

News

Happy Birthday

A couple of birthdays coming up. If you bump into these dudes, wish them a Happy Birthday.

Jordan Schofield
Norman Blanden

Happy Birthday from everyone involved with Menslink.



Fantastic news! Recently we received notification from ACT Minister for the Arts, Mr Jon Stanhope MLA, that we have been granted funding to again run the very successful Filmlink project in 2009.

Filmlink will be facilitated by renowned cinematographer and director Tom Cowan. Tom Cowan's workshop will introduce and help Mentoree's and Mentors to develop practical filmmaking skills such as script development, acting, filming, directing and editing. Participants will be able to screen their work at a premiere organised by Menslink and then enter their films in some of Canberra short film festivals if they choose.

Link Up Activities



Welcome to the New Matches

Our June Link Up was held at the Kingston Baptist Hall to officially welcome our new Mentor/Mentoree matches to the Menslink community.

We met up at 6pm on a coolish Canberra night, said "hello" to everyone and paired up in some novel matches. I think the standout match was Yarra and Ralph – we are unsure as to who may have been the Mentor, but it worked all the same.

Everyone played the games that were on offer and got into the spirit of things. We kept a score card as we went through the night so that we could give out prizes to the winning matches.

We also managed to stuff ourselves silly with pizza and mudcake while we listened to a very wise Financial Fitness talk from Larissa.

After all the games were played and everyone got to know everyone a little better Erik and Norman were declared the winners and carried off first prize.

We also got to know the new matches from our May Intake and I dare say they received a nice Menslink WELCOME and were made to feel a little more at ease with the wider Menslink community.

So congratulations to the new guys. We look forward to getting to know each other and sharing our friendship and support.

Car Rally

We had our July Link Up on a beautiful Saturday Morning. There was a great turn out at the Menslink office where we were warmed up by the second of our Financial Fitness chats.

We then got our rallying cry to start the engines and head off into the wild blue to rally to our hearts content.

When everyone returned from their jaunting Mark H expertly tallied and collated each carloads rally answers and awarded the prizes duly.

The winners on the day were Peter C, Alex L, Reece B and Phil P. Congratulations to everyone who participated and enjoy your winnings.

CEO's Message



There is no mistaking that spring is definitely here. Which of course means that summer will soon follow and everything that comes with this time of year; Christmas, holidays, relaxing and unwinding from the year gone by. The other thing that also happens in the rush to the end of the year is that organisations hold their Annual General Meetings, or (AGM's). Menslink is no different, with our AGM planned for Tuesday November 18 at 6pm right here at Menslink. Everyone is most welcome and I would really encourage you to come along and meet some of the other people involved with Menslink that do great work 'behind the scenes'. Everyone is welcome to enjoy some light refreshments following the meeting. I hope to see as many as possible of you that can make it.

Proudly supported by

Upmarket
CONSTRUCTIONS

NEXiS
ACCOUNTANTS
Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors

The Outsiders

Our August Link Up was a movie night. We watched *The Outsiders* here at Menslink. The movie was expertly projected onto the wall of the Menslink training room. I swear the wall down there was made for movies. It is the perfect size for the whole movie experience.

The movie is a good one. If you get a chance give it a look. It is from 1983 and it has some young fellas in it you might have heard of— C Thomas Howell, Ralph Macchio, Tom Cruise, Patrick Swayze, Matt Dillon, Leif Garrett, Tom Waits, Emilio Estevez and many more.

We stuffed ourselves full o' food – as usual.

Mumslink

Gabby Alvarez hosts a meeting for Mumslink on the 1st Wednesday of each month.

Mumslink is a chance for Mum's with son's on the Mentor programme to catch up with other Mum's and have an informal chat about what's going on.

Gabby can be contacted on 0402 687 786. Please give her a call at least one day ahead if you are keen to attend.

Retreat of Champions

The highlight date on the Menslink calendar, the annual Menslink MYM Mentor Retreat at Caloola Farm was held on August 8th & 9th. As per usual Gaz and I headed out to Caloola early to get things set up, anticipating another great retreat we had everything squared away by 3:30pm. This is a time when Gaz and I can take in the landscape enjoying the calm before the storm...the rolling hills of green and brown. A lovely sunny afternoon with a gentle breeze was our welcoming committee. We were ready to rock and roll.

Graham then arrived with the food and we informed him that Big Ed our scheduled cook had a little family emergency therefore had to bow out. This meant the champion tag team of Gaz and Graham were now going to feed us hungry boys. As is our custom the Farm House was divided into snoring grades, from A to D. A smaller contingent this year meant some of us had rooms to ourselves... a bonus for those that like to bask in the experience of snoring, teeth grinding, talking in one's sleep etc.

As the guys arrived the warmth of the location and ease of the company fell upon us like a soft feather doona. Laughter, relaxed conversation and good music accompanied our pre-dinner goings-on. The Esky Guru had given his blessing on the state of the eskies, then all was right with the universe. Right on time and hitting the spot with delicious efficiency, Gaz and Graham treated us to a solid simple dinner that was truly a cut above. As I looked around the table the glow of camaraderie beamed as bright as ever. New faces and some old...staff...mentors, our community enjoying an age old practice of sharing a meal together; the power of this can never be underestimated.

With dinner and desert taken care, a little digestion period as those rostered on for clean up did their chores; it was



then off to the apex of the retreat, the campfire. A crisp clear extremely cold night awaited us as the keepers of the fire went about their duty. Mark and Tim endured the prodding of the peanut gallery (led by the Undercover Chef); to their credit they came through, for before long a roaring fire was lighting up and warming up our surroundings. The "Compensator" blasted us into tropical-type temperatures as Captain Tangent then led us on a winding journey through the evening...a trip through H's Boneyard...stories of glorious frivolity as the action finger of time passed us on to the Sky Pilot with his Midnight Express and back to the comfort of the Farm House.

All feeling none the worse for wear after having our power sleeps we were up and breakfast was a thing of beauty indeed; G & G working their magic with bacon, eggs and pancakes. Some were up really early taking in the country air some of us had some extra eye-lid movie time.

On to the Round Table discussion our 'structured' portion of the retreat; where mentors and staff get to share one and other's journey from the

previous year...victories, challenges, struggles and good times. A time of support and encouragement as each of us tell our stories.

Barbequed bacon - burgers for lunch, a clean-up of the site, a kick of the footy, a bushwalk, Phil's bluegrass overload and we were all on the road. A special thanks to Gaz and Graham for coming off the interchange for Big Ed and doing such a wonderful job feeding us blokes.

I would like to thank all who came (especially young Nicholas, ill health and all) for we were all responsible for making it what is was...a fun relaxing time with a good bunch of guys. I'm already looking forward to next year's retreat, so clear a space in your diaries guys for a true calendar highlight.

Bryan

POSM

The last few months have been a busy time for POSM with spring planting happening at Higgins, Holt and Charnwood Primary Schools amongst other activities. Mark & Nick have also been introducing the kids to soil testing, worm farms and animal husbandry.



Yes, Charnwood Primary now has four chickens in residence which have settled in nicely to their new and very accommodating surroundings. Higgins Primary had a special treat recently when they made spring rolls in the kitchen from POSM garden produce.

Earlier this term the POSM groups at Higgins Primary conducted guided tours of the garden for every class in the entire school. The POSM groups shared their knowledge of the composting system and passed on their experiences of planning, planting and nurturing the veggie garden.





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

Date	Day	Start	End	Where	Food	What
19/6/08	Thursday	6.30pm	9pm	Kingston Baptist Church	Menslink Catering	Safe Talk
26/6/08	Thursday	6pm	8.30pm	Kingston Baptist Church	Pizza	Welcome New Guys
4/7/08	Friday	4.30pm	5.30pm	Menslink Office	BBQ	Mentoring Matters
26/7/08	Saturday	10am	1pm	Menslink Office	BBQ	Car Rally
8 – 9/8/08	Fri – Sat	Fri 4pm	Sat 3pm	Caloola Farm	BBQ etc	Mentor Retreat
28/8/08	Thursday	6pm	8.30pm	Menslink Office	Pizza	Movie Night
25/9/08	Thursday	6pm	8.30pm	Zone 3 Belconnen	TBA	Zone 3 laser game
30/10/08	Thursday	6pm	8.30pm	Kingston Baptist Church	Pizza	Welcome New Guys
18/11/08	Tuesday	6pm	Depends on the meeting	Menslink Office	Light Nibblies	Annual General Meeting
14 – 16/11/08	Fri – Sun	Fri 5pm	Sun 3pm	Depot Beach	BBQ etc	Annual Camp
6/12/08	Saturday	3pm	6pm	Cotter River	BBQ	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.

Menslink Contact Details

Email:
info@menslink.org.au

Phone:
 (02) 6239 4699

Street Address:
 2 Light St, Griffith
 ACT 2603

Postal Address:
 PO Box 4147
 Manuka, ACT 2603