

# ACCA Newsletter June 2007

[www.campconnect.org.au](http://www.campconnect.org.au)

Reconnecting  
Dads & Kids



## Australian Camp Connect Association

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### Presidents Message:

Dear Supporter

This term we ran our Dads Time Gatherings in both the southern & eastern suburbs of Melbourne. Unfortunately very few dads up to now have made use of this service which has been very disappointing. At this stage they will continue to run till at least the end of this term.

On a more positive note, I will be representing Camp Connect at the Blokes Big Breakfast celebrating Men's Health Week. As part of the event there will be an expo of men's health services and groups within the eastern region. This will be an opportunity to promote what Camp connect is all about both to local dads in the area as well as other service providers.

The planning of the Fathers Day Weekend Dads & Kids Camp is well under way with the Briars Outdoor Ed. in Mt. Martha Camp being selected as the venue for this event. The program is currently being planned and registrations are being taken.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the work we do for dads and kids.

**Brad Mander**  
**Australian Camp Connect Association Inc**

## Resources For Dads - Family Connect

Welcome to Family Connect - your guide to local family and children activities, services, shopping, support and events in your local area.



[www.familyconnect.com.au](http://www.familyconnect.com.au)

On this site you will find our [Family Connect](#) Directory where you can search for a specific service in your local area or browse to find ideas to entertain your children. Whether it is ballet shoes or circus classes you are after, you will find your local supplier here. If you are looking for something to do, the Active Kids Events Calendar will provide some ideas of what's on in your local area.

### Vision:

To offer [FamilyConnect.com.au](#) as a first choice resource, service and tool to help Australian families connect and interact with their local communities.

A family friendly community is achieved when: Children are valued, supported, respected and actively included. Parents and guardians are supported to raise healthy and happy adults through active and accessible social and support networks. Local businesses and services provide the basic physical needs of food, clothing, shelter and health and the developmental needs of education and opportunities for community members to grow socially, culturally, physically and spiritually.

### Mission and Key Strategies:

- To help build and maintain family friendly communities and stronger community relationships, FamilyConnect.com.au will: collect and disseminate relevant information via the Internet that will assist parents and children to become actively involved in their local community
- provide contact details for local support and social networks that parents and guardians can find quickly and easily
- Offer a cost effective advertising channel for local businesses and services to reach families and promote their family-friendly goods and services directly to people that require them.

Values Statement: The following values are the standards which guide how FamilyConnect.com.au operates Be passionate about and actively serve the communities we live in

- Foster relationships between community members including but not limited to children, adults, families, government, organisations and businesses
- Encourage a sense of community in Australian towns and cities
- Recognise the needs of families
- Provide relevant and accurate information to help families strengthen, grow and prosper.

We at Camp Connect thank [Family Connect](#) for their generous support of our work. Family Connect are allowing us to advertise our programs for free on their website. Please support them by visiting their website.

## Resources For Dads Family Relationships Online

Family Relationships Online is a key component in Government support for building better family relationships. It provides all families (whether together or separated) with information and advice about family relationship issues.



<http://www.familyrelationships.gov.au/>

It allows families to find out about services that are funded by the Government that can assist them to build better relationships. It also provides information on the Government's reforms to the family law system to help families focus on the needs of their children.

This site will be updated from time to time with new information and advice to assist families build better relationships. Make sure you visit it frequently.

## Resources For Dads - Dadcando.com

[www.dadcando.com](http://www.dadcando.com)

The **Dad Can Do** website dedicated to helping dads get the most out of the time they spend with their children.



It's full of positive things to do, tips and advice for single and separated dads, all from an extremely positive point of view. The site is completely free and provides a large number of projects, printables, templates and downloadables all designed and of the highest quality with a single dad and his kids in mind.

Dadcando.com is intended to be a resource for all dads, but with a special emphasis on helping the single and or non-resident fathers who have contact with their children. It is hoped that dadcando.com will be a useful at any stage of the single dad's life, but it will be of special relevance in the difficult few years following separation from your partner, when you are building a new home and finding a new routine.

There is no more crucial time for the importance of both parents' roles to be evident within the family unit, than in the early years post separation, where every member of the family is dealing with a wide range of potentially damaging emotions and significant changes in their day to day lives.

Have fun with your kids, you are their hero; show them that change is all part of life and even when things get tough, a dad can find fun in nearly anything.

## Dads Time Gatherings

Dads Time has been up and running in both the Southern and Eastern suburbs of Melbourne since the start of term two this year. The utilization of this service by dads has been very disappointing with often only the people representing Camp Connect turning up. At this stage Dads Time will continue to the end of this term but its longer term future at this stage is uncertain. This was, and still is perceived as an important new venture of Camp Connect. Despite the poor attendance to these gatherings, we are still of the opinion that there is a need for initiatives such as Dads Time in the community.

Thanks must go to Peter Griffiths who has volunteered his time to run the sessions in the southern suburbs.

Our thanks must also go to Cath and Anne at **Awesome Fun** in Kilsyth for their support of the program in the Eastern suburbs. They have kindly reduced the admission for children attending the play centre as part of Dads Time.

For more information about Awesome Fun go to [www.awesomefun.com.au](http://www.awesomefun.com.au) or phone 9720-4833.



## Valuing Fatherhood Project [SA]



The VALUING FATHERHOOD PROJECT is funded through the Communities for Children Initiative as part of the Federal Government's Stronger Families and Communities Strategy.



Ph: [08] 8531 3944

It is based at the Murray Mallee Community Health Service, Murray Bridge, SA.

### Programs on Offer

"Me and my Dad" Play based activities and experiences with dads and kids together. It may include a playgroup for dads and kids where dads explore different ways of playing with their kids, starting with the things dads feel more comfortable with and moving towards the things dads find harder e.g. reading together. This might include varied activities with some more active and informal gatherings such as visits to a dairy farm, zoo, aboriginal walking trails, bush picnics, fishing and damper days etc.

"Dads Can Do"- This will involve local dads meeting together, developing ideas for community projects, making something together that will benefit themselves, their kids and the community. This is more than a working bee, it is a chance for Dads and kids to create together, connect with others, feel pride in their community and celebrate. Dads can do events would include a shared celebration with children (e.g. BBQ, picnic, campfire etc) and photographs of the process would be displayed in the community. These events could do things like build a sandpit, a cubbyhouse, benches, bike track, plant trees, make vegetable garden etc. Dads can do it- yes they can!

"Being Dads"- explores ways of being a father through education programs (as requested) and story-telling. These may include bigger events with guest speakers (to dads alone or mixed audience of mums and dads), workshops specific to parenting and/or train the trainer programs. They may also include informal opportunities for Dads to dialogue about what it means to be a father and the challenges this brings. It may also include Parenting programs that are competency based and specific to child development and behaviour, respectful discipline, and parenting skills. These programs may be run in collaboration with Families SA who have families identified through mandatory reporting as being at risk.

### Upcoming Programs

- Kite making and flying workshop
- Antenatal/Post natal education
- Footballers as dads day & auskick
- Dads Tucker Times(Kindergarten and childcare breakfasts)
- Poster/Photo/display project. (The adventure of fatherhood) Fathers as prisoners Post Release program (Re-connect)
- Dads support groups (Fatherhood Making it work)
- Aboriginal young fathers group (growing great Nunga dads)
- New Dads Group, Community workshops and celebrations

These services are being provided for the Murray Bridge, Mannum, Callington and Tailm Bend areas of SA.

## Community Calendar

Have you checked out what listed in our Community Calendar? This newsletter features three items currently being listed in our Community Calendar.

The Community Calendar allows like minded organisations and individuals to promote their programs and upcoming events. If your organisation runs programs / events that fits the criteria of being father or child friendly, please send us through the details and we will list it for free. All we ask is that you give us as much notice prior to the event taking place as possible.

Please note that the committee reserves the right not to promote programs or events that are deemed not in line with what Camp Connect is trying to achieve.

## Community Calendar Blokes Big Breakfast – Saturday 16 June, 2007

To celebrate Men's Health Week 11th - 17th June, 2007

**Time:** 9:30am - 11:30am.

**Venue:** Shire Hall, Knox Community Health Service  
1063 Burwood Highway  
Ferntree Gully  
Victoria. 3156

**Cost:** Free

**To register please call Jenni on 9757 6200. RSVP by June 15th [For catering]**

Keynote Speaker: Dr Rasalam

An Expo of men's health services/groups in the region, sponsored by Orana Neighbourhood house, Glen Park Community Centre and Knox Community Health Service.

Promoting Men's health through prevention and early detection.  
This event will launch 2 new men's groups: Bounce Back & Men Engaging Life

Men's group Facilitators Peter Harris, Jenni Thompson & Andrew Hacker will also speak about their experience with Men's Groups and what groups are available for men in the Eastern Region.  
This event will be an Expo of services and groups available to men in the region.

## Fun4Kids Festival – Warrnambool July 1 – 8, 2007.

<http://www.fun4kids.com.au/>

Launched in 1998, the Fun4Kids Festival was conceived with the aim of celebrating the imagination and creative spirit of all children. The Festival is a not-for-profit event assisted by our dedicated sponsors, an army of volunteers and the generous support of the Warrnambool community.  
The event presents children with the unique opportunity to witness a broad spectrum of performance and an imaginative world of interactive arts, hands-on workshops and exceptional live entertainment for children 2 – 12 years.



The Festival is set in sprawling 2.5 acre purpose-built, indoor village and is located in the idyllic coastal city of Warrnambool, known as the 'fun capital' of the Great Ocean Road. Here, Kids will be celebrating the winter school holidays to the max, with 8 days of exceptional non-stop entertainment, activities and workshops from the 1st to 8th July.

The Festival's all-inclusive price and family packages represent excellent value for school holiday fun. To find out more about the festival and the opportunity to book tickets visit their website.

## Fathers Day Photo Competition

For residents of the Greater City Of Dandenong [Melbourne]

WIN \$400 BY SIMPLY TAKING A PHOTO

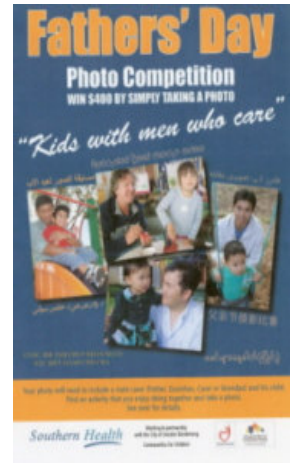
"Kids With Men Who Care"

Your photo will need to include a male carer (Father, Guardian, Carer or Grandpa) and his child.

Find an activity that you enjoy doing together and take a photo.

For full details go to our website and download a flyer from our community calendar. For further enquiries phone; 9213 2500 or email

[fathersdaycomp@southernhealth.org.au](mailto:fathersdaycomp@southernhealth.org.au)



## International Resources for Dads [USA]

Fatherville - <http://www.fatherville.com/>

Welcome to Fatherville.com. We are a resource for fathers...by fathers and about fathers. We are here to encourage and support dads as they make their journey down the road called fatherhood. Our mission and goal is to encourage men to become better fathers through the exchange of ideas.



This exchange can take place in a number of ways: via our online forum, written essays and contributed articles from other fathers. If you are a dad there's something here for you.

We believe that when dads communicate and relate their personal tips, tricks and traps that all fathers can benefit and perhaps avoid some of the pitfalls that will occur on your journey.

## Resources for Kids - Reach Out

<http://www.reachout.com.au/>

Reach Out! Is a web-based service that inspires young people to help themselves through tough times.



The aim of the service is to improve young people's mental health and well being by providing support information and referrals in a format that appeals to young people. The mission of the Inspire Foundation is to create opportunities for young people to help themselves and help others.

Reach Out provides useful information on the following possible issues;

Alcohol & other drugs	Friends and relationships	Safety & violence
Depression and other mental health issues	Illness and staying healthy	School & Uni
Eating disorders and feeling healthy	Managing Independence	Sex & Pregnancy
Family issues	Positive Stuff	Sexuality & coming out

## Fathers Day Weekend - Dads & Kids Camp, 31 August - 2 September 2007

The venue for this camp is the Briars Outdoor Ed. Camp, Mt Martha on the Mornington Peninsula. Within an easy 1.5 hours drive South East from Melbourne).

Spend a weekend relaxing, socialising, learning and connecting with your kids. The weekend will be full of fun, adventure and challenges but most importantly you will share some amazing times together as your relationship with your children steps up a level or two. This is an opportunity to spend some quality time with your children away from everyday pressures.

The weekend will consist of workshops, fun activities, plenty of free time and ample opportunity for both the dads & kids to make new friends or if they have been to a previous camp, to catch up with old ones. The best way to create memories that you and your children will treasure for a lifetime.

How does it work?

**Easy - just grab your kids, sleeping bag, torch... and enjoy!**

All the planning is done! - The Camps have cabins and FULL facilities. All the (healthy) meals are cooked for you, AND everything is included in the registration. Just turn up!

Members Registration Fees:

<b>Dads – Full weekend program</b> ( <i>per dad</i> ) • Included in the registration fees are: all accommodation, all meals, workshops, professional photographs, videos, karaoke song, CD-Roms & all camp activities...	<b>\$195.00</b>
<b>Children – Full weekend program – First Child</b> <b>Second and Subsequent Children</b>	<b>\$100.00</b> <b>\$ 50.00</b>

Membership:

12 Months Family Membership of the Australian Camp Connect Association cost is **\$55.00**, which entitles you to:

- 15% off all adult program registration costs to any Camp Connect program conducted within the next 12 months, and
- Membership benefits as detailed on the 'benefits of membership' page on the ACCA website.

Non-members Registration Fees:

<b>Dads – Full weekend program</b> ( <i>per dad</i> )	<b>\$295.00</b>
<b>Children – Full weekend program</b> ( <i>per child</i> )	<b>\$100.00</b>

How to register:

Logo onto our website and go to planned events or click on <http://www.campconnect.org.au/register-sept-07.shtml> and follow the instructions provided. There is limited funding to assist with registration costs for those facing financial hardship. Please contact us for further details regarding this.

Registrations are accepted according to our cancellation policy. These are detailed on our website. Please note that the closing date for all registrations is **Friday 24th August, 2007**.

All registration fees must be received on or prior to this date. Late registrations can not be accepted. Attendees to the Weekend program will receive the following on their CD:

(*final list yet to be determined*)

- A copy of the ACCA Web Site
- Further ACCA Information
- Photographs from the camp
- Movies from the camp ... You take these home!

## Memberships

ACCA is like most **non-profit** organizations, in that it receives no financial support from the government. To be able to continue with the work that we do we rely upon the support of sponsors and of members.

Membership of ACCA costs \$55.00 per annum. Current memberships are valid from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006.

Membership provides you with **15% off** all adult program **registration costs** to any Camp Connect program conducted within the **next 12 months**. It also entitles you to special offers that are limited to members only. These offers are listed in the “Benefits of Membership” page on the ACCA website.

To register go to: <http://www.campconnect.org.au/membership.shtml>

## Resources Available To Purchase Fatherhood CD [\$29.50 + \$2.00 P&h]

We have purchased a supply of the locally produced CD titled Fatherhood. It contains a mixture of songs by celebrated Australian songwriters as well as unknown talent.

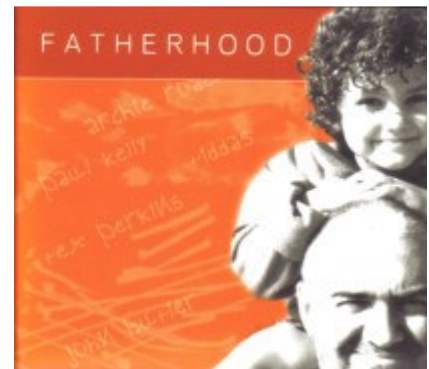
*“Totally glorious, strikingly different, these songs tap into a vein of male creativity that has long been hidden. Each artist leaves you wanting more, and feeling that the music you’ve been hearing on the radio is just so much McDonaldized pop.*

*The spoken word segments are so evocative they send you into deep reflection, and with an urge to change your life starting this very second. This is the purpose that music was made for.”*

Steve Biddulph – Author of *Raising Boys*

For further details about the CD or to order a copy go to [http://www.campconnect.org.au/fatherhood\\_cd.shtml](http://www.campconnect.org.au/fatherhood_cd.shtml)

Part of the proceeds of every CD sold goes to support Camp Connect.



## Posters

We at Camp Connect are in the process of launching a series of posters that will be used as part of our marketing campaign. At this time we have a series of about 12 different posters all with our slogan ‘Reconnecting Dads & Kids’ being prominent. Our contact details and website address are also displayed.

We would greatly appreciate supporting organisations displaying a poster as part of their resources for dads and kids. If you could assist us with this, please contact us at [info@campconnect.org.au](mailto:info@campconnect.org.au) and we arrange to have a poster sent out to you.



## Suggestions:

If there is something that you would like to see included in our newsletters - that isn't currently there? If so please let us know by email to: [feedback@campconnect.org.au](mailto:feedback@campconnect.org.au)