

National Boys' Education Conference K-12

Boosting boys' achievements

Rock and Water

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The desire of educators is to build autonomous learners, young people who are self motivated, with a foundation of strong self esteem, self confidence and the ability to reflect. Boys love to do Rock and Water, a program that really motivates boys to reflect on how they are travelling on their road to manhood. The lessons can be demanding both physically and mentally, as students work through some powerful issues in a psycho/physical approach. The ability to ground and centre, to breathe, to recognize agitation in others, to make a deliberate choice between a rock or water response, to listen actively, reflect and evaluate, are all desirable qualities in any learning context. Brian Hayes, a Master Instructor in Rock and Water, in conjunction with the Family Action Centre and the Gadaku Institute, will workshop a sample of exercises from the program and explain the strategies that motivate boys to learn, develop mindfulness, explore positive relationships and provide pointers to their self realization. Participants will gain better understandings of the ways in which boys learn. Teachers will learn how to develop leverage as a teacher and facilitator by building positive relationships with boys, based on mutual respect.

NOTE The workshop will be active. Delegates need to be comfortably dressed for mild, safe, physical activity.

BioNote

Brian Hayes is a teacher with over 25 years experience in high schools, as a history teacher and deputy principal. He has extensive experience in developing programs to improve outcomes for boys, with a particular focus on pedagogy and strategies to enhance social and emotional development. A Master Instructor for the Rock and Water program, he has facilitated the three-day accreditation program for teachers, youth workers, carers and chaplains throughout Australia since 2007. He has implemented the program as a whole school approach in three high schools, as well as teaching the program extensively since 2005 in primary and high schools in the Newcastle area.

Brian presents the rock and Water program on behalf of the Family Action Centre, University of Newcastle, and the Gadaku Institute.