



OUTWARD BOUND
INTERNATIONAL

COMPASS ~ May 2024

The Newsletter of the Global
Outward Bound Community

Image: Courtesy of the Cathleen Stone Island
OB School, OB USA Network

Welcome ~ From the OBI ED and Chair

Image: courtesy of OB Finland





Welcome

Dear Outward Bound Community,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Compass newsletter for 2024, centered around the compelling theme: Serving Today's Youth.

In today's world, young people face a landscape of unprecedented complexity and rapid change. They are more digitally connected, socially conscious, and environmentally aware than ever before, yet they encounter unique challenges such as mental health pressures, the impacts of social media, environmental concerns, and global uncertainty. These challenges necessitate resilience, adaptability, and a profound sense of purpose—qualities that Outward Bound programs are designed to foster.



In this issue, we present articles from our Schools and staff across the network, exploring how our courses are tailored to meet contemporary challenges and how our teams are adapting to best support today's youth. Highlights include:

- **The Outward Bound Trust** details how they are charting their organizational journey toward Net Zero, while simultaneously inspiring and empowering youth to take positive climate action and fostering connections with the planet that encourage responsible stewardship
- **OB New Zealand** addresses inclusivity and the transformative journey toward enhancing it for all participants and staff.
- **Outward Bound Croatia** reflects on program adjustments aimed at addressing mental health challenges faced by young individuals.
- **OB Australia** offers insights into the complex world young people navigate and the role of Outward Bound in helping them steer through these challenges.



OB Oman Participants

Each article underscores the transformative impact of Outward Bound experiences on young individuals, reflecting the resilience and potential of our youth and also the enduring relevance of our mission in today's ever-evolving societal landscape.

As usual, this issue of Compass profiles an Outward Bound School and an OB Staff member. Additionally, we cover updates from OBI and the network relating to strategic projects, regional trainings and gatherings, new opportunities and important dates to take note of.

We invite you to explore the stories and updates in this edition of our newsletter and to share them far and wide. We hope you find inspiration and insight in these pages, as we continue to adapt and respond to the needs of today's youth.

Your ongoing support helps us keep this important work moving forward, and for that, we are immensely grateful. Thank you all for being an integral part of the Outward Bound International community.

Iain Peter and Colin Maund

Serving Today's Youth

Image courtesy of the Outward Bound Trust



Serving Today's Young People: The OB Trust's Road to Net Zero

During the COP26 climate conference in 2021, over 50,000 young people came from across the UK and the world to march through the streets of Glasgow calling for climate justice. Youth movements have increasingly brought young people into the rooms where those with power meet, but there is still an increasing gap between what young people and scientists know must be done to limit global heating and what the wealthiest nation states and corporations are actually doing.

OB UK exists to serve the young people of Britain, to inspire them to succeed and make them ready for the challenges of life. Thinking about the responsibility we bear to leave an environment fit for young people to inherit - and for us to continue to work in - inspired our [decision to get to Net Zero by 2035](#) and our adoption of the OBI Environmental Charter, though those commitments built on work we had been already doing for some time.

We began measuring our carbon footprint in 2008. Following that we began investing in renewable heating and power at our sites and thinking about energy performance when refurbishing our buildings.

Last year, when we set ourselves our 2035 Net Zero target, we had already halved our annual emissions compared to 2008.



Our roadmap to Net Zero builds on this progress but recognises that we still don't know the true scale of the emissions we're responsible for. Over the next 18 months we will develop our knowledge further, including:

- **Our supply chain emissions;**
- **The impact of the waste we produce;**
- **How staff and students travel to our places.**

This will let us set a new baseline to set our future progress against and help our efforts be as effective as possible.

We know that we'll have to make more changes to our centres, investing further in low emissions heating, and in the medium term requiring tough environmental performance standards when we build or refurbish. We're engaging our people in this journey through initiatives such as providing cash funding to innovative project ideas from grassroots staff, and employee benefits like access to a home improvements helpline focused on emissions reduction. We don't expect to get everything perfectly right the first time, but we know we must keep up the momentum.

These operational improvements aren't the whole story. As the [OBI Environmental Charter](#) makes clear, education is a key driver for environmental action.

At OB UK we serve over 25,000 young people a year, and we can empower and equip each of them to change the world.

Intrinsic to our residential courses is immersion in wild places. Participants feel awe and wonder through experiencing nature on scales from the immediate centre grounds to entire landscapes. Spurred by current research in education and the Environmental Charter, we are reviewing how we can deliberately make even more of these opportunities for creating connections to nature, increasing ecological understanding and enhancing the sense of environmental stewardship. We may not be able to fully measure the ripple effect of young people's future climate positive actions inspired by their time with us, but we are doing what we can to act in the way they expect us to.



[Click to View Video](#)

Serving Today's Youth: Outward Bound New Zealand's Path to Rainbow Inclusivity

At the core of facilitating personal growth during an Outward Bound New Zealand (OBNZ) course is creating an environment where every participant feels secure enough to be authentic and open throughout their journey. This entails granting them the liberty to express their complete identity, encompassing their gender identity and sexual orientation.

Approx. 30% of youth (Gen Z) globally currently identify as LGBTTQIA+ and this is expected to continue grow to as it becomes safer for generations to come out.

At OBNZ, our mission to foster stronger communities underscores the need to prioritize the inclusion and welcome of all staff and participants, ensuring they feel valued and embraced. By enhancing inclusivity for the rainbow community, we inherently extend the benefits of our actions to other marginalized communities, amplifying the positive impact of our commitment to inclusivity across a broader spectrum.

Just as integrating women into OBNZ over 50 years ago sparked discomfort for some, actively championing our rainbow communities demands embracing non-homophobic attitudes, even when it challenges some individuals. At Outward Bound New Zealand, we've purposefully embarked on this transformative journey to enhance inclusivity for every participant and staff member alike.



The Rainbow Pride flag lowered by alumni who were members of the first women's watch in New Zealand

Outward Bound New Zealand has committed to the New Zealand Pride Pledge which is:

We commit to all LGBTTTQIA+ (rainbow) people having the freedom to be safe, included, healthy and visible and we will use our voice to actively support and celebrate rainbow communities. (www.pridepledge.co.nz)

In October 2023 all Outward Bound NZ staff attended training to learn what diversity, equity and inclusion looks like for our rainbow communities. The knowledge gained in this training inspired confidence in the staff, which led to immediate action devising and committing to actions to progress the organisation towards being more inclusive. Rainbow training has been added to all new staff inductions, to ensure the knowledge continues to grow and flow through the organisation.

During our enrolment process, participants have the opportunity to specify their gender identity. For individuals identifying as trans, gender neutral, fluid, or non-binary, we take care to discuss any gender-specific practices they may encounter during their course, such as sleeping arrangements on certain programmes. We then work together to find solutions that align with their comfort level, so they can fully engage with their Outward Bound course.



The Rainbow Pride flag flies at OB NZ

Behind the scenes, we're gathering data on participants' gender identity and affiliation with our rainbow communities. Understanding the demographics of those we serve, as well as those who are missing from our courses, is crucial for our commitment to inclusivity. We've revised our policies, eliminating heteronormative language, and are integrating gender-inclusive design into our new infrastructure.

We are excited to continue to explore ways to grow our effectiveness and better accommodate rainbow communities, and are proud to be pioneering New Zealand's inaugural rainbow leaders course.

Feedback from staff and participants about the actions taken indicates the value of proactive action.

“**When I arrived at Outward Bound and I saw the rainbow pride flag, I knew I was welcome and safe at Outward Bound**”

OBNZ participant



Serving Today's Young People: OB Croatia's focus on Mental Health

Author: MARIJA MAŽIĆ, Head of Instructor Education, OB Croatia

Young people today face numerous challenges - some arising from the technological trends of the modern era, while others represent consequences of different situations of crisis we are all exposed to. A typical day in the life of a young person is marked by rapid and competing content, constant warnings about the possible new pandemics, economic repercussions of the last one, political tensions and wars arising. Against this backdrop, it's no wonder we're seeing more mental health problems among youth.

The World Health Organization states that one in seven 10-19-year-olds experience mental health conditions. The consequences of this are terrible and palpable: suicide is the fourth leading cause of death among 15-29-year-olds



At the same time, young people today have more access than ever previously recorded in human history. There is less poverty, and more avenues to fulfill one's potential. People, especially young, connect easily to one another through social media channels - and the six degrees of separation never seemed smaller. However, just having the opportunities available doesn't mean that the problem is being resolved. Loneliness has lately been treated like an epidemic, especially impacting youth - between 5 and 15 percent of young people experience it. Although poverty seems to be going down on a global scale, inequalities are deepening by the day.

This is where we build the foundation of our programs...

framing them in a way that builds the skills of young people so that they can recognize the possibilities and act on them, while at the same time strengthening their resilience to better cope with the risks they are facing.



[Click to View Video](#)

Our programs are therefore designed and developed in close collaboration with mental health experts, primarily psychologists and social pedagogues. Their input is used both to design specific outcomes of the particular program and for pinpointing the methodology used to achieve them. Even further, during the last couple of years, we've assigned significant roles to these professionals in the stage of training new and up-skilling existing instructors directly involved with program implementation.

Feedback we received in recent years marks the shift in how the participants experience our programs who identify the nuances of soft skills they upgraded during the program and afterward. We have even begun implementing booster sessions for particular programs, to ensure the sustainability of the program outcomes.

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What I liked the most was realising the importance of teamwork, and what are my abilities and fears. I learned to practice the meaning of the verb 'empower'.

OB Croatia Participant

Serving Today's Young People: Reflections from Ben Lovell, OB Australia

The phrase "now more than ever" is often used when discussing the necessity of outdoor education programs for students, especially in the post-COVID era. While I'm hesitant to claim that today's youth require outdoor education more urgently than previous generations did, it's undeniable that such programs play a crucial role in equipping young people with skills necessary for life beyond the school environment. Ultimately, the primary objective of any quality outdoor education program should be to serve our youth and empower them to thrive in all aspects of life.

Interestingly, the foundational philosophy of Outward Bound, established by Kurt Hahn, was centered on preparing youth for an uncertain future. Stemming from its origins in post-war recovery and renewal, Hahn envisioned providing transformative experiences outside the traditional classroom setting.

The acronym VUCA, standing for "volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous," aptly characterizes the constant and unpredictable change confronting today's youth.

Similar to Hahn's observations of post-war youth, young people today grapple with issues such as anxiety, uncertainty, and social isolation. Outward Bound International has identified several key challenges unique to today's youth, including:

- **Rising Mental and Physical Health Challenges;** exacerbated by the pandemic, highlighting the need for a strong focus on resilience.
- **A Global Climate and Biodiversity Crisis;** underscoring the need for connection to our natural world.
- **Social Isolation, Fragmentation, and Polarization;** stressing the importance of real-world connections and strong interpersonal skills.
- **Employability Challenges and Skills Gaps;** emphasizing the need for practical, life-based learning programs.

Outdoor education is uniquely positioned to address these challenges, and it is imperative for organizations like Outward Bound to continue delivering adventure-based learning programs to provide young people with the tools they need to succeed in life.

In Australia, as elsewhere around the globe, the COVID-19 pandemic caused significant disruptions to daily life, with schools scrambling to adapt to lockdowns and remote learning environments.

Unfortunately, outdoor education programs were often the first casualties of these disruptions, remaining sidelined even as schools began to resume normal operations. Now, several years on from the height of the pandemic, many schools have reintegrated adventure learning programs into their curricula, recognizing their value in addressing the challenges facing today's youth.

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“Outward Bound transcends individual differences and kindles within each of us a sense of community. The wilderness environment allows one’s veneers to slip away, and each person can grow through daring to risk, to care, and to share with others. As an educational forum, Outward bound offers true learning, involving heart, mind and body, in a way that will last a lifetime.”

Kurt Hahn, Co-Founder of Outward Bound



As an educator with over 20 years of experience designing and delivering outdoor education programs, I am heartened to see schools not only reinstating outdoor adventure programs but also expanding and enhancing them to better serve our youth.

Through my own journey in this sector, I've identified several attributes of outdoor adventure programs that contribute to positive and impactful experiences for young people:

- Remaining in constant contact with the learning environment – a forest, a river, the mountains, etc
- Deliberate and thoughtful program design that helps deliver the desired learning intentions
- Appropriate level of challenge for those students in that place at that time
- A strong sense of authentic adventure
- Interaction and immersion in a wilderness environment
- Separation from technology
- Facilitation of learning intentions by skilled outdoor leaders, that are able to be transferred to other life situations
- A sequential program that builds learning and skills over a number of years
- Small groups that form a tight-knit community

Kurt Hahn's legacy extends beyond his famous quote about “there is more in us than we know”. His insight into the transformative power of outdoor adventure learning programs resonates deeply, emphasizing the importance of community, personal growth, and our natural environment.

As educators, it is our duty to prioritize the service of our young people, empowering them to overcome challenges, care for others, and ultimately, shape a better future for themselves and their communities.



[Click to View OB Australia Video](#)



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Updates From Around the Network

Image: courtesy of OB India Himalaya



Spotlight: Outward Bound Zimbabwe

A glimpse into Outward Bound Zimbabwe's History & Current Operations

Outward Bound Zimbabwe, established in 1961, is one of the oldest OB Schools in the global network. The School is situated in the picturesque Chimanimani National Reserve in southeastern Zimbabwe, near the Mozambique border. Over the past 45 years, Zimbabwe has encountered significant unrest, presenting numerous challenges for OB Zimbabwe, including prolonged closures of the School. More recently, the 2019 cyclone that struck the Chimanimani Valley and resulted in significant devastation forced another temporary closure. Despite these setbacks, OB Zimbabwe has demonstrated remarkable resilience and today continues to deliver impactful and relevant programs to young Zimbabweans across the country.

OB Zimbabwe is thriving under the new leadership of Chester Chituwu, local to the region, and is experiencing increased stability and growth. In 2023, OB Zimbabwe ran over 50 programs for 1800 young people, mostly school age youth. Programs capitalize on OB Zimbabwe's spectacular location within the National Reserve: hiking and camping and rock climbing on the local trails and the natural rock that surrounds the School, raft building at the renown "Tessa's Pool," a natural pool at the base of the waterfall just a short walk from the School, and team building and ropes course challenges on site. All of these activities take place under the supervision and care of a dedicated and inspired team of instructors, some who have been there for many years.



OB Zimbabwe is a practical example of the expression “tenacity in pursuit” that Kurt Hahn coined many years ago.



Staff Spotlight - Ajay Kandari from OB India-Himalaya

Embarking on a Reflective Journey: My Facilitator Self-Discovery

by Ajay Kandari

The definition of "facilitation" is "to make easy, promote, help move forward," which is derived from the Latin word "facil" which means "easy." In this article, I hope to express my present self-view, my goals for my role as an Outward Bound facilitator, and the influence I hope to have in this lifetime as I embark on this self-reflective journey to discover who I am as a facilitator.

Understanding Myself

As a self-acknowledged perfectionist, my drive to gain approval and admiration often comes at the expense of my mental well-being. Despite my reluctance to seek assistance, preferring instead to tackle challenges independently, this trait can sometimes lead to unnecessary hardship. Identifiably a Capricorn, my confidence and pursuit of excellence are core to who I am, along with a deep-rooted sense of community and the desire to unite people towards a common goal. The fear of failure looms large in my mind, not just for the act of failing itself but for the vulnerability and exposure of my imperfections it brings.

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...striking a balance
between work and
personal life remains a
challenge



The outdoors and environmental sustainability have always been integral to my being, though it took me a while to fully embrace these passions.

My upbringing, deeply intertwined with nature, laid the foundation for this passion. As I've become more aware of our environmental challenges, a sense of responsibility has grown within me. Through my coaching, I've discovered a fervent desire to mentor youth, steering them towards enhancing their skills and fostering a sustainable interaction with the outdoors.

This zeal has drawn me towards Outward Bound expeditionary journeys, aiming to refine my facilitation skills and contribute positively to environmental sustainability within my community. Gratitude flows deeply towards my mentor, Akshay Kumar, and the Outward Bound (OB) Community for opening the doors to my involvement in the 2022 "Training of Trainers" (TOT) for the TIMY EU (Erasmus Funded) project. This opportunity marked the resurgence of my journey with Outward Bound, introducing me to a vastly different realm. It was a period to patiently observe and engage with a diverse group of facilitators, staff, and members from OB Romania, Belgium, Brazil, and my own team from OB India-Himalaya.

Embarking on this adventure, I harbored some apprehensions due to a knee injury, especially given the cold environment. Yet, my heart and mind were resolute, urging me to step out of my comfort zone and extend my boundaries. Furthermore, this experience promised a vibrant cross-cultural exchange, encompassing people, processes, places, and, not to forget, culinary diversity.

The trainers tasked with leading our TOT faced their own set of challenges, given the varied backgrounds of our batch and the constant adjustments required in our schedule and planning. A source of profound inspiration was the story of Adam, the Director of OB Romania. His journey with Outward Bound, his pivotal role in developing OB Romania, and his ongoing contributions to the OB community were nothing short of motivational. It's these very achievements that led to his recognition with the Blue Peter Award at the World Conference in Brazil, October 2023. This narrative not only motivated me but also underscored the impactful legacy one can build within the Outward Bound framework.



TIMY EU Project

I am deeply convinced that outdoor education (OE) holds the power to substantially benefit the health of our natural environment. This goal can be realised through the education of young individuals and the careful design of meaningful experiences centered on environmental sustainability. In this context, the role of facilitators is crucial. By exploring how they can integrate and realise environmental sustainability goals in their programs, we can empower the younger generation to develop a profound respect for and care for the environment. My experiences have shown me that students often find their voice and leadership skills in an outdoor setting, presenting a unique opportunity to educate on sustainable practices.

As facilitators, we're tasked with a complex role that goes beyond group management to include leadership, skill instruction, and safety management. The evolution towards shorter, more accessible programs necessitates our adaptability and commitment to the intentional facilitation of OE outcomes. This role demands a blend of authenticity, confidence, presence, and a deep connection with our students.

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To sum it up, my journey as a facilitator is one of continuous growth, seeking to bridge the gap between theory and practice. It's about embracing every opportunity for professional development and shaping a facilitation style that's uniquely mine, grounded in personal philosophy and core values. As I navigate this path, my goal is to inspire change and champion environmentally focused initiatives within the outdoor education community, ensuring that the transformative power of OE reaches every participant.



Ajay with other OB Staff at the Asian Region Symposium

Asian Region Staff Symposium: February 2024, India

by Team OBIH

Set within the majestic embrace of the Himalayas, the 2024 OBI Asia Regional Staff Symposium took place at the Himalayan Adventure Institute (“HAI”), Mussoorie, in the Indian state of Uttarakhand (a.k.a. Dev Bhoomi – the land of the gods!), between 19-25 February 2024.

The symposium brought together staff from 11 schools across 9 countries, including Taiwan, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Singapore, Korea, Australia, Oman, Malaysia and India. While OB India-Himalaya played the role of anchor, it was the staff from across the participating schools that took charge of the design and delivery of the event.

No OB jamboree is complete without experiencing the local culture and outdoor activities on offer! In this instance, straight off the flight, the program started with an evening walk through the bustling holy city of Rishikesh on the banks of the Ganges river and immersion in the daily evening prayer ceremony called Ganga Aarti.

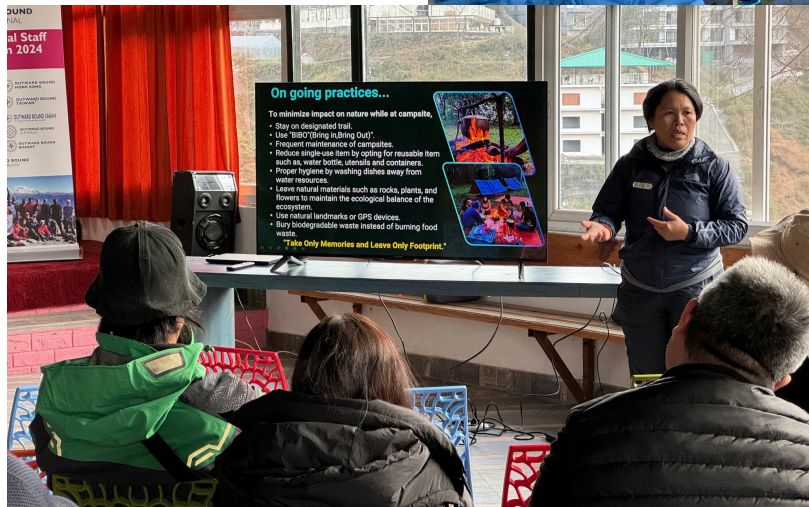


Rishikesh, besides being a religious and cultural centre is also considered India’s white water rafting capital and in true OB style, the team ran the entire commercial stretch of about 26 kms of the river navigating Grade 1-IV rapids along the way. Ganga is a pool and drop river and that meant a lot of time in between rapids to enjoy the natural beauty and of course take a dip or two. Hot lunch along with tea and coffee on the go was par for the course.

From the river, the action shifted to the mountains. The team did a day trek in and around the Benog Wildlife Sanctuary, marking a first trek for several and a first Himalayan trek for most. The trek allowed for the group to work in smaller teams, taking responsibility for food, safety, navigation etc.



The shared experiences of the river and the trek breathed life into the symposium sessions. Topics included: "What It Means To Be Outward Bound", cultural sensitivity, conducting needs-analysis, exploring place-based and service learning, Nature Bound practices, safety, integration of technology in outdoor programmes, diversity and inclusion, and the creation of flexible educational frameworks that cater to the diverse needs of today's youth and professionals.



The symposium was more than a professional gathering; it was a unifying celebration of innovation, collaboration, and a shared dedication to the principles of outdoor experiential education. It offered an unmatched platform for exchanging ideas and teaching strategies, intending to make experiential learning more impactful and accessible to varied groups.

One theme that spanned through the symposium was the commonality amongst the OB professional fraternity. We may speak different languages, eat different food, look different from one another, however, the challenges we face in our lives as OB staff are mostly the same.

Another theme centered around career opportunities and how best one may leverage the OB network. From having OB Passports that enable staff to travel and be hosted by network Schools, staff exchange programs and shared hiring portals, the conversations and ideas further reiterated the felt

Need for an enduring association not only within one's own School, but also with and within the larger network.

The event was a testament to the strength found in unity and the collective mission within the outdoor experiential education realm. It inspired the team to incorporate the invaluable lessons learned into their teaching methodologies, aiming to broaden the impact of experiential learning



Salil Kumar & Ajay Kandari, OB India Himalaya

OB Peacebuilding Training hosted by OB Finland



Co-funded by
the European Union

In early April, [Outward Bound Peacebuilding](#) and Outward Bound Finland held a partnership training program for instructors and staff from 8 different Outward Bound Schools. Over a week, including a two night winter expedition into Tiilikajarvi National Park, the group explored the major theories and themes of Experiential Peacebuilding. Key topics included different types of conflict and violence, the pillars of Positive Peace, and the emphasis on compassion and trust as outcomes of an Outward Bound experience for participants of all ages. This project, funded by Erasmus+, was designed to provide an introduction to theory and philosophy of peace and peacebuilding and to draw connections between the process of outdoor experiential learning - as championed by OB Schools everywhere - and the idea of peace as a process for both individuals (self) and communities (others). We are all peacebuilders!

For more information on future projects and collaboration, please contact [Flavio](#) at OB Peacebuilding.



Hakuna Matata: Click to View Video!

Testimonials...

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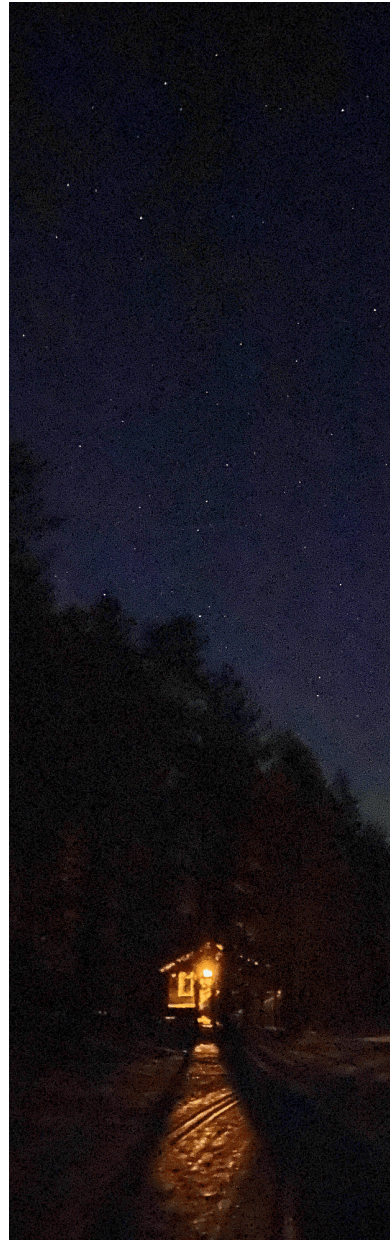
Mindblowing experience! Still trying to figure out how is it possible to feel this calm after such an intensive week. First of all, I am really grateful for the opportunity to be just the participant and feel Outward Bound vibe from another (almost forgotten) perspective. Being surrounded with highly motivated and beautiful souls made me feel like Peacebuilding is not just an idea, it is a way of living.

Majda Kovač, OB Croatia

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Attending the course has had a transformative impact on me personally and professionally, fostering deep connections and enhancing skills in conflict resolution. I truly believe that integrating peacebuilding elements into our OB School programs will not only enrich participant experiences but also promote positive community change.

Jakub Liška, OB Czech Republic



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I came here with curiosity, ready to face the offered challenges & stepped out of my comfort zone more often than I expected. The weather sometimes brought us happiness, in other cases created the biggest challenge. I learned about myself that sometimes perspectives could be game changers in understanding. I also find out that compassion is a key element in our work. As an instructor, the most usable takeaway for me is conflict management. I came here as a peacekeeper and - at my level - I go home as a peace builder.

Attila Péter, OB Romania

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I was humbled and inspired by getting to meet people from all levels of Outward Bound in Europe while learning and living the OB peacebuilding process. I am bringing home a new lens of peacebuilding in which to train staff and work with students, along with hopes and dreams of bringing this work to my local community.

Timb Mannuzza, Colorado OB School

“

My brain is still processing all the knowledge and experiences but I will definitely use my learning in the future - somewhere with youth and communities. It was a pleasure to take part in this training. Something went to my eyes and heart, I wish to do it again someday or help others to take part in it. I took with me knowledge, energisers and got to experience Finnish spring weather in all its forms. But I also got a feeling of a worldwide community of people who want to be part of creating a strong, peaceful world.

Elina Mäkelä, OB Finland

“

I have learned about myself and my leadership, from others and their approaches and about the principles of peace(building) and how to implement this in our own courses and own communities. I am excited to implement the principles of peacebuilding into our programs at OB Netherlands!

Joren Peeters, OB Netherlands



New Leadership at OB Oman...Welcome Richard Lewis!

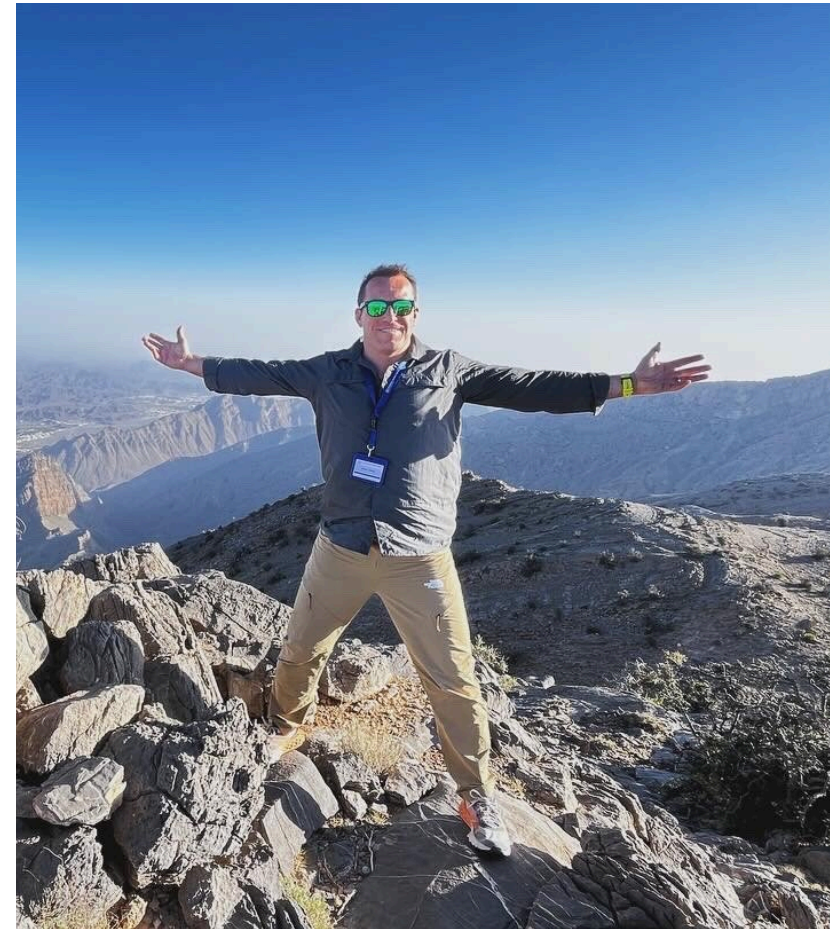
Richard comes to OB Oman with over 16 years of senior-level experience in education, coupled with a distinguished background and operational service in the UK Royal Marines. His career trajectory includes roles such as Special Education Director for a large Multi Academy Trust in the UK and serving as a Government Educational Regulator in the UAE.

Richard has leveraged his extensive experience in utilizing extreme outdoor learning opportunities to benefit children's mental health and overall well-being. Notably, he supported extreme classrooms in the UK, including mentoring students on expeditions such as the 'Highest and Hottest Classroom' and supporting SEN students to Everest Base Camp. These experiences have shaped Richard's approach to experiential education and curriculum modifications, emphasizing the importance of immersive and unconventional learning environments in fostering personal growth and resilience in children.

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I am thrilled to begin my journey as the Executive Director for Outward Bound Oman (OBO). The warm welcome and support from the OBO team are testament to Oman's incredible spirit. Committed to continuing OBO's journey and spearheading fresh initiatives for sustainability and growth, I bring diverse experience to shape its future and nurture future leaders. As I embark on this thrilling adventure with Outward Bound Oman, I'm reminded of George Mallory's immortal words: "Because it's there." Oman's majestic landscapes beckon us to explore, challenge ourselves, and push beyond our limits. Inshallah, with this spirit, I want to seize every opportunity, conquer every obstacle, and leave a legacy of courage and exploration'.

Richard Lewis, ED of OB Oman



New Leadership at Philadelphia Outward Bound School

Welcome!

Philadelphia Outward Bound School's (POBS) new Executive Director Justin Ennis has spent his entire professional life working to close the opportunity gap for young people in Philadelphia. For the last 12 years, Justin has served as the Executive Director of After School Activities Partnerships (ASAP), an out-of-school time enrichment partner to more than 200 schools and community-based organizations throughout Philadelphia. Justin first joined ASAP as a member of the AmeriCorps VISTA program in 2006. Over the last decade-and-a-half, Justin helped establish ASAP as a leading advocate for extracurricular programming through the expansion of citywide chess, debate, and drama initiatives that serve 5,000 youth annually.

As POBS' new Executive Director, Justin is eager to leverage his extensive school and community relationships to connect more young people in Philadelphia to Outward Bound's transformational experiential learning opportunities.



Justin Ennis

“I am in awe of what the POBS team has accomplished over the last three decades. The devotion that the staff and board have to our mission is remarkable and I find a great sense of purpose in building on that legacy and creating new pathways for young people and educators to benefit from our work.”

Justin Ennis

Check Out this Video from an OB Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) Course





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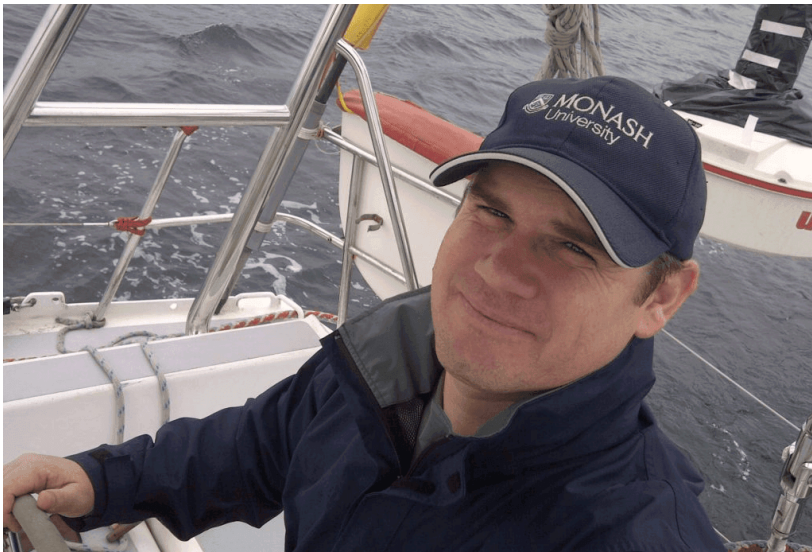
Strategic Projects Update

Image: courtesy of OB Belgium

OBI Risk Management Update

OBI Welcomes Aaron Funnell in the role of Risk Management Consultant!

Aaron has been working in outdoor education for nearly 30 years and is engaged as the risk management consultant for Outward Bound International, including covering risk management reviews for Outward Bound Schools in the global network. He has worked for Outward Bound Schools in Australia, Hong Kong and Vietnam, where he was the Executive Director. Aaron is a program reviewer for The Association for Experiential Education (AEE) accreditation program, and secretary of the AEE Accreditation Council (USA). Aaron is based in Sydney, Australia.



Check out the OBI Risk Management Guidance if you haven't done so already!



[Click to Download and View](#)

OBI Risk Managers Team

We have created a new Teams platform for risk managers across the network, and people involved with risk management committees. It is intended to be a platform for dialogue, peer networking and engagement, and supplements the OBI Portal which has various risk management files and resources. To register for this OBI Risk Managers team, complete the signup link here: <https://forms.office.com/e/aREkRLHpe8>

[Save the date for an upcoming Risk Managers networking call on Wednesday 5th June.](#)

2024 Risk Management Reviews

There are twenty Risk Management Reviews (RMRs) scheduled for 2024, with reviews recently completed in South Africa, Japan, Zimbabwe, Finland and the OB Center for Peacebuilding.



OB Japan



OB Finland



OB South Africa



OB Zimbabwe



OB Centre for Peacebuilding

Global Social Media Campaign: United in Our Commitment to Nature

Sarah Wiley and Sara Morrison - the OBI Social Team

This past April, OBI launched our first ever global social media campaign in collaboration with the Outward Bound network! The campaign was a great success with almost 100% participation. Working with Marketing & Communications staff across the network, we flooded our instagram accounts with short “reels” from each School based on the theme: **"United in Our Commitment to Nature."** Each reel was tailored to reflect the unique environment, culture, and initiatives of the different Outward Bound Schools, emphasizing our collective commitment to nature. On the last day of the campaign, Earth Day, OBI shared a compiled video with short clips from all of the reels created and shared by OB Schools.

The idea to launch a global social campaign has long been a goal of OBI and is very much aligned with OBI's strategic priority to promote Outward Bound more effectively. This idea was met with great enthusiasm at the World Conference in Brazil, where we settled on a nature themed campaign to take place in April, which is known as “Earth Month” across the globe. The actual “mechanics” of the campaign were worked out in subsequent TEAMs meetings with Marketing & Communications staff from across the globe.

Thank you to everyone across the network who engaged with the campaign whether on the creation side or the sharing side. It was a lot of fun to see a new selection of reels each day and to feel the power of connection across our mighty network.



[Click to View the Compiled Earth Day Video](#)

OBI March Board Meetings

The Outward Bound Trust and the Aberdovey Centre in Wales generously hosted the OBI Board and committee members in March; the first time that OBI has held meetings at Aberdovey, the birthplace of Outward Bound. The meetings were a great success.

Joining the Operations Committee (Ops Com) were new members Kobe Smits from OB Belgium and Salil Kumar from OB India Himalaya. Kobe and Salil replace Adam Horvath Kovacs and Mark Evans who both stepped down from the Operations Committee in 2023.

Operations Committee members are appointed by the OBI Chair to serve a three-year term, and can serve up to three terms. Members are selected so that Ops Com is broadly representative of the Outward Bound network.

Thank you to OBT and the staff at the Aberdovey Centre for hosting OBI!



OBI's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are core values that guide OBI's mission and drive our commitment to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all. We believe that diversity not only enriches our work but also strengthens our ability to serve our members effectively. We are dedicated to fostering a culture that values and respects the unique perspectives and backgrounds of all individuals, and actively works to eliminate barriers to inclusion. By promoting equity and embracing diversity, we strive to create a more just and equitable society for all.

In the second half of 2023, the OBI Board and the Operations Committee began work on a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion statement.

It is important to emphasize that this is a statement for Outward Bound International.

Each of our member Schools will have their own perspective, values and context. This statement does not attempt to influence a member School's local approach to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - that is, and must remain, the absolute responsibility of individual member Schools. Rather, the statement sets out Outward Bound International's position.

OBI's DEI statement was presented at the Brazil World Conference in an open forum discussion. We share it with the wider network below.

Please address questions and comments to [Iain Peter](#) directly.



**OUTWARD BOUND
INTERNATIONAL**

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Outward Bound International

Outward Bound International oversees the network of licensed member Outward Bound Schools that make up the worldwide Outward Bound community (an extract from our Strategic Plan).

At Outward Bound International, we firmly believe that everyone deserves equal opportunities to grow, explore, and challenge themselves. We are committed to continuing to grow the network of diverse communities in which Outward Bound is delivered. We endeavour to ensure that all participants, and the communities in which they live, can benefit from our experiential outdoor education learning model and can thrive in our ever-changing world. Our strategic planning will be guided by our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

With 35 Schools in 33 different countries, we recognise that individual Schools, and the communities they serve, will have differing priorities and resources. We are committed to ensuring that Outward Bound continues to evolve and adapt to meet the changing needs, expectations, and cultural aspirations of their society. This enables our members to thrive in a dynamic and multicultural world, where we respect and value diversity.

The Outward Bound International Resource Centre

The Outward Bound International Resource Centre was launched in 2023. This is where we store and share resources – a “go to” place for OBI documents and support materials.

The Resource Centre is accessible to everybody who receives the Compass Newsletter to their email address once they have authenticated their email address.

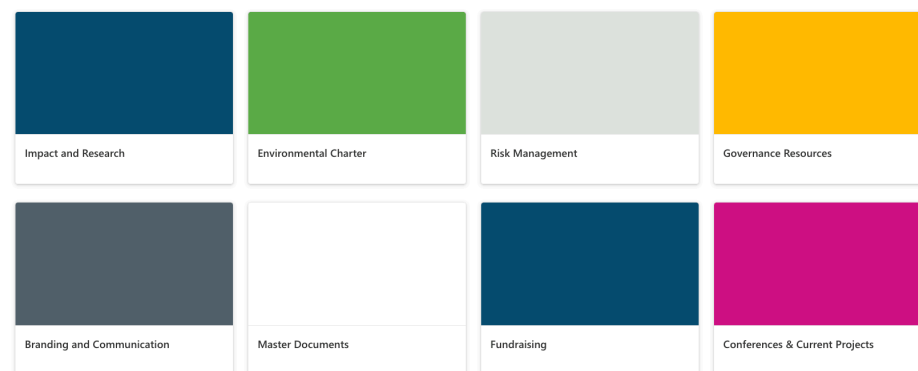
If you are reading this newsletter, than you should have received an email directly from Microsoft inviting you to authenticate the email account you use to receive the Compass Newsletter. Once you have completed this process, you will be able to access the Resource Centre via the following link:

[Resource Centre – Home \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

Please get in touch with **[Sarah Wiley](#)** at OBI,

if you have any questions or difficulties connecting.

Resources



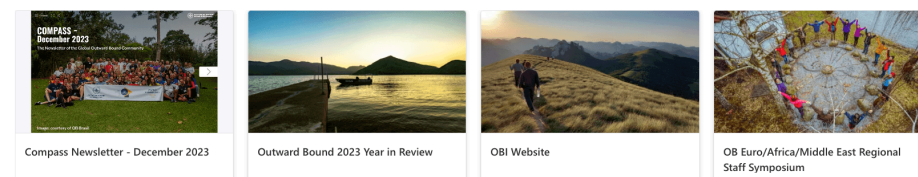
Upcoming Events

+ Add event

[See all](#)



Links



Looking Forward...

2024 Regional Staff Symposium
for Schools in Europe, Africa, &
the Middle East!

When: Nov. 12th to 17th, 2024

Where: Hosted by OB Romania.

Theme: “Nature Bound”

Contact: [Adam Horvath-Kovacs](#)
or [Kinga Vajda](#) for more
information.

***Regional Staff Symposiums are open
to anyone in the international
community**

SAVE *the* DATE



12-17 NOV 2024

-NATURE BOUND-

EUROPEAN, MIDDLE EAST, AND AFRICA STAFF
SYMPOSIUM

[Click for Information](#)

Save the Date! Risk Managers Networking call on Wed. June 5th

For Risk Managers...

An opportunity to engage with other Risk Managers from across the network.

- **June 5th Call Topic:** An overview of the risk management framework outlined in the OBI Risk Management Guidance Document, as well as an introduction to other resources available in the OB network.
- **Who is the call for:** For risk and safety managers, and operations and support staff in your School involved with risk management. The invite also extends to members of risk management committees.

Direct Links for Risk Managers Meetings Wednesday 5th June

UK 06:00am call: <https://bit.ly/3vRCTR4>

UK 12:00 noon call: <https://bit.ly/4cWVQ5Q>

We look forward to your staff and risk management committee members signing up for this new risk managers Team and joining one of these calls.

*Contact **Aaron Funnell** with questions

Regional ED “TEAMS” Meetings:

Europe/Africa/Middle East Region (open to all but focused on the region): Every 3 months, on the last Wednesday of the month. Next meeting is Wednesday July 31st at 1:00pm UK time. Please contact [Martin Davidson](#) for more information.

Asian Region: (open to all but focused on the region): Second Thursday every 2nd month from 9am to 10am Hong Kong time. The next meeting is Thursday June 13th. Please contact [Nick Cotton](#) for more information.

Americas Region: (open to all but focused on the region): Every 3 months, on the first Wednesday of the month at 11am ET. Next meeting is Wednesday August 7th. Please contact [Andrew Young](#) for more information.

An Exciting Opportunity!

OBI Launches Search for New Executive Director

An exciting opportunity for an outstanding individual to build on the highly successful work of current Executive Director Iain Peter and lead Outward Bound International into the next phase of its evolution.

In preparation for the planned retirement of Iain Peter in 2025, the Outward Bound International Board of Directors is seeking a dynamic and experienced leader to fill the role of Executive Director.

The ideal candidate will have a proven track record of success in non-profit Outward Bound management, strong leadership skills, and a passion and understanding for OBI's Vision and Mission. This is an exciting opportunity to lead our team and help drive our organization forward. If you are a strategic thinker, a collaborative problem solver, and a dedicated advocate of experiential adventure education, we encourage you to apply for this position.

For further information please apply (in confidence) to:
ED@outwardboundinternational.org.

Closing date for applications is 31st May 2024.



Iain Peter- Taking OBI to New Heights!

Next Issue of Compass:

- August 2024
- Theme: “People, Places, Process”
- Contributions (photos, articles, videos, reports) to Sarah Wiley by Friday August 9th



Subscribe to Compass

Parting Thoughts...



Reflections from the Asia Staff Symposium

Please share this newsletter amongst Outward Bound colleagues and get in touch with updates from your School.

CONTACT US

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To subscribe or unsubscribe from this newsletter, please contact
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