



Overview of Hill Tribe

Our team developed this program based on 20 years of working with groups of young people. Without describing it as such we realised that much of the land-based educational work that our team have been engaged in represented threshold moments for the participants. These days, spending a whole week in nature away from screen technology is a challenging yet powerful experience in itself. Activities such as sleeping out under the stars, working together on a legacy project, skinning and preparing a wild animal for consumption (for those who chose), creating together a theatrical performance as a means of expressing what the experience has meant for the young people, are all ways of meeting challenge, building community and growing resilience in the young people.

Having worked with school groups for years some of our team ran a space at Shambala's family camp [Starry Skies](#) called the Burrow. We found the coming together of a group of young people who had never met, facilitating them to form their tribe and working with them to create challenging and spectacular performances a really inspiring experience for all. Now more than ever our young people need to spend creative time in nature away from the ever increasing schooling of their lives. Their future will present many challenges and here at On the Hill we are committed to helping them to build their emotional and ecological literacy, and practical skills.

Our day starts with breakfast and a check in with all staff and participants. Listening to how everyone is before we start the day has proved a really effective tool for supporting and meeting each other's needs. Our morning meeting may include games or singing depending on the prevailing mood. A sit spot on the land offers some time for personal reflection and the opportunity to find some stillness.

Our experienced staff will then take small groups, creating fire by friction, land art, buildings, music, theatre wildlife habitats, water slides, lunch, giant rope swings, tree houses, anything is possible with the Hill Tribe! At the end of a busy hot day we may walk to the river for splashing, swimming or stone skimming.

The evenings are a mixture of ridiculous games, reflection, trust exercises and some time to just hang out together. The tribe will spend some of the week working towards a final presentation/performance for the last evening when we celebrate together the achievements of the week.
