



PING PONG-A-THON

General Information

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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 45.8 million slaves in the world today, (Global Slavery Index, 2016), 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 4,000 slaves in Australia and 57,700 slaves in the Unites States according to 2016 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.





WHAT IS THE PING PONG-A-THON?

Ping Pong-A-Thon events are normally held annually each October. A standard event typically runs for 24 hours commencing on a Friday and running over a weekend. Players register to play table tennis in a specified time-slot and invite their friends, families and networks to sponsor their efforts. Events are flexible and can be run for a shorter period of time so don't let the time frame stop your community from getting involved!

So far the Pong has seen players of all ages (from 6 to 100 years old) and abilities get involved. The event is adaptable and has been hosted by virtually any community group you can think of; including schools, churches, sporting clubs, workplaces, pubs, universities, cafes, gyms, local councils, Rotary Clubs, Men's Sheds etc.

Once officially registered online to host an event, the event organiser will be equipped with a range of helpful resources to assist in running a great event. These include a manual, online resources, video clips, posters, sponsor cards and more!

THE PONG'S KEY OBJECTIVES

-  To **raise funds** to support the excellent work of our **eight** partner organisations
-  To **raise awareness** of human trafficking, modern day slavery and exploitation
-  To **create justice advocates**
-  To provide a **fun, community-rich environment** where people can build friendships, and participate in something bigger than themselves.



THE WINS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

Pong events typically result in the following outcomes for hosting communities:

Participants experience a powerful sense of **meaningful community**. Individuals previously on the fringes of community find a place to engage and **feel at home**.

Players are empowered to become **advocates**, gaining a sense that they are a part of something that is directly impacting the lives of some of the world's most vulnerable people. This equips players with a **fresh perspective** that has the power to shape their personal circumstances and **future community impact**.

Strengthened capacity and resilience of local communities as diverse groups of people work together.

A **'feel good' vibe** that brings unity and momentum

HISTORY AND 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.

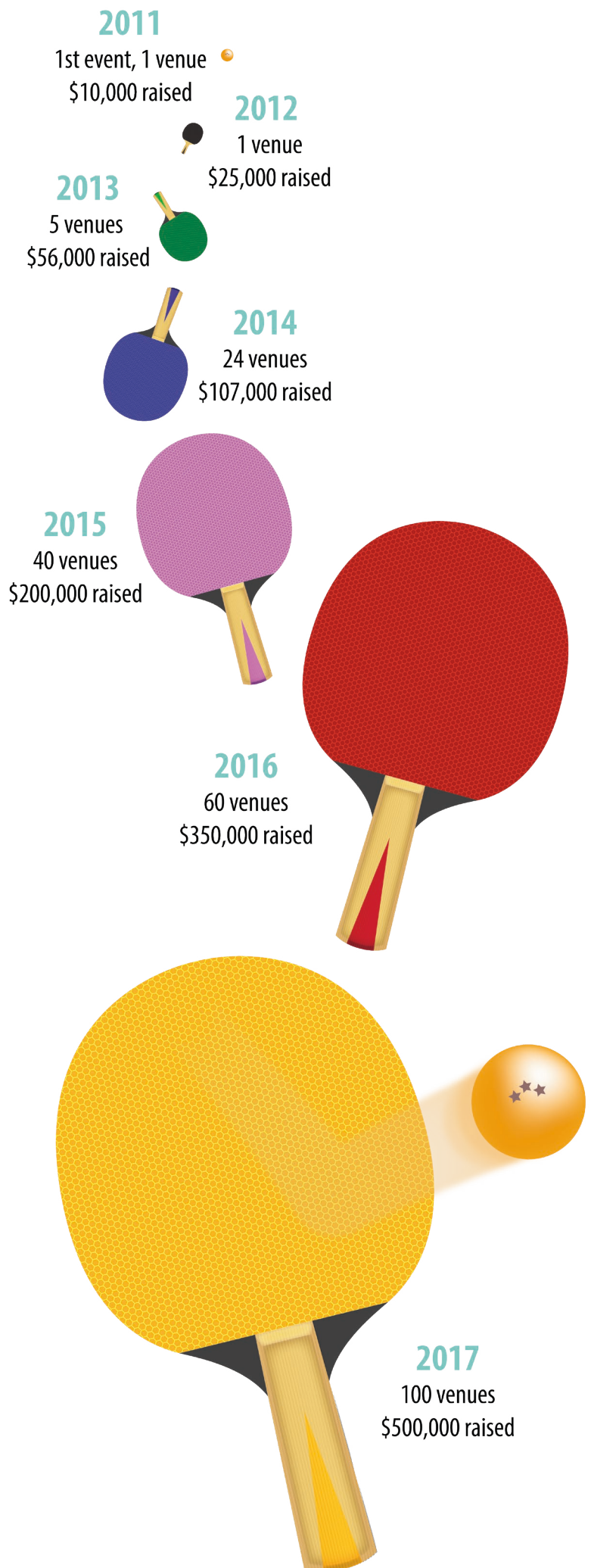
Describing these young people as 'the most courageous and inspiring humans I've encountered in 20+ years of youth work', Adrian started The Pong as a one-off fundraiser to help two organisations specialising in aftercare and prevention of sexual exploitation of young people in Thailand.

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 of which now run annually. While initially an event just for men, the Pong has seen men & women of all ages raise \$1.25 million.

In October 2018, we anticipate raising \$1 million, with 200+ community events across Australia and the USA.



MEET THE TEAM



Adrian Rowse
Founder/Director
20 years experience working with young people in Australia and Thailand.



Steve Lowe
Finance Manager
Table tennis enthusiast and chartered accountant.



Chanelle Flannery
Administration/Event Support
Worked for five years with Pong Partner 'Destiny Rescue' in Cambodia & Australia.



Caylen Santos
Development Director – North America
Background in communications with a specialisation in International Project Management and Partner Relations.



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



Pete Davidson
Community Engagement
Career focused on youth work and leadership development of young people.

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 8 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/>

2018 PONG PARTNERS



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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.



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 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.

Want to run an event in your school?

Please get in touch and request a Schools Info Pack.



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