I’ve always loved the outdoors. I grew up from a young age in my dad’s backpack getting taken up and down mountains before I could walk, and I think that’s definitely, sort of, put it in my blood. I want to get people out of their little comfort zones and just take them out and re-engage them with the natural environment that can be right on their door step.

I’d heard that La Trobe Bendigo had an awesome outdoor ed. program and when I enrolled in a Bachelor of Physical and Outdoor Education I wasn’t disappointed, I was amazed at some of the opportunities. I didn’t just graduate as an outdoor ed. teacher, I graduated as a teacher, so now I’m teaching year 11 Maths and Sport and Recreation.

I come across a lot of kids who are really disenchanted with their schooling and they just need something hands-on and really tangible they can sink their teeth into, and taking them out into these activities you’ll find they just get a boost in confidence and they can really, you know, build on my passion.

I went to La Trobe with a really activity based focus just thinking rock-climbing, abseiling, kayaking- this is great. But I guess I learned that these activities are really a gateway towards building relationships between these environments.

You can’t just take kids out into an environment and say “There it is, appreciate it” so that’s where the activities come in, you take them out and you take them rock climbing and slowly they start to appreciate that rock and they develop a relationship with it and want to preserve it.