

ACCA Newsletter February 2008

www.campconnect.org.au



Australian Camp Connect Association



Contents in this issue:

- Presidents Message
- Resources For Dads - Dads Place
- Resources For Dads - Active Dads
- Men's Group - The Movie
- Resources For Dads - Lynx
- International Resources - The Fathers Network
- Part Time Father's - Full Time Dads
- Engaging Fathers Workshops
- Pit Stop Facilitator Training
- Resources For Dads With Preschoolers
- Memberships
- Resources Available To Purchase

ACCA Proudly
Supported by...



Presidents Message:

Dear Supporter

Camp Connect continues to get known and recognised for the work we do with fathers and their children amongst the different service providers within the community.

We have teamed up with the Child Support Agency to be involved in their community information nights. These nights are a great opportunity for parents who are clients or prospective clients of the CSA to have any queries answered about child support as well as to see what other services are available to them in the community. We were also represented at the CSA Stakeholders Training Day learning about all the new changes to child support that will take place from July 1, 2008. We will be able to assist families negotiate these new changes.

We are also involved with facilitating a dad's support group for fathers with special needs children, especially for children with autism spectrum disorder. We are in the preliminary stages of organising a Dads & Kids Camp to further support these families.

Brad Mander
Australian Camp Connect Association Inc

Resources For Dads – Dads Place



What is Dads Place

DADS PLACE is a safe and productive place for separated Dads.

The organisation is the vision of Hugh Bathurst, a separated father of three cherished children who through his own traumatic experience with separation and divorce realised there was an urgent need for safe havens for men in similar situations.

Hugh is a qualified knowledge management (KM) professional and sees DADS PLACE as a learning community with its roots in Melbourne Australia. It will be dedicated, like many other fine organisations, to the health and welfare of separated fathers.

Working within financial and resource realities, this learning community combines both mental and physical models to build trust and a knowledge sharing environment so valued lessons can be shared and leveraged for the benefit of all.

One of the main objectives of DADS PLACE is to provide a real and ongoing safety net and mental 'safe haven' for fathers having to learn how to live their new life post family separation.

One of the main key desired outcomes is that the separated father will find his feet and confidence in a fraction of the time those before him have taken and experience a dramatic improvement in his ability to adapt to his new and 'very different' world.

Dads Place Purpose

DADS PLACE reason for existence is to help fathers who are suffering after separation or divorce. Separated fathers often suffer from a range of issues such as financial hardship and depression.

Sometimes they just need support from people who understand what they are going through and can give Dads concrete coping strategies.

As they no longer live in the family home these Dads do not see their children on a daily basis. Many lose the bond they had with their kids. Family finances are dramatically fractured, and many men become socially isolated. These circumstances frequently cause high stress and anxiety, collapse of confidence, sleeplessness, loneliness, and depression. This often destroys their capacity to function productively in the community.

Tragically for many this leads to suicide, at least in part, due to an absence of knowledge on how to effectively help themselves adjust and adapt to their new life.

Dads Place Vision

To provide environments where a sole father can grow and optionally live in a mentally and emotionally safe and trusted atmosphere where dilemmas and concerns can be resolved by a sharing of knowledge.

Dads Place Goals

1. To offer quick relief tangibles to DADS in need.
2. To establish a series of knowledge sharing workshops throughout Australia.
3. To establish a network of properties around Australia capable of serving as short and/or long term residential and mutual support establishments.
4. To offer an array of connecting technologies and techniques that help foster trust and sharing among the single Dad community.

DADS PLACE is in its initialisation stage. As such the group is looking for time, money or materials to help build the foundation.

"If you, or someone you know is interested in helping make this vision become a reality email the founder Hugh Lloyd at singledads@bigpond.com and touch on your interests, abilities and availability you think relevant."

Resources For Dads – Active Dads.

Getting involved with our children, their education, each other.

Active Dads is an initiative at Bell Primary School and was first started with a meeting of interested Dads in March 2003. We meet regularly and keep in touch through email and the school newsletter Bell News.



www.actedads.net.au

Since 2003 we organised events including:

- Two Active Footy Days
- Active Play Day Twilight Sports
- Fathers Day Breakfast
- "Talking Fathers" Forums

We have started new initiatives like the Bell Book Sponsorship and directly help with school maintenance, Open Day tours and being classroom helpers. We participate in school events like school concerts, Open Days, Twilight Sports, working bees and planting days.

Active Dads has gone out into the broader community to speak at local forums about Bell Primary School and about our group. We have had interest from the media, council, and other community groups and even in one case, overseas. Our main objective is to get involved with our children, their education and each other.

Active Dads gets funding support from the Children's Protection Society (CPS) In late 2004, we gained support from the Children's Protection Society (CPS). In part, their mission is "strengthening families and communities to create safe environments for children" (a quote from their Mission Statement). After discussions with Active Dads and the school, CPS provide funding directly to a Community Development Worker to work part time with the group, on co-ordinating upcoming Active Dads activities.

Are you a Dad involved in your school? We would like to hear from you at actedads@alphalink.com.au. We would like to hear about what other Dads are doing in primary school.

If you are a dad with a child at primary school or you work at a primary school and would be interested in getting Active Dads up and running at your school, contact Rob. A detailed manual is available to assist you with the process. Our children and the school communities can only benefit [i.e. no negatives] through greater participation by us fathers in our children's schooling.

Men's Group – The Movie

Men's Group, is an award winning Australian feature film coming out in March 2008. It is about to premiere at the Rotterdam Film Festival.

Men's group is the story of six very different men; Paul, Freddy, Cecil, Lucas, Moses and Alex. They meet once a week at Paul's home to talk. When they begin they are complete strangers. They soon discover that they have something in common, being male. As trust grows between them they gradually begin to share as they learn to listen to each other. They discover that they are not quite so alone in their fears as they had presumed. It takes a tragedy for the men to finally understand that they must take responsibilities for their own lives and those of their loved ones.



<http://www.mensgroupthemovie.com>

To see previews go to <http://www.youtube.com/mensgroupthemovie> or <http://www.myspace.com/mensgroup>

Resources For Dads - Lyinx

Keeping the Lyinx with our children.

LYINX is an organisation set up with the best interest of our children at heart. LYINX was set up by Troy Paton after he went through the family court process for 12 months. During those 12 months he suffered mild depression, neglected his business and was un-enthusiastic about most things really. This was a huge contrast to his normal enthusiastic ambitious ways.



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

Troy, who lives in Dubbo, went looking for support from fathers in similar circumstance as himself and the closest he could find was 5 hours drive away. It was then that he realised that a similar support group was needed not only here in Dubbo but throughout Australia. That's how LYINX support group came about.

LYINX is set up as a free support group for any father that wants to attend that is having trouble coping emotionally with the traumas of either family court proceedings or family separation, But LYINX is not limited to just fathers. We have had people come to our support group that where children of separated parents and to hear what they have to say about what they remember as a young child brings tears to your eyes, but it is also nice to know that what a child expresses on the outside, is not always what they feel on the inside.

LYINX has 3 main focuses for now:

1. Keeping fathers alive.
2. Educate parents better before a possible solicitor fuelled war breaks out between parents where everyone loses, except the solicitors of course.
3. Helping father be fully prepared for Family Court. There is so much we are not being told by our legal representatives. Being well prepared for court is so empowering.

LYINX is not about father domination, LYINX just wants children to have the opportunity to be a solid part of both mum and dads life. When we hear from adults that grew up in a separated family and how much it still hurts them, it drives home the importance of LYINX to try and change things.

LYINX is here to make a change for our children, they are our future, why screw them up.

LYINX currently has support group meetings which are held weekly. For more information on these meetings go to our Group Meetings link. If you would like to put your hand up to help with a support group in your area, then please contact LYINX. It is very rewarding, great friendships can be made and you will be supported by LYINX and your local community because we all love to see someone having a go. If you can help then please put your hand up. We need you, fathers need you and children need their fathers. Help your "mates" through the toughest time of their lives and it could be one of the most rewarding things you ever do.

LYINX is not Government funded. Any income received goes back into LYINX to help us grow so we can help parents, fathers and children all over Australia. If you have any ideas that can help LYINX stand financially on its own two feet without relying on Government funding or your business would like to sponsor your local support group then please contact LYINX.

This information is up-to-date, helpful, and designed to promote the resilience of all family members. We have award winning monographs, videos, newsletters, and curriculum available upon request. Visit our Links about Families, Fathers, Disabilities, Health Care, and Legal Issues.

International Resources For Dads [USA] The Fathers Network

Greetings and a warm welcome to the Fathers Network web page. Our mission is to celebrate and support fathers and families raising children with special health care needs and developmental disabilities. Please utilize the superb resources on this site. We appreciate your feedback and your support.

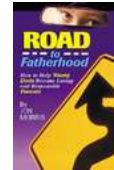
The Fathers Network provides current information and resources to assist all families and care providers involved in the lives of children with special needs.



<http://www.fathersnetwork.org/>

Resources For Dads

Part Time Fathers - Full Time Dads



This is a new support group for non-custodial fathers. The group will consist of peer support as well as guest speakers on topics such as

- How to have a positive influence on your children
- Child support
- The Family Court system

And other relevant topics that the group decides.

Where: Glen Park Community Centre, 30 Glen Park Rd Bayswater Nth, Victoria

When: Tuesday evenings during school terms. 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Cost: \$5.00 per session

For more information call Glen Park Community Centre on 9294 7525 or 9720 9549

Resources For Those Working With Fathers Engaging Fathers Workshops

What contributes to inclusive and effective experiences for fathers of all cultures? What can we do better?

Keynote speakers:

1. **Paul Prichard**, Good Beginnings - The value and importance of engaging fathers.
2. **Darren Varley** - Including Fathers in Early Years Services

Panel presentation: Dads talk about their experiences and professionals share good practice.

Reflection: What have I learnt? What can I do to engage fathers?

Date: Wednesday 12th March, 2008

Times: 9am - 12 noon, **or**, 5.30pm - 8.30pm

Venue: Springvale Council Offices, Meeting Rooms 1 & 2, Springvale Rd, Springvale.



Resources For Those Working With Fathers Pit Stop Facilitator Training

Do you have what it takes?

The City Of Casey is offering people with experience, expertise and the ability to relate with men the opportunity to become a facilitator of a dynamic parenting 'tune-up' for fathers.

A two-day facilitator's course includes lunches, training manuals, resources and presentation media. In fact everything you'll need to deliver the Pit Stop program to dads near you.

Dates: April 16 – 17, 2008

Cost: \$260 per participant. Concessions may apply.

For further details call 03 9705 5590

www.casey.vic.gov.au/pistop



Resources for Dads With Preschoolers Dads Tumble Club (and swim)

Venue:

Cnr Heatherton Road & Cleeland Street, Dandenong, VIC 3175

Times:

Fridays 1:30pm – 2:30pm

Saturdays 10:00am – 11:00pm

Cost: \$5:00 per family [or \$2:00 concession]



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 for 12 months from the date that payment has been received. Membership provides you with 15% off all adult program registration costs to any Camp Connect program conducted within the 12-months membership period.

To become a member go to: <http://www.campconnect.org.au/membership.shtml>

Resources Available To Purchase - Fatherhood CD

\$19.95 + \$2.00 P&h – Financial Members

\$29.50 + \$2.00 P&h – Non Members

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.

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

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

