

News

The Sun Beckons

We've recently had two good friends depart the Mentor programme. Dan Sharp and Tristan have decided the Canberra winter's are too cold, and so have drawn stumps and headed for the sun, sand and surf of Queensland.

They will be missed greatly. If they're ever back down this way they are more than welcome at any Menslink function. We'd be happy to have 'em along, fill 'em with food and hear about their sunny escapades.

ALL THE BEST FELLAS.

Graham Nicholls is moving

We owe a big THANK YOU to Graham Nicholls who kindly lends us his overhead projector and screen every Mentor Intake. The projector's been a trusty old beast that's provided us with superb service. Every Mentor in the programme has benefited from it.

Good luck Graham and best wishes on your move to Qld.

Graham's departure has left us in a bit of a quandary – "where to get a new projector?" Well, we have applied for a bit of cash in the Govt's Small Grants Scheme. Hopefully we will get the moolah and become the proud new owners of a brand spankin' Digital Projector. Fingers crossed.

Link Up – May



Pollies at Night Time

Our May Link Up was Orienteering in the Parliamentary Triangle. A good turn out gathered near Questacon, had the instructions clearly explained to them and headed off into the night for a bit of a doddle around the Parliamentary Triangle. As it was around Budget Time we were aware there may be some feral pollies wandering the streets trying to appear relevant, so we were careful to stay away from anyone looking too serious.

After an hour or so of gallivanting around everyone headed back to Menslink where Bryan had a heap of pizza's waiting for our empty, well exercised stomachs. Garry did a bit of number crunching, took some

bribes and worked out who the winners of the night were. Prizes were distributed and pizzas were eaten. Then we sat back and Lloyd Worthy from Outward Bound gave us a talk about Outward Bound courses.

All up it was a fun evening:- plenty of prizes; plenty of food and plenty of good vibes. Can't wait till the next one.

CEO's Message



Since the last newsletter there has been plenty happening around Menslink. A couple of really exciting events such as the FilmLink project, and HEADS UP – an awareness raising event for young male depression, you can read about these in this newsletter. Both events were very successful, creative, ground breaking for Menslink and driven by valuable Menslink volunteers.

Just last week Darren Hocking and I gave a joint presentation with Broulee Primary School on the POSM program at the national 'Working with boys, building fine men conference' hosted by the Family Action Centre at the University of Newcastle. The presentation was well received and overall a valuable learning experience for Darren and myself. This opportunity also reinforced that Menslink programs are viewed by our peers as 'good practice' in engaging young men and boys.

As you can see, volunteers play a vital role at Menslink in a whole range of ways. If you are a Menslink volunteer please feedback to us here in the office any opportunities you see for us to promote volunteer mentoring opportunities. Those people in your networks may be our new crop of potential volunteers.



Look out for a mate

HEADS UP - raising awareness of young male depression; this event was a huge success which attracted over 300 people. Held at All Bar Nun in O'Connor in a very social and upbeat atmosphere we learnt about the issue of depression and what friends, family and any one connected to a young man can do to help them reach out for support. Emma Stroud was the driving force behind HEADS UP and we congratulate her for a marvellous job in running the event and for caring about and valuing young men and boys. One of the key messages of HEADS UP was "Look out for a mate". Check out the website for further info and resources:

www.headsup.org.au.

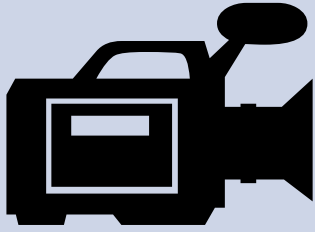


Socceroos in Waiting

We played Indoor Soccer for our May Link Up. It was a chilly evening to say the least, but things warmed up with a bit of furious soccer action.

Plenty of skills were on display – and I reckon there just may be a future Socceroo in the Menslink ranks. Whoever you are, just remember where it all started when you sign your \$30 million contract for Chelsea.





The Academy Awards

It was with great pleasure that I joined our crew of fine young men and fine not-so-young men for Film Link. As I'm escaping to sunny Queensland, I certainly sought the greatest harvest I could reap from Film Link. I would like to thank Glen and Neil and the others whose efforts made Film Link possible.

The workshop showcased much of what Menslink can be proud of. The workshop was far from 'amateur hour'. We were hosted by AFI winning director Tom Cowan, a hard working editor named Edwin and our Menslink crew who were enthusiastic and resourceful.

Tom presented a robust filmmaking framework, which reminded me of the strong framework of theory that is presented to 'would be' mentors at Menslink initiation. There was much

filmmaking 'practice' too, which draws parallels to our Menslink adventures which present opportunities for trial, error and learning. As for the film, you'll have to wait for the screening: I think you'll be surprised by the talent in front of and behind the camera.

We won't take a Hollywood Blockbuster away from the weekend, but for me, I took away something much greater. A Menslink experience: to interact with some young guys making sense of and making their way in the world. Conversations with older guys who give a damn about where we are heading. To share a yarn, a joke, an experience, a blunder, a feeling and maybe, just maybe an insight that can enrich the rest of one's life. That's the promise of Menslink.



POSM

For those of you that don't know me my name is Ryan and I am now heading up the POSM program as Glenn has moved up to the CEO role.

As we begin to wrap up another term of POSM, we have started a new school (Majura Primary) bringing the total schools between the South Coast and Canberra up to 7 schools.

All of the POSM schools are moving along nicely getting the veggie gardens ready for their veggie crops as well as some minor construction, including some sandpits, chicken houses and compost bins. A big "well done" to Dazza (the Project Coordinator down the coast who is enjoying some well deserved time off in South Africa) and Nick (the project Coordinator here in the ACT).

Bunnings in the ACT have really jumped on board with POSM, now providing between 2 and 4 staff members from the stores around Canberra to act in a Volunteer Mentor role at each of the four Canberra Schools. We are slowly getting Volunteer mentors on board to help out with the POSM mentoring program, but more people are still needed.

Here are a couple of pictures from Majura, our latest POSM school.





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

Date	Day	Start	End	Where	Food	What
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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