



# BRIDGETOWN CAMP SCHOOL

“Where learning is fun”

To assist schools in developing the *Excursion Management Plan* required by the DOE policy *Excursions: Off School Site Activities*: <http://det.wa.edu.au/policies/detcms/policy-planning-and-accountability/policies-framework/policies/excursions-policy-and-procedures.en?cat-id=3457100>

I am pleased to supply the following information.

**Colin Bygraves**  
Camp School Manager,  
Bridgetown Camp School.

## Lucieville Farm Chalets

**A unique, fun filled, hands on, full day excursion involving students in the day to day activities of a working farm.**

Physical Address      RMB 390, South West Highway, Bridgetown, WA, Australia 6255  
Phone Number        08 97611733  
Fax Number            08 97612213  
Email Address        [lucievillefarm@iinet.net.au](mailto:lucievillefarm@iinet.net.au)  
Website Address     <http://www.lucieville.iinet.net.au/>  
Contact Person        Michael and Lorraine Pearce

### **Purpose of the Excursion**

The major aim is for students (especially from the city and towns) to experience farm life and to interact with, connect to and learn about a wide range of farm animals.

### **Environment**

Lucieville Farm, located on the South West Highway 8 km's south of Bridgetown, is set on 340 acres of open paddocks, blue gum plantation and natural bush land. This working farm runs a herd of around fifty breeding cows for the production of beef, a small flock of sheep for the production of wool and meat, and a small domestic orchard. There is a large assortment of farm animals including; horses, chickens, turkeys, pigs, goats, donkeys, buffalo, llamas, geese, emus, pet lambs and calves, and cattle dogs.

The owners, Michael and Lorraine Pearce, offer holiday accommodation on the farm in the form of six open plan A-frame chalets and a large country cottage. They have also renovated the original "Lucieville" homestead to include a function centre.

At my request, in 1996 they began conducting day programs for school groups staying at the Bridgetown Camp School. On average 20 groups based at the camp school visit Lucieville Farm annually. All Teachers in Charge who have attended the Lucieville Farm excursion have formally indicated that their desired outcomes were achieved and that they were fully satisfied with the excursion.

The Pearce's have taken considerable steps to minimize the risk normally associated with farms. A safety briefing is given at the commencement of the day as well as at strategic times throughout the program. Specific measures taken to reduce the likelihood of accident or injury include:

- Secure fencing of animals;
- Clearly defined work areas (most by fencing);
- Restrictions being placed on the size of groups (30 max);
- Insistence on high adult/student ratio with all adults being expected to play an active role in all activities; and
- Grounds being well maintained and regularly cleared of debris and other potential hazards; and
- Distancing the group from the dam.

Protection from inclement weather is provided in a large shed, under the homestead veranda and, in extreme circumstances, the function centre, which is fitted with smoke detectors and emergency exit signs. Clean ablutions, hand washing facilities and good quality drinking water is centrally located to all activities.

## **Transport**

Transport is the responsibility of the school. The camp school will arrange, on request, local buses, however, most of these need to work around their school bus run commitments.

On certain occasions the camps Mitsubishi Rosa bus, fitted with seat belts and licensed to carry 25, is used to transport students. The bus is insured by DOE.

## **Students' Capacity**

The activities conducted on this activity are somewhat dependant on the season and other opportunities that present themselves, however, usually include:

- ❑ *Feeding and handling a range of animals.* This most often includes: poultry, pigs, goats, rabbits, emus and joeys.
- ❑ *Sitting on the back of a pig whilst it feeds from a trough.* The students are lifted on and securely held by adult supervisors.
- ❑ *Hand milk a cow and drink the milk .* The cow is experienced, quiet, securely tethered and supervised by farm staff.
- ❑ *A horse led ride.* The horses have a quiet nature and are used on a daily basis with chalet guests.

The horse riding activities and equipment comply with the DOE's policy Outdoor Education and Recreation Activities: Procedures and Guidelines *Section 8: Horseriding*. Refer to: <http://www.DOE.wa.edu.au/curriculumsupport/healthandphysicaleducation/DOEcms/portal/>

- ❑ *Making damper on a stick held over an open fire.* The fire is burnt down to embers to produce best results and for safety purposes.
- ❑ *"Free" play around the damper site.* This is in beautiful bush land come parkland setting with a shallow winter creek flowing through it.
- ❑ *Visiting an old "soap stone quarry".* The quarry is a series of shallow hand dug pits that provided soap stone for the original Pearce owners.

Other activities that have been included include:

- Culling and dressing of a chicken;
- Shearing demonstration;
- Tailing and elastration of lambs;
- Forging demonstration;
- Orchard tour.

All activities are optional.

No farm machinery (tractors, headers etc) is used. Lucieville Farm has a *Certificate of Exemption* from the Office of Road Safety allowing them to use utility vehicles to transport students around the farm. The utilities are fitted with restraining cages and do not exceed 20 km/h. Students are briefed on safety rules and are accompanied by adult supervisors.

Lucieville Farm has conducted programs for camp school groups ranging in age from 6 to 15, including students with intellectual disabilities. The site has wheel chair access and toilet facilities for the disabled.

The Teacher-in-Charge will need to brief Mr. Pearce on the special requirements of all participants.

The excursion can be modified to meet the specific outcomes sought by different schools.

Closed in shoes are essential.

**Supervisor/Supervisory Team**

The Teacher-in-Charge is responsible for participants supervision at all times. Farm and camp staff may instruct, lead, demonstrate or assist in an activity, but, the Teacher-in-Charge is responsible for overall group supervision and discipline.

### **External Provider Information**

Owner - Michael Pearce:

- Raised on Lucieville Farm.
- 4 yrs in army reserve.
- Founding member of Country Holiday Association.

Co-Owner – Lorraine Pearce.

- Qualified and practicing (part time) teacher.
- Raised on nearby farm (prior to marrying Michael).

Others: Various members of the Pearce family usually help out on the excursion. So too do regular chalet guests and one or two locals who have the necessary experience and knowledge of the workings of the Lucieville farm.

Lucieville Farm ABN: 800 652 95 904 Public Liability Insurance: \$10,000,000.00.

### **Supervision Strategies**

Mr. Pearce will define the work areas for all activities.

The Teacher in Charge will need to establish and monitor supervision strategies for students. Supervision strategies will include:

- Re-defining the work areas as activities change;
- Strategic placement of supervisors in and around the work area;
- Using a buddy system;
- A whistle system used to gain the attention of students and to evoke an emergency response;
- Requiring student to gain permission prior to leaving the area for any reason e.g. toileting.

### **Identification of Excursion Participants**

As the chalet accommodation is mainly used on weekends and school holidays, other than the occasional guest, there is little likelihood of having to share the venue with another group. Should the need arise the Camp School has a set of (60) coloured neoprene wrist bands available to identify participants.

### **Communication Strategies**

Mobile telephone reception is unreliable at the farm. For emergencies, however, a land line is available in the homestead.

Farm staff use UHF hand held radios to coordinate activities and for use in case of emergency.

### **Emergency Response Plan**

Bridgetown CS information package includes a detailed Emergency Response Plan.

Mr. Pearce, Lucieville staff and, if present, Camp School staff will manage, in conjunction with the Teacher in Charge, any emergency.

The Teacher in Charge is required to have up to date student medical information with them at all times.

### **Briefing Students and Supervisors**

The Teacher in Charge will need to brief students on;

- The buddy system;
- Whistle systems and emergency procedures;
- Availability of food and drinks;
- Health and hygiene concerns;
- Requirement to gain permission before leaving the work area and the requirement to be accompanied by a buddy;
- General rules;
- Standards of behaviour required;
- Punishment for breaching requirements.

Mr. Pearce will brief students on:

- The work area (in and out of bounds);
- Specific dangers;
- Change and toilet facilities;
- Specific farm and activity rules.

### **Other Relevant Details**

Schools are responsible for providing information to parent/caregivers for their consent in accordance with the DOE policy Excursions: Off School Site Activities.

<http://det.wa.edu.au/policies/detcms/policy-planning-and-accountability/policies-framework/policies/excursions-policy-and-procedures.en?cat-id=3457100>

This policy includes:

- Student Health Form;
- Information Form for Parent/Guardian; and
- Parent/Guardian Consent Form.

Bridgetown CS information package and website <http://www.bridgetowncampschool.wa.edu.au> also includes the following forms which are relevant to conducting this excursion:

- Parent Information Form;
- Parent Consent and Contract Form;
- Medical and Water Based Authority form;
- Safety and Behaviour Policy; and a,
- Clothing and Equipment Checklist.

**This information is valid until 31 January 2018**