



ROAD TRAUMA FAMILIES VICTORIA

RAW2ROAR

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RAW2ROAR CAMP FOLLOW UP/REUNION 2021 – SUNDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2021 @ WYNCITY BOWLING POINT COOK

The original booking date was in August 2021, which was cancelled due to Covid lockdown. Because we have applicants from Metro Melbourne and Rural Victoria, it became quite a challenge. How, if at all, can we get all applicants and volunteer team members together given the zoning in place?

Another booking in October was also cancelled because of Covid lockdowns. We persisted and were rewarded with a booking for 24th November 2021 proving successful.

It was a fantastic reunion with only one applicant unable to attend and two volunteer team members unable to attend due to work commitments. There were smiles and hugs all round as volunteers and applicants started to arrive from 10am. After time to chat and catch up the fun began.

We divided into teams for bowling and enjoyed two games each group. The second game gave opportunity for a shuffle of team members so that there was an opportunity for everyone to enjoy each other's company and sense of fun. After the bowling, there was a lazer tag experience which was a huge hit. Food was also organised and plenty of it to keep the energy levels up and ready for continued fun. Teenagers always need food and they were not disappointed.

We were able to spend an hour all together in a meeting room to debrief on the camp experience with opportunity for ideas for improvement to share. Ownership of the camp experience by the campers proved valuable and rewarding with their confidence to share and speak up as valued group members. Reflection and mindfulness activities were a welcomed and positive part of the hour session. Music, team games and appropriate youtube experiences were enjoyed with lots more laughing, group and team spirit fun creating further discussions.



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With our time together coming to an end, the applicants were able to enjoy bumper cars and the video arcade whilst the volunteer team members used the meeting room to discuss ideas for 2022 camp while the Raw2Roar camp mentors kept an eye on the group. It was difficult to say our goodbyes, but encouraging to observe the unity and friendship that has developed. I am so very proud of the applicants and the volunteer team who are amazing in their commitment to Raw2Roar, support for each other and the applicants.

The volunteer team were so proud of the applicants as many had kept in touch after camp, using social media to stay in touch and a few visits to each others homes. This extension of the camp experience identifies that the parents, guardians were very happy for the campers to continue their contact and friendship – exactly what we were wanting as an outcome. An absolute win, win, in every way.

Our sincere thanks must go to the Manager of the bowling centre for the excellent planning, staff support and flexibility in relation to the booking challenges.

A HUGE call out to TAC for their financial support. Without this valuable and appreciated partnership, such outcomes and opportunities for traumatised teens would not be realised. Thankyou so very much. Bring on our next camp in 2022 which is booked at Phillip Island, 12-14th March 2022. A shift in location so that rural locations are included and seen as important in need.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Markovic,
Director and Developer of Camp Raw2Roar.