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In the Supper Room, Town Hall, Ferguson St St Williamstown, at 7.30 pm, last Wednesday of the month.

## 2021 Program

# BACKTRACK BOYS

Director Catherine Scott embedded herself for two years in this world and has crafted an inspiring and heart-warming coming-of-age tale. Backtrack Boys is a film about a generation of young Australians from the fringes of society eager to become more than their circumstances would suggest.

Backtrack is the youth program run out of Bernie Shakeshaft's shed on the outskirts of Armidale. It's a place for troubled kids to safely continue their education while learning trust, support for one another and to have faith in a world that has forgotten them. When Shakeshaft recruits Zach, Alfie and Rusty to join him on a cross-country journey with his famed dog-jumping team, it's the last chance for the three boys to halt a quick journey to jail and prove to the world that they are more than just delinquents with no future.

When you lock a child away in prison you set them on a trajectory for the rest of their lives, says ACT Attorney General Shane Rattenbury MLA. This film looks at a program that is taking boys that seem to be well on the path to imprisonment and tries to change that trajectory into a more hopeful one.

Director Catherine Scott's observational documentary - which premiered last year but airs on Sunday on SBS - follows participants of BackTrack Youth Works, the highly successful program which turns around the lives of at-risk youth by empowering them through education, training and support - with a little help from four-legged friends.

The film's opening moments capture young men participating in BackTrack's Paws Up initiative, which pairs each of them with a particular dog. They are shown how to train and handle the dogs gently, performing various tricks and exercises.

The organisation's founder and chief executive, jackaroo-cum-social-worker Bernie Shakeshaft, says the process is not engineered. "The right dog will pick the right kid," he says in the film. "The ADHD kid will have the ADHD dog" and "the dog that wants to lay around in the sun all day will be with the chilled-out kid"

See the trailer at : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3QIAcuyXZxQ>

Colour Running time: 100 mins

## Starbox Results

	5	4	3	2	1	Average
Swallows of Kabul	18	8	4	5	1	4.0