

ACCA Newsletter January 2006

www.campconnect.org.au

ⓘ *NEW ACCA Web site coming soon...*

Reconnecting
Dads & Kids



Australian Camp Connect Association

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Presidents Message:

Dear Supporter

Now that the festive period is behind us, it is full steam ahead as we approach the Sydney Dads & Kids Camp in March.

The program for the Fathers Day Weekend Camp is organized and registrations are now being taken. It is really encouraging to see that one family has already registered [and paid] into the camp. Darren and his son will be flying across from Perth just to experience what a Camp Connect Dads & Kids Camp is all about. The program for this camp is very different from any other camp we have run, including a workshop, 'Dads in the Kitchen' and in the style of 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire' an 'Engaging Fathers' workshops that will be for both dads & their kids to attend.

We are also looking into the running of a Dads & Kids Weekend Camp in Perth in 2007. We will keep you updated as developments occur.

Thank you for your continued support.

Brad Mander
Australian Camp Connect Association Inc



Me, my kids and my Ex Forming a workable relationship for the benefit of your children



Why is it that some people can have a workable, ongoing relationship with their ex and others just feel like it is a constant battle? Control struggles, button pressing, arguing, telephone hang ups, frustration.....all these things are not only painful for parents going through separation but also potentially upsetting for their kids.

<https://www.csa.gov.au/publications/s/1229.htm>

If you or someone you know is struggling with separation or experiencing conflict with the other parent, then the latest book from the Child Support Agency's popular 'Me and My' series, may just be the thing you have been looking for. It is full of handy tips and hints to help you navigate through the tough times so you can survive the separation roller coaster. It is written by separated parents for separated parents and contains lots of practical advice on how to build a workable relationship with the other parent, how to manage emotions, moving forward and strategies to share parenting for the benefit of both parents and most importantly the kids.

Kids benefit from the love and support from both parents. Making parenting decisions, providing education, looking after their health and providing a home will require both parents to work together for the benefit of everyone involved. It is definitely worth the effort for the kids sake—separated parents may no longer be partners but they will be parents (maybe even grandparents) for life.

If you are interested in some fresh ideas on how to make post-separation life a bit easier, order your free copy by calling CSA on 131 272 or by visiting the website www.csa.gov.au/publications/order.htm

Taking Fathering Further

An initiative funded by the Telstra Foundation Mensline Australia are pleased to announce a new fathering program for rural and metro fathers with children under the age of twelve years.



The primary focus of this program is to provide long-term support for dads, helping them to stay connected with their children and family. The relationship between a father and a child has a significant effect on a child's development. Particularly while a child is aged 0 – 7, establishing a close bond between father and child has a defining influence on the child's mental health, academic achievement, emotional behaviour and future relationships.

For most men in our communities, on-going support is often very difficult to access due to limited time and availability of services. Mensline Australia aims to support fathers with easily accessible counselling and coaching, ensuring fathers are adequately equipped with the skills required to manage their distress, improve their fathering, the relationships they have with their young children, and reduce the level of conflict they experience with their partners or ex partners.

We provide support with:

- * Parenting issues
- * Strategies such as communication and negotiation skills to improve relationships with children, parents and third parties.
- * Referrals to other programs in the communities
- * Opportunities for an on-going callback support program
- * Positive strategies for dealing with parenting skills and relationships.
- * Staying connected with your family.

For more information contact John Byrne on 03 8371 2800 or email jbyrne@crisissupport.org.au.
For referrals contact 1300 78 99 78

Resources for Dads – Family Advantage

FamilyAdvantage



In modern society there are those that would argue that divorced or separated fathers have lost their relevance. Their families are referred to as second families. We don't agree. We think fatherhood is as important and relevant to the lives and wellbeing of our children as it ever was. We think all families are first class.

FAMILY ADVANTAGE was established to provide a service to non-custodial families and their friends with two equally important goals...

* to give struggling "second" families a first class boost.

* to promote and support fatherhood and a balanced approach to parental responsibility.

Discount Services

The term "second family" creates a public perception that they are second in importance. We think its about time we made second families equal in status to first families.

To achieve that we are currently negotiating a range of discounts on everyday household goods and services used by families. We hope to be able to provide a discount of between \$10 and \$30 per week on the family budget. There is no cost to register and there are no ordinary administration fees or charges. One Discount Card will be issued to each household for free and a nominal charge of a few dollars (including postage and handling) may apply for each supplementary Card.

Although the organization offering the discount services is an ordinary company there are no direct fees or charges. The company will operate by getting a commission from the companies providing the discounts.

Child Support Services

There are as many public perceptions about Child Support as there are stakeholders. Because there are so many views it makes it very difficult to understand what Child Support actually is.

Paying parents want to pay less.

Receiving parents want to receive more.

The taxpayers want an efficient system that saves them money.

The community want to be certain that our children don't live in poverty.

The bureaucrats who administer the scheme have their own beliefs and objectives.

Although there are a lot of perceptions about how much is fair the actual amount that should be paid is either right or wrong. The current Government scheme is failing because the amount is wrong in most cases. Our goal is to provide a service that produces the right outcome and there are many reasons why our service will work where the Government scheme has failed.

The organization operating our Child Support Service is a not for profit company. Very low administrative costs will allow our assessments to reflect the principles espoused in the objects of the legislation and followed by the Courts. The community expects that both parents should pay their fair share. Making one parent responsible for more than their share can not work and causes harm to our children. Those children will also be tomorrow's parent's and it would be a crime to allow them to inherit the problems we have today.

It also would be quite ironic if the scheme set up to support our children later caused them to pay higher tax to support their parents who, because of the financial strain of that scheme today, haven't been able to put anything aside for their own retirement.

Organizations Supporting the Sydney, March 2006, Dads & Kids Camp [part 1].

We at Camp Connect wish to thank the following organizations for helping to make the running of the Sydney Dads & Kids Camp possible.



Baulkham Hills Shire & Clubs NSW

The Baulkham Hills Shire, through their allocation of CDSE funds provided by Clubs NSW, are the major financial sponsors of the Sydney Camp.



Families First Families [NSW]

We at Camp Connect acknowledge the generous donation made by Families First in supporting families financially to attend the Sydney, March 2006, Dads & Kids Camp.



Families First is the NSW Government's prevention and early intervention strategy to help parents give their children a good start in life.

<http://www.familiesfirst.nsw.gov.au>

This means supporting families during pregnancy and in the early years of a child's life, when development is rapid. Research shows that supporting families during this time will have a lasting influence on children in later life. Families First works on a strong evidence base, utilising service models that research indicates provide good outcomes for children.

Families First helps to improve children's health and well-being by:

Helping parents to build their skills and confidence in their parenting;
Supporting parents so they can respond to problems early;
Building communities that support families;

Improving the way agencies work together to make sure families get the services and support they need.

Kidspot.com.au

We at Camp Connect acknowledges the generosity of the team at kidspot.com.au for allowing us to place adverts regarding our programs on their site at no cost. Their support is very much appreciated.



Kidspot is a resource for parents and children to find hundreds of extra curricular activities for kids, including birthday party ideas and supplies, educational resources, cubby houses, shows and events, plus specials and discounts for kids and families.

Kidspot is all about simplifying the search for kid related fun, activities, sports, and related trappings. It makes it fast and easy for kids and their parents to identify things and places of interest leaving more time for all to enjoy! It's all about helping parents quickly find product and service providers in their local area to meet their growing kids' needs and wants. Hopefully each and every visitor finds a little bit more quality time with their kids as a result.

Sydney - Dads & Kids Camp, 10 – 12 March 2006

Registrations are still open for the upcoming Sydney Camp. The level of enquires regarding the camp is pleasing considering that things are only now returning to normal after the Christmas / New Year break.



Pictured is a banner, advertising the camp. Currently it is hanging prominently from a TAFE fence with plenty of passing traffic to take notice of it. The banner has been up for less than a week and already there has been some phone enquires as a result of people having seen it.

Venue: The Collaroy Centre, Collaroy Beach, NSW.

Dates: 10 – 12 March, 2006

Activities : Some activities include: flying fox, archery, abseiling, high and low ropes courses as well as a wrestling workshop with the kids taking on their dads.(subject to change without notice). There is a separate program to cater for those kids aged 7 years and younger.

Cost:

Dads – Full weekend program (<i>per dad</i>)	\$195.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included in the registration fees are : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> all accommodation, all meals, workshops, photographs, videos, CD-Rom & all camp activities... 	
Children – Full weekend program (<i>first child</i>)	* \$100.00
Children – Full weekend program (<i>second and subsequent children</i>)	* \$50.00

* Children's fees are calculated at less than cost

How to register:

Logo onto our website and go to planned events or click on www.campconnect.org.au/register-mar-06.shtml and follow the instructions provided. Alternatively you may download a copy of the combined flyer and registration form from the same site, fill out the form and return it to us with your registration fees.

If you require some financial assistance to be able to register into the camp weekend please contact us, as we have limited funding available

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 10th February 2006**. All registration fees must be received on or prior to this date. Late registrations cannot be accepted.

Resources For Kids – Create your own websites

Kids, if you are anything like my 11 year old daughter Jillie, you would love to have your own website for the world to see! Well here are three websites that you can go to and actually do that, create your own website, and all for FREE. No prior experience is required.

www.matmice.com

The MatMice website was created by 3 sisters - Emily, Sarah, and Elise - who live in Australia. They have a dog named Oscar who is 1 year old.

This website was made with no adult assistance whatsoever. Emily and Elise run another website called Elise's Rugrats Page and have had many kids ask them how to create their own homepage. So they decided to create MatMice to provide free homepages to all the kids out there who want to make their mark on the web.



www.zoomshare.com



Zoomshare offers:

- * No banner ads or pop-ups on your web pages
- * Post and share digital photos
- * Publish thoughts in your blog and our forums
- * Get listed in our community and classified directories
- * Add a chat room to your site
- * Choose from dozens of home page templates
- * Includes one e-mail box with web-based access
- * No billing information collected - your site is totally free

Zoomshare has a text box to tick indicating parental approval to use the site.

www.piczo.com

Piczo is restricted to kids 13 years and older.

We, the people that run Piczo, love posting photos online for friends to view, chatting on message boards, instant messaging with friends, and meeting new people online.



So we thought, why not create a service that allows users to create their own website that features all their photos and content, is linked to their friend's websites, and features chat rooms, blogs, and tons of other cool stuff. The dream became a reality in 2004 when we launched Piczo, the most user-friendly online photo website builder and online community.

Piczo technology allows users the ability to create comprehensive personal websites that do not require html code. Piczo websites function just like professional-looking websites and include a homepage and additional pages featuring photos, text, guestbooks, chat boxes, music, and more.

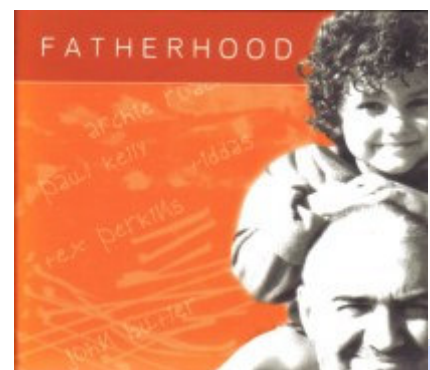
We've received rave reviews from our user base who claim that Piczo is unmatched in it's ease-of-use, convenience, and technology.

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.

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 Camp Connect.

Suggestions:

If there is something that you would like to see included in our newsletters - that isn't currently there? Kids, have you got a favourite website that you would like everyone to know about?

If so please let us know by email to: feedback@campconnect.org.au

Fathers Day Weekend - Dads & Kids Camp, 1 - 3 September 2006

The venue for this camp is Lyrebird Park. Located in Yellingbo in the Yarra Ranges Valley, on 52 acres of beautiful undulating natural bushland, pastures and forest, backing on to Shepherd's Creek and Gembrook State Park . Approximately one hour South east from Melbourne's CBD

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:

Dads – Full weekend program (<i>per dad</i>) • Included in the registration fees are : all accommodation, all meals, workshops, videos, CD-Rom & all camp activities...	\$195.00
Children – Full weekend program – First Child - Second & subsequent children	\$100.00 \$50.00 per child

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.

Memberships can be paid at time of registering into the program.

Non-members Registration Fees:

Dads – Full weekend program (<i>per dad</i>)	\$295.00
Children – Full weekend program – First Child - Second & subsequent children	\$100.00 \$50.00 per child

How to register:

Logo onto our website and go to planned events or click on www.campconnect.org.au/register-sept-06.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 4th August**.

All registration fees must be received on or prior to this date. Late registrations can not be accepted.