

YOUNG MEN'S PROGRAM



“EVOLVE PROVIDES A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR DISADVANTAGED YOUNG PEOPLE TO EVOLVE INTO STRONG, CARING AND PURPOSEFUL INDIVIDUALS”

The Young Men's Program was first developed in 1993 by Typo Station founder Matt Pfahlert. The two year program begins with an intensive three-week residential experience at Typo Station. Over the following two years the young men are given the opportunity to take part in follow up programs and, most importantly, provided with access to ongoing support and assistance during this critical time.

Who is the Young Men's Program for?

The Young Men's Program is for 14 - 17 year old young men whose lives aren't going the way they want. Perhaps there are problems at school, home, with the police. Through the program, the fellas gain a clearer insight into how they would like life to look and ways to work towards getting there.

'I came to the hike cause I knew there would be a good sense of achievement. I knew it would be hard, but I knew the feeling I'd get doing it and I really wanna change'

What is the Young Men's Program?



There are two stages to the initial residential experience at Typo Station.

The Expedition – This is a rigorous and rewarding eleven day hike through the Victorian Alps or Wyperfield National Park in North East Victoria. The hike provides a powerful setting for the young men to explore and develop their goals and visions whilst learning a number of new skills.

'Mt Cobbler was frikkin awesome. It was breathtaking. The view of what you've done makes you feel so good. Not many people your age would have got the chance to do the things that we've done. To say that they have done we have done.'

Station Life - This is a week which aims to build a sense of responsibility and respect for self and others, develop new skills, and create routines for ongoing motivation and engagement in education or employment. Station Life includes blacksmithing and joinery workshops, a Koori cultural day, and a chance to be alone in the bush to get perspective on life. The final day of Station Life is Celebration Day. Supporters come up to Typo Station and celebrate the achievements of the young men.





'Today has been a very good day we got up did our morning jobs had our breaky got our stuff ready then got dropped out bush all the boys we set up a k and a half away from each other when I got to my spot the first thing I did was get some shelter up we have a tarp thingy with ropes off it each so I used mine as a roof and made some walls with branches and stuff.'

This day was a very good chance to think about things like my future and where I want to end up in life

It is also the 2nd last day and I have also thought about how much I will miss all the boys and the leaders and the property I really look forward to celebration day tomorrow, the follow up programs were something I thought about too which I look forward to because I will get to see all the boys again'

Two Years of Follow Up Support

All the Young Men are provided with ongoing support, including phone and face-to-face support, during the two years following the initial program. This support is provided by our Community Support Workers and plays a pivotal role in the ongoing evolution of the young men.

Not only do they actively work with the young men but the Community Support Workers liaise with family and school support staff. This is to ensure that the significance of their experience at Typo Station can be maintained, allowing the young men to keep in touch with those things that are important to them and ways that they can continue to work towards their hopes for the future.

'It's like there's someone there to catch you if you're gonna fall'

Young bloke / Old bloke - a weekend where a father-figure comes up to Typo Station and together the men experience the place and get to know each other in a new light.

"I want to take away good memories out of this, having fun, caring. I know personally that I'm going to remember this forever, the good memory that he chose to go hiking with me, not that he yelled at me all the time, photos can fade but not the memories."



Follow Up Programs

Young men are invited to participate in follow-up programs at Typo Station during the two-year program. These programs build on skills, and provide opportunities for taking time out. Each Follow Up program makes richer their experience of the Young Men's Program, allowing increased depth and responsibility in different areas. Some of these programs are described below.



Market Enterprise – The Young Men make joinery and blacksmithing goods, such as BBQ sets, chopping boards, coat racks, hat stands and picture frames in the workshops at the Station and then travel to Melbourne to sell their products at the South Bank Market. The profits from the sales go back to the team of young men.