clothes that are flexible and easy to move in.
- Sturdy, enclosed shoes that can get dirty.
- Clothing suitable for the weather conditions (e.g. hats for sunny days & thermals for the cold)
- Any glasses or sunglasses should be secured.
- Valuable or sentimental jewellery should be removed.

\* Flannelette shirts and 'farming' hats may be given to participants to wear as part of the session.

## **2.3 COMMUNICATION**

Camp Coolamatong staff carry mobile phone communications with them on every activity and there is coverage throughout the campsite property. All activities are within 500 metres of the main campsite buildings in event of communications failure.

## **2.4 FIRST AID**

Camp Coolamatong instructors all hold current certification in *HLTAID009 Provide Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation* and *HLTAID011 Provide First Aid* as a minimum. They will carry a First Aid Kit with them on all activities. School staff members, if they are appropriately qualified, will be the first port of call for administering first aid. Camp Coolamatong instructors will administer first aid when:

- it is an emergency situation, or
- the school staff member is not trained and it cannot wait until the school's designated first aider is consulted/located.

# **3 PEOPLE**

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## **3.1 ACTIVITY INSTRUCTOR**

All Camp Coolamatong instructors hold industry recognised First Aid and CPR qualifications (see 2.4) and have a current Working with Children Check (WWCC).

There must be a minimum of two staff at a farming session. One instructor will be provided by Camp Coolamatong, who will have experience delivering a farming session to industry standards. The second staff member will need to be provided by the school. The school staff member will be required to assist students who are struggling. Ideally, group sizes will be capped at 24.

## **3.2 SCHOOL STAFF MEMBER REQUIREMENTS**

Camp Coolamatong provides instructors who are trained in the delivery of each activity. They are able to facilitate a session in a safe manner and instruct the students on the technical knowledge and skills they require to participate in the activity.

It is Camp Coolamatong and DET policy that students must always have a school staff member present, whether this be a registered teacher or another approved school representative. The school staff member is responsible for student behavior, group management and the overall welfare of their students. The activity cannot commence if he/she is not present.

School staff members are encouraged to read this document and familiarise themselves with the activity and their responsibilities.

## **3.3 STUDENTS**

School staff are responsible for getting informed consent from parents/guardians for all students who come on camp. It is also the responsibility of the school to inform Camp Coolamatong of any medical conditions or issues that will impact on the students participating in the activity.

## 4 ENVIRONMENT

### 4.1 LOCATION

The farming session takes place on the Camp Coolamatong farm. Places visited may include: chook pens, paddocks where livestock are housed, the Shearing Shed, the Dairy and the vegetable garden. At all times participants will be in areas accessible by vehicles should access be needed in the case of an emergency.

### 4.2 WEATHER

Each session is assessed by the Program Manager prior to commencing with participant skills, weather conditions and outcomes being taken into consideration. During the session, the Coolamatong leader may also use their discretion to modify or finish a session early based on conditions changing. Strong winds, wet and cold conditions and extreme temperatures may result in a session being cancelled or the activity modified in accordance with Coolamatong's Adverse Environmental Conditions Policy.

## 5 RISKS

### 5.1 RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX

The following table outlines the specific risks associated with Farming and the existing controls that are in place to manage these risks. This risk assessment matrix is not all encompassing. There may still be risks associated with being in the outdoors doing adventure activities that have not been documented.

Risk Description	Existing Controls	Rating				Actions
Describe the risk event, cause/s and consequence/s	Describe any existing policy, procedure, practice or device that acts to minimise a particular risk	Effectiveness of existing controls	Risk Consequences	Risk Likelihood	Risk Rating	Extreme/High - Do not proceed Medium - Ongoing review required Low - Only periodic review required
Anaphylaxis	At start of week briefing, teachers are required to give Coolamatong staff details of any allergies and anaphylaxis.	Satisfactory	Major	Unlikely	Medium	Ongoing review required
	School staff need to carry epi-pens on all activities with those students and be trained how to administer them					
	School staff liaise with Coolamatong kitchen staff at start of camp regarding students with allergies					
	School staff hand out morning & afternoon tea to so students with allergies are given correct food.					
Bites & Stings: Insects (mosquitoes, ants, bees, wasps, scorpions)	Students are instructed to apply insect repellent before every activity session.	Satisfactory	Insignificant	Likely	Medium	Ongoing review required
	Students must wear closed toe shoes at all times around the campsite.					

Bites & Stings: snakes	Students must wear closed toe shoes at all times around the campsite.	Satisfactory	Major	Possible	High	Constant review required
	During orientation and before any activity that uses the bush students are briefed as to what to do if they see a snake.					
	When walking through the bush there should be a Coolamatong leader at the front.					
	When walking through the bush groups, groups must stick to the defined and clear tracks					
	Students are not allowed in the bush in groups of less than three.					
Cold Exposure	Students are briefed on what is appropriate clothing to wear according to weather	Satisfactory	Minor	Likely	Medium	Ongoing review required
	If multiple students are cold, leaders have the option to terminate session early to ensure that students get warm and dry.					
	Adherence to the <b>Coolamatong Adverse Environmental Conditions</b> Policy in dealing with managing, modifying and cancelling activities due to extreme weather.					
Drowning	Students are briefed on activity boundaries and told that the dams are out of bounds	Satisfactory	Severe	Rare	Medium	Ongoing review required
	There should always be a staff member nearby unfenced water areas when students are off in small groups and not supervised as one large group					
Falls & Trip Hazards	Students must wear closed toed shoes at all times when outside	Satisfactory	Insignificant - Minor	Likely	Medium	Ongoing review required
	Students are briefed on appropriate footwear for each activity					
	Debris is removed from all paths as seen. If object is not removable by hand, then an alternative path is sought.					
	Bi-yearly Camp site hazard checks identify trip hazards to be addressed by maintenance work					
Heat Exposure: -dehydration -heat stroke -hyperthermia -sunburn	Students must bring water bottles to all activities. Spare water bottles are available.	Satisfactory	Insignificant - Minor	Possible	Medium	Ongoing review required
	During hot weather (terms 1 & 4) extra water is taken out to refill water bottles.					
	All students must wear hats, sunscreen and appropriate sun smart clothing (terms 1 & 4)					
	Adherence to the <b>Adverse Environmental Conditions Policy</b> dealing with managing, modifying and cancelling activities due to extreme weather					

Lost Student	Students are asked to stay with group at all times.	Satisfactory	Moderate	Unlikely	Medium	Ongoing review required
	When travelling between activities there should always be a Coolamatong leader at the front and a school staff member at the back.					
	Start of week briefing advises school staff that they need to provide group management and student supervision for all activities					
Sprains and Strains	Animal specific hazards are highlighted throughout the session.	Satisfactory	Moderate	Unlikely	Medium	Ongoing review required
	School staff should be aware of any existing injuries and are expected to notify Coolamatong leaders if these affect a student involvement with an activity.					
Injury due to Lightning strike	Adherence to the <b>Adverse Environmental Conditions Policy</b> dealing with managing, modifying and cancelling activities due to extreme weather	Satisfactory	Major - Severe	Rare	Medium	Ongoing review required
Electric shock	Students are advised that they can be injured if they touch any of the electric fences.	Satisfactory	Moderate	Rare	Low	Periodic review required
	When students are approaching paddocks that are ringed with electric fences, they will inform the participants.					
	Electric fences are not situated around the free time play area.					
	Students are not to climb over electric fences to enter areas.					
	Inform students that animals are unpredictable and may cause injury from crushing or kicking.					
Injury from animals	Students are advised to never walk behind large livestock like cows & horses	Satisfactory	Moderate	Rare	Low	Periodic review required
	Moving stock, stand at least two meters away from animals while moving					
	Patting stock, only under supervision and direction of experienced camp instructors.					

## 5.2 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

It is a requirement that all Coolamatong Instructors must carry a mobile phone with available reception to make calls on. They must also carry a first aid kit. All Coolamatong Instructors have, as a minimum, current certification in *HLTAID009 Provide Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation* and *HLTAID011 Provide First Aid*.

In the event of a medical emergency, the Coolamatong instructor or School Staff member at the site of the emergency should call 000 if needed and will begin coordinating the handling of the emergency. The most senior member of Coolamatong staff should be notified as soon as practicable, and they will step in to manage the situation as required.

Refer to Camp Coolamatong's Emergency Management Plan for further details about procedures and incident protocol in an emergency.