



**TALLEBUDGERA**  
OUTDOOR & ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION CENTRE

# Exploring Identity Through Story and Place - Year 10-12

## (A contemporary Rites of Passage Program)

### Overview

For millennia, Indigenous and traditional communities have recognised the importance of supporting young people to transition from one stage of life to another. These ceremonies are called a Rites of Passage (ROP).

With the beautiful hinterland and waterways of the southern Gold Coast as a backdrop, *Exploring Identity Through Story and Place* embodies contemporary ROP elements to support young people to:

- Heighten their awareness of themselves, others and nature,
- Overcome challenges, and
- Create a positive vision for their future.

During the two-night program, students will participate in carefully designed activities that will develop their ability to reflect and express both internal and external experiences and increase their confidence, self-esteem and sense of wellbeing.

Students will also have the opportunity to develop social skills, deepen relationships and connections to others and nature, build skills and experience to support motivation, resilience and responsibility, and create a strong attachment to life intentions for the future.



### Curriculum Intent

#### General Capabilities

##### Personal and Social Capability

###### Self-awareness

- Recognise emotions
- Recognise personal qualities and achievements
- Develop reflective practices

###### Social-awareness

- Appreciate diverse perspectives
- Understand relationships

###### Self-management

- Express emotions appropriately
- Develop self-discipline and set goals
- Work independently and show initiative
- Become confident resilient and adaptable

###### Social-management

- Communicate effectively
- Work collaboratively
- Make decisions
- Negotiate and resolve conflict
- Develop leadership skills





# Rites of Passage Transformation Model

## ENROLEMENT

It is crucial to genuinely engage students in each process of the program. We do this by creating a safe, respectful and supportive space, which cultivates trust within the group. Through the use of ritual theatre and story we then connect to the need of each student, enrolling them into each process.

## STORY

Story has power and as such, we use story to enrol students into each stage of the journey. Stories connect students with one another, share wisdom, knowledge and lessons, embed Indigenous perspectives of place and heighten awareness around students' own life story.

## CHALLENGE

It is through challenges that we grow as people, expand awareness, develop resilience, and build a sense of self-efficacy and confidence. Our programs are designed to challenge students physically, emotionally and socially within an outdoor learning context.

## VISION

As the ROP journey nears its completion, students will create a vision for their future. Through their vision, students establish their intent to integrate and embody their transformation as they prepare to step into the next stage of their life journey.

## HONOURING

It is important to honour the unique gifts, strengths and talents in each student. This will empower students to persist in the integration and embodiment of their transformation and vision.

## Sample Program

DATE	DAY PROGRAM	NIGHT PROGRAM
DAY 1	10am – Arrival	Camp Fire Reflection  Showers and Bed
	AM Acknowledgement of Country MORNING TEA + Cabin Allocation Icebreaker activities	
	12:00-1:00 LUNCH	
	PM Bushwalk Picnic Dinner	
DAY 2	6:00 – Kayak journey Prep 7:20 – Breakfast 8:15 – Meet for Kayak journey	Story Circle / Camp Fire
	AM Kayak Journey	
	PM Picnic Lunch by the Creek Dinner The Story Circle	
DAY 3	6:00 – Pack up cabins – bags to departure area 7:30 – Breakfast 8:30 – Meet for goal setting activity	
	AM Vision / Camp Reflection Honouring	
	12:00pm LUNCH	
	1 PM Departure	