

150
YEARS



THE
HAMILTON
AND ALEXANDRA COLLEGE
CONFIDENT FUTURES SINCE 1872

CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

2023 Experience



Auscamp

Auscamp is an accredited organisation which has been operating for 30 years and are now one of the larger providers of safe, exciting, innovative outdoor education and adventure programs. Many of their programs are curriculum linked and programs are tailored to the school's specific needs and experience.

Auscamp guides are an enthusiastic team of qualified men and women who work hard to provide The Hamilton and Alexandra College students with the most memorable experience. During the Central Australia Experience, they provide communications systems, 4-wheel drive support vehicles, qualified staff, catering and quality equipment.

The guides are adventurers who are passionate about what they do and provide an engaging experience for all students and their different interests.

Auscamp and The Hamilton and Alexandra College

Auscamp has been involved with The Hamilton and Alexandra College since the late 1990's and now assists with the following programs:

- Year 5/6 combined - Cape Bridgewater and Grampians alternate years.
- Year 7 - Glenelg River
- Year 8 - Anglesea
- Year 9 - Grampians Hike
- Year 10 - Central Australia
- VCE Optional programs — such as snow sports at Mt. Buller, sailing in Sydney and adventure in Tasmania.



Known Valued

The Year 10 Central Australia Experience was first introduced in 2016. This is a 13-day journey to the middle of Australia and is a once in a lifetime opportunity where students are pushed outside their comfort zones and grow in independence, maturity and gratitude.

Adventure activities include hiking in the Flinders Rangers National Park and mountain biking along the Oodnadatta Track. Students learn about the history of these areas, including our indigenous culture, the Old Ghan railway line, see how an outback cattle station operates and watch the sunset over Uluru.

Students sleep in swags, cook for each other and participate in several physical activities which test their endurance. Teamwork and patience is tested and from our experience over the past six years, the teenagers come home more respectful, understanding and focused. As teachers, we truly feel honoured to be a part of this life changing experience with your children.

L Alexander

Leigh Alexander

Head of Outdoor Education



PARACHILNA

Challenged

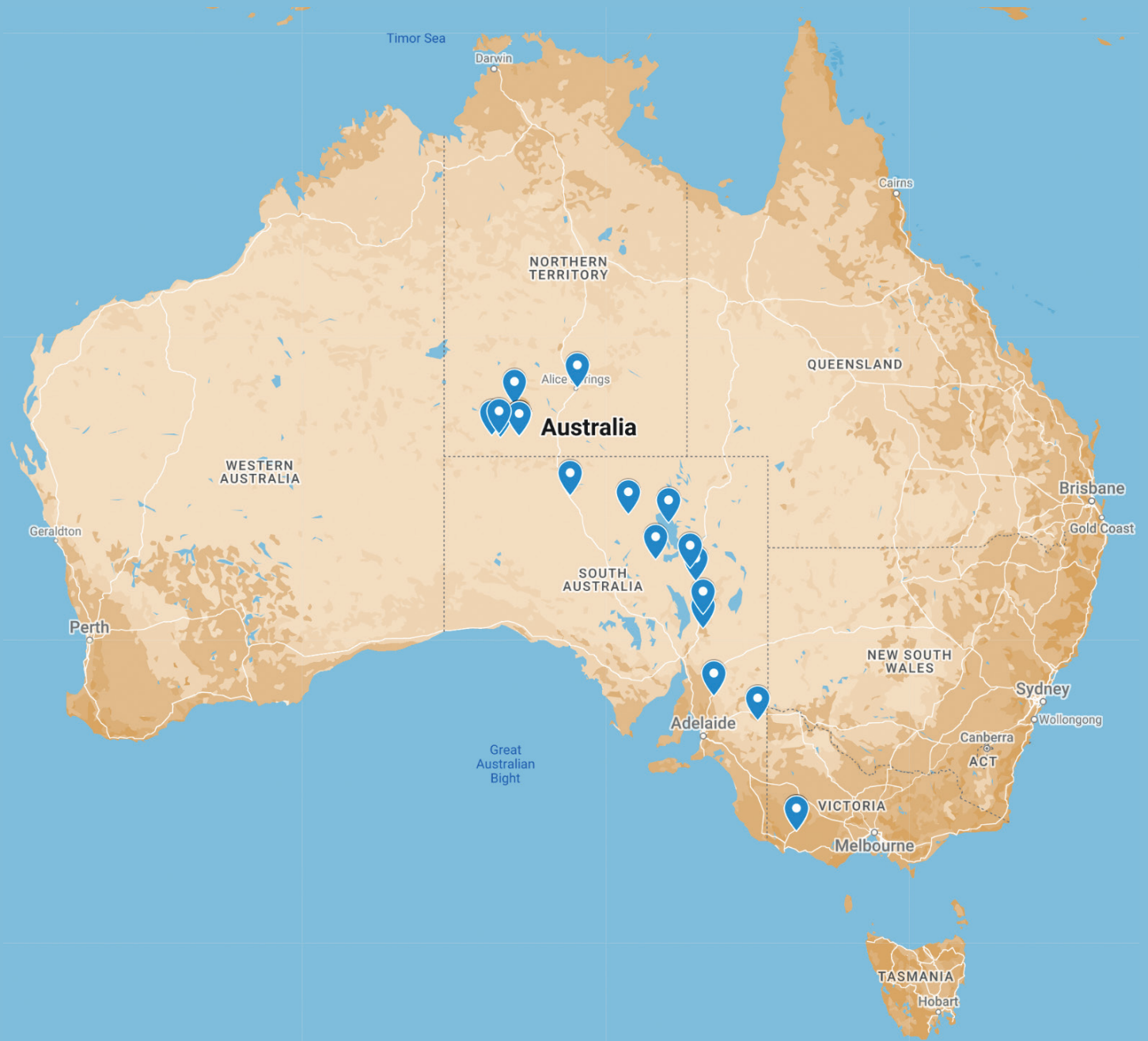
Program

Year 10 students will embark on a journey of discovery through the heart of Central Australia. This 13-day journey will travel in a north-westerly direction through the lush Western District, onwards through the Murray River region and into the desert.

The journey will include the Flinders Ranges, Wilpena Pound, Oodnadatta Track following in the footsteps of the Afghan cameleers, along the path of the old Overland Telegraph and Ghan rail line.

We will visit Coward Springs, Lake Eyre, (weather and road conditions permitting) Mt Conner, Uluru, Kata Tjuta, Kings Canyon and Alice Springs.

This is not your regular bus tour; students will have the opportunity to meet locals who live in the outback by staying on a cattle station and discovering the knowledge and resilience of the first Australians.



Itinerary

Day 1

Depart School for Loxton

- Travel Day
- Big Desert
- Setting the scene

Day 2

Loxton to Wilpena Pound

- Travel Day
- Burra
- Introduction to the desert
- Indigenous Welcome to Country Program

Day 3

Wilpena Pound

- Challenge: three different walk options
- Kangaroo Cookout

Day 4

Wilpena Pound to Maree

- Parachilna Gorge
- Old Ghan rail line
- Overland Telegraph
- Prairie Hotel & Talc Alf
- Farina Bakery
- Parma and chips at the Maree Hotel

Day 5

Marree to Coward Springs

- History of Marree
- Town Tour by foot or on bikes
- Oodnadatta Track
- Lake Eyre
- Coward Springs

Day 6

Coward Springs to Algebuckina bridge

- Oodnadatta Track
- Bike ride on the track
- Camp under Algebuckina Bridge

Day 7

Algebuckina Bridge to Marla

- Famous Pink Roadhouse
- Finish the Oodnadatta Track
- Bike Ride on the track

Day 8

Marla to Alice Springs

- Border of NT
- School of the Air
- Railway Station
- Old Telegraph Station
- Shopping in Alice Springs

Day 9

Alice Springs to Kings Canyon

- Travel day
- Mareenie Way (if possible)
- Visit Simpsons Gap

Day 10

Kings Canyon to Curtin Springs

- Spectacular Rim Walk at Canyon
- Tour of Curtin Springs Cattle Station
- Curtin Springs Burger
- Curtin Springs Station

Day 11

Curtin Springs to Uluru, to Curtin Springs

- Indigenous Culture Centre
- Walk and bike ride around Uluru
- Sunset BBQ at Uluru

Day 12

Curtin Springs to Kata Tjuta to Curtin Springs

- Kata Tjuta (Walk)
- Final night concert/debrief

Day 13

Curtin Springs to home

- Fly to Melbourne, bus to Hamilton

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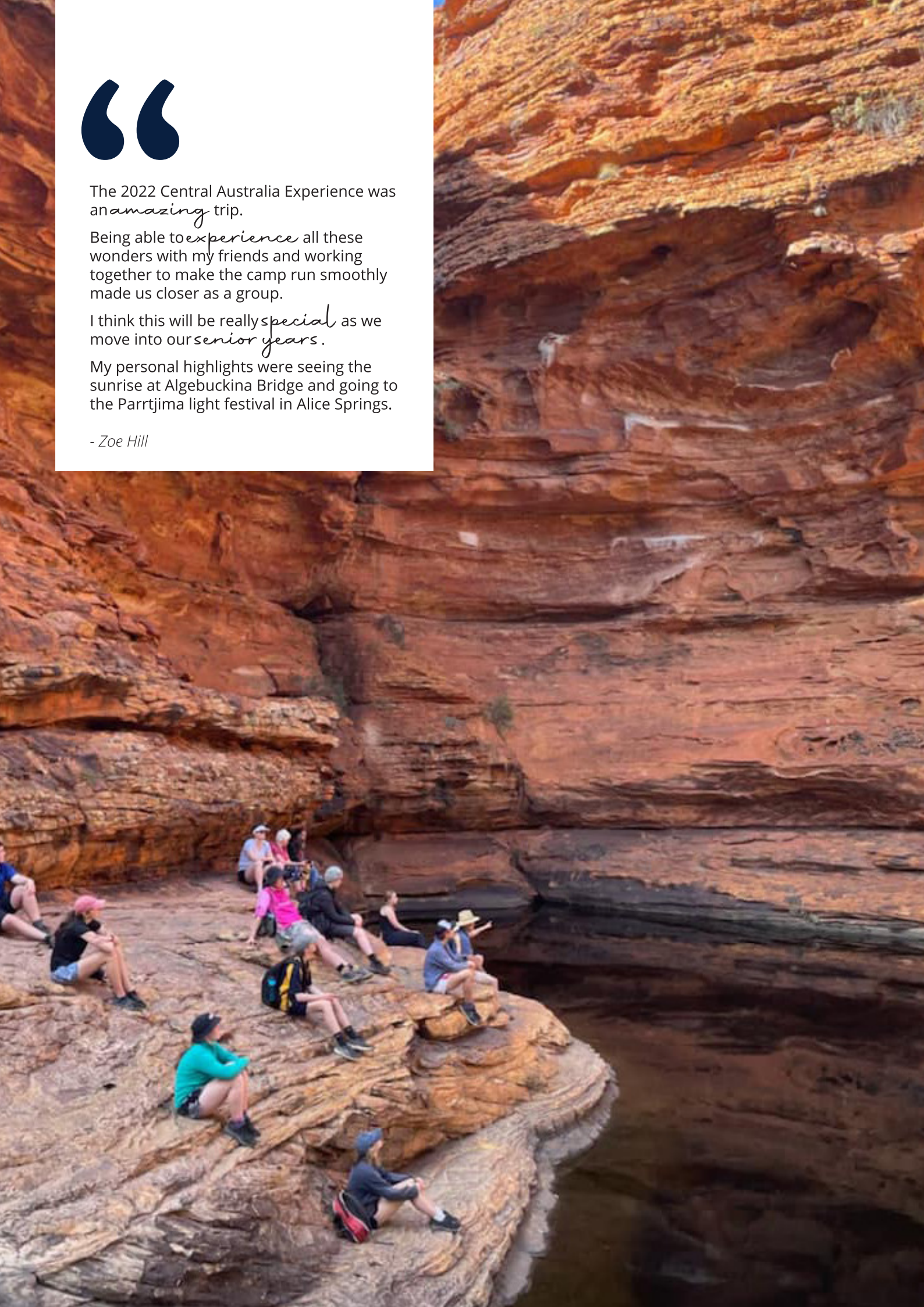
The 2022 Central Australia Experience was an *amazing* trip.

Being able to *experience* all these wonders with my friends and working together to make the camp run smoothly made us closer as a group.

I think this will be really *special* as we move into our *senior years*.

My personal highlights were seeing the sunrise at Algebuckina Bridge and going to the Parrtjima light festival in Alice Springs.

- Zoe Hill



Day 1

Hamilton to Loxton

Accommodation:	Big 4 Caravan Park, swags
Approx Distance:	470 km
Time:	5 hours + breaks
Significant activity:	Introduction to program & procedures for the trip.

Meal Guide*

Breakfast	At home
Lunch	Bring your own
Dinner	BBQ

Itinerary

Depart from the school at approx. 7.00 am.

Stop at Big Desert wayside point to introduce the desert.

Arrive at Loxton around 3.30pm.

Unload and familiarise the students with their gear.

Explanation/Detail

Today is a big drive, no further than many of the days but it is the first. As we travel north towards the South Australian border we see the land change from fertile green pastures to the dryer desert areas.

We stop at Loxton for the night. This is right on the Victorian - South Australian border.

This is the first night the students will be staying in their swags. Instructions will be given regarding how they are set up, maintaining privacy and staying warm.

The 4wd support crew will have departed earlier to ensure that the camp setup on this night is trouble free. Students will be dining as one big group and the food will be prepared by our support staff.

*Meal guides offer an insight into possible menu for the day based on location and provisions.



Day 2

Loxton to Wilpena Pound

Accommodation:	Wilpena Pound Camping Ground, swags
Approx. Distance:	490 km
Time:	6.5 hours + breaks
Significant location /activity:	Visit to Burra historical town /wind farms Welcome to Country Indigenous Program Aboriginal food program Bushwalk into the Pound/ Homestead Bike ride

Meal Guide

Breakfast	Weetbix and fruit
Lunch	Sandwiches
Dinner	Native foods and Pasta Meal

Itinerary

Depart from the Loxton before 8.00am

Stop at Burra for morning tea and look around before continuing to Orroroo for lunch.

Arrive at Wilpena Pound at 4.30 pm.

Set up camp and take time out for exploration

Explanation/Detail

The aim is to get away from Loxton early. Even though there are a lot of kilometres to cover today there will be time to stop in the historic town of Burra, which is the wind energy capital of South Australia.

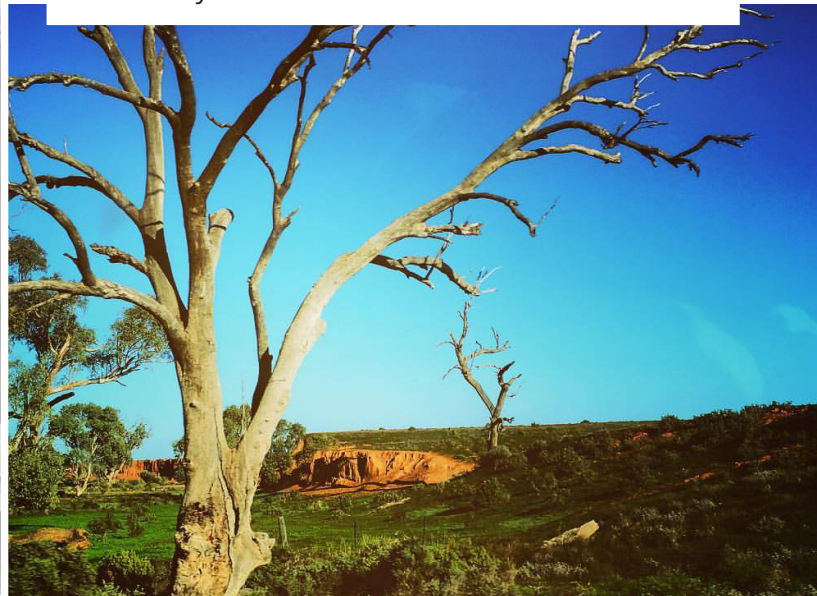
We will pass through Peterborough on our way to Orroroo for lunch. It will be straight through to Wilpena Pound from here.

After learning how to set up a camp, the students will have the opportunity to roll out their swags and set up their group site. There are around 14 students plus a teacher with each group. Their campsite will consist of swags and a shelter with a table and stools. They will also have a burner, pots and cooking equipment.

After setting up the students will have the time to explore.

This evening will start with an indigenous meal organised by member of the local Aboriginal group. They will also hold a "Welcome to Country" activity for the students.

Again, the students will dine as one big group and the food will be prepared by the students and support staff with assistance from the local community.



Day 3 Wilpena Pound

Accommodation: Wilpena Pound camping, Swags

Significant activity: Bushwalking

Meal Guide

Breakfast Weetbix and fruit

Lunch Wraps

Dinner BLT

Notes: We top up our food from the Leigh Creek General store before we head into the desert.

Itinerary

Bushwalk options

- St Mary's Peak Outer Rim 15.2 km
- St Mary's Peak Inner and Outer Circuit 21km **
Saddle only walks outer circuit 12km
- Saddle only inner and outer circuit 17 km **
Homestead only 6 km

Explanation/Detail

This is the walking day. The students can select from several walks - the first two will require a 7.00am start to ensure they finish on time.

** These walks can be shortened by 4km with a bus shuttle.

All the walks take the students into magnificent locations. The view of the Flinders Ranges and out into the desert are incredible.

The plan is for the students to finish their walk no later than 3.30pm so they have time to prepare dinner.

Dinner tonight is simple BLTs, so there is minimal preparation and clean up. Any students doing the short walk will be encouraged to start the meal preparation.



Day 4 Wilpena Pound to Marree

Accommodation:	Back of the Maree Hotel, swags
Approx. Distance:	300 km
Time:	5.5 hours + breaks
Significant locations /activity:	Cazneau tree Blinman —town walk Parachilna Gorge Prairie Hotel Old Ghan rail line Overland Telegraph Talc Alf Farina Bakery Marree

Meal Guide

Breakfast	Weetbix and fruit
Lunch	Rolls
Dinner	Outback Pub Meal

Notes: Student activity - graph the fuel prices



Itinerary

Leave Wilpena Pound before 8.00 am
Stops at all or most of the locations
Arrive at Marree around 6.00pm

Explanation/Detail

Each of the significant locations are worthy of a stop. After packing the vehicles the students will walk to the Cazneau tree. This is a significant tree for both past and present adventurers.

From here, it is a short drive through the Ranges to Blinman a historic town with a history of mining.

Then travel through the Parachilna Gorge. You can only imagine what it would be like in a flood. The road takes us out of the Flinders Ranges to the Outback Highway where we stop at Parachilna. This is where we meet the Old Ghan rail line and the Overland Telegraph for the first time. They will be our companions for the next 700km as we travel further north.

While we are looking around it might be good to grab a soft drink from the historic hotel. Then it is north until we take a break to meet Talc Alf, an outback artist. He carves the talc stone that he collects on his 600km mail run.

Finally, we stop at Farina underground bakery before arriving in Marree. There are some interesting art pieces as we head into town.

Camp tonight is on the back lawns of the Hotel lawn. We are arriving late, so a meal will be provided by the hotel before a 'meet the locals' session. Locals may include: Maz and Phil who own the pub (formerly from Hamilton), Alf the descendant of an Afghan cameleer, Francis a young Aboriginal who lives and works locally and Jean the Royal Flying Doctor Service nurse who has worked in the town for the last 39 years.

This is a great opportunity to present the donation that the students have raised for the Marree RFDS.



Day 5 Marree to Coward Springs

Accommodation: Coward Springs Camping Ground, swags

Approx. Distance: 135 km

Time: 5 hours + breaks

Significant locations /activity: Oodnadatta Track
Unique Art Gallery
Lake Eyre
Coward Springs

Meal Guide

Breakfast Weetbix and fruit

Lunch Wraps

Dinner Burritos

Itinerary

Marree town walk or ride

Depart from Marree at 11.00am.

Arrive at Coward Springs 4.00pm

Explanation/Detail

Again, an early start with a wander around the town looking at features such as the General Store, the old railway station and some of the Old Ghan rail cars. There will be time to head down to the MCG for a kick of the footy, hopefully with a few of the locals. It would be good to leave a couple of Sherrin footballs for the local team.

Into the vehicles and it is onto the Oodnadatta Track. On the left is the Old Ghan rail line and on the right are the remnants of the Overland Telegraph. We travel to Lake Eyre. This is the lowest point on the Australian continent, 13 metres below sea level.

From here the drive takes us further into the desert until we get to Coward Springs. This is one of the uncapped bores from the Great Artesian Basin. This water forms an oasis in the desert. We all get a chance to have a rinse off in the spring water. Tonight, we are camping here.



Day 6 Coward Springs to Algebuckina Bridge

Accommodation:	Algebuckina Bridge, swags
Approx. Distance:	220 km
Time:	10 hours
Significant location /activity:	Driving Bike riding William Creek

Meal Guide

Breakfast	Bacon and Eggs
Lunch	Wraps
Dinner	Rice dish

Itinerary

Depart from Coward Springs before 8.00am and arrive at Algebuckina Bridge before 6.00pm

Explanation/Detail

Groups will do some bike riding today. We aim to have every student ride some of the Outback tracks.

Not far from Coward Springs (3 hours) is William Creek. We will stop here for a short break. Some of the students may want to phone home here, using the phone box.

The bridge is a remarkable engineering feat in a spectacularly beautiful location.

Tonight, the students have some time to spend reflecting on where they are during a solo activity.

The stars here are amazing. This is where we have the students get out their mobile phone with the Star Tracker app to see what is around.



Day 7

Algebuckina Bridge to Marla

Accommodation:	Marla Camping Ground
Approx. Distance:	300 km approx.
Time:	Max 8 hours
Significant location /activity	Oodnadatta Northern Territory Border Erlunda

Meal Guide

Breakfast	Gunfire breakfast
Lunch	Wraps
Dinner	Pasta or Pizza

Itinerary

Leaving the bridge at 8.00am and travelling to Erlunda

Explanation/Detail

This is a long travel day.

The bikes will be out again for those wanting to challenge themselves.

It is possible that the cyclists will leave early before the vehicles. We will stop for a break and look around at the famous Pink Roadhouse where a pie will cost \$6.00.

From here, it is a short 200km drive to the highway and the end of our time on the gravel, for the moment at least.

Before leaving Oodnadatta track, we will need to collect some firewood for the next few days. Camp the night here at Marla Roadhouse and camping ground.



Day 8

Marla to Alice Springs

Accommodation:	Alice Springs Big 4 Caravan Park, cabins
Approx. Distance:	455 km
Time:	5 hours plus breaks
Significant Location: /activity:	School of the Air Ghan Railway Station Old Telegraph Station

Meal Guide

Breakfast	Weetbix and fruit
Lunch	Wraps
Dinner	Pizza in Alice Springs

Itinerary

8.00am departure for Alice Springs.

Visit the School of the Air for a tour.

Visit the Old Telegraph Station.

Do some food and souvenir shopping.

Explanation/Detail

We continue driving north to Alice Springs.

The day could be spent visiting School of the Air, the Old Ghan Railway Station, the Old Telegraph Station and finish with shopping for some food and souvenirs.

If time permits, students will enjoy a swim at the BIG 4 Caravan Park.

Tonight we sleep in bed in cabins.



Day 9 Alice Springs to Kings Canyon

Accommodation: Kings Canyon Resort, swags
Approx. Distance: 500 km
Time: All day including breaks
Significant locations: Simpsons Gap

Meal Guide

Breakfast Weetbix and fruit
Lunch Rolls
Dinner BBQ

Itinerary

Explanation/Details

Drive to Kings Canyon along Namatjira and Mareenie Way- a spectacular drive along the West McDonell Ranges which can become quite rough at times. This is the back road to Kings Canyon. We may stop at Simpsons Gap along the way just out of Alice Springs.



Day 10

Kings Canyon to Curtin Springs

Accommodation:	Curtin Springs Cattle Station, swags
Approx. Distance:	220 km
Time:	3.5 hours
Significant activity:	Bushwalk Kings Canyon Rim Walk Tour and paper making at Curtin Springs

Meal Guide

Breakfast	Weetbix and fruit
Lunch	Wraps
Dinner	Curtin Springs Burger

Itinerary

Depart Curtin Springs 9.00 am

Travel to Kings Canyon Resort

Walk Options:

Kings Canyon Rim

Valley Walk

Explanation/Detail

It is an early start. We will walk the Rim Walk at Kings Canyon before making our way to Curtin Springs Station.

We should arrive mid-afternoon. This will allow time to learn about the cattle station and make some paper out of native grasses.



Day 11 Curtin Springs to Uluru to Curtin Springs

Accommodation:	Curtin Springs, swags
Approx. Distance:	250 km
Time:	All day
Significant activity:	Uluru - bike ride and a walk around the base Indigenous Culture Centre

Meal Guide

Breakfast	Weetbix and fruit
Lunch	Wraps
Dinner	BBQ at sunset at Uluru

Itinerary

Spend the day at one of the most iconic Central Australian locations.

Uluru - a walk and bike ride around the base.

We will also spend time in the Indigenous Education Centre before finishing the day with a BBQ watching the sun go down over Uluru - An amazing time lapse photo opportunity!

It will be a slow drive at dusk back to Curtin Springs for the night.



Day 12 Curtin Springs to Kata Tjuta

Accommodation:	Curtin Springs, swags
Approx. Distance:	50 km
Time:	All day
Significant activity:	Kata Tjuta - Valley of the Winds

Meal Guide

Breakfast	Weetbix and fruit
Lunch	Wraps
Dinner	Mystery Box (let's see what's left in your food stores!?)

Itinerary

Spend the day at Kata Tjuta (The Olgas), another one of the iconic sites in Central Australia.

On the way to Kata Tjuta, we will hear from our Indigenous Educator about the stories associated with the area. There will also be an opportunity to ride the bikes on more of the bush tracks.

From Kata Tjuta, we will head to the sunset viewing site before returning to camp for a final dinner, concert and debrief about the 13-day journey.



Day 13

Curtin Springs to Hamilton

Accommodation: Home
Approx. Distance: 2000 km;
mostly by plane.
Time: all day

Meal Guide

Breakfast Weetbix and fruit
Lunch \$10 challenge
Dinner Take away on bus trip
home to Hamilton

Itinerary

9.00 am start

Explanation/Detail

Back to Yalara. If we get away early enough, there will be time to shop in Yalara or even go back to Uluru for a last look before heading to the airport by lunchtime. The flight to Melbourne arrives at around 4.30pm.

A bus will meet us at Melbourne Airport to transfer back to College.



Check List

Tick items off as you pack and this may differ for individuals.

* Optional

CLOTHING

✓	#	ITEM	DESCRIPTION
	2	Jumpers	Polar fleece or wool. Cotton windcheater material is unsuitable as the fibres absorb water and will cool the body when wet rather than keep it warm
	2-3	Shirts	Long sleeves are good - avoid Cotton
	1	Long Pants	No jeans- pants made from high percentage of artificial fibre are most effective
	2	Shorts	Quick dry material is lighter and better
	6	Underwear	You may need to do some washing
	6	Socks	Warm ones, at least 50% wool (e.g. Explorers). No ankle socks; socks should come up above shoes. You may need to do some washing
	1	Sunhat	Broad brimmed hats are most effective sun protection
	1	Beanie	Polar fleece or wool is better
	1	Sturdy Shoes	A pair of shoes that are comfortable to walk and play in: you don't want blisters!
	1	Sandals/Thongs	For use in changerooms / showers

PERSONAL ITEMS

✓	#	ITEM	DESCRIPTION
	1	Toothbrush & Paste	You still need to brush your teeth on camp
	2	Soap & Shampoo	
	1	Sunscreen	Be Sun Smart - don't just carry it, use it
	1	Insect Repellent	
	1*	Camera	
	1*	Phone	Load with Star Tracker App before leaving
	1	Diary / Journal	For recording your experiences on camp (will be supplied) - don't forget a pen

AT THE DESERT

✓	#	ITEM	DESCRIPTION
	1	Set of Thermals	Top and bottom. Polypro or wool - it gets very cold in the desert!
	1	Gloves	Warm gloves are a good idea
	1	Whistle	This can be used to signal help in case of an emergency
	1*	Fleece Blanket	For lining your sleeping bag. Temperature can drop below minus 4 at Wilpena and colder at Curtin Springs
	1*	Scarf	Wool is the warmest

WATER ACTIVITIES

✓	#	ITEM	DESCRIPTION
	1	Bathers	Be Sun Smart when it comes to bathers. Just in case we find somewhere to swim.
	1	Towel	The microfibre towels are great as they are light and very absorbent and dry quickly.

Check List

Tick items off as you pack and this may differ for individuals.

* Optional

CAMPING EQUIPMENT			
✓	#	ITEM	DESCRIPTION
	1	Torch	Small and lightweight (+ spare batteries)
	1	Utensils	You will need a plastic (or similar light weight) set of: knife, fork, spoon, plate, bowl, cup
	4	Garbage Bags	Strong bags. These have multiple uses - separating dirty and wet clothes from clean and dry.
	3L	Water Bottles	You need to have the capacity to carry 3 litres of water (with you). 3 x 1 litres bottles are recommended.

BEDDING			
✓	#	ITEM	DESCRIPTION
	1	Sleeping Bag	IMPORTANT- See Note Below Re Sleeping Bags. Can be hired if need be for \$25.00
	1	Pillow	
	1	Swag	Can be hired if need be for \$25.00 small or \$50.00 large

SLEEPING BAGS

You are camping outdoors, so it is important that you have an appropriate sleeping bag.

Nothing will ruin a good camp experience more than getting no sleep!

Two factors to look at when judging the appropriateness of a sleeping bag are:

1. Warmth/ Temperature Rating

Sleeping bags are usually rated. Ratings to look for in use outdoors are: at least 3 seasons, a rating of zero or below zero even better, or Cool/ Cold Climate. Ratings are only an indication and will depend on the person.

2. Fill

What is inside the sleeping bag makes big difference to warmth, size and weight.

- **Natural Filling:** Down (feathers) filled sleeping bags usually weigh less and pack down smaller but will lose some insulating value when they get wet.
- **Synthetic Filling:** Cotton filling is not appropriate for use camping outdoors.

AUSCAMP PROVIDED EQUIPMENT		
#	ITEM	DESCRIPTION
1	Waterproof Clothing	A set of waterproof over pants and a waterproof jacket for the length of the program - YOU MAY BRING YOUR OWN IF PREFERRED.
1	Backpack	A hiking pack sized to the student - YOU MAY BRING YOUR OWN IF PREFERRED.
1	Stoves and Cleaning Equipment	We supply stoves, cooking equipment and utensils and facilities/equipment to clean up after meals.

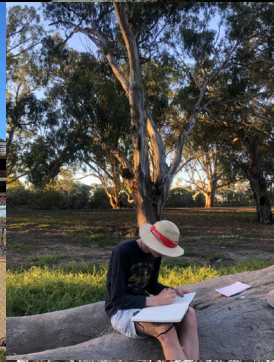
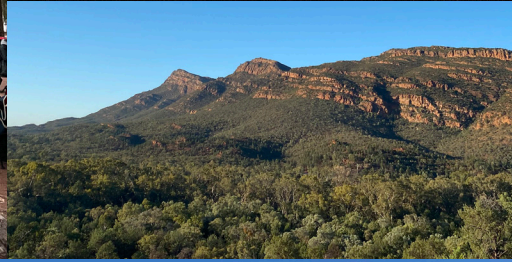
NOTE ON AUSCAMP EQUIPMENT

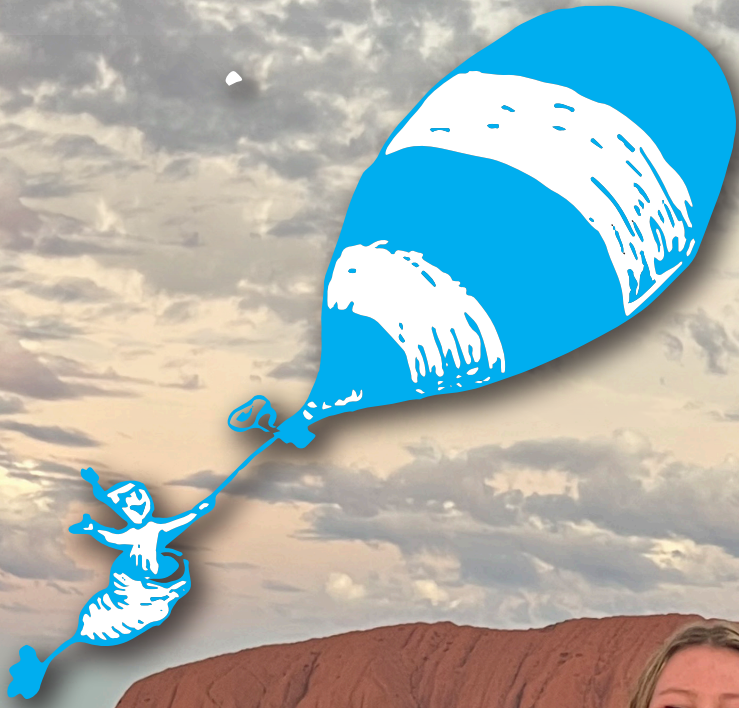
The equipment that Auscamp provide students for the camp experience is good quality and usually quite expensive.

This can be anything from a rain jacket to a Mountain Bike. It will be issued by an Auscamp Guide either at the start of the camp, or as required, and will be collected at the end of the camp, or after students have finished using it.

We understand that damage can occur through wear and tear and we expect this, however if excessive damage occurs as a result of student deliberate actions, this damage is not acceptable, and students may be required to cover the cost.

Please treat this equipment with respect it deserves and as if it were your own.





And will you succeed?
Yes! You will, indeed!
(98 and $\frac{3}{4}$ percent guaranteed.)
KID, YOU'LL MOVE MOUNTAINS!

So ...
be your name Buxbaum or Bixpy or Bray
or Mordecai Ali Van Allen O'Shea,
you're off to Great Places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting.
So get on your way!

- Dr. Seuss,
Oh the places you'll go



Chaucer Street Hamilton Vic 3300 • PO Box 286 Hamilton Vic 3300
T +61355721355 • admin@hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au
www.hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au

A Learning Culture

