

THE SWAN HILL COMMUNITY WORKERS INC.

Brian Young
Treasurer

Mr Brendan O'Conner.
Minister for
Employment Participation.

I read with interest the article in the Melbourne newspaper the Herald Sun on Wednesday the 6th of February.

I rang your Canberra office and spoke to a lovely lady (I forgot to write her name down) I spoke to her for some time and she asked me to send in my thoughts.

What you are trying to do reminds me of a movie some time ago about the battle of Stalingrad during WW11. It goes something like this.

As the reinforcements are being unloaded they are in a line and the first soldier receives a rifle and 3 rounds of ammunition the 2 & 3 soldiers receive 3 rounds. One soldier asked why he didn't get a rifle and he is told. When you get to the other side of the river the man with the rifle will live long enough to fire 3 rounds the 2nd soldier will live long enough to fire his 3 rounds and then you will pick up the rifle and fire your 3 rounds.

Some months later a frustrated General asked of his officers I give you thousands of soldiers supplies and money and we are not achieving any progress Why, what else can I do?. A sole voice from up the back of the group States" give them hope

My experiences with the work for The dole and green corp. is much the same. Take them out to some far and distant place give them a uniform a shovel, rake and wheel barrow, gloves and hat.

Give them worldly experiences like digging post holes and mulching trees and weeding or collecting seeds. Even though to some people this is very important. I know that it does not give any hope and is deeming and scars for life that our country cares about them so much, and is so proud of saying. 'Look how much we are putting into this project.'

I did 18 months National service and was highly trained but when I got out There was not many jobs going around in civvy street for some one trained to walk around with a rifle under his arm and shooting people.

The people doing the work for the dole are experiencing the same thing Hey how many jobs are there for groups of people to sit around and smoke and mulch gardens. And how employers will still be around if they only employed this type of trained person.

WELL *THAT'S ALL THE NEGATIVES OUT OF THE ROAD.*

***The Swan Hill Community Workers Inc.** is a positive group and attempts to do things and work even with the barriers and stalling that we run up against*

Some of the projects that we have are:-

- *Mentoring. People over 18 years of age*
- *Certificate in life Employment*
- *Job skills Like welding, hand tools, building etc.*
- *Vehicle and looking after the boss's vehicle.*
- *Explanation of Superannuation.*
- *Explanation of taxation*
- *Explanation of Work cover Responsibilities.*
- *Ethics of work What you expect and what the boss expects.*
- *Community projects eg. Helping with community orientated activities Australia day. Working putting up a chook shed at the Swan hill special school. Drawing up plans ordering and cutting to design and welding it together.*
- *Collecting a large array of tools and materials to be used by the community projects. And to lend out to self help clubs or organisations who may not have the means to get them.*
- *Supply to the community groups experienced mentors and information on how to achieve projects and where to get advice*

Networking with other groups and schools clubs. And always achieving the impossible.

Hopefully in the near future we hope to bring into operation a scheme where we can get young people there drivers licence and most of there 150 hours they need to become a good experienced driver.

The only draw back and it is not a negative is to find an insurance company to insure the car when the learner is in it.

Employers are always calling out for young people with certain skills but because of limitations Insurance companies put out in there policies there is nothing that a person and or Employer can do.

I think that I could talk a large amount of employers into having people use there vehicles to learn in and go as jockeys Etc. Baker deliveries, Courier services Aust Post? Motor mechanics and lots more.

In conjunction with driving schools were they will have x amount of lessons paid for by us and then when the instructor thinks he would be

reasonably proficient to handle a vehicle. We will find them a person to do the remainder of there 150 hours with. If they are an employer then they know that they are getting a good driver and worker and if they are not impressed they do not have to employ the person but at least the unemployed comes out with experience and a licence a little bit better than the Soldier in Stalingrad with NO HOPE. After his third bullet but I suppose there will always be a Bureaucrat handing out three more bullets and a Government saying We keep on giving out money for these projects to train people. 'What more can we do.

One last thing. Pine poles are crap after 3 years and mulch does what it does best and there is no upkeep of these area's when the project is finished. It is good that we may have a minister who may look at why. And not just hide unemployment with percentage's.

If you want to contact me for any more thoughts please do so.

Brian Young.

7/2/08. E&O due to being given 3 bullets when I was young.