

ACCA Newsletter June 2005

www.campconnect.org.au

 NEW ACCA Web site coming soon...

Reconnecting
Dads & Kids



Australian Camp Connect Association

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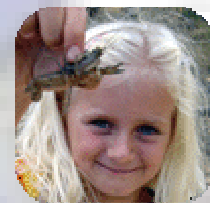


Presidents Message:

Dear Supporter

June certainly was a very busy month in more ways than one. There has been the release of the recommended changes to the Child Support system, the holding of the Fatherhood Forum and topped off with having the kids for the first week of the school holidays.

It is frustrating when I have single mothers telling me stories about their ex-partners and the lack of involvement they have in their children's lives. One of the fathers has changed his level of contact from fortnightly, to monthly - due to his commitments with his new family. Another father, when told that his son would be moving house, which would mean another 15 minutes traveling time, allegedly then told his son that, on account of the move, he would not be able to have him stay over as often. I recently had a single mother contact me from Sydney saying how desperate her 14 year old son was to spend time with his father and what could we do to help.



I was telling some guys about these stories and was reminded that you are only hearing one side of the story. This is true, but then I met a father of young twins. He was telling me that he would be having them for some for some holiday contact next year, just the one week out of four, as for any more would be a waste of time at their age. How do we change attitudes like this, and motivate fathers to be the very best they can for their children? We certainly do have a lot of work to do.

Brad Mander
Australian Camp Connect Association Inc

Sydney 2006 Update

Great News! – We have been successful in obtaining some CDSE funding through the Baulkham Shire Council. Although we did not obtain as much funding as we applied for, it does ensure that we will be able to run the Dads & Kids Weekend Camp in Sydney next March.

Community Calendar

Sydney Men's Festival January 14-22, 2006.

Venue: Minto Bush Camp overlooking the Georges River

Website: <http://www.sydneymensfestival.org.au/>
or email info@sydneymensfestival.org.au



The Sydney Men's Festival is a chance to talk, relax, participate in, and run workshops with other men. The Festival is an annual event held at the end of January each year on the last full week of the school holidays. The Festival is open to all men regardless of colour, creed, religion, sexuality, profession or employment status.

The Sydney Men's Festival welcomes children (boys all ages and girls under 7).

Resources for Dads – Focus On The Family Australia

Since 1993, Focus on the Family Australia has been strengthening families and communities through its radio programs, preventative education programs, the provision of counselling and referral, as well as providing a full range of resources for families. Today the organization has grown to impact close to one million people monthly through its daily radio programs being broadcast by almost 300 stations, training programs, resources and newsletters.



<http://www.families.org.au/>

Along with DPYK, Focus has developed contemporary, highly effective programs, such as 'No Apologies,' 'Heritage Builders,' and 'Bringing Up Boys.'

The number of trained facilitators has also increased dramatically. From 69 trainers in 1998, increasing to over 2,000 trainers by 2005! – They have seen an increase of almost 3000% in just six years.

Their Vision - To strengthen families in Australia.

Their Mission - To equip and encourage families to experience hope and fulfilment by providing quality programs, resources, events, crisis counselling and referral.

They are committed to developing quality products and services that demonstrate the importance of families, parenting, children and healthy relationships.

Resources For Dads – DPYK

How to Drug Proof Your Kids (DPYK) is an education, prevention and intervention parenting program developed by Focus on the Family.



Over the past five years the How to Drug Proof Your Kids (DPYK) program has impacted 40,000 parents in Australia and is now reaching many other parts of the world. The program has been exported to Canada, the United Kingdom, France and New Zealand.

<http://www.families.org.au/dpyk/>

Australia has been motivated by the increasing drug problem among young people and the frustrated attempts by parents to steer their children away from the harmful use of drugs. This Six, 2-Hour programme is based on sound research that clearly indicates the importance of a healthy family environment, where high levels of parent connectedness can substantially reduce the risk of harmful drug abuse by their children.

Better informed parents communicate more effectively, and knowledge of available resources puts parents in a position to significantly reduce the risks.

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International Resources for Dads

Shared Parenting Information Group

<http://www.spig.clara.net/>

Shared Parenting Information Group (SPIG) UK

An excellent site that provides a wealth of information on shared parenting including content relevant to us in Australia.

Shared parenting: This is the concept that, following divorce or separation, mothers and fathers should retain a strong positive parenting role in their children's lives, with the children actually spending substantial amounts of time *living* with each parent.

Their mission:

- * To promote responsible shared parenting after separation and divorce.
- * To make available information, research and resources to all concerned.
- * Guidelines for separating parents - how to avoid common problems.
- * Parenting plans / Separation agreements - samples and things to consider.
- * Guidelines for separating parents - how to avoid common problems.
- * Parenting plans / Separation agreements - samples and things to consider.
- * The arguments for shared parenting - as used in court.
- * The arguments against shared parenting - how to overcome them.
- * Joint custody FAQs
- * Law reform - samples from around the world - check the recent additions.
- * Child Support.

Resources for Kids

Kids Guide to Divorce

http://www.kidshealth.org/kid/feeling/home_family/divorce.html



Do you know someone whose parents are divorced?
Are your parents divorced?

Chances are that you can answer yes to one - or maybe both - of those questions. And you are not alone! At this site you can find out what divorce is and what you can do to help your family, your friends, or yourself when people get divorced.

Fathers Day Weekend - Dads & Kids Camp, 2- 4 September 2005

The venue for this camp is the Allambee Camp. It is set in the secluded tranquility of the majestic Strzelecki Ranges, Gippsland Victoria, and is situated on 9 acres, but encompasses an additional 40 acres of State Forest (Within 1.5 hours drive 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.

You have the option of attending the full weekend program or one or both of the single day programs.

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, professional photographs, videos, karaoke song, CD-Roms & all camp activities...	\$195.00
Children – Full weekend program (<i>per child - multiple children discounts</i>)	\$100.00

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:

Dads – Full weekend program (<i>per dad</i>)	\$295.00
Children – Full weekend program (<i>per child - multiple children discounts</i>)	\$100.00

How to register:

Logo onto our website and go to planned events or click on

<http://www.campconnect.org.au/fathersday2005.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.

Please contact us for multiple children discounts.

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 26th August**.

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

Photographer - Childs Play Photography

Note that for the **first** time, a professional photographer will be at the Melbourne Camp - to capture the memories as they happen! Childs Play Photography has agreed to come along and take the professional shots on the Saturday and Sunday.

Your photos will be burnt onto a CD-Rom for you, and you can take the photographs home. Camera shops can print the high quality photographs directly from the CD-Rom and of course, these will make great presents! An additional fee may apply to cover expenses for the photograph kit.

Karaoke

A past 'muso' has also volunteered his time to come along to the Melbourne camp and professionally record a song, made by you and your child(ren) - sung in Karaoke type format (for those willing!)

He has created a professional song, with lyrics, and the compilation will be recorded onto a CD-Rom for you to take home. The song will last forever and will also become a fantastic gift for family and friends long after the Camp.

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
- The Karaoke song (of you and your children)

You take these home!

Emails Received

I discovered your website today while looking for resources for men. Your organisation sounds great. I have subscribed to your newsletter so will let our local dads know of any events they can consider attending.

Your directory of services is amazing - so many organisations / websites dealing with men's issues in Australia !!

Thanks. I plan to prepare an article for our local newspapers letting guys know some of the internet resources available. We are a rural community with few on-the-ground services so the internet is really valuable.

*Margaret McLauchlan
Community Health Support Worker
Yea and Alexandra Hospitals*

*Programs for separated fathers and their kids.
a much-needed service--good luck to you.*

*Best Wishes,
Glenn Sacks
www.HisSide.com
www.GlennSacks.com*



Fatherhood Forum

June 21st 2005 saw the running of the Fatherhood Forum in Parliament House, Canberra. It was organized and run by Fatherhood Foundation. The theme for the day was 'Restoring Fatherhood & Renewing Families'. There were about 60 delegates from around Australia in attendance. Almost every part of the fatherhood movement was represented, for example: pro-family charities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation networks, family law reform groups, educational groups, social service providers, medical professionals, suicide prevention, marriage and relationship counsellors, marriage educators, men's health & wellbeing, church groups, men's prayer, father support services and everything in between.

It was very inspiring just being there and hearing what different organizations were doing in their communities to help men, fathers and their children. Then there was Eric who is involved in a suicide prevention program. He told us of his work in trying to prevent kids whose fathers have committed suicide from committing suicide themselves. Unfortunately despite all his work and others similar to him, some do slip through the net. He told of how a child of 9 years of age was the youngest suicide victim that he had had to deal with.

The afternoon session saw the breaking up of the attendees into interest groups. These groups covered 4 main areas, Mentoring & Education of Fathers, Family Law Reform, Renewing Marriage & Family and Men's Health & Well Being. The members of each group had time to discuss issues that were relevant to the group that they were representing. A member from each group then reported back to the larger group about what had been raised.

Between 5 – 6 pm, about 25 politicians joined us in the committee room. There was a speech given by Jon Anderson [Deputy Prime Minister]. There were also members of the senate as well as local members of parliament. During this time there was also the handing out of awards to those politicians who were seen to be actively trying to do their bit for the men's movement. There were also awards for those working within the men's movement. As the founder of Camp Connect, I was honored to receive such an award.

I have accepted the award on behalf of our sponsors, committee and supporters who volunteer their time, expertise and resources in many different ways to help the association do the work that it does. I also accept it on behalf of the dads and their children, who have trusted us to make a difference to their lives by registering into our programs.

Congratulations must go to Warwick Marsh and the team at the Fatherhood Foundation. Firstly for their commitment to and leadership role in the Australian men's movement and secondly for making events such as the Fatherhood Forum such an outstanding success. Well done!



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.

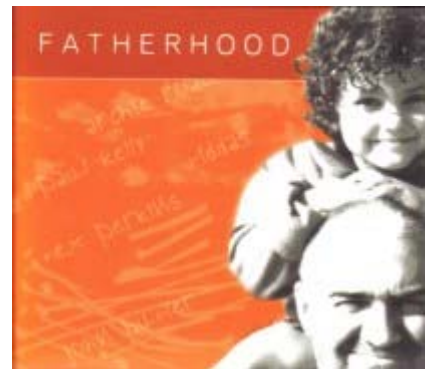
Membership provides you with **15% off** all adult program **registration costs** to any Camp Connect program conducted within the **next 12 months**. It also entitles you to special offers that are limited to members only. These offers are listed in the “Benefits of Membership” page on the ACCA website.

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

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

New Look Newsletter

What a ‘face lift’ the newsletter has undergone. A huge thank you to Tony who has spent countless hours working on the new look Camp Connect design. Tony, along with his daughter Meg attended our first camp back in 2003 and has been to every one since. His commitment to the ongoing success of the association is clearly demonstrated by the amount of time and expertise he has devoted [and donated] in doing this work for us. The result is excellent. Thanks Tony!

If you like the new look newsletter just wait to you see the upgrade to the website...to be launched soon!

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