

Attachments

Special Committee of Council Meeting

Monday 8 April 2019

6.1.1 **Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee 2018 Annual Report**

Attachment 1 Annual Report 2018 2



WYRC Annual Report 2018

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WYRC BACKGROUND

Jasmine Szymakowski

The Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee (WYRC) is a group of young volunteers aged 12 – 25 who act as a collective voice for all young people across the municipality contributing to Whitehorse City Council's discussion and decisions around youth issues. The group meets fortnightly at Youth ConneXions in Box Hill.

Aim

The WYRC main purpose is to provide a link between young people and Council affectively being the voice for all young people and representing them.

The primary aims include;

- Reporting youth issues raised by young people in the community to Council.
- Hosting and developing events for young people.
- Opening new doors to the youth so they can easier get involved in the community
- Representing the young people of Whitehorse at events

Benefits

Many benefits come with being a part of the WYRC including many opportunities, experiences and development of new skills including;

- Public speaking
- Leadership qualities
- Problem solving
- Communication skills
- Extracurricular certificates are offered, such as 'Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Intersex Queer Asexual +' (LGBTIQA+) training, barista and First Aid courses
- Event management experience
- Deeper knowledge of the community and how to have a positive impact
- A chance to meet, work with and develop friendships with a variety of like-minded people

Recruitment

Young people aged 12-25 who have a connection to the City of Whitehorse through residence, education, work or other significant links may apply for the committee. Recruitment is advertised widely in the community annually from November to January through avenues such as: clubs, newspapers, schools, display boards and other local media. Potential committee members then attend an agreed time where goals, expectations and responsibilities of being a member are discussed via formal interview process designed to provide an experience of the real world employment process.

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INTRODUCING THE WYRC 2018

Alan Wu

Nelushi Dissanayake

Erin Page

Amy Cameron

David Shultz

Alan Wang



Lydia Wang

Vivian Wong

Jasmine Szymakowski

Nikki Doan

Katie Nguyen

Elizabeth Lim

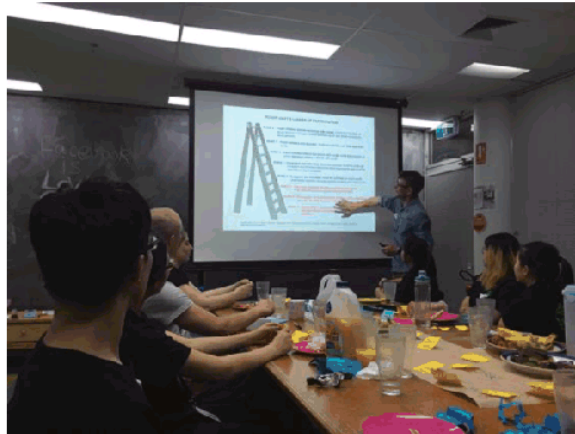
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WYRC TRAINING & INDUCTION

Alan Wu

Training was an important part of WYRC in 2018 as was our Induction which took place on February 7th. The newly formed WYRC 2018 committee met with Mayor Davenport and had an extensive tour of Council Chambers. This was a great opportunity for members to understand how Council works, what the role of the Councilors and Mayor is and the important part we play in the organization.



Following on from this were six different training sessions, each of which focused on different topics. WYRC believes that training is essential to improving the skills and knowledge of its members, who use these skills and knowledge as ambassadors and young leaders of the Whitehorse community.

To begin the year, Dan Donohue from *Project Synthesis* presented two workshops in our Wednesday meetings. The first workshop was held on February 14th and focused on leadership skills. This workshop included helpful advice about consultation, event management, advocacy and public speaking. A second workshop about marketing and promotion was held on 7th March. A highlight of the training sessions was playing card games that taught us the importance of communication to understand the goals of others.

In April, two members of the committee attended a LGBTIQ+ information session at the Willis Room in the Civic Centre. The event provided insight into some common misconceptions about the LGBTIQ+ community and raised some issues about discrimination. The presenter also suggested helpful strategies to talk with people who identify as LGBTIQ+.

First aid training followed on June 16th, with most committee members attending to learn about techniques to deal with common injuries and situations of emergency. Members were asked to replicate the correct method of CPR using mannequins using the appropriate force and speed of compressions as demonstrated by the instructor. First aid

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is a vital skill for WYRC because we want to ensure that any incident or injury at our events is managed safely and effectively.

Three WYRC members attended the Halogen Young Leaders Day on November 14th, held at the Convention Centre in the city. Whilst not strictly a training event, the stories and advice shared by the speakers and hosts of the event were inspirational and promoted positive leadership abilities, such as resilience, confidence and self-awareness. Speakers included Liesel Jones, Holly Ferling, Consentino and Uli Latukefu, people who all experienced significant challenges to achieve success in their respective fields. *This is specifically discussed in more detail in the report on page 18.*

The last training event in 2018 was barista training. This training was undertaken to help the committee members find employment in the hospitality sector. Employment would allow the members to develop practical work skills that would transferable to WYRC and other positions of community leadership. An enjoyable aspect of the training for the attendees was tasting the different types of coffee that they made, although the taste was not always as nice as they expected.



Overall, 2018 was a productive training year. Members benefitted from a wide variety of training. The training raised awareness about important youth and leadership issues. In addition, members gained useful and practical skills from the first aid and barista training.



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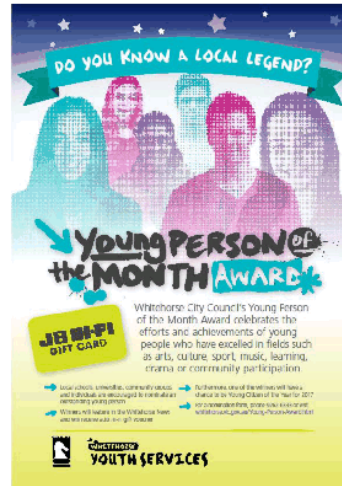
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YOUTH OF THE MONTH AWARD

Nikki Doan

The Young Person of the Month Award celebrates a young person under the age of 27 who has made a great contribution to the Whitehorse Community. It acknowledges the efforts and achievements of those who have excelled in areas such as the arts, culture, sport, music, learning, drama or community participation.

Young people can be nominated by adults, peers, schools, or others in the community who believe that they have demonstrated outstanding abilities in the aforementioned areas. Recipients of the award are featured in the monthly Whitehorse News publication, and receive a JB Hi-Fi voucher as recognition of their achievements. Of the monthly nominees, a recipient of the Young Person of the Month Award is selected to be recognised as the Whitehorse Young Citizen of the Year, which is an award announced at the annual Whitehorse Australia Day Civic Awards Presentation.



One of the key responsibilities for the Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee is to select the recipient of the award each month. It is a significant responsibility for the WYRC as we there are many talented young people in the municipality and we would like to acknowledge the talents of all applicants. Each month, the entire committee reads over and considers all applications before a democratic vote to decide the monthly recipient.

Though there has been an increase in the number of nominations from previous years, the committee still believe that the award is being underutilized, and even more young people in the municipality should be nominated each month. As with 2017, a majority of the nominations were from the same organization. As such, we believe that targeting leaders in large community groups is very effective for garnering more nominations. As such, we have contacted key figures in schools and local sporting clubs to make them aware of the award and how they can utilize it to recognise their students.

Additionally, into 2019 and beyond, the committee hopes to see an increase in the use of social media tools such as Instagram and facebook for marketing purposes. We believe this is one of the most effective and direct methods of communication with young people, and this can help increase the number of nominations by peers, rather than adults, as many of the nominations have been this year.

Overall, the Youth of the Month Award serves to recognize the many contributions of youth in the Whitehorse municipality with a formal award and it has been very rewarding for the WYRC to receive nominations for some incredibly talented young people.

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WYRC CONSULTATIONS

Mengfei Wang (Lydia)

Mayor Andrew Davenport

Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee and Andrew Davenport, Mayor of Whitehorse Council met on two occasions in 2018. WYRC members presented x6 collective ideas to council for further discussion and development in the Whitehorse community for young people. Mayor Davenport took on board these important issues and provided constructive suggestions for what WYRC may work on in regards to youth issues and also what Council could put energy into assisting with.

The WYRC first met the Mayor on February 21st at the Whitehorse Civic Centre allocated in Nunawading. WYRC members are invited to have a brief meeting with Mayor Andrew followed by a tour of council chamber. In the succeeding tour, mayor led members to offices where he and other Councilors work in. From a general view, it is easy to find how Council is constructed and what it is working on. A wide range of departments are set up to provide concise services to fit the needs of Whitehorse community and target at diverse issues that has been raised in this area. The next part of this tour was the Council Chamber where an 'Ordinary Council Meeting' and 'Special Committee Meeting' are held in this place for planning-making and public representations. WYRC members saw how a formal meeting is organised and asked questions to Mayor Davenport about anything relating to Whitehorse Council, community and youth issues, which is a constructive beginning for 2018 WYRC members to get to know about the people they are going to address important community issues.

After this initial meeting with the Mayor and introduction to Council, members learned more about Council and the tasks they are going to face be faced with. We had a greater appreciation of Council and our part in helping to create a more supportive and livable community for young people.

The second meeting took place on August 29th at Youth ConneXions where Mayor Davenport met with the WYRC along with Tony Johnson, Health and Family Services Manager and Frank Perrone, Youth Services Team Leader. Before meeting with the mayor, WYRC members identified six main issues that young people are concerning with in Whitehorse which were shared with the Mayor.

These issues were: Body Image, Mental Health, Employment and Career, Violence (domestic & community), Health Lifestyle and Safety.

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Each WYRC reported and shared a summary of issues on behalf of the whole committee and possible solutions for issues raised. Based on our concerns, Mayor Davenport provided his opinion through the view of Council sharing how these youth issues are represented and related to the general community and what council can help to improve them. With further consultations within Council and in the wider community more youth issues can be critically evaluated.

The meeting was a collaboration which members either lead or contributed to the conversation actively. All members were a strong and passionate voice representing young people and advocating on their behalf to the Mayor and Council. The issues identified and discussed with the Mayor forms a basis for the work to be undertaken by the 2019 WYRC Committee.

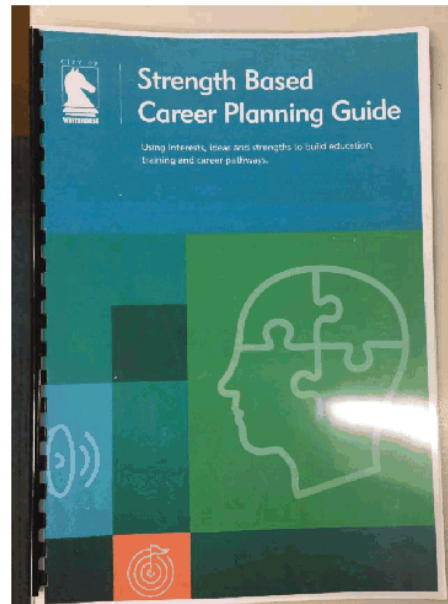


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Maureen D'Arcy – Metro Access Development Officer

The WYRC 2018 also met with Councils Metro Access Development Officer Maureen D'Arcy from the Community Development Department. Maureen consulted with us in regards to the development of a 'Strength Based Career Planning Guide' for young people. The purpose of this guide was to design it in such a way that was practical and easy for any young person to utilise. This guide proved to be an amazing success and the WYRC provided copies to young people as part of their Youth Forums for this year. Youth Services 'Youth Connexions' youth centre also currently incorporates the guide when assisting young people with resumes and other centre activities.



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‘BUILDING A BETTER TOMORROW’ WYRC YOUTH FORUMS

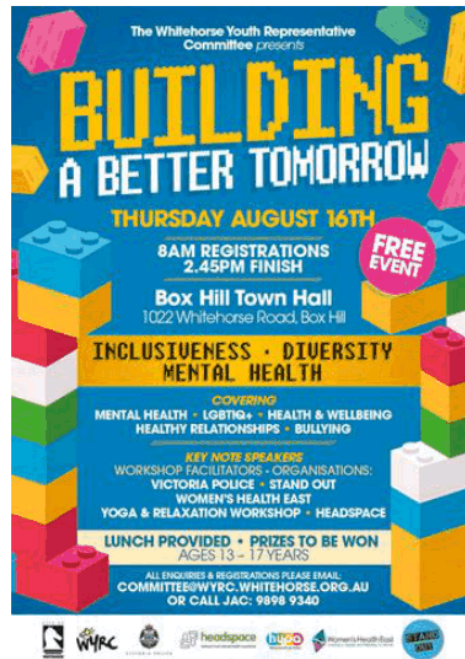
Amy Cameron & Alan Wang

Box Hill Town Hall ‘Forum’ 13 – 17 Years

On Thursday August 16, the WYRC organised and ran the 4th edition of the Whitehorse Youth Forum at the Box Hill Town Hall. With an overarching theme of ‘Building a Better Tomorrow’.

The Forum aimed to highlight key issues experienced by young people living within the City of Whitehorse and to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to address these issues, ultimately empowering participants to effectuate positive change in the community.

Subthemes addressed in the younger youth forum included inclusiveness, diversity, mental health, healthy relationships and bullying.



Planning:

In planning for the 2018 edition of the Youth Forum, it was the view of the Committee that the views and needs of our age range (13 – 25 years) differed from each other. For example, whilst schoolyard bullying may be a key issue for younger youths it may not be as prominent for older young people especially if they were no longer involved in the education sector. Likewise, unemployment would be an issue faced by older youths that younger youths may not necessarily be overly concerned with. Thus, in a marked departure from previous years, in which a single forum to encompass all youths was run, the 2018 WYRC Committee made the decision to divide the Youth Forum into two components in order to appeal to a broader audience and to provide information more suited to each particular group. One component was directed towards high school aged young people (13-17 years) and the other was directed towards older young people (18 – 25 years). Consequently the year's forums were smaller in scale compared to previous forums.

In deciding where to host the forum, the WYRC considered three venues – the Box Hill Community Arts Centre, the Nunawading Civic Centre and the Box Hill Town Hall. On the basis of ease of access, familiarity and flexibility, it was ultimately decided to host the forum at the Box Hill Town Hall. In splitting the forum in two, the Forum's budget of \$7500 was further reduced – whereas previous years' forums took place in the Town Hall's main hall, this year's forum was split between the smaller meeting rooms in the Town Hall's upper levels.

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In planning for the Forum, the committee was split into three groups – logistics, performers and marketing. Everyone was tasked with communicating directly with the potential speakers and workshop-holding organisations of the day, and such communication quickly allowed us to gain a newfound appreciation for all the effort that goes into organising large scale events involving the collaboration of various groups. In order to maximise engagement, the committee decided to structure the forum as a series of interactive workshops for the attendees to participate in.

The selection of the themes for the forum was made as a collective decision by the Committee. A wide variety of themes were considered, and a wide variety of initiatives were discussed. However, owing to time and financial constraints, many reductions and concessions had to be made. The planning for the forum provided all committee member with a valuable insight into the hard work that goes into planning large scale events, as well as the challenges faced by organisers in maximising coverage and turnout, whilst also preserving quality and maintaining efficiency and effectiveness of communication. The event was marketed through posting posters on noticeboards around the City of Whitehorse and through features in school newsletters, as well as the City of Whitehorse's print media.



The event:

The day began with registrations at 8 am. The forum was officially opened shortly after 9am, with a speech from Andrew Davenport, the Mayor of Whitehorse. At the conclusion of the mayor's speech, all attendees were treated to a presentation about bullying from Sophie Toderov from Victoria Police.

During the registration stage, in order to ensure that equal numbers attended all workshops at different times, all attendees were allocated a random colour group, which consisted of a mix of students from all the schools that attended: red, yellow and green. Depending on the assigned colour group, attendees would attend a particular activity during a particular session, and would then rotate throughout the day, with all attendees given the opportunity to participate in all three activities throughout the course of the day.

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The forum consisted of three sessions, with three activities occurring in each session:

- A 'Healthy Relationships' workshop, run by Lara Gerrand of Women's Health East
- An LGBTIQ+ workshop, run by 'Stand Out' from Ringwood Secondary College
- A 'Yoga and Relaxation' workshop, run by Helen Zee

At the conclusion of Sophie's presentation, attendees were then split up, in accordance with colour code, to attend the above workshops. Additionally, a number of stalls staffed by the various not-for-profit organisations within the City of Whitehorse was present during the forum. During the lunch break, and after the conclusion of the forum, attendees were given the opportunity to visit and interact with these stalls, giving students exposure to the wide range of services available to young people within the Whitehorse region, as well as presenting them with potential volunteering and engagement opportunities.



Reflection:

Arguably the biggest challenges facing the program were booking the venue, and budgeting. In previous years, the budget consisted of \$7500 for a single forum. As a result of this year's decision to hold two youth forums, the budget was further reduced, in order to evenly fund both events. As a result of the reduced budget and the 2 Forum Events, smaller rooms had to be booked in comparison to earlier years – whereas previous Youth Forums utilised the main hall of the Town Hall, 2018's Youth Forum utilised the smaller upstairs rooms of the Town Hall, such as the Gawler Room and the Matsudo Room.

The overall reception of the forum, from the attendees, the presenters and the committee, was positive. Notwithstanding the minor issues that arose in the planning of the forum, at the end of the day, the forum can be viewed as a success, with both committee members and attendees standing to benefit immensely from the event. The Youth Forum served as a fun, informal medium to educate the public about the issues affecting teenagers and young adults in the City of Whitehorse and helped to empower them to address these issues in the near future, and it provided a good opportunity for the young people of Whitehorse to engage and interact with the various not-for-profit organisations and help services located in the City of Whitehorse. From the perspective of the stallholders, and the workshop presenters, the forum served as an excellent means of increasing their brand awareness. From the perspective of the WYRC, the forum was an excellent learning experience, by helping us to develop skills in event management, budgeting, teamwork and civic participation.

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The Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee of 2018 would like to thank the following people and organisations for their invaluable support and contributions towards the Whitehorse Youth Forum. The success of the forum would have been impossible without them:

- Eastern Community Legal Centre
- Eastern Access Community Health
- Gamblers Help Eastern
- Headspace
- Helen Zee
- HYP A
- Lara Gerrand, and Women's Health East
- Sophie Toderov and Victoria Police
- 'Stand Out' From Ringwood Secondary College
- TMG College
- Andrew Davenport, and the Whitehorse City Council
- Box Hill Town Hall Staff.



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Box Hill TAFE Workshops 18 – 25 Years

Overview

As previously discussed, the 2018 Youth Forum was split into two separate forums. The older Youth forum was provided for 18-25 year olds who were given more of a range of workshops than talks. This decision came about as we initially attempted to run a forum in the same format as for the 13 – 17 year olds but found there was not a strong interest from this older age group. Consequently we attempted a different approach.

We held the workshops in Box Hill Institute (BHI) Nelson Campus on Monday the 15th and Thursday the 18th of October. The Workshops were open to anyone who was attending BHI or from the Whitehorse municipality.

Additionally we also specifically had VCAL classes from BHI that attended which was very positive. We decided to give it a more casual approach for older young people so it would fit within their time schedules and lifestyles more. Our focus for the work shops were, Healthy relationships, career and employment, practical and affordable cooking, yoga and relaxation with our overall theme of 'Building A Better Tomorrow'.

The event

Overall the day was a success, we had lots of people attend and plenty of positive feedback. The separate worksshops each had their own class room and were well attended with students ready to learn.

The cooking workshop run by Claudio Conte was by far the most popular. Within the cooking workshop students were taught about nutrition and affordable cooking, showing that it doesn't take a lot of time or money to eat healthy.



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Our Yoga and wellbeing workshops run by Helen Zee were silent rooms where students could participate, practice yoga poses designed to relax the body and mind. Our Healthy Relationship workshops run by Lara Gerrand from 'Womens Health East' were also received well with young people attending learning about what a healthy relationship looks like and resources on what to do if relationships were deemed unhealthy for different reasons. HYPA (Helping Young People Achieve) ran our Career and Employment workshops which were also received well offering practical hands on advice and support about getting job ready.

We were met with such positive feedback on all of our Workshops offered. Students explained to us that they were really in need of the relaxation during their busy Tafe schedules to help support them specifically with their mental health but also with their lives in general. This was a learning experience for the WYRC and the Box Hill TAFE as a Forum in this format had not been attempted before. Despite this challenge we managed to get through the workshops with nothing but positivity.

Conclusion

The day it's self was not an easy one to coordinate being the first the WYRC had attempted! However once it had begun it flowed through smoothly, with students and presenters alike enjoying themselves.

The idea to have two separate forums, although more demanding to organized we also found more rewarding as the needs for young people of different ages vary to much for them to all be lumped together in the same format addressing the same issues. The older forum



workshops offered were very well received by all and we truly believe that the skills gained from the workshops will be useful within everyone's day to day lives for year to come.

We are very thankful for all the support we received and without the contributions we had the day would have not been possible and we hope to be able to do this again in the years to come.

A big special thanks to all our contributors:

- Claudio Conte (affordable cooking)
- Helen Zee (yoga)
- HYPA (career and employment)
- Lara Gerrand, and Women's Health East
- Box Hill TAFE and VCAL Coordinator Tyson McNamara
- Whitehorse City Council.

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WHITEHORSE SPRING FESTIVAL

Erin Page

This year at Spring Fest we combined with our 'Flying Pig Events' FReeZA Committee and Youth Services to put together a Whitehorse Youth Services Stall for the festival. The festival itself was amazing with brilliant performers as well as other great stalls and incredible food. It was held at the Whitehorse Gardens behind the Civic Centre and many people turned up to support the local community groups that had stalls in the festival.

We decided with FReeZA that we would run three activities to try and attract the youth coming to the festival and have some fun. We ran fairy bread making, smoothie bikes, and a human foosball game. For people to participate they had to buy tickets, smoothies were 2 tickets each and the foosball and fairy bread were worth 1 ticket each. When buying the tickets we had youth information services available for people to look at such as brochures for headspace, WYRC and job services. We found that this was a great way to let people know about youth services in Whitehorse. With the money that we raised from buying the tickets, we chose to support a foundation called Pinchapoo. This foundation raises money for the homeless and takes the small shampoo bottles one finds in hotels to give to the homeless. We raised \$500 for this foundation by the end of the day and this was a great achievement.

The activities that we ran throughout the day were extremely popular especially the smoothie bikes. I was one of the people in charge of this activity throughout the day. It was a great way to get to know the people in Freeza better as they were working alongside us throughout the day. We continuously ran out of supplies and were running to get more throughout the day as the smoothies were so popular. It was incredibly hot and this cold treat provided the perfect solution to the weather. We put the ingredients in the blenders for those who wanted a smoothie and then took them over to the bikes to blend the cool drinks. The foosball was also very popular and throughout the whole day, we had a constant line of young people wanting to play. The fairy bread was also a great success and the young people were able to have fun cutting out shapes and decorating their sweet treats. The Freeza stage provided beautiful music throughout the day and some of the performers were incredible. Overall, it was a great experience that everyone on the committee enjoyed.



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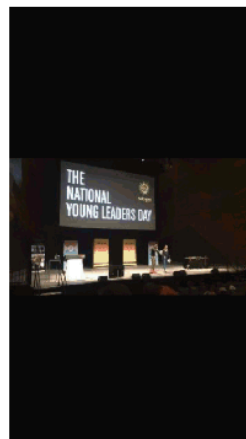
HALOGEN YOUNG LEADERS' CONFERENCE

Nelushi Dissanayake & Jasmine Szymakowski

Being able to participate in the Halogen Young Leaders Conference was probably one of the best experiences of my life. At this conference there were students from all over Victoria. The day was split up into 3 sessions with a morning tea break and a lunch break in the middle. During the first session, Cosentino the illusionist was the keynote speaker. His speech was really eye-opening as he told us about his life and how he got to where he is now. Some key lessons I took from his speech was to never give up, to have creativity, self-awareness, and that life is about perception.

The next 2 speakers were Holly Ferling and Leisal Jones. Since they are both from the sports industry, this gave me a different outlook on leadership and life. Leisal Jones has been my idol since I was 6, ever since I started swimming and he being the youngest Olympic gold medallist continues to this day to inspire me. A lesson I got from her speech was that hard work is key and you have to be prepared to go in for the long haul. Overall having the opportunity to attend this event was an honour because I learnt more skills on leadership and communication. We also had the privilege to listen to Tongan actor Uli Latukefu who spoke to us on how he had to choose what was right for him, regardless of what others thought. He came from humble, inexperienced beginnings and explained to us how if you put the work in, and grasp every opportunity you're given you can achieve the unexpected.

On behalf of all of us I can confidently say that going to this conference was one of the best experiences of our lives and have taken a lot of inspiration and lessons from all the keynote speakers.



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VICTORIAN YOUTH WEEK

Vivian Wong

In celebration of Victorian Youth Week, Councils Youth Services along with the FReeZA Flying Pig Events Committee and WYRC organised two awesome events designed to celebrate young people and engage them and the community in a positive way.

The first event was a fun-filled event at Box Hill Skate Park on Tuesday 17th April. Our aim was to spread awareness of issues concerning youth and their future, such as mental health and gambling, in a way that was enjoyable and easily accessible. We did this by holding a barbeque, setting up stands with many freebies, and providing free skateboarding lessons for young people which was thoroughly enjoyed on the day!

Our Second event was a Youth Festival at the Box Hill Mall on Friday the 20th April. This event included a Youth Stage which showcased young local musicians, food, youth information and giveaways. Being in such a central location, this event was particularly well attended and gave us the opportunity to connect with many young people and community members in celebration of young people.

An important focus for both events was through providing the free services and information to the public, we also wanted to remind youth of the assistance they can receive and the opportunities they are able to seize as members of the Whitehorse community. Advertising the Creative Youth Competition and the Youth Connexions services were just the tip of the iceberg. Overall, an eventful and pleasant afternoon was spent getting to know young members of the community and a joy to see that they were gaining more insight into the assistance they could seek if they encountered any problems.



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CONCLUSION

Jasmine Szymakowski

The WYRC 2018 has been involved with many successful events over our year together. We have improved and flourished as a team and individually. We have proven through our work ethic and passion that we can give young people in Whitehorse a more diverse array of opportunities to get involved in and also be their voice representing young people and their views and concerns to Council and to the wider community. We have achieved this through all the initiative we have been involved with from meeting with the Mayor, our Youth Forums and writing articles on youth issues for the Whitehorse News.

We would like to give a wholehearted thank you to the Youth ConneXions workers who helped us through the year; Jac, Emma and Zoey. The work and time they put into the committee is greatly appreciated. They kept the group running smoothly and guided us to represent young people in the best way possible. I would also like to thank the Whitehorse Council for supporting and keeping the program running.

The WYRC has had the most incredible year, we wish luck to all those on the committee in 2019!



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