

# THE *Ironbark* OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

Ironbark Outdoor Education Centre is owned and operated by St Peters Lutheran College. The centre is located 5 km north east of Crows Nest, a small rural community located on the Darling Downs. Ironbark encompasses over 600ha of heavily timbered, undulating granite country.

## Aims

Ironbark is a compulsory five week program for Year 9 students aimed at challenging students physically, socially, intellectually and spiritually. The Ironbark program focuses on three core aims.

### Community

To create a christian community that enables the development of skills in relating to others, self, the environment and God. To inspire students to adopt and respect a community minded approach to living and learning.

### Commitment

To develop a sense of commitment to self, others, faith and place. This will enable students to show respect and assume responsibility while developing initiative and leadership by engaging in challenging situations to achieve their personal best.

### Connection

To facilitate students in making connections between their Ironbark experience and life. To provide opportunities for students to create connections in faith, the environment, community and place while experiencing authentic action, consequence and purpose outcomes.

**“Ironbark is a place for kids.** I want kids to be involved in doing everything that you believe is a good thing for them to do. I want kids to work closely with you to see your Christian life in action in all kinds of situations. I want kids to feel the power of living in a community, of working hard, of having achieved some job of work on which the community depends, and, by facing these challenges in a positive way, building a sense of self-worth, competence and a feeling of the value of service. I want them to feel that sense of awe at the power of God, and that because they have grown as people they have something to offer Him.” *Don Protheroe, former Ironbark staff member*





## Values

At Ironbark we value:

- Responsibility – Be accountable for your own actions and contribute in a positive manner
- Giving your best – Always strive for quality and excellence
- Respect and Cooperation – For self, others, environment and the traditions of Ironbark
- Understanding – Gaining greater understanding of self identity remembering that the journey is as important as the destination
- Faith – Fostering of Christian beliefs and spirituality

## The Program

Ironbark operates four main elements in the program including Outdoor Pursuits, Farm Skills, Environmental Awareness and Community Living.

### Community Living

As a result of their Ironbark experience students will have a greater level of awareness, understanding and appreciation of:

- the need for a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ;
- the value of regular devotions, community worship and individual quiet times;
- themselves and others in their class; relationships, interpersonal communication, conflict resolution; and
- interdependence and community living.



### Farm Skills

As a result of their Ironbark experience, students will have a greater level of awareness, understanding and appreciation of:

- the day to day operation of a farm;
- the value of hard work; and
- the realities of farm life.

### Environmental Awareness

As a result of their Ironbark experience, students will have a greater level of awareness, understanding and appreciation of:

- the natural environment;
- the bush as a component of an Australian cultural identity; and
- a simpler, more relaxed lifestyle.

### Outdoor Pursuits

As a result of their Ironbark experience, students will have a greater level of awareness, understanding and appreciation of:

- teamwork and co-operation;
- leadership and initiative;
- trust and responsibility;
- the formation and achievement of personal and group goals;
- the value of physical fitness; and
- the need for planning, preparation, training and safety.

Ironbark is staffed by specialist teaching, outdoor, maintenance, catering and farm staff. All staff work closely with students in their areas of expertise.

Facilities on site include two dormitories, staff accommodation, administration block, health centre, pioneering camp, a well-equipped workshop, a community garden, and a mixed working farm.