



# WAIMEA COLLEGE

## Year 9 Camp Information for 2024

February 2024

Dear Parents and Caregivers

### **ROTOITI OUTDOOR EDUCATION CAMP**

As previously indicated your child's class will have the opportunity to go on Year 9 Camp. This letter should outline the information that you need to know. A hard copy with specific details will be handed out prior to camp.

The camp is an opportunity for the development and application of our school values: Caring/Manaakitanga, Belonging/Whanaungatanga & Learning/Akoranga. Students will need to have a level of fitness where they are able to walk a reasonable distance with a pack and for the safety and enjoyment of everyone involved, students must be able to follow staff instructions. The Year 9 Deans will identify any students where this has not been the case and they may be asked to stay at school. Our aim is to deliver a safe, outstanding experience for all participants.

Students not going on camp will be expected to attend school that week. If this is the case, there is no need to read on, or return any forms.

### **Departure time**

Students need to be in the bus bay at 8.30am on Monday of their camp week. There are no alternative places to meet along the route to camp.

### **Return Time**

We would expect to be back in the bus bay by 2.20pm on the Friday. Students will be released at this time.

There is a place on the permission slip to indicate if you would like your student dropped off during the trip home. These options are:

- Wakefield Village Green (1.40pm approx.)
- Brightwater 4 Square (1.50pm approx.)
- Hope Store (2.00pm approx.)
- Waimea College (2.20pm approx.)

### **Camp Fees**

The cost of the camp is \$335.00 which does not include the cost of an optional rafting trip during the week, nor does it include the cost of gear hire. Both of which are outlined later in this letter.

A breakdown of the cost of camp is provided below;

Food	\$80
Transport	\$25
Rotoiti Lodge	\$230 (specialist instructors, accommodation)

This amount must be **paid in full** prior to your child attending camp. If this is not possible then please contact the Finance Centre as soon as possible to discuss an alternative arrangement. No late forms or payments will be accepted unless by prior agreement.

Please do not send any additional money to camp with your child.

## **Gear and Equipment**

A gear list is attached on the next page. We would encourage you not to go out and buy items on this list. It would be better to borrow from friends or to make use of the gear-hiring facility at the Lodge. Thermal and warm wear for the overnight camp needs to be 100% woollen, polyester or polypropylene. They cannot be acrylic or cotton.

All items on the gear list with a star can be hired at the Lodge. This will be arranged at the Lodge, with no prior booking for hire gear items needed. The maximum payable for hiring gear is \$10. You will be billed for this following the camp. Please note that students are responsible for gear that is hired and will be charged full replacement costs if an item is lost.

Please note that lodge and school staff will make the final decision on whether an item of clothing or equipment taken by a student is safe and appropriate for the conditions, which are a lot colder than Richmond, and that gear hire may be enforced where items taken are not considered to be safe.

## **Programme**

Students will be organised into mixed groups of a maximum of 10. The groups will do a rotation of activities throughout the week. We encourage group participation and positive social interactions. Students are “challenged by choice” to do some activities.

Obviously, some activities are weather dependent, and alternatives may need to be organised. Probable activities include team building and initiatives, high ropes, tramping and an overnight camp. All students are expected to willingly help their group complete duties like preparing food, cooking meals, dishes, cleaning and tidying away gear.

As well as the above activities students will need to select to do one of the two options below. Please tick the box for the option your student wishes to take and return the form and payment as soon as possible. All attempts will be made to ensure students get their preferred option.

### **Option 1 - White Water Rafting (additional cost-\$125)**

This exciting and highly recommended rafting trip is provided by an external contractor called Ultimate Descents NZ. These trained professionals take every care to ensure that the trip is as safe as possible, but you are required to sign an Acknowledgement of Risk form that the contractor provides, which is attached at the end of this pack. Students will be guided on a half-day trip down part of the beautiful and challenging Buller River.

### **Option 2 - Abseiling (no additional cost)**

This will be a day based close to the lodge and its immediate surroundings. Students will have the opportunity to abseil at a site in Teetotal and experience other high rope activities not included in our normal programme.

## **Contacting your student during the week**

Chewing gum, cellphones, tablets and IPOD/MP3 players **are not permitted** to be taken to camp. If a cell phone is found in your child’s possession at the lodge (after students have the opportunity to hand them in), then it is likely that you will be contacted to collect your child. These items cause a lot of trouble in this environment, and we would ask you to help us avoid this. Should you wish to contact your child **in an emergency** then please ring the number below and a staff member will arrange for this to happen.

Rotoiti Lodge **Emergency** Contact Number (03) 521 1820.

## **Permission Forms**

Please read the permission parts of this form with your child so you are both aware of its contents. Payment will not be refunded should your child be sent home due to misbehaviour. Full and detailed information about food allergies and medical issues are extremely important in helping us keep your child safe on the camp.

Please return the Permission Form and the camp fee to the Finance Centre by the date specified in the letter relevant to your child’s camp.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact us at [andrea.phillips@waimea.school.nz](mailto:andrea.phillips@waimea.school.nz) or [hamish.morton@waimea.school.nz](mailto:hamish.morton@waimea.school.nz)

Yours sincerely,

Andrea Phillips and Hamish Morton - **Rotoiti Lodge Liaison Teachers**