

# THANKS FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THE RITE JOURNEY

FOR OVER 20 YEARS THE RITE JOURNEY HAS BEEN PROVIDING UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS AND ORGANISATIONS DESIGNED TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF SELF-AWARE, RESPONSIBLE, RESPECTFUL, RESILIENT, REFLECTIVE AND RESOURCEFUL ADULTS.



[Click here](#) to watch a clip about the Rite Journey from Creator Andrew Lines



WE ALSO HAVE A YEAR 10 AND 12 PROGRAM IN THE WORKS. THEY WILL BE PILOTED IN 2022 AND READY FOR 2023.

You can get a good picture of how TRJ looks in a co-ed school from [this Sacred Heart College \(SA\) clip](#).

WE WERE ALSO HUMBLLED TO HAVE STEVE BIDDULPH NOTE IN THE NATIONAL MEDIA RECENTLY THAT THE RITE JOURNEY IS AN ANSWER TO THE CURRENT DAY CRISIS REGARDING CONSENT.



## Dealing with masculinity's dark shadow

The world of manhood has a deep divide running through it. Most contemporary men, and most teenage boys, are caring and ethical. They like and value the women in their lives and treat them with empathy and respect. They are comfortable around women and negotiate sexuality as a happy and equal dance.

But co-existing with this, and present all around us, is a dark shadow masculinity. Dangerous and predatory men still abound in our culture, in sufficient numbers to make it grimly unsafe to be a girl or a woman. We have seen this in politics, the church, sport, healthcare, aged care, schools and simply out on the streets.

The account of a young woman being raped in Parliament House brought the topic back yet again. Followed quickly by the hundreds of Sydney schoolgirls who came forward to talk about sexual assaults as young as their early teens in response to a petition circulated by Chanel Contos, a former Kambala student. Last year it was the chanting of St Kevin's School boys of aggressively sexual

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songs on a public tram. And every year, the sexually motivated murders that haunt us all.

We can't solve this by exhortation, or finger wagging. We have to ask what practical and evidence-based methods can change this terrible state of affairs.

We must picture a small newborn boy lying in his cot asleep and ask ourselves: what is going to decide whether they will grow up to be a predator or a loving and respectful man. The answer is a sequence of developmental stages that are fraught but entirely manageable if we apply what we know.

First, a baby boy has to be treated with tenderness. Boys' neurological development has been shown by scientists such as the University of California, Los Angeles' Allan Schore to be hampered by their slower development, making them prone to separation anxiety and damaged attachment, and in many ways not suited to the modern world

where we hurry and stress ourselves. Empathy has to be experienced in order to become a part of us. We learn little by little to be tender and keep our hearts open, so that we can feel for others and never want to harm them.

Damaged men come from both ends of the socioeconomic scale - the poor and stressed victims of an unfair society, and the overprivileged but time-poor who tend to not spend a lot of time with their children.

Fathering plays a key role. Most of how we acquire our social roles comes from example. If we have a dad who is respectful, loving and tender towards our mother. Who teaches us patiently and with good humour to be kind and co-operative with each other. Who never hits us or shames us, who helps us to not freeze our hearts when they are inevitably wounded. Then even by primary school age, you will see boys who are safe and kind to be around.

Secondary school is the time when manhood is shaped for better or for worse. In my book *Manhood*, I cite three examples of intensive work done with boys to surround them with adults who explicitly, and

within long-term relationships, induct them into decent and life-affirming styles of manhood. St Patrick's College in Launceston, like dozens of other schools around the country, adopted educator Andrew Lines' Rite Journey model for their entire year 9, extensively adapting the curriculum to do so. Bernie Shakeshaft's BackTrack Boys approach works in this way for country boys on the brink of prison.

A rite-of-passage process is the timeless way in which boys are transitioned into life-affirming kinds of men, and this takes time. Until we provide this, we will continue to have defective and dangerous men in every sphere of public and private life. Rape culture has multiple causes, but it always arises when there are not enough good adults deeply involved in the lives of boys.

That no girl or woman is ever truly safe in the world today is a chilling indictment of us all. Let's not pretend we don't have the answers. And let's get to work.

Steve Biddulph is the author of *Raising Boys*, *The New Manhood*, and the forthcoming *Fully Human - a new way of using your mind*.

We have recently been approached by Flinders University to be a Research Partner in their The Sustainability of Effective Educational Initiatives (SEEI) Research Project. It's great to have TRJ acknowledged as one of Australia's leading effective educational initiatives which has been seen to be sustainable over the long term.

<https://sites.flinders.edu.au/seei/research-partners/>

I always encourage schools interested in implementing a TRJ program to chat to a current school about their experience of delivering the program.

Please feel free to contact us to connect you with a relevant school.

**Andrew Lines**  
Creator & Director

If you'd like to have a further chat about TRJ you can book a Zoom session with me [here](#).





# OUR FLAGSHIP PROGRAM

## THE RITE JOURNEY - RITE OF PASSAGE

### THE RITE JOURNEY IS A YEAR LONG PROGRAM DESIGNED TO:

- ✓ acknowledge & celebrate each student's shift into adulthood
- ✓ offer conversations & experiences to guide this transition
- ✓ foster connections with positive adult role models
- ✓ educate & include parents/carers in the process
- ✓ connect students with their strengths & build self-awareness
- ✓ transform school culture by developing responsibility

### A CONTEMPORARY RITE OF PASSAGE

In 1909 anthropologist Arnold Van Gennep recognised that most cultures transitioned individuals from one social role to another by way of what he termed 'rites of passage'. He recognised three distinct elements throughout different cultures: separation, transformation and reincorporation.

The Rite Journey acknowledges the lack of this process in western culture and reinvents this transition into adulthood using a Hero's Journey. It expands the 3 elements into seven stages.

### 4 THEMES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:



#### WHO AM I REALLY?

Students gain an understanding of themselves by exploring self-identity and the expectations placed on them by society. Topics include self-awareness, gender identity and body image.



#### HOW DO I GET ALONG WITH OTHERS?

This theme assists students in exploring their role in relationships. Conversations include emotional literacy, listening, non-violence, anger management and healthy sexuality.



#### IS THERE SOMETHING MORE?

Throughout this unit students reflect on some of the deeper aspects of life including stillness, mindfulness, values, sadness, happiness, mortality and wisdom.



#### WHAT DO I HAVE TO GIVE?

The final theme prompts students to consider their future, what they have to offer the world and calls them to responsibility. Topics include leadership, intentions, kindness and gratitude.



#### THE CALLING

At a significant local landmark the students show gratitude for their childhood and are called on their journey to adulthood.



#### THE DEPARTURE

Parents, carers and mentors join the students for an opportunity to learn, reflect and look forward.



#### THE FOLLOWING

The students are guided throughout the year by a number of supportive adults including teachers, parents/carers and mentors.



#### THE CHALLENGES

Resilience is built by giving students challenges and helping them acquire the skills, resources and mindset necessary to overcome them.



#### THE ABYSS

The biggest challenge of the year takes students out of their comfort zone to help them learn more about themselves.



#### THE RETURN

Students reflect on what they have learned and experienced over the year and the gifts and skills they will carry into adulthood.



#### THE HOMECOMING

Students are celebrated and honoured at a gratitude ceremony involving teachers, parents/carers and mentors.

# TESTIMONIALS

"The Rite Journey is one of the most exciting and well conceived ideas in boys' education for a very long time. It brings together the key concerns of initiating boys into fine young men, with its focus on the pressing concerns of safety, dealing with emotions, values, responsibility, and self awareness.

It builds community among fathers, mothers, and teachers which would otherwise have been absent, and from this strength offers boys a real chance to become parts of something larger and long term.

Real manhood is about connectedness, not individualism, about giving, not self-centredness. There are lots of good programs about, but nothing I have seen that is so comprehensive, sustained over time, and potentially so life changing for the boys involved. That it is accessible for all boys, regardless of income or family circumstance, at what is traditionally a rather uninspiring phase of their schooling is wonderful news.

It has potential for wide dissemination, turning a problematic time of life into a force for good."

**Steve Biddulph**



[Click here](#) to read an excerpt from Steve Biddulph's 'Raising Girls' in which he explains the importance of a Rite of Passage for our girls.



[Click here](#) for an excerpt from Steve's 'The New Manhood' in which he explains the strengths of The Rite Journey for our boys.



## From the teachers...

"A great couple of days that has inspired me as well as challenging the preconceptions that it's just another subject. Cheers to The Rite Journey team."

"How lucky are our students to be able to experience The Rite Journey. Facilitators Andrew and Becky clearly have a passion for taking our adolescents, and us, on this journey. Thank you guys. I loved the experience."

"Thoroughly enjoyed the experience personally and professionally. Love the practical activities and how relevant concepts are to shaping decent human beings."

"A very real and authentic experience. Andrew is skilled at challenging and also supporting the growth of each teacher. I look forward to developing further through interacting with Andrew into living in The Rite Journey with our pastoral care mentors."

Featured in a number of leading parenting books world wide

