



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

Pam Murray-White has been described as a formidable force, a memorable character and a woman with a vision. Working with the students at Beafield Learning Centre, Pam saw many young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, with challenging home lives and knew there was an opportunity for them to expand their horizons.

Inspired by her own upbringing, Pam knew the benefits of the outdoors, having spent weekends out bush, camping and being amongst nature. She channelled her own experiences of structure combined with adventure, and that is where Operation Flinders was born.

In 1991, the first ever Exercise happened. Holowiliena Station was the setting and with friends from SAPOL, the Army and schools, a modest yet well planned program was developed. By using borrowed goods and repaired items, the infrastructure of the program was modest yet essential.

All young people arrived on one day, creating a flurry of activity amongst the volunteers. There was excitement in the air and a curiosity of what was going to happen next.



Pam never got to see her beloved Operation Flinders too far into the future as she passed in 1995. As we celebrate the 30th year of Operation Flinders, we reflect back on the challenges, the evolutions and most importantly the people who have made it happen.

We dedicate this edition of Thinking of Eagles to Pam. To her legacy, her passion and her spirit which lives in every young person who has completed the program.

2021

In 1993 I first met Pam Murray-White and became involved in Operation Flinders. Pam was totally devoted to establishing a program to challenge young people in a remote outback environment. Pam was a remarkable person who encouraged the best from everyone who came into her presence. Leading by example Pam was instrumental in establishing an organisation that to this day could not exist without volunteers.

Pam would network to involve all manners of people volunteering their own time and organisations such as SAPOL & the Army to donate both their time and resources to the program. Often, I found Pam using her own credit card to buy the basic necessities and using her own vehicle on a daily basis to run the program. Even with poor health, Pam continued to run the program up to the day she passed. Running an extensive program relying on volunteers and donations, was a challenge in itself, let alone the difficulties of running an extensive operation in the remote Flinders Ranges. Volunteers from far and wide to this day still venture long distances to support the program. For this we are forever grateful.

Mark Thomas (Thommo)

Greetings from the Chair

The start of 2021 began with a flurry of activity, with a lot of ground to make up from the challenges of 2020. The year began with the preparation and launch of many new initiatives in the form of programs, events, staff and diversity of services and all within the context of the Foundation being in its 30th year.

This year we welcomed the beginning of the fee for service offering - using our knowledge, expertise and equipment for corporates, youth organisations and schools to experience a customised program with us. This offering was developed to meet a need in the community and to create another income stream for the Foundation to ensure its ongoing financial stability.

Another exciting addition to the Foundation has been the much anticipated Individual Referral Program. For many years we have only been able to support young people who attend schools and agencies officially registered with the Foundation, leaving many young people of South Australia with no opportunity to receive help. We are now able to take on young people and support them through a clinically structured 12 week program, ensuring the best support possible. The program is now up and running and thanks to our supporters at BankSA, we will be welcoming our first team of young people from a diverse background in late July.

With these expanded opportunities and programs, we have welcomed more staff members into the team. I sincerely thank all staff for their commitment, dedication and support of one another.

The infrastructure at Yankaninna has continued to be maintained and developed, with the period between the 2020 season and the 2021 season used to refurbish and repair vital assets that support our programs. We thank all of our sponsors, supporters and volunteers who have all had a part in these endeavours to ensure the facilities are safe and maintained for the young people.

As we step into 2021, we not only look to the future, the changes and additions to the Foundation but also the history and tradition of the last 30 years. On behalf of the Board members, I would like to acknowledge our Founder, Pamela Murray-White and the legacy that she would be so proud of all these years later. Her vision lives through every volunteer, staff member and young person and will continue to do so into the future.

I would like to offer my appreciation and thanks to all sponsors and supporters of our cause. Without the ongoing dedication to the Foundation by these contributors, we would not be able to run our program and help transform the lives of young people.

This year we will welcome our 9,000th young person into the program and I would like to thank everyone that has been involved over the past 30 years for their support, passion and playing their part in allowing us to reach this significant milestone.

With thanks and appreciation.

Rob Stobbe
Chair, Operation Flinders



2021 EXERCISES SO FAR



185 Participants
across 2 Exercises

Average age of
participant - 15



Most common risk
factor - family
dysfunction





Come on Desert Girls, we've got this!

Perspective can be a wonderful tool out in the field, especially when it comes to reflecting on what has been accomplished in any given timeframe, and to measuring success as a team. It can be key to resetting attitude, to setting that next goal.

The girls from Aboriginal Family Support Services in Coober Pedy were a bunch of shy, quiet achievers. They may not have walked quickly, but they walked far. After a gruelling 21km walk on day two of the Exercise, the girls arrived exhausted into camp – well after darkness – their packs hanging heavy off their backs. Morale and motivation were at a low-point. Those 21km were a hard slog.

The next morning we shuffled away from camp, having emptied a collective 10kg of extraneous gear from our packs, ready for another challenging day in the Flinders Ranges. Several members of Tango 3 excelled at the abseil stand, scaling the cliff face multiple times, their energy revived. An incoming Team Leader was so impressed by word of their efforts that he sought permission to quote their performance to his team of reluctant, nervous boys. That was before he'd even heard anything about the girls' mammoth 21km walk on day 2. "You are JOKING?" he exclaimed, leaning forward, saucer-eyed. "No way!"

They nodded at him shyly, their big brown eyes shining with pride while he marvelled at the route marked on their map. He let them know that their efforts had set them head and shoulders above the toughest of the boys teams out there in the field at that time.

Well, then.... Weren't we suddenly just the greatest team? Those 21kms we'd walked set our motivation for the remainder of the Exercise: "Come on Desert Girls, we've got this!" was the war cry from the front of the pack when the going once again got tough.

Day 5 happened to be Mother's Day. Tango 3 spent some quiet reflection time up at Moonbeam's Vision with some watercolour paints and paper. The extraordinary beauty of the individual landscapes painted that day also bore witness to the power of perspective. And not just the variance born from individual points-of-view, either, but from a fathomless cultural dimension.



Katherine Nugent, Team Leader
Exercise 1 – AFSS Coober Pedy

"The next morning we shuffled away from camp, having emptied a collective 10kg of extraneous gear from our packs, ready for another challenging day in the Flinders Ranges"

Katherine Nugent, Team Leader



Wellbeing Officer Has Landed

It was a wet and windy exercise, with the usual hum of activity at Base interrupted by occasional downpours with a rush to hide under cover – a luxury not available to the 10 teams in the field. While every Exercise presents a unique challenge to the young people, walking and camping out in the rain can make it even more difficult. Luckily, those challenges are well-managed by our skilled and experienced Team Leaders and Assistant Team Leaders. When the challenge became too much, as it did for one young person, we were able to deploy our Wellbeing Officer, Tabby, to assist. With years of experience working with young people going through difficulties, Tabby was able to comfort and reassure the young person, empowering them to keep walking and complete the Exercise.

A role which is new to the Foundation, this specialised role allows young people to have a focused approach on mental health. While they are aided by paramedics, the Wellbeing Officer can be called out to events that may occur in the field of a completely different nature, requiring that specialised knowledge in mental wellbeing.

Brendan Raets, Supernumerary
Exercise 2

A Reflection From David

Sitting in the mess at Yankaninna after another hearty meal and excellent conversation with others, I feel another wave of pride at being a small part of a wonderful team. Again I sat with a person with a great life story and learned of what I suspect was great commercial success cloaked by typical Operation Flinders modesty and humbleness. This is against a backdrop of seeing another team of volunteers absolutely committed to providing an experience for all participants, young and mature alike, to enhance their future.

Over the last few weeks alone I have been privileged to witness the passion so many have for the Foundation through the Strategic Planning process where every aspect of the organisation was represented in creating a plan for the future that will detail how we aim to be sustainable, provide more services to the young people of Australia and fully utilise the expertise we have gathered to create a business that exists to enhance young lives.

The experience of a visitor weekend was fascinating for the way in which everyone, from cooks to those at abseil and base camp, logistics to command staff all unite and appreciate the enormous value in having people visit Yankaninna and see for themselves what we all boast about openly. Having the back to back visitor trips was very demanding on all the roles mentioned, creating challenges everyday, but again the manner in which problems were solved and all volunteers absorbed the pressures and put the facility and program in such a positive light was amazing to watch.

And then not so recently on one day there was a Board meeting, early morning, hosted by a generous Board member followed up by SANTOS hosting some of our volunteers in a corporate suite at Adelaide Oval. We were asked by SANTOS to invite some significant corporate supporters and perhaps Board members. The juxtaposition then of who we actually invited, at the insistence of the Chair of the Board, hasn't been lost. Mixing with them, at the footy, was another great experience with people who didn't know each other but were very aware of the shared heart beat and passion for young people.

But the Board meeting had far greater significance for at the meeting there were two very significant decisions made.

1. Subject to the required clearance of the traditional owners, we will have a high ropes course installed at Yankaninna. To ensure the appropriate people receive due recognition this came about when the challenge of dealing with teams on a reserve list was discussed when the new individual referral teams were first mentioned. So expanding the capacity of the exercise area was the only alternative and Mrs Barty suggested we explore a high ropes course. This will allow more teams to participate in the program with another significant stand to enjoy/endure a 'white knuckle experience'. Part of my education has been to understand that abseil is a critical activity for the inevitable growth that so many feel in conquering their fears and inhibitions. By having another stand with similar traits elsewhere on the property the pressure on abseil is reduced and the opportunity to have six teams on one half of the property rotating through abseil is available to us while six more are on the other half rotating through the high ropes course.

There was a fear that abseil would go from the jewel in the crown to poor relative but with the Board also deciding to have a via Ferrata installed at abseil then there will be two excellent facilities that will challenge all participants and provide facilities to have teams spend several hours getting all the benefits from them that is envisaged.

2. After much consultation with young people, staff and all those who participated in the Strategic Planning process the Board signed off on the new tag line. It has become common knowledge of the young people's loathing of being labelled 'at risk'. We all understand it was never the intent to offend and perhaps an attempt to appeal to government for funding by signalling the intent of assisting young people most likely to be expensive for government to manage. Regardless the terminology was offensive to the very people we are dedicated to support. So with a touch of irony a young person suggested what will be adopted. The adults were locked into some phrasing around inspiring, empowering and giving ambition to, we debated the benefits of having 'young people' in there but the simplicity of the final outcome is pure. Operation Flinders ... one step at a time.

Thank you to all who buy the merchandise, enjoy our coffee beans and support the events. Those who assist funding teams and programs are precious and it really is upon your shoulders we stand. Just as the volunteers lift the organisation those who make the decisions to provide the funding hopefully also get a sense of the way in which lives are transformed through genuine care for every young person whose boots touch our soil.

With appreciation,

David Wark
CEO, Operation Flinders

Proposed high ropes course



Victor Harbor Trip

The first PGM weekend of 2021 was held at Victor Harbor and hosted by long time supporter Vic. One of our biggest PGM trips ever held, over 35 young people enjoyed a weekend of activities across the Victor Harbor region.

The young people were split into 4 teams, each enjoying a circuit of activities - kayaking, mountain biking, abseiling off the bluff and fitness session. These activities focused on different disciplines from patience, team work, fitness and endurance and resilience.

During the mornings, the PGMs enjoyed their time on the farm, feeding calves, fishing for yabbies and exploring the property. In the evenings, the young people took part in bush cooking, night navigation and 'campfire time'.

The weekend was accompanied by one of the largest support teams of volunteers we have had on a PGM trip, who travelled far and wide in order to facilitate the activities in such a large group.



PGMs at Vic's farm, Victor Harbor



Bush Camp

The PGM program gained 104 new members in 2020. Pre COVID-19 we held a paddle weekend, kayaking through the Coorong and a day at Woodhouse Activity Centre. Once COVID-19 restrictions came in we had to cancel our ANZAC Day event, employment weekend and Yankaninna week, but we kickstarted an online 'COVID Edition' program.

This saw challenges posted each fortnight for PGM's to complete; record a distance walk, cook a 3-course canned meal for your family, volunteers' recognition by posting a photo saying thanks and pitch a fundraising plan. The pitch a plan saw 20 entries, with one being a Colour Challenge by Tahlia. Operation Flinders has now used this idea to incorporate into a fundraising opportunity for schools in 2021.



program

OPPORTUNITY, EXPLORATION AND LEADERSHIP FOR YOUTH.



Four PGMs ready for their first walk as mentors

PGM's Back in the Field

One of the proudest moments for anyone in the Operation Flinders family is to witness the insertion of Peer Group Mentors back into the field. Once a young person completes their walk as a participant, they can enter the Peer Group Mentor program and choose to head back in order to support young people.

The roll of a PGM during an Exercise is to sit within the leadership team. A team is made up of ten participants, an Assistant Team Leader and Team Leader. Positioned between the participants and the adults is the PGM. This role provides an important bridge between the participants and others.

In order for a PGM to qualify to re-enter the field, they must commit to a number of particular PGM activities, show leadership qualities fit for the field and a level of maturity which would serve well in a team dynamic.

On Exercise 1, we saw four dedicated PGMs head out with their teams for 8 days. We are thrilled of their achievements and are very proud of their accomplishments within their teams.



Yankaninna Week

Did you know that the participants of Operation Flinders never get to see base camp?

The PGMs were invited to take part in with much sought after 'Yankaninna Week' in April, where they had the opportunity to finally see base camp - the nerve centre of all Exercises.

The PGMs took part in daily treks, navigation activities, an overnight camp and assisted in projects to assist in maintaining the property such as fence repairing and cleaning out buildings.

This week was essential in learning about the property, the operations of an Exercise and was imperative in building confidence in navigation in the field.



PGMs on top of Mt Rose



Fence repair during Yankaninna Week

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

An Evening to Celebrate 30 Years of Operation Flinders

It was an evening not to be missed. The 30 Year Celebration was held at the Adelaide Zoo, amongst the trees, on the central lawns where 200 guests enjoyed an evening only to be felt if you were there. It was truly a reunion, a celebration and a reflection on the past of the Foundation and where we are heading.

The evening started with John Lochowiak, a Kurna Elder who welcomed us to Country. A fitting link to the importance of the Indigenous people and culture to the Foundation. Master of Ceremonies was Geoff Tattersall, a member of the Foundation family for over 25 years. We were joined by His Excellency, the Honorable Hieu Van Le AC and his wife, Mrs Le who are both enthusiastic supporters.

Annie Bainger shared an incredible poem called 'Part-Time Heroes', honouring the volunteers, past and present. We welcome Chloe, current Peer Group Mentor who shared her story of growth and resilience through the program and her future plans.

Special guests for the evening included Karmen Conway, daughter of Pam Murray-White. Her speech reflected on the 'early days' where her mum would operate the preparation of an Exercise from their back shed at home and when everything was obtained by being 'begged and borrowed'. Her story of Pam showed the strength and determination of a woman who had a vision to help young people - the ones that may have fallen through the cracks - who's full potential may never have been discovered if it weren't for 'those 8 days in the bush'.

The evening was finalised by a video sharing the stories of Pam Murray-White, the challenges and triumphs and what she would say today if she were here. As the lights dimmed, and the crowd gazed at the screen, a surprise only known by very few, formed right of stage.

As two spot lights appeared, out of the silence came a strum of a guitar - Hallelujah. A team of past participants from Tyndale Murray Bridge started singing. Out of the silence guests could hear the starting line from an 18 year old singing in his native tongue, Swahili. The second verse was sung by another - but in Mauri. As the song rolled out across the zoo, the tears fell from everyone's eyes, filled with pride and reflection of how far the Foundation has come...Hallelujah.

PGM Chloe with Brendan Raets



John Lochowiak - welcome to country



PGM Tanlia performing





CELEBRATING 30 YEARS



Pam Murray-White Award

Pam passed away in 1995, after seeing her beloved Operation Flinders grow over a challenging 4 years. Since then over 8,500 young people have benefitted from the program and will continue to into the future. The Pam Murray-White Award was created as a symbol of acknowledgement to the most improved team on an Exercise. This award is not handed out so easily though.

The Pam Murray-White Award may not even be handed out annually - only to be presented when a team that represents the beauty within transformative stories comes along.

Through an arduous process, a Team Leader will submit a recommendation in written form to the Exercise Commander. The Exercise Commander then reviews this and then puts this recommendation forward to the CEO who then speaks to the leaders within that team to hear more about their transformation. From here, the Team Leader and the Support Staff members at the school are notified in writing that they are to receive this huge acknowledgement.

In May 2021 the Foundation had the privilege of presenting the team from Clare High School with this award. Having taken part on an Exercise in 2020, the team proudly accepted this acknowledgement in a room filled with sponsors, supporters, community members and proud parents. A student had said "When I first started out, I was mentally unprepared, maybe my mental health was not good, but over time I realised I was not alone, that we have each other and we can help each other out."

Clare High School has been involved in the program since 2011, with their local supporter Katherine Nugent being a driving force behind the teams funding, support on the ground and source of knowledge for the team. The 2020 team was lead by Team Leader David Smith, Assistant Team Leader David Russell and Supernumerary / Assistant Team leader Michael Cook. The efforts in the school by the Support Staff must be highlighted as a saving grace and driving factor for the team. Support Staff members Jacob Hayes and Rebekah Holland have always bought their teams together in immaculate form.



Pam Murray White Award recipients, Clare High School

The Clare High School team have had amazing support through the chapter which is made up of several organisations and businesses who work hard throughout the year in order to fund these young people.

Thank you to Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council, Grosset Gaia Fund, Clare Districts Lions Club, Rotary Club of Clare and Kade MacDonald Foundation, for supporting the young people in your community.

We congratulate all teams who have previously received this prestigious award and the Foundation looks forward to presenting this to many more teams in the future.



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

Remembering Moolooloo

It was 1994 and my first adventure to Moolooloo Station in the Flinders Ranges. How far could it be? I knew where Quorn and Hawker were – what is this place they call Moolooloo? On we drove past Hawker onto a dirt road and then a dirt track arriving at the old shearers quarters with a wood fired stove a “donkey” for hot showers but full of old school ambience and character.

It was a couple of hard day’s work as the Team Leaders (no pre-advance or ATL’s) unloaded all the camp stores. One group of Team Leaders delivered camp stores to the West the other to the East. No GPS then and it was a case of the Team Leaders finding and creating campsites on the run. With only a single 4x4 and perhaps a trailer going in each direction. The rations box was a cardboard box smaller than our white tubs, maybe a couple of water jerries (for ALL the teams coming through). There was only 2 litres per person per day – If they needed more it was sourced locally from water holes or other survival methods.

Navigation skills were put to the test with compass, resections, pacing and a sharp pencil using 4 x local 1:50,000 maps that each Team Leader would have to cut and join them self. All 7 teams would arrive on the same day with Team Leaders often making their own way to their start point.

The abseil was staffed by SAPOL “Starlies” who camped onsite at Hannigans Gap cooking the BBQ for each team. The indigenous preserved experience was by Uncle Jeffery, carving boomerangs and telling dreaming stories. And Nuccaleena, an old copper mine with eclectic old miners living there, showing the “younguns” how to make traps and other survival skills, then go in search of buried treasure and an adventure into the old mine shaft using “storm-king lanterns” which the participants would have to make with old fruit tins and candles.

All 7 teams would complete their exercise on the last day - pity the last Team Leader waiting for the presentation. It was then all hands-on deck for the cleaning and pack up. Team Leaders would be accountable for every item issued to the participants, there was NO redundancy at all.

Then it was off to the “Prairie” – a far different place than it is today. An “un-official yet formal dinner” complete with being bag-piped into the dining room and protocols of the day. Traditions that have gone as new ones evolve but still with the same outcome for the participants.

Mark Thomas (Thommo)



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

Angel of the Flinders

Extracted from a speech by Karmen Conway, daughter of Pam Murray-White

A short time before Mum passed, Lew, our Op Flinders resident bushie wrote "Angel of the Flinders". As much as the words were written as a tribute to Moonbeam, they remain so relevant today and as such, with Lew's blessing (all the way from Canada) I will recite in part the song to you now.

She came to the Flinders
To the ranges of the Flinders
A lady with a dream
Determination in her stride

She fought them in the city
In the halls of the city
She said give me your children
I'll give them some pride

So hey Mr Business man
Give me some money
Governor, can you help?
Would you spare me some time?

We've got to save the children
We'll take them to the Flinders
We'll help them if we can
We'll show them the way

People started coming
Bringing others on the way
All on a mission
And it's working today.
Don't stop working for the children
Please keep working for the children
Your visions are the visions of many

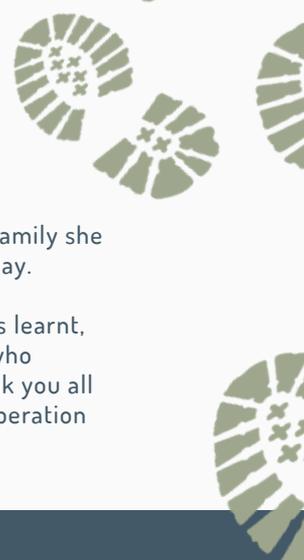
Yes she came to the Flinders
To the ranges of the Flinders
A lady with a dream
Friends by her side

The children are home
The streets are empty
Mothers stopped crying
Surely it's a dream

It's the dream of a lady
One hell of a lady
So lets all dream as one
Come on and get the job done
Yes we'll take them to the Flinders
To the ranges of the Flinders
We'll show the way
We'll help them if we can.

The people are still coming
Bringing others on their way
All on a mission
And it's still working today.

Moonbeam could never have imagined that the family she formed 30 years ago would be standing here today. Celebrating every young person's steps on Adnyamathanha Country, celebrating the lessons learnt, celebrating the successes, celebrating a family who remain committed to making a difference. I thank you all for sharing in the dream and being part of the Operation Flinders Family.



*Angel of the
Flinders*



EVENTS 2021

Leading Ladies Lunch

To celebrate International Women's Day, Operation Flinders held its annual Leading Ladies Lunch at the Mayfair Hotel.

The key speaker this year was Hitaf Rasheed, who heads up Events South Australia, the events arm of the South Australian Tourism Commission. In her role, she is responsible for growing the calendar of events in South Australia and attracting new events to the State. Furthermore, the Events South Australia team directly manage a number of events including the Santos Tour Down Under, Tasting Australia, Bridgestone World Solar Challenge and the National Pharmacies Christmas Pageant.

We were also joined by Sally, a Peer Group Mentor who returned to an Operation Flinders Exercise in 2020 in order to help other young people. Sally shared her story of moving from a country town to Adelaide to complete her schooling and also the challenges she faced prior to going on an Operation Flinders Exercise.

We were joined by over 60 guests at the luncheon. Thank you to Mayfair Hotel for hosting us.



Richard Harris & Sean Ind



Showcasing Operation Flinders

Showcase SA hosted an exclusive luncheon for its members in January, highlighting Operation Flinders and the impressive people who volunteer with us. Dr Richard Harris, Australian of the Year 2019 was the key speaker who shared his story of the 2018 Tham Luang cave rescue where 'Harry' played an integral role in rescuing members of a junior soccer team who were trapped. This story rippled throughout the world and overnight, made international news.

Since then, Harry has become an integral part of the Foundation community and takes part in Exercises as an Assistant Team Leader. In a room of 90 guests, he shared his meaningful relationship with the Foundation and why it's so important to him to give back to local youth.

Joining Harry to present and answer questions from the room was Peer Group Mentor / past participant Sean Ind, who walked with Harry in 2020 as their PGM. Sean shared insight into his 8 days spent with his team and the stories told around the campfires by an impressive yet very down to earth person. In partnership with Showcase SA, the organisation raised over \$8,000 at the luncheon for the Foundation.

showcasesa.com.au

An Event Not To Be Missed! August 7

Operation Flinders brings to you one of Australia's highly demanded speakers! Marty Heppell will share The Discovering Resilience presentation, based on the following strategies:

- Gratitude - Appreciating what you have, not focusing on what you don't
- Empathy - Thinking of the needs of others and the importance of kindness
- Mindfulness - Being present in the moment, not becoming distracted by negativity

This presentation by Marty Heppell is available to all volunteers of the Foundation.

To attend, please contact us today!



INDIVIDUAL REFERRAL PROGRAM

No Young Person Misses Out

Operation Flinders has always operated through schools, providing teenagers facing adversity with a demanding challenge that builds resilience and self-esteem. However, there are many young people and their families showing interest in our programs who are not associated with a school that is involved with Operation Flinders. These young people have not been able to experience the benefits of what we do and are so passionate about.

To expand our impact and accommodate for the hundreds of people that reach out to us for support a year, we have launched our Individual Referral Program. This program caters to young people who cannot access our core program through schools or other agencies. The program runs for 12 weeks and is centred around our core program, a 100km trek over eight days in the northern Flinders Ranges at Yankaninna Station. Unlike our core program, the Individual Referral Program is only available to young people through individual referrals.

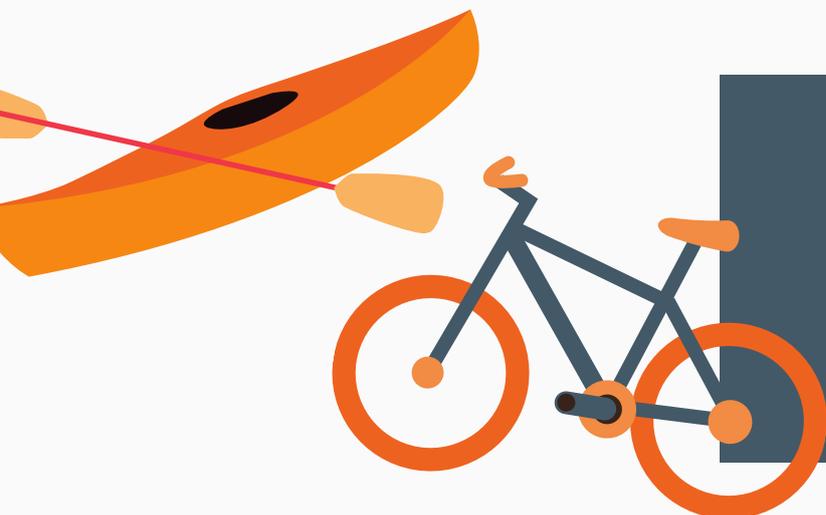
This program is available to young people living in the Greater Adelaide Region who are voluntarily willing to participate in the full 12 weeks. This is a one-day-a-week commitment that allows students engaged in school to continue their studies concurrently. Weekly sessions vary from individual sessions with a personal case worker for support and guidance to overnight camps focussing on overcoming adversity. Participants in the program will have the opportunity to engage in outdoor activities which are guided by the principles of adventure therapy and experiential learning.

We are focussing our efforts on the same cohort of young people that has been proven to benefit from our core program. The idea is to build the relationships amongst the participants and our staff to create a strong sense of team before heading out bush for a once-in-a-lifetime outback adventure. The rest of the Individual Referral Program aims to provide participants with the skills to deal with the challenges of life through the support of positive mentors. This involves exercises and activities which focus on areas such as emotional regulation, self-awareness, and discovering strengths and values.

This year, we will be delivering the program twice. We are well underway with the first Individual Referral Program which started in early June and have already received positive feedback from the participants and their families. As the first individual referral team edges closer to their outback walk, we as an organisation are proud to be expanding our outreach to more and more young people who can benefit from our programs.



Six of the ten IRP Participants on week 2 of the program - team building activity





FEE FOR SERVICE



Fee For Service – Lift Off

As we bounce back from the challenges of last year, we are future-proofing our organisation and offering a wider-scope of services to reach more young people as we move forward. Our core service will always be the 8 day program that young people have taken with us for 30 years in the Flinders Ranges.

At the same time, we know that effective follow up and offering further opportunities for young people to build on the growth they experience at Yankaninna, is essential to keep them moving in a positive direction.

This year we have introduced a number of Fee for Service (FFS) initiatives which will enable us to provide assistance to a wider audience of young people. FFS programs will also help us to further enhance the personal development of PGMs and provide alternative training pathways, while also helping us to boost the responsibility we take to do some of our own fundraising.

So far this year we have established FFS programs such as:

- Individual Referral Program – 10 young individuals, from different backgrounds who would not otherwise be able to participate in the life changing program at Yankaninna.
- Corporate Adventures Days for fun, teambuilding & leadership development
- Camps for NFP organisations such as Legacy Youth who support children who have lost a parent or are living with veterans experiencing PTSD and Holiday Explorers who provide adventure-based holidays for people with intellectual disabilities.
- Cert IV in Outdoor Leadership – 16 soon to be graduates
- School Camps & Outdoor Education – we have had a number of inquiries already and two camps confirmed so far.

From July, we'll be engaging with schools, corporate and NFP organisations to offer PD, team, leadership, outdoor education and well-being programs, using the great outdoors and adventure-based experiential learning.

- Day Adventures
- Camps & Retreats
- Adventurous Journeys
- Leadership Expedition

FFS programs will never replace the generous support we receive from sponsors and donors which enables us to continue developing better services and reaching more people. We continue to appreciate the support of government, corporate partners and fundraising chapters and will keep doing our best to contribute to some of the heavy-lifting with our own fundraising – FFS programs will contribute to this end.



Legacy Youth Camp at Clayton Bay



PART-TIME HEROES

Our volunteers

There is movement at the station when the word has gone around,
That the kids from far and wide are nearly here,
Team Leaders and assistants stand their dusty patch of ground,
Surrounded by the packs and camping gear.

Soon the teams will all disperse across our Yankaninna home,
To build the strengths they never knew they had.
They'll use teamwork, learn to rough it, learn to make it on their own
Far from cities, teachers, phones and Mum and Dad.

They'll be pushed and helped and mentored, they'll return
refreshed and strong.
They'll survive, but never realise just who
Was there before and after them, supporting all along:
A dedicated vast Op Flinders crew.

The ones who made this happen, who made the stars align
To create this web of challenges and thrills
A hidden horde of workers, where you know you're sure to find
A plethora of quite amazing skills.

This formidable army, back in warehouses and schools,
On committees, in the boardroom, in the shed,
Filling boxes, sorting rations, bending metal, bending rules,
And keeping kids on buses, safe and fed.

Up North they set up radios, raise towers, sheds and tanks
Make campsites, lunches, drive a truck or bus
Fill the bulldust holes with gravel, all for very little thanks
From the townies who can only see the dust.

Ladies knitting mascots, for each team must have a bear,
And fellas selling doughnuts at the Show,
Techies, tradies, oh so many join our Men's Shed every year
Yet most of this the kids will never know.

They raise money, they raise spirits, they raise public admiration
They build toilets, they build hopes and yet for most
They do it all for nothing, not for cash nor salutation
They change lives, yet never brag or boast.

This cavalcade of people who for nigh on thirty years
Have gone about this business, helping kids
Have done it for the love of it, for friendship, fun and beers
And could we do without them? Not for quids.

They're the backbone of Op Flinders, the worker bees, the base
Without them Exercises could not run.
They give their time and energy, put all the parts in place
With no ego nor agenda, get it done.

So here's to all our Vollies, who keep us rolling, rain or shine
To those afar and those who sit right here
For we cannot do without them, so my humble little rhyme
Is "To all these part time heroes, Thanks, and Cheers"

By Annie Bainger

Major Yankaninna Projects

*No task is too big
when you have our
team of volunteers
around!*

The start of 2021 saw Yankaninna Station transform once again as our year was kickstarted by a flurry of activity on the property.

Unlike the rush of tasks between Exercises, the start of the year means the larger and 'fiddly' projects are completed.

The Foundation would like to thank all contributors of these projects who provided financial support and / or hands-on volunteer support through the year.

Contingency emergency response planning



Clearing the septic tanks



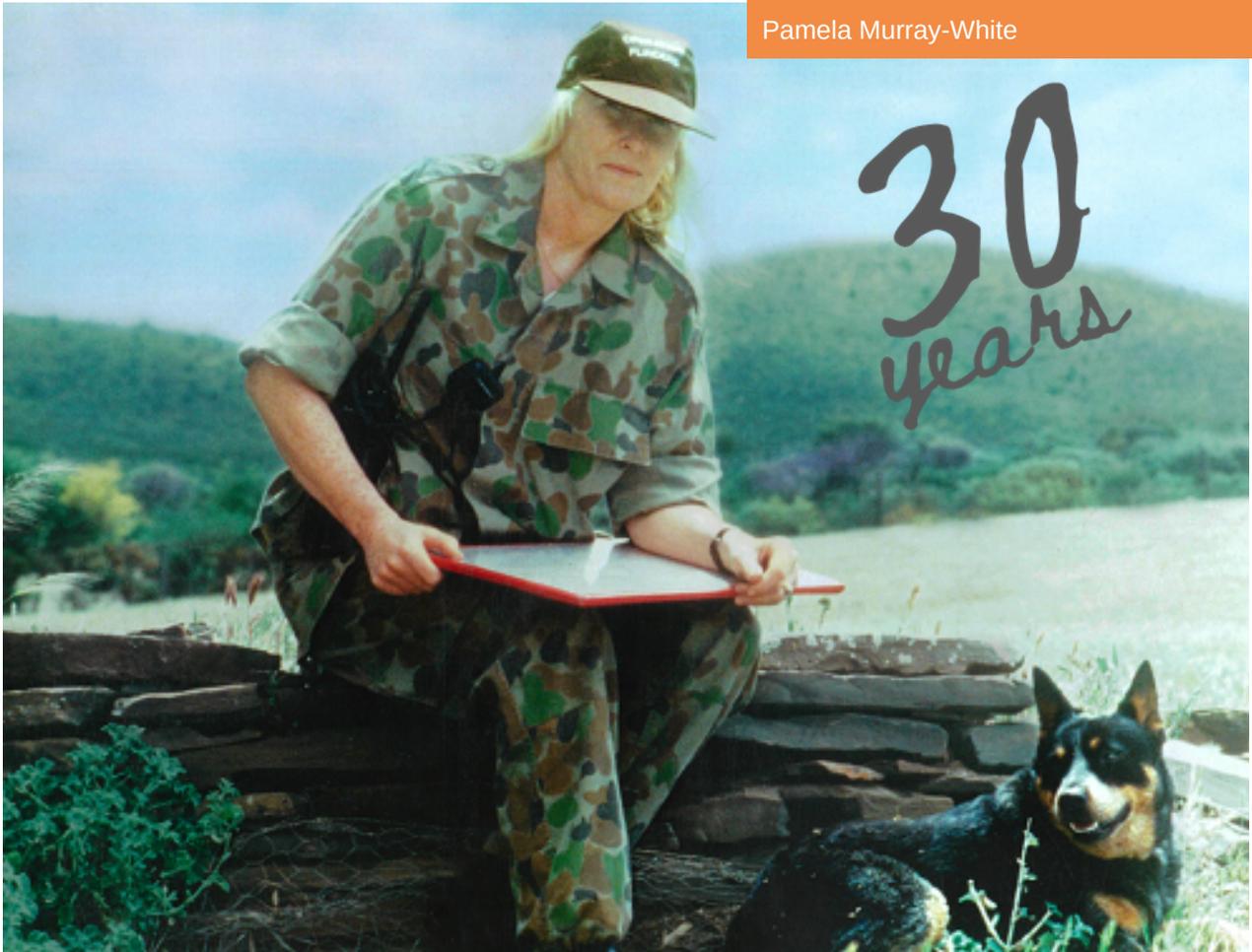
Pantry build complete



New lithium batteries installed in channel 4



Pamela Murray-White



Thank You

