

News

Mentors Advisory Group

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 guy's 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 dudes with birthdays around this time of year.

Erik W
Peter C
Hendo
Jon K
Tim C
Mike O'Sh.
Yarra.

If you see any of these guys – wish them a Happy Birthday.

Link Up February



Casuarina Sands

Our February Link Up was originally gonna be kayaking out on Lake Burley Griffin. But a blue green algae outbreak put paid to that. The powers that be closed the Lake to all activity and we thought it best to pay heed to their advice.

So what to do was the question we asked ourselves. "I know," said some bright spark, "let's go swimming at Casuarina Sands." So we did, and it was fantastic.

I had never been out there, so I was keen to find out what it was like. I love watery places and this is a great watery place.

We set up the legendary Menslink Barbie in a beautiful spot and proceeded to do some swimming.

There were about two dudes who didn't get wet – but they had official jobs (cooking and photographing) so their excuses were semi valid.

The water was wet and slightly cool but refreshing and very very relaxing.

I reckon we will be returning to Casuarina Sands for another Link Up. I know I'll include it on my list for ways to avoid the heat.

Cheers.

CEO's Message



2009 is only a few months old and it seems that a lot has already happened. The fires in Victoria have been devastating to a point that is unfathomable. However, the community spirit that has risen out of this tragic situation has been amazing, not dissimilar to that shown in Canberra after the 2003 fires.

People's capacity to give both financially and of them selves in what are clearly uncertain times has been remarkable. *Community* certainly does mean something to a lot of people in Australia.

The Mentoring Young Men program is into full Mentor Recruitment mode, with lots of activity going on to get the message out to Canberran' men that Mentoring is a really valuable way to make a contribution to the community. Mentor training kicks off in early May, so if you know anyone that may be interested, now is the time to get in touch with Bryan and Garry. We have plenty of posters and postcards here that we want to get out into workplaces and community spaces, so please give us a call and we can get you some to distribute.

The beginning of a new year brings new optimism for the year ahead, this year like no other in recent times it would be timely for everyone in the community to reflect on what is important to them. In 2009 encourage someone you know to *increase their mentoring footprint*.

Link Up continued

Film Night

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid – another classic! Paul Newman (Butch Cassidy) and Robert Redford (The Sundance Kid) put on a great action packed, at times comical show. Butch is all ideas, Sundance is all action and skill. The west is becoming civilized and when Butch and Sundance rob a train once too often, a special posse begins trailing them no matter where they run. Over rock, through towns, across rivers, the group is always just behind them.

A good night was had by all; we kicked off with a sumptuous feed of our favourite Italian delicacy, pizza! As we settled in for the film, the Menslink 'Mini Cinema' was nearing capacity. A brief downpour and light show outside added to the ambience. During the intermission Mark broke out the traditional film night fare of popcorn, which was enjoyed by all.

I won't spoil the story for you in case you are going to watch it one day. But needless to say Butch and Sundance share some 'adventures' together. Towards the end of the film, as Butch and Sundance ponder where they might go next, Butch suggests Australia! Maybe a sequel filmed here in Australia one day?

A special thanks to Jack for pitching in with the pack up and cleaning after what was a great night catching up with a few guys and watching a retro classic!



Mentoring Matters

This year Menslink are going to host a couple of Mentoring Matters barbecues.

These barbies will be a light and easy way for any one interested to find out about becoming a Mentor.

We'll throw a bit of meat on the 'que and have a chat. There will also be a guest speaker on each occasion.

Current Mentors are very welcome, and if you know someone who may be interested – bring 'em along.

The dates for Mentoring Matters this year are 27th Feb; 3rd July; and 16th Oct. All start at 4:30pm and go to 5:30pm on a Friday – here at Menslink.

MAG 2009 (Mentor Advisory Group)

The MAG is the body of mentors responsible for overseeing the planning and implementation of MYM activities, such as: Link-Ups, the Mentor Retreat, Annual Camp, Christmas BBQ, Filmlink and various other projects.

February 2009 saw a new crop of mentors come on board to the MAG, with this we say "thank you" to our 2008 MAG members and leaders. 2008 was a very productive year for the MAG and this was largely due to a solid group of mentors and the leaders within this group. A very special thank you to all the members of MAG 2008:

Glen Toohey
 Michael Shanahan
 Wes Randall – Chairman
 Graham Hannaford – Vice-Chairman
 Nicholas Brown – Secretary
 Erik Wolfhagen
 Dennis Alexander
 Jean Jacques David

As February is the first meeting of the MAG for the year it is also the time a new leadership group is voted in. I would like to welcome aboard the MAG for 2009:

Eric Wolfhagen – Chairman
 Nicholas Brown
 Michael Shanahan
 Graham Hannaford
 Wes Randall – Vice-Chairman
 Peter Clarke
 Nicholas Spence
 Michael Mitchell – Secretary
 Jim Morrison

It is always a pleasure to be a part of this diversely vibrant group of men. I look forward to what 2009 brings for after only two meetings this year things are looking grand!

Bryan

A Hello from Keith Burrows former mentor in MYM

Hello Menslink

I did read the long version of the newsletter and enjoyed reading what you guys are doing. I still miss the challenges and fun we all had - even miss Drue swinging from the rafters!! His mum told me he is now - or was - living in Cairns.

Guess I can say I'm still wandering Australia house-sitting and have really enjoyed the last 2 years as I have been at Pimpama south of Brisbane towards the Gold Coast. Alas the 7.5 acres has been sold for a cool 5 million for redevelopment of the new city at Coomera!! The never ending rather gross sprawl.

I guess the nearest I have found to Menslink was mentoring in High Schools —adults meeting with students at risk of dropping out of school but only for a couple of hours weekly. I ended up with what seemed to be a very unlikely guy but it turned out really well!! Once again NEVER judge a book by its cover!!

Had a great time as helper with Gold Coast Orchestra rehearsals and concerts—also did some work at the opshop at Oxenford and this year helped with Rosies Kitchen food van at Southport and the Gold Coast fortnightly on a Saturday night. The homeless are generally great people of all ages and look for company sometimes as much as the food.

Continue to cycle as much as I can to keep the creaky knees going and had a great time working as a volunteer in catering on the 9 day Bundaberg – Brisbane bike ride for 1200 cyclists. Became expert at shredding 20k packs of carrots amongst other things!! October I had another bike fix and did the 110k charity ride from Southbank Brisbane – Southport Gold Coast. Great fun day and the weather was very kind too.

Several times I have had shorter breaks with my friends on the farm at Mulgildie which is on the map! Inland about 200k from Rockhampton or Bundaberg and an interesting insight to life in remote areas.

The last couple of months have been helping at the Cycle2city centre in central Brisbane which is an upmarket facility for people who want a secure place to park their bike and use every possible facility – showers – lockers etc. before making their way to the office.

There is nothing like Menslink that I have found in my travels.

Regards and good wishes to you all.

I hope there are still a few survivors at Menslink who might even remember me!!

*Cheers,
 Keith*

Mentor-Mentoree quick interview

1 Minute with Stephen Samara

Favourite Band: Marilyn Manson
 Favourite Book: Satanic Bible
 What you get from the Mentoring friendship: A good sense of trust and support
 Words of Wisdom: "What is good? Whatever heightens the feelings of power, the will to power, power itself, in man." F Nietzsche.

1 Minute with Nick Spence

Favourite Band: Rolling Stones
 Favourite Book: The Alchemist; by Paulo Coelho
 What you get from the Mentoring Friendship: It's a two way friendship, you learn from the interactions and it is always very meaningful.
 Words of Wisdom: Stay as calm as a Hindu cow.

Film Link 09

Just a short note to say we are able to run Film Link again this year. This event was run in 2007 and was a huge success – with a premiere screening here at Menslink.

For those that weren't with us back then – Film Link is run over a weekend where a number of Mentor/Mentoree matches get together with a professional Film Maker and create a short film. It is a lot of fun and very creative. It gives you a chance to learn first hand exactly what is involved in a film shoot.

So if you reckon you'll be interested – chat with your Mentor/Mentoree. The weekend where it all happens will be 13–14th June 2009. Stay tuned for more info.....



Date	Day	Start	End	Where	Food	What
27/2/09	Friday	4:30pm	5:30pm	Menslink	BBQ	Mentoring Matters
26/3/09	Thursday	6pm	8:30pm	Parl. Triangle	Pizza	Link Up
2/5/09	Saturday	10am	1pm	Rock Climb - Erindale	BBQ	Link Up
30/5/09	Saturday	10am	1pm	10 Pin Bowl - Tuggers	BBQ	Link Up
13-14/6/09	Sat - Sun	???	???	Various locations	Menslink provided	Film Link
25/6/09	Thursday	6pm	8:30pm	Welcome New Guys - Church	Pizza	Link Up
3/7/09	Friday	4:30pm	5:30pm	Menslink	BBQ	Mentoring Matters
25/7/09	Saturday	10am	1pm	Menslink	Car Rally	Link Up
14,15/8/09	Fri, Sat	4pm	2:30pm	Caloola	Menslink provided	Mentor Retreat
27/8/09	Thursday	6pm	8:30pm	?????	Menslink provided	Link Up
17/9/09	Thursday	6pm	8:30pm	Lazer Zone - Belconnen	Ice Creams	Link Up
16/10/09	Friday	4:30pm	5:30pm	Menslink	BBQ	Mentoring Matters
29/10/09	Thursday	6pm	8:30pm	Welcome New Guys - Church	Pizza	Link Up
17/11/09	Tuesday	6pm	8pm	Menslink	Nibbles	AGM
20 -22/11/09	Friday - Sunday	4pm - Fri	5pm - Sun	Annual Camp	Various	Annual Camp
5/12/09	Saturday	3pm	6pm	Cotter Bend	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.

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