## **Red Earth Staff Testimonials**



The following testimonials are written by Red Earth Immersion Leaders and Assistants and are shared with their permission.

"While on a Red Earth immersion, you will be busy, maybe busier than you've ever been. And then you will be stopped in your tracks by a simple magical moment. It might be witnessing a young student and a Traditional Owner having a yarn, or someone on the cooking team having a breakthrough moment during dinner prep, or simply looking up at the stars during a group reflection. These small moments were so big for me and will stay with me."

"Precious moments with incredible people. Hard work for an important cause. Amazing experiences that will never be forgotten."

"I found the whole immersion deeply rewarding on so many levels. I found the locations themselves simply stunning and reason enough to go. But it was the connections with the Indigenous people and the shift in mindset that will really stay with me. When recounting the trip to people I speak to these two things with the most reverence and passion."

"Intense. Full of genuine connections with traditional owners on their homeland. Insightful opportunities. Once in a lifetime." "The immersion gave 25 students a unique experience to go and meet Indigenous Australians on remote homelands in an authentic and meaningful way. Days were filled with getting to know one another, laughter, powerful story-telling and connection that I really enjoyed watching grow over our 10 days together."

"My immersion was the most fulfilling, enriching and meaningful experience I've ever had. It was the hardest, and most challenging work experience I have had but my personal connections with the TOs, watching and listening to the boys make those connections and then discussing the impact of the immersions with the TOs themselves made it all worth it."





"Organic, real, informative, heartfelt, beautiful, magic!"

"This immersion was challenging for me as it was out of my comfort zone and I didn't entirely know what to expect. It was probably the hardest work I've done for a long period of time, but I soaked up every single part of it and learnt an abundance of information on Indigenous culture and history from that area that will stick with me forever. I thoroughly enjoyed myself on the trip and made a great friend out of my fellow Leader, met some amazing people, and learnt a lot of valuable skills that I can now take with me on my next immersion."

"An invaluable experience for all involved. Personal and group growth takes place." "The immersion was a great learning experience and was a rewarding opportunity to exercise the skills and training I have acquired. A highlight is seeing the connections made between the TOs and the students while acting as the facilitator to see that the interactions were meaningful and transformative. The format of Duty Groups worked exceptionally well, I could see many students open up, and as the days on homelands passed, they grew in confidence. The nightly reflections provided the catalyst to the students gaining personal insight and asking deeper and thought-provoking questions."

"The change I witnessed in students and teachers, the conversations I've had with the Traditional Owners and their families, and meeting all the other amazing Red Earth staff have made this immersion a fun, fulfilling and heartwarming experience."

"The students really blossomed and grew during the immersion. They learnt practical life skills and also challenged their ideas of Indigenous peoples in Australia. They were inspired and feel equipped to make a real change to ensure a bright future for all Australians."

"Students, teachers and leaders had an amazing time on the immersion and were left buzzing upon the conclusion. They walked away with deeper insights into indigenous cultures and affairs after hearing firsthand experiences from Traditional Owners."

"My immersion was very enjoyable and introduced me to an incredibly rich cultural experience within the Indigenous community. Having the ability to visit these communities and develop a greater appreciation of Indigenous culture is something I believe everyone needs to experience. Red Earth provided an amazing and unique opportunity which has enriched my life for the better."

"One-of-a-kind experience: to be welcomed whole heartedly into a community that has never met you before and leave feeling like family."

"Teachers and Red Earth staff had great reflections with students to bring out those learnings had during the day. From catching fish to piggy backs at the school, students were able to connect with Indigenous Australia."

"As always the highlight for me is the impact I can have on 20+ men-in-the-making in a relatively short time, to support their understanding that connection with Indigenous culture and people is as natural and achievable as cleaning your teeth."

