

Bunya to the Bay

Young Ambassadors for the Brisbane River



Bunya to the Bay is an award winning educational experience grounded in Aboriginal culture and heritage that follows the Brisbane River from the source to the sea. In July and August of 2027 a group of 40 selected students will relay in teams to walk, cycle and canoe, over 340 km of challenging river terrain. Scientific, personal, social, and adventure learning experiences will build their understanding of the many facets of the Brisbane River. They will spend time with Elders on country connecting with deep and dynamic cultural heritage traditions and values.

This is an amazing and important opportunity, for High School students of all backgrounds and abilities in Years 10, 11 & 12. It is an opportunity to connect with South East Queensland's unique environment, culture and communities. Young people will gain a deep sense of their place in the world and their capacity to shape its future. It is an opportunity of a lifetime.



For more information on how to nominate students or sign up yourself please get in touch

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Bunya to the Bay is collaboratively produced by the Bunya to the Bay Elders Group
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Moreton Bay
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE
Inspiring Champions for the Bay



Queensland
Government



Opening Ceremony Thurs 22nd JULY 2027

On Wakka Wakka country at Barambah Environmental Education Centre the students will gather alongside parents and community for the opening ceremony. The students will spend time connecting with the country and each other, learning about the challenge ahead and their role within the journey as young River Ambassadors



Leg Three

Sunday 1st August - Friday 6th August

Canoe & Hike Wivenhoe Dam Wall to Mt Crosby Weir

From the message stick ceremony at Wivenhoe Dam the leg three students will use observation, communication, teamwork and persistence as they navigate early morning mist and rapids, of this moving water section of the river. Stopping for a day of intergenerational connection the Ambassadors will work alongside Yuggera Ugarapul elders to pass on the knowledge of the message stick in a fun and engaging day at Mayfield Nature Kindy.



Leg Four

Friday 6th August - Wednesday 11th August

Canoe, & Walk Mt Crosby Weir to Moreton Bay EEC

After ceremony on Yuggera Ugarapul Country at Mt Crosby, the leg four students will canoe the tidal section of the river towards the city. The wide open reaches of the river lined by towering river gums and the occasional bunya pine provides a unique and inspiring passage into Brisbane. Journeying in this way, interacting with the natural, built and cultural heritage of the city the ambassadors will come to appreciate the ongoing associations that the diverse peoples of this part of the country have had with the urban and natural environments.



Leg One

Thursday 22nd - Tuesday 27th July

Cycle & Hike Barambah EEC To Harlin

The first team of River Ambassadors will cycle and hike the mountains and gorges of the upper catchment. As they navigate through Wakka Wakka, Kabi Kabi, Jinibara and Dungiburra Countries, the students will come to understand the birthplaces of the Brisbane River within the bunya forests of the South Burnett. Reaching Dungiburra Country and the township of Harlin the students will pass the message stick to the next group of Ambassadors.

Leg Two

Tuesday 27th - Sunday 1st August

Cycle & Canoe Harlin to Wivenhoe Dam

Continuing on with the message stick the leg two ambassadors will set off on bicycle along the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail. Off bikes and into canoes the students continue their journey through Jinibarra Country on the vast waters of Lake Wivenhoe. Through continued immersion in the environment, scientific observation and meetings with SEQ Water Rangers and Elders they will connect deeply to South East Queensland's largest store of water, and learn the importance of its sustainable management and use.



Closing Ceremony Journey

Walk & Boat Moreton Bay EEC to Minjerribah, Wed 11th - Friday 13th August

River Ambassadors from all journey legs will meet again to share their experiences and reconnect with each other and Elders. From Manly on the Moreton Bay Environmental Education Centre vessel "Inspiration" the students will travel to Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Is.) on Quandamooka Country. The Ambassadors will bring a close to the journey by engaging directly with the heritage of Minjerribah, and passing the message stick back to the elders in preparation for their own journeys as Ambassadors into the future.

