



Galilee Regional Catholic Primary School

Live, Love & Learn

Findings of the Camp review undertaken in 2023 and updated results from 2024 Year 6 Camps including the most recent camp, Camp Jungai

Student and Staff Experience from Canberra: Feedback from 2023 Year 6 students and staff who participated in the Canberra trips (in 2023, 2022, 2021) have consistently raised concerns about the experience. In particular, the majority of time is spent attending high-school style lectures with very little time for students to interact, ask questions or have hands-on experiences. Many venues have changed their practice post-covid, with student movement around museums and galleries very restricted and minimal.

Student and Staff Experience from Camp Jungai: Feedback from 2024 Year 6 students and staff who participated in the Camp Jungai, was very positive reporting that the Camp experiences and activities were excellent. They cited their experience sleeping in tents and learning about Indigenous culture and traditions were the highlight. Students, staff and a number of parents have reported they would recommend extending Camp Jungai in 2026 because the unique learning experiences were so good. In a student survey, 28 of the 30 students reported that if they had their choice again, they would choose to attend Camp Jungai again. All staff reported it was the best camp they had been on and would highly recommend returning to Camp Jungai in 2025.

Student and Staff Experience from Urban Camp: Feedback from 2024 Year 6 students and staff who participated in the Urban Camp, was very positive reporting that the activities at Urban Camp were excellent. They cited their learning about history, the State Government system, city culture and public transport system as reasons they enjoyed the experience. In a student survey, 24 of the 30 students reported that if they had their choice again, they would choose to attend the Urban Camp again.

Logistical & Safety Concerns: Providing a safe environment for our students is paramount. Past incidents in Canberra including flight cancellations, student/staff illnesses and student behaviour issues highlighting that the Canberra camp involves additional health & safety risks for our students & staff due to its distance from families and other school staff who might be called on to step in part way through and collect students.

Educational Experiences: In last year's review, we noted that most places visited in Canberra have educational alternatives available right here in Melbourne. This presented an opportunity to provide a strong educational experience. In 2024, students and staff reported a much higher level of satisfaction with the activities they experienced at Urban Camp, when compared to survey results from the Canberra experience.

Cost Considerations: When considering Canberra, the ever rising costs of interstate travel and interstate accommodation will impact the cost of the trip to families and the school.



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Year 6 Camp in 2025:

Following this review, we have decided to change the camp program that we offer to our Year 6 students going forward.

Two Experiences for our Year 6 students: From 2025, our Year 6 students will have the opportunity to attend Camp Jungai on a four day camp in Term 2. They will also have the opportunity to attend a City Experience Tour that will operate for three days in Term 4.

- June 2nd - 5th: Camp Jungai in Rubicon, Victoria (three nights, four days), with a special focus on Indigenous Perspectives and outdoor experiences.
- November 17th - 19th: The City Experience will not be overnight but will give the students the opportunity to visit and experience attractions that are similar to those in Canberra eg. Tour of State Parliament and audience with a State Politician, guided tour of the Immigration Museum, guided tour of the Melbourne Magistrates Court etc. It will also give students the opportunity to navigate Melbourne using the public transport system which will assist in their transition to secondary school.

Enhanced Learning: These two experiences improve the overall educational experiences our students have when compared with the Canberra camp. It provides students with similar and often more interment experiences in Melbourne to those they experienced in Canberra with the added bonus of learning about Melbourne's public transport system. The experiences students have at Camp Jungai are additional experiences we have not been able to offer students before this year. Offering students the opportunity to pitch and sleep in a tent and experience indigenous culture, traditions and history is something that most primary school students do not have access to.

Safety and Proximity: Both experiences are just a short trip away from South Melbourne, ensuring that the school and families can respond promptly to any emergencies if needed.

Both experiences meet our safety and educational standards. We are confident that these experiences will result in an enriching and safe camp experience for our Year 6 students and accompanying staff.

Parent Input: Input from parents was also an important part of these changes. The School Advisory Council (SAC) were consulted on multiple occasions regarding the Year 6 Camp. All viewpoints were considered. Student survey results and staff experiences were examined. Alternative camps were explored and presented to SAC. Lengthy discussions followed both presentations and all SAC members indicated that they were and are in favour of four days and three nights at Camp Jungai and a three day City Experience for Year 6.

Galilee's Camp Program for 2025

The Galilee camp structure will be:

Year 2 - An extended day at school in Term 4



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Year 3 - Zoo Snooze (Melbourne Zoo) in Term 4

Year 4 - Angahook (Anglesea) in Term 1

Year 5 - Merricks Camp (Merricks) in Term 1

Year 6 - Camp Jungai in Term 2 and City Experience Tour in Term 4

As a school we are always looking for ways to improve and ensure our students have access to the best possible learning experiences. We regularly review our processes and practices.

Opportunities to enhance learning and safety are important when planning excursions, incursions and especially camps. We would like to thank the many people that have been involved in the consultative process.



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Supplementary Information

Snapshot of 2023 Student Results based on their experience of Canberra

The data that was used to review our camp came from our 2023 Year 6 student survey who indicated:

- 20% said they would be interested in going again. That is 9 of the 45 students said they would go again.
- 80% said they would prefer to do an outdoors camp. That is 39 out of 45 said they would prefer an outdoor camp.
- More than one third (or 16 out of 45) said they felt nervous, anxious or homesick about being so far away from their home and family.
- 80% or 39 out of 45 students felt Canberra was too fast paced, and didn't have enough time to bond and relax with peers.

Snapshot of 2023 Staff Feedback based on their experience of Canberra

Leadership and staff who have attended Canberra Camp raised concerns about the students experience at Canberra Camp:

- Post-COVID, many venues have changed their protocols and students are now bussed from venue to venue to receive a high-school style lecture before going on a guided tour of each venue.
- There is very little time for students to interact, ask questions or have hands-on experiences.
- Students are often very excited to attend the camp but come home disappointed with the experience.
- Students are often most excited about the flight and the gift shops.
- Concerns about the distance the camp is from South Melbourne and students' parents, should an emergency occur.
- The flight delay experienced this year caused a large amount of anxiety and raised concerns going forward.
- Staff who have been consulted during this process believe that the majority of experiences and activities offered in Canberra can be substituted for similar or better activities in Melbourne.

Review of experiences in Canberra

The students do visit many educational sites within 3 ½ days in Canberra. However, compacting the visits does not maximise the learning. Ideally students would research and set goals before visiting a site such as The War Memorial. They would experience a targeted visit to the site, lasting longer than an hour. Then they would analyse their learning before continuing further research. This type of approach is much more effective when visits are spread out rather than compacted into 3½ days.



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Risk Assessment of Canberra Camp

Health and safety of the students and staff are paramount when preparing for a school camp or excursion. The opportunities for learning and growth are also important. Across a couple of Galilee visits to Canberra, health and safety has been a major concern. This year, students and staff were stranded in Canberra for many additional hours in hot weather without a bus or pre-organised food/water due to multiple flight cancellations/delays. It was a stressful experience for all involved, including the families back in Melbourne, and presented the very real possibility that the students and staff would need to spend an additional night in Canberra if an alternate flight could not be arranged for the large group. Bussing students to and from Canberra decreases flight delay issues but also decreases time spent at camp completing camp activities. In previous years, there was the concern over students falling ill and having to be collected by parents interstate. Visiting Canberra is a health and safety risk for the students and staff.

Cost difference between Canberra and the two experiences offered in 2025.

It costs approximately \$1400 per student to attend Canberra in 2024. We are expecting further increase for 2025 to over \$1450. Two separate experiences; Melbourne Urban Camp and Camp Jungai will be expected to cost approximately less than \$1000 per student. With two separate experiences, the school will be able to manage acquitting time-in-lieu for staff more easily.

Student Survey Results from Melbourne Urban Camp

The data that was used to review our camp came from our current Year 6 student survey who this year indicated:

- 80% said that if they had to choose again, they would prefer to attend Urban Camp over Canberra Camp. That is 24 of the 30 students said they would choose Urban Camp over Canberra Camp
- 10 out of the 13 activities scored “excellent” or “very good” by a majority of the students.
- Over half of the students indicated that they felt that using public transport on the camp assisted them with their preparations for secondary school.
- 100% of students indicated they learned through the activities
- 70% of students indicated they were satisfied with the amount of ‘down-time’ at camp

Snapshot of 2024 Staff Feedback based on their experience of Urban Camp

Staff who attended Urban Camp reported

- Venues in Melbourne were more hands-on than what they experienced in Canberra.
- There was a good mix of activities and down-time.
- Students were very happy with the camp and have returned to school energised by their experience.
- Staff were surprised that many students did not have experience with public transport prior to camp. The learning opportunities that using public transport and navigating the



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city presented were seen as important in preparation for students' secondary school experience.

- The food and accommodation was much improved from the accommodation and food in Canberra.
- Students and staff enjoyed the amount of exercise involved in Urban Camp when compared with Canberra where there is lots of sitting for activities and sitting on the bus.
- The distance that Urban Camp is away from school when compared to Canberra helps when considering risk assessments.
- Staff who have been consulted during this process believe that the experience offered in Melbourne was far better than the experience in Canberra.

Student Survey Results from Camp Jungai

The data that was used to review our camp came from our current Year 6 student survey who this year indicated:

- 96% said that if they had to choose again, they would prefer to attend Camp Jungai over Canberra Camp. That is 29 of the 30 students said they would choose Camp Jungai over Canberra Camp
- 93% of students indicated that the Indigenous culture sessions were a highlight
- 73% indicated that they would prefer to extend Camp Jungai to more than 2 nights
- 80% of students said they preferred Camp Jungai to Urban Camp
- 100% of students indicated they were satisfied with the amount of 'down-time' at camp

Snapshot of 2024 Staff Feedback based on their experience of Urban Camp

Staff who attended Camp Jungai reported:

- It was the best camp they have been on - the food, accommodation, staff and activities were all excellent.
- The Indigenous culture sessions were something that they had never experienced before and they were a once in a lifetime experience for students
- The experience of camping overnight was excellent and many students had never pitched a tent or spent in a tent
- Students were very happy with the camp and have returned to school energised by their experience.
- Staff were surprised that many students did not have experience with public transport prior to camp. The learning opportunities that using public transport and navigating the city presented were seen as important in preparation for students' secondary school experience.
- The food and accommodation was much improved from the accommodation and food in Canberra.
- Students and staff enjoyed the amount of exercise involved in Urban Camp when compared with Canberra where there is lots of sitting for activities and sitting on the bus.
- The distance that Urban Camp is away from school when compared to Canberra helps when considering risk assessments.



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- Staff who have been consulted during this process believe that the experience offered in Melbourne was far better than the experience in Canberra.

Experiences the Melbourne Urban Camp and Camp Jungai provide

Melbourne Urban Camp - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Px-ezvOCvYg&t=15s>

Melbourne Urban Camp offers students an interactive experience in Melbourne. Students will be using public transport; preparing many of them for their secondary school experience. They will be participating in activities, guided tours and experiences organised by Year 6 teachers to ensure that they are purposeful, engaging and linking to their learning.

Camp Jungai - <https://www.oeg.edu.au/camps/camp-jungai/>

Camp Jungai offers students the opportunity to learn about Aboriginal Perspectives. Their program has been developed with specialist input from the Taungurung people and their Head of Curriculum. Indigenous Cultural Education includes bush tucker, bush medicine, crafts, cultural heritage and artefacts, storytelling and a cultural evening. Students will leave camp motivated and inspired to continue learning about our shared history. They will also have the opportunity to hike 5 km and set-up tents to sleep in for one night. All camping equipment will be provided.