



OUTWARD BOUND AUSTRALIA

*Expanding horizons for young people through
outdoor education*

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“We became a close-knit team, at the same time **discovering** who we really were. Out in the bush, under pressure, your **real character shines through**, and it was a fantastic almost cleansing feeling.”

-Year 9 Student, Outward Bound Expedition

WELCOME TO OUTWARD BOUND AUSTRALIA

We are the **heart & heritage** of outdoor education in Australia.

// Self-discovery

"Who would have thought that 12 days without phones, iPad or electricity could be such a positive experience for a group of young adults! Where basic shelter, food, friendship and respect for each other outrank the modern day perceived necessities."

-Parent, Outward Bound Participant

// Awe & Wonder

"It's hard to explain exactly what it is that made my experience so uniquely profound. It might be the location, the separation from the noise of everyday life or perhaps the fact that the environment offers a certain clarity that amplifies learning experiences."

-Participant, Outward Bound Program

// Adventure

"For 9 days they had been challenged, they had to live with and tolerate others, they had lived without family and home comforts, they had to pitch in and take their turn, they had to deal with difficult situations on their own, without our input. What they gained from doing all this and surviving was a real sense of achievement"

-Teacher, Outward Bound Program



OUTWARD BOUND AUSTRALIA

Outward Bound is where young people can step out of the pressure of structured, urban, and digitally chaotic lives, into wide open spaces, where life is simplified, nature expanded and new experiences and adventure abound.

We are the heart and heritage of outdoor education in Australia, with nearly 70 years of experience and an endless passion for supporting young people to grow and develop.

Our adventures are varied, offering time for challenge with hiking, climbing and paddling, and time to chill, with bushcraft, sunsets and tree planting. Whether it is one day or thirty, our programs bring fresh perspectives and a chance to reflect and reset.

Our programs empower young people to step up and embrace new experiences and gain a real sense of achievement. We enable young people to have agency in group living and activities, taking on responsibility and building self-confidence, resilience and life skills.

We introduce young people to the wonders of nature, experiencing some of Australia's most unique and iconic natural landscapes; hiking in the alpine region, paddling the Snowy River, or traversing Western Australia's Walpole coastal wilderness area and beyond.

Our community values diversity and inclusion. We seek to walk with First Nations people, and recognise their custodianship of the land. We live these values from our Board to our field crew, and in how we work together with young people on our programs.

Outward Bound carefully navigates risk, understanding its relationship with reward in adventurous outdoor activities. Our crew are professionals, and our practices managed to fulfil our duty of care - physically and emotionally.

We know Outward Bound makes a powerful difference to a young person's life and contributes to a better future for Australia.



SOLUTIONS FOR A YOUNG GENERATION UNDER PRESSURE

The transition from child to adult has always presented challenges, but for this generation, new pressures are compounding in this rite of passage. Anxiety, mental health issues, school refusal and substance addictions are increasing, with worrying trajectories. Schools, health providers and families are struggling to find solutions within the constraints of institutional structures and norms.

Outward Bound provides a pragmatic solution to help address these challenges.



Digital Detox

Time away from social media and technology assists participants to connect with each other, themselves and the outside world.



Relationships

Developing real relationships with other young people, through shared experiences and meaningful conversations, practicing teamwork and leadership, and making new friends.



Immersion in nature

There are wonderful health benefits from connecting with the awe and wonder of our natural environment.



Independence

Time away from the pressures and complexity of family and school, with the freedom to just be you.

While we are no panacea, there is a comprehensive body of research supporting the efficacy of our programs.*

**see <https://www.outwardbound.net/our-impact/>*



OUR IMPACT



“Outdoor education responds to a deep-seated need amongst young people for **connection with peers and with nature**. It achieves this by building relationships in close contact, using means that go beyond the everyday concerns with social media and environmental crisis that plague our contemporary lives. **Outdoor education builds friendships** through the shared adventures that young people undertake in more natural environments, introducing them to the Australian bush, its beauty and its harshness, all in situations managed by caring adults.

To experience the Australian outdoors with people you must work with to achieve something of value, that is the strength of outdoor education. The learning that is enabled stays with someone for a long time, **impacting the lives of participants and others around them**. The more we can support the young people of Australia, in all their diversity, to experience the learning available in outdoor education, the more we can **grow Australia as a healthy nation.**”

—Professor John Quay, University of Melbourne, Faculty of Education

Social Return on Investment

In 2024, Outward Bound International partnered with Accenture Development Partnerships to conduct a **Social Return on Investment (SROI)** analysis to estimate the impact of Outward Bound’s programs measured against the cost to deliver.

The SROI quantifies the **global economic, social and environmental** value that Outward Bound generates for every dollar spent, revealing the **transformative & rippling impact of Outward Bound programs**.

\$9

of social value is created for every \$1 invested into Outward Bound

Outward Bound Growth & Impact

The **Outward Bound Outcomes Survey** is a statistically validated and reliable measurement tool used on our programs. Ongoing analysis of the data collected shows significant evidence of growth in: resilience, self-confidence, compassion, social competence and environmental responsibility.



WHY WE NEED YOU

The devastating bushfires of 2019-2020 shocked Australians and the world, but for Outward Bound, the effects were profound.

Around 80% of our program areas were bushfire affected, with many areas remaining closed for more than a year. These environmental challenges were compounded by the effects of COVID-19, with many camps cancelled, and lockdowns preventing participants from coming on our programs.

Since then, Outward Bound has been in a transformational phase, with a *Reimagining Outward Bound* strategy. Much has been achieved; getting back out into the bush, renewing our equipment and facilities and repairing our balance sheet.

But there is more to be done, and that is why **we need your help** to build our capacity and grow and diversify our opportunities to **support all young Australians**.



Tharwa Campus Communal Centre Building Fund

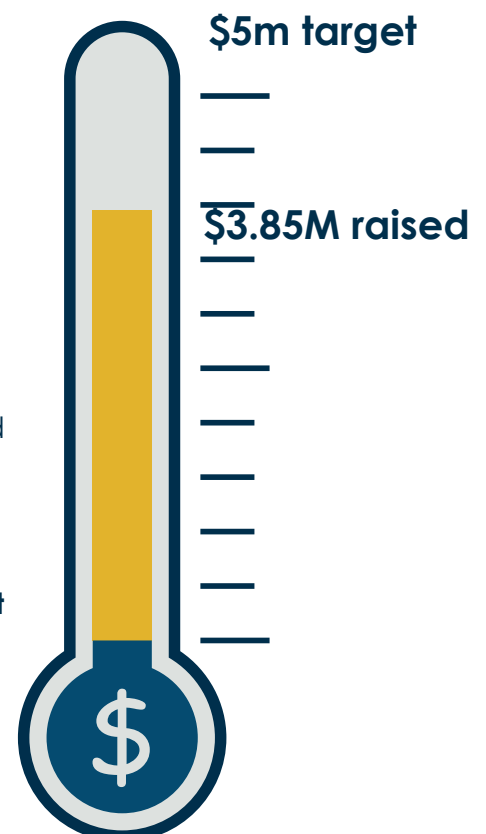
A new \$5m Communal Centre at our base in Tharwa is the critical missing piece in the campus development strategy, housing an indoor/outdoor dining and event space for 140 people, including a new kitchen and administration office facilities. OBA will be investing \$1.4m into the new centre and will need to raise a further \$1.2m by the end of 2025.

This will enable us to increase our capacity and utilisation of the Tharwa Campus to achieve our goal of 20,000 participant days across 100 programs per annum by 2030.



Community Programs for disadvantaged Australians

We require growth in our funding for community programs and individual scholarships for programs to support disadvantaged young Australians. We want to walk closely with First Nations people, supporting communities with bespoke programs and scholarships for young First Nations Australians.



THARWA CAMPUS COMMUNAL CENTRE

Outward Bound at Tharwa A new vision as an Outdoor Learning Campus

A stone's throw from Canberra, on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River and the doorstep of the mountains, Tharwa has been our home since 1978. Our 11 hectare property was set up with 'make do' facilities to house our staff and equipment and provide a national base from which to support our expeditions.

Nearly 50 years later, in the wake of the Black Summer bushfires and COVID, we realise it is time to re-imagine our home at Tharwa, fulfilling its potential as an outdoor learning campus. The vision is to transform the site, expanding our outdoor adventure experiences with hands-on bushcraft activities and improved campsite facilities. It will offer cabin accommodation to extend the inclusivity of Outward Bound's reach and create more resilient options when climatic conditions are severe.

A masterplan developed in 2021 by award winning Sally Draper Architects and TCL Landscape Design provides the blueprint for the site. Already over the last 2 years we have invested \$1.5m in refurbishing the old farm sheds to become an inspiring learning space as bushcraft workshops for our participants, including an indoor function centre and a woodfire pizza-making oven. We have also created a new logistics & vehicle hub for our gear, equipment and catering, upgraded toilet and shower amenities, and renovated our program operations office.

Our New Communal Building

The new Communal Building will become the heart of the campus for Outward Bound participants, crew and the broader community. It will be the central gathering point for meals, events and end of program celebrations. It will also host the National Centre for Outdoor Risk and Readiness (NatCORR), an Outward Bound initiative to help the outdoors sector to prepare for the impacts of climate change. The Communal Building will serve as a catalyst for connection, dialogue and shared experience, fostering community, collaboration and engagement with the environment.

Design for new building



Building Design

The building design and orientation embraces the bush landscape views in two directions, looking out to Mt Tennent and the beckoning ranges, and opening vistas to engage with the bushland outdoor activity areas towards the Murrumbidgee River. The design features rustic natural materials, textures and earthy colours that blend with the bush and are respectful of the land as Ngunnawal and Ngambi Country. The galvanised iron pavilion form reflects inspiration from the iconic historic woolsheds that adorn neighbouring properties.

The building will be composed of three linked pavilions: a main central pavilion providing a large dining and events space with integrated indoor and outdoor decks accommodating up to 140 people; a welcome reception area and smaller meeting rooms and administration space; and kitchen and amenities forming the third pavilion. The separate pavilions allow for flexible use zones and enables the building to nestle within the landscape.

This new Communal Building will replace the small (capacity 60), sterile dining facilities in the current 'admin block', that began life as a mining demountable in the 1960s. It is the most pivotal, largest cost part of the transformation. It will **enable us double participant capacity for programs** in the ACT, including better utilising the Tharwa campus in the cold winter months.

With the new Communal Centre operational by 2026, **our goal is to annually host 6,000 participants, by reaching 20,000 participant days across 100 programs by 2030.** This materially expands Outward Bounds reach and impact in a tangible, long-lasting way. The building planning and design is near completion and we are aiming for our partner Ethical Construction Projects to commence construction in early 2025. With \$3.85m funding secured towards the total \$5m building cost, we are on the cusp of realising this project, if we can meet our fundraising goals.

We need your support!

Goals for 2030



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Providing Outward Bound programs for *all* young people is some of the most important and rewarding work that we do

Currently, we provide scholarships for around 50 young people each year to participate in our public-entry programs. Scholarship recipients come with diverse backgrounds, including learning difficulties, mental health issues, family breakdowns, cultural disadvantage, and remote, rural or low socio-economic communities.

Each year we also run a number of bespoke Community Programs, designed for special needs young people in partnership with our amazing community partners. This includes:

- Young men at risk programs with **Menslink**
- Children in foster care with **Mirabel**
- Sight impaired young people with the **Guide Dogs**
- Youth development for refugees with **Creating Chances**
- Veteran's family programs with **Sydney Legacy**
- Acquired brain injury programs with **STEPS**

We aim to raise \$250,000 each year to support our Community Programs for disadvantaged Australians. The testimonials from our community supported participants are heart warming illustrations of the impact these programs can have.



"One of the most valuable lessons I learned from the program was the importance of **leaning into vulnerability** and **asking for help when needed**. By embracing this, we open ourselves up to **growth, empathy and authentic connection with others**."

-Participant, Outward Bound leadership program



Community Programs for disadvantaged Australians

Our Community Programs are the heart of what we do at Outward Bound. Every young Australian deserves the chance to participate and shine with Outward Bound. But we can only do this with the generous support of individuals and organisations. **We need your support!** Contact us to find out how you can make a difference in the life of a young Australian.



Walking alongside First Nations people with bespoke programs and scholarships for young Indigenous people

When we, as outdoor educators, introduce our participants to outdoor places, we do so in a way that shows a deep respect and care for the land. Acknowledgement of country means taking a longer, more careful look, towards the people whose country this is. While our participants visit these places to undertake their outdoor education journeys, longer journeys continue amongst the people who live here. These longer journeys are those of farmers, growers, rangers and many others. But the longest journeys are those of the First Nations people whose lives have long been intertwined with these places in cultural and familial ways.

Despite the disruptions of bushfires and COVID, we continue to run bespoke programs and provide individual scholarships to contribute to the leadership journey of young First Nations people. These program experiences build self-confidence, resilience and interpersonal relationships – and are fun!

We have learnt that programs for young First Nations people are most successful when we work closely with First Nations community organisations, to design experiences aligned with needs, and spend time in building relationships prior to heading out on program. Our partners include:

- Clontarf Foundation
- Follow the Dream and Polly Farmer Foundation
- Sydney Aboriginal Family Support Service
- Kirrawee Aboriginal Corporation
- Moree SHAE Academy
- AIME - Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience



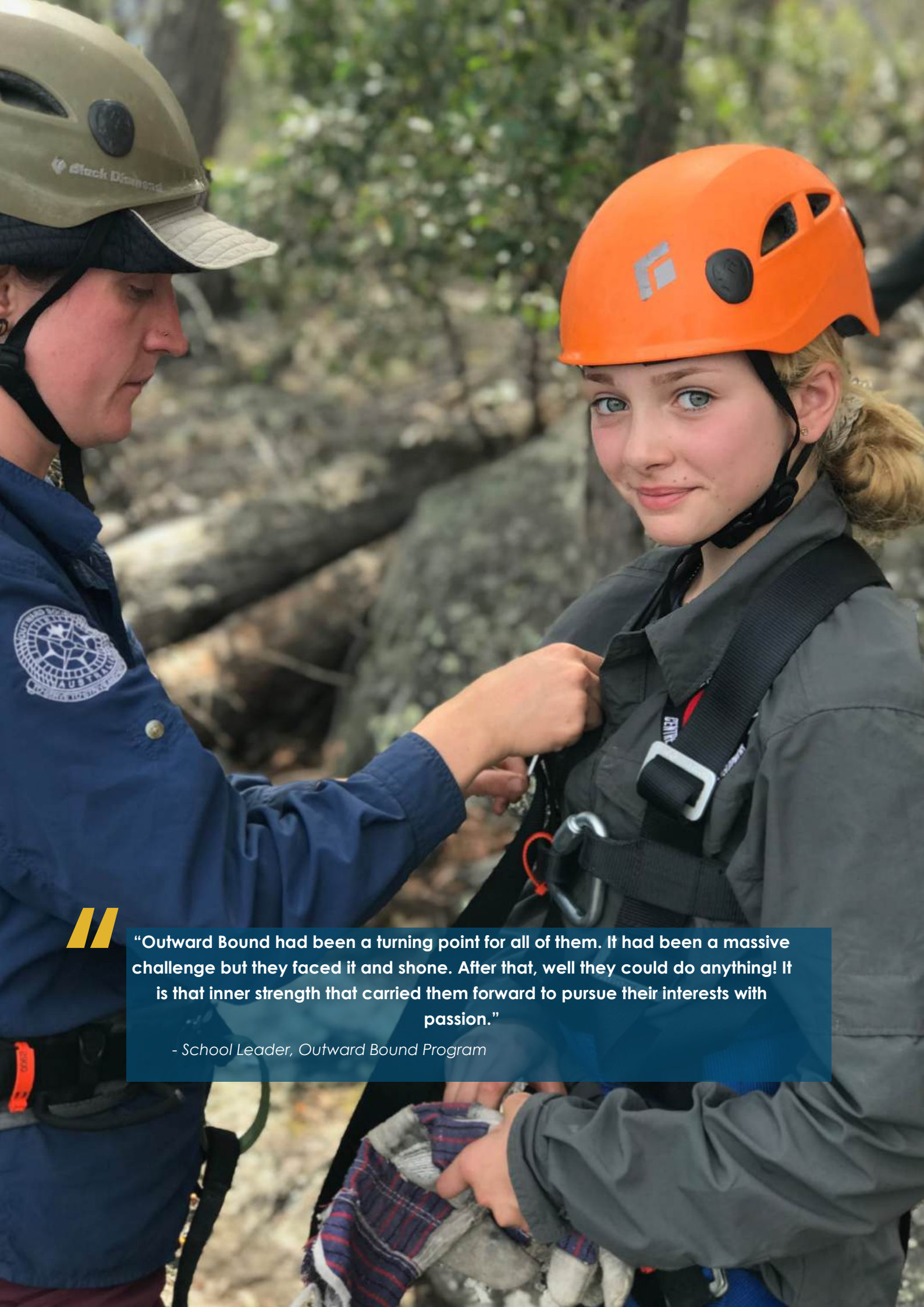
Your support makes a difference

We aim to strengthen these partnerships, and with fundraising support, to grow the number of programs and scholarships for young Indigenous people to participate in. **But we need your help!** Contact us to sponsor a program with one of our community partners, or a participant on a life-changing Indigenous program.

"Our challenge is to **hear these voices, listen to these cultures, and to seek ways of acknowledging their existence and importance in our relationships**, in our work, in our programs. We accept the invitation issued in the Uluru Statement to walk with First Nations people in a movement of the Australian people for a better future".

-Loren Miller, Co-Chair and CEO





“Outward Bound had been a turning point for all of them. It had been a massive challenge but they faced it and shone. After that, well they could do anything! It is that inner strength that carried them forward to pursue their interests with passion.”

- School Leader, Outward Bound Program

WHAT OUR SUPPORTERS HAVE TO SAY



"We were delighted to be Patrons of Outward Bound Australia. Outward Bound brings out the best in people. They empower and challenge participants to reach beyond their limits. They nurture and encourage leaders - which is as vital today as it was 80 years ago when Outward Bound began. We are particularly attracted to the sense of community - once you participate in Outward Bound you are part of a local, national and international group of like-minded individuals. We both look forward to being part of and supporting that community as Patrons."

Former Governor General of Australia



Outward Bound Patrons: His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley



"The Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation's 60th anniversary celebrated VFFF's long standing partnership with Outward Bound. Over their long history, Outward Bound has demonstrated leadership in the outdoors sector, paving the way and staying true to purpose, providing young people with opportunities to grow through adventure learning outdoors. Outward Bound's expertise, passion and track record in delivering life-impacting experiences make them a trusted partner."

Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation



"The Potential Unlimited Program deliberately placed them in an unfamiliar environment that would safely challenge them physically and cognitively and ask them not only to learn about themselves but to trust others as they worked to become a team. It required a leap of faith. The program has been a turning point for participants, it has given them confidence in their capabilities, a willingness to explore new opportunities, an ability to trust others, and has allowed them to find the words to express themselves and their injury and define what it is important to them."

Potential Unlimited Program - Queensland Government



Queensland
Government



WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP



Donate

Donate to our Tharwa campus Communal Centre building campaign, a priority funding need critical to make this building a reality.

OR

Sponsor a scholarship or community program for disadvantaged young people.



Advocate

Let others know we need help. Share Outward Bound's story loudly and proudly to funding decision-makers, philanthropists, or someone you know who values what we do.



Join Us

Do you know a young person who might be interested in an Outward Bound program? We'd love to have them join us on one of our public programs.

To Serve
Caring for others and the environment

To Strive
Celebrating new experiences

Learning to Thrive
To live a full and adventurous life





OUTWARD BOUND AUSTRALIA



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