



STOCK CAMP



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Stock Camp is aimed as an ends based alternative education system to engage youth who are disengaged from mainstream education. This project is an on-property education and training concept designed to intervene in the descent into anti-social behavior and as a diversion from incarceration or suicide. Whilst not a new concept it is unique in design with the end goal having participants becoming socially ready to achieve employment.



Methods

Stock Camp operates on four inseparable and mutually supportive pillars. Those being **Intervention; Education; Cultural Awareness and Employment.**

- (1) The first thing we do is operate under a voluntary and personal choice basis. That being; the participants have to want to partake and by choosing to do so they are choosing to operate under the guidelines we set down.
- (2) Our deliverables are youth that are learning to make better life choices and assist them on a path away from socially unacceptable behaviour, drugs, incarceration and suicide.
- (3) Our milestones are better socially adjusted youth who are able to go into the work force and remain there or go onto further education. For this we do not put timeframes into the equation. There will be a top end age point but that will be determined on a case by case basis.

Coffee Table completed to take home. So good was the job his mum wanted one also.



Kitting up with the right PPE for Chainsaw work.



Fencing has been really well regarded. We get great results in a relatively short period of time.

Objectives

Stock Camp offers a holistic approach to working with troubled youth. Through working with livestock including cattle and horse handling the project is designed to enable the participants to increase their confidence and self-awareness along with a greater understanding of cause and effect of their actions. We will also be working on building trades skills, in carpentry, mechanics and metal fabrication as well as arts and the environment.

The core of the program is to mentor the participants into the workforce and through business partnerships and job agencies we aim to have employment or further education pathways established for finishing personnel. As required, we bring more expert agencies in to help with some of the behaviors and various diagnosis and medications as may be required. We do not advise on these matters.



Didgeridoo making



The deck is coming together

Lessons Learned

As we are a new venture the biggest challenge is to operate on a small budget. Fortunately we were able to achieve this by having Macleay Options Inc support the program to this point, until we can achieve reoccurring funding. Also to be well accepted by the schools, Justice Department and promoted at bureaucratic and high level political level. This has been achieved by having a well developed concept, implementation at a realistic rate and achieving great results in a short period of time. Because we are dealing with some of the most disengaged youth we need to have solid ground rules and staff with great character and ability. Stock Camp is successful here because we set out a written agreement with each participant so we completely understand each other and our expectations. gather as much information as we can so we know more about who we are dealing with. While we are flexible in our approach certain behaviours are never accepted. Most of our objectives have been met. However it is a very dynamic arena we operate in and we must constantly review how we work with each individual participant and as a new program we are still developing our approaches which will always undergo changes. This program provides great value for money and is aiming for financial sustainability within 4 years. This is on top of the \$1: \$8 saving ratio of staying with the status quo.

Impact/What's next?

As we are a relatively new program, we are still tweaking the program. We have signed an MOU with the MNC Community College to deliver on property certified vocational education in 2020. We are hoping to be successful in a grant application to purchase a rural property and purpose build it to cater to the youth with accommodation incorporated. Initially we are engaging high school age youth (12 years to 18 years) and in time looking to bring in children as young as 8 years.

Our greatest impact comes from the Statements of the participants or their parents.

Around 75% have said they would likely to be in juvenile detention if they were not out at Stock Camp. Three have reattended schooling either full time or part time in a collaboration with Stock Camp and the schools.

*"I just want to say thank you to you and the team. J***** has a smile every afternoon. I am so happy he is enjoying the program so much." (participants mum).
"I have been able to come off my anger management medication since being out here at Stock Camp" (participant who now is back at school full time)*

Partners

Stock Camp founder, Gavan Landini, and Macleay Options Inc are embarking on phase one of the Stock Camp project. This is done in conjunction with Kempsey High Schools, Justice Department, Juvenile Justice, FACS, Kempsey Vocational College and Kempsey Council, Dept. Drug and Alcohol, Dept Mental Health, along with a variety of associated community and employment organisations and private businesses which cater to disengaged youth from the Macleay Valley.

Acknowledgement

Acknowledgement goes to the participating youth who have fully engaged in what we are doing and Stock Camp's dedicated and evolving staff, Macleay Options, Principle Mick Ella of KHS, Principle Mark Morrison of MVC, Dave Frederick (Drug and Alcohol), Justice Dept and Juvenile Justice and the many agencies who are believing in, and referring youth to Stock Camp.