



Writes of Passage

Pathways WA Newsletter

November 2007

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11th WA Pathways to Manhood Camp

Rohin Burns

The 11th WA Pathways to manhood camp was held in October with sixteen families participating in what was a very successful and satisfying camp.

It's a great time of year to have a camp with plenty of greenery around, beautiful wildflowers, cool nights and very pleasant days.

We were pleased to be back at the Mundaring campsite after the searing heat of Chidlow in March.

We had a great mix of families from north and south of the river and a very strong local team of staff with two eastern staters and three Returning Young Men.

The logistics crew of Ben and Alan and volunteers did a magnificent job of setting up and taking down the camp - which is a massive job - and greatly appreciated by the camp leaders.

Thanks Guys.

The camp itself went very well with the land seeming to soak up the quality attention it gets.

The weather cooperated beautifully again too, with cool nights and pleasant days, with a smattering of rain at just the right times.

The families attending the camp were all very committed and enrolled and participated with great generosity and courage. The Boys especially showed great trust in the camp and stepped boldly into the unknown and once again we were privileged to witness the blossoming of these young men.

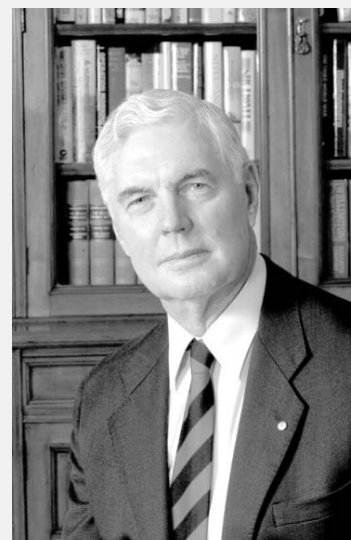
The leaders worked fantastically well together and it was one of the most harmonious camps I've attended.



The welcoming back was very beautiful and it is a testimony to all concerned that all participants were returned safely to their families and that we can chalk up another successful camp here in the West.

Governor General Pathways Patron

His Excellency Governor General Michael Jeffery has recently accepted the role as Patron of the Pathways Foundation



WA Leadership Training

Nic Beames



"I found the LDP both challenging and enriching, and I shared some memorable moments with some good men.

I've begun to get an idea about the process required to create the valuable experience of a Pathways camp.

Combined with the facilitator's work and encouragement this has helped me to find the necessary confidence to take on a role in future camps - which is what I wanted!"

**Richard
Perth LDP 2007**

Held in the luscious surrounds of Serpentine in September, the Pathways LDP (Leadership Development Program) was attended by some sixteen trainees and a complement of sage leaders. Amongst the old hands were hundreds of years wisdom, much of it accumulated through their involvement with Pathways.

This is the first time the Pathways LDP has been conducted in WA, and indicates the growth and critical mass of the Pathways community here.

Words alone do little to describe the experience of this unique gathering of men of diverse life experiences. Aside from which, the attendees are bound by a pact of confidentiality and naturally what happens on camp stays on camp.

After the Pathways to Manhood camp I attended in March this year with my son Giorgio, for me, the program was the next step towards helping our boys become men. The aim of the program is to prepare men to:

- Take responsibility for the well being of young men across Australia

- Guide boys through a Rite of Passage
- Become a leader in the community.

Over four days and three nights we let ourselves be taken on a personal journey to arrive grounded in a new community.

My particular journey was about love and being true - for those with whom I share my life.

As a result I now feel a little stronger and more equipped to consider leading others. Mindful, that it was but a second step along the path ...

Shortly after the LDP camp, three of the attendees; Brian , Graeme and Richard bravely stepped up to the third rung, and attended the 11th WA Pathways To Manhood camp as leaders. As they returned back into the welcoming community, I couldn't help feel a little envy that my brothers had begun to consolidate their experiences so quickly.

The WA LDP "alumni" have formed a loose group and by our deeds we hope to contribute to Pathways in WA, and hence the wider community. For us, the work has only just begun....

Pathways Profile

Glenis Taylor, Pathways Leader

I got involved with Pathways about 18 months ago through my husband, Gary, who was training as a leader.



There are so many things I enjoy about the Pathways programme that also make it important for me to be part of the organisation: the value of the work in creating a healthier society, the great teamwork and mutual support (and humour!), working closely with the mothers, seeing the

changes in the young men.

Teaching English as a Second Language at Curtin University of Technology is my main job. The best part of that is being with the culturally mixed students and making learning as enjoyable as it is productive. In my spare time I love keeping fit with swimming and yoga, making cards, and enjoy reading or watching a good thriller or drama.

Pathways and The West Australian Men's Gathering

The seeds for the creation of the Pathways Foundation in Australia were planted in a men's gathering in Tasmania in 2000. As in many men's gatherings, the issues that arose at this gathering highlighted the need for a contemporary rite-of-passage for boys.

Over time, an important symbiotic relationship has been forged between the Pathways community in WA and the annual West Australian Men's Gathering (WAMG).

The skills and knowledge obtained by men who have completed the Pathways Leadership Training (LDP) enable them to make important contributions to The Gathering.

This year, Pathways WA has significant involvement in The Gathering.

We often have at least one person on the WAMG organizing committee and this year Brian Curtis, Reijer Groenveld and Graeme Grose are committee members.

Experienced Pathways leaders, Rohin Burns and Rod Safstrom will be bringing their own special energy to a number of sessions at The Gathering.

A number of Pathways WA leaders have offered to facilitate affinity groups.

Steve Morell, Graeme Grose and Alan Mallaby will also be making special appearances in a number of sessions.

Alex Grose has produced a promotional video for The Gathering. (Alex was one of the first boys to complete the Pathways to Manhood program in WA).

Pathways will also be providing meeting places in the form of a Tipi and a marquee.

Many men will attest to the contribution that the WAMG has made to their emotional and mental wellbeing and to their lives in general. Pathways highly recommends the WA Men's Gathering for those who are interested in further enriching their lives through exploring issues around manhood.

WA Men's Gathering: 9th - 11th November

For more information:

Contact: Peter Lynch on (08) 9446 6266

Web: www.mensgatheringwa.org.au

Pathways to Manhood Visioning Day

Saturday 24th November 2007 9.30 – 4:00 pm, Serpentine

This is an invitation to men and women involved in Pathways WA who are:

- Pathways Leaders
- Graduates of the Pathways Leadership Program (LDP)
- Men, women and young men who have participated in a Pathways camp

To explore together:

- How you see yourself in Pathways
- The futures you see for Pathways in WA.

We will explore together and dig deep to find what is in our hearts and minds and from this allow future possibilities to emerge to guide us into 2008 and beyond.

And if you cannot make it would be wonderful if you gave some thought and a response to the above pivotal questions to feed into the process.

Further information, location details, RSVP by November 21 please contact:

Rod Safstrom 0402 287 811 rod@environsconsulting.com

*"Explore
together:
How you see
yourself in
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the futures
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WA."*

A Permanent Site for Pathways

As most of you know Pathways has been blessed with the use of a beautiful site, within the state forest near Mundaring, for a number of years now. In many ways it has suited our purposes very well and has enabled us to grow the work of Pathways WA here in Perth, to the stage that it is now reached.

However we have been aware for some time that if we want Pathways to continue to flourish, then we need to source a more permanent site, preferably one on which we have some kind of long term tenure.

One of the issues with the Mundaring site is that we have to put up and take down the whole camp infrastructure every time we run a programme. When you are only running one or two camps a year that's manageable (albeit a logistics nightmare), but with 2008 looming and three camps planned, the need for a permanent site becomes ever more pressing!

Some of the important criteria for a potential site include

- Being accessible by both vehicles and trucks
- Restricted public access
- Evacuation possibilities in the event of fires
- Within 100 kms of Perth CBD
- Plenty of shade
- Significant area of bushland on site or abounding

- Quiet and secluded
- Minimal man-made structures
- Covered meeting place including toilet facilities within a few kms
- Potable water supply
- Mobile phone coverage
- Minimum 2 ha site, but preferably much bigger

We have already investigated a number of potential sites, which still remain possibilities, but this is a call to the Pathways community (or any contacts/generous benefactors you might have or know of) to come forward with a site that may fit the above criteria and which you think could be made available for Pathways use.

A permanent site would allow us to develop the infrastructure required, expand the number and frequency of camps and become a focal point for the Pathways community. It is essential factor in providing a firm foundation for the future growth and sustainability of this most important work.

Please contact **Derek Nash on 0402 792 066** if you can help in any way.

