

Risk Assessment: Weather and Welfare

Venue	Rewilding Adventure Site, Dunsdale	Completed by:	Morgan Lax	Date:	14th April 2025	Review Date:	14th April 2027
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Description of site / activity / tools:

This risk assessment considers access to the Forest School site during adverse weather and the welfare of the group whilst they are there during routine sessions, as well as when off-site

	Hazard	Harm	People at Risk	Existing Control Measure	Likelihood (1-3)	Severity (1-3)	Rating P x S (1-9)	New Control Measure	Who? When?	Comments
	Falling in water (stream) during cold weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Getting cold Hypothermia 	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wearing of suitable waterproof clothing to minimise water ingress during fall Avoid playing in stream during colder weather Use of shelter, fire and hot drinks to re-warm cold participants 	1	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The carrying of spare clothes is not deemed necessary at this point, however, this position will be re-considered 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beyond safety and welfare issues this is likely to have demoralising effect on the individual and abstract leaders from the group. This should be considered when initiating play/activities in the stream during cold weather
	Toileting outside- in cold weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> wet and cold due to removal of clothing 	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage all participants to visit the toilet before the session commences Give advice as appropriate to those wishing to toilet during the session 	1	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 		Unlikely, as there are toilets in the main Baby Moon site.
	Hygiene following toileting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upset stomach having used the toilet 	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established camps have 'hand washing stations', and hand gel is available When 'wandering' a 'Welfare Bag' which contains baby wipes to ensure hands are physically clean and sanitizer gel to reduce bacteria is available 	1	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 		See 'Fire & Cooking RA' for hygiene assessment in relation to catering
	Hot weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sun burn Sun stroke Heat exhaustion 	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the regular intake of fluids to remain hydrated The wearing of sun cream will be encouraged (subject to parent consent) Wearing of hats/long sleeves during very sunny periods Selecting an area which has natural shade 	2	2	4			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The woodland is broadleaved and as such will have good coverage during the spring and summer months.

				during sunny periods Selecting activities that minimise physical exertion and thereby reduce body temperature						
	Cold Weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypothermia • Lack of concentration / reduced dexterity leading to injury when using tools 	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants advised to wear appropriate clothing Monitoring of clothing that participants are wearing and providing extra layers/hats/gloves where needed Use of fire/hot drinks to warm up Active games to keep warm Avoid activities which lead to participants being static Use of tools in fire site to ensure participants remain warm 	2	2	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase range of spare/warm clothing available 	On-going	The principles of Forest School are such that experiencing the woodland in all seasons is implicit to the approach and therefore the wearing of appropriate clothing is advised.
	Snow and Ice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slips and falls leading to injury • Snow ball injuries 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants advised to wear appropriate footwear and clothing Use of pathways in woodland during snowy/icy weather Discuss and highlight the risks of snow with participants Consider abandoning planned session for alternative activities in covered area 	2	2	4			See above for cold weather control measures
	Heavy Rain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slipping on mud and injuring self • Increased flow in stream • Participants become wet/cold 	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants made aware of increased risk and the need to be cautious when moving around the site Participants advised to wear appropriate footwear to avoid slipping and waterproof clothing to avoid getting wet Activities in the stream to be avoided during spate conditions Use of shelters to avoid heavy rain Siting of camps to avoid watercourses 	2	2	4			See 'cold weather' and 'participants falling in stream' above in addition to this hazard
	High Winds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Falling debris • Increase in deadfall leading to trip hazards 	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance/ inspection of trees to identify and deal with standing deadwood/ 'widow makers' and 'standing hinged trees'. Assessment of the wind strength and the risk of debris/trees falling during session- consider abandonment Consider locating group in clearing to avoid debris 	1	3	3	On-going maintenance of site to clear debris		
	Picnicking During session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eating with on-clean hands causing stomach 	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of a 'Welfare Bag' which contains baby wipes to ensure hands are physically clean and sanitizer gel to reduce bacteria 	1	1	1			

		upsets								
Comments/Concerns: This risk assessment will be reviewed in the event of any incident or near miss in order to be fully informed for the future. It is not an exhaustive list, and is written with experience of FS activities in mind and the incidents (or lack of) that have been encounter in the preceding 11 years.					Recommendations: For bi-annual review- due March 2027					