



# NATIONAL WALK FOR VALUES PERTH

**Saturday, 12 April 2008 – Perth**

**Summary of Talk given by  
Darren Lomman**

Darren began by asking us why, when we read newspapers and see the news on TV, we think we are living in a world of terrorism, crime and violence. He urged us instead to think –“Why not?” Why not have peace, love, and happiness?

Although the perfect world for each of us would be different, we need to think more about how we can bring this about.

Darren described how, at age 19, a chance meeting in a hospital car park with a man in a wheelchair changed his life. It made him re-assess what he values in life, what he wakes up for and the reason he takes every breath.

Darren rode his motorbike into the car park and was approached by a paraplegic man who proceeded to caution him about the dangers of riding a bike. Darren discovered that for this young man, his whole world had been about motorbikes from the age of three. Before his accident he had ridden competitively and owned a motorbike shop.

Due to his accident, the medical personnel had considered it unwise for him even to read his motorcycle magazines and his whole world had changed. It became evident to Darren that the one wish of this young man was to ride a motorbike again.

Darren’s dream became to facilitate the dream of this young man. He asked “Why not?”

As an engineering student he took on a thirteen-week project to develop a hand-controlled motorbike. This became a three-year labour of love. The most rewarding experience of Darren’s life was to see this young man get back on a bike and fulfill his dream.

People with a disability began to approach him with their different dreams – from flying to surfing and sailing.

He created an organization called "Dreamfit", giving engineering students the opportunity to pair up with people with a disability, find out their dreams and make these possible.

His ultimate goal is to create a world where having a disability isn't disabling.

Darren concluded by asking us to stop on this Walk for Values day and ask us if we are making a difference. Could we be doing more to make the world a better place? Are we leaving a legacy? Instead of seeing things as they are and asking "Why", ask "Why not?"

His final quote was "When those who are fortunate, look after those who are less fortunate, the world becomes a little richer."