

Tim's Tales

SOAR Adventures, an Initiative of SU Victoria

December 2011



Dear SOAR Adventures Supporters,

Where has the year gone; a clichéd response to another busy year.

Since my last letter to you all, God has been moving mountains, well climbing mountains with the groups that I have been journeying with.

Sunbury College have not been able to continue, therefore only 6 months of the program was completed. Even though this was very disappointing for the boys, we were able to see some very positive outcomes. A comment from Sunbury College's Assistant Principle

"Yes it is disappointing, but we do appreciate the efforts made and the progress the boys have made as a group".

Bendigo South East are now 6 months into the program and we are starting to see some fruit with some of the boys. We have recently returned from our trip to the Alpine National Park, where it was calculated that the equivalent of approx. 70,000 steps were climbed, a great effort considering this was the first time many of them had ever been hiking before.

As well as stretching

the boys to their limits and seeing glimpses of gold start to shine in their lives, camp fire discussions have been very powerful experiences, specifically targeted towards turning boy-like behaviour into that of a man.

Sharing the tribulations of my work with others is one of the rewarding parts of working with these young people.

I am still involved with



Weeroona Secondary College, Bendigo and Swan Hill College has recently been handed over to me.

Both groups have also recently returned from hiking in the Alpine National Park, where the highest point we ascended to was 1725m.

I would like to share a comment from a Swan Hill mother:

"Wow...what a changed man you returned to me!! Changed career path and he wants to do outdoor education or be a PE teacher".

Term 4 has also involved Swan Hill and Weeroona College making a difference in their respective communities. Swan Hill visited an Aged care facility and Weeroona were involved in a "Cooking for Others" initiative through Bendigo Community Health.

The visit to the Aged Care facility was a major success, where there was even some yodeling from some of the residents, as our Intern strummed on the guitar.

SOAR Adventures have also been involved in the Arise program instigated through the 2009 Victorian Bushfires through Mission Australia; working with 20 Year 8 students from Eagle Hawk Secondary College.

This program, which I have been a part of, builds on building positive mental health and turning young people into leaders when reaching their full potential. We are already seeing some positive outcomes.

Thankyou for your continued support. Merry Christmas and Blessings to you all..

Tim Donovan

Praise

- For the 57 amazing young people I have had the privilege of journeying with this year.
- The dedication of Ritchy Younger and Josh Wolsley our 2011 SOAR Adventures Intern's.
- The parents, guardians and school representatives of the boys that we work with. Without their support and encouragement our program would not be possible.

Pray

- That the Swan Hill, Bendigo South East and Weeroona groups continues to grow individually and as a team.
- That we are provided with the required financial assistance to allow our program to continue in making positive impacts on so many young peoples lives.
- For opportunities to further influence and support young people in our community.



If you would like to know more about anything in Tim's Tales, I would love to talk to you— please feel free to contact me on:

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