



Brotherhood of St Laurence

Working for an Australia free of poverty

Unsung Heroes

- *In working towards an Australia free of poverty, the Brotherhood recognises the Indigenous custodians of this country. We are committed to understanding the effects of the dispossession of Indigenous Australians and achieving reconciliation.*

Unsung Heroes

This presentation will demonstrate:

1. How the myths of the differences between generations can be challenged when ‘people’ actually have contact.
2. The immediate and lasting benefits of story sharing as part of awareness raising
3. The maintenance process to ensure ongoing benefits for people involved in Unsung Heroes and the wider community.

Unsung Heroes

Working for an Australia free of poverty.

- *The Brotherhood of St Laurence is a Victorian community-based not-for-profit organisation working for an Australia free of poverty.*

Unsung Heroes

Coolibah services

- The Coolibah centre, was Established in 1946 as Victoria's first 'senior citizen's centre'. Then known as “The Coolibah Club”.



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Coolibah philosophy

- People who attend the centre are known as members, not clients.
- Another term preferred by the members is “elders”

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The *myth* is that irreconcilable differences separate younger people and older people.

The reality though is simple;

“Older people’ are Older people”.





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Unsung Heroes Documentary



Working for an Australia free of poverty

Unsung Heroes



- “Unsung Heroes” was conceived and brought to life in 2006/07.

Unsung Heroes

- Digital storytelling brings the ancient tradition of oral storytelling and new technologies together in a powerful, interdisciplinary learning process.

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- This process ‘unpacked’ the journey of these elders revealing interesting stories, achievements, disadvantage, illness, grief, resilience and inspiration. It reminded students that they could be talking to an older version of themselves



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Student's role in awareness raising

- Students visiting Coolibah is an opportunity for a reciprocal learning.

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- This learning, once beyond the presenting issues, is an opportunity to see similarities, to see the life circumstances which have impacted on people becoming members of the Coolibah

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- Benefits for the elders of the Coolibah
- The longer term benefits include having a more aware society including the local community and key decision makers.

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- This project forged new relationships - a new community - to be sustained online as an opportunity for members to learn new IT skills while maintaining contact with the students.



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Unsung Heroes role in Anglican Schools Curriculum (Basil)

- The Brotherhood of St Laurence is working with other Anglican schools in order to build similar programs into the curriculum as part of an ongoing move to raising awareness of the other, of poverty and disadvantage in Australia.

Unsung Heroes

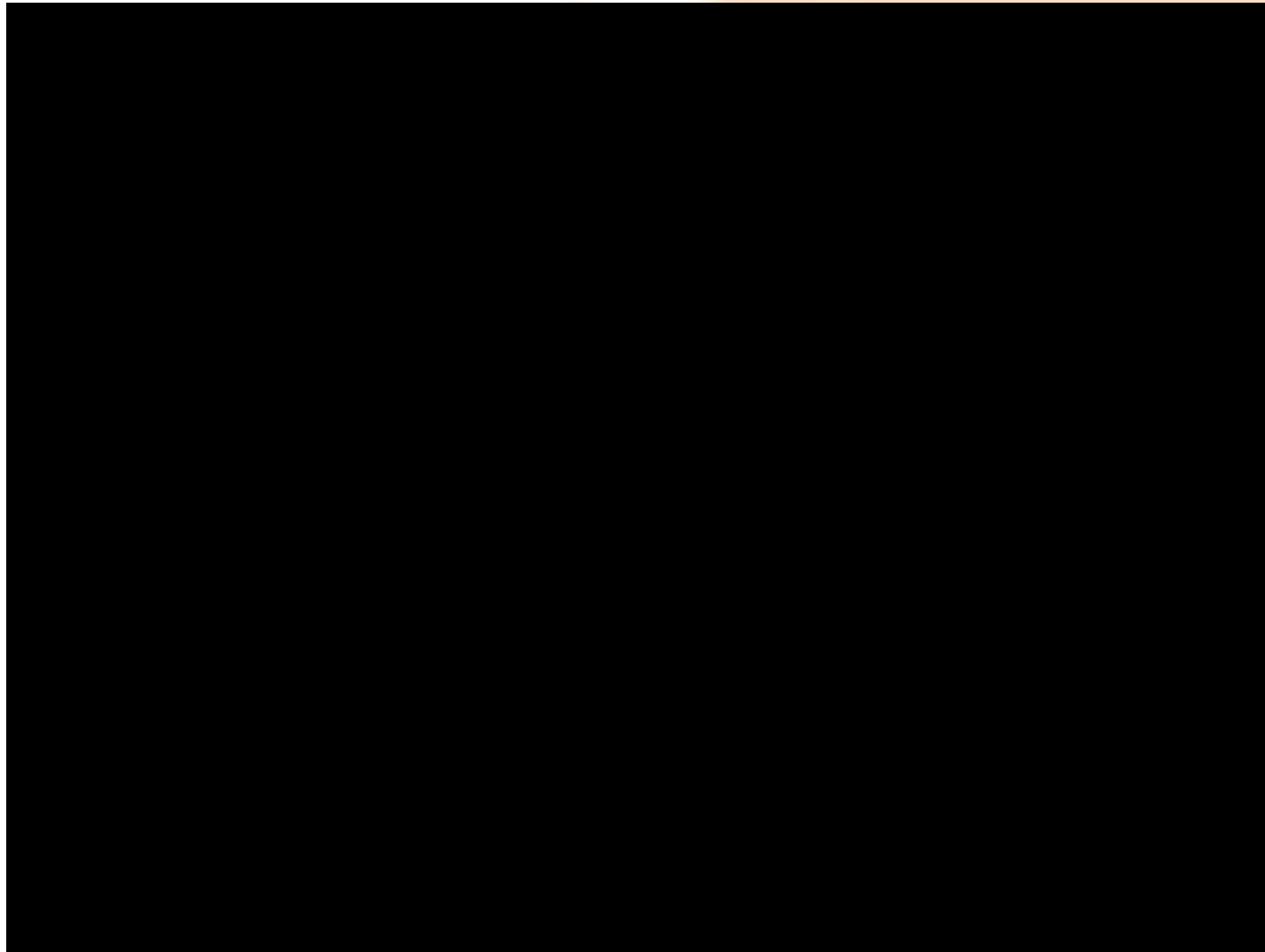
- “Unsung Heroes” demonstrates the magic created by intergenerational contact.

Unsung Heroes

1. Maureen (parents graves)
2. Pat (Tram and Choir)
3. Craig (Secure accommodation, volunteering, working)
4. Hazel (98 year old volunteer- history)
5. Peter Griffin (Similarities, life events)



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- Questions/comments





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Unsung Heroes

- Basil- “visioning”

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Contacts:

- Basil Varghese, bvarghese@bsl.org.au
(03) 9483 1183
- Rod Miller, rmiller@bsl.org.au
(03) 9483 1302