



Australian Camp Connect Association Inc.

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December 2005 Newsletter

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Presidents Message.

Well another year is rapidly drawing to an end. Where does the time go?

The year as far as the association is concerned has been of mixed fortunes. Unfortunately both the Dads Workshop Day and the Dads & Kids Weekend scheduled for early in the year had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers, as did the Father & Son camp that was to be held in April. Thankfully our programs centred around Fathers Day went ahead as planned and were a great success. The Christmas Get Together at Emerald also was well attended. More on that later.

At this point I would like to thank those organisations and individuals that have helped support the work that we as an association do. As far as funding is concerned, Ken and the team at Ferntree Gully Holden very generously donated money to assist both dads & their children to attend our programs. Once again we have been promised some funding from Camp Mallana Trust who help subsidize the cost of many of the kids attending our programs. We also were assisted with PEGs Funding [Parenting Educational Grants Scheme] though Anglicare Parentzone. A huge thankyou to those organisations for their financial support for without their assistance our programs would not go ahead.

The website is a focal point of the association. The number of resources that it lists is now well over 50 and expanding all the time. Simon from Ribon Internet is to be congratulated on the job he has done on putting the site together and maintaining it. Thanks Simon for the commitment that you make for the association in the way of time and effort spent in making the website what it is today. Rob, from Collaborative Computing in Perth also needs to be acknowledged and thanked for the hosting of the website that he does at no cost to the association. Thanks Rob.

I would also like to thank those who have donated their time and expertise to run workshops for us at the programs we have run. Joy [Bayswater Parentzone], Julian Browne, Richard Yiap, Hunter Dean & Edwin [Human Performance Specialists] all have contributed to the programs we have conducted this year. Without their generosity the cost of attending our programs would certainly be much greater than they currently are at. Their willingness to present workshops for us also serves to reinforce that what we are trying to achieve is important and to continue the work that we do.

I would also like to thank Geoff & Gary for their constant support and assistance with the camps, especially with the supervising of the kids activities and Dads on the Air for their free radio airtime.

Finally and most importantly I need to acknowledge and thank the dads who, along with their kids attend our programs. It doesn't matter how much work we as an association put into setting up and conducting programs, without the dads & kids being registered into them, there would be no programs. I thank them for the faith that they place in us to deliver the programs that we do.

On that note I want to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy, safe and healthy new year. I look forward to your continued support in 2005.

Brad Mander
President, Australian Camp Connect Association

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting took place on November 30, 2004.
Three out of five committee positions were filled. The unopposed nominees were as follows;

Brad Mander – President
Geoff Brayshaw – Vice President
Gary D' Souza – Treasurer

There are still two vacant positions. If you are interested in finding out more about going on committee please contact us at info@campconnect.org.au.

Back to Emerald, Christmas Get Together.

Last Saturday [18 December] was the Back To Emerald Christmas Get Together. We had 28 people attend on the day. There were dads, step dads, mums, step mums and plenty of kids. All had a most enjoyable day even if it was a bit on the hot side. The pool at Emerald Park lake was the big winner in the afternoon where keepings off with the ball between the dads & the kids kept most people occupied.

The majority of the people who attended on the day were new to the Camp Connect concept. Hopefully it won't be the first and only time for some of the dads who attended.

Dates Set For First Program - 2005

The first program for 2005 is being scheduled over February and March.
The Dads Workshop Day is to take place on Saturday February 26, 2005 at the Yarraville Community Centre in Yarraville. There will be two workshops conducted on that day.

Julian Browne will be presenting in the morning and Russell Cunningham will be presenting in the afternoon.

The Dads & Kids Weekend Camp will be run over 18 – 20 March 2005. The venue for this is the Log Cabin Christian Camp at Creswick, which is 15 km from Ballarat.

Hopefully being March there will still be some warm weather for swimming.

All the details for both programs, including costs and the opportunity to register etc will be on the website prior to the new year.