



**YOUTHCONNECT**

Education • Employment • Youth Services

Jan  
Issue

# uConnect

## FROM DANNY'S DESK

This year we are excited to be continuing with and building on the programs and services we deliver with and for the community. We start 2013 with 14 programs to support young people, their families, schools, training providers and employers. Importantly we look forward to seeing the positive transformation that takes for young people when they succeed.



I would like to take this opportunity of both welcoming you back as well as inviting you to participate in some fantastic opportunities that will make a difference to the lives of the young people we work with.

The first is getting involved in our iPrep Program. iPrep is a mock interview program that provides young people with a real job interview experience. The young people prepare for the interview and are provided with feedback to help them when they are applying for positions. This is a great opportunity to put your experience into action directly with young people. If you run a business this might be something your staff can participate in for a few hours as part of your community engagement and team building activities.

If you are interested please go to <http://www.youthconnect.com.au/get-involved/become-an-iprep-volunteer/> You will find information on volunteering and an application form that you can complete on line.

The second is our New Corporate Sponsorship Program. When you sponsor Youth Connect we will ensure that this collaboration compliments your existing brand values, enhances your image, and provides a platform to increase the positive community perception and credibility of your business.

Your investment will assist us to provide programs and services that support young people to stay engaged in education, training or employment. This work will directly benefit young people and their families through intensive case managed support as well as the delivery of workshops to groups of young people. There are a limited number of sponsorship packages ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000. Please contact Daniela or myself and we will arrange a time to meet with you to discuss the opportunity for you to invest in Youth Connect.

Young people who believe they can do something are right and so are young people who believe they can't. We look forward to working with you this year to ensure that all the young people we work with are supported to believe they can do something and much more.

**Danny Schwarz**  
CEO

### Important Dates

**Ready 4 Work - Free Workshops**  
23 & 30 Jan @ 2pm-3pm

**Career Connect**  
1 Feb @ 10am -1pm

**Save The Date - Dare2BE Youth Conference**

23 April @ 10am - 3pm

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.*

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## Career and Transition Programs 2013



### iPrep Mock Interview Program

Prepare your students to talk to employers in a formal interview, help them prepare for their casual mid-year job application as well as organising their work experience.

Don't forget to consider your VCE and VCAL students when preparing for courses at TAFE or University, having that edge adds to their confidence.

Interviews are conducted in a formalised manner by trained industry personnel.

**\*\*To book for sessions in Term 2 and 3 please do so by the end of term 1, this will ensure that Youth Connect will be able to fulfil your request. No minimum number of students required to book for the program \*\***



Engage you students in interactive industry tours. The industry themed tours program is perfect for students from term 3 and term 4 when the curriculum is winding down.

**\*\*We recommend planning ahead and booking by the end of term 2 to confirm your booking, as the maximum number of students we can cater for is 20 students per tour.\*\***

### Lunchtime Express Workshops



Support your students confidence and understanding in career preparation, resume and cover letter writing, employer expectations and what happens after Year 12? Our Lunchtime Express Workshops provide students with easy to use tools they can use to secure their first post-school job.

**\*\*Plan ahead and book these in from Term 3 to term 4.\*\***

**\*\*The maximum number of students that we can cater for is 20. \*\***

Join Youth Connect on social media networks

Like Us On facebook

FOLLOW US ON twitter



**Workplace Learning Coordinators**  
Bayside | Glen Eira | Kingston



It is now my privilege to employ Jess. Through the [SBAT] program we have had a unique opportunity to get to know each other. Jessica has the

all important 'good work ethic' - imperative for us to have a successful salon.

Jessica also shows great talent for hairdressing she has a keen eye for detail. A delight to teach, she will be able to take her craft to any level.

Many clients comment how comfortable she makes them - a new client last week commented how good it was to see us working so well together she could see her enthusiasm. Jessica is the support and strength that I need to build a successful salon.

Lil Stapleton, - Figurehead Hairdressing

In early 2012 the Youth Connect Workplace Learning Coordinator (WLC) team contacted Figureheads Hairdressing in Martin Street to touch base with a long term supporter. Salon owner Lil Stapleton had previously hosted students for work experience and had been looking for a way to incorporate young people into her workplace. The WLC team suggested considering a School Based Apprenticeship, or "SBAT" - a part-time option for school students to undertake 1-2 days of trainee work per week to gain familiarity and try out an industry before committing to a full-time position or apprenticeship.

SBATs are a great option for students as they enable young people to gain a vocational and technical qualification while completing their school studies, giving them a head start with work, and an opportunity to 'earn and learn'.

The WLC team identified a local student, Jessica who was passionate about working in the industry and had been contemplating leaving her studies take up a full-time hairdressing apprenticeship. Jessica proved to be an excellent fit at Figureheads and after one year, she has successfully completed both her SBAT and her studies at Our Lady Sacred Heart. Jess was nominated for a 2012 Australian Vocational Student Prize and Lil has taken her on as a full-time apprentice. School Based Apprenticeships are available in a wide variety of industries and are linked to some excellent vocational outcomes, as well as financial incentives for employers. If you are interested in an SBAT for your business or young person, contact the WLC team at Youth Connect.



Lil Stapleton with Jessica Simonet - Master and Apprentice at Figureheads Hairdressing

**Interview with School Based Apprenticeship student Jess Simonet:**

**What is your favourite part of the work you do?**

I really enjoy colouring all the clients' hair. I interact with the customers as I am washing their hair, blow drying their hair, there is lots of communication.

**What have you found challenging about the role?**

When I first started I wasn't very good with washing hair and blow waving. Since starting the SBAT I have improved overall and in all the aspects I am much better at what I do.

**What do you think you might have done if you hadn't got into an SBAT with Figureheads?**

I have no idea what I would have done ...I probably would have dropped out of school and done a full time apprenticeship.

**Would you recommend to other students to try out an SBAT?**

I would. I recommend going in for a few days and seeing if you actually like doing the job because it is terrible if you start and half way through you change your mind. I came in for a few days to Figureheads so Lil could find out if I was suitable and I worked another few days to find out if it was something I wanted to do.

**CAREER CONNECT**



**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 to 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.

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.

**Date: Currently held Fridays fortnightly—The next date is 1 Feb 2013 @ 10am—1pm**

**Location: Youth Connect Office, Level 3/1001 Nepean Hwy, Moorabbin**

**For more information or to register please contact Michele Sargent on 8306 6300 or [m.sargent@youthconnect.com.au](mailto:m.sargent@youthconnect.com.au)**



## RMEP Work Readiness Workshops at DHS Sunshine and Dandenong

Youth Connects Refugee Minor Employment Program (RMEP) Case Managers Rebecca Thorn and Andreas Panagiotopoulos, together with Career Transition Programs Coordinator Mary Licciardo, delivered three successful work readiness workshops to staff at the Department of Human Services (DHS) in Sunshine and Dandenong.

The DHS staff members were Case Managers in the Refugee Minor Program (RMP) and the workshops were designed to facilitate discussions around how to ascertain when clients are 'job ready' and how best to support clients collaboratively in their search for work.

The workshops fostered positive discussion and enabled Youth Connect and DHS to identify potential barriers and ways in which these can be best addressed. In total there were approximately 35 staff who attended the workshops which included Program Team Leaders and Youth Connect CEO, Danny Schwarz.

Mary Licciardo delivered a condensed version of the Career and Transition Support (CATS) program, which provided Case Managers with easy to understand and practical tools to help them support their clients in navigating their way through the education and vocation system in Victoria.

Youth Connect received positive feedback from DHS, with most staff concluding that the workshops were beneficial, relevant and practical.

Youth Connect would like to thank DHS for providing them with the opportunity to present these workshops designed to greater strengthen the relationship between both organisations.



## Work This Way Student Employment Program UPDATE!

The Work This Way - Student Employment Program is taking referrals for any young people seeking to find part time employment.

[Click here to download the WTW Registration form](#)

If you know of any young people who meet the following eligibility, support will be offered to assist in the development of a resume, employability skills knowledge, what employers look for and how to interview well.

### ELIGIBILITY (all eligibility criteria must be met to participate in this program)

- Young Person aged between 15-20
- Engaged fulltime in Secondary School, Community Education Programs, TAFE or University
- Not currently employed but who are seeking part-time employment (minimum 8 hours per week)
- Are currently receiving Youth Allowance/or hold Centrelink Health Care Card
- Barriers to employment
- Live, Learn, and Play in and around the City of Kingston



**\*\*For more information contact Naarah on 8306 6300 or [n.harrison@youthconnect.com.au](mailto:n.harrison@youthconnect.com.au)\*\***



## FREE WORKSHOPS

Youth Connect are offering workshops to better prepare you for the challenges in obtaining a part time job

### Workshop 1 - Using your networks

**Date:** 23 January 2013

**Time:** 2.00pm to 3.00pm

**Topics include:** What is a network - the person you meet today could be your future employer. Building good relationships and how they work. to your benefit.

### Workshop 2 - Confidence building/Motivation

**Date:** 30 January 2013

**Time:** 2.00pm to 3.00pm

**Topics include:** How to maintain motivation when looking for work, ways to increase your confidence, what to do when you are feeling down and understanding the importance of setting a goal to work towards.

**\*\*Booking essential\*\* - To book please contact Naarah on 8306 6300 or [n.harrison@youthconnect.com.au](mailto:n.harrison@youthconnect.com.au)**

## 2013 VETiS Enrolments



Block Credit Units 3 and 4 in Acting, Justice, Screen (one year program) are highly recommended for Year 12 students with an interest in these areas. Students are not required to have completed a first year.

Block Credit Units 3 and 4 Acting - 2 vacancies

Dance **First Year** - **completely filled**

Dance **Second Year** – lots of vacancies

Fashion – combined class -2 vacancies

IT Games - **completely filled**

Hospitality - 5 vacancies

Block Credit Units 3 and 4 Justice – 5 vacancies

Technical Production **First Year** - **completely filled**

Technical Production **Second Year** - 2 vacancies

Block Credit Units 3 and 4 Screen – combined class 1 vacancy

Retail and Retail Logistics – One year – 10 to 3 pm at Family Life, Cheltenham

We request that you get your 2013 Youth Connect VETiS enrolment forms in as soon as possible as spaces are running out. Mature Year 10's can be considered for Year 11 programs.

Information relating to our VETiS programs and prices can be found on our website;

<http://www.youthconnect.com.au/vet-handbook/>

For further information, please contact Geraldine Borgonha on 8306 6300 or

[g.borgonha@youthconnect.com.au](mailto:g.borgonha@youthconnect.com.au)

Cheltenham Secondary College are offering Certificate II in Logistics in 2013. We are taking expressions of interests from students who are interested in this program and their other programs Certificate II in Automotive (Mechanical) and Certificate II in Engineering.

### 2013 PACTS Facilitator Training Road Show

Youth Connect is taking the PACTS Facilitator Training on a road trip! The "2013 PACTS Facilitator Training Road Show" will enable school and community workers across the country to access the 2-day PACTS Facilitator Training which will equip them with skills and resources to deliver this engaging and informative program to parents and families within their local and school communities.

Newly trained facilitators will be provided with two-days face-to-face training, a facilitator kit including workshop handbook, resources and membership to the National PACTS Network.

**Jump on Board!!!**



For further info please contact  
Daniela Ascone  
Ph: 8306 6300  
E: [d.ascone@youthconnect.com.au](mailto:d.ascone@youthconnect.com.au)

### SAVE THE DATE

**Dare2BE Youth Conference**

*For young people aged 15-18 years.*

**Date: 23 April 2013**

**10:00am-3:00pm**

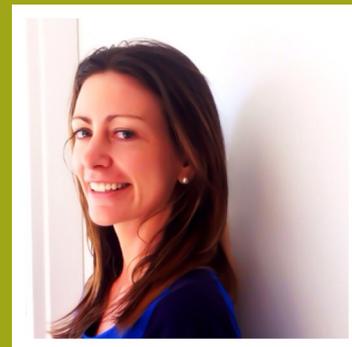
**Kingston Town Hall, Moorabbin**

**\*\*more info coming soon\*\***



## STAFF PROFILE—

**KATHLEEN PEACHEY**



What is your position at Youth Connect?  
**Industry Engagement – WLC**

Complete this sentence: When I grow up I want to be a...**dentist**

What is your star sign? **Virgo**

Favourite pastime **Going to the beach**

What CD is currently playing in your car?  
**Brothers, The Black Keys**

What annoys you? **Stupid questionnaires**

Favourite destination and where to next?

Favourite destination—

**Buenos Aires, Argentina**

Next Destination— **Osaka, Japan**

Something we don't know about you:

**I have performed at the Sydney Opera House. My singing voice is so bad that I wasn't allowed to sing out loud in my primary school choir, so although I technically have not sung at the Oprah House, I have mimed the words to songs.**

Favourite thing about your role?

**Meeting with employers who are passionate about helping young people.**

Best attribute?

**Bubbly Personality**

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