

BoysForward Institute

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Re: Introduction of shooting into NSW schools

As a result of my investigation of schools around the world before, during and after my Churchill Fellowship study of 2000 my 17th Recommendation (of 52) from my BoysForward website {www.boysforward.com) states:

"Boys need to reconnect with nature. It is important for boys to do the type of activities men were designed for - hunting, fishing, crabbing, camping, etc. as these give boys confidence that they *can* do something. It teaches them that they can provide for the table - fish, game, etc and this brings out the hunter/gatherer instinct in boys. At every opportunity they must be challenged by nature and come to understand the forces of nature and where they fit in the universe."

It has further been shown that giving boys or girls guns does not make them violent. When supervised outlets such as this are provided for boys and girls it removes the desire to experiment in less supervised environments in the company of only peers. Just as young people can learn many skills from playing some better designed computer games, hunting and shooting can provide similar skills in coordination, readiness etc but can also connect our boys with nature in the company of male and female mentors which are sadly lacking in our community at present.

The majority of young people who offend in terms of vandalism, graffiti, arson and the like, have mostly **not** connected with nature in their adolescent development and, hence, seek to destroy it.

Dr Ian Lillico Ph D, B Sc, Dip Ed, FACEL, Ch Fellow, National Travelling Scholar (2006)

Executive Director

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25th July 2011

