

## KIA ORA - WELCOME TO TRACKS TRUST RITE OF PASSAGE PROGRAMME FOR BOYS.

This registration pack is to inform you about the important details of the event. We want to help families to get the most out of their Tracks experience. Please carefully read this whole registration pack together with the boy attending, as a family if possible, and then contact us to register, pay your deposit and so confirm your place.

This Registration Pack will hopefully provide all the information you need to decide if Tracks is for you and then to register; If it doesn't, please don't hesitate to email or call us.  
Included is;

- **Registration and cost information**
- **Registration Forms**

### An overview of Tracks Rites of Passage;

- **What a Tracks 'Rite of Passage' is?**
- **How a camp of five days could change your lives!**
- **Why it is important?**
- **What happens and who will be there?**
- **When a boy is ready?**
- **What can be done before and after the event to add to the experience?**
- **Where 'Tracks' started?**

We expect that this will be one of the defining moments in a boy's life and we sincerely hope that his life and the lives of everyone around him will be significantly enhanced. Please take some time to read this as we hope to support you and your family in getting as much out of this experience as you can.

### **REGISTRATION Information - New Boys and Fathers or Accompanying Men**

#### **TRACKS 'Rite of Passage' 1pm 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL - 2pm 21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2012**

To fathers and male caregivers; please come to this event along with your boy, it is a profound time for you to share. You will be on the event as a witness to your boy's process. There will be opportunities for you to explore some of your story of what it is to be a man and to support the whole camp.

**COST:** Please contact us if you have any questions about payment. Please pay as much as you can. We are offering a sliding scale to acknowledge differing abilities to pay.

- New Boys \$995 - 695
- Fathers, accompanying men \$695 - 495

#### BEGINNING OF THE EVENT:

The event begins for new boys and their families on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January at Totaranui campground** in the **Abel Tasman Park** 1 hour's drive from Takaka. Any family members, especially mothers are strongly encouraged to be present at the ceremony held to send off the boys. There will be signs to 'TRACKS' in Totaranui. Please time your arrival for **1pm** at the latest!

#### COMPLETION OF THE EVENT:

The event will end on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>** with a **2pm** ceremony and celebration that finishes at approximately 4:30pm. This is held at the Tui Events Park 500 metres before the Wainui Bay entrance to the Abel Tasman National Park, 30 mins drive from Takaka. This is to welcome the young men back to their families after their Rite of Passage. Mothers and fathers are strongly encouraged to be a part of this significant celebration. Other family members, grandfathers, grandmothers, aunts, uncles, friends are also encouraged to join the celebration of these new young men returning to the community. It is a very special celebration and is crucial that it is strongly supported by family and friends. There will be yummy food and drinks provided after the closing ceremony. **Because of the intensity of the course we recommend that participants, where possible, make space and time for reflection, incorporation and recovery after the event.**

#### STUFF TO BRING:

We ask that fathers, or if that is not possible the next most significant man to the boy, to find a symbolic gift to give to the boy during the event. If that man cannot be present on the event we ask that they also write a short letter of recognition and support for the boy to be presented at the same time as the gift during the event. If it is not possible for the Father to be present or to write a letter then we encourage the family to find another male member of the family like a grandfather or uncle to write a letter.

**THIS IS IMPORTANT!**

We ask that mothers or another significant woman find a symbolic gift to mark this time; this will be presented to him at the beginning (sending off) ceremony.  
THIS IS IMPORTANT!

We ask that the boy bring an item or photo from his childhood as a symbol of the childhood he is leaving behind. THIS IS IMPORTANT!

TRACKS CAMPS ARE OUTDOORS AND IT CAN BE COLD, (OR) HOT OR WET (WEATHER)  
TRACKS will be providing accommodation in tents and a thick foam mattress to sleep on.

We ask you to bring:

- o Warm Bedding – Good sleeping bag is best, optional pillow, otherwise a sheet and duvet and blanket work fine; optional old blanket for sitting by the fire.
- o Personal toiletries & clothing: long pants, shorts, T-shirts, socks, 2 towels, swimwear
- o Warm clothes - jacket / jersey / fleece/ polypro under clothing etc
- o Wet weather gear - water proof jacket & pants - gumboots if you have them
- o Footwear for walking / tramping and a spare pair of shoes
- o Older clothes that can get messy are a good idea
- o Optional: Acoustic Musical instruments - drums, rattles, guitars, flutes, didgeridoo's etc
- o Sacred or special objects to help you to represent your self/spirit

For the first day please have ready a small daypack – with torch (with good batteries), water bottle (with water in it), warm clothes and a rain jacket.

**DON'T BRING:**

Money, wallets, clocks, watches, electric music players of any kind, cell phones, alcohol or other drugs. If you are a cigarette smoker and are underage, we will need parent consent if you are going to smoke during the event.

**MEALS:**

If you have any special dietary requirements, please let us know in advance.  
THIS INCLUDES BEING VEGETARIAN.

**TRANSPORT:** Wainui Bay, Golden Bay is a somewhat tricky place to get to, please organise your travel early. If you are coming from further afield than Nelson please consider flying in and out of Takaka on Golden Bay Air. Please advise us early if you need or are able to share transport, we can try to help coordinate rides.

**HEALTH:**

We are planning physical activities; please complete and return the Parent Consent and Medical Forms to let us know any concerns regarding level of ability, medication or any other additional support required.

**RESPONSIBILITY OF PARTICIPATION:**

The TRACKS events are intensive and people are asked to take care of themselves and be responsible for their participation and choices. Non-violence, confidentiality and freedom of choice underpin all Tracks events.

**TRACKS TRUST REGISTRATION FORM:**

Event Type and Date (e.g. Rites of Passage 01 2012): \_\_\_\_\_

To secure a place please e/mail back registration form (along with medical and consent pages) and \$100 deposit per person. If an event is full we will contact you regarding a reserve list for the preferred event or the next. Cheques can be made out to Tracks Trust. You can also pay by Internet banking and mail back the forms. **PLEASE IDENTIFY YOUR PAYMENT** with the last name of the participant and the date of the event. E.g. Horton 0111 and send us an email to confirm the payment. **TRACKS account number: 03 -1711-0060-557-000 Please note that the deposit is non-refundable and that participants are liable for the full fee if cancelling within 7 days of the event start date.**

Participant's first name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant's Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant's School: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount paid, how and when: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Parent/Guardian - 'I agree to the terms set out by this form'

Print first name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Accompanying Man if Applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount paid, how and when: \_\_\_\_\_

**rites of Passage Event Registration**

Tracks Office

156 Commercial St • Takaka • 7110 • New Zealand

Ph: 03 525 8778 • Email – [registration@tracks.net.nz](mailto:registration@tracks.net.nz)

[www.tracks.net.nz](http://www.tracks.net.nz)



## TRACKS TRUST MEDICAL FORM & AGENCY HISTORY: NEW BOY

These details will be kept confidential by Tracks Trust.

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Age during camp: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

**Does the participant have any medical conditions?**  
**Is the participant using any medications? (e.g. Ritalin for ADHD)**  
**Does the participant have any historical conditions?**

**YES / NO** If Yes please give further details, use more pages if necessary. e.g. If participant suffers from asthma please list triggers for attacks, strategies for easement of attacks and list clearly what medication type he is taking if any.

If participant is taking or may need any kind of medication (**e.g. antihistamine**) please make sure he has all he needs for the event and list here what it is. Use more pages if necessary.

**Has the participant been involved with any other agencies? YES / NO**

If yes please give details (**e.g. Counsellor: 2009-10, CYFS, CAHMS, Police or Youth Justice etc.**)

### **Emergency Contact Details:**

In case of accident or illness please advise whom you wish to be notified;

First name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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**TRACKS TRUST MEDICAL FORM: FATHER / ACCOMPANYING MAN**

These details will be kept confidential by Tracks Trust.

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Age during camp: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you have any medical conditions?  
Are you using any medications?  
Have you had any historical conditions?**

**YES / NO** If Yes please give further details, use more pages if necessary. **(e.g. If you suffer from asthma please list triggers for attacks, strategies for easement of attacks and list clearly what medication type you use if any.)**

If you are taking or may need any kind of medication **(e.g. antihistamine)** please make sure you have all you need for the event and list here what it is. Use more pages if necessary.

**Emergency Contact Details:**

In case of accident or illness please advise whom you wish to be notified;

First name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

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**TRACKS TRUST CONSENT FORM:**

- I wish to give permission for my son to take part in activities associated with TRACKS. I have ensured that my child understands that it is important for his/her safety and for the safety of others that any instructions given by a member of staff are obeyed at all times.
- I/we being the parent/guardian of the attending boy declare that I/we understand that the activities may involve walking for several hours, running, jumping, water and use of adventure equipment, thus exposing my son to situations and physical activity not encountered in a classroom.
- I/we acknowledge that while TRACKS and its staff will make every reasonable effort to minimise exposure to known risks, all hazards and dangers associated with these activities cannot be foreseen or may be beyond the control of TRACKS and its staff.
- I/we understand that my/our son's involvement in the TRACKS Program may mean that he is remote from immediate medical help. I/we have provided TRACKS with enough written information to deal appropriately with the attending boy's medical conditions if any.
- I/we further authorise TRACKS, in the event of any injury or illness, and where it is not possible or reasonable to obtain my/our consent at the time, to engage a medical practitioner, ambulance or hospital facilities. In this event I/we agree to pay all such emergency evacuation, ambulance, doctor, nurse and /or hospital expenses.
- I/we have read the Registration, Medical and Consent Forms and the Overview information and understand the level of involvement required of me/us and our son.

Participant first name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian

name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian .....Date.....

**PARTICIPANT CONSENT AND STATEMENT OF INTENT:**

(If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us)

For the Boy to sign each part and write at the end:

I have read the TRACKS Registration Pack including the information section. \_\_\_\_\_

I understand what a TRACKS Rite of Passage is intended to be. \_\_\_\_\_

I am willing and able to attend the TRACKS Rite of Passage Programme. \_\_\_\_\_

Please write one (or more) sentence(s) about what your intention is for the TRACKS Programme.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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## An Overview of Tracks Rites of Passage

- **'WHAT IS A RITE OF PASSAGE?'**

Many societies around the world, both ancient and modern, recognize the transition from child to adult and hold a ceremony and celebration - an Initiation or 'Rite of Passage'. Tracks Rites of Passage are five-day outdoor camps with a group of around 35 guys celebrating the change from boy to young man.

- **'HOW DOES A CAMP OF JUST FIVE DAYS CHANGE YOUR LIFE?'**

It's not so much the length of time, but the fact that during that time the focus is completely on the process of becoming an adult. This doesn't all happen over the five days, but marking the change symbolically has a significant effect. It can only take a few hours to be born, getting married only takes a few minutes and getting your driver's license can take a very short time but no one ever forgets these times. These important times are the markers that tell us, and those around us, where we are on the path of our life.

- **'WHY IT IS IMPORTANT!'**

When communities create a conscious 'Rite of Passage', adolescents tend to realize more clearly how their strengths and attributes contribute to the wellbeing of their community as well as their own future. This not only helps them and the rest of the community to be happy, stable and more able to lead positive fulfilling lives but the potential for social improvement is enormous. The five-day journey is filled with activities, challenges, support and mentoring designed to assist a boy and his family through his transition to becoming a young man and into the responsibilities of young adulthood.

*"The ceremony for becoming a young man really defines that moment in his life. It could go on for years otherwise, but we know that it's happened; he knows it's happened, and he's heard other men talk about it. It feels really good that he can get on with life."* Lisa Williams, mother

- **'WHAT HAPPENS ON A CAMP?'**

One way to answer this question is to explain the separate days.

### DAY 0 – 'TRAINING DAY'

The day before any new boys arrive is for the team of facilitators, trainees and young leaders to get ready.

### DAY 1 - 'SEPERATION'

This day is about symbolically and physically separating from the outside world and the boy's childhood relationship with his mother, as well as leaving the rest of the family, friends, and other influences like TV and school behind. On this day we meet and greet one another before the men of the Tracks community take the boys away to start their Rite of Passage.

### DAY 2 - 'COMING TOGETHER'

Tracks Rites of Passage are designed to create a feeling of unity and connection, so this day is about getting to know and trust each other. Within the whole larger group we spend time in smaller teams called 'home groups' each sleeping in their own tipi. We play full-on games, listen to stories and have fun together.

### DAY 3 - 'TRANSITION'

This is the big day; we recognize the changes from boy to man and set the task for the major challenge.

### DAY 4 – 'CELEBRATION'

This day is about acknowledging and celebrating the gifts and qualities of the new young men. We also take time to reflect upon the achievements of the previous days.

### DAY 5 – 'RETURN'

Today the new young men return to their family and community. This is formalized with a 'threshold', a line between the outside community waiting to pick up their new young men and the group that has been on the event. Each young man takes his turn to step over the line and be received by his family. This is an opportunity for people from both sides to speak to each other. Following this will be a lunch feast and then it's time for everyone to say their goodbyes and go home.

- **'WHO WILL BE THERE?'**

A Tracks Rite of Passage is a powerful time for a boy and father or other significant male adult to spend together. This is about the boy having someone to support him in bringing the story and experience of his rite of passage home to his family and community as well as being a big experience together.

There will be a team of men who have been carefully gathered to lead the boys through their Rite of Passage. On this team there will be a highly experienced event director, several elders (senior facilitators in their 50s and 60s who have shown they have the wisdom and knowledge to overview and guide these events), several men in their 20s to 40s who have been trained as facilitators.

There will be a group of young men in their teens called Trackers who have been through their Tracks Rites of Passage and are returning as young leaders. Each Tracker is matched up with a new boy and is assigned the role of helping that boy personally throughout the whole event. There will often be several trainee facilitators as well. A lot of important new friendships are founded on these events. All told we will be a team of about 20 men and Trackers who will be welcoming in a group of 9 new boys and their accompanying fathers or mentors.

- **'WHEN IS A BOY READY?'**

Tracks Rites of Passage events are available to boys aged over 13 and around 15 years.

At the age of 13 some boys are not yet ready and by 15 some boys are not interested or resistant, it is crucial that boys understand what Tracks is about and aren't resistant. So besides age, here are further indicators suggesting that a boy is ready to become a young man.

The onset of puberty is often the first sign that a boy is commencing his move towards young manhood. The onset of puberty in boys generally occurs between the ages of 10 – 15. The indicators will not all happen at the same time; puberty in boys generally occurs over a 2 – 4 year period. If your boy has been experiencing puberty for at least one year then he is possibly ready to consciously become a young man.

The most important indicator of a boys' readiness however is found through conversation. One place to start is to talk in general about the big changes in life. There are many. Name a few: leaving school, starting work, getting married, relationship changes, becoming a parent and career changes are all times of big change.

The following questions are possible conversation starters:

- What do each of you think is the difference between a boy and a young man?
- What do each of you think are some of the indicators that a boy is becoming a young man?
- What do each of you think are some of the needs of a young man?
- What sort of changes would each of you like to see in your lives as this boy becomes a young man?
- How do you know when you have become a young man?

If the discussion focuses on a young man having more freedom, introduce the idea of responsibilities. With increased freedom comes increased responsibility.

- What do each of you think are some of the responsibilities of a young man?

This conversation is now the foundation for other essential discussions and negotiations. These negotiations are necessary, over time, in order to effectively adjust the family roles (parenting, siblings and son) to accommodate the boy becoming a young man. So what does this conversation tell you about his readiness to become a young man?

- If he engages with interested answers or attempts to answer he is probably ready.
- If he has no idea and the concepts are too much for him at the moment, he is not yet ready. Continue to help him explore this over the coming months and years.
- If he is difficult to engage, maybe a family friend, other significant male or a Tracks Trust professional would be better placed to broach this topic.

- **'WHAT HAPPENS BEFORE THE CAMP?'**

We suggest that before the event there is an opportunity to celebrate the childhood of the boy. This could be something like having a special meal with other family members like grandparents, looking through old photos, telling stories, and making reference to the coming Rite of Passage and its new beginning.

We encourage the boy's family to make some time before the event to talk about what the Tracks Rite of Passage means for them. This can help to prepare the boy for leaving his childhood to become a young man, in a new relationship with his siblings, his mother and the feminine and with his father and other men.

This also means working towards a new contract or set of agreements that will take effect after the camp. This will assist with understanding the new level of responsibilities and freedoms of being a young man.

- **'WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE EVENT?'**

After a Tracks Rites of Passage, young men report a stronger sense of self worth, increased resilience to peer pressure and identify more often as valuable members of a community. They are able to see themselves more clearly as consciously crossing from childhood to adulthood.

We suggest that after the event the family makes a special occasion to celebrate the new young man having completed his Tracks Rite of Passage. This could be a special meal with family and friends. This is all a part of building his confidence and a foundation for himself as a young man.

We mail out a package a few weeks after the event that includes; a collage of photos, a contact sheet, a follow up letter, info about upcoming Tracks events, the writing or drawing the person from the event did on the visioning morning and a certificate for the Trackers to recognize their service & leadership.

- **'WHERE DID TRACKS START?'**

Tracks was started in early 2002 by a group of men in Golden Bay NZ, youth workers, leaders of men's groups, counselors, teachers, friends and fathers from all over Aotearoa. The experience of these men in their lives and work was that the time of adolescence is very dangerous, confusing and crucial time that has fundamental effects on an individual's life and that there was a piece missing in modern western society, a gap.

They gathered together to create a program that recognises this crucial time of change young people go through on their way to adulthood. We now have participants coming from all over the country to our purpose-built outdoor events site in Golden Bay adjacent to the Abel Tasman National Park and our working on regional development in three other centers around the country. We have a passionate and professional staff and a dedicated group of trustees. Together our vision is:

**'STRONG, HEALTHY MEN AND FAMILIES THROUGH COMMUNITY LED RITES OF PASSAGE FOR BOYS'**

We hope this information has answered some of your questions. Tracks Trust Rite of Passage events are powerful, exciting and enjoyable and help to build solid beginnings for young men on their way to manhood.

Tracks is about boys becoming young men and has a sister program 'Tides' that focuses on the transition for girls becoming young women. More information about Tides can be found at [www.tides.net.nz](http://www.tides.net.nz)

Please contact us if you have any questions,  
Ka kite ano.

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