

Chaplain's Spot

Birds V formation lifts them higher!

We all need each other. At the recent Gr3-4 camp at Arrabri Lodge, all team members were needed to pull the rope enough to lift the person high in the giant swing.



Geese work together as well. They fly united; they don't fly separately, in random style, because no goose alone can go that distance. They're designed to fly in their characteristic 'V' formation. When a bird flaps its wings the air movement created provides an uplift, easing the workload of the bird behind it. Together, their flight range increases about 70 per cent. Even the youngest, weakest and oldest geese can make the trip. They accomplish together what they could never accomplish separately. You're not called to fly solo. Occasionally a goose strays off on its own but soon becomes exhausted, loses altitude and ultimately pulls wearily back into the formation.

Also, the aged, very young, and infirm are protected in the rear of the formation. They aren't isolated or considered useless; in fact they fulfil a vital role. They become the honking section and cheer for the leaders. Inevitably, bad weather threatens us. The going gets tough and the tough are struggling. From the rear of the formation a lone honk sounds, initiating a geese chorus honking encouragement to the point goose. We all need a 'honking section' supporting us with uplifting words and support. Occasionally, a harsh, out-of-tune goose complains loudly and irritatingly. Within moments the honking section kicks in, drowning out the grumbler, restoring order and unity. A few words of encouragement can overpower a storm of complaints. So join the honking section and bring your encouragement to those around you. 'Look at the birds', and learn.

One Liner of the week:

The older I get, the more I think birds are the best musicians on the planet [Brian Reitzell]

Alan Silverwood – Chaplain [silverwood.alan.a@edumail.vic.gov.au] Pastoral care for our community, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays.

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