



THINKING OF  
*eagles*

20  
23

**OPERATION FLINDERS**  
*ONE STEP AT A TIME*





# GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

As we approach the conclusion of 2023, it is important that we take a moment to reflect on the significant developments the Foundation has experienced throughout the year.

This year, we welcomed 430 participants on Exercise, including 23 from the Step Out Program. Moreover, our Next Step initiative has allowed over 60 participants to further engage in their Operation Flinders journey through activity weekends, environmental trips, and, for some, transitioning into the role of Peer Group Mentors during an Exercise. I had the privilege of visiting Yankaninna multiple times this year, providing an excellent opportunity to meet field teams and witness the impactful work we undertake firsthand.

We have been fortunate to receive a number of sizeable donations this year, including \$43,000 as a partner of the ANZ Charity Ball and \$106,000 that was raised at City to Summit. We thank all those who have generously donated, big or small, to the Foundation over this past year. Those contributions ensure that Operation Flinders can continue to change the lives of young people for years to come.

I would also like to acknowledge our major supporters—Variety – the Children’s Charity, ENGIE, BHP, van Diemen Foundation, Thyne Reid Foundation, Clubs SA, and Santos—for reaffirming their enduring commitment to the Foundation. Additionally, we extend a warm welcome to new supporters, such as the Burton Foundation, Milford Asset Management, MGA Whittles, and Customs Agency Services, who provided funding for our program this financial year.

The Foundation welcomed Natalie Johnston as a new member to the Board. In her capacity as the Chief Financial Officer at the Department for Energy and Mining SA, Natalie not only resonates deeply with the Foundation's mission but also brings a wealth of knowledge to her role. We extend a warm welcome to her as a valuable addition to the Board.

In November, the Foundation hosted its annual End of Season dinner—a night dedicated to coming together and celebrating the achievements of 2023. It was truly inspiring to witness numerous individuals dedicating their time and energy to shape Operation Flinders into what it is today. Among the awards presented, Life Membership was presented to David Kennedy, Geoff Tattersall, Andrew Bartlett, and Graham Spinkston—individuals who have been integral to the Foundation's journey since its inception over 30 years ago.

Our Foundation now boasts a community of over 310 active volunteers, all embodying the values and mission of Operation Flinders. Whether involved in repairs and construction at Edwardstown and Yankaninna Station or guiding young people in the field, our volunteers are undeniably the heart of the Foundation. I extend my sincere gratitude to each and every one of them for their unwavering efforts.

The Foundation Board joins me in thanking David and his team for safely delivering an action packed program for 2023.

Hon. Kevin Scarce AC, CSC RAN (ret'd)



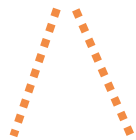


# PROGRAMS SUMMARY



**430**

PARTICIPANTS IN THE CORE PROGRAM



**4152**

PARTICIPANT DAYS

**38**

PROGRAMS DELIVERED

**400**

Wellbeing journals produced and distributed to past participants



NEXT STEP Activities

**30**

The total number of participants who took part in Next Step Activities

**SIXTY THREE**

STEP OUT PROGRAM

**23**

PARTICIPANTS

Number of Next Steppers who completed Barista Training

**14**



**32** Duke Of Ed registrations

New registrations to the Next Step Program

**73**



# GREETINGS FROM THE CEO

With the 2023 season coming to a close it's hard not to get a little nostalgic and recall some of the more significant events from the year.

It goes without saying but to ensure there is no doubt the volunteer group – Foundation, Field, Programs – have been exceptional.

*Having such a diverse, skillful and dedicated group available to carry the organisation is a source of great pride and comfort.*

To have Her Excellency, the Governor of South Australia Frances Adamson, visit Yankaninna recently was a privilege. Her visit was seamless and really showed all that is exceptional about Operation Flinders. And didn't she enter into the spirit of the organisation abseiling, engaging in some banter at dinner (at the CEO's expense) and speaking with all and sundry at their level be they participants, volunteers or potential supporters. Since that visit I know there has been numerous calls from her office to likely partners with some 'gentle persuasion' to support OFF.

In October, we had the Board attend Yankaninna. Several were first-time visitors and most hadn't seen the additional infrastructure added over the last couple of years. Suffice to say all were very impressed with the passion from their fellow volunteers and the environment created.

2024 has some challenges for the Foundation with a couple of government grants concluding. Many hours of work has been put into identifying alternative income streams and we are confident that there are options.

It has been a fine year with hundreds of young people benefiting from the core program, the Next Step program, Step Out program and others participating in the fee for service opportunities. Whilst I'm not at the stage of embracing the 2024 challenges ahead of schedule rest assured there is no shortage of planning, reviewing and refining to be able to offer the very best version of OFF for hundreds more people next year.

By David Wark



Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson and David Wark at Lions Campsite

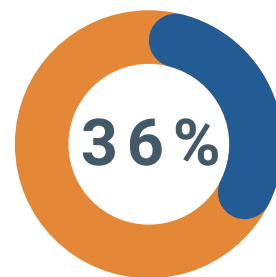
# STATS FOR 2023

In preparation for each Exercise, all coordinators are required to provide feedback about the young people preparing to embark on the core program. Below are some key statistics on the profile of our young people regarding risk factors and demographic information.



19%

Aboriginal or Torres  
Straight Islander



Suspended or  
excluded from school

## ABOUT OUR PARTICIPANTS



34%

Childhood trauma



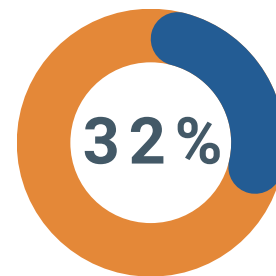
57%

Disengagement  
with school



3%

Community offending



Economic  
disadvantage



16.58%

Diagnosed with a  
learning disability



Exercise Commander Mick Shepherd at Extraction Ceremony on Exercise 1



## EXERCISE WRAP-UP

**Exercise 1** is always an exciting moment as we kick things off for the year. In 2023, Exercise 1 was led by a Command team made up of Mick Shepherd, David Smith, Sam Durland and Shane Buckley who oversaw a number of changes for the new year, including the re-introduction of the cultural stand.

The Exercise 1 crew were joined by Cheryl, Judith, Marilyn, Andrew and Colwyn who, along with a few others from within the Adnyamathanha community were a feature of Exercises throughout the year. The re-introduction of the cultural stand was truly a highlight with participants and Team Leaders consistently rating it as a highlight. The opportunity to share in Adnyamathanha culture through stories, food and language adds a magical element to the program that is appreciated by all.

Brigsy walking into base



The Burra & Eudunda team

**Exercise 2** was held in June and was led by Lisa Fauser, Brendan Raets, Barty, and Brent Smyth. With Exercise proceeding relatively smoothly through the first week, things changed when the weather forecast indicated a significant front moving across from the north-west that had the potential to inundate the operational area and cut off vehicle access – thereby stranding participants and volunteers.

The decision was made that the operational area needed to be fully evacuated and the command and base teams swung into action. After a busy day of planning and preparation on Sunday, the evacuation of teams began early Monday morning and was concluded with the last team departing at 11am. By early afternoon there was a small rear party still in place with all other personnel departing without issue. It was a huge effort in logistics and people management that brought to the fore all the skill and experience within the Foundation.

# EXERCISE WRAP UP

**Exercise 3** saw the re-opening of the High Ropes course for the first time in 2023 and was led by a Command team of Paul Kinghorne, Dave Harvie, Ian Basey and Abby Buckley.

In the cold of a July Exercise there were some particularly challenging teams and special mention should be made of the leadership teams of Tango 2 (Steve Goss, Rossy Reeves & Steve Buttignol) and Tango 8 (Lauren Butler, Richard Drogemuller & Bonnie Maher). Both teams had some very complex participants with higher needs that saw the Supernumerary (Daniel Ahrens) deployed to provide assistance and extra attention to get all the participants to the end of exercise. Though no doubt tiring and challenging for those involved, it was the perfect example of just how far Operation Flinders people will go to provide opportunities for the young people in our care.

**Exercise 4** was held in September and the conditions could not have been more different to those of Exercise 3. Led by a command team of Wendy, Tatts, Barty and Ben Trewren, heat wave conditions consistently saw temperatures in the mid-30s and swarms of flies in nostrils and throats were a common occurrence. As always, we adapted and overcame with many teams enjoying night walks and bush camps to beat the heat.

Exercise 4 also saw us hosting the Governor and patron of the Foundation, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC. Her Excellency had the full Operation Flinders experience, completing the abseil and also visiting the high ropes course, cultural and survival stands as well as visiting and interacting with participants.

**Exercise 5** was held in late October with some warm weather but not the heat wave of Exercise 4. With some challenging teams but otherwise smooth sailing for the command team of Tatts, DK, Leigh and Bucks, things were right on track until several vehicles came on with fuel filter warning lights at the same time as the transmission in the 22-seat coaster failed. It's always handy having a diesel mechanic on hand and after a big effort from the base camp crew, led by Bucks, all vehicles were able to depart on time and bring everyone safely back to Adelaide to finish off a successful exercise season.

By Nick Atkin



Ian walking into base



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

*"I learnt how to overcome anger issues, I was a pretty angry kid but now I've learnt how to manage it better"*

*"Operation Flinders has actually saved my life a few times over the last few years"*

*"I really struggled mentally before Operation Flinders, I had no self worth, I just didn't believe in myself. But doing Operation Flinders showed me I can achieve things"*





# CITY TO SUMMIT 2023

The Foundation's biggest fundraising event City to Summit was held on Friday September 29, with over 150 participating. The event raised over \$ 106,000 for our programs.

Setting off from Victoria Square in the city, the participants trekked from the CBD, through suburbia and up through to the Adelaide Hills. It was a harmer than usual day, with temperatures reaching the high 20's.

Teams from some of South Australia's biggest businesses gathered their staff and walked alongside each other for the day. Teams from Westfield, SA Power Networks, SANTOS Deloitte and Hilton Adelaide took part in raising much needed funds for the program.

Teams were joined by 15 Next Steppers who told their stories and promoted the Foundation for the day!

Participants from Deloitte Team



The team from SA Power Networks at the City to Summit start line



Participants from the Westfield team at Mt Lofty Summit



Foundation volunteers at the City to Summit Finish Line





# END OF SEASON DINNER

The annual event which celebrates all of the successes from the program for 2023 was held at the Adelaide Pavilion with 130 guests attending. The evening was a way for the Foundation to acknowledge the volunteers and the key events of the year.

On the evening, the Foundation awards were presented, acknowledging volunteers who best represent the values of Operation Flinders, as well as individuals who were celebrating milestones with the Foundation.

## MILESTONE AWARDS

The Foundation had a number of volunteers who were celebrating milestones with Operation Flinders. In 2023, Colin Murdoch, David Russell and Brendan Raets reached their 10-walk milestones, while Neill Baker, Libby Robertson and Mick Shepherd reached their 25 Exercise milestones. We also celebrated a rare achievement, the 75 Exercise Award which was presented to Derek Fenton, only the third recipient to have ever achieved this award.

## LIFE MEMBERS

From the humble beginnings in her back shed at Williamstown, to Holowiliena, the location of a pilot Exercise, Pam had some key volunteers who helped develop the program, pulling their connections, skills, and resources, to ensure more young people could be helped.

If it weren't for the assistance of volunteers, who are with the Foundation still to this day, Pam's legacy would not be alive. Four of these individuals were acknowledged on the evening; Andrew Bartlett, Graham Spinkston, Geoff Tattersall and David Kennedy. It was with great pleasure that they are now Life Members of the Foundation.

## CHAIRMANS AWARD

Colin Murdoch first joined the Foundation in 1998, starting as a Counsellor (now known as Support Staff) on Moolooloo with Leigh Creek Area School. He then went on to walk as an ATL and TL, as well as several Exercises conducting the Survival stand.

More recently, he has been instrumental in guiding some of our key environmental initiatives and projects, and has been instrumental in the renewal of the Foundation's relationship with the Adnyamathanha community.

We recognise Colin with the Chairman's Award in 2023 for his tireless work in ensuring the Foundation, as well as the community and Country we depend upon, continue to thrive.

Libby Robertson & Kevin Scarce



Mick Shepherd & Kevin Scarce



Andrew Bartlett, Graham Spinkston, Kevin Scarce, David Kennedy & Geoff Tattersall





# END OF SEASON DINNER



Abby Buckley & Kevin Scarce

The Foundation awards are representative of the values of the Foundation – Innovation, Courage, Respect, Inclusion and Service. The awards have been created by two Foundation volunteers – Chris O’Connor who created the stand from Jarrah and Board Member and indigenous artist, Pat Caruso who has painted the boomerangs.

## The Trailblazer 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 - Adam Chambers**



## The Eagle Award - Courage

This award recognises volunteers who have best displayed the Foundation behaviour of Courage, meaning they act with integrity to our mission and values, consistently step out of their own comfort zone and challenge themselves for the benefit of the Foundation and others.

**Recipient - Kate Skewes**



Kate Skewes & Kevin Scarce

## The Adnya Award - Respect

This award recognises volunteers who have best displayed the Foundation behaviour of Respect, by treating others in a supportive manner and fostering an environment of collective responsibility.

**Recipient - Michael Bagshaw**

## The Owieandana Award - Inclusion

This award recognises volunteers who have best displayed the Foundation behaviours of Inclusion, by striving for a community of openness, diversity and merit.

**Recipient - Abby Buckley**



Brent Smyth & Kevin Scarce

## The True North Award - Service

This award recognises volunteers who have best displayed the Foundation behaviour Service, by leading with humility to empower those around us and serve the needs of our community.

**Recipient - Brent Smyth**



# PGMS ON EXERCISE

After successful completion of their training and interview this year we had 16 past participants of the program put their hands up to go out and act as a mentor for others.

Many of these walked on more than one exercise meaning we had 22 teams with a PGM, acting as a helper to the leadership whilst also serving the role of a crucial bridge between participants and adults.

*"At the end of my walk I realised the inner strength in myself, it made me feel so good and accomplished. I wanted to go back out on a walk to help others, I love to help people discover themselves better and understand that they are not alone and that they always have Operation Flinders to turn to as another family if they need support."*

## ENVIRO TRIP

This year we were fortunate enough to have two trips back to Yankaninna, in both the April and July school holidays. The environmental weeks remains a highlight of the Next Step program with work on the environmental projects at the station, sunrise hikes and full sessions at abseil and high ropes.

We were fortunate to also have a film crew onsite and the young people were involved in a 'what to expect on Exercise' video to assist new participants to feel informed before heading on their Operation Flinders Exercise. This year it was inspiration to see positive and deep connection between volunteers and Next Step participants.

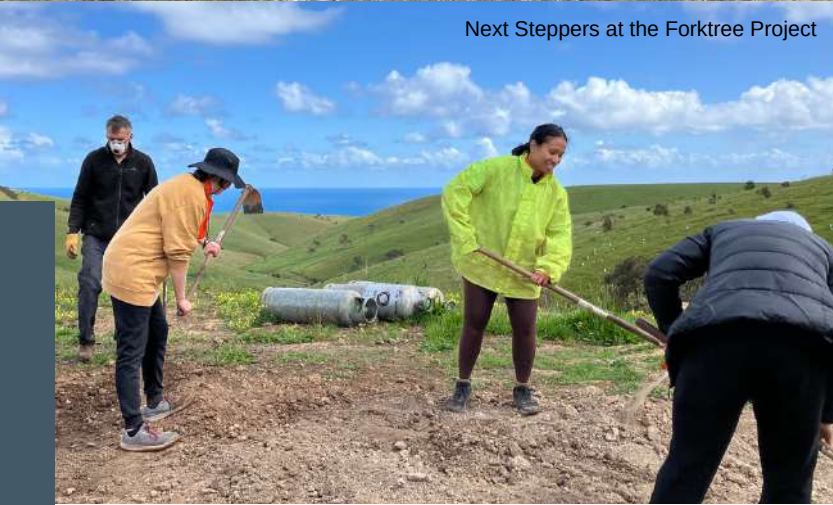


Next Steppers on Mt Rose





Next Steppers at the 'earth ship'



Next Steppers at the Forktree Project

# EXPLORE THE FLEURIEU

October was an exciting month for the Next Steppers- we had a program first trip down at the Fleurieu. This included staying at and working on the Forktree rewilding project with Tim Jarvis, adventure and wellbeing activities around the Fleurieu including yoga, surfing, hiking and fishing and a special visit to Operation Flinders volunteer Amy Mackenzie's Earth ship eco home.

A jam packed trip which had significant outcomes in social connections, understanding of the environment and ways to live more eco friendly and work on our wellbeing.

# KANGAROO ISLAND TRIP

*What is the meaning of community volunteering? "Helping others achieve success, is our own success", "we belong to community, we should build others up" "support the less fortunate, many hands make light work, when we do it together the job gets done quickly".*

This year, 19 participants completed the Kangaroo Island Volunteer Trip and found their own meaning of the term "Community". From farm work at Will and Jennys to baristas at the local Parndana show, to shuffling tables and canopies around the oval to make show stands, to swimming at Stokes and Hanson and walking on top of a Remarkable rock... kayaking and sand-tobogganing the Little Sahara. They did it all!

Some very hot days and many tasks and activities, Orange, Pink, Blue and Purple team showed great resilience, leadership, courage and GRIT, and at the beach for a swim and some cricket, to connect and celebrate the day. All involved were up for the challenge, and left footprints in the sand and an impact in the community of Kangaroo Island.





# KOKODA

For the young people who were chosen for the Kokoda trip the journey really began when they first received the news that their application had been successful.

This kickstarted a whirlwind few months of organising paperwork, info sessions, passports, doctors visits, gear purchasing, clothes and boot fitting, training hikes, history session, sponsorship, media coverage and about 1000 other things. Most of all though was the dawning realisation as our departure date approached that they were about to undertake an epic journey that was bigger than anything they or their loved ones had ever contemplated might be a possibility for them.

We were privileged to have a large number of people get onboard to help educate, vaccinate, donate and motivate and we arrived at the airport on the 23rd August a bundle of nervous excitement having done everything we could to prepare appropriately.

The next ten days were an absolute rollercoaster for each young person on the trip. The physical challenge was greater than they had experienced before; the mud, the tree roots, the steep inclines the high levels of humidity, the heavy packs, the rainy first few days and the exhaustion all built up. This was combined with the feelings of homesickness, the confusion and overwhelming nature of the first time in a non-English speaking country for all of them meant that anxiety and distress levels were high.

Some moving and heartfelt memorial services, featuring poems, stories, and historical information were held at Isurava, Brigade Hill and at poignant moments along the track. These services deeply touched the hearts of all the young people and adult leaders alike. Many were brought to tears as they reflected not only on the battles fought in these locations many years ago but also on the battles they themselves were facing in their daily lives





# KOKODA

Each evening we sat around and discussed the day through a structured intentional debrief, working through our challenges, our interpersonal difficulties and spending time to savour our highlights.

By the time we reached the top of the final hill at Ower's Corner there wasn't a dry eye in the team. We crossed the finish line to the sound of the porters singing 'It's Not an Easy Road' and reflected on how true these words are. It hasn't been an easy road for the last ten days and for these young people, their lives up until this point have been anything but easy.

The journey ahead and the rest of their lives won't be easy, but we hope that the lessons they've learned on this trip, the strength they've discovered within themselves, and the reflections along the way will help make their next path a bit smoother, both for themselves and the lives of those with whom they interact.

"Though, it never feels like it's the right word for it. It's unfathomable to describe how special that place is to me".

Bella

"This trip showed me that despite how hard something is, I can make it to the other side. If I can make it through one of the hardest hiking trails in the world, I can make it through life just fine".

Shanae

Shanae  
Butch  
Tyler  
Bella  
Jilly Mady  
Abi Janaya





# CREATING CHANGE THROUGH VOLUNTEERING

Volunteer Malcolm Stevens

*"It seems harder for young people nowadays than it was when I grew up. Maybe that's just looking through the lense of getting older, but I feel there are many young people in this generation that need all the help they can get."*

*"there is great reward  
in serving others"*

*"I have had some incredibly special interactions in the field with some of the participants, not planned as they just happened, and then you realise that this is part of the 'magic' that happens at Yankaninna. That's what keeps me coming back"*



# A NEW YEAR FOR THE STEP OUT PROGRAM

Step Out has concluded its third successful year in 2023, achieving outcomes beyond our expectations!

This year, Step Out welcomed a new Program Coordinator, Lauren Butler, who has been in the program for two years now. Operation Flinders newcomer, Bonnie Mahar, joined the team, bringing a wealth of experience, passion, and dedication to the role of Adventure-Based Youth Worker. The three Step Out teams of 2023 have been brightened and supported by our generous field volunteers and we thank you all so much for your passion and dedication – Step Out would not be as successful without you!

In 2023, **twenty-four young people** completed the eight-week Step Out program, with participants walking away with a unique and unforgettable experience. All participants have now nominated to be a part of the Next Step program; some already having taken part in multiple Next Step activities and five participants have also started their Duke of Edinburgh awards with Operation Flinders.

Big thank you to the generous ongoing support of BankSA Foundation and sponsors Alpha Box & Dice, who, since the program's inception, have now made it possible for **sixty-five young people** to access Operation Flinders' programs, who previously would not have been able to participate.

By Lauren Butler



*"It felt good to solve a problem by shaking someone's hand, instead of it ending in a fight"*



The Step Out Team on Exercise 1



Abi & Kaitlyn at the May Boardroom Lunch



# BOARDROOM LUNCHES

In May and October, the Foundation held a series of Boardroom Lunches to engage with donors and those looking to become more involved with the Foundation. Next Steppers Abi, Kaitlyn, Mady, Bella and Tyler all showed a tremendous amount of courage by sharing their stories with the attendees.

For Kaitlyn and Mady, it was their first time public speaking. Once their nerves had been shaken off, they delivered a powerful story and shared their Operation Flinders journey with the room.

Tim Jarvis AM speaking at this year's Foundation Breakfast



## TIM JARVIS BREAKFAST

In June, the Foundation held a breakfast with Tim Jarvis AM, who shared his remarkable story with all those in attendance. Tim captivated the room with his inspiring story recreating Shackleton's historic journey from Elephant Island to South Georgia. His passion for conservation, adventure and leadership was evident, making us all feel the call to embark on our own adventures.

We were also fortunate to have some of our Next Steppers in the room, to draw some inspiration in the lead-up to their Kokoda trip, but to also lend a helpful hand with raffle tickets and donations.

Next Steppers Butch & Mady





# GOVERNORS VISIT

The Foundation was thrilled to have hosted the Governor of South Australia (and Patron of Operation Flinders), Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, at Yankaninna Station during Exercise 4 in September.

It was a very busy two days for Her Excellency as she warmly engaged with young people in the field and the Operation Flinders volunteers who are the heart and soul of the organisation.

Her Excellency had the opportunity to meet with teams from Marryatville High School, Seaford Secondary School and the Whyalla Plaza Youth Centre, and took great delight in discussing with the young people their progress in the field and the challenges they had overcome. She also showed a very keen interest in the cultural stand and learning more about the northern Flinders Ranges from the Adnyamathanha elders who interact with the young people. And it was terrific to see Her Excellency take on, and conquer, our 25m high abseiling cliff!

Operation Flinders has had a long-standing relationship with previous Governors of South Australia, going back to our inaugural Patron (and Governor at the time), Lieutenant General Sir Donald Dunstan. Pleasingly, subsequent South Australian Governors have been willing to adopt Operation Flinders as an organisation to support with their Patronage.

The Foundation sincerely thanks Her Excellency for taking the time to visit the program, and most importantly to meet the young people and our volunteers.

By Jonathon Robran

Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson and Foundation Chair the Honourable Kevin Scarce AC, CSC, RAN (Ret'd) visiting Tango 4 on Exercise 4



Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson visiting the Ops Room at Yankanninna



# VENTURE NORTH & VENTURE BEYOND



## ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE

A 3 day program facilitated in collaboration with ISC Consulting, Operation Flinders provided a challenging journey starting at Pt Noarlunga in the early hours of the morning which finished after sunset at Chapel Hill Winery. The expedition required the group to rotate leaders, navigate across different terrain and complete a range of activities including bike, kayak, a testing bushwalk through Onkaparinga Gorge while doing team challenges and overcoming obstacles along the way. This was followed by a day on the ropes course at Mylor Adventure Camp.

## GLENUNGA INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Twenty Yr10 students from GIHS embarked on a 3 day camp based at Pink Gums Campground and including bike orienteering at Kuitpo Forest combined with team problem-solving activities, kayaking on the Onkaparinga river, bushwalking and abseiling in Onkaparinga Gorge, together with learning survival skills, mindfulness, campfire cooking and bushcraft skills.

## SA AMBULANCE SERVICE

The crews from the southern districts of Adelaide joined us for two teams days located at Old Noarlunga requiring them to kayak through the gorge, complete a series of team building activities and an orienteering course around the village which included exploring local historic and cultural sites. Often working in teams of two on their shifts on the road, these two days gave paramedics an opportunity to mix more broadly with their colleagues, to have a fun day of respite from the challenging work that they do for the community and to reflect on their leadership and team skills.



## CARERS COMMUNITY SUPPORT – Young Carers Camp

A respite camp for young carers based at Mylor Adventure camp. Included a range of activities such as bushwalking, forest ride, kayaking, abseiling, survival skills, bush art, magic and juggling show, fire circle chats and recreational games where participants could have lots of fun, relax and enjoy free time away from their caring responsibilities. Most of all this was an opportunity to build friendships with other young carers and learn how to care for themselves.

By Wayne Enright



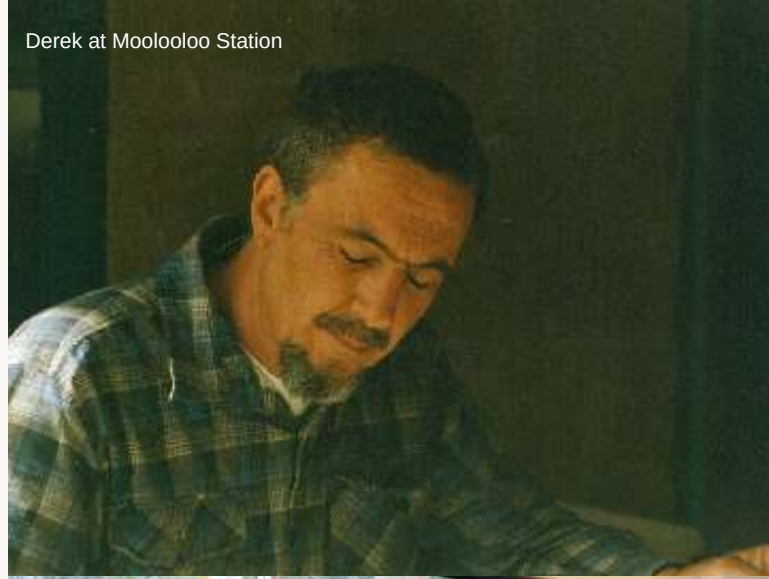


# CELEBRATING 75 EXERCISES

An achievement reached by only 2 others in the Foundation's history.

Derek Fenton started as a cook, then moved into an Assistant Team Leader role in 1998. He then transitioned into the Team Leaders role, walking on Moolooloo Station and Waraweena Station. Once retiring from the walking roles, Derek took on an iconic position as Cedric in the Survival Hut. For several years Derek would meet nervous teams on the track, inviting them into a world of wonder and mystery, sparking interest in the minds. For many years Derek was a fixture at Survival and coaching newcomers in the role. Retiring just recently, Derek has taken on a new position – Head Cook at Base and abseil. This year Derek reached a huge milestone – 75 Exercises on Exercise 3.

Congratulations to Derek on this huge achievement.



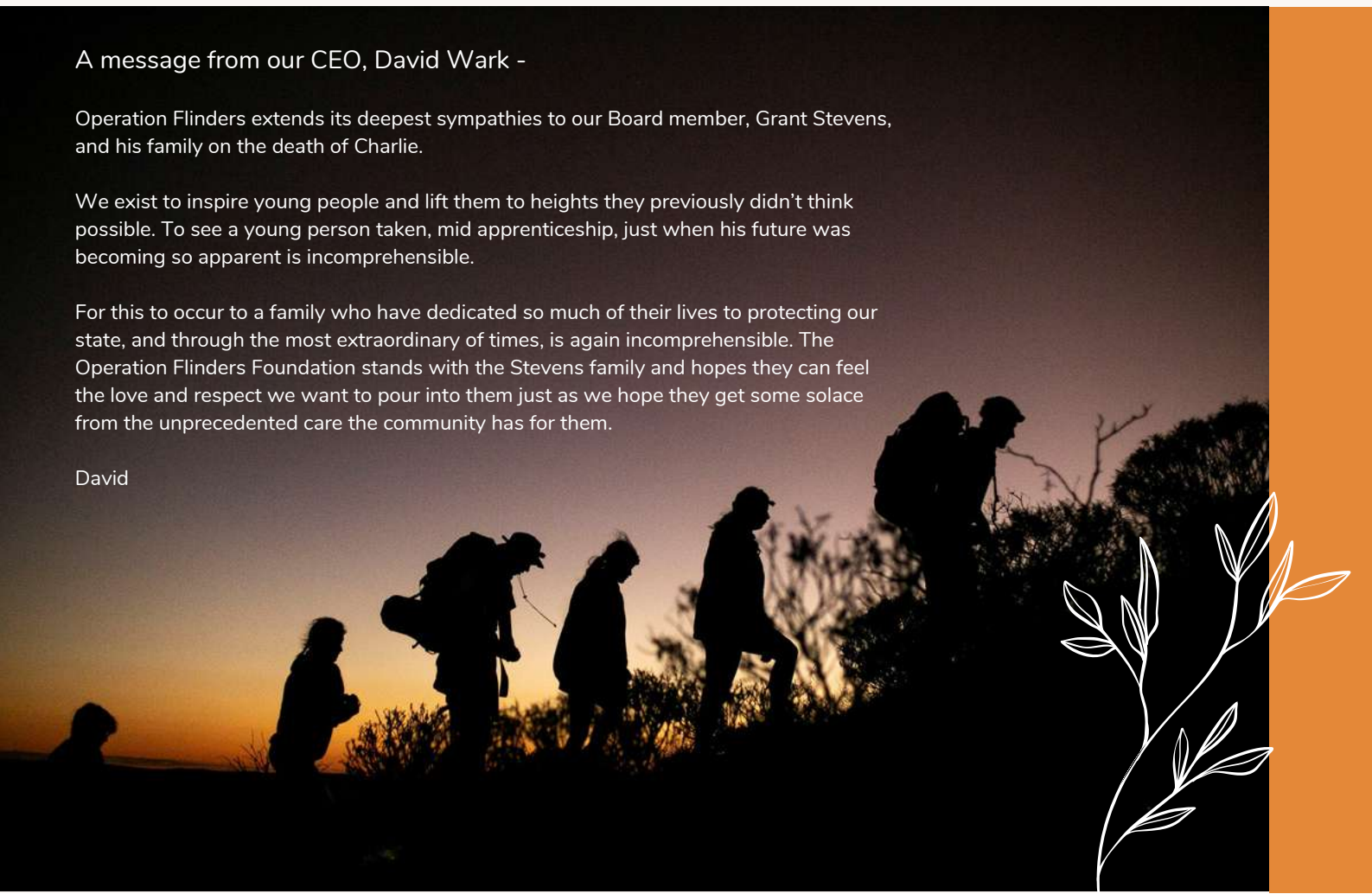
## A message from our CEO, David Wark -

Operation Flinders extends its deepest sympathies to our Board member, Grant Stevens, and his family on the death of Charlie.

We exist to inspire young people and lift them to heights they previously didn't think possible. To see a young person taken, mid apprenticeship, just when his future was becoming so apparent is incomprehensible.

For this to occur to a family who have dedicated so much of their lives to protecting our state, and through the most extraordinary of times, is again incomprehensible. The Operation Flinders Foundation stands with the Stevens family and hopes they can feel the love and respect we want to pour into them just as we hope they get some solace from the unprecedented care the community has for them.

David





# THOMMO'S TERRITORY

From very austere beginnings over 30 years ago the logistical footprint of the Foundation has developed into a high functioning and well-resourced operation supported by a plethora of committed volunteers. To support the volunteers and the additional program requirements Thommo the Logistics Manager was joined in March by Damon Whiteford (Damo) as the Logistics Coordinator to ensure we have everything where and when it is needed.

Our logistical realm extending from Edwardstown to Yankaninna creates many challenges.

## HISTORY NIGHT

The process of capturing the Foundation's history has taken some steps forward – initially a "History Night" was held in April attended by several of the 'old's and bold's'.

Our very own Greeny brought along his collection of Foundation merchandise over the years plus all those shoeboxes of old photos were available to rummage through with many a story to be reminisced and faces to be recognised.

Deb Godden and Sandy Bartlett have been working since then trying to document many of these pictures.

By Mark Thomas





# WORKS ON SITE

Yankaninna has seen the completion of the Stratco House, a 3-bedroom self-contained house donated by Stratco in kit form pre-COVID. Our volunteers have been busy post-COVID putting finishing touches on the house to enable its occupation.

The Stratco House offers a comfortable residence for those Volunteers “station sitting” at Yankaninna between Exercises and other activities plus adding vital bedspaces during exercises. The Volunteer station sitting program has been very successful with almost continual coverage on the station providing someone to oversee visitors and day to day operations.

Also at Yankaninna the “RAH” shed is now a usable space for much of our plant and equipment. Originally the medical waste facility at the old Royal Adelaide Hospital, this large structure was dismantled pre-COVID, transported and rebuilt by our volunteers at Yankaninna either side of the COVID hiatus. Maxispan kindly supplied the material for the construction of a mezzanine floor in the RAH shed aiding our ability to store necessary stores and equipment.

By Mark Thomas







Thank You

