

# Connor's Story

## Project K - Video Transcript

Hi, my name is Connor Mclellan and I attend Glenfield College.

I'm Victoria Crossfield and my son is Connor Mclellan and he did Project K through 2021.

I first heard about Project K when my dean called us into the office and me and my friends thought we were in trouble but my dean actually had an opportunity for us and that was Project K.

Connor was quite introverted. He didn't have a lot of confidence when he was around big groups of people.

My life before Project K was very boring. I used to go to school, come home and play video games. Never go outside and never socialise with my friends. Just used to socialise on the Internet. Why I agreed to go on the Wilderness is that Great Barrier looked like a very cool place. I've seen a few photos about it and a few stories, but I also thought I needed a bit of a challenge. When looking through the activities, they looked pretty cool and I really wanted to give it a go.

When getting ready for the Wilderness Adventure, I didn't really have a feeling. I was very numb inside. I didn't know what to do, what to pack, or even who was going to be on the island. I knew I had a few friends that were going to be there, but they were probably feeling the same as me. The activities we did was rock climbing, flying kiwi, coasteering, kayaking. Probably my favourite one would've been coasteering because we were jumping off rocks and jumping into the water and climbing back up. We also saw a couple of seals which was pretty cool. Never seen them in real life before.

Yeah, so I would have never imagined Connor going through Wilderness Adventure prior to Project K. Just I know that he'd want to do it, but I think his confidence would have held him back. What the project has done is given him the ability to actually know he can achieve things, which is just fantastic and a huge amount of celebration afterwards by achieving it.

So, the mentoring experience was really great. When they matched Connor with Henry, they were able to put together kind of, common interests. So Connor is interested in mechanics and engineering, which Henry kind of had that ability in his current

job at the airbase. So, that connection was already quite relevant to Connor which made it a lot easier to make a connection.

The best thing about having a mentor was if I need to talk to him about a life situation, I'd always get the best advice. And also, if I ever needed him, he would always be there.

Yeah so, the support that he got from a mentoring side of things was what was achievable for Connor. He held himself back a lot, and I think that connection with Henry, his mentor, gave him a lot of ability to see the future of Connor and what he can achieve further in his life.

Even the interactions, the way he socialises, he has more of a friend group and is always out on the weekend wanting to hang out with friends and cars and all sorts of things. So yeah, huge difference.

The top three main takeaways Connor had was, the first one was, his voice. He knows that he has the ability to speak up, that helps him connect with his friends as well as socialise. The second one is his ability to use his humour. It's always great to be able to see him socialise and be that funny kid that he is at home. And the third one is the fact that he accomplished such a huge task not only physically but mentally as well coming home from Great Barrier. Just being able to celebrate that huge feat is amazing.

In five years from now, I see myself as an almost fully qualified electrician. Have some nice toys and some nice cars as well as a good bunch of mates, and a really positive mindset.

I recommend anyone to enter into the Project K programme. I think it's been amazing for my son. He's been able to accomplish goals that he didn't even think he could achieve and just to be able to empower young people of today is just fantastic, through this programme.



**We want every child to know: What they have inside is greater than any obstacle.**