

Branches Clothing Information



Branches Gear Info

Here is some information to help you get sorted with the essential clothing and equipment for Branches Camp. Please refer to the Gear List that was posted posted on the Branches Classroom last week. The school is able to supply a limited amount of the following gear specific for Branches activities:

1. Tramping packs for Lochnagar
2. Waterproof rain jackets
3. Sleeping mats
4. Some thermal and fleece clothing...otherwise ask around family, friends, neighbours!

Thermal Long sleeve top x 2



Info on Thermals - see above

Thermals are made from merino (expensive but don't stink as much after wear) and geothermal/polypropylene (way cheaper but can smell a bit and can catch fire easier)

You can go to an outdoor shop and usually get 3 for \$50. They also have short sleeve models and longjohn versions. I would go for 2 tops and 1 pair of long johns. You can wear shorts over the long johns and a tee shirt over the top, especially if it is quick dry and not cotton.

They are designed to reduce moisture build up from sweat and retain body heat even when you are wet.

Thicker Fleece/Wool top x 2



Info on Fleecees or mid layer tops - see above...

Anyone remember the old school uniform polar fleeces? They are great for this. They add warmth through being a bit bulkier or thicker and once again stay warm when you are wet. The equally old school uniform soft shell is also good, as is the current school woollen jersey! Otherwise you can get cheap fleeces from lots of places but make sure they are fleece/wool/soft shell. Or there are great NZ bush shirts like the Highlanders Rugby team and half the farmers in NZ wear...even Miss Aspin has one! The thick cotton hoodies are okay for around Base Camp but that's all. They make you colder when wet and get really heavy. Down Jackets are really good for warmth but are easily damaged/expensive to fix and mostly no good if you get them wet.

Waterproof Rain Jacket with a hood (plus rainpants)



What you'll need...see above

It can rain really heavily in Branches and a waterproof rain jacket with a hood is a must have... It will keep the rain off your clothes, allowing them to keep you warmer. A rain jacket also acts as a shell and keeps your body heat from escaping. Off course you can also get wet from sweat so you can open up the zips, make sure you haven't got too many thermals/fleece on underneath.

Above is the yellow PVC rain jacket...totally waterproof and real tough! The school has a lot as back up. The blue rain jacket breaths while still being waterproof but can cost a lot and is easier damaged. Overpants are good too as they will lock in body heat even when it is wet.

Footwear examples

Tramping boots



Strong running shoes with good grip



Footwear choices

Above are 4 good footwear choices. On the left are some higher cut tramping boots and next to it are some lower cut tramping shoes. Higher cuts give you more ankle support and protection from sharp things like rocks and speargrass. They tend to be stiff to start with and can lead to rubbing and then blisters. They are good on rough ground though.

The running shoes are lighter and easier to move in and less likely to result in blisters. But they lack support on rough terrain, especially when carrying a pack. They must have good grip! Good thick fleece or woolen socks will reduce blisters and feet soreness I also recommend taking jandals/sandals/old gym shoes and gumboots for around camp etc.

Other items - good socks x 3/4; Sun Hat, Beanie Hat

Wide brim Sun Hat



Fleece/wool Beanie



Socks - thick and fleece,wool

