

## What kind of school is Aerie Boarding College (ABC)?

### A VET Boarding College with some local day student places

This is a Special Assistance boarding and day College, planning several small campuses, located at holiday resorts. It has been formed as an educational charity by a group of highly experienced and concerned teachers.

**We recognise that many young people in the age group 16-24yrs have not found success in the existing school system. ABC is designed to help them to stay connected with education and training through the VET options.**

We offer full-time residential living and learning, with some local day places, for young people, with a specific focus on the essentials for healthy living skills found in hospitality, tourism, care services and outdoor recreation industry. All ABC subject choices contain basic business skills training, using existing commercial resort or hospitality business properties as the college campuses. There is no separation in place of home and work so travel is no problem. Students live a balanced life within a very supportive community without the need to travel great distances between home and their place of learning.

In effect, our ABC Community is a large family business where everyone is part of the business, and, as a collegiate family, we all help each other to learn and participate in community enterprise. Skills learned can be carried later into member's private enterprises with the Community remaining as a supportive backup.

## When and where is the 1st Community Campus opening?

**Aerie College entry is a probationary 2023 summer school on "Imagination" Murray Cruise Boat. Subsequent probationary entry cruises will be offered during each school term. We are selective in our admission.**

**If enrolment is agreed, students start Essential Language and Business maths and their VET Hospitality skills.** At this entry campus students learn the basic commercial Tourism and Hospitality skills together with business skills that will support them in their quest for meaningful employment. There is substantial commitment to healthy living and wellness in all ABC campuses.

When a student is admitted, in effect their family also becomes members of the Community and are welcome to participate in Community events and opportunities.

**Other campuses will be opened in holiday resort properties as the Community expands,** especially along the Murray River. All our campuses will be at existing holiday resort style properties, some with care services business as part of their operations.

## Why the name Aerie College and who can enrol?

**An Aerie is an eagle's nest. The White Bellied Sea Eagle is our mascot.** They are common, but an endangered species, all along the Murray River and near coastal areas. They are magnificent birds that live and hunt for their food high above the other birds. They are selective hunters. They only take sufficient live food for their immediate needs. The Aerie is a nest built high away from danger, sometimes in trees or on cliff ledges, where the adult eagles look after their young. All our staff are like eagles, and our campuses are like aeries. Our staff are all high flyers in their careers, taking only what they need for living and taking good care of their young.

**Any "Good Person" can enrol in Aerie College and join Community.** We know many young people have not found success among the common birds in normal high school, for many reasons. We can help them strengthen their wings for a strong and successful flight path high above the common flock. Any person who would like to be like the eagle can join us, finding and flying high on a different path, taking only what they need from others and caring for their family. We need to be sure they are a good "safe" person before we accept them into our collegiate family.

## What are the Aerie Boarding College Fees?

**These fees will be posted on the Aerie College website as soon as possible.**

### **Bed fees – Own or rent a safe place to sleep**

**ABC offers families to opportunity to Rent or Own a safe place to sleep and call home. Investing in our Community (ie purchase of a loan Licence to Occupy LLtO) is better than renting your bed.**

Students or families can rent their student bed or purchase a licence to occupy a bed. Renting is more expensive than owning the licence over time. Student beds are mostly in two share rooms. Some campuses offer 4 share rooms being less expensive. At the end of your stay with ABC, you can sell your LLtO bed to other incoming students. If you look after your bed and room well, you should be able to get all your LLtO investment back.

### **Food and general living fees.**

**Students do the work of community living. Community does not pay others to do the work you can do as part of your learning. You learn as you do.**

Bulk purchase savings make our general living costs within the limits of your youth and living-away-from-home allowance. Everyone helps with house chores, the preparation and service of food as part of your entry training programs. You will help in the operation of the resort business to reduce your living costs. Like a large family, we will all eventually operate the large tourist resort and care services business to be developed by our community. Your time helping can contribute to your fees.

If you are not prepared to help with your time, you will be asked to pay for the time of other students to do your share of the work. This is all part of your business studies.

## **School or tuition fees will be similar to other Independent colleges.**

Government grants will contribute to the costs of your basic schoolwork and teacher's salaries. The cost to Government in the public school classroom box is low compared with the cost of the ABC outdoor and real skills learning. We will keep the costs as low as possible in keeping with the best practical adventure skills learning. Students contribute their "work" to reduce the need to employ staff to do the things that students are capable of. We encourage sponsorship and scholarships to assist worthy students.

## **You can earn outside income while at ABC college.**

We will establish an employment agency in the college to assist our students to find some outside paid casual work. As you develop your skills, you can build your own business to take elsewhere. We will help you build your business.

**You learn how to make money from providing high-quality services. This is what ABC learning is all about.** Hospitality and care services are not just jobs, they are a way of life. If done well, you will be well rewarded, sometimes in money, sometimes just in feel good. **High-quality service is well paid.**

## **What will happen if I do not do what I am reasonably asked?**

We are eagles. We all do what needs to be done. Every person has the right to set their own flight path. If you do not like being an eagle then you have the right to leave us. You simply tell the principal that you are resigning from the eagle team. Good Luck. We hope you will not become a chicken or a turkey. They usually have a short life.

## **What is it like living and learning at Aerie College?**

**Learning time at Aerie College is "all the time".** You will be learning to live a well-balanced life of work time, playtime and sleep time. (Roughly, 8+8+8 hrs per day, with a rest day each week). Regular maintenance of an activity log, with photos of activities, is part of your essential tasks. As a registered school, we are required to keep track of your "School time". **Australian law states that all young people between the age of 6 and 18 years must attend approximately 1,300 hours "Schooling" each year** including lunch breaks etc. The parents are responsible by law to ensure this happens.

**On enrolment, Aerie Boarding College (ABC) contracts with parents, or the student's legal guardian to ensure that this time is spent on "School work".**

In ABC, "Schooling" tasks must be done and accounted for, so ABC students keep track of their "time" in their electronic Log which is supervised by the teachers. ABC student time is very flexible, but their study log must be maintained. Time is also needed simply for enjoyment and pleasure. Good sleep time is essential for good health. You learn about your circadian rhythm and manage your life in tune with it.

Time is very valuable. We do not waste it. You must keep your time management responsibilities punctual. A little early for every commitment is good. Even one minute late for a group event is bad. For a large group this means many minutes lost.

There are no bells or sirens with ABC. Your day starts at sun up. Your sleep time starts about 8 hours before sunrise.

## Can I get “Paper” qualifications, like VET Certificates, Diploma or degree?

**YES.** Part of your work is planning your flight path and the things you will need to know and be able to do, to find success on your journey. Pieces of paper, like VET Certificates, Diploma or Degree are simply signs you can show to other people about your flight path.

**You will know in yourself what your successes have been. That is most important.** You need to know what you are good at and can be confident in doing them. There is no limit to your flight path.

## How long can I stay with the Aerie College Community?

**As long as you want or need, we hope as a member for life.**

On joining Aerie College (ABC) you will be joining a Collegiate Community. You will meet and make good friends. You can remain a member of the community for life. Once you become adult on your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, you can come in and leave when you want or need. Aerie Community will become your home base for support when and if you need it. Some colleges call this "alumni" meaning a common group of people who have been, and remain part of, a supportive learning team.

We ask that you give your full-time commitment to your time with us. Work hard, play hard and sleep well. The student leaders and teachers will let you know if you are not "Pulling your fair share". The saying "Shape up or ship out" will apply at Aerie College. You may also have heard of "Three strikes and you are out" in relation to breaking the rules of the game.

Once you are 18 you are free to leave our community at any time. Under 18's must return to family or Guardian if they leave us. We hope you will remain and become a sponsor member of our collegiate community. There will come a time when you will feel that you can give something back to the community to help other young people who are like what you were.

## Is there a student uniform?

**There is NO uniform for the first “Imagination” orientation program.** This is time for you to look at our community learning and living lifestyle. We watch you to consider your eagle potential (good person). Then you and the staff decide "stay or leave".

**YES - - - IF you survive the “Imagination” orientation, you then have the right to wear the ABC uniforms and badges.**

**They send a message. "This is not just me, we are all of us."** Most strong teams wear a uniform to show that they are a formidable group. Think of sports teams. You will be part of a unique team, capable of great things. A smart uniform is a sign that you are more than a single person and your group can get good things done.

**At each graduation step (Certificate, Diploma) you are presented with an Eagle Lapel Pin, which you can display with pride. This can stay with you for life. Yes, you will also receive some paper to hang on the wall and show to others.**

## My life is a big mess now. Can Aerie College help me?

**YES. We welcome all potential eagles to try our lifestyle.** No matter what your life is like now, you must be a potentially good person because you are still alive, so you can only get better. Our Collegiate community is very supportive. No matter what your problems are, our team can and will help you, BUT, you must also help yourself by "going with the flow". There is no value in fighting what we do to help you. You may not like it. Just play the game with us, with your best abilities showing during your orientation time. Then we all win. ABC always holds the Red Card. Just the way it is.

## What about my baby?

**Your baby or young child is welcome at ABC, assuming you aspire to be an Eagle parent.** Eagle parents are incredibly good at getting things done. **OK. The baby may have been a mistake,** but you must make the best of your new responsibility. A baby can be one of the great joys of life or it can be a burden. It depends on your point of view. Your first weeks of Aerie College at "Imagination" orientation, with the baby on board, will tell us if you will be able to become an Eagle Mother or Father. Being an eagle parent is not easy. Being two, happy together, can be fun. We will help you through the tough times.

**If it is just you and baby, it will be a tough gig,** but there will be plenty of uncles, aunties and even Grandees around to help. We are a big community family and family members all look after each other. You just have to show us who you are during the induction program. Then you chat with staff about the "Stay" or "Leave" decision.

## What is the deal if I get hot angry and cause trouble?

**A display of hot uncontrolled anger is embarrassing.** We all get angry sometimes. We must learn to control it. Hot uncontrolled anger is not good. Go outside. Take deep breaths. Calm down. Then come back in and talk.

**Carry cold anger. Don't just let it go.** Keep it for when you can use it well. There must have been a good reason for your anger. Go back and talk it out when you have control of your fury. **Cold, controlled fury is powerful. Use it with care.** It is all part of learning and we are all together to help each other.

If you do not like what we do, or you cause conflict with our people, or you get very hot angry, **we must talk with each other to resolve the conflict.**

**You must talk. Staff can help and protect you from physical danger if needed.**

Words fly with the wind. Once said they fly away. Cold fury is usually well remembered, but is gone with the wind, and no one is able to read it to bring it back.

**Do not write it down. It may come back and bite you. Let it fly with the wind.**

**WELCOME, IF YOU WANT TO FLY WITH US.**

**Bouc.**