

# Grade 7 School Camping Gear Guide



Launceston  
Grammar

EST. 1846

## Introduction

Throughout your child's time at Launceston Church Grammar School, they will be exposed to a variety of natural environments and challenging activities.

Many families have equipment at home that may or may not be appropriate for certain camps. The purpose of this gear guide is to describe in some more detail the equipment and clothing that will be used over the next few years. It will look into what gear is suitable for our programs by listing features that we deem necessary. It will also look at some features which we might use to flag gear which is inappropriate for a particular camp. In some cases we might reject an item a student brings on camp and replace it with our own due to unsuitability. It will also explore some gear which we do **not** provide that will make life on camp more enjoyable if they were to have them from the start.

The School has an extensive range of high-quality and well-maintained equipment that can be hired out for a small cleaning and maintenance fee. Parents/guardians do not need to book these items ahead of time for students. Instead, we ask the students to come down and pick it up from us. This ensures we size it correctly. The hire fee gets added to your monthly school fee statement.

### Available for hire are:

- Tent (\$15.00 per person)
- Backpack (\$15.00)
- Sleeping mat (\$4.00)
- Sleeping bag (\$10.00)
- Raincoat (\$10.00)
- Over trousers (\$10.00)
- Thermals (\$5.00)

Prior to each trip, parents and guardians are given a comprehensive gear list of clothing and equipment required for camp. If parents or guardians wish to purchase any equipment that we hire out then this gear guide will be a good place to start.

### Outdoor Retailers – Discounts

Macpac and Aspire have a discount for students of Launceston Grammar. Print off a copy of the attached equipment list (as proof that your child is a student of the School going on camp) and take it to the relevant store in Launceston.

**Macpac** is located in the Kingsway. There, your child is entitled to a minimum of 30% discount off any Macpac branded clothing or equipment and a minimum of 15% off any other brands in store all year round.

**Aspire** is located in York St. There, your child is entitled to 20% off many of the items in the store.

In general, all the outdoor retailers in Launceston will have regular sales, and fairly good advice about equipment. Many items can come to suit a range of uses and budgets, and it is worth remembering that the technical equipment we provide for hire is of the best quality for a minimum hire price.

Finding the balance between equipment that is worth having permanently or hiring from us varies from situation to situation. If you have any questions concerning appropriate equipment, please don't hesitate to contact the Outdoor Education Department at the School.

## Equipment (\* denotes equipment that can be hired from the School):

### □ Tent\*

2-3 person, lightweight hike tent. If providing a tent for your child's use please try and include as many of the features we look for in our own tents.

We use the One Planet 'Wurley' (3 & 2 person options) and Macpac 'Apollo' (2 person) tents. Key features to consider are:

- 4 season tents – Outer is fully waterproof. Inner is breathable but full fabric to help keep warmth in.
- Metal (aluminium) poles that are strong but also lightweight.
- Freestanding. Only requires 2 pegs.
- Construction is strong yet lightweight. Important for students when carrying all of their own equipment.
- Here is a picture of the style of tent we provide and recommend:



We find that tents that have one or more of the following features may lead to students having difficulties on camp. Please **avoid**:

- Large tents (more than 3 people). Tent groups will never be more than 3 students per tent – *pictured below*.
- Graphite (plastic) poles that may be easily broken or heavy metal poles that would be difficult to carry.
- Inners that are mesh only (1-2 season tents). Can be chilly and draughty even in summer.
- Outer layer that may be ripped or not waterproof due to condition/material.
- Pop-up tents – *pictured below*
- Tents that weigh over 4kg are not appropriate for students to carry, even if load is shared.



## □ Backpack\*

Students will be hiking with bags in many of their camps. On their very first camp in Grade 7 “Hanleth” and on some of the Grade 10 ones, a large duffel or sports bag is sufficient.

Due to various sizes of students that come on camp, we have a range of hiking specific backpacks for hire. We use the One Planet ‘HR’, ‘High Plains’ and the Wilderness Equipment ‘Freycinet’ packs, but there are many alternatives available. Key features in **hiking specific** packs:

- Absolute minimum 70 litres, while 85l+ can result in a pack that has more weight than students can carry comfortably.
- Adjustable harness to suit student’s back. Shoulder straps and waist harness needs to fit student, and allow for adjustment and growth of student.
- Internal and lightweight rigid frame.
- We provide packs that are primarily made of treated canvas. This is tough and durable, but a personal pack might see less use and can be made out of lighter weight material.
- Packs that have an opening in the top that can be tightened with a drawstring.
- Comfort is king. When trying on, be sure to see if it fits and remains comfortable when fully loaded.
- Here is a picture of a pack and the type of harness we have in our rental fleet:



### Please **avoid**:

- Hybrid packs. These packs often have a back harness, but are not suitable for extended hikes.
- Suitcase style packs. On camp, zips can be the first thing to break and hardest to fix.
- Packs and harnesses that do not fit student.
- Packs that are too small to carry all students gear internally. Too much gear on outside can be unbalanced and prone to letting external gear get wet.

### **Sleeping Bag \***

Warm but not too bulky. Look for:

- The comfortable sleeping temperature level as described by the manufacturer. If a bag has a comfort level around 10° Celsius then it would not be appropriate for winter camps. A level closer to 0° Celsius is more versatile, and will keep students warmer. If worried about the warmth of a bag, a 'sleeping bag liner' can be used to make it warmer without having to invest in an entire new bag.
- The bulk of the sleeping bag. If a bag is too bulky, a student will not be able to carry other gear. Before purchasing an entire new bag, consider using compression sacks which will reduce the volume of the bag.

### **Sleeping Mat \***

We provide foam mats for hire. They insulate the student from cold and rough ground and are reliable. If looking at providing a mat for camp please **avoid**:

- Mats that are prohibitively bulky e.g. Air bed style mattresses. While suitable for car camping, they can be too weighty or bulky for hiking.
- Damaged inflatable mats. A foam mat is better than a high tech punctured mat!

### **Head Torch**

All camps will include times when a student requires a torch. We do **not** provide torches for hire. Having a small, lightweight head torch is crucial.

- A head torch is **strongly** recommended. It allows students to use both hands while in the dark. They are particularly useful at dinner times and when taking part in activities.
- Lightweight torches and providing spare batteries are better than larger and heavier torches.
- Avoid windup torches. While friendly for environment, they generally do not last long enough for practical uses.

### **Clothing**

Clothing on camp an important factor in many students enjoyment of camp. General guidelines are:

- **Avoid cotton.** Cotton provides no insulation from the wind, or when it is wet and takes a long time to dry. Checking whether or not 'warm' jumpers, pants, socks or 'thermals' contain cotton is crucial.
- Down jackets are amazing at providing insulation when dry but not at all when wet. Having an alternative warm layer for your child is important.
- Polar fleece jumpers are manufactured from man-made materials and provide some level of insulation, even if damp. Woolen products are also effective when damp.
- On camps that contain an element of bushwalking, we generally recommend students wear their most comfortable pair of shoes, usually trainers. If a student is using hiking boots, please make sure that the students has worn them previously and has 'broken them in'. This prevents many blister and comfort issues. Elastic sided boots such as Blundstones™ are not appropriate as bushwalking boots.
- Quality walking socks. The socks should be woollen or wool/synthetic blend. To minimise the risk of blisters, a very thin synthetic inner or liner sock works well inside a pair of main thicker woollen or wool/synthetic blend socks. As mentioned before, cotton is an inappropriate material for socks on camp – once wet they will not insulate, and do not dry quickly.

**Rain Coat\***

We provide Gore-Tex™ coats in a range of sizes. All our coats are long (reach down to mid-thigh), and are regularly cleaned, serviced and water-proofed. If providing a coat please look for the following features:

- Manufactured using Gore-Tex™, eVent™ or equivalent 3-layer material. Material that has been waterproof tested and rated is a minimum safety requirement when on camp. These materials provide a waterproof and windproof layer while allowing the garment to breathe (let water vapor out).
- Long (mid-thigh).
- Correct size.
- Hood.
- Features such as taped seams and waterproof zips indicate a jacket that will remain drier for longer.

Please **avoid**:

- Coats that are manufactured from nylon, or have a nylon or flannelette lining.
- Lightweight, non-technical materials that carry no water proof rating. These materials can often be very waterproof but do not allow breathing which means the wearer gets wet due to their own sweating.
- Heavy oil-skin jackets are not practical to carry.

**Rain trousers\***

Often overlooked, but key to comfort and safety on wet camps. We have a range of sizes, and can be made of a less technical material than rain coats.

**Thermals\***

Thermal under layers (both top and bottoms) are a necessary item for each student. They can be either polypropylene or woolen based, and will be checked before every camp. We rent out a set for \$5.00. A student generally require two sets for a camp, and they are frequently on sale in outdoor stores.

As mentioned above, prior to each camp a letter will be sent out with specific gear lists which will go into detail what should and should not be packed. Following this letter students will have a meeting with Outdoor Education staff and be informed of the outline of the camp. They will then be informed of a time when they can come and hire items that they may require.

It is useful to discuss and pack **together** for the initial camps, as students will need to be aware of what they have packed. This is with a view that students are to take responsibility for their own gear and packing while attending camp time at Launceston Grammar.