

Toolangi Adventure Soccer Camp TASC



Messages from the Directors:

TASC is camp that brings together a small group of boys from the varied backgrounds geared to provide an experience that opens their eyes to the enjoyment of the Australian bush, community building, fun, and of course soccer. We were so happy to run our second installment of the camp and this time it was bigger and better. We had 7 participants from Richmond, Collingwood, and Fitzroy. This camp could not happen without a dedicated group of people who give their time and energy to making this camp what it is. Frank McGrellis who works with the Collingwood All-Stars program came and ran a session on long balls and brought his wonderful expertise and fun filled take on soccer. Jim Nichols a true “bush-man” and soccer coach brought a great sense of humor and willingness to connect with the boys who came. James Fisher once again taught the boys how to make bread and pizzas while making them laugh. Tamsin Crocker ran a beautiful session of Yoga that had all the boys stretching and making noises of pain, laughter, and confusion while they were working parts of their bodies that had never been stretched before. Chris Burson from VIC police brought a full-filled attitude and provided guidance for the boys. Francesco Vicenzi spoke about how he sees the world through a lens and took some of amazing photos of our camp. Mat Kavanagh, the local ranger, gave another phenomenal talk about flora, fauna, and bush fires while we were walking through a rainforest. A real highlight! Chris McGeachan of Blue-Light and VIC police is the glue of what keeps TASC together. Sharing his relentless passion for fun and his unique ability to positively influence the lives of all he comes into contact with.

On a personal note, it warms my heart with the amount of support we have received to make this camp possible. Many hours have been spent in preparation to make this camp take place but we could not do it without the support of all of you. The fact that we get to see the boys smiling and appreciating the great outdoors while eating delicious food and playing soccer is such a reward. The smiles came during most of our activities which ranged from soccer training sessions, bike rides down dirt roads in the bush, to hiking up to a waterfall, to cooking, to dancing, to doing yoga, to playing heated games in the inflatable pitch arena, to sharing our meals, and even smiles when the boys were cleaning. By the end of the camp boys were asking us what they could do to help instead of us having to ask them. They rarely complained about anything except the



flies. A real highlight of the camp was the boys getting to see the Milky Way for the first time, a small event that connects us all to a much larger picture. That is what TASC is all about, giving the boys involved the knowledge and life skills to become a part of their community and the world at large with awareness and self confidence. Thomas Merton, a theologian and philosopher once said, "No man is an island," and this camp is nothing without all who participate and give their time. Thank you!

Peter Devine



"You can be part of a Camp but you live an Experience".

Blue Light TASC offers what most trips away do not. It is full of positive people who genuinely believe in themselves and the kids that are coming along for the ride.

Set in some of the most beautiful countryside in the Yarra Valley, Toolangi Estate puts everyone that enters its iron gates into a new world.

Coming from the concrete jungle being the Big 3 High Rise Estates (Richmond, Collingwood & Ftzroy), 7 local kids this time round were part of Blue Light TASC 2.

As a local Yarra Youth Resource Officer of 20 yrs with Victoria Police, TASC takes positive life experiences and engagement with those less fortunate than myself to new heights.

The environment in which TASC is delivered only allows for positive outcomes. Surrounded by nature at its best, you are unable to avoid smiling.

TASC is an actioned packed camp that is foundational by the local kids passion for soccer. Many sessions spent working around the skills of the world game whilst raised eyes take in the vast colours greenery and mountain tops. Day trips leaving paradise to venture into the hills either on foot or by pedal power.

TASC is the ultimate environment to share stories around my policing profession with the local young people who attend. It allows time to openly discuss past and present relationships with the kids who have often experienced negative police contact or at least are close to someone who has. It also allows for other local police members to be part of the kids life without the uniform tag.

Peter (TASC) coordinator put together a package that welcomes all and shows the door to none. Peter has put together only the best people to have our local Yarra kids meet and spend time with.

I cant wait for Blue Light TASC 3.

Geeks

Sponsor Highlight-



Sometimes the stars align perfectly to enable great things to happen. When this happens it helps to connect with people who believe in what you are trying to accomplish. Through a series of events and conversations, Blue Light and TASC were able to secure the use of Anglicare's estate in Toolangi. With out this estate that the boys have labeled as "paradise" TASC would never have gotten off the ground. Anglicare's donation of time, support, and use of a sacred place we are able to plant the seeds of change into a group of young men's lives while playing our favorite game. The estate in Toolangi is a 100 year old botanical garden set on a mountain top with two living quarters and one communal area. When the land was bequeathed to Anglicare the family who once lived there donated the land and funds with the purpose of building a footy oval. The estate was to be used by the less fortunate and specifically for young men from Melbourne who lacked the means to experience the bush. I hope that this camp has fulfilled this goal. Not only has Anglicare provided the facility to make this camp happen but Ian Wallbridge(Anglicare employee) has given continual moral support and belief in our cause. In addition to supporting the camp with the facility an anonymous donation of five-hundred dollars came through Angilcare, which covered our food costs. In many ways Angilcare has welcomed us into their home and family, for which all involved are forever grateful.

Sponsors:

Thank you to each one of our sponsors. TASC could not exist with out you!



Anglicare

Blue-Light

City of Yarra

The Fitzroy Lions

Das T-Shirt Automat

FoodShare

Melbourne Heart

Optimal Development

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Yarra Jets

Yarra Youth Services

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Jinta/Etiko

Upcoming TASC Dates:

April 9-12 2013

We hope for the continual support of our sponsors.

Activities Highlights:



Bike Riding



Forest Education



Hiking



Bread Making



Yoga



Melbourne Heart Game(He's not sleeping!) And of course SOCCER!



Music Highlight



Music is an integral part of TASC, not only the listening of music but the discussion of how and why it is made and for what purpose. Music is played during meals, during training sessions, and can be heard from the sleeping quarters. The boys have a varied taste of music and we all connected on one specific group, Diafrix. Below is a brief biography of the artists. As far as musicians go, no other artists are more relevant to the boys who participate in TASC.

Diafrix, the strikingly unique Melbourne based, African born hip-hop duo. The duo – born from the Melbourne suburb of Footscray – comprises of two frontmen, Momo and Azmarino, both of whom are African refugees but have lived through struggles which are worlds apart. Momo arrived in Australia with his family at the age of three after fleeing their homeland of the Comoros Islands. Azmarino, on the other hand, originally hails from Eritrea but didn't arrive in Australia until earlier this decade – after a life of citizenship hunting throughout countries like Jordan, Italy and Switzerland. Definitely not the typical story of an Australian band, but one that reflects an underrepresented and growing community of first generation Australians.

Message of thanks from a Camper:

Hey pete, I didn't get a chance to thank you for the opportunity you gave me a week or two ago for soccer camp. The experience was great and I had lots of fun, it was really nice getting off my butt and being able to get active and actually go outdoors away from the city during the holidays. Ever since after camp I've really grown to love the outdoors and would love to go again sometime. It was really a great experience to be playing a sport I love most and making new friends along the way of not only learning new skills but also bonding with new people. So thank you once again for giving me the amazing outdoor soccer camp experience.



An E-mail received from one of our campers..

If reading this newsletter inspires to you help or know someone who could help add to TASC please contact Peter Devine at 0426705123.