



BLACKWOOD SUPER RIDE PARENT / STUDENT

HANDBOOK

**4TH – 6TH
NOVEMBER
2026**

The annual Blackwood Super Ride is part of a 3-day camp conducted by the Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre with students drawn from Special Schools throughout Victoria.

The 3 day program presents an enormous challenge for the students and includes the following activities:-

- ✓ Bike Skills;
- ✓ The 'Super Ride' – a 42km Mountainous Bike Ride; &
- ✓ Team Building Activities.

The actual Super Ride involves a very demanding, 42km mountain bike ride through the hills of the Wombat State Forest in the Blackwood & Trentham region.

The Super Ride is now in its 31st year, and has become one of the highlights of the Special Schools calendar. Its success is a tribute to the effort of the staff from participating Schools, Blackwood Staff and the support of numerous community groups.

Over the years we have received enormous support from the following organisations who have made the 'Ride' something of an institution in the Blackwood area.

Our thanks to:-

- ◆ Max Woolcock
- ◆ The Blackwood Community;
- ◆ Blackwood & Trentham Fire Brigades;
- ◆ Trentham & Ballan Police;
- ◆ Victorian Police;

BLACKWOOD SUPER RIDE

PARENT INFORMATION

The Blackwood Super Ride involves around twenty Special Schools from throughout Victoria and runs from Wednesday to Friday. Approximately 80 students participate with the support of around 50 teachers, Victorian Police, and CFA personnel, who act as marshals ensuring student safety during the long-distance ride on the Thursday.

Every day is designed to be challenging, with bike skills on Wednesday, followed by teamwork activities (not involving bikes) on Friday morning. Evenings are full of activities including 'Get To Know You' Games & a Disco.

The camp is meant to be challenging and your child will have every right to be proud of the medal he/she receives at the end of the ride.

ACCOMMODATION

Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre consists of three accommodation sites:-

- ✓ The School A 22 bed dorm style accommodation facility;
- ✓ The Residence A 24 bed dorm style accommodation facility; and
- ✓ The Tent Shelter A site where 30 people stay in tents.
 - The Tent Shelter includes a kitchen, 2 showers & 2 toilets





All of these accommodation sites will be used plus a number of groups will be camping at the Blackwood Mineral Springs Caravan Park.

Your child will be accommodated at:-

MEALS

DAY	BREAKFAST	LUNCH	DINNER
Wednesday		BYO	Provided
Thursday	BYO	BYO	Provided
Friday	BYO	BYO	

 Individual Schools will be responsible for:-







-  Wednesday:- Lunch & Daily Snacks
-  Thursday:- Breakfast, Lunch & Daily Snacks
-  Friday:- Breakfast, Lunch & Daily Snacks
-  Water & Drinks throughout the 3 Days.

BLACKWOOD SUPER RIDE ITINERARY 2026

Wednesday 4th November

 **Spend the morning driving to Blackwood & setting up camp**

 **BYO LUNCH**

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1:30pm | Blackwood Oval with bikes, helmets, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcoming of all participants Brief outline of catering arrangements Brief outline of the 3 day super Ride afternoon & evening program Mechanical check on all bikes Skills session – emphasis on:-<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Braking; Gear Use; Handling Mud & Sand;✓ Steep terrain; and safe distance between riders Bike Sports; Slalom events & Skill Games |
| 5:00pm | Free Time – finalise setting up your camp |
| 6:00pm | Dinner – BBQ at Blackwood |
| 7:30pm – 9:30pm | ‘Get To Know You’ Activities & Games – Blackwood |

Thursday 5th November

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 7:00am | Schools prepare & provide their own breakfast |
| 8:30am | Meet outside General Store – ready to ride the Super Ride
Outline of the Super Ride Route & Safety Procedures. |
| 9:00am | SUPER RIDE COMMENCES |
| 12:00pm | Lunch at Lyonville Community Hall at the end of the Domino Rail Trail |
| 1:00pm | Return Ride to Blackwood commences |
| 5.30pm | Dinner – <u>PRESENTATION of SUPER MEDALS</u> |
| 7:00pm | Night activities. |

Friday 6th November – BIKES WILL NOT BE REQUIRED ON THIS DAY

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 7:30am | Schools prepare & provide their own breakfast |
| 9:00am | Schools may opt to depart for home, or stay on property for activities. |
| 12:00pm | End of Activities, depart for home |

THE ROUTE

The ride involves mainly minor gravel roads in the beautiful Wombat State Forest. These roads can be very rough in places with protruding rocks and loose stones. The total distance is approximately 42km but some schools shorten the ride by starting at Five-Ways - (see attached map). However, all riders will assemble at the 'Starting Line' outside the Blackwood General Store so that the start is a big event.

Most of the town turn out to cheer our riders on and the start is usually covered by the local media.

Your child will be starting at:-

THE MORNING ROUTE



Departing the Blackwood General Store the ride travels:-

- ✓ Along Golden Point & Lagoon Roads
- ✓ 1.4km Turns Left onto North Blackwood Road
- ✓ 7.75km 5 Way intersection - straight through on Lagoon Rd
- ✓ 10.5km Turns Left at Cranny's Lane
- ✓ 13.4km Turns Left at High St
- ✓ 15.1km Turns Right at Bath St
- ✓ 15.3km Turns Left at Albert
- ✓ 15.4km Turner Right at Market St towards Trentham Train Station
- ✓ 16km Left onto the Domino Rail Trail
- ✓ 21.7km Lunch at Lyonville Community Hall

THE AFTERNOON ROUTE




After lunch all groups will depart the Trentham Quarry Street Reserve together in an organised manner:-


- ✓ Return Along the Domino Rail Trail
- ✓ Ride through the Back Streets of Trentham
- ✓ 28.8km Turn Left into Countess Road
- ✓ 34km Arrive back at Five-Ways
- ✓ 40.4km Turn Left onto Old Golden Point Road
- ✓ 41.6km Blackwood General Store


TOTAL DISTANCES


START	FINISH	DISTANCE
Blackwood General Store	Blackwood General Store	41.6km
Five Ways	Blackwood General Store	34km
Five Ways	Five Ways	26km


BIKES


-  Most schools are now providing bikes.
 - However, if your school allows the use of your child's own bike, please ensure that it is thoroughly checked (preferably by a bike shop) **before** being brought to Blackwood.


-  Whilst some minor repairs may be carried out – if faults develop during the ride, it is the responsibility of the parents and/or each school to ensure that the bikes are mechanically reliable and roadworthy.


-  Road bikes are **NOT SUITABLE** for this ride.

-  Mountain bikes are the best choice.


-  ALL BIKES MUST HAVE 2 BRAKES.


-  It is essential that at least one water bottle is fitted to the bike – preferably two.


-  Lack of water leads to loss of energy and dehydration.


-  Water will be available for refills along the route.


CLOTHING


-  As it could be wet, each rider **MUST** have appropriate wet weather gear suitable for use on the ride.
 - As no alternative program will be possible, the main ride will take place unless weather conditions are extreme.

-  Brightly coloured bike tops or T-shirts should be worn on the ride, preferably with a visibility vest.

-  Students & Staff wearing dark tops will not be allowed to participate.

-  Bike shorts reduce chaffing and saddle soreness. Other shorts with fairly long legs are preferable to footy shorts which may rub the top of the thigh.


-  Track suit pants and leggings are also suitable.

-  Jeans **SHOULD NOT** be worn as they restrict movement and increase muscle strain.

Please remember to clearly name every item with your Son/Daughter's:-

NAME
and
SCHOOL NAME

Thank you

	<input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping Bag		<input type="checkbox"/> Pillow <input type="checkbox"/> Pillow Case <input type="checkbox"/> Blanket
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 X Shorts (Suitable for riding bikes long distances)		<input type="checkbox"/> Tracksuit Pants (Suitable for riding)
	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 X T-shirts (Suitable for riding)		<input type="checkbox"/> 2 X Shirts (For night time)
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 X Warm Pants (NO JEANS)		<input type="checkbox"/> 2 X Jumpers
	<input type="checkbox"/> Onesie or Pyjamas		<input type="checkbox"/> 2 X Shoes
	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 X Pair of Socks & <input type="checkbox"/> 3 X Underwear		<input type="checkbox"/> Wet Weather Gear (Suitable for riding)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Toiletries ✓ Soap & Face Washer ✓ Toothpaste & Brush ✓ Deodorant & Brush		<input type="checkbox"/> Towel
	<input type="checkbox"/> Dilly Bag ✓ Plate, Bowl & Cup ✓ Knife, Fork & Spoon in a draw string bag		<input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sun Hat <input type="checkbox"/> Beanie		<input type="checkbox"/> Torch <input type="checkbox"/> Insect Repellent
	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Bottle <input type="checkbox"/> Bike Helmet May be supplied by your School		<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Medication (Clearly labelled with your family name)

FOR THE RIDE YOUR CHILD WILL NEED

- ✓ A road worthy bicycle with wide tyres and plenty of tread
- ✓ An approved bicycle helmet
- ✓ Water bottle that fits in a bike bottle holder (preferably 2) and
- ✓ Bright clothing appropriate for mountain bike riding in rough terrain

SAFETY


 **With around 150 riders on the road -**


- **SAFETY IS OUR NUMBER 1 PRIORITY**


 At least *ONE TEACHER FROM EACH SCHOOL* has: -


- Either current Bike-Ed or Cycle-On Qualification; and
- Current 1st Aid Level 2 Qualifications.
- A minimum of 2 staff members from your child's school will accompany your child's group.

 A St Johns Ambulance will follow the ride.


 Support vehicles and ALL school groups will carry walkie talkies to ensure there is verbal communication between everyone.

 Police from Trentham, Ballan & the Police Bike Squad accompany the riders (if duties permit).

 The Blackwood & Trentham CFA's & Progress Association provide marshals along the route.







 A 'sag wagon' is provided for students and staff not coping with the ride.

Please note that the main ride on Thursday IS NOT A RACE, but a great chance to ride through the beautiful Wombat State Forest.

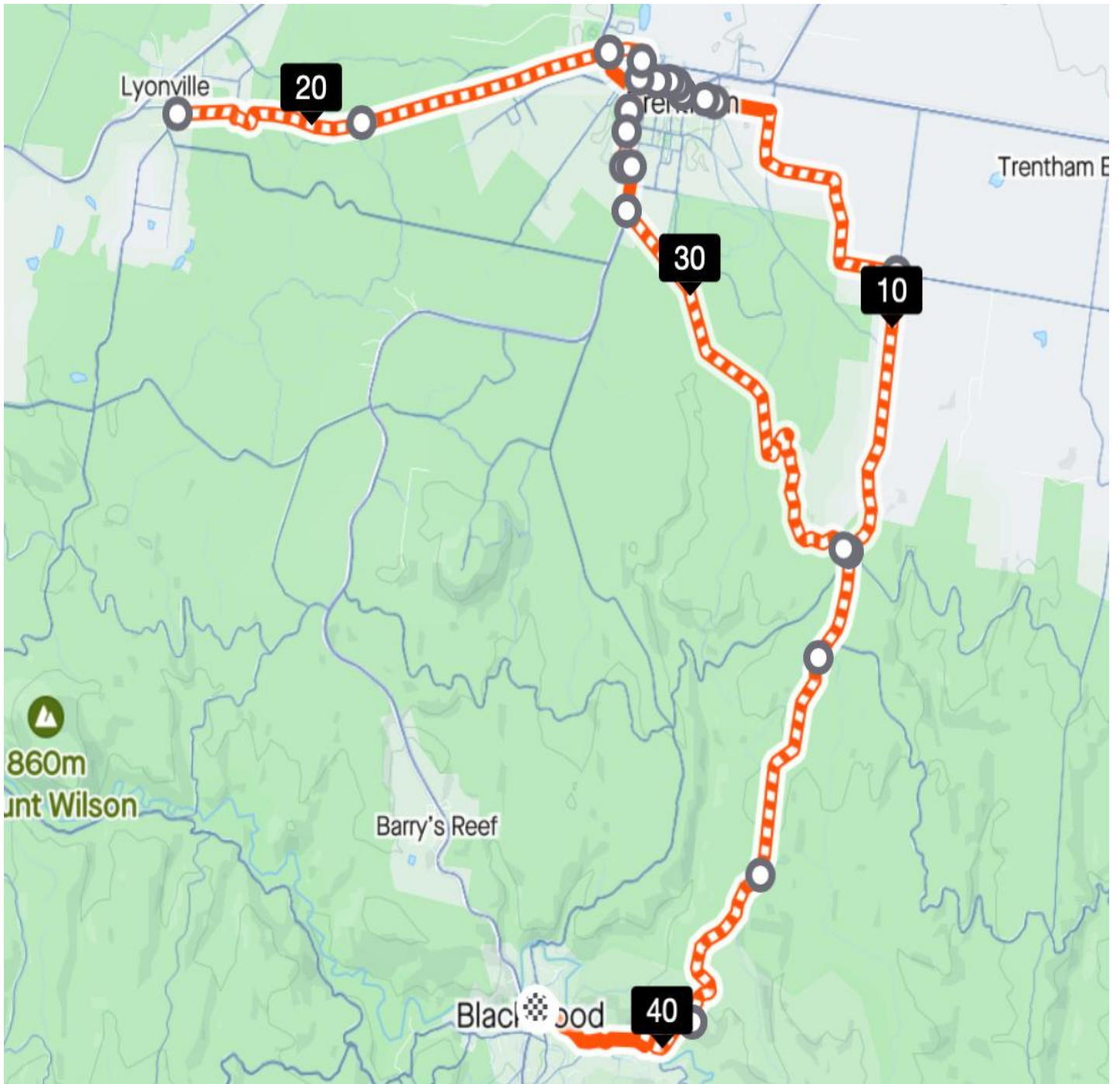
 While the Blackwood Super Ride is the shortest bike ride we implement, in the way of distance & camp duration, **we classify the Super Ride as a VERY HARD RIDE - the most difficult of the three bike events we implement at Blackwood Outdoor Specialist School.**

 **The expectation for Super Ride Participants include:-**

 **That they are all confident & competent Mountain Bike Riders who can:-**

-  **Use brakes appropriately and safely**
-  **Change gears**
-  **Predict when gear changes are required**
-  **Ride on undulating, corrugated dirt roads**
-  **Ride while accessing a drink bottle**
-  **Implement safe communication & obey road rules for the duration of the ride**

BLACKWOOD SUPER RIDE MAP








BLACKWOOD SUPER RIDE PARENT / GUARDIAN CONSENT FORM

I give permission for my child _____

of _____ School to attend the Blackwood Outdoor Specialist School Super Ride November 4th to 6th 2025.

I hereby certify that I have fully read the:-

'Super Ride Parent / Guardian Information Booklet'

- ✓ I am aware that the Blackwood Super Ride involves mountain bike riding in rough mountainous terrain and requires high levels of fitness and bike skills.
- ✓ I believe my child:-
 -  is medically fit;
 -  has sufficient bike skills; and
 -  is physically able to cope with this activity.

I also understand that for safety reasons my child may be required to travel in an Accredited Special Schools Bus other than the bus provided by my child's school.

Please Tick one - YES / NO

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ✓ I give my consent for my child to be transported by another Special Schools Accredited Bus | YES
<input type="checkbox"/> | NO
<input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|

Signature

Parent / Care giver: _____.

Date: / /