



Australian Camp Connect Association Inc.

www.campconnect.org.au

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for Dads & Kids...

May 2005 Newsletter

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Presidents Message.

Dear Supporter

Last week as part of Education Week, the local primary school, where I was doing a teaching round, ran a Dads & Mates Breakfast. The school has about 290 students. They had 70 dads / mates attend as well over 110 students. It was a huge success. The looks on the kid's faces to see their dads there at school with them said it all. Apart from the actual breakfast [which consisted of BBQ sausages in bread, cereal, fruit and drinks] they had about 6 different outdoor activities organised such as bat tennis, broom hockey, dress ups where the kids had to dress the dads, football handball competition. For those kids & dads that were not sport minded, there were games that they could play in some of the classrooms.

For me, it just reinforced that often, to get the dads involved in their children's schooling, all they really needs is to be asked.

Brad Mander
Australian Camp Connect Association Inc

Apologies

I must apologise for two of the hyperlinks in our April 2005 newsletter being incorrect. If you wish you email Rob Koch re the July 2005 'Pitstop' course his email address is rkoch@casey.vic.gov.au

If you wanting to check out Father Dave's eBook, Sex, the Ring, and the Eucharist, click on following link <http://www.fightshop.biz/ezGaffurl.php?offer=acca2005&pid=1>

My apologies for any inconvenience.

Sydney 2006 Update

We have lodged a submission for CDSE [Community Development Support Expenditure] funding with Human Services at Baulkin Hills Shire Council. At this stage the only correspondence I have received from them is acknowledgement of receiving the application. Lizz, one of our Sydney contacts, who provided invaluable assistance with putting the application together, thinks that we have a good chance of getting some money from it. Thanks Lizz for all your help.

Community Calendar Fatherhood Festival - Bangalow, NSW. Sept 2, 3 and 4, 2005.

What we have on offer...

Art and Photographic Exhibitions
Music Concert with Jimmy Barnes & Family and a host of great artists
Circles, Seminars, talks and discussion panels.
An indigenous circle and talking stick
Breakfast with Dad
Dance with Dad
Dads on Drums
A guest comedy panel
Expo and performances by schools, service providers and father friendly businesses.
A children's fun day with a giant sandcastle, free rides, story telling, kite flying, races
fire engine rides, motor bike rides, painting, playing and much more...



This festival is for Fathers, Mothers, Daughters, Sons, Grandparents...everyone

email us at: fatherhood@fatherhood-cd.org and we will keep you updated automatically.

Resources For Dads

i-dont.com.au

i-dont.com.au, Australia's Divorce Directory has launched. It is a place for people to search online for service in their local area that will help them when dealing with relationship separation. The site also provides resources, articles on divorce and a forum for discussion between people experiencing similar circumstances.

i-dont.com.au is a straightforward, free to the public, directory where divorcing couples can effortlessly select from a range of service providers across many different categories in one centralised location. i-dont.com.au will save users time and money, not to mention rebuild confidence in their ability to make a well-informed choice in selecting their service providers. It puts them back in control.



For further information please contact either Jane Ferguson from Jane Ferguson Consulting on 0411 422 030 or jane.ferguson@bigpond.com, or Melinda Poole, Marketing Manager, i-dont.com.au on 0412 334 844 or melinda@i-dont.com.au.

Resources For Dads

The Fatherhood Foundation

Warwick & Alison Marsh with fellow Fatherhood Foundation Board Members, Geoff Moses, Michael Baker and Philip Latz are determined to help the children of Australia by empowering Australian men to become better fathers thus fulfilling the Fatherhood Foundation goal. Inspiration and education will help fathers in Australia rise above mediocrity to a greater level of excellence to become the "best dads in the world". The simple goal of the [Fatherhood Foundation](#) is to change Australia for the better - one father at a time.



To subscribe to their weekly email newsletter [click here](#). It contains interesting articles to do with fathers of all ages and situations.

For those Working with Fathers

The Engaging Fathers project aims to promote the well being of children from 0 to 8 years of age by engaging fathers and father figures in the lives of the children. The project has a focus on schools, family services, antenatal, childcare and early education institutions.

THE **Engaging Fathers** PROJECT

It supports these institutions to better recruit and engage fathers and father figures with their children. This proposal grows from the work of the Boys in Schools Program of the Family Action Centre of the University of Newcastle. The Boys in Schools Program is a leading provider of training, research and resources in the areas of boys' education, male health and men's involvement with families. An important principle has emerged from this work: the need for communities to identify what they value and respect in men and boys.

"Fathering" is taken to include males caring, fostering, nurturing and teaching of babies and children and is not restricted to biologically-based parenting. In recent years, attention has been given to the relationships between fathers and sons. The project extends this work to fathers' relationships with their daughters.

Resources For Kids

[Kids.Net.Au](http://www.kids.net.au/) <http://www.kids.net.au/>

Kids.Net.Au is a searchable database of more than 30,000 sites designed specifically for kids, that also contains an English dictionary and a thesaurus.



The website was the creation of 23 Year old University student, Nathan Rose, who created the search engine in his spare time between studying management at the University of Western Sydney and volunteering at Sydney's Children Hospital.

All 30,000 sites within the directory have been arranged into categories for easy navigation, additionally sites have been added to the search engine with regard not only to safety, but also to how appealing the sites are for children. "The aim was to create an Internet site that would provide an environment for children that was safe from unsuitable content but that also contained web sites designed specially for kids, web sites kids would actually like to visit."

Kids.Net.Au has already obtained positive feedback from teachers, parents and children, and is now receiving over 30,000 visits a day from children all around the world.

Unexpected Publicity

I recently received an email from a great supporter, Maggie, saying, "Congratulations on your mention in the Sunday magazine!". Having no idea what she was on about, she sent me a copy of the article. It is titled, "IN THE NAME OF THE father". It appeared in the Sunday Life Magazine, 24 April 2005.

The article lists Camp Connect as one of the organizations that you can go to for help. We have already received one phone call, as a result of the article, from an organization who are going to help support us.

Thanks Maggie for alerting me to the fact and for the copy of the article.

Infoxchange Service Seeker

The Infoxchange Service Seeker currently contains details on 104,434 government and non-government services and agencies in Victoria. The update cycle is weekly with the goal of all information being updated twice each year.



ACCA is one of the services registered with Infoxchange Service Seeker.

Emails Received

Hi Brad,

I just wanted to congratulate you on the progression of camp connect from when it started as a thought in your mind and the steps you have taken to make it what it is today. I can relate to the challenges as I too faced them when developing Parentlink, but I'm sure you will agree it's all worth it because the positive outcomes far outweigh the challenges.

It's great to have a resource for Dads, one that I will continue to refer our dads to.

Well done Brad.

Max

*Maxine Windram
Family Programs Co-ordinator
Victorian YMCA*

Aussie Kids Thoughts About Their Fathers

I came across these quotes on a Queensland based website. What is the expression..."out of the mouths of babes' It may provide food for thought for some!

"I would like my father to be able to talk to me no matter how old I am. I would like to be able to talk to him and be able to feel comfortable about bringing my problems to him. I would like my father to be totally honest with me and to be able to tell me when he has a problem with what I'm doing, a person I am seeing, a friend, or just something that I do. I would like my father to be able to attend things that mean something to me, and if he knows that he won't be able to, to have the honesty to be able to tell me that he isn't able to attend. I want my father to be able to tell me when he doesn't want to have anything to do with me anymore. Most of all, I want him to be a father to me."

- a year 11 boy

"My father has taught me that love, family, friendship and personal happiness should be the most important aspects of a person's life. I hope I have inherited these traits from my father. After all, I believe the most important role of a father is to make the child a better person, and that is exactly what my father has done!"

- a year 11 boy

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 our website <http://www.campconnect.org.au/>

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

Any 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 at feedback@campconnect.org.au

