

**OPERATION FLINDERS**  
ONE STEP AT A TIME



THINKING OF

*eagles*

SUMMER 2021

30  
years



Photo by: Sputnik

# 2021

On Exercise 5, there was a team of young people who arrived late on a Thursday afternoon. With that team came great significance. The last boots to hit the red dirt of Yankaninna Station represented the 9,000th young person in the Foundation's 30 year history.

This is a huge achievement and a testament to the hard work and dedication of our volunteers, staff and sponsors over the past 30 years.

As we come to the end of the 30th year of the Foundation we look to the future of the Foundation, focusing on the needs beyond our 8-day core program and how to assist more young people in the community of South Australia.

## A Year To Celebrate

What a year - 2021 offered up some fantastic results for the Foundation but most importantly for the young people. There was never a dull moment at Yankaninna, all meticulously managed by our volunteers. The celebration of the 30th year, our 9,000th young person, changes to the Board and expansion of programs made 2021 one of, if not the biggest year in the history of the Foundation.

The stories from the field are always something we look forward to hearing - transformative stories and journeys of growth and change. Over 5 Exercises, the message this year was clear - this is the one shot these young people have at this. So with all effort from volunteers, staff and supporters, everyone ensured these young people had the best chance possible to succeed.



# Greetings from the Chair



As the new Chair of Operation Flinders, it's with privilege that I write my first official address for this important publication of the Foundation.

The 30th year of Operation Flinders came with challenges of course, mainly caused by the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, but Pam's vision was seen throughout the year in many forms - from the mateship between the 'volleys', the struggles overcome by the participants and the empathy shown by our field volunteers.

Each area of the Foundation saw growth, with new programs being launched, events being introduced and an increased service offering to young people outside the standard clientele. The Individual Referral Program was a project that was only a dream not so long ago and within months, became an outstanding success. The fee for service offerings became popular with more organisations looking to the Foundation for something new for their people. The Foundation looked to the future by analysing the past by adopting a longitudinal data program which will capture information about our participants showing results and influence of the program across several years post-exercise.

The importance of being able to report on the success stories flows into the funding and the ability to quantify the work we do with young people. I am happy to report that Bank SA has provided \$150,000 in funding to the Individual Referral Program and \$49,500 has been provided by National Indigenous Australians Agency to support 3 indigenous teams. The Attorney-General's Department have renewed their contract with the Foundation over two years by providing \$965,000 in funds. At the AGM, myself and David were greeted by past-Chair Rob Stobbe who presented us with a cheque from SA Power Networks for \$100,000. These generous organisations and departments will be part of transforming the lives of more young people thanks to their support.

I would like to acknowledge the Board members who have done an outstanding job this year in their roles not only on the Board but on committees, taking part in events and supporting the staff and volunteers of the Foundation. I wish Janet Leske all the best for the future and with gratitude, congratulate her on her service to the Foundation. Rob Stobbe, previous Chair served on the Board for over 10 years and it is with great appreciation to have served the Foundation next to him.

At the core of the organisation, I would like to give my thanks to the 250 volunteers who with great modesty act in incredible ways for the benefit of the young people. For the hours spent working each day, time away from your families to ensure a common goal is achieved - the best opportunities for young people in our community.



I wish everyone in the Foundation community a safe and joyful festive season and look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Kevin Scarce  
Chair, Operation Flinders

## 2021 NEWS



25 New Assistant Team Leaders

Second group from Individual Referral Team completed their Exercise



Renewal of contract with Attorney-General's Department for \$965,000 over 2 years



# SUCCESS IN THE FIELD

## Tough Men Knit

Exercise 3 was my first walk as a Team Leader and it was fantastic!

As Team Leader, I knew I had an important responsibility to be a role model and show my team what leaders do and don't do. When I met my all-boy team from John Pirie Secondary School, I realised I also had an opportunity to show these boys what it means to be a strong man and what better way to do that than challenge some stereotypes.

I wanted to bust up some stereotypes of what men do and don't do, so I decided to teach the boys how to knit. Suffice to say: this was not well received. Early on in the program, I encountered a lot of resistance and the boys refused to knit. I kept persisting and some of the boys decided to give it a go. Unfortunately, they were mocked by others in the group.

There was one boy who refused to have anything to do with the knitting. When other boys tried knitting, he called them 'nanna'. I sat down with that boy and we talked about what being tough looks like. He agreed that he was pretty tough and that I was also tough. I told him that being tough also comes with the responsibility to be gentle and mindful. I explained that knitting was a gentle, mindful activity.

After our chat, that boy decided to give knitting a go. He did not put the knitting needles down for the rest of the trip. He even asked me for a pair of needles and wool so he could knit on the bus on the way home! He said he was going to visit his Nanna and knit with her.

The boys headed home with a new skill and a new understanding of what toughness really is. Tough men knit!

David Russell, Team Leader  
Exercise 3 - Port Pirie HS

"Being tough comes with the responsibility to be gentle and mindful.  
Knitting is a gentle, mindful activity".



## A Lifetime in Eight Days

Simon Jackson, Team Leader

The Individual Referral Program team was an extraordinary mixed group of individuals who faced their personal challenges by combining physical endurance with time to think within nature's healing environment.

Time spent in creeks with a young traditional owner connecting with country/spirit/ancestors, sand and pebble washing to cleanse the body and soul, clearing the mind, letting go of unneeded thoughts and lightening the emotional load.

Time spent sharing Dreaming stories around the fire and late into the night in sleeping bags from his story book, being able to see the story of the emu play out in the stars above.

Time watching young people happy in reversing the stereotypic roles, the males taking orders and preparing complicated bush pizzas while the females of the group have time to talk freely among themselves and let go of societal expectations.

Time watching the group come together as a collective.

Time to experience the sense of lightness the participants find once they let go of the weight of negativity they carried, much like their backpacks that become lighter as the walk progressed.

Time to be transformed by Operation Flinders.



# EXERCISE 4 AND 5 REFLECTIONS

## All Systems Go At Yankaninna

Exercises 4 and 5 of 2021 presented some of the usual challenges, such as inclement weather, but in typical Op Flinders fashion were completed successfully and with excellent outcomes for the young people who attended. COVID-19 continued to impact both our volunteer availability and attendance of some schools, but despite this we were able to provide a valuable experience to 138 young people from South Australia and 7 from the Northern Territory.

Exercise 4, following closely on from Exercise 3 with only 5 working days between, hosted 8 teams including a challenging but rewarding Department for Child Protection team from Whyalla, a fantastic team from Adelaide East Education Centre, as well as teams from across metro and regional South Australia. Due to volunteer availability constraints, we job-shared the Exercise Commander role, with David Kennedy holding down the fort for the first week, and Andrew Bartlett arriving to take the glory in the second week. Both did an outstanding job, and it was noted how seamless the transition between the two was for those in the field.

Exercise 5 was an interesting exercise, with 9 teams attending, including our second Individual Referral Team, a team from Alice Springs, and a first-time school – Adelaide Botanic High, who, with only a few weeks to get organized, were able to field a full team of 10 young people. I'm sure many stories will come out over the next few months, but the number of medical incidents that were dealt with in the first week is surely going to be added to the unofficial Op Flinders record book – well done to our First Care paramedics in attendance, as well as to the Field Volunteers and Command Team who dealt with the fallout.

Another notable mention goes to David Russell and Kathrin Plant, both relatively new to their roles, with David completing his first Team Leading duties this year, and Kathrin being on her very first walk. They were charged with leading a group of young men from the Northern Territory and did an outstanding job – it was a challenging team but having met them at the end of the exercise I have no doubt that at least a few of them gained something from their experience.

On a personal note, I would like to sincerely thank all those who have stepped up to help whenever I've put the call out this year. It has not gone unnoticed. Here's hoping 2022 brings some 'easier' conditions!

Brendan Raets  
Team Leader - Operations



Tango 7, Exercise 5

*Exercises 4 and 5 of 2021 presented some of the usual challenges, such as inclement weather, but in typical Op Flinders fashion were completed successfully and with excellent outcomes for the young people*

# Greetings from the CEO



Participants from Tango 7, Exercise 5

With the end of another season there is so much to feel gratitude for.

In spite of the multiple challenges we had to deal with all Exercises were completed, hundreds of young people had an unforgettable experience and over 300 volunteers were engaged in the process. In addition to our core program multiple weekends full of activity have been conducted, facilities constructed near and afar, hundreds of people have learned of our work through social events and a fundraiser and a few silly people rode from Adelaide to Yankaninna.

Having our recent AGM, with our new Chair leading us, in a facility that seems purpose built and as though it's always been there, was special for many reasons. The work that went into creating the facility from many volunteers over a few short months will always make that space representative of all that's good about Operation Flinders. Adversity was overcome, solutions were found and in the end a great outcome for hundreds of people to enjoy annually.

As Craig Scott suggested we had a very successful draft with the comings and going of Board members recently. Seasoned veterans and wonderful contributors have departed as a result of the recently introduced limit on tenure. A few months ago Tatts left after retiring from the Chair of the Field Ops Committee. He continues to be a wonderful servant of Operation Flinders and his time on the Board was extremely valuable for his perspective, wisdom and humour. Janet Leske has contributed in numerous ways with her specialist skills in media and PR very useful during her time. Rob Stobbe has been an excellent Chair and he has facilitated an environment that appreciated creativity and sound business practices. The quintessential Chair Rob never interfered with the day to day matters but was always available for advice and guidance. Their replacements on the Board are elite! Our new Chair needs no introduction as the former Governor of our state. Wendy Mazik brings great experience from the field and also her professional career and Grant Stevens has become rightfully known for his enormous contribution to South Australia during some of the more challenging times. We are in good hands.

Our volunteers continue to amaze. Whether it's assessing our IT needs, providing expertise in designing JotForms, dropping everything to get up to Yankaninna at a moment's notice, driving injured participants back to Adelaide, cleaning everything from databases to vehicles and selflessly putting aside ego and identity to compete any task required. It's all done for the participants and knowing they only get one chance to have the wilderness therapy do its magic. We all get to enjoy the beauty of Yankaninna annually, at the very least, and for that alone we need to be very grateful.

Thank you to all who have contributed to a year of successes against the odds.

For the first time we have had an individual referral team and learned much from the 20 young people who entered this program. The high ropes course just needs to be built with the funding sorted and recently we were able to receive some funding to enable the provision of boots for the most disadvantaged participants. It's been a big few months. Now it's all about reviewing, assessing and planning for 2022. The staff are appreciating a little slower pace after a very full September and October but we continue to ride the wave of positive sentiment many of these events created. These are the good times and we are doing everything possible to lay a foundation for future generations to benefit from. I think Pam would be smiling.

David Wark  
CEO, Operation Flinders



# BOARD

## Changes to the Board

In October, Operation Flinders was excited to announce that Rear Admiral The Honourable Kevin Scarce AC, CSC, is the new Chair of Operation Flinders. Kevin has had an impressive career as the previous Governor of South Australia and the Chief Executive Officer of the South Australian Government Defence Unit. Kevin looks forward to working with the staff, volunteers and most importantly the young people of the Foundation.

Kevin will be taking on the role of Chair from Rob Stobbe. Rob was a member of the Board for 10 years, having joined in early 2011. Rob was imperative to the commercial partnerships between the Foundation and several large organisations in South Australia, including SA Power Networks where he is the current Chief Executive Officer. Rob always made his best efforts to be present at events with young people and took a special interest in the Peer Group Mentor Program. We thank Rob for his commitment and dedication to the Foundation.

An addition to the Board is Chief Inspector Wendy Mazik who has the role as an Observer, representing the Field Operations Committee in which she is the Chair of. Wendy has vast experience on Exercises and frequents the role of Exercise Commander. Wendy has a special interest in child protection and has a broad passion for all areas of the Foundation from training to advising on policies and procedures.

South Australian Police Commissioner Grant Stevens is an exciting addition to the Board of the Foundation. He has become one of the most well-known faces and names in the state due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Commissioner Stevens is looking forward to assisting the Foundation through his new role and brings essential knowledge and experience specific to those we strive to help - the young people.

We also acknowledge Janet Leske who recently attended her final meeting as Board Member for the Foundation. Janet joined the Board in late 2014 where she brought her vast experience in media including radio and print. Her knowledge in these areas saw the growth of the Foundations profile. We thank Janet for her work with the young people and her hands-on approach to events and promotion for Operation Flinders.



David Wark, Janet Leske & Rob Stobbe



Rob Stobbe handing CEO David Wark and Chair Kevin Scarce a cheque from SA Power Network at the last Annual General Meeting

# WRITTEN BY PARTICIPANTS

## Letter to Moonbeam

A part of the Operation Flinders Exercise experience is a visit to Moonbeam's Vision - a place where young people learn about Pam Murray-White, her vision and reflect on what it means to them. Many choose to leave a note here. The following handwritten letter was left here by a young person on Exercise 4 for future visitors.

Dear Pam,

Listening to your life story has inspired me beyond anything I can write.

Op Flinders has been an amazing journey - it has pushed me beyond my comfort zone and has shown me that I can do so much more than I ever thought I would be capable of.

As of today - the day I'm writing this - we are on day six and I am finding difficulty with the walk but it has shown me that I can do it, and it gives me hope in the fact that I can achieve so many more things in my life journey.

I want to thank you for creating this program as it has opened my eyes to the wonders of life and has finally showed me how I can be happy. As Simon says, I cannot let the green monster smoking a durry on my shoulder take control of me.

To help others on future Op Flinders journeys, I encourage you to think positive. Thinking positively helps get your mind off of the pain of this amazing journey. This journey has inspired me to go beyond my limits and do things I never thought I would be able to achieve. I have come from a not-so-good background with a not-so-good past but this journey has shown me that there is more to life than the bad stuff.

I need to conclude this - I want to say thank you.

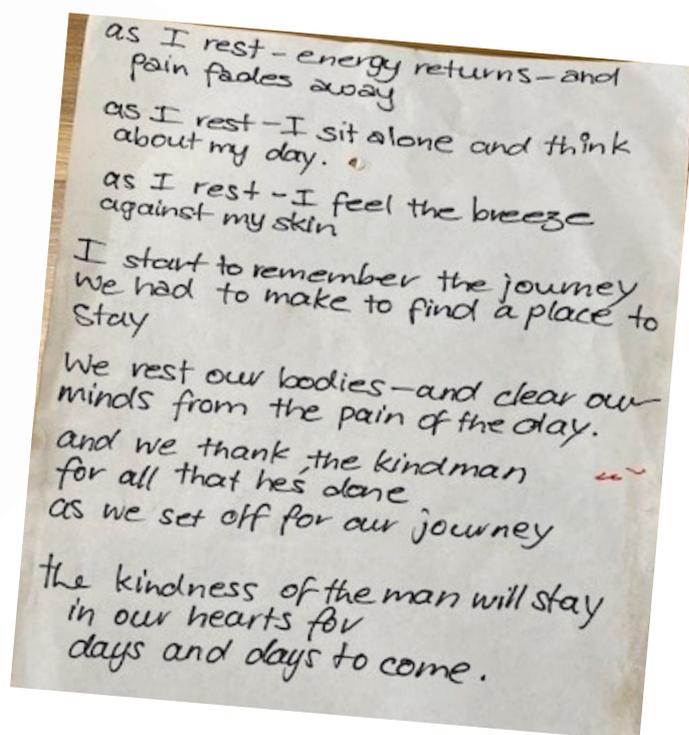


Moonbeam's Vision

## As I Rest

Spending time in the natural beauty of the Flinders Ranges inspires our young visitors and encourages creativity. The Operation Flinders program is an opportunity for young people to step away from their usual stresses and struggles. It's a chance for them to reflect on their journey so far and consider how they want their future to look.

The following poem was penned by a young person on Exercise 4.



# Renaming the PGM Program

Over the past two years, our Peer Group Mentor (PGM) Program has expanded from 40 participants to over 300 participants. The program has changed significantly over this time and these changes will now be reflected in a new program name.

When the PGM Program was created, the mission was to help past-participants walk on exercise as a mentor. Although we still aim to do this, we now offer a number of other opportunities for our past participants including:

- o 10 activity weekends per year
- o 3 Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation opportunities
- o Employment Pathway Program
- o Duke of Edinburgh Award
- o Integrated Learning Subject
- o 65 Stage 1 SACE Credits

Given the breadth of opportunities now available to our past participants, the term Peer Group Mentor no longer encapsulates the program. From 2022, the Peer Group Mentor Program will be called the Next Step Program. The new name aligns with Operation Flinders' tagline 'one step at a time' and reflects the many opportunities in the program that could form a past-participants 'next step'. However, those who return to Yankaninna and come back to participate in Exercises will be called Peer Group Mentors.



Peer Group Mentors on Exercise 4



## A Successful Year in the Field

This year was another record breaker with 25 very keen Peer Group mentors entering the field and returning to Operation Flinders' core program at Yankaninna Station.

Some came back for their second and even third time to be in the leadership team but the majority were first time Peer Group Mentors. Challenging as this role is, they completed their Exercise with great success, all thanks to the months, if not years of experiences and training through the PGM weekends and trips.

Congratulations to all who participated and we hope many more Peer Group Mentors return in the future or have their first experience coming back to the field.



Next Step Participants at Adelaide Convention Centre

## Hospitality Training

Thanks to Adelaide Venue Management and the Convention Centre our Next Step participants have the opportunity to attend a hospitality training course.

Our Next Step Participants toured the Convention Centre's hospitality facilities, learnt about career opportunities in the hospitality sector, cooked a gourmet meal in the commercial kitchen and ate their creations. This experience is one of the most popular excursions our PGMs have offered to them due to the variety.

Nine Next Step Participants attended and received a certificate acknowledging their participation.



Next Step Participants at Woodhouse



## Peer Group Mentors Reaching the Summit

For the inaugural City to Summit, the participants of the event were split into team, just like we have on Exercise. The team consisted of a Team Leader and a Next Step participant. Our Next Step participants had a task that day - share their stories of their journey and educate, challenge and encourage the adults around them.

And that they did! Feedback from those who took part in City to Summit was the enjoyment they received from spending time with these young people - to hear their stories and to be shown map reading skills, how to use a compass and tips and tricks of bush survival.

In the evening during the formalities at Woodhouse Activity Centre, we heard from Kasey, a Next Step Participant who shared his story to those present - the life changes and how much the Foundation meant to him.

Having our Next Step Participants present at events gives them the opportunity to shine in social situations and also to show those in the community the faces behind the program.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



We were thrilled to present milestone awards this year to several Field Volunteers who had walked 10 exercises. At the End of Season Dinner we presented Graham Hoile, Carolyn Macdonald and Elvira Elix with their framed boots.

## The Winners Are...

### The Trail Blazer Award - Innovation

This award recognises volunteers who have best displayed the Foundation behaviour of Innovation, through the development and implementation of new ideas, processes etc. that result in significant improvement to the way Operation Flinders operates.  
Recipient - Sandy Bartlett

### The Eagle Award - Respect

This award recognises volunteers who have best displayed the Foundation behaviour of Respect, meaning they consistently treat others with courtesy and kindness and recognise that everyone is different but equally valued.  
Recipient - Colin Cordon

### The Tail-End Charlie Award - Empathy

This award recognises volunteers who have best displayed the Foundation behaviour of Empathy, by showing genuine care and concern for all, whether volunteers, staff, participants, or others.  
Recipient - Wayne Hooper & Libby Robertson

### The Owieandana Award - Collaboration & Engagement

This award recognises volunteers who have best displayed the Foundation behaviours of Collaboration and Engagement, meaning they are able to effectively draw on the skills and experience of those around them in pursuit of the Foundations mission and objectives.  
Recipient - David Smith

### The True North Award - Integrity

This award recognises volunteers who have best displayed the Foundation behaviour of Integrity, such that they consistently display sound judgement, honesty, dependability, and loyalty.  
Recipient - Lisa Fauser

## Awards for Our People

To mark 30 years, Operation Flinders has implemented a new awards recognition structure. These awards are based on the Foundation values and represent the beliefs and goals of Operation Flinders and our mission to serve young people.

At the end of the Exercise season we requested from the Command Staff and Field Operations Committee nominations for who they felt best represented the Foundation's values of innovation, respect, empathy, collaboration and engagement and integrity. From these nominations, the recipients were selected by the CEO with input from senior staff. At the End of Season Dinner, these new awards were announced along with the deserving winners of each.

At the dinner the highly coveted Chairman's Award was given to Wendy Mazik. Wendy assisted the Foundation in navigating through the difficulties surrounding COVID-19 and without her help, the Foundation may not have been able to facilitate exercises at Yankaninna through 2020 and 2021.



Wendy Mazik with Chair Kevin Scarce



Lisa Fauser with CEO David Wark

## The Story of Heath Jamieson

In September, we were joined by 220 guests at Adelaide Oval who were fascinated in the story of Heath Jamieson. Heath is a Team Leader with the Foundation but his story extends to a journey of strength and determination.

Heath shared his story of serving in Afghanistan and surviving a gunshot to the neck. Jess Adamson interviewed Heath in a thrilling morning which inspired everyone in the room.

Our Peer Group Mentors were thrilled to have the opportunity to meet Heath, all with a special interest in joining the services.

The event raised over \$9,000 for the Foundation.

Heath Jamieson meeting PGMs



Heath Jamieson with journalist Jess Adamson



## Showcase SA Luncheon

Showcase SA hosted an exclusive luncheon to mark World Mental Health Day in October. Operation Flinders' Team Leader Heath Jamieson shared his story which highlighted his own mental strength required in order to endure his recovery phase and rehabilitation after his life threatening injury in Afghanistan.

We also had the great privilege of being joined by John Mannion, South Australia's Mental Health Commissioner.

Showcase SA are great supporters of South Australian businesses and continue to provide a platform to the Foundation in order for us to share the important stories from our young people and volunteers.

Heath Jamieson with Steve Testar and John Mannion  
Photo by Matthew Kroker

## Epic Impact

This year was the sixth Epic Impact Bike Challenge! The 700km journey from Adelaide to Yankaninna Station was done a little differently this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. Departing on a Sunday from Adelaide, the main group of cyclists hit the road in cold conditions. Three cyclists joined us 'online' - one in Sydney, Melbourne and CEO David Wark in Adelaide.

The great weather and cycling conditions were welcomed in comparison to other years and the fitness level of the cyclists were one of the strongest the event had ever seen.

The journey which took our cyclists through towns such as Clare, Melrose, Hawker and Angorichina is a flagship in our event suite and is a true representation of community and good will from our volunteers. The event has raised \$120,000 for the Foundation - thank you to all supporters of our cyclists



## The Inaugural City to Summit



This year Operation Flinders was thrilled to introduce a new event - City to Summit with the premise of bringing the best of our program in the northern Flinders Ranges, right here to Adelaide.

Event Partner Hilton Adelaide hosted the check-in of 70 participants and Over 20 volunteers. Moving out to Victoria Square, participants were met by Jack Buckskin, who performed a cleanse and gave a welcome to country in acknowledgment of the Kurna Country.

Start of City to Summit, Victoria Square



Departing from the square, the teams of 10 trekked through suburbia with several stops along the way for Operation Flinders activities. As teams head east toward the foot hills, they learnt about the journey of our young people, navigation techniques, took part in team building activities and learnt about indigenous culture.



As they meandered through the hills, up the Chinaman's Track and up towards old Eagle on the Hill, participants were able to soak in the city views. Teams were then starting to chase daylight as they approached Mt Lofty Summit which marked just a few kilometres further until Woodhouse Activity Centre.

Upon arrival through the arches, each team was greeted by the sound of bagpipes by talented Field Volunteer Carolyn. The teams then made their ways to see their modest sleeping arrangements for the evening - hutchies. A tarp which the young people use whilst on our 8-day program in the northern Flinders Ranges.



After their introduction to their sleeping area, everyone enjoyed a bulky dinner followed by the formalities. Heath Jamieson shared his story of inspiration to all attendees. One of survival and determination and our Peer Group Mentors had some touching words to share.

The event was supported by an army of volunteers who acted as Team Leaders through the day, ensuring they were giving valuable insight into the world of Operation Flinders but also the volunteers who worked for hours setting up, ensuring safety standards were high and every detail was in place.

Thank you to our event partners 9 News Adelaide, FIVEaa, Hilton Adelaide, Glam Adelaide and Alpha Box & Dice.

City to Summit will return in 2022! But for now we can celebrate the \$63,000 raised from the event - thank you to all who contributed.



## Two Teams - Multiple Success Stories

It was just over 12 months ago when the decision was made that in 2021, no young person would be left behind. No phone call would be ended with “sorry, we can’t help you” or “your child doesn’t qualify for our program”. This year we took the first step in piloting a program for individual referrals; young people who were not associated with a school or agency, and who previously would not have had access to the magic of an Operation Flinders experience. This program took many months to design and implement and is built on a strong foundation of evidence-based practice over many years. Through the hard work of Nic Hillbery and Wayne Enright who designed the program, as well as many others who helped to bring it about, the pilot program has been a resounding success with two separate teams of young people taking part. The 12 weeks allocated to each team of young people had its ups and downs with many challenges, but also many lessons and rewards for the young people involved.

As we close in on the end of the year, all participants in the second Individual Referral team successfully completed their walk in the Flinders on Exercise 5. The group drove up in high spirits and battled the heat for 8 strenuous days of bushwalking. They covered 115km during their time out bush and managed to climb four of the significant peaks on Yankaninna Station, including watching the sunrise atop the Mandarin Caps. After 7 days of sweltering heat, they had a lively extraction on day 8 as a giant electrical thunderstorm hammered the property with non-stop lightning strikes paired with a colossal downpour of rain. Full of excitement and achievement, the group safely exited the property in a 7-vehicle convoy and happily made their way back to Adelaide.

In 2022 the program will be back with some minor changes and of course, accepting new participants.

Along with the changes for the program comes a new name. The Individual Referral Program will be called the “STEP OUT Program”, capturing the program’s intent to have young people learn more about their own potential through the challenges they face when they step outside of their comfort zones. We look forward to sharing more success from the field with you in 2022.

Simon Jackson, Individual Referral Team

*Step Out  
& Overcome*



# VENTURE NORTH & VENTURE BEYOND

## Fee For Service - Holiday Explorers

Over the last 12 months a quiet evolution has been happening at Operation Flinders.

After 30 years, we thought it was about time we leveraged the resources that we have spent so many years developing with the help of generous sponsors, donations and many selfless volunteer hours. This year we have added another string to our bow of self-funding strategies, rolling up our sleeves to provide fee for service programs that help fund many of the follow up aspects of what we do for young people, thus helping to sustain the changes that they begin to make as they return from our core 8 Day Exercise at Yankaninna.

In addition to commencing our first two Individual Referral Programs, we have also started to deliver programs for schools, other charitable organisations and corporates. These fee for service programs utilise our expertise and resources during the weeks that we don't have exercises running, not only contributing to fundraising but also serving as a valuable training ground for our staff and volunteers.



Programs we have been running so far this year include:

### School Camps

Indie School : 4 Day Camp including Bushcraft, minimal impact camping, bushwalking, navigation, radio, cultural learning, Mt. Biking, kayaking and abseil.

Glenunga International School : 3 Day camp including a rite of passage journey program with challenges such as bushwalk, kayak and abseiling. Also includes solo time and journaling.

SASY - Special Assistance School for Youth : Activity days including Mt Bike, Climbing Wall, Abseiling and Kayaking.

Legacy Youth Camp at Clayton Bay (Bike, Walk, Kayak, Nature Play, Art, Team Activities)

Holiday Explorer - Adventures for Neurodiverse people

- Day in Nature - Campfire, music, magic, mindfulness, bush art, walks in nature.
- Coastal Retreat - Clayton Olympics, art, coastal walk, making pizzas, beach picnic, campfire, star gazing and relaxing.
- 3 Day Quest - Kayak, games, bushwalk, team challenges, treasure hunt.
- Ultimate Adventure - Games, kayak, bushwalk, abseil, camping, orienteering.



*Camps & Experiences for Everyone*



# Work on site

## TRAINING ROOM

With the help of many volleys we now have a dedicated Training and Meeting Space. Already used for Pre-Exercise Briefings, Board Meetings and a plethora of Training requirements. With Heating and A/C a comfortable environment for all manner of purposes.



## YANKANINNA CULVERTS

With the assistance of Mike Terlet and a few of his accomplices a culvert was built at the exit of Owie. The Creek at this location was becoming quite a challenge to traverse with many a broken vehicle and trailer.



## ABLUTION DECKING

Safety is number one at Yankaninna and that includes access to the toilets. Our volleys made sure the steps put in place in time for Exercise 5 this year.



## What Will Your Legacy Be?

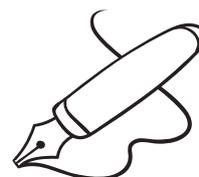
According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the average life expectancy of an Australian male is 80.9 years and 85 years for an Australian female.

Your Will is the best way to ensure your final wishes are carried out. A bequest is a gift in your Will. It allows you to reflect your values beyond your natural life by supporting your loved ones and the causes that are important to you. However recent research indicates that only 58% of Australians have a valid Will.

In 2022 we will be holding a series of information sessions about Wills and how to leave a Gift in your Will including details of an exclusive opportunity for anyone making a bequest to Operation Flinders. Dates will be advised in January 2022. If you would like more information or for a confidential discussion, contact Leigh Aitken [engagement@operationflinders.org](mailto:engagement@operationflinders.org) or 0411 238 637. And if you have already provided for Operation Flinders in your Will we would love to hear from you and thank you!

Thanks to the following organisations for providing grants so far this financial year

- Bank SA Foundation (supporting the Individual Referral Program from 2021 – 2023 inclusive.
- Westpac (supporting the PGM Program and providing other financial support)
- ANZ Community Foundation (providing a grant for the PGM Program and supporting the Foundation through their annual ball)
- Morialta Trust (sponsoring 2 teams)



### Thank You

