

NEWS

# Letting boys be boys

By LISA KORYCKI

A LITTLE-KNOWN Bendigo program is giving men with acquired brain injuries the chance to be one of the boys.

The Loddon Mallee Housing Services's ABI program gives men aged from 18-60 the chance to get away and do "men's stuff" such as fishing, cricket, footy and go-karts.

Last week a group who call themselves the Young Guns, and their case support workers, headed off on a four-day trip to Tasmania.

"It's the first time the program has gone out of state. They're a pretty excited group," ABI program manager Jordan Tamblyn said.

"It provides experiences for someone who might not be able to participate in social activities.

"It's an outlet to do something any other male might get to do."

Fully funded by Bendigo Health, the program provides up to 25 trips a year, including weekends and day trips.

There are three ABI groups — Young Guns, Hot Shots and Power Boys — with 28 clients in total from Echuca, Kyneton, Maryborough and Bendigo.

LMHS is calling for more clients who are eligible to join the program.

Mr Tamblyn said the benefits



SHINE A LIGHT: The Young Guns pose in front of the Mersey Bluff Light House in Tasmania.

for clients included socialising, relaxation, mateship and life experiences.

"It's time away with the boys," he said.

"Some of them are middle-

aged men still living at home, they don't get the chance to hang out with friends."

The groups determine what is on the agenda for their getaway at a yearly planning session.

Mr Tamblyn said anyone with a diagnosed acquired brain injury was eligible to apply for the program.

For more information, phone Mr Tamblyn on 0429 806 006 (BH).



ALL PACKED: Young Guns ABI Program participants prepare to head off on a four-day trip to Tasmania organised by Loddon Mallee Housing last week.

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