

News



RIP Richard

Ricardo Sanchez is leaving Australia, surrendering his membership of the Sydney Swans and heading off to Spain to fight bulls. He's been spotted at various Spanish institutions around town swotting up on the lingo and learning to shimmy Paso Doble style. It's also been noted that he's been familiarizing himself in the art of the siesta at work.

Richard departs Menslink with a bucketful of goodwill and our sincere best wishes. His dedication to Menslink and its activities is obvious to all who meet him and we wish him good fortune and success in whatever he tries – HASTA LA VISTA BABY.

Flick It

We have a new way for mentors to get a quick message out about interesting things to do. Just send your suggestions to: flick-it@menslink.org.au

Bryan or Gaz will receive it and circulate the suggestion to all the other Mentors. So if you do or see something coming up like Cirque du Soleil and think it was or may be awesome – just FLICK IT to us and we'll let the others know.

Link Up – March



Pitch and Many Putts

We had our March Link Up activity on a beautiful Thursday evening at the Woden Pitch & Putt. There were about 20 keen golfers who took up the challenge of going after that elusive hole in one.

We played 9 holes with some outstanding golf being played. When I say outstanding – I mean outstandingly ordinary. Although I have been assured there were some good shots amongst it all.

Everyone there seemed to have a lot of fun, and the BBQ afterwards was a beauty. Thanks to Mike S for suggesting we change butcher for our meat supplies – it went down a treat. This is the start of the Menslink culinary experience becoming world class.



Mentor Recruitment

Just a reminder to anyone who reads this newsletter that Menslink is always on the lookout for potential Mentors. So if you know of any male over the age of 21 who you reckon would make an ideal Mentor – give 'em the good oil and tell 'em to give us a call here at the office. You know it makes sense.

CEO's Message



Firstly I would like to say that I feel privileged to be charged with the responsibility of heading-up Menslink. In the relative short history of Menslink the organisation has developed an outstanding reputation in the Canberra community.

Secondly, I would like to thank my predecessor and mentor, Richard Shanahan.

Richard and I worked closely together in the 18 months I spent as POSM Program Manager and I have learnt many things about working in the community sector from him. On a personal level Richard also inspired me to take on challenges and to have faith in my own abilities. Richard is going to be sorely missed, however all the staff here at Menslink are looking forward to the next chapter in the success story that is Menslink.

Menslink exists today because we have a very dedicated and capable group of Volunteers that make our programs and board run smoothly and professionally. To all our Volunteers I would like to say thankyou and congratulations, I look forward to meeting you all and working with you.

Most importantly, to all the young men and boys (and their families) that Menslink exists for, thankyou for the opportunity to be of service to you.



Kayaking to Springbank Island

Saturday February 17 dawned a beautiful day, perfect for getting out on the water and getting in a bit of exercise, which is exactly what the Menslink crew did.

Our good friends at AROC sports were lined up to supply us with kayaks, we just had to supply the horse power.

All the fellas met up, chucked the kayaks in the water and away we went – paddling our little hearts out till we got to Springbank Island. After we had a small breather the mentors and mentorees formed a couple of teams to paddle around the island in a bit of a grudge race – oldies versus youngun's. Funnily enough the wily ol' foxes proved too fit and too smart for the rawness of the youngun's.

After these shenanigans we cooked up a storm in the usual Menslink way – plenty of meat on a hot bit o' metal – and feasted ourselves silly.



When we were suitably full all we had to do was paddle back to shore while avoiding cramps and sunburn. No sweat. A fun day and a bit of exercise out on the water – what could be better?

Thank You

Just a couple of thank you's to people who support the work of Menslink. Big thanks to Upmarket Constructions for their invaluable help; also Expense Reduction Analysts and Geoff Wainwright; and lastly to Rene and Ezy Consulting who do some great IT stuff around the office.

Film Link: young men/short films

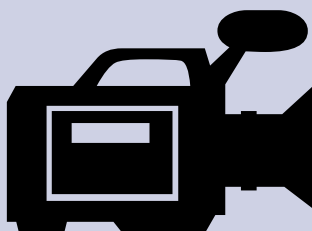
The workshop – 16 and 17 June 2007

Film Link is a professional workshop on how to make short films. The workshop will be run by Tom Cowan, a renowned Australian film Director and cinematographer, on the 16 and 17 June 2007. It is for young men in Menslink and their Mentors. Workshop participants get to create a story and make it into a short film. And they can choose to be cameramen, directors, story-boarders, actors and editors, or all of these things. No film making equipment is required and no previous experience is needed. Mentor matches can also continue to make more films during the rest of 2007.

How do you do it?

It is a project that you can do in your mentoring matches. To get more information or to register for the course ring Glen Toohey on 02 62533333 or 0420972560. The course will cost you

\$10, which goes towards your food and recordable video disks (YES you can take your short films home with you).



Menslink Short Film Premiere and other film festivals

Your films will be shown at a special Link Up screening for the members of Menslink in October 2007. You can also screen your films in one or more of Canberra's short film competitions or festivals.

Stuff to do together

Stromlo Forest Park – What can I do there?

What:

Stromlo Forest Park is a world-class multi-use, recreational sporting facility that you can use. The Mountain Bike tracks (Downhill, Cross Country and Mountain Cross) are open 7 days a week between sunrise and sunset, though booked cycling events get priority.

Other facilities at Stromlo Forest Park include a grass cross country running track, criterium cycling circuit for road bikes, equestrian trails and tracks for hiking and jogging.

Where:

Uriarra Road Stromlo.

How to get involved:

Much of Stromlo Forest Park is already open to the public. The Downhill and Mountain Cross tracks are due to open in April 2007. Turn up and have a look around. Also group bookings can be organised by contacting the park. Further information is available on the internet at:

www.stromloforestpark.com.au

POSM

POSM (Project Oriented School Mentoring) has kicked off 2007 by bringing Moruya Primary School into the South Coast cluster of schools. Moruya joins Broulee and Bateman's Bay as the third school running POSM on the South Coast. Darren 'Dazza' Hocking is doing a fantastic job for Menslink on the South Coast as Project Coordinator of POSM and has been integral to the successful implementation of POSM at all schools.

We are also excited to announce that Majura Primary will commence running POSM in Term 2 this year. Majura will be the fourth school in the ACT cluster along with Theodore, Charnwood and Queanbeyan (NSW).

Bunning's Belconnen are throwing their support behind POSM through their Community Programs initiative, with particular focus on one of their local community schools, Charnwood Primary. Bunning's staff are working in the garden with kids at Charnwood and have donated a compost system and worm farm to the school which will be located in the POSM garden.





Menslink Calendar – Important Dates to stick on your fridge...

Date	Day	Start	End	Where	Food	What
22/3/07	Thursday	6pm	8:30pm	Woden	BBQ	Link Up Pitch & Putt
3/5/07	Thursday	6pm	8:30pm	Menslink	Pizza	Link Up Orienteering
31/5/07	Thursday	6pm	8:30pm	Stirling	BBQ	Link Up Indoor Soccer
28/6/07	Thursday	6pm	8:30pm	Manuka Church Hall	Pizza	Link Up Welcome New Guys
28/7/07	Saturday	10am	1pm	Menslink	BBQ	Link Up Car Rally
17&18/8	Fri & Sat	4pm Fri	12pm Sat	Caloola	Mystery	Mentor Retreat
25/8/07	Saturday	10am	1pm	Mystery	Mystery	Link Up Mystery
27/9/07	Thursday	6pm	8:30pm	Zone 3	Pizza	Link Up Laser Video
25/10/07	Thursday	6pm	8:30pm	Manuka Church Hall	Pizza	Link up Welcome New Guys
17 & 18/11	Sat & Sun	TBA	TBA	Wee Jasper	BBQ	Menslink Camp – Abseil & Caving
1/12/07	Sat	3pm	6pm	Cotter R.	BBQ	Menslink Chrissy BBQ



Programs that Menslink run include:
MYM (Mentoring Young Men),
YMSN (Young Mens Support Network)
 and **POSM** (Project Oriented School
 Mentoring)

About Menslink

Incorporated in 2002, Menslink is a dynamic, non-profit community association that promotes the value, well-being and social participation of men, in particular young men and boys, by providing appropriate and professional services with outreach activities.

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