



2024

PROSPECTUS

- Our Vision & Mission
- Narrative Mentorship Framework
- Core Programs
- Global & Community Goals
- & Sponsorship Opportunities



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Prepared By:
Mentor Rick Boland

Working Together to
Build More Bridges, Not Walls

Outlining Our Vision for a more empowered
community, not just for our youth, but for
intergenerational connection.

Welcome to **MANA Youth Project**, a transformative initiative designed to redefine the landscape of mentorship for young people. In an era where countless youths find themselves adrift, overlooked by mainstream systems, and yearning for guidance, **MANA Youth Project** emerges as a beacon of hope and guidance. Our mission is to bridge the gaps left by conventional approaches, offering a consistent, meaningful, and impactful mentorship experience.

WHAT SETS US APART

MANA Youth Project is distinct in its holistic and culturally responsive mentorship model. Unlike conventional mentorship programs, we offer a tiered mentor system that nurtures mentors' growth alongside their mentees. Our approach is deeply rooted in understanding and responding to the nuanced needs of diverse communities. We blend traditional mentorship values with innovative practices, ensuring that every interaction is a step towards meaningful personal development.

WHAT WE DELIVER

Our Mentorship is focused on consistent, impactful mentorship experiences. We offer structured, yet customisable mentorship programs across the communities our mentors work within- each mentor a goldmine of learning, experience, narrative exchange, and empowerment. We strive to bring Narrative Mentorship into the mainstream while maintaining our autonomy to do the work the way it needs to be done. When we deliver our Training, Programs and Framework our mission is always the same: Building Bridges, Not Walls, and forging the next generations of modern heroes.

WHO WE ARE FOR

MANA Youth Project is dedicated to young people who are often overlooked by or cannot access mainstream systems, especially the education system - those on the brink of falling through the cracks. We are here for the youth seeking guidance, the aspiring leaders needing direction, and the young minds eager for a space where their voices are heard and valued. Simultaneously, we are for adults who wish to contribute positively to the next generation, offering them a structured path to become impactful mentors in their communities.

“We need to stop pulling people out of the River,
and go upstream to see Where they are falling in.”

In a world where the mainstream education system and youth industry often follow a one-size-fits-all approach, countless young individuals find themselves at a crossroads, overlooked and underserved. These systems, while well-intentioned, sometimes fail to accommodate the diverse needs, backgrounds, and learning styles of all youth. As a result, many young people fall through the cracks, lost in a maze of unmet potential and unaddressed challenges. This gap in the system is where **MANA Youth Project** positions itself as a crucial intervention.

THE CRACKS IN MAINSTREAM SYSTEMS

The mainstream education system, with its focus on standardised testing and uniform curricula, often misses out on nurturing individual talents and addressing unique learning needs. Similarly, the broader youth industry can overlook personal mentorship, leaving young individuals without the guidance and actionable support they need during their formative years. These "cracks" manifest as feelings of disconnection, underachievement, and a lack of direction, particularly impacting those from marginalised or less privileged backgrounds. This is the first stage of the Modern Heroes Journey: Recognition of the Ordinary World.

MANA YOUTH PROJECT: BUILDING BRIDGES, NOT WALLS

MANA Youth Project emerges as a beacon of hope in this landscape. Our mission is to reach out to those young individuals who have slipped through these systemic cracks. We offer a sanctuary where they are not just seen and heard, but actively nurtured. Our project is more than just a mentorship program; it's an immersive journey to personal development and learning. We understand that each individual's journey is unique, and thus, our mentorship is tailored, flexible, and responsive to the individual needs of each mentee. Through our innovative **Narrative Mentorship Framework**, we offer guidance, support, and resources that align with each mentee's personal goals, strengths, challenges and personal narratives.

Our mentors are not just teachers; they are guides, confidants, and role models, dedicated to empowering their mentees to navigate life's challenges and seize opportunities for growth.

“It takes a Village to Raise a Child,
But it takes a Mentor to Forge a Hero”

OUR VISION

MANA YOUTH PROJECT

EMPOWERED YOUTH

We envision a world where young people have the skills, knowledge, and self-confidence to navigate life's challenges, contribute to their communities, and achieve their full potential through consistent mentorship & proper Rites of Passage.

GLOBAL MENTORSHIP COMMUNITY

Our goal is to establish a vibrant, interconnected global community of mentors and mentees across the world. This network will serve as a platform for continuous learning, cultural exchange, and shared growth.

CULTURAL STEWARDSHIP

Through our mentorship programs, we aim to be stewards of cultural heritage, ensuring that the rich narratives and wisdom of the past are preserved and passed on to future generations.



OUR MISSION

MANA YOUTH PROJECT

MODERN MENTORSHIP

At MANA Youth Project, we redefine mentorship for the modern era. We combine time-honoured mentoring techniques that span the course of history with contemporary educational methodologies to empower young people within their own language.

Our approach addresses the unique challenges faced by today's youth, preparing them for a future that values both innovation and tradition instead of continuing to forget these important aspects of our life.

INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING

We bridge the gap between generations, facilitating the transfer of knowledge, skills, and wisdom.

Our mentors, drawn from diverse age groups and backgrounds, bring a wealth of experience and perspectives, creating a rich learning environment for mentees.

We have lost the respect, care & support for our Elders; our storytellers, leaders & wisdom-keepers.

INTERCULTURAL EXCHANGE

Central to our mission is the creation of a global mentorship network that respects and celebrates cultural diversity. We connect mentors and mentees from various cultural backgrounds, fostering mutual understanding and appreciation.

This exchange enriches the mentorship experience, allowing for a more profound and inclusive worldview.



RICK BOLAND | FOUNDER, LEAD MENTOR

Rick Boland is the founder and Chief Mentor of MANA Youth Project.

Rick's personal experiences significantly influence his work. He left high school at a young age and faced several years of uncertainty before eventually finding his own Mentor and his path as a Youth Worker. This background gives him a unique understanding of the challenges faced by the youth he works with. Mentor Rick emphasises the importance of peer support, mentoring, and leveraging lived experiences in his approach.

Through MANA Youth Project, Rick Boland is committed to providing a safe and supportive space for young people to learn and grow. He believes that every young person deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential, regardless of their background or circumstances. By fostering positive relationships and building a sense of community, Rick and his team help youth overcome challenges and develop the skills and confidence they need to succeed in life. Rick's passion for mentoring and empowering young people is evident in everything he does, and he continues to inspire and make a positive impact on the lives of many.





MANA YOUTH PROJECT



NMF FRAMEWORK

The Narrative Mentorship Framework is a unique approach to mentoring young people, drawing from various pedagogies such as the Heroes Journey Monomyth, Carl Jung's Archetypal Psychology, and the Socratic Method of Inquiry.

- It allows young people to explore and make sense of their personal experiences, emotions, and identity, empowering them with critical thinking skills and a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them.
- The framework encourages young people to appreciate the different stages of their personal journey, recognise the archetypes within themselves, and engage in meaningful dialogue with their mentors.
- This approach fosters self-awareness, confidence, and resilience.

MENTOR TRAINING

Utilising our own Narrative Mentorship Framework we possess a unique platform to train Mentors in communities not only in Australia, but across the world.

By keeping our Framework customisable and not wrapped in academic jargon and country based statistics, we are able to work closely with cultures and communities from all diverse backgrounds by instead relying on experience and qualitative engagement, in other words, our Mentors are on the ground, doing the work, not just talking about what is best for others.

By integrating cultural awareness into our training, we can train Mentors from all walks of life, experience, qualifications, cultures and countries.

CORE PROGRAMS

Our Core Mentorship Program: The Pathfinder Program is a unique and immersive personalised Heroes Journey for Modern young people, especially those who may not fit into the boxes mainstream services and education put them in.

For out of the box thinkers, creative individuals, neurodiverse young people in mainstream and homeschool education, the Pathfinder Program has been custom built from the ground up to take each individual on a journey of self-discovery, self-actualisation and pro-social development.

- **School Programs:** Our **Pathfinder Program for Schools** and **Anti-Bullying B.R.A.V.E** Programs are built and facilitated to engage young people on serious issues that may impact their wellbeing.

CORE SERVICES

Beyond the Pathfinder Program, MANA Youth Project has a range of services integrated into the Narrative Mentorship Framework such as:

- **Outreach Mentors:** Mentors who attend local schools, community hubs and other environments where young people may not want to step out of their known world.
- **Community Contracts:** Our way of advocating for families and individuals who may not be able to afford all of our services. By collaborating with local business, enterprise and philanthropic organisations we strive to create more accessible Mentorship in critical cases in the form of Sponsorship initiatives.
- **Rites of Passage:** Young people today lack purpose, identity & direction in today's modern world, that is due to the lack of proper transitional stages from adolescence to adulthood.





PATHFINDER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

AGES 11-18 | **ndis** ACCESSIBLE

A Unique Journey Awaits a New Generation of Heroes



All Mentees Receive their Own 50+ Page A4 Pathfinder Manual



LEVEL UP



Grow Your Confidence, Self-Esteem & Identity
Find Purpose & Direction
Build Connections with a Positive Role Model
Build Social Capacity & Develop Your Strengths

OUR CORE MENTORSHIP CURRICULUM

At MANA Youth Project, we redefine mentorship for the modern era. That means taking something fairly obscure like Mentorship and making it more accessible and interesting in order to get not just the attention of young people, but keep them immersed in their own journey of self-discovery and pro-social development.

Our Pathfinder Program is like literally playing a Pen & Paper Role-Playing Game where they create a Character and begin to Level Up in Life as they unlock their potential and foster the already present heroic aspects of their unique identity. Mentorship and the Mentor are just the platforms for this transformative change to take place.



CONNECT WITH A MENTOR IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The most important aspect of both our NMF Framework and Program, without this core connection, nothing else would exist. The Mentor is an adult in the community who has knowledge and practical wisdom to impart on a Mentee in need of Emotional, Mental or Social support.

UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL & EMBRACE YOUR PERSONAL LEGEND

The Pathfinder Program is an immersive and creative curriculum. Each student will learn new aspects about themselves and the world around them including:

- Choosing an Archetype with it's own Character Strengths, Values, Challenges & Motives that they can template from.
- Expanding awareness of the positive and negative social connections in their life.
- Discovering a Purpose distilled from a new awareness of their Virtues, Connections, Hobbies & Focus in Life.
- Authoring a new narrative that focuses on a future that they are in control of.

SESSION 1: MEETING THE MENTOR
MEET YOUR MENTOR, EQUIP YOURSELF WITH YOUR HERO GEAR AND CROSS THE THRESHOLD INTO YOUR HEROES JOURNEY.

SESSION 2: YOUR HEROIC ARCHETYPE
CHOOSE FROM 8 HEROIC ARCHETYPES AND LEARN ABOUT YOUR INNER GREATER STRENGTHS, VIRTUES & HIDDEN POTENTIAL.

SESSION 3: ALLIES & ADVERSARIES
IN YOUR JOURNEY THERE MAY COME A TIME WHERE YOU MUST CALL ON YOUR CLOSEST ALLIES, IT'S TIME TO BECOME AWARE OF WHO THEY TRULY ARE.

SESSION 4: FINDING THE ELIXIR
HAVING A PURPOSE THERE MAY COME A MAGICAL ELIXIR THAT EFFECTS ALL ASPECTS OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE. WHAT IS YOURS? ITS TIME FOR SOME ALCHEMY.

SESSION 5: FOR EVERY HERO, A CODE
GAINING KNOWLEDGE IS ONE THING, BUT IT IS NOT TRULY WISDOM UNTIL IT IS PUT INTO ACTION. CREATING A CODE, PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY OR MANTRA WILL HELP YOU

THE CREATOR

The Creator is also known as: The artist, inventor, innovator, musician, writer or dreamer. For these creative wizards, the most important thing is expression through creation. They can be a bit of a loner, sacrificing anything – friends, family, themselves – in their quest to build something that leaves a mark. Often The Creator will find it hard to admit how they are feeling in words, and instead will choose to express themselves and their emotions through art, song, or another creative process.

The Creator's mind is always buzzing with new ideas and inspiration, and they are constantly seeking out new ways to bring their vision to life. They thrive on the excitement of starting a new project and the challenge of turning their ideas into reality. The creative process can be both exhilarating and frustrating for The Creator, as they pour their heart and soul into each and every creation. Despite the challenges, The Creator finds immense fulfillment in their work. They are driven by a deep passion for their craft and a desire to share their creations with the world. Whether it's a painting, a piece of music, or a novel, The Creator puts their heart and soul into everything they do.

Although The Creator may sometimes feel like an outsider, they are an important part of our society and culture. Their creations inspire us, challenge us, and help us see the world in new and exciting ways. So, let



BULLYING RESISTANCE **B.R.A.V.E.**[©] ANTI VIOLENCE EDUCATION

TACKLING THE BULLYING PROBLEM THE RESTORATIVE WAY

The B.R.A.V.E. (*Bullying Resistance, Anti-Violence Education*) Program was developed by MANA Youth Project for Secondary Schools.

It is unique in that it can be adjusted for each schools unique needs and student population while not editing or padding out any of the more serious issues and language associated with bullying.

It is a program aimed at bullying prevention and intervention, and will work towards enriching and evolving the schools already existing bullying policies and restorative practices, or if not present will work to help establish a new framework.

the different forms of bullying, including verbal, physical, and cyber bullying, and to provide them with the tools and resources they need to prevent and intervene in bullying situations, the difference between Reporting & Snitching, and how being an Upstander instead of a Bystander can be beneficial for everyone.

01 SESSION 1: INTRODUCTION TO B.R.A.V.E. [©]

- Introduction to BRAVE
- Why You Are Here
- You Don't Know Me (Icebreaker)
- Buddy System & Reporting

02 SESSION 2: UNDERSTANDING BULLYING

- The Science of Bullying
- Different Types of Bullying
- Effects of Bullying
- The Bystander Effect

03 SESSION 3: EMPATHY AND INCLUSION

- Watching Bullying Happen: WEIRDOS
- Has It Happened to You? Discussion
- How Did It Make You Feel?

04 SESSION 4: COMMUNICATION SKILLS

- Restorative Sessions
- Practical Communication Skills
- How We Talk to Each-other:
Roleplaying a Restorative Session

05 SESSION 5: AGENTS OF CHANGE BULLYING TASK FORCE

- Awareness & Self Confidence
- Intervening in Bullying Situations
- Reporting is Not Snitching
- Preparation for Presentation

A NEW APPROACH FOR AN EVER EVOLVING PROBLEM

The program is designed to educate high school students on various aspects of Bullying Behaviours:

- **Different forms of bullying:** Physical & Online Cyber Bullying within a school environment.
- The **tools and resources** they need to prevent and intervene in bullying situations safely within the school grounds and in their own social circles.
- The **difference between Reporting & Snitching**, and how being an **Upstander instead of a Bystander** can be beneficial for everyone.

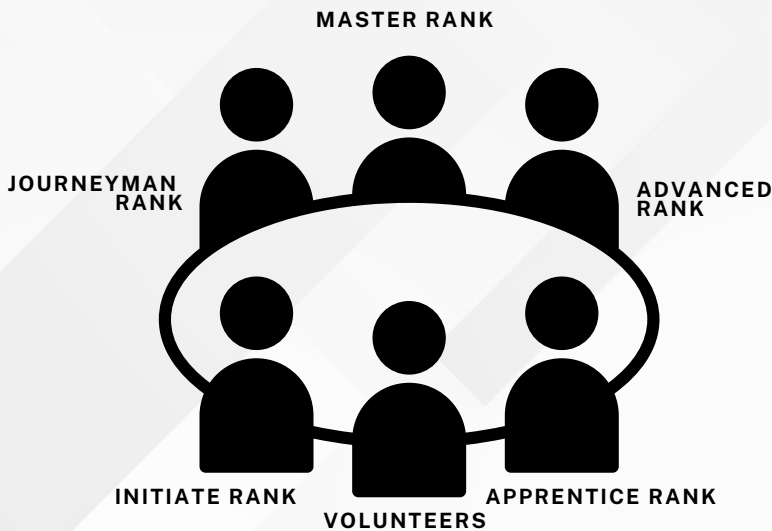
The main purpose of B.R.A.V.E is to separate the student from the Bully. By changing the language around bullying we can further work towards a new strategy where both parties on either side can create a culture of understanding, empathy and action.

**Some of the resources including videos and conversations can include audio/visual taken from various sources and may contain mild language.*



A ROUND-TABLE, NOT A LONG ONE

A Round-Table Organizational Structure involves all members of the organization participating equally in decision-making processes, symbolizing equal status and the importance of every member's contributions, inspired by the concept of a round table. For MANA Youth Project, although there is a "Ranking" system, it merely highlights experience and time spent within the organisation.



Key features of this structure include:

- **Equal Footing:** All members have an equal say in discussions, ideas and promoting a democratic approach to management.
- **Collaboration:** This structure encourages open dialogue and teamwork, as members work together to reach consensus.
- **Flat Hierarchy:** There is typically a minimal or non-existent hierarchical structure, which reduces power distance between members.
- **Flexibility:** The structure allows for adaptable and dynamic decision-making, as it is not bound by rigid hierarchical protocols.
- **Innovation and Creativity:** By valuing each member's input, this structure fosters a creative environment where diverse ideas are welcomed.

INITIATE RANK	APPRENTICE RANK	JOURNEYMAN RANK	VETERAN RANK
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Responsibilities

- Engage in basic training modules covering the NMF, Pathfinder, and mentoring techniques.
- Shadow experienced mentors to observe effective mentoring practices.
- Conduct supervised mentorship sessions with young people.
- Regular documentation of experiences and learning in a Mentor Journal.

Responsibilities

- Manage up to 3 concurrent mentorships.
- Develop individualised mentorship plans for each mentee post Pathfinder Cycle.
- Contribute to community outreach and program feedback.
- Deliver In-School Mentorship Programs alongside supervised Mentor.

Responsibilities

- Manage up to 5 concurrent mentorships.
- Handle complex and diverse mentorship cases.
- Provide guidance and support to Apprentice Mentors.
- Lead small mentorship projects or initiatives.
- Travel between Mentorship Bureaus to train Mentors.

Responsibilities

- Manage up to 10 concurrent mentorships.
- Conduct mentorships with a high degree of autonomy.
- Innovate and pilot new mentoring techniques or programs.
- Provide strategic input to MANA Youth Project leadership.

MASTER RANK

- Oversee strategic direction of the mentorship program. Foster a culture of excellence and innovation. Act as a guide and advisor for lower ranks and Expert Mentors. Oversee the establishment and/or operation of a Mentor Bureau.

BUREAU OVERSEER

- Usually a Master Mentor, but where there is no Master present, a Bureau Manager will be hired.
- Oversee operation of Bureaus Programs, Mentor Training, Rostering & Liaising.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteering for cultural, community, and social programs positively impacts communities, promoting diversity, responsibility, and development.

It can help people in need and support local businesses, while also providing personal and professional benefits like meeting new people, gaining skills, and valuable experience.

PLANTING THE SEEDS

2018- 2023

We have taken an idea and concept to provide Grassroots Community Mentorship to young people facing social, personal and educational challenges, and grown it into a fully functioning, professional and organised movement.

Through our programs, we have seen incredible transformations in the lives of young people. We have witnessed individuals who were once struggling with low self-esteem, poor academic performance, and social isolation, emerge as confident, successful, and well-rounded individuals.

We are proud of the impact that our Grassroots Community Mentorship program has had in the lives of young people. We are committed to continuing our work and expanding our reach to provide mentorship to as many young people as possible. We believe that by investing in our youth, we are investing in the future of our communities.

LOOKING FORWARD

2024 & BEYOND

Looking forward to 2024 and beyond we have many plans to expand and increase our reach both in Australia and globally in other parts of the world.

As we seek to partner with more community organisations, impact hubs and cultural centres.

We have a lot of work ahead of us as a small social enterprise/business hybrid, and we hope to make a great impact in the youth and community fields, bringing Narrative Mentorship into the Mainstream.

As we expand our reach, we also plan to develop new programs and services that will enable us to reach even more young people. We will continue to innovate, experiment and learn from our experience. Our focus will always be on providing high-quality, qualitative-based mentorship that is accessible, engaging and fun.

We know that there are many challenges ahead, but we are confident that with the support of our partners, friends, and supporters, we will be able to achieve our goals. We are excited about the future and look forward to continuing to make a positive difference in the lives of young people and communities around the world.



Partnered and Delivered over **50+ Mentorship Cycles** for Families and Young People in the Mornington Peninsula & Bayside Areas.



Developed our own innovative **Narrative Mentorship Framework & Pathfinder Program** & successfully trained over **10+ Community Mentors** who have gone on to do the work within their own communities and within MANA Youth Project.



Built a strong network of Community Hubs, Organisations, Schools and Services. As well as compiled data from field work within Council Youth Services & Local Secondary Schools to inform our approach.



Grown our Social Network Presence Organically, currently with over 1000+ Likes & Followers on our Facebook & Instagram Communities.



Implementing our Community Contracts aspect: Advocating for families to gain sponsorship from the community for Mentorship and becoming a fully fledged Social Enterprise.



Establishing our first Mentor Bureaus: We are aiming to open our first Headquarters either autonomously or through Partnership. This will allow us to increase our capacity to do more and train Mentors in other communities to impact their own young people.



Connect and Engage with CALD Communities and Cultural leaders to increase our Cultural competencies. We aim to work with leaders in various countries and help support them in mentoring their own young people within the context of their beliefs, history and traditions. Our first Locations of Interest are **Australia & New Zealand**.

SPONSORSHIP



MANA Youth Project
Mornington Peninsula Bureau
Melbourne, Victoria 3939

Dear Community,

Subject: Invitation to Partner in Fostering Community Change through Mentorship

I am writing to you on behalf of **MANA Youth Project**, a dedicated community social enterprise in the realm of youth development and mentorship. Our mission is to provide young individuals, especially those who find themselves marginalised by mainstream systems, with consistent, meaningful mentorship. We believe in the transformative power of guidance and support, a belief that is the cornerstone of our **Mentorship Community Contracts program**.

At **MANA Youth Project**, we recognise the crucial role of mentorship in shaping the futures of young people. Our programs are designed to bridge the gap left by traditional systems, offering a personalised, immersive, and nurturing experience to our mentees. However, the realisation of our objectives hinges on the support and generosity of philanthropic organisations, local businesses, and trusts such as yours, as we strive to provide more access and opportunities currently limited by our previous choice to be a For Profit Small Business.

Why Mentorship Matters:

Mentorship is more than just guidance; it's about inspiring confidence, fostering resilience, and nurturing potential. It equips the youth with the tools to navigate life's challenges and seize opportunities for growth. Through your sponsorship, you will be directly contributing to the development of stronger, more empowered young individuals who are capable of making positive contributions to our community.

Your Impact through Sponsorship:

By sponsoring our **Mentorship Community Contracts**, you will be aiding in:

- Providing comprehensive training for our mentors.
- Developing resources and support systems for mentees and families.
- Ensuring that mentorship is accessible to all, irrespective of socio-economic backgrounds or financial challenges.

Sponsorship Benefits:

As a token of our gratitude and to acknowledge your invaluable support, we offer the following benefits to our sponsors:

- Recognition in our promotional materials and at our events.
- Opportunities to engage with our programs and see the direct impact of your contribution.
- Regular updates on the progress and successes of the mentees benefiting from your sponsorship.

Join Us in This Cause:

We invite you to join us in this endeavor to mold the leaders of tomorrow. Your support can make a significant difference in the lives of many young people. We are keen to discuss this opportunity further with you and explore how we can align our efforts for the greater good of our community.

We look forward to the possibility of partnering with you in this vital cause. Please feel free to contact us at: manayouthproject@gmail.com to discuss this in further detail. Your consideration is greatly appreciated, and we hope to embark on this journey of change and development with your support.

Thank you for your time and for considering this request.

Warm regards,

Rick Boland

Founder, Lead Mentor & Director

MANA Youth Project

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