

Suicide Prevention

It's Every Body's Business! 'This week's *Gig* - NO *STIG*!!!' **Taking the 'STIG' - out of STIGMA!**

> *"I'm starting with the man in the mirror, I'm asking him to change his ways!" Michael Jackson*

My dictionary says: 'STIGMA'... 'a mark of disgrace' - 'a stain on character'! Now the 'Reality' of this situation is that far, far from being a 'disgrace' or 'stain' on us, our emotional issues are simply just another important part of the patchwork of who we are as people! It's important to note we are NOT just talking about Depression, Suicide or those Salt of the Earth Aussies with a Mental Illness! We include the FULL RANGE of emotional health and well being issues; emotional pain caused by grief, loss, separation, ANY life crisis; those of us who are dealing with the effects of great personal trauma like rape, domestic violence, military service; the list is almost endless!

Real change in any Community takes time! In 2006/7 I bought our first Hybrid Prius, 7 grid connected Solar Panels and replaced our electric water heater with solar, saving around 6 tonnes of CO2 every year since. I did this largley because I met a *beautiful* Bethany couple, test drove <u>their</u> Prius and looked at <u>their</u> Panels - which they had owned for years! I was *sold!* But before them, my Matron at boarding school, Betty Westwood, was **TOTALLY** *before her time*. As a young nurse during World War 2 she told me how she tried to stop the bulldozers from knocking down the jungle in Burma - to extend an airstrip. She then spent her lifetime - planting trees!

In 2006 most people did NOT KNOW anything about Hybrid cars or grid connect pannels. How ironic that only 7 years later - our houses and wineries are now competing with themselves - as to who can fit the most panels onto their rooves, and every second taxi in our cities - is a Prius!

Very sadly, our world today is just not filled with the same enthusiasm for changing our attitude to emotional health! <u>But YOU can make a HUGE</u> <u>difference</u>! <u>RIGHT NOW</u>! By realising this 'emotional stuff' is something which many, many of us face and live with each and every day. It's as much a part of all of our lives as <u>climate change</u> OR ANYTHING else.

So the next time YOU look in your own *emotional* mirror!
Make sure there's NO STIGMA - looking back!!!

It's as <u>simple</u>, <u>quick</u> and as <u>easy</u> as that. And it's just NOT rocket science! This AD is written and paid for by Tim Barritt.