



# Experiential Learning Handbook 2024



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To express your child's interest,  
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# Welcome

## to Pulteney's Experiential Learning Handbook 2024



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# Introduction

Through a variety of tailored programs, including overseas, interstate, and local experiences, Pulteney ensures that students have access to a broad spectrum of learning environments. These programs cover areas such as service, curriculum, sports, culture, conservation, and adventure-based learning. Pulteney is excited to reintroduce overseas travel in 2024 to China and Nepal as well as interstate and local adventure, and cultural programs.

Each experiential learning program offered is designed to cater to the interests and abilities of all students. Whether embarking on extended journeys or participating in local programs through the Venture Club and Conservation Corps, students are encouraged to push their boundaries, strive for personal excellence, and take ownership of their learning journey.

These experiences not only foster confidence, risk-taking, and resilience but also instil a sense of motivation for future learning endeavours.

Pulteney takes pride in delivering these programs with a high standard of quality and safety. Experienced and skilled staff, both internal and external partners, ensure each program is executed effectively while mitigating risks.

The School actively promotes opportunities through various communication channels, including the Pulteney Review Weekly Newsletter and the school website, to ensure that students and parents are kept well-informed about upcoming programs and can express their interest accordingly.

To participate, parents are encouraged to complete the online nomination form on the parent portal and stay updated through communication channels. Pulteney is committed to practical, holistic education, as reflected in this handbook. The School takes pride in nurturing creative, independent, and reflective individuals prepared for the future through transformative experiential learning opportunities.



# Benefits of Experiential Learning

Pulteney provides experiential opportunities for students to develop core values that focus on:

## Developing Relationships

- Personal responsibility.
- Understanding others.
- Recognising and understanding the impact of actions.
- Working collaboratively and value others opinion.

## Development of inner self

- Leadership skills.
- Standing up for personal values and beliefs.
- Treating others and self with love and kindness.
- Quest for meaning through experiences.
- Being adaptive and agile to change.
- Accepting challenges with a growth mindset.

## Awareness of Natural Environments

- Conserving natural environments.
- Appreciation of the natural world.
- Personal impact on the environment.

## Practical challenge

- Recognising the benefits of physical exercise on overall wellbeing.
- Taking on physical challenges.
- Developing of new and advanced practical skills in natural environments.

## Community focused

- Developing global citizens and a sense of belonging in the world.
- Thinking outwardly and making positive impact through actions.
- Leadership opportunities to be responsible, solution focused, strong communicators, confident and courageous leaders.



# Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is an internationally recognised program that provides students with opportunities to develop important life skills, gain a sense of achievement and contribute to the community. Students design and manage their program based on their interests and goals. The Award is run in over 140 countries and is available at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels. Each of these levels has four sections which include Skill, Service, Physical Recreation and Adventurous Journeys.

Pulteney is committed to aligning its experiential learning programs with the Duke of Edinburgh Award levels. Pulteney encourages and supports children's participation throughout their engagement in the award program. The formal certification is in alignment with the co-curricular and extra-curricular programs available in Years 9 to 12.

The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award is offered to any student 14 years and above. The Silver and Gold levels are for students in Years 10, 11 and 12. This level of attainment is highly valued to demonstrate personal commitment, a broad range of community interaction and self-efficacy.

Students involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Award on all levels will be provided opportunities to meet with staff regularly. A schedule of meeting times will be given to students, which occur during the school day. Students involved in the Awards are encouraged to participate in other experiential programs, as they offer a range of initiatives that meet the Award criteria.



# Duke of Edinburgh Award

 <p><b>AUSTRALIA</b></p> <p>The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Framework</p>	 <p><b>Voluntary Service</b></p> <p>Connecting with the community by giving meaningful service (to others).</p>	 <p><b>Physical Recreation</b></p> <p>Improving physical fitness and wellbeing, encouraging an active and healthy lifestyle.</p>	 <p><b>Skills</b></p> <p>Unleashing talents and broadening personal interests and skills.</p>	 <p><b>Adventurous Journey</b></p> <p>Purposeful adventuring and team building in an unfamiliar environment.</p>	 <p><b>Gold Residential Project</b></p> <p>A purposeful experience with new people outside their usual place of residence.</p>
<p><b>Bronze</b> 14 yrs+</p> <p>Minimum Time: 6 months</p>	<p><b>3 Months</b></p>	<p><b>3 Months</b></p>	<p><b>3 Months</b></p>	<p><b>2 Days/1 Night</b> - Practice Journey/s - Qualifying Journey</p>	<p><b>N/A</b> (Gold Level only)</p>
<p>Averaging 1 hour a week. Plus an additional 3 Months for a major section in Voluntary Service, Physical Recreation or Skills.</p>					
<p><b>Silver</b> 15 yrs+</p> <p>Minimum Time: 6 months</p>	<p><b>6 Months</b></p>	<p><b>6 Months</b></p>	<p><b>6 Months</b></p>	<p><b>3 Days/2 Nights</b> - Practice Journey/s - Qualifying Journey</p>	<p><b>N/A</b> (Gold Level only)</p>
<p>Averaging 1 hour a week. Plus an additional 6 Months for a major section if the Bronze Award was not completed.</p>					
<p><b>Gold</b> 16 yrs+</p> <p>Minimum Time: 12 months</p>	<p><b>12 Months</b></p>	<p><b>12 Months</b></p>	<p><b>12 Months</b></p>	<p><b>4 Days/3 Nights</b> - Practice Journey/s - Qualifying Journey</p>	<p><b>5 Days/4 Nights</b></p>
<p>Averaging 1 hour a week. Plus an additional 6 Months for a major section if the Silver Award was not completed.</p>					





# Nepal Service Learning Program

The Nepal Service Learning Program is a unique learning experience offered to broaden our students' worldview and global responsibility. Pulteney has a long connection to the country, having visited regularly over the past 12 years. The program is tailored to Pulteney's holistic approach to learning.

## Highlights of the experience include:

- 7-day service learning programs at Texas International School and Prithivi Narayan School
- Explore Kathmandu's many world heritage religious and cultural sights
- Trek the Annapurna Range, walking through Gurung Villages
- Experiencing the rural communities of Nepal

## Students will have the opportunity to learn the following life skills:

- Immersion in Nepalese culture
- Be an active global citizen
- Strengthen personal sense of connectedness
- Opportunities to learn to live in a self-giving way
- Establish genuine, reciprocal and learning relationships with local communities
- Firsthand experience contributing to under privileged communities
- Appreciation and tolerance of other cultures and a broader mindset



# Nepal Service Learning Program

<b>Program focus</b>	<b>Service Learning, Trekking</b>	<b>Staffing</b>	<b>Three School staff</b>
<b>Program Location</b>	<b>Nepal, Kathmandu, Pokhara and Annapurna region</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>TBC</b>
<b>Year Levels</b>	<b>Years 10 to 12</b>	<b>External partners</b>	<b>World Expeditions</b>
<b>Dates</b>	<b>Sunday 22 September to Tuesday 8 October</b>	<b>Level of challenge</b>	<b>All level of ability</b>



# Ventre Club

For over 30 years, Pulteney's Venture Club has been an integral part of the school's co-curricular program, providing students with a range of outdoor experiences that instil a sense of adventure and challenge.

The Venture Club aims for students to explore the outdoors, push their comfort levels, and expand their boundaries, safely and responsibly.

Venture Club members plan activities while adhering to 'Leave No Trace' principles, ensuring minimal impact on natural environments. Students develop essential skills necessary for outdoor adventures including safety and wellbeing, environmental awareness and conservation, and culture.

Students are encouraged to register their interest and engage at various levels, from participating in single-day programs to taking on leadership roles. Regular meetings, chaired by student leaders with staff support, facilitate the planning and running of the programs, linking other co-curricular opportunities such as the Conservation Corps and Student Wellbeing programs.

Importantly, the Club builds a sense of camaraderie and teamwork across year levels. The Club also extends opportunities for parent and family involvement, providing a unique avenue for School community engagement. Through collaborative efforts, students learn the value of leadership and mentorship in a supportive, non-competitive environment. This enables them to achieve common goals and grow their interpersonal skills and sense of responsibility.

## **The Venture Club main ethos is:**

- Self-Propulsion
- Adventurous spirit
- Experiencing a range of activities
- Caters for all levels of ability.

## **Individual Commitment**

Students are asked to register their interest in the Venture Club at the beginning of the year. Individual commitment can range from participating in single-day programs, up to involvement in regular venture club activities and multi-day journeys. The venture club will also, link into other co-curricular opportunities such as Conservation Corps and Student Wellbeing teams. The Student Committee will facilitate these meetings, so it is run by students with the support of staff.



# Venture Club Programs

## Day Programs:

### Day programs (various locations)

- Surfing (Middleton)
- Paddling (Garden Island)
- Rock climbing (Morialta)
- Mountain biking (Craigburn farm, O'Halloran Hill)
- Sailing (Goolwa)

## Extended programs:

- Cross-country and downhill ski (Mt Stirling and Falls Creek)
- Best of your backyard (Adelaide Hills)
- Aquatic Adventure (Yorke Peninsula)
- Pulteney Challenge (Mt Crawford Forest)
- Extended program (White Water Exploration - Victoria)

# Venture Club

## Venture Club – Day Programs

Program focus	Introductory day activities
Program location	Surfing – Middleton Kayaking- Garden Island Rock climbing – Morialta Conservation Park / Onkaparinga National Park Mountain biking – Kuitpo Forest/ Craighburn Farm/ O’Halloran Hill Sailing – Goolwa
Year levels	Years 7 – 12
Dates	Term 1 – Surfing 25 February Kayaking (Dolphin Tour) 24 March Term 2 – Mountain Biking 5 May & 23 June Term 3 – Rock Climbing 4 August & 18 August  Climbing club- Every Friday during school term, 3:30-6 pm @ Beyond Bouldering Keswick
Staffing	Outdoor Learning staff
External partners	N/A
Cost	TBC
Level of challenge	Beginner to advanced

# Venture Club

## April Venture

Program focus	Rock Climbing, Hiking
Program location	Mt Arapiles, and Grampians National Park
Year levels	Years 7 to 12
Dates	21 April to 26 April (Term 1 Holidays)
Staffing	Outdoor Learning staff
External partners	N/A
Cost	\$300 approximately (depending on the final program)
Level of challenge	Beginner to Advanced

Students and Families can participate in a 6-day Grampians National Park experience. Activities include Rock climbing and abseiling at Mt Arapiles and hiking at Mt Sterling, along with many other walks the Grampians National Park has to offer. Staff cater to all abilities with the range of activities available.

Middle Year students are offered a four-day Best of your Backyard experience. Based in Adelaide Hills students participate in Mountain Biking, Rock Climbing, Kayaking and environmental sustainability.

## Best of your Backyard

Program focus	Best of your backyard
Program location	Adelaide Hills
Year levels	Middle Years
Dates	Monday 1 to Thursday 4 July (Term 2 Holidays)
Staffing	Outdoor Learning Staff
External partners	N/A
Cost	TBC
Level of challenge	All ability levels

# Venture Club

## The Challenge

The Pulteney Challenge is our Rogaine event offering students to engage in orienteering challenges in the heart of nature at Mt Crawford Forest.

With different courses set up for each session – Saturday afternoon, Saturday night, and Sunday morning — students are encouraged to test their orienteering skills across all sessions to earn valuable points for their team.

Participants will have access to basic amenities including toilets, picnic tables, and a a camping area with

a fireplace. No gear? No problem! Borrow specialty equipment such as tents, sleeping mats, and rain jackets from the school.

A BBQ dinner is provided on Saturday night. As teams navigate through natural and sustainably farmed forests to find checkpoints. Who will emerge victorious? Join us at Mt Crawford Forest for an unforgettable Rogaine experience.

Program focus	Pulteney Challenge
Program location	Mt Crawford Forest
Year levels	Years 7 to 12
Dates	Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 September
Staffing	Three School staff
Cost	\$100 approximately
Level of challenge	All ability levels



# Venture Club

## Aquatics program

Program focus	Aquatic Adventure
Program location	Yorke Peninsula
Year levels	Middle Years
Dates	Monday 9 - Friday 13 December (Term 4 Holidays)
Staffing	Outdoor Learning staff
Cost	Approximately \$310
Level of challenge	Beginner to Advanced

The Yorke Peninsula Aquatics program is designed for Middle Year Students. Students have an opportunity to participate in a range of aquatic activities from surfing to snorkeling.

All Venture Club trips have a key focus of allowing students to participate in a range of activities, catering to all levels of abilities. All specialty activities and camping equipment is supplied by the School. Experienced instructors and School Staff lead groups, dependent on their ability and experience.





# Venture Club

## Extended Snow Experience

This 7-day snow experience is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop skills in cross-country skiing, as well as downhill skiing or snowboarding in a safe and controlled environment.

The program involves a three-day snow expedition to Mt Stirling and setting up a base camp. Students will then be taught how to successfully cross-country ski in one of the most beautiful alpine mountains in Australia. The second half of the program involves travelling to Falls Creek and spending three days on downhill slopes.

Program focus	Cross-country and downhill skiing or snowboarding
Program location	Mt Stirling and Falls Creek
Year levels	Senior Years
Dates	Sunday 14 to Saturday 20 July (Term 2 Holidays)
Staffing	Outdoor Learning Staff
External partners	N/A
Cost	TBC
Level of challenge	All ability levels



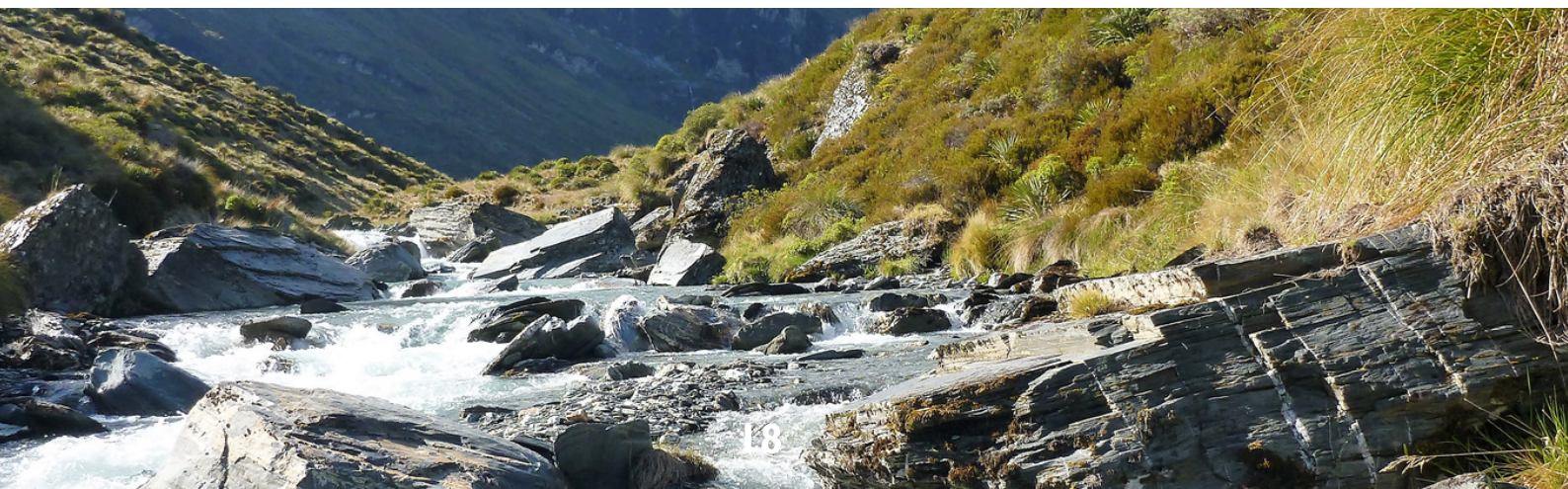
# Venture Club

## Extended Whitewater Experience

The Whitewater Exploration Program is a 7-day adventure in Eildon, Victoria. This exciting opportunity offers students the chance to build confidence, resilience, and outdoor skills while navigating low-grade rapids and moving water. Led by our experienced staff, participants will learn whitewater kayaking and rafting techniques in a safe and supportive environment. Journey through unique Australian landscapes including lakes and high-country regions, accessing sites that are not common to visitors.

The program combines elements of base camp and expedition-style camping, allowing students to immerse themselves in the adventure. The program is for senior students to end their experiential learning journey with a trip of a lifetime and for Year 12 students, it is a memorable and rewarding way to conclude their final year at Pulteney.

Program focus	Adventure
Program location	Victoria
Year levels	Senior Years
Dates	Sunday 8 to Saturday 14 December (Term 4 Holidays)
Staffing	Outdoor Learning staff/ White water specialist guides
Cost	TBC
Level of challenge	Beginner to Advanced



# Conservation Corps

The Conservation Corps offers a dynamic co-curricular opportunity for all students, centered on preserving the environment and implementing initiatives for global change. The programs encompass a diverse range of conservation practices, tailored to address current global needs while incorporating student interests and input. Aligned with local, national, and international awareness campaigns such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the Conservation Corps is an integral part of daily life at Pulteney and encourages the wider community to contribute to its causes.

Participation in the Conservation Corps fosters holistic development by promoting humanitarian understanding, global citizenship, and personal growth. Through hands-on experiences, students build knowledge, enhancing their understanding of Australia's conservation needs, as well as other regions. The Conservation Corps works alongside peers, Pulteney staff, and community members to implement meaningful initiatives.

Furthermore, there are opportunities for students to explore careers in conservation and eco-tourism, serving as ambassadors for sustainability.

Meetings are held fortnightly, providing a platform for collaborative planning and program implementation. In addition to regular meetings, special events such as

- Day excursions,
- Overnight camps.
- Conservation Week
- The Sustainable Market
- Guest speakers
- fundraising events

Our programs encompass a variety of initiatives, including in-school projects, Conservation Week activities, collaborations with the Adelaide City Council on Parklands projects, the Forktree project on the Fleurieu Peninsula, and the upcoming Wongulla Experience.

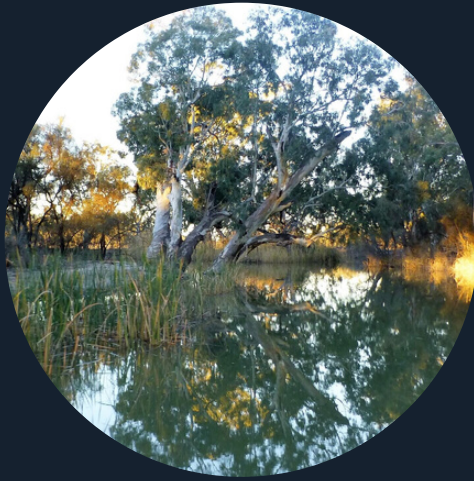
The Conservation Corps empowers students to make a tangible difference and provides a platform for meaningful engagement in environmental conservation. We welcome all students and members of the Pulteney community to join us on our mission to create a more sustainable future.

## Individual Commitment

Students are asked to register their interest at the beginning of the year but can discuss involvement opportunities anytime. Individual commitment can involve participating in one project or initiative, involvement regularly in planning and running of multiple projects and initiatives or being part of the Committee.

## Programs

- In-school projects (various)
- Conservation Week – Term 2
- Parklands projects – Adelaide City Council
- Forktree project – Fleurieu Peninsula
- Wongulla Experience – details to be communicated in Term 2



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