



2023

ANNUAL REPORT

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**To serve, to strive and
learning to thrive ... *in 2023***



WITH RESPECT

**Outward Bound Australia
respectfully acknowledges
the Indigenous custodians
of the land on which we
live, work and deliver our
programs.**

Our Tharwa campus is on Ngunnawal & Ngambri Country in the ACT and we operate on Wiradjuri and Ngarigo Country in NSW.

Walpole Western Australia is Noongar Country.

In the Victorian Snowies, we traverse Jardwadjali & Gunaikurnai Country.

We recognise the Indigenous Australians who have cared for and continue to care for the land and understand the mutual responsibility of all people to move through the environment with respect.



Our heartfelt gratitude
goes out to everyone who has contributed to
Outward Bound Australia in 2023.



Gutsy Girls, Walpole WA, January 2023



Message from the Co-Chair and Executive Director

Dr Loren Miller



Life often surprises us with moments that feel incredibly right, as if we've come full circle. Leading an Outward Bound group again in January, some thirty years since my last time, was one such moment for me. Partnered with Helene as a dynamic Head of Ops and Exec Director duo, we co-instructed our Gutsy Girls program in Walpole. This experience grounded us in the magic of our programs, allowed for reflection on the vision for Outward Bound's future, and fostered celebration of adventure, awe, and wonder with a remarkable group of women.

This marked the beginning of a highly successful year for us.

In 2023, our field crew comprised 93 passionate, skilled outdoor leaders. We continue to invest in the development, pay, and conditions of our crew, recognising that they are the heart of our organisation. Our commitment to building capabilities and expertise is reflected in the adaptation of our traineeship, induction, and professional development programs. It's particularly gratifying that 30% of those who leave us, often for their own adventures, return to work with us at Outward Bound.

Under the skilled leadership of Nicky Hanson, the establishment of NatCORR (National Centre for Outdoor Risk and Readiness) has taken shape. We have successfully delivered professional development training in risk and incident management for over 150 outdoor professionals and have ambitious projects planned for 2024.

The transformation of the Tharwa campus is well underway, highlighted by the completion of our bushcraft workshops within the renovated old farm sheds. Progress continues with the construction of new bathrooms and a sheltered gear issue area adjacent to the operations shed, supporting on-campus camping and activities. The detailed design phase for the new Communal Centre (indoor/outdoor dining and learning space) is in progress. This facility promises to be inspiring and game-changing, necessitating our community to rally in support of our fundraising efforts.

Our financial report underscores strong fiscal management, benefiting from grant support, and balancing investment in our people, equipment, and facilities with delivering a sustainable balance sheet.

While this remains a work in progress, with a significant need for more facility renewal and the challenge of rising costs, we are confident in our strategic approach.

True to our commitment to looking outward, we presented at seven conferences throughout the year, including the Outward Bound World Conference in Brazil. Widening the reach of our work, we are pleased to welcome new schools in 2024, including two flagship long expedition programs of 20 and 30 days.

Throughout the year, there have been moments of joy leading Outward Bound, from receiving warm testimonials about program experiences to witnessing the impact of new gear and the successful implementation of new practices enhancing our professionalism, safety, and overall impact. As a united community of crew, volunteers, and supporters, we can share in the satisfaction of our hard work and confidently affirm that we are well-positioned for a successful 2024.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to everyone who has contributed to Outward Bound Australia in 2023.



Dr Loren Miller



Message from the Co-Chair

Jessica Bulger

I'm extremely proud of the Outward Bound team and community as we conclude another successful year. Those words 'another successful year', are not said lightly, and certainly not taken for granted. As 2022 concluded, I spoke of a feeling of relief. A feeling many of us will know from being on expedition – when you know you've gotten past a tough bit of terrain, or through a tricky part of the river and it feels good, but you are definitely not relaxing.

That's how we started 2023, appreciating the stability that our 2022 success provided but aware of the work ahead. In 2023, I'm thrilled to report that our team has delivered once again. In celebrating these successes, it's my pleasure to share words of thanks for our amazing team, board, funding partners, volunteers, and other friends who form such a wide range of stakeholders that make it all possible.

Specifically, I would like to call out our extraordinary team, led by our formidable Executive Director, who even returned to the field to deliver a program in early 2023. Our leadership team grew this year with notable additions of Aaron Funnell, School Director, Ben Lovell, Head of Partnerships, and Nicky Hanson leading NatCORR. As an organisation we have moved past revival to innovation and leadership. This year we established NATCORR, presented at several local and international conferences and participated in a number of reviews to support continuous improvement. For example, reviews into safety culture, roping practices, water based practices, high ropes and commercial kitchen management. Combining external and internal safety review capability holds us in good stead, as we recognise the service of Margot Hurrell, retiring in early 2024 as Risk and Safety Manager.

We are also extremely grateful to have grant support through this bushfire and COVID recovery period and it has been satisfying to see the wide range of grant projects delivered to budget and to plan. These projects will enable us to grow and diversify our

offering as we work hard to contribute effectively to an evolving industry and client base.

Thank you also to my colleagues on the Board who are all amazing individuals that bring value well beyond expectation as volunteers. This year we also welcomed Katie Brown as a new board member bringing representation from Western Australia and complementing our already diverse group with additional Outdoor Education and Duke of Edinburgh Award expertise.

Looking ahead to 2024, our focus will be on innovation and leadership. NatCORR will be introducing new initiatives, and there will be construction projects at Tharwa, along with the addition of new bushcraft activities and programs, including extended expeditions. We remain committed to maintaining strong fiscal management and a continuous improvement approach to our practices and professionalism.

Thanks once again to our extraordinary community who share that enterprising curiosity and undefeatable spirit of Outward Bound – these successes are all of ours to celebrate together.

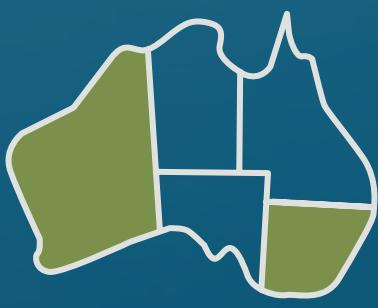
Jessica Bulger



FY 2023 in Numbers



4 locations



Across ACT/NSW,
VIC and WA



total
participation
days



4098
Total participants

118



programs of which 35
were Duke of Edinburgh



125 staff

Average Group
Leader age is

30



50%
Group leaders
identify as female

18 volunteers



10

Community
Partnership programs



50
individual
participant
scholarships

Impact

“My daughter Sarah and I completed our Family Adventure course last week and the word I've used to describe it to friends and colleagues was 'magical'.

Tough, challenging, painful (our calves were hurting for days) – but it was everything I could have hoped for out of the experience for myself and my daughter.

Aidan and Selina (as well as a team of helpers including Forrest and Wren and many others) were just naturally comfortable in the role. They bonded well with adults and teenagers (most of whom were begrudgingly there), they encouraged, they listened, they educated, and they made space when needed. The program is a solid foundation, but they made the experience what it was.

I'm sure this is no surprise to you, but it shouldn't go unsaid.

I don't expect my daughter to ever go for a hike again (although, fingers crossed) – but she has the certificate on her bedside table, the t-shirt she's wearing around the house, and the experience of accomplishment that can never be taken away from her.

Thank you - this is my third Outward Bound (school, classic challenge, and now family adventure) and am an advocate for everything your organisation delivers.

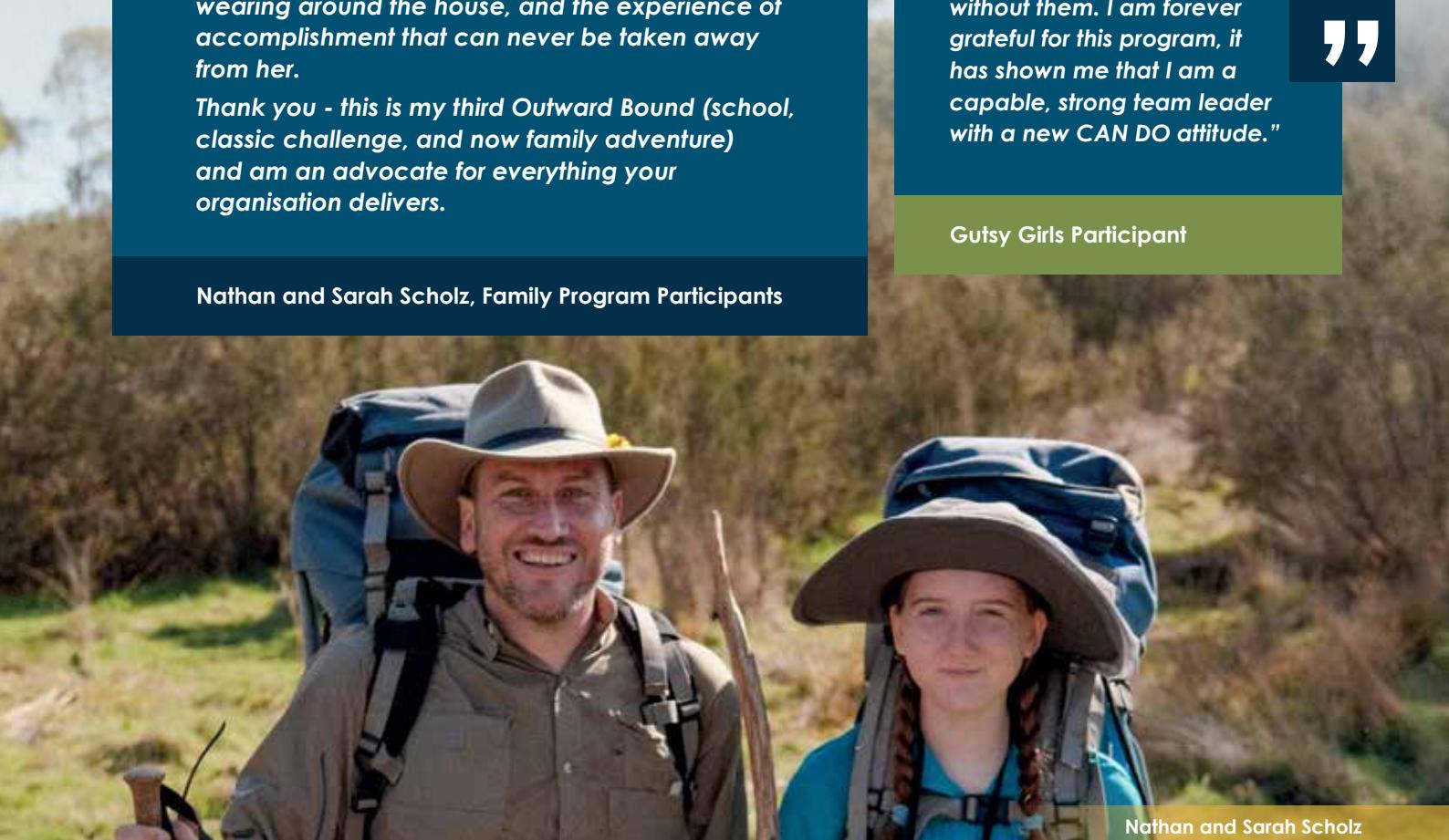
Nathan and Sarah Scholz, Family Program Participants

“The program really changed my outlook on life. The activities were well planned and I feel as if I have become physically and mentally stronger.”

Community Program Participant

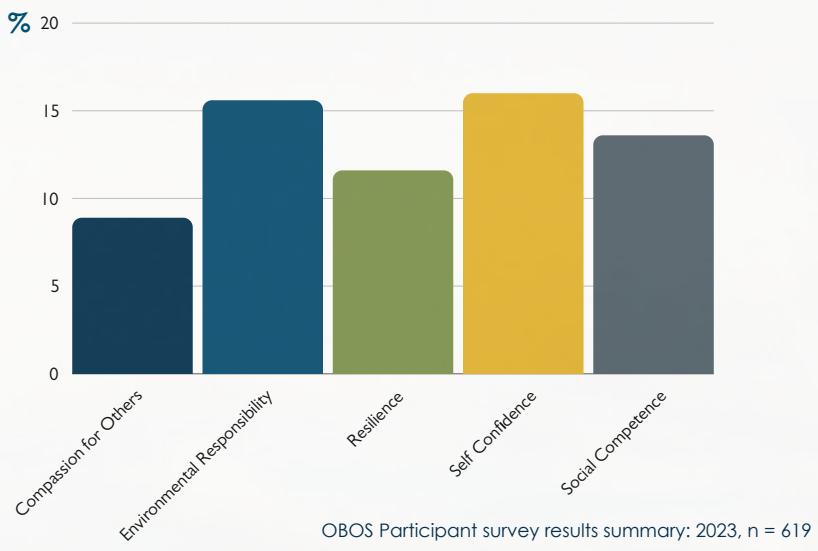
“The Gutsy Girls program was an experience unlike any I've ever had, both physically and socially. I achieved things I never thought I'd experience, especially in the leadership realm. I learned so much about myself including the physical and mental strengths I didn't know I had. The group dynamic was not a situation I would normally put myself in but I felt incredibly supported by this group of incredible women and would definitely not have been able to overcome the challenges without them. I am forever grateful for this program, it has shown me that I am a capable, strong team leader with a new CAN DO attitude.”

Gutsy Girls Participant



Nathan and Sarah Scholz

Post-Program Increase in Capacity for OBI Outcomes



The Outward Bound Outcome Survey (OBOS) is a metric used post-program to measure program efficacy and impact on the 5 Outward Bound International (OBI) program outcomes; compassion for others, environmental responsibility, resilience, self-confidence and social competence.

The OBOS is a retrospective anonymous survey and was implemented in Australia at the beginning of 2023.





Tharwa, ACT



The ACT area hosts two-thirds of our programs, involving around 170 groups throughout the year. Cranbrook in the Field (CITF) remains our largest program, accommodating Years 8 and 9 in Autumn, Year 7 in Spring, and Year 10 closing the year on the Cooleman High Plains. Trinity Christian School (TCS) in Canberra has also become a flagship program, spanning from Years 4 to 10. Younger students utilise cabins and campus-based activities, while older students embark on expeditions. It's rewarding to closely collaborate with schools, adapting programs to embrace learning opportunities in ever-changing contexts.

We've been expanding our range of program activities, incorporating interpretive programming at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, bike touring, and experimenting with various bushcraft activities. We've navigated both the Murrumbidgee and Gudgenby Rivers, enjoying the return of canoes to the water as river levels dropped. Service activities have maintained a focus on tree planting and environmental service in the Murrumbidgee corridor.

Our ropes course underwent a comprehensive inspection, including pole testing to comply with new regulatory frameworks. Special thanks to Murray Tucker, an Outward Bounder from the 1980s, who is overseeing improvement works and installing new mid-level elements. This work is proudly supported by the ACT Government. Additionally, an orienteering course has been installed on campus, courtesy of the ACT Orienteering Association. Tents have been introduced on some programs to adapt to changing weather and participant needs, made possible by the generous Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation (VFFF) 60th-anniversary grant in 2022.

Tharwa hosted a variety of training workshops throughout the year, including NATCORR Incident Response Workshops,

Wilderness First Aid, Safe Leadership training, paddling refreshers, workplace mentoring, and Duke of Edinburgh Award Adventurous Journey supervisor training. Venue hire of our cabin accommodation has augmented the year, hosting diverse groups such as yogis, musicians, dancers, veterans, First Nations community groups, church groups, and family reunions. Collaborating with the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) cooking school has enhanced the management of our commercial kitchen and catering options.

Thanks to the VFFF and Sally White, we're now enjoying two new 4WD Isuzu D-Max automatic vehicles that arrived in September. Embracing the unfamiliar new car smell, we are appreciating the ease of hooking up a trailer with a reversing camera. The fleet of 12 trailers also underwent a makeover. A special mention goes to our second-hand excavator 'Sally,' making light work of many challenges!

We're thrilled to be adventuring back in the Orroral Valley in the Namadgi National Park, treading carefully within a MoU with the Parks and Conservation Service. Fallen trees, regrowth, and erosion continue to pose challenges. Thanks extend to local landowners generously allowing us to traverse their properties. Installing fence-crossing stiles on the Hyles' Booroomba property ensures we steer clear of gates and livestock.

This year's Community Awards recognise Balineen property owners Steve and Julia Angus. Generations of Outward Bound groups have hiked across Balineen near Mt Tennent on the route to Honeysuckle. We're thrilled that Steve has joined our maintenance crew. Combined with the strength of our grounds crew and volunteers, we could not be in better hands for the continued care and development of the property.



Building works at Tharwa

The transformation of the Tharwa campus is well underway, shaped by our Masterplan. We have delighted in watching the renovation of the neglected Challenge Shed and the old Cuppacumbalong farm sheds to create bushcraft workshops and active learning spaces. Thanks to Sally Draper Architects, TCL Landscape Design, and Paul Palmer and the Ethical Constructions Project team, we have reinstated their charm, while creating practical program activity spaces. This project received grant funding from the Australian Government. We are anticipating a formal opening in early 2024.



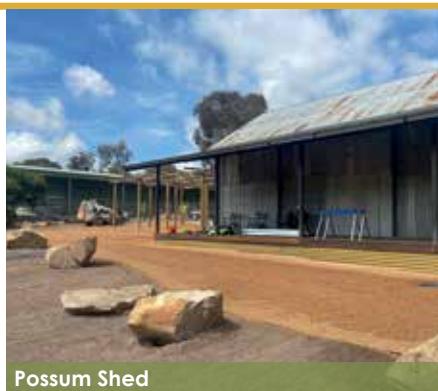
Challenge Shed

The Challenge Shed: This versatile space has been refreshed, creating a large under-cover games and activities area as a bad weather option. It also provides secure storage facilities for the mountain bike fleet, initiative games and raft building equipment.

The Possum Shed: Designed as a bushcraft kitchen, this area will support outdoor bush-cooking featuring a woodfired oven for baking and pizzas. A rustic meeting space will provide a useful area for program gatherings.

The Stables Workshop: This workshop is dedicated to bushcraft, specifically traditional and Indigenous handcrafts. It will be equipped for creating simple, useful bush living products using natural materials, such as rope, soap, felting, and weaving.

The Garden Sheds: These sheds have been configured for tree and plant propagation ready



Possum Shed

for environmental re-generation service activities. We plan to also install a composting facility to recycle program food waste.

Our current focus is on the Operations Area Upgrade. Old fuel and storage sheds have been demolished, making way for a dedicated vehicle yard and maintenance workshop area, ensuring a clear separation of participant and work spaces for enhanced safety and security. We are constructing a large open shelter-shed adjacent to the Ops Shed, along with new participant bathrooms to service on-campus camping and activities. The Ops Area Upgrade, scheduled for completion in 2024, includes the relocation of the Ops office (portable at the end of the Admin block) to sit adjacent to the Ops Shed and vehicle yard. This project is proudly funded by the NSW Government in association with the ACT Government under the Tourism



Stables Workshop

Product Development Fund. It also includes a substantial investment from Outward Bound Australia.

Detailed planning is now underway for the new Communal Centre, a cornerstone facility for the campus. This Centre will serve as a hub for NatCORR, with on-campus dining, and a reception and office area. With \$2.2 million in grant funding from the Australian Government, we have initiated a fundraising campaign to secure an additional \$3 – 4 million to bring this vision to life. Our goal is to commence construction in early 2025, and we call upon the Outward Bound community to support this significant investment in the future of Tharwa and the campus's full potential. Together, we can ensure the continued growth and success of Outward Bound at Tharwa.



Snowy River VIC

Our Snowy River base has been bustling with activity this year, hosting additional programs thanks to the Positive Starts initiative by the Victorian government. This scheme provided funding to government and rural schools post-COVID, enabling them to access camps as a part of a COVID recovery strategy. As a result, we welcomed a diverse array of high schools from across the state, with some traveling from as far as Mildura to experience the wonders of the Snowy River.

Taking full advantage of our newly acquired fleet of 14-foot rafts, we embraced good water levels to offer every group paddling sessions on the river. We also returned to running full Snowy River expeditions, from McKillop's to the Buchan River junction. The Snowy River became a canvas for shared experiences, and the thrill of rafting fostered teamwork and resilience in the face of the river's challenges.

During the April school holidays, we reignited the principles of the traditional Pack and Paddle program, an ideal blend of hiking and rafting, for Duke of Edinburgh Award (DoE) groups undertaking their Adventurous Journeys. This program allowed participants to explore both the rugged terrain on foot and the dynamic waters of the Snowy River, creating a holistic outdoor adventure.

Facility development remained a focus throughout the year, fulfilling the vision of the Outward Bound Victorian Snowies bushfire recovery grant funding from the Australian Government. The installation of new composting toilets and shelters on the Booramby property has created three self-contained campsites along the riverfront, enhancing our ability to provide a resilient and accommodating experience for groups, regardless of weather conditions.

The expanded facilities also cater to a wider range of client needs and abilities. Our final grant spending is on a fleet of inflatable kayaks, and a new solar and battery system to support our off-grid energy needs on base.

Our collaboration with Parks Victoria continues with joint efforts on new walking trails and trail maintenance service activities at Bailey Hooley campground. This partnership underscores our commitment to the local community and the sustainable management of the Snowy River area. We have also been hosting Methodist Ladies College, providing a river exit point for their river programs.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the prospect of longer expedition programs in Victoria next year, supported from our Snowies base. As we reflect on the programs and adventures that defined this year on the Snowy, we thank local community partners, participants, and the dedicated team that made these experiences possible.

Sam Hodder led installation of new facilities in the Snowy River

Walpole WA (Whiskey Whiskey)

We kicked off the year with our inaugural summer program in January – the Gutsy Girls, and all-women open enrolment group. The program saw the return of Dr. Loren Miller to the field as a group leader, joined by Head of Operations Helene de Lagillardaie. The Gutsy Girls program exceeded our expectations on every front – from delightful weather and a stunning location to breathtaking sunrises and sunsets, playful pods of dolphins in the waves, and an outstanding group of women aged 14 to 49 ready to embrace the adventure.

The Autumn season in Walpole hosted Bunbury Cathedral Grammar and Denmark Agricultural College. It also featured our first program partnership with Toyota WA with an Apprentice Leaders program. Toyota WA has been a long-time supporter of OB, providing us with vehicle support. We quite literally wouldn't be able to get around without them!

Over a wet, windy, and cold winter break, Sam Hodder in collaboration with the Walpole Work Camp, constructed two composting toilets at key campsites on the Block (Thomas Gerner's property). In addition to the toilets, both campsites received upgraded tables and seating.

Our collaboration with the Walpole Work Camp, a low-security inmate facility, is proving to be a valuable partnership. As a part of their community service, we are engaging them in various service projects, including food packing and light grounds maintenance at the base. We are grateful to have their help.

The Spring season in Walpole commenced with a full group participating in the school holiday Expedition program, with 12 participants sponsored by community organisations. Both Black Dog Ride Australia and the Denmark Lions Club have committed to ongoing funding for participants in the Outward Bound Expedition program.

The year concluded with long-term partner Geraldton Grammar School's year 9 and 11 students. Eleven days of excellent weather and challenges for all groups culminated in culinary delights prepared over an open fire. The feedback often received from Geraldton Grammar parents is some of our most impactful and heart warming.

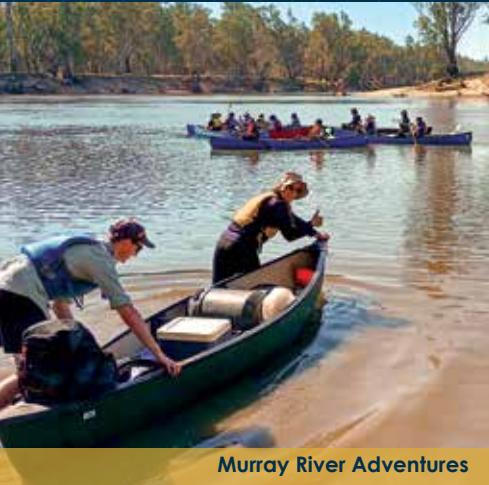
Looking ahead, we are thrilled to see the return of the Gutsy Girls program for its second iteration in January 2024. The success of this past year sets the stage for continued growth and achievement in the vibrant community of Whiskey Whiskey.

Helene de Lagillardaie
leading Gutsy Girls 2023





New Program Areas



Murray River Adventures



Grampians Peak Trail Excursions



Kiandra to Kozie Expedition

We are venturing into new operational areas, expanding our reach and providing a broad range of outdoor experiences for diverse groups, including programs designed for The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Adventurous Journey programs. Here's a glimpse into our new forays for 2023:

Murray River Adventures: Thanks to the opportunities presented by the Victorian Positive Starts programs, we embarked on 2 canoe trips on the Murray River for the first time! In March, we dipped our paddles into the waters with a small cohort of year 7 students from Stawell. Four groups navigated the Murray River from Yarrawonga to Cobram over 4 delightful days, enjoying ample camping spots and easy paddling. Our second expedition in early May involved Mansfield Steiner School's year 10 students, who paddled from Yarrawonga to Tocumwal, concluding their journey with a mesmerising sunrise on the water. The Murray River, conveniently situated only 4 hours from both Tharwa and Melbourne, provides an ideal setting for gentle introductions to river journeys. Our mobile operation model is straightforward, with a canoe fleet hired from Yarrawonga, and groups are entirely self-sufficient and self-resourced on the water. The Program Coordinator follows along, staying at caravan parks along the river to ensure good communication access and facilities.

Great Ocean Walk Victoria Adventures: A new circuit opened on the Great Ocean Walk for our Duke of Edinburgh's International Award (Duke of Ed Award / Award) programs in Victoria. Two pilot programs ran in the September school holidays at the Silver and Gold levels. The Great Ocean Walk, a bucket list destination, offered stunning views, coastal exploration, and even koala sightings for both groups. We anticipate many more trips on the Great Ocean Walk, as we collaborate with Parks Victoria and other providers to navigate the permit and campsite booking process.

Grampians Peak Trail Excursions: In April, we launched another Duke of Ed Award circuit, the Grampians Peak Trail, a trail that has quickly become a favourite and a fantastic addition to our Award repertoire. Collaborating with Parks Victoria has expanded the possibilities on this new iconic trail, and we are exploring potential school and partnership programs on this circuit.

Kiandra to Kozie Expedition: The final jewel in our Duke of Ed Award circuit crown, the Kiandra to Kozie, was introduced as a pilot program for Gold level Adventurous Journeys over the main range. This program received positive feedback from both participants and the group leader. Timely, as we are gearing up to utilise this circuit for our upcoming long expedition programs at the end of 2024.

These new operational areas mark exciting milestones for us, and we eagerly anticipate the continued growth, learning, and adventure they bring to our programs.

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award



In FY23, 189 Award Participants completed an Adventurous Journey or Gold Residential Project through Outward Bound Australia. This is nearly double from last year. We have introduced a new 9-day Gold Adventurous Journey on the Kiandra to Kosciusko walk, bringing our love of extended journeys into our Duke of Ed Award journey repertoire. We also delivered a 7-day Silver Pack & Paddle journey along the Snowy River in Victoria for Genazzano FCJ College.

In March we ran a bespoke Duke of Ed Award Adventurous Journey supervisor training program with financial support from the Australian Capital Territory through a Workforce Attraction Co-operative grant. This pilot program delivered two days of training to 16 recreational bushwalkers building their skill and preparation to be ready to lead Award Adventurous Journey programs.

Unfortunately, we have had to let go being an Open Award Centre, as we are unable to meet the insurance obligations required by The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award – Australia. The nature of the Award, relying on a large number of volunteers with participants undertaking many different activities aligned with their individual interests and

hobbies creates a challenging risk management and insurance context. We acknowledge the significant contribution of Caroline Bowman in the Open Award Centre endeavour and share her disappointment that this couldn't continue to grow under Outward Bound. Our efforts will now be focused on delivering Adventurous Journeys and Residential Projects under direct supervision of Outward Bound staff.

Our heartfelt congratulations extend to the 113 Award Participants who completed an Award level with Outward Bound Australia's Open Award Centre in 2023. A special congratulations is given to the 19 Award Participants who completed their Gold Award in this period:

Alex Clarke
Alexandra Barker
Alexandria Webster
Cassandra Karalis
Chloe Di Gemma

Erica Brown Yamada
Grace Buchan
Heather Pym
Jack van der Geest-Hester
James Irish

Joshua Jinu
Laura Mobini-Kesheh
Lucy Tuckwell
Melissa Gifford
Michael Pearce

Rebecca Ure
Samantha Ward
Taylor Colvin
Thomas McGrath

NatCORR Report



National Centre for
OUTDOOR RISK & READINESS

We are extremely proud of what we have achieved this year in establishing the National Centre of Outdoor Risk and Readiness (NatCORR). NatCORR is a sector wide initiative to help prepare outdoor practitioners to continue to safety operated in the face of a changing climate with more hostile weather and environmental conditions. Our aim is that all Australians are able to safely continue to enjoy and benefit from being in the outdoors. This project received grant funding from the Australian Government.

Nicky Hanson joined us in January in WA as NatCORR Project Manager. With over 30 years of expertise in the outdoor sector, she hit the ground running. We conducted a second sector co-design webinar in March – capturing feedback from the sector on challenges and priority needs. The co-design webinars have been attended by 140 people and viewed online by 300. Webinar participants consistently rate the extent of the challenges and the priority for upskilling and support as high.

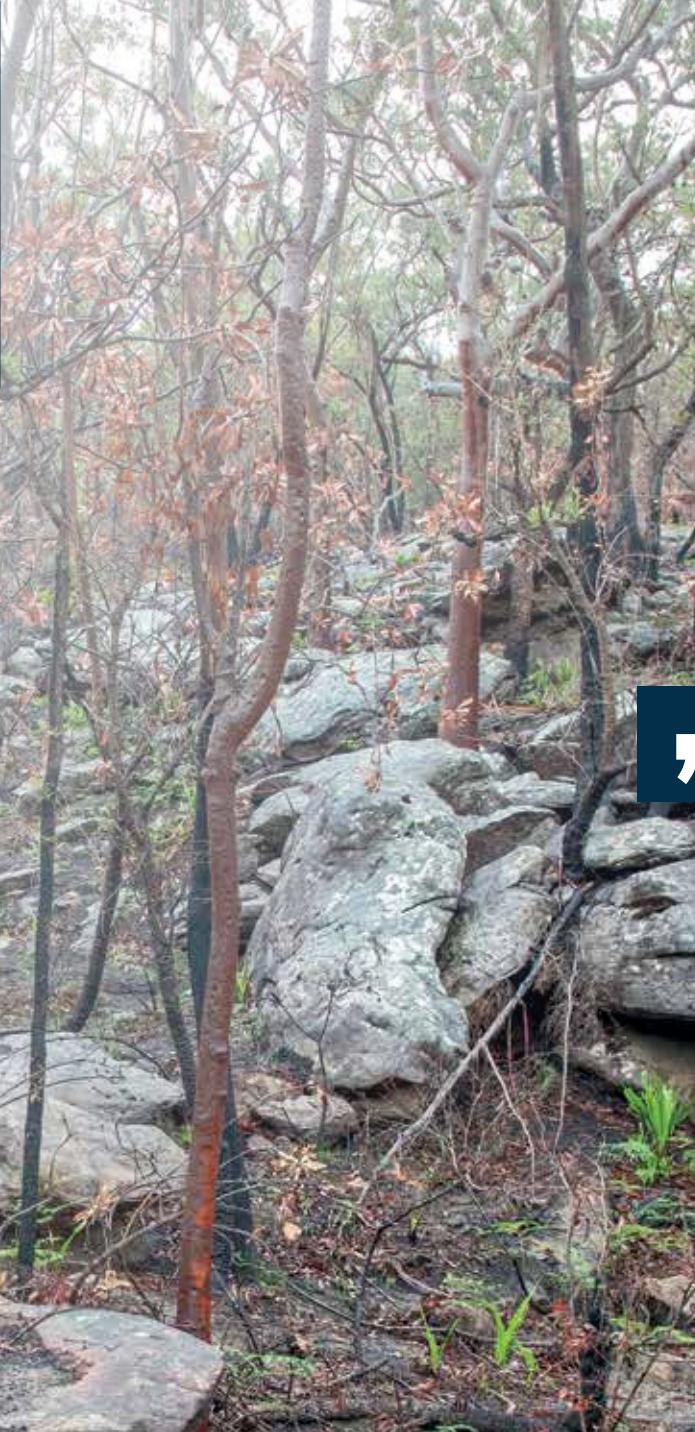
The NatCORR website at natcorr.org.au was launched in March, setting up a valuable outdoor industry resource across four Hubs: Weather and Environmental Conditions; Risk Management and Incident Response; Impact and Mitigation; and Economic and Social Resilience. This website provides a platform for NatCORR to continue to develop and share resources and network links, and promote the events and activities of NatCORR. It has around 3000 views per month, with about 50% of these from outside Australia.

Our first series of Professional Development workshops ran in July as a National Roadshow of ten Incident Response Workshops across 5 states and territories in 16 days! Our highly experienced and credentialed presenters, Dr Clare Dallat, Deb Ajango and Sonia Zavesky, trained 166 participants. We are grateful to our event sponsors One Planet, Campers Pantry and Paddy Pallin.

A key goal this year has been to learn about the

emerging disaster resilience landscape and identifying networks and resources that can assist with our work. This has included attending and presenting at conferences and following up with numerous meetings. We have made new connections with the Bureau of Meteorology, the University of Sydney and the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience. These relationships allow NatCORR to expand and strengthen its reach and impact. Drawing on these connections and outdoor sector expertise, the NatCORR Advisory Board has been formed for 2024 to help guide NatCORR's strategic development.

Work is in progress to offer weather forecast interpretation and decision support training in 2024. The training content will be informed by a weather information survey, co-authored by the Bureau of Meteorology to be conducted nationally in January 2024. This survey will also help provide sector needs analysis to the Bureau. We are in the concept development phase of a project to establish an Outdoor Risk Intelligence (ORI) platform. In collaboration with research partners, our aim is to build capacity in heat management in the outdoors and to track and analyse incident and business continuity disruption associated with weather conditions.



From left: Deb Ajango, Clare Dallat, Nicky Hanson, Katie Brown

“

Absolutely fantastic, useful and relevant. First training I've ever been to where I wanted it to go longer. 5 stars.

Exceptional workshop. I learnt so much. Please keep doing them – you all had so much knowledge and experience to share!

quaritch-photography@unsplash

Nat
CORR

Grants

Revitalising Outward Bound post-bushfires and COVID wouldn't have been possible without vital support from government grants. These grants, acquired through competitive grant applications, allowed us to improve capabilities, upgrade facilities, boost participation, and grow our team. We take our grant responsibilities seriously, focusing on creating community value aligned with government goals.

In FY23, we are proud to have successfully delivered on time and to budget:

Adventure Back Into Life Outdoors with Outward Bound
Proudly funded by the NSW Government, this Outdoor Active Recreation Marketing Support Grant's purpose is to increase outdoor recreation programs with strategic marketing campaigns. Outward Bound created and launched a digital marketing campaign, prepared marketing collateral including video and flyers, engaged Beau Miles as an Ambassador and sponsored the Gutsy Girls Film Festival.

Karri to Coast / Gutsy Girls



A WA Hiking Participation grant was provided by the State Government through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural industries in WA to create vibrant, inclusive and connected WA communities. The grant provided transport and logistics support for the 10-day Gutsy Girls expedition program in the Walpole Wilderness area, targeted at women in a transition phase of their lives.

Building a Duke of Edinburgh (DoE) Award Bushwalking Workforce



With financial support from the Australian Capital Territory Government, this Workforce Attraction Co-operative Grant helped to fund a weekend training program to prepare recreational bushwalkers with the skills required to work as supervisors for the DoE Award Adventurous Journey programs. The pilot program for 16 people was very successful, with 8 participants now working as a part of the OBA crew.

Outward Bound Back in the Bush Safely Technology Upgrade (2021-2022)

The ACT Government supported this important project to upgrade Outward Bound's aging ICT equipment to support safe communication and connectivity in the bush. This included upgrading our remote base camp

and vehicle communication equipment, with new satellite and mobile devices, radio antenna, batteries, wifi boosters and fleet of laptop computers. The project has significantly improved the resilience of our field communications.

Outward Bound High Ropes Course Equipment Renewal (2021-2022)



The ACT Government provided funding for new equipment and remediation work for the Tharwa high ropes course.

This work was completed in FY23, and further work has commenced aligned with evolving regulatory requirements and advancements in roping technology and practice.

Other grants that are work in progress for delivery in FY24 and beyond include:

- The Australian Government bushfire recovery grants for Tharwa campus bushcraft workshops and OB on the Victorian Snowies Base.
- The project to establish a National Centre for Outdoor Risk and Readiness (NatCORR), which received grant funding from the Australian Government.
- Outward Bound's Operations Area Upgrade project is being proudly supported by the NSW Cross-Border Commissioner's Infrastructure Fund (Covid Recovery Round) and the ACT Government's Tourism Product Development Fund. Due for completion in 2024, the project involves a significant Outward Bound capital investment.
- The 2023 ACT Government Community Sports Facilities Grant to further develop the ropes course activities at the Tharwa campus, and the 2022-2023 Community Support and Infrastructure Grant for a flammables storage cabinet.
- Management of Walpole inlet's invasive species through the WA Community Stewardship Grant. This project involves OB staff training from Gary Muir from WOW Wilderness Eco Tours to develop OB program service activities to help with the education and removal of invasive species from the area. This important project commenced in September 2023, and builds on OB relationships with the local community to support the environment. This project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program.





Industry engagement

Contributing to and learning from the broader outdoors sector beyond our own sphere allows us to gather and test ideas, informing and enhancing our practices. It provides an avenue to share challenges and foster collaborative problem-solving. Moreover, it connects us with experts, facilitating the expansion of our knowledge, networks, and professionalism. This engagement is pivotal as we advance the development of the National Centre for Outdoor Risk and Readiness (NatCORR).

Drs. Loren Miller and Clare Dallat attended the USA Wilderness Risk Management Conference in Portland, Oregon. Their presentation focused on climate change risk in the Australian outdoors and highlighted the initiatives of NatCORR. The impact of wildfire smoke on air quality was a key theme, particularly given the devastating Canadian fire season. This was followed by the Outward Bound International World Conference in Brazil. The conference brought to life the rich history and diversity of Outward Bound. It is inspiring to be part of a global network working collaboratively with a shared purpose to enhance our impact worldwide.

We conducted NatCORR Risk and Incident workshops as both pre and post-conference sessions at the 'sell-out' Outdoors Victoria conference in July. In August, a team of eight from OBA attended the Outdoors NSW/ACT Summit in Lennox Head, where we presented NatCORR's work and gained insights into climate forecasting from the Bureau of Meteorology. Attending the Australian Disaster Resilience Conference (as part of the AFAC conference) significantly contributed to our work with NatCORR, strengthening relationships with the Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience, Fire to Flourish, and other key entities.

Dr. Loren Miller's international visits included Outward Bound Schools in Finland and Loch Eil, Scotland, while traveling alongside Professor John Quay from the University of Melbourne. This gave Loren the opportunity to participate in the Scotland Outdoor Education Research network and collaborate with researchers at the University of Edinburgh.



Dr Loren Miller attended the Outward Bound International World Conference, held in Brazil





Message from the AOBDF chair

Simon Lewis

Downwind from the bushfire and pandemic years, OBA and its charitable arm, the Australian Outward Bound Development Fund ('AOBDF') remain inspired and connected to our founding educational philosophy, as we continue to step up in support of young people and specific groups experiencing disadvantage to support their healing, learning and leadership journey to continue outdoors, connected to beautiful country.

As guides to the learning journeys and leadership development of young people on country, we reflected deeply on the lead-up to 'The Voice' Referendum as an organisation. The result has emboldened our commitment to develop closer ties between the traditions of bush craft and the knowledge held by First Nations communities, and finding opportunities to weave this into the experiences within an Outward Bound program. The new bushcraft workshops up at Tharwa, as part of the site's redevelopment, will create such experiences from early 2024. John Atkin, our ex-Chair and one of our dedicated supporters, galvanised another ~\$50,000 in support from the community by running another marathon this year for 'reconciliation and resilience'. He dedicated these funds to supporting Indigenous boys from Clontarf Academy to build stronger cross-cultural experiences. We also acknowledge and thank the long-standing support from the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, and the wider family, who continue to support important programs for youth refugees and migrants under 'Creating Chances'. The remaining community programs were funded by AOBDF which received another donation from OBA this year following a strong performance by the group.

2023 saw our flagship initiative, the National Centre for Outdoor Risk & Readiness ('NatCORR') take

flight. Sector stakeholders from across the country have started to be engaged on the big themes and issues impacting organisations like OBA connecting the community to experiences and programs in the outdoors in an increasingly volatile climate. While these webinars and workshops got underway, the Board of AOBDF has started the work of building up our systems and database, and engaging large philanthropies in their potential interest to back this initiative, and to co-invest with the Federal Government's \$3.7m commitment. The drawings and design of our Tharwa site's redevelopment, as NatCORR's home, present an exciting vision for the future of the outward bound movement in Australia at a time when connecting with self, others and country has never been more important.

With these exciting initiatives now in train, we invite you to support our community work and projects, big and small.

Simon Lewis



Leadership participants taking part in an initiative

AOBDF summary



Providing Outward Bound programs for young people with special needs is some of the most important and rewarding work that we do. In 2023 AOBDF, Outward Bound's charitable arm, provided close to \$200,000 to disadvantaged Australians to support participation in our programs. We are proud to continue this work in partnership with long standing community organisations and provide these unique opportunities for young people who can benefit from an experience that can open up new possibilities. We are extremely grateful to the philanthropic donations that make this possible.

In FY23 we achieved:

- 9 Community Programs to the value of \$150,000. Delivered in partnership with community organisations, supporting participants with special needs

Community Partner	Participants	Funding Support
Menslink	Young men at risk	Future2 Foundation
STEPS	Acquired brain injury	AOBDF
Mirabel	Young people in foster care	AOBDF
Creating Chances (x2)	Youth development for refugee/migrants	Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation
St Vincent de Paul	VINES Youth Program (respite)	AOBDF
Guide Dogs	Sight impacted	AOBDF
Sydney Legacy	Veterans' families	AOBDF
Clontarf Academy & SE NSW Secondary Schools	Indigenous cross-culture	John Atkin (Sydney marathon for reconciliation and resilience)

- Support for a program for Tullibigeal Central school, a low socio-economic small farming community in the Central West region of New South Wales
- Over \$30,000 in scholarships for 50 young people to participate in the OB Expedition, OB Junior, Gutsy Girls, Emerging Leaders and Duke of Edinburgh Award programs. These scholarship recipients come with diverse backgrounds, including learning difficulties, mental health, family breakdowns, cultural disadvantage, and remote rural or low socio-economic communities.

AOBDF received \$280,000 in donations and grants in FY23. This comprised:

- \$38,000 from Foundations
- \$62,000 from individuals
- \$180,000 from Outward Bound Australia

Of this, \$26,000 will support programs in FY24. On behalf of the participants and all of the crew at Outward Bound – we extend our warmest thanks to our philanthropic partners, and hope to engage with you again. The testimonials from of our community supported participants are heart warming illustrations of the impact of your generosity.

"It proves that I can do just about anything if I put my mind to it. Things will be hard, but it is okay, I CAN do it."

"The program really changed my outlook on life. I feel as if I have become physically and mentally stronger."

We recognise that AOBDF's external philanthropic fundraising in FY23 is less than in previous years. It is our intention to increase our efforts in 2024 to engage with the community to support this important portfolio of work. We are aware that post COVID, young people are facing mental health and school engagement challenges that outdoor experiential learning can assist with. If you can help with a donation, or know someone who might be interested in helping, please get in touch – we would love to hear from you.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our fundraising campaign and the organisations who provided scholarships directly to participants in FY23:

- William McIlrath Charitable Foundation
- Mundango Charitable Trust
- Cambooya
- Arthur Gordon Oldham Charitable Trust
- Greg & Di Chapman for the Grant Chapman Memorial Scholarship
- Black Dog Ride Australia
- John Atkin fundraising
- Goodwolf Partners
- Nicholas Carter
- AMP Foundation
- AMP Retirees Association NSW
- David Hands
- Margaret Sutherland
- Iain Gould
- Bernard Higgins
- Suzanne McLoughlin
- Other individual donations from OB foundation members and friends
- Geringong Lions club
- NSW Police Legacy
- Coleambally Education trust
- Ulladulla Milton Lions Club
- Thrive

Community Recognition

Tim Medhurst OA

Congratulations to **Tim Medhurst**, our former Executive Director and lifelong advocate for Outward Bound, who has been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), for service to the community. Tim served as a volunteer Board member with Outward Bound Australia for nearly 20 years, between 1996-1997, and 2002 –2018. Tim's career with Outward Bound commenced as an instructor in 1977. He was Director of Operations from 1985 to 1992, and Executive Director from 1997 to 2002. Tim also served as Outward Bound International Board member from 2008 to 2019, including Chair of the Risk Management Committee from 2013 to 2019. As a fun fact, Tim and his young family lived in what is now the ops office of the Admin block!

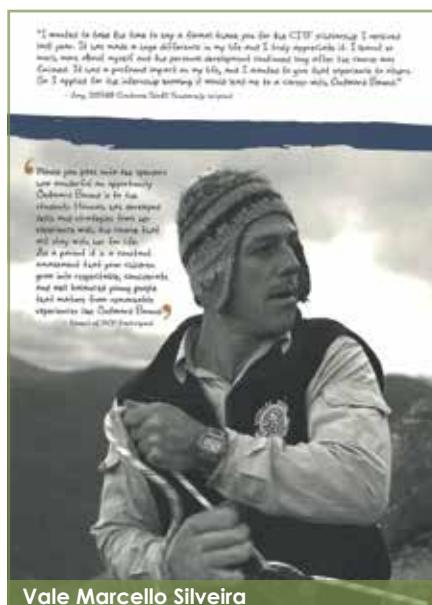
Tim has made significant contributions as a Board



Airlie MacLachlan & Tim Medhurst – OB legends!

member to other organisations, including: the Ethos Foundation, the Home of Expressive Arts and Learning Foundation, Friends of HEAL Foundation, Youth Enterprise Foundation and Trust and Binna Burra Lodge.

Vale Marcello Silveira



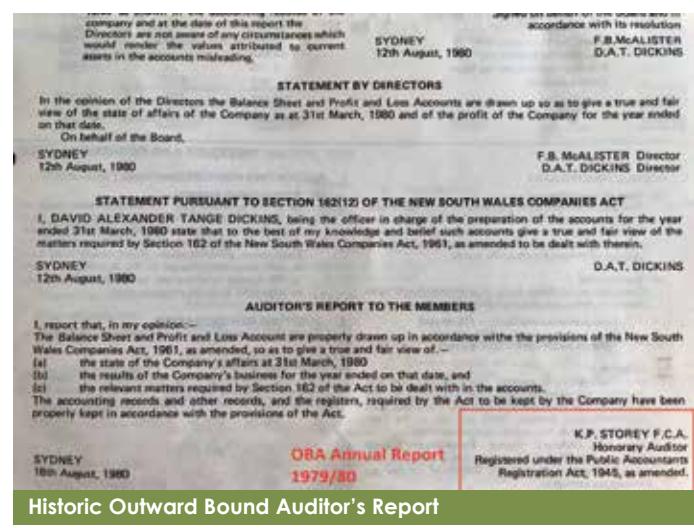
Vale Marcello Silveira

It was with a heavy heart that we said farewell to **Marcelo Silveira** in March 2023, following his accidental death while abseiling in the Margaret River region. Marcelo came from Brazil to work with Outward Bound Australia in 2000 as an instructor, and then as staff training

coordinator over the course of the 2000's. Marcelo worked with Explorus in WA for 15 years, and was one of the most skilled, experienced, vibrant and much-loved members of the outdoor community. Over 50 former colleagues and friends returned for a virtual memorial service at Tharwa. Former OB CEO Darren Black provided a moving eulogy on behalf of the Outward Bound community. Our thoughts and best wishes go to his wife Katie and two young boys.

Vale Ian Jolly

Ian Jolly, Outward Bound Australia's long-time auditor passed away earlier in July 2023. Ian served as Outward Bound's auditor for around 35 years, from as far back as 1979. Ian was a partner with Storey Blackwood, who together with partner Denis Kwan, acted as our auditors for nearly 50 years. Colleagues from the time remember Ian as always helpful and available for discussions on issues at any time when needed. His professional advice on accounting issues was very valued and contributed significantly in ensuring quality accounts and good governance for OBA.



Historic Outward Bound Auditor's Report

Awards



Community

Angus Family

Steve and Julia Angus, proprietors of the Ballineen Property nestled at the foothills of Mount Tennent, embody the essence of community in Tharwa. For nearly four decades, Steve has been an invaluable member of the Rural Fire Service, ascending through the ranks to the position of Captain, while he now fulfills the pivotal role of president, showcasing not only his longevity in service but also his exceptional leadership within the organisation. Steve and Julia's unwavering commitment to community welfare extends beyond protecting the community from fire, as they have graciously opened the doors of their property to Outward Bound since 1999. This act of generosity commenced shortly after their settlement on the land, showcasing their enduring support for programs that enrich and empower others.



Steve Angus, invaluable member of the community

Partnership

Alison Tilse, St Joseph's College, Aberdeen NSW

Since 2004, **Alison Tilse** has been the driving force behind St. Joseph's Aberdeen Outward Bound program, ensuring its success through her tireless commitment. She challenges students to step out of their comfort zones, and her wholehearted approach is instrumental to the program's yearly success. Additionally, Alison consistently goes above and beyond. She's created an 'Outward Bound Shop' for year 9 students, prepares them throughout the year, and offers unwavering support in the field. Her compassionate approach makes her an invaluable teacher and she is renowned amongst the OBA team for always taking on the group that will need her support the most.



3rd from the left: Alison Tilse, receiving her award at Tharwa

Service

Margot Hurrell, Fellow Outdoor Education Australia

Margot Hurrell has over 40 years of experience in the Outdoor Education sector in risk, safety, compliance and training. Her relationship with Outward Bound Australian extends over 25 years. Margot established the RTO and lead the training program at Outward Bound, nurturing generations of trainees. Margot has held the position of Risk and Safety Manager for many years, including returning to support OBA through the critical regeneration period post bushfires and COVID. She is central to our effective on-call and incident response team, providing calm, wise and expert guidance when we are most in need. Margot is due to retire in early 2024, but we know the words 'What would Margot say?' will live on in our safety culture for many years to come. Thank you Margot, from the bottom our hearts.



Margot Hurrell during a regular visit to Outward Bound Tharwa

Volunteers

OUTWARD BOUND

Kev Heyhoe at Booramby – Outward Bound, Snowy River

How fitting that the first part of the Outward Bound motto is “to serve”. We would not be where we are today without the generous help of volunteers. The list of tasks is highly varied, from logistics support to tree planting to professional advisory support. It is all very much appreciated.

More than the help – Outward Bound is all about community, so we appreciate working with people with different backgrounds, ages and life experiences. If you would like to join our volunteer team in 2024, even for a day, please reach out! You will be welcome.

David Evans	Building Committee & Advisory
Ed & Libby Gerner	Logistics support
Ian Clark	Logistics support
John Bockwinkel	Logistics support
Professor John Quay	Education Advisory
Josh Cooper	ICT everything!
Karim Haddad	Driving
Kev & Phil Heyhoe	Snowies base support & back up
Lisa Farnell	Staff Training
Mark Connolly	Electrician (test & tagging, etc.)
Rob Caflisch	Building Committee
Russel Hargrave	Logistics support
Thomas Gerner	WW base support & back up
Tim Booth	Tree planting service activity facilitation
Walpole Work Camp	WW maintenance & construction

Centre – Thomas Gerner, with Helene and Sam

Tim Booth tree planting Tharwa





Crew List 2023

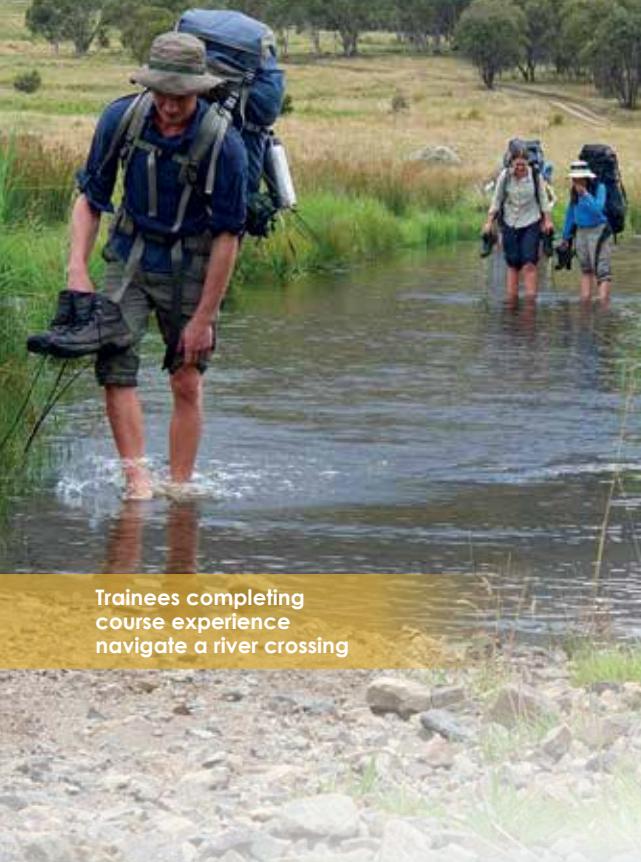
Aaron Funnel
Adam Morton
Adele Lamb
Aidan Messenger
Alanna Basa
Alexandra Rowland
Alice Kimberley
Alkira Finegan-Smith
Alyssa Harris
Amelia Anthony
Andrew Currie
Andrew Pearson
Angela Hills
Arliah Varnel
Ashley Cochrane
Augustine Haddad
Ben Lovell
Benjamin Callaghan
Benjamin Parker
Bethanie Durham
Brett Peel
Bridget Walsh
Brie Davidson
Caroline Bowman
Catherine Neave
Claire Walter
Dakota Klein
Damian Lum
Daniel Porto
Dean Pham

Diana Smith
Dominique Cahill
Ellie Dunphy
Emilia Parr
Emily Ross
Ewan Hibbert
Forrest Perrin de Graaff
Gary Farebrother
Gianna Leone
Helene Jan de Lagillardie-Michel
Ian Wells
Isabella Pulford
Jakarra Hill
James Barclay
James Lyle
Jamie Brown
Jayd Wieland
Jemima Crawley
Jennifer Moore
Jess Ormsby
John Morris
Jonathon Hoiles
Jordan Woszatka
Julian Yates
Katherine Sharp
Kieran Simpson
Kobi Lee
Lachie Burgess
Laura Rutley

Laura Scanlan
Laura Foley
Lauren Taylor
Lauren Daubler
Levi Rattray-Wood
Lily Kennedy
Lisa Farnell
Loren Miller
Luka Hodder
Marc Layton
Mardi Lee
Margot Hurrell
Marita Hills
Matt Gallagher
Matthew Wicklander
Matthew Starrett
Mel Nicholson
Melissa Searle
Mike Burrows
Miyo Cortez
Morgan O'Brien
Nicholas Murray
Nicola Hanson
Nicole Marlow
Nitin Bangalore
Pace McGowan
Patrick Quay
Paul Hatton
Peta Duggan
Philippe Finance

Phillip Slater
Rachel Gould
Rachel Coutin
Rebecca Buckley
Rebecca Werner
Roan Dunstone
Salome Schmidgall
Sam Bright
Samuel Hodder
Samuel Tonkin
Sean Goss
Selina Mather
Sera Lilly Pareti
Stephen Angus
Stephen Worley
Taylor Kemp
Thu Thao Nguyen
Tim Collins
Tom Roy
Tom Molloy
Tony Lydon
Victoria Young
Victoria Downer
Violet Anthony
Wren Browne
Yanni Droulias
Yu Mao
Yushan Luo
Yvette Carroll
Zali Holtham





Trainees completing course experience navigate a river crossing

India-Nangu traineeship

In 2023 we welcomed 11 new field crew to form the India-Nangu traineeship cohort. We combined our phonetic alphabet tradition of the India phonetic with Nangu, the Ngunnawal word for 'to see, to look', as we look to the future with our trainees. The India-Nangu trainees started in January with a week long OB experience program in the field. This was a challenging program, emotionally and physically, setting the scene for a year of learning. Formal training was provided by training partner 5 Star Training, and by the middle of the year, most had completed their Certificate 3 in Outdoor Recreation Leadership, incorporating navigation, facilitation roping and canoeing. They will finished the year having experience as an Outward Bound Group Leader, and be on track to complete their Certificate 4 in early 2024.

India-Nangu trainees:

Catherine Neave
Emilia Parr
Jess Ormsby
Kat Sharp
Laura Scanlan
Lauren Taylor

Lily Kennedy
Morgan O'Brien (cert III)
Pace McGowan
Taylor Kemp
Tom Roy



Canoeing Training in Kangaroo Valley



Trainees learning abseil skills at
Mitchell's Ridge, Blue Mountains

Governance

Dr Loren Miller

Dr Loren Miller first joined the Outward Bound Australia Board in 2019. She became Chair and Executive Director in 2020, leading OB through the impacts of the bushfire and COVID, providing a recovery and renewal strategy during this pivotal and demanding period. Loren appreciates the spirit of Outward Bound, having worked as an instructor in the 1980s. She knows outdoor education well from working with OEG and Sport and Recreation Victoria. Her career has extended to management consulting with the Boston Consulting Group and senior executive strategy and finance roles with Monash, RMIT and Melbourne Universities. With CPA, AICD, MBA and Doctorate of Education qualifications, she brings an exemplary skill set to steward OBA through this time of change. Loren's partnership Co-Chair role with Jessica Bulger has been an innovative and effective governance model for transformation.



Jessica Bulger

Jess is Wiradjuri from Tumut and Brungle in country NSW and grew up in a big proud Aboriginal family, connected to her culture and witnessing great Elders and leadership. Jess is currently the CEO of the Australian Indigenous Governance Institute (AIGI), based in Canberra. She began her career as a teacher and has taught within the secondary and tertiary sectors before moving into the NFP sector where she contributed to the success of CareerTrackers before joining the AIGI team. Jess is passionate about Governance, Leadership and Capacity Building, particularly with Indigenous people and communities. In her spare time, Jess is coming up with ways to entertain her young family or supporting the passions and projects of her Mum and Aunties at home in Tumut.



Campbell Hudson

In more than 30 years of legal practice, Campbell has acquired significant experience in insolvency, commercial litigation and restructuring. Through a number of initiatives, Campbell has worked to reduce the socio-economic gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians and in 2014 was awarded the CareerTrackers Business Supervisor of the Year. In 2016 Campbell participated in an Outward Bound program with CareerTracker interns,



DIRECTOR FY23 ATTENDANCE RECORD AT OBA AND AOBDE MEETINGS

OBA	AOBDF
Loren Miller	9/9
Jessica Bulger	7/9
Campbell Hudson	6/9
Katie Brown	5/5
Simon Crisp	8/9
Simon Lewis	7/9
Robin Moustaka	2/6
Resigned 9 Dec. 2022	
	Simon Lewis
	Jon Bradshaw
	Loren Miller
	Campbell Hudson
	Jessica Bulger
	Simon Crisp
	Katie Brown
	Robin Moustaka
	Resigned 9 Dec. 2022





that led him to join the Outward Bound Australia Board in 2019. Campbell, with the assistance of colleagues at Dentons provides generous pro-bono legal support for Outward Bound.

Dr Simon Crisp

Dr Simon Crisp first joined the Outward Bound Board in 2021. He describes his OBA Standard Course in 1980 (aged 16), as the single most formative experience of his life. With over 30 years of practicing psychology in mental health and educational settings, Simon brings an immense knowledge of adventure therapy programs to the Board. Through his work overseas as well as in Australia, Simon has developed comprehensive training and accreditations programs in wilderness adventure therapy and related psychological first response skills for youth and outdoor professionals. Simon has played a pivotal role on the Board over the past 3 years – providing hands on support to the organisation with staff training, mental health and wellbeing, and as a member of the Risk and Safety Committee. He feels the journey ahead has scope to continue to evolve OBA into new and innovative territory: Extending our proud traditions and long history in experiential learning and outdoor education well beyond what we've known and done before.



Katie Brown



As a learning professional, volunteering and youth advocate, Katie has 30 years experience in the outdoors and recreation sector. Currently the CEO of Awards WA, the Association offering experiential learning youth self-development programs, The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award and Ignite Youth Award in WA, Katie works with 130 educational institutions and community organisations to support over 3,500 young people in WA with a focus on empowering and equipping them with a

world ready attitude. In 2020, Katie was appointed as Chair of Outdoors WA, the peak industry body for the outdoor recreation industry in WA with an aim to advocate and support local outdoor recreation businesses, camp operators, retailers and Outdoor Ed teachers to ensure the best opportunities are available for the WA community. In her spare time, Katie is an active Group Fitness Instructor, something she has been for 30+ years.

Simon Lewis

From the vantage of his advisory firm, GoodWolf Partners, Simon helps clients such as family and corporate Foundations and NFPs to co-design strategy and develop innovative 'for purpose' models of service and capital towards social value. Simon has been involved with Outward Bound in both Zimbabwe and Australia, and he believes there has never been a more important and exciting time to reimagine the possibilities to make a difference, to leave the world a better place, to leave a legacy. Simon provides invaluable support to Outward Bound to help navigate and build support within the philanthropic community.



Jon Bradshaw (AOBDF)

Jon Bradshaw comes to OBA with over 25 years of global sales, marketing, strategy and organisational development experience gained with the Mars Group, Diageo PLC, Virgin Group, Lion Pty and Droga5. Nowadays he runs a successful marketing and strategy consultancy, Brand Traction. With an alarming lack of grace and skill he has spent his life outside work mountaineering, kayaking, diving, climbing and snowboarding his way around the world's adventure capitals. Over 40 years of experience in the field has given Jon an unshakeable belief that time spent being challenged in the outdoors should be an integral part of everyone's personal growth journey.





AUDITOR'S DECLARATION



Authorised Audit Company No: 325055

**AUSTRALIAN OUTWARD BOUND DEVELOPMENT FUND
PTY LTD**
ABN: 20 088 725 295

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

We declare that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2023, there have been no contraventions of:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

National Audits Group Pty Ltd
Authorised Audit Company

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Danielle Nye
Director

30 November 2023

Wagga Wagga

Thank you to our finance service provider for their assistance in financial management and the preparation of the FY22 Financial Reports

BlueRock The logo for BlueRock, featuring the word "BlueRock" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font next to a stylized blue and green diamond shape.



STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

The Australian Outward Bound Foundation and Controlled Entity
Consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income
For the year ended 30 June 2023

		Consolidated	
	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
Revenue	4	5,987,106	2,396,507
Other income	5	22,472	635,007
Interest revenue		37,684	85
Total revenue		<u>6,047,262</u>	<u>3,031,599</u>
Expenses			
Administration expenses		(166,550)	(155,098)
Program costs		(878,459)	(273,009)
Employee benefits expense		(3,032,461)	(1,598,014)
Advertising and marketing expenses		(77,269)	-
Depreciation and amortisation expense	6	(230,171)	(192,448)
Loss on disposal of assets		(166,827)	-
Motor vehicle expenses		(85,264)	(45,134)
Travel expenses		(43,974)	-
Other expenses		(314,737)	4,536
Finance costs	6	(17,176)	(13,333)
Total expenses		<u>(5,012,888)</u>	<u>(2,272,500)</u>
Surplus before income tax expense		1,034,374	759,099
Income tax expense	2	-	-
Surplus after income tax expense for the year attributable to the members of The Australian Outward Bound Foundation and Controlled Entity	19	1,034,374	759,099
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to the members of The Australian Outward Bound Foundation and Controlled Entity		<u>1,034,374</u>	<u>759,099</u>





STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

The Australian Outward Bound Foundation and Controlled Entity
Consolidated statement of financial position
As at 30 June 2023

		Consolidated	
	Note	2023	2022
		\$	\$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	7	921,871	3,988,163
Trade and other receivables	8	149,567	74,182
Investments	9	2,221,125	-
Other	11	15,048	27,878
Total current assets		<u>3,307,611</u>	<u>4,090,223</u>
Non-current assets			
Investments	9	1,000,000	-
Property, plant and equipment	12	2,114,561	2,307,036
Right-of-use assets	10	264,648	269,724
Intangibles	13	107,677	107,677
Total non-current assets		<u>3,486,886</u>	<u>2,684,437</u>
Total assets		<u>6,794,497</u>	<u>6,774,660</u>
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	14	162,807	367,894
Contract liabilities	15	1,650,846	2,419,012
Borrowings	16	441,919	500,800
Lease liabilities	17	-	1,629
Employee benefits	18	70,580	49,103
Total current liabilities		<u>2,326,152</u>	<u>3,338,438</u>
Non-current liabilities			
Lease liabilities	17	211,443	213,694
Total non-current liabilities		<u>211,443</u>	<u>213,694</u>
Total liabilities		<u>2,537,595</u>	<u>3,552,132</u>
Net assets		<u>4,256,902</u>	<u>3,222,528</u>
Equity			
Reserves	2	808,428	808,428
Retained surpluses	19	3,448,474	2,414,100
Total equity		<u>4,256,902</u>	<u>3,222,528</u>



STATEMENT OF CASHFLOW

The Australian Outward Bound Foundation and Controlled Entity
Consolidated statement of cash flows
For the year ended 30 June 2023

		Consolidated	2023	2022
		Note	\$	\$
Cash flows from operating activities				
Receipts from customers (inclusive of GST)			6,547,981	3,194,111
Payments to suppliers (inclusive of GST)			<u>(5,383,282)</u>	<u>(1,903,150)</u>
Donations and grants received/(paid)			1,164,699	1,290,961
Interest received			(768,166)	1,621,247
Interest and other finance costs paid			37,684	85
Scholarship paid			(17,176)	(680)
			-	(216,448)
Net cash from operating activities			<u>417,041</u>	<u>2,695,165</u>
Cash flows from investing activities				
Payments for investments			(3,221,125)	-
Payments for property, plant and equipment	12		(199,447)	(267,734)
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment			-	34,122
Net cash used in investing activities			<u>(3,420,572)</u>	<u>(233,612)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities				
Repayment of borrowings			(58,881)	(3,201)
Repayment of lease liabilities			(3,880)	(4,808)
Net cash used in financing activities			<u>(62,761)</u>	<u>(8,009)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			(3,066,292)	2,453,544
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year			3,988,163	1,534,619
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	7		<u>921,871</u>	<u>3,988,163</u>





Thanks to our Partners

ALS Global Ltd
Australian Camps Association
Better Trailers Canberra
BluenGrey Water and Septic Solutions
Blue Rock
Canberra Town Planning
Centorrino Technologies
CF & MS Tucker Pty Ltd
CHCS Projects
Dentons
Ethical Construction Projects
Equipped Outdoors
5 Star Training & Consulting
Jaymak Equipment Hygiene Services
National Audits Group
National Parks ACT, NSW, VIC and WA
Outdoor Council of Australia
Outdoor Education Australia
Outdoors NSW & ACT
Outdoors WA
Outdoors Victoria
Sally Draper Architects
Taylor Cullity Lethlean 2023
Vertex Hydropore
Your VA Virtual Assistant





DISCOVER, DEVELOP AND ACHIEVE WITH US

Outward Bound programs foster the development of an **adventurous mindset** that helps young people **thrive** throughout life. A chance to take more risks, try new things and be **more bold**, Outward Bound offers true learning.

We take education beyond the classroom, involving the **heart, mind and body** in a way that will last a lifetime.

FIND OUT MORE

Explore our programs:

www.outwardbound.org.au | mailbox@outwardbound.org.au



CONTACT US

Share your Ideas with Loren & the team

Dr Loren Miller

0408 749 419

Loren.miller@outwardbound.org.au

**Offer Financial Assistance, or grants,
alongside continued support of AOBDF**

Simon Lewis (AOBDF Chair)

0432 321 898

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