

Ringling the changes



HIGH SPIRITS: Dale Beaumont and Brent Williams have overcome adversity and joined forces to help young people improve their lives.

By JOANNA TOVIA

WHAT the human spirit can achieve is amazing when people overcome adversity and turn negative experiences into positive ones.

Dale Beaumont and Brent Williams, both 23, are classic examples. Rather than retreat from life, they have used their hardship, experience and sheer determination to benefit others.

They joined forces after tragedy struck both their lives.

Dale's life fell apart when his younger brother died in an accident. Everything he had been working towards suddenly meant nothing and for the first time he wanted to give up.

He fell into a depression and his cure was to immerse himself in the only thing that would help him forget the pain - intense physical training.

Brent's life-changing experience happened two weeks after finishing year 12. He was outside a hotel when two drunken men pulled a gun on him and demanded his money.

His life flashed before him and he was deeply affected by all his regrets and unfulfilled dreams. He vowed that if he lived, he would strive for what he really wanted in life.

Dale and Brent have been friends since they were 13 and, with their newfound outlook on life, decided to target youth to do what they could to change the world for the better.

They attended dozens of seminars and courses on different areas of life,

ranging from Neuro-Linguistic Programming to wealth creation and motivation.

Realising that the information, while very empowering, wasn't targeting youth, Dale and Brent decided to write their own program.

They went on to run programs for disadvantaged youths at drop-in centres, and from there established their company Tomorrow's Youth.

They now run two-day programs for young people between the ages of 13 and 21 called "Empower U" and have touched the lives of thousands.

Dale says the Empower U program aims to develop young leaders, providing participants with not only advice but practical strategies for them to take away and implement.

"The program also helps to assist in discovering what they want to achieve in life and overcoming potential obstacles that may arise."

Empower U focuses on life skills such as leadership, communication, money management and the importance of teamwork and goal setting.

"At the beginning of the program, 80 per cent of participants actually don't want to be there - they don't see the point and most have been sent by their parents," says Dale.

"We thrive on the turnaround in attitude and by the end of the week-end everyone seems to love it.

"Every teenager wants to be significant, yet many hide behind various masks to avoid appearing vulnerable."

For more information, go to www.tomorrowseyouth.com.au