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PING PONG-A-THON

General Information for Schools

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School General Information

The Pong was started as a one-off event to raise funds and awareness to help young people enslaved through human trafficking.

WHY WE PONG

We live in the most technologically advanced era the world has ever known.

And yet, there are **40.3 million slaves in the world today**, (Global Slavery Index, 2018), more than at any other time in history. Despite the best efforts of abolitionists across the centuries, the buying and selling of human beings for profit is booming. It's typically the

poor and the young who are targeted. Yet, anyone in the wrong circumstances is vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation. Exploitation is no respecter of gender, age, race or status.

There are slaves in the most developed nations in the world, (an estimated 15,000 slaves in Australia and 403,000 slaves in the United States according to 2018 GSI).

In the West, a different kind of slavery is on the rise and is relentlessly targeting the emerging generation. Consumerism, self-obsession, addiction, isolation and the pursuit of "success" leave many young people looking in all the wrong places to satisfy their deep hunger for community and meaning.

At the heart of why we pong are two fundamental beliefs:

1. Every person matters.
2. Every person deserves the chance to live a life that is free.

THE WINS FOR SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

Hosting a Pong in Schools event typically results in one or more of the following outcomes:

Cultural change as staff and students reflect on values of **dignity, respect, resilience & teamwork**.

A powerful **perspective shift** for students as they learn of other young people's responses to exploitation/slavery experiences. This can lead to **increased resilience** as students reflect on their own challenging personal/family circumstances.

A strong sense of **empowerment** and **momentum** as individuals and the wider school community realise they can make a tangible difference in the world.

Strengthened relationships between staff, students and the wider school community through a physical and social activity that is **FUN!**

Wider **awareness** of social justice issues on a global and local level, including human trafficking, slavery, exploitation, domestic violence, etc.

Leadership development for staff and students running the event.

Enhanced public perception in the wider community through local media exposure. A parent, upon recently hearing about the impact of a Ping Pong-A-Thon event on the attitudes of male students towards young women, recently commented: 'I'd like my daughters to attend that school!'



HISTORY & GROWTH OF THE PONG

Our founder, Adrian Rowse, worked with teenagers being exploited and sold in the red-light districts of Thailand in 2011-12.

Describing these young people as 'the most courageous and inspiring humans I've encountered in 20+ years of youth work', Adrian started The Pong as a one-off fundraiser to help two organisations specialising in aftercare and prevention of sexual exploitation of young people in Thailand.

In November 2011, Adrian brought together 14 friends to host the first 24 hour Pong event in Melbourne, Australia. Raising \$10,000 and sparking countless conversations, the event was a wild success with one participant commenting: 'it feels so good to be doing something for someone else for a change, instead of just being focused on myself and my own problems'.

The movement has expanded rapidly across Australia in a wide range of venues, many now running annually. While initially an event just for men, the Pong has seen men & women of all ages raise \$1.8 million.

In 2021, we anticipate raising \$750,000, with 100+ communities hosting events across Australia and the USA.



2011

1st event, 1 venue
\$10,000 raised

2012

1 venue
\$25,000 raised

2013

5 venues
\$56,000 raised

2014

24 venues
\$107,000 raised

2015

40 venues
\$200,000 raised

2016

60 venues
\$350,000 raised

2017–2020

100+ venues
\$500,000 average
raised each year

MEET THE TEAM



Adrian Rowse

Founder/Director

Twenty years experience working with young people in Australia and Thailand.



Matt Maudlin

Strategic
Development Director
Former CEO of non-profit organisation 'Servants Community Housing'.



David Goode

Head of
Mobilisation
10 years experience in volunteer mobilisation and impact strategy with not for profits.



Phil Tregenza

Finance Manager
Experienced CPA Accountant skilled in NFP Management Reporting and full Finance Functions including domestic & International operations.



Edgar Guerro

Head of Admin
Edgar has more than 10 years experience in marketing and broadcasting, both domestically and overseas.

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Pong operates as a project of community development organisation Partnering for Transformation, (P4T).

As a registered Australian charity, P4T Inc. report to the ACNC, the ATO and state fundraising bodies. P4T's finances are independently audited each year. P4T has Public Benevolent Institution status in Australia which means donations are tax deductible.

The Pong Management Team (Adrian, Matt, Steve) brings sixty years of combined experience working in the non-profit sector.

PONG PARTNERS

We currently support the work of several partners in South East Asia who work with young people who are impacted by or are highly vulnerable to human trafficking and/or exploitation. We prioritise working with partners who are prevention-focused because we believe prevention to be the most strategic method of bringing modern day slavery to an end.

Information about our partners and specific projects supported by The Pong are detailed at: <http://pingpongathon.com/page/cause/>

PONG PARTNERS



The Hard Places Community.



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The whole journey

Prior to being selected as a Pong Partner organisations are required to undergo an extensive application process. Partners report on use of funds twice yearly and are visited once a year by a Pong team member. The Pong is committed to building quality relationships with our partners; this includes providing encouragement, consultative services and other practical supports in addition to the funding of projects.



THE PONG IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The Pong has been piloted in government and non-government secondary schools since 2014. The event has resonated with students in a powerful way. Students gain a general understanding of issues related to human trafficking, modern day slavery and exploitation. Young people are often outraged that slavery still exists in the world today.

The issue becomes more personal and character-shaping as young people learn that human trafficking/slavery is really all about how we choose to value people. Questions like: 'is it ever okay to use another person for my own benefit?' OR 'does every person deserve to be treated with dignity and respect?', help students grapple with the local implications of a global issue.

This is significant from both an education/awareness level AND in helping young people develop a strong moral compass based on values of respect for others.

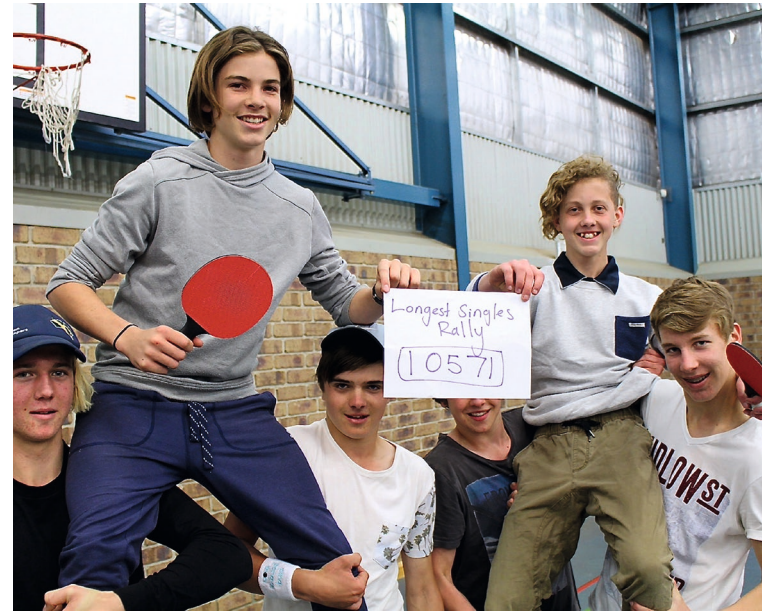
The first Pong in Schools event saw the emergence of The Pong Pledge. The Pledge has been used to help male students consider their attitudes and behaviours towards girls/women in their local context. The pledge is now available in a form that is gender-inclusive.



THE PONG IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The Pong has been piloted successfully in several primary school settings. While older students gain a deeper understanding of the issues, younger students have been deeply impacted. An 8 year old boy who has participated in the event for two years recently shared at his school assembly his understanding of the issue. He said,

“There are kids in other parts of the world, who don’t get the chance to go to school and learn like we do. Instead, they have to go to work every day and do really terrible jobs that no one should ever have to do. That’s not right and we can all do something to help them.”



While younger students may not participate for more than a class period in the actual event, many have creative fundraising ideas and want to help other young people who are not as fortunate as they are. In a primary setting, each class or year level comes up with a creative way of raising funds leading up to the day of the event. This provides excellent leadership and event organisation learning opportunities. Younger students also get into the spirit of a Pong-style free dress day and enjoy the fun aspects of the event.

THE PONG IN SCHOOLS: THE BASICS

Ping Pong-A-Thon events are normally held annually throughout October. Schools have the option of running a Mini Pong (as short as a 3 hour event) or a Full Pong (typically a 24 hour event).

EVENT OPTION #1—MINI PONG

1. Runs during the school day, usually on a Friday.
2. Extended hours and participation by the wider school community (i.e. parents, siblings) are possible options.
3. Funds can be raised through a Pong-Style free dress day (gold coin donation), sale of BBQ/drinks through the school day and online fundraising via a classroom fundraising page.
4. Participation in table tennis by year level or class groups throughout the school day with students shown age-appropriate educational clips about issues of trafficking/slavery prior to play.
5. The Pong Pledge if/where appropriate.

STRENGTHS/VALUE

- Less complex/easier to run than a Full Pong event (no registrations or overnight component).
- A Mini-Pong event can be student-driven with assistance from chaplain/teachers etc.

EVENT OPTION #2—FULL PONG (24-HOUR EVENT)

1. Includes some or all Mini Pong elements listed above.
2. Runs for 24 consecutive hours.
3. Can be run outside of class-time (i.e. Fri 3/4pm to Sat 3/4pm) or throughout the school day on a Friday and finishing on Saturday morning.
4. Class groups participate for a period each throughout the school day. Students, staff or other community members participating in the after school/overnight period register online to play for a specific time slot and use a personalised fundraising page to fundraise. This greatly increases a school's capacity to raise funds.

Options outlined in Mini Pong #3 can also be used to fundraise.

5. Requires a greater engagement from chaplain/key organiser (participant registrations, longer time-frame, overnight/duty of care considerations, fundraising follow-up).

STRENGTHS/VALUE

- Deeper engagement, conversations, relationship opportunity, education, reflection and impact.
- School leadership/parents positive about class time not being impacted - also means participants are there because they really want to be, not just because they are missing class.



EVENT RESOURCES/TOOLS

Once officially registered to host an event, the local event organiser is equipped with a range of resources to assist them in running a quality event including:

- Pong Event Organiser Manual (step-by-step guide to running the event)
- Pong Promo Pack (promotional material: participant guide, sponsor cards, posters, promo clips/short films)
- The Pong Pledge
- The Pong Child Safety Standards and Risk Assessment
- Additional event resources via Google Drive
- Access to The Pong's Event Organiser Facebook Group (where you can share ideas with and get advice from more experienced event organisers).

WANT TO RUN AN EVENT IN YOUR WIDER COMMUNITY?

Please get in touch and request our Standard Event General Info Pack.

NEXT STEPS

Please email us at admin@pingpongathon.com

Our Event Support Team would love to help answer your questions and get you set up as a Pong event organiser. Provide your name, contact number, location and some basic info about yourself and your school community to help us get to know you a little as a starting point.

NOTE: The sooner you confirm your event, the more time you will have to plan, organise and inspire your community to achieve a great Pong result.

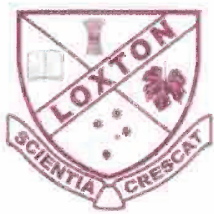


www.pingpongathon.com

serve up some justice

 /PingPongAthon





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To whom it may concern

My name is Ben Grieger. I am a senior English teacher at Loxton High School in South Australia and I have had the pleasure of running the Pingpongathon at Loxton High for the last two years.

I first became aware of the Pingpongathon in 2014 when a friend invited me to participate in Adelaide. I immediately recognised the value of an event with such an important mission: to help eradicate human trafficking and sexual exploitation of young people simply by raising money through playing table tennis. What a great cause! After participating in the event, I knew I had to encourage others to participate and I knew it was something that would work well in a school setting. So, with this in mind, I set about organising a Pingpongathon in my new school at Loxton and the results have been awesome.

The response from students and staff was overwhelming. In 2015 we had 45 students and 5 staff members participate to raise a total of \$5,874 to help combat human trafficking and sexual exploitation of young people. They had a ball participating but they were also moved, challenged and convicted by the enormity of the issue we were working to overcome. 2016 saw even greater interest in the event, with 83 students and 17 staff members participating to raise \$10,074! The massive buy in from staff, as well as the students, was a particularly strong endorsement of the value of the event. It really was a whole school effort. We had the librarian wearing a Pingpongathon wrist band for the day, school cleaners donating money and everyone from Year 8 students to the Principal of our school, participating in the event. It was fantastic to see.

I see the key benefits of the event as follows:

- It fosters a great sense of community and unity within the school community.
- It encourages students to look beyond themselves and focus on how they can help others.
- It creates a wonderful sense of shared purpose with the school and can help combat a sense of apathy that seems to be increasing in some teenagers.
- It is a great way of strengthening relationships between staff and students, as they participate side by side in the event.
- It is a great way of engaging students in social justice issues that they are often not aware of.
- The event is a LOT OF FUN.

For these reasons, and many more, I would encourage all school communities to seriously consider holding a Pingpongathon. From an organisational point of view, the support offered by the Pingpongathon team is fantastic and there really are no negatives to holding an event like this. All it takes is for someone to put their hand up and say 'I want to make a difference in this world' and then ask the question 'who's with me?' The response can literally be world changing. It costs just \$1,500 to rescue one child from a life of sexual exploitation and provide them with rehabilitation and education etc. This means that in the last two years, we, as a school community, have helped save 10 children from a life of sexual exploitation. When this was announced at a school assembly it was a really special moment—one which I encourage other school communities to experience.

If you are interested in holding an event, please do not hesitate to contact the event organiser, Adrian Rowse on adrian@pingpongathon.com. Alternatively, please feel free to contact me via email (Ben.Grieger852@schools.sa.edu.au) for a discussion about the possibilities of hosting a Pingpongathon event in a school context.

Yours sincerely

BEN GRIEGER
ENGLISH TEACHER

JOHN TIVER
PRINCIPAL



ENDORSEMENT OF PING-PONG-A-THON

In 2014 Keysborough College held our inaugural PING-PONG-A-THON.

In my role as Assistant Principal at Keysborough College, I witnessed first-hand the positive impact the Ping-Pong-A-Thon had on individuals and our wider school community.

Through the promotion of the event much awareness was raised regarding the issues surrounding Human Trafficking and Violence towards women.

Being a Male Only event reinforced to our male students the importance of positive respectful behaviour of males towards others. Our Male teachers and students bonded and grew in a shared understanding of this important issue of how respect towards women will impact on their future relationships and happiness.

Our adult male participants and leaders of the Ping-Pong-A-Thon event demonstrated a powerful message both through their words, participation in the activities and through their presence as positive anti-violence and anti-abuse male role models and it was most pleasing to witness many of the boys directly involved in the event, those supporters of the event and the classes that cheered on the participants reflect on their attitudes towards women.

Our school community raised significant funds through the Ping-Pong-A-Thon to donate toward charities supporting the prevention of human trafficking.

The fun engagement of the game of Ping Pong, the marathon challenge, sponsorship aspect and the male focus message of this event ensures our students and the wider community gain significant insights into the serious global issue of human trafficking and the closer to everyday life of the negative impact on all our lives of violence and abuse towards others.

I fully endorse the positive impact the Ping-Pong-A-Thon had in our college and hope this event can be rolled out towards a wider audience of young people.

Yours Sincerely,

Lynda Portelli

Assistant Principal

Keysborough College, Banksia Campus

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