

Attachments

Delegated Committee of Council Meeting

Monday 10 May 2021

6.1.1 Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee (WYRC) 2019 and 2020 Annual Report

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Annual Report

2020

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6.1.1 – ATTACHMENT 1. WYRC Annual Report 2020

Introduction

Richard Wallwork

2020 was a year like no other causing unprecedented change and disruption to our lives and the world we live. The Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee was no different. With schools closed, businesses shut down, in person gatherings banned, and Victorians forced to stay home, the COVID-19 pandemic forced significant changes on the committee in delivering its key commitments. But this only made the work the committee does evermore important in serving young people in our community.

WYRC Members 2020



Natasha Mulay



Joshua Lau



Alan Wang



Edward Winkler



Richard Wallwork



Yvonne Liu



Roan Nair



Ally Wong



Kyle Italiano



Lavinia Tjangdjaja



Omisha Gill

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WYRC Background

Natasha Mulay

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 Councils 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 effectively being the voice for all young people and representing them.

The primary aims include;

- Advocating important youth issues raised by young people in the community to Council.
- Developing and hosting events for young people.
- Educating the community on important youth issues.
- Opening new doors to young people so they can easily get involved in the community
- Representing the young people of Whitehorse

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 Cultural Awareness Training 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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Induction and meeting the Mayor

Richard Wallwork

The year's Induction Meeting was like any other with the eleven of us meeting for the first time on Wednesday the 5th of February at Youth Connexions in the Suite above Box Hill Central – there was no hint of the unprecedented disruption that would occur in the following months. We grabbed our complimentary WYRC hoodies and t-shirts and sat around a table for the first time where we were formally inducted, signing our commitment document as WYRC members. One the key first tasks was to brainstorm our Group Agreement that would contain the values, responsibilities, and commitments we wanted to make to each other and to the committee given our standing as representatives of young people within the Whitehorse community. We then had some fun with icebreaker activities like 'Getting to know each other Jenga' that allowed us to get to know one another and made some preliminary plans of the activities and events for the year.

A fortnight later was our first meeting at the Nunawading Civic Centre with Frank Perrone (Youth Services Team Leader) and Mayor Sharon Ellis. Frank formally explained how the committee's work fitted into the broader context within Youth Services at Whitehorse City Council and how it benefited young people across Whitehorse. We were then given an extensive tour through the Civic Centre and Council Chambers with Mayor Ellis to understand the role of the Council and the work they do for the community, and how our role as volunteers served the Council and local community.



WYRC Training

Richard Wallwork

A core component of the WYRC are training sessions that cover a wide range of skills and topics as they serve as representatives and leaders of young people in the community. Training opportunities can be suggested by WYRC members where they believe in it is the committee's interest and for their development. Due to COVID-19, we had the opportunity to focus more on our training opportunities. Most sessions were forced to be virtual but members have all given positive feedback for each session and gained valuable knowledge throughout.

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Event Management Training - Ash King

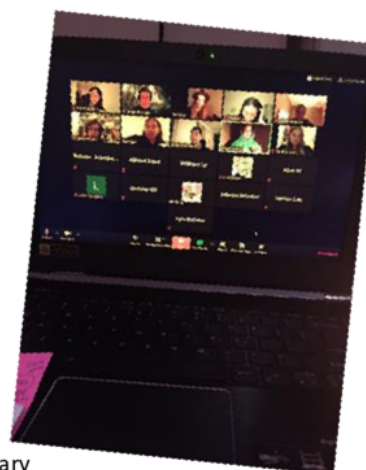
Richard Wallwork

Our first training session in conjunction with Council's other youth committee the FReeZA Flying Pig Events and was on March 4 with Ash King. Ash is an educator and part time Blues musician and has an impressive amount of knowledge and experience in the area of event management. This training was essential to help us with planning our major event, the annual Youth Forum. We discussed how event management responsibilities can be broken down into teams such as Logistics, Promotions and Marketing, Performing and Activities; with each team having their own unique roles and responsibilities. We discussed the order of steps to take on planning a major event and the numerous considerations we would have to make on aspects such as budget, venue, promotion, scheduling, and much more. Ash used his experiences as performer and musician to take us through how he organised gigs with his band. To conclude, Ash showed us a documentary of the legendary Woodstock festival in 1969. Ash's approachable, down to earth personality, and experience as a musician made him a perfect candidate to lead our first Training session on Event Management.

Promotions and Marketing Training - Ash King

Richard Wallwork

A couple of months later, Ash returned to hold a Promotions and Marketing training session on May 5. This aspect may be the most important in any event, but during the COVID pandemic where all events would have to be virtual, it was absolutely essential to get right. With the Youth Forum on the horizon, we brainstormed various strategies to best promote the event and agreed that a social media presence was absolutely essential supplemented by communication with schools, community groups, and local council. Given Ash's experience in using social media to promote his band and music, he went into significant detail to demonstrate to us how to use Facebook's advertising service to reach the widest audience. We concluded by watching a documentary on the failed Fyre festival and discussed the lessons we could learn.



SYN Radio Basics Training – RMIT

Natasha Mulay

As a member of the WYRC 2020, I had the amazing opportunity to undergo radio basics training with Danny Hickey and Hayley Foster from the Student Youth Network Radio on the 28th of April. This experience encompassed indicative hand gestures commonly used in the radio industry, the planning undertaken before broadcasting, and various insights into a source of entertainment and information that Australians frequently encounter – the radio. The Student Youth Network's Radio Basics Training was directed towards young individuals, and the WYRC and Freeza committee delved into youth issues in an honest and engaging way. Moreover, we had the chance to evaluate how we as young people, would like to see these concerns discussed and interpreted in all forms of media.

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By hosting virtual mock radio sessions in groups of four, I realized how teams of enthusiastic young people could support their cohort, simply by talking about aspects of their own lives.

Of course, there was a plethora of insightful information that was provided in this virtual training session. Despite the 'you-know-what', this session is one of the many WYRC experiences that I cherish from the year 2020, for the mentorship and warm camaraderie with the SYN Radio Station, and my fellow members from WYRC and Freeza. It taught me the importance of teamwork, openness and enthusiasm in improving parts of my own life, as well as the lives of those around me.

Social Movements and Campaigns Training - Young Workers Centre

Alan Wang

Throughout the latter half of 2020, culminating in an online webinar in November, the WYRC undertook training in relation to workplace rights and campaigning for change from the Young Workers Centre.

The Young Workers Centre is a community legal centre which seeks to empower young people working in Victoria with the knowledge and skills needed to end workplace exploitation and insecurity. They do this through assisting young people in Victoria (i.e. people 30 and under) with resolving their workplace issues and with helping them learn more about their rights at work. They work to achieve the latter through producing resources aimed at assisting young people to understand their rights at work, such as fact sheets, as well as running training days and social events for young people.

The Young Workers Centre provided the WYRC with the following modules:

- **YOUR RIGHTS AT WORK**
This module aims to develop one's knowledge of employment relations, workplace rights and minimum standards.
- **SAFE AT WORK**
This module aims to provide students with a practical understanding of Occupational Health & Safety procedures and how to keep safe at work.
- **BULLYING & DISCRIMINATION AT WORK**
This module gives students an understanding of what constitutes workplace bullying & discrimination, and provides information about how to respond to these issues when they arise.
- **SOCIAL MOVEMENTS & CAMPAIGNS**
This module covers various strategies for creating change in communities.

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The first three topics were covered through self-directed e-learning modules, while the Social Movements & Campaigns module was covered through a Zoom webinar with one of the Young Workers Centre's organisers. Using the case study of the 2017 Marriage Equality postal survey, which resulted in the success of the "Yes" vote, the WYRC learned about how the campaign was designed and implemented.

The WYRC's engagement with the Young Workers Centre's training modules illustrates the beneficial value of the WYRC engaging with youth-centred organisations – this is something that future WYRC committees should continue to do. The Young Workers Centre's training has been of significant to the WYRC's committee members – the WYRC's committee members are now equipped with a greater understanding of their rights and responsibilities in the workplace, as well as being equipped with the tools to drive positive change. This has in turn, placed them in a position where upon leaving the program, they can continue to effectuate positive leadership and change in their communities.



Council Event Training - Hannah Milne

Alan Wang

In May, the WYRC underwent event training. During this training, the WYRC learned about the various events run by the Whitehorse City Council, as well as the aims and purposes of these events. The committee also learned about the multiple steps that were involved in planning events. Council events discussed included Spring Festival and Global Fiesta. Hannah took us through an extensive training session exploring the various aspect of event management including risk assessments.

Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the WYRC were ultimately unable to host in-person events in 2020. Nevertheless, the knowledge obtained from the training will be valuable for the WYRC members as they embark on future work, study or leadership activities.

Leadership Consultation and Advocacy – Tyson McNamara

Richard Wallwork

On 29 April we had our Leadership and Advocacy Training with Tyson McNamara from Box Hill Institute of TAFE. Tyson is a passionate educator with teaching experience in high school, TAFE, and University and brings unique insight into education and leadership. Tyson spoke about various topics such as how we could empower others, future workplaces and employment trends, and communication skills. In the second half of the session, Tyson invited us to share more about ourselves, to identify and discuss our personal situations as he provided tailored guidance on how we can serve as effective leaders in schools, workplaces, and in community.

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Cultural Awareness Training - Centre for Multicultural Youth

Lavinia Tjangdjaja

The Whitehorse community is well known for its multiculturalism and diversity which makes our community so unique and distinctive from other communities. However, we must acknowledge that the Whitehorse community was built on the Wurundjeri land of the Kulin Nation. Thus, in order to gain a deeper understanding of how we can respect the Traditional Custodians of the land we stand on, participating in the virtual Cultural Awareness Webinar gave the WYRC the opportunity to hear from Community Elders, acknowledge the history and the people of the country that we stand on, whilst also understanding how to recognise and tackle unconscious bias and racism. Coming from different cultures and backgrounds, this training allowed us to learn from each other and gave us an opportunity to reflect on Indigenous core values and traditions that need to be salvaged and protected. Overall, the Cultural Awareness Training was definitely one out of the many training sessions that left a lasting impression on the committee.

First Aid Training – St Johns

Richard Wallwork

Towards the end of the year on 28 November with COVID restrictions largely lifted, we were able to host St John to conduct Level 2 First Aid training with the WYRC and FReeZA Committees. First Aid is a vital skill for our members as they go onto participate in various conferences, activities, events, or in any environment, and can possibly mean the difference between life and death in an emergency situation. I believe it is the most important training session we would do, which is why it was shame that we could not do it earlier. The event lasted the whole day with our trainer; it was deep and through course into learning how to deal with numerous first aid emergency situations. It was perfect for those wanting a refresher or earning their certificate for the first time with a mix of theory using modern technology and practical activities to learn CPR and treating injuries. Upon completion, everyone earned their Provide First Aid certificate which included CPR.

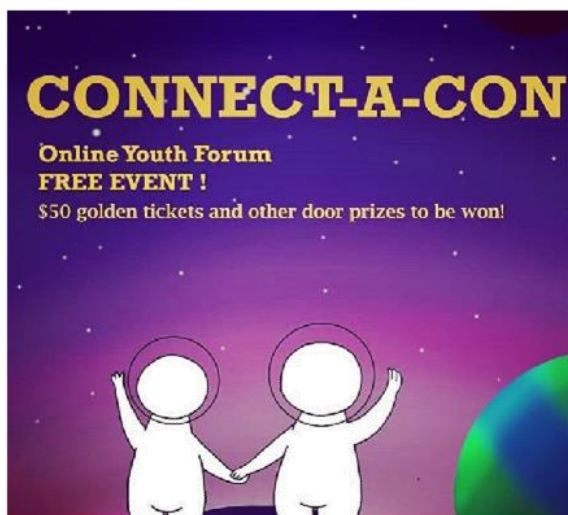
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'CONNECT-A-CON' WYRC Annual Youth Forum

Lavinia Tjangdjaja

Due to the unprecedented times, we were unable to proceed with face to face Youth Forum as in previous years thus, the WYRC decided to hold a free virtual youth forum under the theme 'CONNECT-A-CON' on the 4th of December in which we aimed to virtually connect young individuals in our community, helping them overcome the feeling of isolation during the lockdown whilst educating them on certain youth issues, providing them a helping hand during such obscure times.

The WYRC decided to focus on four main youth issues; international students, mental health, healthy relationships and future careers and employment pathways. The WYRC worked alongside several other organisations such as Black Dog, Headspace, Relationships Australia, Deakin University and the Centre for International Students Australia (CISA) in order to deliver a panel discussion. Our Panel also included a young international student sourced through CISA. This panel discussion invited young individuals to reach out to professionals whilst receiving comprehensive insight on certain youth issues and services that young individuals can utilise. Furthermore, we, as a committee, were able to learn valuable knowledge that we were not taught in school or university from this panel discussion. The experience of International Students was one of the high lights helping us to understand that this particular youth issue needs more focus and attention.



Although we would have loved to have our forum onsite as usual, the online Panel Discussion definitely challenged us as a committee and allowed us to develop new skills such as learning how to use technology and also how to organise an engaging online panel discussion. The online format also allowed us to reach out to more young individuals that could watch the recorded panel discussion or attend the virtual webinar regardless of their location.

Overall, the Panel Discussion was a great way to end the year and we are sure that all that attended went away with new knowledge and interesting thoughts.

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Young Person of the Month

Richard Wallwork

The Whitehorse City Council's Young Person of the Month award recognises young people under the age of 27 for their personal achievements and for making outstanding contributions to the Whitehorse Community. This may be in the area of Arts & Culture, Music, Sport, Education, or any form of community participation. Young people may be nominated by an adult or peer who has witnessed the efforts, achievements, and contributions of the young person in the aforementioned areas.

Winners receive an JB-HI-FI gift voucher, a feature article in Whitehorse News and possible appearances on the council's social media pages, and nomination for Whitehorse Young Citizen of the Year who is chosen by the Council at its Australia Day Civic Awards ceremony.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, schools, community programs, co-curricular and recreational activities were shut down for much of the year. This resulted in an understandable drop the number of the nominations sent in for half of the year. However, it was heartening to see a surge in nominations towards the end of the year as restrictions eased. We strongly believe in the award in recognising young people for their efforts and achievements and intend to continue promotion of the award on our social media channels.

Increasing the awareness of the award and encouraging more people to send in nominations have been long running goals of the WYRC and amidst the pandemic, we made a couple of small but significant changes. The first was allowing young people to nominate themselves (while still listing a referee) to hopefully increase the number of nominations. Additionally, because of COVID-19 making it difficult for community participation, we allowed for personal achievements to have more weight in the adjudication process.

Selecting the nominee is a great responsibility and an honour to reward a young person who has made substantial contributions and achievements. Once all nominations have been received for the month, and after some discussion, the committee votes to decide the recipient. We usually get multiple nominations each month and we would like to acknowledge the many fine young people in our community.

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WYRC Community 'Our Say' COVID Survey

Lavinia Tjangdjaja

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the WYRC decided to conduct a survey reaching out to individuals within the Whitehorse area in order to gain an understanding of how they were coping during the lockdown and how the crisis has affected their lives. The survey was targeted towards young people, community workers, parents and teachers, including questions regarding drug and alcohol, relationships, safety and several other important issue areas. We were aware that individuals may not be inclined to complete surveys, thus as an incentive, we used a \$50 voucher in order to persuade young people to complete the survey. The idea was to use the results of this survey to gain a deeper understanding of a variety of youth issues that are affecting the Whitehorse community and in turn, allowing us to reconsider how we should support young people in our community during lockdown and also in recovery. Despite our best efforts to promote and share with the local community we were not overwhelmed with responses unfortunately. The results that we did receive back indicated that generally across the board young people and the community were affected by Covid. For young people in particular Covid did have a negative effect on their mental health, relationships and employment opportunities. International students in particular were hit hard by the impact of the pandemic.

Conclusion

Alan Wang

2020 was an unusual and extraordinary year, a year like no other. Whilst the year was at times difficult, the year was valuable in improving the resilience of all the members of the committee and showcased the versatility and adaptability of the Committee and its events. With young people being a demographic that was markedly affected by the year's events, the WYRC played a valuable and important role in ensuring that the needs of young people were acknowledged and heard throughout the year.

The 2020 WYRC committee would like to thank Jac and Zoey, our facilitators for the year, for the guidance and support they provided throughout the year. Additionally, the committee would like to acknowledge the continued and generous support of the Whitehorse Council, whose generosity enable the valuable work of the WYRC to continue.

We wish the 2021 WYRC the best of luck for the upcoming year.



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ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee members 2019



Lachlan Ansell



Hazel Chin



Shene Chiou



Jocelyn Chong



Json Doan



James Field



Grant Thomson-
Henderson



Roan Nair



Yash Sinha



Ananya Sundar



Alan Wang



Alan Wu



Jacqueline Piper & Zoey Deane - Whitehorse Youth Services

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Background of WYRC - Jocelyn Chong

The Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee (WYRC) is a group of young individuals (aged between 12 and 25) working together to advocate on specific youth issues and become a strong voice for young people in the wider community. This one year program is a valuable platform for us to improve on our skill base and participate in worthwhile and relevant training initiatives. We attend fortnightly meetings hosted at Youth Connexions in Box Hill and here we share our ideas and thoughts about particular youth issues and work on upcoming youth events.

Once in a while, we have the benefit of having one of our Councillors attend our meetings where we are able to directly address our concerns about certain youth issues but, also learn from their expertise and experience. Our facilitators who help us along the way are Jacqueline Piper and Zoey Deane. Both of which have years of experience working with young people in an environment like this.

The application and recruitment process is fairly straight forward; upon submitting an expression of interest and applying via Council's 'Better Impact' system we are then contacted to attend an interview. If appropriate, our applications are finalised and become official members of the WYRC.

This year, we focused on six issues in particular that have guided our discussions:

- Family violence
- Safety
- Mental health
- Employment
- Drug and alcohol
- Body image

Our Aims:

- To discuss and address particular youth subject matters based young peoples and the communities interests and concerns.
- To participate in relevant training and skill development.
- To build knowledge on relevant youth services available.
- To consult and advocate for young people and provide relevant information.

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WYRC Induction including meeting the Mayor - Ananya Sundar

The Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee for 2019 was formed in January following recruitment including a series of interviews conducted by Jacqueline Piper (Youth Participation Officer) and Zoey Deane (School Focused Youth Service Coordinator). A Committee of twelve youth members was formed.



Our first meeting!!

Our first meeting was at Youth Connexions where we all met each other for the first time. We got to know each other, formed our group agreement and started to plan out our year together. We also received induction manuals which contained previous annual reports, schedules for the meetings and chairing/action taking roles for the year, flyers for previous youth forums, contact numbers for organisations within the Council and information about all aspects of the WYRC. This manual proved to be useful because it served as a reference point throughout the year and helped us execute our forum and other events with a lot of guidance from previous years.

As part of our second meeting we had the opportunity to meet Mayor Bill Bennett who kindly dedicated time to meet with us and discuss the youth issues we believed were prevalent within the community. We had the opportunity to share our views with the Mayor who was extremely responsive to our opinions and assured us that he would take our

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discussion into consideration. This meeting also allowed us to learn about each other's passions on youth issues as it was one of the early meetings we had had.

The Mayor Bill Bennett also gave us a tour of the Council chambers where we saw different meeting rooms, main room where the Council gathered, the reception area and foyer. We were also given the opportunity to sit at the Mayor and Councillors' seats and given an understanding as to how they may have conducted their meetings. During this time, we also had the opportunity to introduce ourselves to the Mayor and explain our roles in the Committee and the 2019 Committee's goals.



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'SHINING A LIGHT' WYRC Youth Forum - Roan Nair and Alan Wu

Box Hill Town Hall Forum 13 – 17 Years

On 19 August 2019, the Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee (WYRC) held its fifth annual Whitehorse Youth Forum at Box Hill Town Hall. 2019's theme was 'Shining a Light', with the intention that the forum promotes awareness of stigmatised youth issues in a friendly and supportive environment. 100 students attended from four local high schools and the VCAL program at Box Hill Institute. In contrast to previous years, 2019's forum had a broader focus, covering six issues: mental health, healthy lifestyles, healthy relationships, safety, career and employment and body image.

Planning

This event demanded active contributions from each member to discuss, organise and assemble the details and logistics of the forum. The WYRC commenced its discussion in our fortnightly meetings in the first quarter of the year with a discussion and conclusion of six primary issues that the forum would address. These issues were derived from those that were brought up by the 2018 WYRC. Once those issues were decided, the committee then allocated small groups of 2-4 people to investigate and research potential organisations that would deliver informative and impactful workshops on their designated issue. To highlight the importance of body image and represent it further, the WYRC made a decision to allocate body image as the issue that would deliver a keynote address. After allocating roles and responsibilities, the WYRC began the next step of the process through an initial proposition of transforming the nature of the event. Informally titled, 'The Traveling Forum'; the Committee began discussing the ways in which this creative project would work from a logistical perspective; due to how the event would now require our organisations to be booked at multiple venues and times instead of the one venue and one time of previous forums. As the WYRC Committee began contacting organisations, problems and difficulties arose resulting from how uncertain the details were. The travelling forum demanded strict schedules from schools which the schools could not provide in time. With these obstacles serving as a hindrance to the progression of our event, the WYRC had to reconsider their tactics. The issue was resolved with a unanimous decision to run the forum as a one-day event where schools and other organisations would come to a venue.

After we decided to run the forum as a one-day only event, the Committee began investigating a venue and after analysing some options and assessing their viability on how it would fit into our budget, the WYRC decided to run the forum at Box Hill Town Hall. With the venue and the date locked in, the Committee reinitiated their own private research and outsourcing of organisations that would run workshops and address their respective youth issue. We spent the next period of time organising workshops with organisations and we eventually sorted out a final list of participating organisations. The next logistical process was organising the catering that was supplied by a local business who made sandwiches both with meat and vegetables. After the major logistics were organised, the next step was coming up with ideas for promotion. One of the committee members, Roan Nair had contacted a student designer to draft promotion posters for the event. In the promotion time, Roan Nair and the WYRC worked together with the student designer, Mary Gavrilidou to create the promotional flyer that would be sent to schools to promote and for them to register and attend the event. In this process, Mary emailed



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design drafts of the colour scheme in various patterns and colours. In the end, the WYRC decided on a brightly coloured, modernist flyer that they felt would be visually engaging. Once these posters were sent out to school and registration numbers were being organised, the WYRC held meetings to discuss the processes and responsibilities needed for the event. Prior to the event, the Committee did a site visit to inspect the venue. This site visit allowed us to set up the tables that had Council resources on it, and choose the rooms where the workshops would be held. Once everything was put in place, the WYRC felt confident that the event would be a success.

The Event:

The Committee members arrived at 7am, to start setting up for the day. At 8.30am, schools started arriving for registrations. Each student received a small showbag with youth services information, small giveaways and a forum brochure. The event officially began at 9 am with an opening speech by Mayor Cr Bill Bennett, which was followed by the keynote address for one of the issues, body image, delivered by the Butterfly Foundation.

Next, forum attendees were given the opportunity to participate in three chosen workshop sessions for the day covering three of the remaining five issues. Workshop preferences for the three sessions were selected during registrations on a first-come first-served basis. Although some workshop sessions had fewer people than expected, numbers were mostly equal in all workshops.

The five workshops were:
Healthy Relationships, by Relationships Victoria
Drugs and Alcohol, by Youth Support and Advocacy Service
Community Safety, by Victoria Police
Career and Employment, by Box Hill Institute
Mental Health, by Headspace



Each workshop consisted of a short presentation by the speakers, activity sessions where students completed activities in discussion groups, and some time for students to ask the speakers questions about their issue and their organisation. Each session was aimed to be practical yet interesting for students. For example, the police who presented the community safety workshop humorously shared some of their most memorable experiences on the job.

During the lunch break, students and teachers were provided homemade sandwiches by a local caterer in an effort to promote healthy eating. While lunch was being provided in the downstairs foyer, students were also able to visit stalls set up by youth and community organisations to learn about the services and opportunities available for young people in Whitehorse.

Finally, at the end of the event, students and teachers also took part in an informal feedback session about the event as a whole and each workshop. This part of the forum involved participants responding to several survey questions about the forum by placing stickers on a

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bullseye scale. The centre of the bullseye represented 'excellent', while the rim of the bullseye represented 'needs improvement'.



Reflection:

A challenge that has been faced over the past few years running the event is the limited number of schools attending the event. This year we had five schools attending, which was more than previous years but, still far short of the fourteen secondary schools in Whitehorse. In future, the forum can be promoted earlier in the year to give schools enough flexibility to add the Forum to their calendars. A 'travelling forum' may also be considered, where multiple forums are delivered as school incursions to eliminate the hassle experienced by teachers when approving and rolling out school excursions.



Another challenge experienced by the Committee was working within the Youth Forum budget. For the past two years, the Committee has identified the need to hold both a younger youth (13-17 years) and an older youth (18-25 years) forum in order to target different groups of youth and their differing needs. Because the \$7500 budget has been spent on two events instead of one, smaller rooms were booked and fewer students could attend each event. Furthermore, the Committee is also restricted in choosing forum presenters, as nearly 75% of the budget is allocated to venue and catering costs.

Overall, the 2019 Forum was a valuable experience for both attendees and Committee members. Through the fun and interactive presentations, attendees were encouraged to discuss and address difficult youth and issues with their peers. Committee members also developed event management, teamwork and community engagement skills. The positive feedback about the presenters and workshops demonstrates the merit of the split forum structure with multiple small workshop groups. WYRC would like to thank the following organisations and individuals for their invaluable support and contribution to the 2019 Whitehorse Youth Forums: Cr Bill Bennett and Whitehorse City Council, Headspace, Butterfly Foundation, Relationships Victoria, Tyson McNamara and Box Hill Institute, Youth Support and Advocacy Service, Victoria Police, Eastern Access Community Health, Whitehorse Manningham Libraries, TMG College, and the Box Hill Town Hall staff.



6.1.1 – ATTACHMENT 2. WYRC Annual Report 2019 Update

Box Hill TAFE Workshop - Jocelyn Chong and Alan Wang

On 15th of October, WYRC held a workshop for TAFE students at Box Hill Institute. This workshop was aimed at young people aged 18 - 25 that our younger youth forum did not cover. The workshop focused on mental health and was presented by Headspace in a similar format to the Youth Forum workshops. Originally, more workshops were planned, covering the other focus issues in the secondary student forum. However, the original date had to be changed due to an unexpected change in the TAFE schedule and presenters were not able to attend on the new date.

Overall, the workshop ran smoothly and was fairly simple to organise as classrooms were booked and supervised by Tyson McNamara, the Youth Programs Coordinator at Box Hill Institute. We received positive feedback from many students. It was noticed that students were less likely to contribute and pay attention to the presenters, possibly because the workshop was held during lunchtime, just before Subway catering was provided.

In future, WYRC would like to see a full day event with more presenters and students. Although a full day event would require more planning and funds, it would be worth the effort as presenters would be more willing to commit their time to a full day event as opposed to a short one hour or half day session. However, the full day event would need to be promoted well and fit within the schedules of TAFE students so that students are willing to attend.



6.1.1 – ATTACHMENT 2. WYRC Annual Report 2019 Update

Spring Festival - Ananya Sundar and Hazel Chin

On the 20th of October, the Spring Festival, a renowned Council initiative was held in the Nunawading Civic Centre. The Spring Festival, held by Council every year is an event that allows community organisations and groups to build and foster a relationship with the community. The 2019 Whitehorse Spring Festival, similar to previous years, had many food trucks and stalls by different groups, stage performances and carnival rides. This year, the Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee worked alongside the FreeZA Committee and Youth Services to present a youth area. At the festival, the youth area also featured a youth stage that allowed young musicians in the Whitehorse region to showcase their talent.

Other activities organised by the WYRC and FFreeZA included a youth art market, juice bike activity and a 3D drawing activity. All activities attracted a lot of attention and provided opportunities to connect with the local community. The youth art market provided a rare opportunity for young artists to promote their work to the community in a safe and supported space. Additionally, the juice bikes had a two-dollar donation which ultimately went back into the budget due to the high expenditure of the activities provided for the Spring Festival. The bikes were used to promote a healthy lifestyle, a topic that was outlined in the Municipal Youth Plan. The juice bikes activity involved a bike connected to a blender with fruit and juices in it, which the community members then cycled on to generate energy to power the blender and make a smoothie.



The 3D printing activity, linking in with the STEM learning theme of Spring Festival, was interlinked to education and allowed people to use their creativity to model 3D versions of items that they wanted. The youth area also had a youth information stall for the community to understand what was being offered by the Council for youth in the area, and also advertised FreeZA's events and the Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee. Additionally, a few of us conducted surveys within and the surrounding region of the youth area about attitudes towards healthy relationships and safety in the community, focus areas for the Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee this year. This allowed us to better understand the community's opinions on these issues faced by youth in the community.

6.1.1 – ATTACHMENT 2. WYRC Annual Report 2019 Update

IDAHOBBIT Day - James Field

IDAHOBBIT DAY is the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia that occurs on the 17th of May every year. The WYRC took part in supporting a day that was filled with joy, activities, and active support of the LGBTIQA+ community. On the day we had a multitude of different activities occurring such as circus activities, DJ Sierra, a mural being painted by a professional concrete artist, free cotton candy and popcorn as well as a variety of different local youth services advertising what they do as a part of the free stalls that we had set up to further support the community.

The day overall was a great success with thousands of people walking through the area and interacting with a lot of our stalls. We believe that it was a day that garnered a lot of growth in awareness of the LGBTIQA+ community as well as the need for active support from the wider community in regards to inclusion and diversity. On top of all the support we raised we also took it as an opportunity to survey the community in regards to their knowledge of the LGBTIQA+ community to determine what needs to be focused on building into the future.



6.1.1 – ATTACHMENT 2. WYRC Annual Report 2019 Update

Training with Ash King: Marketing - Json Doan

The first two training sessions of the year were held during our regular meeting times at Youth Connexions. These were conducted by Ash King (Director at Rainhound Records).

In the first session, Ash ran us through marketing and advertising. With his background as a member of an active band which heavily uses social media to advertise its performances, Ash was able to provide some unique insights into what really goes into running a marketing campaign.

Through analysis of the successful marketing campaigns conducted by some of the world's most iconic brands, Ash demonstrated to us what makes up effective advertising. Counter-intuitively, good ads do focus not on the products' features and specifications, and often carry very little direct information. Instead, powerhouse brands such as Apple and Nike build their image through campaigns focussing on brand association, usually employing the aid of public figures.

Following that we were treated to a unique insight to the analytical side of social media. Using Facebook's statistics and tracking, Ash showed us how to evaluate the performance of past campaigns and posts in order to maximise the exposure of future posts. I found this to be particularly interesting as this was something I had never previously encountered.

Ash's training session gave us a great insight into the real operations of a social media advertising campaign, and was full of useful tips and pointers we could put to future use.

Training with Ash King: Event Management - Yash Sinha

The second training module our Committee attended was an event management training session that was also run by Ash King. The session took place at Youth ConneXions. The program aimed to introduce fundamental aspects of how an event should be planned. This was done so that our members were better prepared for future events. More specifically the session covered topics such as event concepts, budget, venue, staff rosters, risk assessment, activities and more. We concluded that it was important for the team to understand and to know how an event is made successful. In our session, we were given activities to complete, one of which was to arrange parts of what the processes of an event would look like from the start to the end. This was achieved by us interacting with each other and deciding what 'process' was going to go where in ascending order. This training was very helpful for us incorporating ideas into our planned events together for 2019. Future committees may value this training if it was held early during the year.



6.1.1 – ATTACHMENT 2. WYRC Annual Report 2019 Update

SYN Radio Station Training - Json Doan

On August 5th we had the opportunity to attend the SYN radio station at RMIT for a training session in radio broadcasting.

Our trainer talked us through some of the basics of broadcasting, before giving us the chance to record a short clip on any topic of our choice. We were given some time to discuss our ideas and flesh out a rough plan for the conversation to follow, before we were brought to the recording room. As a functioning radio station, SYN gave us the opportunity to see and operate professional equipment, such as the microphones and soundboard. It was fantastic to experience such an exclusive environment, though speaking into the microphones was initially quite intimidating!

Overall, it was great fun visiting the station, and getting the opportunity to record our own short clips was very unique and not something we would otherwise get to experience.

This experience provided us with insight as to how to harness the power of radio in regard to promoting and marketing our initiatives.



6.1.1 – ATTACHMENT 2. WYRC Annual Report 2019 Update

Eastern Region Youth Reference Group Dinner - *Grant Henderson and Alan Wang*

On Friday 5th July 2019, the WYRC were invited to take part in the inaugural Eastern Region Young Person's Reference Group Dinner. Hosted by the Monash Youth Reference Group, the event took place at the Monash Civic Centre in Glen Waverley. The event saw the gathering of several Young Person's Reference Groups from the eastern suburbs of Melbourne: in addition to the WYRC and the MYPRG, the Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocates and the Knox Youth Advisory Committee were also present.

The evening was run through a series of break-out groups, which involved discussion on 4 different areas:

- Issues facing young people.
- Successful projects that the respective Youth Committees present have worked on.
- Strengths and challenges faced by each committee.
- The future direction of each committee.

During the event, members of the four respective youth committees in attendance were given the opportunity to exchange ideas and initiatives, based on their experiences serving on their respective committees. The event provided the WYRC with an excellent and valuable opportunity to learn about new ideas and initiatives which could hopefully be implemented by future WYRC groups. For example, the Monash Youth Reference Group's close and productive working relationship with the Monash City Council is one which the Whitehorse City Council should aim to replicate. The 2019 WYRC is of the unanimous view that the Eastern Region Young Person's Reference Group Dinner was a very valuable and meaningful event, one that should continue to be held in future years to come. The 2019 WYRC believes that such an event should be held multiple times over the year. WYRC 2020 will continue nurturing this initiative into the future.



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Consultation with Butterfly Foundation - Yash Sinha

On the 28th of November, a consultation was held at Youth ConneXions with Hannah Jarman from the Butterfly Foundation. This was solely based on what each of the members of the committee had to say about the questions that were being presented to us by Hannah. The questions were mostly based on body image regarding the young people as that's what the organisation is known to associate with. Everyone had a chance to share their opinions about the topic at hand. The responses were recorded as a way of recalling accurate information from our discussion. For some questions, we were required to come up with scenarios that would best fit the circumstance while other question only required a simple answer.

The conclusion of the discussion was that everyone had such different yet similar perspectives on different questions.

Overall the session was great with everyone being actively involved in answering questions and constantly giving opinions on different matters. The thoughts provided by the WYRC were greatly appreciated by The Butterfly Foundation and they will be feeding these into future planning for their work with young people.



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Whitehorse Community Walk - Shene Chiou

Renee Andresson from the Community Development Department came to one of our meetings to consult with us about a community walk event that was being planned. Renee described why and how the idea of a community walk came about and wanted to hear if we had any ideas we'd like to contribute. We were all very excited to have the opportunity to contribute to an event for our community. This event in particular being so important focusing on the issues of positive mental health, suicide prevention and community awareness.

When 8th of September came, three of our committee members (Grant, James and Shene) accompanied by Jacqueline Piper met at Blackburn Lake early morning. Volunteers were happy to see us and asked for our assistance with directing people to the appropriate location throughout the day. We had the opportunity to meet some important people, including Cr Ben Stennett! We were able to have a nice chat and a group photo with him.

At the event, there were not only seniors, families, teenagers and children but also many dogs! We were bathed in a lovely atmosphere that resembled a relaxed Sunday market; people introduced themselves and struck up a conversation with someone new. I was happy to meet an old man who had lost a friend when he was younger, it was interesting to hear his experience however, I was not able to offer anything but my ears.

Lunch was enjoyable, we had a local sporting group help handing out free sausage sizzle, one boy even kindly offered me two snags at once.

To conclude, through contributing and participating in a community event, I felt valued, included and experienced a sense of community that I appreciated. It was also encouraging for us to hear back from Renee "I got so many comments on how great the level of youth participation was so thank you!"



6.1.1 – ATTACHMENT 2. WYRC Annual Report 2019 Update

Training with Tyson: Advocacy, Leadership, Consultation, Public Speaking - Roan Nair

The WYRC attended a training session dedicated to successful leadership and our other WYRC focus areas hosted by Tyson McNamara (Youth Program Coordinator, Box Hill Institute). This session entailed a core focus on the implementation of passion in an individual's leadership endeavours. Tyson instructed the WYRC about different types of leadership in a managerial role. In this discussion, Tyson explained the various types of leadership that he had experienced. This included 'micro-managers' who he described specifically as individuals who insistently harp on other people to complete deadlines. Tyson contrasted this with his own description of a certain type of manager who encouraged others to complete their own tasks in their own timeframe with positive reinforcement. Following this discussion, Tyson educated the WYRC on the ways in which an individual can transition into becoming an effective leader. He outlined to the WYRC that one should research and identify who they are as a worker before utilising the experience they have gained from their position in generating success from understanding. In addition to this, Tyson explained to the WYRC on how to deal with a team member who isn't pulling their weight in their position by highlighting the importance of solution-based encounters and confrontations and negotiating the issue at hand. Tyson also added that confrontation needs to be honest and non-judgemental and the instigator of the confrontation should aim to lend support to the other team member in doing their job to maintain peace and create a positive outcome.



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Another aspect of team leadership that Tyson explained to the WYRC involved event management. This entailed his outline on how a good leader provided clear guidelines and goals on where team members are needed and added that as much as initiative is valued, there are some cases where too many individuals in one area can disrupt efficiency. Tyson told the WYRC about the importance of clear position descriptions and how in a situation where an individual is expressing interest in a position where they're not necessarily needed; a leader should affirm their initiative and validate them before giving them clear instructions on what they are needing to do. Furthermore, Tyson illustrated that it is imperative that leaders provide clear goals and communicate with reason and purpose in order to establish a positive and functioning environment for events. Other advice Tyson gave to the WYRC regarded the semantics surrounding community consultation. This advice addressed the structure of certain types of questions that he categorised into Green, Orange and Red questions. Green questions were questions that evoke an almost instant response like what is someone's favourite pizza. Orange questions were simple but demanded a deeper level of thought and involves questions that are a bit more personal but still easy to answer. Red questions were regarded as intensely intimate and personal questions that demanded a lot of reflection and what Tyson recommended was prefacing these type of questions with the purpose and possibly opening up an option for participants to email their responses.

In summary, Tyson's leadership training touched base on several aspects of being a good leader and the WYRC is grateful for his time spent on educating the committee on various areas that definitely helped the committee understand the ways in which good and effective leaders conduct themselves.

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Ben Stennett: History of Whitehorse - Ananya Sundar

This year, the Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee had the opportunity to spend some time with Councillor Ben Stennett. One of these occasions allowed us to have the opportunity to have a history lesson of the Whitehorse area from Councillor Stennett in one of our meetings. We as a Committee were glad for this opportunity as it allowed us to gain an insight into the council and area that we were volunteering in.

Councillor Stennett's history session commenced with a presentation detailed with photos and information about the area. We learnt about how the Whitehorse Council was named after a famous pub in the area which was named after a featured white horse statue. In an incident, the pub burned down however, the statue of the white horse survived the fire and became the icon of our Council today. The statue is now preserved and can still be seen in the Box Hill Town Hall chambers.

We also learnt about how Box Hill used to be a really wealthy district and was more in connection with Camberwell however, due to the Mayor's interests, it was combined to become Whitehorse with the Nunawading region instead. The merging of districts and the formation of Councils was also made to allow for a more coherent and community-based approach around Victoria, and it was also further strengthened by the building of railroads and the railway stations that we now see in the Belgrave/ Lilydale lines.



The presentation was really important as it also included famous people who lived in the area including one entrepreneur who had a business involving fruits and beekeeping. This also drew our attention to remember to work towards striving towards an eco-friendly and sustainable environment, which our Council has already taken great efforts towards, particularly through their GreenMoney initiative.

Councillor Stennett's history session concluded with the end of the meeting. We gained a lot from his presentation, as allowing us to understand the history behind the council allowed us to understand how it had subsequently developed and allowed us to understand how to better address the issues in the community.

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Youth of the Month Nominations - Hazel Chin

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.

There has been some incredible YOM nominations in 2019 however, the Committee still believe that the award is being underutilised, and even more young people in the municipality should be nominated each month. The WYRC 2020 will focus on increased and affective promotion of this amazing opportunity for young people.

Additionally, into 2020 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. The WYRC 2020 Social Media Coordinators representing the committee will be putting a solid effort into this moving forward.



Overall, the Youth of the Month Award serves to recognise the many contributions of young people 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.

6.1.1 – ATTACHMENT 2.

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Whitehorse News Articles - Alan Wu

Whitehorse City Council publishes the Whitehorse News each month online and delivers it to over 60 000 households in Whitehorse as well as public facilities such as libraries. The newspaper contains local news, community information and short Councillor reports. There are also a page in the newspaper dedicated to youth related information, including the Young Person of the Month, Youth Connexions activities and Creative Youth Community competitions.

WYRC members have the opportunity to contribute a short piece to the newspaper each month to raise awareness about important youth issues and experiences. This year, articles were written on topics including R U OK? Day, body image, safety and the Youth Forum. There is the flexibility to choose the topic and style of the article however, all articles must be reviewed by the editors to ensure writing guidelines are met.

In April, we were fortunate to have Hannah Rowlands from Council's Communications Department coming to a meeting to discuss some journalism tips. She shared with us the importance of keeping the message simple and supporting opinions with strong evidence.



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Halogen Young Leaders Day - Alan Wang

On 11th November 2019, myself and two other members of the Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee were fortunate to be given the opportunity to attend the Halogen Young Leaders Day, an annual event which aims to inspire & influence young people to lead themselves and others well. During the event, we were given the opportunity to hear from a variety of guest speakers who shared their stories and life experiences, providing us with unique and distinctive perspectives on leadership from a variety of different fields and viewpoints. The day was split up into 3 sessions, separated by a morning tea break and a lunch break.

The first speaker was Bianca Chatfield, a former professional netballer, who played for the Melbourne Vixens and represented Australia internationally. Her story was about accepting oneself and not giving up. Bianca was really tall during her childhood, which made her stand out from her peers; she was initially insecure about this, and would attempt to disguise her height, such as through slouching in photographs. Through netball, a sport in which her height gave her an advantage, she began to embrace her height and she gained greater self-confidence. She talked about her disappointment in missing out on selection for Australia's squad for the 2010 Commonwealth Games, and how this setback drove her to become better; she subsequently captained, and won the ANZ Championship with the Melbourne Vixens, as well as winning a gold medal at the 2014 Commonwealth Games. She also discussed her participation on The Block, and how her experiences on her program both pushed her and helped her to develop and utilise mechanisms for coping with stress and pressure. Bianca's story illustrated the importance of embracing your strengths and characteristics, of bouncing back from setbacks, of being able to cope with pressure.



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The second speaker was John Coutis. John was born undersized with severe physical disabilities; doctors gave him little chance of survival, believing that he would not live long after his birth. However, John defied all odds and expectations; he had turned 50 prior to his presentation at Halogen. This would set the scene for the remainder of his presentation. In his presentation, John talked about the difficulties and barriers he frequently encountered throughout his life as a result of his disabilities (e.g. he was bullied and hazed throughout his schooling), as well as the invaluable support that his family provided him throughout his life (e.g. he was taught by his father that he had to adapt to life, that life wouldn't adapt to him). Despite the serious, and at times emotional, nature of his presentation, his presentation was frequently laced with humour and wit, enabling attendees to remain engaged and connected with his story. John's story was touching and inspirational and served to give us all a greater understanding of perseverance, of resilience, of humility, as well as giving us a greater appreciation of our lives and our upbringings.

The third speaker was Erin Molan, a journalist and television presenter, who currently serves as a weekend news sports presenter and as the host of '20 to One'. In her presentation, she talked about her upbringing, as well as her early interest in journalism, which was sparked during her years living in Indonesia, when Suharto was the president. Erin's presentation highlighted the importance of



persistence and resilience. Erin's refusal to give up, her persistent sending of emails, led to her landing her first media role. In 2014, Erin became the first female host of the NRL Footy Show. As a woman who had never played rugby league professionally, she was subjected to relentless online trolling and verbal abuse, some of which were of a graphic or confronting nature. She spoke about how she was initially affected by the trolling and abuse, and how she eventually learned to handle them. She also spoke about the importance of picking your battles: at one time, after being subjected to attacks and threats towards herself and her new-born child, she took some trolls to court and won, thereby helping to send a message that online abuse is not tolerable and can result in legal consequences. She also talked about how she aimed to utilise her profile in order to raise attention to causes, an example of which was her support for Bowel Cancer Australia, which was inspired by her sister's diagnosis with the disease. Key messages she communicated in her presentation were the importance of persistence and resilience, as well as picking your battles and making the most of your profile to promote positive change.

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The final presenter of the day was Sean Purcell. His story, like the others before him, was one of resilience and inspiration. Sean suffered a cardiac arrest whilst he was on a morning run along the beach, which left him medically dead temporarily. Thanks to the assistance of strangers, who performed CPR and attempted to resuscitate him, he was airlifted to hospital and was in a coma for several days. Doctors predicted that even if he woke up from his coma, he would have severe permanent brain damage. However, against all odds, he survived and made a full recovery; the predicted brain damage did not eventuate. The theme of his presentation was 'second chance at life'. Ever since that event, Sean was given a second chance, and he has been making the most of it, engaging in philanthropic activities and giving talks in a bid to raise awareness of making the most of life, of making the most of your chances. Sean's story illustrated the value of one's life and the necessity of making the most of it.

Being able to participate in the Halogen Young Leaders Day was one of the highlights of my time with the WYRC. Overall, the four speakers were engaging and inspirational, and were invaluable in giving us different perspectives in leadership and life. As a result of the Young Leaders Day, we have been given a raw, first-hand insight into overcoming challenges, in believing in ourselves, in remaining resolute. The lessons we have learned from this event will benefit us immensely for years to come.

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Rubi the Therapy Dog – Lachie Ansell

In May 2018 the WYRC recommend the presence of a Therapy dog at Council's Youth ConneXions youth centre as a strategy to benefit young people attending the centre. Animal assisted therapy is a unique addition to Youth Services and will positively affect health and wellbeing of young people that attend Youth Connexions in the following ways:

Physical Health

- lowers blood pressure
- improves cardiovascular health
- releases endorphins (oxytocin) that have a calming effect
- diminishes overall physical pain
- the act of petting produces an automatic relaxation response, reducing the amount of medication some folks need

For Mental Health

- lifts spirits and lessens depression
- decreases feelings of isolation and alienation
- encourages communication
- provides comfort
- increases socialization and sense of community
- reduces boredom
- decreases anxiety
- helps children overcome speech and emotional disorders
- creates motivation for the client to recover faster
- reduces loneliness

The WYRC sourced a generous donation from the Rotary Club of Box Hill Central of \$700 and in September of 2019 'Rubi' started attending Youth Connexions on the first Monday of the month from 3 – 4.30pm. Moving forward based on the positive feedback received by young people, Youth Services plans to continue having 'Rubi' at the centre subject to funding.



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Conclusion – Shene Chiou

I really enjoyed learning with a group of youths who live in the same municipality as me, but are all so very different and unique. I have learnt much from them. There were many things we had learnt as we go, we were constantly challenged and grew together as a group. Our differences proved valuable in planning events, as we were able to consider the same difficulties from different angles which made the events well considered.

Great thanks to Jacqueline and Zoey, for always offering to help out, always making us feel welcome and comfortable, always pushing us to have our voices heard. Especially Jacqueline for all the times she pushed herself to send emails or make calls to represent us the best way she could. Zoey for all her advice that she was able to provide clear structure and steps for us to take and follow through with during event planning times.

Also thank you so much to Whitehorse City Council for making this incredible opportunity possible for all of us.

I would like to thank everyone on the Committee for their patience, kindness and bravery for volunteering a year of their youth to make the City of Whitehorse a better place.

All the best to all of us and may our experiences from this year help us on our own journeys and benefit those around us.