



YOUTHCONNECT
THEIR FUTURE OUR FUTURE



April Issue

Annual General Meeting & 20 Year Anniversary Celebrations

Youth Connect's Vision

"A community where school to work pathways and career choices for all young people are equally valued and respected"

Youth Connect's Mission

Youth Connect works with the community to provide all young people with the skills and knowledge to support them to manage a successful pathway through secondary education, further learning and employment.

Youth Connect celebrated its 20th Anniversary in recognition of its commitment and dedication to provide tailored youth services. Celebrations were set to the melodies of Sandringham College, Year 10 Music Captain, Harrison Cochrine, on Tuesday, 17 April at Milano's Tavern in Brighton.

Anne Jamieson was commended for her decade of passionate service to Youth Connect, after formally stepping down from her role as Chairperson. The Chief Executive Officer, Danny Schwarz led attendees down memory lane, and concluded with a photomontage of the last 20 years until now.

Youth Connect is a leading non-profit, community focused organisation that has provided assistance to youth for two decades. The organisation aims to provide youth with pathway choices through secondary education, further learning and employment to reach their goals. Youth Connect provide

over 20 services due to the strong, working relationships it has with other organisations and agencies within the South Eastern, Inner Eastern and Northern Melbourne regions.

Youth Connect has grown since its beginnings in 1992 under the Moorabbin Oakleigh Springvale Development Group Inc. (MOSEGD). MOSEGD was founded upon Industry lead initiatives tailored to provide programs and specialist training to young people. Since its humble beginnings, Youth Connect has established over 300 partnerships with local organisations and industry providers.

—Student Journalist Christine McGinn



Anne Jamieson, Past Chairperson & Danny Schwarz, CEO



John Dance, Deputy Chairperson & Barry Atkins, Founding Chairperson

Harrison Cochrine, Musician

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The Anniversary held in National Youth Week had over 60 guests attended the venue, adorned with blue and green decorations, sharing many laughs and memories. Past staff members returning; also new faces; even the founding Chairman of MOSEGD, Barry Atkins dropped by to join the celebrations.



Youth Connect Launches New Look Website

Youth Connect's new website launched together with the 2011 Annual Report provides a youthful and edgy feel, incorporating an easy to understand navigation style. It enables the user to view information via program areas. Hovering over the large tabs 'Career & Transitions', 'Youth Employment Services' and 'Youth Services'. Also the site map below displays the body of the entire website, enabling ease of access. Also find an events calendar, newsletter links, social media widgets, a 'get involved' link and staff contacts.

There is an easy to access link to 'Find Work Placements' and the YC4Me Webportal tab to make the process of securing work placements for students simpler, faster, more vibrant, engaging and useful.

Your feedback is always welcome. For more information, please email info@youthconnect.com.au





CAREER CONNECT

Youth Connect runs a FREE fortnightly job search group for young people who are looking to get into the work force or may need career advice. Currently held 2nd & 4th Fridays 10am–1pm at the Youth Connect Office, Level 3/1001 Nepean Hwy, Moorabbin.

We can help you find a job including apprenticeships and traineeships.

Career Connect helps young people aged 16–24 years old, who live, work, learn or play in the South Eastern suburbs, seeking employment engage in a safe, informal, discussion-based group environment. Gain experience working in a team, voice your opinions, share stories and talk about your goals. Enjoy being part of something and develop a sense of empowerment—**Find your own pathway — In your own time.**

For more information or to register, please contact Michele Sargent at m.sargent@youthconnect.com.au

Youth Connect Out and About

Youth Connect are fortunate enough to have exhibited and presented at different expos/conferences last term.

The Street Beat Festival run by Victoria Police was held on Valentine's Day, Tuesday, 14 February. The emphasis of the event was to improve perceptions of safety, encouraging young people to report crime and encouraging sports and community activities as alternatives to crime and anti social behaviour. There were a manner of services and activities, including the Police Rock Band 'Code One', face painting and hair styling, The Ambulance Service and a multitude of youth services.



Youth Connect presented to students at the RMIT City Campus at the Youth Service and Alcohol and other Drugs expo. The aim of exposing them to a range of services available to young people in the community and some of the agencies who deliver that work. A presentation was given about the agency, the programs relevant and how RMIT students can be involved in as part of their practical placement. As a result, Youth Connect have taken another RMIT student who has just started.



Youth Connect also exhibited at the Skate of Mind Festival in Chelsea as part of National Youth Week.



Youth Connect are excited to have presented at the 2012 CDAA International Conference in Canberra. Daniela and Danny facilitated two workshops titled "Learning to Work" and "Bridging the Gap: A workshop on engaging with the new generations at work". The conference focus explored the links between career and workforce development and the value career development brings to building sustainable workforces and quality work and education outcomes for all Australians. The CDAA Conference attracted a range of participants including practitioners, policy makers, employers and researchers.

Parents As Transition Career Support



(PACTS) FREE information sessions are developed to provide parents with up-to-date information and resources about educational pathways, that enables them to support their children effectively when making career transition decisions within the secondary school system and beyond. PACTS sessions cover job search websites and job search techniques, assisting with resume writing and cover letters, assisting with interview preparation, finding work experience; learning about pathway/education/training including VCE, VCAL, VET programs and apprenticeships. Attendees are able to liaise with other parents and receive a PACTS handbook.

The next community PACTS sessions are –

When: Thursday, 17 May 2012

Where: Grattan Gardens Community Centre, Activity Hall, 40 Grattan St, Prahran

Time: 09.00am – 11.00am

Michelle – m.peterson@youthconnect.com.au

When: Tuesday, 29 May 2012

Where: Glen Eira Town Hall, Labassa Room, Crn of Glen Eira & Hawthorn Rd, Caulfield

Time: 10.00am – 12.00pm

Mary – m.licciardo@youthconnect.com.au

Morning tea provided. Bookings are essential.

Bayside, Glen Eira, Kingston Applied Learning Network (ALN) Term 1 Meetings



Our first ALN (Industry) was held at Hemisphere Conference Centre, where employers had the chance to discuss youth employment, work placement provision and industry skill needs over a hot breakfast. Danny (CEO) at Youth Connect, presented a mini 'Bridging the Generational Gap' workshop covering easy to understand and helpful tips that can be implemented in the workplace; also defining generational work and learning characteristics and tips on attracting, recruiting and retaining staff. The next meeting is Thursday, 14 June from 7.30am, venue TBC; with a focus on School Based Apprenticeships & Traineeships (SBATs) and will include a discussion panel made of industry representatives.



The ALN (Schools) meeting was held at the Youth Connect office, where school personnel had the chance to meet other colleagues and have an open discussion about applied learning needs in the local area. The next ALN (School) meeting, will be held on Tuesday, 19 June from 4.00pm at the Youth Connect Office and will focus on VETIS opportunities for students and supporting school personnel coming up to subject selection time in 2013. If you are interested in attending an ALN meeting please contact Merrie via email m.ditchburn@youthconnect.com.au or 8306 6300

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Work this Way Update

As a participant of the Work this Way Program, Hadi has commenced an apprenticeship as a joiner/carpenter with Miris Windows and Doors located in Moorabbin who are a privately owned business and one of the first companies to introduce the bi-folding door system.

Hadi gained this new position just before completing his pre-apprenticeship at NMIT Heidelberg where his coordinator has described Hadi as 'quite gifted'. Hadi is enjoying his new role and the work environment. Michael Donaghy, Production Manager and Sales Manager, Chris McParland are happy with his abilities and strong work ethic. This is Hadi in the workplace in his second day of employment and is clearly comfortable in his new role.



Please follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/#!/youthconnectmel> and like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/youthconnectmel.com



Over the last 12 months we have developed the range of PACTS workshops as well as our role, endorsed by the Brotherhood of St Laurence, in delivering PACTS Facilitator Training in Victoria and interstate. This development has been in response to requests from a wide range of school, community and service delivery representatives and organisations. The areas PACTS now covers includes, disability, CALD, Community, Aboriginal, Community Services Workers, Primary schools as well as being translated into nearly ten languages.

Recently Daniela and Danny travelled to Ipswich in Queensland to present at forum arranged by the regional Partnership Brokers Worklinks. The forum provided participants with an overview of PACTS including how participating in PACTS Facilitator Training would enable them to engage with Parents to better support young people with their Career and Transition options and opportunities. Participants attending included representatives from The Department of Education Queensland, Regional Indigenous Partnership Officers, Independent School Association, School to Work Indigenous Support Unit, regional National Disability Coordinator, Youth Connections Providers, Schools, Community organisations and services providers including Mission Australia and the Smith Family and TAFE Vet Coordinators.

They also ran a forum in regional Queensland in West Morten – Laidley and an information session with Woodridge State High School and Griffith University which included a demonstration Express PACTS workshop.

As a result of these meetings we will be running a number of Facilitator Trainings in Queensland over the coming months as well as already being asked to present for other regional Partnership Brokers.

Keeping on the interstate theme we will be delivering PACTS Facilitator Training in Goulburn NSW in May as well.

In Victoria we have continued to work with a range of organisations including the South East LLEN with whom we supported an application for funding that was successful for the delivery of Career As Transition Support (CATS) for Multicultural Education Aides, Ethnic community Leaders, youth workers and community agencies that support young disadvantaged young people. In addition to this we have been working closely with our Regional Koori Transition Officer and will be running a pilot Aboriginal PACTS to the Regional Koori Education Support Officers.

Lastly as part of our partnership with the Brotherhood of St Laurence we will be working with them over the next six months to conduct an evaluation of PACTS. As well as looking at the effectiveness of the program the evaluation will look at the impact of the program on the support and decision making of young people as a result of their parents, careers or teachers participating in PACTS. The Evaluation is due to be completed by October.

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

How I SEE it

How I See It—Youth Photography Competition 2012

The How I See It Youth Photography Competition ran again this year. The project is about celebrating and recognising young people's significance and achievements in the City of Kingston. We invited young people aged 12-25 for the opportunity to showcase their creative talents through photography. In conjunction with National Youth Week, projects such as this give young people a sense of connection with their local community and make them aware of positive activities and past-times they can undertake with their peers.

The aim of this project is to inspire the entrants to explore their creativity and to re-examine their views of themselves, the community and their world. We also hope that the entrants have been inspired to view the world through a camera lens and to reflect on what it is they see or *how they see 'it'*.

The Competition drew to a close with an exhibition night on Thursday, 19 April, with all photos displayed. Over 20 participants entered photos taken of buildings, beaches, parks, flora and other creative works of art. This was a great opportunity for the youth of Kingston to show their talent through photography. The exhibition night held at the Youth Connect Office, saw all photos displayed and over 50 attendees. The guest speaker was Junior Mayor, Olivia Guhl who presented the awards to the winners. Pictured below is first prize winner Catherine, second prize winner Zoe and Olivia.

Congratulations to Catherine (17), Zoe (15) and Iohan (18) who won first, second and third prize and shared \$600 in Westfield vouchers; also Catherine winning a free photo shoot with Nigel Clements Photography.

This project would not be possible without the financial support received from the City of Kingston Youth Festival Grants Program. Thanks to the judging panel Nigel Clements from Nigel Clements Photography and Jo Bielby, President of the Melbourne Camera Club and President of the Rotary Club Bentleigh, Moorabbin Central. Thank you to all those who played a part in this event.



Food for Thought:

Life is not about finding yourself...

Life is about creating yourself.

— George Bernard Shaw

STAFF PROFILE—MEGAN DOW



What is your position at Youth Connect? Youth Services Team Leader

What is your favourite past time?

Catching up with loved ones

Complete this sentence: I went to the shops and bought... Clothes!

What did you want to be when you were younger? A singing superstar! Preferably Agnetha from ABBA

Which famous person would you like to meet? Bono and Adele, just because of the singing thing

What annoys you? Drivers who don't indicate at roundabouts

Favourite destination and where to next? Scotland — Not that I've been there, but definitely will one day. But in terms of places I have been — Aire River Crossing in the Otways is breathtaking! I have also been to South Africa which was pretty amazing

Something we don't know about you: I have stood in Nelson Mandela's prison cell

Favourite thing about your role? The variety and challenge as well as all the staff

Best attribute? Easygoing!

Contact Megan on 8306 6300 or email m.dow@youthconnect.com.au

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