

Fringe Benefits a Huge Success

YACVic's State Conference, *Fringe Benefits? Young People on the Edge of Policy and Place* is over and has been declared a resounding success by all involved.

Over 300 people attended over the two days. We were particularly delighted with the number of young people who attended. A special thanks goes to all the workers who brought young people to the conference. We know you worked really hard to get them there and to ensure they had a great time.

Conference evaluations indicate that those who attended were very happy with the mix of workshops, keynote addresses and panel discussions. Highlights included the panel discussion on the first day where four young people answered the question Am I on the Fringe? Many people singled out Liz Ellis, a young disability advocate, as a particular highlight of this panel. Liz's speech can be found on page 9 of this issue.

We are very pleased that young people who attended the conference rated it very highly (even more so than workers). This comment from a young person was typical. "Congratulations on such a fabulous conference! It was definitely a success in my eyes! Thankyou so much for sponsoring my place as well.... without it I wouldn't have been able to attend, and am very thankful that I could. It was fantastic...I learnt so much, did lots of networking and now have more motivation to think about voting and joining a political party, thinking about God, speaking up etc. etc. It was fabulous...I can't explain how much fun I had!"



Gillian Calvert, NSW Commissioner for Children and Young People, Lill Healy, Director of Office for Youth, Rowena Allen, Chairperson of YACVic

Final thanks must be given to all of those who helped make the conference the success it was, especially our sponsors The Office for Youth, The City of Whittlesea, VicHealth, Victorian Multicultural Commission and the Foundation for Young Australians. Big thanks also goes to Jen Rose who did an amazing job of organising the conference, it wouldn't have been the success it was without her!

The next YACVic conference will be in 2006 and will be held in the inner city, we'll keep you posted on developments.

continued next page

Also in this issue...

In the November/December edition of Yikes!! you get a snapshot of what happened at the **YACVic State conference** *Fringe Benefits? Young People on the Edge of Policy and Place*. We've put together various workshop participants feedback and presenters presentations. We also have a spread of **happy snaps** in which you may be looking gorgeous or handsome whichever the case may be. There is information on the Eureka celebrations happening in Ballarat and State Government News has some **new resource bits** being offered so take them up I say. Our sad news is that YACVic has had to say goodbye to our treasured Senior Policy Officer, Paula Grogan. She has been with us for three years and her dedication, knowledge and humour will be very missed. Thanking you Paula and good luck for the future. ■

YACVic News updates

CONTENTS >>

1. Executive Officer's editorial
3. YACVic Conference highlights
6. Happy Snaps
8. Conference highlights
8. beyondblue
10. Eureka 150 celebrations
11. State news
11. Member profile
12. Upcoming events

ABOUT YACVIC

The Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc. (YACVic) is the peak body and leading policy advocate on young people's issues in Victoria.

The main function of YACVic is to make representations to government and serve as an advocate for the interests of young people, workers with young people and organisations that provide direct services to young people. YACVic's resources are primarily directed towards policy analysis and development through consultation with its constituency. YACVic also resources the information needs of its members through regular updates and by facilitating networking within and beyond the Victorian youth sector.

YACVic is governed by a volunteer Board and managed by a paid secretary. The Council's core funding comes from the Victorian Government's Office for Youth.

YIKES!!

Is YACVic's regular newsletter. The views and opinions contained in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of YACVic. This publication is copyright, articles may be reproduced with permission from YACVic.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions to Yikes! are welcome. The deadline for the next edition of Yikes! is 22 December.

INSERTS & ADVERTISING

If you wish to include an insert or advert in Yikes please contact the YACVic Communications Officer on (03) 9612 8999 or email info@yacvic.org.au.

Ban on Underage Gigs at Licensed Venues in the CBD.

Most of you will be aware that Liquor Licensing Victoria has placed a ban on underaged events at licenced premises in the CBD as a result of increasing security concerns at some venues.

The ban will be enforced until a committee is established to review the events to determine what the issues are and how they can be best dealt with.

YACVic is working closely with Victoria Police, the City of Melbourne and the Minister's Office to ensure that the committee is established and begins its work as soon as possible.

Staff Change at YACVic

Paula Grogan, YACVic's Senior Policy Officer has taken 12 months leave from YACVic to take up a position with Youthlaw. Paula's contribution to YACVic over the past three years has been immense. She will be greatly missed. We hope to have appointed a replacement for Paula before the end of the year, with a view to the new person starting early in the New Year.

YACVic Board Changes

At the Council's AGM members voted to change the constitution to have up to five positions on the Board of Governance designated for young people. Members also elected three new Board Members: Ashley Perez, Dave Hamra and Brad Rowswell (young media spokesperson).

There are currently three incumbent young people on the Board (Brad Rowswell, Ashley Perez and Lise Della Torre), so the Board have called for nominations for two additional places to be filled. The Special General Meeting where Members will elect the two new Board members is scheduled for December 9th 2004 at 6.15pm.

All of the papers, including nomination and proxy forms are included with this mailout. If you cannot make the meeting it is important that you fill in the proxy form so that your vote counts.

YACVic Christmas Party

Our party takes place on December 9 at 7pm to be held at 2B Ballarat St, Collingwood.

Please RSVP by Monday December 6. Food and drinkies will be provided.

YIKES!!

This issue of YIKES!! has been put together by the Fringe Benefits media team, a group of young people who got together to report on the conference. They did a great job.

Finally

This will be YACVic's last YIKES!! before Christmas. I would like to thank you all for another great year at YACVic and to wish you all the best for the holiday season.

Georgie Ferrari

Executive Officer

YACVIC CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Fringe Benefits? Young people on the edge of policy and place....

With such a great crowd of young people and those committed and interested in working with them at the recent YACVic Fringe Benefits conference, it only made sense to record some of the experiences of those involved.

I was asked to get in touch with any interested young people who attended to provide them with the skills and support to write articles for this edition of YIKES!!

who were inspired and educated over the two day event. Enjoy the read!

Lauren Ireland

Journalist from S-press newspaper

Below are a few stories from those

C R A Y V m a k e s a b i g i m p r e s s i o n

Hi, I'm Connie and I attended the 'Fringe Benefits? - Young people on the edge of policy and place' conference, supported and run by YACVic.

The conference was held at the Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre in Whittlesea, which is my home council.

I attended the conference for two reasons. Firstly, because I am still classified as a young person...even though I'm 22, and secondly because I have just finished my Youth Work degree at RMIT University and wanted to get a hands on approach to what's happening now with young people.

Upon entering into the first workshop of the day I was met by a small group of young people who ran the work-

shop. These inspirational young people had joined together to form a group around the East Gippsland region.

The group is called CRAYV which stands for Creating Real Actions with Youth Visions.

The group of young people meet regularly to represent their views to key organisations, decision makers, funding bodies and most importantly their local community.

Upon seeing them present their achievements, it really showed how much time and effort each young person has put into making the commitment to make a change, not only with their fellow group members, but also for their peers and youth community

members.

I believe one of the young people presenting said it was three-and-a-half to four hour drive to Melbourne! Young people in East Gippsland are isolated from many basic things we in suburbia take for granted.

These young people are able to address their issues to people who will help make the change in their area. Some people may view their group as one of many, but if you saw the detail it took to even get them where they are now, it's a step into a brighter future for them and their peers. To the CRAYV team, 'Carpe Diem'....Seize the day

Connie Boglis



Members of Creating Real Actions with Youth Visions came down from East Gippsland and presented a session about their work on Day 1.

Am I different? I don't think so...

A few weeks ago, I was asked if I wanted to take part in an upcoming conference to be held by YACVic. The conference was themed 'Fringe Benefits? Young people on the edge of policy and place.'

To me, this conference sounded like it would be interesting and that it would address issues that I am confronted with everyday. Knowing this, I went along to the conference on October 6.

On the day, myself and two other young women met up with Donna Gross, the leader of our workshop and a member of the YACVic Youth Reference Group. As a group, we were to run a workshop called "I Am Me - Similarities In Difference".

The four of us were an eclectic bunch, and this was to make for a good discussion with those who attended the session.

I spoke to the attendees first about who I am and what makes me 'different' in other peoples eyes.

"I am Erica, and I'm seventeen...I'm gay...I have kidney failure".

I spoke for five minutes about who I believe I am and what others perceive of me. This was followed with questions about my sexuality and my renal failure.

From speaking in front of the group of people from all backgrounds and of different ages, I noticed how similar a lot of us really are. This was made apparent in an activity we undertook as a group.

The four of us (Donna, BJ, Kira and myself) asked one person each to stand in a corner of the room for a moment. The idea was to isolate individuals from the larger group, just as we felt had happened to us many times before. However, what BJ pointed out to the group was that the four individuals standing in different areas all were similar in that they were all wearing something red, albeit shoes or a scarf etc.

BJ spoke next about her exclusion as an individual in the wider community due to the fact she wears black clothing, wears odd earrings and has differ-



Presenters and participants from the 'Identity' workshops - 'Anti-Racism using Rap' and 'I Am Me - Similarities in Difference.'

ent eye makeup. What we found out from her though, is that she is a girl that helps out others, and her favourite colour is orange. BJ is very patriotic and loves her senile grandmother. These are things we may not have first thought about her, but if we took the time to look we would soon find out.

It was near the end of the session and we still had one speaker to go, Kira. Being the bold and humourous girl she is, she stood up and announced herself straightaway. "I'm gay...mum thinks it's a phase, but it's not..."

Kira spoke of her exclusion from her family, coming from an Italian background. Kira told the group of how she wears boy's clothes, loves the band Hanson and has a baby sister she adores immensely.

At the end of the session, we had showed those that attended how we are on the fringe through other people's eyes, but just how normal we really are.

Donna left the group with a lyric from a song she once heard, and I shall do that now.

'I want to be different, just like all the other different people.'

Erica Reid, 17

tommy_tom_boy@hotmail.com

Presenter from the I Am Me - Similarities in Difference workshop held on day one ■

Reaching out to young people everywhere

>rap yo head round this<

<< breakout box >>

We need equality to create unity

Understand my humanity

Hate is insanity

Respect my individuality

We need to belong

That's why I'm writing this song

Judgement of skin colour is wrong

Black and white, why do we fight?

Day and night when we could end the
plight?

Deep down, we're all the same on the
inside

We need peace, not war on the streets

No more fear, we all live here.

Rap written by participants in the session 'Anti-Racism Using Rap Music', run by Thao Pham and Khalid Abduwahib from the Western Young People's Independent Network.



Reachout! ambassadors Kevin Newman and Luke Bo'sher presented a session on Day 1 about the web based service they promote, which assists young people all over the place who are going through tough times.

The Reach Out! (RO!) session of the YACVic Fringe benefit's conference was a great example of what organisations like both YACVic and RO! so strongly promote - young people being involved and youth-to-youth communication.

Kevin Newman and myself (both Year 12 students from the fringe) explained to a room full of young people and people who work in the youth field that RO! is a web based service that helps young people through tough times.

Due to the nature of a web based service like RO!, young people who live anywhere in the world - whether that might be in a bustling city like Melbourne, the leafy suburbs of Eltham or the laid back town of Torquay - can log onto www.reachout.com.au and get help getting through tough times. They can find information on everything from moving out of home to coping with depression to exam stress.

There is also a data base on services that young people can search by their

postcode and find help near them. For young people on the fringes especially, this is a great service as services are often difficult to find in areas on the fringes.

The number of young people at the conference - in addition to the large number of youth presenters - was a great achievement for both YACVic and the entire youth sector.

Young people being involved in not just decision making, but also in education in the sector of youth affairs is something that is beginning to be recognised and embraced.

Everyone has things to both learn and teach, and the conference was a wonderful example of both of these events occurring at the same time.

Luke Bo'sher

Presenter of workshop 'Reach Out! Increasing Opportunities for Rural and Remote Young People to Participate in a National Youth Initiative' ■

Conference



'Have you ever been ripped off?' asks comedian **Rod Quantock** at the launch of a postcard campaign to encourage young people to appeal Centrelink decisions they believe are unfair or incorrect on day two of the conference.



Kevin Newman and Luke Bo'sher from 'Reachout'



The crew from Cutting Edge in Shepparton who travelled to the conference to present the session 'Fusion' on day one



Happy Snaps



Lil Healy, Office for Youth keynote speaker on day one.



Photos on display in the foyer, part of an exhibition about what human rights means to the members of the Western Young People's Independent Network.



youth services
to the confer-
on 'Cultural
ne.



Alternative Networking

How do you get past the traditional barriers to student networking, such as time, travel, communication, tokenism and unsupportive schools?

What if you could facilitate a network of Young People that can actually speak confidently for Young People? And what if you could back that up with evidence that the network is accurately representing their constituents?

What benefits are there in having the network entirely made up of and run by young people, with those that are considered "old" relegated to the supporters committee.

At the recent YACVic conference, Fringe Benefits, the VicSRC (the Victorian Network of Student Representative Councils), ran a workshop titled 'Alternative Networking,' looking at the current issues surrounding the networking of Young People. It encouraged participants to ignore previous debates and to critically analyse networks in terms of the young people themselves.

The workshop did not look to provide THE answers to any questions. Instead it facilitated discussion of experiences and ideas of ways to do things differently, with some interesting results.

Participants indicated high levels of frustration with current systems The label 'tokenistic' was thrown around a fair bit.

There was high praise for groups where young people sat on executive boards and were actively involved in decision-making processes. There was also significant interest in the participation model that the VicSRC has developed.

It was great to see that discussion from earlier in the workshop was effective in encouraging participants to not just accept what people tell you about a network, especially considering that the VicSRCs model can be considered quite unorthodox. There were a lot of questions relating to how and why our methods have been proven to work. While there is no hard and fast evidence on the exact science behind it, surveys have shown that the answer to this could be a relatively simple one that many people just don't get - it gets students actively involved, represented and in control!

Some participants have since been in contact to discuss how some of these strategies could be implemented within their own organisation.

The Vic SRC has always been student governed and fiercely independent. The students themselves developed the participation model, with the specific goal in mind of being democratic and participatory. This model has now become entrenched in the foundations of the organisation.

Thank-you to all participants who helped make the 'Alternative Networking' workshop such a success. For more information on the VicSRC, or to become a member, please feel free to contact Teigan Leonard on 0422 225 946.

Teigan Leonard and David Mould presented the Alternative Networking workshop on Day one. ■



be blue?

"[Depression's] more than feeling sad. It's a lack of motivation to do stuff. A feeling of worthlessness, low self esteem. You don't feel like eating or talking. All you want to do is cry. I've cried so much, my eyes can't cry anymore."

Lisa, 19.

One in five young people in Australia experience depression each year. Unfortunately, we often don't recognise the symptoms - such as dropping out of the crowd, a change in attitude or behaviour, or having trouble sleeping. Our parents, teachers and friends may ignore them or pass them over as

"just part of growing up". We might not even be aware of the signs in ourselves.

The result? Young people like us aren't getting the help we need to get through depression, the help we need to get better. We're not sure what to say to friends and family members we're worried about. We're not sure where we can get help or support.

Depression is a serious illness. And it's a real illness which, if left untreated, can have long-term effects on our physical, mental and emotional health.

Ybblue, a youth program of beyondblue: the national depression initiative, is all about getting the message out there that it's okay to talk about depression, and to encourage young people and their family and friends to

get help when it's needed. Those who work with young people will also find Ybblue a useful website for information and referrals.

Check out the Ybblue website (www.ybblue.com.au) for a whole range of information about youth depression: interactive checklists, warning signs and symptoms, helpful contacts, treatment options, personal stories, e-cards and more. Share your story with other website visitors. Submit a question for our FAQs. Download a factsheet. Order a poster...

Look, listen, talk and seek help together.

www.ybblue.com.au ■

Am I on the Fringe?

The panels were very popular during the conference. The 'Am I on Th Fringe?' panelist Liz Ellis presented the following speech.

Hi, I am Liz Ellis and I am delighted to be here today.

I have cerebral palsy, which is a physical disability, and came about due to a cerebral haemorrhage following surgery, one day after I was born. I was only 2 ½ lb!

I have participated in many recreational activities throughout the past 19 years and although I am now used to planning every day it is also very frustrating as I do not have the ability to be spontaneous.

As a young person living with a disability in the western suburbs of Melbourne, I feel that the ranges of services are inferior to those of other areas closer to the city. Until recently the only recreation services I could attend were in the eastern suburbs and I relied on my family to get me there.

This was sometimes inconvenient, as I am one of four kids, as well as time consuming for everyone to do so. Also these programs were, it seemed, mainly for people with intellectual as well as physical disabilities and I felt they were targeted toward a younger generation than the ages they actually were. These limitations included no adult activities and routine bedtimes, which don't necessarily suit me. (examples)

I am finding lately that I am excluded from youth programs due to on going Occupational Health and Safety guidelines changing. Hoisting is the only way a person can be transferred now but taking a hoist out with you is impossible and impractical.

Wheeling a hoist around a shopping centre is very embarrassing for a person with a disability as often this need is not understood by the public and is not found to be socially acceptable. It is my belief that shopping centres should provide hoists, so that all people with a disability can have freedom and the basic right to go the toilet. This is very important to gain access to the community.

I am becoming increasingly isolated



Liz at YACVic's state conference

due to these changes and sometimes feel like I am going insane and that I am trapped inside a body with no way out.

With the current changes I am often given the impression that because of my personal care needs I am expected to stay at home with a hoist accessible. However this frustrates me as it confines me to my home and limits my ability to participate in activities I enjoy in the community. All this because of what my disability prevents me from doing for myself.

My access to university also had a very difficult start this year.

At first the university had trouble finding an agency who was reliable in providing carers, this meant that I had days where I did not attend because I had no carer. The liaison unit offered no assistance to me, which I thought was disgraceful.

Also the university's only hoist on the campus was across the other side of the St Albans Campus from my buildings. As a consequence I had to miss an enormous amount of class just to go to the toilet. I had raised this matter with the liaison unit many times and was ignored.

As a result I wrote a letter to the Vice

Chancellor and surprisingly a hoist was moved from another campus the very same week.

As a family we have fought many 'battles' both at primary and secondary school with the issues I have mentioned today being very current. I very much live on the fringe as I am not able to do what I would like, when I would like.

I have improved my access to university and my local youth services program. I know in my life I will have many challenges ahead, but I am prepared to speak up for myself and everybody else should do the same to improve access to the community for people with a disability.

I cannot go the the pub for a drink.

I cannot sleep in until I want.

I cannot have any time to myself.

I cannot disappear for the weekend if it takes my fancy.

BUT I can keep on working through the challenges and I will.

Liz Ellis.

Other panellists were Thao Pham, Monika Prasad and Aeden Alessandro.

Youth Hypothetical

Eureka finds a voice among young people

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Eureka rebellion. The Victorian Government in association with the City of Ballarat is hosting a number of events to celebrate this remarkable event.

As part of the celebrations, the University of Ballarat will host a conference entitled '**Releasing the SPIRIT of Democracy**'. There will be a **Youth Hypothetical**, an important part of the conference, jointly sponsored by the City of Ballarat and the University of Ballarat. The City of Ballarat Youth Hypothetical will be held on Saturday 27 November and will commence with Ms Tan Le addressing the conference on Youth and Democracy.

Ms Le arrived in Australia at 15 when she joined the Vietnamese Community of Footscray Association, becoming its President three years later. Since then she has established numerous Vietnamese community initiatives. In 1998, she was the Young Australian of the Year.

The focus will be on the youth of our nation and their views on the future of democracy. The Youth Hypothetical panel will be chaired by Mr Adam Spencer, co-presenter on Triple J's Breakfast show and well known media identity. Both the panel and the audience will be challenged to provide their views on the current state of democracy and the future for democracy in Australia.

Complimentary Passes - University of Ballarat in conjunction with the City of Ballarat are delighted to offer youth (25 years & under), students & concession holders complimentary passes to this session. You must register to attend The City of Ballarat Youth Hypothetical, to register please contact the conference organisers: 1300 304 803

Session Details

Date: Saturday 27 November

Time: 1.45pm-4.30pm

Venue: Caro Convention Centre, University of Ballarat, Mt Helen Campus

Cost: Complimentary 25 years & under youth, students & concession ■



On October 20, the Minister for the Arts, Mary Delahunty, launched the Eureka 150 Youth Team of 17 young Victorians as part of the 150th anniversary of the Eureka Stockade. The Eureka uprising, considered to mark the birth of democratic traditions in Australia, occurred on the Ballarat goldfields on December 3 1854.

"Eureka 150 is a commemoration of those who gave their lives for a principle and a celebration of the community values they helped to inspire. The involvement of young people in an event about democracy and rights is essential. It may have occurred 150 years ago, but the aspirations that fired Eureka - justice, democracy and the right to dissent - still have currency. We should remember that the leader of the Eureka rebels, Peter Lalor, was only 26 at the time of the uprising," Ms Delahunty said.

The team will be involved in raising awareness of Eureka among young people through community and local media liaison and documenting young people's interpretations of Eureka through a digital storytelling project through the Australian Centre for the Moving Image.

They will also have the opportunity to work with Eureka event organisers to ensure young people's participation in the celebrations.

While the Eureka 150 program is for all ages, a number of strands have been developed with young people in mind. These include:

- new curriculum materials on Eureka delivered to every Australian secondary school and freely available on line;
- the inclusion of an all ages FreeZA Central concert featuring Victoria's 28 Days as part of the music festival in Ballarat (December 2-5);
- the participation of Youth Ambassadors from other States and Territories through the support of the National Reference Group for Eureka 150, chaired by Minister Delahunty;
- the program for the Victorian Eureka Youth Team - aged between 14 and 24 - which has been developed in partnership with the Office of Youth.

Team members will also have the opportunity to participate in the national conference - Releasing the Spirit of Democracy - that will be held at the University of Ballarat on 26 and 27 November. The conference will include a forum moderated by media personality Adam Spencer.

For other information please see the site Eureka website:

www.eureka150.vic.gov.au

Conference Hotline: 1300 304 803

The Conference Program can be seen at - <http://www.eureka150-ubdemocracy.com> ■

RESOURCE SUPPORTS YOUNG REFUGEES IN EDUCATION SYSTEM

Victoria's young refugees will benefit from a new resource that connects their teachers with the latest education research and strategies.

The Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs, Jacinta Allan, launched the Resource Gateway during Community Cabinet held in Maribyrnong today.

The Resource Gateway is a hardcopy and online resource that provides relevant website links and the latest research and education strategies for working with young refugee learners.

The Resource Gateway will be distributed to every Government school in Victoria and promoted through independent school networks.

The resource was produced by the Victorian Settlement Planning Committee's (VSPC) Refugee Young People and Transitions working group. The group consists of state and federal governments and community representatives from the education and youth sectors.

The Resource Gateway can be accessed at www.dimia.gov.au/settle/publications/officestates.htm or can be ordered from the Victorian Settlement and Planning Committee Secretariat on 9235 3277.

GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE FOR NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK 2005

Grants to hold local events and activities to celebrate National Youth Week 9-17 April, 2005 have been launched by the Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs, Jacinta Allan.

Ms Allan said grants of up to \$5,000 were now available to stage events organised by young people for young people.

Grants are available to local councils, community organisations and young people to help them plan and hold Youth Week activities and events.

Grants must demonstrate how young people aged 12-25 will be involved in planning and implementing activities and events.

More information on National Youth Week and the 2005 Grants is available at www.grants.dvc.vic.gov.au from Monday 25 October or by calling the Victorian Government Grants information line on 1300 366 356. Applications close on 19 November 2004.

NEW KIT ENCOURAGES YOUNG PEOPLE TO EMBRACE THE ARTS

Young Victorians are being encouraged to get more involved in the arts with a resource kit launched today by the Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs, Jacinta Allan.

The Advocating the Arts for Young People online tool kit will help those who work in the arts sector to encourage young people to embrace the arts.

Ms Allan said the new resource was a practical guide on how to build stronger community support for the arts and influence funding decisions and government policy.

The Tool Kit has been developed by Young People and the Arts Australia, the national peak body representing arts workers and organisations whose practice involves producing work for, by and with young people in all art forms.

The resource is designed for professional artists, art organisations and community members and is available online at www.ypaa.net. ■

NEW MEMBER PROFILE

We asked one of our newest members, Sarah Hayball if she would answer a few questions about herself and she responded with.....it would be an honour and a privilege to answer your questions...

Why do you do what ever it is that you do?
I'm currently studying Youth Studies at ACU (Australian Catholic Uni) so that I can (hopefully) become a youth worker. Also work part time as a child care worker. Love it.

What did you have to do to be able to do this? Pass year 12, 3 years of being bored by some subjects and dropping the rest at RMIT, and coming across this lovely course last year. Hooray!

What's your fav food? Cake.

What was your worst hair cut?
I had a pretty daggy semi-short haircut in year 8. Still get shit occasionally for it when photos come out. Never had had a flair for hair.

What are the top 3 youth issues for you?
Mental health (depression, suicide etc), isolation from the community, drug abuse. Everything is interrelated, you can't solve one problem without working on the rest.

Where do you spend your days?
Work, uni, home, bed. Truly exciting.

Did you go to our recent conference?
If that's the Fringe Benefits one in South Morang, unfortunately, no. I am a child of the inner city and South Morang is beyond my reach mid week. Sounds like it was awesome though!

Complete this sentence: Young people are...
...stronger and more intelligent than older generations are willing to admit.

What's the weirdest phone call you have received?
Some drunken stranger slurring down the phone. I only managed to decipher "Are you single?" to which I replied "No, think you've got the wrong number mate" and hung up. I'm sure many of us have been there.

Thank you for your welcome and your questions. Hope they're helpful.

Sarah Hayball ■

Up Coming Events

Conferences

4TH ANNUAL SPEAK OUT YOUTH CONFERENCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Date: 24 November 2004
Time: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Venue: LaTrobe University, McKoy St. Wodonga, VIC
Cost: Young people- free;
Professionals- \$30;
Students & Volunteers over 25- \$10.

Speak Out is a conference organised by young people for young people and professionals working in the youth sector. Speak Out gives young people in the Albury/Wodonga districts and the surrounding rural shires the opportunity to have a strong voice in future youth service delivery at a local level, and come together to engage in meaningful participation.

Six themes will be explored this year- relationships & sexuality; education, employment & training; suicide/mental health; cultural diversity; body image; & alcohol & other drug issues. The focus groups will be run by service providers and young people. A workshop will be held on youth friendly service provision.

Also featured on the day will be indigenous dancers, youth art display, youth services showcase, guest speakers and a Kool Skools music performance.

Cost: Young people- free; Professionals- \$30; Students & Volunteers over 25- \$10.

For more info:

Speak Out Conference Coordinator:
C- Upper Hume Community Health Service,
12 Stanley Street
Wodonga, Vic, 3690

PH: (02) 6022 8888

FAX: (02) 60 245792

Email: smckoy@uhchs.vic.gov.au

EUREKA 150

150th anniversary celebrations of the Eureka Stockade.

RELEASING THE SPIRIT OF DEMOCRACY

A national conference celebrating Eureka will be held at the University of Ballarat on 26 and 27 November. For all details please contact the conference hotline:

1300 304 803

or check out the website:

www.eureka150.vic.gov.au

The Conference Program can be seen at -
<http://www.eureka150-ubdemocracy.com>

THE CITY OF BALLARAT YOUTH HYPOTHETICAL

To be held on day two of the conference, see page 10 for more info.

Date: Saturday 27 November

Time: 1.45pm-4.30pm

Venue: Caro Convention Centre,
University of Ballarat, Mt
Helen Campus

Cost: Complimentary 25 years &
under youth, students &
concession

To register please contact the conference organisers: 1300 304 803

Exhibitions

THE WORLD WE LIVE IN

World Aids Day 2004 art exhibition held by YEAH (Youth Entertainment Advocating Health)

Venue: Melbourne Museum Nicholson St, Carlton

Date: 24th Nov- 5th Dec,

Time: 10-5pm daily

GALA AUCTION to be held also.

For bookings and details:

0423 718 281

Coordinator & Youth Consultant:

alischa@yeah.org.au

www.yeah.org.au

Other Events

WORLD AIDS AWARENESS WEEK

29th Nov-3rd Dec

WORLD AIDS DAY

1st Dec. Info on events contact CAN on 5443 8355

CENTRE FOR MULTICULTURAL YOUTH ISSUES END OF YEAR STATEWIDE NETWORK MEETING

The last Statewide Network Meeting of the year will focus on the CMYI Activities Report 2003-2004 with its emphasis on Participation and Mentoring. This final Statewide Network Meeting for the year will provide an even greater opportunity for networking, reflecting on projects, sector achievements as well as sharing ideas for next year.

The Hon. Jacinta Allan MP, Minister for Education Services, Employment and Youth Affairs, will be launching our Activities Report at 10.00am and will be available to meet informally with Statewide Network Meeting participants during the break.

Date: Thursday 2nd December

Venue: Seminar Room 1&2, Vic Health Building, 15-31 Pelham Street, (Cnr Rathdowne Street) South Carlton

Time: 9.45am registration.

10.00am Start, Finish 1.00pm.

Please note however, that the Statewide Network Meeting's will no longer be held at the COASIT building. So come along and celebrate the end of year with us.

Contact: Alison Coelho, Community Project Officer

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