

News

Mentors Needed

We here at Menslink are always on the lookout for new Mentors for the Mentoring Young Men Programme. It is a very rewarding experience and you have the ability to really make a positive contribution to a young guys life. It's also FUN.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in becoming a Mentor, Bryan and Garry would be very interested in having a chat with them.

We can be contacted here at Menslink on 6239 4699 or at info@menslink.org.au.

Happy Birthday

A few happy cheers to the fellas with a birthday that has just been or just about to happen.

Graeme Chyla
Yarra
Michael O'Shea
Erik Wolfhagen

Link Up – January



Pizza and Movie Bonanza

This year we did a Link Up activity in January – which is not our usual form. Normally this month remains fallow – but as we had a late intake last year we thought we should run a Link Up for the fellas.

We started with pizza at Menslink and then headed in to Manuka to see a movie. We voted on which movie to see – and that turned out to be No Country for Old Men.

It was long and not your usual Hollywood movie. It got mixed reviews from those who came along – but I am willing to go on record as saying “I thought it was great.” I would

recommend it to anyone who wants to see a very thought provoking film. Even the people who didn't like it wouldn't be able to lightly dismiss it from their minds – methinks.

Anyway – a night that involves heaps of pizza and a movie can't be a bad thing.



CEO's Message



Happy New Year and all the best for 2008. The beginning of a new year can bring renewed optimism and a refreshed approach to just about anything, and that's certainly how it feels around Menslink this time of year. Everyone is preparing for another busy and exciting year.

Late last year I took the opportunity to drop in on the MYM mentor training nights to meet the new mentors and to give our newest 'recruits' a brief overview of the Menslink strategic plan. This experience reminded me of the first time I walked through the front door here at Menslink just over two years ago. At that time there was no way I could have envisaged what was to unfold over following two years. What stood out as I reflected on the potential journeys that lay ahead for each of our Mentor Matches was that it is so important to remain open to new opportunities, and to be prepared to step into the unknown, even if it is a bit uncomfortable.

When some thing might be a bit uncomfortable and it challenges us, it is good to remember that these are the situations we learn most from and help us to grow stronger as people. So lets hope for a year that is enjoyable but also provides enough challenges to keep us moving forward.

Continued ...

CEO's message continued ...

2007 brought many changes at Menslink one of which was the new brighter, glossier bi-monthly publication of this newsletter, 'The Link'. The newsletter is a great way for us all to stay connected at Menslink, so feel free to make a contribution to the 'Link' if you wish.

Illawarra's Best Catch

No, this is not an article about fishing. This is about a quest to find the Best Human Catch in the Illawarra and how Garry S helped judge this very quest – all for the purpose charity.

An organization in the Illawarra area set up a night in November 07 where a group of young guys was assembled who don't fit the media's typical negative stereotype of young men. The blokes are all actively involved in their local community making valuable and very positive contributions through activities such as Surf Life Saving, Youth Outreach etc and so forth.

The dudes were put through a bit of questioning, tasks and skits on the night to demonstrate their community spirit and the panel of judges rated the fine young men on their performance. I've gotta say that they all demonstrated a fine commitment to having fun while making the community a better place.

We came up with a winner for the night – and his name is Matthew Taylor.

Overall it was a fun night and not only the judges and the contestants had fun – but the audience too. An amount of \$4000 was raised and was donated to the Port Kembla Youth Project. I would hope that something like this could be run in Canberra in the not too distant future.

Note of Thanks

Menslink would like express their thanks and gratitude to Jim Rice for his time in the role of Chair of Menslink over the past 5 years, and to Derek Jory in his role as Deputy Chair. Jim and Derek provided both significant support and guidance to Richard and Glenn in their role as CEO of Menslink, and oversaw a period in which Menslink has grown, and developed and implemented some new and innovative programmes to assist young men and boys overcome and bridge difficulties and challenges in their life.

Just a few of the achievements Jim and Derek made significant contributions to have been; securing recurrent funding for the Mentors and Life Coaching programmes on a triennial funding cycle; development of the POSM programme attaining federal funding for POSM; development of the current 2006-2011 strategic plan and the valuable foundation work in developing policies to guide the organisation in its development.

We look forward to Jim's contribution on the Board, and to seeing Derek back on deck very soon.

The Board and staff of Menslink



Board Changes

At the Menslink Annual General Meeting on November 20 there were several new Board members appointed and a couple of changes in elected office bearers. Jenny Kingma, Emma Stroud and Gabby Alvarez have all been elected Board members while Tim Sneddon was elected as Deputy Chair and Adam Threlfall is the new Chair of the Menslink. Adam and Tim have replaced the dedicated and long serving team of Derek Jory (Deputy Chair) and Jim Rice (Chairman). Jim and Derek have both served in excess of 5 years on the Board with Menslink and have made outstanding contributions to the organisation.

MAG Recruitment

This article goes out to all the Mentors with the Mentoring Young Men (MYM) Programme.

In February we are looking for guys who are interested in helping guide the activities of the MYM Programme by becoming a part of the Mentors Advisory Group (MAG). It involves attending one meeting a month to chat about issues, concerns and the activities of MYM.

If you are interested in a position with MAG give us a call at the office on 6239 4699 and come to the February MAG meeting – to be held at the Menslink Office at 6pm on the 13th February.

POSM

Staff from ACT Bunnings stores are participating as Mentors in the POSM programme at four schools in the ACT and Queanbeyan region. The knowledge, skills and energy the Bunnings crew have brought to the projects at Theodore, Charnwood, Majura and Queanbeyan has added a new dimension to the POSM programme. The children at these schools are excited to be working along side the good people from Bunnings in their now famous green and red gear! A massive THANK YOU to all the Bunnings staff for their contribution this year and we look forward to seeing you all again next year along with some 'new recruits'.





Film Link Premiere

On a beautiful evening in late November we had the official Film Link premiere.

If you remember correctly these were the short films some of our Mentors/ Mentorees made with the able assistance of Tom Cowan (thanks for traveling down from Sydney Tom)— a professional film director.

There were three short films made, and with our new data projector we were able to display them in large format on the training room wall (from now on to be known as The Menslink Cinema) here at Menslink.

Thanks to everyone who appeared in the films and helped behind the scenes – the films were quality stuff. Each participant was presented with a copy of the films at the end.

There may now be a few new career options for some of the young dudes.



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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